



Old Owenians Newsletter

Third Quarter—25th September 2013

Edition 11

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

Dear Old Owenians

This September, 2013, we pause to look back at our 400th Anniversary celebratory events to date and are aware of being part of a very special window of time in our history. It was our 400th Committee's wish to include as many of you as possible, bringing our whole community together, which I hope you agree, so far, we've been able to do. May I take this opportunity once again, to sincerely thank you, our alumni, on behalf of our current student, staff, governor and parent body for supporting us by contributing in so many different ways – we've literally been overwhelmed by your generous response.

*Our Autumn Term brings the last of our celebration and fund raising events to a close; for example, you might like to squeeze in a visit to the Screen on the Green for An Audience with Sir Alan Parker on 1st October or visit us to hear **David Dein (right)** give an entertaining, amusing and informative talk about his work with the Football Association and his time with Arsenal on 7th October, in the Edward Guinness Hall.*

The Harold Moore Luncheon Reunion on 31st October is Stan and Michael's last event – we hope to have a new team carrying on the tradition next year. Finally, if you'd like to join us for our traditional Carol Service at the Cathedral and Abbey Church of St Alban, tickets are available NOW, on a first come, first served basis. More details on page 2/3!

**400th Anniversary
Nine Lessons and Carols
Service at
The Cathedral and
Abbey Church of St Alban
Monday 16th
December 2013,
7.30pm
Tickets now available -
see page 3**



Since our last Newsletter in June, we stunned many of you who attended our 400th Ball in July with the complete transformation of our Sports Hall; thanks to our OSA (Owen's School Association), who pulled out all the stops to deliver a high class evening of entertainment and raised a significant sum towards our new Science Building, bringing our total amount of monies raised to date to £810K – only £190K go to towards our £1m target! See what progress we've made to the site over the summer on page 5.

Our School Trip to Ecuador and the Galapagos Islands over the summer break was also a huge success – some of you'll remember your own amazing Religious Studies trips with Mr Johnstone and you can read more about this year's visit to South America on pages 7-9.

August bought another set of fantastic results from our extremely hard working Year 11, 12 and 13 students, who managed to defy most of the national problems with top grades. GCSE results increased for the third successive year with 94.6% of students obtaining 5 A- C including English and Maths and 65.5% of those were awarded A or A*. At A Level, students also reached record results with 88.6% of all grades awarded A*-B and 64.3% of those were graded at A or A*. We congratulate all students and fully recognise that it's our supportive community and teamwork of students, staff, governors and parents, who enable us to deliver the best possible outcomes.*

*We also wish good luck to all those who are starting or returning to University this term, as well as those venturing into the world of work! Thanks once again to those who've sent articles for this edition—we hope you enjoy their stories and look forward to seeing you at one of our last 400th anniversary events! Remember to add our **new email address** to your safe senders list: oldowenians@damealiceowens.herts.sch.uk to keep in touch!"*

Dr Alan Davison

Forthcoming 400th Events 2013

If you've not yet had a chance to take part in our 400th Anniversary there are still some events this Autumn that we'd love you to join us for (the first two fund raising events were organised over the summer break)!



Tuesday 1st October: An Audience with Sir Alan Parker, Screen on the Green, Islington, from 7.45pm

Meet in the Slug and Lettuce Pub from 7.45pm onwards for chat, food and drink, then join Sir Alan Parker for a Q&A session (interviewed by James Rampton) at 8.45pm, followed by a showing of his film, *The Commitments*.

Organised by our Islington parents, they've limited tickets to this special event and encourage you to buy now! Prices are £50 per ticket or £130 for a sofa (seats two). Please email Mrs Nicola Hewitt; nicola.hewitt@btinternet.com to request your e-ticket!

Monday 7th October: An Evening with David Dein, Edward Guinness Hall, Dame Alice Owen's School, 7.30pm

David will be giving an entertaining, amusing and informative talk about his work with the Football Association and his time with Arsenal and our event is open to everyone. *'He's one of the best speakers I've ever heard!'* says Dr Alan Davison, a Newcastle supporter! Doors open at 6.45pm for pre-drinks in our main dining hall; tickets are only £10 each and David will be taking questions from the audience and an auction of signed Arsenal memorabilia is included. The ticket order form can be found on the Old Owenians Newsletter page on our website or you can email DEEvening@TheOSA.org.uk with any queries. Thanks to Chair of our Fund Raising Team, Peter Snow, and fellow members and parents Gary Minkin and Nafisa Kachwalla, for arranging this exciting opportunity to hear David Dein speak—he's highly recommended!

Thursday 31st October: The Harold Moore Luncheon Reunion, Imperial Hotel, Russell Square, London, from 11.30am

Stan and Michael would like to invite all **Old Owenians, students, staff and governors** from the **Islington Girls' and Boys' schools**, and from the **Potters Bar** school, to our 400th Anniversary Harold Moore Luncheon Reunion, which will be chaired by Head, **Dr Alan Davison**, accompanied by our Head Girl and Head Boy. The Luncheon will be held in the Elizabethan Restaurant of the Imperial Hotel, Russell Square, Holborn. They hope guests will be able to gather from 11.30am onwards in the 1st Floor bar of the hotel and claim their name badge before luncheon is served at 1pm!



The price of £36 covers a three-course meal, coffee, wine or mineral water, room hire, gratuities and administrative costs, but excludes pre-lunch drinks. Nearest tube is Russell Square, Piccadilly Line and you can check out parking at: <http://www.imperialhotels.co.uk/>. Complete the form on our Old Owenians Newsletters page on our website and post with payment to Stan Gould stanleysgould@gmail.com as directed. He requests replies by **Monday, 7th October!** Why not contact your old school friends and encourage them to share with you in this splendidly informal gathering in our special year? This is the last year that Stan and Michael will be organising the event—if you'd be interested in volunteering to continue the tradition next year, please do get in contact with either **Stanley (07969 108001)** or **Michael (020 8445 9782)**. **They'll provide a handover and welcome fresh ideas from a new generation!**

Monday 16th December: Nine Lessons and Carols Service, the Cathedral and Abbey Church of St Alban, 7.30pm



Our traditional Nine Lessons and Carol's Service, with music provided by the School, usually held at St Mary's Church in The Walk, Potters Bar is being held at St Alban's Cathedral for our special 400th Anniversary year. Old Owenians are invited to join us with current students, their parents, governors and staff. We're hoping that guests will be able to take advantage of the excellent restaurant facilities in and around St Albans for refreshments either before or after the Service (due to finish around 9pm), as unfortunately we won't be able to offer our usual mulled wine and mince pies at the Cathedral due to space.

As this is our last 400th anniversary event of our amazing celebratory year we expect it to be oversubscribed. We have therefore reserved 200 special tickets for our Old Owenians, to be offered on a first, come, first served basis. Please send a cheque **FROM NOW**, made out to Dame Alice Owen's School Fund Raising Account, for £5 per person, stating your Year of Leaving date, to: Ms Jackie Campbell c/o Finance Office, St Alban's Cathedral Carol Service, Dame Alice Owen's School, Dugdale Hill Lane, Potters Bar, Herts EN6 2DU.

Applications are limited to 2 tickets per order - closing date Friday 15th November. You must include a stamped addressed envelope to either receive your tickets (to be sent out during w/c 25th November) or have your cheque returned if you have been unsuccessful. If you have any queries, you can contact Jackie on campbellj@damealiceowens.herts.sch.uk. We look forward to seeing you at the end of our Christmas Term!

Reports on 400th Events July/August!

400th Anniversary Cricket Match at Old Owen's Sports Ground—MCC team below left, DAOS team below right!



Thanks to our Director of Sport, Mr Ian Breeze, for providing us this report, which also appeared on our website under Latest News in July:

"An all day cricket match between Dame Alice Owen's School and The Marylebone Cricket Club (MCC) took place at Old Owen's Association Ground in Northaw on Wednesday 10th July, 2013. The Owen's team comprised of present and past pupils with several members of staff, who acquitted themselves well against an MCC side made up of players from several clubs in The Home Counties Premier League. It was a glorious day, and Captain, Tom Coughlan, invited The MCC to bat on a beautiful pitch prepared by Rick Martin and his Grounds Team at Old Owen's.



The score raced along with the two MCC openers, A.Birkby and B.Mooney hitting 74 and 57 respectively. Eventually the score reached 237-5, after 56 overs and the MCC declared. The innings was watched by various members of the school community with buses ferrying the pupils from school to ground all afternoon in a 'carnival cricket' atmosphere.

The Owenians innings was held together by Tom Pett (41) Tom Coughlan (61) and Bradley Swaile(57). The game culminated in an exciting finish as the scores were level with 2 balls remaining and Owen's 8 wickets down. On the penultimate ball Brad Swaile was bowled, and Chris Boyce, number 11, had to score 1 run to win. He made contact with the ball but straight to a close fielder who ran out the non striker, David Nolan, to seal a tied game. Our Chair of Governors and Old Owenian, Peter Martin, gave a vote of thanks to the MCC and presented the team each with Owen's 400th Anniversary memorabilia."



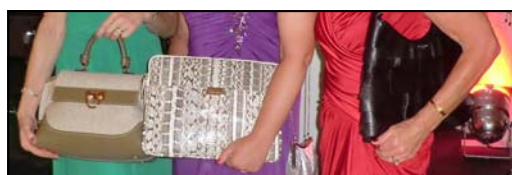
400th Ball—Saturday 13th July, 2013

For those of you who weren't there, this occasion was the chance to dance the night away in our Sports Hall, which suspended belief for those who used to either kick, throw or hit a ball or shuttle in a venue that matched the decoration of any top marquee event!

Chair, Ann Potter, and her team of parents from our OSA (Owen's School Association) worked **seriously** tirelessly in the build up to ensure details like dinner being served on piping hot plates (from music rooms converted to temporary kitchens) for over 330 guests, were delivered. They even ordered the best hot summer sunshine for our champagne reception on the Head's lawn with delicious delicate canapés which reflected the elegance of the black tie dress!



Our PTA Volunteer of the Year, Sarah Lewczynski, did an absolutely marvellous job of running the auction during the evening, while her husband, Adam, encouraged us to bid for the 15 exciting lots, including some expensive designer handbags won by three very happy ladies, (Salvatore Ferragamo, Jimmy Choo and Yves Saint Laurent, below!), raising a



significant sum for our 400th Appeal from guests very generous contributions. Jazz music provided by Clints Jazz Band played to a packed dance floor and our photographer was kept busy all night making memories for our Old Owenians mini reunions. If any of you would like to share your photographs from the evening, we'd love to publish them —just send them to our **new email address** and we'll feature them in our

December Old Owenians Newsletter—oldowenians@damealiceowens.herts.sch.uk.

Peter Snow, Chair of our 400th Fund Raising Team, parent of Old Owenians and past chair of the OAS, extended thanks to Ann Potter and her team saying: *"It was an absolute tour-de-force... throughout the last couple of years I have been on the side lines watching and listening to all the planning and preparation that has gone on, and the more I have heard, the more that I have realised that I am so grateful that I am not the chair of the OSA with all the responsibility for setting this up and far more importantly, making sure it worked properly... I cannot begin to think of the work that the OSA put in to make this event such an enormous success. It's quite the biggest thing I've ever seen run by the OSA... I feel jealous that I was never involved in my seven years with such a superb and stylish event!"*

400th Anniversary Best Ever Owen's Football Year Tournament—Saturday 25th August 2013

Thanks to Old Owenian, John Sullivan, who along with our Director of Sport, Ian Breeze, arranged this competition for past footballers to once again flex their muscles on the sports field at Old Owen's Sports Ground. In a testimony to the strength of Owen's footballing alumni, they managed to get together an incredible 14 teams from over the last 20 years to fight it out. Citing 22 Hertfordshire Schools County Cup wins and one ESFA National Cup win since moving to Potters Bar from Islington in 1975, Ian said that predicting the best ever team was a tricky one! The winning team was eventually the intake of 1995 who beat the intake of 2003, 3-1 in the final! Both Ian and John welcomed the teams in their comprehensive Programme, giving photographs of the past schoolboy teams, the order of play, list of players and rules for the afternoon, which you can read on our Old Owenians Newsletter page on our website!

Owen's Golden Generation—The Reunion—Friday 20th September 2013

Thanks to Old Owenian, Kevin Simmons (left 1976) for organising what sounds like a highly successful reunion evening! It was held for students who were at the Islington & Potters Bar sites in the 1970's at the Marquess Tavern in Canonbury London N1 2TB from 7-11.30pm.

Mr Simmons reports that *"the evening was great fun with around 100 Old Owenians turning up. Attendees ranged from those who were in the class of '73 to '78. Classmates who hadn't seen each other since their last day of school 30 odd years ago met up and swapped stories of visits to Harrock House and youthful high jinks. A display of photos showing pupils in flares and with dodgy haircuts mixed with those of sporting teams, teachers and a likeness of Dame Alice was displayed on the bars screen. The evening ended with renditions of both the boys and girls school songs and tentative plans have been made to arrange similar events on a regular basis."*

Wish we could have been a fly on the wall!!!! We hope they continue to keep in touch and get together again!

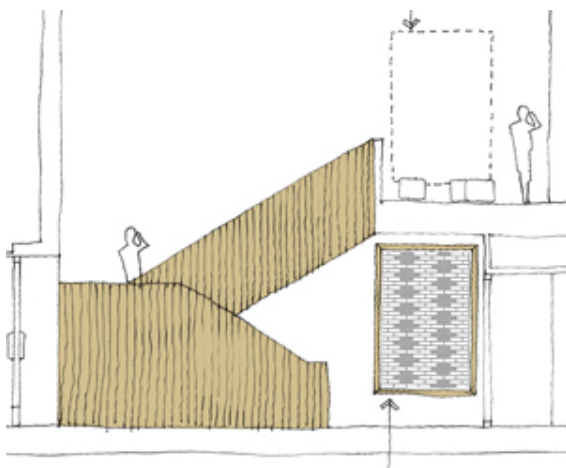
400th Appeal—£190,000 to go to reach our £1m target!



We're sure you'll be excited to know that our total has now reached £810,000! Our new Science Building is already underway (photos of progress below) and we've only got three months to raise £190K, which somewhat focuses the mind. As Sir Terry Leahy, one of our Patrons, would say *"Every little helps!"*. We know many of you have directly donated funds already; Dame Alice Owen herself set the example of how to give back and we are all very grateful for her and your continuing legacy.

If you've not yet contributed but would still like to do so, why not consider **Buying a Brick** for our Science Building foyer? For £250 you can leave a permanent record of your attendance at School and then visit us to see it in place on Saturday 10th May 2014 at our Old Owenians Coffee and Tour Morning! For more details and an order form, please visit our 400th Appeal page at:

<http://www.damealiceowens.herts.sch.uk/2013appeal.html>



Our image (above left) shows one of the panels of brick slips surrounded by a wooden frame that the architect has designed to be displayed on the walls in the main foyer of the new Science building, to recognise people's generous donations. The photo (above right) shows the stairwell in the main foyer as of July 2013! You can view our Virtual Brick Wall showing most of our donors so far at: http://www.damealiceowens.herts.sch.uk/brick_wall_page.html.

Details of how to make a donation as a single payment or via a standing order are also available on our 400th Appeal page, but if you want to be more creative with your sponsorship and have some ideas to explore, please ring and speak to Mrs Jackie Campbell, our Senior Account Manager on 01707 643441 ex 221 who will set up a meeting for you with herself and Head, Dr Alan Davison or email her at: campbellj@damealiceowens.herts.sch.uk.



You can view more photos on a regular basis on our Science Building Photo Gallery, thanks to Colin Strong, our Science Laboratory Technician who provides us with updates on the building progress. We hope to be watertight by November! These photos were taken in mid August!

http://www.damealiceowens.herts.sch.uk/2013appeal_science_build_photos.html

Old Owen's Golf Society

Brian Fry has provided details of their Golf Society meeting at Aldwickbury Golf Club on Friday 27th September—if anyone's interested in joining the group, please contact him on 07841 417 887! Details on our main Old Owenians Newsletter page.

Global Entrepreneurship Week (GEW)—18th-24th November 2013

Would any successful Old Owenian entrepreneurs like to come and inspire students of Business Studies with what they're currently doing? Our Head of Business, Jamie Bird, would like to invite you to come and speak to his students during GEW (in partnership with Barclays) - to get in touch, please email him direct birdj@damealiceowens.herts.sch.uk. Also a reminder that our Old Owenians Careers Talks Week is being held in conjunction with National Careers Week, **3rd-7th March 2014**—we'll be in touch in January 2014 to let you know how you can take part!



Old Owenians Coffee and Tour Morning—Saturday 10th May 2014, 10am-12noon—put the date in your diary!

Just another reminder that this will give you an opportunity to tour the School and our new Science Building in a social environment with other Old Owenians—our Sixth Formers would love to show you around!

Old Owen's Sports Ground Fireworks Event!

John and Lynn Clark would like to invite you to their Fireworks Display Evening on Friday 8th November 2013 from 6pm onwards—there is a BBQ from 6pm and the fireworks start at 7.30pm! Tickets £8.00—children under 10 free! Please get in touch with them for more details on either the Clubhouse Telephone: 01707 644211, Lynn's mobile: 07766 535567 or email the Clubhouse : jlcowens@gmail.com or contact them for more details on other events going on!

Our School Concerts



Following our sell-out Concert at the Royal Albert Hall in April, we thought we'd list our Autumn Concerts for you, in case anyone missed out and wants to experience the talents of our students in a more intimate setting. Held in our Edward Guinness Concert Hall (left), the capacity is about equivalent to the Purcell Room at the Southbank Centre in London.

Parents of students performing are always given priority, so when our ticket details are published, the events are open to our whole school community, including Old Owenians. Due to the popularity and huge increase in the number of students in our Choirs, the Choral Concert does tend to sell out quickly, but if you contact Megan Dibden, our new Music Administrator on dibdenm@damealiceowens.herts.sch.uk with any queries you may have and she'll be able to advise you.

Thursday 28th November 7.30pm - Choral Concert
Wednesday 11th December 7.30pm - Windbands Evening
Wednesday 18th December 7.30pm - Orchestral Concert

Our Science Society Lectures

Our Autumn Programme of Free Lectures continues—open to our whole school community. So, whether you're studying locally and want food for thought or working in a similar industry and are looking for stimulating perspectives, why not join us? All our events are FREE and held in our Main Hall—please email Mrs Kika Dorotheou to let her know you'll be attending at dorotheouk@damealiceowens.herts.sch.uk—you'll be very welcome.



Wednesday 2nd October 7-8pm - Mr Colin Chick 'Civil Engineering'
Wednesday 9th October 7-8pm - Dr Anjum Iqbal 'Medicine – General Practice'
Wednesday 16th October 7-8pm - Dr Akram Alomainy 'The Magic of Harry Potter'
Wednesday 23rd October 7-8pm - Mr Glen Lloyd 'The use of science and forensics in homicide investigations'
Tuesday 12th November 7-8pm - Mrs Giovanna Carraro 'Opportunities in Investment Banking'
Wednesday 20th November 7-8pm - Pf Benjamin Chain 'Vaccination: a lifelong education against disease'
Wednesday 27th November 7-8pm - Pf Caroline Sabin 'Making numbers count – using statistics to solve medical problems'

Continuing Cultural Opportunities for Students!

Many of you will remember John Johnstone, Head of Religious Studies, not only if you took his subject but if you were one of the many students or staff who participated in one of his overseas summer School Trips to India, China, Morocco, South Africa, Israel, Mexico and Italy over the years. John has provided incredible opportunities for students to "Learn to Travel, Travel to Learn" - a phrase coined on the South Africa Trip in 2011, going the extra mile to ensure these trips happen, with all the hoops of risk assessments that have to be jumped through.

Our 400th anniversary year expedition to Ecuador and the Galapagos Islands for 150 students and staff proved once again how fantastic these experiences are for those taking part, fostering relationships and making memories which literally last a lifetime. Here are some of John's comments from this year's journey to South America - a first visit to this part of the world for DAOS!

"This summer's adventure to Ecuador was the immediate outcome of a fantastic school trip I did to South Africa in 2011. Within days of unpacking the suitcases I was already on the phone to the travel operator enquiring about the next destination. I wanted somewhere unique (ideally with animals) and was advised to go for Costa Rica. I have been reliably informed that Costa Rica is a truly wonderful place but being the traveller I am I wanted something even more adventurous. I suggested Ecuador and the Galapagos Islands not only because of its links with science and religion but also because you got a 'three in one package' - Mountains and volcanoes; Amazonian Rainforests and of course the famous Galapagos Islands.

I will say much more about these incredible places in the School Half Term Newsletter but to say that this trip was a success would be an understatement. It was a life changing experience for all the students and staff. Not only did we get to see city life in Quito (the world's first UNESCO site) and trek the mountain/volcanic regions of Cotopaxi, we managed to do night walks in the Amazon; fished for piranha; swam with sea lions and saw the famous Giant Land Tortoise and Blue Footed Boobie. To conclude, if you are considering a visit to Ecuador you will not be disappointed. Now I am at a loss as to where to travel next. I promised myself that I would take a two year break from organising such adventures but being only two weeks back into the new term I am really struggling not to approach the Head for the next adventure. Any ideas?"

You can email John at johnstonej@damealiceowens.herts.sch.uk with your suggestions!!! He's kindly provided some photo highlights to share with you...be inspired!



The Cotopaxi volcano is located about 17 miles south of Quito, Ecuador. It is the second highest summit in the country, reaching a height of 5,897m (Snowdon and Table Mountain 1,085m) and is one of the highest active volcanoes in the world.



Deep in the
Amazon Rainforest



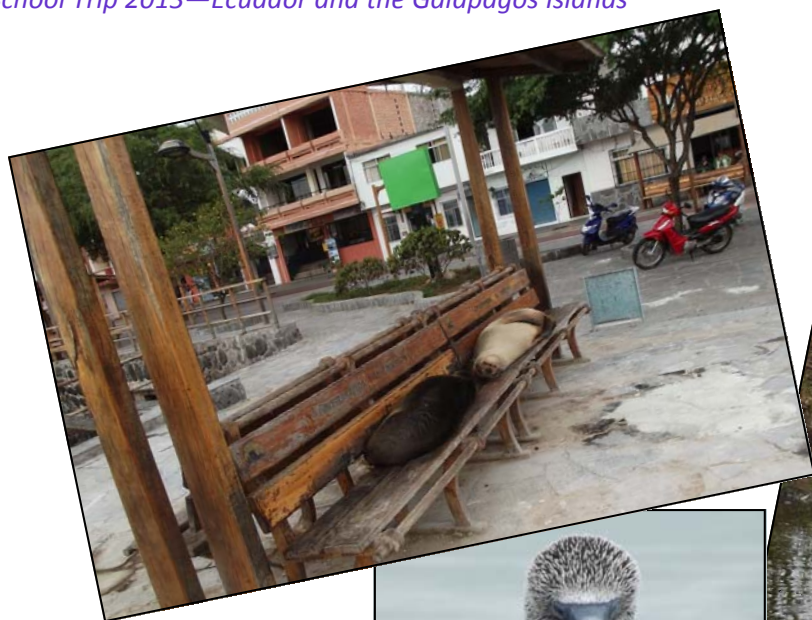
On the Shiripuno River in the
tropical rainforest



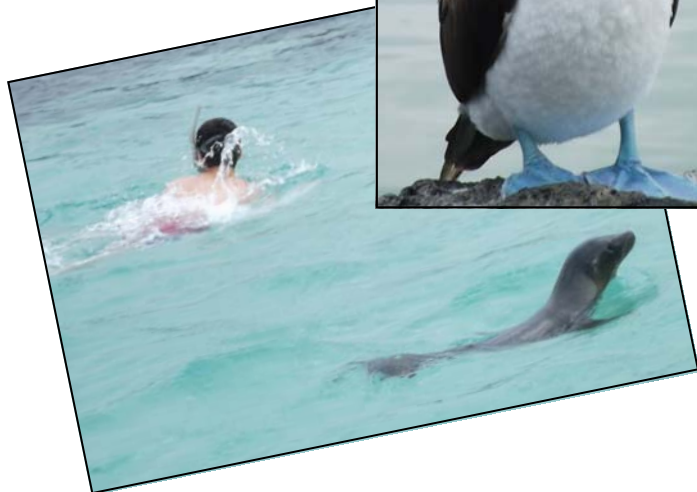
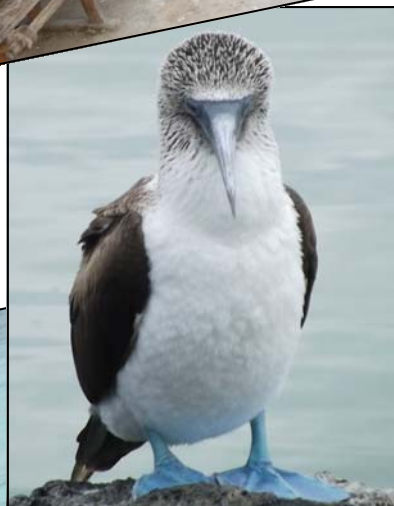
Piranha fishing



Quito —the capital city of Ecuador—the word “ecuador” is Spanish for equator!



*Swimming with sea lions,
watching the Giant Land
Tortoise and Blue Footed
Boobie*



And now for your contributions, feedback, comments and requests!



RUTH GOLDMAN (NEE SOBOL)—LEFT 1959

Thanks to Mrs Goldman for telling us that since our Thanksgiving Service at St Paul's Cathedral and Reception at Mansion House, a group of 1959/60 Girls' School Leavers have met up for lunch, hope to continue to get together and would welcome others to join them! She'd love to hear from any girls who left 1959/60 and who would like to meet up! Email us at oldowenians@damealiceowens.herts.sch.uk so we can pass your messages on!



JUDITH SIMPSON (NEE BROWN) - ISLINGTON GIRLS' SCHOOL 1940'S

Thanks to Mrs Simpson for keeping in touch! She remembers taking classes in the prefabs after the school was bombed, when Miss Ward was headmistress. Her thoughts are with us for our 400th Anniversary—she has been in South Africa since 1956 and has moved about twenty times! She recalls her two best friends were Pat Tattam and Shirley Galland and would love to hear from them—if either of them are reading this, please could they email us at: oldowenians@damealiceowens.herts.sch.uk and we'll put you in touch!



CHRIS CHICK—LEFT 2010

Thanks to Mr Chick for getting in contact and congratulations from us for graduating from Coventry University with a First in Civil Engineering. He tells us it now allows him to fulfil his aim to take the MEng continuation at Coventry—all from originally obtaining a place at the University through a fast movement in Clearing! He also explains that having continued his summer placements with the Civil Engineering company BAM Nuttall, he's become sponsored by them, ensuring him a job for when he completes his next course. Finally, in 2010 he managed to complete the Nottingham Marathon raising £400 pounds for CLIC Sargent for children with cancer. He's very grateful for all the teaching he received at Owen's and passes on his thanks to all his teachers.



TREVOR HARVEY—LEFT 1963



Thanks to Mr Harvey for getting in touch and giving us some positive feedback! He was unable to attend either the Royal Albert Hall Concert or the Thanksgiving service at St Paul's Cathedral and wanted to let us know that he was delighted with the quality of the DVD produced by Footpath Films for both events. He says, *"The sound is excellent and the camera work very impressive, especially considering the nature of both events. I think the DVD is very professionally produced and it gives a strong indication of what it must have been like to have been present on both occasions. Thank you Footpath!"*

Trevor was the Editor of The Arrow in the 350th Anniversary year. After his job in teaching, he lectured at Brighton University/Polytechnic for nearly 23 years on PGCE and teacher training degree courses before taking early retirement fifteen years ago. He tells us *"nowadays I write the (very) occasional comic verse that gets included in poetry anthologies for 7-11 year olds, but (by choice) little else!"*



PAMELA MANSI (NEE STUBBS) - LEFT 1951

Thanks to Mrs Mansi for telling us she's been in touch with Jean Oldfield: *"It was great to hear from Jean Oldfield (Jean Waddilove as she is now). I was in the lower 6th when Jean was in the upper 6th. As so few girls stayed on in those days we shared a 'form room' (cubby hole behind the gym) and some lessons. Remember Physics with Mrs. Farina Jean? Jean passed on her blazer to me, complete with prefect's pocket. Hence I've been able to keep the prefect's pocket presented to me, in pristine condition to this day! Thanks Jean!"*



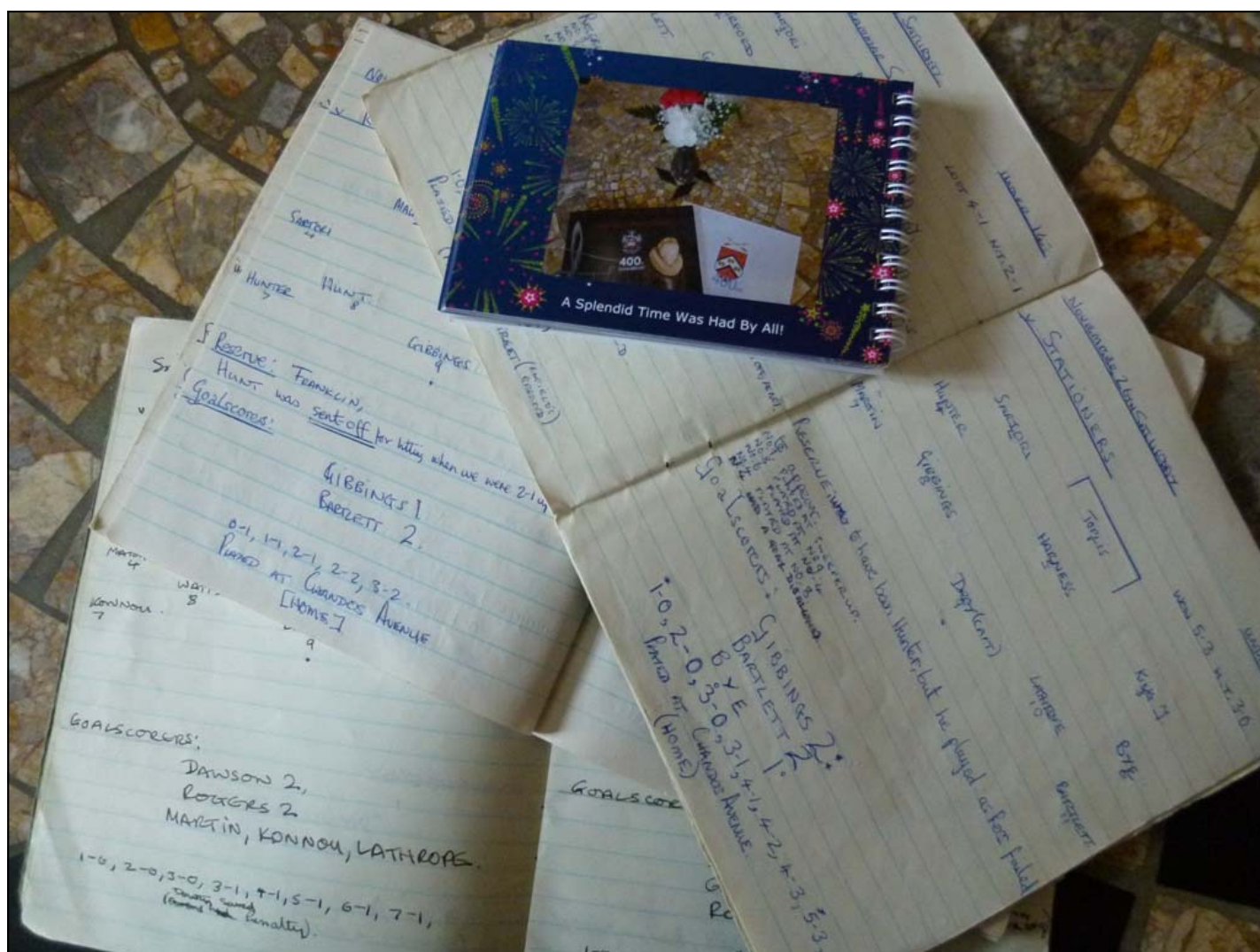
IAN BAGSTER—LEFT 1971

Thanks to Mr Bagster for contacting us—he'd like us to pass on his grateful thanks to Les Gibbings for his article about the Owen's annual swimming gala in our December 2012 issue, page 24, which a friend of his stumbled across and showed him.

He says: *"I am the Ian Bagster referred to in the article, and I can confirm to Les (whom I never knowingly met) that I was indeed in the GB and England swimming team at the time! I do remember those handicap races and the article brought back some great memories"*

For more from Les Gibbings read on.....!!!





LES GIBBINGS—LEFT 1971

Thanks to Mr Gibbings, our regular valued contributor, for this great new article! He thought that as the football season has just started he would recount “the little ditty of facts” he recorded some fifty years ago about the year team which incidentally also included the current School Chair of Governors, P.J. Martin, amongst it’s players! He has kindly provided photographic evidence of his records above and a glimpse of the keepsake book he created after the 400th Anniversary Concert at the Royal Albert Hall.

“Over in a far corner of my garage I found a knapsack not so long ago containing all manner of personal memories and things, but most notably, for the purposes of this Old Owens newsletter, several exercise books that I had completed contemporaneously while at Owens from the mid 1960’s onwards. The notebooks recorded on a page per match basis the football exploits of the Owen’s team for my particular year – or rather the basic facts of each match including scores and scoring, dates, where the match was played (home or away) and a layout of the team in the 2-3-5 or pyramid formation as it was known.

Not for me the subtleties of more complex team arrangements although this did start to creep in during the 4th year or Under 15’s brief listing. I also made an effort to calculate relevant player and match statistics and occasionally added pithy commentary about who played where or missed a penalty or scored an own goal. What a cornucopia of delight I can imagine you saying out loud to these revelations!

It may be that this seeming trivia could be too much for a casual reader to bear or even bother with but it may offer some interest in a few ways even in addition to the exotic promise of raw statistics mentioned above and beyond merely to those who took part at the time. One thing is certain that it could pierce a few memories that have been recounted with growing advantages over the ensuing years as overall we were a pretty hopeless bunch in terms of results.

Remember these were the days when:

- All the year matches were 'friendlies' – as boys I think we presumed it was part of Owen's desire to promote the noble Corinthian spirit of playing the game for its own sake (whereas as players we would have loved to have played in Cups and Leagues and whatnots even if, based on our results, we would have never reached a final and would have likely to have been relegated at the end of each season!)
- There were also no substitutes – not even for friendlies – which is presumably why we had 'named' reserves who were required to attend the matches as 'cover' for latecomers or those who just didn't show up – something that by the time we reached the Under 15's side and with our low win record became an increasingly frustrating and regular feature of our match days.
- The footballs were composed of heavy and hard leather that hurt when they were kicked or worse still, headed. At least the ones provided by Owen's were. Forget the stories of the 'old days' in preceding decades. This was the 'modern' 1960's but there seemed to have been little change in forty years.
- The matches were pretty free flowing affairs with an emphasis on attack and unfortunately we discovered that our weaknesses were often mercilessly exploited resulting in some heavy defeats for the school.
- Results across Owen's year sides at the time appeared to be what may be described as less than what may have been wished for. And it was a comfort to note that the year above us tended to fare worse over a season than us. So expectations, except among the regular players, were probably never very high.
- Not everything was photographed as readily as it is now, what with the availability of cameras on mobile phones and the whole digital revolution. So although it disappoints me, it does not surprise me that I have not got a photograph of any of the team except for the players being shown in their respective First year Form photograph taken by Mr George the Woodwork teacher in 1964. And although I cannot recall any team snap being taken, who knows, perhaps someone out there in Old Owen's World can yet produce one for our year.

Our first 'season' was as **Under 13's** and thankfully it was short lived and restricted to just three games against schools that were to be amongst our regular opponents, namely Parmiters (Lost 7-0), Hackney Downs (Lost 5-3) and Kingsbury County (Lost 6-5).

The most significant thing about the season was that whilst we scored eight goals overall we conceded a very unhealthy eighteen in our three defeats. Interestingly, the goalkeeper who collected the ball from the back of the net in these matches with alarming regularity was none other than the present Chair of School Governors, **Peter Martin**. Fortunately for both him and the team, he was moved to an outfield post the following season – generally to be found on the extreme right-wing as recalled in my exercise books!!

The scores of course cannot relate the drama involved in these three vignettes of toil and endeavour – we were on level terms at 3-3 with Hackney until late into the match and despite trailing 4-1 at half time and then subsequently 5-2 against Kingsbury we pulled back to 5-5 before losing out at the death.

The key stats for the inaugural season were thus:

U13's Team Statistics 1965-66

Team	Matches Played	Won	Drawn	Lost	Goals For	Goals Against
Owen's U13's	3	0	0	3	8	18

The relevant player details were:

Owen's Under 13's Football Team – 1965-66

Name	Appearances	Goals Scored	Unused Reserve	Own Goals Scored
Bartlett, Keith	3	0	-	-
Bye, Stephen	3	0	-	-
Comerford, Gra-hame	3	0	-	1
Droy, Alan (Captain)	3	1	-	-
Frankland, Chris	3	1	-	-
Franklin, Mark	3	1	-	-
Gibbings, Les	3	1	-	-
Harness, R.J 'Bob'	1	0	2	-
Hornsey, Billy	1	0	1	1
Hunter, Alan	2	2	1	-
Martin, Peter	3	0	-	-
Maund, Phil	3	0	-	-
Medcalfe, Grahame	2	0	-	-
Samuels, Saul	1	2	-	-

Rather than extend this piece to cover the following season, I will rejoin the tale when we emerged as Under 14's for the 1966-67 season next time. This will include details as to who became our very own 'own goal' specialist, the name of the well-known former Old Boys Team Manager who pulled a muscle in the first minute of our first match of the season and just how many penalties our replacement keeper for Peter Martin managed to save. As well as giving player statistics of a more substantial and I suppose, more successful season, modesty, and a need to create some suspense amongst readers prevents me from revealing the name of the top goal scorer until then."



GRAHAM BIRD—LEFT 1950

Thanks to Mr Bird for sending us in his memories from the 1940's/50's. He also wanted to thank us for the work we do with the Old Owenians Newsletter (our pleasure!) as it has bought back many a happy a memory for him! He hasn't been able to get to the school functions but says he'll take advantage of the video recordings. He's kindly put some thoughts together from what he says is *"a very long time ago now—on Owens, to the Frayyyyyy!"*

"I was a member of the IIA(I) class of about 35 boys who assembled at the school in September 1944, and for a year we ran wild over the school. My particular friends during those six most memorable years were Peter Newton, he left school in 1948 I seem to remember, Colin Huckstep, Alan Cherry, and Ron Cooper. Peter, Colin, Alan and I were all in Hermitage house. But there were a number of individuals as we progressed through school, Millichap and LeGood were always top of class, then Herman and Folus, 'Dicky' Dimond.

I still have all my school reports. Ron and I used to excel at Chemistry, and we would set each other experiments to perform at home. My parents had to put up with a number of very strange smells from time to time!

*I lost touch with Ron after I went into National Service in 1953, but I seem to remember I heard he was Research Director at British Oxygen, Colin became a chartered accountant, and I think was the Old Boys Treasurer for a number of years, I regret not keeping in touch. Alan I did contact through one of the Friendfinder programs, and we corresponded for a while, then I had a message that he was not well. **Perhaps at the end of all these celebrations this year we could have the database made available to search? ***see response at the end of the next page******

I remember well the time with Captain Cole, he kind of took over the form when Mr Dixon died, I believe about November 1944.

Then Reg Tricker was to be admired, he had played for the Gunners, and I lived just around the corner from the ground. I recall we were playing cricket at the school field the day war ended, and Reg was leaping in the air out to the game, to let us all go home and celebrate.

The caretaker's wife, I have forgotten her name, prepared lunch for us, and it was served in the Junior Masters common Room on the first floor. One day, as she was coming up the stairs carrying a huge tray of meals ready to serve, a small crocodile appeared and moved across the top of the stairs. She nearly lost all those lunches. Of course it was a stuffed baby croc, which was being dragged by a piece of thread by someone.

The rest of the school arrived shortly afterwards, and we were reduced in our antics, needless. Of the masters during my time at school, there was 'Flash' Hardwick, of course, he often walked around the corridors with cane in hand, and you got a crack across the legs if you were misbehaving, 'Dicky' Dare, he took us for history, 'Butch' Baker, and S.E. P. Phillips for chemistry, Ron Paul for mathematics, Miss Cast for French.

Miss Cast was form mistress when we were in IVT, I remember, and she organized the trip to Fecamp in Normandy, it must have been the summer of 1947, then Paris the next year, I still have the pictures I took during that 10 days. We stayed at a boarding school in Neuilly run by monks, and they served a very dry Algerian wine at dinner. None of the younger schoolboys liked the taste, so the bottles were passed down to our end of the table, and consumed! Happy times indeed.

Mr Hutchings was another master you did not cross in any way - that shock of white hair and moustache would quiver. We had him as form master for VT. Ralph Turner was the teacher for Religious Education, being a Congregational minister, and was a crack shot with the chalk I remember. Then Mr Winkworth, a huge man, who reputedly was in a submarine during WWI, we just couldn't imagine it.

I remember Mr Edwards, he was our English Literature teacher, he had a somewhat unique style with punishment, when he would line up a cane, an ebony ruler, a tennis shoe and the side piece of a desk, and he then informed us that, as we were the school elite we would have a democratic choice by choosing the implement of punishment, but he would then decide on the amount of punishment. He did not have a moment of trouble, as I remember.

I believe I can lay claim to being the reason the school became coeducational. When I went into the Sixth, I was only 15 years old. I was planning to work in Pharmacy, so needed to take Biology. At that time the boy's school did not have a teacher in that subject and the normal practice had been to send pupils to the Northern Polytechnic to join the appropriate Intermediate B.Sc. course there. However, you had to be sixteen, so I could not go there. So I think Owen Mitchell still was Head then, and he spoke with the Head of the Girl's school and so I was enrolled in the Girl's Higher School programme. One Boy among 150 GIRLS!! Well it all worked very well for me the first year, and so the next year more boys joined, and I seem to recall about three years later the Sixth forms were combined for Science subjects.

I left in July of 1950, with little idea of what I wanted to do, and Garstang secured a position for me at the London Research Laboratory for the newly formed Gas Council, and I spent the next 16 years there, before a chance remark to a service engineer who was fixing one of our instruments, led me to join an instrument company, Hilger & Watts, some may remember the name. And then three years later a move to Oxford, and working on leading technology designs.

This ultimately led me to travel around Europe, both east and west, and I became a jack of all trades, selling, installing and repairing. This went on for about 9 years, when we were taken over by Oxford Instruments, and almost the first question was "Why are you not working in the USA; 50% of the world market is there", so I climbed on a plane and soon was spending more than 70% of my time there, so then "Why don't you stay out there in this new enterprise", so farewell to the UK, hallo to Massachusetts, only to find "Oh, we are sending you down to Houston, to set up a new office".

Then six months later they decided to end that activity, but I could not go back, so I formed a company and worked for the next 28 years, ultimately specializing in electron microscopy accessories and analytical technologies. I retire at the end of this year with a lot of happy memories."

Just in response to Mr Bird's database question, we are looking at a longer term strategy to put to governors in Spring 2014. Our current "database" is simply an email list in Microsoft Outlook. We have focused on being able to communicate with you as a priority and this was the best way we could do this on limited resources and no budget! We have the facility to search names on Microsoft Outlook from within School and sadly none of the four full names Mr Bird mentions are listed. However, if they are reading this, they can always contact us on our **new email address** at oldowenians@damealiceowens.herts.sch.uk and we'll pass their messages directly on to Mr Bird!



DAVID NEWMAN—LEFT 1974

Thanks to Professor Newman for getting in touch and we wish him sincere congratulations on being awarded an OBE in the Queen's Birthday Honours in June in recognition of his work promoting an academic relationship between Britain and Israel. He has asked us to credit the report and photo below from the 16th June 2013 to the Ben Gurion University Foundation (left) website and we hope you are as inspired as we were to read it. (The link to the site is: <http://www.bguf.org.uk/>.)



"Buckingham Palace announced on Saturday that Prof. David Newman is among the more than 1,000 people being presented an award by the Queen as part of her Birthday Honours list.

Newman will receive an Order of the British Empire (OBE) for his promotion of the academic partnership between Britain and Israel. He has been a leading advocate of the academic partnership between the countries, and a key campaigner against the British academic boycott of Israel.

The awards presented by the Officer of the Order of the British Empire are given for a significant achievement or service in a major local role in any activity, including people whose work has made them known nationally in their chosen area.

Newman grew up in the UK and studied at the Universities of London and Durham. He has lived in Israel since 1982 and been at BGU since 1987. He is currently the Dean of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, a faculty encompassing 21 academic departments, 250 tenured faculty members and almost 5,000 students. Newman founded the Department of Politics and Government in 1997, and the Centre for the Study of European Politics and Society in 2002. He has been Dean since 2010 and has just been elected for a second three year term.

Newman works in the field of political geography and is currently the senior editor of the International Journal of Geopolitics. He has written extensively on territorial issues relating to conflicts, with a focus on Israel-Palestine. In recent years he has researched and published widely on the role of borders in the contemporary world. He is currently part of a 19 university European consortium (funded by the EU) entitled EUROBORDERSCAPES. In recent years he has represented Israel's universities against the boycott attempts in Europe and the UK. In addition to his academic work, Newman writes a weekly political column in the Jerusalem Post.

Responding to announcement of his award, Newman said, "I am very honoured to receive this award. Promoting scientific cooperation between Israel and the UK is of utmost importance, proving that science reaches beyond the borders of conflict. Scientific cooperation benefits humankind as a whole and does not differentiate between peoples because of their ethnic, national or religious backgrounds.

Science must never be allowed to become captive to the political attempts to boycott or exclude. I am particularly pleased that the award has been given to someone who promotes scientific cooperation in the Humanities and Social Sciences, as this is an important component of scientific and philosophical thought, complementing the many cooperative projects which exist between the two countries in the fields of life sciences and medicine."



Commenting on the award, British Ambassador to Israel, Matthew Gould, said, "Prof. Newman has been an important and powerful voice for academic links between Britain and Israel, at a time when such links have been criticized by some. I am delighted that he is being honoured for his work." "



ANDREW WARD—LEFT 2006

Thanks to Mr Ward for getting in touch and we wish him many congratulations on passing out at the Britannia Royal Naval College in July, meaning he now officially answers to Sub-Lieutenant Ward RN!

He's sorry he couldn't take part in any of our 400th Anniversary celebrations, as since November 2012, he's been in Initial Officer Training in the Navy and now joins his brother, Peter, in the armed forces, who is Second Lieutenant in the Royal Regiment of Fusiliers. Thanks to Andrew too, for sending in these great photos—one of Andrew, from HMS Illustrious' visit to London in May (left) and one of the brothers at the recent passing out parade (right).

We hope both have very successful careers and keep up-to-date via our Newsletters!



MERVYN GILBERT—LEFT 1960

Thanks to Mr Gilbert for sharing some more personal memories—he kindly came to talk to students in June 2011 about his career in journalism, contributed to our June 2012 Newsletter edition and clearly loved his time at School.

"Ever since I was a pupil of Owen's in Islington, from 1954 to 1960, I have been proud to tell all and sundry that I went to a minor public school, not just an ordinary grammar school. After all, the headmaster Walter Lucian Garstang attended the annual Headmasters Conference, and that was the criterion of a school being described as 'public', not whether parents had to pay for their children to study at the educational establishment.

I have retained so many fond memories of the place, particularly the teachers, including Miss 'Fanny' Cast (French), 'Puss Catala (German), 'JES' Smith and Malcolm Fellowes (English) and 'Strongy' (History). I can also remember the position of the room in the building on my first day when I was shown in to meet Mr Gowing (Maths), who was to be my first form teacher.

Another memory is the alphabetical list of boys in JES Smith's fifth year class - starting Austin, Beck, Black, Connaway, Currie, Filmer, Fox, Gilbert...

So you can see how I loved the place. I was therefore saddened to learn over the years that I had just missed this or that reunion of former pupils. I made my mind up that I would not lose out when similar get-togethers took place. I also made a conscious effort to get in touch with some of my former classmates.

I managed to contact a handful, including a chap with the surname of Bakst - two years older than me, who occasionally took Jewish assembly in the lecture theatre - John Austin, who was in my primary school class in Hackney (Amherst) and who was the only other boy in that year who went on to Owen's, and another Owen's contemporary, Richard Sacker.

Bakst (sorry, I cannot recall his first name) emailed to tell me that he had become a rabbi and was living in Israel. There was little inter-communication after that, probably because, as we were in different years, we had limited contact at Owen's.

The exchange of words between me and John Austin and Richard Sacker continued over a longer period. Indeed, my later encounters with John included a brief meeting when my job as editor of a food trade publication took me to a part of the West End where he worked for a property company.

After running our eyes up and down each other to see how each other had changed, he suggested meeting up for lunch one day in the West End when I was next in that area. I said that my journalistic duties normally included lunch anyway, so that was not really possible.

I sent him an email (via his secretary, because personal email addresses could not be handed out willy nilly) saying why don't we meet up for dinner somewhere near where he lived in Swiss Cottage. I never heard a thing. It then dawned on me that we had never really been friends - just boys whose early lives had, by circumstance, followed a similar pattern.

However, I was still determined to meet up with Old Owenians of my generation. So when I heard about the Harold Moore annual lunch a couple of years ago, I was determined to be on the lists of guests.

Of the 50 or 60 men who were there, I was disappointed to find that only one, Alan Short (ex-Cloudesley and a pretty good left-footed footballer, if memory serves me correctly), was in the same year as me. Two or three others' names I remembered, but only superficially. I had intended to make contact with Alan again at the lunch, but because of the speeches and time factor, I was unable to do so.

Because of the dearth of contemporaries who were there, it made me realise that few of my generation felt the same nostalgic interest as I do about our alma mater.

Two years ago, I gave a talk on journalism to a sixth form group at the school in Potters Bar. But apart from the Dame Alice Owen bust and the same black uniform with the crossed-arrows motif, I could find little that revived my memories of Owen's.

Perhaps I was still grieving over the red-bricked building in Owen Street, Islington, being demolished. I had taken my then wife and two young daughters there on a couple of occasions to see the edifice and let them witness how proud I was to have been a pupil at the school.

Still, I was determined that I would be a small part of the 400-year-old celebrations. Four years ago, I made plans to attend one of the events. But I realised that my interest had waned because of what I have described. Nevertheless, I was amazed at the programme arranged by the organisers and I must congratulate them on the scale of the events and the professionalism of all those involved.

So what now? I continue to read the quarterly newsletter with great interest in the hope that someone I rubbed shoulders with at Owens nearly 60 years ago will deign to share his reminiscences with other former pupils. I just feel that of the 90 or so boys/men in the three forms that made up my year there is simply a lack of real interest in that period of their lives which, without them realising, played such a major role in putting them where they are today.

Finally, may I praise Mandy English and her colleagues for encouraging people such as myself to write in and share their Owens experiences. She does a great job!" Thanks, Mervyn!





JOHN HAMPSON—LEFT 1958

Thanks to Mr Hampson for sending in Part 2 of his memories of Owen's, this time with a Sports Theme, entitled "Not much of a sports (man)". Part 1 featured in our last edition in June and he so appreciated us finding his poem, that he's written another splendid one for us!

*"Thank you for your efforts in finding my first published verse,
It's been so long since I saw it last, I had believed that it was worse
Than it is, but it seems, when I wrote it in my second year at school,
It must have been worthy of note, and it was liked by all.*

*To read it now, after all these years, 54 to be precise,
It almost brought tears to my eyes and, after reading it twice,
I realised that I'm no Wordsworth or Keats, but that I missed one trick
That was to be original enough to have not made it scan like a "limerick"*

"Not much of a sports (man)"

Even in Primary School I was not much of a sportsman. I used to kick a ball about with the lads that lived in the several blocks of flats near to my Junior School in Laycock Street, and enjoyed the weekly trips to the local swimming baths, all of our class walking along the Islington streets two by two (to the "Tibby" baths), and I well remember the small sweet shop in Tibberton Street where the owner made her own treacle toffee and honeycomb. There was the occasional game of rounders or even netball (we boys all thought that was a sport for the girls and were not keen join them) in the school playground, but I could not get enthusiastic about running around in shorts, vest and plimsolls, although it must be said that even at that young age one could appreciate seeing the girls in their dark blue knickers and liberty bodices, some in need of more support than others!!

When I was successful in gaining a place at Owen's my parents had to buy me the full "sports" kit (as designated by the School's useful introductory letter). Two pairs of shorts (one black, one white), two football shirts (ditto for colours), two pairs of football socks (colours the same again), football boots (at first a second hand pair with soft toes), two gym vests (yes, you've guessed.....) and plimsolls, together with a cloth draw string band to keep most of it in.



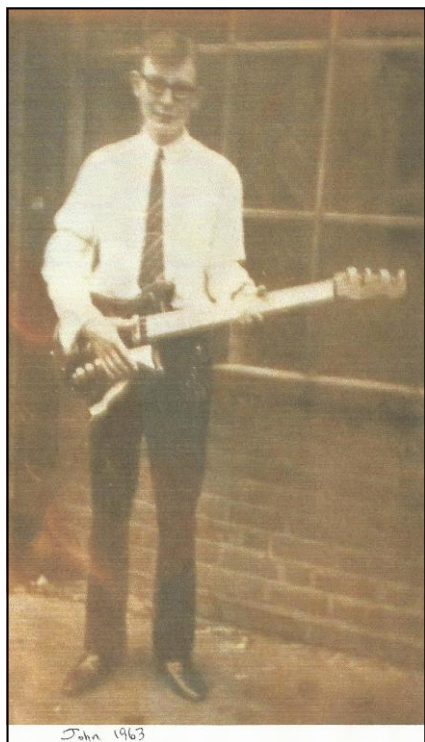
I did not excel at football, letting in more goals as a keeper than scoring as a forward, but I did make it into the "house" team one year (picture left of Colebrook Team 1958—John far right, kneeling!). I was just as good playing cricket, dropping more catches than scoring runs.

I didn't excel at gymnastics or athletics either and began finding more and more excuses not to participate in any of these physical endeavours. But swimming was good for me, having learnt at my primary school, and capable of all strokes, except butterfly which style eluded me, and represented my "house" in annual competitions.

As time went on some of us opted to take up rowing (the school having the use of facilities at the Horseferry Boat Club at Kew Bridge on the Thames). One needed to be able to swim well if you were to participate, no life-jackets or following dinghy, but in all my time on the river I saw no-one in difficulties and it was always only the coxswain who got thrown in at the end of a race.

We were allowed to travel by train to Gunnersbury Road station unaccompanied, as were those who had to get to the school playing fields at Chandos Avenue, Totteridge, I remember the old trolley buses well. But that was not for me, out in a boat in the centre of the river was great. Starting with "tub-fours", wide beamed, clinker built, reminiscent of whaling boats, and hard to pull through the water for under 16's. No matter, we all did our best and slowly graduated to the "eights" and the regattas over part of "The Boat Race" course. Some of us were allowed to take out single skulls (one man boats), myself included, a thrilling experience with your fate in your own hands and, with a fast running river, no mean feat to get to and from the boathouse.

I was so taken by this sport that, with another pupil, I cycled to Kew on Saturday mornings to watch the senior crews and to help maintain the older bicycles that the coaches (the school masters who sped along the river toe-path with megaphone in hand) shouting at the speeding crews. This activity allayed my fears of being out on the water in boats (large and small), having since taken many trips across the Channel and even one cruise to the Norwegian Fjords, when the North Sea swells were so rough that not many of the boats passengers turned up for the "Captain's Dinner"!!! Who wants to eat with the crew anyway??? I still love to paddle a boat with my grandchildren, suitably kitted out with life jackets and even arm-bands. I did do a life-saving course with my son in 1986, so I'm safe to be with.



By 1962 my love affair with the emerging British "pop" scene (see picture 1962) had begun (and with a certain young lady from Finsbury Park, but I'm not telling about that) and all thought of sport was gone from my head. I began to become a budding "Bluesman", a name that I am called here in Spain today, so I'm not having to use my guitars as cricket bats or my plectrums as substitute tiddly-winks???

(Here's John in a photo from January 1963, outside "The Chapel House", Chapel Street, Islington N.1, as a member of "The Sentinels" who entertained in the school hall at the end of the summer term 1963.)

Sad to say, my non-sporting lifestyle continued throughout the rest of my life, not even developing a greater affinity for football after England's success in 1966, until.....I discovered archery???? How appropriate, being that it was a group of archers who allegedly prompted Dame Alice to set up an establishment for the protection of young children from stray arrows!!! Walking up and down to a target sometimes at 100 yards, heaving at a bow string to develop 40 pounds plus of pressure on the smallest of points at the base of an arrow.

That was the nearest thing to exercise I was going to get for many years, entering local and national competitions, gaining a few medals, attending clout shoots (aiming at a ground based target at 180 yards, field shoots (wandering

through wooded areas, particularly designated for archery, with bow in hand and brandy in pocket, these were always in the winter) where "animal" targets (paper representations) were placed in awkward places and they usually got soaked, as we archers did also, because most times it rained on the chosen days and flight shoots, where one is attempting to send one's arrow the furthest distance.

My sporting days are over now, except for watching TV. What a great experience to have had the Olympic Games in the UK last year, and so much archery broadcast. It's not much of a spectator sport, but such good coverage, I hope to see more. There is a limited amount of interest in that sport here in Spain, but I have found some like-minded ex-pats and Americans with whom I shoot an arrow or two on some early mornings in a horse paddock owned by one of them, mostly at short distances as overshoots are difficult to find in the field beyond the target.

It's mostly golf here, which I have no desire to take up, but just the other week for the first time I walked the local course (well, I "buggied") with a friend and took a few shots???? As much hard work as playing the round I think. It's not for me. I'm maybe getting enough exercise carrying my band equipment from home to rehearsal studio to venue and vice versa??? While I'm still able to carry an amplifier and stand (or jig about, as my wife says) with a guitar on my shoulder I shall not be seeking any other energetic pursuits, except to strengthen my arms to raise glasses (drinking glasses).

So in the best tradition of Owen's sportsmen or non-sportsmen, good sportsmen or just good sports, I continue "to the fray" with as much enthusiasm as I can muster!!!"



ROY HEADLEY—LEFT 1956

Thanks to Old Owenians, Roy Headley and Mavis Headley (nee Beany), and Mavis's sister, Betty Beany (left) for visiting us on 3rd July—it was a pleasure to meet them! They were very impressed with our Potters Bar School and reminisced about School life in Islington. Roy and Mavis now live in Essex and Betty lives in Southgate. We hope they keep in touch!



NORMAN GOLDNER—LEFT 1970

Thanks very much to Mr Goldner for highlighting another 400th Anniversary in 2013 (also reported in our June 2012 and December 2012 editions) and reporting on the Moorgate Tube Disaster.

Please also see details about the New River celebrations on 29th September 2013 on page 27.

"Pupils from the old Boy's School in Islington will recall that we were divided into four houses Colebrooke, Cloudesley, Hermitage and Myddelton. Sir Hugh Myddelton (photo below) brought clean drinking water to London with the construction of the New River, which runs close to the site of both Boys' and Girls' Schools. In fact when the old Girls' School was bombed in 1940, the water main containing the river was broken."

You can read about the bombing here: http://www.damealiceowens.herts.sch.uk/about_us/blitz_memorial.html

"The 400th Anniversary of the opening of the New River was in September 2013 and a procession took place in Myddelton's home town of Ruthin in Denbighshire to mark the anniversary."

http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-wales-north-east-wales-23981349?goback=%2Egmr_3367798%2Egde_3367798_member_271762718#%21



https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hugh_Myddelton



"Memorial to the Moorgate Tube Disaster"

A memorial to the victims of the 1975 Moorgate Tube Disaster was unveiled in July 2013. Amongst those who died was Jane Simpson (nee Hollinger), who was the Head Girl in 1970.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-london-23481882>



SHAH SIDDIQI—LEFT 1978

Thanks to Mr Siddiqi for his great letter below and newspaper clippings of his cricketing stories from Cambridge. Pictured here with his son, Imaad, and younger daughter, Aisha, at the Baylor College of Medicine 'White Coat Ceremony' in Houston for newly inducted med students.



"Dear Owenians,

It was great to see on the school website that the traditions of academic, social and personal excellence are being continued and pursued at Owen's school. I am currently in Houston, Texas, practising as a Neurosurgeon & Spinal Surgeon, specialising in minimally invasive & complex spine surgery, and am affiliated with the Methodist Research Institute and other Houston Hospitals.

I still cherish my days at Owen's in Islington and was in the same year as Gary Kemp, leaving, I believe, in 1976. Yes, the young and bustling William Hamilton-Hinds was the Mathematics master at the time. I was born in London and after taking the 11 plus exam was glad to get an interview at Owen's where Mr. Jones was the headmaster.

Most of my questions by Mr Jones were based around cricket since I was an avid cricketer and Mr. Jones, whose eyesight was wailing, loved cricket. When he found out I was related to Asif Iqbal, the Kent & Pakistan cricketer, our conversation heightened and he was already planning my entrance into the Owen's cricket team.

Evening Standard

Shah following in uncle's footsteps

By RICHARD TAYLOR

TWO days after the climax of the enthralling final Test between England and Pakistan at The Oval the finest colt cricketers in the Home Counties will be there for the Grand Finals of the Evening Standard/R Whites Junior Cricket Championships.

And for one of the players of the four competing teams the fact that the finals follow so closely on the Test, has a very special significance.

He's Shah Siddiqi of the Middlesex champions, Alexandra Park, nephew of Asif Iqbal the sparkling cricketer of Pakistan and Kent.

While the rest of the Alexandra Park colts side played weekend matches with the club's senior sides Shah had the afternoon off—to admire and perhaps learn from his uncle's performance.

Alexandra Park team manager Ken Higgs considers Shah, a slow-medium bowler, to be one of the most improved players in the side. Shah helps lead the attack with speedman Steve Brown and all the Alexandra Park players will need to be at their very best to come through the severe test the Grand Finals will present.

Four sides take part in the Finals and the other three are Streatham (representing Surrey), Meopham (Kent), and Chelmsford (Essex).

The draw for the semi-final is Streatham v. Chelmsford and Meopham v. Alexandra Park. Gates open at nine o'clock and the first semi-final begins at 10.30.

It will be a day of dashing, entertaining cricket and tickets, which are free, can be obtained at the gate on the day.

The promotion of the Junior Cricket Championship has been arranged by James F. Wood Associates.

I had a great time at Owen's in Islington. Between classes we would go to the playing courtyard opposite the school and play pick up soccer games. At that time, each year, prizes were given for first position in class for different subject areas and I picked up my share of prizes in several subjects. When the girls joined us, the competition got a lot harder!

Our sports field was in Hertfordshire where we were amazed to find out that the England soccer team also trained there at that time! I played several sports for the school (cricket, squash, field hockey and soccer). Our field hockey team was so strong that in the London interschool tournaments our first team was most scared of our second team and we would often meet each other in the final.

However, cricket was my great love. I got my full colors before reaching sixth form and would play in my age group and the first XI whenever possible. I was picked for All-London Schools and enjoyed playing for London for several years, representing England Schools ESCA (South) and subsequently played first class cricket at the University of Cambridge (picture attached) where I graduated in Medicine & Surgery.

Combined Universities have silenced doubters

By A. S. R. WINLAW

THE victory of Combined Universities over Gloucestershire in the Benson and Hedges on Tuesday, following their narrow defeat by one wicket against Surrey on Saturday, defies any suggestion that Oxford and Cambridge matches should no longer be regarded as first class.

The high scholastic demands have, admittedly, weakened the general standard, but there are still names of note and—as has been continually proven—university is a wonderful nursery to top players.

Three prime England batsmen have emerged since the war in Peter May (Cambridge), Colin Cowdrey (Oxford) and Ted Dexter (Cambridge). Then, from Cambridge, come other Test match captains in Norman Yardley, Gubby Allen, George Mann, Freddie Brown, David Sheppard, Tony Lewis and Mike Brearley; to say nothing of Donald Carr and Mike Smith from Oxford.

Past captains

Oxford has been the seat of learning for opposition Test match captains in this era, with the Nawabs of Pataudi—father and son—from India, Alan Melville and Clive van Ryneveld (South Africa) and the Pakistanis, A. H. Kardar and Imran Khan.

Cambridge, at least, can claim that most handsome of batsmen, Majid Khan, as their Pakistani captain.

Altogether, there have been 45 Test match players from Oxford (18) and Cambridge (27) since the war. Any argument that that is merely undergraduate fame of the past hardly stands, especially when it is recognised that many players from the universities are still fully engaged in county cricket.

Cambridge and Siddiqi do not go meekly

FENNER'S: Cambridge University drew with Sussex.

A maiden half century by Shah Siddiqi helped Cambridge University to dig in for a draw. They batted 281 minutes to reach 132 for four after being set 345 for victory.

SUSSEX: First Innings 359 for 5 dec (I A Greig 106 not out, P W G Parker 100 not out, G D Mendis 69).

Second Innings

A M Green b Garlick	4
11 J Gould c Peck b Garlick	22
C M Wells not out	61
A P Wells not out	53
Extras (l-b 1)	1
Total (2 wks dec)	141

G D Mendis, J R T Barclay, P W G Parker, I A Greig, G S le Roux, D A Reeve and A N Jones did not bat.

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-18, 2-39.

BOWLING: Garlick 14-2-69-2; Grimes 15-3-55-0; Andrew 2-0-16-0.

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY: First Innings 156 (C R Andrew 51; D A Reeve 5 for 22)

Second Innings

C R Andrew b Green	38
A E Lea l-b-w b le Roux	5
S N Siddiqi c Parker b C M Wells	52
M N Breddy c Gould b Barclay	8
P G P Roebuck not out	24
1A G Davies not out	2
Extras (l-b 1, w 1, n-b 1)	3
Total (4 wks)	132

1 G Peck, T A Cotterell, A K Golding, A D H Grimes and P Garlick did not bat.

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-13, 2-84, 3-101, 4-125.

BOWLING: le Roux 6-4-11-1; Jones 14-10-11-0; Reeve 14-7-23-0; Barclay 21-11-29-1; Greig 7-3-17-0; Green 12-2-25-1; C M Wells 9-5-13-1.

Umpires: H D Bird and J Birkenshaw.

OFFICIAL CORRECTION: May 3. P G P Roebuck b Greig 4, not as published.

(TIMES, Sat May 5th)

DAVID

longer the same hold in schools

With

Cambs v A. Dutch Students' Assoc.

West L.

575 + 946

10(S)
13, 14, 15
16, 17, 19
20, 21, 22

The answer to the second available to those prepared for some dile



Owen's Grammar School moved to Hertfordshire the year after my 'O' levels, and living in Islington, I was offered a place at the City of London School where I again met an avid cricketer as the headmaster at the school interview. I was glad to leave City of London with a batting average of 69.4 playing in the Public Schools' conference, which I was reminded was higher than Mike Brearley's, the England captain at the time.

Looking back, Owen's provided a very nurturing, academic environment. Ms. Jeffries was a superb English teacher and an Oxford graduate. Ms. O'Hegarty and Mr. Hamilton-Hinds pushed us in Mathematics and we had several science, history, geography and language teachers that kept us busy all year round.

What a school and what a foundation! Since then, my brother was posted in Houston after working for Deloitte in Houston. I, myself, travelled to Toronto for my neurosurgical postgraduate education/residency and spine surgery fellowship and married to wife, Nikhat, who was also born in London! Subsequently we moved to Houston to be closer to my family. I now have three children.

My son, Imaad, is starting at Baylor College of Medicine this year. My older daughter, Sameera, majored in Neurobiology

at UT Austin and is in her 3rd year of medical school. My youngest daughter, Aisha, is at Klein high School, having lettered each year of her high school since freshman year and plays on the varsity tennis team and USTA tournaments when she has time. She is also planning to pursue an academic career in the sciences.

Many years have gone by but the memories remain. How I would love to be back at Owen's. Just one day! Walking the cobblestoned path of the old School, rushing the corridors to reach the early morning assembly line, only to be reminded by Dame Alice Owen's statue that this is no ordinary school but one that cares for it's history and it's people.

Best wishes to all the school. May God bless you for all your efforts.

Sincerely,

Shah N Siddiqi, MB.B.Chir., FRCS(C), FACS"



IAN SMITH—died 2013

Geoffrey Ransby would like to remember Ian Smith, who passed away this summer. Ian was so glad to make the 400th Anniversary Celebrations at our Royal Albert Hall Concert in April and managed to take part in the reunion on that special occasion.



ALAN VENN—died 2013

Thanks to Mr Andrew Hunter for getting in contact—he was a friend of Alan Venn, an Old Owenian, and would like him to be remembered. According to Mr Hunter's information, Mr Venn lived in Canada, was a fire-fighter at Victoria International Airport for many years and a thespian at the The Belfry Arts Centre, who posted this in their Gazette: "We are sad to report that we lost another friend this season. Alan Venn was a lovely man, most recently in our last production of Hamlet, but stretching all the way back to 2004 in Loves Labour Lost. He was a kind and generous performer. Many of you may also remember his turn as Francis Flute/Thisbe in the Langham Court production of Midsummer Night's Dream. Alan will be deeply missed by the Festival."



JOHN LANGFORD – LEFT 1955 – Head Boy

Thanks to Mr Langford for visiting us during our Open Afternoon in July. He bought some badges and caps for us to see too and sent a photo of himself as a prefect from the 1954 School Photograph and others below! We also had a visit from another gentleman (below left) and his wife, who were lovely people and we had cups of tea in the staff room, but your editor must apologise as she can't find any reference of his name and would be grateful if he could inform her!



Left: John at Open Day, Top: John as a Prefect, Top Right: Black cap with red band—Head Boy's cap—Prefects had a yellow band on the usual school cap, Right: Red & black cap—OS football cap

Right: John and John's wife, Barbara



Far Right: Norman Webster Old Boy 1950 - 1955 with John



Above Left: OS CC—Owen's school 2nd XI colours worn on blazer instead of usual badge, Above Middle: Green edged—1st XI cricket colours, Above Right: Red edged—1st XI football colours



MURIEL BURGESS (Teacher at the Girls' School in Islington from 1956)

Thanks to Mr Bill Hamilton-Hinds for telling us about Mrs Muriel Burgess, who sadly passed away this summer and for collating the Facebook comments below. He reports she was appointed to the staff of Dame Alice Owen's Girls' School in 1956. Her main subject was P.E. but in later years she also taught Mathematics. In 1973 she transferred to the new School in Potters Bar and became the second Head of Year following Colin Williams. She remained as a Head of Year until her retirement in the mid-1980s.

One of her great loves was cake baking and many a staff birthday was marked with the presentation of a delicious cake. This practice continued into her retirement until ill health prevented her from continuing. She was a devoted teacher and was greatly appreciated by generations of students and staff alike. Thanks to Bill for this photograph too.

The following tributes were posted on Facebook by former students following the news of her death



[Simon Hoy](#) *That's sad I remember having her as a teacher.*

[Anne-Marie O'Brien](#) *Oh how sad! She was such a lovely lady and quite a character. Very strong lady, liked her a lot.*

[Susan Urry](#) *I will never forget Miss Burgess and her tape measure to ensure our skirts were no shorter than 2 inches above our knee. She was a stickler for the correct uniform but a lovely kind lady, so sad to hear of her passing.*

[Cathryn Johnson](#) *Sad news. Was good to have her as my year head and maths teacher in my first year at Owens 1983/4. Definitely kept us all in order.*

[Mandy Howard Alexander](#) *How sad, I have many great memories of Mss Burgess and I also remember her tape measure! She was very strict but a very good teacher who did not suffer fools gladly.*

[Jen Oakton](#) *Oh that is sad news. She was a wonderful head of first year (1985) and fondly remembered. Rest in peace Miss Burgess.*

[Jude Osborn](#) *Miss Burgess could spot a short skirt or scarf worn by a student a mile away and swooped silently to confiscate. She literally came from no where!! She must have gathered quite a hoard in her day. A strong woman with a good heart. RIP*

[Jane Elliott](#) *How sad. Miss Burgess was definitely a very memorable lady. God bless her soul.*

[Hilary Greene](#) *May she RIP. She was also my year head and maths teacher during my 1st year at Owens in Potters Bar.*

[Clare Haviland Cornell](#) *I agree with [Jude Osborn](#) - she noticed anything that wasn't 'uniform' straight away! I remember wearing white shoes to school one day, I knew I had to try to avoid her all day, she was never my teacher so I thought it would be easy... NO!! I made it into the playground before the bell rang and she was tapping on the window at me to come and see her!!! RIP Miss B x*

[Janet Harfield](#) *I remember her enthusiasm on the playing fields, as well as her*

ability to spot a short skirt or non regulation shoe. She was a formidable lady. But such a strong and very likeable one too. RIP x

[Alison Hudson](#) *A stickler for the correct uniform, a fabulous maths teacher a lady that made Dame Alice Owens a fabulous place to learn. Rest in peace a "legend" from my school days.*

Mrs Burgess also kindly contributed herself to our Old Owenians Newsletter in December 2012, page 31, with some personal comments about Mrs Kisch, after she passed away summer 2012 (see below).

"Mrs Burgess 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!"



3rd May, 2013.

Dear Mrs. Ainsley,

The Queen has asked me to thank you for your kind letter dated 26th April, sent on the occasion of your alumnae's gathering to celebrate the diamond jubilee of the investiture of Whitelands College May Queen Vera on 18th May.

Her Majesty was most interested to learn about the history of the college's annual tradition from both your letter and enclosures and appreciates you writing as you did. In return, The Queen sends her best wishes to all concerned for a most memorable and enjoyable event in this Sixtieth Anniversary Year of her Coronation.

Yours sincerely,

Christopher Sandamas
The Chief Clerk to The Queen

Mrs. Brenda Ainsley.



BRENDA AINSLEY—LEFT 1952—Deputy Head Girl

Thanks to Mrs Ainsley for telling us about the Diamond Anniversary of the investiture of Whitelands College May Queen Vera on the 18th May. As one of their alumnae, she attended the event with about 30 others, "all about to celebrate our eightieths" and even managed to dance around the Maypole! After informing Buckingham Palace, she received a reply from the Queen wishing her a memorable event!



DAVID DALLMAN—LEFT 1961—Head Boy

Thanks to Dr David Dallman for visiting our School on 17th September 2013 from CERN, the European Organization for Nuclear Research in Switzerland.

He told us, *"The education I received at Owen's was not only enjoyable, far-ranging and exciting, but for me laid the groundwork for a wonderful career in physics. After 3 years at Cambridge, I went to Imperial College for my PhD in the field of particle physics. At the end of September 2013, I shall have notched up 49 years of research at CERN (I officially had to retire at 65 in 2007, but am still active as an Honorary Staff Member).*

I suppose the highlight in all these years was in the early 1980s, when I played a fairly central role in the discovery of the W and Z electroweak gauge bosons, which led to the award of the Nobel Prize for Physics in 1984 for the team leader Carlo Rubbia. But there have also been many more memorable episodes during all this time."



DAME ALICE OWEN—DIED 24TH SEPTEMBER 1613

Thanks to Mr Bill Hamilton-Hinds for reminding us of the anniversary of the death of Dame Alice Owen on 24th September 1613. To commemorate this, he arranged for these beautiful flowers to be laid by her statue in our Main Foyer.



CHRISTINE EBERHARDIE (NEE SAMPSON)—LEFT 1965

Thanks to Mrs Eberhardie who has sent us a wonderful collection of photographs of her time at the Islington Girls' School to share with the School and Old Owenians with whom she's in contact, which she says is "work in progress". We look forward to the end result!

Also, we wish our Islington Girls' a happy birthday for the 29th September, who used to celebrate the anniversary of their school on this date, by wearing Michaelmas Daisies (right). Sadly, they'll be out of season for our Harold Moore Luncheon at the end of October, when we'll probably all be wearing red poppies, but thought we'd include a photo of these pretty purple flowers!



And finally...

Well, your editor can honestly say that she didn't think our Old Owenians would have been as busy on the literary front as they obviously have been over the summer break! It's been really lovely to hear from everyone and hope we've included all your articles and photos. If you'd like to send a contribution to our next edition of the Old Owenians Newsletter to be published at the end of our 400th Anniversary year, in mid December, the closing date for articles is **Monday 2nd December 2013**. Here's just a few more bits of information for you...

Director of Sport, Ian Breeze announces that...



...our School has been invited to host the Southern Region ESFA U18 Football Trials on our main pitch on Sunday, 13th October 11am. Our pitch is maintained to a high standard as shown in this aerial photograph taken last summer by one of our grandparents, adjacent to the all weather pitch.

400th Anniversary of New River—September 2013

You may remember we first reported on the 400th Anniversary of New River in our June 2012 Old Owenians Newsletter (pages 10/11), which celebrates the opening of the man-made water course in September 1613 (Thames

Water say that New River is neither new or a river!), bringing fresh water from Hertfordshire to the people of the City of London. Built by Hugh Myddleton, Old Owenian, Norman Goldner, also reports about this on page 20. As part of the celebrations, a Hidden River Festival was held on September 22nd and you can read more about the history of New River on their Festival website at: <http://hiddenriverfestival.co.uk/history.php>. Also, Hackney Council are advertising a further family New River Event on Sunday 29th September, if anyone's interested:

"New River 400 - Family Activity Day at Clissold Park, Sunday 29th September 12-4pm, The Old Bowls Green

Come and celebrate the 400th anniversary of the New River, a remarkable feat of engineering that brought fresh water to London for the first time. Try your hand at traditional games and crafts, find out about the creatures living in today's New River, help us create a commemorative mosaic to display in the park and join in our silent disco. Re-live the 1613 Opening Ceremony at 3pm! Telephone: 020 8356 4600 email: Lucy.Gijsen@hackney.gov.uk

Thames Water also now have updated their The New River Path leaflet—a walk linking Hertford with Islington. You can view it at: <http://www.thameswater.co.uk/about-us/17250.htm>. Happy walking!

Can you help with the New River Walking App?

Audio producer Sarah Peters and artist Henny Beaumont are developing a GPS-triggered walking app of the New River and would love to hear from anyone who has memories of the New River, particularly in the area between Finsbury Park and Sadlers Wells. Please do get in touch by e-mailing Sarah on sarah@sarahpeters.net.

Did you know that Oxford and Cambridge didn't formally award degrees to women until 1920 and 1947 respectively?!

'Mental taxation in a woman can lead to atrophy, mania, or worse - leave her incapacitated as a mother. This is not an opinion. It is a fact of nature.' Dr Henry Maudsley, British Psychiatrist 1896 !!!!!



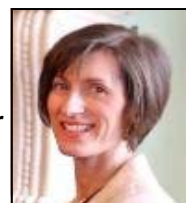
Your editor was naively surprised to learn how only relatively recently women were allowed to "graduate" from two of our top universities.

"Blue Stockings", a play at The Globe Theatre, London, by Jessica Swale, is to be recommended for anyone interested in the history of the struggle for women to be officially recognised at Girton College, Cambridge.

Be prepared to be shocked as to how intelligent women in the college at the time (1896) were treated by fellow male undergraduates and to reflect on how they often had to choose between caring (for family) and learning (still a balancing act for many today). The play is almost sold out, running until 11th October. If we have any Old Owenian graduates from around that time, we'd love to hear about your experiences.

This just leaves enough room to thank everyone once again for their contributions and we look forward to seeing some of you at our last 400th anniversary events this term. Keep in touch!

Mrs Mandy English, Alumni Relations and Website Manager



P.S. Remember to add our **new email address** oldowenians@damealiceowens.herts.sch.uk to your safe senders list! Deadline for contributions to our December edition - Monday 2nd December 2013!