



Old Owenians Newsletter

Fourth Quarter—18th December 2012
Edition 8

Welcome to our Old Owenians Newsletter—for all Old Owenians, with a message from our Head...

"Dear Old Owenians

As we come to the end of our Autumn or Michaelmas term, we take the opportunity to reflect on some of the amazing achievements of our students and you find us in great anticipation for the start of 2013 and our 400th anniversary year. We also report with sadness the passing of Mrs Nest Kisch, Headteacher of Dame Alice Owen's Girls' School 1960-1973, after an illness this summer. An obituary can be found on page 30.

This October, being familiar with National successes, we added to our record of International triumphs with students qualifying as World Finalists to take part in the F1 in Schools Competition in Abu Dhabi. In a really close final, Jon Perrett, James Linwood and Rebecca Simpson (Years 12 and 13) were runners up to Australia and we congratulate them on their success and hard work and that of their teachers, parents and sponsors (including Old Owenian Adam Reader, Head of Finance, Grace Foods). Also representing Great Britain, Year 12 student, Nathan Potter (son of Old Owenian, Robert Potter), competed in the Cadet Sabre Fencing competition held in Meylan, France in October and in Goppingen, Germany this December.



We've had winning results in the first round of the National Chess Championships and are already through to the County round of the Rotary Youth Speaks competition, victorious with articulate presentations on "There should be restrictions on free speech" (Year 9 students) and "Men should be allowed to wear make-up" (Year 12 students)! One of our Year 13 students, Sogand Shaker, was also elected to represent Barnet's Youth Council, with an opportunity to take part in a Youth Parliament debate at the House of Commons in November.



Our whole school community have been treated to numerous musical and drama performances – Junior and Senior Chamber Concerts, Year 13 Fashion Show, Choral Concert (featuring seven choirs, with our largest number of participants ever!), Windbands Evening, Orchestral Concert, Gym and Dance Display, a Senior Production of Julius Caesar and a special Anniversary Concert to raise money for our new Science Building. We are also indebted to our

impressive speakers who have presented at our Science Society Lectures—to which Old Owenians are always welcome—see page 12 for a review of two of the presentations and our School Newsletter for reports from our students.

For our Upper Sixth Form students this is a particularly busy term with interviews for Oxbridge candidates (this year we have a total of seventy six students applying to Oxford and Cambridge as well as eighteen prospective medics, four vets and a dentist!) and final UCAS Personal Statements deadlines are looming. Our Year 11 students are considering a Christmas of revision as school and GCSE exams start the first week back in the New Year.

Preparations for our 400th year have gathered pace as you can imagine and you can read more updates on page 2. Apologies in advance for any additional mailings you may receive next year as a result of keeping you right up to date with our events – we shall try to keep details in our quarterly newsletter as much as possible. Thank you once again to all our Old Owenian contributors – it's great that our past students have recently been providing us with "sound bite" updates as well as those who feel able to write longer articles – just having snapshots of what you've been doing is a really easy way to keep in touch – keep them coming please! Wishing everyone a fantastic festive season...

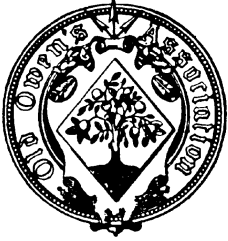
Dr Alan Davison"

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400th Anniversary Launch and Unveiling of Historical Display

Tuesday 22nd January 2013, 4-6pm, Main Dining Hall, Dame Alice Owen's School

You're warmly invited to join us on this occasion for drinks and canapés to mark the launch of our 400th anniversary year and witness the unveiling of our new ten metre historical display, created by our Art Department in conjunction with staff members, Old Owenian Ken Rowswell and funded by Old Owenian Derek Webb, on behalf of the Old Owen's Association.



We hope representatives from our whole school community and special guests will be present to raise a glass to the memory of Dame Alice Owen. A celebration cake is also being officially cut earlier in the afternoon for all students to share (read more on page 11—yes, it's a big cake!). Our new historical publication "Dame Alice Owen's - A History 1613-2013" and items of 400th memorabilia will also be available to purchase from the Owen's School Association. If you'd like to join us, we'd be grateful if you could please let us know for catering purposes by emailing 400launch@damealiceowens.herts.sch.uk, stating number of guests attending.

An automated Out of Office email response will acknowledge your request – we're sorry we can't reply to everyone personally. Thank you in advance for your support and we look forward to seeing you on the 22nd January. Directions to the school are on our school website at: http://www.damealiceowens.herts.sch.uk/contact_us/directions.html. Unfortunately there will be very limited parking on site and we cannot offer tours of the school on this occasion.

400th Anniversary Concert

Tuesday 23rd April 2013, 7-10pm, Royal Albert Hall

Well, when our Chair of Governors, Peter Martin, told Head Alan Davison to "Think big" when planning our concert, we thought the Royal Albert Hall was "big" enough, indeed the next step, we joked, would have been the O2! In fact, the Head had sleepless nights about whether or not we'd fill it, so we've been overwhelmed by the almost immediate sell out and ongoing demand for tickets. As you know, we've done our best to give you more access to tickets by juggling our production to release a number of Arena seats and bringing forward our request to RAH members (around 300) to donate their debenture seats (around 1,000). Our reserve list is still growing. In the meantime, work is progressing on the celebratory programme of music and entertainment, being put together by our staff and musical directors and the evening promises to be a spectacular display of talent. Full details on how to obtain tickets are given on our special webpage: http://www.damealiceowens.herts.sch.uk/2013_rah.html. Despite the huge number of requests for tickets, we sincerely hope most people who want tickets will still be able to attend or at least join us for one of our other events—patience and perseverance required, Old Owenians and brush up on the School Song!

400th Anniversary Thanksgiving Service and Reception

Tuesday 30th April 2013, 1.30-2.30pm, St Paul's Cathedral, Reception 3.15pm, Mansion House

Our historic service will commemorate the legacy of Dame Alice Owen for members of our whole school community, led by the Dean of St Paul's, the Very Reverend Dr David Ison. **The closing date to apply via ballot for an invitation to the events at St Paul's and Mansion House is 31ST DECEMBER 2012.** There are still some places available—we hope to be able to fulfil the majority of requests. Please see our special webpage for details on how to send us your application: http://www.damealiceowens.herts.sch.uk/2013_stpauls.html.



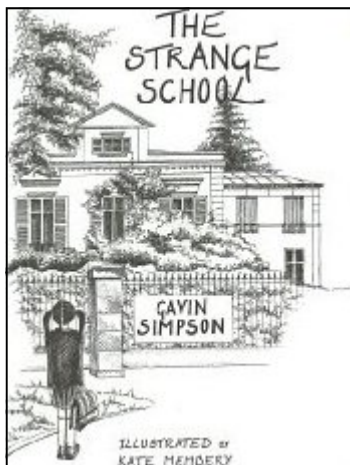
400th Ball—time to party!

Saturday 13th July 2013, 7pm reception, carriages 1am, Dame Alice Owen's School

This is going to be a magnificent celebration for adults and sixth formers. We're delighted that ticket applications have been coming in thick and fast from members of our whole school community who wish to celebrate our 400th in party style! We've had requests from Old Owenians, parents from all years, as well as members of staff and students. Over half of tickets have been sold already, so to ensure you don't miss out, we suggest you get your table organised as soon as possible or simply send in a request for your number of seats with payment and we will find a table for you! Tickets are priced £85 each and include a drinks reception, 4 course dinner, dancing to Jazz Band and bar. The dress code is "Black Tie or Dress to Impress" and a photographer will be available to capture the memories! You can reserve tables of up to 10 and an Auction will follow the dinner. Ticket applications are accepted via email to 400ball@theosa.org.uk (our parent run Owen's School Association) and application forms can be found on their website at: <http://www.theosa.org.uk/>. We look forward to seeing you there!

Owen's Book Corner (including our 400th History Book)!

This is a one-off feature, as co-incidentally, five new books have come to our attention this term, including our own History Book - four have been published and one is awaiting publication!



First, a book from one of our own staff members you may remember, Mr Gavin Simpson, (instigator of THE OWEN'S WAY), who has been demonstrating the self-publishing revolution on Amazon literally to his Economics class, with his own e-book, "The Strange School". Written a few years ago and first available online this October, he describes it as a "children's novella" - you can easily download it for an extremely modest price!

Second, Old Owenian, Mr Jack Shenker (left 2003), is the Guardian's Egypt correspondent and was a hugely popular speaker at our Old Owenians Careers Talks earlier this March. His coverage of Egypt's revolution and Tahrir Square won him an Amnesty International Gaby Rado Award for excellence in human rights reporting and a long-listing for the Orwell Prize for political journalism in 2011. His first book, about Egypt, will be published by Penguin Press in 2013.

Third, speaker, Mr Michael Woodford, who held the undivided attention of Year 12 and 13 students for over an hour in September this year, by revealing how he exposed a \$1.7bn fraud at Olympus, published a book about his experience in November: Exposure: Inside the Olympus Scandal – How I went from CEO to Whistleblower (Portfolio Penguin). A huge thanks to Mr Woodford once again for an amazing talk and waiving his speakers fee – instead, a 400th tankard and teddy bear were presented to him by Miss Claire Simmons, Head of Year 13!



Fourth, a new publication from our parent body – "Live from Downing Street" (Bantam Press). Launched with a big Westminster cake in October, Mr Nick Robinson's book describes his role as BBC's Political Editor and "the relationship between those who wield power and those whose job it is to tell us what they are doing". Also available to e-readers, this is a must for those students interested in Government and Politics! Parent, Mr Robinson, will be one of our presenters at our 400th Anniversary Concert on 23rd April 2013.



Finally, **"Dame Alice Owen's School A History 1613-2013"** - what could be a better New Year present to a fellow Old Owenian than our own new modern historical publication, now available to order via our website: <http://www.damealiceowens.herts.sch.uk/wisepay.html> and you can pay by cheque too! With rave reviews already, it's climbing up our best sellers list! Thanks to author, Gareth Randall for giving us lots reasons to buy a copy:

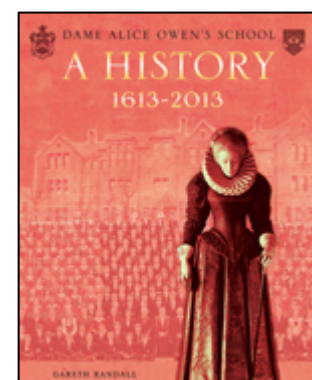
"It's early September. The Autumn Term's begun. But here in France on the Brittany coast it still feels like summer. The telephone rings. It's Alan Davison. His voice sounds excited, pleased. Four advanced copies of the book have just arrived in School airmail from China. He will send me mine. And when it arrives, I am delighted.

So why buy one ? It's a great book to own. It looks good; it feels good; it reads well. The editor has done a wonderful job transforming and presenting my text and the whole is beautifully done: the choice of font; the use of headings; generous margins; quality paper; a rich range of pictures.

So why buy one ? It's a great book to read. History is a story, her story, your story, our story. It's the story of individuals, men and women, boys and girls, individuals whose lives have been touched and shaped by being a part of the unfolding story of our School.

So why buy one ? It's a great book to keep. Four hundred years, four centuries, mirror changing times and changing values. Ours is the interesting history of the legacy of a remarkable woman, Alice Owen, who used some of her good fortune to benefit others. To know that history is to know what we have to be grateful for.

So why not buy two – one to keep and one to give ? Why not make a present of our past ? But do hurry – it is a limited edition.



Mr Randall apologises in advance for any inaccuracies— e.g. David Bolton did not play football professionally for Coleraine – or omissions and acknowledges that sadly space was necessarily limited so if some names are absent, it's not that they weren't once present or without significance. Indeed the chapter on Student Voice was removed due to its sheer volume (38 pages of student recollections!), but we are fortunate that we've been able to publish the whole chapter as a PDF on the school website with this Newsletter.

Thanks also to **Old Owenian, Barry Hyman** who sent this review and questions some of his own recollections!

"The new book on the school is a real treat. Gareth Randall has put in an incredible effort to bring the school alive on paper, with new (to me anyway) facts and great pictures. I'm sure that few of us knew of the tragic death of so many people in the basement of the Girls' School when it was bombed.

I was a year or two ahead of Alan Parker and did not know him, but was fascinated by the detention class extract featuring him. No less interesting was the appearance of one Broadhurst, ("failure to produce imposition,") the same Broadhurst who also appears as a Priest in the picture of the school play 'Twelfth Night,' (not 'Taming of the Shrew' as it is incorrectly captioned). The same Broadhurst indeed who is now Bishop Broadhurst who left the C of E to join the Catholic Church being opposed to the further emancipation of women. I draw a veil over stories told to me by his contemporaries at the Old Owenians luncheon about his ESCAPADES at school!

Apart from the wrong caption on 'Twelfth Night' (John Lloyd-Williams and I are at front as Sir Andrew and Sir Toby respectively) I seem to remember that Mr. Fellows was indeed Malcolm, not Martin; he is in fact Malcolm on p152 but Martin elsewhere, presumably a proof-reader glitch, much as my name appearing as Hyam not Hyman! Was not 'Fred the Head' Edwin rather than Edward? Can any other obsessive confirm my recollections as accurate or not?

The tribute to Reg Dare, known to us as 'Dan,' and to pre-Eagle comic generations I'm told as 'Dicky' Dare, was deserved. He was an old fashioned and lovable Mr. Chips character by the 50s. He endeared himself to those of us at Assembly when, in an attempt to have us not all try and get on the same 609 trolleybus to the school field, but to go gradually, told us to 'stagger out after school lunch.' Quite a few had been doing that for years!"

Graham Hall (left 1961) also commented: *"It is indeed a very handsome production and will sit well on our coffee table for months to come and after that, will find an honoured place on my bookshelves alongside Clive Rose's 'Alice Owen – the Life, Marriages and Times of a Tudor Lady'... with all best wishes and congratulations on a very high standard of design and production"*

Harold Moore Annual Luncheon Reunion for all Old Owenians—a review by Mandy English **Imperial Hotel, Russell Square, London, Monday 24th October 2012, 1-4pm**



Your editor was due to have her first experience of this famous gathering this half term and it was a little daunting with so many distinguished guests due to present, but after a mild panic at Russell Square station to procure a poppy (essential attire), the Imperial Hotel was found and stairs ascended after enquiring at Reception.

The suite was perfect – a bar area to the left for guests to mingle with pre-luncheon drinks and dining area to the right, formally laid with white tablecloths and linen napkins on circular tables.



Arriving only just on time (due to the added stress of an emergency trip to the orthodontist earlier that morning for an offspring!) and claiming a highly practical name label, David Ross (Clerk to the Brewers) and Bob Paisley (Old Owenian and Assistant Headteacher) were thankfully visible, along with Helen and Jordan, our Head Girl and Boy and our conversation centred helpfully on how to calm nerves when giving speeches.



The organisation was seamless as guests moved into the dining area and your editor found herself between two delightful dinner guests; Rev Gareth Randall, previous Assistant Head and author of our new historical publication and Old Owenian, Gavin Flook, past Head Boy (1985) and a speaker at our Old Owenian Careers Talks week in March (Head of Global Talent, Deloitte).

Time flew as discussions and debates danced around, the delicious food came and went and then before it was time for the speeches, the task of taking a few photos and the great pleasure of chatting to new faces behind emails!



Barry Hyman, whom your editor holds in awe for his former role in Communications at Marks and Spencer (when she was a junior M&S Head Office recruit!), acted as Master of Ceremonies and introduced previous Headmaster David Bolton, Assistant Headteacher Bob Paisley, Head Girl Helen Rampton, Head Boy Jordan Shum and the Rev Gareth Randall (speaking in the photo below left). Some of their excellent accounts are given below. A toast was made to the honour of Dame Alice Owen, obituaries were read out and the school songs were sung.

Bill Hamilton-Hinds did a brisk trade, taking orders for our new History publication and memorabilia items right till the very end. Your editor bid farewell to the last guests and descended to catch the tube, only to meet Old Owenian Ruth Goldman on the platform and so happily continued conversation until Southgate!



Reflecting back on the luncheon since, your editor can understand why this occasion has continued all these years and will hopefully remain a firm date in Old Owenians' calendars. Stan Gould and Michael Harold perform a sterling job in volunteering to arrange this excellent event every year and we have to thank them hugely for giving Old Owenians the opportunity to come together to meet old acquaintances and network with new ones! For more photos of the event, see our Old Owenians School News page:

http://www.damealiceowens.herts.sch.uk/about_us/old_owenians_school_news.html

One of the guests, Bill Read, was pleased to be reunited with Joe Day from South Korea (left), who has recently been awarded the MBE for services to the Community and Sport in South Korea; he lives in the capital, Seoul. Bill told us they both joined Owen's in 1947, via the eleven plus exam route and soon became the best of friends, leaving to enter the wider world in 1952.

Speeches...for those of you who couldn't join us...

Thanks to David Bolton, previous Headmaster, 1982-1994 for providing a copy of his speech to share with you in, including another complimentary book review of Owen's latest Historical publication!

"Ladies and Gentlemen...There are trains to catch and friends still to meet so I shall try to be brief. Thank you for inviting me to be your Chairman today and for your kind hospitality. In January, 1982, just over thirty years ago, I had been Head of Owen's just over a week. I was expecting an important visitor from County Hall and was standing by the F.E. Cleary Gates at the front of the school, getting some welcome fresh air.

For the previous seven years, I had been Headmaster of a school whose history was much the same as Owen's. Founded in Whitechapel in 1680, the Davenant Foundation Grammar School had moved out to Loughton, on the Essex borders, in the post-war years and had celebrated its three hundredth anniversary in April, 1980. It was my privilege to entertain Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth, the Queen Mother, at the opening of the new Music Suite and a week later to address a gathering of nearly two thousand people from the famous pulpit of St Paul's Cathedral. Now, here I was, Head of another fine school with an equally distinguished history. I was feeling rather pleased with myself!! A squeal of brakes and the driver of a white Transit van appeared before me, engine still running, a parcel in his arms. "You the Caretaker?" he enquired and before I could speak he thrust the parcel towards me, leapt back into the van and disappeared down Sawyers Lane. As they say – pride comes before a fall!

I mention this moment because you will not find it in the new history of the school. Nor will you find many other stories which are worth relating – there simply isn't enough space – but that is not to criticise a thoroughly entertaining book which you will want to buy and which you will enjoy reading. Or will you?

I pose that query because history itself and the teaching of history has always been a controversial subject. The "skills versus knowledge" debate has plagued state education for more than fifty years but in the next few weeks it is the teaching of knowledge that will form a key part of the Government's proposals for yet another new secondary curriculum. Whatever your view, it is surprising that in a recent test an alarming 88 per cent of undergraduates at one institution could not name any C19th Prime Ministers – not even Disraeli, Gladstone or Peel – and one student (who had never heard of the Reformation) thought that Martin Luther was an American Civil Rights leader!

The Oxford University Entrance General Paper regularly included this question: "We must learn from the lessons of history. Do you agree?" There were bonus marks for any bright candidate who had read something by George Santayana (1863 - 1952) philosopher, poet and novelist, although what Santayana actually said was: "Those who fail to learn the lessons of history are doomed to repeat them." A Harvard lecturer, who taught T.S.Eliot and Robert Frost, he had other views on history, which may strike a chord today: "History", he said, "is nothing but assisted and recorded memory." Ah! Yes! But whose memory??!

Today's politicians stay up well after midnight, desperately scribbling their memoirs, with publishers' contracts virtually signed and lecture tours already on the retirement horizon. Perhaps that "instant" history is what Henry Ford had in mind in his famous "History is bunk" speech in October, 1921 yet in the same speech he reminded his audience to "...hold on to the truth..." – advice we might well heed in our own troubled times.

So is history merely a collection of facts, like yesterday's bus ticket? And if so, what do facts teach us unless we have a guide or interpreter? The twentieth century is littered with facts: Sarajevo; the Sudetanland; the invasion of Poland; Pearl Harbour; the Holocaust; the bombing of Dresden; Hiroshima and Nagasaki; the Berlin Wall; Bloody Sunday; Sharpeville; et cetera, et cetera. Surely we must agree on the facts? If only it were that simple!! We now live in the age of "the cover – up", the counter - accusation, the search for truth, the litigation process and the crime and punishment debate. In their own very different ways, Hillsborough, Jimmy Savile and MPs expenses are all tragedies. Our moral compass is broken and the next scandal is just around the corner.

So how refreshing it is to be able to open a book where the story is uplifting, the facts undisputed and the central protagonist is still with us in spirit four hundred years later! The new history of the school is a handsome production, lavishly presented and colourfully illustrated which attempts the impossible – and almost succeeds – by combining the Owen's story with that of social and political change. It is also enlivened by some memories and opinions of former pupils – interviewed by Rosie Millard - and contains such gems as Sir Alan Parker's Detention record and a lively chapter on beer and brewing, which pays rightful tribute to the Worshipful Company of Brewers, wise Trustees of the Foundation over the four hundred years.

Gareth Randall is to be warmly congratulated on handling a daunting amount of material in a comparatively short time and making sense of it all. His drafts were then professionally edited with characteristic verve and an eye towards saleability. To a large extent, the book succeeds in its aim of making history readable and although due homage is paid to Dare's "History of Owen's School", the two books are as different as chalk and cheese. Inevitably, there are gaps in the new book and a suggestion of "cut and paste" at times with the less attractive educational subjects. From my own era, there are many of my former colleagues who deserve a chapter to themselves but to name them would be invidious and I must correct the authors on a point of accuracy!! Amateur footballers in the 1950s did not play "professionally" so, although I did play for Coleraine in the Irish League whilst in the R.A.F. it was on a strictly unpaid basis! Perhaps the Governors would like to have seen some small tribute to John Turner and Sam Kershen, both distinguished Old Owenians who between them gave nearly sixty years of service as Governors to the school they loved.

Whatever your view of history, this new version of the Owen's story is an exciting introduction to the Quatercentenary. All of us, pupils, former pupils, teachers, parents, Governors, Trustees and Brewers, have all made our particular contribution – at different times and in different places. This is surely not the last history to appear and perhaps one day a new version will emerge. As George Santayana also said: "History is always written wrong, and so always needs to be rewritten!" Time will tell!!

The man in the white Transit van thirty years ago was telling me something important as our paths crossed briefly outside the school gates. I was indeed the caretaker – of a most valuable legacy – the education of young people. In the months of celebration that lie ahead, that is one lesson from history that I shall remember - with gratitude."

Thanks also to Bob Paisley, previously Head of Economics and Politics between 1986 and 1997 and currently Associate Head for Owen's for attending the event. In his speech, he explained what an honour and privilege it was for him to represent the school in Alan's absence and told how he had great memories after his first spell at Owen's 1986-97 of the fantastic atmosphere, amazingly creative and supportive staff, brilliant relationships with students, and of course *Fazers on Stun*, the staff band. One highlight was the Head, David Bolton, singing Be Bop a Lula with the band, wearing the obligatory "cool" shades.

He returned in September 2011 and found the strong sense of heritage and history and the contribution of Owen's past and present still evident in a great community, and that the school has continued to develop and innovate. This includes the excellent traditions of the continuing Harold Moore Luncheon! He went on to talk about the 400th Anniversary Appeal, saying how delighted the school was to have secured £550,000 of its own fundraising, plus £2m from the Foundation, plus £2.8m from the DfE, for the school's new Science Building which will be built in honour of the 400th anniversary. Work on the main structure continues next month. Bob explained that the school would welcome any recommendations from guests in keeping with the policy of naming the building after a famous former student, in this case a scientist.



Bob also explained that students taking part in the Parable of Talents fundraising initiative were presented with £10 as a "gift" at the end of half term, with the idea that they return the £10 and any extra monies generated by the end of March 2013. They had to sign for their envelope which contained their money and a pack of fundraising ideas (see left).

The project has captured the imagination of many students who are keen to see how much money they can generate from their £10 "gift". The school is thrilled that over half of students have agreed to join this campaign and there is a definite buzz about the school! Extra funds created will go directly to our 400th anniversary appeal for our new Science Building which will give students a very clear

involvement in contributing to their building. There have already been several cake sales!

Bob referred to the 400th events programme which had been placed on each table and is available on our website at: <http://www.damealiceowens.herts.sch.uk/2013.html>. The 400th event especially applicable to the Harold Moore lunch attendees is the thanksgiving service at St Paul's Cathedral, followed by a reception at Mansion House (right), which will be attended by current and former staff and students. He reminded guests that costs for the service and tea at Mansion House is £30 and details of how to enter the ballot can also be found on the school website at: http://www.damealiceowens.herts.sch.uk/2013_stpauls.html.



He explained that the school's contact with Old Owenians was vital to maintain excellent traditions and that the school intends that one of the legacies of the 400th will be the renewing and on-going contact with our alumni. At present we have over 3,000 Old Owenians signed up to receive our Newsletter on our 400th email list – details of how to sign up are on our website at: http://www.damealiceowens.herts.sch.uk/about_us/old_owenians_school_news.html. Thanking all those present for their continued support for the school and their attendance at the Harold Moore Luncheon reunion, Bob passed over to the Head Boy and Girl for their account of school achievements and personal impressions as Owen's students.

Bob Paisley has recently been appointed Headteacher of the Academy of Central Bedfordshire. He will be remaining with Owen's until Easter when he takes up his new position. We thank him again and wish him every success in his exciting and challenging new role.

So, finally, here are the speeches from our Head Boy, Jordan Shum and Head Girl, Helen Rampton—we are grateful for their contributions—very eloquently delivered!

Jordan's speech...

"Good afternoon fellow Owenians and honoured guests, I am grateful to have this opportunity to present a very brief update on the school's progress over the last year. It is an extremely busy and exciting time at Dame Alice Owens as we enter our 400th year!

I would like to start off with the key highlights of a record year for exam success which saw us ranked as the top non-grammar school for A levels in the Daily Telegraph, with 89% of all entries being graded A to B and we also continued the upward trend with the new A* grade with 25% of all entries securing an A*. In addition 100% of all entries secured a pass grade!*

We were particularly pleased with the AS results which were a new school record with 54% being graded A which augurs very well for next year's A level results. Our GCSE results were also very pleasing with 94% of all Year 11 students achieving the government benchmark of 5 A-C grades including English and Maths. We were also pleased to be ranked top of another new schools league table as the top non-grammar school for Oxbridge places at 10% of all students securing places. But as you know Owen's is much more than just about exam results!*

We were delighted with the outcomes of the parent and student surveys completed earlier this year. Both surveys rated the school as outstanding. Two memorable quotes from the comment sections are:

From the parent survey: *'I know from talking to friends in a variety of schools independent and selective – how this school has achieved a unique balance between academic excellence, enrichment and motivation. Teaching is excellent and I am so grateful to have my children attending a school where they are genuinely happy and motivated!'* **From the student survey:** *'I really enjoy going to Dame Alice Owen's I think it is a good school. Owens was my first choice of secondary school. It cares about how we students feel. However if I had to change something it would be less homework'*

Also our F1 in Schools team 'Ignite' won 2 national trophies, firstly for Innovation from the Institute of Engineering Technology and then the overall national winner. They are now busy preparing for the World Championships in November in Abu Dhabi competing against 40 other national winners! I believe this will be an Owenian first as world champions – when they do win of course!"

Helen's speech...

"We've also had a lot of success with the Science Department this year, with 4 students in our year achieving Gold Awards in the Cambridge Chemistry Challenge. In February, the English Department organised a Dickens Day to celebrate the 200th anniversary of Charles Dickens' birth, with most of the students and even the staff dressing up in full Dickensian costumes, which we all found very funny!

The Art Department is also very proud, as for the second year running all 6 of our submissions for the National Students' Exhibition at the Mall Galleries were selected, and a student in our year was shortlisted for this year's Royal Academy Summer Exhibition A Level online competition. Her work was one of 46 pieces chosen from 1450 entries. Amazingly, a sixth form student called Izzy Williams this year researched, dug and found a previously undiscovered Roman road, all on her own! She was nominated for the Young Archaeologist of the Year prize, and offered a place to study Classical Archaeology and Ancient History at Oxford University.



Because of the support of the Foundation, the school is able to run a full programme of Saturday sport, which most state schools are no longer able to offer. This has helped us with our many sporting achievements, for instance this year Owen's was district champions in football in all years, and in netball years 7, 8 and 9 won the district league and tournament. Our Year 11 Student Gaby Jupp is the British junior all around champion for gymnastics, and came 5th in the European all around championships. She has been selected as a potential for the 2016 Olympic Games.

There have also been many musical highlights this past year, for instance the choral concert and concert band evening, both of which I attended and thoroughly enjoyed. We're also really proud of the school's fund-raising efforts this year. We raised over £35 000, including nearly £11 000 for our partner school in Tanzania! (See page 10 for more details of our partner school.) So overall, it's unsurprising that Jordan and I feel so proud to be a part of the amazing Owen's community, particularly in this very special 400th year."

Harold Moore Annual Reunion Luncheon for all Old Owenians in 2013

Plan ahead and put this in your diary now—**Monday 28th October 2013, during Half Term, 1-4pm!**

Held again at the Imperial Hotel, Russell Square, London, this event during our 400th year promises to be a real highlight for reunions. Invitations will be sent out in early September 2013 to those on the current mailing list—you can request to be added to the list by contacting Mr Stan Gould: stanleysgould@gmail.com, mobile: 07969 108001 or Mr Michael Harold: mharoldghill@icloud.com or ring and speak to Stan about your requirements. We look forward to seeing you there!

New River 400th Anniversary—links with our own 400th Anniversary!

Thanks to Ms Sarah Peters, a freelance radio journalist, (BBC and Guardian), for getting in contact about her research into how the New River has touched peoples lives over the years. Sarah and her co-collaborator, artist Henny Beaumont, are creating an audio-visual documentary and GPS-triggered walking app to celebrate the 400th anniversary of New River next year. Interestingly, the New River and Dame Alice Owen share a fascinating - and tragic past: not only were they founded in the same year in 1613, but more recently, in 1940, a parachute bomb fell on Dame Alice Owen school during the blitz, causing the adjacent New River pipe to burst and flood the basement bomb shelter situated under the girls school in Islington, where one hundred and fifty people were taking refuge.

We reported on the New River Head in our June 2012 Old Owenians Newsletter pages 10/11 and details can be found at: http://www.damealiceowens.herts.sch.uk/about_us/blitz_memorial.html about the Blitz bombing and memorial. The New River originally terminated near the current Sadler's Wells Theatre which is near the site of the old Islington schools. It now ends in Stoke Newington and a ceremony to commemorate 400 years of its existence is being planned to coincide with its opening date - 29th September (also the official "birthday" of the old Girls' School).

Sarah and Henny would appreciate hearing from anyone who has any personal stories about the New River:

perhaps you played on its banks as a child, or lived nearby. You can contact them on: sarah@sarahpeters.net - and they will get back in touch, with a view to doing some audio interviews for the documentary. You can see an early draft of their pilot, currently on You Tube <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6QHSVnCJFao>. Finally, she is very interested in hunting down - and finding out more about the original photograph of the caretakers wife being carried from the ruins of the old Girls' School during the Blitz, so if you have any knowledge of this, please contact her on the email above. We'll keep you informed in our Newsletters of when any New River publications become available!

Old Owenian visits from the US and the Frampton statue is to go on tour!

Octagenarian, Ms Veronica Mawhood, lives in the US and went to our Islington Girls' School. Her great niece arranged for her to visit this term and present us with a book she's written about her life,

'A damn fine growth'. Head Alan Davison spoke with her and two our of Sixth Formers gave her a tour around our Potters Bar School.

Thanks to Ms Mawhood for her valued contribution to our school library. Here she is (left) photographed next to our famous statue of Dame Alice Owen.



You might be interested to know that our Frampton statue is going to be part of a Victorian Sculpture exhibition which will open at the Yale Centre for British Art in New Haven in October 2014, and will then travel to Tate Britain in early 2015.

The catalogue author for our statue is a wonderful art historian, Catherine Roach, who will write about Frampton's statue of Dame Alice. She is an American expert of the visual culture of the Victoria period, including, unusually, on the cult of Elizabeth and the importance of Elizabethan-style costume in the 19th century.

Catherine (Kate) visited our school on Tuesday 11th December (see photo right) and our Premises Manager, Mrs Carolyn Airey showed her round. She was suitably impressed with the statue and excited to be involved in the exhibition.



Head Boys/Head Girls/Deputy's/Senior Team members!

Thanks to all who have been emailing with updates to our Senior Prefects webpage as we've filled lots of gaps—see: http://www.damealiceowens.herts.sch.uk/about_us/senior_prefects.html ! If anyone else has information to complete missing years, please email us at 400years@damealiceowens.herts.sch.uk—many thanks in anticipation!

Learning Support Department follow dyslexia research to try to improve students experience

Today we have so much more information to make a difference to those with learning difficulties. Thanks to Ms Fiona Hutchinson, Head of our Learning Support Department, for explaining how we have acted on research to help dyslexia students within the classroom and are using a new initiative to make it easier for students to read:

"At DAOS we constantly strive to ensure we support the students' learning within a dyslexia friendly environment. Staff are now encouraged to change the background of their whiteboard to a more muted colour to avoid glare. To further enable our dyslexic students the school have invested in pale coloured paper to trial with some identified groups, as this can enhance their reading ability."

Message from Bill Hamilton-Hinds about our New Science Building!



"As you know, we were awarded government funding in June towards our new Science Building and it gives me great pleasure to announce that the "Cutting of the First Sod" is being executed by the Master of the Brewers, Mark Woodhouse on Wednesday 16th January 2013, with full press in attendance!

It's a great way to start our 400th Anniversary Year with funds from our Appeal enabling work to commence by our contractors Jarvis, who also built our Arnold Lynch Maths and Technology Building in 2004. If you're interested in how our 400th Appeal is going or would like to make a donation, you can visit our webpage:

<http://www.damealiceowens.herts.sch.uk/2013appeal.html>. Thank you so much to those of you who have already contributed. We'll let you know how the building work is going with more updates in March 2013!"

Bill is shown here in a photograph from our Victorian Day earlier in the year, wearing his Italian made tailcoat from Harrods! The photo also appears in our new History book, which has been dedicated to Bill by Gareth Randall.

Blazer Boys Busking Bonanza!

Our student fund-raising initiative, Parable of the Talents, mentioned in our September Newsletter, is gathering pace this term with lots of great ideas being carried out to support our 400th Appeal for our new Science Building. A spectacular effort by the newly formed brass band "The Blazer Boys" this December has raised an AMAZING £615.49.

Using their musical talents the band were approved to busk in three different venues, Queen Mary University of London, Tesco Potters Bar and at Platform 9 3/4 at Kings Cross station.

We'll share more stories about what students have been up to in our next Newsletter in March 2013!



Partner School in Tanzania to benefit from student fund-raising



10% of funds raised in our Parable of the Talents initiative will go direct to our partner school in Tanzania; the Amani Centre that supports children with Mental Disabilities and their families in Morogoro.

We have been partners since 2008, when students visited and refurbished an old aged peoples home. A further trip by 20 students in 2010 took £10,000 of funds raised, to the centre.



They also took other gifts, played football and hoped that their efforts of redecorating the whole of the main hall would improve the environment for the students at the centre. Ellie Diamond and Kirsty Wastell, Year 12 wrote a moving report for our Arrow Magazine 2011 of their trip and you can read about it via this link:

http://www.damealiceowens.herts.sch.uk/news_dates/the_arrow.html

Note! When reading PDF's on our website, remember that they mostly have bookmarks added on the left hand side to act as an index. Just click on the title you're interested in and it should take you straight to the relevant page.

400th Anniversary Cake!

What celebration could be without a cake to cut? Not ours! Ms Carolyn Cerny, our Head of Food and Textiles, is co-ordinating this massive baking project and enlisting over 70 volunteers to each bake 20cm/8" square Victoria sponges with jam and royal icing. They'll be delivered to our Sports Hall on Monday 21st January for assembling and decorating with the school shield. 56 cakes will form the main cake and the others will provide the extra to share between all students and staff in the afternoon before the 400th Anniversary Launch event on Tuesday 22nd January, which is being held between 4-6pm.

The cake will be cut by our ceremonial sword which usually resides in the Old Library, then the frantic cutting will begin! The only unusual logistical issue with our baking project is to protect the cake in the Sports Hall overnight before our launch day—we gather there will be several mouse traps placed in strategic positions to protect it!!!

Our ceremonial sword was presented to the school by the College—Lycée de Chazournes, based in Aurec-Sur-Loire, France, as a souvenir of the first exchange between our two schools in January 1996.



Invitation from our 2013 Arrow Editors (see past copies on our school website under News & Dates)!

"Dear Old Owenians

We are delighted to be celebrating Dame Alice Owen's 400th Anniversary and, as part of the celebrations, we are creating a special 400th Anniversary edition of The Arrow to show the many qualities of the school and its students. The Arrow will be on sale at most of the venues of 400th Anniversary events throughout the school's calendar, however we expect to sell out very quickly due to demand. To avoid disappointment, we are offering all Old Owenians the opportunity to pre-order a copy of The Arrow which goes to print in March 2013. This will be packaged and delivered to your door, or available for collection on the school site if preferable, at a cost of only £5!

*To order simply send us your details stating how many copies you require, how you want to receive it and include a cheque payable to **Dame Alice Owen's School** to this address: The 2013 Arrow Editing Team, c/o Sixth Form Office, Dame Alice Owen's School, Dugdale Hill Lane, Potters Bar, Hertfordshire EN6 2DU. We urge you not to miss out on the exciting interviews and features in this year's issue, and look forward to seeing you at various events this year.*

The 2013 Arrow Editors
arrow_magazine@hotmail.co.uk

Old Owenian reports from the Front Line in Israel

We report on Old Owenian, Ms Yolande Knell, who appeared in the Welwyn and Hatfield Times, Potters Bar Edition on Wednesday 28th November and congratulate her for her accounts of the hostility between Israel and Syria from her base in Israel.

According to the WHTimes, she achieved a first class degree in English from Oxford University, then a Masters in Journalism Studies at Sheffield University. After working in radio she has been involved in various topics at the BBC, including the 2004 presidential election in the US and now is on the front line in southern Israel. They suggest keeping up to date with Yolande at BBC Worldwide and also following her on twitter@yolandeknell.



Science Society Lectures

Special thanks to Mrs Kika Dorotheou who has continued to put together a series of stimulating Science based lectures this term. Your editor managed to attend one evening and one lunchtime event and would urge you to consider joining us on a future occasion. The evening events are free of charge and open to our whole school community, attended by parents and students alike.

As a former A Level Geography student, your editor found the evening lecture on “Earthquakes, Volcanoes and our Dynamic Planet” by Professor Tony Hurford - former Professor of Geology and admissions tutor for Earth Sciences at UCL - particularly interesting. Now, dramatic facts and figures about the Boxing Day tsunami of 2004 (which left a friend missing), the dormant state of Vesuvius (honeymoon visit 27 years ago) and the Iceland Eyjafjallajökull ash cloud of 2010 (got stuck in Barcelona), had very real significance.



Life expectancy is relevant to us all, so sitting in Lab 11, the venue for student and staff lunchtime lectures, we were hooked on the presentation by parent, Professor Martin Bobak - Department of Epidemiology, UCL (see photo left) on “Why are some people healthier than others?”. His facts and figures put a perspective on wide differences between not only countries, like those in Africa and Eastern Europe compared to states in America, but the UK north/south divide and even between suburbs in Glasgow.

Drawing correlations between health issues and life expectancy he explained how personal reasons for poor health (such as smoking, drinking, obesity, physical inactivity, high blood pressure and cholesterol, unhealthy diet, risk taking, drugs and not seeking medical care) were often products of group issues (such as low education, bad job, unemployment, poverty, deprivation, bad housing, divorced/single parents, stress) which were in turn impacted by national issues (such as energy supply, public transport, social benefits, employment policy, health care, economy, sanitation, water supply, education system). On a global scale, international factors then came into play such as development of trade, history of war/conflict and indeed any period of time where significant change occurs.

When your editor asked how his department’s research was used to improve people’s health, he replied that they provided information to the Department of Health and influenced government and economic policies. For example, the most recent Labour government spent money on supporting programmes to improve health issues and the current government were using fiscal policy to directly impact smoking and drinking.



Thanks once again to all our volunteer speakers for widening our student’s education and the next programme of events will run from around February 2013 onwards. Please keep a look out on our website Latest News page for more details if you’re interested. Student reviews of other lectures this term can be found in the main School Newsletter which is published at the end of every half term and can be found on our website (see October 2012, pages 19-21) at:

http://www.damealiceowens.herts.sch.uk/news_dates/newsletters.html .

Old Owen’s Sports Ground



Once again, John and Lynn Clark, managers at the Old Owen’s Sports Ground in Northaw would like to remind you they’re very happy to welcome Old Owenians to any of their events which are advertised on their website (forthcoming Quiz Night in the New Year!). Why not try their DINING TUESDAYS – they provide a set 2 course meal for £10.00 a head? Dinner is served at 8 pm – just ring Lynn or John on 01707 644211 to book in advance to reserve your place.

John and Lynn are also happy to discuss any plans you might have for reunions in 2013. Old Owens’s is an excellent venue—just ring for a quotation!

Whole School Photo – first one for 11 years!



As part of our 400th anniversary celebrations, the whole school was photographed in October on the astro pitch by the Sports Hall in a massive feat of organisation, with everyone keeping fingers crossed about the weather! The staging was set sideways to the sun so no one had to squint, staff were asked to line up in height order and students were silenced with megaphones as they took their places. Imagine 1,450 students and 180 staff! Grounds men and P.E. staff dressed in suits for the occasion, the Senior Leadership Team wore gowns and always on the go, walking and talking on his mobile, Head Alan Davison swept into his place at the last minute with Chair of Governors, Peter Martin and Governor Tim Rayner.

Inevitably there were rude words shouted out at the last minute by a middle school boy, who caused a ripple of laughter just before the first shoot, but he was quickly spotted by a beady eyed helper and reprimanded. The camera man told girls to ignore the wind and not to use their hands to push hair into place, being easier to airbrush out hair than hands and arms! 1...2...3...go and it was done in only 4 takes!



Top—Ian Breeze and Adam Cotton, above left—current Senior Team, above middle—caretaker and grounds men, above right—Head Alan Davison, right—Deputy Head Bob Pepper, below—students and staff take their seats.



As we have had a few requests recently for past photos, we thought we'd let you know that Gillman and Soame, who have been taking our school photographs for many years have an archive section on their website going back to 1982. So, if anyone feels nostalgic and wants to search for an old photo of year groups or whole school photos, they can visit: <http://www.gillmanandsoame.co.uk/> for more details. You can request a preview of a photo for them to send you via email to check it's the one you want, for a small charge, which is then deducted from any subsequent order placed.





KEITH ARTHUR—LEFT 1963

Thanks to Mr Keith Arthur for recounting his very interesting career, who calls himself the *"naughty boy who left in 1963, with just the Cholmondley Reading Prize to show for it"!!!*

"The greatest regret of my life - one of the VERY few I have - was not working hard enough when I attended such a remarkable school as Dame Alice Owen's School for Boys. I found the first year, in the 2nd Form (and I learned a lot about human nature from School not having a first form) very easy and subsequently didn't work hard enough. By the Remove I'd lost all ability to work properly and it was probably as much a relief to School when we went our separate ways - well, I went my separate way, School didn't move for several more years.

It is thanks to my old pal and fellow Sentinels member (we were the School group of my year) Derek Reeve that I am now writing this. In fact, it's actually his former PA's fault, before he retired from Chief Exec of Kensington and Chelsea. She contacted me because for his retirement present ten years ago, she wanted to reform the band. So John Hampson (bass), Derek (rhythm guitar) and I (vocals) were reunited, along with Roger Collings who was in our rival year band, suitably named The Rivals. Since then Derek and I have kept sort-of in touch and the newsletter has become a required part of my e-reading.

When School asked what I wanted to do as far as work was concerned, having won the aforementioned prize, I thought that 'radio newsreader' sounded rather good, so when I left I spent two years learning how to measure and fit carpets, then 16 years selling carpets and furniture - having one or two Old Owenians from the years either side of my all-too-brief sojourn as customers - and managing quite large stores, before eventually joining the fishing tackle industry. It was angling that caused my educational downfall, that canal in Colebrooke (my house at School) Row was just too inviting.



Left to right it's John Severn (who I understand went on to play with the Youth Jazz Orchestra, but thought he was Hank Marvin back then) on lead guitar; David Prothero on drums, me in the centre, Derek Reeve, rhythm, and John Hampson, bass guitar.



I was married in April 1973, the 25th, to my wife Sue - Ruby Anniversary in 2013, 10% of School's life, coincidentally.

Eventually, in 1980, a magazine publisher asked me to write an article for his publication, 'Coarse Fisherman'. The 'coarse' in that refers to the use of coarse, or natural, baits rather than our demeanour. That article led to others and my longhand sheets became a monthly part of managing fishing tackle shops. In 1989 that same publisher asked me to take part in some videos he was directing: instructional and, hopefully, entertaining pieces on fishing in Northern Ireland. I had created quite a successful competition fishing career by then and was quite well-regarded and having never been short of 'rabbit' I accepted.

More videos followed and the production company asked me if I'd like to join them as 'technical director'. My earnings went up but job satisfaction wasn't great as I seemed to spend long times doing not much, a bit like an actor would I suppose. After all, even making fishing videos isn't possible on a weekly basis so when one of the World's largest fishing tackle manufacturers invited me aboard as a sales representative, I accepted and spent five happy years driving a Volvo estate around eastern England flogging tackle. The salary was good, my sales were budget-beating so commission was very satisfactory and life was rosy.

I'd also added more writing to my activities in 1990, producing a weekly column for Angling Times, Britain's biggest-selling angling weekly. Apart from a 15-month break, following a disagreement with the editor, I maintain that 1200 weekly words to this day.

Then it all came to an end when I was invited to appear as a guest on a new angling show on a small cable television channel called Wire TV. The channel showed old USA game and chat shows during the day but at 7pm each evening became 'Sportswire' and carried live sports programming.

Three weeks after my first appearance I was asked if I could be resident guest, on a bi-weekly basis and I accepted, after all who wouldn't want to be on telly talking about their very favourite thing in the entire World! (My wife won't read this...) After exactly twelve months Wire TV closed down as Sky Sports launched their second channel and within a couple of weeks I was asked if I'd like to reprise my role on their new channel, co-hosting a programme to be called Tight Lines with Bruno Brookes! Well, who could have said no to that?

Unfortunately my boss at the tackle company didn't like the idea so offered me the choice of 50,000 miles a year selling tackle or being on TV once a week for VERY little money, a no-brainer really. Tight Lines has just celebrated its 17th anniversary and I have been presenter for just over nine of those years, since Bruno left. I am now Sky Sports' oldest presenter and almost the longest-serving, with a significant length of contract still remaining. And that's not all...

In 1997, having worked on a couple of projects involving Matchroom Sport, including six stints in Mauritius on The Marlin World Cup - it's a rough old job sometimes - Barry Hearn became my manager. Yes, that Barry Hearn of boxing, snooker, darts, Leyton Orient etc. fame. In 1999 he took me to meet Moz Dee, the new controller of Talk Radio, an AM (medium wave to us) station who wanted me to present a fishing show for an hour each Sunday evening. The only condition I made before accepting was that it had to be called Fishermans' Blues and had to use that Waterboys track as it's opening music.

Within a year Talk Radio became TalkSPORT, one hour of Fishermans' Blues on Sunday evening was joined by another hour on Saturday morning. It is now two hours on both Saturday and Sunday, from 6 until 8am. I produce (such as that is...) and present it as a live phone/chat/conversation programme about, well, fishing! The show passed its 13th milestone in June 2012.



So I **became** a radio presenter and have read the news a few times when the newsreader failed to turn up. My show was also on air when the dreadful tsunami happened on Boxing Day 2004 and the Buncefield Fire just less than a year later when the show became a conduit for listeners with people involved in, or living near, the incident. It was an amazing experience.

A publishing company commissioned a book in 2008 - Fishing, (The Best Excuse for Loafing in the Countryside) - then went out of business before they had to pay me any royalties...but I'll survive.

So, I'd really like to thank Messrs Hutchings, Puddephat, Baker - various incidents involving Bunsen burners in desk drawers were NOT me - 'Enus' Reeves, 'Woodwork' George, 'Cheyenne' George, RG 'Baldy' Butler, 'Dave' Lindsay, Reg Tricker and 'Gym' Chant (a fellow angler), 'Ron' Crocker, - dear Miss 'Fanny' Cast, my 2nd form teacher and Mr Burroughs, then head who left shortly before me. I take no blame for that either.



So, although the route was long and circuitous, I eventually made it on to the wireless. I have even appeared with fellow Old Owenian Tony Hadley on Soccer AM, where we didn't stop talking about School, to the amusement of Tim Lovejoy and Helen Chamberlain. Whether anything like this would have happened had I been a better scholar, who knows? I just wonder, in some of my reflective moments, what might have been.

I sincerely hope to be at The Royal Albert Hall, even though it is only two days before my own important Anniversary and will ask to be placed on the waiting list immediately. I would like to wish everyone concerned with Owens every success in the future; may your life be as fulfilling as mine has been and thank all my old schoolmates who still occasionally get in touch. I honestly enjoy hearing from you all.

Keith Arthur - KACA to one and all at Owens but tell no one!"



JOHN ESSON—LEFT 1957

Thanks to Mr John Esson who sends us his memories and reflections and a splendid photograph of the football 1st XI of 1955-6.

"It's a very long time since my years at Owens and, with some regrets, I have not kept in touch since leaving in 1957 to continue my studies at Oxford. I was an 11+ entrant in 1949 from a modest Islington school and, being naïve and totally unaware of it at the time, joined Owens, then just a stone's throw from the Angel tube station, to experience an unknown new environment which turned out to be, as I realised much later, an opening to a world of opportunity. Living only two tube stops from Owens, Caledonian Road change at Kings Cross for the Angel, I had not realised that, such was the reputation of Owens, that boys—the girls school being separate in those distant days—came from a much wider area, including even Kent and Surrey!

In general young people today are much more informed and aware of the opportunities which education offers, but many of my generation had parents of very modest backgrounds who just wanted something better for their children without always being aware of how to go about it. Some, like me, were lucky to be pointed in the right direction. As in so many other things in life, however much planning you do, some of the best and most memorable things happen purely by chance. My arrival at Owens was one of those.

The Headteachers during my time were Garstang and then Burrows. On quite rare occasions, when feeling nostalgic, I dig out my school reports to remind myself of comments from them and their various long-suffering colleagues about my efforts. It was quite a chastening experience to come from being top of the class at my primary school to being sixth in one of three first year classes at Owens. Incidentally, my form teacher that year was Mr Puddephatt, who I remember as being a kind and helpful man and who, as I note from the School website (History, Headteachers), was Head of School at The Angel 1973-76.

Worse was to follow as this result in year 1 put me in the A class for my second year, where I found my level at twenty-something for the next few years. Being of a calm and conscientious disposition, perhaps too much so, I accepted this and continued to apply myself. It was not until reaching the 6th Form, where I opted for chemistry, physics and two maths (pure and applied) that my education really took off, giving me a springboard to study chemistry at Oxford.

I enjoyed every year at Owens, but my final year, a third one in the 6th Form intended to prepare us as State Scholarship and Oxbridge candidates, was particularly special. Robin Bradford, Peter Grieveson, Brian Hands and I, guided by our teachers, worked well together and learned from each other. I benefited enormously from this invaluable experience which was good preparation for what was to follow at university.

In addition to life in school, other lasting very fond memories relate to weekly trips to the sports ground at Chandos Avenue, Whetstone. After lunch at school, boys in the relevant years would make their way to the nearby bus stop in St John's Street to pile aboard route 609 trolleybuses to make their way to High Road Whetstone and then a short walk down Chandos Avenue to "The Field". Did teachers use the same route or did they travel separately? I have no memory of them being on the bus with us.

Even more exciting were days spent at The Field during the summer term. Each of us travelled there directly from home in the morning, had lessons in the prefabs on site and, after a packed lunch, exerted ourselves (or not as the case may be) by playing cricket and attempting to win points for our House by achieving Standards in about 12 different athletics events. Happy days! After an academic career, mostly at the University of Manchester, I'm now enjoying a happy retirement which owes its foundation to my time spent at Owens."

Football 1st XI 1955-6: in front of main entrance, Owen's Street. Front Row L to R—Donald Crawford, Derek Smorthit, Kenneth Thorpe, Jim Everton, Robin Bradford Back Row L to R—John Esson, ??, Ian Craft, George? Scott, Johnny? Haines, Gordon Abdey, ? Canning, ? Moore?



NICK GARRETT—LEFT 1987

We would like to wish Mr Nick Garrett all the very best of luck with his training for the London Marathon in 2013, who states on his fund raising page: "I am not a runner, I have never been a runner and the only running I have done to date is running a bath"!!! Your editor took part in Shine for London Half Marathon night-time fund raising walk in September and can only be in awe of anyone doing a full running marathon! He has kindly written a brief account of the directions he followed after leaving Owen's.

Being a second generation Owenian I followed my mum to Owen's in 1981 from the local primary school which was opposite the old school in Islington. I really enjoyed life at Owen's and had some great teachers like Mr Breeze, Mr Espley, Mr Hutchison and Miss Skako (not sure if that spelling is correct!!) and also some very odd ones whose names don't spring to mind as easily.

I left Owen's in 1987 to embark on a career in the City and spent the next 24 years in investment banking working in some of the major American Banks. During that time I also got married and now have 2 great children. In 2011 I decided to stop working for the world's most disliked industry and instead moved into the far more agreeable world of insurance where I now work for Zurich Insurance as head of Technical Operations and the Project Management Office - it's not quite rock and roll but I like it.

I decided to take part in the London Marathon in 2013 because it was something I had thought about over a pint for many years but had never gotten round to doing; I hope to raise money for a number of charities including Age UK, Alzheimer's Society, CLIC Sargent for Children with cancer and the Princes Trust. If you're interested in getting in contact, you can email me at nick.garrett1201@gmail.com."



GUY PARSONAGE – LEFT 1990

Thanks to Mr Guy Parsonage for getting in contact and who remembers *"a general studies class where an old Owenian came to talk to us about his work for Reuters in New York and what his life was like. His talk opened my eyes to the endless possibilities of what lay ahead."*

Mr Parsonage now lives in Hong Kong and is managing director of Jack Morton, a Global Brand Experience agency, (<http://jackmorton.com/>) responsible for forty staff who deliver events, conferences and marketing programs for global clients throughout Asia. The company has offices in five countries. He has kindly volunteered to take part in our Careers Talks week in March 2013 as it coincides with a visit back to Potters Bar to see family. He told us, *"I have very fond memories of the school and am very grateful for the spectacular education I received"*. We look forward to seeing him in March next year.



TAMSYNNE WESTCOTT—LEFT 1996

Thanks to Ms Tamsynne Westcott, one of our past Deputy Head Girls, who has helped update our Senior Prefects list on our website (http://www.damealiceowens.herts.sch.uk/about_us/senior_prefects.html) and has kindly sent a brief resume of her career to date!

"I went to University of Huddersfield to study music, then completed a PGCE in secondary music at Middlesex. After travelling, 10 years ago, I started working at Wall to Wall Media (TV Production company), and am still there now. I'm a Production Manager but am about to start my second maternity leave! I also run a peripatetic music agency called Simply Making Music. We supply music teachers for individual instrumental music lessons around Hertfordshire and North London. This will hopefully become my primary focus once my second son is born, although I'm aiming to start baby/toddler music classes within the next couple of years."



AMY CRICHTON—LEFT 2008

Thanks to Ms Amy Crichton, former choir member and deputy head girl, for getting in contact to join our 400th Anniversary Concert as part of the choir at the Royal Albert Hall next April. She tells us she finished her BA in History and English Literature at Durham last year and is now halfway through an MA in Gender Studies with Development and working as a model. She thinks the concert sounds like it will be a wonderful event and something very special to be a part of, so she's looking forward to it already!



CHARLEY BATES - LEFT 2005

At the end of the summer term this year, we bid farewell again to Charley Bates, who rejoined Owen's as an associate governor in 2010 to boost representation of Old Owenians on the Governing Body and served for a while on the 400th anniversary committee. She did her degree in Economics at Cambridge and is now training to be a primary school teacher on the south coast. We would like to take this opportunity of thanking her for her valued support and wish her all the best in her future career.



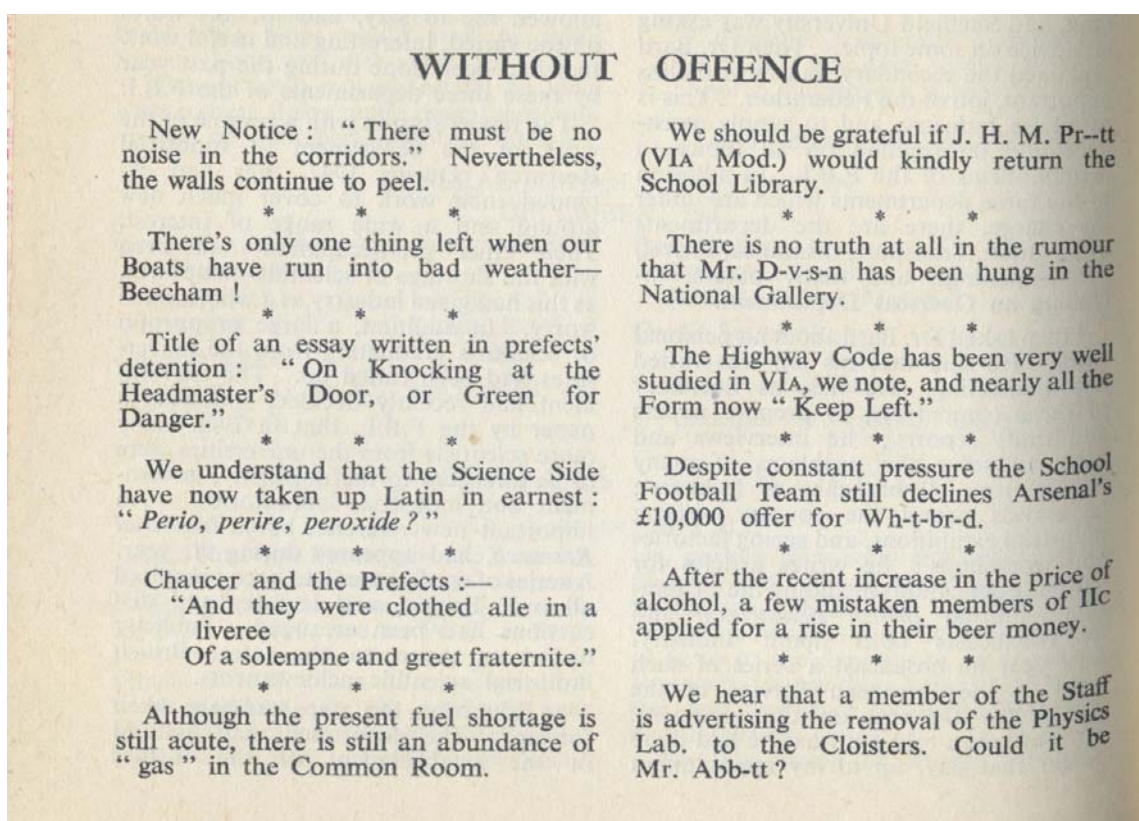
KENNETH TEACHER – LEFT 1948

Thanks to Mr Kenneth Teacher for re-connecting after 64 years and sharing a couple of memories! He joins our email list to hear news of the school through our Old Owenians Newsletter and to keep up to date with our 400th anniversary celebrations. He has had a varied career in the accountancy profession, industry, management consultancy and the City of London.

"I joined the 4th form of the School in 1945 when it returned to London after the end of the second world war. My closest friend then was Neville Teller and after losing touch for many years we reconnected a few years ago and have remained in contact since. In 1948 I left the School but remained in London to study Economics and then Accountancy.

Although I was a pupil at the School for only three years, many fond memories have stayed with me – among them, the search for proof of Pythagoras theory scratched onto one of the brick walls of the School, working behind the scenes in the production of "The Duke in Darkness" (the first play to be performed by the School post second world war), rehearsing out loud Neville's part in it on the trolleybus carrying us from Goswell Road to the sports fields in Chandos Avenue, contributing to several editions of "Without Offence", the humour page of "The Arrow" – and many others."

As Mr Teacher mentions, "Without Offence", you editor has, with much delight, discovered a few editions in past Arrows, which can be read below! (Trinity 1947, Michaelmas 1947, Lent 1948). Also in shown is a review of "The Duke of Darkness", The Arrow Lent 1948!



We deplore the increasing tendency to change the School hours. Too many boys seem to prefer five-past nine to four o'clock (4.30 on Fridays).

* * *

We beg to state that Mr. W-nkw-th denies having posed for the portrait of Chaucer in Room 20.

* * *

C-r-n (VIA) has wisely decided against taking up Diving. He thinks it might prove rather a flop.

* * *

Will the small second-former who says his name is Oliver Twist please refrain from continually loitering round the

Prefects' Room and asking for M - - re.

* * *

We are able to state on unimpeachable authority that Mr. B-rk-r's home address is not Waterlogged Spa.

* * *

New geography questions in a recent paper : What is the latitude of Platitude ?
Answer : the Common Room.

What is the longitude of Wrongitude ?
Answer : the Sixth Modern Form Room.

* * *

Who is the chief agitator in this Colebrooke-Myddelton feud ? Dare we say ?

WITHOUT OFFENCE

Late-comers to Prefects' Detention are requested not to create a disturbance by singing "Open the door, Rickard."

* * *

We hear that Flying Officer Ol——n requested his librarian for a copy of "Aldis and Heaven Too." Evidently "Air/Rec, or Little by Little" was out of stock.

* * *

One is disconcerted by a Modern side demand for Chemistry Subsid.

The recent repayment of fares has proved that at Owen's the shortest distance between two points is not always a straight line.

* * *

D. G. M——re's comment in VIB after seeing "Odd Man Out" : "Of course it was all right, but I was perturbed by the absence of sub-titles."

* * *

1st Higher School Candidate : "Our history paper was measley."

2nd H.S.C. : "What do you expect ? All the questions were spotted."

THE ARROW

There have been radical changes in the 3rd Cricket XI. It appears the committee picked the team out of a different hat the second week.

* * *

This year's prize for impudence goes to R. S. D——y, who, upon being given a glass of school field lemonade, complained of the absence of soap and towel.

* * *

VIA can rest assured that Mr. Wink-w—th's Thursday lesson will not be cancelled on grounds of mid-week sport.

* * *

Since tennis is again the fashion, Owenians are to be seen in strength on the school courts. A case of van in Rome do as Rome does.

* * *

"School caps must be worn," reads a notice. "What am I to do ?" asks Stan——nd. "Mine's brand new."

Mr. S. E. Ph——ps :

" . . . he sings each song twice over
Less you think he never could
recapture
The first fine careless rapture."

* * *

We wish to apologise for the absent-minded Sixth Former (Modern Side) who began Grace at School Dinner with "Benedictus Beatrice . . ."

* * *

Since the recent tobacco tax increase it has been possible to see quite clearly in the Common Room.

* * *

Where a cap ! ?

* * *

Why is White-bread served so often first in the Sports Canteen ?

WITHOUT OFFENCE

The prefectorial board is too large. There was an uproar when it was suggested that Moore should be added.

* * *

We hear that C-r-n (VIA) has been listening to radio rather a lot lately. Surely not the Light Programme?

* * *

We should like to know whether the forthcoming production "The Duke in Darkness" is intended as a satirical gesture at the recent cuts in electricity.

* * *

It is rumoured that a famous film Company has decided to film all its interior sea-sequences in the Ablution Room.

* * *

Will the Lower School please note that Mr. B-k-r now stocks lollipops as well as peppermints and bull's-eyes.

* * *

Motto for the Old Owen's Cycling Club:—"Strive with a wheel, Owenians . . ."

* * *

It is hoped that our prefects are above bribery and corruption. Nevertheless, we note that they still have their Price.

* * *

We hasten to Congratulate H. I. B-k-n (VIA) on his brilliant elocution in the part of Dubois in "The Duke in Darkness."

We cannot but commend the religious atmosphere maintained at School Dinner. Even the cook provides her Sacrifices of Burnt Offering.

* * *

We hesitate to attribute the sudden increase in ARROW contributions to the recent expiry of numerous copyrights.

* * *

Suggested new name for the ARROW "Old M—re's Almanac."

* * *

We congratulate the Cadet Force on doubling its number this term. The three new recruits are doing quite well.

* * *

The increase in the number of Sixth Formers now on the Science Side has been attributed to the new feminine element on the Lab. staff.

* * *

We can now authoritatively state that the final of the Colebrooke—Myddelton Cock House Competition will not take place at the Harringay Arena.

* * *

We should like to correct the rumour that the Prefects tried to book the Albert Hall for future Prefects' Detention.

THE SCHOOL PLAY

THE DUKE IN DARKNESS

1. *The Actors' View of it.*

To all those associated with the presentation of "The Duke in Darkness," the two performances given represented the culmination of much amusing though strenuous endeavour.

We had our share of set-backs. In the first place there remained little of the former flourishing dramatic society, except its reputation, and all the necessary machinery had to be re-established. Thus the number of persons who attended the audition was just sufficient for the cast. We unavoidably clashed with the Old Boys' Play too. They used the stage and "props" for their customary Christmas production which occurred just before our own, thus necessitating a swift substitution of scenery and effects.

Exams. interfered. At least four of the cast were taking Scholarships at Cambridge at Christmas and the Duke was intent on converting his School Certificate into Matriculation (which he did). To cap this, Martin Pratt who was originally cast to play the Duke was uncertain whether his call-up would be deferred. Consequently after several weeks' rehearsal, the cast had to be reshuffled, and Pedersen took Pratt's place. The combined effect of these difficulties, however, only served to increase our determination that the play should be presented.

On the unflagging optimism of Mr. and Mrs. Smith, their inexhaustible patience, and concentrated effort, much

of the success of the play depended. Rehearsals were held two or three times each week, after school, and on Sunday afternoons Mr. Smith's neighbours were disturbed by the clash of steel, and Gribaud's hideous screams. The cast was ably supported. An excellent publicity service was instituted by Mountford and Teller who plastered every available space in the School with appropriate posters. Mr. Dare controlled the Box-office admirably. The artistic abilities of Mr. Davison and his pupils were of great assistance and, between them, Mr. Vellacott and J. L. Price never failed to produce the most complicated pieces of furniture. The stage-hands, directed by Mr. Baker, thoroughly enjoyed themselves whilst producing the most weird lighting effects and casually dropping pots of paint all over the set. Mr. Phillips contributed some spine-chilling music and Mrs. Rockcliffe brewed gallons of tea for the cause. In fact the cast did possibly less work than anyone else concerned.

Their pleasure came from the humorous side of the production. Hawkins's moustache fell off in the middle of a tense scene, and Act I was finished in record time on the second night because half of it was accidentally missed out. It was a great improvement really. Rickard's helmet had to be stuffed with paper so that he could see where he was going, and lemonade was substituted for the cold tea used in the red jug after the cast had complained that it tasted like poison. The make-up which Coren employed to "grey" hair resisted all efforts at removal and some of the cast had perforce to travel home as if they had come straight from a Bakery. This curious spectacle moved a sympathetic woman to nudge her companion in the Tube and remark that "the lad must have been through something."

The lady spoke more truly than she knew, but the experience was delightful, and well worth the time and labour expended.

C.R.B.

2. *The Audience's View of it.*

This play presented many difficulties to the producers who are to be complimented on their handling and the air of conviction which they achieved. The action and dialogue need to be sustained on a low note; melodrama has to be eschewed and the more subtle implications emphasised. This put a difficult burden on the actors but they acquitted themselves well. C. R. Barnett as Gribaud, the faithful and yet demented retainer of the Duke, was outstanding, not only because of the heightened emotion possible in his rôle, but also because of the reality and faithfulness of his portrayal. His range of feeling—from mad frenzy to self-pitying imbecility—was remarkable, and he handled the difficult "dying-scene" with real sincerity. The Duke himself (C. I. Pedersen) was at times a little too wooden and the nobility of his character insufficiently brought out, but his handling of the more subtle passages was perfectly in keeping with the rôle, and he bore the large responsibility of a very long part with distinction. F. A. Beecham, as Voulain, the chief agent in the Duke's escape, had a part ideally suited to his powerful build and heroic bearing, and brought that necessary spark of action

which gripped the audience's interest, especially in the last act. N. Teller's performance as the villainous Duke of Lamorre must be given very high praise indeed. He had completely absorbed his part, acting with a polish and aplomb unusual in school-boy productions. Brulart (A. Rosen), the old servant, was also convincing in his rôle of comic relief, while J. H. Pratt (as Count d'Aublaye) and T. F. J. Hawkins (as the Captain Marteau) achieved in their short entries quite an effective characterisation. Even the three soldiers Grassin (D. Rickard), Roubot (J. R. French) and Dubois (H. I. Backen) sustained their rôles of "semi-mutes" with commendable sureness, adding the required gallantry.

Special mention must be made of the scenery, ably executed by Mountford, D. F. and his allies, under Mr. Davison's supervision, the lighting effects (work of Mr. Baker and J. L. Price); Mr. Vellacott's careful attention to "Props."; and the realistic and impressive music composed and played by Mr. S. E. Phillips. Altogether a fine team of experts and a very satisfying production.

R.A.D.



LORRAINE HAMMOND—LEFT 1977

Thanks to Ms Lorraine Hammond for recounting what she's done since leaving Owen's—she attended the Harold Moore Luncheon Reunion in October and inspired us with her stories.

"I left Owen's in 1977 having spent most of the time in Islington and the last year of the Upper 6th in Potters Bar. University was never an aspiration for me - I wanted to go to work after my A' levels. After a year with Barclays Bank (which I didn't enjoy) I joined what is now Jobcentre Plus. I thought that I would stay for a while and then move on - but here I am, 35 years later, still with the same organisation! It has been a job that has provided massive variety, including running a Jobcentre with 100 staff, through to doing a presentation at Buckingham Palace on recruitment.

Probably my most rewarding role was mentoring people looking for employment and supporting them back into work. It's very rewarding as I could use my experience to make a difference to people's lives. Some people are surprised that most jobs are not advertised and are filled through word of mouth - so it is essential to use your network of friends / acquaintances.

On the theme of networking, but for a different reason, in October I attended the Harold Moore Luncheon for the first time. I met some really interesting people, although none from my school years, and so I think that it's a really good idea that there is a drive to widen who goes to the event - a cross-section of ages is ideal - acknowledging the past and present and looking to the future. I would thoroughly recommend booking for next year's event."



1950's REUNION GROUP

Twenty Old Owenians met once again at the Harpenden House Hotel on Sunday 14th October 2012 for a reunion. Thanks to Mr George Sims for his correspondence.



JOHN CORSON – LEFT 1964

Thanks to Mr John Corson for sending his resume all the way from Australia.

"After studying at Lancaster and Leeds Universities I have taught in England, Canada, Scotland and Western Australia. Having retired as a Headmaster I now teach the bagpipes one day a week in a local school and pipe the cruise ships into Albany harbour on the beautiful south coast of Western Australia. I have three children and five grandchildren...the light of my life. Played Aussie Rules at state representative level and still playing veterans football. I play one game of cricket a year but it hurts."



ALAN KAY—LEFT 1947

Thanks to octogenarian Mr Alan Kay, for getting in contact—he would like to let Mr Lesley McCarthy know he is well remembered and wonders how he ended up in Africa! As a musical contemporary in the Sixth Form, he'd be happy to be contacted by Mr McCarthy on 01628 488605 or at 39, Mill Road, Marlow SL7 1QB. His email address is alansk@hotmail.co.uk and is fine to receive emails but not so good on sending them! Snail mail preferred!



VAL MCCARTHY—LEFT 2012

We would like to wish Mrs Val McCarthy, our Office Manager for many years, all the very best in her retirement.



SIMON PYZER—LEFT 1969

Thanks to Mr Simon Pyzer for getting in contact. He is attending the 400th Ball with fellow Old Owenians on Saturday 13th July 2013 and would like to get in touch with Mr Andrew Lampert, a contemporary who also left in 1969! Mr Lampert is not currently on our 400th email list, so if he happens to read this Newsletter, or if anyone knows him and can pass on a message, it would be great if he could email Simon on: simon.pyzer@btinternet.com.



LES GIBBINGS—LEFT 1971

Thanks to Mr Les Gibbings for making a record 4th contribution to our Newsletter and sharing swimming stories with us! He told us that whilst hoping to get a box for the 23rd April event at the Royal Albert Hall, he only managed to get a block of 16 seats across two rows for old friends and himself despite being on the telephone from before 9am on the day of release. He's glad that at least they'll be able to sit down!! We're delighted that he'll be attending our 400th Concert and are pleased that he's managed to arrange a reunion!

"Traditionally it being the Michaelmas term at the school right now, I had wanted to mention what I recalled of the sporting activities engaged in during that term from my time at Owen's. For my contemporaries and me, as I recall, it was usually football all the way until the New Year, when at some point Hockey took over. The thing is, probably unlike many who would wax lyrical about their feats in school colours at Chandos Avenue, Whetstone and beyond, I should not have had to depend upon memory alone to recall footballing feats with advantages when representing the school regularly on Saturday mornings. Why not you may wonder? Well simply because I kept records. I have a set of exercise books that may not have the expected detail of modern analysis like the percentage of possession and successfully made passes and shots on goal, but does show the more important fundamentals of who actually played and against whom and who scored in what games and how the match scoring went.

Fab you may (or may not say), and it was just this thought about being able to reveal truths and realities across a few years of our youth that was in my mind when I came across the small pile in a box in my garage. Recalling that I should make a mental note of where they were stored till I was ready to reveal their contents, I decided to retrieve them recently for the very purpose I had intended. Unfortunately their location eluded my ferreting. But they are there and as soon as I can bear to be outside for more than a quarter hour in the cold I am sure they will be rediscovered.

Otherwise, how can I relate the 'doings' of my school year team and leave old pals with a risk of having sleepless nights wondering if I will 'write and tell' about their exploits, thereby touching on those key questions such as who was the top scorer, who scored the best own goal and who went in goal when Dave Topliss memorably broke a bone at Hackney Downs? If such memories are indeed heaven for us old boys, then I am afraid heaven can wait...at least for the time being and until I can get outside again!!

And so I thought I might relate another sporting event instead that certainly had a key place in the diary when I was at Owen's. I recall many a trip through the streets south of the school on grey Michaelmas mornings to the aptly named Ironmonger Row Baths for our weekly swimming lessons. Aptly named in my view because conjures up a soul-less, grey and harsh place to me which I felt it was and being, I believe, a pool complete with Turkish baths that had opened near Old Street in the 1930s.

I cannot say I warmed to the place. I think you changed in cubicles directly alongside the main pool and generally with the usual silliness and banter that goes along with 30 teenage boys changing in close proximity to one another. Neither did I care for the hard tiled and unforgiving floor covering that by virtue of the tendency for 'pooling' on it's surface increased a person's risk of slipping over and cracking a head. However, I always found swimming lessons a great leveller somehow. I have vivid memories of manoeuvring in the deeper waters of the pool and when looking back to the shallow end one would see and watch, sometimes with a self-satisfying smirk as boys do, the Form's big and tough guys who as like as not were to be discovered moving in that tell-tale and tentative way non-swimmers do when uncertain and worried about being in water!!

Even more memorable for me however was the annual swimming gala at the baths and in particular the denouement of the afternoon's events which was, I think, something called the Cornell Cup (?). I do not know if this persists at the school to this day in which case it will be familiar to readers. However in case it is not I will relate what it seemed to be for me at the time. It was a sort of swim 'handicap' contest of one length of the (unlaned) pool, being about 30 metres. The detail of the way it was organised eluded me then and now, but it was without doubt simply great 'theatre' for all the boys watching in the tiered seating above and to the side of the pool, so much so, that it usually brought the veritable house down.

What appeared to happen was that 'winners' from each individual school year's competitions on that day would line up at one end and subject to their age would dive into the water at as the inimitable sports master D.E.A. Chant ('gym' by nickname – the man of the well used slipper – but that should be save for another day perhaps) would count out slowly numbers starting at one and proceeding up to ten. Thus on the count of 'one' a first year pupil or two might enter the pool, on 'two', second year pupils would dive in etc. I trust you get the picture

The fact is for a couple years while I was there, the school had a swimmer who it was alleged was a member of the British swimming team at the time. Whether he was or not, he was on a different planet swimming-wise compared to other mere mortals who swam in the gala. Making the most of this and as a technique for heightening the tension and increasing both the drama and the likely spectacle that was to come, it was no surprise in retrospect to realise that whilst the number calls progressed all of the swimmers had entered the pool and were going 'hell for leather' for the far end by the time 'four' had been called.

Standing alone at the far end of the line, itching to go was Ian Bagster, swimmer extra-ordinaire. By the time 'Gym' Chant called 'ten', those already in the water were within ten yards of the end of the pool and glory. Then Bagster entered the water. I say entered. Unlike all other swimmers who were usually making their best efforts in front-crawl Ian (who I never knew or met) employed the butterfly stroke. The result of this was that it looked like he was skimming above the water whilst combating the excessive back-wash & waveform from those already in the water.

I would find myself looking first at Bagster cruising at super-speed through the water and then, glancing to the finish to see how close the leading swimmer was. Such was the tension that I would realise I was literally holding my breath being so enthralled by the event unfolding before my eyes and in wonder as to the outcome.....inevitably the conclusion of this handicap race was decided on the final touch.

I can recall at least two of these events – in the one with what appeared to me from my elevated vantage point above the swimmers, Ian Bagster was credited with being the winner to screams of astonishment and disbelief that it had been possible. In the other, I recall that a big lad from my own year, Graham Metcalf (?) was his name I recall, was also a fine swimmer (favouring backstroke I think), and at the 'death' of the exciting finish, was considered to have bested Bagster. It may be merely fanciful of me but I seem to recall that there was almost a sense of anti-climax at the time that Bagster had been denied yet another triumph.

Whatever the modern-day criticisms of the event may be - too many bodies in the pool at one time maybe, no roped lanes, the criteria for calculating each swimmer's 'handicap' etc, all pales into insignificance in relation to what I and probably quite a few others contemporaneously thought was a great and thrilling end to a fabulous afternoon out on an English summer time with Owen's."



OSCAR MANTHORPE—LEFT 2008



Now part of the band, "Theme Park", Oscar Manthorpe from Highbury, was reported on by the Welwyn and Hatfield Times, Potter Bar Edition on Wednesday 10th October, along with band mates—twins Miles and Marcus Haughton.

Recently the band were very excited to be invited to join Bloc Party with Kele and co on the road as their support. They have a debut album almost ready and have some successful festival appearances at Reading and Leeds under their belt. Oscar will try to let us know about the album release nearer the time!

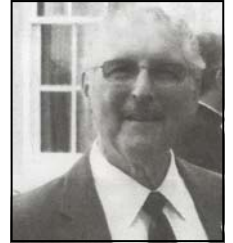


ARTHUR BAKER – left 1941



Further to our report about Old Owenians Mr and Mrs Arthur and Elsie Baker in our June Newsletter, Bill Hamilton-Hinds has provided us with a copy of the article about Mr Baker in "Optician", dated 10th August 2012, written by David Baker, his son. The article introduces Arthur Baker as "the oldest optometrist in the country" and reviews his long career in optics and teaching. He joined Owen's in Bedford during the war and was in the school's Air Defence Cadet Corps and later the Air Training Corps.

As a matter of chance, to fill time before being called up for war service, he found temporary work with a lens specialist and learnt the basic workshop skills and rudiments of refraction. His story of how he combined training while serving in the RAF in Bedford, London, Wolverhampton, Fakenham and India and at the same time corresponding with an Owen's girl is inspiring! After the war, he still combined teaching, studying and working, eventually opening a new practice in New Southgate while still teaching. His son joined him in larger premises next door in 1994, where he still continues today.



NEIL MOTCHAN—LEFT 1945

Thanks to Neil Motchan for his second contribution which gives us more fascinating insight about Owen's and Neil's personal history. First, and this has to be your editor's favourite photo of all received to date (with nostalgia for past camping holidays!)—Owen's students in the Summer of 1944 putting their "Backs to the Land" - caption by Neil below:

"Owen's School, in Bedford for the duration of WWII, was in a really winning class in so many activities other than just education. Sports of all types were specialities, and even our "new" 'sport of rowing became quite exceptional. But, history master, Bert Olphin unearthed quite an original "sport" in the Summer of 1944 and many of Owen's city slickers joined the trek to Somerset to work in agriculture for a few weeks. Under the Olphin guidance (with Mrs Olphin as "Den Mother"), this exclusive camp produced a unique bunch of amateur farmers (from our "middle" school) who really distinguished themselves in a completely different summer occupation. And, quite frankly, we were very proud to be able to put our "Backs To The Land" and get a real Thank-You for it."



Second, Neil provides us with a copy of "Owen's School Comes Home", from the North London Press, September 9th, 1945, with an account of how Owen's returned from Bedford to Islington after the war and interview with Head, Mr Mitchell. Also, "Gallant Rescue Attempt" from the same paper, which records the presentation to John Price, mentioned at the end of the first article. If you have difficulty in reading the smaller newsprint, please find the facility to zoom in on your computer—it's really worth a read!

September 1945

OWEN'S SCHOOL COMES HOME

A Proud Record

North London can be proud of its leading public school—Owen's of Islington.

After six years "exile" in Bedford, during which time it earned itself the title in official circles of "The Best School in Evacuation," it has returned to its traditional birthplace in Owen Street to take its place again as one of the leading centres of London education, and, as Mr. O. W. Mitchell, the headmaster, has often said, "to prepare the men of to-morrow to serve the new world of the future."

At the opening of the academic year on Tuesday, Mr. Mitchell, in welcoming the new boys, explained the school was as strange to everyone else as it was to them. "You are welcomed to a proud school," he said. "Make it yours by being proud of it and by working hard."

After referring to their grand achievement in keeping the school going, he said, "Now we have to do more than keep it going. We have to convert it from the old-fashioned Spitfire to the latest type of jet-propelled model, and I mean hard work, good behaviour, and good manners."

"This is a very historic moment, when, after six years, an old school swings back into place under new management. I want you to shew the world—our world, our governors, parents, and Old Boys that together we can make a school as great as it has ever been; in fact, greater, and more famous. It is not going to be easy, but we must do our best and not let bad conditions affect our work and determination."

"When the school had its first assembly in Bedford, in September, 1939, I made a vow that we would see this thing—evacuation—through. We did! Now, with you, I make another vow—that you and I will see this difficult period through, until we get better conditions, and our work will be a credit to all."

FATHERLY CARE

Our reporter spoke to Mr. Mitchell afterwards. The headmaster, who took up his post on the first day of evacuation, and who has since done unique work in the most crucial period of the school's history, is a modest and indefatigable worker. His management of the school in evacuation and his fatherly care of the boys in their absence from home is beyond praise.

An old Owen's boy, he said he had achieved his greatest ambition by becoming the headmaster of the school, especially in normal conditions.

He next explained that he could not adequately thank Bedford for their great help in Owen's time of need. "We shall always remember the hospitality afforded us by Bedfordians. Our sincere gratitude also goes to Mr. Liddle, the headmaster of the Bedford Modern School, and the staff and boys of that school for their co-operation in a very difficult task," he added.

EXCELLED THEMSELVES

Owens excelled themselves in Bedford, both in the scholastic and athletic spheres. Scholarships and examinations were proportionately higher than in previous years, and the boys proved themselves quite adept at all sports, from rowing (which they took up on their arrival) to football and cricket.

Concerning the transition from Bedford to London, Mr. Mitchell said that although everything had been brought back, and the boys, masters and materials installed in their respective positions, there was still a lot to be done before conditions were completely normal.

BOY HEROES

A coincidence in Bedford was that during the first term there, Cross, an Owen's boy, rescued a woman from the River Ouse. In the last term, David Price, also an Owen's boy, rescued a man from the same river after many attempts, although the man died when brought out. The Bedford Coroner complimented Price on his bravery. Both boys are North Londoners, the former now a pilot officer in the R.A.F.

December 1945

GALLANT RESCUE ATTEMPT

Owen's Boy Honoured

A 16-year-old Owen's school-boy's dive into the River Ouse at Bedford, to bring a man to the bank, regardless of his own danger, was described at a special ceremony at the school this week, when John L. Price, of Canonbury Place, Islington, was awarded the certificate of merit by the Royal Humane Society.

Presenting the certificate, Insp. Stoneman, of the City Road police station, told the audience of 500 boys and staff that although he was not a swimmer himself he could appreciate Price's gallantry, especially in view of his age.

The incident occurred when John was going to take a bath in the river. Hearing shouts, he dived in to try to rescue the man from the river bed. It was only after he had dived two or three times that he collided with him and managed to bring him to the surface and then to the bank where other Owen's boys were waiting to help. During the 30 minutes he was waiting for the police, John, and other boys applied artificial respiration without success.

John has since been congratulated by the Bedford coroner, the Bedford police and the man's father, who lives at Brighton.

Third, Neil provides one of his own journalistic efforts, when at the age of seventeen, he reviewed movies in his first job for the North London Press!

FILMS

NOEL COWARD FILM IS BITTER-SWEET

I wonder what will be your reaction to **"BRIEF ENCOUNTER."**

The theme is the well-worn one of a married man falling in love with a married woman, both realising the futility of their romance and yet clinging desperately to the last threads in the hope that something will turn up to change the situation for the better. Yet so sympathetic a study of human nature is this film that in viewing it, I felt myself to be among the actors and vitally concerned in the working out of their problem.

Celia Johnson and Trevor Howard are the two main characters in the story and their perfect, restrained acting is a pleasure to watch.

The production, too, is superb.

This is a film that is British in every way and is a fine example of our own prowess in film-making.

Showing at the **Odeon, Golders Green**, with a mystery of the "lesser type," **"PILLOW OF DEATH,"** featuring Lon Chaney, Jun., and Brenda Joyce.

Betty Hutton has always been one of my greatest favourites, and she crept even closer into my usually critical mind after I had seen **"THE STORK CLUB."**

In this, the inimitable Betty is co-starred with that marvellous Irish Academy Award winner, Barry Fitzgerald, who again does everything but take all the laurels.

The story is of a night-club "check girl" (Betty Hutton), who saves a millionaire from drowning, and, thinking he is a tramp, promises to find him a job at the club. Meanwhile, the millionaire (Barry Fitzgerald) gives Betty an unlimited amount of money (anonymously) to show his gratitude, but she spends it extravagantly, much to his amazement. Because he loses the job she "kindly" finds him, he goes to live with her at her expensive apartment, where she "kindly" accommodates him. There follows a succession of hilarious adventures in which Betty's marine boyfriend (Don DeFore) figures prominently, and he thinks she is getting the money from an illicit lover.

Things do eventually straighten themselves out, but not before Betty has had an opportunity of singing several numbers of different sorts (it is really a pleasure to hear her), and Barry Fitzgerald is reunited with his own wife.

Those who want plenty of comedy shaken into a cocktail with music and a dash of human interest, should certainly make the **Regal, Golders Green**, or the **Odeon, Swiss Cottage**, their target for the week.

Showing at these two cinemas with **"MY LEARNED FRIEND,"** a bad comedy with a good comedian (Will Hay).

An example of a film that would have been far better if it had been made in Britain, is **"TOO YOUNG TO KNOW."**

Hollywood has not yet overcome that feeling of "every human story must become insipid or sensational," but is blindly treading a path of ultimate failure where this type of film is concerned.

Joan Leslie is the "heroine" of the piece, whose hasty marriage to the "hero" (Robert Hutton) ends in disaster, but ultimately patches itself up (as all good fairy stories should), and they live happily ever after.

I thought this film was rather a condescension for Miss Leslie after her other triumphs, and for the



BETTY HUTTON and
BARRY FITZGERALD
IN **"THE STORK CLUB."**

promising young actor, Mr. Hutton.

Not a particularly suitable film to see, unless the weather stays as it is at present, when even the discerning filmgoer may make an exception to his rule.

Showing at the **Lido, Golders Green**, with Derrick de Marney in **"LATIN QUARTER."**

I have never yet been let down over a Bette Davis film, and it is because of this that I am looking forward to seeing **"IN THIS OUR LIFE"** again when it is re-issued at the **Classic, Baker Street**, on Sunday.

The story is of a triangular love affair in which Bette Davis, Olivia de Havilland, and George Brent are involved. To delve into the depths of the story would not be fair to you in this case, so I will leave it with the strongest recommendation for you to see it.

"SUMMER STORM," Thursday's programme at the **Classic**, is the story of Tsarist Russia when the aristocracy were worth about "two-a-penny."

George Sanders is a very enterprising police chief and Linda Darnell, a very attractive beggar-girl, also enterprising when it comes to making love to the police chief, or a member of the "higher class" (Edward Everett Horton) for his money.

The rest of the story does not follow very closely on the book, but it makes good entertainment, especially when it is in the hands of such capable actors.

A thoroughly enjoyable film, but not for those fans who dislike a slow-moving story.

N.M.M.

And last but not least, Neil wanted to share his only editorial, writing for the local daily in Canada where he resides, which he has had as a "hobby occupation for 20 years, up to 2000." Thanks to Neil for all his valued contributions.

The Gazette, Section One—June 7, 1978—page 22

Guest Editorial

By: NEIL MOTCHAN

WOULD YOU ALLOW a mere "reviewer" (for want of a better description) to briefly move himself from the entertainment section of this paper, to ask a question or so, make a few observations and, perhaps, advance a few opinions?

Over the past three months, or less, it has been my privilege to see, as I hope you might see, and describe, as maybe you might describe, a number of shows embracing entertainment, art, literature and young peoples' pastimes.

I read continual criticism of what is called the "NOW" Generation. What is the "NOW" Generation? Is it just a vague description invented by journalists of that unknown quantity called "kids", or is it something more menacing?

I ask this because of a total local population of around 70,000, over ten percent have involved themselves in the activities I've been seeing and, ironically, this ten percent are in the school-age groups.

For example, SCITS put on a revue with over 200 participants; St. Pat's, an operetta with over 150 involved; Central's bands gave us all a sense of civic pride; Alexander Mackenzie, under Art Christmas, produce their revue; St. Clair devoted theirs to a great cause; 55 Errol Road kids entertained 2000 other kids - whose ticket to the show was "elevation" to the Young Authors Conference; High Park kids give Gilbert and Sullivan a whirl; hundreds of kids enter an Art-Gallery sponsored exhibition; nearly 3000 kids are part of Guiding and Scouting; do I need to go on? I can name loads more if you wish!

My point is, are these kids a part of this infamous "NOW" Generation? We see little of their exploits in the editorial columns - they are not sufficiently "interesting" and you do not buy papers to read "good" things - just sensational things - and what's sensational about being good?

May I ask that we all start putting "things" in their real perspective. Are we only interested in the hooligans who claim so much printed space? They remain hooligans for a couple of reasons. First, the bad ones don't get caught that often, so publication of their exploits make them petty heroes. Secondly, we measure their activities inequitably - take the 7500 kids mentioned above and I'm sure that a communal hymn singing by all at one time would attract hardly a peep and their efforts would still go on unnoticed.

It just seems that whatever you call a kid, it's like waving a red rag at a bull and certainly becomes a real eye-catcher. Our local courts, set up for disciplining children are, apparently woefully understaffed, and Judge David Kent told me that the situation is deteriorating fast due to cut-backs. Our local police are still, a whole year after, in the process of trying to set up a Youth Bureau, even though Chief Cook himself publicly declared that it's establishment might steer 80% of young offenders from crime.

To the uninitiated, it would appear that the key to the matter is more occupied minds and more adult patience, interest and common sense. If 7500 kids, in a period of three months, can produce positive effort with positive results, then something's falling down somewhere with the rest.

With summer and long vacations almost here, have our local legislators, organizations, Service Clubs etc., decided again, to shut up shop? Has the Board of Education laid on activities in, or on, school premises, other than summer school? All this would help to keep kids off the streets. Has our local police force studied ways to help kids to be occupied during the holidays (other than "joy-rides" in squad cars and paddy wagons)?

What I am leading up to is that several yesterdays ago, you and I were part of what is being referred to today as the "NOW" Generation. I'm sure that if there had been a criminal code in the Garden of Eden, Eve would have been charged for picking the apple - as she was the "NOW" Generation of her time.

Remember, tomorrow this "NOW" Generation is going to run our affairs for us, and Heaven help us all if we don't try to give them the training they need. Reform Schools do not Reform! People Reform! In the midst of moving junkyards, closing roads, building neat little parks and closely protecting individual rights, don't forget the rights of the kids. We didn't want ours forgotten when we were young!



REBECCA WHEATLEY—LEFT 2007

ADAM STATON—LEFT 2005

Congratulations to Rebecca Wheatley (left Owen's in 2007) and Adam Staton (left Owen's in 2005) who announced their engagement on 30th September 2012. They are getting married in June 2013 and are hoping to stay around North London.

Adam went to Birmingham University to study Mechanical & Automotive Engineering and Rebecca went to Nottingham University to study French, German & Spanish. They have both just finished Masters degrees, Adam's in Automotive & Motorsport Engineering at Brunel University, and Rebecca's in Translation & Interpreting at Westminster University.

They first met in October 2003 through a mutual friend from Church when Rebecca moved back to London following five years in Lyon, France. They became good friends as they were socialising both in and out of school, before things got a bit complicated and they both went their separate ways for university. They met again in 2010 for a coffee, with more success, and Adam proposed during a surprise trip back to Lyon two years later!

We would like to wish them all the best with their forthcoming arrangements!



BRIAN DELL—LEFT 1953

Thanks to Ms Gigi Greco for getting in touch! She is working with Brian who is interested in contacting other members of Leavers from 1953. If anyone remembers Brian, they'd love to hear from you. They can be contacted via the following email address:

gigigreco@live.com.



ALISON ("Ali") FINCH—LEFT 2007

Thanks to Ms Ali Finch for getting in contact about possibly arranging a Reunion in June 2013 for Leavers in 2007 to coincide with our 400th anniversary - a great idea! She's considering holding the event at Old Owen's so there's a strong link with the school and everyone will be able to find it!!! If you're interested in helping Ali, please contact her on alifinch.1@gmail.com.

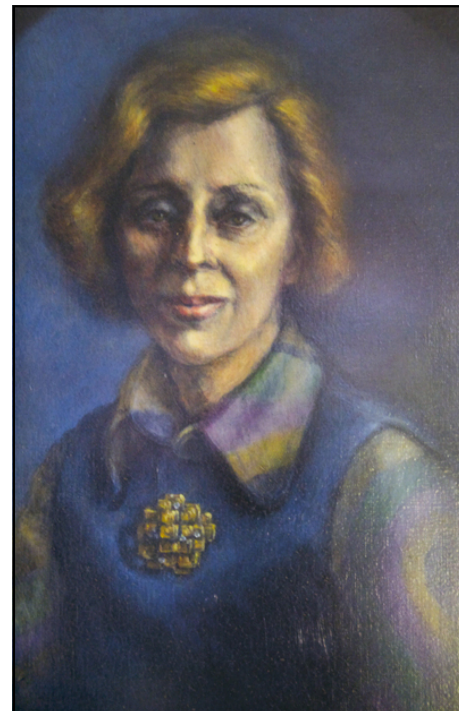


NEST KISCH (Head of the Girls' School in Islington 1960 – 1973)

We were sorry to learn that Mrs Nest Kisch passed away this summer, after an illness in her nineties. Thanks to Gareth Randall, who has kindly provided some extracts from his book as an obituary, with references from Dare's previous History and we include two personal references from people who knew her. She attended the Harold Moore Luncheon a few years ago and kept in touch with Gerry Jones, Head of the Boy's School in Islington, 1962-1973 and Head of Dame Alice Owen's School, Potters Bar 1973-1980.

"Nest Kisch was the right woman for the right time. The world was changing rapidly after the austerity of the Second World War with its rationing and utility furniture till under Harold Macmillan we'd never had it so good! During the war as a modern linguist Nest Kisch had served in Bletchley Park, the code breaking establishment to which Arnold Lynch had contributed his high speed optical tape reader and she spent time in Germany at the end of the war with the Education Corps.

Of course, she never confided what exactly she did there – no doubt her work was covered by the official secrets act. But she must have been a clever young woman to have secured a first in Modern Foreign Languages (French and German) from the University of Wales and she came to Dame Alice Owen's from Lady Margaret School in Fulham where she had been the Deputy Head.



Nest Kisch was like a breath of fresh air and she was able to lead her girls into their new home, a brand new building, the first purpose-built girls' grammar school in London after the War, completing the transition in 1963. Dare praises her time in charge of the School as one in which academic work reached high standards, sport, music and art flourished and the girls were encouraged to develop as individuals and "...fit themselves for their role in the modern world."

She brought colour into the school and her lively and somewhat astringent personality was effective in stirring people, both pupils and Staff, to exercise their initiative and strike out in new directions, while maintaining traditions, such as celebrating the school's birthday on the 29th September. Charitable work was also carried out during the year; an annual Christmas party was held for local elderly people and almswomen and funds were raised for Cancer Research, Save the Children, Oxfam and Unesco, keeping the spirit of Dame Alice Owen very much alive.

It is worth noting that the first four Head Mistresses of the Girls' School were unmarried like the original Masters in charge of the Boys' School had to be – single people with a single vocation. Mrs Kisch was the first married woman to occupy the post and in a changing world, she offered new, fresh challenges for our girls, promoting equal opportunities with the boys. She herself reflected: 'I hoped to provide a role model for the girls and by various changes to the curriculum and ethos of the school to raise the girls' aspirations.'

Change was and is increasingly the order of the day especially in education and Mrs Kisch was conscious of the winds of change and made suitable adjustments to the Girls' School. Not least were the changes to the curriculum itself with the introduction of CSEs (Certificate of Secondary Education) for some pupils in some subjects. Joint A level groups with the Boys' School eventually became the norm achieving an economy of scale and producing what Dare describes as a 'stimulating effect' on our students. It was how a future Chairman of Governors was to meet his future wife. In 1968 the Sixth Form had a record number of 85 girls and university applications rose.

Harrock House, the former residential centre in Sussex the fruit of the 350th anniversary appeal was jointly proposed by Gerry Jones (Head of the Boys' School) and Nest Kisch: that 'a large house, in a rural setting, should be purchased and suitably converted so that it could be used as a residential rural centre for the boys and girls of the two Schools.' Staying there for periods varying between a weekend and a fortnight, pupils could study and learn in a wider context in the fresh air outside London thereby more fully realising Cholmeley's vision when he established classrooms on the School playing fields.

The Governors' original intention was to have a joint headship of the new School in Potters Bar with Nest Kisch and Gerry Jones sharing the responsibilities in a creative partnership. Indeed, the design of the new School initially provided the two Heads with two large, back-to-back, en-suite offices, the mirror images of each other, separated only by the end of a corridor. But she declined the proposal in favour of a post with ILEA (Inner London Education Authority) as an Inspector of Modern Foreign Languages which she found 'most interesting and rewarding'.

Mrs Kisch was very much in favour of the school becoming a mixed comprehensive but 'was very sorry it was decided to move the schools away from the area where the famous arrow incident had taken place and where the first school was founded.' Certainly as the last Head of the Girls School in Islington, Owenians owe a not inconsiderable debt to a remarkable woman.

Thanks to Octogenarian, **Mrs Muriel Burgess** (previous Head of PE during Mrs Kisch's time as Head) for her personal comments. She told us how Mrs Kisch was very energetic and explained how she brought lightness to the school following Miss Ward's Headship, agreeing that it was the right time for change. Mrs Kisch had new ideas, especially about uniform. The Head herself set the trend – at one Head's Conference, Mrs Burgess remembers seeing all the Head's appear from the meeting room, wearing twin sets, except Mrs Kisch who wore trousers!

Mrs Burgess was recruited by Miss Ward when she was invited to judge a gym competition and didn't realise until the end of the day that it was actually an interview and was offered a job at the school! She still keeps in contact with other past staff – Andy Booth (ex-Head of Physics), Terry Nicholls (ex-English, now Head of English at a college in the South of England) and Barbara Charlish (previous Librarian now retired and has recently visited her son and daughter-in-law (both Old Owenians!) in Australia).

Finally, thanks to **Mrs Brenda Ainsley** for sharing this report from her friend, who wrote for the ILEA Inspectorate Newsletter this Autumn.

"Nest Kisch was highly respected, not only by ILEA language teachers, but also by members of national organisations, such as CILT, the National Association of Language Advisors and HMI. She was a helpful and supportive colleague, a friend of great warmth and wit. Her death leaves a large gap among her friends in London, with whom she regularly played bridge and shared her love of gardening. She won prizes several times and there is a plan to offer "a small cup for a small garden," through the Chelsea Garden Guild, in her memory."



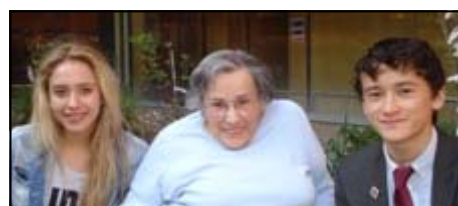
EILEEN BECKWITH (NEE FAIRCLOUGH) - at Owen's 1944-1951

Mrs Eileen Beckwith is remembered by Ms Joan Haley, her sister.



HELEN URI—joined Owen's in 1936

We were sad to learn of the passing of Mrs Helen Uri this summer. She was one of our first Old Owenians contacts and kindly accepted to be interviewed by Owen's Sixth Formers for The Arrow Magazine in 2010 (left). She subsequently visited the school in her wheelchair to meet Year 7 students and speak about her experiences at the old Girls' School which she joined in 1936, and the school's move to Kettering during the war. You can read her stories in The Arrow Magazine 2010 on our webpage at: http://www.damealiceowens.herts.sch.uk/news_dates/the_arrow.html. Remembered by Mrs Ruth Goldman.



Obituaries are read out at the annual Harold Moore Luncheon and can be posted in this Newsletter on request.

And finally....

Following another of our successful Careers Talks Week in March this year, we are once again repeating our opportunity for Old Owenians to share their career stories and tips for student's during week commencing March 5th 2013. This coincides with National Careers Week (5th-8th March 2013). For those interested, please pencil the date in your diaries now!



We will be sending you an email alert in early 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) 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:

"I was very impressed by the whole experience - that the school is holding a careers week; the number of speakers visiting, the number of interested students and the related communication. As a side note, I had not been to the school for a long time and was extremely impressed by the atmosphere of the school, the quality of the facilities, the achievements of the students and the plans for the future." – **Gavin Flook**

"Was really impressed with the quality of their questions" – **Jenny Daniel**

"It was a really enjoyable afternoon, so thank you." – **Jack Shenker**

"The students were receptive and lively with many pertinent questions." – **Professor Jack Levy OBE**

"This is a very worthwhile part of the education of young people and long may it last." – **Graham Simmons**

Techno Tip!

For our really keen bean Old Owenians, if you want to be informed by email of when any news relating to Dame Alice Owen's School appears on the internet (it's OK, we won't think you're stalking us!), you can set up a Google Alert.

You do this by visiting <http://www.google.com/alerts> and choosing your settings. For example :

Search query—you would put "Dame Alice Owen's School" - they show examples of what would come up

Result type—would be your choice of the sort of information you'd want to be alerted to

How often—set according to your chosen frequency

How many—set best results only or all

Then you simply give your email, create your alert, validate the email they send you and you're set up! Examples of alerts your editor has received include details about Royal Albert Hall tickets on resale sites, staff vacancies, student successes, details on our school website etc. You can cancel the alert at anytime—so suggest you give it a go!

Duke of Edinburgh's award for Old Owenian

Congratulations to Mr Simon Brook (left 2005) for recently completing his Gold Duke of Edinburgh's Award and receiving the award from Prince Philip. You have to be between 14 and 24 to take part in the scheme and many award holders go onto volunteer to support others to achieve theirs. It is highly respected by employers. Karren Brady, Vice Chairman of West Ham Football Club and regular face on the BBC's The Apprentice, recently took part in a presentation at St James's Palace : "It's great to see the success of those getting their DofE Awards today. Employers know the DofE turns young people into great employees. What's so clever is that it is as relevant today as it was 50 years ago. The DofE is a great way for young people to differentiate themselves and develop the maturity needed to do well at work."

As a Gold Award holder herself, your editor supports this view!!!

So, I'll just leave you with a photo, taken last week, of our beautiful frosted trees on the front lawn to get you in the Christmassy spirit and for a bit of fun, see if you can guess the answer to the clue of this Christmas Carol "HOMO SAPIEN OF CRYSTALLIZED VAPOUR" - one of the questions on our Administration Team Christmas Dinner Quiz! (You'll find the answer on this page somewhere!)



Have a wonderful Christmas and here's to 2013!

Mrs Mandy English, Communications Officer



P.S. Remember if you'd like to contribute to our Spring Old Owenians Newsletter, please get in touch with us by **Friday 8th March 2013**.

Perhaps you'd like to take the opportunity in our 400th year, to jot down a brief paragraph of where you are and what you're doing and say hallo to old friends —we'd love to hear from you...**and please continue to "spread the word" about us!**