

# Old Owenians Newsletter

Second Quarter 2012—27th June  
Edition 6

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

“Dear Old Owenians

With just over three weeks to go before the end of another school year, we say goodbye to some of our Year 11 and all our Year 13 students, wishing them best of luck and success with their results in August. We also welcome them as Old Owenians, hope they'll keep in touch by reading our Old Owenians Newsletters and come back to join us at some of our 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary events next year. Perhaps they'll revisit the school, as over 120 of you did for our highly successful first ever Old Owenians Coffee and Tour morning on Saturday 26th May—read more on pages 3 and 4!



Photo above L-R: David Thompson, Master of the Brewers' Company and Chairman of Marston's plc, Alice Robinson, Deputy Head Girl of Dame Alice Owen's School, Commander Mike Rose Royal Navy Serving Royal Naval Officer, Former Commander Engineering HMS ALBION, which is affiliated to the Brewers' Company, Philip Parkinson, member of the brewing team of Marston's plc, Nicholas Pietrek, Housemaster and former Head of History at Aldenham School, Elstree - Aldenham was formed in 1597 by brewer Richard Platt.

We were delighted that our school was represented on two significant Jubilee occasions by current and past students...

...our **Deputy Head Girl, Alice Robinson**, was honoured to be invited to attend the Westminster Hall celebration lunch with members of the Worshipful Company of Brewers (our school's trustee), following the Diamond Jubilee Thanksgiving Service at St Paul's Cathedral on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> June. It was hosted by the 108 Livery Companies of the City of London—around 700 guests and representatives of charities and the armed forces dined with members of the Royal Family. The Livery Companies originated in medieval times as Guilds responsible for trade regulation—today the Companies use their funds to undertake charitable and community work. Alice, whose name was drawn out of a hat for the opportunity to attend, comments on page 5.

Also, **Madness guitarist, Chris Foreman**, who we are privileged to claim as one of our famous Old Owenians (wearing the blue suit, here with lead singer, Suggs!), played on the roof of Buckingham Palace on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> June at the Diamond Jubilee Concert. Madness totally wowed audiences with “Our House” and “It Must Be Love”, while images of streets and love hearts were projected onto the front of the building! Christopher J Foreman joined Owen's in Islington in 1967.



**On a final note about the Jubilee celebrations**—current Year 10 students took part in a competition to design a menu ‘Fit For the Queen’, celebrating food from our county. Our keen students carried out research into local and seasonal foods available in Hertfordshire and also historical royal dishes. They had just 2 hours to cook the entire meal and had to work extremely hard to get everything done in time. I was invited, along with guests from the University of the Third Age, (who use our facilities during term time), various grandparents and staff to sample the delicious meal! Although they didn't qualify, the event was a great success.

**Once again, we have many achievements to celebrate this term—individual and team.** Our Maths Department have had six Year 7 & 8 students qualify for the UK Maths Trust Junior Mathematical Olympiad and four Year 12 students obtained the Gold Award in this year's Chemistry Olympiad organised by the Royal Society of Chemistry. A Year 12 student was shortlisted for the Royal Academy Summer Exhibition A Level Competition and our "F1 in Schools" team, Ignite, who became National Champions in the STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) competition in April, learnt that they are off to Abu Dhabi in October to compete in the World Finals (partly sponsored through Old Owenian, Mr Adam Reader, of Grace Foods of Welwyn Garden City).

**Sporting successes:** Year 10 student, Gabby Jupp achieved an amazing win at the Junior European Gymnastics Championship as she became only second British gymnast **EVER** to win a medal at this event. She came joint third in the individual floor event, as well as helping GB team to fourth place. We were also able to offer congratulations to four of our students who were selected to compete in the Sainsbury's 2012 School Games Finals. The School Games is a multi-sport event for the UK's elite young athletes of school age. In this, its inaugural year, the Games were held in the Olympic Park and other venues from 6-9 May to build on the excitement and inspirations of the 2012 Games. James Munro (Year 12) and Megan Munro (Year 10) represented England Central Boys and England South Girls in Volleyball. James Potter (Year 13) and Nathan Potter (Year 11) represented Wales in Fencing (Sabre weapon). To cap it all, our Year 11 boys football team won the County Cup in the year of Euro 2012!

### **Dame (Beryl Grey) meets Dame (Alice Owen's)**

We were very privileged that one of our most famous Old Owenians visited our school last month. Deputy Head Girl, Ellie Shipton and fellow Sixth Former, Becky Byrne gave Dame Beryl Grey a special tour of the school during her day with us.

Dame Beryl Grey, now a retired English Ballerina, left our Islington School in 1941 at the age of 14 to join Sadlers Wells School. She danced Swan Lake as Odette/Odile on her 15th birthday, Giselle at 16, and The Sleeping Beauty aged 19 and was the first Western guest artist to dance with the Bolshoi Ballet (1957-1958). She also appeared with the Peking Ballet and Shanghai Company (with a Chinese partner) in 1964.

Dame Beryl has and still does hold many distinguished positions - most importantly to us, she returned to Owen's as a governor from 1960-1977, among many of her other roles, and supported the school by becoming a Patron of the Performing Arts Appeal in 2001.

Dame Beryl Grey has been invited to be one of our honoured guests at our 400th anniversary concert at the Royal Albert Hall on **Tuesday 23rd April 2013**.



### **Old Owenian and chair of our 400th anniversary committee, Gary Kemp**

Gary received the Ivor Novello award for "Outstanding Song Collection" at Grosvenor House in London on Thursday 17th May. We congratulate him on his great achievement - the Ivors are internationally respected for honouring excellence in British music writing. They are judged and presented by the writing community and for over 50 years have been given annually to outstanding songwriters and composers. Gary has recently published "The Lyrics of Gary Kemp" which features all the works that Gary has published in an illustrious songwriting career that has spanned 4 decades. Gary will be performing at our Royal Albert Hall celebration concert next year.



**Current Concerts!** I would like to remind to you that you're extremely welcome to attend any of our Music and Drama events—forthcoming dates below. To book, simply visit our Ticket Information webpage: [http://www.damealiceowens.herts.sch.uk/news\\_dates/ticket\\_information.html](http://www.damealiceowens.herts.sch.uk/news_dates/ticket_information.html)



**Thursday 5th July—Concert Band Evening—Edward Guinness Concert Hall at 7.30pm**

**Wednesday 11th, Friday 13th & Saturday 14th July—Junior Drama Production—an adaptation of Romeo & Juliet set in the swinging 1960's! A tale of rival fashion houses: Capulet Couture versus Montague "Ready to Wear"—Main School Hall at 7.30pm**

**Thursday 12th July—Senior Orchestral Concert—Edward Guinness Concert Hall at 7.30pm—we look forward to seeing you!**

Please enjoy our 6th edition of the Old Owenians Newsletter, once again, packed with really interesting articles and contributions from yourselves—thanks once again to those who have supported the development of this Newsletter over the past year—it is much appreciated and reflects your continued loyalty to the school. **Dr Alan Davison**



### Old Owenians Coffee and Tour Morning a great success!

Our current students had the privilege of showing off their school to over 120 past students and some of their families at our first ever Old Owenians Coffee and Tour morning on Saturday 26th May.

Guests were invited to visit the school for a tour by Year 10 and Year 12 students, who took them round the original buildings and new additions since 1973, when Dame Alice Owen's was relocated to leafy Potters Bar from Islington.

Students really enjoyed listening to Old Owenians sharing stories about their past school days and were proud to tell our visitors of their excellent experiences of education today! Many Old Owenians expressed praise for our students, who were a credit to themselves and the school. See their comments from our feedback survey on pages 4 and 5.



Mr Bill Hamilton-Hinds welcomes our Old Owenian guests and their families

Our Head Girl, Helen Rampton, told us *"It's so lovely that people who came to the school years ago still feel such a strong connection to it, and still want to be so involved in it today. I really enjoyed giving the tours. It was so interesting to hear the viewpoints and stories of the Old Owenians we showed round, and find out how much the school had changed or stayed the same since they were students. It was a really good experience and gave me a great sense of the history of the school, and I hope in future I'll be able to come back to see the school again and revisit all the memories I have of it!"*

Deputy Head Boy, Xavier Hussain also enthused, *"The tours were so well received! The weather was perfect—every guide I spoke to took great pride & pleasure in showing Old Owenians around the school."*



Old Owenians enjoy complimentary refreshments served by the OSA after their tours

Long serving members of staff, Mr Bill Hamilton-Hinds, Mr Peter Hutchinson and Mr Richard Morley were delighted to see so many old faces. Dr Alan Davison, who is also President of the Old Owen's Association and attends the Harold Moore Annual Reunion Luncheon every October, was very pleased to have such support from past students.

Members of the OSA (Owen's School Association) served complimentary refreshments and were excited to offer the new range of high quality 400th memorabilia in an exclusive preview to our guests. Governor, Mr Tim Rayner, and Chair of our 400th Appeal Committee, Mr Peter Snow, were also present to show guests our architect's drawings for our new Science Building, planned for 2013/14.

Seven Old Owenians even continued their reminiscing over an enjoyable lunch at the Old Owen's Sports Ground!

### Did you miss it?

The next opportunity for Old Owenians to visit the school will be at our **Open Day on Thursday 19th July, 2-5pm**, when various activities will be taking place. Mainly attended by prospective parents and students, we are also inviting Old Owenians to join us and tour the school—there's no need to book, just turn up, refer to our website for directions and be aware there will be limited parking on site: [http://www.damealiceowens.herts.sch.uk/contact\\_us/directions.html](http://www.damealiceowens.herts.sch.uk/contact_us/directions.html).

You can also read the mini **Tour Guide**, which was produced for our Coffee Morning guests, now available on our website:

[http://www.damealiceowens.herts.sch.uk/about\\_us/old\\_owenians\\_school\\_news.html](http://www.damealiceowens.herts.sch.uk/about_us/old_owenians_school_news.html)

Many thanks again to the following students who volunteered to give tours, who may be siblings of or known to our more recent Old Owenians:

Year 10 – Lizzie Coles, Bryn Davies, Jessie Young, Sarah Masud, Andrew Bays, Anna Berman, Alice Airey, Sophie Robinson, Philippa English, Xenios Mahilla, Alex Marshall

Year 12 – Helen Rampton (Head Girl), Jordan Shum (Head Boy), Josh Sudell (Deputy Head Boy), Xavier Hussain (Deputy Head Boy), Ellie Shipton (Deputy Head Girl), Phillip Crout, Siobhan Rowland, Tom Proffitt, Emily Casey-Haworth, Daniel O'Gorman, Laura Clew



Current students escort Old Owenians on a tour of the school



Dr Alan Davison talks to Year 10 student as Old Owenians queue up to buy the OSA's 400th memorabilia!

### **Your feedback about our Coffee and Tour Morning!**

We were very grateful to those of you who attended and responded to our survey after the event—your comments were circulated to students and staff and were very warmly received, so we thought we'd share them with everyone. A special mention has to go to Mr Colin Bull, just retired, who travelled over 100 miles from Ringwood and had a great time meeting up with Pete Welch and Norman Goldner—he also thought that Bill Hamilton-Hinds had hardly changed! Clutching his new 400th Tankard, he returned all the way home to Dorset to enjoy a nice cold beer and would love to visit again! See also page 30 for Colin's very brief resume—he hopes to write more soon!

See answers below to the question "What did you enjoy most about your visit?" (responses were anonymous)...

*"I very much enjoyed talking with the current Owenians who conducted our tour. It was nice to see that they were enthusiastic about the School and to find that we had things in common despite an age difference of nearly 50 years."*

*"Meeting staff that I remembered from when I was at the school was a particular highlight. Also the opportunity for my Wife and Daughter to see the school I had spoken so much about over the years."*

*"The feeling of nostalgia and stepping back in time when going into my old classrooms!"*

*"It was lovely to go down memory lane and see the statues of Dame Alice, mentions of Harrock House, and to see familiar names around the school etc. etc. The students that showed us around were delightful and gave such a good impression of the school. It was wonderful to see how successful the school continues to be and to hear that the ethos of the school is as strong as ever - this came across very emphatically. The students want to be there and get involved and the staff appear to be very supportive and go out of their way to help and encourage. I was so impressed by the orchestra that I heard rehearsing - they literally brought tears to my eyes!! The Art dept. was fantastic and I went home with a truly warm heart."*

*"It was good to see the school and compare it to our old school in Islington, the pupils who showed us around were very polite, pleasant and informative. Furthermore it was great to see Mr Hinds and number of my old class mates again. Good to have a chat with Dr Alan Davison (current headmaster) and find out some old traditions like "Beer Money" continue - overall an enjoyable and worthwhile experience."*

*"I particularly enjoyed the tour and was very impressed with the enthusiasm shown by the two girls who took us around, and their obvious pride in their school. It was most enjoyable to meet with the Head, and Bill Hamilton-Hinds, whom I remembered from my days at the school (more surprising was the fact that he remembered me!). I was rather taken aback on seeing my picture in the School photograph of May 1964, and I fondly enjoyed seeing the Dame Alice Owen statue again. It was a most enjoyable visit."*

*"Loved our tour guides, their company was a pleasure and they coped admirably with our reminiscing."*

*"Meeting old friends and then spending more time with them at the Old Owens sports ground."*

*"Bill Hinds. Loved the morning, loved the atmosphere, loved the attitudes of the current students in whom I can see many of the characteristics of my contemporaries including a love of the school."*

*"Seeing the incredible new Art, Maths, Design and Technology and Textiles building!"*

*"Great to see the school again, so much has changed but the culture remains as strong as ever."*

*"The event more than met my expectations - in fact I found it to be quite emotional. The "media" had created somewhat of a depressive opinion in my mind as to the results of education today in terms of pupil discipline and academic achievement. The two young ladies and the young man who showed my group around were splendid ambassadors - polite, well dressed and so articulate. The Governors and other staff people were extremely friendly and informative. The facilities are magnificent and the whole school presented an environment to positively encourage learning. It was a delight to have my negative opinions exploded! It would have been interesting to have met some of my contemporaries from sixty years ago - but they are probably few on the ground (more likely under it). Thanks to all concerned for organising such a happy event."*

*"The trips down memory lane and the different smells! Showing my oldest daughter where I went to school; Tom our Tour Guide was charming."*

*"The friendly welcome and the enthusiastic student who showed us around the school, as well as the wonderful facilities offered to students now."*

*"It was a pleasure to see old faces such as Peter Hutchinson and Bill who both taught me. The school was still as wonderful as I remembered it and it was a very happy experience to be back!"*

*"I reconnected with a couple of guys from my era, one I hadn't seen in 42 years, the other in 37!"*

*"I would certainly come back again for another visit! Many thanks for a lovely day."*

*"We thought it was excellent, thanks to Mrs English & the team for organising - the 'tour guides' were fantastic, it really came across that they enjoy being at Owens to learn and were proud of their school."*

*"As I had previously been to the school (I was a guest at the opening and have visited frequently since), I didn't go on a tour of the new buildings but spent the entire time gossiping with Old Owenians - which was great!"*

### Visits from Down Under!

We were also delighted to receive visits from two Antipodean Old Owenians who were in the UK this month, but couldn't attend our Coffee and Tour Morning. Professor Ray Fells, of the Business School, University of Western Australia, Perth, left Owen's in 1966 and emigrated shortly after. He sent a lovely email of thanks and reflected on his visit: "I thought what a fine education our daughters would have had if we had stayed in Mutton Lane (Potters Bar). They did well at the Schools they went to in Perth but what Owens has to offer is so impressive."



Mrs Valerie Kay, nee Davey, also coincidentally from Perth, was taken on a tour of the school by Mr John Godfrey, one of our Deputy Heads, and brought her Prefects badge all the way from Australia to show us—a beautiful design with pomegranates (from Dame Alice Owen's coat of arms—see right). She left our Islington Girls' School in 1957 and her son keeps her in touch with our Newsletters as she doesn't own a computer! We've JUST received a letter from her and she recounts some of her memories on page 31. We hope they can both time a visit to the UK next year to take part in one of our 400th anniversary events.

### Deputy Head Girl, Alice Robinson, reports on her Diamond Jubilee Luncheon with the Queen!

Thanks to Alice (co-incidentally daughter of Nick Robinson, BBC News Political Editor, who has volunteered to be one of our comperes for our 400th anniversary concert at the Royal Albert Hall), for reflecting on her visit to London after a chance selection, when her name was pulled out of a hat to qualify to attend:

*"Before entering the imposing Westminster Hall, I have to admit I was pretty nervous. I was surrounded by smartly dressed women and men and felt just a little awkward. However, once past these initial feelings, I had an amazing time at the celebration lunch. The National Youth Orchestra (made up of 7-13 year olds) was very impressive, and of course the food was incredible, especially the desserts!"*

*I was able to find out all about both the Brewer's Company and the Leatherseller's Company. But, naturally, the best part of the meal was when the royal family processed down the aisle, which was lined by Beefeaters. It was amazing to actually see the Queen in the flesh, and, as a royalist who watched the Jubilee pageant from the side of the Thames, being part of the Jubilee was extremely exciting. Overall, the experience was amazing; an occasion I will never forget."*

### Beer Money goes up!!!

One of our most frequently asked questions on our Coffee and Tour morning was

"How much money do students now receive as Beer Money?", so we thought we'd let you know in our Newsletter! You can read more on our School History webpage: [http://www.damealiceowens.herts.sch.uk/about\\_us/school\\_history.html](http://www.damealiceowens.herts.sch.uk/about_us/school_history.html)



**Year 7 (first year)**—students attend a formal Beer Money ceremony at The Brewers Hall in London where they receive a £5 commemorative coin in a presentation pack from The Master of the Worshipful Company of Brewers.





**Years 8-13**—students complete the ceremony at the school itself, but still receive Beer Money from The Master. By tradition, the ceremony is held on the very last day of the Summer Term and although students are now allowed to acknowledge the gift (they complained that they weren't allowed to say thank you!), it is still mostly conducted in silence to emphasize the solemnity of the occasion. The amount given depends on the students age:  
 Year 8 - £1, Year 9 - £2, Year 10 - £3, Year 11 - £4, Year 12 - £5, Year 13 - £6  
 The Head Boy and Head Girl receive £10 in recognition of their additional commitments beyond their own study.

### 400th Anniversary email list hits 2,950 this month!



Thanks to all of you who have been **"spreading the word"** to former student friends—you are doing an amazing job! If they've not signed up yet, simply ask them to send us their year of leaving date to: [400years@damealiceowens.herts.sch.uk](mailto:400years@damealiceowens.herts.sch.uk). Imagine if everyone finds **JUST ONE** other person to join, we'd double our list...

Please remember to keep us up to date if you change your email address—we get around 1.5% of emails returned each quarter as undeliverable, which we check for input errors or re-mail using a second email address if provided, otherwise they are deleted and you miss out on our Newsletters!

It is especially important that you keep us updated in anticipation of our 400th anniversary year, as ticket information will be sent via email. Tickets for some events will be offered on a first come, first served basis and we'd like to give everyone equal opportunity to apply.

### 400th Anniversary News Supplement now available!



The cover page of the 400th Anniversary News Supplement for June 2012. It features the school crest and the text '1613 2013' at the top. The title is '400th Anniversary News Supplement—June 2012'. Below the title, it lists the producers: 'Produced in addition to our Staff Term School Newsletter and our Old Owenians Newsletter, for our whole school community: Students, Parents, Staff, Governors, OSA (Owen's School Association), Old Owen's Association and all Old Owenians'. The section '400th anniversary events' follows, detailing the January launch and the March drama production. It also mentions the April concert at the Royal Albert Hall. The page is numbered 'Page 1 of 3' at the bottom.

To help us keep our whole community updated with the same messages, we have produced a **400th Anniversary News Supplement**, which pulls together all aspects of our anniversary plans as we get closer to 2013. Our journey started almost 2 years ago, in July 2010, when we held our first 400th anniversary main committee meeting, chaired by Gary Kemp, and we feel we're on target for creating a memorable year and generating a lasting legacy to commemorate the Dame Alice Owen's Foundation. Old Owenians are part of that legacy and we hope to build on our renewed contact with you in years to come, not just in 2013!

Please read our summary programme of events for the year to date in our **News Supplement**: <http://www.damealiceowens.herts.sch.uk/2013.html>, dated 18th June, 2012 and see below and over for more meat on the bones!

### 400th Anniversary Concert—Royal Albert Hall

Plans for our 400th Anniversary Concert at the Royal Albert Hall on **Tuesday 23rd April 2013**, are well under way and a draft programme of musical and dramatic items are being worked on by Old Owenian, Sir Alan Parker, Deputy Head, Bob Pepper and Director of Music, Simon Werner.

### Bob Pepper is recruiting musicians!

Bob Pepper is looking for past Symphony Orchestra members to play at the Royal Albert Hall! If you still play regularly and are keen to be part of the performance please contact Mrs Karen Acosta on: [acostak@damealiceowens.herts.sch.uk](mailto:acostak@damealiceowens.herts.sch.uk) or ring her directly on **07976 155719** for more information. In addition, Bob would also like anyone who used to sing in the school choir and would like to be part of the SATB (Soprano, Alto, Tenor and Bass) massed choir to also contact Karen as soon as possible.

### Tickets represent excellent value...

**...priced within a range of £5-£25, excluding £2 booking fee (£5 for performers and students, £10-£25 for general sale).**

We hope our whole school community will have the opportunity to attend an incredible concert at one of London's most prestigious venues. Tickets will be sold through the Royal Albert Hall Box Office and Old Owenians will be notified via our 400th email list when tickets will be available on their website, in conjunction with a ParentMail to parents and internal mail to staff. Initially, there will be around 3,500 tickets on sale—as you may or may not know, debenture holders have to be offered tickets first, if not, they can be resold to the school, so there could be up to an additional 750 tickets on sale. We suggest you might like to start planning any purchases in advance, so you can book tickets as soon as they become available. Why not take a virtual tour of the Royal Albert Hall on their website at:

<http://www.royalalberthall.com/about/virtual-tour/default.aspx>?

### Old Owenians to record event!

Two former students, who run Footpath Films (<http://www.footpathfilms.com/>) have agreed to record the Royal Albert Hall performance to produce a limited number (500) of DVD's to sell at £12 each. They will also be recording the Thanksgiving service at St Paul's Cathedral. More details to follow!

### School Day to be transferred to evening for 400th Anniversary Concert!

On **Tuesday 23rd April, 2013**, our school day will be "moved" to the evening, to enable rehearsals during the day and for all students to attend. Most students in Years 9-13 will be expected to make their own way to the Royal Albert Hall, with parents, although there'll be the option for those in Years 7 & 8 to travel under supervision from Potters Bar. We're very grateful to parent, Mrs Karen Acosta, who has had extensive experience in arranging musical events at London venues for agreeing to support the preparations and logistics of organising equipment, instruments and performers on the day.

### Unveiling of Historical Display in January 2013—your support needed!

Our Art Department staff, Miss Lorna Veerayen and Mr Petros Anastasi, along with Mr Richard Morely (Maths) and Mrs Barbara Miller (Politics) are working with Old Owenian, Ken Rowswell, to produce our display exhibit. The full size is due to be 2.2m high and 10.7m maximum length (made up of 3 panels and joining boards, which can be concertinaed).

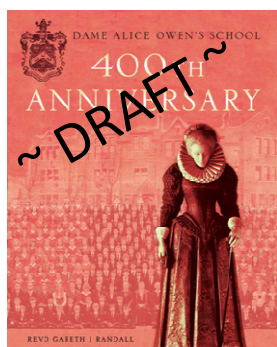


They are currently requesting memorabilia items from the school community to photograph for the display and suggestions of any details to add to a timeline. If you have any items or ideas to include, please email Lorna (Art Department) direct : [veerayenl@damealiceowens.herts.sch.uk](mailto:veerayenl@damealiceowens.herts.sch.uk).

We are very grateful to the Old Owen's Association for funding the equipment and technical support for this project. It is anticipated it will become a semi-permanent feature in our main foyer and has the flexibility to be transported—draft left.

### "Dame Alice Owen's: A History 1613-2013" - advance copies available to order!

Still on a historical note, our new publication, written by Reverend Gareth J Randall as part of our 400th anniversary celebrations, will be available in November this year and can now be ordered at a pre-publication price. This beautiful hardback **limited edition** of 250 pages contains numerous wonderful illustrations from our 400 year-long history and profiles written about our famous alumni by parent Rosie Millard, freelance journalist and former Arts correspondent for the BBC.



If you would like to reserve a copy, advance orders may be placed online at a discounted rate of £22. From publication in November, the book will be available for purchase at £25 a copy. Advance orders must be placed by **Friday 19th October 2012**, with payment, to secure the discounted rate – size of book 22.5cm x 28.5cm.

To order by post:

1. Click here <http://www.damealiceowens.herts.sch.uk/wisepay.html> and follow the **Old Owenians Link to WisePay** to make your payment – postage rates apply for UK, Europe and International Orders.
2. Then, **YOU MUST SEND** your name and address to Miss Rachel Shirley **via a separate email** ([shirleyr@damealiceowens.herts.sch.uk](mailto:shirleyr@damealiceowens.herts.sch.uk)), with details of your order, to link payment to your purchase, which will be confirmed. The book will then be sent to you on publication.

May we offer congratulations to parent, Rosie Millard, who apart from her literary employ and being mother of four, has just completed a marathon on the Great Wall of China (or GWC to those in the know!) and has been invited to be one of our comperes at the Royal Albert Hall next year.

### 400th Anniversary Thanksgiving Service—St Paul's Cathedral

It has been agreed that a working group will decide on the final Order of Service, choice of hymns and readings, combining traditional elements with a modern relevance for our whole school community.

Dr Alan Davison has negotiated with First Capital Connect for two extra timetabled trains, for Dame Alice Owen's exclusive use, to transport half of the school to Moorgate, with the remaining half using normal timetabled trains.

It is anticipated that around 1,630 students and staff will leave Potters Bar and make the pilgrimage to St Pauls at around 11.30am on **Tuesday 30th April, 2013**, to travel to London—logistics of lunch and facilities are being worked on! Note—to our Old Owenians abroad—the steps are now clear from tents...

In case you're wondering why we're not using coaches, it's because they are comparatively expensive and any traffic delays would lead to unpredictable timings. All guests need to be seated by 1.15pm for a 1.30pm start and students will return to Potters Bar immediately after the service to catch their usual buses home! You can see what a challenge this will be on the day!



*St Paul's Cathedral steps—April 2012.  
Clear of tents and in the rain—obviously!*

We've had many requests from you about how you can join us for this event. There will be an estimated **200 additional seats available each to both parents and Old Owenians**. We've decided the fairest way to give everyone who wants to come, equal opportunity to attend, that we'll hold separate parent and Old Owenians ballots, with what has become the "norm" for such occasions! Details of how this will work will be available in our September edition of this Newsletter.



### **Sir George Frampton lies beneath St Paul's**

The sculptor of our Dame Alice Owen's statue, Sir George Frampton (1860-1928) is buried in the crypt at St Paul's; a figure adorns the wall in his memory (left). See if you can find it next time you visit! In particular, he is famous for his sculptures of Peter Pan in Kensington Gardens and Edith Cavell (British Nurse in WW1) in St Martin's Place, London. His statue resides in our dining room.

Made from marble, bronze and alabaster, it was added to the Islington School in 1897 to commemorate the opening of the new East Wing, built to accommodate the increase in pupils from 300 to 400 by Head, Mr James Easterbrook. Dame Alice Owen's statue aptly features prominently on the cover of our new historical book, as previously shown.

### **400th Anniversary Summer Ball and Reunion—Dame Alice Owen's School**

This Black Tie occasion on **Saturday 13th July, 2013**, will be a stunning way to end the summer and with only 40 tables of 10 for our whole school community, we suggest you start getting your table together now. At £85 per ticket, this will be a top class evening and you'll probably need to budget ahead—tickets will go on sale from the OSA (Owen's School Association), at the end of September, with details sent out in the September Old Owenians Newsletter, at the same time as a ParentMail to parents and internal mail to staff. A toast to Dame Alice Owen will be made after dinner and an auction will be held.

### **400th Anniversary Memorabilia now available!**



Our OSA are now selling a great range of 400th memorabilia at most school events. If you're interested there are items for everyone from an Owen Bear to a glass etched Tankard! Your editor already sports her new white zipped hoodie with embroidered logo to the gym!!!

All details, if you wish to browse, are on their website at: <http://www.theosa.org.uk/>.

Any profits from our 400th activities are being given to the 400th new science building appeal.

### **Islington Peoples Plaques**

You might remember voting to commemorate the site of Dame Alice Owen's Girls' School air raid shelter, which was bombed in World War 2, killing about 150 people. Islington Council offered a public vote to award 3 people/sites with a plaque. About 3,500 people voted (3,000 last year) and yet again our site came a close 4th with 406 votes and third place going to Cyril Mann (1911-1980), painter and sculptor, with 419 votes. We did beat Michael Faraday, Isabella Beeton and Alexander McQueen!!! You can read the full results at: [http://www.islington.gov.uk/islington/history-heritage/heritage\\_borough/bor\\_plaques/Pages/peoplesplaques.aspx](http://www.islington.gov.uk/islington/history-heritage/heritage_borough/bor_plaques/Pages/peoplesplaques.aspx). Let's see if we can go for a win in 2013, in our 400th anniversary year! If at first you don't succeed...

### **School to have its own plaque**

You may have read that Gary Kemp unveiled David Bowie's Ziggy Stardust's plaque on Heddon Street in London on 27th March. Well, we hope that one day soon, he and members of Spandau Ballet (with the exception of brother, Martin Kemp, who attended the Central Foundation Boys School), will unveil a blue plaque (ready and waiting!) in their honour, for their first performance ever as a group, in our school dining hall! We just need to get them together...



### Owen's support local U3A – The University of the Third Age

As mentioned in our article on the front page, the U3A in Potters Bar use our facilities to support three of their activities during term time, when classrooms are free. For ladies and gentlemen, once a week in the daytime, there is a painting class, (during which expert tuition is often given by some of our Art staff!), a scrabble session is held one evening and men have the opportunity to take part in a daytime cooking class, hence their involvement with our students for the Diamond Jubilee. Students are mainly unaware of U3A's presence, but on one men's cooking occasion when a tea towel was accidentally left on a hot ring and smoke set the fire alarms off, the whole school had to exit to the netball courts, much to their delight!



We are told by organiser, Ms A Lamport, who arranges the groups, that some Old Owenians attend! Although the painting and cooking classes are currently full, you can read more about the Potters Bar U3A on their website at: <http://www.pottersbaru3a.org.uk/index.html>.

### Old Owen's Golf Society—open to new members!

The Old Owen's Golf Society was formed at the North Middlesex Golf Club, Whetstone in 1933, and has been active since then (with the exception of a period in the Second World War): <http://www.northmiddlesexgc.co.uk/> Many excellent trophies have been presented to the Society over the years and these are played for regularly by Old Owenians and their guests on various golf courses in Hertfordshire, North London, and Bedfordshire. In the last couple of years, because many members of the Society getting older and there are insufficient new young players joining, our list of active members has now dropped to below 15. This appeal for new members will hopefully encourage a new generation of Old Owenians to join who can enjoy the fun of playing golf and the social side including the dinner afterwards. **Our remaining two fixtures for 2012 are:**



- 1) **Wednesday 26 September**, teeing off 9.24 at Redbourn Golf Club in a match against Old Stationers Golf Society
  - 2) A three team event on **Wednesday 24 October**, teeing off at 10.30 at Brookmans Park Golf Club (see photo left).
- Should you wish to come to either or both of these meetings you'll be very welcome. For further information please contact Mr Brian Fry at [bifry04@btinternet.com](mailto:bifry04@btinternet.com) or 07841417887.

### Acting success for two Old Owenians who left in 2009!

Miss Phoebe Street (who some may remember as having one of the lead female roles opposite Mr Arun Blair-Mangat in 'Guys and Dolls') and Miss Nicole Black (<http://www.nicoleblack.com/>) have been selected from each of their drama school's cohort of final year students to perform in front of a VIP audience in July as Spotlight Prize 2012 nominees. Photos and further details at: <http://www.spotlight.com/news/archive/2012/03.aspx>—scroll down! This significant event has been responsible for launching the careers of actors such as Judi Dench, Albert Finney and Jim Broadbent. Thanks to Mr Paddy Dodd (Sociology teacher) for this report and we wish them good luck in the summer!

### Diamond Wedding Anniversary Congratulations



Whilst we can't offer a personal telegram, we can tell everyone about two very special Old Owenians who are celebrating **60 wedded years** this August. Mrs Elsie Baker was an Islington pupil and is still the proud owner of her prize for passing the General School Examination of 1946. Her classmate suggested she write to Arthur Baker as a pen friend while he was serving with the RAF in India—also an Old Owenian and was for a time, with the wartime school in Bedford. The rest, as they say, is history and they married in August 1952.

Mr Baker went on to qualify as both an optometrist and primary school teacher, serving both professions until he retired from teaching in the late 1970's. He is currently the oldest practising optometrist in the country. Together they have raised three children and have eight grandchildren, three of whom are getting married this year. Thank you so much to their son, David Baker, for making us aware of their momentous forthcoming occasion and we wish both Elsie and Arthur a very special day in August and many more special days in the future.

### Potters Bar Bowls club inspire our students and lead them to the Olympic Torch!

Organised by Miss K Philp, our schools sports co-ordinator, twelve Year 10-13 students have been attending lunchtime lessons at Potters Bar Bowl Club to extend their skills. In groups of 4, each with a mentor, they have been learning the nuances of the game. Four students will be selected to make up an U19 team to compete in the Herts Youth Games on Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> July. Lucky participants will have the opportunity to witness the Olympic Torch as it finishes its day's run at the Hertfordshire Sports Village, where the games are being held. Potters Bar Bowls Club was formed in 1929 – you can read about them on their website: <http://www.pottersbar-bc.com/>.

### Old Owen's Association Website

Webmaster, Alan Hunter, would like you to be aware that there is a **Forum** section on the Old Owen's Association website [www.OLDOWENS.COM](http://www.OLDOWENS.COM). The Forum could be a way to maybe keep in touch and converse with former colleagues of the School or Association and to express any observations or opinions on any subject that may take your fancy (he says you need to keep it clean, non-political and non-controversial)!



To post an article in the **Forum** you must be a member (membership is FREE and open to either past or present students, past or present staff of Dame Alice Owen's School or a member of the Old Owen's Association). When registering, he requests you simply state your years at the School or whether you are a member of the Old Owen's Association for verification. You can also add a photo of yourself when registering as a member if so desired!

Alan also suggests that if you would like to add any articles or photos relating to Dame Alice Owen's School or the Old Owen's Association to [www.OLDOWENS.COM](http://www.OLDOWENS.COM), please forward your articles or photos by email to Alan Hunter at [alan@searchco.co.uk](mailto:alan@searchco.co.uk). He looks forward to your contributions! The Old Owen's Association is based at the Old Owen's Sports Ground and membership fees are used to support the facilities. If you wish to join, please complete a membership form as shown on our website at:

[http://www.damealiceowens.herts.sch.uk/about\\_us/old\\_owens\\_association.html](http://www.damealiceowens.herts.sch.uk/about_us/old_owens_association.html)

### Forthcoming Event at Old Owen's Sports Ground!

**Saturday 7th July, 2012**—Old Owen's Cricket Club "Hog Roast" - see their website for more details at: <http://oldowens.play-cricket.com/home/home.asp> or call the club on 01707 644211 for any enquires/tickets. Tickets will be also be available from Vincent Tanner, Rory Allan and Ken Rowsell in the Cricket Club.

### Jermaine Defoe and Alexandra Burke drop in for a surprise visit!

Members at the Old Owen's Sports Ground were amazed when Spurs and England striker **Jermaine Defoe** (who lives in Cuffley) and 2008 X-Factor winner **Alexandra Burke** (who lives in Brookmans Park) popped in with two of Jermaine's cousins in tow. The celebrities had been spotted earlier having coffee in Potters Bar and were on their way home when they saw the Old Owen's Sports Club with a load of cars in the car park and decided to see what all the fuss was about.

The party of four stayed for a couple of hours watching some kids football matches, having a kick about themselves, chatting, signing autographs and posing for pictures with excited children and parents. See more photos on the Old Owen's Sports Ground website: [www.OLDOWENS.COM](http://www.OLDOWENS.COM).

### Old Owenian to join our Old Owenians Team!

Thanks to Mr Derek Webb, member of the Old Owen's Association, for volunteering to join our Old Owenians Team, which meets once a term at the school to review Newsletter material and progress with our 400th email list. We look forward to your input!

If anyone else would like to be involved, just let us know by ringing Mrs Mandy English on 07941 939613. Our next meeting is being held on Monday 17th September 2012, 9-10am, Balcony Office, Dame Alice Owen's School.



### 400th Anniversary shared with the New River Head!

2013 is also the quartercentenary of the year that the villagers in Islington had fresh water piped from the Lea Valley! Thanks to Old Owenian, Mr Mike Kelly (left in 1949—see page 24) who reminded us in his contribution, of the achievements of Sir Hugh Myddelton, who is chiefly remembered as the man who bought clean water to Islington. Four hundred years ago, he led the New River project, which was opened on **29th September 1613** after 4 years of construction, to bring water from Hertfordshire to London. In his honour, the old Islington Boys' School named one of its Houses, Myddelton House. If anyone fancies a stroll, the waterway starts between Ware and Hertford, supplied by the River Lea, and is still walkable along most of its length (see below left) to New River Head, Islington. It originally terminated near the current Sadler's Wells theatre.

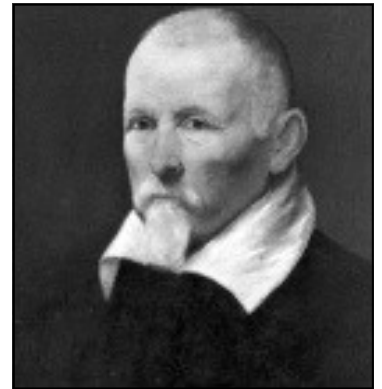


Your editor has managed to obtain an electronic copy of the guide to the New River Path Walk (28 miles), from Thames Water (thanks very much to Craig Rance in their Press Office), who sent a PDF of their latest leaflet, which is now out of print, (dated 2003), saying they hope to update it in 2013! See our Old Owenians Newsletter page for details!

Here's an extract below from an article by Patricia Braun, which explains how Huge Myddelton managed to fulfil his dream to improve the facilities for Londoners. His statue now resides on Islington Green and Myddelton Square, Islington is also named after him. More details can be found in the Thames Water leaflet, Heritage Section.

*"Born around 1555, he followed his older brothers to London and on April 2 that year, he was apprenticed to Thomas Hartopp of the Goldsmiths' Company. Hugh's name first appears as a liveryman of the Goldsmiths' Company in 1592. In 1604 and again in 1605, he became a Warden of the Company. In 1610 he became Prime Warden and he held this office a second time in 1624.*

*His goldsmith's shop was in Bassishaw (now Basinghall) Street and he lived over it. He also spent much of his time in Denbigh. In 1597, he was alderman of that town and was described in the local records as 'citizen and goldsmith of London and one of the merchant adventurers of England'. He supplied jewellery to Queen Elizabeth I. Hugh maintained his interest in his home town and worked some mines in Wales, where he acquired the practical knowledge of levelling, draining and embanking which came in so useful later.*



*In 1603 Hugh was returned as Member of Parliament for Denbigh and in January 1605 both he and Robert served on a House of Commons Committee to look into the possibility of bringing fresh water from the River Lea into central London. Hugh gradually became obsessed with the dream of improving London's water supply. The population of London at this time was about 300,000. Water came by conduit from the northern heights—the hills round Hampstead and Highgate. The villagers of Islington complained that there was not enough water. Some of it was drawn from wells and delivered by water carriers. Quite often it was contaminated. Hugh's idea was to find a way to bring water from the springs of Amwell and Chadwell in Hertfordshire, partly by means of an open channel and partly through underground pipes, to a reservoir near his own city house – a distance of 38 miles.*



Broadmead Pumping Station,  
New River, Ware

*On March 28<sup>th</sup>, 1609, the Corporation of the City of London formally adopted Hugh's proposal to bring a supply of water from Amwell and Chadwell to Islington. Hugh's condition was that the Court of Common Council transfer to him the powers they had obtained from Parliament. The Corporation agreed, stipulating on their part that work should begin within two months and be finished, if possible, within four years. Hugh kept his side of the bargain to the letter, the first sod was turned early in May 1609 and on **September 29<sup>th</sup>, 1613**, water was permitted to flow into the large reservoir at what is now the New River Head, the very day that his brother Thomas took office as Lord Mayor of London. The total cost of the project was £500,000.*

*Hugh then returned to an old and formerly unsuccessful project of gold and silver mining in Wales. A company of Miners Royal in Cardiganshire had been established in 1604. In 1617, he worked its mines for £400 a year and, after some more costly engineering, succeeded in working them to better advantage, sending so much gold to the Royal Mint that he was made a baronet on October 19<sup>th</sup>, 1622 (the 193<sup>rd</sup> baronet created by King James after his accession) and the first engineer to be so honoured. Hugh's title was Sir Hugh Myddelton in the county of Denbigh."*

### **Staff member nearly curtsies to Dame Beryl Grey!**

Mrs Marion Barron, Learning Support Assistant and much more(!), re-introduced herself to Dame Beryl Grey on her recent visit—Marion worked as a Receptionist at the Royal Festival Hall when she was 18 and Dame Beryl was Artistic Director there at the time, so she met her on several occasions. She remains in awe and still thinks of her as a "little like royalty" so admitted nearly curtsying when seeing her again in the Head's office during her visit in May.



### Science Society Speakers September 2012–March 2013—all welcome

Mrs Kika Dorotheou has once again arranged a list of distinguished speakers for our Science Society for the next academic year. Old Owenians are very welcome to join us on any of the evening occasions below, which will all be held on a Wednesday, 7-8pm in our main hall. Simply email Kika to let her know you'll be attending: [dorotheouk@damealiceowens.herts.sch.uk](mailto:dorotheouk@damealiceowens.herts.sch.uk). There are other lectures, mainly for students, which will be held at lunchtimes. January events are still to be confirmed—a full list will be published on our website under Latest News in the first week of the Autumn Term.

Science Society Evening Lectures 7-8pm, Main Hall from September 2012-March 2013	
Date	Speaker
Wednesday 19 <sup>th</sup> September	<b>Dr John Ioannou</b> Hon Senior Lecturer and Consultant, UCL & Great Ormond Street Hospital. Centre for Rheumatology.
Wednesday 26 <sup>th</sup> September	<b>Mr Harry Vekeria</b> GTIS DSS Engineering and Architecture "Designing an IT system (trading): IT/ Engineering and Business. Considerations"
Wednesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> October	<b>Professor M. Poliakoff</b> University of Nottingham "Green Chemistry and approaches to sustainable chemistry"
Wednesday 17 <sup>th</sup> October	<b>Professor Tony Hurford</b> Formerly Prof. of Geology and admissions tutor for the Dept Earth Sciences, UCL "Earthquakes, Volcanoes and our Dynamic Planet"
Wednesday 24 <sup>th</sup> October	<b>Mr Nick Hufton</b> From Shephard Epstein Hunter   architecture planning landscape. "Design: Art or Science?" With reference to architecture, civil engineering and related design.
Wednesday 7 <sup>th</sup> November	<b>Dr Jeya Balakrishna</b> Consultant Forensic Psychiatrist "Mad or bad: Our county forensic psychiatrist considers medical, psychosocial and legal issues around mentally disordered offenders"
Wednesday 21 <sup>st</sup> November	<b>Dr Huw Williams</b> Faculty of Natural Sciences, Imperial College "Tuberculosis"
Wednesday 5 <sup>th</sup> December	<b>Professor Martin Bomak</b> Department of Epidemiology & Public Health, University College London "Why some people live longer than others?"
Wednesday 6 <sup>th</sup> February 2013	<b>Dr Jeremy Brown</b> Centre for Respiratory Research UCL Division of Medicine "Streptococcus pneumoniae -the major bacterial cause of pneumonia"
Wednesday 27 <sup>th</sup> March 2013	<b>Professor Minhyong Kim</b> Professor of mathematics, Oxford University "Theory of numbers or the the- ory of space"

### OSA (Owen's School Association) would like to invite you to our Summer Fete!

If you're local (or even if you're not!), you are very welcome to come along to our OSA Summer Fete being held on Saturday 7th July at the school from 1-4.30pm. Please see their splendid poster on their website for more details: <http://www.theosa.org.uk/>. A real family occasion!

### Who remembers their Head Boy, Head Girl, or Deputy's?

We've started to add all our past Senior Prefects to our current webpage: [http://www.damealiceowens.herts.sch.uk/about\\_us/senior\\_prefects.html](http://www.damealiceowens.herts.sch.uk/about_us/senior_prefects.html) and would like to enlist your help to fill in the gaps. It was a Senior Prefect Reunion, in February 2011, which first started us on our journey to being able to keep in contact with so many of you, by asking our guests to "spread the word" of our 400th anniversary! If you know any of the missing names, please let us know, or ask them to get in contact with us at: [400years@damealiceowens.herts.sch.uk](mailto:400years@damealiceowens.herts.sch.uk) so we can create a permanent online record of the history for the school.

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

As you might once again remember from our last edition, our Year 7 parent and writer, Ruth Baker, kindly volunteered to provide a series of interviews with current members of staff who have served the school for many years. In this, her final interview, she appropriately tackles the infamous Bill Hamilton-Hinds, who reminisces about the changes he has seen in the (more than) half century he has been at Owen's.

We thank Ruth very much for giving us an insight into their memories by recording valuable historical details and wish her good luck with her future endeavours.



#### **WILLIAM HAMILTON-HINDS—JOINED 1955**

Interview by Ruth Baker

Bill Hamilton-Hinds, known affectionately by many as Hammy-Hinds, has a desk covered in vases of carnations in the centre of the staff-room and a drawer full of Kit Kats which he dispenses to staff to keep their spirits up.

He seems to be the lynchpin which keeps the wheels of the school running smoothly. This impression is reinforced when he jumps up to answer the phone in the middle of our interview. "If I don't answer it, no-one will," he apologises. He certainly is involved in every aspect of school life -from ensuring essential staff cover and tackling the malfunctioning photocopier to sorting out arrangements for the 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations.



Bill remembers how he first joined the school in 1955 as a student; the first year was then known as the 2<sup>nd</sup> form. In his third year he was in 'Remove Sparrow', his form tutor being Mr John Sparrow (left). Bill passed the 11-plus and had his pick of grammar schools but chose Owen's because a member of the family had already attended the school and because two of the boys from his local church would be going to Owen's with him. So began an almost unbroken span of more than 50 years at the school. He was in the Upper Sixth for the 350<sup>th</sup> anniversary and now plays a key part in preparing for the 400<sup>th</sup> celebrations.

Bill tells me that, while the girls' uniform has changed a number of times over the years, the boys' uniform has remained remarkably unchanged since he attended the school as a pupil. Only the sixth formers, who still had to wear school uniform, had an additional stripe in their tie. However in the 1950s, the younger boys still wore short trousers. "It was very chilly in winter waiting to alight from the number 73 bus at the Angel with the wind whistling around your knees."

The boys also had to wear caps. Some of the boys used to push their caps into their pockets and only put them on when they saw a teacher approaching. "One of the boys got the nickname Fluff because his cap was always covered in fluff from his pocket," Bill remembers. Despite his early misdemeanours, Fluff eventually became head boy.

It seems teenage boys haven't changed much in 50 years - even if they are now fighting different battles. School caps are no longer worn but when Bill walks along the school corridors he sees students quickly tucking in their shirts before they receive a reprimand.

Of course some things have changed since the 1950s. Corporal punishment has long since been abandoned. Music lessons, which used to consist in little more than hymn practice, have now become much more interesting. The students learn about music from all over the world and have a chance at composition. And for games lessons the students used to take the steam train from Finsbury park up to the playing fields in Whetstone for the whole morning or afternoon. The first lesson would always take place in the old army huts on the field.

One of the biggest changes is that boys and girls are now taught at the same school. In those days the boys' and girls' schools were kept quite separate. The students used to talk about the 'Great Wall of Owen's'. The girls were not allowed to walk in front of the boys' school and were not allowed to talk to boys in the vicinity of the school - not even to their own brothers.

One way of meeting members of the opposite sex was to attend dancing classes on a Monday evening which were run by the PE teacher. The students learnt ballroom dancing, and other styles of dance. Acting in plays also gave the students from the two schools a chance to mix - although even then sometimes boys took on the female roles. One of Bill's contemporaries was Sir Alan Parker who went on to become a film director. His work includes *Midnight Express*, *Bugsy Malone*, *Evita* and *The Commitments*.

Bill knew him because they acted in a number of plays together. Bill played the part of St Michael in the play *The Hopeful Travellers*. "I wore a long gown," he recalls. "And I had to pull a bell cord. But someone mixed up the sound effects. Instead of ringing a bell, a trumpet sounded."

In the sixth form, Bill became a prefect. "We wore short gowns. We were able to give out detentions and lines. The prefects operated from the Old Library and if you transgressed you had to go to the library and copy out the school line," he says. A punishable offence was entering the school through the Armoury Door, a beautiful oak studded door which was only to be used for exiting the building. "Boys being boys, they used to try and sneak in rather than go the long way round."

After the head boy was replaced for drinking in a pub, Bill, together with two other students, took on the role of head boy. One of his duties was to go to Covent Garden to purchase carnations for Visitation. These are still worn by students at Visitation Prize Giving today. He says the tradition originates from the days when the perfume of the flowers was used to disguise 'the stale smell of pre-deodorant boys'.



Bill HH with fellow teachers on a school trip in April 1976—photos courtesy of Ms Sara Wayland

Bill left the school in 1963 to attend Borough Road College in Isleworth for teacher training and three years later he was offered a job back at his old school as a maths teacher. He then taught maths at the school for 38 years, first in Islington and then in Potters Bar. He taught most of the members of the pop group Spandau Ballet: Tony Hadley was in his form in Islington and he taught Gary Kemp O level maths.

One day, Bill remembers, there was a quiet tap on the staffroom door and a young boy announced: 'Please sir, there's a car in the hall.' He went to investigate and was met by the surprising sight of a red mini parked in the middle of the entrance hall. Some of the students had managed to lift the car up two steps, through the double doors and deposited it in front of the statue of Dame Alice.

Bill took on the pastoral role of year head for nine years and later in his career taught computing as well. The first computers were connected to a tape recorder where the data was stored. "You had to make various adjustments, and set it to the right volume, and if you were lucky the computer would burst into life," he says. When he finally retired from teaching he decided stay on part-time as the school administration officer.

While Bill has not married, he has taken on the duties of fatherhood for a few years. One of the boys at the school was orphaned at the age of 15 and Bill's kind heart prompted him to offer the student a home so that he was able to continue his education at Owen's.

Bill has contributed to the school enormously, far beyond his official duties. Bill set up the gramophone society for the students and introduced the head teacher Gerry Jones to Elgar's *Enigma Variations*. He started the 1613 social club for sixth formers and students who had recently left the school. He even rewrote the school song when the two schools amalgamated because the old football song no longer seemed appropriate. Now, he is still involved in the Old Owen's Association, he is a member of the Old Owen's Lodge of the Freemasons which fundraises for the school and he organises the end of term luncheons for staff. He says: "It is surprising how the past 46 years have flown by."



When our time is up I feel I have barely begun to scratch the surface but the school bell rings at 12.35pm and duty beckons. Bill bids me a brisk farewell and disappears through the staffroom door to supervise the latest generation of students on their lunch break.



And now for your contributions...



### BRIAN RUST – 1922-2011

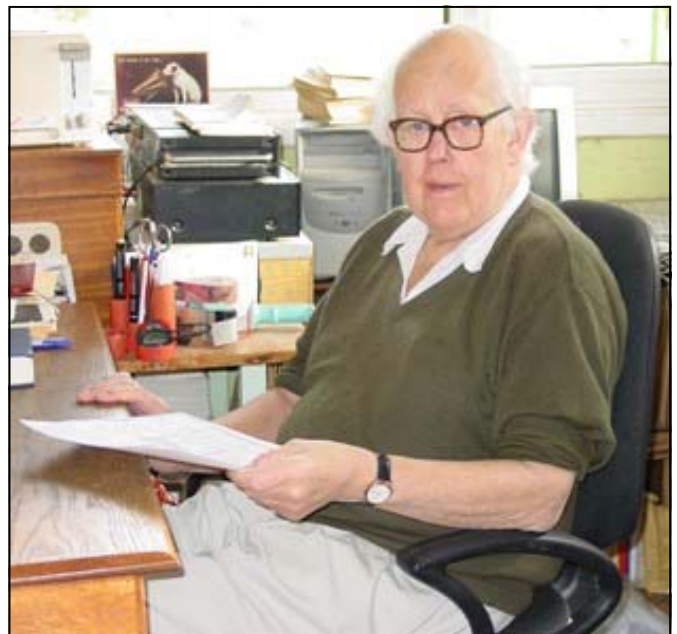
Thanks to Mr Vic Rust, who has sent us this very interesting account of his father's life, Mr Brian Rust, who attended the school in the 1930's. The family have very kindly donated "The Brian Rust Memorial Language Prize (Junior and Senior)" in memory of Mr Brian Rust and also of his father, Mr Percy Rust, who taught languages and was assistant headmaster of the school until his early death in 1934.

Mr Vic Rust writes, *"the man we simply knew as Dad... was revered by others for his broad knowledge, love of the written word and intellectual curiosity."*

*"Our father was born on 19<sup>th</sup> March 1922 in Golders Green. At a very early age, he took to languages and the written word and became an avid collector of 78r.p.m records, often found in junkshops much to the consternations and frequent disgust of his mother. The death of his father naturally hit hard and he coped by focusing more on his beloved records, relishing the titles, which were often written in European and Cyrillic languages.*

*For a time, after leaving school, he worked as a clerk at the Bank of England, but detested the regimented and repetitive work. During the war, he became a volunteer fireman in London, often whiling away the few quieter moments devouring the latest record catalogues. He then joined the BBC Gramophone Library, where he met his wife, Mary, assisting presenters with their choices of records to be played but, in the early fifties, he decided to become a freelance writer and journalist, writing many an article about jazz for periodicals and sleeve-notes for album records.*

*But it was with his meticulous approach to discographical research that he became most famous and celebrated, setting a standard that has rarely changed over the years. After producing a range of titles in book form about the subject, he was invited to join Capital Radio in London in 1973 as one of the first DJ's where he became a weekend night staple with his show Mardi Gras. Modernisation at the station in 1986 forced him off the air and he semi-retired to Swanage in Dorset, although he still continued to work long days on his research. Ill health came to him in the new millennium eventually requiring him to give up his beloved work. He passed away peacefully on the morning of 5<sup>th</sup> January 2011."*



### DAVID PEARCE – left 1949

Thanks to Mr David Pearce, who has kindly sent these additional reminiscences of Form IIAi and the V2 rocket bomb, inspired by Mr David Bisset's article in our March Newsletter.

*"I was delighted to read the article by David Bisset in the latest edition of the newsletter. I was also one of the boys who joined Form IIAi at Islington in 1944. My introduction to Owens first took place some months before. Together with a number of other boys we assembled in the lecture room under the firm, but kindly eye of Mr Dixon. We then sat an entrance examination while, unknown to us, Mr Dixon made notes upon our appearance and behaviour (or so we believed). Some weeks later a letter arrived informing my parents that I had been awarded a Foundation Scholarship, much to my mother's delight.*

*September soon arrived and with it our first day at school. I lived in Crouch End, North London and the journey to school involved two buses. As has been said the war had reached the final stage in Europe but southern England still had to cope with the V1 and V2 weapons. I can recall standing at a bus stop waiting for my bus home when a V2 rocket exploded not far away. The intervening houses shielded surrounding areas from much of the blast but chimney pots still fell from nearby houses. Not a pleasant experience for a ten year old boy.*

*The school itself was in a rather dilapidated condition. The toilets were Victorian to say the least. The Civil Defence still used the majority of the building but we had the benefit of their canteen for unauthorised snacks. The air raid shelters in the playground provided us with some excitement as sheets of rusty corrugated iron were lying around which we used to toboggan down the sloping, earth covered sides of the shelters. That is until one of the boys cut his wrist very badly on a sheet of corrugated iron.*

*As David has said our form master was Captain W.C.Cole. He soon gained a nickname in keeping with his initials. He was a fair but very firm teacher, covering a wide range of subjects with some skill. I suppose to us boys he was something of a Colonel Blimp character, but one who achieved respect. Friday afternoons were something of an adventure as the Captain taught us chess. We spent many a Friday afternoon in competition over the chess board.*

*On one day a week Mr Tricker arrived for our sports day. He was known as an ex- Arsenal player which went a long way to gaining our respect. I seem to remember that he taught us Religious Knowledge. In the afternoon we travelled, without supervision, on a trolley bus to the school playing field at Chandos Avenue. This was yet another unescorted journey for ten and eleven year old boys.*

*Our contact with the main school was limited. We did travel to Bedford on Sports Day where every member of the form was entered in an event. Our unique experience eventually came to an end in June 1945. The war was over and we looked forward to the rest of the school returning to Islington. It was a unique and fascinating period of our life but unfortunately we were too young to really appreciate what we had experienced. Memory is a fleeting thing but highlights of our time in Form 11Ai still return to intrigue us."*



#### **DAVID SHIPMAN – LEFT 1962**

Mr David Shipman toured our school in April during a visit to the UK from Vancouver, Canada and we were delighted that he declared, "If Owen's is an example of an English education, then this country's got it right"!

He has lived with his wife in Vancouver for 44 years after initially joining IBM and was inspired to obtain a Master's degree in Business during his career as a Senior Executive with British Columbia Hydro and Power Authority.

David was in the same Owen's year as Bill Hamilton-Hinds and Sir Alan Parker. One of his younger brothers also attended Owen's and then Cambridge. David hopes to return to the UK next Spring to join us at the Royal Albert Hall for our 400<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration Concert.



#### **PIERS COMPTON—LEFT 2005**

Congratulations to Piers Compton, who has commissioned from the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst on the 13th of April this year. After five years as an officer in the Royal Air Force, Piers decided to retrain as an Army officer, and is now a Lieutenant in the Royal Regiment of Artillery. On completion of his second phase of training at Larkhill in Wiltshire, he will join 32 Regiment, operating Unmanned Air Systems.



## DEREK REEVE – LEFT 1965

Thanks to Mr Derek Reeve for his contribution who says, *“‘Strive with a will, Owenians!’ The Concise Oxford Dictionary defines ‘strive’ thus – ‘struggle, endeavour, try hard, make efforts, contend’. It’s a good word.”* He also kindly sent these two photos of himself in a form photo and a recent one of himself and his grandson.

*“When I was a pupil at Dame Alice Owen’s school for boys at Islington in the 1960’s, I excelled at English, languages, history, geography and music. But, despite trying hard and putting in a great deal of effort, I struggled with Maths (or is it Math now?) OK, I had no problem with basic arithmetic, but beyond that, the subject was, for me, a closed door.*



*I remember very clearly my Maths teacher (who shall remain anonymous) telling me on several occasions that without a good grasp of Maths I would never make anything of my future life. I continued to disappoint my Maths teacher, but I did leave Owen’s with 5 ‘O’ levels and 3 ‘A’ levels (not including Maths!)*

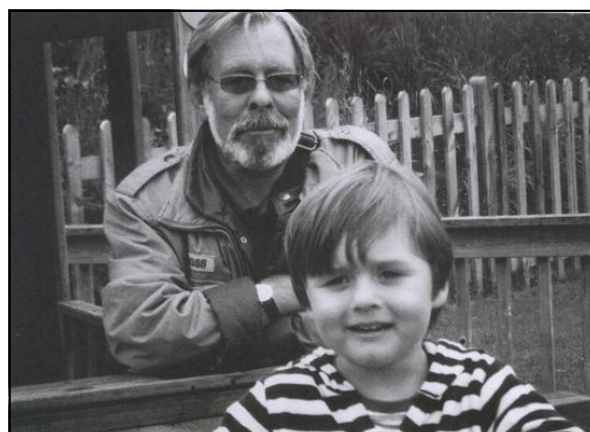
*I looked around for a job but the absence of ‘O’ level Maths on my CV was a recurring problem.*

*Eventually I gained a post at Islington Council in the post room of the Finance Department. I was a general dogsbody, taking post around the Department, making up the coal fire in the Borough Treasurer’s office and delivering his coffee.*

*Interesting as this was (and it was a great way to find out how the Department worked), I became increasingly aware that other lads my age were going off to college to study for the exams of the Institute of Municipal Treasurers and Accountants (later to become the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy – CIPFA). This interested me. But, of course, one needed ‘O’ level Maths to enter the course.*

*I determined that I was going to overcome this barrier. So, I endeavoured, I struggled, I strived, I made great efforts, and I did it!! At the age of 19, I finally embarked on a correspondence course to gain ‘O’ level maths in order to begin my professional qualification course. After a year of not going out with my fiancée or my friends and working late into the night, my endeavours paid off and I began my professional studies. Three years later I qualified. Whilst studying for my professional qualifications, I also gained another 4 ‘A’ levels!*

*Soon I had my own team and, a year later, my own group. I left Islington to take a position as Assistant Borough Treasurer at Greenwich Council; 5 years later I moved to The Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea where I worked as Executive Director of Finance and Information Technology and Deputy Chief Executive until I retired in 2002, having gained the first triple-A Credit rating for a local authority.*



*It’s all down to Striving! You can do it too!”*





### JAMES DUNKIN—LEFT 2000

James kindly sent us news that after his GCSE's, he left Owen's and went on to college, then Bournemouth University, where he studied Hospitality Management. This led him to working at Walt Disney World in "sunny Florida", where he has been for the past two years and will be for the "foreseeable future". We wish him all the very best of luck!



### JACQUELINE GERSHON—LEFT 1938

Thanks to Mrs Jacqueline Gershon for further contributions to our newsletter (see also Edition 5 – March 2012) – she delightfully shares some amusing tales of her early school days. Although she wasn't able to make our Old Owenians Coffee and Tour Morning in May, she hopes to join us for our Open Day on Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> July to see her new "old" school. So here are her stories and anecdotes...

*"About one year ago when my Hungarian friend Marianna's little boy was aged 3 he asked her if she had a baby in her tummy. Why? She asked. Because I would like a sibling. Nursery school sex education???"*

*Back in the buildings (each to their own!) comme on dit (as the saying goes!), when I was 16 at DAOS the class was divided into 2 streams: the Science and Latin, mine, and biology and German, the other... One day the biology students were very excited. They had learned that human sexual behaviour is closest in manner to rabbits.*

*We scientists were very eager to learn more. We heard nothing more than when they asked their teacher, Miss Denn, a young pretty lady, for more details, she shyly lowered her eyes and replied "I'm told it is very pleasurable." End of lesson.*

Another incident... *"We girls were not allowed to speak to any of the boys whose school was separated from ours by a fenced area. One day when I may have been 13 or 14 my friend Peggy de Groot invited me home to tea.*

*Her brother, who I thought was a wimp and wouldn't be seen dead with, walked with us the short distance to the tram stop. Someone must have seen and reported me, because the following day I was presented with my one and only detention. The punishment was to stand outside Miss Bozman's office. How doubly cruel was that?"*

More... *"When we were about 14, in the 4th form we had one year of Domestic Science. The first term was cookery where we learned how to make a Christmas cake, marzipan and icing and decorate with cherries and angelica. I loved glace cherries and all the girls knew it. When the cherries were due to be used they had vanished, nowhere to be found. Miss Welch asked the culprit to own up and all eyes were on me. I am human and have faults. You won't be surprised to hear that I was frequently told to stop talking in class. But a thief. Never.*

*Every morning I attended Jewish assembly before joining the rest of the school in the Hall. Every morning Miss Bozman visited us before joining everyone else in the Hall. And every morning she looked straight into my eyes and said, "Will the girl who took the cherries please own up". I died a million deaths that my beloved Miss Bozman could think so badly of me. Finally, at the end of three stressful weeks the "goodest" girl in the class, Margaret Yates, who always sat in the front row, stepped up to the platform and confessed. Phew!!!*

*Again, Margaret featured in the following. In winter we played hockey in Regents Park. One Friday a head count showed that two girls were missing. I've no idea why they couldn't be identified. However, eventually Margaret Yates and Beryl Brown, the culprits, stepped up to the platform and owned up... The two goodies had preferred the cinema to cold muddy hockey."*

Jacqueline tells us that currently, she is collaborating on two books with the American daughter (published author and academic at the University of Denver) of her old boyfriend during the War. The daughter is interested in Jacqueline's relationship with her father, and her background, especially the War. As Jacqueline has kept all her diaries from 1939 until she was married, she has a wealth of material!

She also has a book recommendation to offer: "Rosalie Edge Hawk of Mercy" the Activist who saved nature from the Conservationists" by Dyana Z Furmansky. Rosalie was an English born American socialite who worked to create the American National Parks. If anyone would like to share other recommendations, please let us know!



## LES GIBBINGS – LEFT 1971

Thanks once again to Mr Les Gibbings, for his third contribution. We are glad to inspire his writing and are quite mortified that a typing error aged him by 20 years on our webpage (now corrected). We cannot apologise enough and judging by the fact that he continues to communicate with us, must surely mean we are forgiven...

*“As each deadline for the Old Owens’s Newsletter comes around, I feel compelled to write down my thoughts about incidents and characters connected with the Islington based school as I always find myself smiling fondly once I start to think about these things from the past. I trust they are taken in the affectionate spirit which they are intended to evoke.*

*There are however, two points I need to make following my previous correspondence with this newsletter. The first is that whilst I may be regarded as ‘old’ or as I prefer it, slightly mellowing, (especially and increasingly around the edges these days), I did most certainly not leave the school in 1951 as was proclaimed last time out. It was 1971, as per the previous submission. Goodness knows what effect such an error might have had on the health of those unsuspecting souls who read it and had believed themselves to be 20 years younger than the article claimed if they had known that they were at the school at the same time as yours truly ha ha!!*

*And secondly, contact by others since last time, together with the FT article on Alan Parker to which you referred in the last issue, reminded me of the special qualities and unique behaviour of another of the ‘Latin’ teaching ‘triceratops’ during my time at the school.*

*How could I refer to the teaching of this ‘classic’ and not give a mention, to Mr Reeves? M.J. Reeves MA (Oxon) to be more precise in terms of his academic declension! No Borough Road College, City & Guilds qualification or even Hull for him! They were for the lesser mortals ....sorry Masters surely. An Oxford education, for those who studied under him, suited his demeanour perfectly.*

*For me Mr Reeves was the living embodiment of Bertie Wooster, ‘ankle-ing’ round to lessons in the Cloisters, even down to the check suits and turn-ups (although the check was more subdued to at least hint at some definite taste in sartorial matters! I seem to recall that this was interchanged with a nice darker grey flannel three piece suit. The hair-cut was the highly traditional short back and sides , much admired by men such as my own father, who as I recall had spent much of my teenage years trying to persuade me to visit the local barbers to no avail ,especially once I started to become more confident with life! The fact is, such hair cuts are all well and fine but they usually left a small cleft of hair loosely bobbing about at the apex of the crown on your head that no amount of gel or brylcream or oil could dampen down (The Goddard twins from my year epitomised the look in those early days at Owens, modelled one might now believe in retrospect on the mighty M.J.Reeves).*

*Anyway, while Mr Glasgow was all dishevelled, Mr Reeves was spick and span smart and tidy. The real wonder however was when he spoke. It was as if he came from another planet to my relatively untutored Hornsey Rise ears! Polished accent and very....very UMC. I had many an uncomfortable lesson with Mr Reeves asking me to elaborate on the Gallic wars, which I was frankly hopeless at translating. But somehow, like Mr Glasgow, he lived in his own private world and always looked fairly astonished at what was going on around him when in school.*

*I recall stepping onto the tube many years later and was amazed to see Mr Reeves sitting in a seat dressed as he had been a decade or so before and looking not one day older. A good and regular application of undiluted Latin must be good for the complexion it seems!!*

*As it is the summer term or thereabouts it is apposite to recall and relate the annual school sports day of an unglamorous year at the Chandos Avenue playing fields when I was press-ganged, sorry, called upon to do my bit for Colebrook House by Ron Erwood , the 1<sup>st</sup> 1X football captain and goal-keeper. My experience of being pulled into events at sports day was probably typical of many who tried but were about as far from ‘athletic’ material as it could ever be their luck to be.*

*My efforts in the high jump event on the far side of the fields brought little joy to anyone except probably the few spectators that had gathered there when they saw me blunder into the high jump rail, fall flat on the messy sand and get eliminated fairly early on. The memory is indeed a painful one.*

The 440 yards was however a marginally different matter although it ended pretty much with a similar outcome. I had not realised that such races were begun with a staggered start and I had the dubious luck of being on the outside lane and hence the furthest forward. In this race were some 'hot' lads from my year, Mark 'the bullet' Franklin, scourge of full backs and representing Myddelton House I believe? Steve 'Is this Economics? Oh, I thought it was History' Bye, representing Cloudsley perhaps, and Vince 'have you heard their latest album?' Sartori, participating for the greater glory of Hermitage probably. There were others I think as it may have been an 8-laner but I really do not recall that detail. The fact is I stood no chance.

We were under starter's orders and off and all I can recall was the sound of the wind rushing past my ears. Not that I was going fast but there was a strong head wind. I hit the first bend. No one came by. I passed the high jump and long jumps down the back straight and all I could pick up was the cheering and sarcasm of other peers who were enjoying the spectacle of class mates suffering.

As I came into the last bend I was daring to dream that I might actually have a chance of winning some points for my house. As I came out of the bend into the top of the final straight with the finishing line in sight, I heard what I can only describe as a heavy thundering on the turf and then Vince cruised up alongside before moving ahead. At this point I can recall believing I had a plan. Hastily concocted but a plan nonetheless. You see all I knew was that the 440 was a race that was supposed to be run at full stretch for as much of the distance as was possible, but now that I had been 'caught' by my pal, I determined I would run in his slipstream and then after sitting on his shoulder for twenty or thirty yards I would sprint past him to steal all the glory. Fool that I am.

As Vince and I entered the final straight, he eased away from me and then almost everyone else in the race started to pass me. My plan was aborted and I decided to just sprint from where I was. My legs behaved more like what might have been termed then as an India rubber than ever before or since. I puffed, panted and after much effort finally grunted in despair as I crossed the line, level with the other last runner I think. Suffice to say that by the time I had got there, the winner, Vince had already been edged away to confirm which house was getting the points. An experience never forgotten as you can tell. I made no repeat performance."



## MARK CAUCUTT – LEFT 1978

Thanks to Mr Mark Caucutt, an Islington and PB Old Owenian (1971-78) who enlightens us with a school uniform story and his 15 minutes of fame in the Sunday Times!

"I thought you might be interested in this photo for the newsletter. It's from the Sunday Times, July 9th 1972.

It was taken before school started one morning in the boys playground in Islington. We were all first years from the last Islington intake. My friends and I were playing football when a reporter and photographer arrived and asked if they could take a photo of us for the Sunday Times newspaper. They told us it was for an article on school uniforms, but to be honest we couldn't have cared less what it was about; we were going to have our 15 minutes of fame!

In this particular case, today's news wasn't tomorrow's fish and chip paper. I still have this paper which brings back some wonderful memories, particularly as two of my school chums featured, have sadly passed away."

Left to right: Freddie Capon (RIP), Ian Fordham, Timothy Saxton (front), John Corb, Chris Ostrowski (RIP), unknown (rear), Marc Caucutt (me), Dino Zavagno.





## Uniforms—'authoritarian repression' or multi-dimensioned democracy?

Nor can I completely sympathise with all the mums (including me) who groan on about the ridiculous expense of school uniforms. Dear parents, as long as your kids are wearing uniform you will never be subjected to constant nagging for a new skirt like Jennie's or new suede trousers like Peregrine's.

Nor will you have to suffer bleary dawn arguments about what is and what is not the proper and right thing to wear to school that particular morning, nor will you be apt to hear the anguished, agonised cry "Mum! You didn't iron my cerise satin shirt. What can I wear?" which sounds even more agonised and

anguished when it's shrieked down the stairs by a 13-year-old boy.

But . . . big BUT . . . though I am totally for the idea of school uniform, I hate its actuality. Why white shirts? Why ties? Why Tweedle-Dum caps? Straw boaters? Why shorts? Why so many different colour combinations ensuring that you can never pass on a hardly worn blazer to a younger child because the "school colours" are different? Why blazers come to think of it?

Why in our alleged Space Age, are young men and women wearing clothes that were basically designed for the 19th century?

Enough questions asked. Let's

keep uniforms for the sake of parents' already raddled bank accounts, for the sustenance of adolescents' precarious self-confidence, for a symbol of teenage democracy.

Let's make the uniform really uni. One kind only. Maybe denim trousers and Mao jacket—Schools' Action might approve. Let's destroy the ridiculous monopolies whereby certain stores and suppliers are the *only* outlet for certain school uniforms. That would bring down the prices. Anyone like to start a pressure group?

**Elaine Grand**

Amazingly, he tells us he's still got his tie and blazer, with leather elbow patches, "although it's a bit on the tight side!" He has even managed to provide us with a photo of the same article and a photo of him outside the school gates on a trip down memory lane a couple of years ago.



Our uniform is still as smart today as it was in 1972, as shown here by our school council representatives 2011/12. Girls wear a pleated pinstripe kilt and Sixth Formers have a "smart office wear" dress code. Some things don't change though—girls skirt length is regularly discussed and boys are not allowed into the dining room with shirts un-tucked!





## MERVYN GILBERT—LEFT 1960

Thanks to Mr Mervyn Gilbert for sending us his memories of the 1950's, inspired by Ms Ruth Goldman's article in our last Newsletter. Mr Gilbert also kindly volunteered his time last June to talk to students about his career in journalism and is still working at the age of 69! Here he is (below) with his wife, Bernice (right) and daughter, Nerys.



*"I was in the middle of compiling one of the pages in the monthly magazine that I edit when I was distracted by an email drawing my attention to the latest newsletter. Because my Apple Mac's antiquated software had not, until now, allowed me to open pdf files, I was anxious to read the newsletter's contents.*

*Page 11 particularly caught my eye -viz the contribution from Ruth Goldman (née Sobol) whom I remember when I was a young virile male attracted by a smiling girl, with pretty face and black curly hair. That's how I remember Ruth when we lived not far from each other and attended Amherst (Sigdon Road) Primary School in Hackney. Funnily enough, I cannot recall much of Ruth at school, although socially I remember she was part of 'the crowd' and a friend of my first girlfriend Gillian Golding, who lived opposite me in Amhurst Road.*

*Ruth later attended Owen's Girls and I went to Owen's Boys, although I would much rather have been the only boy allowed to attend the girls' school. I get breathless at the thought! Her brother Harvey, who was a year or two younger than her, also joined the boys' school. It was wonderful to read all about Ruth's expertise in languages and her later career helping those less fortunate than herself. I would love to get in touch with her and reminisce about the good old days.*

*As for me, I wasn't an academic, although I was good at English, French and German and some other subjects (but not sciences). I left Owen's with four GCE O levels - the aforementioned subjects, plus History. I really enjoyed my time at the school. My earliest memory was being asked by my form teacher at primary school, after passing the 11-Plus, which of three schools I would like to attend: Central Foundation, Grocers (five minutes from where we lived) or Owen's. I asked him: "Which would you recommend?" Unhesitatingly, he said: "Owen's." So my mind was made up. I then had to sit an examination on a Saturday morning and remember having to discuss a poem all about 'shiny apples'.*

*I must have done okay, as I was called back to see Mr James, a bald headed, Welsh history teacher, who was lacking some teeth and constantly chewed on biscuits which he had hidden in a tin in his drawer. I passed this 'oral examination' and when I started at the school, having caught a 38 bus from Hackney Downs Station to the Angel, I was put into 2B form, led by a Mr Gowing, a Maths teacher. My later form teachers included John French (Maths) and Mr Smith, known as JES, which were his initials, and who was an excellent English teacher. Other teachers who tried to teach me various subjects included 'Fanny' Cast (French), for whom I had a great affection, 'Enus' Reeves and a Mr Fitzpatrick (Latin) and a Mr Cattala (or something like that) who taught me enough German in two years to enable me to pass what was really a four-year course.*

*I also enjoyed the sporting element of school life at Chandos Avenue, Friern Barnet, where I played football and cricket, recalling the part played by Reg Tricker, a thin, constantly salivating, sports teacher, who I believe was once on the books of Arsenal (boo!!!). I'm a great Spurs fan.*

*A couple of incidents spring to mind at Owen's. One - a bit naughty this - concerns an older boy by the name of Jagger (not Mick) who had a liaison with one of the younger boys. The story went round the school like wildfire. One day, he was summoned urgently from the playground to attend the headmaster's (EH Burrough) office. Everyone in the know fully expected him to be expelled. Imagine our surprise and his, no doubt - when the head told him the good news that he had won a scholarship to Oxbridge.*



*There was also a young man in my class called David Martins, an immensely shy boy who was constantly bullied and jeered by the nastier types in our form. I can only hope that he adopted a tougher streak when he left school. And there was also the fight of all fights in the quadrangle when a boy called Slaughter almost lived up to his name by assaulting another pupil and slamming a door on the other chap's head, causing him to pass out and to bleed profusely. Sickening stuff for young eyes!*

*I left Owen's to become a cub reporter on a local paper in Woodford Green (coincidentally, just five minutes from where I now live with my second wife Bernice) and also in Loughton. From there, I worked on several leading trade magazines, including the Caterer & Hotelkeeper, where I was news editor, The Grocer for 25 years, becoming industry editor, and then Cash & Carry Management, where I have been editor for 12 years. I still work full time at the age of 69."*

Mr Gilbert has also kindly submitted two images showing the Myddelton House football and cricket teams in 1954. He is the goalkeeper and wicketkeeper in the respective pictures. The photos also appear on the Old Owen's Association website. He has remembered most names but is still trying to identify the others!



*"Cricket pic (back row, l to r): Michael Rand, John Austin, ? Dalziel (I think), Paul Jeffries, Alan Lane, ? Crawford. Front (l to r): Richard sacker, ? Venn, me, ? Forster and Fred West."*

*"Football pic (back, l to r): ??, Aslan Lane, Paul Jeffries (behind me) Fred West, Richard Sacker. Front l to r: Roger Stowe, John Austin, ? Venn, ? Forster and ? Crawford."*







## MICHAEL KELLY – LEFT 1949

Thanks to Mr Mike Kelly for his Islington memories and references to Myddelton House, which inspired the research on page 10 and 11 about Sir Hugh Myddelton.

*"I was one of the 30 boys who started at Islington before the rest of the school came back from Bedford. I originally went to Newington Green School and was the only one who passed the 11 plus (as it was then) and I was rewarded with a scholarship to Dame Alice Owen School.*

*About 30 of us were taught by Captain Cole in all subjects and Mr Reg Tricker took us for sports. I was in awe of Mr Tricker because he had played for the Arsenal Football Club. I remember getting on the 609 trolleybus to Chandos Avenue in Whetstone where the school's playing field was.*

*A vivid memory I have was when a few of us were having a kick about after school in the playground using coats against the art class wall when there was an explosion quite nearby. It was a V2 rocket which came down in the Holborn area. A few moments later a great cloud of burnt books came raining down on us. I thought for many years that it must have been the Holborn Library which had got hit but to date have not been able to find records substantiating the exact place. It was definitely a V2 rocket.*



*I still have a school photo for 1947 (see extract – Mike is the one in the second row from the top and the tallest one in the middle!) and I can remember some of the names of my class. My immediate friends at the time were Len Everitt and Denis Hardman (ahhh, where are they now?). I well remember Mr Hutchins and Mr Lloyd Williams. My memories also include the Collins Music Hall and Camden Passage where there were many antique shops.*

*I was in Myddelton House, and have been close to the New River all my life. As you probably know Hugh Myddelton was responsible for the New River. I well remember the rivalry between the 4 houses, are they still used? (See response below!) Colebrook, Cloudesly and Hermitage.*

*Another memory I have is the school day when a lot of old Owenians would stand at the back of the Hall and we would sing the school song. These old boys used to drive Mr Lloyd-Williams mad by holding the last words of the chorus (to the fray) for as long as they could, stopping him from going on*

*to the next verse. It would be nice if any of the Old Owenians from the 1945 to 1949 time wanted to exchange memories. During lunch breaks and after school we would explore the area around the Angel Islington.*

*If anyone is interested in swapping memories of the middle 1940s I would be happy to oblige—bearing in mind I am now 78 coming up 79!"*

Mike says you are welcome to email him at: [mi.kel@ntlworld.com](mailto:mi.kel@ntlworld.com)

To answer Mike's earlier question, no, the House system is not currently used at Owen's. We have a seven form entry (around 200 students join us each year) and our alternative is to provide competition in sporting and other events (for example, forms who raise the most money for charity) through Inter-form events, which up until this year has included Sports Day.

In this Olympic Year, however, our School Council has persuaded the Senior Leadership Team to adopt an idea to make the whole school feel a bigger and more united community for this year's Sports Day, where anyone will have the chance to win, not just those in the most sporting forms. Now, seven teams overall will compete, with members from different forms in different year groups, led by one of the Senior Student Team (Head Boy, Head Girl and their Deputies, plus one other) – similar to a House system. Each team will have a different colour and be named after a British Olympian. You can read more on page 21 of our Half Term Newsletter – June 2012: [http://www.damealiceowens.herts.sch.uk/news\\_dates/newsletters.html](http://www.damealiceowens.herts.sch.uk/news_dates/newsletters.html)



## NEIL MOTCHAN – LEFT 1945

Many thanks to Mr Neil Motchan for his extremely interesting account of how he ended up at Owen's, memories of his school days and after various careers, how he followed his ambitions to Canada. He describes himself as "an Old -- Very Old -- Owenian: A relic of the wartime "exile" of the school to Bedford". Earlier this year, he recently learned of the modern progress of the school, of which he says he is very proud and declares *"Being a pupil at Owen's was an honour and a pleasure and to be able to feel a small part of that again will give me a great amount of joy"* – hence his excellent contribution below – enjoy.

*"My introduction to Owen's was very circuitous. I sat the LCC Junior County Scholarship in early 1939 but before I could receive the result, I was part of the mass evacuation of London kids. My destination was a little village in East Anglia where, on arrival, I was "picked" by one of a crowd of ladies, just like the old slave markets.*



*As a pupil of the one-room country school, my education took a wild turn, and then I sat the East Suffolk County Scholarship. The result of this was apparently passed to the London County Council education authority because, in the latter part of the year, I received a positive result from the LCC with a list of forty-six (Yes, 46!) high schools to choose from.*

*My first choice was Christ's Hospital—I did so like the uniform—but they didn't think me eligible for them. My next (my real) choice was Owen's School. I have no idea why except that I just had a "feeling". So my mother took me down to Bedford for an interview. This was carried out by Headmaster O.W. Mitchell and, before he accepted me, I "accepted" him, and therefore the school. I was just a tiny (four feet two inches) whippersnapper and he treated me with a respect and kindness which impressed me immediately.*

*And so, my membership of the Owen's clan began. I was certainly nervous when I arrived and was placed in Form One with a bunch of kids I had never met and a very impressive teacher, complete with gown (which I had never seen before). I must say here, in retrospect, that like most other kids in my home environment in Stepney, I was a "lively" child, and joining what I felt was a posh school was a challenge to me and, although I hoped not, a challenge to Owen's.*

*I sort of learned to be careful (not to get caught) but my innermost thoughts told me that I was my own worst enemy, and that I would suffer. At that time, part of the pupil's "equipment", which he had to carry at all times, was his School Journal. This was a book, like a diary and a record book, in which all things to your detriment were entered. One of these things were Conduct Marks. Interpreted, that means that any time you went off the rails (and got caught!), you had Conduct Marks taken away. And these marks were "exchangeable" for any number of punishments.*

*Detentions were just one of these as well as loss of privileges and other happy rewards. A quick example was if you were caught not wearing your school cap (or boater) in or out of school, you lost Conduct Marks. Sad to say, I believe I broke records—for loss of Marks and Detentions.*

*I don't know whether detentions exist today (Yes, they do and you can read our Behaviour and Discipline Policy as part of our Pastoral Care package on our website at: [http://www.damealiceowens.herts.sch.uk/about\\_us/policies.html](http://www.damealiceowens.herts.sch.uk/about_us/policies.html)!) but they did then for a myriad of reasons. When you served a detention (one hour after school) the policy was for you to sit and do "Tots". This was adding up sums, each of which was a page in length.*

*One advantage of having a "season ticket" to the detention room was the fact that, eventually, I compiled the answers to a whole book of "Tots", which gave me the chance to write down just a couple of answers and then do anything I wanted to. Of course, I was eventually discovered and I became a "guest" in the Headmasters office as a reward. My "idol" was an effective discipline server.*

*A few teachers I'd like to remember as they survive in my memory. Miss Cast was my French teacher who I liked but I felt she did not appreciate my talents. An example of this was the fact that she eventually directed me to sit in the front row of desks for every period in her class so that she could see everything I was doing. That sort of things hurts one's pride!*

*Then there was Mr Cummings -- "Gus" to give him his nickname. Looking back I believe he was one of the first Flower Children, although a good teacher but blessed with firmness. His accompaniment in every class was a lump of wood that he named "Willie". And "Willie", which he carried in the folds of his gown, became his weapon for discipline if your behaviour or learning progress was not up to par. Have you ever felt a 2x1 across the back of your hands?*

*A great master, who was liked and respected, was Mr Jesse Smith; a man who I believe delayed his retirement because of the war. But Jesse was almost stone deaf so that when he turned to the blackboard, his class became like Kings Cross Station at rush hour. His secret weapon was his spectacles. When he faced the blackboard, he had a reflection of the class and he could uncannily pick out culprits. An excellent teacher, a really understanding human being and a highly respected person, we all liked him a lot.*

*I must mention the other end of the spectrum—Mr Hutchings the Latin teacher. His was an unreasonable discipline and while his teaching was beyond reproach, his attitude with children and his intolerance made you wonder whether he was still living in the age of the language he taught. But he was part of the school environment.*

*One other personal memory of the school is of the School Captain (Head Boy) in my time. I have always believed that every child must have a figurehead—an example—to look up to and admire and respect. I looked up to Stan Waldman, an individual with feeling, understanding, tolerance and an attitude that was most admirable, even to a kid. I don't know what his future was but I hope he received what he deserved.*

*A great requirement in Bedford was a bicycle. I didn't have one and my parents were not in a position to purchase one for me. The only alternative was to buy it myself and since I had very little money, I decided to get a job and save. I did get a job delivering milk, every day from 5am to 7am.*

*Before too long, I had saved enough to buy a really good bike, and I was able to cycle home to London (52 miles) once a month to see my family. My work ended quite suddenly, though. I was cycling along Bedford High Street one morning on a carrier-bike, a crate of milk in front and behind, when I saw Mr Mitchell walking along to the station on his way to a London conference. Of course, I tipped my hat to him—and suddenly realised I had just hung myself.*

*When he returned, he called me to his office and explained that "our boys" do not deliver milk, and it had to stop. So it did but I had at least, independently, gained a great bike that lasted me through, and beyond, my schooldays. And I held my job for over three years.*

*After leaving school, I obtained employment as a Junior Reporter with the local newspaper, The North London Press. I enjoyed the work of hunting for stories and writing them for the paper, especially when I interviewed celebrities like Margaret Lockwood, Michael Rennie, and Jean Kent. (They were movie greats at that time). But my greatest kick came from interviewing Owen's Headmaster O.W. Mitchell before he left to become Head of the Royal Grammar School, Newcastle. The blush was on a different face! (If anyone has a copy of this interview, we'd love to see it!)*

*My next adventure was entering the forces; first to Retford, then to Catterick and then overseas, where I landed in Port Said, Egypt, on to Suez and, following this, a posting to the Kings Dragoon Guards in Benghazi, Libya. With the KDG's, it was while on manoeuvres that I visited the old Roman ruins in Cyrene, in the Western Desert near Tobruk. Always wanting to check things, I went to see the old Roman baths and to look closer I climbed over the wall. The next thing was I was submerged in five feet of dirty desert water. I suppose I would never learn.*



*Following military service, I married, moved up north and obtained employment with a company which contracted to preserve and rebind books for public libraries. My job was to travel the whole country visiting Chief Librarians to show and explain the service. I stayed over five years before I wanted a change, but during this time, the very wonderful Rev. Ralph "Tubby" Turner (he had retired from Owen's) came out of retirement to christen my first born son.*

*My next job was as an audiologist, looking after the needs of hard -of- hearing folk and I took some years of schooling to achieve a Fellowship of the Society of Audiologists. I went to Canada, my hope for the future, and initially opened the same business in Northern Ontario's Sault Ste Marie. That came to an end when my son sustained bad accidental injuries and I had to move to Southern Ontario. I joined Imperial Oil in their Sarnia Refinery as a Security Accountant and Coordinator, and stayed with them for 26 years, when I retired.*

*It was by straying on my computer that I discovered the "new" Owen's School and its fantastic achievements. The benefits I received from Owen's School? I learned discipline, respect, appreciation and the pursuit of happiness. And I can well remember those great last lines of the school song—"Never Let Your Ardour Cool for the Honour of the School, On Owen's to the Fray". "*

We also offer much thanks to Mr Motchan for his kind donation to our 400th anniversary appeal.



#### **TARNE WESTCOTT – LEFT 1993**

Thanks to Mr Tarne Westcott for complimenting us on the Old Owenians Newsletters! He says "Great effort on the newsletters. It's wonderful to read about familiar names, and occasionally see some familiar faces and hear about what other ex-pupils have done with their lives since leaving Owen's."

Aside from a full-time job in the City, and a young family, he also says he juggles a number of 'things' in his life, which of late extend to include his own software development projects and he's an ultra-marathon runner.

Time management is one of his skills! He has kindly offered his support for our future careers talks as he lives locally and can offer helpful and constructive advice for those aspiring to a career in IT / finance industry, or in fact anyone looking to apply for a university or graduate placement.



#### **ALAN HUNTER – LEFT 1972**

Thanks to Mr Alan Hunter for this highly amusing story about an incident which occurred during the 1964 Visitation ceremony. Alan is the Old Owen's Association Webmaster (see message from him on page 10). Upon reading, we're sure everyone will be able to relate to his bus experience in one form or another! Enjoy!

*"In my time at Dame Alice Owen's School in Islington, the month of July included 'Visitation', 'Beer Money' and the 'End of Term', in that order.*

*The mention of Visitation has brought back memories of the event in my first year at the School in 1964. My class was Form 1c (i.e. Dr. Fanny Cast) and she informed us that for Visitation that year, we would be reciting the poem 'Jellicle Cats' by T.S. Elliott at St. Pancras Town Hall (now Camden Town Hall) which is located on the Euston Road. The performance was scheduled to commence on stage at 19.00 pm and she also advised that Ms Wrigley, the school Drama Teacher (coincidentally mentioned in the March 2012 newsletter) would be choreographing us for the event.*

*On that fateful evening of Visitation, I left my home in Clapton to catch the 73 routemaster bus from its starting point of Stoke Newington Common that would take me direct to St. Pancras Town Hall. Normally the journey would take about 45 minutes at the most, so I boarded the bus around 5.30 pm, which would allow me ample time to reach my destination. However, on this particular evening the journey was horrendous and everything that you could think of going wrong on a bus journey, happened!*

*The bus was having trouble getting going after stopping at each bus stop; the traffic was choc-a-block due to an accident along the route and just to top it all a passenger decided to have an argument with the bus conductor about his fare, which meant that the bus was refusing to move until the passenger either paid his fare or got off the bus. There was nothing that I could do but sit and wait. There were no other buses that I could catch and the 73 buses only ran every 30 minutes. Remember also in those days, bus lanes did not exist.*

*I sat on the bus watching the time ebbing away, shaking my head and muttering to myself over and over, "I don't believe it I'm going to be late" (Some people reading this would say 'no change there then'). I was now in a state of total panic and kept looking at my watch repeatedly trying to calculate how much further the bus had to travel and how much time was left before my class was due to appear on stage. Looking at my watch just seemed to make the time go even quicker, so I stopped looking after a while and resigned myself to the fact that I was going to be late for the performance. I was also not looking forward to facing Ms Wrigley to explain to her why I was late.*

*The bus eventually managed to speed up a bit during the journey as the traffic eased and I arrived at the bottom of Pentonville Road at around 6.58 pm. I was still about a quarter of a mile from the Town Hall and had 2 minutes to get on the stage. I looked through the front window of the bus and saw a wall of traffic, so I decided to jump off the bus and ran as quickly as I could to the Town Hall.*

*I saw my class on the stage, but had no idea how far they had reached in the recital of the poem. The Drama teacher Ms Wrigley saw me, shouted to me "Quick, Quick", grabbed me and pushed me onto the stage via the side. As I got on the stage, my class had just finished reciting the 1<sup>st</sup> verse of the poem and had begun slowly moving to the back of the stage, leaving me in the spotlight on my own at the front of the stage.*

*I was now sweating profusely, not only as a result of my run but also due to the fact that the lights to the stage were beaming down on me. I somehow had to compose myself quickly and it seemed like an age, although it wasn't, before I uttered the 4 words "**Jellicle Cats are Black**". I had now been joined at the front of the stage by another boy (Keith Perrin) who replied with the words "**and White**", at which point we started to claw at each other in a mock cat fight only to be separated by another boy (Phil Maund) who responded with the words "**and Ginger**".*

*That was it, my solo rendition of the whole performance. I can remember the audience roaring with laughter at the three of us, although I was still in a bit of a daze from my previous exploits. After my rendition it felt as if the pressure of the whole world had suddenly been lifted from me and I could now relax and gradually chill out as the rest of recital was mostly done as a group and again I can remember our class getting a rapturous applause at the end.*

*After we had finished our recital, I apologized to Ms Wrigley and explained why I was late. She saw the 'funny side', but told me that I was a 'very lucky boy' as I was a minute away from losing my "Beer Money" not only for that year, but probably for ever. I was so thankful that I made the decision to get off the bus and run even though I thought I had missed my part in the recital. I was also very fortunate that the start of the performance had been delayed by several minutes. Finally, I will leave you to deduce why my presence on stage for the recital was quite essential (see Form 1c class photo below)."*





## SARA WAYLAND (NEE NEWELL)—LEFT 1977

Thanks to Ms Sara Wayland, who left in 1977, for sending her old school badge and school uniform list from 1972, for those who might be interested!



1972

### DAME ALICE OWEN'S GIRLS' SCHOOL

#### SCHOOL UNIFORM LIST

##### FORMS 2 to 5

N.B. Articles marked \* must be bought through the school: all other articles can be bought from any shop, e.g. Marks and Spencers, Jones Bros., of Holloway, etc.

WINTER CLOTHES: Navy and white Prince of Wales check skirt \*  
White blouse with a collar  
Black or dark navy pullover or cardigan not turtle or polo neck, so that the blouse can be seen.  
Black or navy blue coat or raincoat.  
Navy blazer(with school badge \*)(optional)

Forms 4 and 5: Light grey, black or navy pullover or cardigan

SUMMER CLOTHES: As for winter or, if desired,  
Apricot, mauve or green cotton dress. These may be ordered as dresses or as material to make up\*  
Cardigans, outdoor clothes as above, blazer if desired.

Socks and stockings White, beige, grey, navy or black socks, stockings or tights.

Shoes Black, brown, navy or white shoes, or sandals in summer. It is very important that the shoes should give good support for growing feet. The front of the shoe must come up high enough to give a good grip on the instep. Strapless sandals, including Dr. Scholl's, are not allowed, for reasons of safety. Wellingtons or black or brown boots may be worn, but must be changed on arrival at school and left in the cloakroom.

P.E. uniform: Leotard for gym (can also be worn for swimming) \*  
Navy games skirt\*  
Short-sleeved open neck cellular white blouse  
Navy blue knickers (only for games)  
White plimsolls, white ankle socks\*, black or brown hockey boots or shoes (2nd year upwards)  
One piece swimming costume of any colour  
Large towel for showers  
Dark navy track suits or slacks may be worn for games in very cold weather

\* stockings or tights may not be worn for P.E.

Other items: Any yellow or navy and yellow woollen scarf may be worn in winter

6th form Uniform is optional except for P.E. kit, which is the same as for 2 - 5 forms





### **SIR JOHN EDWARDS – LEFT 1954**

Thanks to Sir John Edwards for getting in contact, who is “Still Striving with a Will”. He resides in Australia (and has done for many years) and apologises that due to distance and work commitments, he has been unable to take part in any of the Old Owen’s Association events. Having left Owen’s in 1954, he completed tertiary studies a few short years later - he is a graduate of Oxford and Sydney Universities. He has held a number of senior posts in Australia, the Middle East, Asia and the UK.

As Managing Director of a major Assurance group, he has been involved in the development of insurance operations in the Pacific region and elsewhere for many years. He is currently Director and Chairman of the BioCube Corporation, Australia and works in Papua New Guinea. He hopes to spend more time in the UK to rediscover lost delights with the prospect of “early” retirement at 74 (“a reasonable age to leave the workforce”, he thinks)!



He’s also hoping to put together some more background information for us about the BioCube and how it’s helping the people of Papua New Guinea. In the meantime, we urge you to visit their website home page and from there, watch a brief video of field trials to create fuel from a variety of feedstock to generate sustainable energy and thus independence for its users. Absolutely inspiring! <http://biocubeco.com/>



### **ALEXANDER GRAY—1926-2013**

We’ve just learned news of a past governor of the school, Mr Alexander Gray. The Welwyn and Hatfield Times reported in March that Mr Gray passed away the day after his Diamond Wedding Anniversary on 2nd March. He had a very varied career, including many different roles in the Army and a few years in the Anglo Iranian Oil Refinery in Abadan before becoming a Hertfordshire County Councillor in 1988, with a particular interest in education and the environment. You can read their full report at: [http://www.whtimes.co.uk/news/tributes to potters bar war veteran 1 1328949](http://www.whtimes.co.uk/news/tributes%20to%20potters%20bar%20war%20veteran%201%201328949)



### **COLIN BULL—LEFT 1970**

Thanks to Mr Colin Bull, for telling us about his career and coming to our Old Owenians Coffee and Tour Morning! One of our former Head Boys from Islington, he’s just retired from 41 years service in the Immigration Service, where he spent most of his time at Heathrow, although has also worked at their former headquarters in Croydon and most of the sea and air ports in the south of England at some time point!

For the last eleven years he’s worked at Southampton (and at Portsmouth for a while) where he had the opportunity to travel on a number of cruise ships in order to carry out the passenger control on board. Over the years he says he’s met a lot of very (and not so!) interesting people and hopes to start noting down some of the highlights of what has been a career full of interest, variety and change. We look forward to his account!



### VALERIE KAY (NEE DAVEY) - LEFT 1957

Thanks to Mrs Valerie Kay (nee Davey) for her lovely letter of thanks for her visit to the school in May, and says, "It was a highlight of my trip to England". She wishes us all the best for our 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary and wishes she could be there. She has kindly written some of her memories and reflections of her visit, which she thought we might be interested in (yes, thank you very much)!

*"I was at Owen's in the Islington days from 1951-57 in the time of Miss Ward's headship. My first impression of the present school's amenities was of amazement at the space and variety of facilities. You also have a lot of steps and I enjoyed the cup of tea at the end of the tour. In my schooldays there were about three hundred girls and we had no connection with the boys. The small numbers made us into a really close community, an extended family.*

*One contrast that impressed me in May was the scope of your music programme. Our music lessons, mainly singing, took place in a church hall, St Mark's, just outside the back entrance into the playground. Our music teacher, Miss Jones, would have been very envious of your junior orchestra – which I saw – not to mention what I didn't see! It brought back a memory of us singing "The Kerry Dance" and the line "O for one of those hours of gladness, Lone alas like our youth too soon".*

*Again, your sports amenities are much richer than our playground games of netball and rounders. For hockey we went to the sports field at Whetstone and my main memory is having to carry so many books and returning home with mud caked boots. We did enjoy the summer term when we played tennis and spent the whole day there, with more books to carry. In our third year, Upper Fourth in those days, we played hockey on pitches at Regents Park and "accidentally" knocked the ball off the pitch and in sight of the zoo area.*

*I was intrigued that your Sixth Formers don't wear official uniform. We were quite pleased to be promoted from gym slips to a blouse and skirt and tie when we reached that exalted status. We were also allowed to make cups of tea in our form room. There were only a dozen girls in my year when we reached that level. What marvellous grounds you have with the lake and the lawns. How refreshing to be able to spend lunch hours there. So different from post war London, or present day Islington come to that.*

*We were really thrilled when doughnuts began to be sold at morning milk time. In the winter, we had to ensure the individual bottles of milk were bought into the form rooms early to prevent the milk actually freezing and being undrinkable. Here in Australia, milk had to be bought indoors to prevent it going sour. The free milk scheme is not current here now, either.*

*I'm glad tradition survives in the form of beer money. School Birthday, on Michaelmas Day in September, was the second most important day of our year, after Visitation, which we held at the Boys' School in their big hall. On the Birthday we all wore buttonholes of Michaelmas daisies and the hall was decorated with them. Humble flowers but effective. At the morning assembly, prefects were appointed and form seniors for each class. We sang the school songs with a real feeling of loyalty and community.*

*At morning break, each class had a birthday cake made in the school kitchen. After lunch a thanksgiving service was held. We always sang "Blessed are the pure in heart" and I still know most of it by heart. After the service the day ended early so we had another cause for thanksgiving.*

*We probably didn't have the range of subjects offered to us that the present students do, but we girls were taught that we could have good futures if we were prepared to do the work. The staff were good role models of women's potential and I am grateful for their work and example.*

*I hope the students I saw will make good use of the extensive facilities they have and will continue "to honour Dame Alice Owen" as they "laugh and wrangle and grow wise". "*



### And finally...

A huge thank you once again from your editor who is still overwhelmed with the wonderful articles that keep coming in to provide you with such a rich real life version of past school days and updates on your former school mates! The deadline for our next edition is **Friday 14th September, 2012**, so you have all summer to get creative and just pop us an email at: [400years@damealiceowens.herts.sch.uk](mailto:400years@damealiceowens.herts.sch.uk) with your stories and inspiring achievements!

**Remember, if you'd like to contact a fellow Old Owenian**, just enquire and we'll try to forward your message if they're on our emailing list (we cannot directly share information due to the Data Protection Act). We're also happy to post your details in our newsletter (for example, if you want to set up a reunion or just get others to get in touch). Just send your address (email or postal) to: [400years@damealiceowens.herts.sch.uk](mailto:400years@damealiceowens.herts.sch.uk) for us to include.

### Audio Tapes for Old Owenians Newsletters and Stephen Fry

Thank you to Mrs Gwyneth Parker for her suggestion to ask drama students create an audio tape of our Old Owenian Newsletter for partially sighted Old Owenians (oh, were that Stephen Fry an Old Owenian!). Although we don't have the resource currently to manage this, it was agreed at our last Old Owenians meeting that we'll keep it on our wish list for the future and thank those, who in the meantime, support others by reading aloud or helping them with access to a computer.

**Talking of Stephen Fry**, ten of our Language students from Years 11-13, our Head of Languages, Miss Natasha Kremer and languages teacher, Ms Katja Möller travelled in May half term, to the Royal Institute to hear the man himself present a Summer Lecture for the Princes Teaching Institute on Modern Languages entitled: **"How the fire of language can be lit in the mind."** Your editor was also privileged to attend this very event and was totally inspired by his ability to speak, almost without pausing for breath, with such passion and enthusiasm for his subject (obviously punctuated by moments of hilarity) that she wanted to hit the repeat button straight away.

A book recommendation from your editor therefore has to be "The Fry Chronicles", which will make you even more in awe of Mr Fry and his special talent. He left us with his belief, "that pessimism and optimism are both self-fulfilling".



Dame Alice Owen's School is enrolled on the Prince's Teaching Institute (PTI) English Programme and in July last year, successfully met the assessment criteria to be awarded this mark (valid until August 2014), having:

- Increased challenge within the curriculum
- Further enthused pupils with activities beyond the curriculum
- Developed staff's own specialist subject knowledge
- Developed subject-based links outside school



Our Head of English, Mrs A Fisher (far left in photo) had the opportunity to meet Prince Charles at the Schools Programme Day in July 2011. Photographs copyright Benjamin Ealovega.

### Do you share your birthday with Shakespeare?

If so, we'd like to hear from you! As our celebration concert is being held on April 23rd next year, which also happens to be St George's Day, we thought we'd find out how many others will be celebrating a birthday or anniversary on the same day! Just email us at [400years@damealiceowens.herts.sch.uk](mailto:400years@damealiceowens.herts.sch.uk).

### Tip for the Olympics!

If some of you were lucky enough to obtain tickets to an event in London, you may have by now received said tickets and realised that included in the price is a "free" all zones Travelcard. While this is a great incentive to travel by tube, another option to consider may be to take a train from Cheshunt station on the West Anglia line, which begins in Kings Lynn and goes direct to Stratford. It is the Games recommended station for anyone attending the Lea Valley White Water Rafting events.

If you have a bike on the other hand, you can cycle from Cheshunt along the Lea Valley Walk, past the White Water Centre, Enfield Lock, Pickett's Lock, Tottenham Marshes, Leyton Marsh, Hackney Marsh and to the Olympic Park itself. From experience, this took your editor about 2 hours (on the flat by the river), who then returned on the train to Cheshunt (spaces for bikes in the carriage). The only tricky part was gripping the brakes hard enough going forward down the escalator at Stratford station so as not to injure other passengers (mainly Westfield shoppers!) with a flying bike and carrying one's bike up the steps to the platform—otherwise—dead easy. Cost of single journey to return, about £6.50, takes 25 minutes. Remember to take a puncture repair kit...



So, on behalf of all of us here at Dame Alice Owen's School, your editor's last comment is based on her earlier reference to Stephen Fry's belief "that pessimism and optimism are both self-fulfilling". She hopes, therefore, that you enjoy what will **CERTAINLY** be a fabulous summer of long, hot and hazy days, just like the English summers of yesteryear. This was when you had to peer through your eyes at the brightness of the sky, could listen to bees distantly humming, while dawdling your afternoon away, stretched out on a swing seat with a cup of earl grey, savouring a cream tea, indulging in some delicious reading... Well, that's how she likes to remember them anyway!

Until September!

***Mrs Mandy English, Communications Officer***



P.S. A reminder for your diary!

**Old Owenians Harold Moore Annual Reunion Luncheon**

A great opportunity for all Old Owenians to come together at a splendid luncheon in London to reunite with friends.

**Date:** Monday 29th October 2012, during Half Term, 1-4pm  
**Venue:** Imperial Hotel, 61-66 Russell Square, London WC1B 5BB, nearest tube Russell Square, Piccadilly Line  
**Parking:** Available from CC Parking – see the hotel website for their tariffs: <http://www.imperialhotels.co.uk/>

The event is run by Old Owenians, Mr Stanley Gould and Mr Michael Harold (originally set up and run by Harold Moore—see below, then Ray Coombs). Invitations to attend are sent out to those on their mailing list around mid-September. Anyone interested in receiving one should send their contact details and years at Owen's to Mr Stanley Gould, either by email [stanleysgould@gmail.com](mailto: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—so no excuse!

The price will be around £35 for a three course meal, including house wine, mineral water, coffee, mints and staff gratuities (final price/details to be confirmed in September). Our current Head attends, with representatives from the governing body, current staff and Senior Prefects Team. Put the date in your diary—it really is an ideal occasion to arrange to meet other OO's; there are usually over 100 guests who attend, with capacity for up to at least 160! We look forward to seeing you there!

Harold Moore is shown in the middle of the front row in this photo from *The Arrow*, Lent 1939, and was the originator of the Harold Moore Luncheon Club, which still continues today. Thanks to Bill Hamilton-Hinds for finding this photograph.

P.S.S. **The Arrow 2012!**



Our School Magazine, produced by our Year 12 (Lower Sixth) Arrow publications team is now available in School. Containing a rich diversity of articles, it also has interviews with Michael Gove, David Walliams and Louise Gubbay! Copies are being sold for £4 at all school events, including concert and drama productions, Summer Fete and on our Open Day on Thursday 19th July, 2-5pm. Last years edition sold out before the end of term—if you visit the school, look out for it and buy early to secure your copy!