

Old Owenians Newsletter

Third Quarter—28th September 2012
Edition 7

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

"Dear Old Owenians

This September marks a very exciting time in Dame Alice Owen's history as we enter our 400th academic year. As you know, tickets are now on sale for our celebration concert at the Royal Albert Hall next April; we look forward to sharing this spectacular event with you and hope you'll also be able to join us at some of our other events including our Thanksgiving Service at St Paul's Cathedral throughout the year - more on page 2/3!

Once again we're delighted to report that students received excellent results for their A level and GCSE exams this August in spite of the national exam debacle; their hard work and the support of dedicated staff and parents ensured a truly outstanding, well-deserved outcome. As our new Old Owenians begin the next stage of their lives at University or in a career, we wish them every success for the future. Key exam highlights included:

- 25% of all A-Level entries awarded A* grade
- 89% of all A-Level entries graded A*, A or B (both A-level results were new school records)
- Most students obtained their first choice place at University and 15 students confirmed places at Oxford or Cambridge
- 80% of AS-Level entries graded A or B- our best ever performance!
- 96% of students in Year 11 secured 5 A*-C grades, with 94.2% securing 5 A*- C grades when English and Mathematics are included: over 66% of all entries graded A or A*



During the summer break, over sixty students joined the annual Concert Band Tour to Belgium to take part in the Ghent Festival. Back at school, ground works started for our new Science Building, with the main work due to start in November, so this edition of our newsletter brings you more details on the build on page 4.

Finally, for those of you still with post-Olympic blues, we report on Old Owenian, Tyler Rix, who played a key part in the Torchbearers relay and provided musical entertainment on the Park for millions of competitors, spectators and games makers alike. Tyler will also be performing at our concert at the Royal Albert Hall next year.

Thank you to those Old Owenians who have taken the time over what has been a very busy summer to put pen to paper – we know our whole school community values your contributions and we hope you will continue to send us your memories and experiences, comments and updates on what you're doing now – we really appreciate your support!"

Alan Davison

400th Anniversary Launch and Unveiling of Historical Display



Our event on Tuesday 22nd January 2013, (4-6pm, Main Dining Hall) will signify the beginning of our year of celebration and look back at the history of Dame Alice Owen's. Our whole school community is invited to join us – we hope the date's in your diary! In our December Newsletter we'll ask you to let us know if you intend coming via email to help us arrange refreshments— watch this space!

Petros Anastasi, Art Department, reports...

"...the Historical Display is at an exciting stage as we begin to gather more artefacts of our schools illustrious history. Many thanks to Old Owenian Dr Marcus Kaye for the 1944-45 Football Team photo and for a detailed account of his experience at Owen's.

We would appreciate more photographs and other memorabilia to make our display even more informative. Imagery of Sporting success, concerts, drama productions, teachers (providing we have permission to use their photographs) and visitation are welcome.

Ken Rowsell, Old Owen's Association (OSA), is currently working on the OSA boards and we plan to have a meeting before half term to review progress and to submit final drafts in preparation for printing. Barbara Miller, Head of Politics, has kindly agreed to proof read the display."

If you have any contributions you'd like to make, please contact Petros via email: anastasip@damaaliceowens.herts.sch.uk or contact the Art Department on 01707 643441 ex 224!

400th Anniversary Concert – Royal Albert Hall—Tuesday 23rd April, 2013, 7-10pm

Hurrah!!! At last tickets are now on sale for this forthcoming spectacular event with full details on our webpage:

http://www.damealiceowens.herts.sch.uk/2013_rah.html. See also link from our school website home page. We hope as many Old Owenians and their families as possible, will want to attend! If tickets sell out on the RAH website, remember more should become available early in the New Year. Our musical directors have been organising auditions for performers and are working out how it's all going to take place – you can imagine the frenetic activity! We go from being quite nonchalant to panic "OMG it's the RAH!" when we stop to think that it's one of the most prestigious venues in the world.



They state on their website: *"The list of famous performers, sportspeople and world figures who have appeared at the Royal Albert Hall since it opened in 1871 is unrivalled! Wagner, Verdi and Elgar conducted the first UK performance of their own works on its concert platform, Rachmaninov played his own compositions and nearly every major classical solo artist and leading orchestra has performed at the Hall.*

The list of popular music artists includes Frank Sinatra, Liza Minnelli, Jimi Hendrix, The Beatles, Oscar Peterson, The Who, Led Zeppelin, Eric Clapton, Sting and Elton John and from a younger generation Adele, Jay Z, Kaiser Chiefs and the Killers. Sportsmen and women from a wide array of disciplines, including boxing legend Mohammed Ali, tennis player John McEnroe and Sumo grand champions, have entertained the Hall's audiences. Among leading world figures who have spoken at the Hall are Her Majesty The Queen, Sir Winston Churchill, Nelson Mandela, His Holiness The Dalai Lama and former President of the United States of America, Bill Clinton."

For more amazing historical facts, see their fascinating timeline from 1850 (Prince Albert) to October 2011 at: <http://www.royalalberthall.com/about/history-and-archives/timeline-detail.aspx>.

Recruiting for Royal Albert Hall Massed Choir!

Our Deputy Head, Bob Pepper, is looking for past members of the school choir to perform at the Royal Albert Hall! If you would like to be part of the massed choir, which will perform at the end of the concert to sing the school song as part of a 10 minute finale, please contact Karen Acosta, one of our parents, via email: acostak@damealiceowens.herts.sch.uk for more information.

400th Anniversary Thanksgiving Service - St Paul's Cathedral – Tuesday 30th April, 2013, 1.30-2.30pm, followed by a Mansion House Reception at 3.15pm

You're invited (to apply via a ballot!) to join current students, governors, staff and special guests for our historic Thanksgiving Service to commemorate our 400th anniversary and to a Reception at the Mansion House afterwards, hosted by the Lord Mayor's representative. An order of service is being prepared which combines traditional elements with a modern relevance including music, songs, prayers and readings and the Reception, lasting about two hours, will include afternoon tea.

Seating is limited at St Paul's but we would like as many people to join us as possible, so we are giving Old Owenians the opportunity to enter a simple ballot, devised using our email system, for the chance to attend **BOTH THE SERVICE AND RECEPTION**. Unfortunately we cannot accept requests to attend the Service only. If you wish to apply, you need to send a request for yourself, **and a guest if required** as well as the details below via email to us at: stpauls.oldowenians@damealiceowens.herts.sch.uk by December 31st 2012 – feel free to copy and paste this suggested format into your email, stating "St Pauls" in the subject title!



*I would like to apply for an invitation to the St Pauls and Mansion House events for myself and a guest (optional) and I understand if successful, **there is a charge of £30 per person for the Mansion House Reception, payable by January 31st 2013.***

My full name is:

My guests name is:

My school years are:

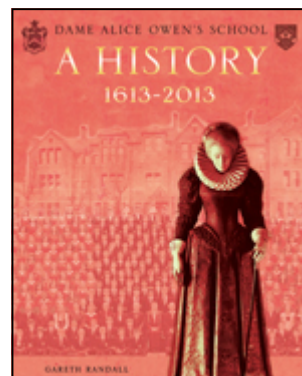
My home address is:

We'll initially send you an automated "Out of Office" reply to acknowledge receipt - unfortunately we are unable to respond personally. Guests who apply through email will be selected via a ballot after the Christmas break and we will email those who have been successful by Friday 18th January 2013 with payment details. If payment is not received by Thursday 31st January, 2013, seats will be re-offered to those next in the ballot. **Please add the special St Paul's email address to your safe senders list if you apply.** We're really sorry we can't include everyone who would like to come, but hope you agree this is the fairest way to distribute remaining seats. A webpage has been set up which will include FAQ's nearer the time: http://www.damealiceowens.herts.sch.uk/2013_stpauls.html.

The Mansion House is the home and office of the Lord Mayor of the City of London. Read about this historic venue at: <http://www.cityoflondon.gov.uk/about-the-city/who-we-are/lord-mayor-and-chairmen/mansion-house/Pages/default.aspx>.

Dame Alice Owen's School—A History 1613-2013

While we're on the subject of history, remember you only have until Friday 19th October to order your advance copy of our new publication at a discounted price. For full details of how to order online, please see our webpage: <http://www.damealiceowens.herts.sch.uk/wisepay.html>. If you'd like to pay by cheque, please print the order form at the end of the *Letter to Parents about the History Book* on the webpage. We now have a copy on display in our main foyer if anyone living locally would like to pop in for a preview—it's a fantastic modern record of the school—no Old Owenian should be without one!



400th Anniversary Appeal for our New Science Building – work now in progress!

In June of this year, Dame Alice Owen's School was successful in its bid to the Department for Education for £2.79m for a new Science building which has enabled us to begin works this summer, planning permission having been awarded in July. In order to secure the funding, the Governors committed to match government funding with £3m from our own funds, of which £2m has already been generously donated by the Dame Alice Owen Foundation.

The remaining £1m is being raised by our school in our 400th anniversary appeal. Our total to date is £510k, including donations from current parents, a very generous donation of £100k by a former student and £50k from the Wolfson Trust. We are now redoubling our efforts to raise the additional £490k needed and to ensure that the Science building is ready in time for the end of our 400th anniversary year. Features of our new building are listed below. If you are interested in donating to our appeal, which includes the opportunity to buy a brick in your name, please visit our webpage: <http://www.damealiceowens.herts.sch.uk/2013appeal.html>

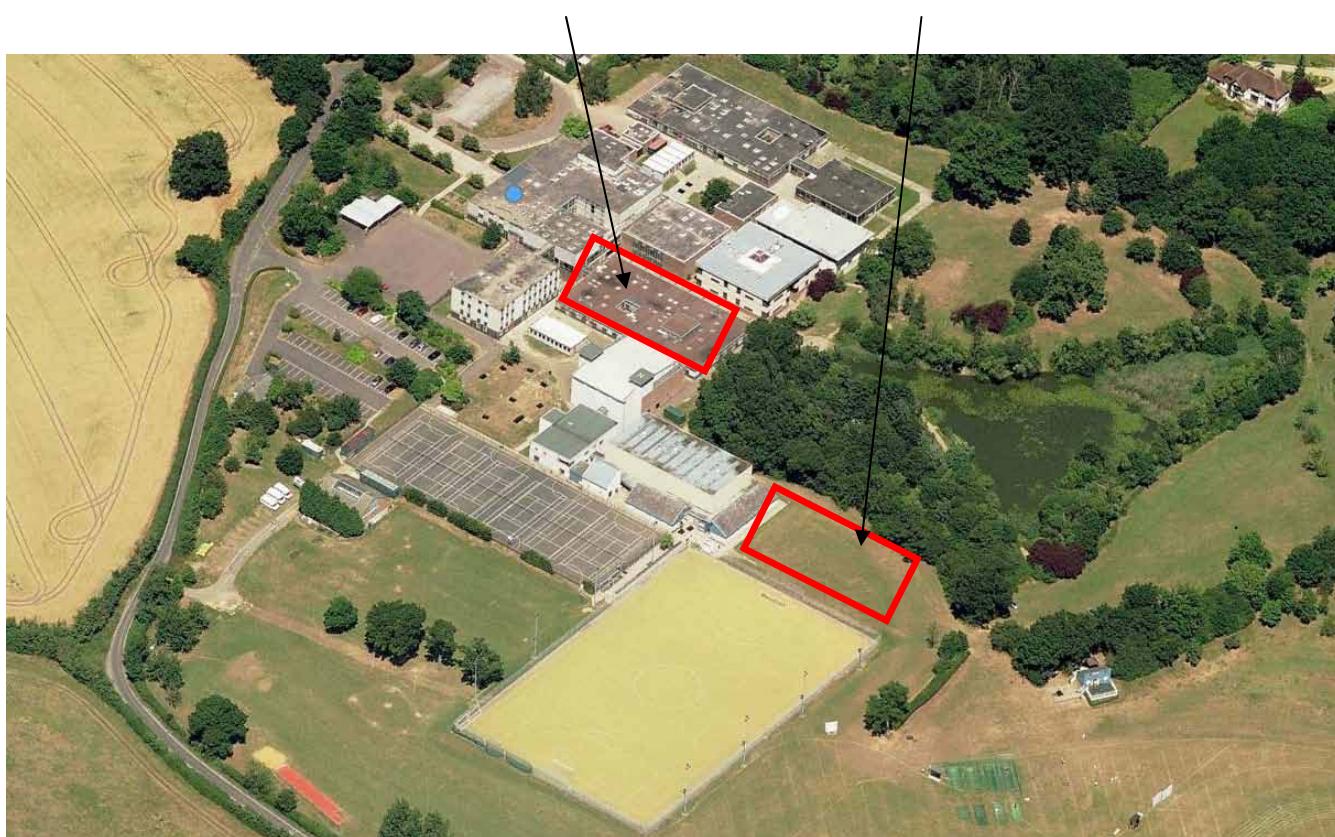
43% of Dame Alice Owen's students go on to study Science at world class universities!

Fourteen new laboratories will provide teaching facilities for Biology, Chemistry and Physics in a flexible configuration and will be equipped with the latest technology. Two preparation rooms, a staff work room, a single occupancy office and a plant room complete the footage space available. The main corridor will also contain lockers to enable the Science Building to continue as a "Year Area" for students and a lift is to be provided for wheelchair users. Energy saving and sustainability design elements include:

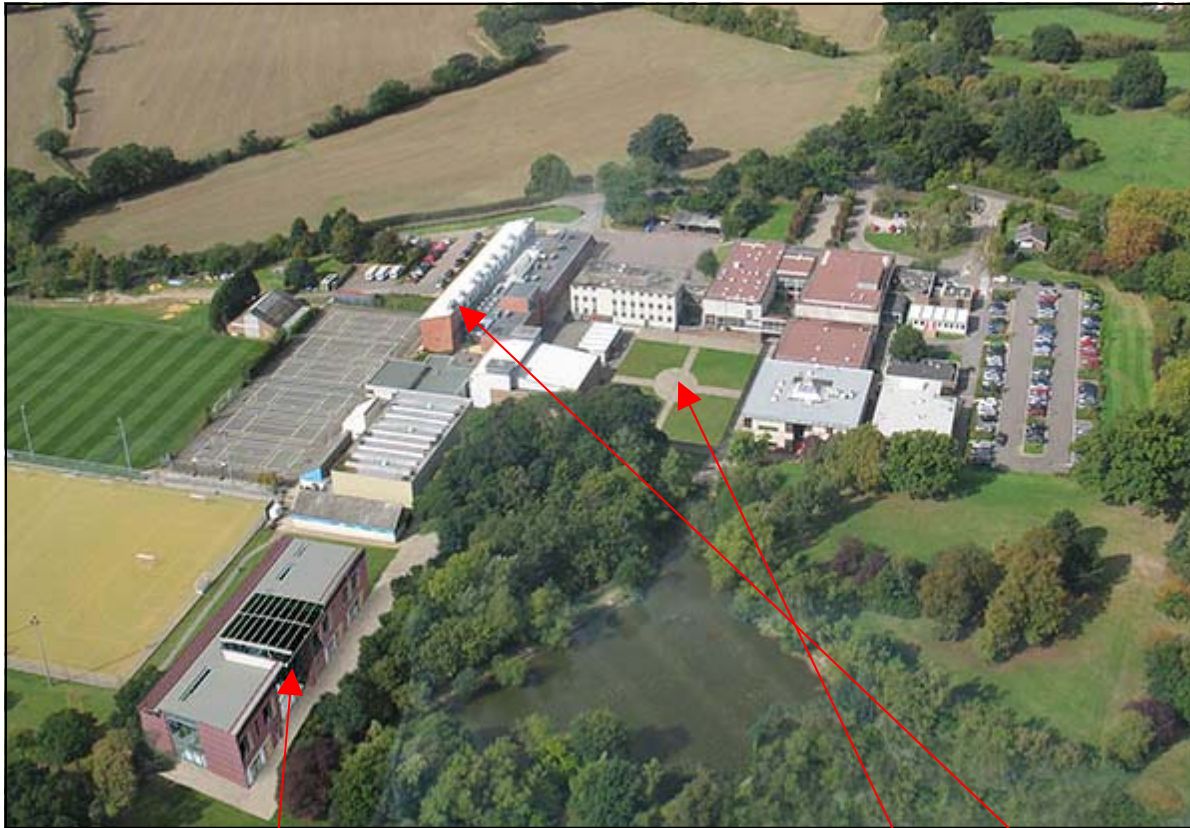
- Use of ground source heat pumps to provide over 35% of buildings heating requirements
- Natural ventilation to be used as far as possible by way of windcatchers and automatically opening vents in the facades and rooflights
- Passive heating and cooling to occur through the thermal mass of the exposed concrete slabs
- Rainwater to be recycled to flush wcs
- Energy efficient lighting to be installed throughout the building and proposed landscaping
- Materials to be sourced for their sustainability and to be harmonious with their surroundings
- Landscaping - trees to be selected to flower and fruit during the school calendar and shrubs chosen to provide opportunities for outdoor learning and to compliment the curriculum
- Site of old Science Building to be re-landscaped as green area with pathways for access

Current Science Building

New Science Building



Please note that this photograph was taken prior to the construction of the Arnold Lynch building— see overleaf for current photograph showing new Science building artists impression.



Aerial photo taken in 2010 (courtesy of Owenian grandparent, Peter Simpson) showing Arnold Lynch Building and artists impression of new Science building and of re-landscaped courtyard on site of existing Science Building

Parable of the Talents – Student Fundraising for our 400th Anniversary Appeal!

We thought we'd also like to tell you how students are getting on the fund-raising band wagon and taking part in an initiative we've called "Parable of the Talents". The idea is based on two related Bible stories (Matthew 25:14-30; Luke 19:12-28), where a master gives his slaves money (or "talents") to look after. They all use the money in different ways but the ones who invest wisely and show a good return are rewarded. To this end, we are giving every student who agrees to take part, £10 to "look after" and a timescale of six months to return the money with any additional money that they've been able to generate, using their own talents!

This will test their entrepreneurial skills and hopefully inspire them into contributing to the future of their school. Students will be provided with ideas in a fund raising pack and prizes will be awarded to motivate the best fund raisers! The campaign is being launched on the 8th October by Owen's teacher Mr Jimi Laleye, helped by Mr Gavin Simpson and others - we'll let you know how it's going in December! Thanks to St Georges School in Harpenden for sharing their tips from a similar project! If you would like to contribute any ideas on how students can raise money, please feel free to email Mr Jimi Laleye at: laleyej@damealiceowens.herts.sch.uk.

Old Owenians Harold Moore Annual Reunion Luncheon—another reminder for this October 2012 event!!!

Have you reserved your place yet? If not, simply contact Mr Stanley Gould, either by email stanleys-gould@gmail.com or by post to Harold Moore Luncheon, c/o 87 Wentworth Drive, Bedford MK 41 8QD or contact him on his mobile: 07969 108001—the programme and menu for the event can be found on our Newsletter page!

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

This formal event is a great opportunity to reunite with fellow Old Owenians as well as meet some new faces—everyone welcome! Your editor looks forward to seeing you there!

400th Anniversary Ball—Saturday 13th July, 2013, 7pm-1am, Dame Alice Owen's School

Applications for our 400th Anniversary Ball, which promises to be a magnificent occasion, will be accepted from **Monday 15th October**. Please see our OSA (Owen's School Association) invitation/application form on our Newsletter page. We sincerely hope many of you will be able to join us in this opportunity to celebrate our 400th year and reunite with old friends and staff. The OSA would also like to remind you that their 400th memorabilia order form is available from their website (<http://web.theosa.org.uk/>) and merchandise is being sold at most school events.

Open Invitation to School Events!

Saturday 20th October—Owen's School Association Quiz Night—*see if you can beat the teachers table!*

Wednesday 14th November—Junior Chamber Concert—Edward Guinness Hall, 7.30pm

Tuesday 27th November—Choral Concert—Edward Guinness Hall, 7.30pm

Wednesday 28th November—Gym and Dance Display—Main Hall, 7pm

Thursday 29th November—Gym and Dance Display—Main Hall, 7pm

Wednesday 12th December—Windbands Evening—Edward Guinness Hall, 7.30pm

Thursday 13th December—Drama Production—Main Hall, 7.30pm

Friday 14th December—Drama Production—Main Hall, 7.30pm

Saturday 15th December—Drama Production—Main Hall, 7.30pm

Wednesday 19th December—Orchestral Concert—Edward Guinness Hall, 7.30pm

For all school events, please refer to Ticket Information on our website, where more details will be posted throughout the Autumn Term: http://www.damealiceowens.herts.sch.uk/news_dates/ticket_information.html

Science Society Lectures October—December 2012

Old Owenians are also very welcome to join us on any of the evening occasions below, which will all be held on a Wednesday, 7-8pm in our main hall. Simply email Kika to let her know you'll be attending:

dorotheouk@damealiceowens.herts.sch.uk.

Wednesday 3rd October

Professor M. Poliakoff

University of Nottingham "Green Chemistry and approaches to sustainable chemistry"

Wednesday 17th October

Professor Tony Hurford

Formerly Prof. of Geology and admissions tutor for the Dept Earth Sciences, UCL "Earthquakes, Volcanoes and our Dynamic Planet"

Wednesday 24th October

Mr Nick Hufton

From Shephard Epstein Hunter | architecture planning landscape.

"Design: Art or Science?"

With reference to architecture, civil engineering and related design.

Wednesday 7th November

Dr Jeya Balakrishna

Consultant Forensic Psychiatrist

"Mad or bad: Our county forensic psychiatrist considers medical, psychosocial and legal issues around mentally disordered offenders"

Wednesday 21st November

Dr Huw Williams

Faculty of Natural Sciences, Imperial College "Tuberculosis"

Wednesday 5th December

Professor Martin Bomak

Department of Epidemiology & Public Health, University College London

"Why some people live longer than others?"

Head Boy/Head Girl/Senior Team names!

Thanks to all Old Owenians who have written in to help us update our Head Boy/Head Girl/Senior Team list on our website. If you've got any more names to complete spaces we still have, just email us at 400years@damealiceowens.herts.sch.uk. You can see the full list at: http://www.damealiceowens.herts.sch.uk/about_us/senior_prefects.html

Old Owen's Association events!



John and Lynn Clark would like to invite you to their social events at Old Owen's Sports Ground this Autumn! Please check their website for more details: <http://www.OLDOWENS.COM/>.

Friday October 26th	Casino Night 8pm
Thursday 1st November	Alvin is ELVIS night 8pm
Friday 2nd November	Firework Display 7pm

Old Owen's Cricket Club are planning a seven night tour to Sri Lanka in Feb/Mar 2014—visit the Old Owen's website (link above) for more details and their end of season 2012 review. Old Owen's Football Club are proud to boast seven Saturday adult sides and two vets Sunday sides, providing a good standard of football for adults in Potters Bar and the surrounding areas—visit Old Owen's website for photos of football teams from Yesteryear!

National Careers Week 2013



Early notification! If you would be interested in talking to our students about your career experiences and joining us on our Old Owenians Careers Talks week next year, please put the date in your diary now! We link our week to National Careers Week, which in 2013 will be 4-8th March! This will be our third year, having run two highly successful events previously and we will be repeating our winning formula next March.

You will receive a separate email alert in January with details of how to take part.

The Arrow Magazine—an Old Owenians review!

Thanks to Mr Trevor Harvey (left 1963) for his very positive review of our latest Arrow magazine (below), which we happily passed onto the hardworking sixth formers and his good wishes to any who may be going to university or to the workplace rather than returning to school in this autumn!

"Please pass my congratulations to the editorial team - Alice, Helen, Tara and Sophie - and to the various contributors, including Phil and Isaac for their piece on the Olympics. I think the magazine has an attractive cover design and I have enjoyed reading it. The team has been enterprising in contacting various personalities and carrying out interviews/providing them with questions. It's encouraging that they (the contributors!) have taken such trouble to respond.

The current magazine is very different from THE ARROW of the 1950s and 1960s, which was in black and white, A5 size, with two columns on each page and very 'school based'. Each term's issue contained reports on the various school football or cricket matches and rowing events, plus Scouts, A.C.F. (!) and lunchtime pupil-run clubs such as The Chess Club, The Gramophone Society (! - mainly classical music), Christian Union, The Scientific Society, The Historical Society and The Appeals' Committee (raising money for charities). There were also a few creative contributions - poems, articles and prose pieces - plus reports on school events and school concerts or plays.

The editorial team was made up from at least one representative of each year group in the school (appointed by staff) and a copy was given to each pupil three times a year. Even though it was really the official organ of the school and was therefore far more formal than the present excellent magazine, there was 'space' for a little humour from time to time (occasionally provided by yours truly)!"

Good wishes for our 400th Anniversary celebrations

Thanks to Old Owenians who won't be able to make our 400th Anniversary Concert but have been sending their good wishes in response to our mailing about our Royal Albert Hall event:

Larry Wright (Canada) "I'm sure it'll be a night to remember"

Dr David Hillson "very disappointed...will now be working in Turkey"

Rossa O'Keeffe-O'Donovan (recently moved to the USA to start a PhD) "shame to miss the wonderful celebration"

Jemima Del Monaco (South Africa) "I hope you all have a fabulous time"

John Kay on behalf of his mother, Valerie Davey (Australia) "good luck with it all"

Beer Money Ceremony

We mentioned Beer Money in our June Newsletter, so thought we'd provide photos from this year's ceremony during the last week of school in July! Mark Woodhouse, our current Master of the Brewers' Company and Chairman of Hall and Woodhouse Independent Family Brewers, and our Clerk to Governors, Mr David Ross, also from the Brewers' Company hand out the Beer Money to students.

As always, Mr Bill Hamilton-Hinds assisted! Thanks to Mr Steve Willcock, Head of Art, for providing the photos!



Old Owen's Golf Society reminder!

The Old Owen's Golf Society would like to encourage new members! They've just had a match this week, versus the Old Stationers Golf Society at Redbourn Golf Club. They were due to start with Bacon Rolls from 8.30am, and then first tee off at 9.24am with a two course dinner around 3pm. The format was all team players to score, stableford points, yellow tees; aggregate points per team divided by the number of players. Please contact Brian Fry if you'd like to join them in future matches on 07841417887 or by email <mailto:bjfry04@btinternet.com>.

Lycee Saint Paul to take part in our 400th Concert!

We're delighted that Mr Moisan, Head of Lycee Saint Paul, a private school in Vannes who we started an exchange programme with last year, has accepted an invitation for his students to join our performance at the Royal Albert Hall. Head of French, Mrs Ffi Gillingham informs us that Old Owenian and French assistant 2010-12, Elisabeth de Neuville, provided the contact for the new relationship. In France, "Lycee" refers to Y10, 11, 12 and 13, so it's an upper school—it's very similar to Owen's in that it has a thriving music, performing arts section.



Owen's visited for the first time in December 2011—students attended lessons in French, were given a tour of Nantes, an official welcome at the Town Hall, with an appearance in the local newspaper and impressively, students took part in a live radio programme broadcast from the school. When French students returned on exchange in late January, they visited Cambridge, London and Potters Bar with the inevitable "gathering" at Old Owen's! Mrs Gillingham is currently arranging reciprocal dates for next year. We look forward to welcoming them to London in April 2013!

Le Maire de la ville de Vannes

And now for your contributions...



TYLER RIX –LEFT 2011

For those of you who don't know Tyler Rix, he left Owen's last year to continue his music career. During his school life, he played football for West Ham Academy and won the Schoolboys FA National Cup with Owen's AND playing saxophone, released an album which went to number one in the Classical Charts called Ascent. Something of a legend already, he'll be performing at the Royal Albert Hall in 2013! Thanks to Mrs Ronda Rix for keeping us up-to-date over the summer with a personal insight into Tyler's amazing Olympic experience's, saying he didn't get to bed before 4am for about a month! She tells how it all started when Tyler was chosen to be an Olympic Torchbearer and the routes were switched...



"Tyler was playing music for Chas White's (the goal scorer in winning the National Cup) brother's wedding (Ross) on 20th July when he heard he'd been moved off the LOCOG website from the expected Haringey route on 25th July and onto Westminster on 26th July. Luckily we had kept the date of the 26th free as we'd bought tickets to attend a Torch Finale celebration pop concert in Hyde Park. Tyler phoned me from the wedding all worried that his friends and the children he'd visited earlier in the week to give an inspirational speech and play to at two Barnet schools wouldn't know! Later that evening he realised why, when he had a phone call from Coca Cola saying he'd been chosen as the last of the 8000 Relay Torchbearers for being an inspirational teenager and was to light the cauldron on the stage in front of 80,000 at the Finale Concert in Hyde Park!

It was a fantastic surprise and we had the lovely weather! Everything he did on stage was reminiscent of all his days at school! The footballer's mannerisms - kissing the torch, all the clenched fists! And his arm casually around Boris Johnson's shoulder in true team spirit. Then keeping hold of the microphone from Jonathan Edwards to say his thank you's....All definitely learnt at Owen's!

So funny, Matt Newman, Laurence Tsang (both also National Cup winning team) and Nickan Rajabi (also Owens) were ready to watch Team GB v Senegal at Old Trafford when they were spooked to see Tyler appear on the big screens when the BBC football went live to the torch coverage in Hyde Park just before KO. It's been the biggest Torch Relay coverage ever through the BBC, live sites, internet media, press, etc. and went worldwide.



Tyler then went on to play ten dates at the Olympic Park with his quartet as part of the Park gigs, with Owen's Tom Kelly often on drums, playing mornings and nights to around two million passing visitors, and pulling crowds that security would radio ahead to inform each other where they were playing.

They had a date in the Globe at Athletes' Village for the athletes, with three dates at BT London Live in Hyde Park on the Bandstand for up and coming bands (in front of up to 50,000 people!) and one date at City Hall's Potters Fields underneath Tower Bridge with its Olympic rings.



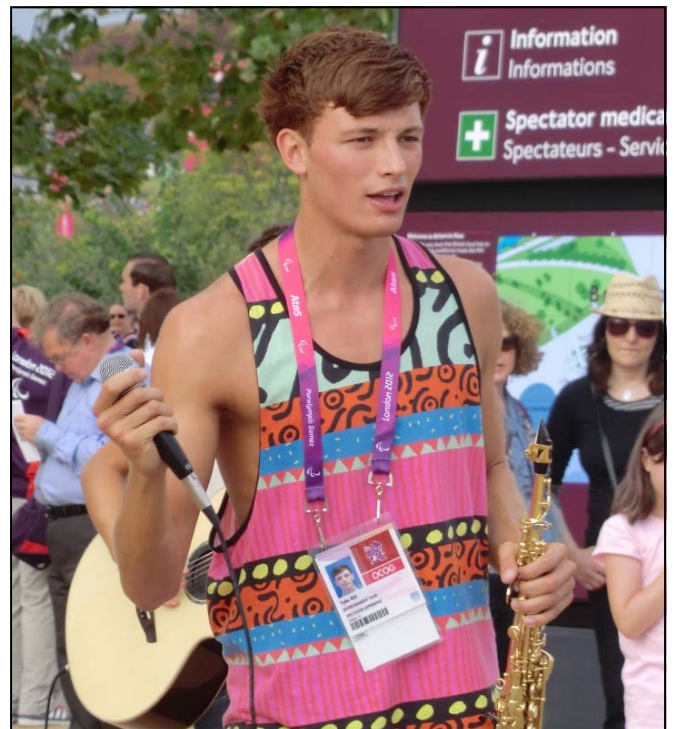
The Olympic Park really became their playground and the Quartet got to see both live and on site coverage of the Olympics, watching Usain Bolt win all his three golds there, medal ceremonies, Mo Farah win his second gold, soaking up the wonderful happy atmosphere helped by Team GB winning so many golds, fantastic for Tyler and the boys as real lovers of all sports.

Tyler told me that this is the first time that music has been included in an Olympics, that they were booked to do the most gigs on the Park, so they have played the most music at an Olympics!

After the buzz of acting in Little Shop of Horrors in his final year at Owen's and in-between finishing his A levels and Llangollen, Tyler had immediately enrolled on a week's Intensive Actors course at City Lit last summer and was cast for his first short film made this June, due to be shown sometime this September."

Your editor managed to bump into Tyler on the Park during the Paralympics and he told us what an amazing time he'd been having. We were lucky to be able to listen to one of his quartet's gigs including his songs Unlock this Love and Sunrise, watching as crowds were drawn in by his talent. He encouraged the audience to join in and was literally mobbed by youngsters claiming one of his business cards as he threw them out in front of the quartet while they played!

He told us he was thrilled to be invited to the top of the Orbit (as the quartet were gigging underneath) to watch Usain Bolt win one of his medals in the stadium! Your editor can confirm that he's one of the people who've inspired a generation as part of the Olympics and Paralympics (we think he has the WOW factor!) and he's definitely keeping the Torch, which Coca Cola gave to all their torchbearers!



Fans can follow Tyler on Twitter and visit his website at: www.tylerrix.info, which gives more great photos and videos. News of Tyler has also spread across the globe as his role as a Torchbearer was reported in a news clip on China Central TV!



ROBERT VINE—LEFT 1949



Congratulations to Mr Robert Vine and his wife who celebrated their 60th Wedding Anniversary last February. They're impressed by our Newsletters and enjoy reading them. Although they rarely come up to London, as they live in Somerset, they will try to make one of our events in 2013!



PATSY WHITESIDE (NEE DONOGHUE) - LEFT 1965

Thanks to Mrs Whiteside for her very touching contribution, which she declares has been inspired by reading accounts of Old Owenians experiences at school, and also by the fact that most of them are old *boys*!

"I am an Owen's Girl by accident. My primary school was Winton Junior Mixed, formerly Winchester Street School, at the Kings Cross end of Pentonville Road. I sat the 11-plus in January 1958, which I remember as a cold and snowy day, and I spent the half-hour or so before the test began on an extremely hazardous slide which some of the boys had made in the playground. A broken arm or leg at this point could have changed the course of my personal history.

In the 1950's the now defunct LCC offered scholarships to Christ's Hospital to a handful of boys and girls from deprived areas of London who had performed particularly well in the 11-plus. I was not especially deprived - I was an only child with two working parents - but I lived and went to school in a deprived area. I was awarded a scholarship.

This threw my parents into a serious quandary. They were horrified at the thought of sending their only child away to boarding school, but did not feel they could deny her this great opportunity. To Christ's Hospital, therefore, I would go. I understood very little of what was going on. My birthday is at the end of August so, at 10 and a half, I imagined that going to my new school would mean getting on two buses instead of the one bus that my peers would need to get to Highbury, Skinners etc. When I learnt, as a result of earwiggling a conversation between grown-ups, that I was destined for boarding school, I was appalled. I declared that I would not go and that was that. My parents were, for once, greatly inclined to let me have my way and so the offer was declined.

But, as Hamlet says, there's the rub. By now all the grammar schools had held their interviews and allocated their places. I was turned down by City of London, Greycoats and others that I do not recall. My father, a most charming, personable and resourceful man who had definitely, if metaphorically, kissed the Blarney stone, requested a personal interview with the headmistress of Owen's, the formidable Miss Ward.

In her office in a house in Owen's Court he explained that he had this wonderful, intelligent daughter (!) who had been offered a place at Christ's Hospital and, because she had turned it down, was faced with the prospect of attending a secondary modern. What a Waste, said Ian Dury. Meanwhile I, in my best Marks & Spencer's frock and dazzling white socks, was sitting in the outer office, under the watchful eye of Miss Carpenter, reading a piece of text pasted onto a card.

My father's Irish charm had partially melted the icy Miss Ward and she agreed to see me. Had I read the passage on the card? Yes. Did I know what it was about? Yes, I had read the book. You have read Great Expectations? Yes, twice, and I have read David Copperfield and Oliver Twist because I was given them as school prizes but I haven't read anything else by Dickens because these are the only ones in the children's library and they won't let me borrow from the adult section and I don't understand that because although these books are about children I don't think they were written especially for children.....

Some explanation is required. My mother went back to work when I was 3 and I was put in my grandmother's charge during the day. She lived in a tiny house on Pentonville Road, which even then was a very busy thoroughfare. Playing outdoors was impossible. Too dangerous. Not allowed in the kitchen, too dangerous. Not taken to the swing gardens, too dangerous.

Luckily my father taught me to read and that was what I did, all day when I was not at school, starting with Rupert Annuals and going on to What Katy Did, Little Women, Pride & Prejudice and eventually Dickens who would change my life. I find that very often what I think of at the time as a great drawback turns out in the end to be to my advantage (however I was always rubbish at hockey.)

There was one extra girl in the 3rd form at Dame Alice Owen's in September 1958. Miss Ward was sufficiently impressed (with me or with my father) to offer me a place at Owen's, for which I thank her every day of my life.

As a child of undereducated parents, my seven years at the school transformed me. I studied Latin, which never failed to amaze and confound my mother. I went on to study at Queen Mary College. Miss Ward's generosity of spirit and the Owen's ethos, which I am proud to say endures to this day, has without doubt made me the person I am.

There are more stories, but for another time. And for now: Here's to the next 400 years."



DR MARCUS KAYE—LEFT 1945

Thanks to Dr Kaye for noticing our website and yes, his unique achievements are of interest for inclusion in our Newsletter! He presents three matters – a frog, some computer records and explains why his mother was awarded a commendation by the Queen in 1939.

"I left Owen's in 1945 from Bedford to return to London. In September I joined Guy's Hospital Dental School aged 17, where I began human dissections from then I qualified in July 1949 aged 21. Retired 1996 as a principal GDP (General Dental Practitioner).

While at Bedford, after my School Certificate, my mother advised me that she read that there would be a shortage of dentists post-war and maybe I should choose dentistry as a career. As I had no idea of the future at the time, (who did, except Beveridge), and as I had our usual five a side football in our Smallball League (tennis ball on a Hockey pitch with nets) in nearby Russell Park, this seemed a good idea as I was in a hurry. After all, I liked the idea of Medicine, but I liked my sleep too, so Dentistry prevailed. Of course, it was too rushed, and football was always first in my thought since although I was always in the School football team throughout, I knew it was more than I could bear if I was dropped.

Afterwards, I realised that while I had no problems with going into the Science 6th, my best subjects were Arts and my worst were Physics and Chemistry. Also Owen's had no Biology teacher, but Botany and Zoology had to be taken as well as Physics and Chemistry. With the help of BMS (Bedford Modern School), I attended every Biology lesson available as well as evening classes, and kept up.

However, disaster arrived when no frogs were available for me for dissection for the Zoology exam. The Biology master, Mr Saunders suggested a DIY remedy; go get your own frog. Armed with a jam jar and lid and a small bottle of chloroform helpfully provided, I eventually succeeded in getting my frog and passing the exam.

For some forgotten reason, I decided to preserve the frog as it was a giant and I felt guilty. Museum experts have asked how I did it, possibly with alkali's. The cleaned skeleton, labelled anatomically, was placed in a small cigar box and covered with glass which was taped and sealed.

Strangely, it was about the time that my interview to become a student at Guy's happened, despite general disbelief at the interview that I could possibly do two Main subjects in two years, so I was accepted on those conditions. Luckily I did (with a distinction in Chemistry); otherwise it would have ruined my story.

In 2011, my Bedford Froggie specimen was accepted in the 2009 opened Museum of Life Sciences at the Guy's Campus of King's College London where it gets better care than it did with me in the last 67 years, but I confess it that had a right humerus re-glued and some dusting, but no modernity improvements, excepting being under lock and key. Incidentally, Prof Vivian Moses, a classmate, whom I met that year after 66 years, kindly visited the Museum later and sent mobile pictures of the specimen in its Regency splendour.

At present, BMS have accepted my proposed presentation of my A3+ photocard, enhanced and enlarged, both to BMS and Owen's as a teaching aid in Biology Departments. I spoke to Dr Davidson at the Old Owen's reunion last year (my first) for a few moments about my frog specimen and he seemed interested but he would co-operate with BMS proposals - I am still awaiting final details, and I hope I can make it before the grim reaper.

The second matter concerns my expertise in Dental Computing which has been on-going as a hobby and serious tool in my practice since 1980 and especially since the Apple Macintosh 1984, when it arrived in the UK and I bought it. In 2011, I was privileged to have my records accepted as a Collection for the Archives by the Curator of King's College London entitled Computing in Dentistry 1980-onwards, which eventually will be theirs.

The last matter, last but for me the best, as it was my mother's Commendation in 1939 by the Queen at the time and later Queen Mother, earned for her efforts in setting up almost single handed a Jewish Refuge for orthodox Jewish Owen's pupils. Both myself and my brother had been consistently ejected by bullies in Bedford to such an extent that early in my first term I was questioned by the Head of Lower School about my 'bad' behaviour'. This alleged 'bad' behaviour' consisted of my refusal to eat bacon for breakfast. My mother, being concerned about constant sequences of differing addresses, left Islington for Bedford and was appalled.

After discussion with Mr O W Mitchell, an agreement was reached, that if a requisitioned empty large house was available my mother and a school leaver domestic, would take care of my younger brother and myself together with some 6th formers with dietary problems. Eventually, my father was bombed out of his hairdressing rented shop and went to Bedford to rejoin his family and provide for them at 62, and we moved out of the grand house to terrace housing. The original Queen's Commendation Certificate and the Buckingham Palace unstamped envelope are now the property of the Jewish Museum in London."



GEOFFREY MATHER—LEFT 1960

Thanks to Mr Mather for this very modern suggestion but worthy of inclusion in case anyone feels inspired! Singing the School Song is definitely part of our Royal Albert Hall programme although we wonder what it would sound like if it was accompanied by a musical app!

"This is probably a very silly idea that I had but I was wondering whether some knowledgeable Old Owenian could create and make available a mobile phone ring tone of the introduction to The School Song (or/and The School Song itself) so that, when sitting in some remote hotel in the middle of nowhere a conversation could be immediately be struck up with a total stranger having heard a familiar ring. Just a thought."



TONY VINE—LEFT 1963

Thanks to Mr Vine for getting in touch, having discovered Owen's link to Eisteddfod. He also shares with us an alternative version of one of the lines of the old school song. Our head, Dr Alan Davison has managed for differing versions NOT to be sung at Visitation for the last few years now and we hope the proper version will be sung at the Royal Albert Hall next year!!!! If you're interested in joining our massed choir, who will be singing the school song, see page 3 for contact details! We're planning for the words to be printed in our programme!

"I had been exhibiting my work at the Eisteddfod last year, I'm a lapidary, when I had a chance to meet some of the choir on that occasion. So I was delighted to see that they were here again this year, although I now realise that the school has had a long association with the event. Seeing the choir listed in the programme, I had just been regaling some of my fellow crafters with a potted history of the school, including it's founding date of 1613, when Liz (Liz White, 2nd in our Music Department) arrived at my stand and during the course of conversation the penny dropped that, of course, 2013 would be the 400th anniversary.

Delighted to discover that the school song has survived the years and enjoyed revealing a slightly altered line that harked back to when the boys and girls schools were very definitely separate entities - "Never let your ardour cool when the girls are in the school".

I was a pupil from 1956 - 1963 and would love to attend some of next year's celebrations and hopefully meet some pals from those halcyon days. Oh my, but life seemed so much simpler then. I shall log on to the various attachments, sign up for the newsletter and look forward to sharing in the occasion next Summer. Very best regards!"



JUDITH SIMPSON—LEFT AROUND 1950

Thanks to Judith Simpson for her mail! She'd like to get in touch with old school friends Pat Tattam and Shirley Galland but says as it's 62 or 63 years ago, maybe that's just too long! If anyone has any details for us to pass on, please contact us on 400years@damealiceowens.herts.sch.uk as she says our help would be much appreciated. Ms Simpson apologises that she can't attend any reunions as she now lives in Johannesburg, but would love to hear from friends.



MICK FIELD – LEFT 1968

Thanks to Mr Mick Field (who contributed to our June 2011 edition) for his further memories, triggered by other previous articles and inspiring us with news of reunions initiated by class of 1964! He would be delighted to hear from any more contemporaries via his email: mickfield1949@btinternet.com.

He owns up... *"One (article) that made me laugh in particular was the interview with Bill Hamilton-Hinds in which he describes how it was revealed to him that there was a mini car in the entrance hall to the school (parked right up by the statue of our revered founder). Although this scenario may seem a little surreal I know it is true as I know how it arrived there!! Say no more!!*

The other article that fired my imagination was written by Les Gibbings, especially when he talked about the Triceratops that attempted to teach us Latin. The one teacher who stands out in my memory, may be, more than any other is the wonderful Mr. (Enus) Reeves. As Les rightly says he was a gentleman from his sartorial elegance to his "plum in the mouth speech", also his mode of transportation; he used to drive a racing green M.G. sports car convertible, very stylish compared to the other teachers far more staid cars. When being taught by Enus any misdemeanour was met with the cry of TWO TO COME and this was duly noted in a small notebook that was never far from his side.

Each week when we arrived at Whetstone on a Tuesday morning we would have a Latin lesson first before taking to the sports field and it was at the end of this lesson that your tally for the week was administered. The cry of TWO TO COME being two hits with a size 14 slipper across the backside and if you had been racking up the "strokes" this could amount to anything up to about 10 whacks.

What really made this special though was that one week a lad named Alfie Hinds took his punishment, then arose, turned around and laughed at Enus. Well this was too much for poor old Enus to take and Alfie was given another one for being so insolent. However this small incident led to a revolution and it became a matter of pride for everyone to follow in Alfie's shoes and to laugh at Enus thus ensuring another whack - oh happy days!!"

Since he last wrote to us, he has been very lucky in being able to track down several members of his old form from 1964 and they had their first meeting at the Weatherspoons pub at the Angel not far from *"where we spent many a happy year"*.

He recounts...*"Seven of us managed to make it in February of this year: Malcolm Webb, John Ley, Ian Finlay, Steve Ward, Pete O'Brien, Alan Lines and myself. At this meeting, as we all got on so well, we decided that we should all get together again and I suggested a bar-b-que at my house which everybody thought was a great idea.*

After much toing and froing we at last managed to fix a date that was mutually agreeable for all of us and we duly met up again on 7th July this year - this time everyone (who could) brought along their wives and apart from the seven of us at the Angel another two managed to make it to my house - Dick Eke and Paul Chapman. Malcolm came with Marcella (who my wife and I knew from school days), Steve came with his wife Christine, Dick with his wife Sue and Pete with his wife Carol.

So after more than forty years we managed to meet up again and we had a truly smashing afternoon and a very late evening and we have all agreed to continue our friendship and to meet up again in the near future (we certainly won't wait another 40 odd years). During the bar-b que we obviously reminisced about old times at school and the story about Enus above was etched in every ones brains as one of the outstanding memories of the time along with the mini!

In the photo below from the bar-b-que we are as follows : Malcolm Webb, Alan Lines, Steve Ward, Mick Field, Dick Eke, Ian Finlay, Paul Chapman, Pete O'Brien and John Ley"



PETER LEVY – LEFT 1961

Thanks to Mr Peter Levy from Cheshire, for requesting to join our 400th email list and updating us on his resume!

"After leaving school I went to Exeter University to read English, and have spent my working career as a Sports Journalist, fully retiring last year. I started on the Yorkshire Post, then moved to the Daily Express in Manchester, becoming Racing Editor of the Daily Star when that paper started in 1978. I have also been Racing Editor of the Press Association, Britain's National News Agency. For the last few years I worked for the Manchester Evening News. I married in 1968 and have two grown up children and three grandchildren."



IAN FINDLEY—LEFT 1960

Thanks to Mr Findley for promising a future contribution which involves Hexagon Combo. If anyone has a copy of the Arrow which wrote up the annual concert in which they performed, we'd love to see the report so we can forward it onto Mr Findley to add to his article—it apparently involves screaming girls! He's also told us he's a bit of a rebel and will be happy to submit a spicy report! We look forward to hearing from anyone who can help!



ALAN GOODCHILD—LEFT 1950

Thanks to Mr Goodchild for contacting us—he hopes to attend some of our events next year and has requested that if anyone attended school at the same time as he did and remembers him, to email, snail mail or ring him at: appyome@yahoo.com or 23 Pennance Road, Cornwall TR11 4ED or 01326 317480.



JAMES PENSON – LEFT 1998

Thanks to James Penson for sending us a brief update on his progress in the Space Industry. Since leaving Owen's, he studied Physics with Space Science at the University of Kent and Astronautics at Cranfield University. After graduation in 2004, he then joined Surrey Satellite Technology Limited (SSTL, <http://www.sstl.co.uk/>), where he has worked for eight years designing satellites, of which four are currently in orbit imaging the Earth. He has kindly offered to give his time to speak to students about his interesting career path and we look forward to arranging a time for him to visit our school!



DR HARRY BINYSH—LEFT DURING 1930'S



HOWARD BINYSH—LEFT 1980

Thanks to Mr Howard Binysh for requesting to join our 400th anniversary emailing list for himself and his father, who is now 91 years old—possibly our oldest Old Owenian?!



RAYMOND LAW—LEFT 1939



VERA LAW (NEE BARRETT) - LEFT 1946

Thanks very much to Mrs Alison Robinson, one of our current parents, for telling us about her mother, Vera, and uncle, Ray, both Old Owenians and both have birthdays on 23rd April—the date of our Royal Albert Hall 400th Concert! Their family have a long association with Dame Alice Owen's and she shares some of their history.

"The 23rd April 2013 will be a multiple celebration in our family as our two most senior ex-Owenians both share their birthdays with St George, Shakespeare and the 400th Anniversary Concert! Dame Alice Owen's has been a significant influence in our family over the generations starting with Raymond Law who will be 90, and Vera Law, nee Barrett, who will be 83 on April 23rd.... and the links with DAOS are still strong, as Ray and Vera, who are brother and sister-in-law, between them have seven 'DAOS grandchildren'!

Ray attended Owens from 1934-1939. The second of five children, he grew up in Lewis Buildings, Liverpool Road, Islington, with three brothers (including my Dad, the 'baby') and one sister. After Owens he flew in the Fleet Air Arm during WWII, and then set up his own successful textiles company. He is still happily married to Rose after 60 years. After bringing up their two sons in Grange Park, and Potters Bar, they have now retired to Chichester. Their two 'DAOS grandchildren' are: Jonathan (1998-2005) and Claire Law (2001-2008).

Vera, my Mum, the middle of three sisters, grew up at 331 Goswell Road, which backed immediately on to the old boys' school playground. (I still recall, as a little girl, being in the kitchen and hearing the playground hubbub at break). Mum vividly remembers much of her days at Owens, the girls' school evacuated to Kettering, then returning to Islington and the tragic bomb blast. Also the school uniform: kneeling on the floor to ensure the correct length of skirt, and travelling up to the playing fields at Whetstone where she used a hockey stick bearing the name of (Dame) Beryl Grey. During the Blitz Vera's Father was a fire-spotter from the dome of St Pauls Cathedral!

Vera married Vic Law (Ray's youngest brother) at St Marys Church, Islington, and soon after moved to Cuffley, and then Potters Bar, where they still live. My brother and I grew up in PB missing the DAOS experience as we transitioned to secondary school just before the move from Islington. DAOS has lived on in their lives though as they have seen 5 of their grandchildren literally going to DAOS daily, watching them on/off the train from their retirement apartment opposite the station! There have been memorable occasions when one or other of their grandchildren have been joined on the pavement by a line-up red jumpers and black blazers to wave up at 'Nanny and Grandad'.

Their five 'DAOS grandchildren' are: Adam (1999-2006) and Angela Law (2001-2008), and the Robinsons: Josh (2001-2008), Lauren (2003-2008) and Sophie (yr11)."



JOHN ESSON—LEFT 1957

Thanks to Mr John Esson for his preliminary reflections about his beginnings at Owen's over 50 years ago. He remembers the author of our previous history book, then Deputy Headmaster, R.A. Dare (known in his time as Dan Dare alluding to a comic space adventurer of the era featured in The Eagle!) and is grateful for the opportunities afforded by his education. He now lives in Manchester.

"It's a very long time since I was at Owens and, with some regrets, I have not kept in touch since leaving in 1957 to continue my studies at Oxford. I was an 11+ entrant in 1949 from a modest Islington school and, being naïve and totally unaware of it at the time, joined Owens, then just a stone's throw from the Angel tube station, to experience an unknown new environment which turned out to be, as I realised much later, the opening to a world of opportunity.

Living only two tube stops from Owens, Caledonian Road change at Kings Cross for the Angel, I had not realised that, such was the reputation of Owens, that boys- the girls' school being separate in those distant days- came from a much wider area, including even Kent and Surrey! Many young people today are much more informed and aware of the opportunities which education offers, but many of my generation had parents of very modest backgrounds who just wanted something better for their children without always being aware of how to go about it. Some, like me, were lucky to be pointed in the right direction. As in so many other things in life, however much planning you do, some of the best and most memorable things happen purely by chance.

The headmasters during my time were Garstang and then Burrows. On quite rare occasions, when feeling nostalgic, I dig out my school reports to remind me of comments from them and their various long-suffering colleagues about my efforts. It was quite a chastening experience to come from being top of the class at my junior school to being sixth in one of three first year classes at Owens. Worse was to follow as this result in year 1 put me in the A class for the next year, where I found my level at twenty-something for the next few years. Being of a calm and conscientious disposition, perhaps too much so, I accepted this and continued to apply myself."



LYNNE LLOYD 1953-2012

Mr Les Gibbings (left 1972) pays tribute to his former wife and Old Owenian, Lynne Lloyd. Our thoughts are with him and his family.

"It is with great sadness that I write of the tragic and wholly unexpected death in July of my former wife and Old Owenian, Lynne Lloyd at the ridiculously young age of 58 years. Although an obituary from me appeared in The Guardian on 25th July 2012 (the link to which appears at the end of this article), it cannot by its nature adequately cover Lynne's life and achievements and especially her Owen's years and connections. So I have taken the liberty of writing the following as a sort of anecdotal school supplement or introduction. Any errors or omissions are entirely my own.

Lynne came to Owens from the Islington-based William Tyndale School in 1964 when her family lived in private rented accommodation in Milner Square. She developed into a lovely young woman who enjoyed netball and hockey in her formative school years and nurtured what was to remain her life-long love of English literature – especially (romantic) poetry which rubbed off on me once we became close and in later years, amongst other novelists, an unaccountable love of Agatha Christie mysteries for which I had to almost continuously comb the shelves of second-hand bookshops across north London. I expect there must be more than a few who knew her who enjoyed her generally sensitive nature and yet also her acute sense of humour but with a positive and kindly outlook on life.

Lynne and I first got to know each other when we met at school in our 6th year for what was then called British Constitution but which I am sure must have 'morphed' into Politics or something similar, as that was exactly what it was. We hit it off immediately and enjoyed each other's company for many years afterwards.

Not unsurprisingly Lynne had had other 'boyfriends' from amongst the boys school, but as I recall the best known and longest had been one from the 'dark-side', which is what the lads who did rowing were properly regarded by those of us (like me) who played soccer, hockey and cricket (well – maybe cricket was only just above the salvation line itself). So when Lynne finally changed her mind I think it was probably regarded as her being 'saved' from eternal damnationand boredom. Sorry if that offends anyone, but that's how it seemed at the time.

I recall that I started 'dating' Lynne whilst we were both still at school with some trepidation as I felt privileged to be 'going out' with her and realised I would still be seeing her regularly if it didn't work out.

The problem for her and for me was that her Islington based family had inconsiderately upped and moved lock-stock & barrel to council accommodation in the outer hinterland of Bow in Tower Hamlets which may as well have been the Outer Hebrides, being so inaccessible for us by public transport – me, to take her home after a night out, and her, just the arduous 'fag' of getting into school on time each morning.

Getting to her home involved long walks from remote tube stations in the middle of an area that seemed to be in the early stages of a massive slum clearance and was a most desolate area populated with high rise buildings. Tower Hamlets was well-named! I remember on our first date waiting in the lobby of one such block, poised to make my anxious farewell, when the lift doors opened and an arm came out and proceeded to grab Lynne by the elbow and dragged her almost noiselessly back inside. The lift doors closed immediately and I was left alone in the middle of this awful place. Almost no words had been exchanged during the incident and all I recall was Lynne exclaiming 'oh' as she vanished from sight. The arm had belonged to her father who must have been watching and timing us from up on high as we approached the block! A never to be forgotten moment indeed!!



Although we drifted apart during for a year or so after we left the school in 1971 when we were both undertaking further studies, it was not long before we lived together before marrying in 1975. This 'pairing' of lads and lassies from both schools that lead onto matrimonial bonds was not that unusual and at least two of our contemporaries did the same (Val Gibbs and Bob Harness and Janice Turner and Pete Welch to name just two – though I am sure there are many more, whilst another Owen's lad and still best friend, Vince Sartori, met his future wife and Lynne's good friend, Kate, at our wedding).

Lynne didn't value gaining qualifications for their own sake very highly but she worked hard enough to secure the GCEs she needed to get to College which was all she cared about to enable her to realise her lifetime ambition of teaching. There is so much that could be said especially about the school years and the endless hours Lynne and I spent chatting in the Angel Cafe between lessons (and maybe even when we were supposed to be in lessons on occasion) and the early post school years when Lynne and I, with too many school friends to mention (but 'regulars' in addition to those mentioned above included Malcolm Osgood, Jeff Hulbert, Jackie Jones, Phil Woolway, Ric Ower and Pete Richards) spent countless hours putting the world to rights in either The Albion in Barnsbury or The Flask at Highgate.

And there was always music and the arts generally as a sort of backdrop or soundtrack to everything which we did together at school and beyond. Lynne and I would regularly visit London art galleries and go to the theatre whenever we could (seeing Kenneth Branagh on stage as Henry V was particularly memorable) and we both loved live concerts. Across the years we saw acts ranging from Sinatra and Mathis to the 4Tops (one of Lynne's big favourites), Marvin Gaye and Michael Jackson and the Stones (of course), Kinks, McCartney, Springsteen, Bowie, Cliff Richard, Rod Stewart, Spirit, Boz Scaggs and even Take That. In later years Lynne supported local venues in Milton Keynes where she lived, where she enjoyed repeated gigs by Paul Carrack, Nils Lofgren and The Manfreds.

As a result of subsequent events, Lynne and I were rarely in direct contact in recent years. After 28 years of marriage and despite our differences she still took a keen interest in other peoples welfare. So maybe it was not such a surprise that at our final meeting just a month before she died as I was leaving our youngest daughter Laura's wedding, Lynne turned to my wife of just three months at the time, and said 'Make sure you look after him'. As it turned out it was the last time we would meet and it was the last thing she ever said in my presence. May she Rest In Peace.

Click on the link below to access Lynne's obituary in The Guardian:
www.guardian.co.uk/education/2012/jul/25/lynne-lloyd-obituary



JACQUELINE GERSHON—LEFT 1938

Thanks to Ms Gershon, who has previously contributed to two Newsletters, for visiting us at our Open Afternoon in July—we were thrilled to give her a tour! She has kindly provided us with the original mailing (see scan below) from famous film star and Old Owenian, Jessica Tandy Cronyn, that she mentions in her previous article, (March 2012, page 13). She's also interested in anyone who'd like to help her set up a small writers' group, living in easy reach of Golders Green station. Please contact us on 400years@damealiceowens.herts.sch.uk if you'd like us to forward your details!

Her extract from March reads:

"Viewing TV, I saw Terry Wogan interview Jessica Tandy re her nomination for an Oscar in Driving Miss Daisy (1989). I soonest possible wrote to her c/o the BBC wishing her luck and telling her about our link to Owens. I was thrilled to receive a handwritten reply from her at her home address in Connecticut, dated 17.3.90 as follows:

"My memories of Dame Alice Owen's School, and Miss Packer and Miss Young and Miss Wilson are still very fresh in my mind. I was very glad to hear from you and I do hope you will enjoy "Driving Miss Daisy", it is something I was very proud of. The phenomenal success of the picture seems to me to tell us that audiences find a picture with less action and more feeling, satisfactory.

*Most sincerely,
Jessica Tandy"*

JESSICA TANDY CRONYN
50 Mills Lane
Boston
Connecticut - 06612
17.3.90

Dear Mrs Gershon.
My memories of
Dame Alice Owen's School, and Miss
Packer and Miss Young and Miss Wilson
are still very fresh in my mind.
I was very glad to hear from
you - & I do hope you will
enjoy "Driving Miss Daisy" it

is something I am very proud of.
The phenomenal success of the
picture seems to me to tell
us that audiences find a
picture with less action and
more feeling, satisfactory.

Most sincerely
Jessica Tandy

And finally...

We're delighted that Old Owenians have joined our staff this year and welcome Jamie Coles (Teaching Assistant for this year) and Stephen Morris (Groundsman) and also give thanks to all those Old Owenians who continue to support our school in many different ways, including speakers to our textile students last term, Ms Paula Beaument, Ms Olivia Poole and Ms Sarah Mole.



And our usual plea - have you found any fellow Old Owenians to join our email list yet? If so, please carry on the excellent work you're all doing (A HUGE THANK YOU ONCE AGAIN!) to spread the word of our anniversary and request as many Old Owenians join our email list as possible so they don't miss out on news about our 400th events—just ask them to mail us at 400years@damealiceowens.herts.sch.uk with their year of leaving date!

A Few Technical Tips!

If any of the links in this Newsletter don't work by clicking on them directly, highlight the link and copy and paste directly into your browser. Also, if you've ever wondered what caching is, well, it's sort of stored data on the web which the web can access if the page is no longer available or pages that your computer stores so you can access your frequently viewed pages more quickly.

For example, the website of the Chateau that William and Kate were recently photographed in was taken down from the internet almost immediately their photos were published. However you could still access a cached (previously stored page) view of the site through search engines.

Last but not least, we now have a cookie policy on our website (no, this does not mean we're now selling 400th anniversary biscuits, although plans are now more definite about a 400th brew!), which simply informs you that if you use the Google search engine from our site, this will place technical bits of harmless code on your computer to improve performance—see more information under our Cookie Policy page: <http://www.damealiceowens.herts.sch.uk/cookies.html>.



To do list!

In a true organised "Owen's Way" style (see September 2011 edition, page 4!) , I thought I'd leave you with a little checklist of actions you might want to consider:

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



- O** Order tickets for the Royal Albert Hall 400th Concert – see page 2!
- W** Write to fellow Old Owenians spreading the word about our 400th email list – see this page!
- E** Email to enter ballot for 400th Service and Reception at St Paul's Cathedral and Mansion House – see page 3!
- N** New history book by Gareth Randall – purchase advance copy – see page 3!
- S** Send application form to OSA for 400th Ball—accepted from October 15th – put date in diary to – see page 6!

Photo Finish!

And really finally, here's a few photos from our current building site so you can see our progress over recent weeks in preparing for the main work for our new Science building due in November– let's hope rain won't stop play (although it probably will)!!!!

Until December!

Mrs Mandy English, Communications Officer



Preparation for our access road started in August (above) - work almost completed in September (below)!



Trenches appear! Pipe work was accessed over the summer to extend amenities to the site of the new building. Most have now been refilled maintaining health and safety for our students!



More photos of this significant project will appear here in our December Newsletter!

P.S. Deadline for contributions to our next Old Owenians Newsletter is **Friday 7th December, 2012!** If you've thought about writing, but haven't yet got round to it, why not just inspire and update us on what you're doing now? Email your article to 400years@damealiceowens.herts.sch.uk and we'll include it in our Christmas issue!