



Old Owenians Newsletter

First half—30th June, 2016

Edition 19

A message from our Head...

"Dear Old Owenians

This is my last message to you as Head, in a year of many "lasts", so I certainly empathise with our Year 11 and Year 13 leavers, who we welcome as alumni to Old Owenians In Touch. Now with 3,950 of you and a target of 5,000, I'd like to say a huge thank for continuing to support our alumni programme by encouraging others to join, contributing to this Newsletter and attending our events throughout the year. Another very successful Old Owenians Careers Talks week was held in March and we had over 120 guests at our Old Owenians Tour and Coffee Morning in April – read more on pages 3-11.

SAVE THE DATE!

Monday 31st October 2016

**Harold Moore Annual Reunion
Luncheon for all Old Owenians —
Guest Speaker—Sir Alan Parker
See page 2 for details!**

I'd also like to thank Sandyann Cannon for organising the annual Reunion Luncheon in October, committee members of the Old Owenians Association who manage our Sports Ground at Coopers Lane in Northaw and our current parents on the OSA (Owen's School Association).

It's because of volunteers such as these, that we offer continuity of our special community for students when they leave. Our trustee, the Worshipful Company of Brewers and our own governors recognise the importance of the relationship with our alumni and support the work

that we do. See dates of our future events this Autumn on page 2.

This Spring, our governors and myself have been securing the School's future leadership and we're delighted to announce that Mrs Hannah Nemko (pictured), our Deputy since September 2015, will be taking over as Head in September 2016. Already known and highly respected by our students and staff, she's been getting to know parents and will be attending alumni events in the future too.

Hannah spent almost 10 years as Deputy Headteacher at Yavneh College in Borehamwood; a school she helped build from scratch and told parents in our School Newsletter in March: "It was a wrench for me to leave Yavneh and it was only the prospect of working in such a vibrant, educationally interested school which sets its sights on attaining 'excellence in everything' which turned my eye." Hannah led pastoral care at Yavneh and previously at The Royal Grammar School, High Wycombe. As a passionate language teacher she has also focused on teacher development and quality assurance of teaching and learning, which she has continued alongside the "wonderful Mr Godfrey" since joining us.

When her appointment was confirmed she said, "I am honoured to have been selected to lead Dame Alice Owen's into the next chapter of her life... I am so proud to be working with such a wonderful team of teachers at Owen's and I am constantly in awe of the young people I work with day in and day out. I look forward to building on the exceptional work of Dr Davison and of leading Dame Alice Owen's to constantly great heights but equally, I look forward to working with you all to ensure the best opportunities and outcomes for all of your young people."



I've also been delighted to have had two "firsts" this year - an opportunity to meet a member of the Royal family in March as the Worshipful Company of Brewers recruited a new Liveryman – HRH Prince Charles. His induction was held at Brewers Hall and several of our Senior Team students accompanied myself and our string quartet to the prestigious event. We are fortunate to be involved with our trustee in this way and we enjoyed the event very much! You can read the speech given by the Master, Miles Jenner at the Reception in February on the Newsletter page (as a PDF).



My other opportunity was to play guitar at Cadogan Hall in Kensington alongside Culture Club guitarist, Mike Craig and Katrina and The Waves guitarist, Darren Loveday in Dame Alice Owen's 10th Anniversary celebration of our Junior and Senior Soul Bands. Many of you will remember our bands amazing performances at the Royal Albert Hall in 2013 for our 400th Anniversary and I was privileged to accompany them at this prestigious venue – for more see page 10.

As you know, all our School activities, which are too numerous to mention them all here, are reported on in our half term Newsletter on our website so

do browse to see what's going on! Thank you once again to all our alumni contributors to this Newsletter and I look forward to reading the next edition as an alumnus in December! Wishing all our Leavers success with their outstanding results in August and hope you all have a restful summer break. It's been a real privilege to be Head of the top school in the country for the past 11 years and to be fortunate enough to meet so many amazing Alumni – thank you for making me feel so welcome! Thanks also to Mandy our amazing Alumni Manager and often my ghost writer (not this bit honest!)

Dr Alan Davison

Next Events for all Old Owenians!

There are two exciting functions being organised by our Old Owenians this Autumn, both of which has their own poster/invitation as PDF's on our Newsletter page with full details. We're delighted to provide a summary of each here and do get in touch with the organisers if you have any queries and to book tickets!

OLD OWENS FOOTBALL CLUB 125 ANNIVERSARY DINNER - Saturday 17th September 2016

This event is for all personnel that have played football for Old Owen's during their long history. It's being held at the Royal Chace Hotel, 162 The Ridgeway, Enfield, EN2 8AR - starts 7pm till late (1pm ish). Tickets are £55 and the dress code is lounge suits & ties.

If you're interested please email oofc125@gmail.com—they're currently taking a deposit payment of £25 for the event by Bank Transfer and places will be allocated on a first come first served basis.

GUEST SPEAKER: Tom Watt, aka 'Lofty' from East Enders, Old Owenian, Actor and Football Journalist

HAROLD MOORE ANNUAL REUNION LUNCHEON—FOR ALL OLD OWENIANS—Monday 31st October 2016

This event is for all Old Owenians—set up in the 1970's by alumnus, Harold Moore (Head Boy, 1939), his legacy has been continued by Ray Coombes, Michael Harold and Stanley Gould for over a generation. It's being held once again at the Imperial Hotel, Russell Square, London — 1-4pm with pre-luncheon drinks from 11.30am. Tickets are £38. If you'd like to book a ticket, please use the application form (PDF) on our Newsletter page and send to Sandyann Cannon, the Luncheon organiser. We'll also be sending you a reminder from Old Owenians In Touch early in September.

GUEST SPEAKER: Sir Alan Parker, Film Director and Old Owenian

END OF TERM CONCERTS—Wednesday 6th July and Thursday 14th July—see DAOS website for details.

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

DAME ALICE OWEN'S SCHOOL OPEN DAY—ALL WELCOME—Thursday 21st July 2016 (no booking required)

All prospective, current and former parents, students, staff and governors are invited to attend—2-5pm. Events will be held in the Edward Guinness Hall, various classrooms and there will be guided tours. We look forward to seeing many of you there! For directions, please see: http://www.damealiceowens.herts.sch.uk/general_enquiries/directions.html.

Old Owenians giving back...young Owenians being inspired



In our sixth year of holding this event, we'd like to once again thank our Old Owenian speakers who volunteered their time to inspire our students about their personal career experiences. The talks were held during four lunchtimes in National Careers Week 7th-10th March 2016. Students in Years 9-13 (previously Years 4 & 5 and the Sixth Form!) were encouraged in assemblies to take the opportunity to explore those careers they had an interest in, or to find out about a new one to expand their general knowledge. March is the ideal time of year for our students, who are then deciding GCSE, A Level and University courses. We've had some great feedback from speakers and students alike—details below:

Grahame Flint—Class of 2001



Thanks to Grahame, who studied BA War Studies and History at King's College London, then MSt Modern History at St Hugh's College, Oxford. Trained at Britannia Royal Naval College, Dartmouth (graduating with the "Queen's Award" as top cadet) and at sea in a range of ships. Serving mainly in the frigate HMS Chatham and the destroyer HMS Liverpool, work has taken him to the Persian Gulf, the USA, the Mediterranean, and the Black Sea. Now Lieutenant Commander and Principal Warfare Officer

in HMS Queen Elizabeth. His talk included his personal experiences and an overview of the Royal Navy.

Our students told us:

Interesting and eye-opening. Now considering joining the Navy following university – Joe Tyler 11TJM

I found the talk very interesting as he specified some jobs that are very different office jobs to artillery based jobs

Informative and useful – told me things I didn't previously know – Sasha Little 10MHJ

– George Birche 10GAS

Adam Reader—Class of 1988

Thanks to Adam, who studied Maths, Economics, Physics A Levels, and then a foundation course in accountancy at University of Hertfordshire, secured a 4 year training contract with an audit firm and built up experience. Previously Chief Finance Officer, he's now Managing Director of Grace Foods UK, Europe and Africa - the largest supplier of Caribbean food & drink in UK and travels internationally. His talk included details about how a financial background gave exposure to operational and strategic decision making and now the opportunity to lead the company. Adam brought in sauces to taste!



Adam wrote afterwards, (returning as a speaker for a

second time in a new role), *"I was amazed how many students gave up their lunchtime to listen to the talk (maybe the chance to sample some sauce helped!). They were extremely attentive, enthusiastic and asked some good questions."*

Our students told us:

This is actually my favourite drink (Aloe); I can't believe I met the man behind it. Informative speech, I enjoyed it – Sophie Wanendeya 10KA

Nice plantain chips, but has he tried the ones in Nigeria? Interesting life story – Eliya Ojji 10MHJ

Was interesting as a student on the verge of going to University hearing about an alternative career path and how it doesn't necessarily hinder your job prospects – Aaron Gammon – Year 13

It was interesting to hear about the different paths you can take even once you've specialised and that you don't need a degree – Tim Crooks-Sycamore 12RT

Obviously loved the snacks. Answered questions thoroughly – gave a description overview which I liked – Lewis Maki 9NEG

Jonny Driscoll—Class of 2008

Thanks to Jonny, who after a gap year travelling rough East Africa and Central America, studied Sports and Material Science at the University of Birmingham. Throughout university Jonny started multiple societies and launched two successful companies, the latest called Loopd.life, a social network for education. Jonny is currently the CEO of Loopd and has 5 full-time employees. Loopd received £300,000 investment and won multiple awards for innovation within the education technology sector. His talk included the challenges, rewards (and the fun) of university life and what it's like to be a self-employed entrepreneur.



Our students told us:

It was an amazing talk. I would honestly recommend this talk to the whole year in assembly – Cameron MacKing 12RM

Good business and well designed app – John Charalambous 10GAS

I think it would be a good idea to bring the app into the school – Zara Lock 11

Great talk – should replace VLE with Loopd - Kye Davies 10GAS

Very appealing and good enthusiasm – Yussef Noeman 9L

Katerina Pascoulis—Class of 2010



Thanks to Katerina, who studied Law at Robinson College Cambridge, then joined Crowdcube, a London based start-up which raises investment for businesses through crowd funding. While working with mainly tech start-ups she found the tech side more interesting and left to study on a 3 months software development course in East London. She's now working as a freelancer with a team from her course building apps for the kinds of start-up she used to help with investment. Her talk included her experience on both sides of technology and entrepreneurship as well as how

what you start off studying isn't necessarily what you end up doing. Katerina said, *"I was impressed by the questions the students were asking. The things they asked me were more relevant and intelligent than the questions I get from some of the tech talks I give! Definitely some computer science students in the making there."*

Our students told us:

Very engaging talk – it cleared up all the questions I had about coding – Mike Anderson 9M

It made me interested to learn how to code – William Wilson 9BD

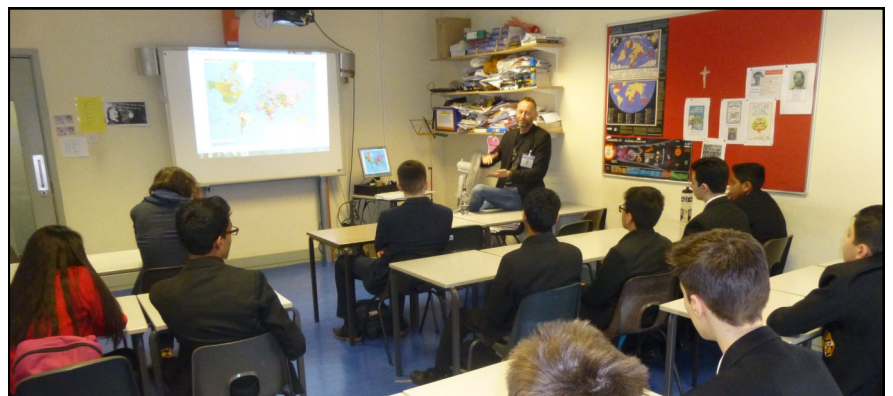
Very interesting, informative and entertaining – Nick Scott 10SP

It inspired me to learn a language – Sam Harrison 9FKC

Engaging talk with a refreshing lack of PowerPoint – Jahob Metson 11TJM

Jamie Shawyer—Class of 1985

Thanks to Jamie, who left Owen's to work in advertising/film industry for 2 years then started his career in aviation, gaining his Private Pilot's licence (aged 18), then his Airline Transport Pilots licence 2 years later. Jamie specialises in the business aviation sector flying ultra-long range aircraft such as the Gulfstream G4, G5 series, G6 and early next year will start flight testing the new G7 aircraft which is scheduled to start operations in 2017. He's also a Designated Inspector, Examiner and Instructor on Gulfstream aircraft and has worked as an evaluation pilot for NASA on future technology projects. Jamie talked about his career in aviation.



Jamie kindly wrote, *"Really great to be back at Owens and giving something to the students which I hope they take on... I would have enjoyed such a session when I was at school. Well done to Mandy and Carol for getting everyone in the right place at the right time..."*

Our students told us:

Very interesting, didn't just talk about how to be a pilot but was very engaging – Anne Ranasinghe 10KA

Changed my view on Career Path – Joe Brunton 11EJL

Very inspiring and motivational for other careers as well – Dinith Kanunaithilaka 10SP

Don't pursue one specific path, be open to change – Tim Harvey 10KA

Changed my view of aeronautics – Louie McArdle 9AL

Rob Campbell-Davis—Class of 2008



Thanks to Rob, who before studying Politics, Philosophy & Economics at Oxford, spent 6 months at Deloitte on their Scholar Scheme and travelled Central America. He then worked as travel agent, fashion buyer and for a technology start-up, before joining the Foreign & Commonwealth Office (Fast Stream) in 2013. He's advised on EU policy, negotiated the FCO's budget in the recent Government Spending Review, and is now learning Indonesian full-time to work in Jakarta later this year.

Talk included his career journey; working in public vs private sectors; and why work for the FCO! Rob wrote afterwards:

"Great to be back at the school. I was struck by the continuity of staff - Owens is clearly a place that staff like working as so many have had such long careers there. But I was also taken by how much the school is evolving. The new buildings look fantastic, and were long overdue, the greater emphasis of art in particular is very welcome in a school which has hitherto felt constraining for those with more creative minds. And it pleases me greatly to see the wealth of experience and knowledge within the alumni of the school being more actively managed and deployed - during my time at Owens I felt that more could have been done to connect me with people who had 'been there and done it' and the careers week certainly seems to deliver that for many."

Our students told us:

Inspiring – it was nice to hear about the bigger picture and think about how to decide the jobs we want to do – very interesting and varied – Athena Ladomatos 11JB

I found this useful and now I know you aren't just stuck in a single job – Jamie White 9LN

Funny and interesting, really good – Sammy Winder 9NG

Good advice on what and how to choose a career – Ben Slavin 9FG

Interesting on wider topics and explained things further than own career – highlighted other options and was very current – Caitlin Deacock 11JPR

Jessica Calvert—Class of 1997

Studied Law at Leeds, then College of Law in York, before working as a Commercial Property Lawyer at international law firm Eversheds. She moved to Spain in 2011 and gained specialist online gaming experience working in the gaming hub of Gibraltar. After moving back to the UK, she worked in house at Endemol Shine Group (Media company) and now works for Ramparts European Law Firm (the firm in Gibraltar now expanding in the UK). Her talk covered steps to becoming a lawyer, and an insight into the different places lawyers can find work.



Jessica said, *"It was great to come back to Owens and share some of my experience with students thinking about a career in law. There was a wide range of ages in attendance, and I was especially struck by the number of year 9's and 10's who came. It was brilliant to see, as it shows the school is really making an effort from early on to help guide the students in their development, and that the students are happy to take up the opportunities available."*

Our students told us:

She was extremely experienced with a lot of tips and useful information about the industry and said what to do at school to get into law. Wasn't very enthusiastic about all her career choices but was very enlightening about the reality of the job! - Riya Myanger 10 MHT

Very detailed, have a much clearer idea of law and what it entails – Tara Daemi 10GAS

Interesting and helpful in terms of applying/preparation – Nicole Shaw 12LV

Very informative on the learning and working process and a personal touch on an academic story – Charlotte Penny 10KA

Provided good advice and was frank about it – Timothy Yeo 10GAS

Ahid Abood—Class of 1994



Thanks to Ahid, who studied medicine at The University Of Cambridge and undertook his surgical training in the UK, United States and Australia. He is a Consultant Plastic and Reconstructive Surgeon at Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge where he leads the complex trauma reconstructive service. The service is dedicated to the reconstruction of patients who have sustained major injuries. Alongside the NHS he also works in private practice.

He told us: *"It was great to have the opportunity to come and talk to the students. They were all extremely polite and asked a wide range of very thoughtful questions. It made me very proud to have been part of the school!"*

Our students said:

Loads of information and very relevant to our age – Niamh Griffin 11LBP

Very detailed on how to get there and his own experience – Alex Martin 9NEG

I think it was an informative and engaging talk with a lot of relevant experience to share – Nabiha Karim 10KA

Very informative talk with lots of detail about a career in medicine and then specialising in plastic surgery – Dillan Patel 9ALW

Christine Eberhardie—Class of 1965

Thanks to Christine, who studied English and French A Levels, then qualified as a nurse at St Georges Hospital, London, specialising in neuroscience nursing, subsequently studying for an MSc in Behavioural Biology and Healthcare. She's worked in hospitals, hospices and ended her career as a university lecturer. She's taken many opportunities to travel the world in her career both as a practitioner in Belgium and also held senior roles in



international nursing organisations. Her talk explored what nursing offers men and women today in the NHS, industry and the private sector. She returned this year again by popular demand! Christine's feedback was, *"The students were disciplined, polite and asked good questions. The welcome from Carol and Mandy was, as ever, delightful and it was a pleasure to meet Mr Davison. I thoroughly enjoyed meeting the other speakers, staff and students as well as touring the school of which I am very proud. I congratulate the staff on really giving these able young people such a good education."*

Our students told us:

The talk was interesting and informative and I enjoyed it. It gave me an insight into the real world of nursing and healthcare – Korina Chapman 10KA

Very detailed information on the different areas of nursing and the opportunities that nursing can bring – Charlotte Perry 10KA

Questions well answered and differing specialities explained well too – Lennard Metson 10TD

Interesting comments regarding many areas of medicine and mentioned many areas where nurses can work – Felix Miller Molly 12RM

It was a very informative talk and the speaker had a lot of experience to share – Nabiha Karim 10KA

Paul Sturgeon—Class of 1985

Thanks to Paul, who studied Economics and Accountancy at Exeter University, then trained to become a Chartered Accountant in London with Price Waterhouse. He's worked for large and small companies, been involved in private equity, management buy-outs, sold companies, had his own company, and now works as the Chief Financial Officer (CFO) for a privately owned group of businesses in the health sector. His talk included why accountancy, how that's led to becoming a rounded business professional, the doors that this has subsequently opened and travel that this has enabled. Our students found the talk inspiring and asked lots of questions!



Paul wrote afterwards. *"I had not been back to the school since I left in 1985! It was fascinating to see both what has not changed one bit and then contrast with what has changed beyond all recognition. The new buildings and facilities are hugely impressive and the school should be very proud of what it has achieved. All staff I met were enthused about where they work and what they do and for a school with more than 1,400 pupils on site, it does not feel like it; all was calm, ordered and efficient (but probably like a swan!). It was great to see happy smiling and engaged pupils. An enjoyable experience that I would recommend and repeat."*

Jackie Parry—Class of 1986



Thanks to Jackie, who after leaving Owen's, emigrated to Australia, bought a boat with her husband and sailed round the world. As commercial skippers/tutors, they've worked internationally, and been Rescue skippers. She can captain boats up to 80m and holds Marine Engine Driver certificates.

She's written hundreds of magazine articles worldwide, a boat-reference book, and has published another 3 books about her inspiring adventures.

She's also rescued 5 horses and trekked in the bush

with them, unaided, for several months. She talked about her own experiences and how anything is possible.

She told us afterwards:

"The changes (new buildings etc.) are impressive. But what was fabulous was the overwhelming passion of the teachers/employees that I met. The message 'it's all about the students' was predominant. I very much appreciated the time given to me (and the speaking group), the wonderful stories/history of the school that has such a big part of all our lives. I was very proud to see my school picture on the wall. Thank you for making the careers talks for students so varied and exciting - it was a lot different in my day. Great job from everyone I dealt with in the process (especially Mandy and Carol). So accommodating and helpful - and a tight ship! What fun!"

Our students said:

Inspired me to get out more and met new people – Louise Wise 9FKC

Really interesting because I want to be a traveller – Aukur Singh 9NG

Helped inspire me to follow any dreams I have and to travel – William Wilson 9BD

It was interesting to find out about life visiting other cultures – Sam Harrison 9FKC

Very good to leave space for questions and it was a really nice talk – Carmina Gallus 10SP

Really honest talk and it helped to have personal experiences talked about – Anoushka Syed – 10SP

Tom Pepper—Class of 1996

Thanks to Tom, who studied Politics at the University of East Anglia, then worked for various media groups, mainly in Internet Advertising such as Haymarket, IPC, Advertising.com and Vibrant Media (as Managing Director). He now leads the UK & International advertising business for LinkedIn and his team works with major brands, government and education to advertise to the members on the LinkedIn platform. His talk included how the LinkedIn platform can help careers, details about the Digital Advertising Tech Industry and Social Media and how he developed his own career.

Tom told us, *"I was delighted to have the opportunity to return to Owens for the Careers Week. The organisation of the event and communication made it easy for me to slot in to my busy schedule. The students were really engaged during my talk and had lots of great questions making it a really enjoyable and rewarding experience. The tour gave me some insight into how the school has transformed in the last 20 years and an entertaining trip down memory lane. I feel proud to be an Alumnus of such a successful and vibrant institution and would be delighted to return again in the future."*



Our students said:

Great informative speech about advancing a professional career using LinkedIn – Mimi Zho 12DC

Interesting, good visuals, aids and presentation about job, how he got there and the work he does – Tim Yeo 10GAS

Useful information for the future – Dylan Clarke 11LBP

Refreshing existence of PowerPoint – Theo Charalambous 11HY

Very engaging and gave lots of valuable life skills, easy to relate to as he didn't know what he wanted to do either – Anne Ranasinghe 10KA

Gavin Flook—Class of 1985

Thanks to Gavin, who studied Politics, Philosophy and Economics at Oxford then trained as a Chartered Accountant with Deloitte, working abroad for them since 1993 in Slovakia, Poland and Czech Republic. Has recently extended his education to become an Executive Coach and has an Executive role for Talent and various other leadership roles involving regular travel mostly throughout the Central Europe region. His talk includes what it's like to work abroad, how languages are important and Deloitte's various efforts to make an impact that matters in Europe, such as the Deloitte University in EMEA (Europe, Middle East and Africa) located near Brussels. We were delighted Gavin could return for a second time.



Students told us:

Very informative – learn more languages and be curious! - Louis McArdle 9AL

Learnt a lot about life skills and things I can learn in the future from any situation I end up in – Sri Latha Lanka 10TD

Interesting information about working abroad – Christina Arabadjis 10GAS

Very open with questions – Greg Young 12LL

Very informative, especially about life abroad – George Ilingworth 12FS



Ben Biollo and Will Finch—Class of 2004

Thanks to Ben, who studied for a Masters in Engineering at University of Birmingham, and then worked on major London Underground projects and other works for Transport for London, the Olympics and Heathrow airport. He's currently a Project Manager, working on behalf of Network Rail on Electrification and Track infrastructure in London and the South East. Ben was joined by Will (also thanks to Will), who started his engineering career by taking a skilled apprenticeship and now works as a Commissioning Manager for a Mechanical & Electrical Engineering company.

Their joint talk involved the different routes to their industry, their experience in engineering, design, construction, commercial and planning, and tips on how to build an effective CV.

Will told us, *"Thanks for the opportunity to come back and talk to your students, I really enjoyed giving the talk with Ben and hope they all got something out of it. It was clear over the hour that the school is still filled with bright, engaged and interesting young people. It was also great to have a wander round after and see the incredible investment in some fantastic facilities over the last ten years."*

Our students said:

Informative and made me much more aware that there's lots of types of engineering and that it's something I'd like to do

– Gargi Parandare 10JP

It gave a very broad outlook on both engineering and further engineering and answered many questions, very helpful

Afra Sterne-Rodgers 10JPF

Well explained, made any tips and negatives very clear – Bean Dourd 12 HW

A great talk with lots of advice on both engineering specifically and routes into jobs in general, complete with advice about university and qualifications – Daniel Bishop 12HW

Good to hear about pros/cons of uni's and apprenticeships as I have been thinking about which route for a while – Coral Smith 12HW

Andrew Porter—Class of 1991

Thanks to Andrew, also returning for a second time, who studied History and Politics at Warwick then a postgraduate diploma in newspaper journalism.

He then worked for Western Morning News, Sunday Business, Sunday Times, The Sun and became the Daily Telegraph's youngest ever Political Editor in 2007. Now at Brunswick, the City's leading corporate

communications agency, he advises a host of UK and international companies on strategic communications. He's recently been in Davos, for the World Economic Forum. His talk included what it's like to work for a National Newspaper, a major communications firm and the challenges of communicating the in/out options for the referendum on Europe.



Our students said:

Very interesting, hope there are more similar speakers in the future – Isabella White 12JJ

I thought it was the best talk I heard and I thought it was brilliant – Alice Wood 9AL

Good video, very factual – Yasmin Crowe 10JPF

Very interesting to see the switch between careers and the paths it can lead to – Mineli Cooray 9FW

Used presentation well, especially the Trump video – Harry Robinson 11JB

Good to have the PowerPoint, really interesting, topical – Isobel Nendick 10TD

Very interesting, a lot about current affairs – Nick Scott 10SP

If you think you'd like to take part next year, we'll be holding our seventh event in **National Careers Talks Week Mon-Thurs 6-9th March 2017** so put it in your diary! Do let Mrs Carol Whiter know nearer the time if you might be available. We provide a sandwich lunch in our dining room, all IT presentation facilities and a tour of the school in the afternoon!

Once again, huge thanks to all our 2016 speakers; we know how invaluable your time is and wish you all the best with your future careers—keep in touch!



Soul Band's 10th Anniversary Concert

Emma Cripps, our website administrator reported, *"On Thursday 31st March, Cadogan Hall played host to a truly memorable concert celebrating the 10th anniversary of our Junior and Senior Soul Bands. Led by Ms N McNally and Mr M Grimstead, the bands performed songs from Destiny's Child to Amy Winehouse, Michael Jackson to Ed Sheeran (all arranged by the talented Old Owenian, Ben Abelman)! Joining the Soul Bands on stage was an exciting dance troupe, as well as a customised choral and string section.*



(As Dr Davison has mentioned already) ...special guests Culture Club guitarist, Mike Craig and Katrina and The Waves guitarist, Darren Loveday took to the stage and performed a special version of Walking on Sunshine by Katrina and the Waves. It was a truly amazing evening - the level of talent showcased was phenomenal and it was evident how much our students adore being part of something so special! Our thanks to all staff, students and backstage crew whose tremendous team effort staged a thoroughly entertaining evening for our whole School community to enjoy!"

Many thanks to parent, Ian Skelly, who arranged a video show which was interspersed during the evening, took photographs in rehearsal and compered the event <http://ian-skelly.com/>. More photos can be seen on our website, Latest News Archive http://www.damealiceowens.herts.sch.uk/news_dates_archive/sum161st_lat_news.html.

Past and current students enjoy our Old Owenians Coffee and Tour Morning!

A fantastic 120 guests attended our biennial event on Saturday 23rd April which saw our current students escort alumni around and gave past students (and even a few past parents!) the opportunity to socialise and see all the amazing changes and impressive improvements to our school. Dr Davison thanked guests for coming, reminding them that it was three years ago to the day that we held our 400th Anniversary Concert at the Royal Albert Hall, which many remembered!



Retiring this summer, Mr Hamilton-Hinds was delighted to see so many familiar faces from his teaching role over his many years at Owen's. We're lucky that he'll be continuing his connection to our school post September by managing our archives and supporting staff events.

Although over 50% of guests said they lived within 10 miles of our School, several guests had travelled a long way to take part in the morning – from the Midlands, Northamptonshire, Surrey, Kent, Wiltshire,

Hampshire, Oxfordshire, Wales and Dorset to name a few locations! We received lovely feedback from our visitors who said how much our students were a real credit to the school, happy to engage with them and hear stories about their past education experiences in either Islington or at Potters Bar. Most came with the aim to revisit our school and see new buildings, although over 25% of guests were past Islington students, visiting for the first time. Please see below selected highlights they all said they'd like to share:

Briony Sutcliffe – Class of 1984: *"We had a great time chatting to some other Old Owenians that we'd never met before about the school and what it meant for us."*

Ben Diamond – Class of 2009: Highlights: *"Seeing the amazing new buildings, chatting to the head and Mr Hamilton-Hinds, seeing the enthusiasm of the sixth formers who gave the tour, and sharing experiences with Old Owenians/ comparing the differences between the Potters Bar and the Islington school experience."*

Sheila Hughes – Class of 2001: *"difficult to single out any one thing. Great to see the new buildings since I had left, also to be taken round by a kind sixth former who could answer questions well, from the ground level as it were. Seeing Bill. The general feeling that I was made to feel cherished and part of a family, despite having left fifteen years ago. Such events make one feel once an Owenian, always an Owenian, and it is a very warm feeling. Thank you."*

Mick Hine – Class of 1964: Highlights: *“the two girls showing us round were brilliant. It was interesting to see the buildings (we were from the old Islington days) and the modern facilities provided. Talking to the girls it was interesting to discuss how many aspects of school life and the traditions had either changed or remained the same (Beer Money, White carnations etc). Thank you for a very enjoyable morning.”*

Christine Padwick – Class of 1972: Highlights: *“The Edward Guinness Hall. The quality & standard of the buildings & specialist equipment is tremendous & there seems to be enough equipment for everyone to make the best of whatever they're doing every day. The artwork on display made a deep impression on me. I also felt proud & delighted that the history of the school is alive within the buildings & the students. At the end of the tour I loved being an Old Owenian even more than before.”*

Clifford (Nick) McKie – Class of 1951: Highlights: *“seeing the Dame Alice Owen statue again and getting to terms with student fingerprint recognition - some water has passed under the bridge! Wonder at the composure and easy confidence of our student guides, and others I saw at a distance. I compared this with the memory of my own total lack of the same. All schools should be like this.”*

Samantha Gutteridge – Class of 1989: Highlights: *“returning to the school as an adult. Seeing part of my history and sharing that with my family. Experiencing a tour of the new buildings and seeing how the school has progressed. The pupils that conducted the tours were so polite, well-spoken and proud of their school, it was a pleasure to spend time with them.”*

Luke Thomas – Class of 1993: *“I enjoyed seeing the new and old buildings and thought the boys showing us round did a splendid job!!”*

Jane Lobban nee Sprosson – Class of 1984: Highlights: *“revisiting the school after all this time bought back a lot of happy memories. Although the school has changed a lot since 1984, the heart of the school, including the students who showed us round, was the same. This was a great event to arrange and we felt very privileged to be back at Owens. Thank you for organising and look forward to future events.”*

We'd also like to extend thanks to our current Year 12 students who gave the tours: Thea King, Lewis Hart, Dougal Burrowes, Dan Kwok, Emma Skelly, Greg Young, Hannah Anjorin, Mimi Zhao, Molly Lodge, Seth Taylor and Will Debnam and Year 10 students: Maxine, Bordem, Dorothy Burrowes, Sophie Ashing, Zara Guppy, Warren Brown, Holly Cole and Emily Prior.

Sophie Ashing, Year 10, said, *“Even though it doesn't sound like the most appealing idea to come into school on a Saturday, I actually really enjoyed talking to past Owenians about their experiences and how the school has changed. I also really enjoyed showing them around our school and it was really cool to talk to people who were from a few generations ago and were at the Islington school.”*

Gregory Young, Year 12, said, *“It was great to hear the experiences of the Old Owenians from both the Islington and current site and to give them an insight into how the school has developed.”* And Warren Brown, from Year 10 said he particularly enjoyed the story he was told about needing a white stick to go to the toilet and how the boys fought over the white stick!

Finally, our thanks go to our OSA (Owen's School Association) for providing the complimentary refreshments – Sarah for organising and Bineeta, Rubi and Caer for serving on the day and setting out the dining room so beautifully and Bill Hamilton-Hinds for managing our Registration Desk!

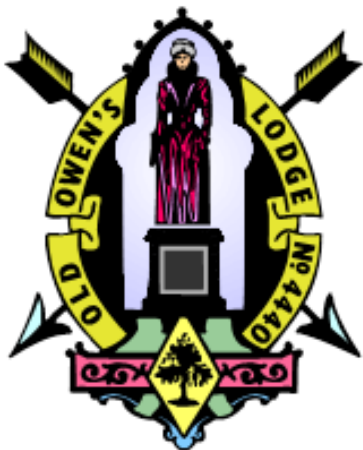
Although not a fundraising event we also sold over £350 of History Books and 400th Anniversary souvenir programmes and received a generous donation of £500 towards providing additional resources for our Library from a former parent.



LinkedIn Tips for students!

If you're at University, then we'd recommend looking at the student guide via this link: <https://students.linkedin.com/uk> which is a great way to get started and understand the professional network. Tips from Tom Pepper, our alumni Careers Speaker were to remember to include any volunteering work you've done and upload information to your profile, such as any great presentations you've done! When you want to link with others, try looking at your University LinkedIn page and link with fellow alumni. Be specific in your profile using key words that recruiters might pick up on when searching for those with certain skills needed for certain jobs.

The Old Owen's Lodge—by William Hamilton-Hinds



In the early 1920s a group of Old Owenian Freemasons met and decided to found an Old Owen's Lodge primarily for the association of former Boys, Masters and those connected with the Management of the School. Their labours came to fruition on 16th October 1922 with the Consecration of Old Owen's Lodge No 4440.

The Lodge now meets on the fourth Friday in the months of January, March, May and October at Freemasons' Hall, Great Queen Street, London.

I was initiated into the Lodge in March 1970 and have been privileged to have been elected as Master for the years 1978, 1991, 2013 and 2014. In 2004 I was honoured by the Grand Master, M.WBro. His Royal Highness the Duke of Kent with the active Grand Rank of Grand Standard Bearer for the year 2004 – 2005.

The Lodge has been able to support the School with the provision of Stage Lighting in the Edward Guinness Hall and the Clock on the Arnold Lynch Building and nowadays we provide funds for the Dame Alice Owen Awards for service to the School Community at

Visitation. We also support other Masonic Charities of the United Grand Lodge of England and also those of the Metropolitan Grand Lodge of London.

In January of this year Peter Muswell was installed as Master of the Lodge and I resumed the office of Secretary of the Lodge. If anyone would like information about Freemasonry in general or the Old Owen's Lodge in particular please contact me: wjhamilton-hinds@msn.com.

Opportunities for Old Owenians in higher education to apply for Bursaries

E H Thompson Bequest and FE Beecham Awards – 2016

University entrants from Dame Alice Owen's School are eligible for a number of Awards from the E H Thompson Bequest and one award annually from the F E Beecham Award. These Awards also apply to our alumni, currently in higher education. The closing date for applications is in November - please see the letter from Dr Alan Davison on our main website for more details at: http://www.damealiceowens.herts.sch.uk/sixth_form/bursaries.html. Successful applicants will be invited to attend an interview at Brewer's Hall.

Katherine Dames Awards – 2016—for Girls

In addition to the Awards above, the Katherine Dames Awards are available only to girls at Dame Alice Owen's School who wish to continue their studies at university but foresee financial difficulties which might prevent them from pursuing this course. The bequest determines that at the time of applying, the applicant must be supported by only one parent and that parent must be her mother. This letter also applies to alumni, currently in higher education, and who have not previously received a Katherine Dames award. The closing date for applications is in September - once again, please see letter from Dr A Davison on our main website link above. Decisions on applications are usually made by November.

NEW JUNE 2016—Nicholas Barnes Trust Bursaries—for Year 13 Leavers (Boys) - see School website!

Thanks for your money!!!

Following a very successful campaign last Autumn, which raised a fantastic £1,031, Owen's parent, Mr J Patel, is once again running the same fund raising effort. So, if you live locally and have got any foreign currency left over from your summer holidays, or any other old coins as listed below, please pop into school and give to our Office Reception team at any time! Thanks!

Foreign coins and banknotes
Any old British and Irish money
Current UK coins and banknotes
Any obsolete currency!



Old Owenians join our staff team!

Welcome to Toby Kavakeb (Class of 2011) who recently joined our and Shehnaz Dowlut (Class of 2012) who is now a member of the department. About 10% of our staff are former students which is great for our School Community.

Request for Psychology speakers!

Our Head of Psychology, Miss Kent, would like to invite alumni with psychology degrees and related disciplines to visit Owen's to speak to students during a lunchtime/after school or in a lesson. This could be for a talk on a psychological topic, psychology careers, careers stemming from psychology degree (e.g. marketing, HR) or applied psychology (e.g. stress management). This would be at a convenient time for yourself for 30-60 minutes with FAQ's. The current A level course is very broad and the careers psychologists end up entering the same, so it would be great to have a variety. If you are interested, please contact Mrs Accabre Rutlin at rutlina@damealiceowens.herts.sch.uk, many thanks.

Mr Simpson attends Old Owenians Book Launch!

Economics teacher, Mr Gavin Simpson, wrote in our School Newsletter that, *"I had the pleasure of attending the book launch of 'The Egyptians – A Radical Story' by an old boy of the school, Jack Shenker. I have been reading it since I got it and it really is an excellent read and I would heartily recommend it. It's always great seeing former students excel in their chosen field and Jack is a wonderful writer."*



Congratulations to Jack (Class of 2003) who published his book on 21st January this year and many thanks to him for donating a copy to our School Library – Mrs Compton (left) was thrilled to receive it! Amazon says, *"From award-winning journalist Jack Shenker, The Egyptians is the essential book about Egypt and radical politics..."*

In early 2011, Cairo's Tahrir Square briefly commanded the attention of the world. Half a decade later, the international media has largely moved on from Egypt's explosive cycles of revolution and counter-revolution - but the Arab World's most populous nation remains as volatile as ever, its turmoil intimately bound up with forms of authoritarian power and grassroots resistance that stretch right across the globe.

In The Egyptians: A Radical Story, Jack Shenker uncovers the roots of the uprising that succeeded in toppling Hosni Mubarak, one of the Middle East's most entrenched dictators, and explores a country now divided between two irreconcilable political orders. Challenging conventional analyses that depict contemporary Egypt as a battle between Islamists and secular forces, The Egyptians illuminates other, far more important fault lines: the far-flung

communities waging war against transnational corporations, the men and women fighting to subvert long-established gender norms, the workers dramatically seizing control of their own factories, and the cultural producers (novelists, graffiti artists and illicit bedroom DJs) appropriating public space in defiance of their repressive and increasingly violent western-backed regime.

Situating the Egyptian revolution in its proper context - not as an isolated event, but as an ongoing popular struggle against a certain model of state authority and economic exclusion that is replicated in different forms around the world - The Egyptians explains why the events of the past five years have proved so threatening to elites both inside Egypt and abroad. As Egypt's rulers seek to eliminate all forms of dissent, seeded within the rebellious politics of Egypt's young generation are big ideas about democracy, sovereignty, social justice and resistance that could yet change the world."

Jack has his own page on Amazon which you can visit to view his books and access to his own website:

http://www.amazon.co.uk/Jack-Shenker/e/B016YQX9U6/ref=dp_byline_cont_book_1

Catching up with more First Class Honours Degrees!

Congratulations to James Flint – International Relations BSc – University of Plymouth – July 2010

Old Owenian at the Menin Gate, Ypres

Our Year 9 students were delighted to bump into an Old Owenian from our Owen's Boys School in Islington on their trip to the Somme and Ypres at the beginning of June. Dr Brian Morris started at Owen's in 1953 and his nieces, Charlotte, Lauren and Sarah Day also attended - students were delighted to hear his personal stories and we've since been in contact to let him know about our Newsletters and Events. We hope he keeps in touch!



Brien Frederick Martin – Class of 1951

Thanks to Mr Bill Hamilton-Hinds for this obituary:

"Brien, known to countless Old Owenians as "Jock" Martin attended Owen's Boys' School from 1946 – 1951. He was an active member of many Old Owenian activities for over sixty years. A stalwart of Old Owen's Football Club, where he was Club Secretary for many years. He was also a member of the Ground Committee and Association Committee and in the 1980s was responsible for the sale of our old Sports Ground in Chandos Avenue, Whetstone and the acquisition of our new Ground in Coopers Lane, Northaw using his skills as a surveyor. He ably led a team of dedicated Old Owenians in this new venture. His contribution to Old Owenian life over many years has been immeasurable and he will be sorely missed. Our deepest sympathy is extended to his wife Shirley and his children Neil and Penny."

Donations in memory of Brien to: St George's Hospital Charity, Bronte House, St George's Hospital, Blackshaw Road, London SW17 0QT. (William Drummond Ward, code DBCM) or www.justgiving.com/fundraising/BrienMartin.



Bob Large—died 2015

Thanks to The Daily Telegraph, who have given their permission for us to reproduce this obituary below, which appeared online on 17th January 2016 and in the paper.



"Flight Lieutenant Bob Large, who has died aged 94, flew Spitfires on sweeps over northern France before becoming a pilot on the "Moonlight Squadron", flying Lysander aircraft into remote fields in France to deliver and pick up agents.

By late 1942, Large was one of the most experienced pilots on No 616 Squadron when he took off with 11 other Spitfires on October 2 to escort a force of six USAAF bombers tasked to bomb an airfield near St Omer. Leaving the target, Large spotted some Focke-Wulf 190 fighters and dived to attack, shooting one down.

During the engagement he exhausted his ammunition. As he and his wingman crossed the French coast, enemy fighters shot down his colleague, who baled out and landed in the sea. Large noted the position of the downed pilot two miles off Calais, transmitted a Mayday call and raced for the nearest RAF airfield. His Spitfire was immediately refuelled but there was insufficient time to re-arm it. He took off with a second Spitfire and relocated the downed pilot, who was in his dinghy, floating in a minefield. The two aircraft were immediately attacked by four FW 190s, which were eventually driven off by other Spitfires arriving with a Walrus air-sea rescue aircraft.

Large remained overhead as the Walrus pilot (Flight Sergeant Tom Fletcher) decided to land despite being under fire from shore batteries and the hazards presented by the mines. The rescue was finally completed and Large was able to leave the scene as the Walrus headed back for the Kent coast. Fletcher was recommended for the Victoria Cross but received a Bar to an earlier DFM. Large was awarded an immediate DFC, "for his gallantry and forethought".

Ronald Geoffrey Large, known as Bob, was born on December 2 1921 at St Pancras and attended Dame Alice Owen's School, Islington. He joined the RAF in July 1940 and trained as a pilot.

Flying Spitfires he joined No 66 Squadron and on June 20 1941 attacked a small force of Messerschmitt Bf 109s escorting a bomber; he shot one down 30 miles south of Plymouth. Three weeks later he transferred to No 616 Squadron, one of three squadrons of the Tangmere Wing led by the legless ace, Wing Commander Douglas Bader.

On August 9 No 616 took off to escort bombers with Bader in the lead, but the sortie proved to be a disaster, when Bader and one of his flight commanders failed to return. Throughout the rest of the day, Large and the 616 Squadron pilots searched for the two men. Large landed from his final search sortie at dusk with his fuel almost exhausted. It subsequently transpired that Bader and his flight commander had been captured and taken prisoner.

Large remained with the squadron for the next 12 months, flying many sweeps over France and frequently being engaged by enemy fighters. During the ill-fated Dieppe operation in August 1942 he flew four sorties and had "several squirts" at the enemy fighters, damaging one. By the time he left No 616 Large had flown 188 operational sorties. He was posted to be the personal staff officer to AVM Hollinghurst, the AOC (Air officer commanding) of No 9 Group. This was an unlikely appointment for such a high-spirited officer – a fact that the AOC soon discovered. After six months, Hollinghurst gave in to Large's pleas to return to operations, agreeing that his fighting spirit was being wasted and offering him "any fighter squadron you want".

Large had other ideas, however, and without consulting his boss he visited a friend flying Lysanders from RAF Tempsford in Bedfordshire, and was able to persuade the squadron commander there of his suitability. When the posting notice arrived on the AOC's desk without prior notice, there was a minor eruption when he exclaimed that he could think of no one less suitable than his errant staff officer – not least because he only had 14 hours night-flying experience. Nevertheless, Hollinghurst relented and agreed to release Large for these special duties.

Large arrived at Tempsford on February 25 1944 for duties with No 161 Squadron, often referred to as the "Moonlight Squadron". The squadron's task was to deliver and pick up agents from France, a role requiring highly skilled pilots with special ability and courage. They flew alone, at night, and into hostile territory, never knowing who the reception committee would be. Accurate navigation was essential if a single torch was to be found in a field after a three or four hour flight.

Large flew his first "pick-up" on April 9 and over the coming weeks flew a further eight sorties including one when he collected Violette Szabo, one of the heroines of the SOE. He was fired on during the return flight, and the aircraft ground-looped on landing as a result of his starboard tyre having been shot to pieces. He had been airborne for almost seven hours.

In August 1944 he tried to return to his old squadron, which had just been equipped with the RAF's first jet fighter, the Meteor. He was unsuccessful but eventually joined No 504 Squadron, the second Meteor squadron. He left the RAF in March 1947 and spent two years in the Gold Coast (Ghana) trading in cocoa.

On his return from West Africa he joined BEA and spent his weekends flying Meteors with No 601 (County of London) Auxiliary Squadron, where he became an expert aerobatic pilot. His dog Patrick often flew with him, which earned an entry in the Guinness Book of Records for the first dog to fly in a jet fighter. Large later flew with Silver City Airways on cross-Channel flights and to Libya in support of the oil industry.

In 1990, the French government made him a Chevalier of the Legion of Honour for his services to France in the Second World War. Described by a fellow "moonlight" pilot as "a fantastic chap", Large was the archetypal fighter pilot in that he was something of a rebel, full of high spirits, somewhat ill-disciplined, but very courageous. He was also a skilled sailor and made a trans-Atlantic voyage in his late sixties. Bob Large married Mary Sears in 1952; she and three of their sons survive him. A fourth son pre-deceased him.

Flight Lieutenant Bob Large, born December 2 1921, died December 29 2015."



Clifford Marsden Mettam – left 1949

Thanks to Anthony Mettam (Class of 1956) who sadly informed us that his brother passed away earlier in March this year and has sent this moving account of his brothers life, writing;

"He joined Owens in September 1945 when the school moved back from Bedford, after winning a foundation scholarship. I remember him telling me that the air raid shelters were still in the playground. O.W Mitchell was the head master and some of the masters who taught him were still there when I joined Owens in 1951.

He was absolutely mad on playing football and constantly wore his shoes out playing in the playground. He actually won a trial with our local club, Hendon, in 1949, but sadly became seriously ill with heart disease, that was caused by falling on a cricket ball and bruising the pericardium before he could take it up.

Just before his 16 the birthday in November 1949 he went into Harefield Hospital and within the next 18 months they carried out a number of investigations on his heart to discover what was wrong and how to treat it. They also had to get him well enough to have open heart surgery that no one had survived up to then. At the end of his bed was a sign that said 'survival chances nil'. Needless to say he did survive thanks to a brilliant team of surgeons; one was King George's surgeon. It took another year before he was allowed home and another 6 months before he resumed a normal life. At Christmas 1952 he took a temporary job with the Post Office to help him get some exercise and stayed there for the rest of his working life. In 2012 he and his wife moved from Bushey Heath in Hertfordshire to 500 yards from me in Bedford.

We both went to the Albert Hall 400th year celebrations in 2013 and were amazed at how the school has changed and developed since our time in Islington especially the music side. I wish that had been available when I was there and I wouldn't have had such a struggle to learn after I left the school.

Clifford always loved reading the copies of Old Owenian I downloaded for him, he never mastered computers. I miss him terribly, after all he was in my life for 76 years and always on the end of the phone even when I was living and working miles away!"

Anthony also added, "a couple of other interesting things about Clifford... The first is that all through his life he had a photographic memory. I remember at an early age how he memorized a full pack of 52 cards just by looking at them once and shortly before he passed away he recited all 50 US states, backwards, to prove his memory was still working OK. He also repeated the school line in latin that we used to have to write out a hundred times, occasionally! (not that I remember it!!)

School News

Bring your own device (BYOD) – an exciting trial—update from Pam Perrett, Assistant Headteacher

“From September 2016, we are providing an opportunity for students to bring in their own devices (tablets/laptops). Our current year 7, 11 and 12 (Year 8, 12 and 13 from September) will be the first to do this. At the moment we are trialling the scheme in some 6th form lessons. Parents will be asked to purchase equipment for their child (you can get a tablet for under £100) and this will allow students quick access to the internet, access to google classroom and a number of educational apps. Parents will also be asked to provide students with mini power packs (now under £5 from Amazon) to ensure if their equipment isn’t fully charged, that they have a backup during the day.

We have a new upgraded WiFi system. The usual school restrictions to the internet and monitoring will apply – there will be no access to social media sites including Facebook and YouTube. Teachers will be encouraged to design lessons using the equipment and students will get used to managing their work in their own digital space. By the end of the 2016-17 academic year we hope that all students will be bringing their own device to use as another tool to support their learning.”

Teaching Building Plans

Our School facilities continue to be updated from the 1970’s era and we’ve seen much building work and improvements over the last few years. We still have work to do and the Teaching Building is our next project. A request for matched funding (with support from our Trustee, the Worshipful Company of Brewers) was rejected in the last round of applications earlier this year and we’ll be reapplying this Autumn for work to commence in 2017.

The photo below identifies the Teaching Building in its current location before the old Science Building and Portakabin were demolished. Overleaf, diagram 1 also shows the current position and diagram 2 shows where we hope the new facility will be built. We want to retain the “Campus style” feel to the heart of our School so the landscaped area, known as Brewer’s Garden, will be moved to the area currently occupied by the Teaching Building. As some of you know, due to being located on Green Belt land, we cannot increase our building footfall—when we build new, we have to knock down the old equivalent. When all goes according to plan, we want to rebuild our Sports facilities too! New location shown on the sketch overleaf! We’ll keep you informed of our progress.



Diagram 1—Teaching Building current position

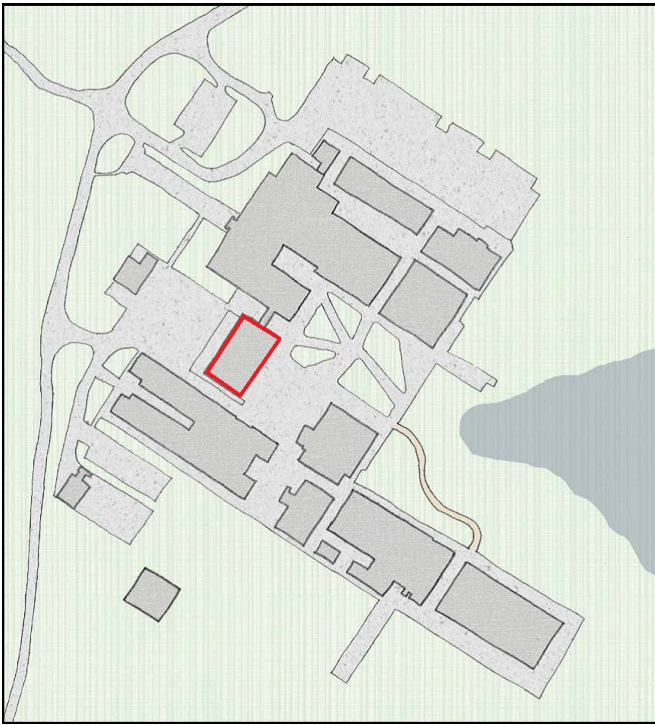
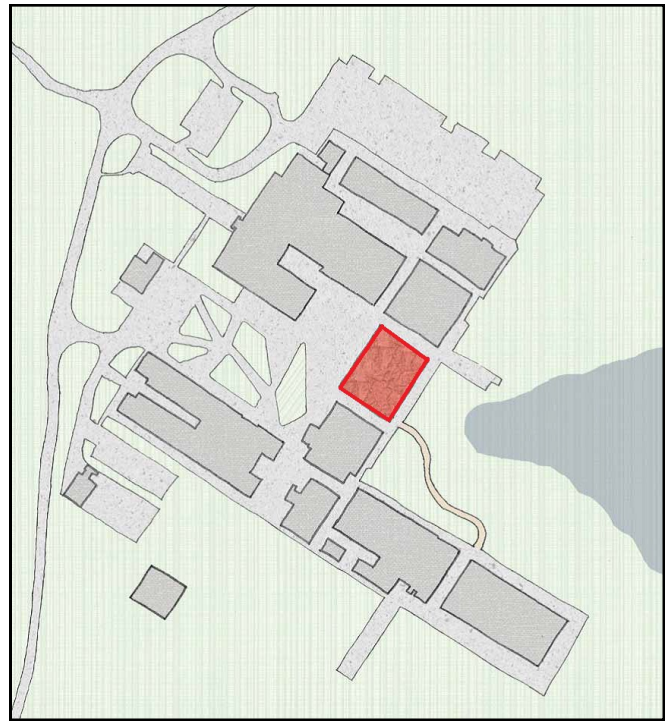
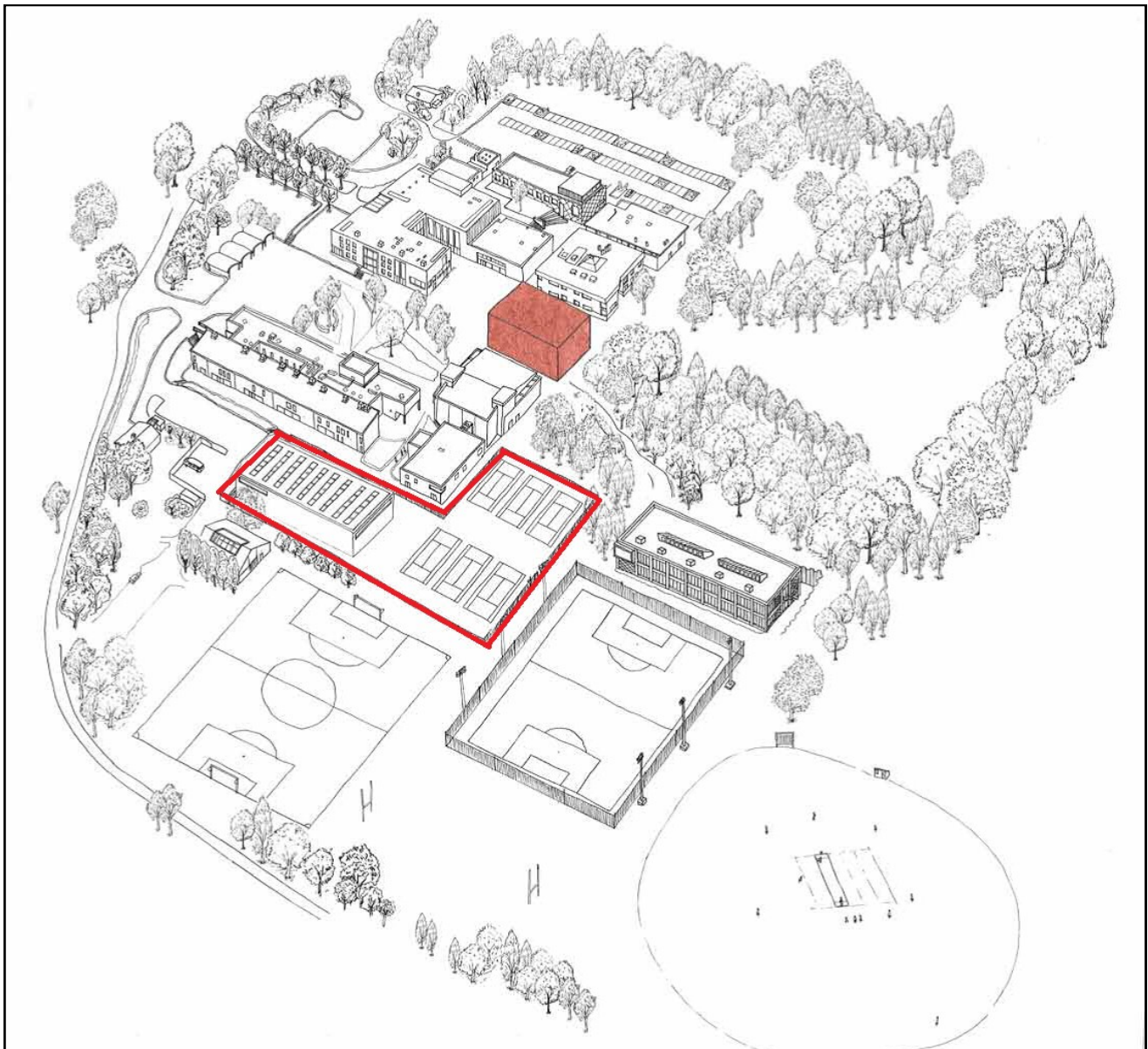


Diagram 2—Teaching Building new position



Artists impression (red outline) of the location of the new proposed Sports facility (no timescale)





ALICE GOFF – CLASS OF 1934



Thanks to News Editor, Russ Lawrence for permission to reproduce this lovely article about Old Owenian, Alice Goff, courtesy of Barnet Press, with the headline, ***“Dressmaker turns 100 with card from the Queen”***. It appeared on Wednesday, 30 March 2016, written by Clare Casey in Local People. Mrs Goff is in the photo with deputy mayoress Alison Cornelius (right) and daughter Pam Metson.

“A WELL travelled woman who “loved life and lived it to the full” celebrated her 100th birthday with champagne and cake surrounded by her friends and family. Alice Goff marked the

milestone birthday today (Wednesday March 30) with a party at the Hadley Lawns Care Home, Kitts End Road, where she became resident following a stroke three years’ ago.

Her daughter Pam Metson described Alice as a “wonderful woman who loved life”. She said: “Mum loved seeing different places and different sights. Well into her eighties she used to come on cruises with me, she’s been to Mexico, Russia, Venezuela, all over Europe and had Christmas in the Caribbean. “She and my dad had a great deal of fun.” Alice was an only child and a “bright girl” who won a scholarship to Owen School – now Dame Alice Owen’s School, Potters Bar. But at the age of 15, money was tight, and she left to begin an apprenticeship as a French dressmaker. She was an incredible dressmaker and knitter, according to her daughter, who remembers being kitted out in beautiful clothes her mum had made.

Pam said: “Mum was an amazing dressmaker, she didn’t need a pattern. I would draw her a picture of what I wanted and she would make it.” During the war Alice, who lived with her parents in Ironmonger Row, Finsbury, worked for the Royal Mail before leaving to have Pam in 1944. When Pam started secondary school Alice got a job as an executive officer working for BT until she retired aged 68. Alice and her husband, Thomas - who died four years’ ago, aged 97 – moved from Islington to Green Lanes Palmers Green in 1973. They were staunch Arsenal fans and used to love watching the matches.

Pam, of South Mimms, who visits her mother every day, said her mum was delighted with her card from the Queen and one from the department of work and pensions.”



ORLANDO GIBBONS – CLASS OF 2010

Thanks to Orlando (former Head Boy) for getting in touch. After completing his degree at Cambridge, he’s now working for the global company Arup <http://www.arup.com/> in structural engineering. We’re hoping he can return to us for a Careers Talk in 2017 to inspire students in this vital field! He says, ***“Best wishes to everyone at Owen’s!”***



JENNY WELCH – CLASS OF 2010

Thanks to Jenny (former Head Girl) for getting in touch – wishing her good luck with her Postgraduate studies – she’s undertaking a Masters in Global Governance and Ethics at University College London this September!



JOHN PIZZEY – CLASS OF 1974

Thanks to John for getting in touch about our Careers Talks Week in March. He kindly offered to speak but we were already oversubscribed! Originally from our Owen’s Boys’ School at the Angel, he’s now a Senior Lecturer at King’s College London and says that while he’s a Neuroscientist, he’s also admissions tutor for Neuroscience as well as an interviewer for the medical and dental programmes. We hope he might be available at another time!



LARRY WRIGHT – CLASS OF 1981

Thanks to Larry for getting in contact about our Careers Talks Week in March. He lives in Calgary, Alberta, Canada so is sadly unable to attend our UK events. He did tell us that he's been fortunate that even with a learning disability, which was not identified until he became a student at OWEN's, he's been able to make a successful career in mechanical engineering and design drafting. He currently manages an engineering team and leads oil resource development projects worth in excess of \$1 Billion dollars!

We wish him all the best from across the water!



JESSICA LAMB – CLASS OF 1996

Thanks to Jess for getting in contact about our Careers Talks Week in March. As we were oversubscribed, she's kindly shared her career moves - she works in the medical device industry, having previously worked in pharmaceutical and inkjet research. She moved roles in February and is now working as a consultant in medical devices. We wish her much success!



CHRIS RILEY – CLASS OF 1971

Thanks to Chris for getting in touch about our Careers Talks in March. As we were oversubscribed, he kindly agreed to share his career details with us. Based at our Owen's Boys' School in Islington, (Colebrook House and twice awarded the E.T. Bangert Prize for Modern Languages), he left in 1971 and undertook a 1-3-1 sandwich course with GEC Power Engineering, studying at UCL to obtain a 2:1 in electrical engineering. He became a Development Engineer and Research Technologist with GEC, working on large generators and electromagnetic design software. He then worked for Compeda, a Computer Aided Design company, in collaboration with Rutherford Appleton Laboratory and lectured in electrical engineering at University of Liverpool. In 1986, he joined Vector Fields Ltd. (a spin out company from Rutherford Appleton Lab) and he spent 3 years (1992 – 1995) as Vice President managing their USA subsidiary office near Chicago.

Returning to the UK as a Director of Vector Fields, he has remained with the company since. Vector Fields was acquired by Cobham plc (a 12,000 strong UK based multinational in defence, communications, aerospace and technology) and Chris is Engineering Manager for the Opera software group. He's also published about 65 technical papers, presented at conferences (most recently at the 2015 Indian Particle Accelerator Conference in Mumbai) and is a Fellow of the Institution of Engineering and Technology. Even though he's now approaching retirement, he is still involved in advanced technology and science on a day to day basis in areas such as MRI magnets, particle accelerators (like the Large Hadron Collider at CERN), wind power generation, electric vehicles and magnetic signatures.



DR DAN JONES—CLASS OF 2001

Thanks to Dan for getting in touch about our Careers Week – we hope he might be able to attend next year. He studied a BSc and PhD in Chemistry at Warwick, then worked in research and software development for high performance computing resources at The University of Oxford and the Numerical Algorithms Group. He recently joined the Ministry of Justice as Operational Researcher in the Forecasting and Model Development Unit – he works in a team of economists, statisticians and other operational researchers who model the Criminal Justice System and forecast demand in offender management and the prison population.



KEITH GODFREY - CLASS OF 1959

Thanks to Keith for getting in touch about our Careers Talks. As we were oversubscribed, he's very kindly given us a brief career history to share with our alumni instead. He worked as a Hospital Porter at the London Chest Hospital Bethnal Green, then became a flying instructor and flew race horses around Europe in a freighter. He then joined British Airways and flew with them for 28 years! He now teaches instructors and soft interpersonal skills to junior pilots, working for one of the largest airline pilot training schools in the world. In addition, he occasionally does radio broadcasts about his fear of flying book and website, <http://www.flyingwithoutfear.com/>. We wish him all the very best!



VALERIE CROSS – CLASS OF 1955

Thanks so much to Ms Cross for sending us her memories of one of her teachers, Miss Lowe – a surprisingly good cricketer who reached her 100th Birthday in November! Great research by Mrs Cross and a lovely article!

"In the summer of 1952 when our form L IV S would become U IV S (they were forms in those days, not classes) we knew we would have a teacher who was new to the school, who would become our form mistress. We wondered what she would be like, all we knew about her was her name and that she had played cricket for England and that she had been a member of the successful team to tour Australia and New Zealand in 1948/9.

We need not have worried about whether we would like her, she was firm, fair and fun and made our form of fourteen year olds a team. Not her team but our team; that we were pleased to belong to; this feeling has stayed with us even sixty plus years on, that connection is still there. At the 2015 Harold Moore Luncheon five members of that form attended and were able to share news of others who are spread around the world.

Miss Lowe taught us to play cricket, few girls schools played at that time, but it did not prevent us from enjoying the game. On a school camping trip to Jersey in the summer of 1955, Miss Lowe arranged a match on the beach against a local scout troop. We had been in Jersey for a few days and some of us were suffering from too much sun. Sylvia Wilson, feeling very poorly with sunstroke, went to Miss Lowe to say she would not be able to bowl as she felt so ill, to which Miss Lowe replied that Sylvia would bowl and that we would trounce them! We played, we won and some of us spent the next day in bed recovering from sunstroke.

We were a lively class and perhaps not the best behaved, but whatever mischief we got up to, we were in it together. One of the pranks we played on each other took place on Wednesday lunch times. During the winter term we had our games lessons on Wednesday afternoons in Regents Park. We had a geography lesson tacked on to the end of the morning timetable, then had our lunch and immediately afterwards we would collect our bags and coats, etc. to go to play hockey. The cloakroom was in a hut close to the school entrance and as it was so near Owen's Row was kept locked, only opened by a teacher or prefect to enable us to get our belongings.

The first half of the hut was the washroom with a double row of hand basins down the middle and on either side a row of six toilet cubicles. The 'lark' was to dash into the first cubicle, take off the toilet roll and toss it over the wall to land on the head of the girl next door. When the girl in cubicle six got the roll she returned it to cubicle one. On a certain Wednesday nobody used cubicle five as the lock on the door was broken, The roll had been tossed over and landed in the lavatory pan and stuck! Girl six thought we were not playing the game that day.

Next morning we knew we were in trouble. Miss Ward (the Headmistress) came to our room to let us know what she thought of our behaviour and expected whoever was responsible to own up by the end of the day. Nobody owned up, we were all in this together.

Next day Miss Lowe spoke seriously to us, she reminded us what an unpleasant task we had given Mr. Stansfield, (the caretaker) but she appreciated that we had not tried to put the blame on any particular person. The whole class was given detention and letters of apology were written to Mr. Stansfield. I think we all felt that Miss Lowe had understood that this was a prank that had gone wrong.

In September 2015 I was attending a Heritage Day Celebration at my grandsons' cricket club. The theme of the 2015 exhibition was "Let's Hear it for the Girls". Imagine my surprise when I saw a photograph of Miss Lowe on the display board. I have borrowed books from the club to give me more insight into Miss Lowe's cricketing career.



THE 17 MEMBERS OF THE 1949 ENGLAND WOMEN'S TOURING TEAM ON BOARD THE S.S. "ORION" AT TILBURY BEFORE SAILING
Back row, from l. to r.: M. Duggan, N. Joy, D. McEvoy, C. Robinson, A. Brown, E. Whelan, M. Lowe, B. Wood,
J. Birch, M. Johnson, J. Wilkinson, H. Sanders. Sitting: M. MacLagan, M. Hide (Captain), N. Rheinberg (Manager),
E. Snowball, G. Morgan.

Miss Lowe was a member of the successful England team that toured Australia and New Zealand in the 1948/49 tour, she was given six months leave of absence from the school where she worked. She played in four test matches and was renowned for her bowling. She bowled right hand and legbreaks.

Miss Lowe (born 17 November 1915) played four test matches for England in 1949, making her debut against Australia at Adelaide in January 1949. She played her last test in the same tour, against New Zealand, at Auckland in March of the same year. She scored a total of 77 runs, with the highest score of 25 and took 4 wickets, with a best of 3 for 34. She also played for Leicestershire Women, Middlesex Women, Midlands and South Women among others. She turned 100 in November 2015.



Ex-England bowler Megan Lowe celebrates 100th birthday

17 November 2015.

Former England cricketer Megan Lowe celebrated her century this week with a visit from a budding Kent and England star.

The retired teacher marked her 100th birthday with a card from The Queen and gifts including a signed England cricket shirt and Kent bat, presented by Kent and England Under-19 bowler Megan Belt.

Ms Lowe, who has lived in Canterbury for more than 60 years, played for Kent and Middlesex as well as representing England either side of the Second World War.

I had got this far in learning about Miss Lowe's cricketing career, when I decided to research further on line. Kent County Cricket Club had celebrated Miss Lowe's 99th and 100th birthdays and it had made the local newspaper. Miss Lowe commented on the differences in Womens Cricket today and how it was when she was playing.

Then the women had to buy their own kit and there were strict rules about the length of their shorts: not more than four inches (10 cms) above the ground when you were kneeling down! Miss Lowe was amazed at the amount of training there is today, particularly the strength and fitness work."



MIKE GOODGE—CLASS OF 1961



Thanks to Mike for getting in touch! After his contribution to our Newsletter in June last year, he's told us he enjoyed meeting an old Owen's classmate, Alan Morley, who he'd not seen in 55 years when he visited London (from Laos) in October 2015 to take his daughter to start her studies at the London College of Fashion! He also met Peter Caton, another classmate and his wife, briefly in Reading Station - who he'd also met 2 years earlier! It's great to know Old Owenians are still reconnecting after many years and despite distances involved! Thanks too for this lovely e-card!



FRED MUNDAY - CLASS OF 1963

Thanks to Mr Munday for sharing his wonderful memories of rowing days at Owen's in the early 1960's. He was inspired by a contribution in our June 2015 Newsletter!

"When I finally got around to reviewing the June 2015 Old Owens Newsletter, I was delighted to see Roy Chenery's picture of activity on the pontoon at the Horseferry Rowing Club at Kew Bridge. The boat club moved to Horseferry RC in 1953 but Roy's picture was taken in 1963. I was Captain of Boats in 1962 and 1963, not terribly auspicious boating years but ones that had a long lasting effect on my life.

I rowed alongside fellows such as Stan Merritt (who managed to hide in the sixth form for 5 years before being tossed out), Richard Smiley, Johnie Cox, Terry Mann and others whose names have been lost to my mind. I was never strong academically. However, I later got my Ph.D at Southern Methodist University in Dallas, Texas, then taught at the University of Montana and conducted archaeological research in the Middle East and Plains of the US.

I continued to row into my sixties, most recently competitively for the River City Rowing Club in Sacramento, California. I can add a few names to Roy's photograph (see again below!). The group in the left middle background carrying a four was, in fact, the Myddleton House Senior 4 that competed against Hermitage, Cloudesley and Colebrooke Houses in the annual school regatta in 1963.



From left to right, they are Richard Cawthorne (bow), Fred Munday (#3), Richard Wellar (#2) and Eric Le Seuer (Stroke). Our cox was David Prebble who is leading the stern of the boat and can be seen facing right between two other lower class boys.

Our boathouse was the shingle clad building to the left. We had two clinker eights, a fine shell eight, several 4's and a couple of sculls. The shell arrived in 1959, having been used by Harvard University with some success at Henley Royal Regatta the year before. We were well coached by George Strong, a history master who I believe had rowed for one of the Cambridge colleges. The gentleman in the waders was the boatman for Horseferry RC; his name escapes me. He was typically grouchy but in top form when he repeatedly discovered Owens' boys stealing chocolate covered wafers from a large tin under the boathouse kitchen counter!

See also below the Myddleton House Senior 4!



If we weren't in a hurry to get home, some of us would saunter over to the nearby Express Tavern, boaters on the tilt, to eat liverwurst and sliced onion sandwiches washed down by shandy and ale.

The boathouse is gone now and I think Horseferry RC consolidated with Quintin RC closer to Putney. Despite having written thousands of "Omnes leges ludi semper, observandi sunt" as punishment issued by many a prefect, the memories of Owen's are still strong. The grace of the shell over water is as vivid for me now as it was then."



PETER AINSLEY – CLASS OF 1952

Thanks to Peter for getting in touch about our Careers Talks in March – he wishes us all the best! Peter read Physics at St Catherine's, Oxford, after leaving Owen's, then qualified as a navigator in the RAF during National Service. After working as a development physicist in industry for four years, he changed over to management problem-solving in industry for the rest of his main career. He ended his working life by teaching Business Management and Strategy at Surrey University for ten years, until 2010 and in 2014 published an article in 2014 on Kindle called Strategic Planning: Pathways and Pitfalls. He is additionally grateful to the school for enabling him to meet his future wife (then at Dame Alice Owens School – a separate girls' school), and introducing him to rowing, which became a lifetime's activity.



MAUREEN NEWMAN (NEE BENCH) - CLASS OF 1954

Thanks to Mrs Newman for getting in touch. She wanted to let us know that her husband, John Newman (Old Owenian, Class of 1953) sadly passed away on 11 May 2015.

She told us, "John and I met at the time Owen's girls were invited to take part in the school play and the Sixth Formers met for dance classes. John was also among a few Sixth Form students to join the girls for biology lessons, while the Sixth Form girls joined the boys for chemistry and physics. (This would sometimes cause embarrassment if the girls were playing netball in the school playground at the time, in the days when white school blouse and navy blue knickers were our PE kit!)."

I believe John probably started at Owen's in 1946 and left in 1953. During his time at Owen's he was captain of football, and in fact appeared in some photographs in the June 2015 newsletter. On leaving school John did National Service in the Royal Air Force where he was commissioned. His career was largely in banking and involved much travel, particularly to the States"

Mrs Newman is thinking of writing her own story for a future newsletter.



PATRICK AND RACHEL ELWOOD (CLASS OF 2012 AND 2014 RESPECTIVELY)



We'd like to extend our congratulations to Old Owenians, brother and sister, Patrick and Rachel Elwood, who were both selected for the reserve Cambridge Boat Race crews in the Cancer Research UK Boat Races, held on Sunday 27th March.

Patrick raced in Goldie, and Rachel in Blondie. The training was a huge commitment on top of their studies, taking up 6-7 hours a day 6 days a week.



PETER MOUTOUSSIS - CLASS OF 2014

One of the highlights of our December 2015 Orchestral Concert was a performance by the Senior Strings, with music composed by Old Owenian Peter Moutoussis. He's currently studying the French horn and composition at the Royal Academy. "Nuances" was commissioned for the Young Grittleton Course when Peter won the ESTA Young Composer's Competition in February 2015. In the interval, he said he was very proud to hear his own music performed. Peter then performed himself in the Symphony Orchestra on the French horn, joining in with the festive spirit! Congratulations and thanks to our former student!



TERENCE MARDER—CLASS OF CIRCA 1962



Thanks to Mr & Mrs Marder for getting in touch. They'd love to get in contact with an old alumni friend, Mr Steve Clifford, (from the same year as Mr Marder) as he gave them a painting whilst at School (left), which they still have after 46 years! If anyone has any contact details, they'd be very grateful if you could forward their email to Mr Clifford for him to get in contact: jackie@marder.co.uk. Many thanks!



HANNA HEWITT - CLASS OF 2014

"I am a second year history student at the University of Bristol and am looking for legal experience to help strengthen my CV when applying for Vacation Schemes and Training Contracts in 2017. Any insight into the legal world, whether in the form of a mentor (who could give me feedback on applications and advice about career progression) or hands on experience will be invaluable.

If you or anyone you know would be willing to support me please get in contact: hannahewitt@btinternet.com. You can also see my profile on LinkedIn at: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/hannahewitt>"



RUSSELL FELL – CLASS OF 1963

Thanks to Mr Russell Fell for sending his schoolboy stories to recount here and memories of a special teacher, Mr James. He attended our Old Owenians Coffee and Tour Morning with wife on Saturday 23rd April so he could visit us for the first time here in Potters Bar. As an Islington Old Owenian, the highlight for him was, *“listening to and sharing memories and experiences of our time at Owen's”*.

“I remember I was about eight years old when I first became aware of Owens. It was when a boy I knew from down the road in Church Street, Stoke Newington, joined the school. I decided that was the school I wanted to go to. Whether it was the name or the uniform, I don't remember, but all I know is that my heart was set on going to Owens. Luckily, that dream came true.

Looking back there are things I would criticise. Nevertheless, it was an excellent school in its day and I have always felt proud to have been a pupil at the school. Coming from what then would have been described as a poor working-class home, the school gave us a wonderful opportunity to develop.

I was one of five boys from my primary school, William Patten, who applied for Owens. Three were accepted more or less straight away and one was rejected. I had to wait some time before I heard that I had been accepted. I guessed that I had been on the borderline, as it were. I had been interviewed by the headmaster, Mr Burrough, and by Mr James, a Welshman, whom we later found out, was known as 'Jumbo'. I remember Mr James had asked me to spell 'electricity', and I think I got into an awful muddle. As a result I often wondered whether that was part of the reason why they had their doubts about me.

Anyway, in my second year at Owens I had Mr James for Geography and Latin. One Friday afternoon, last period of the day, which I think was geography, Mr James started talking about death. I remember thinking at the time that it was an odd subject to bring up in class. When we came to school on the following Monday, we were all shocked to hear that Mr James had died of a heart attack on the Friday evening.

Even after almost 60 years I can still picture that Friday afternoon as if it were yesterday. The classroom was the middle one along the cloister, and it was the form room of Mr Strong, one of the history teachers. The other two form rooms belonged to Mr Fellows and Mr Sparrow, both English teachers. These three classrooms were underneath the Assembly hall. Although I was sitting near the back, I felt I was in direct line of his vision. He spoke to us sitting at the desk which was on a low dais and I can still hear the music that was his voice. I'm not sure if Bill (Hamilton-Hinds) was in my form that year, but if he was he would have memories of that occasion. Perhaps others will have memories of that day and of Mr James.

After we learnt about his death, we were told that he had gone to a dinner function with his wife on the Friday evening. Apparently, he had complained of chest pains during the meal, which he thought was heartburn, and had decided to come home without his wife. When she got home later that evening, she found him lying dead. He was a great loss to the school.

This happened shortly before the summer term exams. In those exams, as it turned out, I won the year prize for both Latin and Geography. How I wished he had been alive to witness that! He would never know that I had vindicated their decision.

I thought he was an excellent teacher, and I shall always have fond memories of him. Like many of the masters he had a nickname; his was 'Jumbo'. Mr James was a Welshman, and he had retained, what to me, was a beautiful Welsh accent and intonation. He always spoke very deliberately with no syllable lost, and I can picture him preaching at the little Welsh chapel at the bottom of Pentonville Road. The chapel is still there, but it's long been the home of another Christian group. Ten years after his death I married a Welsh girl, and next year we shall hopefully be celebrating our golden wedding anniversary. Both our sons and their children have Welsh names.

Mr James had been 57 when he died, and for some strange reason I had it in my head I would die at that age too; I cannot tell how relieved I was to reach the age of 58. It was something that was hanging over me for so many years. Now I am almost 72 and on Sunday I shall be running in the Reading Half-marathon.

My life, though, could easily have ended when I was eighteen, just weeks before my A-Level exams. I was walking home one evening when out of the blue I was attacked by a knife wielding gang. Unlike Stephen Lawrence, I survived, physically, but in other ways it's something you never quite get over.”

Mr Fell hopes to visit us again to photograph the buses leaving Owens in the afternoon. He tells us, *"Photographing London's buses has been one of my hobbies for over 40 years, and some of my black and white photos can be seen on my son's website 'The Transport Library' <http://thetransportlibrary.co.uk/> which was launched in 2012 and are now one of the UK's leading sellers of Transport collectables on Ebay. In addition, I organise vintage bus running days for the Amersham & District Motorbus Society <http://amershammotorbussociety.co.uk/>."* We look forward to welcoming him here on a future occasion!



SYLVIA GAMBIN, NEE GODFREY – CLASS OF 1964

Thanks to Sylvia for getting in touch! She was recently looking through some old photos and came across this very battered one from when she was in the Lower VIth (aka Year 12) at Owens in Islington, around 1961. Here's her story about it and request for information!

"We had been given a room as our common room in the house in St John's Street which housed the Head's Office, Secretary etc. We were given permission to decorate it ourselves and the group of us in the photo below turned up armed with our paint brushes & our Dad's old shirts to protect us from the splashes, to spruce it all up.



In this picture from L to R, the two girls at the back are Lesley White & Sheila Gore (who joined us in the 6th form from another school). The four across the centre are Linda Mercer, Janet Spiller, Maureen Seadon and Angela Smith and the front two are myself and Linda Boydon.

It was great fun and, if I do say so myself, it looked pretty good when we finished it. All of us in the Lower VI th then brought in mugs, a kettle, coffee etc plus, most important of all, a record player to use during break and lunchtime. We used to listen to Buddy Holly, Paul Anka and the hilarious Tom Lehrer etc. Great times!

One of the girls had got into the supernatural and one afternoon after school she said we would have a séance. None of us took it very seriously but we went along just to see and she set up an Ouija board.

We all sat around and those who were close to the table rested their fingers on the glass. She started asking questions and, lo and behold, the glass started to move towards the letters round the edge. We all thought someone was pushing

it & just laughed about it. However, she asked that if anyone was there, to give us a sign, at which point we heard a clattering noise downstairs. Everyone was shocked into silence. Then we heard the sound of footsteps coming up the stairs and walking towards the door. By then we were all terrified. We saw the door handle start to move and slowly the door opened. Oh my goodness who or what could it be???

To everyone's relief, it was the cleaner who had heard the noise and came to check who it was. I think we all learned that it wasn't very wise to get involved with such things, just in case there was something in it after all!"

Sylvia knows the quality of the photo is not very good but wonders if any of our readers recognise or remember any of the ladies! As she's no longer in touch with any old school friends, she says it would be nice to catch up with them! Please email her at: clooneygambin@aol.co.uk! She also hopes to attend one of our future events.



ZOË RUSSELL-STRETTON – CLASS OF 1995

Thanks to Zoe for getting in touch with a brief outline of her career since leaving Owen's.

She tells us; "I'm (now) a television producer, working in production, development and casting for major terrestrial documentaries for BBC and Channel 4. I got a job in television the day after I graduated (due to plenty of work experience during school and university holidays), and have been working in the industry on and off for 16 years.

Part of my role is to generate fresh ideas for the screen, to develop them, and then secure commissions from broadcasters. I often conduct group brainstorming sessions and a typical day can be funny, gentle, macabre, moving, scandalous or shocking - with a couple of celebrity encounters!

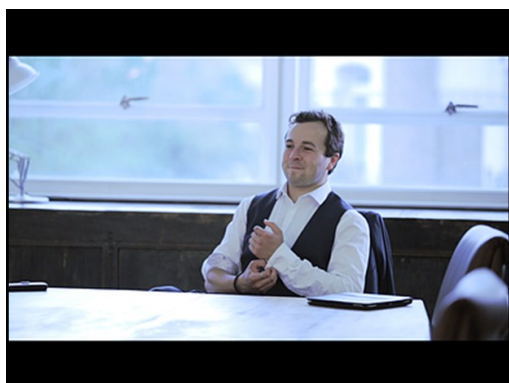
To give you a flavour of some of the things I did in my career just last year; sailed around the Mediterranean on various yachts with billionaires, interviewed a thief, climbed (and fell down) a sheer Arctic rock face to reach a retreating glacier, spent three months filming in a brothel, flew in a private jet, walked people's dogs, mopped up people's tears, worked 20 weekends, and spent a painful three months unpaid due to influenza. Sometimes my job is wonderful and I have to pinch myself, but it's not always great!

A lot of the projects I work on are single documentaries, but shows I've worked on that people may have heard of include Dragons' Den, Richard & Judy, Faking It, Shipwrecked, and The Hoarder Next Door. I'm currently (February 2016) working on The Secret Billionaire - which is a C4 special commemorating ten years since the first episode of The Secret Millionaire.

This summer, it will be 21 years since I left Owens - I left after GCSEs in 1995. I did my A Levels in central London, closer to my home at the time, before going to the University of Manchester to study a degree unrelated to my career." We hope Zoe will be available to share her experiences for one of our Careers Talks next year!



DANIEL GARBER – CLASS OF 2010



Thanks to Daniel Garber for updating us on his latest project!

He's recently finished writing and directing a short series (with music composed by his brother Todd, also an alumnus). The series is online at www.winwardgroup.co.uk/1life (image from Episode 1 below) and follows the story of 4 university friends who find themselves with a social media empire and how they deal with the power. He heard in mid May that 1life has been chosen as an official selection for Sicily Web Fest this August and wish him and his brother congratulations and good luck!



DAVID HUNT – CLASS OF 1961

Thanks to David for getting in contact about our Careers Talks in March. He's had a very distinguished career and we're sorry we couldn't accommodate him – just to give you a flavour, he's been given two lifetime achievement awards: in 2002 the Duke of Edinburgh presented him with the Everybody Counts (first ever) Lifetime Achievement Award for over 40 years community and charity work. In 2014 Sir David Tweedie (former President of the International Federation of Accountants) presented him with the Institute of Financial Accountants Lifetime Achievement Award for services to the worldwide accountancy profession. We hope he might visit us at sometime in the future.



MICHAEL BRAY—CLASS OF 1966

Thanks to Mike for getting in touch with an update on his career since leaving Owen's.

"Mike received his BSc in Zoology from the University of Southampton in the UK in 1969 and, following periods of research at the Royal Veterinary College, London and for the Wellcome Trust in Ethiopia he completed his PhD in Pharmacology at the University of London. He spent a number of years in the UK conducting basic research in the field of immunopharmacology in relation to chronic inflammatory diseases such as Asthma and Arthritis. This work resulted in numerous publications including four papers in the prestigious Science journal Nature. In 1981 he moved to Ciba-Geigy in Basel, Switzerland and, in 1991, he eventually became the Indication Area Head for the Asthma/ Allergy Research Department.

Following the formation of Novartis Mike took up a new function as the Global Therapeutic Area Head for Respiratory and Bone Diseases within Novartis Pharma Project Management. In this role he directed the group responsible for heading the development teams charged with bringing all Novartis projects to the market within these two therapeutic areas.

Mike left Novartis in 1999 and has since worked as an independent consultant to the Pharmaceutical Industry (Bray Pharma Consulting). His main area of activity is with Venture Capital companies conducting due diligence exercises and providing project management support for the development of products funded by them from the laboratory to the marketplace. In addition he acts as an advisor to several medium sized Pharma Companies and NGO's including the DNDi (Drugs for Neglected Diseases initiative) who are developing new drugs for neglected tropical diseases such as Sleeping Sickness.

Mike still lives in Basel, Switzerland, is married to Brigitte and has a daughter Geraldine who is currently working as a Veterinary Surgeon in Lancashire."



PETER SMITH – CLASS OF (AROUND) 1952

Thanks to Mr John Weston for sending in this tribute to Peter Smith who joined Owen's when it returned to Islington from Bedford after WW2 in 1946. He told us that at the time of Peter's death on 25th January 2016, Peter was living in France and was in his mid-eighties. Before the war he lived in Middleton Square – a very short distance from the previous location of the school at the Angel. At some stage he was evacuated to Bedford but was educated at one of the schools domiciled in Bedford.

"Peter, after completing his studies at Owen's in the fifth form, joined Marconi's and became an electrical engineer. His specialism was the installation and supervision of installations of radar systems throughout NATO so he and his family spent most of their lives outside the UK. Peter was never a great linguist but somehow managed to communicate in pigeon English in every country in which he worked. Fortunately most technical language is English! His wife Maggie and his four children spoke and speak, at least four languages fluently!

He was a great motor enthusiast: loved driving, rallying and attending formula one races. Said he could, without seeing the car, tell by the sound of the car what car it was and who was driving it. Whilst he was physically active he would attend Le Mans to help service and repair the cars being driven there.

His home in France was in a coastal area and his radar expertise gave him many opportunities to help yachtsmen and sailors which lead to a number of interesting bartering situations.

My friendship with Peter was long standing. We met in Bedford about 1943 and were playmates spending many hours swimming in the Ouse and cycling. We both joined the YMCA and undertook some lengthy cycle trips and stayed at youth hostels throughout the south of England. He was my 'best man' and I was his at our respective weddings.

He was larger than life and rather conspicuous in his braces and flashy trousers.

He is survived by Maggie, his wife and his four children, Kevin Gavin, Eldrydd and Eiriann."



NATHAN HAYES—CLASS OF 2008

Thanks to Nathan for getting in touch – he told us, *“After my BSc I completed a MSc at UCL and Yale University. I then worked at Yale for a year as a research associate (in a lab studying substance abuse and its’ effects on parenting), and am now working for the Medical Research Council (in collaboration with UCL, Birkbeck College and the NHS) on a Gates Foundation funded study on infant brain and behavioural development, in Cambridge and in The Gambia, Africa.”* We hope he can join us next year for our Careers Talks.



ROSSA O’KEEFFE-O’DONOVAN – CLASS OF 2007

Thanks to former Head Boy, Rossa, for getting in touch about our Careers Week. He now lives in the USA so apologizes that he couldn’t come in but would love to if/when he moves back to the UK! He sends a tip for students when considering a career: *“I wanted to share an organization that might be useful for some of your students. It is called 80,000 Hours, and they give great advice about how to do good with your career. Quite a bit of the material is written for university students, but I think it would still be very useful for students thinking about which subjects to apply for at university, and which career options might be interesting for them down the line. Please see this weblink: <https://80000hours.org/>.”*



LES GIBBINGS –CLASS OF 1971

Thanks to our longest serving contributor, Les, who follows up his last article with Part Two: Form Teachers and School Reports – another great contribution and with a promise of another article in December #theowensway!

“In the last newsletter I said that I would pick up the theme of the ‘guiding-hand’ of the Form Teachers that I had encountered in the latter years at Owen’s as things moved on for me through to the outcome of the GCE processes at both the Ordinary and Advanced level examinations in 1969/71.

The end of term report that heralded my O level performance in July 1969 did at least have some positive statements from subject teachers. The English master John Sparrow commented that ‘Always good effort made’ by me and SB said of my performance in History that ‘He had a good grasp of most of the material and a clear style’. Reading the report now, whilst it seems largely positive in tone there was a strong whiff of the odour of potential failure unless I applied myself a little more to the job in hand.

Overall, Mike Smith my Fifth Year Form Master declared the view that ‘Since the trial exam, he has adopted a more mature attitude towards his work’ but added (unnecessarily pessimistically I thought) that ‘I hope he has not left it too late’. Even Mr Jones the Headmaster joined in with words of encouragement by admitting ‘Yes. There has been a commendable recent effort’.

But I muddled through and did well enough in the O Levels to get into the Lower Six Form and so onto Advanced Level GCEs with Mr PJ Taylor as my Form Master.

I have described Mr Taylor in a previous newsletter and in particular his rather quirky mannerisms that were reminiscent of an over-wound robotic figure. He had what might be described as a ‘no-nonsense attitude’ that seemed to say ‘I know how you boys operate but I am not to be trifled with’. He taught economics and some British Constitution (probably now better known as ‘Politics’).

It always seemed that his clothes fitted very snugly and he favoured a woollen waistcoat beneath a jacket that might best be described as a ‘bum freezer’ as the rear flap sat just above the backside as he hurtled along to lessons. For that’s what he did, hurtle. Whenever I see him in my mind’s eye, going to a classroom in ‘The Old Clown’ on the other side of the quad, it brings a warm smile of nostalgia.

The sequence went something like this. Boys would be crossing the quad for their next lesson, often strung out across the tarmac in dribs-and-drabs, when without a hint or warning, the swing doors in the main entrance would burst open and with the speed of what would have surely rivalled an exocet missile, appeared a blur that came finally came into focus as Mr Taylor. His speed of movement was so rapid it was hard to see how he moved rather than floated at high speed.

He would pass the boys in the fast lane and be into 'The Clown' and starting the lesson as the pupils he had overtaken arrived, many of whom presumably having benefited from the pulling power of the wake he had created in the air as he had passed them at breakneck speed. Unforgettable. I could add that Mr Taylor had the most execrable handwriting imaginable. Probably as result of him doing everything at incredible high speed. Some pupils didn't mind this as it often required them to translate what had been written on reports to parents or anyone who might be interested which meant it could be adapted to their advantage with no one being any the wiser!

I believe that Mr Taylor always tried to be as fair to me as he could but I was having a difficult time in the period he was my Form Master. In the first Sixth Form Report of March 1970, he said 'bearing in mind the difficulties he is experiencing this year ... this is quite a fair report'.

One nice thing that I had forgotten but noticed nestled low down in the report was the comment made by the Games Master, Peter Salisbury who wrote: 'potentially an excellent footballer. Came late into the school 1st XI and performed very creditably'. Of course the key word was 'potentially' and it covered or hid a multitude of sins – we all have some level of potential. But I'll take that even though I presume that word as a preface was dispensed with in the case of others like Richard Bradford or even Alan Droy, both stalwarts of the school 1st XI team at the time.

If I have any disappointment with Mr Salisbury's assessment of me it was that it never translated itself into being awarded even half colours, let alone full colours for football, when I thought a number of others who achieved such dizzy heights were less capable than me.

But I would think that wouldn't I, and at a distance of over forty years it's more than a little difficult to justify my views on that! As the reports move further into 1970 my performance was being described as 'disappointing', 'needs to work harder' and 'must learn the facts'. But this was July and just a few months after my mother had passed away. At least Mr Taylor liked me by describing me as 'this very affable lively fellow'.

But things remained difficult for me although by 1971 and with A levels looming I remember making it my business to spend time at home on most days when I could and working my way through essays and text books to 'raise my game' and do what Mr Taylor had exhorted me to do and 'prove me (him) wrong'. Unfortunately by the spring report despite the view that 'He has tried hard and listens well' this had not been an overwhelmingly accepted view by course teachers. It left my Form Master, P Taylor, declaring that he has got 'Almost exactly the same remarks as he achieved in last summers examinations'. He wasn't impressed and advised that 'If he is to improve on this a radical improvement will be witnessed before the end of term'

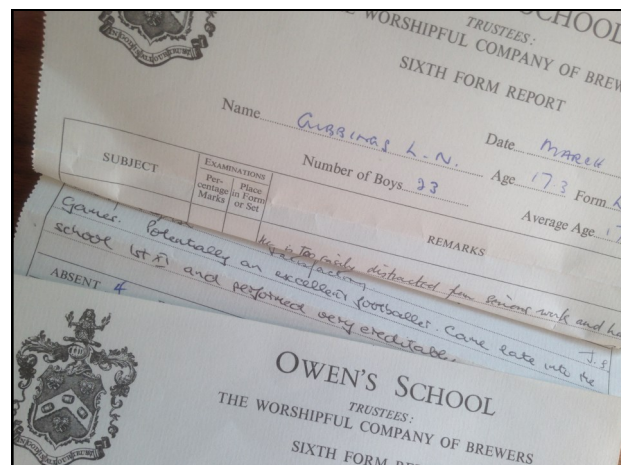
By the final report in July 1971 when the average age of sixth form students was 18.6 years, I was described as 'A very lively, sometimes provocative character' in respect of whom it was hoped that my 'private life, away from school was characterised by dedicated application to work'. The fact is, my efforts outside of school did produce some sort of positive return resulting in me achieving the three A levels I had studied for and at a level that set me up to commence and complete a degree in sociology (1975) and later an MA with distinction (1989) as well as a professional housing qualification in between.

There were as far as I can recall only two other students in the Sixth Form who completed the same three A levels as me at the time – namely Jeff Hulbert and Malcolm Osgood both of whom had travelled the same journey at Owen's through Form Teachers and subjects with me and both had passed their exams to move onto University. At the time that the results were issued Malcolm and I were working in the vicinity of the bottom of Muswell Hill early on Saturday evenings. I can't remember why or how we knew, but we believed that Mr Taylor, an accomplished amateur violinist, lived nearby and we found ourselves stalking along the local residential streets trying to 'guess' where he might be.

We both suspected that inside our Form Master's robotic exterior beat a heart that might be interested in how we had got on in our exams. In any case we knew that he had left Owen's at the end of the term and would not be returning, having accepted a post in Edinburgh. Gaffawing and sniggering as we drifted along the streets of well-kept lawns and excellent topiary we wondered where this escapade would lead us, when we heard the distinctively mellifluous sounds of a violin wafting across the road to us. Looking at one another we laughed raucously as we knew that it must be him. And we were right!!!

Before we had time to retrace our footsteps, he had clearly seen us, and opening his front door, invited us in. To his great credit, Mr Taylor kindly gave us tea and I think a few biscuits or cake and we left after having a general chat about our results and our futures. A nice and gentle denouement to our time in the Sixth Form at Owen's.

Next time Christmas seems the appropriate time to tell the love story published in a national newspaper about how an Owen's teacher and one of my form masters inherited wealth."





KEITH WILSON – CLASS OF 1966

Thank you to Mr Wilson for getting in contact! He has a request below about a former teacher – can anyone help? Please email him direct at: keithchriswilson@hotmail.com .

“When I joined Owens School in the summer of 1960 my first form master was Colin Williams. (2W). My primary school was in Victoria so I felt very far from home. I note in the last newsletter that it was mentioned that Colin Williams attended the 400th anniversary celebrations. I attended the school during the 350th anniversary. Can anybody tell me where Mr Williams is now and what he has been doing since 1960?!”



ALAN W LOCKE—1939-2016

Thanks to Marcus Kaye, who has kindly sent his obituary for Alan Locke.

“Hilary Locke sent me the sad news that Alan died in the early hours of 12th April 2016 just short of his 88th birthday. Unfortunately, his cancer by then had destroyed his immune system. He leaves his wife Hilary and family, who have suffered a heavy personal loss. Alan and I were classmates most of the time during the wartime; but we moved in different orbits, mine was football obsessed; he was more urbane. We both left in 1945 with Alice Owen Examinations; Alan to Slade School of Fine Art me to Guy’s Hospital.

Alan's inherent mastery of drawing was very obvious. He would occasionally use the time between one lesson and another to cover the blackboard with images to amuse us as a cathartic to the grim realities of the world outside. Disney characters were drawn with amazing accuracy and speed, but when approaching footsteps were heard they were erased before the door was opened by the next teacher.

At the Slade, Alan met Osbert and Edith Sitwell, Stanley Spenser and J B Haldane as well as many new Labour MP's. Only in 2013 did we correspond, Alan with his impeccable but deteriorating handwriting, as he had informed me. But to me, his sepia ink large bold handwriting on ruled paper was a work of Art and a throw back to our school days. I last met Alan at the OB (Old Bedford) Reunion in 2013, briefly since he was at the top table while I was slumming it with Prof Vivian Moses and Richard Wildman, Archivist of BMS.

I do not know very much about Alan’s career except that he was in advertising. What I do know is that had huge knowledge of everything Owenian and offered me his help with contacts. It must be mentioned that Alan made a huge contribution to the definitive “Well Remembered Fields” by Martin Mitchell and David Bernstein. Some of his sketches illuminate the wartime Bedford.

He also has many personal memories which are peppered in the book with his acerbic wit, which are very funny and still make you burst into laughter. Alan's death is a great loss to all our Bedford contemporaries and indeed the whole school, for his courage and generosity and good humour will be sadly missed. If the new generation of Owenians can match Alan, then it will gain success and easily celebrate a 500th centenary.”



RON TABOR – CLASS OF 1967

Thanks to Ron for getting in contact about our Careers Talks Week in March. He’s had a very interesting and varied career history, having gone from civil service to fine art shipping and customs brokerage dealing with Stradivari and Guarneri violins, from photographer of blues artists to distributor of high end hi-fi equipment! We hope in the future, he’ll be able share his experiences in more detail in this Newsletter!



ALEXANDER O'CONNELL – CLASS OF 2002

Thanks to Alexander for getting in touch about our Careers Talks Week in March. As he was working in California, he couldn't attend but would have really loved the opportunity to pass on anything which might help Owen's students in the future! He did however briefly outline his career to date which we can share with you. He recently started working in Design at Apple after *"a lot of jumping around in my career"*! He said, *"Design here is of course inextricably linked with Technology"*

He thinks it's important to *"trust your intuition and following your passion where appropriate"*. He continues, *"I appreciate how difficult it is to make the 'correct' decisions at such tender ages having taken several 'wrong' turns of my own. Albeit, I put those words in inverted commas since there really can be no such thing - diverse experiences can play a huge part in understanding yourself. I started my first business when I was 15, spent my gap year working at IBM, and had a work experience placement every summer while at university."*

We wish him all the best in the US and hope he can visit when he returns to the UK in the future!

Posting messages in our Old Owenians Newsletter works!

Many thanks to Brenda Baxter for letting us know she had a response to a request in our December 2015 Newsletter about "Owen's Goes Live". Two of our alumni (Judy Wojtowicz(Seaborne) and Anne Allen (née Jones)) got in contact and she's been able to reconnect with friends from the past! Wishing them a fun reunion!

Thanks too, to Peter Eldridge for letting us know that he found the copy of "The Arrow" he was looking for as, *"it had lodged in one of my hats in traditional Owen's style!"* He told us, *"The review of "Owen's Goes Live" (14 and 16 December 1967) appeared in the Lent 1967 issue of the magazine and read as follows:*

"On the 14th and 16th December the Boys and Girls Schools combined to present "Owen's Goes Live" - an amazing evening's entertainment. Unfortunately, the first production was marred by faulty microphones which resulted in missed cues and an overlong concert. However, the Friday performance was excellent.

The evening was opened by the Owen's Girl Dancers who flaunted themselves in mini-skirts, much to the delight of the male section of the audience (NB: please remember that this is 1967, just four years after 1963 and the Beatles' first elpee, and we were all wet behind the ears!!). The actual dancing was superb, particularly that of Christine Rolka - who also arranged their routine.

These were followed by the "4th Coalition" a five-man beat group. Considering they have only been playing for two months, this group was not at all bad, if a little loud.

The three girl singers - "The Ebony" - sang pleasantly but showed obvious signs of nerves.

The two folk singers - Andy Bennett and Howard Jacobs - were very well received. Their styles were completely different and they showed that there is more to folk singing than "protest" songs.

Traditional and Modern Jazz was also represented. Both groups played well and the piano of Geoff Castle was outstanding. The Modern Jazz included a poetry reading. This was a new departure for Owen's and I am sure that few other schools have been so adventurous.

Another group "Slade G" closed the show. The overall sound was good but again loud. This sort of thing is ideal for dancing but not really concert material.

The musical acts were interspersed with some very funny sketches, including some uproarious "adverts" and I think that the sight of John Collymore - in full African regalia, clutching a broken drumstick - will be remembered for years at Owen's.

The show was compered by Pete Berry and Al Newman. These two really held the show together and had the audience in fits of laughter with their hilarious ad-libs. I cannot praise these two highly enough and I am sure the audience would agree that they were the real stars of the concert.

The whole thing was capably produced by Malcolm Brown (who also played two fine trumpet solos) and supervised by Messrs. Spedding and McGregor .Owen's thanks these three and all who had anything to do with the concert for two very enjoyable evenings' entertainment."

He says, *"Unfortunately, the review was not accompanied by any photos. I think the girls danced to "Al Capone" by Prince Buster, a ska record which I can still hum mentally (as it were!) and I am sure that the review was written by Andy Bennett, one of the folk singers. Geoff Castle played on the first album by Ian Dury and the Blockheads, "New Boots and Panties". Hope this is of some interest. It certainly sent me time-travelling!"*

And finally...



Many Congratulations to Triathletes!

Old Owenian, Alice Roots, and Owen's Deputy Head, John Godfrey (retiring this summer), completed the Blenheim Triathlon on Saturday 4th June supported by friends and family. The weather gave perfect conditions – dry but not too hot! Their Mixed Sprint Wave started at 13.15, with a course that covered a 750m swim, 19km cycle and 5km run. Alice was competing for the second year running after travelling in New Zealand this year (see photo, right, from 2015) and John will have raised almost £1,000 for his charity, the Stroke Association. It's a huge achievement and culmination of training and endurance on the day. John said, *"..the swim was not as bad as I thought it would be. The grounds were a great place for the event and the whole experience was amazing..."*



Old Owenian helps launch Team GB kit!

Old Owenian/Old Queenswoodian, Jodie Williams (Class of 2012), was part of the GB team chosen to launch the

new Adidas kit designed by Stella McCartney earlier in May (right). Jodie is still European champion and holds the record for longest number of races without defeat – 151 races over 5 years! We're looking forward to Rio!



Duke of Edinburgh's Award at DAOS

This term, an amazing eight Year 13 students

have achieved their Gold Duke of Edinburgh's Award, with a further six due to complete in July! Since re-introducing the Scheme in 2014, our Sixth Formers have really challenged themselves, showing great commitment in volunteering, learning new skills, undertaking physical activities, teamwork on expeditions to wild country and often being out of their comfort zone on a residential course.

Gold Award holders attend a presentation at St James's Palace in London with the Duke of Edinburgh or Prince Edward to officially receive their award—the DofE hold about eight of these events per year. About 11,300 young people achieved their Gold Award April 2015-March 2016 out of around 300,000 who are enrolled in the Scheme overall. When you've got your Gold you can even help others with theirs—

Gemma Agnew (Class of 2015) was an assessor for one of our students' Residential courses!

We congratulate all those who've taken part and are still doing so! Alumni can continue to finish their activities even after they leave School and simply get back in contact with us to approve sections and sign off the Award. They have until they are 25 to complete it but we hope they won't wait that long! It remains the world's leading youth achievement award and many UK employers endorse skills and attributes such as resilience, commitment, self-motivation and team working that those with a DofE Award bring to the workplace.

Your editor supports the "Golds" with Miss A Lord, our DofE Co-ordinator, and I'm also doing my own DofE Diamond Challenge in the DofE's 60th Anniversary year to raise money to help transform young peoples lives - read about my 15km Rio swim here: <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/AmandaEnglishSwimRioDofEDiamondChallenge>.

Deadline for next Newsletter!

Our December edition will be published online near the end of the Autumn term—please send any contributions, articles, achievements or just news about what you've been doing to : englishm@damealiceowens.herts.sch.uk by **Friday 2nd December 2016**. Thanks very much as always for your enduring support!

Diary Dates for 2017!

Old Owenians Careers Talks Week at Dame Alice Owen's School: **Mon-Thurs 6-9th March**—our seventh year!

Old Owenians London Network Reception at Brewer's Hall: **Monday 8th May**—repeating our successful event of 2015!

Join Old Owenians In Touch at: <http://damealiceowens.web-intouch.com/>
See our tweets at (account not needed): <https://twitter.com/DAOSAlumni>

Wishing everyone a very positive summer!

Mrs Mandy English
Alumni Relations Manager