

Old Owenians Newsletter

Second Quarter—26th June 2013
Edition 10

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

Dear Old Owenians

Our 400th Anniversary year is now half way through and I'd like to say on behalf of the whole team here at School, how extremely grateful we are for your support attending our historic 400th events at the Royal Albert Hall, St Paul's Cathedral and Mansion House in April and for providing overwhelmingly positive feedback (your comments say it all on pages 16-23). Many thanks as well to those who've directly contributed to our 400th Appeal—read about our Science Building on page 7.

We've been thrilled that our combination of events since the beginning of the year have enabled us to achieve our aim of bringing past, present and future members of our whole School community together in numerous ways.



For those who were able to join us, I think you'll agree that our Concert was a staggering display of individual and collective talent that I'm quite sure would struggle to be matched by any school anywhere in the country. It was a fitting tribute to our remarkable School and a remarkable lady. We were also honoured to be joined by a number of our outstandingly successful alumni, including Sir Alan Parker, in whose honour a light-hearted drama piece was performed, Gary Kemp, John Keeble and Steve Norman from Spandau Ballet performing True and Gold to a full Royal Albert Hall and Nick Barnes from Nevsky Capital.

Many of you also attended our Thanksgiving Service at St Paul's Cathedral and Reception at Mansion House and it was very special to have Old Owenians, current students, staff, governors and parents share in acknowledging our historic anniversary.

*In this edition, our Chair of Governors and Old Owenian, Peter Martin, has a message for you on page 2, echoing his **Mansion House speech** and Mandy English outlines how we'll be keeping in contact with and involving you going forward (including our **new***

*email address from 25th September), to ensure our Alumni Programme is one of our permanent legacies of our 400th Anniversary on page 5. Please keep spreading the word for more of your peers to join our email list! Details of our next **Harold Moore Luncheon Reunion** event are on page 6 (including **request for new volunteers as Stan Harold and Michael Gould retire this year**). For more **School News from last term**, see: http://www.damealiceowens.herts.sch.uk/news_dates/newsletters.html*



We welcome our new Old Owenians including those Year 11 and Year 13 students who are leaving for further education or out into the world of work and members of staff who are moving on to pastures new. Good luck to all departing and those who have taken exams – we're sure their hard work will be evident in August. Lastly, we wish all 148 students and staff travelling on our Religious Studies Cultural Trip to Ecuador and the Galapagos Islands this summer a bon voyage!

Dr Alan Davison

A Message from our Chair of Governors...

After the magnificent concert at the Royal Albert Hall in April, and the very emotional Service of Thanksgiving only a week later at St. Paul's Cathedral, it fell in part to me at the Mansion House reception to thank everyone involved in making those two events both possible and successful, but also to consider what the longer term legacy of the 400th Anniversary celebrations would be to future generations of students, teachers and parents.

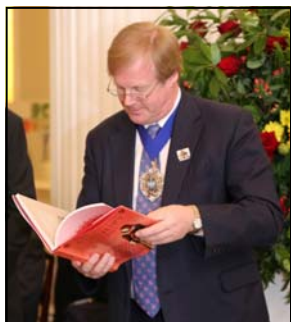


For me, that inheritance is both tangible and spiritual. This feels like a year in which we are re-dedicating ourselves to Dame Alice Owen's fundamental purpose in making her bequest - to allow children the opportunity to fulfil their potential, and to achieve far more in both their lives and their careers than they might otherwise ever have dreamed. That purpose is a hard taskmaster, demanding excellence and endeavour in equal measure, and these values have been maintained and nurtured throughout the centuries by successive generations and of course by our Trustee, the Worshipful Company of Brewers. I am proud that the school of today is carrying on the tradition, and indeed going from strength to strength.



Part of that re-dedication is to re-establish and strengthen our links with past students, links which over recent decades had I think been allowed to wither. We are now in touch with over 3,100 alumni, keeping them informed of what is happening at the school, receiving many of them back at Potters Bar and benefiting from their experiences over the years since they left, and I am glad to say seeing many of them at the celebration events in recent months.

The goodwill towards the school that clearly exists among all those who have been part of it, in whatever capacity is heart-warming. We must not allow that loss of contact to happen again.



In 1963 R.A. Dare wrote the history of the school for the 350th anniversary, and this year has seen the publication of Gareth Randall's new book, 'Dame Alice Owen's School, A History, 1613-2013'. I've just finished reading it, and thoroughly enjoyed wandering down the years, being reminded of some episodes I remember, and a few I'd rather forget. Copies are still available, including specially signed editions, so if you'd like to indulge in some gentle reminiscing, I commend it. Just contact the school for details.

A copy of Gareth Randall's History Book, signed by the author, was presented to Sir David Wootton, Lord Mayor of London 2011/12 in keeping with tradition—a copy was presented to the Lord Mayor at Mansion House in 1963

And lastly. The building of the new science facility is now proceeding apace, after a few weeks of our wonderful spring weather had made digging the foundations through firstly permafrost and then mud an interesting exercise in not losing your fingers through frostbite, or your wellies somewhere on the western front. The Anniversary Appeal has now raised over £725,000 towards our target of £1 million, but if we are to build and equip it to do justice to present and future students we need to close the gap. (More on p7.)

At Mansion House I thanked those who had already given so generously, and appealed to any would-be

philanthropists in my audience to give what they could. I am repeating that plea, if you can afford to and wish to give, please get in touch with the school, or look on the school's website for details on how to donate. Now is the time for all good men and women to come to the aid of the party.

*Peter Martin
Chair of Governors and Old Owenian*



From your Editor...Your Feedback from the Royal Albert Hall!

First, a message of thanks, for contributing to the very warm accolades we received from parents and friends of the school and spending time responding to our survey. We were overwhelmed with your responses and several of our email inboxes almost crashed! Staff directly involved were able to receive your valued comments straight after the event and they were a great reward for all their efforts and hugely appreciated. We've included a large selection (pages 16-23) with photos from before and during the event - courtesy of Old Owenian, Gaz de Vere. Sorry we couldn't include everyone—we had just over 100 responses!

Some feedback did highlight difficulties a few of you found in getting drinks in crowded bars, not being able to meet up with other Old Owenians successfully and preferring to have seen more drama and elements of our 400th history during the evening. We're sorry that we couldn't meet everyone's needs on the night, but we sincerely hope you feel we've done our very best to provide you with opportunities to take part in our 400th celebrations by having a range of events to suit most throughout the year and we'll certainly take note of your points for future Anniversary's!

For those of you who couldn't attend, we hope you enjoy hearing about it from others and please read our Press Releases with summaries of events on 23rd and 30th April on our Newsletter page. Reports were also made in the Welwyn and Hatfield Times Potters Bar Edition over the two weeks. See our calendar of more events on p45!



An Apology to our Islington Old Girls



We'd like to give a full apology to our Islington Old Girls, some of whom have voiced their disappointment in not being able to sing their old School song on the night of our Royal Albert Hall concert. When the Old Girls' and Boys' Schools were amalgamated in Potters Bar during 1973-6, a decision was taken to have just one School song and the Old Boys' School song was adopted with a couple of minor amendments. As this is the School song today, known and practised by current students, it was felt that this should be the one to be sung at our concert.

The Old Girls' School song is still sung at the Harold Moore Luncheon every October by a very loyal group of Old Girls and it would be our pleasure to have as many of you join our luncheon this year as possible (see page 6 and 44 for more details). In fact, there were two Old Girls' School songs and the words of both are published on our School History page of our website (see also Mrs Pamela Mansi's view on page 44) at : http://www.damealiceowens.herts.sch.uk/about_us/school_history.html.

Also, our Royal Albert Hall programme, although pictured past Girls' School Headmistresses, failed to name them and we have to admit and apologise again for an inexcusable oversight on our part – an extract was taken from the splendid historical display (which was on show in the main foyer on the evening) to illustrate some of the history of the school, which excluded the list. However, you can see the list for yourselves on page 27 and on the first panel of the historical display which can also be found on the link above and all Headteachers are listed on our School History/Headteachers page.

St Paul's Cathedral Thanksgiving Service

Once again, for those who didn't attend, a selection of photos can be found on page 13 and thank you to those who took the time to write and tell us how special it was to attend such a splendid occasion.

The staff at St Paul's commented that there were more people present than at Margaret Thatcher's funeral and we were the best school they'd ever had attend a Service! Photographs of students journey to St Paul's on our exclusively commissioned trains can be seen at:

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



The Lord Mayor returns!

1963



2013

Thanks very much to Colin Strong, our Science Technician, who stood on guard at the top of the steps to St Paul's Cathedral to take this photograph (right) of the Lord Mayor's representative, Sir David Wootton as he arrived for the Procession. The photograph, left, was taken in 1963 when the Lord Mayor arrived for the Thanksgiving Service to commemorate the 350th Anniversary and appears in our History Book.

Our Official Photographer, Old Owenian, Gaz de Vere, had the idea to repeat the photo, but he had to remain in position inside at the start of the Service, so Colin kindly volunteered to attempt the shot and timed it perfectly! He's produced it in monochrome to get more of a feel of comparison! Well done to both!

Just a reminder!

Details of how to purchase photos (Gaz De Vere) and the DVD (Footpath Films) of both the Royal Albert Hall and St Paul's events can be found via our 400th News page: <http://www.damealiceowens.herts.sch.uk/2013.html>.

Also Gareth Randall's History publication can be purchased online or by cheque (separate order form for cheque provided as a PDF for you to print) at: <http://www.damealiceowens.herts.sch.uk/wisepay.html>.



Special signed copies by Sir Alan Parker, Spandau's Gary Kemp, Steve Norman and John Keeble, Dame Beryl Grey and Gareth are still available via our webpage above.

The publication is also available to be purchased directly from our Reception and copies will be available to purchase from Mr Hamilton-Hinds at the Harold Moore Reunion Luncheon on Thursday 31st October—please note cash or cheques only; for credit/debit card purchases, please see link to make an online payment.

You can see Gareth here, (second left) at our St Paul's Cathedral Thanksgiving Service, as he joined the clergy in his role as Vicar to help lead the Procession down the aisle at the start of the Service. Assistant Head, Gareth, retired in 2006 to become priest of an Anglican Church in France.

County Cup win ends historic day!

We'd like to once again to offer congratulations to our 1st XI Boys Football Team, who were crowned County Champions on the evening of Tuesday 30th April 2013, after our 400th Anniversary Thanksgiving Service at St Paul's and Reception at Mansion House, making it an even more historic day!

The boys were supported by our committed Head, Alan Davison, who returned from the London celebrations just in time for the game's kick off at 7.30pm and by loyal Old Owenian, Tyler Rix, who also attended the proceedings during the day. Playing at the Wingate and Finchley ground, they beat Goffs School in extra time on penalties 7-6. Thanks also to the Boys PE staff (also pictured); Head of Boys' PE, Adam Cotton, Neil Gamester, Tim Dugan and Director of Sport, Ian Breeze, who inspired the boys to win in our 400th Anniversary year!



Our 400th Legacy Continues—new email address in September!

Although our celebrations will come to an end in December this year, we'll be continuing our relationship with you! As Peter Martin, our Chair of Governors said in his message to you, we now have a permanent Alumni Programme which means that Old Owenians will always be **very welcome to come back and visit our School** for any of our music and drama performances (we shall soon have an online ticket ordering system) and our Open Afternoon in July, take part in promoting Careers to students in March, and join the Harold Moore Reunion Luncheon organised by Old Owenians in October (see more details about this year's Reunion on page 6). You'll also still receive highlights of our School News, details of our events and your own valued contributions via our Old Owenians Newsletter. If you want to advertise your own Reunions or try to get in contact with other past peers, please contact your editor so she can help!

To signify this permanent relationship we'll be changing our email address from **Wednesday 25th September 2013**, to: oldowenians@damealiceowens.herts.sch.uk. All email addresses from our 400years@damealiceowens.herts.sch.uk address will be automatically transferred, so you need not do anything other than add our new address to your safe senders list! To ensure you can check that you're on the new list we'll send you an email from both addresses with details of our September Newsletter and from December 2013, all emails will be via the new address.

400th Anniversary Football Match: Arsenal Youth v Owen's—report from May!



Congratulations also need to be awarded to our Year 10 Boys Football Team for taking on the prestigious Arsenal U15 Academy side on **Wednesday 15th May**, at 2pm on home ground and defending extremely well to minimise goals scored by the opposing team with the final result 9-1. Supported by Year 7, 8 and 10 and staff, the weather stayed dry for this historic game. Thanks again to all the PE staff and students helpers who made this match possible. Full report and names of players can be found at: http://www.damealiceowens.herts.sch.uk/news_dates_archive/sum131st_lat_new_arch.html.

Forthcoming 400th Anniversary Events—in Calendar Date Order!!!

Owen's 1st X1 v MCC X1 400th Cricket Match, Wednesday 10th July 2013, Old Owen's Sports Ground



Old Owenians are very welcome to join us - the planned start is 11.30pm, with about 50 overs a side and refreshments will be available as usual to purchase from the Old Owen's bar! Students will be watching throughout the afternoon and staff are also invited. The event is estimated to finish around 7pm. Local resident and former England bowler, Mark Illott, will be joining us during the game. Our Head, Dr Alan Davison, is very confident that we can give the MCC XI an excellent game, with a mixture of current and former students who have excelled at cricket. No tickets will be issued - just turn up!

Owen's School Association 400th Ball, Saturday 13th July 2013, Dame Alice Owen's School



We're really looking forward to partying at this glamorous occasion, where our Sports Hall is to be transformed for the evening on Saturday 13th July 2013—ticket applications close for this event on Friday 28th June. If you should still require tickets please email ann@theosa.org.uk. A huge thanks to the Owen's School Association Chair, Ann Potter, OSA member, Steven Savvas and Deputy Chair, Monique Choudhuri, (pictured left at Mansion House), who as members of the 400th Anniversary Committee, have been working really hard to ensure this will be another night to remember for current parents, staff, Old Owenians, governors. There's an opportunity for you to bid for auction items, even if you're not attending—see our Newsletter webpage for details of their amazing lots! Congratulations also to Monique, who has just been elected as our next Parent Governor.

Best Ever Owen's Football Year Competition, Saturday 25th August 2013, Old Owen's Sports Ground

Old Owenian, John Sullivan (left 1996), is organising a 6-a-side event on 25th August 2013 at Old Owen's Sports Ground. He is recruiting teams from year of leaving 1994 up to 2013! He says, *"Come and join in the fun - we're only 400 once!"* To get in contact with him, please email him at johndsullivan@hotmail.com or ring him on 07971 965 269. For details of Captains already recruited, please see page 13 of our Old Owenians Newsletter, March 2013.

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

Organised by Old Owenian, Kevin Simmons (left 1976) this reunion event is being held for students who were at the Islington & Potters Bar sites in the 1970's. The event is taking place on September 20th at the Marquess Tavern in Canonbury London N1 2TB from 7-11.30pm. Kevin has set up a webpage for anyone interested (see direct link below) which gives details of how to register your interest and to hear about how you can be part of the event on the night. Kevin's email is info@maxwellbarrett.com.

Webpage: http://www.maxwellbarrett.com/ai1ec_event/owens-golden-generation/?instance_id



Old Owen's Lodge 400th Anniversary Reception, Friday 27th September 2013, London

This event is for all Lodge Members, their families and friends and is being held on Friday 27th September 2013, from 5.30pm at Freemasons' Hall, 60 Great Queen Street, London.

There will be a talk by Ms Diane Clements, Librarian and Curator of the Museum and Library of the Grand Lodge of England at 6pm, with a Dinner afterwards at the Kingsway Hall Hotel, 7.30-9.30pm. Further information available from Mr Bill Hamilton-Hinds at wjhamilton-hinds@msn.com.

400th Anniversary Harold Moore Annual Reunion Luncheon, Thursday 31st October 2013, London

This is a great opportunity for all Old Owenians to come together at a formal luncheon in London to reunite and socialise with friends. For our 400th Anniversary, our Head, Chair of Governors and we hope, past Heads will be attending, with representatives from our governing body, current staff and Senior Prefects Team.

Harold Moore Annual Reunion Luncheon

Thursday 31st October, 2013, 11.30am - 4pm

**Imperial Hotel,
61 - 66 Russell Square, London WC1B 5BB,**

**Nearest tube Russell Square, Piccadilly Line
Parking: <http://www.imperialhotels.co.uk/>**

**Organised by: Old Owenians,
Mr Stanley Gould and Mr Michael Howard*****

Put the date in your diary—it's an ideal occasion to arrange to meet other Old Owenians; there are usually about 100 guests who attend, with capacity for up to at least 160! Stanley will be sending invitations to all on their mailing list around mid-September with details of how to pay (the price is around £35 for a three course meal, including house wine, mineral water, coffee, mints and staff gratuities).

To sign up for an invitation, simply send your details and years at Owen's to Stanley, either to his email address stanleysgould@gmail.com or by post to Harold Moore Luncheon, c/o 87 Wentworth Drive, Bedford MK 41 8QD or contact him on his mobile: 07969 108001.

They'd love to hear from you, especially in our 400th Anniversary Year – everyone is welcome, whether you're a regular, intermittent or new attendee! Old Girls' will get the opportunity at last to sing their old School song and Mr Bill Hamilton-Hinds will also be making our History Books available too!

*****Dedicated Old Owenians, Stanley and Michael, who left in 1953, have been running this event for many years and this year will be their last event! They are retiring and are inviting new volunteers to step into the breach! Anyone interested (Ladies or Gents!) in finding out what's involved and perhaps using this year's event to get to know the ropes can ring either of them for a chat: Stanley (07969 108001) or Michael (020 8445 9782).**

History of the Harold Moore Luncheon Club

Originally set up and run by Harold Moore (Head Boy, 1939 and pictured here in the middle of the front row in this photo from The Arrow, Lent 1939), the event was continued by Mr Ray Coombes.

Ray was at Owen's 1940-45 and organised many annual lunches including the four Bedford Reunions of '79, '89, '99 and '09 at the Swan Hotel in Bedford and now lives in Devon. We were thrilled in 2011, when he drove 200 miles to join us for our Head Boy and Head Girl Reunion event on 1st February. The Coombes family connections with Owen's have lasted a generation. Ray had two older brothers; George Coombes (Owen's 1926-31) and William Coombes (Owen's 1930-35). His older sister, Eileen Levitt (nee Coombes) was at Owen's 1928-33 and is believed to be our eldest Owen's Girl, now living in Harpenden.

His daughter, Joanna Berry-Roper (nee Coombes), also attended Owen's in Potters Bar for her Sixth Form (1971-78). The photo above right first appeared in our Newsletter in June 2012.



THE PREFECTORIAL BOARD, 1938-1939.
Left to Right—Standing: A. E. Rees, O. W. K. Camp, R. Nazer, Barry C. Amiel, C. P. Whittingham,
T. A. Morris, A. A. Gibbs.
Seated: M. Dombrowski, E. E. Dell, H. A. Moore, E. T. Ramm, C. Propper.

St Alban's Cathedral 400th Anniversary Carol Service, Monday 16th December 2013, 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. Current students, their parents, governors, staff and Old Owenians will be invited to attend and parents of performing students will be given priority.

Our tickets will be £5 to cover costs and as seating is limited, will be offered to individuals on a first come first served basis. We are 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. More details will be available in our September edition of the Old Owenians Newsletter.

400th Appeal—target £1 million



You'll be delighted to know that surplus funds from our 400th events will contribute directly to our 400th Appeal, which to date stands at £725,000. Thanks to your generosity and that of parents, students, staff and friends of the school, including Members of the Royal Albert Hall who donated their debenture seats for our 400th Concert, the work of our 400th Fund Raising Team and our Trustee, The Worshipful Company of Brewers, we are closer to reaching our target.

The New Science Building Appeal

Building the future of science!



Credit must go in no small measure to our Finance Office, who have processed over 5,000 transactions alone in respect of our 400th events to date as well as dealing with normal School business. Our 400th Fund Raising Team of volunteer parents have been involved in extensive research to request grants and funds from Trusts—work which is still ongoing—see request from Peter Snow, its Chair, below. Current parents have donated directly in addition to regular payments they make and even some new parents of Year 7 students starting in September have already made donations. Current students have inspired each other with their enterprising ways of raising money for our Parable of Talents initiative, supported by both teachers and parents, which has generated £25,000 towards their Science Building and our partner School in Tanzania, East Africa (10% of funds to Tanzania—a visit is planned for 2014).

This has created an ethos of giving throughout the School, remembering the quote by Sir Winston Churchill "We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give."



Peter Snow, Chair of our 400th Fund Raising Team, would like to make an appeal for assistance from you - his team have approached a considerable number of Companies and Trusts for assistance in their quest for funding and have had some successes with their approaches to Trusts, but not so much from companies. What he'd like to know is whether **you have any personal contacts in any Trusts or Companies that you'd either be able to speak to or give us an introduction to. You may know Trustees or influential people in Companies or Trusts, or in fact you may be such a person yourself.**

He'd be most grateful if you are able to help and would be very pleased to hear from you either by email at: petersnow711@hotmail.com or on his mobile: 07752 839396.



Progress to Date

Far left shows a general view of the site and left shows the internal steps and lift shaft. Photos taken at the beginning of June. For more photos (by Colin Strong, our Science Technician) see our Photo Gallery on our 400th Appeal

page (just scroll down to see photos since November 2012) at: <http://www.damealiceowens.herts.sch.uk/2013appeal.html>.

Old Owenians Careers Talks Week—March 2014



We're definitely repeating our successful Old Owenians Careers Talks Week in 2014 to co-incide with National Careers Week for the fourth time, which is being held **3rd -7th March 2014—another date for your diary!** In fact, for us, this is one of the most important ways in which you can give back to our School as it gives you a chance to directly benefit students from your work and career experiences. You have what we call source credibility! Students can relate to you as “real people”, who've been through the same education system as themselves and can show them what's possible. They value the range and quality of talks and there's now an expectation from students throughout the school that this will be a fixture in the school calendar and as much a part of their education as other extra-curricular activities.

Old Owenians Coffee and Tour Morning—May 2014

Following our successful event last year, when around 125 of you descended on Potters Bar, from near and far, to take a tour escorted by Sixth Formers, view our GCSE Art Exhibition and have the opportunity to socialise with fellow past students, we'd like to repeat a similar event next year. More details will appear in future Newsletters—we're proposing **Saturday 10th May, 2014 so hold the date!** Our tour will, of course, this time include our new Science Building, which has yet to be named! If anyone can think of a suitable worthy Scientist, preferably an Old Owenian, or sponsor who would like to be involved, please let us know as our governors are always open to suggestions! Interestingly, so far, all our buildings have been named after gentlemen—which probably balances the lady who looks down over all of us, Dame Alice herself. Buildings opened since we arrived in Potters Bar in 1973 :

- Edinburgh Centre (Library, Information Technology and Physics, opened by HRH Duke of Edinburgh 1990)
- Bernard Ryan Centre (Sixth Form and Modern Languages, opened by HRH the Princess Royal in 1997) - Bernard Ryan was one of our Chair of Governors
- Edward Guinness Hall (Concert Hall, opened by Edward Guinness CVO in 2002) -Edward Guinness is a former Chairman of Guinness Brewing Worldwide and member of our school's governing body from 1981-1992
- Arnold Lynch Centre (Maths, Art and Design Technology, opened by HRH Duke of Kent 2007) - Arnold Lynch was an Old Owenian who worked in the team that was involved with the development of Colossus (world's first computer) at Bletchley Park during WW2



As we've mentioned the GCSE Art Exhibition (sample right), if anyone's interested in a virtual viewing of this year's GCSE (probably our best ever!) and A Level Art Exhibitions, photos of students work are now available from the Art and Design Curriculum page on our website at: <http://www.damealiceowens.herts.sch.uk/curriculum/arts.html>.

Welcome to our new Old Owenians!



We wish our Year 11 & Year 13 Leavers much success with their results in August and best of luck for their new lives as either university or further education students or those embarking on careers, as well as our members of staff who are also leaving or retiring at the end of term—some only temporarily!

Goodbye to our Support Staff: Bradley Swaile (PE Technician for 1 year), who is going to study a university degree in Sports Studies and Jamie Coles (Teaching Assistant for 1 year), who is going to do a PGCE in Art

Goodbye to our Teachers: Nikki Sullivan (Geography), Susan Whitehouse, (Maths) Stella Howell (French and Spanish), Barbara Miller (Head of Government and Politics), Melanie Balfour (History), Debbie Firkins (ICT), Alex Brown (Science and Psychology), Kathy Smith (Head of Psychology), Karen Anderson (Girls PE), Lia Commissar (Head of Biology), Rehiat Kabir (Textiles)

Dame Alice took a dressing up on Year 13 Leavers day, as a hearty pirate, following their theme of Peter Pan and the Lost Boys! We had Indian squaws and pirates wandering around in the morning before they departed for their BBQ at Old Owen's Sports Ground! Our statue has been wrapped top to toe in foil in a previous year and we're sure others of you might have stories to tell—please let us know what you did on your Leavers Day!!!

PTA-UK Volunteer of the Year 2013—Congratulations to Mrs Sarah Lewczynski

Some of you will undoubtedly remember Mrs Sarah Lewczynski, of our parents' OSA (Owen's School Association), who, two weeks ago, was awarded PTA-UK Volunteer of the Year 2013 after being selected as a finalist in the PTA-UK Volunteer of the Year Gold Star Awards Scheme, following a nomination by the School, earlier this year.



She beat 6 other national finalists in an online vote - thanks very much to all of you who supported her. The award was presented at a ceremony on HMS Belfast (Sarah is second left).

Sarah co-ordinates the refreshments which are served at school events and also provides assistance to the music department during both the annual music entrance exams and other external music exams.

She has served on the OSA for eight years already and her youngest child is in Year 7. Many congratulations once again to a truly deserving and dedicated winner—we're proud of you!

Talking of Volunteers!

Our Alumni Team is looking for an additional two members to represent the views of Old Girls—we already have two Old Boys! (Old Girls, we value your opinions!). The team currently meets just four times a year in the Head's Office on a Tuesday morning. If you're interested in coming along or would like to discuss further about how you might be able to contribute, please ring Mandy English on 07864 517 175, as we'd really like a balanced team!!! We are:

Alan Davison, Head

Tim Rayner, Foundation Governor

Bill Hamilton-Hinds, Administration Officer and Old Owenian

Derek Webb, Old Owen's Association and Old Owenian

Mandy English, Alumni Relations and Website Manager (Chair)

Talking of Equal Opportunities!

In response to some other comments made recently about equality, Old Girls' will be particularly pleased to know that much has progressed since the Islington days (partly due to your pioneering spirits!) and DAOS welcomes its responsibilities under recent legislation to promote equality of opportunity for all staff, students, parents and other stakeholders.

Our Single Equality Policy (SEP) aims to meet our obligations to promote equality and inclusion, and eliminate discrimination on all the 9 protected characteristics in the Equality Act 2010, namely (1) Age, (2) Disability, (3) Ethnicity (Race), (4) Gender (Sex), (5) Gender Reassignment, (6) Marriage and Civil Partnership, (7) Pregnancy, maternity and breastfeeding, (8) Religion and Belief and (9) Sexual identity and orientation. You can read the full policy at: http://www.damealiceowens.herts.sch.uk/about_us/policies.html.

Our school's Single Equality Policy and Action Plan also continue to show a commitment to Equal Pay, Flexible Working and inequalities of outcome resulting from socio economic disadvantage, as well as relevant Dame Alice Owen's School context issues. Your editor can confirm that our school practises what it preaches in terms of flexible working where possible and this benefits both our School and our employees.

Practise or Practice?

Anyone totally clear on the difference between these two? Practice makes perfect! Practice is used as a Verb and practise is used as a Noun—one might practise the piano or one might need more practice at spelling—clear now??!!!

Old Owen's Golf Society—meeting dates!

Thanks to Old Owenian, Brian Fry, who has sent us the following dates to let you know about their next three meetings. He says if you'd like to play on Monday 15th July at Mill Green, please contact either Peter Bonner

peter.bonner@ntlworld.com or himself bjfry04@btinternet.com for more information. Get practising!!!

Monday 15th July—Mill Green Golf Club -Tee Off 11.04, OSGS event—18 hole Stableford-2 course meal + coffee, £44

Friday 27th September—Aldwickbury Golf Club Match v OSGS

Wednesday 30th October—Brookmans Park Team Competition

Old Owen's Association



The Old Owen's Association held their Annual General Meeting on Wednesday, 8th May 2013. Letters and emails were sent to members with prior notification by Gill Keating, our School Business Manager, who now also has the title **Clerk to the Old Owen's Association** and has the responsibility for the Association's finances. She found there were several letters returned as "Gone Away's" by the Royal Mail, so if you were expecting a letter and did not receive one, please contact her directly at the School. The current Chairman, Tim Lane, produced a Newsletter in March 2013 with an update on the Association, which you can also read on from our Old Owenians Newsletter page.

Old Owenian, Gary Kemp, works with brother, Martin on new TV Show!

We'd like to offer congratulations to Gary and his brother, Martin for their excellent programme on the Sky Crime and Investigation Network, *Gangs of Britain*. They visited different regions in Britain (Glasgow, Liverpool, Manchester, Birmingham, London and Sheffield) with Gary reviewing *Gangs of the past* and Martin, those in the present. It was first screened on Sunday 21st April 2013. This was their first documentary style programme together—they previously portrayed the Krays in the 1990 film. They discover through interviews, archive and dramatic re-construction, that blood line, criminal activity, clothing, religion, nationality, choice of weapon and prison were just as important to gangs in Victorian and Edwardian Britain as they are today. Martin Kemp attended the Central Foundation Boys' School in Islington.



400th Beer



Our 400th Anniversary Beer has been selling like hot cakes! Over half our consignment of 400th Anniversary Beer has been sold and continues to be in demand. At £2.50 a bottle or £16 for a pack of eight, sales are limited to two packs of eight per person—cash or cheques only. The remaining quantity will now be on sale on three dates only until stocks sell out:

Thursday 27th June - during the day and at our Choral Concert in the evening

Wednesday 3rd July - during the day and at our Concert Band in the evening

Wednesday 10th July - during the day and at our Senior Orchestral Concert in the evening

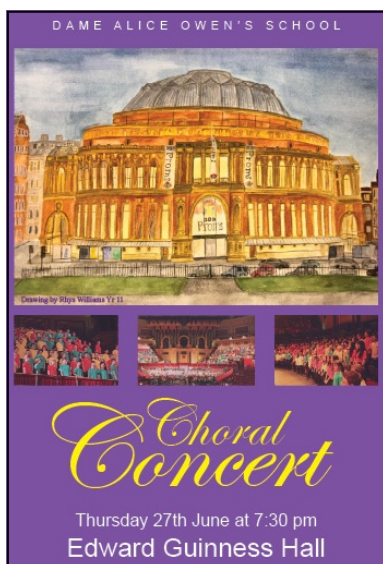
Old Owenian, Chris Foreman's band, Madness bring out their own beer!!!

The band have collaborated with the Growler Brewery in Essex to produce their own 4.2% lager-style golden ale called "Gladness". The name comes from a line in their hit, *Madness*, and a bottled version will soon be available in supermarkets (The Times, Friday 7th June). Chris is not the first Old Owenian to be inspired by the Brewers—Spandau Ballet's Tony Hadley owns Red Rat Brewery, which produces "Hadley's Gold", after Spandau's famous song.

You're invited to our Concerts!

As some of you have now witnessed first hand, the standard of performances by students at the Royal Albert Hall, you might want to consider joining us for one of our end of term Concerts in the Edward Guinness Hall (and buy your Beer at the same time)!!! Be quick—they do sell out—parents and students have had the opportunity to buy tickets for a couple of weeks already. Please see details about how to purchase tickets on our Ticket Information webpage at:

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



Old Owenian stops by to buy some Beer!



Thanks to Mr John Langford, who travelled with his wife from Theydon Bois to visit the school on 14th May to purchase some of our 400th Anniversary beer and a History Book! He also kindly showed us his school colours (beautiful fabric badges), school and football caps.

Having loved his time at school (he was Head Boy), some of you may remember that he returned to Owen's to teach Chemistry, becoming Head of Department. He recalled teaching on the top floor of the Old Girl's School in Islington and told us he eventually moved to a school in East Ham (now Newham) with a promotion to Deputy Head, just before Owen's moved to Potters Bar.

He was sorry to have missed our April 400th celebrations but fortunately managed to sneak a preview of the concert by watching the symphony orchestra rehearse in the Edward Guinness Hall prior to the main event! In our photo corridor hangs a picture of the school in 1964 and he was delighted to spot himself as a teacher in the third row and, in what has now become a tradition for our Old Owenian visitors, had his photo taken with our statue of Dame Alice!

We hope Mr Langford can come back for a longer tour at either our Open Afternoon in July or for an event in 2014.

Dame Alice Owen's School Open Afternoon

Thursday 18th July 2013, between 2-5pm

Old Owenians are very welcome to visit on our Open Afternoon for a self-guided or escorted tour. Prospective parents, parents, students and past students enjoy looking round in a great atmosphere, where teachers are present in nearly all subject areas showing off what they do best! It's a great afternoon to see the school in action—do join us—just turn up; see website for directions.

Old Owenian visits from Canada!

Thanks to Mrs Heather Davies, who left in 1957, for visiting the school on Wednesday 8th May, all the way from Canada. Staying with friends in Islington, she attended our events at the Royal Albert Hall, St Paul's and Mansion House and really enjoyed meeting up with Old Owenians.

She remembered the stone statue of Dame Alice Owen in the Islington School (see right), although it had a broken nose at the time, presumably war damage, she said! It's a mystery as to when and how it was repaired, having been stored in the basement of the old Boys' School before transferring to the Girls' School in the late 1950's. Upon inspection, we could just detect a faint black line where the repair would have been.

Eight of Dame Alice Owen's children or grandchildren now reside in our main Foyer, alongside the stone statue. Eleven originally surrounded her tomb in St Mary's Church, Islington. Following disrepair to the Church, they were removed to a niche in the Boys' School's entrance hall when the new extension was added in 1881.

It's not known which of Dame Alice's children (12 in total) or grandchildren were among the 11 children represented on the original memorial. However, she was a hero to have had that many!!!



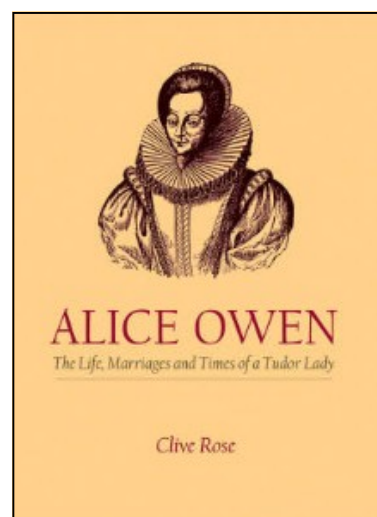
Below is a list of her children (reference “Alice Owen – The Life, Marriages and Times of a Tudor Lady” by Clive Rose). Alice, born in 1547, married her first husband, Henry Robinson in 1570 and had 11 children. Henry Robinson, Freeman of the Worshipful Company of Brewers and a Citizen of London, died in 1585 before his last son was born:

- 1572: John – died aged 3
- 1573: Henry – died before aged 10
- 1575: William – died before aged 10
- 1576: Margaret – survived childhood
- 1577: Ann – died in infancy
- 1578: Susan – died in infancy
- 1579: Thomas – died in infancy
- 1581: Alice – survived childhood
- 1582: Ann – survived childhood
- 1583: John – died aged 14
- 1586: Henry – survived childhood

Alice remarried in 1586 to William Elkin and had one child. William Elkin, Master of the Mercers’ company, died in 1593:

- 1587: Ursula

Alice remarried in 1595 to Judge Thomas Owen, who died in 1598. Alice died in 1613, aged 66. You’ll have to read the book to find out more about her history!



Mrs Davies was also pleased to be reunited with Dame Alice Owen in our dining room and we took our usual visitors photo! Thanks again to Mrs Davies and we hope she gets a chance to visit next year!

Old Owenian visits from Lithuania!

John Rich, who left 1969, was over with his family in April to attend our Royal Albert Hall Concert and was keen to show his children what life was like in a British School! They were very impressed with our modern facilities during their tour and hopefully enjoyed the Concert!

John is a loyal Owen’s supporter. Previously a Cocoa Buyer for Mars, which gave him the opportunity to travel to all corners of the world, he kindly contributed to our School Half Term Newsletter in July 2011, page 34 with an article about his career to inspire students!

As reported in our December Old Owenians Newsletter, 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.

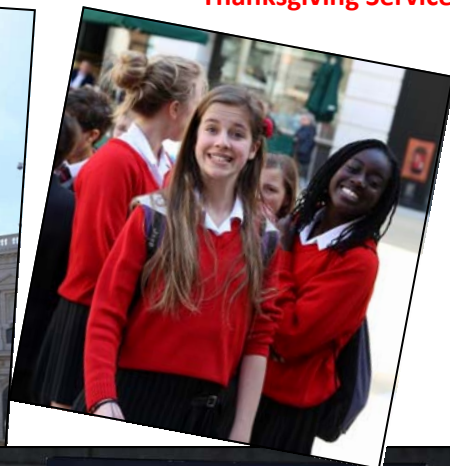


David Bissett holds St Paul’s Order of Service 1963!



Colin Strong, our Science Technician took this photo of David outside St Paul’s Cathedral on 30th April—the same date of the 1963 Thanksgiving Service, exactly 50 years ago! He bought along his 1963 copy of the Order of Service - ours started at 1.30pm and in 1963 it started an hour later!

A copy of this year’s Order of Service is available on our Newsletter page and you can view the old documents from the 350th Anniversary on our History webpage at: http://www.damealiceowens.herts.sch.uk/about_us/school_history.html. Sadly for some of you, Zadok the Priest, was not chosen as the processional hymn—the congregation sung Praise my Soul as Student, School and Brewers representatives amongst Clergy and Virgers walked down the aisle with the Lord Mayor in Locum Tenens. We hope this years students will want to come back for our 450th celebration in 2063! **Thanks to Gaz De Vere for the selection of photos from St Paul’s and Mansion House overleaf.**



Mansion House Reception 30th April 2013



Mansion House Photographs! Lord Mayor Locum Tenens, Honoured Guests, Governors, Brewers, Head and Past Heads, Staff, Parents, Students and Old Owenians



Your amazing Royal Albert Hall Feedback! (Photos: Gaz De Vere)

Michael Broadhurst, 1956

A fabulous evening. I came especially at this date from Canada for the evening, and loved every second. My only regret is I still don't know who the special band was at the end.

John Sparrow, ex-teacher, 1984

Owen's 400th Centenary Concert donkeys' years ago – well, 50 to be precise – there was another Owen's Centenary (the 350th). Those of us who were there at the time, in the last century, in 1963, will doubtless remember a great celebratory series of events, the principal one being a large-scale performance of Malcolm Fellows' historical play 'Shame in Summer'.

This play had a cast of hundreds and a great procession set amongst the notorious, vicious Titus Oakes in plots reminiscent of witch hunting days. The school hall was not large enough to accommodate the procession and its 200 additional personnel, its 9 Friars, 15 Devils, 19 Choir boys, 21 Girls and 6 Orchestra in file, the Pope's mistress's convoy (basically a tea trolley) and various carts, so it had to wind its way through all the gangways and leave some of its number in the school kitchens.

The local press was effusive in their admiration of the size and splendour of the performance. What would they have said if they had attended the 400th celebration at the Albert Hall? They would have been speechless with astonishment. Our huge 350th cast and choir of 40 singers would have been lost in the echoing spaces of the Albert Hall. Our orchestra with its 4 strings, 1 flute, 6 clarinets, 1 oboe and 5 brass provided good, solid convincing support, but it never would have competed with the massive overpowering wall of sound from the 400th musicians.

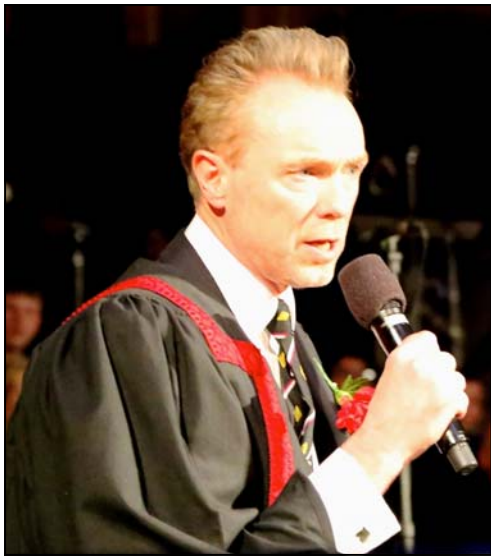


There were 15 trumpets, 9 trombones, 18 other brass alone – but the choirs! Just to look at that great towering cliff of singers ranged in a huge curve round the stage was overwhelming. And the sound! Massive, concentrated, unified, controlled – unequalled in my experience. I have heard many large professional choirs accompanying national symphony orchestras and I think any member of one of them would have been proud to have been a member of the Owen's choir on that night. Every singer in a big choir knows the importance and the terror of that first entry when the choir bursts into life. Will they all display absolute confident unity or will someone not be quite sure? Owen's struck their first note with absolute, unconditional confidence and that was the way they continued. How did such large numbers stay together? Magic? Hard work, sheer delight? The audience was enraptured, excited, transported, overcome by the magnificence of that sound.



There was also dancing – many styles of dancing from ballet to rock n' roll and beyond – all of which made the audience want to get up and throw themselves about – fortunately restrained in respect for the furniture. Finally, the school song. It had been orchestrated – by Ben Abelman – who gave it a mighty symphonic climax at 'Strive with a will Owenians!' which it had long deserved and with which the choir lifted it into the realms of glory.

I could make a bet that in September at 'The Last Night of the Proms' the conductor will not get as uplifting a response from the Albert Hall audience as Bob Pepper got from the 400th audience. Come on Last Nighters, Let's hear you try! Final extra.



John Sparrow, ex-teacher, 1984 (continued) *We should pay a very respectful tribute to the organising personnel. The assembling and staging of such huge numbers of pupils and equipment was so smooth as to tempt us in the audience to take it all for granted. Even one slip, one piece of dislocation would have alerted us to the mystery of it all. But there was no hitch, no not one, no little wobble, no dropped article, nothing to disturb that picture of perfection. I'm sorry I shan't be here for the 450th, but I shall remember the 400th till at least the end of the decade.*

Linda Rubano nee Goldhill 1963

The concert at The Royal Albert Hall was splendid. My daughter, here in NY, is a music teacher and I know she would have been very impressed by the students who took part. The best part, for me, was spending time with old friends I hadn't seen for 50 years. It was a memorable reunion and I'm delighted that I was able to attend. Please send my sincere congratulations to the students and teachers who made it a night to remember.

Janet Etheridge, 1969

Excellent event - good idea to allocate Old Owenians to certain bars - some kind of colour coding might have helped us to identify fellow class/era mates but all in all - Well Done! However, acquaintances were renewed and hopefully will result in more/new attendees at the Harold Moore Luncheon. Appreciate it was quite a feat to complete the administration for that number of people.



Alan Cook 1971

It was a marvellous evening. I was particularly impressed by the depth of talent demonstrated by both pupils, former pupils and staff alike. And allocating each of the bars to particular years was a genius idea as it guaranteed meeting up with old fellow pupils. A night I will remember for the rest of my life. I was unable to buy programmes on the night - can you please let me know how I can obtain copies? Yes! You can obtain a copy from our Reception—just ring them on 01707 643441!

Tom Howard 1944

Thought the concert was a thoroughly good show and congratulations to all who took part. From my own personal point of view I was very disappointed that I did not meet up with anyone that I slightly recognised. I suppose that this should not be surprising as I am now in my middle 80's (there aren't so many of us around these days). My wife (and secretary) also enjoyed the concert very much, was most impressed by the standard and particularly impressed by the scene shifting which was so very well done.



Anon, 1984 and Year12 Parent

A wonderful & amazing concert showcasing supremely talented students with a team of totally dedicated, supremely talented staff to lead them. For a 'school concert' to fill the RAH is almost inconceivable but, not only was every seat filled, the music and atmosphere filled the performance space as well. A truly unforgettable evening - a huge thank you to everyone involved. From a very proud Old Owenian and Parent.

Helen Smith, 1976

It was brilliant. I'm so proud to be an old Owenian!!

Ahmed Al-Jabir, 2012

Absolutely amazing night, could not fault it in anyway. Seeing a packed out RAH belting out the school song is not something I'll forget anytime soon. The Owenians on that stage definitely strived with a will!

Heather Davies, 1957

Had a wonderful time. The program was tiptop, very varied, quite excellent. The atmosphere in the Hall was electric. It was a long concert, but I did not wane for a moment. I am pretty proud to be an old Owenian. We did meet one person from our year, after some 55years. Thank you for the great effort behind such an event. Looking forward to the Service at St. Paul's.



Alan Short, 1961

We didn't really know what to expect but my wife and I were absolutely stunned by the brilliance of the concert. The sheer number of pupils and ex-pupils and the quality of their performances left us breathless and wanting more. I knew the school had music as one of their specialities but never realised it reached this level of excellence. May we heartily congratulate everyone concerned. We include in this all the staff, helpers and "backroom people" who made it all possible.



Pamela Mansi (nee Stubbs), 1951

Having received tickets at the last minute, we (myself, my sister (both Old Owenians), and my sister's husband) would have been satisfied with any seat, but were delighted to be in the second row with magnificent views of all proceedings. The programme was varied and highly enjoyable; whatever one's personal taste maybe. The standard of performance was excellent and of a professional standard, whether from pupils, members of staff or old Owenians (whatever their 'day job' maybe). Being in the pre-1966 category we shared memories of the old days in Islington with Sir Alan Parker in the bar, but couldn't get a drink because of the crowds! (But I did get an autograph!) I did meet one contemporary; and that was in the lift. Congratulations and appreciation to all concerned in organising and/or performing in a truly magnificent evening.



Nick Newbold, 2006

I only really attended to see my little sister play for the Concert Band in the Royal Albert Hall, but I was completely taken aback by the quality of the entire evening! All of the different acts were of an unbelievable standard; I never realised or appreciated how talented our music department was while at the school despite playing in Junior Band myself. It was a great reminder of how wonderful the school is and really made me miss it. I had goose bumps on more than one occasion, especially during the school song! The whole night made me feel both proud and lucky to be an Old Owenian, and I wish the school all the best for the future. I'm definitely buying the DVD!



Norman Webster, 1955

A memorable evening. Touching both to meet old school friends and witness the skill and style of the modern school. Wonderful to be there. Thank you.

David Bernste, co-editor of 'Well Remembered Fields', at school 1939-47

Put me down as a likely cynic as I doubted if the show would match the pre-event hype. It did more than match it. It exceeded expectations. My wife and I admired the professionalism, the skilful mixture of light and shade, the frequent surprises and the untiring enthusiasm which drove the show. I felt prouder than ever of being an Owenian. Congratulations to all concerned.

Adam Reader, 1988

What a great evening. Saw lots of old faces, many who haven't seen in 20 years. Idea of designated bars was simple but genius. Performances were top

drawer, I can't praise this highly enough. As was said on the night, you would not have known it was a school concert. Downside was not enough time to catch up with so many old friends, and also slightly disappointment at not seeing many old teachers. But what a great night that brought back so many memories and reaffirmed to me just how proud I am to be an Old Owenian.

Susan Rowlands, 1985 and Year 12 Parent

I just wanted to say what a fabulous evening we had at the Royal Albert Hall. There were members of the family in our party who only knew our school from our anecdotes and were able to experience for themselves the incredible talent of past and present students. The atmosphere was amazing and as an ex pupil myself and a present parent, I felt extremely proud. Many, many congratulations to you all for this resounding success and thank you all too for your drive, energy and hard work which went to create such a memorable evening.



Tony Vine, 1963

A truly magical evening, found myself holding my breath so often at the sheer excellence of the performances. So proud to have been a part of the School's history, so proud of being an Old Owenian. Sights and sounds of that evening will remain with me all my days - thank you so much for all the tremendous hard work that went into producing such a spectacular event.

Glenn Taylor, 1985

Many, many congratulations to everyone who was involved in the organisation and delivery of what was a fantastic showpiece. We thoroughly enjoyed catching up with old friends and observing first hand that the school is 'striving with a will' and very much succeeding.

Malcolm Pearce, 1957

What a wonderful evening, my Wife and I enjoyed it immensely. We were amazed at the quality of all the performances, too numerous to mention individually. When I attended the school in the 1950's all we had was a Silver Band, of which I was a member.....In conclusion I would like you to know that the rendition of the school song brought tears to my old eyes as the memories came flooding back, very emotional. Once again, heartfelt thanks to everyone involved in such a memorable event.

Bernard Schwing, 1971

I was most fortunate to attend the concert with my lady. The performers were all superb and we enjoyed the evening immensely. The school has a reputation for academic excellence and now I know it also has an artistic excellence. So many great singers, dancers and actors from one school. Quite astonishing. The people who planned the logistics of the event were also incredible. So much to do and yet from what I saw, it all worked to perfection. Well done to you all and thank you for making me feel so proud.



Maggie Palmer (Nightingale), 1964

A truly wonderful evening! I wasn't sure quite what to expect and was amazed at the professionalism of the various performers and the sheer numbers participating. The present day symphony orchestra appeared to have as many students involved as we had pupils in our entire school in 1957. It was all a far cry from the music education we girls received fifty odd years ago!! I remember being auditioned by Miss Jones, who on hearing me sing suggested that I should only ever mime...not very encouraging. Our repertoire extended to singing 'Nymphs and Shepherds' accompanied by a slightly out of tune piano. Well done to all concerned.

Richard Bradford 1972

Many congratulations to all involved in organising & participating in the concert, a fantastically high standard of performances; the school & all of those associated with it can feel very proud. Facilities and opportunities at the school are drastically improved from way-back-when but the ethos feels the same. Nice to meet up with many old faces, well those you could recognise & a good idea to have bars for the differing years - at one point Gary Kemp brushed past me! It was a shame that Tony Hadley couldn't make it, & we could have allowed Martin Kemp to be an honorary old boy

for the evening! So with 3 out of 5 there, a 60% pass rate for Spandau! Maybe Sir Alan could have taken a bow, not too many knights of the realm from the school, I hazard. Well done to all those involved again - gold stars all round, or is that very old school!

Chris Eberhardie (nee Sampson), 1965

Wow what a concert! I am so proud to be an 'old' Owenian. Every one of the performers and back of house crew whether pupils, staff or alumni provided us with a performance to match any professional event. You were entertaining, disciplined and enthusiastic. It was wonderful. Thank you. I had the pleasure of meeting one of the people with whom I was at school and as I passed my other alma mater St George's Hyde Park Corner, I reflected that without DAOS I may not have been able to train there and go on to enjoy a successful professional and personal life.

Michael Daniels 1965

I met up with some old classmates, some of whom, I haven't seen since 1965. That was thrilling as was seeing Mr. Colin Williams. I came from Toronto to be at the celebrations and was lucky enough to be invited into Derek Webb's box. All of us were absolutely blown away by the amazingly high standard of performance by the current and former students. They picked ambitious pieces and they demonstrated consistent excellence. The whole evening was a delight and everyone involved should be congratulated and thanked profusely. It was well worth the 2,500 mile trip!

Robert O'Hare, 1993, Head Boy

I am so proud to be an Old Owenian. Every performance graced the most magnificent stage and some were truly magnificent... Tyler Rix and Susanna Hurrell in particular spring to mind alongside the truly extraordinary voice of Yasmin Murray. Very, very well done. Thank you to everyone involved. Time to shine. Strive on to excellence.

**Richard Denman, 1957-1965, Head Boy 1964-1965, Rhodes Scholar (Canada) 1965**

I would like quite simply to say thank you for what was one of the most memorable evenings I have had in such a long time. Not just memorable but emotional. I met up with about a dozen classmates from my year of nearly 50 years ago and this quite simply would not have happened without the 400th anniversary. But the bonus was being able to meet a teacher from 1957-65, Colin Williams, still alive (obviously!) and alert as he always was. I could not believe it when he looked at me and said - "Richard Denman, Head Boy" What a memory and what a wonderful man. I felt like saying to him "odi profanum vulgus et arceo" (first line Virgil's Aeneid - he'll know that for sure!) except that the crowd last night was not profane or unruly and I certainly did not want to avoid them! It was a night for mixing and mingling - I was just sorry I had a 11.30 pm coach to get back to Bournemouth! Thank you again. The whole evening made me a very happy man.

**Keith Arthur, 1963**

The whole evening was amazing and a real tribute to the quality of School. As was emphasised throughout the evening, especially in Alan Davison's excellent speech, the entire ethos now and when I was a pupil is based on teamwork and the concert was a remarkable and moving example of precisely that. It's such a shame I probably won't be around for the 500th...but School most certainly will.

Zoe Hudson, 1993

Absolutely fabulous night. Wonderful to meet up with old friends and teachers. Stunned by the standard of performance from the pupils. Impossible to pick a high point as every performance was fantastic.

Brenda E Ainsley (Savoff), 1952

Amazing performances by pupils and staff alike. The feeling of community was palpable, the torch has surely been carried since our day, for which we are proud and grateful. The standards were high, the variety on offer was amazing, the Hall filled with thoughtful people, enjoying being there. We have so much we owe to our School, my husband (whom I met, being one of the first performers in the Boys' school play) and I, so it was good to be part of the celebrations. Our congratulations to all who made last evening so memorable and possible.





Janice Welch 1971

The evening was truly superb and just so well organised. All the stage changes were seamless and the student performances were amazing. It was wonderful to meet up with past fellow pupils in the nominated bar at the start of the evening and the venue was simply the best. Everyone seemed to enjoy themselves immensely and the obvious hard work that had gone into the night certainly paid off. We went home with such warmth in our hearts and so proud to have been a part of this celebration.

Vanessa Mary Carr (nee Newman), 1970

I was so impressed with every aspect of the evening: everything appeared to have been 'thought of' and 'covered'. Each performance was of such a high standard that the event could easily have passed as a 'professional concert'. The enthusiasm of the staff was evident and is obviously transmitted to the pupils enabling them to excel in the sphere of music and performing arts. Well done to the staff, pupils and friends of Dame Alice Owen's. I am very proud to be an Old Owenian.

Ken Finch, 1951

Without doubt the School played an absolute BLINDER last evening and my wife and I were thrilled to see today's youth strutting the boards and enjoying the disciplined freedom of opportunity. It is 67 years since I entered the 'fray' and apart from the very welcome combination with the girls school and the increased scope and controlled expansion it scarcely seemed that long ago. The same cockiness and truculence of the post war, bombed out Islington now challenges anyone who fancies their chances to take them on.

We watch and listen to the disparaging remarks and negative attitudes of those who are out of touch with real life, and prefer to return to the past rather than face the future with courage. But the Owenians of today show EVERY sign of being willing, able and confident of building a better future. Thanks to the 1944 Education Act, the staff who stuck it out during those challenging days and those returning from Overseas Service we built the same determination in evidence now. Just make a better job of it this time!

John Savage, 1964

We are fortunate to have family access to two members' seats and so were able to enjoy the concert from our usual stalls' seats. The concert had all the professionalism of the many concerts we have enjoyed over the years from those same seats. The RAH needed to have no fear that this concert was worthy of such a world renowned venue. It was amazing to meet old Owenians whom I have not seen for 49 years and younger ones who remembered me as a prefect and another who remembered coming to my sister, Anne Savage's, party in our house in Finchley all those years ago. I was delighted that Peter Hutchinson was impressed that our son, Tom, was teaching English in the USA. A superb evening - congratulations to all those who made it happen in advance and back-stage.



Lisa Pomfrett (Nee Davis), 1981

I went to the concert with my husband and two children. We had a brilliant evening and it made me so proud to be an old Owenian! I hadn't sung the school song for 31 years! The orchestra and band were amazing and so professional it was like listening to the London symphony orchestra. I loved the African singing and music and the Soul music was great.

I can remember Gary Kemp and Tony Hadley when they were in the sixth form at Owen's in Potters Bar. They used to practice in the music block and I would go along and watch them! It was wonderful to see Gary, Steve and John supporting the school last night and I felt privileged to be part of the celebrations. The balloons were brilliant too as they sounded like fireworks! Well done to all the organisers.



Jacqueline Blake, 1961

I am so proud to have attended this wonderful school, and to have been able to be part of the magnificent celebrations last night! It was a myriad of extraordinary talent of the highest calibre. The tone was perfectly set with the starting Song of Praise (Miss Ward would have thought that right and proper). My husband and I, and my cousin Christopher Riley, who also is an old Owenian, loved every minute of this feast of music, drama and dance. Thank you to all the dedicated staff and pupils; we shall remember this evening always.

Charlotte Spurway, 1989

I had such a fantastic evening meeting up with people that I hadn't seen for 24 years. The concert was wonderful - such talent! I was so proud of my old school and would love to have my time again to take full advantage of what is now on offer in the music department. To finish with such a loud rendition of the school song was perfect. We took the roof off!

Jessica Durward-Akhurst, 2008

Fantastic evening! It was so lovely to be invited back and asked to play in the Concert Band. My parents also thoroughly enjoyed the evening and said what a great success it was!



Anthony Gibson, 1972

A very well organised evening with excellent entertainment and clearly an event which was over booked. I was the only Old Owenian sat in the middle left and surrounded by parents of current pupils. Many were very proud to see their offspring performing in a unique event and engaged me in conversation about my time at Owen's.

Edward Mong AKA LS 4MCH, 1973- ish!

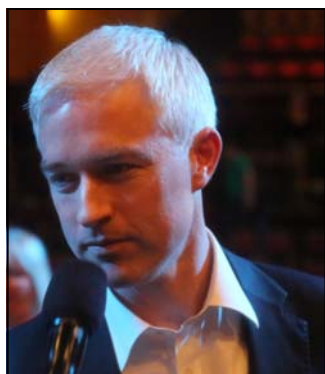
Well. What can one say, a blinding night. Alice would have been dancing in her grave even before she spent her beer money. Sums up how you can feel about working with students... trying to ensure enjoyment, fulfilment, leadership and the provision of a performance platform... Performing arts can really have a valid place in the curriculum alongside core subjects. Can you hear that Mr Gove? It never ceases to amaze the skills and talents of the students if you give them a chance to go for it. The standard from all of the students was exceptional, a highly professional show in every aspect and a great experience. I cannot even begin to imagine what it must have been like backstage, electric.....



The energy, commitment and fun that the students were all obviously experiencing, hit you like a blast of hot air around the RAH. And in true Owen's style, as well as those who may excel, the school well and truly raised the bar. Or as Simon, David, Amanda and Alesha would say "you nailed it" You've got 5 yes's. The problem you have created, is what next? Editor's note: For those that missed the event, the order of play for the bars was:

- *Islington - Before 1966 Asahi Bar – LEVEL 1 Nice Beer, bar near the toilets and no stairs need to be climbed in the making of this production. Plenty of space for Zimmers.*
- *Islington - 1966 to 1976 Moet and Chandon Bar (other drinks also available) – LEVEL 1 Had they run out of champers? Well clearly someone thinks this era are paupers, as if, well we were not silly did you not notice all the girls with shopping bags? And just to show we are not silly when they said they had no MC, we ordered Krug Brut Vintage 1988, at £39.99 a bottle a steal, or was it £399is that Quick Quid loans.*
- *Potters Bar - 1973 - 1992 Berry Bros and Rudd Bar – BASEMENT LEVEL (EAST ARENA FOYER) OK as you get younger you are now exposed to the concept of cardinal directions, You can go down because they realise you are unlikely to be able to get up stairs.*
- *Potters Bar - 1993 – 2002 Spitfire Bar – GROUND FLOOR LEVEL NEAR DOOR 6 Early middle age punters near room 101 and door 6. Which is all really exciting because once you are inside the RAH, and being forced to drink vast amounts of alcohol can you or do you need to know that if you can get outside there is a sign telling you what the door number is. Six also being the maximum number handed out by Mr Butler in the Old Library at his exclusive members only, by invitation only in main assemble, the disciplinary committee, known as the DDC for Way wood boys.*
- *Potters Bar - 2003 - 2012 North Circle Bar – LEVEL 3 For the young ones the chance to relive the joys for 14 year olds of hoping on the 19,38, or 171 bus in Sadler's Wells, being gents allowing the girls from the girls school to ascend 1st up those steep exposing route master bus stairs.*

Tell me and I forget. Teach me and I remember. Involve me and I learn. Without music, life would be a mistake. And finally Nick Robinson was sober!!! Last time I saw him he was at Twickenham, dining and then watching or trying to watch Genesis. Remember it's a small, small world, Success attend your play.



John Weston, 1952

For my wife and me it was a really wonderful experience. Having been to previous performances of the orchestra and other musical options the school provides it met and exceeded expectations. Despite having spent more time at school than most and having been involved with the Old Boys Football and Cricket Clubs we did not expect to recognise/see many of my contemporaries: had there been any, it would have been difficult to have identified them without name 'tags/labels'. (Perhaps we should have worn one.) An emotional experience which we would not have missed. Well done to all those performing in and those who to set up, stage manage to memorable event. It did much to enhance the reputation of the School. Thank you.

Barney Larkin, 1994

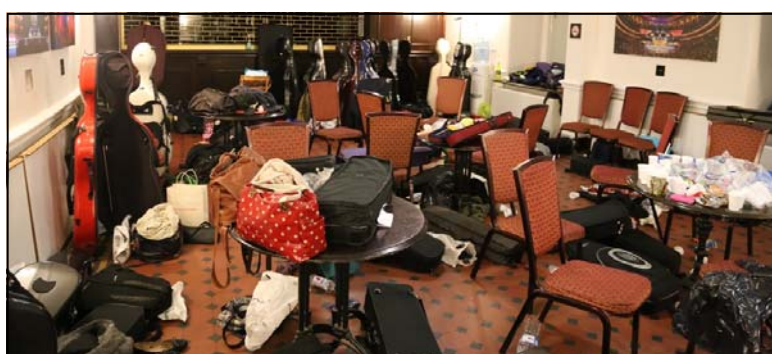
Superb event, thanks very much for organising. Immensely proud to be an Old Owenian today. Both heart-warming and fantastic to see current Owenians so engaged and animated about their school, long may it continue.

Barry Hyman, 1959

Absolutely superb on every count!! Endless talent. Fantastic organisation.

Stephen Markham, 1966

An amazing enjoyable momentous occasion. I was at the school at the time of the 350th anniversary and was a member of both the choir and the orchestra. I wondered if this 400th event could match or surpass that of fifty years ago. It did in every respect. My congratulations to all who were involved in making this such an enjoyable evening. I cannot wait to get a copy of the DVD so that I can hear again the excellence of every performer.



Jenny Colledge (Philpott), 1984, Year 12 Parent

The whole evening was well organised and a thoroughly enjoyable event. I went with a group of old school friends and met up with others I hadn't seen since we all left in 1984. The standard of performances was fantastic, although being a parent too, I knew the quality to expect, but friends who have no current contact with the school were amazed at the high quality.

Thank you for a wonderful evening!



KEITH MILES OBE –LEFT 1958



Thanks to Mr Keith Miles OBE who has sent in this inspiring resume about **“Owen’s and how it influenced my life”**

“This sounds quite a grand title but it helps one to focus when such an anniversary for a school occurs. Perhaps what influences you most is what you remember after fifty years.

I went to Owen’s from 1953 to 1958 and probably only went there through a family connection. My mother came from a typical central London family of artisans and craftsmen and because she lost her father in the First World War she was an only child. Philip, the son of her mother’s cousin, went to Owen’s and she was close to him, not least because

he died in a tragic accident. I think she therefore aspired for me to go to Owen’s. As a result I was one of a very few boys who came from a westerly direction rather than north or east to Owen’s in Islington. Camden Town in those days was not so upmarket as it seems to be now.

I found the school in the first few days rather forbidding with the masters in gowns looking sometimes like avenging ravens but one soon got used to it. Another early memory was the Latin grace before lunch. The practice ceased after the first year, or was it the first term. Anyway I do remember the first few words ‘Benedictus Benedicat’ or was it Benedic, Domine, nos et haec tua dona quae de tua largitate sumus sumpturi per Christum Dominum Nostrum. Amen.’ Perhaps someone will correct me. For a boy who went to a Methodist Sunday School all this was a culture shock. We soon went to self-service at lunch the year after much to the distress I thought of Mr Hutchinson, the Latin Master.

I was above average for exams but I recall the shock when I won the 5th year English prize, both for me and probably the English masters. This was because the top score to receive the prize was an amalgam of the English language exam result and the English literature exam. I was not good enough to be top for either individually but together I pipped the normal stars.

Despite pressure from masters to go on to university I had decided to leave and train and study to become a Chartered Accountant. I think this was because I wanted to study a truly practical matter as further education. So I went into the City of London. The fact that the Brewers Livery Company is based in the City had some influence on this as did my father who worked in a ship-owning company in the City.

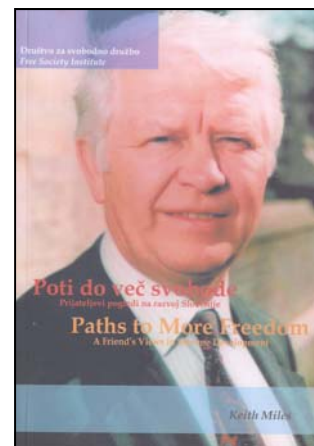
Exams were passed and a very good training it was. I then worked in number of City businesses later moving to work for a Jewish family who had a large number of personal and commercial interests. Having had Jewish friends at school this was not like entering a strange world. In fact some years later I helped the very small Jewish community in Slovenia to get Sefer Torah scrolls for the newly opened synagogue in Ljubljana. My wife, a Slovene, and I became honorary members – quite an honour for Christians I think and undoubtedly partly springing from knowing those boys at Owen’s.

I married in 1969 to Slava from Slovenia then part of Yugoslavia and we had two children. My career progressed and I eventually was Finance Director of some interesting businesses, although I did take a break for 9 months to take up a British Council Fellowship to study in Ljubljana. I also became a Liveryman of both The Glass Sellers Company and The Worshipful Company of Chartered Accountants, and coming from a Livery Company School it only seemed the natural thing to do, and therefore also a Freeman of the City of London.

In 1988 I received the opportunity to go to be Finance Director of the famous free-market Think Tank, The Institute of Economic Affairs, which brought me into the world of politics, economics, journalism and generally how to influence government and policy makers. So I suppose it was not surprising that the government of the newly independent Slovenia asked me to be their Official Representative in the UK. I think the school made me a good mixer and so I did not have difficulty in meeting the highest in the land and the influential.

After Slovenia became recognised I concentrated on family and work again although I was asked to write columns for the Slovene financial press which I did for a number of years and also gave lectures on economics. A great number of these articles were published in a book in 2007 both in English and Slovene, so I guess that 5th year English prize came good in the end. I also became Chairman of The British-Slovene Society which came to an end after 20 years last year.

Much to my surprise in 1999 I was awarded the OBE for services to Anglo-Slovene relations so this boy from Owen's and Camden town made it to Buckingham Palace. A great honour ! I still have an interest in Slovenia being on the boards of two major companies there, and still write occasionally for the Slovene press including the Catholic family newspaper, despite not being a Catholic. I have no doubt that the education I received at Owen's contributed to the paths I have trodden so far in my life."



JEAN WADDILOVE (NEE OLDFIELD) - LEFT 1950, HEAD GIRL

Thanks to Mrs Jean Waddilove for writing and wishing us all "a happy and successful year of celebration". Although she's been in South Africa since 1958, still recalls her time at School and has kindly sent us her memories.

"I read with great interest the Newsletters about the Anniversary activities and regret that I am not near enough to attend some of the events. I was a scholar at Dame Alice Owen's school in the immediate post-war years. I joined the school in 1945 having spent 2 years at the Grammar School in Market Harborough as an evacuee. I remember so well the inconveniences of pre-fab classrooms and staff shortages. The playground was also a netball court. We played hockey in Regents Park and travelled to Whetstone once a week for other sport - a half-day in winter and a whole day in summer. That day was so looked forward to; the pleasure of leaving a bomb-shattered London for the green fields of Whetstone.

How different things were then from the present facilities but how proud one must feel to see how the school has grown and overcome all those setbacks. Possibly the sharpest memories I have of that period are those associated with the history of the School. The annual visit of the Governors and the dispensation of 'beer money'. The processions to St Mary's and St.Paul's, through London streets, carrying our banner to commemorate special anniversaries.

I was Head Girl in my final year, which ended in July 1950. One of my duties was to escort Miss Ward ,the Headmistress, from her office in Owen's Row to Assembly each morning. It was all so solemn. I qualified as a teacher at Chelsea College of Physical Education and taught in Hastings before I came to South Africa in 1958. Apart from occasional family holidays to the U.K. I have been here since. I am now 80 years old living on a family farm near Cape Town in the Western Cape of South Africa."



GERALD (GERRY) WOOLF—LEFT 1972

Thanks to Mr Gerry Woolf for telling us how Googling Dame Alice Owen's bought back his time at School in Islington and how he benefited from his education, as a non-sporting Owenian! He says *"if anyone would like to get in touch with Gerald Woolf from I CJW, please email me at bertiedog@me.com".*

"It was Margaret Thatcher's recent death that made me think about my time at Owen's School. In the early 70s, as education secretary, she signed off on it moving out to Potters Bar from Islington. I don't know why that thought came into my head as I watched all the tributes but with an iPad to hand, it took but a moment to Google Dame Alice Owen's School and learn that it was indeed 400 years old this year—1613— a date that had been drilled into my head all those years ago. I sent the details of the Anniversary concert to the one Owenian I keep up with—Jim Pritchard—and his was the only face I recognised on the night.

For about a week or so after learning about the Anniversary concert, my mind went back in time to 1965 when I became part of 1CJW. Mr Williams, our form master—a diminutive chap, with a Hitler moustache and enormous gravitas for a little man. He had a unique way of teaching ancient history with very entertaining stick men illustrations on those dusty old blackboards. There were just 22 boys in the class and we seemed to come from all over North London and made full use of London Transport— an organisation that functioned well in the '60s. My own journey from Palmers Green took one bus journey and two tubes and took less than an hour.

No parent in their right mind would subject a kid to that today and no education authority would fund it. On Thursdays, the travel would be a little different as we made our way to the playing fields in Finchley for a 40 minute Religious Instruction period and a morning of sport, with 'jim' (Derek) Chant and his partner in sadism, Pete Salisbury. For us non sporty types, it made the movie "Scum" look like a picnic. Poor Derek. He always said he would find me a sport I would enjoy. He failed.

But why was I at such a great school when I lived miles away from it? Ofsted seems to use the term "outstanding" in the way Americans use 'awesome' but the school looked off the Richter scale in quality if the Anniversary Concert was anything to go by. Back then in 1965 my father, a music teacher himself was aghast at the Harold Wilson's Government 'on the cheap' comprehensivisation programme, amalgamating 'no hope' Secondary Moderns with local Grammars. It would be years before fully fledged purpose built comps would appear. My teacher at the primary school I attended had a son at Owen's (Colin Bull). So my path was set.

Owen's, it seemed, might hold out and be the selective institution it still appears to be. Having paid for my son to be privately educated, it's clear Owen's represented incredible value to people of ordinary means then (though they probably didn't know it) and it certainly does today. Colin Bull and Stuart Wilmot (three years above me) were my introduction to stage lighting on school productions (and underage drinking from the Crown and Woolpack) and I suppose the first steps on the path to working at the BBC as a studio manager. But that's another story.

I suppose the beauty about Owen's school as it was then was that you could get involved with drama and music and hold down a science sixth course and nobody thought it strange. Reflecting, I think I remember the English department as particularly inspiring, particularly Bert Fellowes and Ken Stitt. None of the science staff seemed remotely interested in electronics which had become my passion from the age of about 12, but my weakness in maths wisely prevented me from pursuing it to degree level. You can see why Apple never happened in the UK.

Yet the teaching staff were a gift to any budding impressionist, with a collection of regional accents as wide as those found in the Archers' Dorsetshire. Their mannerisms were something else. Who could forget Deputy Head Puddephat's strange gesture of scratching his moustache and gesticulating to a pupil in question: "eeer you, boy" Or a young Bill Hinds, when driven to exasperation by an unruly class, would spontaneous spoonerism "top stalking" to roars of laughter.

There was a very outgoing and lively drama teacher with the girls school; Liz Pritchard and together with quite a few outgoing dramatic types (only a few names come to mind — Michelle Guish, Tom Watt, Mickey Silver, Linda and Robert Longthorne) ODS Owen's dramatic society was formed.

One of its earliest productions was Tom Stoppard's *Black Comedy* in 1971 I got to play Schupanzig, the accident prone German electrician rather than be the backstage electrician I'd always been. ODS led to a number of "variety collaborations" with Bob Cranham, a very talented musician in my year and some very successful fund raising concerts for ODS. I spent far too much time on these activities and getting my amateur radio licence (outside of school) to concentrate sufficiently on my studies.

Yet somehow I managed to scrape through my A levels and a secure a place at University College London, to do more of the same, while pretending to study biology. Looking through the school newsletters on the web site, it's wonderful to see the emphasis on careers talks. That's something we didn't have then and finding my way into technology journalism where I've spent the best part of thirty years was more of a stumble than a plan.

I was very sad to see the old Boys School demolished—the distinguished main entrance with its beautiful tiled floor (and Dame Alice Owen bearing down from on high), the old library, complete with oak panelling and a substantial refectory table and chairs. Last but not least, its 'educational toilets' where the illustrations of others filled in the gaps that Fred Witham's elementary sex education failed to deliver. I was even more saddened to see Harrock House up for sale in local estate agent a couple of years ago. I think it was the field trips back then which gave me an appreciation for the South Downs and now I'm lucky enough to live there—sadly not in Harrock House. According to the Zoopla web site, it's worth close on £2m now (and out of my price range) so if the School had held on to it, it could have had two science blocks! (and no fundraising).



JACKIE BLAKE (NEE WADE) - LEFT 1961

Thanks to Mrs Jackie Blake for writing to us with this wonderful poem below—she says, "I am currently doing an Open University course in Creative Writing, and with the very special Anniversary almost upon us, I felt I would like to record some memories of my own from almost 60 years ago. Very elderly relatives of mine, who lived near the Angel and Chapel market in the 1920s and 1930s, tell me that it would have been very unlikely for their generation to have had the opportunity to attend such a wonderful educational establishment! I am forever grateful to the Eleven Plus which enabled me to attend! Looking forward to The Albert Hall!". Miss Elsie Ward, Headmistress 1945-1960, is pictured below.

Girls' School Headmistress's Islington

*Mrs C. Nest Kisch, B.A.
1960-1973*

*Miss Elsie P. Ward, B.A.
1945-1960*

*Miss Agnes Mary Bozman, M.A.
1933-1945*

*Miss Eleanor Wilson, B.A.
1914-1933*

*Miss Emily Armstrong, L.L.A.
1886-1914*

To go to 'Lady Owen's' was but a dream
So said the market people 'up Chap.
But today the door is wonderfully open
A scholarship, hard work and ambition is the key.
The letter arrives, plonks down on the mat,
Parents look on in disbelief!
A child of theirs going to 'Lady Owen's'?
So timid and quiet, a little waif-
An invitation to see the Headmistress.
Miss Ward, so elegant in grey
Asks the child to read a poem
And explains to puzzlement what a peony is.
This is the start of a world opening up
Literature, Mathematics and History
The child will value these years all her life
The School was Dame Alice Owen's.



ROLAND LEES—LEFT 1966

Thanks to Mr Roland Lees who tells us what "a thoroughly enjoyable time" he had at the Royal Albert Hall but was unable to find anyone from 1966 despite trying various groups in the bar! He said "It is a bit difficult trying to recognise people who have either put on weight, lost weight, lost hair etc., etc.!" So, he's asked if we'd circulate his email address and phone number (roland_lees@zen.co.uk / 020 8778 9771 + answerphone) in case anyone from his year would like to get in touch! He also attended the St Paul's Thanksgiving Service and Mansion House Reception.



EDWARD GUTMANN—LEFT 2001

Thanks to Eleanor Gutmann (nee Platt and mother of Old Owenian, Edward Gutmann) for contacting us, as a descendant of Richard Platt, Brewer and Alderman of London. She told us about her old school in Coleraine, Northern Ireland, run by The Honourable Irish Society, Coleraine, which was originally a sub-committee of the City of London Corporation. The town of Coleraine, is also celebrating its 400th anniversary this year. Richard Platt bequeathed property in Hertfordshire at Aldenham (now Aldenham School) in 1596. Eleanor's son, Edward attended Owen's from 1994 to 2001; he now works as a corporate lawyer for a city company and is currently based in Tokyo.



HANNAH COLLEDGE—LEFT 2011

Congratulations to Miss Hannah Colledge, a design student from De Montfort University (DMU), for being given the opportunity of a lifetime this summer – an eight-week, all expenses paid placement in New York with global retail giant Gap. Hannah, along with two of her fellow students, was selected from more than 100 second year students to spend this summer working at Gap's head office in 'The Big Apple' - DMU is the only university outside of the US that Gap offer internships to!

The DMU website reported on 11th June that, *"Fashion Design student, Hannah, will be spending her time working with men's knitwear designers. The three students, who will also be living together in an apartment close to Central Park and Broadway, will also get to work on individual projects which they will present to the company at the end of their placements."*

Twenty-year-old Hannah from Hatfield in Hertfordshire, said: "I was thrilled when I found out I'd been chosen. I've never been to New York and have always wanted to go. I am very passionate about fashion design and this will be a fantastic experience for me and hopefully help me in my future career."

Dr Julie King, Head of the School of Fashion and Textiles at DMU, said: "We are very excited to be working with Gap again. It's great that the specialist skills and subjects that we offer at DMU are recognised by such a well-know global brand. It is an incredible opportunity for the three designers selected. The knowledge and experience that the two students who went last year gained was invaluable."



JENNY COLLEDGE (NEE PHILPOTT)—LEFT 1984

Thanks to Mrs Jenny Colledge, Hannah's mother, for sending us her information above. Some of you may know, Jenny runs the Potters Bar Costume Store <http://www.thecostumestoreonline.co.uk/>. She is involved with the Potters Bar theatre company, who are celebrating their 60th anniversary this year and Jenny is delving into their archives and preparing a history publication to coincide with their special year. We wish her good luck with their celebrations!

Also, after meeting many old friends at the Royal Albert Hall celebration in April, she has agreed to try and organise a reunion for hers and surrounding years but it won't be until next year now. Any 82-84 year leavers can get in contact with her by emailing us at 400years@damealiceowens.herts.sch.uk and we'll forward your details on! Spread the word and ask anyone who's not on our email list to sign up, simply by sending us their year of leaving date!





JOHN HAMPSON—LEFT 1958

Thanks to Mr John Hampson for spending time recounting some great stories as *"A tribute to Owens Boys School (now known as Dame Alice Owen's School)"*. He decided to expand on some comments made on LinkedIn and was sorry that he was unable to attend our 400th events in London and asked us to *"pass on to DAOS my gratitude, best wishes for the future and pleasure in knowing that "Owen's Boys School" continues."* He signed off, *"John Hampson (G.C.E. 'O' level Art, English Language and Mathematics, graduated from the well known University of "hard knocks", with further education, as said in Spain..."de la calle", (from the street"!* Here's his memories...

*"I was born in 1947 and lived with my parents in Liverpool Road, Islington, attending Laycock Street Junior Mixed School from 1953 to 1958 where I took and passed my 11-Plus examination. **Owen's School** had already been mentioned to me as I learned that I might be eligible to attend there for my secondary education. It was said that entry there was not easy. Older boys who lived locally always told of its reputation as a strictly academic school, steeped in tradition and the excellence of its former pupils. Of the two boys in my year who applied for a place there I was the only one that was successful.*

My start there in September 1958, complete with uniform, satchel, Atlas, Dictionary, Geometry set and sports kits, marked the start of a short but rewarding journey. During the first few weeks the school photograph was shot, all pupils collected in the "quad" in front of the main building and the whole school was in one picture. Sadly my copy was lost years ago. Lessons in Latin, French, Algebra and Physics fascinated me; they might just as well all have been "Greek". Mathematics, Art and English, both literature and language, were my favourite subjects. The names of some of the "masters" (teachers) who bravely attempted to impart their knowledge to us follows : two Georges (R., & S.G.), Gowing, Puddephat, Fellowes, Tricker and Chant (gym masters) and one lady, whose name I forget, who taught French.

I recall joining the school Cadet Force, affiliated to the Rifle Brigade in City Road, and parading in the quad one evening a week with boots and buckles gleaming in the sun. Sadly I was not to remain with them for too long as I was involved in a collision with a "Scammell" truck which knocked me from my bicycle in City Road. I was hospitalized with injuries to my face, right shoulder and right hip, after which I was unable to march correctly or shoot a rifle without pain.

The early 1960's brought with them changes in fashion, life-style and music and although there had been some formal lessons in music theory and the listening of pieces by great composers, it became obvious that many of us aspired to be Duane Eddys, Hank Marvin's and Chuck Berry's, the popular guitarists of the time. There were several of us who bought, or whose parents financed the purchase of electric guitars and basses, but very few singers (not even those who were in the school choir) or drummers to make up the conventional 4 piece band of the day.

This is where my musical career began. We were allowed to get together in the tiered lecture hall of the old school building on occasions, but with too many boys attending this was stopped by the headmaster, not until I had performed with the school orchestra, probably the only electric bass player to take part in Handel's "Messiah", and putting on a concert for the end of term 1963.

*One of my friends of the same year was the son of the publican who ran "The Chapel House" in Chapel Street, and five of us (two guitarists, a drummer, a singer and myself as the bass player) formed a group and were allowed to use the back room of the public house if we agreed to put on a performance of popular tunes each week. I also recall at that time there was a competition to write a poem about the events and characters in "Wind in the Willows" and I was lucky enough to have mine published in the school magazine as my prize for the best offering. Alas my copy has gone the same way as the school photograph.**

**Your editor managed to find a copy in one of our bound copies of The Arrow and has reproduced it overleaf!*

After obtaining 'O' level passes in Art, English Language and Mathematics it was time to make a decision about my future. Not having achieved the requisite 5 passes, and knowing that I would then have to re-sit and continue in the fifth form, not move on to the sixth, also having joined a band of non-school members playing three times a week in another pub near Victoria station, I decided to find myself a job.

THE RE-CAPTURING OF TOAD HALL

Weasels and ferrets have captured the hall,
(The hall belonging to Toad),
He and his friends are making a call,
Using the underground road.

They travel along on their hands and knees,
Groping and shuffling along,
Old Toady gives an occasional sneeze,
While Badger is singing a song.

They suddenly hear an outrageous noise,
Coming from near overhead,
"It's only the din of the capturer's boys,"
The Badger quite calmly said.

The passage began to slope upwards,
Into the pantry so tall,
To the trap-door they move slowly forwards
And press all their ears to the wall.

The noise in the hall was quite deafening,
But, as it slowly died down,
One weasel could be heard singing
"Toad is the toast of the town."

Old Toady said "Let me get at them."
But Badger said "Hold hard my friend.
One moment and we'll charge right at them
And bring their foul game to an end."

The Badger said "Charge!" as they went through the door,
The weasels all scurried about,
For Badger was holding a stick in his paw,
No wonder they tried to get out.

The four friends were fighting together,
The weasels were sure in a fix,
To escape from the scene was quite clever,
For our friends hit quite well with their sticks.

J. R. HAMPSON (III R.G.).

THERE IS NONE SO BLIND

*I applied for a position as a junior clerk with an advertising agency who had offices in The Aldwych, in London's West End. My interviewees were suitably impressed that I had been taught at **Owen's**. I remained there for one year, during which time I was able to visit many of the music shops in Charing Cross Road and Shaftesbury Avenue.*

*Throughout my working career I have always been proud to reveal the source of my education and my heart has always been in **Owen** Street, although I have never been close to the "Old Owenian" fraternity (but elsewhere) instead. Hand in hand my professional and musical endeavours have given me great pleasure and rewarded me not only spiritually but financially as well. Music has not made me any money, but cost me nothing either, accountancy has brought monetary rewards and a nod to my Mathematics lessons in school.*

I spent some time in the Treasurer's department at Islington Town Hall, with a group of companies specializing in printing and book-binding, near the end of City Road and from 1976 with another wholesale group involved in needlework and tapestries, sewing thread and knitting yarns achieving the position of Financial Director before selling to a multi-national.

During the years from 1963 to 1972 I played my bass in studios and other venues alongside many other well known musicians (Paul Kossof- Free, Albert Lee-Heads, Hands and Feet, Hogan's Heroes, Mitch Mitchell- The Jimi Hendrix Experience, Steve Howe-Yes) giving me a valuable grounding in all kinds of popular music, and even playing and arranging new material by an up and coming song-writer. All these occasions gave me more knowledge and confidence to play many different styles of music as the time went on.

By 1986, when the wholesale company was sold, I was well enough experienced to apply for the position of accountant with a company distributing paperback books and magazines. As much for my accountancy knowledge and my love of the English language and English literature I was hired and spent five happy years there with a staff of twenty or so clerks and computer operators. About this time I began to write song lyrics, humorous poems and limericks, which I still continue today, penning alternative words to well known songs for friends on their special occasions like birthdays, wedding anniversaries and parties. This skill obviously stemming from my days at **Owen's**.

There is much more I can say about my careers but all of the above shows that my Grammar school education at an establishment with a reputation that spans generations, for me, has certainly underpinned my working and musical careers, having been schooled and inspired by those who taught me the basics "Reading, Writing and Arithmetic", the necessary requirements for me to have lived a happy and fulfilled life, which still continues. Even currently **Owen's** looms large in the people I meet. On a recent visit to Hertfordshire I happened to be in conversation with someone unknown to me who was brought up at The Angel, Islington and, although not schooled in Owen Street, when I mentioned my connections there told me that his ambition was to have been at **Owen's** but that he did not manage to get a place there.

So now I that I have reminisced on my education, career, life and loves (more stories to tell than I feel I should here) in some detail, maybe at a later date I can embellish even further and complete the autobiography that I have started so many times and never finished. I am now embarking on the next phase of my musical career after retiring to Spain in 2004, currently in a band with the best musicians I have worked with for many years and still writing short stories, lyrics and poems as and when I get the time. I may not have had such a distinguished life as some but by what, if not the treasured events and occasions that occur, is your life measured by? Suffice to say that if anyone asked, "Would you change anything since you went to school until the present day?" my answer would be, "No!!!"

My recent contact with old Owenians and the knowledge that the 400th year anniversary was such a resounding success has brought back so many memories of such a wonderful (if short) period of my life, and what it has meant to me these past 50 years, **Owen's** influence and existence for me will always continue as will the words, "On **Owen's**, to the fray!!!"



JANICE WELCH (NEE TURNER) - LEFT 1971

Thanks so much to Mrs Janice Welch for her compliments—we can only publish what you as Old Owenians send us, so we'll return the compliments to all our contributors, who keep the Newsletter alive and provide such interest for our whole school community. She shares some lovely memories of her school days, where she met her husband and tells us about her great niece – one an Old Owenian and one about to become one!

"I always look forward to reading the Old Owenian and the newsletters; it's wonderful to hear stories of long ago and also to keep abreast of what is happening in the school today. It's always quite exciting when I see a name I remember and to read about past escapades. It never fails to bring a smile to my face and fills me with a sense of pride at how the Owen's tradition thrives and is appreciated by both past and present.

I remember starting at the Islington School as an 11 year old from Camden Town, after being interviewed by Mrs Kisch. I did the journey on the 214 bus and, in bad weather, walked. I was assigned to Wilson House, whose colour was yellow. My form teacher was Mrs Fisher, who also taught us Maths. She wasn't a very sympathetic person and thought that the answers to the Maths questions should be screaming at you from the pages of the text bookif only she knew! Although, I am sure she would have been proud of me if she knew that I eventually ended up working in the finance world!!

I also remember her shouting at us when we were in the fourth year and looking out of the window at the boys playing football with a tennis ball in their quad, that to come away from the window immediately, as she was far too busy to attend any funerals if we fell out On that very first day she set us a homework essay, entitled The Day After My 35th Birthday. I can remember it to this day, as 35 seemed sooooo ancient As I have just retired at 60, I can imagine the smile on her face whilst reading those lines from us girls

I thoroughly enjoyed my time at Owens and made some good friends at the time – Lynne Lloyd, who sadly passed away last year - I kept in touch with her – Jackie Jones, Bobby Keen, Gill Rickards, to name but a few. Lynne went on to become the School Netball Captain and I the Hockey Captain. We played against other schools and also took part in the Midland Bank Hockey Tournament, which was a very prestigious affair. For a small school, we were very good at sport and had strong teams. Miss Burgess and Mrs Tudor were our games teachers and we owed a lot to them for their support and encouragement.

When I was in the 2nd year, the school purchased Harrock House and what an absolute gem that turned out to be. We went there for pre-season games training, geography field trips, where we trekked across the South Downs, art work when we made clay pieces and baked them in our home-made kiln, comprising of bricks dug into the ground.

We sun-bathed on Brighton beach, where I fell asleep and got burnt down one side of my face only, being red as a beetroot – not something to boast about in today's knowledge of sun damage - but I really had the mickey taken out of me for the rest of the trip. We played games in the evening, created dances, swam in the pool, played tennis on the court there, walked into the nearest village and generally had a wonderful time. Mrs Kisch always used to pop in with her husband to see how we were getting on. Inevitably, I only ever remember the sun shining

Mrs Kisch set such an example to us girls. She was always so elegantly dressed and had an aura about her. She was instrumental in modernising our uniform to bring it up to date and, therefore more wearable. At the end of the summer exams, she used to visit each class and go through the results, which could be quite embarrassing The only exam she had any sympathy with re low marks was Music, as she understood that some people might be tone deaf!

I remember bumping into her once at County Hall in London many years after I had left Owens and she knew me immediately and stopped to have a chat. It was sad to hear of her death in the last issue. I also remember that she had a very formidable PA called Miss Carpenter

Mornings/afternoons spent at Chandos Avenue were always a high point of the week for me. We had to make our own way there, or home, depending on the a.m. or p.m. session and a coach was provided for the other half of the journey. We were reimbursed the Field Fare every week. Being from Camden Town, it was quite a trek getting there for the morning session, but I cannot recall ever being late.

My memories of Owens are always positive and filled with joy: Harrock House and the adventures it gave us; Visitation; the School Birthday on the 29 September when we wore Michaelmas daisies and attended St Mary's church for a service; seeing the death mask of Dame Alice at Brewers Hall and being treated to cucumber sandwiches; ski-ing trip to Austria; Beer Money presentations; times spent in the Angel Inn drinking coffee and eating Penguin biscuits; drinking tea and playing cards in the 6th form block; our end of year plays; playing sports against other local schools and amongst all this, working hard to get some decent exam results.

I was fortunate enough to meet my future husband, Peter, at Owens and he became Head Boy in our last year. We have been happily married all these years and we have one son, who is getting married next year. Funnily enough, he was appointed Head Boy of his school, so that was quite pleasing.

I feel honoured to have been part of Owens. My great niece is in the 6th form now, so it is wonderful to hear how positive and focussed the school still is in bringing out the best in its pupils and being there to encourage and support them.

Pete and I attended the celebrations at the Royal Albert Hall and words cannot describe adequately what a magnificent evening that was. It was wonderful to meet up with past pupils to begin the evening and it just got better and better. The organisation of the whole affair was superb, the stage changes seamless but most of all, the talent of the students was quite remarkable and we had to often remind ourselves that these were youngsters performing and not professionals. They had all worked so hard but their enjoyment was evident.

A huge Well Done to staff and pupils. The school song was sung with such gusto that it brought a tear to the eye. We left with warmth in our hearts and such wonderful memories, but most of all, so proud that we were part of this fantastic school and we send our very best wishes to the school for the next 400 plus years!!



MIKE CLARK—LEFT 1954

Thanks to Mr Mike Clark who “just jotted down some record of his time at Owen’s and subsequent career” which gives us a great insight into what he feels Owen’s gave him as a start in life.

“I joined Owen’s in 1947 having passed the eleven plus and getting a Founder’s Place as I had been baptised at St Mary’s Islington and lived in Highbury Islington. My academic record was undistinguished but there were highlights of my time at Owen’s which included; swimming a mile, rowing for my house, Cloudesley, albeit poorly, although we did have one close race with Hermitage after a very good start. Exchange trips with a family in France gave me a lasting love of France. In the HAC cadets taking part in a coronation year parade on the Horse Guards Parade followed by marching down the Mall, getting a bronze medal in the News of the World ACF shooting competition in 1954 and various Cadet Camps. The Theatre Club which involved visiting many West End Theatre shows. A careers talk given by a returning Old Boy called Harman who gave us a talk in 1953 called ‘A Career Abroad’ about a career with Cable & Wireless Ltd.

I left Owen’s in 1954 with six “O” Levels and joined C&W Ltd for Foreign Service in what was called the F1 staff. After 15 months training at the staff college in Porthcurno in Cornwall I was sent to consolidate my training, as a submarine cable relay station technician, in Malta. After 4 months in Malta I went to Port Sudan for 23 months and then 13 months in Zanzibar. Port Sudan was rated as a hardship posting and it was made worse as I was there during the Suez Crisis and its aftermath which caused a lot of problems. Zanzibar by contrast was a veritable paradise with my introduction to sailing at Zanzibar Sailing Club and the most varied and multiracial population most of whom had representatives in the local staff of C&W.

After my leave in England I was posted to Rodrigues a dependency of Mauritius after 18 months I was posted to Seychelles. In Seychelles I was married and my daughter was born 3 months before our return to England. Rodrigues was almost a feudal society with the C&W F1 staff close to the apex of the society. My love of France stood me in good stead as I was able to talk to people in French and soon acquired enough Creole to help the Manager communicate with his local staff and the domestic servants. Seychelles was a real paradise and meeting my wife, who I have now been married to for more than 50 years, was definitely the highlight.

After leave and further training at Porthcurno I was posted firstly to Lagos and then this was changed to Zanzibar. I declined this posting as it was just after a bloody coup d’etat and I had met a Goan friend shortly before the posting who had been sent to England by his family to recover from traumatic experiences in Zanzibar.

So on the 28th February 1965 I was jobless, I left for New Zealand on the 13th March and started work in the New Zealand Post Office as a Telegraph Technician on the 17th March 1965, St Patrick’s Day. After two years as a Telegraph Technician, during which my son was born, I went to Wellington Polytechnic to train as a computer programmer. On completing the course I joined the NZPO ADP Division.

This was 1967 and I became a programmer analyst, and moved into various management roles and became the Manager Planning in the EDP Division of NZPO, after a stint as Area Data Processing Manager, Wellington, which included the management of a nationwide on line system for the Post Office Savings Bank I returned to the planning role. I was involved in the splitting of the IT component of the NZPO into three businesses, Telecom NZ, PO Savings Bank, and Postal/Agency services. I became Manager Computer Planning in Telecom NZ and was responsible for the development of an Information System Strategic Plan (ISSP). As a result of a restructure of Telecom NZ I was able to declare myself redundant and take early retirement.

After a couple of years of varied consultancy I joined the Department of Social Welfare as an IT Auditor. Subsequently I moved to a position of Manager Programming ISCU (Information Systems Coordinating Unit). The programme managed was capital expenditure on IT projects in DSW which had been determined by an ISSP (Information Systems Strategic Plan). I provided reports on progress to the State Services Commission, NZ Treasury and the Minister of Social Welfare. My role also involved drafting Ministerial briefings and advising the head of DSW on the relevance of proposed system development to the ISSP.

I retired from this position and after a trip in Australia including the Perth to Sydney Indian Pacific Rail Journey we left NZ and returned to London and after a few months moved to France where we lived in a small commune, St Caradec Tregomel, in Brittany for three years before returning to England and settling down in Beccles Suffolk.

My time at Owen's gave me a love of reading, an introduction to the opportunities of a career abroad, a love of France and led to a life of travel and adventures. I have been in 38 countries, lived in 8 and worked in 10. Thus I have seen many different environments and can say that New Zealand is my favourite country, but I will always thank Owen's for the start it gave me after the dislocations of the war years and the austerity of the post war years. My son and his family live in London and my daughter lives with her husband in Sydney so we had no family ties in NZ and the attraction of a granddaughter in London led to our move to Europe.



NORMAN GOLDNER—LEFT 1970

Thanks to Mr Norman Goldner who has sent us this interesting article about social media and Old Owenians—Norman is the owner of the LinkedIn DAOS Alumni Group (set up in September 2010), about which he explains below and how you can join. He very kindly updates the Group with requests from our governor, Tim Rayner.



Our School does not have an official DAOS Facebook page (there are many different versions you can browse!) but we are considering posting **Tweets on Tuesdays in Term Time** from the end of September for those who'd like to follow us with up-to-date-news!

"Networking with friends and colleagues through social media has made a huge difference to my life. Whether this is with existing contacts or those I have been able to reconnect with via the power of Google (other search engines are available). The rules for networking on social media, no matter whether you use Facebook, LinkedIn or Twitter, are simple:

- *Listen more than you talk*
- *Help others solve their problems*
- *Engage in discussions beyond promoting your own agenda.*

There are a number of different ways in which Old Owenians can use social media to network...



On LinkedIn, there is the Dame Alice Owens School Alumni Group, which is open to current and former pupils, staff and current parents and had 286 members as at 19th June.

As this is a closed group, please ensure that your profile details your connection to the School otherwise your application may be rejected:

http://www.linkedin.com/groups/Dame-Alice-Owens-School-alumni-3367798?trk=myg_ugrp_ovr

Once a member of this group, you may join the Dame Alice Owens School 400th Anniversary sub-group:

http://www.linkedin.com/groups?gid=3758970&trk=hb_side_g



On Facebook there seems to be much less activity, due in part to the change in their groups policy. Dame Alice Owens Old Owenians had just 34 members as at 2nd May.

This is also a closed group so you will need to apply to join. The group is apparently meant for former pupils at Potters Bar, but they let me in and I'm an Islington boy! <https://www.facebook.com/groups/12491839156/>

There is also the Dame Alice Owens School Foundation 400th Anniversary group, which had 42 members as at 2nd May: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/106776208105/>

If you use Twitter, don't forget to use the hashtag #owens or #damealiceowens when tweeting about matters relating to the School. Please don't tweet inappropriately about fellow students or staff!

I can be followed on Twitter at @nlygo "



GEORGE MARTIN—STARTED 1934

Thanks to Mrs Lindsay Litton, who has kindly written to us with details of her father's time at Owen's—they managed to attend our St Paul's and Mansion House events with the help of our mini-bus driver, Paul Turner. She would like to convey their thanks to all involved in making the celebrations so successful.

"My father started at Owens in 1934. His name at that time was George Frechenhauser, but he was generally known as George Martin because of the negative connotations of the German-sounding surname. He was commonly referred to as "Freck". At the outbreak of war he was evacuated to Bedford which proved a very positive and life-changing experience, being billeted with a very well-educated and erudite gentleman. Despite happy times as an evacuee, Dad decided to return to London to be with his family just in time for the beginning of the blitz. This signalled the end of his school days.



We were extremely lucky to win tickets in the ballot for myself (Mrs Lindsay Litton) to escort my father to the 400th anniversary events at St Paul's Cathedral and Mansion House.

At the age of 89, we wondered how well Dad would manage everything as we needed to travel to London, make our way to St Paul's, sit and stand during the service, transfer to the Mansion House, juggle with food, drink and chat, before making the return journey. As we set off from Potters Bar, where my father now lives, we were intrigued to encounter a crocodile of students heading towards the station (aerial photo left by Peter Simpson, grandparent).

As we emerged from the tube at St Paul's, we were amused to see the same crocodile arriving at the cathedral! In the interim, we had been approached at the station by a gentleman sporting a red carnation who had spotted Dad's school tie. After a brief chat, we headed for the nearest coffee shop where we spied several more red carnations and old school ties which provoked further friendly exchanges.

I am very happy to report that everything went extremely well and gave Dad a real day to remember. The detailed programme helped him to follow the service, as well as providing him with a souvenir and he enjoyed the displays, speeches and refreshments at the Mansion House. We were particularly grateful for the minibus and the very thoughtful driver, who even fast-tracked Dad through the queue at the Mansion House! During the day, he met several more pupils from his era, but none of his exact contemporaries, or anybody he had known during his schooldays. We wonder if he was the most senior Old Owenian at the event?"



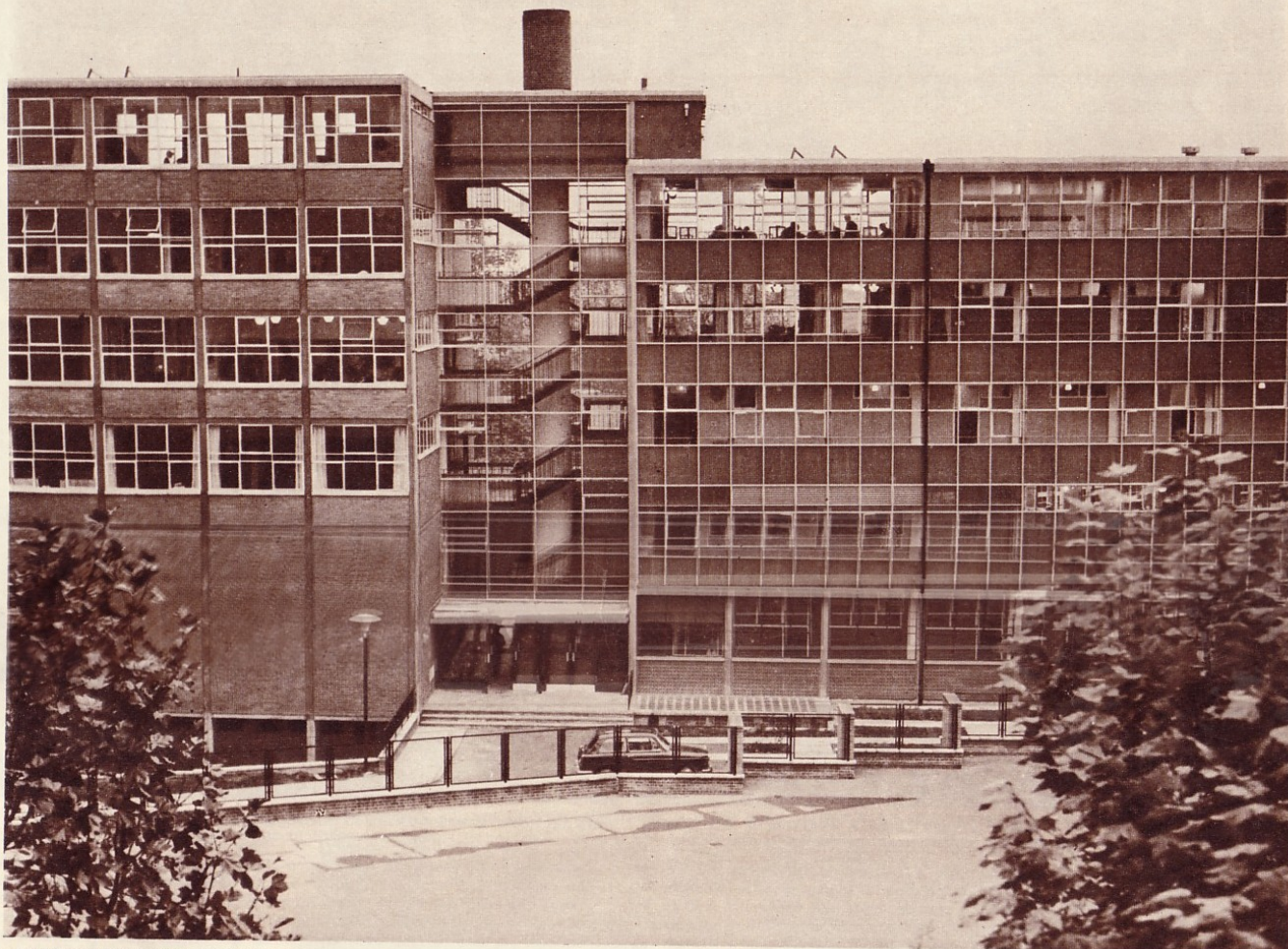
HEATHER JOHNSON (NEE ROBINSON) - LEFT 1966

Thanks very much to Mrs Heather Johnson for kindly searching out and sending us three fantastic pages from the London Illustrated News, dated November 2nd 1963, reporting on the opening of the new Girls' School, following a stimulating conversation your editor had with her at Mansion House! We were very excited to receive them as they really show what life was like for students in 1963, including the then modern and up-to-date Chemistry and Biology laboratories. She very much enjoyed the Thanksgiving Service at St Paul's and Reception at Mansion House and would like to pass her thanks onto the 400th Anniversary Committee!

Heather tells us she was at Owen's in Islington from 1959-1966, which included the 350th anniversary celebrations. She sung in the choir at the service in St Paul's Cathedral fifty years ago and still has her own battered signed copy of the programme. She has happy memories of my time at School and a number of friends from her year meet regularly for a reunion lunch in Islington.

We would also like to thank the **"Illustrated London News Ltd/Mary Evans Picture Library"** for granting us permission to reproduce these scans in our Old Owenians Newsletter. They appreciate we are fund raising for our 400th Appeal and have kindly waived their usual fee. <http://www.maryevans.com/>. See the pages overleaf.

DAME ALICE OWEN'S GIRLS' SCHOOL, FINSBURY.
AN OLD SCHOOL IN A NEW BUILDING—PLANNED FOR THE FUTURE.



FRONT VIEW OF THE IMPRESSIVE NEW FIVE-STOREY BUILDING TAKEN FROM THE BOYS' SCHOOL ACROSS THE PLAYGROUND.

ON October 29 the Minister of Education, the Rt. Hon. Sir Edward Boyle, B.T., M.P., arranged to open the new building of the Dame Alice Owen's Girls' School, Finsbury. The five-storey building was designed by the architects, Messrs. Daniel Watney, Eiloart, Immann & Nunn, and erected by Marshall Andrew & Co. Ltd. at a cost of £200,000. Specific features include three areas of garden and a large broken tile mosaic by Anthony Holloway. The Ministry of Education provided 75 per cent and the governing body, the Worshipful Company of Brewers, 25 per cent of the cost. All the furniture and equipment were provided by the L.C.C., which also maintains the school. The Dame Alice Owen Foundation, which also embraces the Owen's Boys school across the playing ground, has rather a romantic origin. When Dame Alice Owen, then Alice Wilkes, walked through the Islington fields at the end of the 16th century, an arrow shot from the nearby butts pierced her tall hat. Thus spared, she vowed that she [Continued overleaf.



(Right) THE HEAD MISTRESS, MRS. C. N. KISCH, B.A., WITH THREE GIRLS OF THE UPPER SIXTH FORM BY THE STATUE OF THE FOUNDRESS, DAME ALICE OWEN.

DAME ALICE OWEN'S GIRLS' SCHOOL: ACTIVITIES IN ART AND SCIENCE.



THE UP-TO-DATE, WELL-EQUIPPED CHEMISTRY LABORATORY. CHEMISTRY MASTER MR. E. GRAY, M.A., EXPLAINS AN EXPERIMENT TO MEMBERS OF THE THIRD FORM.



THE SCHOOL LIBRARY CONTAINS 4,000 VOLUMES. AMPLE WINDOW SPACE, MODERN LIGHTING AND AN ATTRACTIVE DECOR ENCOURAGES THE GIRLS TO MAKE THE WIDEST USE OF THIS AMENITY.



DOMESTIC SCIENCE. IN THIS SPACIOUS KITCHEN ABOUT A QUARTER OF THE SCHOOL POPULATION LEARN HOW TO PREPARE MEALS AND LAY A TABLE.

Continued. would create a trust to build a Grammar school near the spot of the accident. Thrice married, Dame Alice died in 1613 a wealthy woman. In the same year Owen's Boys' school was founded and the trust was to be administered by the Worshipful Company of Brewers, who are still the governors of the schools today. When in the 19th century, a great surge started for



THE ART ROOM. MEMBERS OF THE SIXTH FORM DURING A TYPICAL ART LESSON. ART IS TAUGHT IN THIS SCHOOL UP TO ADVANCED LEVEL.

better education for girls, the trust in 1886 extended its funds to the foundation of the Dame Alice Owen's Girls' School. Today there are 350 girls in this two-form entry school, of whom 60 are in the sixth form preparing for further education in universities, training colleges, the civil service or secretarial colleges. During the last war, while the school was [Continued opposite.



THE MUSIC ROOM: SIXTH FORMERS DURING A LESSON FROM THE MUSIC MISTRESS, MISS E. JONES, G.R.S.M. THE SCHOOL HAS AN ORCHESTRA AND A CHOIR.



THE DINING HALL: EACH DAY 350 MEALS ARE SERVED HERE. THE GIRLS EAT IN TWO SITTINGS. VISIBLE THROUGH THE HATCH, THE NEW KITCHENS.



THE GYMNASIUM SERVES ALSO AS HALL. TRANSFORMED BY A CEILING-TO-FLOOR CURTAIN, A LARGE STAGE ALLOWS FOR PLAYS AND CONCERTS TO BE PERFORMED.

Continued. evacuated, most of the buildings were destroyed by enemy action. In the 18 years that followed the end of the war, the school was housed in what was left of the old building and several huts. Immediately the war ended and the school returned from evacuation, the Governors started to plan a new school building. It took them 18 years to realise their ambition. Although the school was demolished and rebuilt on the same site, the work of the school continued without interruption. In 1952 the school acquired "Voluntary aided" status. Chairman of the Governors is Mr. D. P. Crossman, a member of the Worshipful Company of Brewers. It is a fitting conclusion to this year's 350th anniversary celebration of the Foundation that the girls should now have moved to their new home. The two top storeys of the right wing house the new Boys' school's laboratories, which are entered by a special staircase. Today the two schools exist side by side, joining forces in such activities as the school orchestra, choirs, drama productions and debating societies.

Photograph specially taken for The Illustrated London News by Keystone Press Agency.



(Right.) STUDYING BIOLOGY IN ONE OF THE WELL-APPOINTED LABORATORIES. MRS. M. PYE, B.Sc., THE BIOLOGY MISTRESS, WITH THIRD FORMERS.



BERNARD VICTOR—LEFT 1949



Thanks to Mr Bernard Victor for recounting his days at Owen's in Bedford and London, how he found Art at School and tells us that now in retirement, he creates his own paintings. He has given us a link to his website, which shows his work (sample left) —we would recommend a viewing!

Website: <http://bvpainter.googlepages.com/homepage>

Blogs: <http://berniespaintings.blogspot.com>

"I joined Owen's when I was 11. I had been at a boarding school in Totnes, Devon, but was so un-happy there that I begged my parents not to send me back at the end of my first year. Somehow they got in touch with Owen's, and after an interview, I was accepted. When I joined the school in Bedford, I was billeted with a Mr and Mrs Osborne, who lived near Russel Park. I very soon found that I was very happy at Owen's, and that the Osborne's were very good foster parents, having brought up two boys of their own.

I can remember that in my first year, I sat next to a boy called Tomaschof, a refugee from Hungary. I can well remember the routine of travelling all over Bedford for school in the morning, and then going to Bedford Modern for afternoon school. I can also remember having two fights, one with a boy who's name I cannot remember, and the other with Ivor ?, who I believe later was head-boy, and eventually married a friend of my wife's. I can remember going to school at Goldington on one morning per week.

As a railway enthusiast I was a train-spotter, and travelled all over Bedfordshire "spotting", which included un-official visits to various engine sheds. This enthusiasm paid off in my later life. I can remember messing about by the river, throwing each others caps in, and learning to swim in the open air baths. I also developed a love for jazz after seeing the film "Stormy Weather", hearing the Glen Miller band rehearsing in the Corn Exchange, and being taken to a Jazz Concert at a cinema in Bedford, by my father, who new some of the musicians taking part.

However I cannot remember any names of my contemporaries. I also found that though I was not all that good at football, and disliked cricket, I could run, and came I think third in the Junior Cross-country and first or second in the junior sprint at sports day. VE day was a fantastic celebration, with everybody going mad and dancing in the streets. When we moved back to London, I had another year in the A stream, but owing to my inability to learn languages, particularly Latin under Mr.Lloyd-Williams, much to my disgust I was moved into the B stream. I did however win the Chumleigh Reading prize one year. I soon made friends with my fellow B stream boys, including Bob Walker, a Macrae and a MacKay, who's brother rowed for Oxford in one year's boat race.

After a few month's in the HAC corps, I opted out and took up Art, which was a shrewd move as I ended up with a distinction in school certificate Art. I also did pretty well in most other subjects, but my inability to learn languages meant that I could not go onto do Matric, and so I left at 16. After a short time working in an Insurance Office I went to work for my father in his record shop in Chapel Market. I stayed there till the business closed down, but by then I had developed my own business importing high quality model railway equipment for both retail and wholesale. This business prospered till I decided to retire in 2000.

I am now enjoying my retirement, messing around on my computer, listening to music, jazz and classical, reading and most of all painting, which has been moderately successful, having sold paintings in the UK as well as in the USA.



NEIL MOTCHAN—LEFT 1945

Thanks to Mr Neil Motchan for letting us know he had a virtual meeting with past fellow student he was friends with at Bedford during the war and said it was interesting to swap lives after so long!



LEE PREBBLE—LEFT 1969

Thanks to Mr Lee Prebble for being inspired by previous contributions in our last Newsletter, remembering names from long ago and expanding on Owen's social life!

"Following on from Colin Bull's and Nigel Eidmans' reminiscences, I'm pleased to say that I can fill in some gaps. In that 2SVG photo were indeed Gordon Alexander and Tony Akerman together with Howard Leigh, John Youd, Raymond Carver, John Sullivan (of football fame), and Mark Dickinson (not sure about the spelling). If we carry on we can identify them all. Roger Biggs younger brother in our year was Jeff.

I also got away from the weekly trips to Chandos Avenue (and 'Gym' Chant's slipper) and became a rower - I sport I could sit down at and not worry about having to coordinate eye, limb and a ball with a mind of its own - and I actually managed to win a tankard I still have. I think the lad that sat on Al Newman's shoulders (with a length of old hose pipe as Al's 'breathing tube') was John Straker, who, I recall, went on to do VSO in the south Pacific immediately after leaving Owen's.

The maths teacher with the Geordie accent that witnessed the porpoise was Mike Smith (mentioned by Nigel). He married a girl from the year above us and regularly joined us for a drink (once we were 18, of course). I believe he went on to teach at the Manchester Grammar School. His version of the tale was that the "shark" had leapt over the bow of the boat and, to save the lives of his charges he donned his leopard skin trunks, put his Bowie knife between his teeth and dived in to attack said villain. It was so frightened by this formidable sight that it swam off back to the sea!

I seem to remember more about the social side of the school than the lessons! The 1613 club on a Friday evening (followed by a trip to one of those hostelrys Colin mentioned) was a chance to meet with sixth form girls but also encouraged inter-year friendships. On the drama side, I was also more into the backstage support but "Jock" McGregor persuaded me to sing in the religious musical he co-wrote, I think, with John Sparrow, "Miciah". The rest of the cast encouraged me by singing along which was fine until I forgot the order of the verses in the Visitation rendition at St Pancras Town Hall. I don't think the audience noticed- they were probably dazzled by the salmon pink shirts we all wore!

A particular memory is of school milk being dispensed in cartons which exploded on impact – on one occasion above the heads of a group of prefects stood outside the main entrance. They were right to be somewhat displeased with the unexpected shower (not being the sort of milk used for bathing). Fortunately for the culprits they couldn't establish who had lobbed the missile. I know it wasn't me and my memory has now faded so I can no longer say who it was.

On that note, my apologies to the ladies I met at the excellent Albert Hall event, who were in my 'A' level geography group and remembered me but, as I said, the lessons are now a blur as are lots of important details like names. I was told my school years would be the best of my life so I concentrated on having a good a time. Nevertheless, Owen's managed to squeeze in an education that has seen me through the rest of it - things like correct spelling and grammar that don't seem to matter so much to today's graduates (Owen's excepted I'm sure).

It was probably a good thing we didn't have the fantastically talented musicians and musical teaching that the school is now rightly proud of or I might have sought to add to my extra-curricular activities in some other way (I avoided John Paul's choir but could occasionally sing on key when he wasn't looking). We did have the odd pop group that won Opportunity Knocks (Strawberry Jam?) before Spandau Ballet were out of short trousers."

Here are three of the Spandau Boys—John, Tony and Gary, reunited at Mansion House, sporting their red carnations—we were really thrilled that Tony was able to join us for both the Service and Reception. Photo by Old Owenian, Gaz De Vere.





BRIAN KIRBY—LEFT 1976

Thanks to Mr Brian Kirby for sending us this splendid poem about the Royal Albert Hall—he gave us this message:
“Thank you to all at Owen's, we all had a wonderful time on Tuesday. I enjoyed it so much, I wrote a poem about the evening !” We’ve surrounded his poem by photos from Gaz De Vere of what went on backstage before the event!

FOUR HUNDRED NOT OUT

BY BUS, BY TRAIN,
SOME CAME BY PLANE,
TO THE ALBERT HALL,
DESTINATION FOR ALL,

FOR YOUNG, FOR OLD,
FOR SOME WITH FAT TUMS,
A SEAT FOR ALL,
TO PARK THEIR SMART BUMS,

THE BARS OPEN EARLY,
TO SATISFY THE THIRST,
A SECOND, A THIRD,
TO FOLLOW THE FIRST,

A SHOW FOR DAME ALICE,
IS THE ORDER OF THE DAY,
AFTER PLENTY OF REHEARSING,
THEY ENTER THE FRAY,

THE CONCERT BEGINS,
WITH ANGELIC VOICES,
SOME SING, SOME DANCE,
THEY ALL MADE THEIR CHOICES,

FINE PLAYING, WHAT SKILL,
THOSE FINGERS CAN DANCE,
ALL FROM HARD PRACTISE,
AND NOT LEFT TO CHANCE,

HE LOOKS FAMILIAR,
I’VE SEEN HER BEFORE,
A MYRIAD OF FACES,
WHO’S NEXT ON THE FLOOR?

FROM MELODY FAIR,
TO A BRICK IN THE WALL,
HEY TEACHER, LEAVE THEM !,
IS THE RALLYING CALL,

HALF-TIME COMES,
IT’S BACK TO THE BAR,
PURELY SOCIAL OF COURSE,
I SPY OLD FRIENDS AFAR,

THE BELL GOES,
IT’S BACK TO OUR SEATS,
EXCUSE ME, PARDON,
AS WE SQUEEZE PAST, THEY BLEAT,

THE DRUMS BANG,
THE CYMBALS CLASH,
THIS REALLY IS,
ONE HELLUVA BASH,

MY HANDS ARE CLAPPING,
WITH ALL THE APPLAUSE,
A NEW PLACE FOR SCIENCE,
IS A MOST WORTHY CAUSE,

NOW THREE FAMOUS STARS,
HAVE JOINED IN THE FUN,
FIRST TRUE, THEN GOLD,
WHERE’S THE TUBBY ONE?

AND NOW WE START SINGING,
THE OLD FOOTBALL SONG,
A FEW WORDS ARE CHANGED,
THEIR MEANING LONG GONE,

CAN’T REMEMBER THIRD VERSE,
I MUST MAKE AMENDS,
WE GIVE IT FULL VOICE,
THANK YOU, OW-ENS.





GRAHAM SIMMONS—LEFT 1956



Thanks to Mr Simmons for telling us what a special day he and his wife had at our St Paul's and Mansion House events - "It was lovely seeing how much effort was put in by all concerned and all were enjoying the experience...my wife Jill was with me at all the occasions and it was nice for her to meet up and talk with Dame Beryl Grey, and have her photo taken with her, for whom she made costumes when working at the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden in the Production Wardrobe."

He also passed on thanks to our Head, Alan Davison, all the staff and students for the wonderful celebrations at the Royal Albert Hall, St Paul's Cathedral and Mansion House.



GAVIN JORDAN—LEFT 1992

Thanks to Mr Gavin Jordan for telling us about the Ernst & Young School Leaver Programme, following his Careers Talk to students in March, which mainly focused around a post university career. He says, *"The Programme was has only been around for a couple of years but we are expanding in terms of places and profile each year. This offers an exciting alternative to university and a comparable career path. Programme participants step straight into the workplace, develop valuable technical skills with structured training, and gain a sought-after professional qualification - without university fees and student debt."*

We've also been thinking of ways of interacting with students and getting their attention - last October, we found a new way to engage sixth form students through gamification with the launch of our innovative EYPathFinder. With over 11,000 games played across 600 schools in five weeks, this helped EY to increase applications to our schools programmes by 78%. The game took students on a journey of exploration down different career paths. Depending on the decisions they made, students were able to see how far they could go in their careers. There's more on our website if this is something that could be of interest to the school and students:
<http://www.ey.com/UK/en/Careers/Students>"



LES GIBBINGS—LEFT 1971

Thanks to Mr Les Gibbings for another valued contribution, taking the time to write and send us some fantastic photos of himself and fellow Old Owenians—he says, *"this exclusively concerns itself with the RAH anniversary event in April. I have included a few photos of some of those of my Owen's contemporaries who I either went with or met at the event itself and managed to link them up with images from school photos from 1964."*

The 400 year wait

"The Great Celebration at the RAH was a strange affair, if truth be told but one that I was very pleased to have been at. I went by arrangement with a mixture of old class mates, some with 'Owen's' wives and even a couple of offspring who in their turn had gone to the Potters Bar 'incarnation' of the school – a revised total of eleven people."

But we were at least well prepared – we had decent seats in a group in the side stalls at eye-level with the performers and close to the stage (and certainly above the main part of the hall where it looked like a far less comfortable experience), a pre-event table reserved in the Café Consort for a quick dinner and we were all sporting red and white double carnation boutonniere with specially crafted name tags, courtesy of R.J. ‘Bob’ Harness and his Old-Owenian wife, Val.

I think we all had some little trepidation about the evening’s programme but it turned out to be a truly memorable and consistent delight. How many schools can possibly boast such talent and its own ‘Head of Percussion’, reflecting the significance of all things musical and creative in the modern school’s very being? It seemed inconceivable, but marks out just how much things have changed perhaps since the Islington days we knew in the 1960s.

I think the only minor criticism for those of us who wanted to wallow longer in nostalgia for as long a possible doing the ‘remember when’s’ with all manner of former colleagues, was the fact that the interval seemed too short and ended just as the small group ‘reunions’ that were almost inevitable, were warming up.

Anyway, I have added a few pictorial memories from the evening which I subsequently commemorated in my own way afterwards for our group by producing a small flip book of photos for them. Most of photos were taken during the interval when meeting up with proverbial ‘blasts from the past’ who we found there. To add interest I added images of some from the official school class photo of 1964. In balance a splendid time was surely had by all! We are now all looking forward to the 425th anniversary events (when we will all be 85 !!).



Photo 1 (L-R – Rich ‘Dickie’ Bradford, Les Gibbings, Bob Harness, Jackie Jones, Alan Droy, Malcolm ‘Oz’ Osgood, Vince Sartori)

Photo 2 Hymers Wilson, 1964 and now

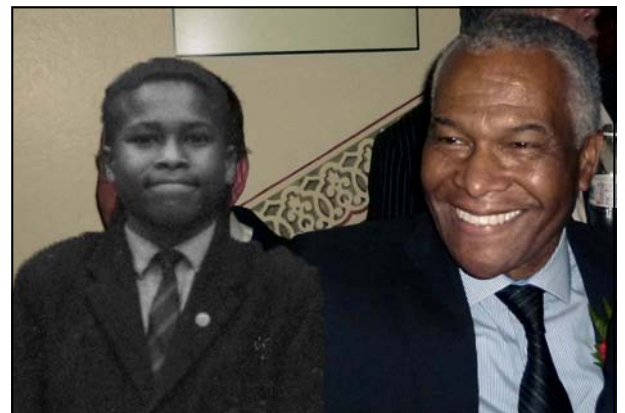


Photo3 1964 images of me, Malcolm, Bob, Alan & Vince

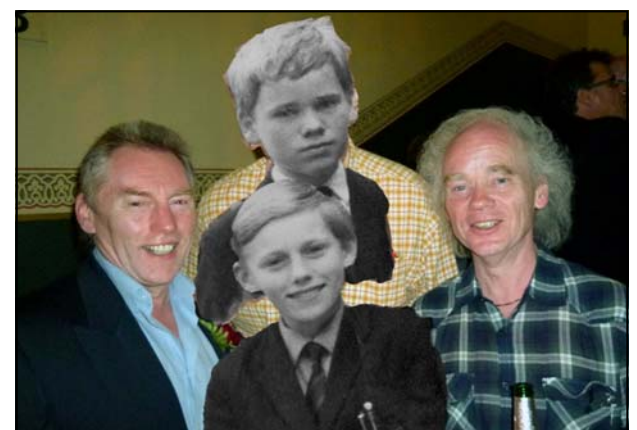


Photo 4 John Richier & Jimmy King, 1964 and now



PAMELA MANSI (NEE STUBBS) - LEFT 1951

The Islington Old Girls' School Song

"Honour Dame Alice Owen"

(Words by Eleanor E. Willis, Music by K.W. Flemming-Williams)

*1. Lift your hearts and lift your voices,
Sing Dame Alice Owen's praise,
In her name our School rejoices,
May her wisdom guide our ways.*

*Chorus - Our noble Foundress sowed the seed,
Bear fruit well: in thought and deed
Honour Dame Alice Owen.*

*2. Day by day we grow in stature,
Mind and body like a tree;
Every task we face with courage
Makes us strong, and straight, and free.*

Chorus - Our noble Foundress...

*3. Owen's girls, like pilgrims marching,
Tread where Owen's girls have trod,
Seeking truth in fuller service,
Putting all their trust in God.*

Chorus - Our noble Foundress...

*4. What the years may bring we know not,
Fame or Fortune, joy or pain;
Faithful to our School tradition,
We shall never strive in vain.*

Chorus - Our noble Foundress...

*5. Onward then, to new endeavour,
Strong in hope and free from fear,
One in loyalty and purpose,
One in will to preserve.*

*Honour our noble Foundress' name.
Bear the torch, keep bright the flame.
Honour Dame Alice Owen.*

Thanks to Mrs Pamela Mansi for voicing some collective opinions once again, about the Islington Old Girls' School song and in addition the motto.

Perhaps others would like to respond about the motto and we'll publish your views in our end of September Newsletter! If enough Old Girl's attend, it would be great if we could somehow record the song at the Harold Moore Luncheon and post it on our website—we'll investigate the possibility—then it will be preserved forever by Islington Old Girl's!

We've already commented about the song on page 3—we now only have one School song for students! We're glad we've retained Dame Alice Owen as our name too and we love the idea about wearing Michaelmas Daisies at the Harold Moore Luncheon for those who attended the Old Girl's School, as long as they're still in season! By popular demand, we've included (left) the words of the Islington Old Girls' School song !

"In recent publications and speeches it has been stated that the motto of Dame Alice Owen's Girls School was 'Instead of being made, make yourselves'. I, and several other Owen's girls of different ages, beg to differ. The only motto that we recall is the same as that of the boy's school and the Brewers: 'In God is all our Trust'.

This was inscribed in gold on the great beam of the girl's school hall. The beam survived the bombing of the building.

This motto was on our prefects pockets and on the award page of school prizes, beneath the three barrels badge. (The lower school wore the pomegranate tree badge.)

A line in the Girl's school song 'Honour Dame Alice Owen' mentions 'Owen's Girls 'putting all their trust in God' On the subject of 'Honour Dame Alice Owen', why has it been abandoned in favour of the boy's song? Surely there is room for both (with slight adaptation as was necessary with the boy's song). It certainly is appropriate, as this year's celebrations have been all about honouring Dame Alice Owen.

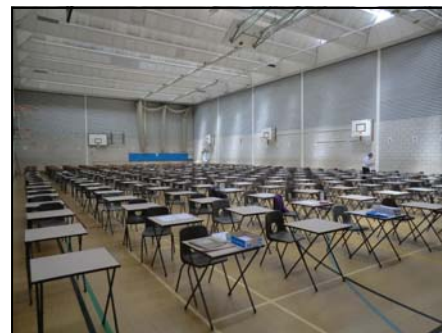
The younger generation may not know it, but with all the expertise of the school choirs and choirmasters, as demonstrated at the Albert Hall, surely it could be taught. They might even try the descant! The 'Islington Girls' have been singing it regularly for the last few years at the Harold Moore reunion lunch in October, and getting the boys to join in!

Some 'Old Girls' that I have spoken to have said that they tried the Harold Moore lunch once and there was no one to talk to as it was dominated by 'Old Boys'. Well it is different now, our numbers are increasing. Come along, join in and sing our song!

I know it's a bit late in the season, but if they are still available we could wear buttonholes of Michaelmas Daisies. To end on a positive note we are very pleased that the 'new' school has retained our name. Whereas in Islington the boy's was just 'Owen's School' or 'Owen's Boy's School' we were always, and proud to be 'Dame Alice Owen's'!"

And finally...

Here's a couple of photos to take you back to what it's like in School in June! Boards have been around the building with Silence due to exams and the Main Hall and Sports Hall are eerie with desks ready for students—can you remember the pressure (phew, glad that's all over)?! On a more light-hearted note, students play on the grass in the sun at lunch and breaks (whenever it deems to shine)!



400th Anniversary Great Bake Off!

This year, Head of Technology (Food and Textiles), Mrs Carolyn Cerny, (some of you will remember she designed our 400th Anniversary Cake to launch our year in January) arranged a 400th Great Bake Off for students with Celebrity Chef, Sophie Wright, as the judge on June 19th. Sophie is a food writer, has published three books and appears on TV/Radio, so was well qualified to assess the competition with careful tastings! Here are some of the entries—the winner was Isabel Keefe from Year 8 with a magnificent roulade. Carolyn and Sophie are pictured below right and Isabel, below left.



DVD now available!



Our Royal Albert Hall and St Paul's DVD's arrived in School last week. You'll soon be receiving your copy through the post if you ordered one, from Mrs Megan Dibden, our Music Administrator (and Old Owenian!)—we hope you enjoy reliving the memories! If you have any queries, please contact her by email at dibdenm@damealiceowens.herts.sch.uk. Thanks to Mrs Karen Acosta, who was one of the two Stage Managers of the 400th Concert, for working with Old Owenians company, Footpath Films to help manage its production. The smart DVD case cover is the same as our RAH Programme. Thanks to Mr Ed Terran, from School House Studios, for working with Miss Claire Simmons, our Head of Year 13 and Miss Natasha Kremer, our Acting Head of Languages, to produce the RAH Programme.

Everest's peak conquered by team with links to Old Owenians!

There were many reports in the papers a month or so ago about the 60th Anniversary of the climb which conquered Everest, by Edmund Hillary and Tenzing Norgay, on 29th May 1953. It may interest you to know that Eric Shipton CBE, who just missed out on being selected as Leader for the expedition as an experienced Himalayan mountaineer, was the husband of Owen's Maths Teacher, Mrs Shipton (ref Mrs Brenda Ainsley) and Dr Michael Ward, mountaineer, physician by profession and expedition doctor chosen for the team, was nephew to Miss Elsie Ward, Headmistress of Owen's Girls' School 1945-1960. Eric Shipton was educated at Pyt House School in Wiltshire and Michael Ward was an alumni of Marlborough School. It's a small world!



There is a reference in Wikipedia to the connection between the two men:

"The first western exploration of the Rolwaling Himal was made by Shipton in 1951 during the reconnaissance of Mount Everest. While exploring the Barun gorge he named Island Peak. In that year Shipton and Dr Michael Ward took photographs of the footprints of what may have been the Yeti (Abominable snowman), an Ice axe being included in the photographs to show scale. Because of his belief in the efficacy of small expeditions as compared to military-style 'sieges', Eric Shipton was stepped down from the leadership of the 1953 Everest expedition, along with Andrew Croft, in favour of Major John Hunt."

Hot off the Press (and we mean "hot")!!!



Old Owenian, Tyler Rix, who left in 2011, took part in the Milan Fashion Show this week (22nd-25th June), walking the catwalk exclusively for Donatella Versace (Tyler and Donatella, left, 21st June) with newly cropped hair! He's with Elite Models, London and signed to agencies in New York, Paris and Milan. Thanks to Mrs Rix for updating us - she says, "it's not all glamour as he's been on call and attending fittings for long hours - thank goodness he had so much experience on the stage at DAOS!"

Tyler performed a fantastic solo on his saxophone at our Royal Albert Hall Concert in April (having played with the BBC Concert Orchestra for live Radio 2 broadcasts aged just 15 and had a number 1 selling classical album with Universal Records aged 16 called Ascent). He was the very last of the 8,000 Olympic Relay Torchbearers to carry the Torch across the UK in 2012 and lit the cauldron in front of a 60,000 cheering crowd in London's Hyde Park before the Olympic Opening Ceremony last summer. He was selected by Coca Cola to 'Inspire a Generation' because he represented the dreams of young people the world over, in education, sport, music and modelling. Tyler's jet setting back to Paris next week—you can follow him on Twitter at @tylerrix and the video of the show can be viewed on the following link (Tyler's at 3.20m and 6.45m): <https://www.facebook.com/versace>.

Keep your contributions coming!

Sincere thanks once again for all your contributions and encouragement—it does keep us going! I can't sign off without a mention of the recent cooler weather: I always look for a silver lining in any cloud—and to be quite honest, it's saving me a fortune on clothes (apologies to the retail industry). When the sun does shine, I'm recycling the odd item from last year's summer wardrobe (which people won't remember anyway), so I'll have more money to spend on holiday, hurrah! And yes, as some of you might notice in my updated profile picture, I've had my hair cut! For those coming to the 400th Ball, see you there, if not, have a great summer and remember, the next deadline for Newsletter items is **Friday 6th September!**



Mrs Mandy English, Alumni Relations and Website Manager

Summary Calendar of remaining events in 2013 (see also pages 5-7 for more details)



Wednesday 27th June 2013

Choral Concert, 7.30pm, Edward Guinness Hall, Dame Alice Owen's School

Wednesday 3rd July 2013

Concert Band Evening, 7.30pm, Edward Guinness Hall, Dame Alice Owen's School

Wednesday 10th July 2013

Owen's 1st X1 v MCC X1 400th Cricket Match, from 11.30am, Old Owen's Sports Ground

Wednesday 10th July 2013

Senior Orchestral Concert, 7.30pm, Edward Guinness Hall, Dame Alice Owen's School

Saturday 13th July 2013

Owen's School Association 400th Ball, 7pm-1am, Dame Alice Owen's School

Thursday 18th July 2013

Dame Alice Owen's School Open Afternoon, 2-5pm, Dame Alice Owen's School

Saturday 25th August 2013

Best Ever Owen's Football Year Competition, Old Owen's Sports Ground

Friday 20th September 2013

Owen's Golden Generation—The Reunion, 7-11.30pm, London

Friday 27th September 2013

Old Owen's Lodge 400th Anniversary Reception, from 5.30pm, London

Thursday 31st October 2013

400th Anniversary Harold Moore Annual Reunion Luncheon, 11.30am-4pm, London

Monday 16th December, 2013

St Alban's Cathedral 400th Anniversary Carol Service, 7.30pm, St Albans