



# Old Owenians Newsletter

First Quarter—27th March 2013  
Edition 9

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

## ...Happy 400th Anniversary!



*"Dear Old Owenians*

*Thank you so much to those who've sent us good wishes for our important year—now we've reached this significant milestone in our School's history, the excitement (and workload!) in School has almost reached fever pitch! Nearly everyone is involved in some way or other as we celebrate the coming together of our whole school community during this exceptional anniversary year with the many events we have planned.*

*Our student-and-staff-initiated cake cutting ceremony and historical exhibition on 22nd January, set us off to a flying start—we hope you've watched our video and practised singing the School song at: <http://www.damealiceowens.herts.sch.uk/2013.html>! **Special thanks are extended to Old Owenian, Gary Kemp, for cutting the cake, performing a BBC Radio London interview and leading the School song (all in the one afternoon!)** As for our imminent 400th Concert at the Royal Albert Hall, we have a suggestion for all our Old Owenians attending, to wear red carnations as in our tradition at Visitation Prize Giving and to add to the sense of occasion! Special bar areas have been nominated for different decades of Old Owenians to congregate if they so wish—more details on page 4!*



*Keeping School on an even keel when so much is going on has been an interesting challenge, as our normal "show" goes on. This Spring, we are delighted to report that a record thirty students have received offers from either Oxford or Cambridge—a tremendous achievement. And it's been a term of choices; almost all Upper Sixth Form students are now finalising their University options, Year 11's have chosen their A Levels and Year 9's are choosing their GCSE's. The Old Owenians Careers Talks this month were therefore perfectly timed to support students in Years 9-13 with a varied range of talks to widen their outlook on the world of work after university and we are very grateful to those who took part. See pages 8-12 for a full Report with feedback from students and speakers! As for the younger end of School, we have just had the best ever feedback from parents at our Year 7 Parents evening, who are thrilled with how their children are thriving.*





Despite the weather, Master Brewer, Mark Woodhouse, cut the first turf on our Science Building site on Tuesday 16th January and we were really pleased that a key Patron of our 400th Appeal, Edward Guinness CVO, could join us.

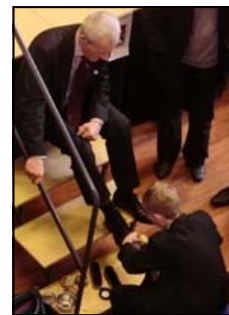
Clerk to governors, David Ross, also representing the Brewers, chair of governors, Peter Martin and chair of our Fundraising Team, Peter Snow, cheered with students to the photographer audience! Members of staff, Petros Anastasi, Carol Whiter, Bob Pepper, Gill Keating, John Godfrey and Carolyn Airey also joined in!

One thing we hadn't anticipated was the mud underfoot and I was very honoured that my shoes were whisked off by the caretakers for a quick clean! It looks dry in the photo, but I can assure you it was very wet and sticky!!!

Talking of shoe shines, students raising money for our Parable of Talents initiative towards the 400th Appeal, offered shoe shining in our recent DAOS Marketplace, run by Jimi Laleye, which allowed creative and enterprising students to set up and sell their wares (most of which were homemade) and services over two lunchtimes.



Students have also been busking, holding quiz nights and concerts, baking cakes for cake sales, arranging parties, knitting to sell scarves, involved in setting up a fashion show and our latest sponsorship event was to walk from DAOS Potters Bar to the old DAOS site in Islington on Saturday 23rd March. Taking 5.5 hours and covering 14.2 miles, 20 students and 5 staff took part (more details on page 40)!



We are continuing to fundraise to meet our £1m 400th Anniversary Appeal target by Tuesday 31st December 2013—only £340k to go—thank you to all those who have contributed to date! For anyone interested, see our photo gallery of the building works going on at: [http://www.damealiceowens.herts.sch.uk/2013appeal\\_science\\_build\\_photos.html](http://www.damealiceowens.herts.sch.uk/2013appeal_science_build_photos.html) and we'll keep you updated of our progress in future Newsletters!



We were also awarded Teaching School Status in February; the result of many months of hard work by MFL (Modern Foreign Languages) teacher, Jon Robinson, assisted by Deputy Head, John Godfrey and teachers Helen Wootton (Maths) and Katharine Wheatley (French). It is an excellent opportunity for staff to take a leading role in the training and professional development of teachers, support staff and headteachers, sharing their expertise with colleagues from our partner schools, and to have an impact on the wider education system, as well as our own students.

For those of you who remember playing rugby on a freezing wet afternoon, our current generation of Owenians are still doing the same and with great results! Our Year 8 Rugby Team won the Hertfordshire cup trophy on 8th March at Woollam's sports ground, St Albans, defeating Queen's school, Bushy in the final game 10-0. They are pictured here with Mark Elliott, President of the Hertfordshire RFU, who hopes there will be a few future Hertfordshire players emerging from the team!



Our special 400th Anniversary Drama was also a splendid success with fantastic performances from over 70 students in "Dame Alice and the Mysterious Disappearance of the Head". Emma Govier, our Director of Drama, who wrote the original play over many months, took the audience through Harry Potter-like time portals to visit key moments in the school's history to find the Head (including the arrow incident, Kettering, London blitz, Spandau Ballet era).

The script cleverly covered feminist issues as well as good versus evil (with saintly Dame Alice being tempted by Professor Woland), secrets of the staff room (past and present, with some eerily familiar teachers) and epitomised teenage life (and speak!) in school.

If you're interested in finding out more about a summary of the school's history, our spectacular 400th anniversary historical display which was unveiled in January, can be viewed as a PDF (Portable Document Format) from our website and we're hoping it will on display at both the Royal Albert Hall and St Paul's events.



**Special thanks are extended to Old Owenian, Derek Webb, for funding the display on behalf of the Old Owen's Association and our Art Department for creating the work in conjunction with Old Owenian, Ken Rowsell - see more at:** [http://www.damealiceowens.herts.sch.uk/about\\_us/school\\_history.html](http://www.damealiceowens.herts.sch.uk/about_us/school_history.html)!

Of course, we can also recommend Gareth Randall's fine publication (limited edition!) of the detailed school history; further information can be found at:

<http://www.damealiceowens.herts.sch.uk/wisepay.html>! Gareth was also interviewed on BBC Radio London 94.9 on Monday 18th March at 1.35pm on the Robert Elms Show along with four other Old Owenians who took part in the phone-in—see who they were and a further report on page 16.



So, it just remains for me to say how much we're looking forward to sharing our very special 400th Anniversary with our whole school community and ensuring the legacy of Dame Alice continues.

Dr Alan Davison



## 400<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Concert

**Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2013, 7-10pm, Royal Albert Hall**

With less than a month to go, you'll be relieved to know, our preparations are finally getting there! It's been a rollercoaster ride, having to resolve unfamiliar logistical issues coming at us at a fast and furious pace; like how to arrange past and present students dress rehearsals during the day of the performance, how to transport our special instruments, how to make sure the orchestra fits on the stage to name but a few...

We know it'll all come together on the night as we've got a brilliant team, including parents, Karen Acosta, who has past experience managing musical events in London and Maz Bryden who was involved in the stage management of the opening/closing ceremony of the Olympics!



See our Soul Band's practice session in our Sports Hall in the photos – they had to measure out the exact size of the RAH stage with white tape and place all their equipment within the lines as a test for the live concert!



## Now to our suggestion - Red Carnations!

We've had many queries from those of you who'd be interested in knowing who else might be attending to see if you can meet up with fellow past students, so our Head, Alan Davison came up with the great idea that all Old Owenians wear a red carnation to identify themselves and add to the sense of occasion! This is also fitting with our tradition as red carnations are worn by Old Owenians at our annual Visitation Prize Giving – our current students wear white.



In addition, although it has not been possible for us to organise seating in reunion groups at the Royal Albert Hall (even our influence doesn't stretch that far!), they've confirmed that the following bar areas will be open from 5pm so we've suggested certain bars which certain year groups (year of leaving date) might like to congregate at if you so wish:

**Islington - Before 1966**  
**Islington - 1966 to 1976**  
**Potters Bar - 1973 - 1992**  
**Potters Bar - 1993 - 2002**  
**Potters Bar - 2003 - 2012**

Asahi Bar – LEVEL 1  
 Moet and Chandon Bar (other drinks also available) – LEVEL 1  
 Berry Bros and Rudd Bar – BASEMENT LEVEL (EAST ARENA FOYER)  
 Spitfire Bar – GROUND FLOOR LEVEL NEAR DOOR 6  
 North Circle Bar – LEVEL 3

Remember, we can also promote your own reunion events in our quarterly Old Owenians Newsletter - just send your information to your editor, Mrs Mandy English at [400years@damealiceowens.herts.sch.uk](mailto:400years@damealiceowens.herts.sch.uk) and she'll include your details or ring her on 07864 517 175 to discuss! We hope to repeat our successful Old Owenians Coffee and Tour Morning next May in 2014, when, if all goes well, you'll have a new Science Building to look around!!!



### Name Badges

If you want to make your own name badge with year of leaving date to wear, we are happy for you to copy our 400th logo shown here! Thanks to Old Owenian, Mr Robin Bradford (left 1957) for asking the question about identification!

### School Song

Our School song will be sung as the very last number of our evening programme and we want to raise the roof of the Royal Albert Hall! So that you have time to practise, for those that are attending, we thought we'd provide the words of all four verses to be sung (absolutely no different versions please)!

You're also very welcome to print a copy from the PDF on our Old Owenians Newsletter page and bring them with you! Copies of the words will also be printed in our souvenir programme, which will be on sale on the evening. To hear the song, listen to our video on our website:

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

### 400<sup>th</sup> Memorabilia and History Book



These will be available from the OSA (Owen's School Association) to buy or order on the evening prior to our performance or during the interval by the main foyer in the glass porch at Door 6 (opposite the Albert Memorial). **Please note payment will be by cash or cheque only.** Doors open into the main auditorium at 6.15pm, although selected bars are open 2 hours before hand, at 5pm - if you have any further queries, please refer to the RAH FAQ's on our website at:

[http://www.damealiceowens.herts.sch.uk/2013\\_rah.html](http://www.damealiceowens.herts.sch.uk/2013_rah.html)!

### Tickets!

We're really sorry if you've not been able to acquire tickets yet—our Reserve List at school is now closed. Remember tickets could be on sale via the RAH Box Office from member returns up until the day of our performance.

Note: all tickets sold from School should be received by purchasers at least the week before the event. If you have any queries, you can contact our Senior Accounts Manager at: [campbellj@damealiceowens.herts.sch.uk](mailto:campbellj@damealiceowens.herts.sch.uk)

## Dame Alice Owen's School Song

Words by G.J. Baldock

Music by Richard Triggs

1. On many a well remembered field  
Have Owen's fought and won!  
At times we lose but never yield  
Before the game is done.  
And as the years roll on and on,  
And players bid goodbye,  
Their comrades still in spirit don  
The mantles they've cast by.

**Chorus** - Then strive with a will, Owenians,  
Success attend your play;  
Never let your ardour cool  
For the honour of the School,  
On, Owen's - to the fray.

2. Though they are gone, their names live yet,  
To stimulate our play;  
Their memory doth strength beget,  
And drives despair away.  
With pride we look back on the days  
When those old heroes fought -  
How eager was our youthful gaze!  
How much to us was taught.

**Chorus** - Then strive...

3. And now we fight ourselves for Fame,  
On us the School relies  
Her ancient glory to maintain -  
An honour that we prize.  
Wholeheartedly we play the game,  
The whole team works as one;  
To win the match is our sole aim,  
All selfish play we shun.

**Chorus** - Then strive...

4. In future years we shall reflect  
With pleasure on these games;  
Then shall we feel the good effect  
This grand old pastime claims.  
'Tis thus we learn how to succeed  
In life's far sterner strife;  
'Tis thus we learn to live indeed  
A truly, useful life.

**Chorus** - Then strive...

### Souvenir Programme and DVD Recording

So, the **actual programme** itself is a stunning line up of 5 soloists, an Alumni Choir (who have been practising for the last six months!), Concert Band, Dance, African song, Drama, Orchestra, Soul Band and Massed Choir...even the RAH organ is also going to be used during one of the items! We are honoured to have four great comperes leading the evening—two Old Owenians (Andrew Porter – left 1991 and Rosie Busiakiewicz – left 2010) and two parents (Nick Robinson and Rosie Millard), who will be helping create our party atmosphere! There will be a 30 minute interval during the evening and around 800 performers are taking part.

A **souvenir programme** will be on sale during the evening and after our event (limited stock), including names of all current and past Owenians taking part, produced by School House Studios. Also available to purchase after the Concert for those of you who would like a copy, will be a **DVD recording** of the show (limited edition) created by an Old Owenians company, Footpath Films, whom we were delighted to recruit! Further details about how to order will be posted on our website under our 400th News page: <http://www.damealiceowens.herts.sch.uk/2013.html> nearer the time.

### Official photographs

We're also thrilled that another Old Owenian, Gaz de Vere, will be designing our Souvenir Programme cover and portraits included. He tells us that full colour glossy photographs of our special 400th Anniversary event - uniquely printed with commemorative Dame Alice Owen's badge and inscription and printed on high quality glossy heavy photo card stock - can be ordered from April 27th. Exact order details will be provided on our 400th News page (as above). You'll also be able to order high resolution digital copies, that you can print yourself, have delivered to you via email and/or a disk of all photos from the event!

### Bucket Collection!

We'd be grateful if anyone attending our Concert could support our Bucket Collection in aid of our 400th Anniversary New Science Building Appeal—look out for our students wearing special t-shirts carrying special red fundraising buckets with our DAOS logo at the exits at the end of the evening for your spare coins and notes!



### 400<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Thanksgiving Service and Reception

**Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> April 2013, 1.30-2.30pm, St Paul's Cathedral, Reception 3.15-5.15pm, Mansion House**

We were delighted to be able to fulfil almost all requests in our January ballot for an invitation to join us St Paul's and Mansion House and once again suggest that it would be great if those Old Owenians attending wear a red carnation for the occasion! If you have any queries relating to either event, please refer to our webpage:

[http://www.damealiceowens.herts.sch.uk/2013\\_stpauls.html](http://www.damealiceowens.herts.sch.uk/2013_stpauls.html)

### Student Logistics!

Governor, Carole James and Assistant Head, Pam Perrett have been on the organising team and have visited St Paul's many times to sort out the Order of Service and tickets! The logistics of transporting students has been solved by Head Alan Davison, commissioning two additionally timetabled trains, just for Dame Alice Owen's students, from First Capital Connect.

Students in years 7-11 will be escorted by staff from School to Potters Bar station to take the trains direct to Moorgate. From there, students will be supervised on the walk to St Paul's for the Service, congregating in Paternoster Square before entering the Cathedral. In the event of rain, (fingers crossed the sun shines!!!) it has been agreed that the Guild Hall Art Gallery can be used for shelter. Sixth Formers will be making their own way there!

The Service will start with a formal procession and last one hour, with 12 readers, including Peter Martin, chair of governors and bells will be sounded at the end. Old Owenians are expected to make their own way to Mansion House, just a short walk along Cheapside, for the Reception afterwards. **Note! Dress code for Mansion House is lounge suits!** We look forward to sharing these historical occasions with representatives from our whole school community from our past and present.





## 400<sup>th</sup> Ball – time to party!

**Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> July 2013, 7pm Reception, Carriages 1am, Dame Alice Owen's School**

This evening promises to be a magnificent celebration for parents, Old Owenians and 6<sup>th</sup> formers. We're delighted that ticket applications have been coming in thick and fast from members of our whole school community who wish to celebrate our 400<sup>th</sup> year in dazzling party style.

We've had requests from Old Owenians, parents from all years, as well as members of staff and students. **Over 70% of tickets have already been sold**, so to ensure that you don't miss out we recommend that you organise your table as soon as possible, send the OSA (Owen's School Association) your request for number of seats, together with your payment, and they'll find a table for you! You can reserve a table for up to ten guests. Where possible, they're aiming to seat year groups together on the same table.

Tickets for this event are priced at £85 each. This includes a canapé and drinks reception, a sumptuous 4 course dinner, music and dancing. Although menu details have yet to be fully divulged, the OSA can confirm there will be a choice of lamb in a red wine jus, chicken in a champagne sauce or a vegetarian option for the main course. Our School's excellent Close Harmony Group will provide the music at the reception. For our meal, the OSA has revealed that specialist venue decorators will transform the banqueting area into a spectacular arena.



Dancing during the evening will be to the magical sounds of Clint's Jazz band (<http://www.clintsjazzband.co.uk/>). However, for those of you who don't want to navigate the dance floor and prefer to talk, a bar will be set up in our music studio. A photographer will be in attendance for the entire evening to capture your special memories and will also be located in the music studio. Dress code for the evening is "Black tie or Dress to Impress."

The OSA tells us that an impressive array of lots and items will be available for the Auction and Raffle that will follow the dinner. If you're able to offer any items for this, then please contact [sarahl@theosa.org.uk](mailto:sarahl@theosa.org.uk). Further details of the auction items and how to bid if you are unable to attend the ball will be made available in June.

Ticket applications are now being accepted via email to [400ball@theosa.org.uk](mailto:400ball@theosa.org.uk). If you should have any questions, then please contact them via this email address. Application forms can also be found on the OSA website at: <http://www.theosa.org.uk>. We look forward to seeing you at what promises to be a memorable and stunning event!

## 400th Anniversary Beer

We're delighted that Hall and Woodhouse Brewers <http://www.hall-woodhouse.co.uk/>, are producing a special 400th anniversary bottled beer for us which will be available to purchase from School during the day and evening when we have an evening event on the following dates at £2.50 per bottle or £16 for a pack of eight: 1st - 3rd May, 22nd May, 27th June, 3rd July, 10th July. Old Owenians are welcome to drop in and make a purchase from the School Office! Sales will be limited to two packs of eight per person—cash or cheques only.



A mock-up sample bottle, pictured here with the classic badger shaped label adorned with our 400th anniversary logo, was presented to the 400th anniversary committee meeting on Tuesday 26th February. David Ross, representing the Brewers, confirmed it would be around 4.5% English Ale, with a shelf life of several months. Only 1,500 bottles are being produced and we anticipate to sell out quite quickly!

The 400th anniversary committee raised a glass to welcome 2013 at their meeting with "pretend" champagne (anyone who's had children's party's will know that lemonade and apple juice looks just as good in a champagne flute)!



## Old Owenians Careers Talks 2013

Once again, we'd like to sincerely thank all our speakers this year, who provided a wide range of very interesting careers for our students to learn about over five lunchtimes during National Careers Week 4-th-8th March. Here are our some photos from the week with comments from both our speakers and students, who really appreciated people giving up their time to come and talk to them. Apologies that we couldn't accommodate everyone...



**Thanks to Clare Scarff** (left 2005) – Following degree via East Anglia and The Open University, she joined Canada Life (Potters Bar) in Pensions and is now training with them as an Accountant. Canada Life is the oldest Canadian Life assurance company and looks after the retirement, investment and protection needs of individuals and companies alike [www.canadalife.co.uk](http://www.canadalife.co.uk).

Clare really enjoyed the opportunity to speak to the next generation of Owenians and is looking forward to performing as an Old Owenian at the Royal Albert Hall!

Our students said: *"I found that I learnt a great deal about accountancy from the talk and which qualifications are needed"* – David Staniforth 10SP *"Interesting information on the Open University"* – Bavnisha Tulsian 12LL *"Nice to know you can study a degree at University without studying it a A Level"* – Juliet Newbold 12CJ

**Thanks to Mike Vessey** (left 1986) - Mike studied Politics and History at Lancaster and now runs his own leadership consultancy business: [www.vesseyhoppermcveigh.com](http://www.vesseyhoppermcveigh.com) working with clients such as BMW, eBay, Foreign and Commonwealth Office, American Express and based in Regent's Street, London.

Mike was very impressed by our facilities!

Our students said: *"I thought the information was extremely useful as it will help me to plan out my career after university"* – Nikhil Sharma 12LA *"Helpful and gave me a lot to think about for later life"* – Jack Goodwin 12FS/LW *"Very thought provoking and broad, points discussed are useful in every professional field as well as personal life"* – Joe Taylor 12LL *"Useful in thinking about ones future and how to deal with it"* – Gabrielle Swycher 12LL



**Thanks to Jacquelyn Guderley** ( left 2006) – Jacquelyn studied History and Spanish at Durham and is now a Junior Management Consultant with Accenture - one of the world's largest tech consulting firms based in the City [www.accenture.com](http://www.accenture.com).

Jacquelyn was interested in our new 3D printer, which was demonstrated by our Head of Design and Technology, Mr Robin Benford, while touring the school —a green pot was being "printed" - almost finished after about 5 hours!





**Thanks to Charlotte Turnbull** (left 1999) - Charlotte studied International Management and German at Bath - her first job was as a management consultant. She is now Head of Strategy/Insight for SkyTV, looking at pricing, product, marketing and strategy [www.sky.com](http://www.sky.com). Charlotte thanked us for a lovely experience!

Our students said: *"I thought I might want to look into marketing and this really helped show more of what it's about"* – Andrew Bennett – 12CJA *"Very useful to know what employers are looking for"* – Bethany Wright – 12FS



**Thanks to Andy Robertson** (left Islington 1968) - Andy studied Business Studies at London Metropolitan and is now Lecturer at Cass Business School (City University London) and has experience as an Auditor and Risk Manager. His excellent "Ways to Choose" talk explained to students how to go about selecting a career path [www.cass.city.ac.uk](http://www.cass.city.ac.uk)

Andy very much enjoyed the afternoon tour around the school and was very complimentary about the set design for our 400th Drama in the Art Department! He told us: ***"The school has a large amount of positive energy that you can feel as soon as you walk into the main building. The classrooms and interior space is light and spacious, and the equipment available is incredibly good compared to my school experience at the old school at the Angel, Islington. The pupils I met all seemed engaged and positive. Perhaps most impressive, at least to me, is the way the school has carefully preserved its links with the past. DAOS at Potters Bar is a success."***

**Thanks to Emilios Lemoniatis** (left 1992) – Consultant Child and Adolescent Psychiatrist – Emilios talked about his role and developmental journey and gave very sound advice on possible qualification pathways to his career, including his route via medicine. He took lots of questions from very interested students!



He told us about his experience with us: ***"Reflecting after the talk made me think about how privileged I am, both in terms of the schooling that I was fortunate enough to receive and for having achieved a position that others like the current students are both interested in and aspire to. It has really been quite humbling."***

One of our students said: *"Very informative because he explained what subjects we need to study at A Levels and at University"* – Melina Demetriou 9OP

**Thanks to Joanna Walker** (left 1994) – Joanna studied a degree in Food Marketing Management – now Senior Buyer (Meat) with Sainsbury's (and previously at M&S in New Product Development and Nike Footwear in Barcelona) and is based in London [www.sainsburys.co.uk/](http://www.sainsburys.co.uk/).

Joanna was able to answer questions from students on the very current topic of meat buying and brought some hot cross buns to demonstrate packaging, which were also gratefully sampled!!! She thought our students were fantastic, very welcoming and enjoyed being able to give something back to the school!



Our students said: ***"A really interesting talk – we were very well informed on all the pros and cons of being a buyer as well as enticing stories! As a prospective buyer, it was fulfilling to gain some knowledge of what that entails"*** – Lauren Prentis – 12LL ***"Good explanations of the process of both designing and placing products around individual stores, the company and the roles involved"*** - Bavnisha Tulsian 12LL ***"Gave good insight into how stuff works inside Sainsbury's and how choices are made"*** – Cameron Amoils – 9AH



**Thanks to Gavin Jordan (left 1992)** – Gavin studied Maths at Warwick and is now a Partner with Ernst & Young (one of “Big 4” accounting firms), leading their Financial Services Mergers & Acquisitions business [www.ey.com/UK](http://www.ey.com/UK).

Gavin inspired students with his dynamic role and made many overseas trips last year! He also finds time to teach Maths at a London Secondary School for 90 minutes a week, as part of Ernst and Young’s corporate social responsibility plan.

He told us: ***“With some additional time I think half a dozen or more of the attendees would have stayed behind, asked additional questions and we could have had more of an interactive discussion.”*** Gavin also enjoyed the afternoon tour of the school and was able to share a flood of memories with fellow speaker, Emilios Lemonaitis, who co-incidentally left in the same year. ***They would like to request if anyone is reading this, who left in 1992 and was in their year, to get in contact with either of them – [emlem73@hotmail.com](mailto:emlem73@hotmail.com) and [gjordan@uk.ey.com](mailto:gjordan@uk.ey.com) or via Facebook. They are thinking about a Reunion event, possibly at the Old Owen’s Sports Ground - and that’s as far as they’ve got!***

Our students said: ***“Very informative and exciting” – Saeesha Gulabivala – 12APB “Humorous, someone to aspire to be like” – Dom Minton – 12APB***

**Thanks to Louisa Vincini (left 1999)** – Louisa has a PhD (Proteomics), MSc (Forensic Science) and BSc Hon (Molecular Biology and Genetics at Royal Holloway). She is now a Lecturer in Forensic Science with experience as DNA analyst for LGC Forensics [www.lgc.co.uk](http://www.lgc.co.uk).



Louisa enjoyed giving her talk, bought some interesting props and liked taking the tour as it bought back lots of memories—she found most students were very keen and listened intently and handled a packed classroom very well!

Our students said: ***“Very interesting to hear what really goes on in Forensic Science – not just what the TV wants us to believe” – Sarah Williams 12 LMC/KS “Really liked that we were able to feel the clothes, masks and shoe covers, made the audience feel very involved” – Emma Rampton – 11SAH “Good advice on what subjects should be pursued in order to get certain jobs” – Isaac Yianni – 12STW***

**Thanks to Harriet Roberts (left 2006)** – Harriet studied Geography at Leeds and now works for Pricewaterhouse Coopers (largest of Big 4 accountancy firms), based on the Embankment in the anti-money laundering team ensuring firms are compliant, including interesting area of suspicious activity reporting [www.pwc.com/uk](http://www.pwc.com/uk).

Harriet told us: ***“The students were great, they weren't afraid to ask questions and asked very informed ones at times. The tour of the school is a great idea; it's interesting to see how much things have changed.”***

Our students said: ***“Excellent, very friendly and honest – open to all questions and involved everyone – very clear information about career and also economics around company” – Rebecca Yiangou – 13KDO “Gave realistic view of life at financial firm and university” – Oliver Dutton – 12RM***



**Thanks to Amy Vincent** (left 2005) – Amy studied Law with Study in Continental Europe at Bristol and is now a Solicitor specialising in resolving disputes for Ashurst LLP - an international corporate law firm based in the City. Her talk included the “Day in the life of a Solicitor” and explained about the qualifications required [www.ashurst.com](http://www.ashurst.com) Amy didn’t have time for a tour, but hopes to come back another time!

Our students said: *“Very useful and opened many trains of thought” – Lewis Hart – 9SR “Helpful in clarifying the different areas in law” – Chloe St George – 12APB “It was useful to help me distinguish the difference between the role of a barrister and a solicitor” – Lucy Dodge – 12NK*

**Thanks to Steve White** (left 1999) – Steve studied a degree in digital special effects using computers at Teeside University, then a Masters in Animation. He is now a freelance 3D computer animator in Soho, working on commercials and video promos, ranging from the 'Compare the Meerkat' ads to videos for bands like U2 and The Gorillaz, also 'Call of Duty' game franchise: <http://www.illusionworksfx.com>

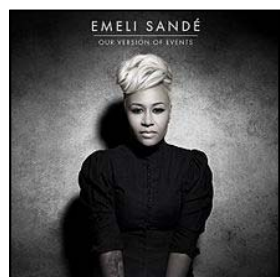
One of our students said: *“Ten out of ten – very informative and interesting” – Isaac Yianni – 12STW*



**Thanks to James Kempson** (left 1987) – James, one of our former Head Boys, studied Modern History & Political Science at Birmingham then a LLB(Hons) Law at the University of Hertfordshire (2 year Post Graduate Degree). He is now a Wealth Planner for Killik and Co, one of the leading UK stockbrokers based in Mayfair Head Office and works for many very wealthy, influential and famous clients: [www.killikcfp.com](http://www.killikcfp.com).

His talk featured a presentation of the range of careers in financial services, including banking and insurance at a very clear level for students to understand and be able to ask specific questions.

Our students said: *“Very informative and detailed – the talk was perfect and gave me all the information I needed – useful websites as well” – Saesha Gulabivala – 12APB “I found it very interesting as it gave me an insight into a field of work I wasn’t previously interested in” – Reece Coyne – 12RM “It provided me with lots of relevant and useful information to allow me to make a decision” – Peter Jordan 12CJA*



**Thanks to Adrian Sykes** (left 1998) – Adrian studied Social Sciences at University of Hertfordshire; his first job was at NatWest Bank and now runs his own business, Decisive Management, where his premier artist is talented Scottish singer songwriter Emeli Sandé.

She performed at both the Olympic opening and closing ceremonies, had Britain’s biggest selling album of 2012, as well as performing in a solo concert at the Royal Albert Hall in November 2012 [www.emelisande.com](http://www.emelisande.com). Adrian described himself almost like a “surrogate mother” and clearly pointed out the big lows in the business as well as the terrific highs.

Our students said: *“Amazing!” – Shadi Taleghani – 12LA “The talk really gave me an insight into the music business” – Nikhil Sharma – 12LA “Very interesting and educational – a real eye opener into the music business” – Amelia Symeou – 12LL “Gave lots of advice, let us ask questions and answered them, then gave advice afterwards” – Natasha Kafka – 13HW/AM “Great first-hand experience told by the speaker” – Joseph Jennett – 12CJA*





**Thanks to Andrew Porter** (left 1991) – Andrew studied History and Politics at Warwick then a postgraduate diploma in newspaper journalism. Working his way up from Western Morning News, Sunday Business, Sunday Times and The Sun, he became the Daily Telegraph's youngest ever Political Editor in 2007. He's now at Brunswick, the City's leading corporate communications agency [www.brunswickgroup.com](http://www.brunswickgroup.com). He told us: *"The students were incredibly polite, interested and interesting. Owen's remains an inspiring place."*

**We're thrilled that Andrew is going to be one of our comperes at our 400th Concert at the Royal Albert Hall in April.**

Our students said: *"Interesting to see how to form a career in journalism/communications"* – Mimi Zhae – 9MC *"It gave me an insight into the steps I need to take to become a journalist"* – Lucy Dodge – 12NK *"Good insight into the world of media"* – Lucy Ham 12NK *"Very useful tips about university courses"* – Georgia and Katherine – 10RB/LM



**Guy Parsonage** (left 1990) - Guy studied Business Studies at Liverpool and is now managing director with Jack Morton Global Brand Experience Agency in Hong Kong and doing an MBA. His company has offices in 5 countries with 40 staff who deliver events, conferences and marketing programs for global clients throughout Asia [www.jackmorton.com](http://www.jackmorton.com). Guy was coming to the UK to join his mother's 70th birthday and very kindly offered to come to Owen's—he arrived from Hong Kong on the morning of the talk at 6am and persuaded our Dinner Ladies to give him the school lunch of the day—Fish and Chips!

Our students said: *"It was extremely interesting to listen to a different industry that offers exciting opportunities"* – Vanessa Simova – 12LL *"The talk was extremely interesting and now I want to travel to Hong Kong and Australia!"* – Nikhil Sharma – 12LA

Thanks to Philippa Found (2001) - Philippa studied Art Foundation at Middlesex, then History of Art at Warwick. She is now the Director of a commercial art gallery, which involves curation and organisation of exhibitions (including Selfridges Christmas Art installations and a travelling exhibition - The Body in Women's Art Now), management of artist careers (i.e. acting as their agent) and art dealing (i.e. selling artwork), working with artists such as Tracey Emin.

Philippa told us she has just completed a life ambition to write a novel, which is currently with her publisher and kindly donated several of her books that she's written about art to our Art Department. Mr Steve Willcock, our Head of Art, was very grateful for the stimulating books to add to Owen's Art Library.



She told us: *"It was so invigorating to re-visit the school and be reminded of the incredibly positive atmosphere that is Owens. The resources are amazing and the talent of the students is palpable. The pupils are so bright, animated and switched on, it is evident that Owens is an environment in which to thrive. I feel so proud to be an (old) Owens Girl. I really enjoyed my time with the pupils and the tour of the school, thank you."*

Our students said: *"This talk was SO useful – it has given me a bigger picture of why I can do art and how I can achieve something from it"* – James Porritt – 9MC *"Interesting to know about the academic side of the art business"* – Anna Kindberg – 10PA *"The talk really inspired me"* – Danielle Papamichael – 12STW *"Lots of good helpful information, expanding on many different jobs involved, which I would have never known"* – Beth Wilderspin – 9EF *"It said the truth about the art world"* – Hannah Coombes – 10CG

Our speakers all received one of our 400th anniversary bone china mugs in their Leaving Pack to say thank you for their time! At: [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) you can see them all by our Dame Alice statue! We hope to run the event again next year—look out for details January 2014!





## WHO WAS THE BEST EVER OWENS FOOTBALL YEAR?

DAME ALICE OWEN'S SCHOOL  
**400TH ANNIVERSARY**  
CLASS OF OWENS  
6-A-SIDE COMPETITION

**SUNDAY 25TH AUGUST 2013**  
**@OLD OWENS SPORTS GROUND**

FOR ALL ENQUIRES  
PLEASE CONTACT JOHN SULLIVAN:  
**JOHNSULLIVAN@HOTMAIL.COM**  
**07971 965 269**

### New 400th event for Old Owenian Footballers!

Old Owenian, John Sullivan, is organising a 6-a-side event on 25th August 2013 at Old Owen's Sports Ground. He would ideally like an entry for each year from the 1987 joiners to the 2013 leavers.

He hopes *"if we get a team for each year, there will be 20 teams of players who have attended the greatest school in Potters Bar.. Age will clearly be a factor in the winning team..!"*

He has emailed 1st XI Captain's from this era to invite them to take part, with the help of Ian Breeze, so if you know of anyone who could track down that *"tricky winger or hard nut left back"*, please get in contact with him on [johndullivan@hotmail.com](mailto:johndullivan@hotmail.com) or ring him on 07971 965 269.

He says, *"Come and join in the fun - we're only 400 once!"*

A list of the Captains contacted to date is shown below!

If there is space and interest, he'd be happy to allow more than one team per year – it's about involving as many people as would like to take part as possible!

Start year	End Year	Age this school year	1st XI captain	
1987	1994	37	Marcus Gibbon	Confirmed
1988	1995	36	Ben Rowswell	Confirmed
1989	1996	35	Robert Fielder	Confirmed
1990	1997	34	Jamie Bird	Confirmed
1991	1998	33	Neil Robinson	Confirmed
1992	1999	32	Andrew Cropper / Bobby Highton	
1993	2000	31	Paul Robinson / Martin Waters	Confirmed
1994	2001	30	Steve Gray	Confirmed
1995	2002	29	Graeme Pressney / Neil Kitchen	Confirmed
1996	2003	28	David Breeze	Confirmed
1997	2004	27	James Montague / Dan Warner	
1998	2005	26	Iain Salt	Confirmed
1999	2006	25	Chris Thurston	
2000	2007	24	Tom Lytton	
2001	2008	23	Harrison Pepper	No contact details
2002	2009	22	Milo Craig	No contact details
2003	2010	21	Mike Timotheou	Confirmed
2004	2011	20	Darragh Vieyra	Confirmed
2005	2012	19	Liam Roche	Confirmed
2006	2013	18	Luke Short	Confirmed

### 400th Anniversary Sports Matches—May/June

Fixing the fixtures have been tricky to confirm, but we hope our 1<sup>st</sup> XI Boys Football team will be playing an Arsenal Football team including one England player (date still tbc) and our 1st XI Girls Hockey team will be playing a Women's Hockey team including 2 Olympic Bronze medal players (date still tbc). The MCC v Owen's game at Old Owen's Sports Ground is confirmed for 10<sup>th</sup> July.

### Old Owen's Sports Ground—social events coming up—contact John or Lynn for more details on 01707 644211!

**Alvin plays Elvis**—Thursday 11th April 2013, 8pm—no need to book, free entry, food available on request

**Quiz Night**—Friday 17th May, 7.30pm, £10 per ticket including food—ring to book!

## Congratulations to Old Owenian, Sir Alan Parker CBE



We're delighted to report that Sir Alan Parker, who left Owen's in 1962, was presented with a Bafta Fellowship at the British Academy Film Awards on 10th February this year and we wish him many congratulations. It's the highest honour the British Film Academy can give a filmmaker.

His celebrated career as a Film Director, includes work on many iconic films such as *Bugsy Malone* (1976), *Midnight Express* (1978), *Fame* (1980), *Shoot the Moon* (1982), *Pink Floyd – The Wall* (1982), *Birdy* (1984), *Angel Heart* (1987), *Mississippi Burning* (1988), *Come see the Paradise* (1990), *The Commitments* (1991), *The Road to Wellville* (1994), *Evita* (1996), *Angela's Ashes* (1999) and his most recent film *The Life of David Gale*, in 2003.

In the 1970's he was writing and directing TV commercials such as award-winning Cinzano series featuring Leonard Rossiter and Joan Collins and his film, *Bugsy Malone*, got him his first break into

Hollywood. He became chairman of the British Film Institute in 1998, and then chairman of the UK Film Council in 2000 for its first five years. In 1995, he was given a CBE for services to the British film industry and received a knighthood in 2002.

We're honoured that Sir Alan has inspired a short play (from the first movie script he wrote, *Melody*), to be performed at our 400th Anniversary Concert at the Royal Albert Hall, at which he'll be present as our special guest.

## Owen's makes headlines again!

The Welwyn and Hatfield Times, Potter Bar Edition reported on March 6th 2013, that Owen's was the "most popular in Times Territory" with more than 650 more pupils applying than spaces. This year, 211 pupils have been allocated a place for September 2013 in accordance with our strict admissions code, within which, 21 pupils from Islington have been allocated a place:

BREAKDOWN OF PLACES ALLOCATED	
3	Children with a statement
2	Criterion 1 - Looked After Children
22	Criterion 2 - 22 Closest to School
109	Criterion 3 - Sibling
10	Criterion 4 - Music
65	Criterion 5 - Entrance Exam
0	Criterion 6 - Children of Staff
0	Criterion 7 - Closest to the School
0	Criterion 8 - Any Other Child



## Snow Plough Owen's Style!

Old Owenian and current member of our site team, Steve Morris, helped clear the recent February (and March!) snow on a special quad bike snow plough, designed by our own ex- groundsman, Andrew Ward. Pictured here on the Netball courts, the quad bike was also useful for clearing the snow in the main staff car park.

For those of you who were around before 2007, the Art and Maths block is now the current staff car park, having been replaced by the Arnold Lynch Building, which was opened by HRH Duke of Kent.



### **Oak Tree gone from Oak Court!**

And, for those who remember the very large oak tree, outside the Sixth Form dining room, we have to tell you that sadly it had to be taken down as the roots were uplifting the paving. Even the stump has now been removed, but the name Oak Court remains due to the other trees in the vicinity.

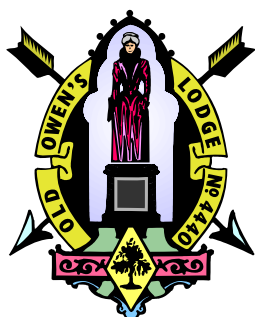
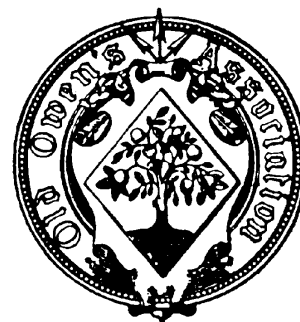
The photo on the right shows the staff car park, built in 2007 after the old Art and Maths block was taken down and the other photos show the Learning Support Portacabin (below left) and Drama block (below right).

Several Old Owenians Careers Speakers who visited us this March were very nostalgic to see it had disappeared as it used to provide welcome shade and a great area to eat outside in the summer!



### **Old Owen's Association Annual General Meeting**

The OOA would like to give notice of their Annual General Meeting on Wednesday 8th May 2013, at 7.30pm in the Pavilion at Old Owen's Sports Ground, Coopers Lane, Northaw, Potters Bar Herts EN6 4NF. All Old Owenians are welcome. We would be most grateful if you could email our School Business Manager, Mrs Gill Keating, if you intend joining us—see the notice of agenda (PDF) on our Old Owenians Newsletter webpage for more details. Ties are also available from the Old Owen's Association—please see their website at: <http://www.owens.com/>.



### **Congratulations to Bill Hamilton-Hinds!**

Bill now becomes Master of the Old Owen's Lodge for 2013 and is involved in arranging the 400th anniversary Old Owen's Lodge Meeting on Saturday 25th May 2013 at 4pm, followed by the Festive Board Dinner. It is open to any qualified Freemason.

Further information is available from Bill Hamilton-Hinds at: [wjhamilton-hinds@msn.com](mailto:wjhamilton-hinds@msn.com). Thanks to Old Owen's Lodge for their generous donation to our 400th anniversary appeal to raise funds for our new Science Building and for their ongoing support for our School.

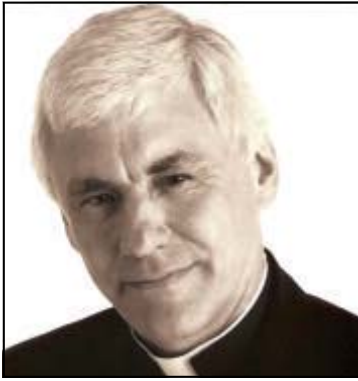


### **Harold Moore Annual Reunion Luncheon for all Old Owenians**

**Thursday 31st October 2013, during Half Term, 1-4pm, Imperial Hotel, Russell Square, London**

**\*\*\*\*\*Please note this is a NEW DATE from previously advertised due to a change in circumstances\*\*\*\*\***

Here's a diary date reminder for this opportunity for all Old Owenians to come together at a splendid luncheon in London to reunite with friends. Invitations will be sent out in early September 2013 to those on the mailing list. To be added to the mailing list, please contact Old Owenians: Mr Stan Gould: [stanleysgould@gmail.com](mailto:stanleysgould@gmail.com), mobile: 07969 108001 or Mr Michael Harold: [mharoldghill@icloud.com](mailto:mharoldghill@icloud.com). You can read reports on previous luncheons with photos from the event on our website under Old Owenians School News.



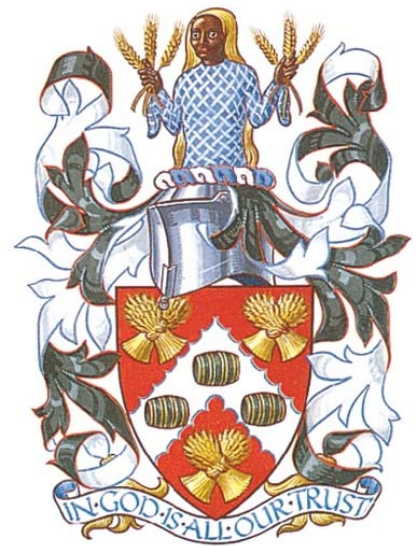
Thanks to Gareth Randall, the author of **"Dame Alice Owen's School—A History 1613-2013"**, for taking time from his role as priest in an Anglican Church in France to be interviewed on live radio to discuss the history of our illustrious school. Gareth joined Owen's in 1984 as Director of Studies, later becoming Assistant Head. He was ordained in 1993, retired at the end of 2006 and his picture here appears on the inside back cover of our History Book!

Robert Elms, a former student at Mill Hill County High School, was excited to have Dame Alice Owen's School as his featured school as many of his old friends from Islington attended Owen's, including Gary Kemp, who he'd previously interviewed on our cake-cutting ceremony day!

To introduce the feature, the show's researcher, Hayley, gave an overview of DAOS (Boys and Girls Schools from Islington to Potters Bar), news of our 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary, our relationship with the Worshipful Company of Brewers (see their crest, right), an update on how much beer money students now receive, the history of Dame Alice, (declaring her a heroine to have outlasted three husbands!) and the famous arrow story.

Robert followed by interviewing Gareth, as author of the history book, who gave an excellent further detailed account of the history of the school. They discussed the evacuation of the school to Bedford and Kettering, the importance of football as the main sport, the introduction of rowing (until the move to Islington) and rugby, the importance of music and the arts and mentioned Robert Pepper's award of MBE for services to music.

They also touched on reasons for the move from Islington to Potters Bar and how DAOS still maintains traditions and links with Islington and the Brewers, who some of our famous alumni are, how good the school is at keeping in touch and mentioned the annual Harold Moore Luncheon, as well as the current status as a State school Academy! Finally, Gareth promoted **"Dame Alice Owen's School – A History 1613-2013"**, selling at £25 and if Robert didn't have a copy, he'd ring the school straight away and get them to send him one!!!



Interspersed with music and news items, four former students were then interviewed on a phone-in, all from the Islington schools:

**"Ruth from Winchmore Hill"**, who talked about her experiences as a Jewish girl at the school (Thanks to Ruth Goldman for telling how much she enjoyed her time at the Girls' School—she has contributed to the Old Owenians Newsletter and is an attendee of the Harold Moore Luncheon – we put her in touch with the lady she talked about from New Zealand!)

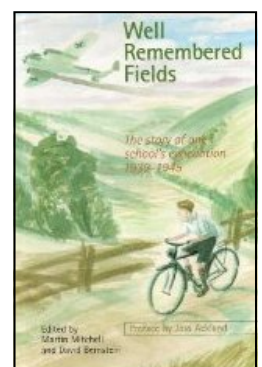
**"Norman from Clapham 1953-1957"**, who talked about how wonderful school the school was and how full of tradition (including corporal punishment!) and listed the Houses. His brother, now living in Chester and a former Head Boy, will be joining Norman for the 400<sup>th</sup> celebrations at the Royal Albert Hall and St Paul's.

**"Paul from BexleyHeath"**, who spent his last year in Islington, declared how sad it was to see the school move to Potters Bar. He was hoping to be a Prefect, but by the time he reached the Sixth Form, there weren't any younger ones left to "boss around". He managed to sing the school song on air, much to the amusement of his brother who was listening in!

**"Martin from Finchley"**, who was in Islington until the war years, was evacuated to Bedford in 1939 and keeps in touch through the annual get-togethers. He is one of the authors of "Well Remembered Fields", which is a collection of 17 Owen's boys' memories of the war.

There was one email from "Andy from 1962" who said he didn't enjoy his time at the school!

Robert Elms said at the end of the feature that **Dame Alice Owen's School had one of the best phone-in responses from past students he'd had on his show and that all the tales were most eloquently told!** Unfortunately, BBC iPlayer only has radio programmes listed for 7 days after the first airing, so this show is no longer available online.





## 400<sup>th</sup> Celebration Cake

Although we couldn't physically share our 400<sup>th</sup> Celebration Cake with you all, we thought we could at least pass on our excellent recipe by our Head of Technology (Food and Textiles), Mrs Carolyn Cerny, including a brilliant YouTube clip which Carolyn gave to our volunteer cake bakers (and your editor!) to learn how to ice the perfect square cake to ensure they were as similar as possible! See our parents cutting up our 400th cake for students and staff below!

### Dame Alice Owens School – 400<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Cake



Ingredients for **ONE** cake  
Please make **TWO** identical cakes!  
150g Stork Margarine  
150g Caster Sugar  
150g Self Raising Flour  
3 medium size eggs  
1 tsp Vanilla Extract

#### Butter Cream

300g Sieved Icing Sugar  
150g Spreadable Butter  
1 tsp Vanilla Extract

#### Filling

One jar jam

#### Icing

1kg pack White Fondant Icing

**20cm (8") square cake tin**

Method:

1. Preheat the oven to gas mark 3, 325F, 170C
2. Grease and line your tins with greaseproof paper.
3. In a large bowl, use a wooden spoon to cream together the butter and sugar until light and fluffy.
4. In a separate bowl, lightly beat the eggs, add vanilla extract.
5. Gradually add eggs to the butter and sugar mixture, beating well after each addition.
6. Gently fold in the flour with a metal spoon.
7. Spoon the mixture into the cake tin.
8. Spread the mixture evenly in the tin and level the top as much as possible.
9. Bake the cake on the middle oven shelf for approx. 30-40 minutes (remember that all ovens vary so it is only possible to give approximate timings here).
10. When the cake is ready it will be lightly golden brown on top, springy to the touch and slightly coming away from the sides of the tin.
11. Transfer the cake to a cooling rack and leave until completely cooled.
12. Repeat steps 1-11 for the second sponge cake.
13. If your cakes have risen with a dome on the top then you will need to carefully level the top by cutting off the dome.
14. At this stage you may freeze the cakes by sealing completely in a plastic bag or rigid plastic container. Defrost at room temperature in the bags for 2-3 hours.
15. Next make the butter cream: soften the butter in a large mixing bowl until it is light and creamy.
16. Add vanilla extract and gradually add the sieved icing sugar until it is completely amalgamated.
17. Spread the top of one of the cakes generously with buttercream
18. Spread the jam on top of the buttercream
19. Sandwich the other cake on top (tip: place the top cake 'baked side down' on top of the jam so that the bottom of the cake now becomes the top. This will give a better surface for decorating).
20. Place the cake on a sheet of greaseproof paper – approx. 40cm square (this will help us to pick up the cakes without touching them too much during assembly).
21. Using a palette knife you need to completely cover the top and sides of the cake with a thin and even layer of buttercream. This will create a smooth surface before covering with the fondant icing and is called a 'crumb coating'.
22. Place the cake, uncovered, in the fridge for approximately one hour to allow the icing to firm up.
23. Lightly dust your work surface with icing sugar and roll out your fondant icing. Please watch the **YouTube clip** for instructions on how to ice the cake

<http://www.paulinescakes.com/2009/11/how-to-cover-square-cake-with-fondant.html>

Please note that you do not need smoothers, you can smooth with your hands.

Cut by Gary Kemp on Tuesday 22nd January with our ceremonial sword, our enormous cake measured 2m x 1.5m and comprised of 45 individual 8" square cakes, each made by volunteer parents and staff (including the Head), baked to this very specific recipe (interestingly, no baking powder) and filled with jam and buttercream and topped with white royal icing.

All staff and students had the opportunity to sample a piece of cake—there were spare cakes made to ensure all 1,600 of us could have a piece! One student declared it was "the best cake he'd ever tasted"! Your editor can personally recommend the traditional fool proof recipe as she then repeated it for a family celebration in February (right)! It really works – have a go!





## PAUL BIRRI – LEFT 2006

Thanks to Mr Paul Birri for this incredibly inspiring article, giving real practical advice on how to reach for the sky to become a pilot. We sadly couldn't get a mutually suitable time for Paul to attend our Careers Talks so he's very kindly written a great contribution instead— over to Paul from Hong Kong...



*"Today I can say I have achieved my lifelong dream of becoming an airline pilot. I left Dame Alice Owen's in 2006, one important step in my journey. I, like many Old Owenians, am extremely proud and grateful of what I learned, both academically and extra-circularly, during my secondary school years.*

*I can still vividly recall an old Owenian came back to the school to offer advice about becoming a pilot; of course I was there to listen. His name was Alex Rowe. He had just gained employment with Easyjet and I found him to be a true inspiration. I hope his career is progressing successfully.*

*Unlike many people I have met along the way, I did not have a family member already established in the industry to guide me along the way in my search for success. Thus, through this article, I hope I can be of guidance to those who find themselves in a similar situation I was in.*

*Firstly, what is it like being a pilot? Is it the job for you? In reality the job of a pilot varies from company to company. However, I can share with you a day in the life of a long haul pilot at Cathay Pacific Airways. All flights departing Hong Kong begin at Cathay Pacific City – our headquarters where we have our own customs, immigration and security screening. The pilots, normally four of us, meet around a table to discuss the route, the weather and any other notices after which the Captain will decide which pilot will fly the takeoff and landing. After this briefing, we introduce ourselves to the 14 or so cabin crew individually one by one.*

*Once we have met each other we all board a crew bus which takes us to the airport and stops outside our aeroplane. Upon boarding, one of the cabin crew will enter the flight deck to take drinks orders and provide us with sandwiches and snacks while we carry out our pre-flight duties. These duties include a walk around the aeroplane to visually inspect it, a check of the emergency equipment and for any suspicious objects, and preparing the computers and systems for the flight. Once all the passengers and cargo are on board, and we have our clearance from air traffic control, we depart the gate. All the pilots are present in the flight deck for takeoff and landing.*

*During the cruise, only two pilots are required to stay in the flight deck. If somebody needs a toilet break, one of the cabin crew will replace them temporarily. Each pilot will spend half the flight in the crew rest area which consists of reclining seats with in-flight entertainment screens as well as flat beds for sleeping. When it's your turn to work, you receive a phone call. Normally we are served crew meals, which are comparable to business class meals. On occasion we get the first class food. Each pilot must choose a different meal to ensure that food poisoning could only ever affect one of us.*

*Around one hour before touchdown, all the pilots will be back in the flight deck to brief (discuss) the arrival. After landing, we are transported to the hotel where we will spend anywhere between one and three days before being picked up for the return flight. Each month I have two or three return flights. This gives me up to more than twenty days off per month. Pilots flying short haul can expect more like 10 days off per month. The disadvantages of being a pilot include working unsociable hours and flying through the night.*



*How to become an airline pilot? There are three main routes into an airline. Becoming a military pilot has no financial commitment but does have a sizeable time commitment and is subject to vacancies which fluctuate with government spending. While the training and the experience gained is unparalleled, it also comes with a military life style, which may not suit everybody. There are many civilian flight training organisations across the UK and around the world offering the training required to obtain your commercial pilot licence.*

*The training is very expensive and, of course, there is no guarantee of employment. The harsh reality is that every year some people spend the money and never get the job. The other method is to get yourself onto a "Cadetship". This is where airlines select their Cadets who they believe will make good pilots. The idea being that they will employ them as pilots on completion of the training. Nowadays European airlines will typically require the Cadet to fund the training, whereas Asian and Middle Eastern airlines will fund the training and pay you during training. The places are limited and competition is tough.*

*How did I become a pilot? During my time in the sixth form I did A-levels in Maths, Chemistry, French and Italian. At the same time I was working part time as a baker at Tesco, and getting free flying from the Air Cadets (the RAF's youth organisation). I joined the Air Cadets at the age of thirteen at the Potters Bar Squadron. Upon leaving sixth form, due to the lack of cadetships available at the time, I began pilot training. Two years later the UK slipped into recession as part of this global financial crisis which seems to have lingered since. Needless to say, airlines were not recruiting. Therefore I decided to become a teacher of a class of pilots at Cranfield Airport.*

*A year later I was offered a job teaching at a school in the USA. As part of the deal, the school funded my pilot training and instructor training. I worked there for a year until airlines started hiring again. Cathay Pacific invited me for selection at their London offices, followed by two further stages in Hong Kong and the final stage in Adelaide, Australia. All was at their expense, and after 10 months of selection, I started my training in Adelaide as a fully sponsored Cadet. Now I have been flying the Boeing 777 out of Hong Kong for over a year. I am doing exactly what I've always wanted to do – see the world!*

*So if you still want to be a pilot, what should you do about it? One of the best things you can do with your time as a teenager is to join the Air Cadets. The Air Cadets will provide you with skills and experiences which you can take with you into any career. It looks especially good on the CV if you plan a career in aviation or the armed services. During my time at Owen's I was also involved in various extra-curricular activities such as the prefect team, the anti-bullying council and assisting in lower school maths lessons. I was awarded a Commendation for Service to the School. These could be the differences between you and somebody else with similar grades or qualifications when being screened for university and employment.*

*The piloting profession is unusual in the sense that academic qualifications such as a degree are not required. Employers look for a specific set of characteristics. Pilots must be good at maths, science, working in teams, problem solving, working under pressure, making decisions, have good hand-eye coordination, quick reactions, and a good memory and must be medically fit. An airline selection process is designed to examine all of the above. However, a university degree is not only an extra string to your bow, but more importantly, provides a backup should aviation not become your life long career. Cathay Pacific takes pilots who have come from all walks of life such as from other airlines, the military, doctors, dentists, bankers, economists, entrepreneurs and many more.*

*You might be wondering what subjects an aspiring pilot should choose for GCSE or A-level. Any subject you pick should be either one you are good at or one you enjoy. This should also be along the lines of the degree you plan to do. Seeing as A-levels and a degree are not a requirement, my recommendation would be to pursue a field which will provide you with a good back-up career path. That way you know that other doors will always be open to you.*

*Does piloting have a future? There is and has been for some years talk of pilotless airliners. Unmanned aerial vehicles already exist and are being used by the military in Afghanistan for example. They are controlled by pilots on the ground, but they do not carry any passengers. Airliners can land themselves and they do as a matter of procedure when the visibility is low. Do I think that airliners will become like driverless trains? Eventually I believe they probably will, but not in the foreseeable future.*

*My aim here is to provide an informative read for anybody considering a career in aviation, and perhaps an interesting read for one or two others. As young students it is easy to take for granted the life lessons we can learn from our school teachers. The lessons may come in the form of anecdotes during assemblies for example. Putting some thought and maybe some preparation into your future early on can be very valuable. The resources in the SALC (Self Access Learning Centre) are extensive and underused by most.*

*I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the teachers I had the pleasure to meet, including Mr Brown who sadly passed away a few years ago. I would also like to express my best wishes to my fellow 'Old Owenians', many of whom I haven't seen since sixth form. Who knows, maybe one day soon we'll meet again."*



#### **EDMUND EDWARDS McKINNON – LEFT 1952**

Thanks to Mr Edwards McKinnon for sending his kind greetings from Java and apologies that being in Indonesia, he is unlikely to be in the UK for our celebrations in April! However, he wishes us congratulations on our 400th Anniversary and tells us about his background and career abroad after leaving Owen's.

*"Having spent 40 of the past 50 odd years in Indonesia, I have rather lost touch with Owen's and many friends and former colleagues in the U.K. but still have fond memories of the school in Owen's St. where I collected 6 O Levels in 1952, despite having been propping up the bottom of the D-form for several years. I have been a late starter academically and no doubt could have done better.*

*I commuted from Hampton, SW London which meant that by the time I left school I had enough of trains and underground travel and went to work on a farm at Stanwell near Heathrow Airport. I then went to the Farm Institute at Caythorpe near Grantham for a year and thereafter to the Edinburgh & East of Scotland College of Agriculture.*

*After 2 years National Service (Seaforth Highlanders 1956-58), I was offered a job as an apprentice rubber planter with a British plantation company in Sumatra, but was thrown out due to Indonesian Confrontation with Malaysia in early 1964 and thereafter spent a year on a tea plantation in south India. This changed my whole life - there were so many fascinating cultural similarities between Sumatra and southern India that it kindled a latent interest in art history and archaeology and mediaeval inter-regional trade.*

*Having 'retired' from the plantation industry in late 1976, I spent 4 years in the US where I was awarded degrees in Art History at Cornell University and thereafter returned to work in Indonesia. I am now retired but still writing on subjects relating to Chinese export ceramics and Indian connections with Sumatra. The name element McKinnon was added to Edmund Edwards (Colebrook, 1947-1952) in 1956."*



#### **SARAH MCKEEVER (NEE GAUNT) —LEFT 1986**

Thanks to Ms Sarah McKeever for sending us best wishes for a fantastic 2013! She told us how much she enjoys reading the Newsletters; *"it's always fabulous to see what's new and which traditions are continuing"*. She recently noticed the appeal for information about Senior Prefects, claimed the Deputy Head Girl slot for 1986 and updated others! After an initial career in engineering, she is now Head of Maths at a local secondary school in Warwickshire. Thanks too, to Mr Andrew Hutton, Deputy Head Boy in 1983, for also filling in a missing name!

If anyone has any more names to add to those still missing from our Senior Team list (gaps before 1987 now only!), please send details to your editor at: [400years@damealiceowens.herts.sch.uk](mailto:400years@damealiceowens.herts.sch.uk) —many thanks for your time! The full list can be found on our website at: [http://www.damealiceowens.herts.sch.uk/about\\_us/senior\\_prefects.html](http://www.damealiceowens.herts.sch.uk/about_us/senior_prefects.html).



#### **MIKE STEIN—LEFT 1965**

Thanks to Mr Mike Stein for getting in contact with the following request: *"Is anyone attending the 400th Anniversary Concert at the Royal Albert Hall who started at Owens in Islington in 1957 and would like to meet up with Richard Denman and Michael Stein? If so then please contact [mikestein@ospreyclarke.com](mailto:mikestein@ospreyclarke.com)!"*





## MICK FIELD—LEFT 1968



Malcolm Webb, John Ley, Ian Finlay, Steve Ward, Pete O'Brien, Keith Wilson and Mick Field

Thanks to Mr Mick Field for writing once again about the reunion group from the "Class of '64". See photo and names above! They have now agreed to try to get together each February for a meal and in the summer for a BBQ, taking turns to host (following their first successful BBQ at Mick's house last summer, reported in our September 2012 Old Owenians Newsletter). The venue and date of the 2013 BBQ is still to be decided and Mick would like to invite anyone who recognises their names and would like to join them in the future to email him at:- [mickfield1949@btinternet.com](mailto:mickfield1949@btinternet.com).

Mick told us that *"this time we met on Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> February, at the Crown and Anchor in Drummond Street (near Euston Station) and after a couple of beers we moved on to the Shah Tandoori, again in Drummond Street. Before moving on to eat we were very pleased to welcome a new member to our group namely, Keith Wilson, who had been in touch with me by e mail. It was really good to see Keith after such a long while and he has agreed to take part in any future re-unions. Apologies were received from Alan Lines and Dick Eke (both of whom were unwell) and Paul Chapman who was otherwise indisposed.*

Finally, he wanted to let us know that, *"all of the above have the very fondest memories of our time spent (or mis-spent) at Owens and at every meeting new memories are evoked and long may it continue".*

He kindly sends this message: *"Good luck and best wishes to all Owenians; past, present and future especially in this our 400th year".*



## DR MARCUS KAYE—LEFT 1945

Thanks to Dr Marcus Kaye for his on-going support and correspondence and who contributed this photo from Alan Locke as a possible addition to the historical display unveiled in January!

He visited our School on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> March 2013 to kindly present a poster on frogs. He also wrote an article for our Old Owenians Newsletter, which you can read about in the September 2012 edition.



THE "SECOND" ELEVEN  
Our Gallant "Seconds" as seen by A. W. Locke (VIA). They are, left to right, Top row: G. HAWKINS, B. L. SKELTON, D. A. HALL, G. R. CLARK. Middle row: G. J. SHAW, I. J. WALKER, A. C. NUNN. Bottom row: R. L. WEISER, K. R. COOMBS, M. KAUFFMAN, D. W. LAMBARDE. About seven other boys, not represented, have also played.



### GAVIN JORDAN AND EMILIOS LEMONIATIS – LEFT 1992

Repeat request if you missed it on page 9: Gavin and Emilios joined us for our Careers Talks Week this year and would like to request if anyone is reading this, who left in 1992 and was in their year, to get in contact with either of them – [emlem73@hotmail.com](mailto:emlem73@hotmail.com) and [gjordan@uk.ey.com](mailto:gjordan@uk.ey.com) or via Facebook. They are thinking about a Reunion event, possibly at the Old Owen's Sports Ground - and that's as far as they've got! Thanks once again for their inspiring talks!



### DAVID GOULD – LEFT 1957

Thanks to Mr David Gould for sending us an update of where he is now, his memories of Owen's and a school record which he might still hold!

*"A recent newsletter has finally brought me out of hiding. Firstly, a little of my history - brief because there is not much to tell. When I left Owens (then at the Angel Islington) in 1957 I spent the next 40-odd years in the property business ending up in Manchester, having got married, fathering 2 children and settling in rural Lancashire.*

*A few years later still working but part-time we received an offer from an old friend to run, in his absence, a house of our choice in France. We now operate a gite and b&b business in the Limousin region about 20 miles from Limoges. For those of you interested full details can be found on our website [www.frachiscottages.com](http://www.frachiscottages.com).*



*Memories, in no particular order, our Latin teacher(Mr. Souter?) teaching us conjugation- porto portas portat etc. by carrying a pencil on his shoulder around the classroom. The same teacher by the way, supervising cricket at Chandos Avenue having a deck chair carried by the cricketers from end to end between overs. It was thought by us that he had little interest in or saw, much of the game.*

*Anyone remember Mr (Flash) Hardwick?-fearsome but fair. One day in a classroom next to the entrance hall (forbidden to pupils) we discovered an unlocked door at the rear of the room which led out to the entrance hall. A member of our class asked our German teacher to write on the blackboard the word for "understood" which in German is selbstverständlich. By the time he had finished it in capitals half the class had exited & were knocking on the other door much to his bemusement.*

*Another of our Latin teachers launching an astonishing attack on the American "claim" to be a republic without the outmoded monarchy hangover when they regularly elect a President who has at the touch of a button the nuclear power of life & death over a large part of the globe - far beyond the dreams of any previous absolute ruler! Mr Edwards & his slipper (called Jimmy) with which he ensured discipline in the classroom - ah the joys of school in the 50's! One day when we had a double maths period before lunch 2 of us - David Cowham & I - truanted to the News cinema at Baker St returning to the head of the queue at school for lunch. Unfortunately the master in charge of the queue was our maths teacher & we duly received the condign punishment for our misdeeds.*

*There is a photograph in the recent newsletter of some former 50's pupils at a reunion-one of whom participated in an adventure in Paris on a school educational trip. We visited a bar "Le petit trou" in the evening ( recommended by Miss Cast!) where with all the experience of a group of 15-year olds the local beer product was sampled. One of our number declared that French beer was p--- & that he could not drink enough of it . A bet was then struck whereby if in the opinion of the other 7 of us he was still sober we would pay for his beer after he had drunk 7 glasses . He walked in a straight line along the kerb on the way back to our digs & was thereby judged to be sober. Unfortunately he was sick into a wash hand basin in our dorm on arrival & one of our number had to clean up after him before our teacher came in. We did not get our money back from him!*



*I also spent one school year (having opted for it) rowing on the Thames - quite an adventure for a landlubber from Paddington. Some of you may remember a day in February 1952 when the whole school was recalled into the assembly hall for a special morning announcement by the Headmaster Mr Garstang that King George VI had died. My father had an office overlooking Edgware Road and we went there to witness the King's state funeral procession on its way to Paddington Station. On a happier note we also went to Hyde Park to see the Queen's coronation procession in the rain - Queen Salote & all.*

*Finally a recent fellow contributor mentioned a 6th former who could sink a pint of beer in 4 seconds. Others could run faster, jump higher or pass more exams than anyone else but this was a school record that seems to have lasted. Reader, that pupil was me!*



**DEBBIE HEARNDEN AND SIMON GIBBS – LEFT 2005**

Thanks to Miss Debbie Hearnden for getting in contact in December 2012 to tell us the great news that Simon and her are engaged to be married. Now living in New York, they are considering returning to the UK for their wedding ceremony in 2014 and say "Hi" to Reverend Gareth Randall! We wish them many congratulations and good luck with planning their big day!



**MICHAEL ANDREWS—LEFT 1946**

Thanks to Mr Michael Andrews for his message to Head, Alan Davison: *"Greetings and congratulations to all at Dame Alice Owen's School on reaching its 400th Anniversary. May the school continue to prosper for many more years...*

*...So strive with the will Owenians*

*Success attend your play*

*Never let your ardour cool*

*For the honour of the school."*



**ALASTAIR CROCKETT – LEFT 2003**

Thanks to Mr Crockett for getting in contact about our Careers Talks Week and offer of support by way of advice to our students about architecture. Unfortunately he couldn't make this year, but has already volunteered for our talks in 2014! He sent this brief resume below:

*"I was a student at the school 1996- 2003 (awarded the Design and Technology Prize 2002), and subsequently went on to study Architecture at university. I am now fully qualified, after completing the three parts of the course, each at different universities. During this time I received two sets of bursary awards from Dame Alice Owen's which were most helpful towards my studies. I would very much like to reciprocate this kindness by giving a talk at the 2014 event, and until then give any advice I can to students if required. I am currently employed by Níall McLaughlin Architects, London and a Part-Time Teaching Fellow at the University of Bath"*



**ANTHONY METTAM – LEFT 1956**

Thanks to Mr Mettam for requesting to join our email list and letting us know who was in the back row next to John Esson in the photo of the Football 1<sup>st</sup> XI in our Old Owenians Newsletter on 18<sup>th</sup> December 2012, page 17 – Peter Osborne! He was good friends with Peter through his years at Owens, 1951-1956 (he left at the end of 5th form). He also tells us that his brother Clifford Mettam, a pupil at the school immediately after the war, went into hospital with a severe heart problem in 1949 and was hospitalised for 2.5 years, and never returned to school now lives only 500 yards from him in Bedford.



## COLIN BULL—LEFT 1970

Thanks to Mr Colin Bull for his first class memory in recounting more escapades from the 1960's, stirred by other's contributions. Having retired some 8/9 months ago, he has barely had time to put pen to paper and promises more to come! He enjoyed our Coffee and Tour Morning last May and has secured tickets for our Royal Albert Hall 400th Anniversary Concert, which he'll be attending with Norman Goldner and Pete Welch, as well as ordering the new school history book! He hopes to be in touch again throughout this momentous year for the school and to make the most of opportunities to catch up with some old friends. He also adds, "Please pass on my regards to Bill" (Hamilton-Hinds!). Colin has kindly submitted two articles—here's the first one:

### ***"Memories of Owen's School 1962-1970***

*Nigel Eidmans' article in the December 2011 issue prompted a wealth of memories of my days at Owen's School some 50 years ago, but it has taken me longer than I expected to commit some of them to paper.*

*I appear in the picture of 2SVG which accompanies his text, standing in the back row next to Trevor Harrington, who is on the far right. Like Nigel, although all the faces are still so familiar, I am struggling to put names to many of them. The few I can readily recall are: Theo Fishman, Simon Pyzer, Gordon? Alexander, John Groves, Lee Prebble, Ackerman and Dibble. It's particularly difficult to remember some of them as we were all mixed into different forms in the following year.*

*I know I still have some Owen's 'memorabilia' stashed away somewhere which would provide some of the answers, but all my attempts to find it have so far been unsuccessful. I also remember Stan George's classroom in the art block very well as I ended up back in there in the 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> form years with Pete Salisbury, after spending the intervening two years with 'Toots' O'Keefe in the main building.*

*It was always very handy for the 'tuck shop' at break time – sugar coated Belgian buns, iced buns and that fizzy drink in glass bottles we used to 'tap' with (old) pennies to make it froth up. I also remember the morning I arrived at school to find a number of fire engines scattered around the art block and the roof of the building missing! Someone had left the kiln on overnight in the art room on the top floor and it had caught fire. Anyway, I was pretty hopeless at art – and woodwork, unfortunately.*

*I was also a 'victim' of the 'slipper incident' at the Chandos Avenue playing fields. Pupils going up to the field for the afternoon went for lunch early and, as I recall, there was either a delay with school dinners or some sort of disruption to the bus services resulting in a large group of us turning up late. I remember joining the long line of boys waiting their turn at the hand (and slipper) of 'Gym' Chant. I also recall watching the mini making its way into the entrance hall at the end of one summer term. It was a very interesting exercise getting it in there, and an even more interesting one getting it out! Les Gibbings' contributions to the newsletter also stirred a few memories with a selection of familiar names.*

*I, too, was a victim of Roger Biggs' dinner ticket scam and I think he had a younger brother in my year. One of my earliest memories is of Bill Hamilton-Hinds' younger brother, Derrick, being thrown out of morning assembly for being cheeky to Lathrope, the head boy. We all turned to look up into the gallery where prefects were stumbling noisily down the steps and through the seated 6<sup>th</sup> formers to grab him and take him to the headmaster's office. Bill Hamilton-Hinds was in the sixth form when I first arrived at Owen's and returned as a member of staff a few years later.*

*All the members of staff were such memorable characters throughout my time at the school. 'Enus' Reeves taught Latin and was a dashing character in his green frog-eye Austin Healey Sprite. There was Richard Glasgow, also a Latin master, who took rowing and was excellent with sailing knots. 'Baldy' Butler for French, who horrified me by snatching my brand new Parker pen, bought specially for my transition to senior school, from the desk and dropping it from a great height into an empty chalk box to demonstrate 'La plume est dans la boîte'!*

*History with 'Dan' Dare re-enacting the battle of Hastings by dashing from side to side of the classroom as the opposing Normans and Saxons and collapsing on the floor with a ruler held to his eye to represent Harold's demise. History was also taught by Colin Williams, a diminutive man in a cloak about two sizes too big for him (he probably couldn't get a smaller one) who pressed the array of bell buttons in the corner of the classroom to signal the end of period throughout the school with a distinct flourish. '*



Toots' O'Keefe, who I fondly remember for persevering with me (and others) who didn't quite understand maths problems the first time round. He had remarkable patience and always took the time to find yet another way of expressing and explaining things until, bit by bit, we all returned to our seats able to solve the problems and equations in front of us. There was John Sparrow, a mildly spoken and mildly mannered master who brought English poetry and prose to life. 'Gunky' Blake, a gruff looking and gruff sounding master and 'melodious' Don McGregor taught science in the new labs on the top floors of the Girls' school.

By the time I was in the 6<sup>th</sup> form, Don Mc Gregor had 'acquired' an old Ford Popular with which he gave lessons in rudimentary mechanics and in which we gained early driving practice around the playground. The 6<sup>th</sup> form girls also took part in this activity and 'domestic science' lessons gave us another opportunity to mix with them in the Girls' school cookery facility. Many a good lunch was prepared during those morning cookery periods!

The value of my education at Owens' came as much from the wide variety of activities on offer as the academic curriculum. I was a member of the school choir from the very start and had the honour of taking part in the 350<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebrations at St. Paul's Cathedral. I was completely overawed by the experience and vividly remember the vast dome towering above us. We all seemed so small by comparison and I really wondered whether we could make enough noise to be heard in that huge space. However, under the excellent and fastidious direction of music master, Jack Paul, the choir sounded every bit as magnificent as the building we sang in.

I always enjoyed the annual Christmas Carol services at St. Mary's Church in Upper Street. In Ringwood, where I now live, the community assembles in the market place to sing carols on Christmas Eve, accompanied by the Salvation Army band. Thanks to all those services at St. Mary's, I can still remember almost all of the words to the carols without looking down at the sheet. I also remember reading a lesson at one of the services and being surprised by how different my voice sounded when the church was full, compared with the practice sessions when it had been virtually empty. I have always enjoyed reading and I still have the Cholmeley Reading Prize books I won on a couple of occasions at Owen's. I'm told that my voice still carries well (although that's not always an advantage) and this is obviously a skill I developed all those years ago.

Contact sports were not my forte and I opted for rowing at the first opportunity. We had moderate success as both Junior Colts and Colts crews, where I had a spell as stroke. I remember long journeys on the underground to and from the boathouse at Kew and getting stuck in the tunnel for a couple of hours one Saturday due to a signal failure. Saturday mornings on the river could be blissful in the summer, rowing to Richmond Lock and back, but I wasn't so fond of the cross country training runs. We all put a lot of effort into both the training and the races, but there was plenty of fun at times, too.

I remember our cox (John Slattery?) riding his bike down from the towpath and over the shingle at low tide, sending up great plumes of water on both sides and then tipping headlong into the river as the front wheel dug in to the mud. On another occasion, he sat on Alan Newman's shoulders holding a breathing tube above the water for him as he walked across the river from the boathouse to the Q pub on the other side. Alan was pretty tall, but he was totally submerged in the centre of the river, even though the river level was very low. One morning, one of our boats was 'shadowed' by a dolphin or porpoise which had made its way up river somehow, much to the consternation of the master (whose name escapes me, but was a small man with a strong Geordie accent) sitting in the cox's seat as it rose out of the water alongside him.

I was reluctant to join the army cadet force at first, but I have to say it grew on me. I was privileged to be a member of the squad representing the City of London Rifle Brigade Cadets at the Royal Green Jackets amalgamation parade and I was thrilled when the Queen passed right in front of me on her 'inspection' (she is very short Indeed). As we marched along the road on our way back to the railway station, the flow of traffic suddenly stopped. Our quick thinking NCO formed us up at the side of the road and, sure enough, a police motorbike soon appeared, followed by the Queen's Rolls Royce. We were all brought smartly to attention, he saluted as the vehicle passed by and we received a 'royal wave' in acknowledgement.

We did target shooting with .22 rifles in the school rifle range and I can remember 'demonstrations' with bars of soap to show the result of being at the wrong end of such a weapon. There were activity filled range days, summer camps, Remembrance Day assemblies with the last post being played, Friday afternoon drill parades and instruction sessions. I still have my 'Part A' certificate (passed with distinction) in an envelope with all my other qualification certificates.

*Ultimately, I became Quartermaster Sergeant (learning much about stock control and resource management) and then a somewhat spurious 'Cadet under Officer' when Ian Dowty took over the stores and Martin Jauche became CSM.*

*Through cadets, several of us took early driving lessons, under adult supervision, in a Land Rover 'borrowed' from Finsbury Barracks. On one occasion, while driving round the local streets, the long gear lever broke off at its base as I changed from first to second gear and I had to nurse the vehicle back to the barracks, constantly dipping the clutch to avoid stalling. The others were all disappointed that their driving lessons were now over for that evening, but 'It just came away in me hand, guv, honest'! I also remember driving an old Austin Champ (similar to a Land Rover) around the field at Chandos Avenue with Ian Dowty. It had a forward and reverse transfer lever which enabled you to use the full range of gears both going forwards and in reverse.*

*Then there were the school productions; The Crucible, Shame in Summer (that bloody incense burner), Pygmalion ('Not bloody likely'), Turn Away From Sin ('If you can see the girl next to you, you ain't got enough steam') and Noah – the musical – with Don McGregor in the principal role (I still have the LP). Stuart Wilmot and I became junior recruits to the lighting crew (John Sapstead and Alan Machin?) and were in charge by the latter productions. I could easily have doubled up as prompter (without a script) as I found I became word perfect by the end of the production run – particularly with Noah.*

*We used to 'borrow' lights and equipment from Sadlers Wells (just across St John Street) and I also remember accompanying Stuart to pick up a dimmer board from Strand Electric on one occasion. Unfortunately, we were refused permission to take it on the underground and had to bring it back on a trolley through the streets of London. Thankfully, it was a fine day.*

*There were also the school clubs. Who remembers O.M.R.A.S.? - The Owen's Magic Roundabout Appreciation Society. "Far out, man!" I joined the political debating society which had members who held views from all sections of the political spectrum. Doctrine and policy were argued with great intensity in accordance with the student revolutionary fervour prevalent in the sixties. Having recently met up with Norman Goldner again after all these years, we both now acknowledge that our diametrically opposed political views from those years have 'mellowed' considerably!*

*The school was surrounded by pubs: The Crown & Woolpack (next door) famous as the meeting place of Lenin and his Bolshevik comrades, The Old Red Lion, The Shakespeare's Head, The Empress of Russia, The Lady Owens Arms, The Prince Albert. I have a plethora of memories relating to these establishments, which many of us felt 'obliged' to patronise in order to maintain the coffers of the Worshipful Company of Brewers who supported the school so magnificently, but it might not be wise to recount too many of them. However, I think it should be safe to mention watching Dana (an Islington born girl herself) on the TV in the bar of the Empress of Russia when she won the Eurovision Song Contest in 1970.*

*For my last two terms in 1970 I was Head Boy and employed my public speaking skills at regular morning assemblies as well as at Visitation in St Pancras/Camden Town Hall. Early that morning, my father drove me to school to meet up with Bill Hamilton-Hinds and some of the prefects. We then made our way to the (old) Covent Garden market to buy button-hole carnations for all the staff and pupils (employing entrepreneurial skills akin to a modern day 'Apprentice' challenge).*

*Much of that day passed in a whirlwind and the Head Boy's report was inevitably a rather tedious account of academic, sporting and other achievements throughout the year, interspersed with a few 'in' jokes to maintain a bit of interest. I think I still have a copy of the report somewhere amongst the other bits of memorabilia I can't find, but I vividly remember causing total uproar with the final line, said as a joke against myself as I had a reputation for having a cheerful disposition; "When all else fails – just smile".*

*Well, I've made a start and I hope some of my recollections above will stir the memories of other Old Owenians. My stars for the New Year say that I should embark on a clearout of unwanted and unused material, so, as I begin to declutter my life throughout 2013, I might just come across those old documents and photos to provide the stimulation to write about further episodes from my school days at Owen's."*



In a further correspondence, Colin also tells us: *"I was absolutely delighted to receive an invitation to the Thanksgiving Service at St. Paul's and reception at the Mansion House through the ballot and am looking forward to this immensely. It will be wonderful to relive the memories of singing in the choir at the 350th Thanksgiving Service at St. Paul's."* Although he was unable to attend our Careers Talks Week, he does fully intend to *"write a piece about my 41 years in the Immigration Service"*.

In the meantime, he says, *"further recollections of my school days pop into my head from time to time and I have jotted down some brief notes to expand on later. One episode that came to mind was a school visit to London Zoo on a very, very foggy day. The joke of it was that the fog was so thick, it was impossible to see any of the animals in their enclosures, so we all got sent home early - talk about 'gorillas in the mist'! I had an interesting journey home that day, nearly getting lost towards the end because all my normal points of reference were completely invisible in the thick fog. In view of the recent snow, I have attached a small item about my memory of trudging to school one day in the bad weather of January 1963 - no school closures in those days!"* So here is Colin's second entertaining article:

### ***"Owen's in the 'bleak mid winter' of 1962-63***

*During the Christmas and New Year holiday of 1962-63, our front garden wall had already been demolished by a car failing to negotiate the corner where we lived in Tottenham. I vividly remember standing transfixed at the kitchen window, watching the car glide serenely across the road, bump up over the pavement, push over the brick wall and come to rest on the bricks which had flattened the snow covered rose bushes. Roads and pavements were covered with frozen snow and ice for weeks and I remember one particularly difficult journey to school during that January.*

*With no mobile phones to receive text messages or school websites on which to post closure notices due to bad weather, we just set out for school as normal. I was unable to get on the first couple of 171 buses at my local bus stop, but eventually I reached the head of the queue and was on my way to Islington. The first part of the journey went well, until the bus reached Green Lanes, where the traffic slowed to a crawl.*

*Eventually we passed Harringay Stadium and reached Manor House station on the fringe of Finsbury Park. The bus made good progress down past Clissold Park, until it reached Newington Green, where the traffic came to a complete standstill because of the one way system. Several Owenians had boarded the bus by then and we all decided to get off and walk the rest of the way to school. As we made our way down Essex Road (passing the buses I had failed to get on earlier in Tottenham), we met up with another group of Owenians, who had stopped to warm up in a café before continuing their journey.*

*Not surprisingly, there was plenty of sliding along the pavements and the occasional burst of snowball fighting along the way, before we finally reached the Angel by about mid morning. After reporting in, we attended a mixture of classes being run by those members of staff who had been able to get in, before setting off for home a little earlier than usual. The really cold weather lasted for weeks, but, as far as I remember, the school didn't close at all and each day's journey was a new adventure. The 'tuck shop' was still receiving supplies of cakes and drinks throughout and school dinners were available every day. It all seems like a different world now..."*



### **TREVOR HARVEY—LEFT 1963**

Thanks to Mr Trevor Harvey for putting us straight on a correction and giving us more background to the author of the 350<sup>th</sup> anniversary play!

*I can confirm that the first name of Mr Fellows, a member of Owen's English staff in the 1950s and 60s, was Malcolm and not Martin (Old Owenian, December 2012).*

*Under his full name of Malcolm Stuart Fellows, he wrote a sci-fi children's television serial, a one-hour television play for ATV's 'Armchair Theatre' and a number of short plays (including one that was staged in the ruined section of Coventry Cathedral). He also commissioned and edited a series of short plays for use by schools (published by Cassell) that included scripts by Bernard Kops, John Arden and Alun Owen.*

*He wrote the full-length play SHAME IN SUMMER for the 350th Anniversary of Owen's School (with music composed by another talented member of the then English team, Mr John Sparrow). The play was published in a limited print run for the school and it included photographs from the production. (Sadly there is one of me, in a very minor role, with an unintended - and previously unnoticed - hole in my left stocking...) Personally, I found Mr Fellows' interest in writing and drama inspiring"!*



#### **JENNIFER RANDS (NEE LANDERYOU) - LEFT 1964**

Thanks to Mrs Jennifer Rands for letting us know that she has been successful in purchasing RAH members tickets for our 400th Anniversary Concert in April. Her group of Old Girls' from 1957-1962/64 remember the celebrations for the 350th Anniversary and *"are very excited to be able to join the school once again for this momentous occasion"*. She tells us that one of their number will be travelling from America and another from New Zealand; the latter one being the one who alerted them to the 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary!



#### **DR MORRIS SMITH BSC,PHD,FBSC,FBIS - LEFT 1948**

Thanks to Dr Morris Smith for updating us on all his family connections to Dame Alice Owen's School in Islington – he tells us that his Headmaster was Mr O W Mitchell and Form Master Mr Hopkins; he studied Mathematics at London University and served in the RAF. His younger brothers also attended the school and his sister, the girl's school: Mr Eric Smith- Left 1948 and is now aged 82, Mr Frank Smith - Left 1957, served in the Army, died 2008 aged 73 and Miss Beryl Smith Left- 1950, died in 2002 aged 70. In addition to his siblings, his Father, Mr L D Smith was a teacher at the School for many years teaching Mathematics and Swimming. He died in 1987 aged 84.



#### **MARY TITHER—LEFT 1954**

Thanks to Mrs Mary Tither for sending in her memories of her sister's experiences of the Old Girls' School during the wartime. Her sister, Edith, seven years older than Mary, has sadly passed away.

##### ***"Owens in Wartime***

*On the outbreak of the Second World War my sister Edith Borrington was sent to live with my Aunt in Kent. She was seven years old. She attended Kemsing Village School and from there she won two scholarships, one to Walthamstow Hall in Sevenoaks and one to Dame Alice Owen's. My father said it was time for her to return home which she did, and take up the scholarship to Owen's.*

*On her first day she had to report to Parliament Hill Girls' School as an Owen's girl. She was put on the bus in Holloway Road, and the conductor was told that she had to get off at the school. In her purse (which we all had to wear) she had her return fare. At the end of the school day she got on the bus at the same place where she had alighted in the morning and of course, it was going away from home, not returning. She paid her fare but soon began to realise she was going the wrong way. The conductor saw her distress, stopped the bus and took her across to the right side of the road, put her on the right bus, paid her fare and she eventually arrived home.*

*Meanwhile, my parents were getting extremely concerned about their young daughter who had only just returned to London from the country. They were about to call the authorities when she walked in, safe and sound. This was in 1942.*



*Owen's girls spent a peripatetic life going from school remains, to school hosts. Some days would be at the Angel, some days at Parliament Hill and some days at Highbury Hill High School; this photo was taken at Highbury Hill.*



*My sister is in the back row, third from left and I believe it is Miss Bozman in the middle. She spoke of Miss Bozman with great affection, also Miss Packer and when I went to Owen's in 1949 Miss Packer sometimes came to cover sickness and she spoke of my sister with great affection, which was lovely to hear as she was quite a rebellious pupil. Hardly surprising really!*

*Later she had a very lucky escape. For some reason she had returned from the Angel site at lunchtime. It was on the 27th June 1944. The bus she was on came along Upper Street, round by Highbury Corner and along the Holloway Road. At 12.46 pm, a V1 flying bomb destroyed Highbury Corner. She had just arrived home when we felt the blast, the windows out again and ceilings down, but she was safe. I sometimes wonder whether my father thought he should have left her in safety at Walthamstow Hall."*



#### **PETER CATON—LEFT 1961**

Thanks to Mr Peter Caton, who says he's at last managed to find time to write to us with his story of "Life after Owen's". He apologises for the length but wanted to try to inspire today's pupils to go forth and enjoy life simply by getting on and doing the job with some enthusiasm and self confidence! As a Cambridge graduate, he's been given some wonderful opportunities and now enjoys retirement.

*"2013 is not just a special Anniversary for the School but also for my year since it marks the 60th Anniversary of our joining.*

*My time at Owens influenced my life in so many ways that it would take much too long to include everything here, but if I am to use just a single word it would be 'enthusiasm' ! Picking just one example it was our Maths master, Mr GHB 'Rocket' Stephenson, who made the subject so interesting that I still have a copy of 'Mathematical Pie' from my time in the 6th. His demonstrations of mathematical art drawn by the Harmonograph inspired me to experiment with my own 'Meccano' drawing machines, investigating how changing gear ratios influenced the shape of the curves produced. Possibly this was something that lead to me having a career in research and engineering?*

*Encouraged to stay on for a 3rd year in the 6th, after gaining my 'A' and 'S' levels I secured a Common Entrance place at Fitzwilliam House (now Fitzwilliam College) Cambridge, to read Natural Sciences. The beauty of the Cambridge system was being able to select a range of subjects for 'Part I' so as well as Maths, Physics and Chemistry (which I'd done at 'A' level) I chose Metallurgy, as I was interested in metals. In reality this subject proved even more interesting than I'd imagined so became my specialty for 'Part II' and my subsequent career.*

*During my time at Cambridge my Owens sporting experiences provided some memorable encounters. Whilst not the tallest of stature I still enjoyed my Owens basketball PE lessons. So, when I saw a notice at the University Gym asking for Colleges to indicate if they wanted to play in the inter-collegiate Basketball 'Cuppers', and also noted only two colleges had entered at that point, I added the name Fitzwilliam. On return to college I duly posted a notice asking for volunteer team members and was amazed to find that within hours there were 15 names added!*

*This was early 1963, the year of 'The Big Freeze' and since the rugby pitch was too dangerous for play the whole rugby club had seen this as an alternative! As the instigator of this I was nominated Captain (quite amusing amongst all the 'hefty' rugger players) and whilst we never got far in the competition (which most of the other colleges DID enter) it did lead to me being invited to 'The Minor Clubs Dinner' at the end of the year. There, I shared a table with the captain of lacrosse....Norman Lamont (later to become Chancellor of the Exchequer and now Lord Lamont) ! On another occasion I took part in The Bounds Run, which was a cross-country race around Cambridge. Whilst I never got anywhere near him in the placings another competitor was Herb Elliott, who was the then current holder of the World record for 1 mile !*

*Upon gaining my degree I was fortunate in those heady days to be offered jobs by several firms and chose to join The British Non Ferrous Metals Research Association (BNF) in Euston Street, London, this being both an interesting first step away from University and also convenient for me to live at home with my parents. There I researched new alloys and the 'fledgling' metal-matrix composites using a range of foundry and metal working processes that gave me a start in technologies I was later to use in further research and in industry. On the 'after-work' side my experience in the Army Cadets at Owens led me to start a works Rifle Club. We shared a shooting range with the British Rail Club, located at 'Bridge No 1A, Euston Station', i.e. underneath the gardens in front of the station.*

*During this time Owens also had a factor in changing my life. An ex class mate, Mike Goodge, invited me to his sister's 21st Birthday party and it was through that that I met the girl who was to become my wife. We married and moved to Reading and I chuckle now when I remember carrying my rifle on the train on the days we had the use of the range after work!*

*The BNF moved out of London to Wantage in Oxfordshire in 1973, major upheaval for some staff but handy for me. However, it took a long time to re-establish the research facilities and in 1975 I got 'itchy feet' and applied for a job at Fulmer Research Institute in Stoke Poges, near Slough. When I went for interview it turned out that my future boss had also been to Fitzwilliam and HIS boss was someone who had supervised me at Cambridge - small world !*

*This was a fortuitous time to make this move as someone was about to retire and had set up two major projects that were passed to me run. One was a United Nations backed aid project to establish a Metals Advisory Service in Lahore, Pakistan. This involved organising a team of specialists to spend periods between 1 and 3 months at a time in Lahore helping to set up the new facilities and train staff and also bring some of these back to Fulmer for additional training. This project gave me valuable experience in working with people of different cultures under difficult conditions of limited infrastructure and resources.*

*The second project was also 'international' but of quite a different nature - a project to be flown on the Space Shuttle on the First Spacelab Mission. The experiment was to study how certain alloys might have a different internal structure if melted and solidified under 'micro-gravity' (it is not Zero gravity in Earth Orbit !). The Spacelab 'hardware' (the pressurised capsule and the equipment inside) was coordinated by a German state research lab but the projects came from all over Europe. To keep costs down there were a number of 'multi-user facilities' (in my case a high temperature furnace) which would be shared by several projects. So, as well as the technicalities of my actual project I also had to work closely with other European researchers whose priorities did not always coincide with mine. This gave me valuable experience in cross-border negotiations which proved vital in my later career in industry.*



*Much of my work at Fulmer involved foundry technologies, building upon my early work at the BNF, and in particular new techniques for pressure diecasting of aluminium and magnesium alloys. In 1988 word of this was heard by a local engineering firm who were about to set up a new magnesium diecasting facility but had no previous knowledge. Their Managing Director came to see me asking if I could help them in this project by training staff and helping with the installation. When I asked about who he had to run the project he said they didn't have anyone. This sounded a good opportunity to set up a new foundry using 'best practice' technologies so I offered to join them, and he 'bit my hand off' ! That way I landed an exciting new job on a higher salary than I had requested !*

*'Magnesium Services Limited' already had its first customer, a company in the new field of Mobile Telephones, who required an intricate, thin-walled chassis for a range of hand held phones (until then most were only fitted in cars as they required so much power !). The tooling to make this component was made by the same company in Germany who were supplying the diecasting machines so they tested it before helping us install the equipment in our new foundry in Slough.*

*This project was very successful but to make sure we kept at the front of technology we joined the International Magnesium Association and research centres in Canada and Germany. We exhibited at Trade Shows to get more customers and before long we had secured orders from most of the big names in the field, including Motorola who were the leaders at that time. We then had a stroke of luck in that our first customer was taken over by Nokia, and the rest, as they say, is history. We became World leaders in the supply of intricate precision components for mobile phones and exported our products to factories around the World - even to China.*

*Whilst the mobile phone market was growing there was also increasing demand for weight reduction in cars in the search for better fuel economy. Many manufacturers had already started looking at using magnesium to replace steel and aluminium in a range of components so we started talking with Ford and GM and their 'First Tier' suppliers. It was highly rewarding having close discussions on new models with engineers in UK and Germany but when it came to trying to win production orders from the tough buyers at Ford and Opel, THAT was when my negotiating skills learned during the Spacelab project really came in hand!*

*To make sure that we stayed at the forefront of technology I persuaded my company to join the International Magnesium Association (IMA) and research centres in Canada and Germany. I took an active part in their meetings and conferences and after helping to set up an Annual 'Magnesium in Automotive' conference in Europe I was elected to the Board of Directors of the IMA. The company was sold to a large American diecasting company and we expanded into a larger factory and took on more business for the automotive industry which now uses a lot of magnesium components.*

*Sadly, however, the American company got into financial difficulties and closed the Slough factory. However, just before this we had been discussing the manufacture of magnesium steering wheel frames for a company in Birmingham. When they heard of our imminent closure they asked me if I could set up an in-house diecasting facility for them, and so I moved on shortly after being made redundant in Slough. To keep costs down they wanted a fully automated production line starting from raw magnesium ingots at one end to trimmed frames at the other, ready for moulding into finished steering wheels.*

*This was a highly complex task and I had never set up fully automated production before. However, I knew that by asking the right questions of the right people it was a challenge I would enjoy. I was given a 2-year contract to get everything designed, ordered, installed, commissioned and into full production of wheels for Jaguar and Ford. With a bit of help from the equipment suppliers and the team of technical people from the factory we successfully completed this 'World First' on time. After finishing in Birmingham I was approached by Brunel University to help them commercialise some new developments in pressure diecasting. I did this for several years as an 'Industrial Consultant' and was awarded a Fellowship of Brunel University by way of thanks.*

*I have now retired but am kept busy by our 4 grandsons !*

*The message I want to get across is that things that you do and learn at an early age, e.g. at Owens, prepare you in unexpected ways for unexpected tasks that you are faced with at various times in your life. In particular, never shy away from a challenge but if you are uncertain do not be afraid to ask for help. Then, simply get on and do your job as best you can. At the time I never considered what I was doing as anything special, but now looking back I have had a very interesting and rewarding career. So remember what I said at the beginning - 'enthusiasm'. ("On many a remembered field.....") Good luck to you all."*



## TERRY SIMISTER—LEFT 1961

Thanks to Mr Terry Simister for his memories of Owen's and life story of his amazing achievements in work and in the community, despite, he says, his lack of exams. A real inspiration for all and definitely not a "failure"!

*"I have always imagined that if there was such a thing as a complete record of school attendees then if one looked at my own entry it would be marked in big red letters as being a "failure" and not achieving the expected standard for Owens. The reason being, for the non-mathematicians amongst you, is that if you look at my school years (1956-1961) you will see that I only managed to complete five before leaving, against the expected absolute minimum of six.*



*The early departure was the result of the fact that in the "O" level exams I managed to pass a number of Arts subjects and none of the Science subjects that I was seeking to pursue my avowed career of medicine and I didn't have it in me to go through them all again.*

*I did actually attend for the first week of the 1961-2 year before "resigning" and this led to one of my claims to fame in that I was responsible for Mr Butler breaking his precious ACF Swagger Stick. This happened in my final French lesson when he gave out details of homework for the class to write down and, because I wasn't going to be there the following week, I didn't bother. This led to an exchange of words and he moved to my desk with the swagger stick in his hand and swung it at my own hand which was resting on the desk. Luckily, for me, I was a bit quicker in those days than now and I moved the hand which meant that the stick hit the desk and snapped into two pieces. The room fell silent and the change bell rang saving the whole situation.*

*The other claim to fame was a school long "battle" with Mr. Chant after we had an argument on the subject of religion when he was standing in for Mr. Strong at one of my History lessons. The disagreement ended up with me walking out of the lesson and then being followed by Mr. Chant who took me to the Head. We both explained our cases and I was allowed to leave but I hung around long enough to hear Mr Burroughs giving Mr Chant a "talking to" – hence our feud.*

*The situation wasn't solved until the end of the 1960-61 football season by which time I was playing in a senior amateur league and the school had an end of season match between the fifth year and the masters. I was asked to play in the game and remember clearly about half way through the second half Mr Chant being put away on the masters left flank and I moved across from my centre-half role and hit him (quite legitimately) taking him and the ball off the field – to the cheers of the assembled crowd. We lay there on the ground and then both got up together, at which point he silently held out his right hand and we shook, bringing hostilities to an end.*

*My football career never reached any great heights but I did play for many years in the senior amateur leagues and didn't actually retire until I was aged 41. I always loved sport, both at school and outside, and was awarded my school colours when with the rowing club after our eight came second in the London Grammar Schools league. I also held the school record for the "middle discus" for many years – perhaps even still do so to this day unless somebody has beaten 116ft 8in. Somehow I did manage to represent Hermitage at Football, Cricket and Athletics, actually running the first leg in the 4 x 100 at the school sports day.*

*I suppose when one looks back at school days there are a mixed bag of memories involving Masters and fellow pupils. Of the Masters I owe Mr. Strong an enormous debt of gratitude for my lifelong interest in History, especially Roman, but also Industrial Archaeology, and Mr Sparrow perhaps an even greater debt of gratitude for giving me a love of the English language and for teaching me how to speak in public, a skill which I have used on many, many occasions throughout my post-school career – and, yes, these were two of the O Level Exams that I passed.*

*So now on to that post-school career. I enjoyed the summer of 1961 and my week back at school and then retreated to home where I spent the next few weeks doing absolutely nothing except reading and listening to records. By the end of September I faced my father's ultimatum that he "was not going to keep me for ever and I had to get a job!"*

*I think that the only thing I knew was that I was not going to work in a factory or at any form of manual labour and so I wrote to several banks and insurance companies asking for interviews. Employment was easier at that time and each offered me an interview and subsequently each sent an offer of a position. However the decision was made fairly quickly because my second interview was with The London and Lancashire Insurance Co. Ltd at their offices in Leadenhall Street in the City of London. I actually left the interview with a job offer, subject only to a medical, which I was to arrange with my own doctor. I had the medical the same evening (Wednesday) and on the Saturday received a formal letter offering the position and telling me to attend at the offices on the Monday at 09.15.*

*This I did and met the Branch Manager again (the last time for some months). He welcomed me and told me there were actually three vacancies – one in the Fire Department, one in the Motor Department and one in the Claims Department. I barely knew what Insurance was let alone what each of these departments did so I recall saying to him that I wasn't interested in cars and claims sounded complicated but fire sounded interesting. "Right" was the reply "You're in the Fire Department" – and thus the whole of my future life was set in motion and, with hindsight, I don't think that I could have made a better decision.*

*I stayed with the London and Lancs., for five years during which I became an Associate of the Chartered Insurance Institute, in the year that I moved into Insurance Broking with Ernest A. Notcutt and Sons. Ltd. and subsequently completing the Fellowship when I moved to another Brokers' office belonging to L.M. Linn and Sons Ltd.*

*During these years I had continued with my Membership of the Scout Association and also became active in the Youth Hostels Association, where I was both Secretary and Chairman of the local Group in Ilford. I was still living in Hackney but at the YHA I met a young lady from Chadwell Heath who was only two months younger than I was. After a somewhat faltering start we began going out together and got engaged on New Year's Day 1966, which was her twenty first birthday, at the Talk of The Town in London's West End with Frankie Vaughan as the Cabaret. We married on Midsummer's Day in 1967 and moved to Chelmsford where we still live.*

*I will just digress slightly here because as all true Englishmen know 1966 was a rather special year for our football team as we won the World Cup at Wembley. Well I'm proud to say that Betty and I were there in the arena on that memorable afternoon – and to this day it is still the only professional football match which she has seen.*

*So back to career and my move to Linns, which was timed to fit in with the birth of our first child, Mark, in 1968 (our second Stephen arrived in 1972). Unfortunately the move wasn't good as, after the excitement of the City, Insurance in the provinces was pretty boring. By 1969 I had moved back into the City with Bowater Hammond Ltd., who were the in-house insurance brokers to The Bowater Corporation, at that time a top 100 global player, and about the biggest paper making company in the UK.*

*I spent 23 years with Bowaters, rising to be a Director of the Insurance Brokers which eventually became Cayzer Steel Bowater Ltd. following a take-over by British and Commonwealth. During this time I had moved from pure insurance broking into a lot of risk control work – fire prevention and disaster planning, which now come within the category of Risk Management. In 1985 a new professional institute was formed for the growing Risk Management industry and I was invited to become a Founding Fellow of this new body. Within two years I was elected to the Committee of the Institute and then in 1998 was elected its Chairman for a two year period.*

*This was an exciting time for Risk Management because the world was changing and Health and Safety, Business Continuity and Professional Standards were growing in importance. I had the honour of Chairing the Committee for the Institute of Risk Management which drafted the first British Standard for Risk Management and this went on to be translated into 40 or so other languages. During these years the training in Public Speaking came to the fore as I addressed conferences throughout the UK, Europe, including the old Eastern Bloc and the Middle East, with audiences ranging from 100 up to 2,000. By this time my employer had been purchased by Lowndes Lambert and we went on to purchase C.E. Heath thus creating the company Heath Lambert.*



*I parted company with Heath Lambert in 2003 and moved to Marsh, at the time the largest Insurance Broker in the world, and I stayed with them until 2007 by which time I had really had enough of travelling all over the UK and the world so I left the industry and joined with a friend of mine in setting up a retail company selling uniform items and outdoor gear into the Scouting and Guiding Movements, mainly through the Internet.*

*This was quite a nice way to spend the final years as I headed towards retirement, since I was still active in the Scout Movement and had been awarded their second highest honour The Silver Acorn for especial services, after years as a Group Scout Leader, an Assistant District Commissioner (several roles) and Producer of the District Gang Show – a role that I still fulfil – along with an ever growing collection of Scouting ephemera.*

*I officially retired three years ago at the age of 65 but I still visit the office once a week to keep an eye on the legal, insurance and risk management matters. What else – well I founded the Great Eastern Railway Society in 1973, a railway historical society that now has over 1,000 members throughout the world and resulted in me being presented to Her Majesty The Queen Mother.*

*So, perhaps if the index of past pupils does exist, they may decide that they can remove the failure tag from my name and say that he did achieve some things based on his Owens foundation."*



#### **GRAHAME FLINT—LEFT 2001**

Thanks to Mr Grahame Flint for volunteering to attend our Careers Talks Week about his current role serving as an officer in the Royal Navy (RN). Although unable to accommodate his request this year, we have already invited him for next year to talk about his educational choices (Owen's - King's College London - Oxford), an overview of what the RN is/does, his career in the RN: how he was trained, where he's been and what he's done, his current assignment in the RN, how to apply to the RN, as an officer and as a rating, and what trades are available - and an overview of educational requirements and pay bands. We very much look forward to giving students the opportunity to hear him speak and he has also provided this article for our readers as a taster!

*"I started at Owen's in 1994, the first person in my family to do so, having passed the entrance exam. I ended up taking History, Government and Politics, and Economics in the Sixth Form, for no better reason than they were the subjects that I found "most interesting. I had, however, already formed an abiding interest in the Armed Forces, and particularly the Royal Navy, and aged 17 I decided to present myself at an Armed Forces Careers Office. I was fortunate enough to be offered a place at the officer training college in Dartmouth, to train as a warfare officer, but even more fortunate to be offered a bursary to go to university first, with the place deferred for a few years.*

*Between 2001 and 2004 I read War Studies and History at King's College London, as well as the Associate of King's College award in philosophy, theology and ethics. I was then lucky enough to be offered a place at St Hugh's College, Oxford University, to read a masters in Modern History between 2004 and 2005. In both London and Oxford I was an active member of the University Royal Navy Unit, which is a wonderful introduction to the Royal Navy, although firmly not a recruiting organisation, and actually aimed more at influencing future decision makers who do not join-up full-time.*

*I arrived at Britannia Royal Naval College, Dartmouth, in September 2005, and after an initial shock to my system, thoroughly enjoyed my nine months there, including 6 weeks at sea in the destroyer HMS Edinburgh. I graduated from BRNC with the "Queen's Award" as top cadet, and then spent a further year training, at sea, in the destroyer HMS Nottingham and the mine hunter (then seconded to fishery protection) HMS Ledbury. I completed my initial training in November 2007, winning the "Beaufort Wharton Award" for the top navigation student in my intake.*

*Since then I have deployed to the Persian Gulf as the Intelligence Officer in HMS Chatham; specialised as a Fighter Controller (responsible for directing combat aircraft on operations); and served as a Fighter Controller in HMS Liverpool, including a training deployment to the USA and combat operations during the Libyan civil war of 2011.*

*I am currently based at Royal Naval Air Station Yeovilton, training future Fighter Controllers, but am hopeful of an onward assignment to the year long Principle Warfare Officer Course later this year, and from there to go back to sea..."*



## LES GIBBINGS– LEFT 1971

Thanks to Mr Les Gibbings, yet again, for another insightful article, entitled, “A Tale of Two Alans”!

*“You remember those rare moments of success or failure more brightly especially when they come earlier in life and if they appear to fade from the active memory, they can return as quickly when prompted by something. This being the year when most of my Owen’s contemporaries reach that milestone age of SIXTY has had just such a consequence of reminding me of incidents that involved two boys both named Alan (don’t blame them, blame the parents) who both became well known for their footballing prowess at the school and maybe even a little beyond it.*

*Back in my pre-Owen’s days, I vividly recall playing for Ashmount School in my final year before moving to Owen’s in the Quarter Finals of Islington’s Shaw Cup. We were drawn against Laycock School from the Highbury area of the Borough. In those days our home games were played on the red cinders pitches at Finsbury Park which had no pitch markings that made judgements about pitch dimensions and penalty areas subject to the referee’s discretion. The point of all this is that we thought we were pretty good and had hopes of making further progress until that day when a particular Laycock player simply out ran, out jumped, out tackled and outscored us into near oblivion and we went down and out of the Cup losing 4-0. I had no idea who this lad had been.*

*We all knew we didn’t like him. He was the epitome of ‘flash’ and we each had less than kind thoughts about what we wanted to bestow upon this artful player. Of course, I was taught to show a better sporting attitude as soon as I appeared at Owen’s, but this is before that and I did not feel so charitable after such humiliation. I knew I would remember the face of that boy. And so I did.*

*Imagine my amazement when later that year that same boy, full of an untamed arrogance appeared in the Owen’s ‘quad’ playing the football we all did at the time with tennis balls. And who was this boy? Well he became a sort of icon in the school year teams up to and including the School 1st X1 years later. He was **Alan Droy**....(following his eldest brother Danny into the school if I recollect correctly). But that’s enough of the ego boosting for Monsieur Droy now I think.*

*So who was the other Alan from my 1st year at Owen’s, I anticipate you asking? Back in those early schooldays I realised I was a bit of a novice when it came to knowing about ‘who was who and what was what’. I had been born and raised at the northern extreme of the borough, bordering Hornsey and Highgate. For me, the centres of the universe were Archway and Crouch End. Upper Street and the Angel and all parts south of the Borough and beyond, were simply not on my radar. So I was remote from the closer-knit communities down that way and did not appreciate either the better opportunities some of the boys from these parts had for playing representational sport for the various municipal teams and of course, the ‘bragging’ rights of those who achieved it.*

*So when we were mixing with boys at the Chandos Avenue playing fields in those far off days , it was quite intimidating to hear mumblings about who had turned out for whom and when and how some already had strong expectations of playing in the school team for our year. These boys were also the ones who seemed most savvy about what was the smartest and trendiest soccer footwear.*

*I recall Adidas and Puma symbols adorning soft and wondrous boots of the few (more like slip on moccasins) even in those days. Whereas others like me, who were relatively untutored in these things, wore heavy boots with toe caps, called, in my own case if I can remember, St.Crispin’s Wings! The best that the local Co-op could supply. But for all that.....they did contribute to helping me ‘fly’ into the school team as it were, whilst another more cultured player, rumoured to have played representative football for what was apparently still an extant Shoreditch side, was pushed into the Reserves.*

*How did such a thing come about? I well remember wearing the white tee-shirt of the Reserves on a sunny day in the match where the sports master, the reknowned, ‘Gym’ Chant, had let it be known that he was looking to select the year football team. From this distance in time I sincerely cannot recall the scoring details but I do recall that my soccer ‘mentor’ from those days, one **R.J. ‘Bob’ Harness**, decided to play me upfront where I performed as a bustling centre-forward with a direct appetite for goal. And that is probably what led to what I consider to be the ‘celebrated’ change in shirts between me and **Alan Hunter**.*

*Alan, who I recall recently contributed to the Old Owenians Newsletter, was an undoubted maestro of the solo dribble. The football stuck to his foot as he made his way about the pitch. Rarely could anyone have seen such skill but in some ways that was the problem. Whilst Alan would weave his way back and forth and up and down with the ball looking as if it were super-glued to his boots, he would attract more and more drastic efforts from the opposition to relieve him of it. Gentle attempts at interception grew into increasingly more strenuous efforts to retrieve the ball from him which created a sort of stumbling 'dance' at various points, as Alan made his continuous progress.*

*But why didn't he pass? I suspect you will be wondering? That was the very point. Alan's undoubted skill and prowess, such as it was, didn't seem to include the vision to bring others into the match with a slipped pass to split defences or let others take a shot. This was, if I recall, a throw-back to what was described as the 'Scottish' style of play from the late 19th century when players frowned upon the ball being passed rather than being dribbled into the net. And that is where you find the huge differences with myself. I lacked almost all Alan's exquisite skills but playing as a robust centre forward, I played the part of 'target' to whom the ball could be played and returned quickly while making myself available for a subsequent pass and then as like as not a shot a goal.*

*I think D.E.A.C. 'Gym' Chant was as frustrated with Alan as the rest of his team mates and to make the point about his comparative inefficiency for getting to goal compared to my more traditional and direct display, he blew his whistle and stopped the game before asking us to swap shirts. This one action thereby placing me into the 1st team at Alan's expense. It was a moment to savour and wholly unexpected by either of us I think. Of course in the long term it meant little as Alan became a well-respected and valued member of school teams at all levels and made more than a mark in semi-professional football for many years. I just hope Alan didn't resent me my minor moment of glory at his expense!!*

*In fact, on 31<sup>st</sup> March this year, Alan Hunter will be joining the aforementioned '60 club' and to enhance his legendary status in terms of football fitness and ability, he will be playing for the Owen's Vets XI. Of course, I could pass this off by saying that such displays may well be little more than the culmination of a life-long struggle to rid himself of the memory about the time he was pushed into the Reserves, albeit for the merest moment, by yours truly!! But I suspect that he would seek to deny this even now!!*

*I am still hunting down my soccer diaries from my early school years so that is still something that I hope to discover and use to illuminate details of those vital matches and stats across those character shaping years - so it could still be something to look forward too!"*



**BEN GOODSON—LEFT 2009**

Congratulations to Oxford music graduate, Mr Ben Goodson, who was appointed last year as the conductor for The Lea Singers, the Harpenden Chamber Choir and began with them full time last September. He has recently developed an intern scheme, which gives free membership to the choir for a year to talented singers from local schools. At University, he conducted the Oxford University Philharmonia and founded his own chamber orchestra while studying. Ben also has a second job as a tenor in the St Albans Cathedral professional choir.



**NEVILLE STOLL—LEFT 1948**

Thanks to Mr Neville Stoll for requesting to join our 400th email list last November. He left Owen's to join the London School of Fashion and told us he was then offered a job with Hardy Amies (a couture house) but had to complete his National Service first. He did ultimately have his own label (John Neville) and designed and specialised in clothes for the Big Girls. He once started a book but admitted other things took over and will try to send us some photographs!



**CECIL PEDERSON—LEFT 1948**

Mr Cecil Pederson is remembered by his wife, Isabel, who said he was always interested to receive the newsletters. He passed away at the end of 2012.





**JIM BRADBURY—LEFT 1955**

Thanks to Mr Jim Bradbury for his compliments to the author of our History Book, Gareth Randall, upon receiving his copy in December: *"It is very nicely done. You won't know but I was a pupil under Mr Dare and have taken up history as my career. I have had 10 books published so I can appreciate the trouble that has gone into this one. I look forward to reading it through...by the way...the photo of the school play of Taming of the Shrew on p.136 has my younger brother David in it - top centre with a lot of dark hair!"*



**EILEEN SPELLMAN (NEE PEARCE) – LEFT 1958**

Thanks to Mrs Eileen Spellman for requesting to join our email list. She would be interested in getting in contact with anyone with year of leaving 1958 from the old girls' school. As she has lived in New Zealand for many years, has lost touch with many people and would love to make contact again; email her at: [spellmaneileen@gmail.com](mailto:spellmaneileen@gmail.com).



**EDNA WYMANT (NEE LEE) - LEFT 1940**

Thanks to Ms Debbie Spick for getting in contact about her Mother, Mrs Edna Wymant, an Old Owen's Girl, who celebrated her 90th Birthday in February this year. She told us her Mother matriculated at the end of 1940 and then worked for the government at Somerset House, in London then Llandudno where the department and records were evacuated avoiding the Blitz. After the war, she then settled in Northamptonshire having met Debbie's father when DAOS was evacuated in 1939. We are looking forward to Mrs Wymant visiting our school with her daughter on the 17th April 2013.



**BEVAN SMITH—LEFT 2003**

Thanks to Mr Bevan Smith and his co-director of AB Property Lettings, Mrs Annette Birt, who have generously agreed to sponsor an iPad as a prize for the student who raises the most money for our 400th Appeal fund raising initiative, the Parable of Talents. Last October, students were given £10 each (for those who agreed to take part) to try to generate additional funds with the money for our new Science Building and return their efforts by the end of March this year. The winner will be announced after Easter!

Originally located in Potters Bar, now based in North London (<http://www.abpropertylettings.co.uk/>), their company, AB Property Lettings, has grown from strength to strength. Annette's three daughters all attended Owen's as did Bevan's brother—they are thrilled to be able to sponsor our school as they have very fond memories of their student/parent days.



**PAMELA MANSI (NEE STUBBS)—LEFT 1951**

Mrs Pamela Mansi remembers a special Old Owenian friend—she says: *"It is with great sadness that I have to report the death of my oldest friend from Owen's:- Olive Shrimpton (nee Dent) 1933-2012, at Owen's, 1944-1950. Olive and I first met when we both joined Owen's in Kettering in 1944, becoming firm friends throughout our school careers and keeping in touch ever since. I was given the sad news by Olive's daughter, Diana, who I believe, was also at Owen's."*



## IAN FINDLEY – LEFT 1960

Thanks to Mr Ian Findley for fulfilling his promise to write a “lively” article! He says it’s more of a mini life story and shares memories of school as well as how his work took him to Hong Kong and how he’s ended up in Portugal.

*“2<sup>nd</sup> June 1960. Assembly Hall Owen’s. The annual concert.*

*The curtains opened, the girls in the front row screamed and the senior master looked terminally shocked as Rock Findley, Elvis Rutherford and the Hexagon Combo blasted into their opening number. Rock and Roll had sneaked its way past the concert censors. The new world was dawning.*

*Was this my defining moment, the day my life would turn? What was I doing anyway at Owen’s? I had achieved first choice in my scholarship results and my father in his wisdom chose Owen’s as the school from which I would have the best chance of getting into the Bank of England, thus following his career as a banker. Unfortunately he did not discuss this with me. The standards of education at Owen’s were extremely high but I had no interest in academia and even in those days an early distaste for banking.*

*We were an end of the war family and parents just wanted their children to have a good and secure job. They had no reason to look further away from what they knew and believed in. I rebelled. It seemed to be in my nature.*

*My memories of school are of cups of tea in the off limits Singing Kettle in Chapel Street at lunch time and getting street wise in fights with the nearby secondary school pupils who would ambush us at every opportunity. They were amused by our beer barrel and wheat sheaf uniforms. We used our school dinner money to buy sweets and had many hopeless attempts to attract the young ladies from Owen’s girls school over the road strictly against school rules. Nothing serious, but signs of what was to come.*

*I had worked, probably illegally due to my age, at weekends and school holidays in the packaging department of a children’s bicycle factory. I worked hard with long hours but the money was good. On learning I was leaving school they offered me an apprenticeship in welding. My father was horrified. My mother was apoplectic but a chance encounter with a colleague espousing the wonders of computers led me to applying for a job as a trainee computer operator at Elliot Automation, a few miles up the A1 from Potters Bar in Borehamwood. I got the job, left school early, burning my school tie and cap, throwing the remains out of the window of the chemistry lab as was the tradition and my career in what is now known as IT was up and running.*

*The school and my parents had persuaded me to maintain my education studying A Level Pure and Applied Maths at South Herts College on a day release program but I soon gave that up. They were the only subjects that I enjoyed indeed excelled in thanks to my teacher who showed great faith in me but Elliots were putting me on courses covering all aspects of this wondrous new field and I was lapping it up. No need for dated subjects that had no relevance to my new life. Computers then bore no resemblance to the iPads and Tablets of today's world. The original computer I worked on was the size of a Badminton court and is now in the British Science Museum. In summer we opened the windows to cool it down and in winter we put the heating on. It required 8 hours maintenance daily for mainly valve changes and a team of three to operate it. I loved this exciting new world.*

*The world of Data Processing as we called it then was opening up with speed and opportunities for advancement were numerous. Two and a half years with Elliots, 2 years with NCR in their Financial Computing Centre in the city then 4 years with IBM each time advancing my career. I was now about as experienced as you could get at that time and a year with Hoechst as top man in their new UK head office setting up the IT Department left me wondering what to do next. The UK was beginning to crumble and I was restless.*

*In my personal life, I had progressed through the Rocker to the Mod era and was now embracing the hippie life although I was always in work. Music and travelling were my major influences. I never made it as a singer but I had travelled extensively around France and Spain with my back pack and now yearned for pastures new.*

*I began applying for jobs overseas. Offers of employment in Switzerland, Canada and Germany came my way but I was looking further afield. Finally I was offered the job of setting up the new computer department for Butterfield and Swire in Hong Kong.*

*Hong Kong was simmering in the last days of British colonialism. Knowing very little I was submerged into a life I did not know existed. 'Pay them overtime? Don't be ridiculous', my new Director / Boss told me. 'They are Chinese. They are lucky to be working for us'.*

*By us I guessed he meant the white man. Undeterred I pressed on. I successfully trained over 60 Chinese in all the aspects of computer operations, oversaw the creation of the computer rooms and ancillaries wrote the standards manuals. After 3 successive 2 year contracts and now running the largest computer installation in the colony I was invited to join the permanent house staff. This was a great honour as I was the first non-Oxbridge educated employee to be offered these terms in the entire history of the Swire Group. I accepted but my lack of an appropriate background prevented me from moving over to the mainstream of Swire's many businesses which was my desire. I guess despite my track record in that world, my face would never really fit.*

*After seven and a half years at my leave interview with the Taipan, John Bremridge, who later became Financial Secretary, commented that I was doing an excellent job and had obviously found my niche in life. This took time to sink in but two weeks later sitting in a Kif cafe in southern Morocco I realised that I needed more in my life than running a computer division albeit enjoying the amazing terms and conditions of expat life with the biggest company in the colony, so I travelled back to HK and handed in my notice. The rebel had woken up again. Now I'd see what I was capable of on my own.*

*Over the next few years I spent an English winter travelling throughout S.E Asia collecting sacks of handicrafts and selling them in Portobello road the following summer. I went back to HK and started a business in the fur trade selling dressed mink and fox pelts to HK's fur coat manufacturing industry. I followed this working for a HK furrier in China as production controller for his three factories in Gwangtung Province.*

*I was still a bachelor and travelled a lot but on a trip back to see my folks in the UK I met a wonderful like-minded English girl. She came out to HK to see what it was like and eventually decided to move there permanently and stay with me. Before settling down though we spent a few months in Thailand on the old hippie trail.*

*We arrived back in HK with no money but a dream of a new future. Sue was unimpressed with my bachelor apartment situated as it was on the sixth floor of Dragon House. It was in the heart of the red light district in Tsim Sha Tsui above the Myong Dong Cocktail Lounge a Korean hostess bar. Not a place to set up home together so we decided to move the sparsely populated Lantau Island halfway between HK island and Macau.*

*Largest of HK's outlying islands, Lantau, reached by a 90 minute ferry ride from HK, had only 15 expatriates and around 30,000 local residents. Ninety per cent national park it had a beauty resonant with mainland China's amazing landscapes. Small traditional villages, ancient temples, soaring mountains and dramatic coastlines fringed with beautiful sandy beaches.*

*With little money we rented a small dwelling at the back of one of the villages and began our new life together. Sue, an artist, had worked commercially in London's Kings Road as an Art Director for one of the top agencies. She soon gained a reputation as a talented freelance graphic designer. Her efforts kept the wolves from the door. I on the other hand trawled around on my motor bike with my tool kit looking for decorating and maintenance jobs with the owners of the many holiday homes on the island. Very soon I gained a reputation for service and quality and Lantau Home Maintenance Services was born.*

*We quickly settled into the island life with our new neighbours who lived in dwellings dotted along the south coast. We were a large family and we all looked out for each other. Before long I was receiving requests for electrical and plumbing work. I had a basic knowledge of these skills but did not have the confidence to carry them out on my own.*

*Consequently I fell into a wonderful relationship which lasts to today with the Leungs, local Chinese who amongst their extended family had access to every aspect of the building trade. As time progressed the business expanded culminating in the formation of Findley Leung Goup Ltd which thrives to this day covering all aspects of building, managing and selling property on the island.*



However life had its downsides. After the riots in the late 60's HK was terrified that matters would deteriorate again and the youth of HK would rise up against the colonial regime. The government were quite happy to let the youth ferry over to Lantau at weekends and holidays and let off steam. There were practically no facilities at that time. No gazetted beaches, poor power supply, no mains water and very little provision for waste of all kinds. As a consequence the island's beauty was being destroyed with rubbish and filth everywhere. The rebel in me rose again.

Using my contacts I embarked on a campaign against the government to force them to take responsibility for the island and carry out measures to stop this deterioration. I spoke at Rotary Clubs, went on television, wrote articles and was interviewed regularly on a radio chat show. I urged all departments of government to take action to improve the general infrastructure of the island.

The government Secretary for the New Territories at that time, Sir David Akers-Jones, during his career had developed a deep affection for the local indigenous people and saw what was happening to the island. His secretary called me one day and asked if I would see him to discuss these problems. I did.

We talked about what could be done in depth. He told me that my campaign was severely embarrassing the government. This of course had been my intention. He asked me if I would consider working through conventional channels to try and reach the same objectives.

In a nutshell I spent the next 6 years as the only non-Chinese councillor on the Islands District Board Lantau Committee. The language of discussion was Cantonese. I spoke a little but to enhance my effectiveness I was given a simultaneous translator. The council consisted of representatives of each village, all government departments, the police and myself. The meetings were chaired by the Islands District Officer.

During that time we achieved much including the gazetting of all major beaches, creation of numerous supervised camping sites, mains water, the Lantau Trail, street lightings, rubbish disposal units, public conveniences in every village and numerous related facilities and services.

Over the 18 years we lived on Lantau the business flourished and along the way Sue and I married and had three beautiful daughters all born in Hong Kong. We travelled individually and as a family with our back packs throughout South East Asia covering the Philippines, Thailand, Indonesia, Taiwan, Korea, Japan, Malaysia, Singapore and Australia but back in HK the increasing pollution on the main HK Island and the mainland became of increasing concern.

Our eldest daughter now schooled on the main island was repeatedly coming down with ear, nose and throat complaints. In addition education for expats only went up to 18 in HK. We did not want our children to have their tertiary education 8000 miles away so reluctantly we decided to move.

Throughout my life in HK I played first division football for the HK Football Club enjoying many overseas tours around the region finally retiring from playing at 45. I stopped playing league football eventually and formed and played for Club Rovers a third social team to complement the existing Gazelles and Dynamics. Also with two others I started a new football league to rival the four divisions of the HKFA. We named it the Yau Yee League which is Cantonese for Friendship League. Initially with only five teams it now has four divisions and is affiliated to FIFA.

We settled in Europe and moved to Portugal where we still are today. During our Portugal time we have re-visited Asia many times seeing our great friends the Leung family back on Lantau, our friends in Thailand and also travelling around Laos, Cambodia, Vietnam and most recently dusting off our old back packs and exploring southern India.

We live in an old farmhouse near the coast which we spent three years restoring. One of our daughters lives in London with her husband, the other two live and work near us in Portugal. We have one grandchild and another on the way. I still dabble in property and Sue is a full time artist.

I sometimes wonder how things would have turned out if the censors had tumbled us and the Hexagon Combo would never have had that day. It seemed to confirm that change was good whether of a personal nature or more general. Rock and Roll lives."



## SYLVIA GAMBIN (NEE GODFREY) – 1964

Thanks to Mrs Sylvia Gambin for requesting to join our email list – she's only just discovered our website and says, "I have been reminded of many of the staff & students who were at the school when I was there and would love to receive information about future newsletters so I can reminisce even more!"

She's also just managed to acquire tickets for our 400<sup>th</sup> Concert at the Royal Albert Hall and is excited about being "e-published" for the first time – here's her lovely memories from our Thanksgiving Service at St Paul's Cathedral in 1963 to celebrate our 350th and here's a photo of the governors invitation to guests from the Brewer's Hall archives!



Records from our 350th Anniversary year can be viewed at:  
[http://www.damealiceowens.herts.sch.uk/350th\\_anniversary.html](http://www.damealiceowens.herts.sch.uk/350th_anniversary.html)

*"The whole of the year, 1963, was filled with exciting events to celebrate the 350th, but the one which sticks in my mind is the Service at St Pauls Cathedral. I was in the Sixth form at the time and for some unknown reason I was chosen to be in the choir. I can promise it wasn't because I could sing, but I could reach the notes for the alto part, so along with lots of others I started rehearsals several weeks before the big day.*

*One of the pieces of music was 'Zadok the Priest' which has a very long introduction and we had to rely on the conductor (our music teacher, Miss Jones) to bring us in at the appropriate moment. We rehearsed separately as sopranos, altos etc. and also together so that we could keep our own notes while all around us were singing something else!*

*The big day dawned and we were all checked to make sure our uniform was immaculate and off we went to St Pauls. It was very exciting as there were lots of special guests including the Lord Mayor and Aldermen of the City of London, the Minister of Education and the Head Mistress who had been Head for most of my time at DAOS, the quite terrifying Miss Ward.*

*We took our places in the choir of this historic building which gave us a wonderful view of all the proceedings and I found myself at the end of the row of altos & just to my left was Sheila Gore. Sheila was the first of the sopranos so we both had to concentrate and not get distracted by our neighbour singing a different note. That was to be our undoing!*

*We were all in awe. This was it, after all those weeks... Zadok the priest was about to start and we all stood up with our music in our trembling hands. The long introduction began, first page complete... turn over and there we were with our eyes firmly glued on Miss Jones ready to go, concentrating on our notes, her baton was raised, we all took a deep breath when Sheila didn't wait for the baton to come down and came in one bar too early!!!! Oh no, I'm not sure if it was just nerves but we both got the most terrible fit of the giggles, with tears and everything. T*

*he more Miss Jones glared at us, the more we giggled and just hoped the illustrious guests had not spotted us helpless pair. So after all those weeks of practice, we didn't exactly do Zadok justice. Everyone else sang beautifully and the fact that one soprano and one alto were not contributing was not noticed too much...I hope!"*

Mrs Gambin hopes all our events are a great success and will do her best to get along to at least one of them. She has been thinking back over her time at the school and the names of many of her class mates and staff members have come back in her mind. Unfortunately she's no longer in touch with any of them but will keep reading the newsletters to catch up with news of anyone who was there when she was. She wishes that we *"enjoy the celebrations of this wonderful school and in future, when you are as ancient as me, you will be able to look back fondly & proudly to this time"*



### JOE DAY—LEFT 1952



Congratulations once again to Mr Joe Day, who was recently awarded the MBE for services to the Community and Sport in South Korea, where he now lives, in its capital, Seoul. Thanks to Mr Bill Read for sending in this photo of Mr Day receiving his award from Prince Charles—they both attended the excellent Harold Moore Luncheon last October.



### TYLER RIX—LEFT 2011

We're really thrilled that talented musician, Tyler Rix (left Owen's in 2011) is able to fit us into his busy schedule to perform for us at our Concert at the Royal Albert Hall in April!

Since being chosen by Sponsors to be the last torch bearer as the most inspirational teenager at the Olympics last year, lighting the flame in Hyde Park, he's been studying hard at Trinity Laban, Greenwich as well as writing/singing/gigging with the Tyler Rix Quartet, working as a singer-songwriter with Sony BMG and Decca Records on his first pop album, featuring in Coca-Cola's "Coming Together" video, walking the catwalk at New York Fashion Week 2013 and attending the UK Film Premiere of Whitney Houston's last movie 'Sparkle' at The Genesis Cinema in London as a special guest!



Here, (below right), he's being interviewed by mags at the Premiere and (below left) playing his favourite instrument in the Edward Guinness Hall at Owen's in July 2010. He says, he's looking forward to playing his saxophone at one of the world's most famous venues in London on our 400<sup>th</sup> Anniversary!

See more on his website at: <http://www.tylerrix.info/latest.html>!



### ALASTAIR CROCKETT – LEFT 2003

Thanks to Mr Crockett for getting in contact about our Careers Talks Week and offer of support by way of advice to our students about architecture. Unfortunately he couldn't make this year, but has already volunteered for our talks in 2014! He sent this brief resume below:

*"I was a student at the school 1996- 2003 (awarded the Design and Technology Prize 2002), and subsequently went on to study Architecture at university. I am now fully qualified, after completing the three parts of the course, each at different universities. During this time I received two sets of bursary awards from Dame Alice Owen's which were most helpful towards my studies. I would very much like to reciprocate this kindness by giving a talk at the 2014 event, and until then give any advice I can to students if required. I am currently employed by Níall McLaughlin Architects, London and a Part-Time Teaching Fellow at the University of Bath"*

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### **Keep us updated with any change of email address!**

Please ensure you let us know if you have a new email address and we'll update our records straight away. Simply email us at [400years@damealiceowens.herts.sch.uk](mailto:400years@damealiceowens.herts.sch.uk) with your new address. We do get a very small proportion of undelivered emails returned to us for each mailing we do, so we know we unfortunately lose contact with some of you as your email disappears into cyberspace :(



### The Zoo Club – help us to find a winner!

The Old Owen's Association are looking to notify First Prize winners "RH & M Baldwin" so they can send them a cheque, but do not have their updated contact details! If anyone can help, they'd be really grateful as they'd like to pass on the good news! Please email Mr Eamonn Dempsey with details at: [e.dempsey@sky.com](mailto:e.dempsey@sky.com) – many thanks!

In case you're wondering what the Zoo club is, well, it's essentially a 200 Club (where up to 200 individuals pay into a monthly pot with regular draws taking place for percentages of that pot). The Old Owen's story goes that when they originally set up their 200 Club, the bank made a spelling error and opened the account as the ZOO Club, not the 200 Club!!! Mr Dempsey told us that as it was "quite quirky", the Association kept the name! He also says that "the fund has in the past supplied the Old Owen's Sports Ground with a big screen TV, equipment for two children's play-grounds, and we are hoping now to re-carpet the Clubhouse in time for the 400 Celebrations throughout this year".

If you'd like to support the Old Owen's Association Zoo Club for just £2 per month with bi-monthly draws, it's a really great way to help for a minimal amount with the fun incentive that you might win something back! Just email Mr Dempsey on his email above, let him know you're interested and he'll give you the details about how you can join.

### 400<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Arrow Magazine

The editors of the 2013 Arrow Magazine; Emily Faint, Edwina Otira, Amy Mace, Kelly-Anne Taylor and Rhianna Reechaye, would like you to know that the magazine is currently being printed and copies will be available from the beginning of the Summer term.

The special anniversary edition includes profiles from some of our most prestigious alumni, including Sir Alan Parker, and will also feature an interview with Susan Hardy who meets and makes costumes for movie stars such as Keira Knightley, Orlando Bloom, Elizabeth Taylor, Daniel Radcliffe, Colin Firth and many more!

Support our Sixth Form team by purchasing your own copy from the school office (our local Old Owenians are very welcome to just drop in!) or from one of our school's major events for **£3.50** and get another string to your bow by reading this exciting edition!



### Can anyone help our French visitors with accommodation for our 400<sup>th</sup> Concert?



Twelve girls from our partner school in France, Lycee Saint Paul, who will be performing at the Royal Albert Hall on Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> April require accommodation with host families from the afternoon of Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> April to the morning of Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> April.

They will need to be able to get to London to practise for the performance on Tuesday and return home at the end of the evening. The same message has been sent to our parent community! If you think you might be able to help, please email our Head of French, Mrs F Gillingham by Monday 15<sup>th</sup> April at: [gillinghamf@damealiceowens.herts.sch.uk](mailto:gillinghamf@damealiceowens.herts.sch.uk).

### Islington People's Plaques



As some of you will remember, our old Islington Girl's School site was nominated last year for the second time, for a People's Plaque (due to the bombing in WW2). We just missed being in the top three awarded a plaque, coming fourth with 406 votes, behind painter and sculptor, Cyril Mann with 416 votes. Sadly we are not among the nominees this year, but thank you to those who supported the vote in the previous two years.

### 400th Anniversary New River Project

Thanks to Sarah Peters for getting in touch again and giving us a brief update, as their project is going really well. They've managed to find a lady, now aged, 88, who just narrowly missed being killed in the parachute bomb that hit the shelter under Dame Alice Owen School. She had been on her way there to join her friends but had been running late. All her friends were tragically killed. Apparently it's a fascinating and very moving story which, later this year, will form part of their walking app, launched to coincide with the 400th anniversary of the New River on Sunday 29th September, 2013. Sarah will send us more details nearer the time!

## The OWEN'S Way– still thriving!



Here's a secret from the Staff Room (**WINDOW TO OUR WORLD**) as an example of best practice (**EXCELLENCE IN EVERYTHING**) at Owen's, called **Briefing** to demonstrate The OWEN'S Way! Held every Tuesday morning at 8.30am, it's not to be missed, where all staff if possible congregate in the main staff room (which used to be the Library for those older Potters Bar Owenians).

Opportunity for all  
Window to the world  
Excellence in everything  
Never stop learning  
Supportive Community

It's an excellent opportunity (**OPPORTUNITY FOR ALL**) for a staff team meeting once a week, led by the Head and SLT (Senior Leadership Team), which communicates a wide range of topics to all present. This is usually thanking individual teachers for numerous trips and frequently going the extra mile, celebrating academic and sporting achievements, providing information about IT, pastoral care, continued professional development, giving reminders for school events for the coming week, Sixth Form issues and any other items staff wish to bring to the attention of the room.

It's a serious (mostly!), effectively delivered meeting, punchy and thought provoking, also minuted for circulation (by Mr Hamilton-Hinds) on email later that morning for anyone on duty who missed it and for Support staff who generally aren't in until 9am (**SUPPORTIVE COMMUNITY**).

Regular features include "Purge of the Week" from the Head – this is generally a focus of discipline for the week which supports our standards. For Boys, staff might be asked to focus on ensuring shirts are tucked in, or ties done up properly, for Girls, this is often more interesting – a recent request to make sure that "skirts were to come down" caused a few giggles, obviously meaning that skirts should not be rolled up (which of course, they always are) and removal of nail varnish has required further discussions about what to do with gel nails and technical details of acetone remover...

The meeting finishes with a great "Teaching Tip" (**NEVER STOP LEARNING**). This is presented by different teacher volunteers each week, in just a few minutes, and gives a stimulus for ideas to try out or improve on the way things are done. One week the Student School Council was even asked to present their top Teaching Tips for teachers! They recommended teachers were ENTHUSIASTIC (*"after all you might have taught the subject many times, but it's the first time we're hearing it!"*), had EMPATHY when students asked questions (*"appreciate when someone really doesn't understand!"*) and introduced COMPETITION to their lessons (*"for example in Biology, our teacher held question and answer sperm race where the winner was the first one to fertilize the egg!"*).

So, Strive with a will, Owenians, and remember The OWEN'S Way!

### Science Society Lectures

This year, we've had some brilliant speakers provide stimulating lectures on a whole range of Science related subjects including some Science based Geography and Maths talks. Our end of term School Newsletter contains a review of a couple of these lectures by students—if you'd like to read it (and hear about other current aspects of our school), please see [http://www.damealiceowens.herts.sch.uk/news\\_dates/newsletters.html](http://www.damealiceowens.herts.sch.uk/news_dates/newsletters.html) on our website from the end of term. You might also be interested to know that we have a Key Stage 3 Science Club, run exclusively by Sixth Formers (teachers take it in turns to supervise) - activities are fun and practical and include popular school experiments and demonstrations. It gives our Sixth Formers opportunity to show commitment and excellent planning and organisation and it's very popular with our Year 7's especially since it offers the exciting activities they seek in their new school.

### Techno Tip for Route Planning (hardened globe trotters will probably already know this)!

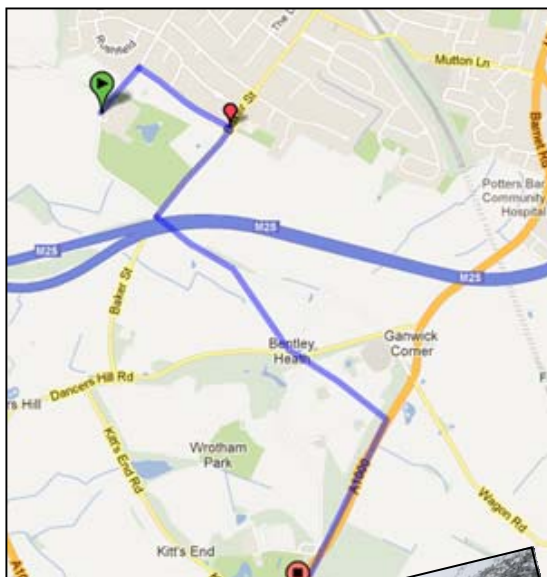
So, for those of you pre-planning a road trip over Easter (or coming from afar to London for the Royal Albert Hall Concert) and don't like relying totally on SatNav, you might want to have fun exploring a facility on Google Maps I've recently discovered! Use Get Directions to put in your start and end points, click go and it'll reveal a suggested route with total distance and times estimated.

Now I knew all that, but what I didn't know was that you can click and drag the blue line route shown to change your route and the total distance and times will automatically update. It's invaluable for estimating holiday journey times when you're unfamiliar with the territory or want to look at scenic options for your route! It was used by Dr Bernard Davies for planning the route on our 400th Appeal Sponsored Walk—see next page!



### And finally...Going The Extra 14 Miles!!!

Eighteen students and five staff (including your editor!) completed the 14.2 mile sponsored walk from DAOS School gates to our old School site in Islington on Saturday 23rd March, 2013. Organised by our Head of Chemistry, Dr Bernard Davies, and supported by Mr Jimi Laleye, who is running our 400th Appeal student fund raising initiative, Parable of the Talents, the group set out from DAOS at 10.15am (route map talked about above shown here!).



Billed as the coldest weekend in March for 50 years, the weather inevitably put some students off as they woke to a blanket of snow in the morning. Die hards turned up though and braved the, at times, blizzard-like conditions to go the extra 14 miles! The briefing by Dr Davies checked out footwear and clothing, packed lunches and water bottles, as well as plasters and spare socks!



Although cold and wet, it was incredibly pretty along the very quiet back roads through Bentley Heath, past Wrotham Park (home to Lord Bing) and onto the A1000 into Barnet.



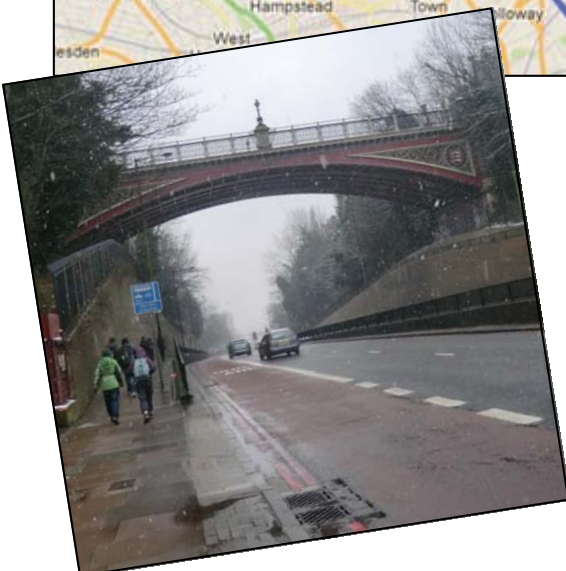
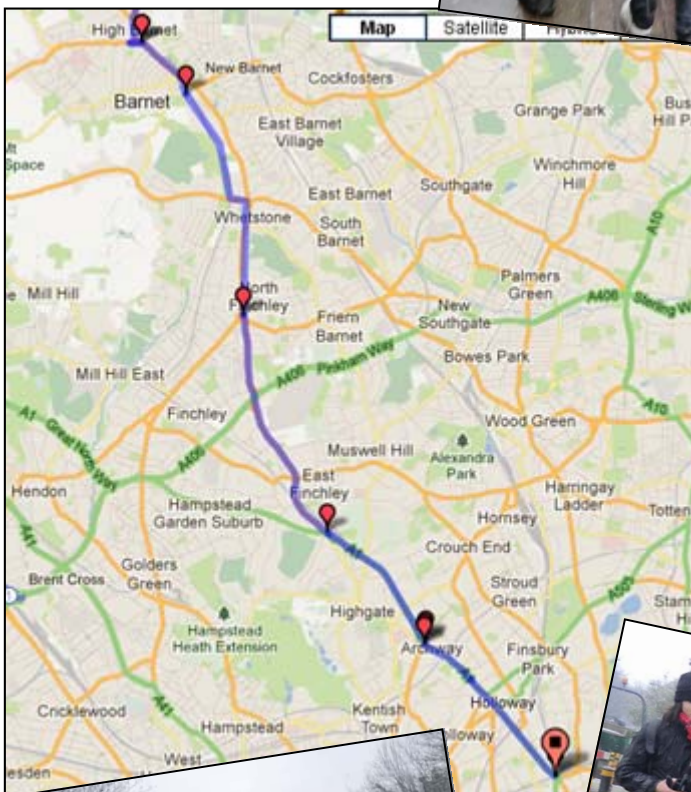


The A1000 was fairly bleak (and had hardly any traffic) and we made good time!  
An estate agent, doing a promotion giving out balloons with free blueberry muffins was besieged upon as we paused at MacDonalds for a quick break on Barnet High Street!



Dr Davison joined us for a while somewhere in Barnet to support our efforts (pictured below with Joint Head of Student Progress for Year 9 and Economics teacher, Chris Archer),

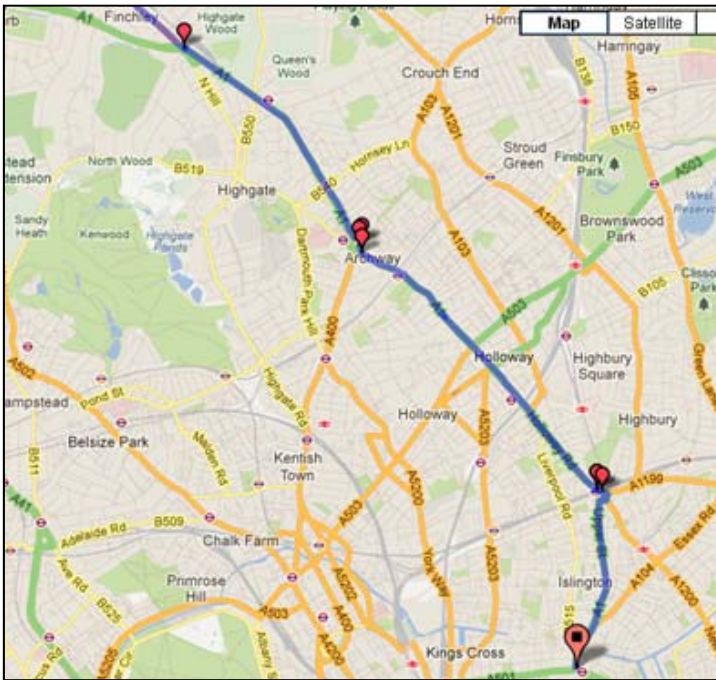
then onward through Finchley, Highgate and under suicide bridge at Archway.







We did stop in another MacDonald's for a further relief stop and took the opportunity to snack on lunch and hot chocolates and cappuccinos to keep us going! With snow still falling we persevered down the Holloway Road to Highbury Corner (photo here outside Highbury and Islington tube station) and onto the Angel tube station in Islington!



A few more yards down to Owen Street saw current students celebrate reaching the old school site and they explored Owens Fields, the old school playground between the old Boys and Girls's Schools. Now penthouse flats, the old Boys' School site faces the City and Islington Sixth Form College. Their Applied Science facility resides in the old Girls' School building.



So, after 5.5 hours, our group made the distance and congratulated each other on raising a bit more towards our New Science Building! There were several hobblers on the way home but we had smiles on our faces with the achievement!

Best quote of the day was from Sophie MacNeill, Head of Student Progress for Year 10 and Religious Education teacher with :

*"Stride with a will, Owenians!"*

Well, we hope you've enjoyed reading our Old Owenians Newsletter once again—all contributions are very welcome and we thank you so much for your ongoing support. The deadline for contributions to our next edition is Friday 7th June in which we'll report on the RAH and StP events and still have our 400th Ball to look forward to! Wishing everyone a Happy Easter break!

**Mrs Mandy English, Communications Officer**

### **P.S. Dress Code for 400th London Events!**

In case you're wondering, the Royal Albert Hall has no dress code, so dress as you like for a celebration! St Paul's and Mansion House require lounge suits.

