



Old Owenians Newsletter

Third Quarter—29th September 2011
Edition 3

Welcome to our third Old Owenians Newsletter—for all Old Owenians

Thank you for all your positive feedback about our last newsletter—this edition contains more snapshots of news and contributions from Old Owenians, who left as far back as 1938 and as recent as 2000! Remember to use the bookmarks on the top left to read the contents list and go straight to your point of interest.

We update you on our academic successes this summer and inspiring trips to South Africa by 120 students in July. Old Owen's tells us of their social events this term and opportunity to watch the Rugby LIVE as well as reporting on this year's cricket season. You'll find some more diary dates of school events on page 3 and in no particular order this time, we have an amazing total of 18 articles submitted by you, including one from a past parent governor and one current governor reporting on new Old Owenians doing their stuff at this years Edinburgh Fringe.

But first we have a very special anniversary to announcement to make...



Happy 125th Anniversary to Dame Alice Owen's Girls' School!

Thanks to Mr Bill Hamilton-Hinds for alerting us to the fact that DAO's Girls' School celebrates its 125th Anniversary this year (1886-2011) and co-incidentally, **today is the school's actual birthday—**

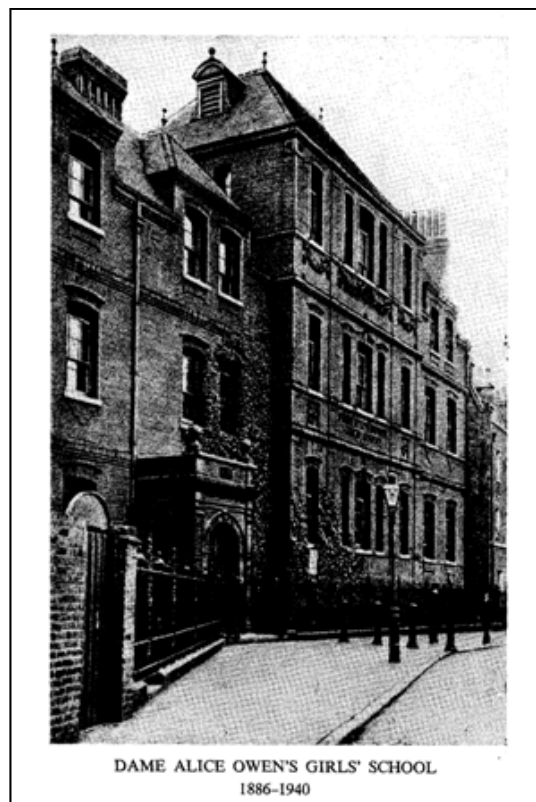
Michaelmas Day, hence our daisy picture! Jill Davies (now Roe), Janet Etheridge, Christine Samways (now Montcharmon), Pamela Smith (now Slatter) - pupils at the School in Islington during the years

1962-69, wrote some of their memories for our main school newsletter in February and remember what they did on the 29th September over 40 years ago:

"The annual School Birthday on 29th September (Michaelmas Day) was always a great event. The girls donned buttonholes made from Michaelmas daisies and every class was presented with an iced fruit cake and, after singing our two school songs 'Our School is set at Islington' and 'Lift your hearts and lift your voices', we walked in crocodile fashion for a Service of Thanksgiving at St Mary's Church in Upper Street where Dame Alice is buried."

Why not attend the **Harold Moore Annual Luncheon Reunion** on 24th October 2011, (see page 2 for details) presided over this year by our estimable past Head, Mrs Aldon Williamson, to celebrate this great occasion and sing the songs again? You can find the words to the old Girls' school songs on our website at: http://www.damealiceowens.herts.sch.uk/about_us/school_history.html

(N.B. Michaelmas Day is the feast of St Michael, the Archangel and traditionally the last day of the harvest season.)



Current Students celebrate their success!

You will be delighted to know that your old school is still producing outstanding results for its students, both at GCSE and A Level—a testament to both staff and students who put in a tremendous amount of effort, often going the extra mile, as is the “Owen’s Way” (see our definition on page 4)!

For GCSE:

- 93% of all Year 11 students secured 5 A*-C grades including English and Maths
- 96% of all Year 11 students secured 5 A*-C grades without English and Maths
- The performance at A* was amazing at 35.2% and a record performance at A* and A - 68.1% of all entries were graded A or A*

For A Level:

- 82.1% of all grades were awarded A* - B
- We showed an upward trend with the new A* grade, with 21.3% of all entries being awarded an A*, 32% were awarded an A, making our A* and A total 52.3%
- 64 of our students secured straight A*s and As
- 99.4% of all entries secured a pass grade
- 20 students with offers have confirmed Oxbridge places and the majority of students have secured places at their first choice universities
- We were particularly pleased with the AS results which were a new school record with 54.1% being graded A (44.1% in 2010) and 78% A & B grades (68.9% in 2010) which augurs very well for next year’s A Level results



News of Old Owen’s Association Social Events



John and Lynn Clark would like to invite you to attend any of their events at the Old Owen’s Sports Ground in Potters Bar—please ring the clubhouse for more information or to book on 01707 644211—they’d love to hear from you:

- **Friday 30th September-Sunday 2nd October** WATCH THE RUGBY LIVE! Breakfasts available for early morning matches! See www.OLDOWENS.COM for dates and times of matches.
- **Saturday 22nd October** CHARITY EVENT for CMV (CytoMegalovirus) and Little Treasures Charity, 7.30pm—Midnight. Ticket price £5.00, Children Under 14 free, price includes entry to raffle, DJ and buffet. Tickets can be purchased on the door.
- **Friday 4th November** FIREWORK DISPLAY—doors open and BBQ available from 6pm. Ticket price £5 Adults, £3 Children (between 10yrs to 16yrs), Children Under 10yrs free, fireworks start 7.30pm. Tickets can be purchased on the door.
- **Thursday 24th November** 'ALVIN IS ELVIS' starts at 8pm, BBQ available from 7 to 8pm. Entry free. Just come and enjoy.
- **Sunday to Thursday**—Pool table and Darts are available daytime and evenings so come along and enjoy.

Thank you to all those members of the Old Owen’s Association who continue to subscribe to membership to support the Sports Club. For details of any further Christmas events, please visit their website at www.OLDOWENS.COM during the next couple of months.

Harold Moore Annual Luncheon Reunion reminder!

All Old Owenians are invited to this reunion event on Monday 24th October 2011, (during Half Term) at the Imperial Hotel, Russell Square, London. Reminder invitations are being sent to members of the Old Owen’s Association. If you would like to attend, contact either **Mr Stan Gould** on Tel: 01234 346 380 Email: Stan@ssgsys.demon.co.uk or **Mr Michael Harold** on Tel: 020 8445 9782 Email: michael.harold@btinternet.com for more details on how to make a reservation. Special reference will be made to the 125th Anniversary of the Old Girls’ School.

Our Science Society Lectures - open to all—reminder of dates this term!

As you know, we hold several evening lectures throughout the year, specifically to support our Science students, which are open to our whole school community, including Old Owenians and are **free of charge**. Chemistry teacher, Mrs K Dorotheou arranges speakers on a range of topics. **You are very welcome to join us**—just email Mrs K Dorotheou: dorotheouk@damealiceowens.herts.sch.uk if you are interested to reserve a place. Our new programme of lectures for the rest of the term is as follows:

- **Tuesday 4th October** - Lunchtime lecture 12.30-1.30pm Dr Stephen Hendry Company: Oasys Ltd Title of talk: 'Structural engineering - how basic laws of physics translate into the design of building structures' - Main Hall
- **Wednesday 12th October** - Twilight lecture 7.00- 8.00 pm Dr Gillian Hall Research Consultant Title of talk: 'Pharmacoepidemiology, the study of the safety of prescribed medicines: research on large patient populations' - Main Hall
- **Wednesday 2nd November** - 7-8pm in our Main Hall, with Dr Dewi Lewis, Faculty of Chemistry and Senior Admissions Tutor at University College London
- **Friday 4th November** - Lunchtime lecture 12.30 – 1.30pm Dr Sid Cox EDF Energy plc Title of talk: 'Career opportunities in the energy industry for scientists and engineers' - Main Hall

Reminder of Dairy Dates for 2013 to celebrate our 400th Anniversary!

- **Royal Albert Hall Celebration Concert** for our whole community—Tuesday 23rd April 2013 (St George's Day and Shakespeares's Birthday)
- **St Paul's Cathedral Thanksgiving Service**—for invited guests, current and past members of the school—Tuesday 30th April 2013
- **St Albans Cathedral Carol Service**—for current students, staff, governors and parents of the school—Monday 16th December 2013

We also thought you'd like some news from two of our 400th venues...

News from the Royal Albert Hall—Seat for Sale!



In July it was reported in the press that a private box at the Royal Albert Hall was up for sale for £550,000. The box, which can seat five people, is located on the second tier and is only remaining one in the hall to retain the original timber veneer and mirrored panels, according to Harrods Estates.

Interestingly, Earl Spencer and the Duke of Devonshire have previously owned the box, but the current owner has not been revealed. The box is located on the eastern side of the auditorium and has about 865 years remaining on the lease and an enquiry this week revealed that it is still available for purchase!

Some more RAH history for you....when the building was being constructed in the 19th Century, several seats were offered for sale to private individuals on a 999-year lease. Queen Victoria bought 20 of the 1,300 privately-owned seats for £100 each, in addition to the Queen's box. The seats and the box, located on the Grand Tier, are still owned by the monarchy. Harrods Estates anticipated a high level of interest as boxes with original features are extremely rare—they have sold other boxes in the past including a 10-seater Grand Tier box - one of the largest at Royal Albert Hall - for £1.2m in June 2008.

News from St Paul's Cathedral—a 300th Anniversary!

St Paul's Cathedral is to commemorate its 300th anniversary this year (1711-2011) with a new optical installation in the south west corner by the Dean's office! Entitled "Perspectives" and designed by John Pawson, it is a 400mm wide giant crystal lens that transforms the view of Sir Christopher Wren's geometric staircase, allowing you to get a closer view of the underside of the staircase.

The sculpture is one of several in a contemporary art series, encouraged by the current Dean and can be viewed at the Cathedral until January 2012—annual passes are available!



The Owen's Way 2011!

This term, The Owen's Way has been defined for students throughout the school—compare The Owen's Way today to what it was when you were at school—has it changed or does it still reflect the values you remember? Answers on a postcard please to Mr Gavin Simpson, Head of Social Sciences, Dame Alice Owen's, Dugdale Hill Lane, Potters Bar, Hertfordshire EN6 2DU! He would welcome your feedback—thank you in anticipation!

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



400th Anniversary Emailing List—your continued support required!

Our work carries on in recruiting Old Owenians to our 400th Anniversary Emailing List so we can tell everyone about our celebration events. We now have 1,850 of you signed up to receive email alerts once a quarter and need your help in spreading the word to your fellow past peers! We have recently advertised in local papers—the Potters Bar Community News, Hertfordshire Life and the Islington Tribune, which we know from your references have encouraged OO's to join and we will be undertaking more editorials throughout the coming months. Simply ask your Old Owenian friends to email us at 400years@damealiceowens.herts.sch.uk with their year of leaving date and we'll add them to our list. Our 2013th Old Owenian to sign up will receive a commemorative certificate and we'd love to announce this in our December Newsletter!

A very special Old Owenian gives us a mention on Radio 4!



Sir Alan Parker, film director, producer, writer and actor gave an appearance on Radio 4 on Monday 19th September, interviewed to share his experiences as a former paperboy. He explained how he came from a working class background in Islington and attended Dame Alice Owen's School. He has recently been in contact with our head, Dr Alan Davison, regarding our 400th Anniversary and **we are honoured Sir Alan has agreed to direct our own Celebration Concert at the Royal Albert Hall in 2013, as well as being one of our Patrons for our 400th Appeal.**

Thanks to Old Owenian, Alan Brant, who upon hearing the programme, provided us with the details and signed up to our 400th Anniversary Emailing List! An excellent example of how the word gets spread!

South Africa 12 day Tour—"best school trip ever"

120 students, in three separate groups, ranging from Years 9-13, embarked on an exploration of South Africa this July. Your editor was hugely privileged to accompany 41 students and 3 other staff members in the first group that departed and you can read more on page 24. In addition, a smaller group visited South Africa on a Rugby and Netball tour and the World Challenge this year was to the Himalaya's in India.

The view here of Table Mountain and Cape Town was taken from the boat to Robben Island, where Nelson Mandela spent 27 years in jail—it has been a museum since 1994, following the abolition of apartheid. This was



the first trip to South Africa for the school, not counting past student, Mr J L Price, who in 1947, as a member of the school's Air Training Corp, was selected to accompany the Kings Flight as part of the Royal Family's visit to the country. He reported watching the fireworks in Cape Town that were set off to honour Princess Elizabeth's 21st Birthday, in The Arrow—Trinity Term, of the same year.

Old Owen's Cricket Club

We are delighted to have received this end of season report from Mr Andy Battersby, the OOC Secretary!

1st XI Report



Ralph Lane Scores Maiden Ton for OOC

CHAMPERS

Daniel St Clair Scores Maiden Ton for OOC

The 1st XI gained yet another promotion last Saturday with an easy win against Watton at Stone. Big congratulations to all involved in what is a great achievement for the club. Next season will see the 1st XI playing in Division 3 of the Saracens Herts Cricket League.

2nd XI Report

2011 was a disappointing season for the 2nd XI. We finished the Season in 19th place in a very Competitive Division 8. In all we had 3 wins, 2 draws and 11 losses throughout the season. 4 games were lost to rain and the difference between us finishing mid-table or in relegation zone. In 2 of the abandoned games we were in a very strong winning position when the rain eventually came. There were also 5 games where the 2nd XI came within 18 runs of recording a win rather than a loss or a draw. This shows just how competitive we were as a side this season and how close we were to avoiding relegation.

The main contributors to the batting and scoring over 130 were Marc Collier, Vincent Tanner and Dan Millard who scored a fantastic Century away at North Enfield. Ralph Lane, Max Berndes and Chris Dowty also scored impressive half century throughout the season. On the bowling front there were 5 bowlers that took 11 or more wickets during the season, with Graeme Keenan, Umair Atta, Robinson Thiruchelvam, Andrew Sutton and Steve Morris causing the biggest threat to the opposition.

3rd XI Report

The season started with the belief that it was better to arrive than travel hopefully, but after the first few weeks of trying to get the 3rd XI out, the belief came that it was in fact better to travel hopefully than to arrive. What with school exams and two Bank Holidays, the team which we hoped would always include at least 4 colts suffered, this problem was compounded by shortages in the 2nd and 1st teams and ended up with the thirds being decimated. We had to cancel three matches which did not help with morale or our position in the league after the first few weeks.

However things improved as did our results and we were lucky enough to give many colts games, thus introducing them to adult cricket and proving to them that there is life after colts cricket. With the help of more experienced players the colts that played were able to hold their own and proved valuable members of the team. Results varied, but hopefully all who played enjoyed themselves which to me is very important. We did not win the league, nor were we relegated so considering the start we had, the season was quite successful.

Next year with the knowledge the younger members of the team have gained and the hope that those of us who are older can play in the team rather than be moved up to fill gaps in the upper elevens it should be a good season.

Thank you to Mr Andy Battersby for the splendid photos too!

And now over to you...



JEAN COOK (NEE WEBBERLEY) - LEFT IN 1956

We are very grateful to Mrs Jean Cook who shares her school memories from the years 1949 – 1956. She has also kindly sent us this photo she found of some girls on a school trip to Germany in the Fifth Form.



"I'm sure I wasn't alone in finding my first day in 1949 at Dame Alice Owen's Girls' School in Islington a rather frightening and confusing experience. A timetable of lessons and their appropriate classrooms took some getting used to, considering the array of Victorian and prefabricated buildings surrounding a central playground.

The entrance to the school was down steps between buildings, accessed by a lane alongside the boys' school playground, which itself was surrounded by high railings. We were not allowed to 'fraternise' with the boys at all, but where there's a will there's a way! We made slits in tennis balls, stuffed notes inside, and threw them back and forth over the railings. Needless to say, there was a stiff penalty to pay if one were caught!

I can still see in my mind's eye the hated summer straw panama hats, impaled on those railings on the last day of the school year, as pupils left! Rules about uniform were very strict, and woe betide anyone seen not wearing their hat on the trolley-bus up to the school playing fields in Chandos Avenue, Whetstone. I always felt sick on trolley-buses, and wanted the journey to be over as quickly as possible, so hated it when, as frequently happened, the pole became detached from the overhead wires, and we had to wait whilst the driver put it back on. I preferred to travel on the Underground, until that was stopped because a few girls had been caught running between carriages.

Our tunics had to be a few inches below the knee, and our petticoats shorter, so they didn't show. I remember cookery teacher, Miss Welch, with her tape measure, checking our skirts and petticoats were regulation length!

The pockets of our tunics sometimes fulfilled a rather unpleasant function during school dinners. In those days we were made to eat everything on our plates, and had to remain at the dining table until we had. Those post-war meals were rather unsavoury, and many of us, in desperation, feigned illness to escape the dining-room, and spent the next hour or so in a deckchair outside the office. Failing that (and particularly when the revolting cold semolina pudding was on the menu), we saved our mid-morning break bags, and surreptitiously filled them with the pudding and put them in our pockets! Of course, plastic bags were not around then, and I have often wondered since why my Mum failed to notice the state of my pockets!

I came from a poor, but loving, home in Islington, and enjoyed my school days enormously. I have much for which to thank the staff of Owens, as, over those years, my eyes were opened to an exciting world outside my limited experience. Languages were, and have remained, my overriding interest, and Miss Pat Foster, French teacher, was my guide and mentor for many years, helping me to spend time in France with close friends of hers there. I remained in touch with her until her death a few years ago at the age of 97. I also remain in touch with Miss Sonia Deadman French and English teacher and still remember the production of the 'Ladies of Cranford' which she led.

In the Sixth Form we had more links with the Boys' School. We had a dance and jive class after school on our premises, which was great fun, and there were joint play productions over in the Boys' School. My last recollection is of taking the role of the widow in 'The Taming of the Shrew', and understudying the part of Kate. I remember spending what seemed like an eternity alone in the 'dressing room' off stage, in full, heavy Elizabethan costume, waiting to go on for my three-word part, and wishing 'Kate' would have a cold or something, so that I could be the 'star' for the night! It never happened!

Unfortunately family circumstances prevented my going on to university, and I completed only one year of a two year secretarial course at the Lycee Francais in Kensington. I became a bilingual secretary before my marriage, and, when my children were at secondary school, studied for a B.Ed. and became a primary school teacher, which I absolutely loved. I hope I managed, in some small way, to pass on to others the love of learning, and the thirst for knowledge which I acquired at Owens, and for which I will be forever grateful."



JOHN RICH—LEFT 1969



Mr John Rich was unable to attend our Careers Talks Week, so he contributed to our main school Half Term Newsletter in July with an **AMAZING** article on how he ended up as a Cocoa Buyer for Mars. Not to spoil the article, I'll just say it led to bigger things and an opportunity to travel to all corners of the world. I would thoroughly recommend you read about his inspiring life in the July issue of our Half Term Newsletter, page 34, article entitled "BE INSPIRED!" Weblink: http://www.damealiceowens.herts.sch.uk/news_dates/newsletters.html



PETER LLOYD WILLIAMS—LEFT 1951

Thanks to Mr Peter Williams who recounts his very positive memories of school, in particular rowing and is glad the school continues to maintain it's excellence in education.

"I joined Owen's School, as it then was, in 1944, at the age of 11. At that time the school was till evacuated to Bedford, sharing their buildings with Bedford Modern School, an arrangement which worked remarkably well, given the extraordinary circumstances. As I recall, O W Mitchell was Headmaster, before he moved to King's School, Peterborough, a few years after the school returned to London in 1946. W L Garstang succeeded him as Headmaster.

A new sport opened up to Owen's while in Bedford, rowing, which attracted a lot of interest, particularly from larger boys who weren't, perhaps, very talented at ball games? We were able to use Bedford Modern's boats and equipment to row on the very attractive stretch of river in Bedford. And when the school returned to London after the war, we affiliated to Vesta Rowing Club with a boat house and equipment on the Tideway at Putney. So rowing continued ~ despite a lengthy tube journey from the Angel down to Putney Bridge.

I was involved as cox, eventually of the 1st Eight, becoming Captain of Rowing in 1951. And, after the statutory two years National Service in the RAF, I went up to Christ's College, Cambridge in 1953, and became Captain of Boats in my third year, having also won a University Trials cap in 1955.

I imagine that rowing was probably unsustainable following the move to Potters Bar, but for me and a lot of my contemporaries, it provided an entirely new kind of sporting opportunity which we thoroughly enjoyed: and it gave us a completely new insight into the meaning of teamwork.

My father, Mr Clifford Lloyd Williams, taught at Owen's from 1944 to 1963: and my brother John was at the school during the 1950s, before he, too, went up to Christ's College, Cambridge in 1959? We have very positive memories of a first class education, informed by a long tradition of excellence, which, to judge from the various school league tables, seems to be admirably sustained."



PETER ELDRIDGE—LEFT 1968

Thanks to Mr Peter Eldridge, from Cloudesley, who sent this article inspired by two contributions in our last Newsletter, enlarging on the "slipper incident" referred to by Mr Peter Salisbury! He says "Ahh...happy days (mostly)!"

"Having just read the June edition of the Old Owenians Newsletter, I have been overcome by a flood of memories and nostalgia, in particular by the contributions from Peter Salisbury, who never managed to teach me to swim, and Mick Field.

I was one of the 90 pupils on the receiving end of the mass slippering incident at the school playing fields in Chandos Avenue to which Peter refers in paragraph 3 of his article. A small group of boys had evidently been throwing mud at what had once been a clock on the changing room pavilion - at the time of the incident it was merely a rusty old disc possibly with one or both of its hands sticking out and similarly weathered.

This heinous act was allegedly reported by the groundsman (a Mr Coleman, I believe) to the then Sports Master who lined up all the boys present to administer the "beating", everyone receiving a meaty blow to the buttocks with a sports shoe. It is believed to have been one of a pair of the Dunlop Green Flash type; whether the right or left shoe I cannot recall as I was rather pre-occupied at the time.

It mattered not where you found yourself in the line-up, it was painful. One lad, Roger Biggs, possessed of more than average native cunning, headed towards the end of the line but was spotted and had the distinction of receiving the opening volley. Afterwards, in the showers, we compared notes and buttocks. It seemed as though the imprint lasted for weeks and some other schools we played football against thought that our year team had been sponsored by Dunlop.

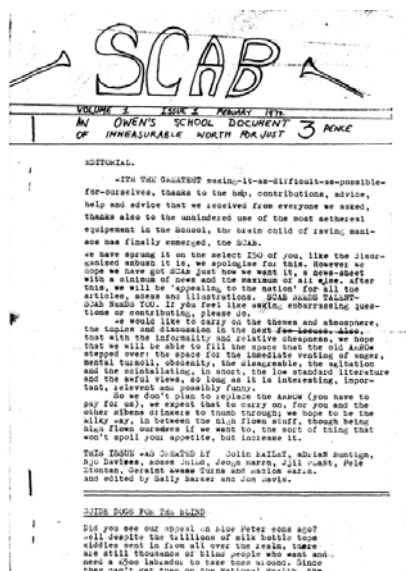
Sad to relate, this was not the only occasion upon which I was slippered. The second time occurred in the school gym at the end of a PE lesson. The period was finishing off with a series of team games where the object was to smash a ball against the face of an over-turned bench. What with calls for the ball to be passed and cries of joy when a "goal" was scored, a considerable amount of noise was generated. The whole form received a warning (from the same Master as above) of the dire consequences if the level of noise was maintained but we were young, foolish and slippered. This was the first occasion I believe when a Kalashnikov sight was fitted to a slipper for improved accuracy.

Mick Field was in the year above me but we both shared the Titian hair gene - then if not now. Mick was always one of the first to get hold of new Sounds of the Sixties and he burst into the 6th Form Common Room (above the Tuck Shop in the Art/Woodwork Block) brandishing The Who's first album "My Generation". He placed the brand new, shimmering black vinyl on the record player which was located at the end of the coffee bar and hardly had the first chords bounced off the hot water urn than one of the bar "staff" upset a carton of milk over the spinning disc. I don't know about Mick's Russian but his Anglo-Saxon could not be faulted. Had he not desperately tried to clean the milk off the record he might well have ended up with Cream's first album two years before its release."



ARTHUR HASSLER—LEFT 1974

Thanks to Mr Arthur Hassler, who, in between his travels, has been looking through his parents old papers and has found some copies of various past school publications which he has kindly sent in and tells us about them in this article, saying it's raked up a lot of memories! All publications are being stored for you to read at our 400th Anniversary Historical Exhibition in Spring 2013, but we have given you a flavour below!



"SCAB from 1974 - This was an unofficial newsletter, prompted by the formality and official control of the school magazines. As far as I recall this was the one and only issue and includes a cartoon of "The Life History of W.J. Hamilton-Hinds", but I can't remember who the artist was. On sale for 3 pence!"



"Various Arrows - I have enclosed some duplicates that I have. I was on the magazine committee, and became joint editor."

"DAOS Newsletter from 1972- this was a joint venture between the boys' and girls' magazine committees. I think that we were being prompted to work together whenever possible. Again, I think that this was the only issue.

Statement by the Governors from 1970 - this was just a statement sent to all parents. My own parents rarely threw out any paperwork, which is why it has survived. The main point of interest to me was that I had forgotten that the original plan was to move the school to Barnet, and that the Hertfordshire proposal came later. One thing this did remind me of was an address to the fifth form in 1972 by the Headmaster immediately after we had finished our 'O' Levels (and yes, I do realise that the phrases 'fifth form' and 'O' Levels date me depressingly!). There was a model of the new school, and a lot of reassurances about maintenance of tradition and links with Islington. Of course, we were never to attend the new school."

G214/1970

A STATEMENT BY THE GOVERNORS
OF THE DAME ALICE OWEN'S SCHOOLS

In November 1967 the Governors issued a statement setting out the reasons why it would be to the benefit of the Dame Alice Owen's Schools to move from their present site in Islington to Barnet.

Subsequently the move to Barnet proved impracticable, but the long term need to transfer the Schools remained, and a number of alternatives were considered. A most suitable opportunity presented itself when the Hertfordshire Local Education Authority recommended, and the Secretary of State approved, the proposal to establish a new secondary school at Potters Bar.

The Governors proposed that the Dame Alice Owen Foundation should, subject to the sanction of the Department of Education and Science, provide a new mixed five-form entry school in Potters Bar as a voluntary aided school for pupils of varying ability, and this proposal is due to be considered by the Education Committee of the Hertfordshire Local Education Authority on 12th October.

If the Governors' proposal is accepted by both the Hertfordshire Local Education Authority and the Secretary of State it is expected that a first instalment in the building of a five-form entry school will be included in Hertfordshire's 1971-2 Programme for completion in 1973.

Nothing has been definitely decided yet, but as the proposed transfer to Potters Bar will have received some publicity, the Governors take this opportunity to reassure all concerned with the Owen's Schools that they are very conscious of their responsibility towards them - present pupils, Staff and former pupils. The Governors are determined that the education of those pupils now attending the schools will not be adversely affected in any way. It is their wish that the existing schools in Islington should continue in being for as long as may be desirable in the interest of present pupils.

As soon as they have any definite information the Governors will issue a further statement.

Brewers' Hall
7th October 1970.



FATHER AND SON - MIKE HELLENS—LEFT 1970 AND DAN HELLENS—LEFT 2000

Thanks to Mr Dan Hellens who has given a brief resume of his father's time at Owen's and how he overcame dyslexia to attend the same school, following in his father's footsteps.

"To give you a bit of a low down on my father's life and career. Mike Hellens and his twin brother Christopher were born into a very poor family in the Hoxton area of the east end. From a very early age it was apparent to my father's primary teachers that he had the potential to go to Owens but his father (my grandfather) forbid him going to the interview for fear of having to pay for uniforms and books. Therefore my father went behind his dad's back to an interview with the school, to which he managed to secure a full scholarship.

My father flourished at Owens and was awarded Prizes for his academic ability, which he attributes to the teachers of his day (one such teacher he remembers well is Mr Hamilton Hinds) who also taught me. After leaving school he got a job on a market stall in Chapel Market, then worked as a biker couriering post around London, until he was finally given a job in one of the media agencies he delivered mail to. This was under the proviso that he cut his hair.

After initially turning it down he then agreed after some persuasion to which he went on to speed through the ranks at a media agency. His talents were recognised and he was quickly fast tracked through the company and remained there until he was made redundant in the late 80's.

Being a sink or swim time, he chose to open up his own agency called Matters Media which he used to specialise in radio, broadcast and outdoor. The company went on to be a multi million pound success and through strong relationships in the industry earned him acclaim as a media guru for TV and Radio. He has only just retired from the business and spends most of his time travelling around the world, riding horses, performing charity work and has recently been appointed chairman of the local media college in Gloucestershire where he mentors students.

My story has not been nearly as rags to riches as his, but I have similar admiration for the school and the lessons it taught me. Leading up to secondary school I struggled academically to which my primary school teachers put down to incompetence. After lobbying from my parents it was discovered that I was actually dyslexic and needed tutoring to get me up to standard if I stood any chance of competing at a school like Owen's.

From day one I loved Owen's, everything from the teachers, to the grounds and facilities and also the heritage. I excelled at certain subjects and still have fond memories with favoured teachers such as Miss Stagg (at the time, prior to getting married), she recognised something in me and nurtured my passion for literature. After leaving Owens with a respectable 9 GCSE's and still very confused as to what I wanted to do I decided to go to college and then spent a year travelling around the world.

Upon my return I decided to forge a career in media, and successfully bagged myself a job working at Dennis Publishing as a classified sales executive. Over the past 4 years I have moved my way up the company and succeeded in managing various international magazines and websites. My time is now spent travelling around the world entertaining clients and securing ad revenue for the web division I manage. I owe my work discipline to the teachings at Dame Alice Owens and truly believe that my character and ability is down to a few influential teachers saw something in me and lit the fire for me to succeed."



BRIAN WILKINS—LEFT 1955

Thanks to Mr Brian Wilkins, who would have loved to talk about his career in the nuclear industry for our Careers Talks Week, but couldn't as he lives in Canada, so he has kindly given a brief summary of how he ended up living abroad.

"After Owen's I obtained a BSc(Eng) in Metallurgy and a PhD in Physical Metallurgy from London University. Then I worked at the Dounreay Experimental Reactor Establishment in Caithness Scotland on nuclear fuel for three years. After that I worked for thirty year's on CANDU reactors and Nuclear Waste Management at the Whiteshell Nuclear Research Establishment (Atomic Energy of Canada Limited) in Pinawa Manitoba. Now I am retired and live in Pinawa."



BILL MORGAN—LEFT 1969

Thanks to Mr Bill Morgan, for his communication, all the way from Singapore, who has told us he joined the school in 1962 and his first teacher was Doctor Cast. He wonders if there is any record of the other pupils in that form. He also has a copy of the school photo taken in May 1964 hanging in a place of honour in his home and occasionally takes it down and tries to put names to faces, especially those he can remember from his year including those in the other two [1962] forms.



JOAN HALEY (NEE FAIRCLOUGH)—LEFT 1954

Thanks to Mrs Joan Haley for sending us her memories and splendid photos of her school days in Kettering and Islington. She would like to think that she would be able to get to some event during our 400th Anniversary Celebrations 2013.



"It was great to receive the latest edition of the Old Owens newsletter and to hear of all the activities. I was at Owens from 1945 -1954 when Miss Bozman was head. I spent two terms at Kettering when the girls were evacuated there, then returning to London in the second form. It was a very small class, first in The Claremont Mission with Miss Harman then in rooms on St Johns Street with Miss Farnie. then all did the eleven plus and joined the main school.

This photo is one of the class of 1953 with Miss Shrimpton who taught maths. She used to wear the most wonderful jumpers!! I remember the summer dresses of navy blue with white collars and cuffs which had to be pinned on. Woe betide if they were dirty. In the summer we had to wear a panama hat and a beret in the winter.



Here is a very boring photo of the entrance to the Girls' School in what was Owens Row.

During wet lunch times we would go to the hall and dance to records. Who remembers the Palais Glide? In the sixth form we had dancing classes at the Boys' School, that being our only contact as it was not the done thing to meet the boys!! Names such as Miss Burton for Geography, Miss Maycock for Science, Miss Denne for Biology, Miss White for English and Miss Carr for French readily come to mind and I can picture them still.

The Old Girls --as we were called--- had a reunion twice a year in February and September, but I went to Bristol to train as a teacher then married, so it was difficult to keep up with old members especially as I had not lived near the school and travelled in from Wembley each day. I now live in Burnham Bucks but am still in touch with Beryl Jenkins (nee Sawdon)."



**COLIN STURGEON
FOUNDER OWEN'S SCHOOL ASSOCIATION AND CHAIRMAN
PARENT GOVERNOR 1974-1989**

Many thanks to former parent governor and OSA Chair, Mr Colin Sturgeon for taking the time to tell us his story and recount his memories, as an Old Owenian parent, whose three children attended Owen's, the first from 1973, when the school was relocated to Potters Bar.

"In the early 1970's, there was little choice in the area for Potters Bar parents seeking secondary education for their children. At that time, the reputation of Mount Grace school was not good.

In the Spring of 1973, representatives from Dame Alice Owen's, Islington, invited the parents of 10-year olds attending Potters Bar junior schools to a meeting at the old Cranbourne school. They explained the opportunities Owens would offer to the first 150 children joining the school in Potters Bar in September 1973.

My wife and I were fortunate that the timing was just right for us to send the eldest of our 3 children to this former grammar school which was relocating in our town as an all-ability voluntary-aided comprehensive. In September 1973, accommodation at the school was sparse and facilities few. There were no classrooms so the children were taught in the science laboratory and it would be another 3 years before the majority of the buildings were completed. The kitchens were unfinished so school lunches arrived daily similar to a 'meals on wheels' service. The children were bussed to the Islington school's playing fields in Whetstone for games as there were no sports facilities ready.

In November 1973 the headmaster, Gerry Jones, held a meeting of parents, and one of the points discussed was the formation of a Parent's Association. A further meeting was held during the following month and a sub-committee formed to draw-up a constitution and to suggest a name.

Names such as The Owen's Association, Friend's of Owen's School and the Owen's School Association were suggested. The latter was agreed and the very first committee meeting was held at the school on 19th February 1974. I was elected Chairman and we were soon into full swing and began making arrangements for our first social 'get-together' which was planned to take place about a month later in Christ Church's Hall, Little Heath, as the school hall was not yet complete.

Tickets for this event were priced at 75p each and this included a disco and a buffet and we still aimed to make a profit! At our second committee meeting on 12th March, it was reported that 100 tickets had been sold with a possible extra 25 to come (bear in mind there were just 150 children at the school), and that the buffet would cost between 20p and 25p per head! The evening was a great success and laid the foundations for the many social functions which followed.

A Fireworks Display with blazing braziers was held in front of the school in 1974 (before landscaping was completed). In subsequent years, I was telephoned by Hertsmere Council wanting to know the date of our display as they didn't wish theirs to clash with ours as we were attracting more people than any other display in the district!

I made a "thermometer" with a collecting box for the school's entrance hall which invited donations from visitors, parents and pupils to enable us to buy our first coach. Gerry Jones carefully guided incoming callers past the box suggesting they might contribute! The children were able to watch the temperature rising as we gradually raised money towards our target of £1750. With other's on committee, I visited secondhand coach dealers and we purchased a 52-seat coach. Arrangements were made for two or three members of staff and parents to drive and we proudly put the school's name in Letraset on the back of the coach. One Saturday morning, I ceremoniously presented the keys to the headmaster in front of local press photographers, parents and children.

The coach was used on a number of occasions to transport the children to the schools country retreat - Harrock House in Sussex where they would spend a few days away doing fieldwork and other activities. The house was subsequently sold. The coach, which was quite old when we purchased it suffered a few breakdowns and I really cannot recall what eventually happened to it.

In 1975, we held a Christmas Dinner Dance in the dining hall. We sold 203 tickets and also had a long waiting list! All the catering was done by committee members and parents, supervised as always by Audrey Dawson, a parent who subsequently became a Foundation Governor. Many Governors including the Chairman John Turner attended, and school pupils, dressed accordingly - acted as waiters and waitresses! The Governors were very impressed!

My other early memories include:

The parents of all new children (before they joined the school) were visited by committee members during the summer holidays to publicize the OSA and to collect a 25p membership fee. This was one way we generated interest and support.

The official opening of the school by Princess Anne was on what I believe was the hottest day of 1974. When I was presented to her in the staff room after her tour around the school, she had obviously been well briefed as she asked me how we had raised the money to buy the coach. I remember asking her if she would like to attend the OSA's official School Opening Dance the following Saturday – she declined!

The setting-up of a Thrift Shop to sell used school clothing.

The first Summer Fayre (1974) which was arranged for outdoors but ended in the partly-built school due to torrential rain. I remember the head's wife, Elizabeth Jones scrubbing the mud from the floors late into Saturday evening. Despite the atrocious weather, we made just over £300 profit.

Subsequent Summer Fayre's were attended by many hundreds of people and were the highlight of the district's summer attractions. The children sold programs door-to-door throughout Potters Bar and surrounding areas and there were prizes for the children selling the most. Local streets were decorated with bunting and surrounding homes were leafleted to apologize in advance for the cars which would be parked outside their homes on the day.

The World Wellie Boot Throwing Competition sponsored by Dunlop, was held at the Summer Fayre in 1977. The Dunlop company provided us with the competition rules and the wellington boots! The event received much coverage in the local press.

I was invited by Charles Whitbread to visit their stables in Chiswell Street, London, following which they agreed to bring their Shire Horses to the school's Country Fayre in 1979. Children were given rides on a brewer's dray around the sports field throughout the afternoon, raising a considerable sum for school funds.

In 1981 we invited 20 teams from the district to a Tug-of-War competition. I recall some of the preliminary rounds being somewhat unbalanced with teams from the police, and the army cadets pulling against the local scouts and the swimming club! Potters Bar football club were the eventual winners.

The Summer Fayre in 1982 was opened by England footballer Billy Wright. The main attraction was a "Win-a-Car" competition. Unfortunately, nobody threw six sixes with the dice as we would have liked, especially as we were well insured!

I look back on those days with fond memories. The enthusiasm of everyone involved was electric, we all worked very hard and achieved immeasurable satisfaction. Our success could not have been achieved without the full support of the then headmaster, Gerry Jones and his wife Elizabeth, staff, particularly Eva Shipton, Sue Caldecott, David Gazzard, Bill Hamilton-Hinds and Peter Salisbury. Also the caretaker Terry Beard and wife Joan, the hardworking OSA Committee and the support of parent's generally.

I was invited to join the governing body during 1974. I believe that I was the first parent to be so invited and that the decision by the governors to do so was by no means unanimous. However, the decision was carried with the proviso that it would be "for an experimental period of twelve months". Subsequently, I remained a governor for some 15 years, standing down around 5 years after my son left the school in 1983!

Governor's meetings were generally held at Brewer's Hall in London. Financing the developing Potters Bar school and site was always one of the major items on the agenda, especially as there were many hiccups in selling-off the Owen's estate in London. Admissions policy was another item featuring strongly particularly after the school became grant-aided. The governors were always very interested to receive my report on the activities of the OSA.

I thoroughly enjoyed my time on the OSA committee and as a governor. On leaving Owens, I was asked to join the governing body of Mount Grace school where I served for almost seven years. There, the governor's discussions were quite different to those held at Owens and revolved around admissions, how to attract more pupils especially from the Potters Bar area, discipline, exclusions, the lack of sufficient local authority funding and the lack of educational achievement. During the time I was a governor, I think the school roll increased from around 400 to almost 1200 pupils."



LILIAN LINDEN (NEE STRONG) - LEFT 1959

Thanks to Mrs Lilian Linden for getting in contact with us about her very good friend from school, Mrs Jacqueline Blake (nee Wade), who she was delighted to find had contributed to our last newsletter. She had lost touch and requested we forward her details onto Mrs Blake, who holidayed with the family in Jersey in the summer of 1959. Mrs Linden has now moved to Jersey, where her old class used to come and camp in the summer.



DENNIS HORNER—LEFT 1938

Thanks to Mr Dennis Horner, who in response to our request for speakers at our Careers Talks Week, apologized that he couldn't attend, by way of being nearer to 91 than 90, and the distance from the New Forest to Potter's Bar being 'way beyond the distance he now reckons to drive. In addition, he has a much-loved wife permanently in a nursing home, who he likes to visit every day, so he cannot be away from home for very long. However, he has been very kind to share with us a short paragraph about his career and has expressed his scientific views on religion in relation to our forthcoming 400th Anniversary Celebrations!

"I worked for Shell in the 1960s and we put together a wholly new system of decision-making for deciding when and where to explore for the presence of hydrocarbons. I took the lead in this, wrote the necessary computer programs and generally proselytised for the system.

I was at school in the shadow of the 300th celebrations. Our chemistry master, George Armitage, often talked about the celebrations of those days (he always called it a conversazione) and as I remember it all took place in the school at Islington. I am a professional scientist and I work with logic; I am therefore an atheist, and I doubt whether 50% of the under-50s now connected with the school truly believe in the Christian religion, so I am distressed that the celebration I had been looking forward to will be based on what I see as an outmoded superstition"!



ALAN BEAUMONT—LEFT 1955

Thanks to Mr Alan Beaumont who has given us permission to publish his article which appeared in the Journal of the Islington History and Archaeology Society this Spring.

*"...I was privileged to be a member of Owen's School as a scholar between 1950 and 1955. There were many fine masters. One of them was Reginald A Dare BA who taught history between 1924 and 1954 and wrote **A History of Owen's School**, published by Carwal.*

"Remember it like this: 'Britain rules the seas, America rules the E's" was how he introduced my class in April 1954 to the O-Level subject of the American War of Independence, as he painstakingly underlined each 'E' while he chalked the word "INDEPENDENCE" on the board.

Mr Dare was wont to use this mnemonic method. How else would I have learned "But George's Rotten Crazy Gang Never Really Secured Power" as the initial letters of the prime ministers in George III's reign, had it not been for this memory aid?

Of course, most pupils dubbed Mr Dare "Dan" behind his back, after the popular comic hero of space exploration, just as we called Mr Hodgson, our lugubrious chemistry master, "Tombstone" because of his doleful and depressing delivery or the Rev RH Turner "Tub" because of his portliness. As with most of my peers, my exuberance was often checked. I noted in my diary of January 1954: "English master said I am a bright light but why do I keep messing about so much?"

Punishment was "official" or otherwise. Official punishment was in the form of detention and considered the most serious, and given for behaviour such as insubordination; conduct class, meted out for something like failing to do homework, or not wearing a school cap on the right occasion, was considered less grave.

It was noticed that "Boo" Davidson, the art master, used neither detention nor conduct class as a deterrent, but would ask the miscreant: "What house are you in, boy?" After considering the reply, he would retort with biting irony: "I'm sure they're proud of you!"

But this was small beer compared with Mr Balfour (1791-1824) a former head, whose "discipline... became over-strict" when protesting parents of boys complained that their progeny were "locked up in the coal-shed all day, beaten about the head with books, had their ears unceremoniously pulled or were set to clean the knives and black the shoes". "No doubt much of this was motherly exaggeration..." suggested Mr Dare, the history's author.

Prefects wore half gowns and administered "prefects' detention" (or "defects pretension" as it was contemptuously called). But any unofficial form of punishment usually resulted in a clip round the ear from some masters- being a member of the "glow club" was regarded by some boys as prestigious. So, misbehaviour lost house points and certain sports activities gained them. The four houses at Owen's were named Cloudesley, Colebrooke, Myddleton and Hermitage after persons or places ultimately connected with the school's history.

School meals never seemed to improve despite the fact that they were sometimes prefaced by grace said in Latin by the master on duty. My 1954 diary entries often refer to the quality of such meals: On 18 October, I wrote "To school, rotten dinner as usual..." and three days later, my diary reads: "Old Dare told us not to make fun of school dinners especially in front of the cooks." ("Old" was a habitual term that I used, not necessarily bearing any reference to age but rather familiarity.)

Despite the fact that the girls' school, built adjacent in Owen's Row, was founded in 1886, it had precious little to do with the boys school until 1951. According to Dare's history, that year saw the beginnings of "an increasing co-operation between the boys' and girls' Schools" when the girls' school was invited to take part in the productions of the dramatic society and, later in the year, a joint sixth form dancing class was formed.

My group was discussing the merits and drawbacks of coeducation during Tombstone's chemistry class while we waited for an experiment to materialise. Tombstone had been silent throughout the discussion, but it was he who had the final word: "It seems to me", he observed drolly, "in mixed secondary education, the teacher spends the first three years trying to get them together and the next two years trying to get them apart". We continued with our experiment in thought...

Visitation was the oldest official function in the school's history since its foundation in 1613. The month of May was usually fixed when the governors (the court of assistants of the Brewer's Company) "visited" to inspect to make sure that all was well with the trust under their charge. The boys were sent out into the fields round the school to collect flowers with which they decorated the schoolroom and made themselves buttonhole nosegays.

The best boy in the school was chosen to read the "oration" to welcome the governors. He was rewarded with a silver coin of value one shilling (5p), two shillings and six pence (12.5p) or even five shillings (25p) and "other rewards were in money-form as books were rare and expensive", according to Dare's account. My diary entry for 28 July states that "...to school 9.30, but only to get beer money which was 3 shillings six pence (17.5p). Home 11.0".

When I was there, the "money grant" award was carried through with due ritual and ceremony. The whole school was completely in silence, with prefects on duty in the corridors and the recipients filing down form by form in perfect order, while Dame Alice from her Frampton pedestal gazed down benignly. So, "money grants" became "beer money" (the usual term) but Mr Dare maintained in his history that "beer money" was "a legend impossible to substantiate". However, visitation remained unaltered for, on 27 July, I had to "go to school at 10 just to practise visitation which is tonight..."

After 363 years at the Angel, some 500 boys and 330 girls joined together, as Owen's School moved to Potters Bar in 1977".

Alan has also updated this article for us, explaining what he went onto to after leaving Owen's...

"...I was employed by the Port of London Authority for 25 years where I served within various 'controls' including purchasing items used within the Port such as fuel, and uniform clothing. In 1980 I continued with Trinity House Lighthouse Service, and finally finished up in the Land Registry until I retired in 1999.

Whilst employed I gained piano teaching diplomas (ARCM and LGSM) and taught and examined at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama, London on Saturdays for 28 years. I also became a Freeman of the City of London. On my retirement in 1999 I decided to study with the Open University and gained a BA (Hons) degree in Humanities and English in 2004."



ANGELA TUREK (NEE EVES) - LEFT 1964

Thanks to Mrs Angela Turek for sending her memories of the school, telling us what she does now, her privileged role at the Sydney Olympics and her life in Australia. She is happy for OO's to contact her on this email address: angtur@optusnet.com.au.

"My time at Dame Alice Owen's Girls School was a period of great change. During those years a new headmistress Mrs Kisch, a new school building and even a new school uniform. The lilac, orange or green summer dresses a dramatic contrast to the old uniform.

I do have many memories of Owens. Detention if you were caught talking to one of the boys from the boy's school. Squashing my panama hat into my briefcase as soon as the school was out of site. I think this could warrant a detention punishment too! The Service at St Paul's Cathedral to celebrate the 350th Anniversary.

Little did I know when I studied Australian geography with Miss Esam that one day I would live in Sydney, Australia. Nor would I have thought that as I enjoyed playing in the netball team under the watchful eye of Miss Burgess I would one day be playing in a seniors team until almost 50 years of age!

I married an Australian and have lived in Sydney since 1973 . How proud I am to be able to tell friends & colleagues that I attended a school that began in 1613 and even gave us beer money at the end of each school year ! Quite a contrast to Australia's European history with the arrival of the First Fleet being in January 1788.

I currently work as a freelance tourist guide and am fortunate to have had the opportunity for much travel and to meet so many people from all walks of life and many nationalities. From students to high level VIPs. The highlight being my work during the Sydney 2000 Olympics as Protocol Assistant to The Princess Royal, HRH Princess Anne. How honoured I was and how lucky to be able to watch so many Olympic events as part of my job. Though a dilemma for me on the opening night of the swimming finals as I was sitting poolside in the middle of Team GB.... My first thoughts, who should I cheer the Brits or the Aussies!

Thanks to the hard work of Janice Morphet (nee Wilcox) there have been many reunions of our year. With a contact list of around 40 out of 55 a wonderful achievement.

I have often wondered how many Old Owenians are living in Australia, particularly Sydney and am happy to be contacted to organize a reunion here should there be any interest. Congratulations on your marvellous newsletter and I wish you all well as you work towards the celebrations for the 400th Anniversary."



BARRY HYMAN—LEFT 1959

Thanks to Mr Barry Hyman (once again!) for adding some spice to our newsletter by recounting various boys pranks. Apparently there might be a few more to recount, so I have earnestly requested them on your behalf for our issue in December!

"As I admitted in a piece I wrote for the last edition, I was not basically a badly behaved pupil, but I did suffer from a desire to 'entertain' the class.

Picture if you will the corridor of the ground floor at Owen Street. Come through the Front Hall [only if you were a teacher or sixth-former] and turn right. Passing the Library and the Head's Office you come to a corner classroom. Big wooden door, but with two glass panels at the top. Inside sits Class Remove A, i.e. third year top pupils, being bored witless by poor French teacher Mr. Kilpatrick.

I am sitting front of class next to door. 'Killer' is back to class, writing on blackboard [yes children, with chalk, a prehistoric substance used to convey information in the years BC - before computers.] I thumb my nose at teacher using both hands, wiggling my fingers. As I do I look to my right - to see the Head Mr. Burrough looking through the window at the top of the door!

Some time later, I do it again. Do I check the door first? Of course not - and there is Fred the Head, as he was affectionately known, peering in again. I begin to worry about my future, with good cause. A minute before the lesson ends, in comes the Head. 'Please carry on Mr. Kilpatrick,' he says to a bemused 'Killer,' who doesn't know why the Head has chosen to - seemingly - come and check on him. But... I know!

As the bell rings Mr. Burrough says "Will the boy I wish to see, and he knows who he is, stay behind." I remain seated as the class leaves, then follow the Head to his study next door. 'Hyman, ' he says, 'You are not a bad chap on the whole, but if you continue this foolishness I WILL cane you.'

Now physical violence is contrary to my religious beliefs - I am a devout coward. My behaviour took a significant and immediate turn for the better. It cannot be denied that the threat of violence was a deterrent.

I remain grateful to Mr. Burrough. He was young, approachable and put me right, even teaching me how to 'talk proper.' When I spoke to him of a 'rah-oo-waeey' station, he said 'Hyman, it's 'ray-ull-way,' not 'rah-oo-waeey.' It made an immediate impression on my Hackney accent and was perhaps the precursor to an eventual career involving public speaking. Sadly Edwin Burrough died at a comparatively young age, but I value his guidance to this day and attribute to it my commitment to good grammar and correct pronunciation. Lynn Truss' book 'Eats, Shoots and Leaves' should be compulsory reading in all English classes.

Blackboard chalk, as mentioned above, also played a pivotal part in another Burrough incident. Come again through the Main Entrance and go straight ahead into the 'cloisters.' A posh, pretentious name for an open area containing two more classrooms. Remove A, again, are in the end room awaiting teacher Mr. Isotta. He does not arrive. We diligently and studiously study on our own, do we not? Don't be daft. One mischief-maker, no not me, chucks a piece of white chalk across the room. Retaliation follows. The box of white chalk is emptied as more pupils join in. Soon the coloured chalks are employed. By the time the bell rings both boxes are exhausted, so are we and the walls and floor are covered in chalk. The next teacher arrives to discover mayhem. [I can confirm, in case you're reading this chaps, that Lloyd-Williams, Townley and Arnold did NOT join in!]

The Head assembles us and gives us a 'more in sorrow than in anger' lecture, saying that he '..might have expected it from the C stream, but from his A pupils!' We look suitably admonished, but our reputation as not just a bunch of academic softies is significantly enhanced.

By the way, the pic in the last edition of 'The Crown and Woolpack' pub on the corner of Owen Street, reminds me of a sixth former whose party trick was to open his throat and pour a pint of beer straight down in four seconds - don't ask me how, or why! Of course as sixth formers allowed out of school at lunchtime, we would eschew 'The Crown' and escape to the 'Will Shakespeare' a street away adjacent to Sadlers Wells, which I was not to visit until much later."



DAN ROGGER—LEFT 2000

Thanks to Mr Dan Rogger for enlightening us on how to develop a career at Owen's and the influence the school and his parents had on his career and chosen paths. He is experienced in Development Economics and currently supports our own Economics Department by making various visits to give talks to students on an adhoc basis, for which we are very appreciative.

"A few years ago I found my feedback from an Owen's careers advice assessment. I was sixteen and wanted to be "wealthy enough to buy a helicopter" and have "a rich wife". Things didn't quite work out how I'd planned.

That summer a friend of my Dad's helped me find work experience at NatWest Securities. I was bowled over by the smart offices and chic vehicles that would whisk you from site to site. However, it also placed a serious question mark in my mind. People seemed stressed and unsatisfied. It wasn't clear to me that this was a life I wanted to lead.

At the same time, my parents took us to India for the first time. This put a similarly serious question mark in my mind. How can we allow so many people to live in such appalling poverty? These experiences combined to mark a new interest in what I wanted to do with my life.

Owens was the perfect place to foster this new found interest. An engaging economics teacher at Owens had got me interested in the subject, and I now drank in the development module of the economics A-level. Proximity to London meant that I could take up work experience at the debt relief campaign 'Jubilee 2000' and continue working for them as a campaigner afterwards. Space to develop interests at the school allowed me to campaign for fair trade there.

The breadth of extra-curricular activities I could undertake at the school not only gave me good experience but also opened my mind to education being more than just classes. Owen's education is its greatest legacy to my career. The opportunities for enriching my school life beyond studies are a close second. I would urge current students to take both seriously. It pays off in the end.

To finish the story, I took a gap year in India where I worked at a number of non-governmental organisations and studied their role in development. I went on to do an economics degree at University College London (UCL), a Masters in Economics at Cambridge, and then an Overseas Development Institute fellowship with the Presidency of Nigeria. I am now back at UCL finishing a PhD in economics and continuing to work with the Nigerian Government.

Secondary school can be a formative period in a person's life. My engagement with development whilst at Owens was a turning point in both my personal and professional lives. That these came early on has given me a focus and edge over the past decade. The quality of education and wider opportunities available at Owens are great platforms for identifying what one wants to do in life. They were for me."

TIPS ON CAREERS IN DEVELOPMENT ECONOMICS

Careers in development economics are not delineated in the same way that many other economics careers are. There is no graduate fast track and often limited information. Thus, I have some thoughts at www.danrogger.com/teaching.html. There is advice there for all new entrants. However, in addition, Owens students may want to think about the following:

Sample your interests: Get out and try whatever career you are interested in, from work experience at a financial institution to voluntary work in a developing country. You may be surprised at what you learn about your chosen career and where you might best fit into development. It is better to gather this sort of information before you choose where you go to university and what to study.

Take it slow: You are likely to have long and varied careers. Don't lock yourself into any subject unnecessarily. Forge a technical and marketable skill set, but do not lock yourself into development. Become an economist with a broad range of skills first. This means taking up economics at university rather than development.

Travel: Actually setting foot in the developing world is a powerful means of identifying and developing your feelings about development. Perhaps your parents will take you. Otherwise, organise a group of students to do a trip. Engage with local people. Don't just look at sights.

Keep an Overseas Development Institute fellowship in mind: The scheme is one of the simplest and most effective means of getting a solid career in development economics. Not only do they provide unparalleled perspective on development (you work as a civil servant of a developing country) but they are a strong signal to future employers. Think early on about how you will develop a profile that will win you a fellowship.

Contact me: If you are thinking about going into development economics and feel like you'd like some advice from an old Owenian, please don't hesitate to get in touch (d.rogger@ucl.ac.uk).



BILL HARMAN—LEFT 1963—PART 2!

If you remember, Mr Harman's splendid account of Shame in Summer and his subsequent life after school was left unfinished in our last edition (see page 16 of the June issue). Here he continues to enlighten us about his career and reflects on his Owen's education in relation to where he is now—in New Zealand! Many thanks again to Mr Harman for his detailed account.

"...It was while on this tour that I applied for and was fortunate enough to secure a job at the BBC Television Centre in White City.... I became the junior member of the production team on various light entertainment and variety programmes and series, including 'Dad's Army', 'Up Pompeii' (based on the 'Carry On' movies) and the long running "Top of the Pops", already 5 years old when I joined it.

I stayed at the "Beeb" for almost three years and, while working on Top of the Pops was approached by a record company with the offer to promote their records to TV shows. It was an exciting opportunity so I jumped at it. As it transpired, I wasn't that accomplished at promotion but I did have an affinity with acts on the record label and, before long, my job had switched to artists' liaison.

The label was WEA and represented the American labels Warner Brothers, Elektra and Atlantic Records in the UK. My job was to represent the record companies on the road with American and British artists who were touring at the time. Helping organise press receptions, being backstage to make sure all requirements were in place at gigs and ensuring all facilities were present at music festivals for our acts, were just some of my responsibilities.

This was the early '70's and a fantastic time to be involved in the music scene. On the road with bands such as Rod Stewart and the Faces, Alice Cooper, the Beach Boys, America and Led Zeppelin was an amazing experience. My first trip to the United States was to carry (and guard) the master tapes of a Led Zeppelin album to New York where it was to be mixed and processed. Hanging out with the band for a weekend before I flew back was an exhilarating introduction to the Big Apple. For five years I lead the life of a pop star without actually being one.

I also met my wife while working in the recording industry. Gaye, a New Zealander, was part of a New Zealand band called "Bitch" signed to Warner Brothers. Having been a big success in both New Zealand and Australia (under different names – "Bitch" would never have been acceptable in the antipodes) the band had moved to England, scored a very good recording deal with Warners and were busy gigging around clubs and universities throughout Britain and Europe.

Sadly, a parting of the ways of the three record companies in England brought about the cancellation of many contracts, including that of my wife's band, which broke up shortly after. Almost forty years later, the band is now together again, playing around Auckland. Thanks to old timers such as the Rolling Stones, the Eagles and Elton John, musicians of our age still have credibility as long as they can deliver.

After five years in the record industry, I again turned to television and contracted to the BBC as a programme researcher on Bruce Forsyth's "The Generation Game" finding and selecting contestants and providing the scriptwriters with material for Bruce's introductions.

Following that, in 1977 I was contracted to work on a new drama series about the life of Yorkshire Vets. This became "All Creatures Great and Small" and my function was to research veterinary methods of the late 1930's and provide technical advice for the scriptwriters as required.

A big challenge for someone who had left school with nothing more than 'O' level English and History and a bit of acting experience. No internet to guide you through in those days, just a lot of study and hard work in reference libraries. Once the series was in production I was responsible for sourcing the animals needed for filming and hence was affectionately (I hope) known as 'the swineherd'.

I next moved to Tyne-Tees Television in Newcastle on Tyne as Production Manager where I stayed for four years, mainly working on drama production, planning and shooting in England, Scotland, Germany and Austria.

In 1981, with a New Zealand wife and two young sons, the decision was made to move to a warmer climate so we headed back to my wife's country and have lived close to Auckland ever since. New Zealand is a wonderful country, the size of Great Britain but with a population of only 4 million. I live close to sandy beaches but can be in the centre of Auckland (the largest city) in half hour on the ferry or at the north island's highest mountain, Mt Ruapehu (2,797metres) in just a few hours by road.

It is not paradise; we have the same economic and social challenges as the rest of the western world, albeit on a smaller scale. But if you like the outdoor life, as I do, it is an idyllic existence.

Since emigrating to New Zealand I have worked continuously in television production in various roles including producer, director, scriptwriter, production manager and even occasionally as an actor. There are no barriers here. If you can do the job and are persistent in trying, the chances are that you will get the position.

Now turning 65, I am semi retired, out of television although still venturing back to produce or direct the odd outside broadcast now and again, doing a bit of part time work for Air New Zealand and moving into a whole new sphere as an independent (non religious) marriage and funeral celebrant. In this latter position I am able to draw on all my experience as an actor, scriptwriter and creative organiser to produce a fitting ceremony.

So, my working life has by no means been planned from the outset, has certainly not progressed in a straight line and many of the roads I have travelled have been due to pure serendipity. In spite of all the exciting work I have done through my life, my proudest achievement is most certainly raising and being part of a very happy and devoted family and, mainly thanks to my wife, keeping it on the rails throughout a very long roller coaster ride.

If I have any regret, it is probably that, outside of the school play, I did not capitalise on the opportunities offered to me at Owen's to progress further academically, preferring to treat it rather as a social club.

On the one hand it may have proved much more financially beneficial to have gained the qualifications that would have allowed me to enter into a "respectable" profession rather than a world of actors, singers and musicians but, on the other, would I have had as much fun?

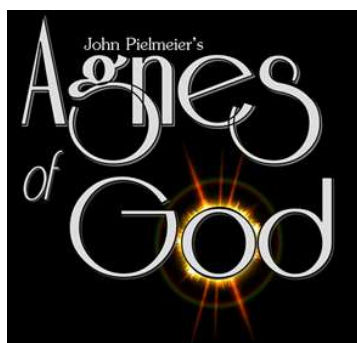
Of course, there's no answer to that and I certainly have more important and enjoyable things to do than dwell on what might have been had my life taken a different course. As it is, it's been a great trip, and it's certainly not over yet."



TIM RAYNER—CURRENT GOVERNOR

Thanks to Mr Tim Rayner, one of our current governors who reports on some of our **new** Old Owenians, who performed in Edinburgh over the summer, enjoying life before university...

"On a visit to the Edinburgh Festival in August this year I took in a performance by some Owen's students of the play "Agnes of God".



It was performed in a typical Fringe venue – a small, dark, ground floor room which seemed to be under a pub, judging from the banging, shouting and loud music emanating from the room above.

However the depressing atmosphere only enhanced the sinister nature of the play which featured a young nun, Agnes, played by Alanna Flynn, who is found bleeding in her room with a dead baby in the wastepaper basket. A psychiatrist, Dr Martha Livingstone (Rebecca Clee) is brought in to solve the mystery but has to contend with the obfuscating Mother Superior (Lynsey Balloch) who encourages Agnes's claims of an immaculate conception.

We never do find out who killed the baby or who the father was. But that isn't the point – Dr Livingstone's dramatic role is to explore the purpose of our existence and the nature of faith rather than solve the whodunit.

This play was a hugely ambitious production from a group of school students and the 3 girls acted with a maturity that belied their youth. The Director, Cameron Biggs, had cast the 3 actresses perfectly and the brooding presence of Agnes's abusive mother, unseen but always menacing, was cleverly produced. The cast were supported back stage by Victoria Cox, Sam Walton and Dan Crook-Sycamore. Well done to them all."



MANDY ENGLISH—CURRENT STAFF (and your editor!)

School Trip to South Africa July 2011 — "Learn to travel, travel to learn"

"For those of you that remember the more recent school R.E trips and our Head of R.E., Mr John Johnstone's superb organisation of them, this was, in his opinion, the best one of his career so far. The tour operators were both excellent, in this country and in South Africa, which ensured a smooth passage from one activity and hotel to the next and the excursions provided the right balance of education, entertainment and rest for the teenagers.

The learning experiences were wide ranging, taking in nearly every aspect of the country's culture, geography, religion, economy, language, people, problems, wildlife, history and spectacular scenery, not to mention the memories made.



I think the best way to give you a snapshot of our trip, if you're interested, is to refer you to our Trips and Visits page on our school website, which lists our itinerary and has more photos posted of some of the favourite parts of our journey. See link: http://www.damealiceowens.herts.sch.uk/news_dates/trips_visits.html. The photo above shows John, Johan, our Guide (foreground) and some of our Year 10 students at the African Experience Restaurant on our very special last night.

For an alternative view of the trip, I thought it might be useful to produce some helpful FAQ's if you are ever in the privileged position to attend such a major excursion with Year 9 & 10 students at some point in the future (I must also add that our students were mostly impeccably behaved, it was an absolute pleasure to travel with them and I would definitely consider going again!)

Q How can you lose two boys from one side of passport control to another?

A When they have both failed the unknown heat scanner test and are taken off to be tested for swine flu without the authority telling the adults that are responsible for them where they are.

Q Why do you have to know **when** you are expected at every next destination?

A To answer the "Are we nearly there yet?" question.

Q What do you do when the keen sand boarding instructor wants your students to attempt sand boarding down the longest sand dune in South Africa in the middle of a face-stinging sand storm?

A Abort the mission!

Q Why is it necessary to ask the hotel manager to lock the windows of the students rooms?

A So students don't climb over the balconies.

Q What is the most popular first aid item?

A Paracetamol, followed by tissues, then plasters, which must be available in one's (large) handbag the whole time, as well as copious quantities of hand wash.

Q How do you prevent students being sick on their clothes in the coach?

A Remember to ask students to take the sick bags off the plane with them.

Q If someone **IS** sick on their clothes on the coach, what do you do?

A Retrieve their suitcase from the coach storage by persuading the driver to unload half the cases, locate spare clothes, get student to change discretely while no one is looking. Seal clothes in a plastic bag till hotel stop, wash seat with wet wipes from the first aid kit which also masks smell. Get student to sit in the front seat for the rest of that day's journey. Purchase washing powder, clean clothes in bath in hotel room, (due to laundry service not being quick enough before next day's early morning departure), which will be extra wet due to there being no spin dryer. Spread clothes out in coach for the next two days to dry from the heat of the sunshine through the windows.

Q When staying in safari lodges, what do you do in the event of a broken window?

A Praise students for owning up, ensure the "accident" story is watertight, call reception and get them to come and board it up straight away to stop the monkeys coming in at night.

Q What do you do in the event of a flooded hotel bathroom floor?

A Praise students for owning up, (identify exactly how it happened, for example, due to shower door being left ajar to avoid claustrophobia), throw large spare blankets over the floor to mop up and carry the heavy wet blankets to reception in the morning.

Q How do you remove a (massive) spider from a screaming girls' room?

A Glass and piece of cardboard method, asking students to remain calm while standing on beds and holding torch in one's mouth to locate spider in corner.

Q To minimize lost property, what precautions do you take?

A Sweep every location before leaving, especially plane (for mobiles left in the string pockets), coach (for purchased gifts left in the overhead storage) and restaurants (for items of clothing) after students have left.

Q How do you keep on the right side of the coach driver?

A Ensure students take ALL their litter off the coach every night, then go through the coach to collect all the items they don't consider as litter (such as empty bottles, wrappers, papers, food boxes etc).

Q What do you do when confronted with another's school's trip leader in the hotel foyer, who suggests your male students have been inciting their students on a Year 11 and 13 Rugby Tour (your male students previously seen by you to be doing an impression of the Haka on the lawn beneath their hotel windows)?

A Apologise profusely and suggest that they wouldn't do anything of the sort, most surprised, extremely unusual etc. etc., clarify that their next hotel is different from yours and dash up the back stairs to ward off possible impending scrum, to find all students in their rooms, having already been warned off by seriously scary PE teacher from opposing school.

Q What do you do with masses of left over Birthday Cake (which was far too big in the first place), kindly organised for student in hotel restaurant, after all students disappear to their rooms and have had enough?

A Assume the role of waitress and take the opportunity to meet other people in the restaurant, by taking portions round to fellow hotel guests and have a jolly good old gossip.

Q Do students need to be checked they are in their correct rooms every night around 10pm and reminding, individually, about what they need to get ready for the next day, what they need to wear, what time alarm call/breakfast/departure is and where to rendezvous (even though they were told all of this at dinner)?

A Yes.

Q How many times during the day are you expected to count the students?

A More than you can remember.

Q What do you do if you have left all your gift shopping until the last visit to the shopping centre and a student loses their purse with about £80 in it?

A Abandon your shopping plans, reassure student (possible insurance claim etc.) retrace students steps, including searching the toilets, run after the nearest subsequent security guard, follow his instructions to find the Information Point, celebrate with student when purse is found to have been handed in, give your passport details to allow student to take purse with cash in away and hurry back to meeting point. Resume shopping at airport, which turns out to be the best shop of the trip!

Q What is the top tip?

A Learn all the students names at the airport to build immediate rapport, ensure they know who you are and try not to be embarrassing to your Year 9 daughter on the same trip!

Q Is there any reward for all your efforts?

A The fact that the students say they have the most amazing time of their life is reward in itself and that they present the staff with small gifts at the end (organised by themselves) to say thank you is incredibly touching.

Lastly, continuing the South African theme, I happened to spot a recipe for Cape Brandy Pudding, in **"Dame Alice Owen's School Favourite Recipes"**, produced by The Campaign Committee for the DAOS Centre for Performing Arts. I won this book as a raffle prize which was donated for one of our OSA (Owen's School Association) quiz nights! I have no idea when this book was produced but the foreword was written by chef Anton Edelmann, at the time Maître Chef des Cuisines at the Savoy, a past parent of three daughters who attended Owen's and Mrs Aldon Williamson is named as Head of the school, having submitted a recipe for Home-made Bread! Other famous contributions were from Roy Hudd and Dame Beryl Grey, Patrons of the Campaign. So, here is the recipe, below, which was sent in by Gerry Jones, former Head of the School, who had obviously travelled to South Africa in 1977—sounds wicked!

Cape Brandy Pudding

Ingredients:

1 cup of chopped dates
1 tsp bicarbonate of soda
¾ cup of boiling water
1 egg
1½ cups of plain flour
1 cup sugar
2 tbsp butter
¼ tsp salt
¼ tsp baking powder

For the syrup:

1¼ cups sugar
1 tbsp butter
1 tsp vanilla essence
¾ cup boiling water
¼ cup brandy

Mix the dates, bicarbonate of soda and ¾ cup of boiling water, and leave to stand for 30 minutes. Sift the flour, baking powder and the salt. Cream the 2 tbsp of butter and the 1 cup of sugar and add the egg. Beat well and add to the dry ingredients. Lastly, add the date mixture. Bake in an ovenproof dish at 180°C until cooked (approximately 40 minutes). To make the syrup, boil the sugar and water together, add the butter, and mix well. Cool and add the vanilla and the brandy. Pour over the cooled pudding. Serve with cream or ice-cream.

Recipe sent in by Gerry Jones, former Head of School, and now a Governor. "This recipe brings back memories of an outstandingly enjoyable evening in Cape Town in 1997."

I discovered one more South African recipe submitted by Mariette D'Castro, herself a South African and parent at the time and now a member of our Accounts staff. She recommends a Three Bean Salad! This definitely concludes all I have to say on the subject of South Africa and thank you for reading my contribution!"

Three Bean Salad

Ingredients:

420 g baked beans
420 g butter beans, drained
420 g cut green beans, drained
1 medium onion, chopped
1 small-to-medium green pepper, chopped
100 ml vinegar
100 ml sunflower oil
100 ml sugar
5 ml mustard powder
Salt and pepper to taste
7 ml mixed herbs

Make a sauce by heating together the vinegar, oil, sugar and mustard powder until the sugar dissolves. Combine the beans, onion and pepper and add to the sauce. Allow to cool. Add salt and pepper to taste, and 7 ml mixed herbs (or more, if you want).

Recipe sent in by Mariette D'Castro, parent. "This is a South African recipe, and goes very well with BBQs. The salad is even better if made a day or two in advance."

And finally....

Just a reminder to complete our online survey using the link we sent you in your email alert to help us decide on which memorabilia items you would like to have available to purchase as souvenirs of our 400th Anniversary. Our OSA (Owen's School Association) would be very grateful for your feedback and hope to have a selection of items on sale at school events from next Spring and during our celebration year in 2013. **Closing date for survey is Thursday 13th October, 2011.**

The deadline for our Christmas Newsletter is **Friday 25th November** and I would especially **LOVE** to hear of anyone with memories of the winter term (any weather stories?!) or how Christmas was celebrated (staff panto's?!) and any Old Owenians who have just recently left—what is life really like after Owen's?

If Old Owenians would like to get in contact with each other, we cannot share information due to the Data Protection Act, however, if you give us permission to publish your details we would be happy to trial a "Contact Us" column—just send your address (email or snail mail) to us at: 400years@damealiceowens.herts.sch.uk. Remember, this newsletter is publically available on the web, so your information will be too.

Thank you once again to everyone who has contributed to this edition and I look forward to receiving more articles for our December issue. The very last word has to be a repeated plea to "Spread the word" of our 400th Anniversary and encourage your past peers to join you on our emailing list so that we can keep them updated too!

Until December...

Mrs Mandy English, Communications Officer



P.S. Remember Old Owenians have an **open invitation** to attend any of our Music and Drama events at the school—just go to our website for more details and how to book: http://www.damealiceowens.herts.sch.uk/news_dates/concert_dates.html.

Dates this term are:

Tuesday 8th November—Senior Chamber Concert

Wednesday 9th November—Junior Chamber Concert

Wednesday 23rd November—Junior Instrumental Concert

Tuesday 29th November—Choral Concert

Wednesday 7th December—Senior Instrumental Concert

Thursday 8th—Saturday 10th December—Drama Production Performance



P.S.S. Does anyone have any photos from the production "Thoroughly Modern Millie", performed in March 2010?

Archive photos in school were lost when a computer crashed and past students have asked if we can locate any—this is the only one we have! We would be grateful if you could send any photos you might have direct to our new Head of Drama, Mrs Emma Govier at: goviere@damealiceowens.herts.sch.uk.