



Old Owenians Newsletter

Second Quarter—30th June 2011
Edition 2

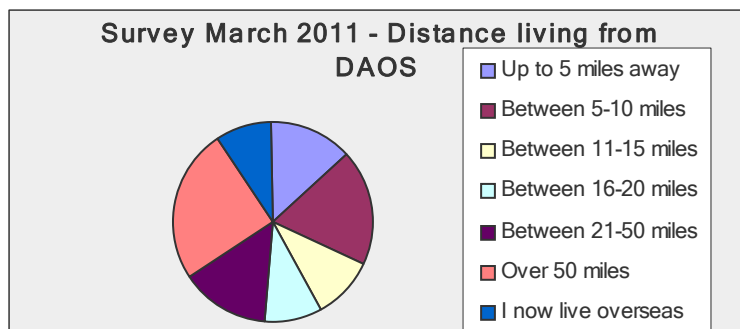
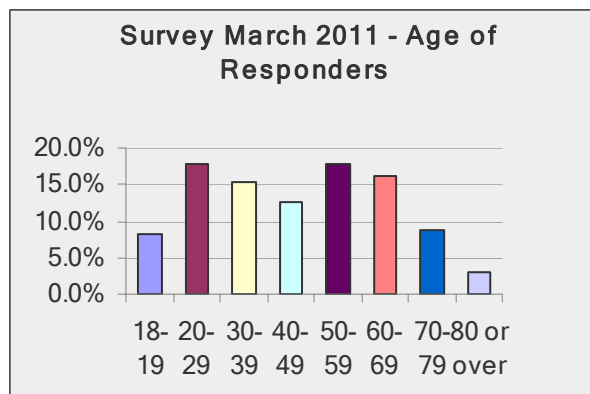
Welcome to our second Old Owenians Newsletter—for all Old Owenians

Thanks for all your responses to our first newsletter and online survey in March—consequently this newsletter has evolved into a bumper edition, which we hope you will enjoy reading! Your feedback was very encouraging, applauding our cost savings using electronic communication and therefore an ability to be able to keep those overseas up-to-date as well as those closer to home. Also, an enthusiasm for news of Old Owenians, and a hope that our newsletters will become a permanent fixture and give Old Owenians an opportunity to contribute to the current life of our school. Use the bookmarks on the left hand side to reveal our big list of news items!

Survey Results

We had an amazing 582 Old Owenians respond to our survey (52% of you!), so once again, a **HUGE THANK YOU** to those who took part, to help us provide what you want from your newsletters. Some highlights below:

- The largest two age groups who responded, with 18% in each category, were those of you aged between 20-29 and 50-59, while 3% of you are aged 80 or over!
- Although over a quarter of responders live over 50 miles away and 9% now live overseas, 32% of you still live within 10 miles of our school in Potters Bar and 50% within 20 miles!
- 64% of you said that you'd like to receive a quarterly newsletter, which is fortunately what we've planned!



In response to your suggestions and queries...

- For those who don't know, sports matches between **Old Owenians v 1st XI school teams** are already held at Old Owen's Sports Ground once a year, organised by our Head of Boys P.E. and an Old Owenian himself, Mr Adam Cotton. Please email him if you would like this summer's dates or would even consider taking part (!) at: cottona@damealiceowens.herts.sch.uk.

- Due to data protection, you will understand **we are unable to share email information**—it is not our intention to replace Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn or Friends Reunited for your social networking, merely provide you with current news and information to keep you in touch. However we can advertise contact details to support any Reunions you organise if you just drop us an email (400years@damealiceowens.herts.sch.uk) with your request.

- **In relation to our 400th Anniversary**, we were grateful to receive many enquires as to how you could support our school, so we will be letting you know how Old Owenians can help sometime next year.

- We are delighted to have received **contributions from 16 Old Owenians—past students and staff** who recount memoirs of their school days and share their life experiences from page 8 onwards—thank you to all of them for putting pen to paper—some inspiring accounts indeed!

Open Invitation

We would like to extend an open invitation to all Old Owenians to join us at any of our current and future school productions, whether of the musical or dramatic variety.

Our concerts are amazing and worthy of top London venues. For example, this term we have a Concert Band Evening on Thursday 7th July and Senior Orchestral Concert on Thursday 14th July, both performed in the

Edward Guinness Concert Hall, which was opened in 2002 and seats over 300 guests (see photo). Our plays are produced to an extremely high standard. For our Junior Drama Production this year, our Director has written an adaptation of Shakespeare's "A Midsummer Night's Dream", called "The Dark Curse of Dream Wood" - dates are Wednesday 13th, Friday 15th and Saturday 16th July and will be held in our Main Hall.

Old Owenians can purchase tickets directly by contacting our school office on 01707 643441 or for more details see Ticket Information: www.damealiceowens.herts.sch.uk/news_dates/ticket_information.html on our website. Tickets may be collected on the night—please note that seats at some events may be limited to ensure parents of current students have the opportunity to see their children perform.



Supporting Current Students



Week commencing 20th June saw our first successful Careers Talks Week, when 24 Old Owenians kindly gave up their time to come and give lunchtime talks to our current students in Year 12 (previously Lower Sixth Form), Year 10 (previously Fourth Form) and Year 9 (previously Third Form), to inspire them and give food for thought for exam subject choices, ideas for work experience and life after school or university.

We **very much appreciated** our Old Owenians volunteering in this way—we hope they also enjoyed meeting other staff members over lunch and having a school tour! If you think you would like to take part in a similar format next year, please email our Careers Co-ordinator, Mrs Carol Whiter (pictured here!) so we can keep your details on file:

whiterc@damealiceowens.herts.sch.uk.

Special thanks for this year's talks to: Professor Jack Levy OBE (Professional Engineering), Miss Laura Seddon (Classical Music career, cellist), Mr Adrian Dolling (career with Physics degree), Mr Dan Biddulph (Publishing and Art Direction, Heat Magazine), Mrs Barbara Smith (Primary Education), Mr Mervyn Gilbert (Journalism), Mr Ben Scarisbrick (Accounting and Economics,



KPMG), Mr Matthew Rose (Law), Mr Barry Hyman (Retailing—Marks and Spencer), Dr Ian Franklin (Consultant Haematology), Mr Bob Sanderson (Theatre & Media, VoxVideo Productions), Mr David Bender (Internships with MP's), Dr Helen Green (Medicine and Drug Development, Roche Products), Ms Emily Dorotheou (Trainee Solicitor), Mr Graham Simmons (Project Management in Building Industry), Ms Fiona Dyer and Mr George Phillips (Marketing and Public Relations, Shell International), Mr Graham Steed (Career with HMRC and Civil Service), Mr David Cantor (Building your own business, Cantor & Nissel), Dr Karen Cheung-Hang (Junior Doctor), Dr Hannah Cornwall (Surgeon), Ms Claire Kendall (Career in Government), Mr Jeremy Willmott (Digital Advertising, Weapon7).



Thanks also to those Old Owenians who also volunteered but we were unable to accommodate them on this occasion. Three of you were inspired to forward your resumés - Mr John Rich recounts his **career at Mars** in our School End of Term Newsletter (available July) and Mr Victor Chuntz has provided tips for students, detailing his **career in recruitment**, which will be made available in our password protected Careers Area on our VLE (Virtual Learning Environment). Finally Mrs Christine Eberhardie has sent us her career profile, documented by the British Journal of Neuroscience Nursing, now on your Old Owenians School News page.

Current school news

Our Chair of Governors, Mr Peter Martin, announced on April 1st, that we became an Academy with a relatively seamless transition. His full report can be read on page 16 of our Spring whole school Newsletter (April): www.damealiceowens.herts.sch.uk/news_dates/newsletters.html. Rest assured, our name remains the same—it is only our status that has changed. Each half term, our school newsletters provide updates from our Head, Dr Alan Davison and include many contributions from a wide range of the school community - we are constantly wowed by the extent of the school's activities—do have a browse and be prepared to be impressed. We are also honoured that Sir Terry Leahy, former CEO of Tesco, has agreed to be our speaker at Lower School Visitation this year in July.

Welcome to Year 13 Leavers (previously Upper Sixth Form!) and Year 11 Leavers (Year 5!) —2010-11

You are now officially Old Owenians, so congratulations on the majority of you finishing 7 years at the school! We wish you the very best of luck with your results in August and your future choices, whether you are hoping to attend University or moving out into the big wide world. As you know, Year 13 email addresses have been added to our email list, so please let us know if you change them! Year 13's have also been invited, via ParentMail this term, to join the Old Owen's Association (see below). Our quarterly OO newsletters will keep you up-to-date with your old school—we would love to see you return to some of our 2013 events for our 400th Anniversary and who knows, you might be returning one day to talk to students about **your** careers!

Old Owen's Association News

For those of you who aren't already members, the Old Owen's Association is based at Old Owen's Sports Ground, Coopers Lane, Northaw, near Potters Bar and provides a **really excellent environment for sporting and social occasions**. Full membership is open to all Old Owenians whether you are in the local area or have moved away. Local residents sometimes join as Associate members to hire the facilities.



As a member you:

- Become a co-owner and guardian of the facilities
- Can join in the many activities such as football, cricket, darts, pool and league cribbage or even set up your own activities (members often hold birthday parties, discos, informal gatherings/other functions)
- Will be kept up to date about all Old

Owen's activities and events through their newly launched website www.OLDOWENS.COM, which is still evolving with lots of new items

- Receive a reminder about the Harold Moore Luncheon Reunion (see next page!)
- Have preferential treatment when hiring the facilities for a private function

Old Owen's Association Annual Membership Fees (August-July) as at May 2011:

Full Membership with voting rights (for all Old Owenians - past students, staff, governors):

Adult:	£22.00
Student in full time education:	£11.00
Retired Adult:	£7.50
New! Year 13 Leaver 2011	£5 (for 3 year membership until July 2014)

Associate Membership without voting rights (for non-Old Owenians):

Adult:	£22.00
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Why don't you visit the Old Owen's Association website www.OLDOWENS.COM for details of their history, new management team, membership application forms, constitution & rules, as well as all the current events at Old Owen's? If you feel like getting together with some old classmates, the Old Owen's Sports Ground would be **an ideal venue**—contact Managers John or Lynn Clark for details on 01707 644211. If you would like us to give details about your event in this newsletter - just email us with your request. Geoffrey Mather, past Treasurer of the OOA, shares his some of his memories later in our Newsletter...



Harold Moore Luncheon Reunion for all Old Owenians

This annual event is held in the Imperial Hotel, Russell Square, London every Autumn. Its origin goes back to before the Second World War, when Harold Moore was Head Boy and started the lunch by inviting a few of his friends and contemporaries - it was then called the 1930's Luncheon Club. Ray Coombes, member of the Old Owen's Association, then took over the organisation and renamed the event as the Harold Moore Luncheon as a tribute. Stan Gould and Michael Harold, also members of the Old Owen's Association, have been making the arrangements for the last 3-4 years - it is now ***open to all Old Owenians***.



This year, the event is being held on **Monday 24th October 2011**, during the school half term. Please read Stan Gould's report about last year's luncheon on our school website: http://www.damealiceowens.herts.sch.uk/news_dates/newsletters.html—Old Owenians School News page!

Our current Head Boy and Girl are invited as well as current and past staff members and governors. If you have not attended before, why not round up some of your contemporaries—perhaps those who left in 2001, 1991,

1981 etc. for a “Big O” Reunion! Please send your contact details (preferably by email), and any enquiries, to either of the organisers below - further details will be available in this quarterly newsletter (our 3rd Edition!) at the end of September:

Mr Michael Harold
171 Friern Barnet Lane
London
N20 0NN
Tel: 020 8445 9782
michael.harold@btinternet.com

Mr Stan Gould
87 Wentworth Drive
Bedford
MK41 8QD
Tel: 01234 346 380
Stan@ssgsys.demon.co.uk

400th Anniversary E-mailing list target—5,000!

Whilst still curious as to who will be our 2013th Old Owenian to join our emailing list, we have decided our target must be for 5,000 Old Owenians to sign up! Now in contact with nearly 1,700 Old Owenians, **we once again encourage you to search out your past peers** to help us meet our ambitious target. We already have Facebook and LinkedIn pages giving information about our 400th Anniversary, giving details on how to sign up, thanks to Mr Bill Hamilton-Hinds (current staff), Mr Norman Goldner (Old Owenian) and Mr Tim Rayner (governor). Thanks must also go to our Cover Supervisor, Miss Louise Brignull, an Old Owenian herself, who has been helping add contacts to our list—in response to some of your questions, we do not have an automatic sign up list...maybe something for the future! See page 24 for details of how to recruit more Old Owenians!

Friends Reunited

We would also appreciate anyone who has a presence on Friends Reunited to spread the word on this networking site. Can we suggest that if anyone IS registered and would be prepared to be a contact point for their year group on Friends Reunited, please contact us at: 400years@damealiceowens.herts.sch.uk and we can advise on appropriate wording to use to encourage your former classmates to join our 400th Anniversary e-mailing list.

IN GOD IS ALL OUR TRUST

Thanks to Mr Andrew Ward, who left in 2006, for sending us this photo, taken outside Brewers Hall, of our splendid shield and school motto—he happened to come across it a few weeks ago and wanted to share it with everyone!



For our Islington Old Owenians—your old school sites!

In response to some of your comments, we have provided a photographic trip down memory lane, including photos by Mrs Mandy English and Mrs Trupti Gandhi, our former IT Assistant, who helped set up our 400th Anniversary e-mailing list—labels have been checked with Mr Bill Hamilton-Hinds!

Owen Street corner—
previously the home of the
“Crown and Woolpack”
pub, now The Chapel Hair-
dressing & Beauty salon



Massive trees still line Owen Street between
the old school sites—boys school on the left
hand side, girls on the right!

Old Boys' school site now exclusive
apartment accommodation



Old Girls' School site now City &
Islington Sixth Form College, Centre
of Applied Science, fronted by
gardens called Owens Fields—the
old Boys' School playground!



Owen's Row (the back entrance to the old
Girls' school site), now access to Islington &
Finsbury Youth Club and Angel Amateur
Boxing Club. On the corner of St John's
Street, The Brasserie was previously the
“Empress of Russia” pub



Work Experience

As a hot topic in the press recently, we thought you would like to know our Year 11 students (previously Year 5—those aged 15/16 years old) carry out a week's work experience in the November of their second GCSE year. Placements are either privately arranged (around 50%) or organised through HCS Careers. We have also built up local contacts who are willing to offer their support and would like to invite Old Owenians, who think they could offer students an opportunity in their workplace, to join our Work Experience Register by emailing our Careers Co-ordinator, Mrs Carol Whiter at: whiterc@damealiceowens.herts.sch.uk or simply ask for more information via her direct line on 01707 622867.

400th Anniversary Committee

Our 18-strong committee, chaired by Gary Kemp, held its third meeting last week on 21st June, working through the programme of events lined up for the calendar year 2013 (see some of us here!). As you know, our largest single event, a Celebration Concert at the Royal Albert Hall, will be your opportunity to reunite with the whole school community in London.



In our negotiations with the Royal Albert Hall, due to their operational commitments and giving our performers more rehearsal time after the Easter holiday, we have now moved the date by one week, one day to **Tuesday 23rd April 2013** (co-incidentally also being St Georges Day and Shakespeare's Birthday, who was born in 1564!). **Please note this date will be finally confirmed when our tickets are advertised through the Royal Albert Hall Box Office.** This year the Royal Albert Hall celebrated its own 140th Birthday on 29th March, when it was opened in 1871 by Queen Victoria in memory of her late husband, Prince Albert.



A commemorative Thanksgiving Service at St Paul's Cathedral for invited guests has now been provisionally booked just one week after our Celebration Concert on **Tuesday 30th April 2013**, which will be like a "Grand Assembly" of current and past members of the school. A Carol Service at St Albans Cathedral is planned to end our 400th Year on **Monday 16th December 2013**, for current parents, governors, staff and students. Various sporting occasions will take place during the year - current proposals include a football and cricket match versus prestigious youth teams and there are plans to hold a Summer Ball Extravaganza for

up to 400 guests as well as a specially written Drama production. More details in future Newsletters!



Science Society Lectures

Just to let you know, we hold several evening lectures throughout the year, specifically to support our Science students, which are open to our whole school community, including Old Owenians and are free of charge. Chemistry teacher, Mrs K Dorotheou arranges speakers on a range of topics. Our next three lectures are on:

- Wednesday 28th September 2011, 7-8pm in our Main Hall, with Dr Hilary Longhurst, Immunologist at Barts & London hospital,
- Wednesday 2nd November 2011, 7-8pm in our Main Hall, with Dr Dewi Lewis, Faculty of Chemistry and Senior Admissions Tutor at University College London,
- Wednesday 18th January 2012, 7-8pm in our Main Hall, with Professor F. Muntoni, Professor of Paediatric Neurology at Great Ormond Street Hospital and Head of NeuroMuscular Centre, Institute of Child Health, UCL.

You are very welcome to join us—simply email Mrs K Dorotheou: dorotheouk@damealiceowens.herts.sch.uk if you are interested to reserve a place.

More History for you—F.E. Cleary Gates—(F.E. Cleary was an Old Owenian and previous Vice-Chair of Governors, who set up a private charitable trust in 1963, known as the F.E. Cleary Schools Fund for the primary purpose of furthering the educational activities and undertakings of the Dame Alice Owen’s schools)

The ONLY remaining parts of the old Boys’ school buildings are the two huge white pillars, which supported the entrance gates on Owen Street, as seen in the picture of the old Boys’ School below from 1962. The pillars were moved to the entrance of the City & Islington Sixth Form College on Goswell Road (right).



The original wrought iron gates, which the pillars supported, called the “F.E Cleary Gates” were deemed so significant that the school had them moved to the present site in Potters Bar in 1976 where, as you can see below, they still make a dramatic entrance to the school and provide one of our physical links to the old sites in Islington.

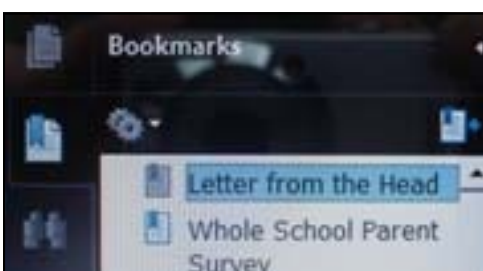


Islington Council Peoples Plaques

Thank you if you took part in the e-vote to support a Peoples Plaque at the site of the old Girl’s School in Islington in February. Unfortunately, Dame Alice Owen’s Girls’ School just missed making the top 5 sites chosen for this year, coming close at number 6. However, we have been informed that a memorial plaque is actually available to see within the campus. They are hoping hold another e-vote next year, so if you hear of one going ahead, please let us know—their website reference is: <http://www.islington.gov.uk>

Tip to view our contents using Bookmarks and the Zoom facility

For the technophobes among us, this document is a PDF (portable document format), which means it can be read by most systems. On the top left hand side there is a bookmark facility which you can reveal by clicking on the letter with the blue ribbon to reveal our contents—simply scroll down and click on the article you wish to read!



Roughly in the middle of your menu bar at the top of your screen you should also have a white box showing a percentage—once again, simply click on the down arrow at the side of this box to choose the size you want the newsletter to appear on screen for easy reading!

Old Owenians Contributions—YOUR PAGES!

We are privileged to have received contributions from 16 Old Owenians, including two members of staff, who have put pen to paper to share their life experiences and school memories for our newsletter—we think they contain something for everyone to relate to. We hope that they will inspire others to write to us for our next edition in September—please email 400years@damealiceowens.herts.sch.uk by Friday 16th September 2011 with any articles—paragraph or page (limited to 1 page please!), life history or just an update, photos—past or present—we reserve editorial rights!

Now, over to you, in order of year of leaving date.....

Arthur Kimpton—born 1878
William Foyle—born 1885
Grandfather to the current Chairman of Foyles, Christopher Foyle
Charles Baron—left 1936
Ted Pick—left 1940
Jean Cook—left 1956
Barry Hyman—left 1959
Geoffry Mather—left 1960
Roy Whitehead—left 1960
Jacqueline Blake - left 1961
Bill Harman - left 1963—Part 1
Kevin Ward – left 1964
Christine Eberhardie - left 1965
Mick Field—left 1968
Lawrence Taylor – left 1981
Past staff—Peter Salisbury-left 1981
Past staff—Barbara Finlayson– left 2002



ARTHUR KIMPTON OBE, 1878 - 1949

Thanks to Mrs Ginny Johnson, from Islington, who has sent this article about her father, which reveals how an Owen's education made a difference to his life. She joins our e-mailing list as a "Friend" of Dame Alice Owen's and we hope she will represent her father at one of our 2013 celebrations. She is pictured with her father as a young girl on the next page.

"Arthur Ernest Kimpton was one of five children. He was born in 1878, in Kingsdown road, near Archway in north London. His father was a legal clerk, working in the legal chambers of Grays Inn and Lincolns Inn, carefully hand writing, with a pen and an inkwell, lawyers' records in copperplate script.

Arthur attended Dame Alice Owen's grammar school at the Angel Islington, travelling by tram if the family could afford the fare, or walking the three miles there and back. In 1892, at the age of 14, he won a special prize. On Visitation Day, July 10th, he was awarded by the Governors, the Worshipful Company of Brewers, a beautiful family Bible which would become the family record of their births, marriages and deaths. In the Victorian period these Bibles were often handed down through a family, with each generation recording their history.

Whilst at Owens, Arthur won a scholarship to Cambridge University, which he was not able to take up as the family did not have the funds to support him, to pay for the books and lodgings he would need, nor for the social activities that were then, and are still, part of university life.

In 1902 he married Jessie, and between 1905 and 1912 their four sons were born. In his leisure time he played the accordion, and he sang in the chorus of Gilbert and Sullivan operettas at the Savoy theatre in the Strand. One of his nicknames was 'Arthur the Boyo', after one of the New York characters of the 'Guys and Dolls' writer, Damon Runyan.



Details of his professional life are sketchy. He worked in the City of London; later he became Master of Pembroke dock in Wales, and during the first world war he worked in a civilian capacity at Chatham dockyard, where he and his family lived at No 10 The Terrace. In 1918, at the end of the war, he was awarded the OBE in recognition of his services as Secretary to the Admiral Superintendent of the dockyard.

Later he joined Rothschilds the bankers at New Court in the city of London, in the 1930's becoming chairman of the London gold fixing committee, a group of five London bankers who meet to set the price of gold. Bullion transactions were recorded back in the 17th century and still take place in the international arena of today's city of London. There is a record about how he used to fix the price of gold in Time magazine, 1937.

In 1937 Arthur, by then a widower, married again and his daughter was born in 1938. The second world war began in 1939, (in 1940 a bomb destroyed the greenhouse in his Beckenham garden) and the philanthropic Rothschilds soon decided that all their London employees should be evacuated to the safety of the home counties where the family's extensive properties could be used.

Arthur's new job was to manage a small factory at the Old Silk Mill in Tring, where the employees now learned to turn their hands to producing ammunition for the war effort, and were provided with accommodation nearby. Arthur's wife Bertie worked with them on the assembly line, turning metal into bullet cases, while her Aunt Mimi looked after their daughter Virginia at the Rose & Crown hotel opposite Tring church, where a Spitfire plane would sometimes be on show.

Years later, at a Rothschilds pensioners reunion, several workers remembered Arthur as a delightful, friendly manager, with no 'side' -

"He was just one of us", accessible to everyone and not interested in class distinctions, which was unusual in the 1940's. His little daughter would visit him at the silk mill and be given 2d in 'wages' in one of the small brown paper wage packets that were kept in his big oak desk to give to the employees on 'pay day' every Friday.

Arthur and his family lived in Tring until 1942 when he retired, and the family moved to nearby Northchurch. Arthur continued to work, in a voluntary capacity, but he was no longer able to drive as he had lost an eye, so he gave his Austin car to the Rothschilds who, when fuel allowed, would occasionally provide him with a chauffeur. He loved listening to comedy shows on the radio such as Tommy Handley's 'ITMA' (It's That Man Again). He died in 1949 at the age of 71.

Arthur was what could be called a 'self made man', but it was his education - along with his supportive family background - that gave him the knowledge and the confidence to succeed in life. He was extremely lucky to go to a good school, an opportunity denied to most children of his generation."



WILLIAM FOYLE—1885—1963

Thanks to Mr Christopher Foyle, current Chairman of Foyles, for sending this wonderful account and photo of his grandfather's attendance at Owen's, demonstrating the value of hard work, energy and determination. He also joins our emailing list as a "Friend" of Dame Alice Owen's and we hope that he will keep in touch and attend one of our 400th Anniversary events!

" William Alfred Westropp Foyle born in Hoxton in 1885, won a scholarship to Owen's School and attended at the end of the 19th century. He and his brother Gilbert were the 7th and 8th children of a large family. Their father William owned and ran a dry salting wholesale grocery business in Hoxton, started by his father George.

As there were so many children, there was no opportunity in this business for William and George, so they studied and sat for the Civil Service examinations. They both failed them. They advertised their secondhand textbooks for sale in the local newspaper and there was such a response that they bought some more and advertised those, operating out of their mother's kitchen in Fairbank Street, Hoxton.

Soon, they took lock up premises in Peckham, and in 1904 opened their first shop in Cecil Court off the Charing Cross Road, and by 1906 they were in Charing Cross Road itself, and described themselves as London's largest educational booksellers - W & G Foyle, known popularly as "Foyles".

William worked from 7 until midnight 7 days a week in those early days. Constant growth and expansion ensued, with Foyles moving into larger premises in Charing Cross Road, so that by 1930, Foyles was described as the largest bookshop in the world. The energy, determination and drive for growth, all came from the entrepreneurial and hard working William. He also had a keen nose for publicity, showmanship and resultant news stories.

He founded and grew to a large size, ten book clubs, two book publishing businesses, lending libraries, a travel agency, library supply division, Foyles Educational supplying textbooks in quantities to schools, a department providing books to correspondence college students, departments for philately and for records, an art gallery, a Welsh publishing company, the monthly Foyles Literary Luncheons - the list goes on.

In his retirement in 1945, William moved to the 12th century Beeleigh Abbey near Maldon in Essex, where he lived with his wife surrounded by his magnificent collection of antiquarian books. He died in 1963.

To-day, Foyles continues, still in the ownership of the Foyle family - the third generation."





CHARLES BARON—LEFT IN 1936

Thanks to Mr Charles Baron who still plays the violin at the age of 91 and kindly shares his memories with us, as well as posting these great photos of the younger and current Mr Baron! He hopes to continue his present good health so he can attend our 2013 celebrations and we look forward to seeing him!



"I was born on 6 May 1920 and my school years were 1931-1936. My Owens career was modestly successful: I was active in the dramatic society, taking the leading role in various annual performances, the first being Cyrano de Bergerac. I also was promoted from the 3rd to the 1st Cricket XI by virtue of one match when I bowled out 8 of the opposing 3rd XI side for just one run. I never did it again. I matriculated in 1935 when not quite 14.

I spent 6 wartime years in the RAF, 3 of them as a navigator. I changed my first name from Cyril to Charles and have kept the latter name ever since. After the war I qualified as a cost (now management) accountant. Having sold my 1/3 share in a plastics business I retired for the first time in 1972 and spent the next 3 years studying the violin and qualified as a Fellow of Trinity College. Needs must and I started another business which I sold in 1989 and retired again."



TED PICK—LEFT 1940

Thanks to Mr Ted Pick for sharing his experiences and words of wisdom to help inspire parents and students alike, revealing what he thinks to be the secret of a happy life. He took the opportunity to visit our school for the first time last year, during a trial 3 day break to check if his wife could be cared for safely at home while he went on holiday, staying with his son in Barnet. He was given a tour by a 6th former and told us he was very impressed.

He has managed to come down to London for the most of the Harold Moore Luncheons since they first began, so keeps in touch. We hope to see him in 2013 for another visit!

"I am a very fortunate 85 year old who has had a successful life. I really do believe that one of the driving forces was my winning of an Owen's Foundation Scholarship which enabled me to attend Owen's despite my family being in such poverty that we had the bailiff's in and our furniture removed while I was at school. (I spent the following week wondering each day when I returned from school whether we would be ejected onto the street!)

My schooldays were so utterly different from boys today in that I lived in South East London with an hour's tram ride to Islington and nearer two hours to the Ground at Whetstone. I worked every Saturday for a mobile Greengrocer (horse and cart) to earn my fares to school. I was evacuated to Bedford during the war (cycled back some weekends on a gifted bike despite raids) but had to leave school as soon as I matriculated to get a job (no choice!).

Until late 1943, I worked in the City, then volunteered for the Royal Air Force, was sent to Arizona to train as a pilot and then went to India to fly Dakotas. Events forced me out of flying, to my eternal disappointment because it was my first love, since when my life has continued to be changeable and of great interest.

I finished my career in 1990 as National Sales Manager of probably the best known Upholstery Manufacturer of the time (Parker Knoll) and have had a marvellous active and interesting retirement with varied continuing interests despite recovering from a major operation for Bowel Cancer at 66 and having a Double Heart Bypass at 83.

Now although a full time carer for my wife, I managed a week touring from Florence to Rome last August and am off to Andalusia for a week in April. I also continue to play competitive Duplicate Contract Bridge at a club of which I am Secretary, am Treasurer of the Church Men's Fellowship, Church Gift Aid Secretary, Advanced Motorist and Fisherman!

Almost 86, physically active and with all (or most!) of my faculties I thank God every day for my blessed, happy and so interesting life. Scientists have managed largely to dispense with a Deity, but what caused the Big Bang and why are there laws of physics in a Universe of accident? There is no doubt that my life experiences and the lessons I have learned would seem another world from the eyes of today's prosperous students. The secret of life is always to be busy, optimistic and looking forward, never accepting defeat or negatives, be generous and always reaching out to help others."



MRS JEAN COOK (NEE WEBBERLEY)—LEFT IN 1956

Thanks to Mrs Jean Cook for getting in touch with us—she would very much like to hear from others in her year. From Owen's, she went on to the Lycée Français Secretarial College, leaving there after one year following the severe illness of her father. She is still in touch with two past pupils—Mrs Ann Smith (née Digby) and Mrs Marian Arbuckle (née Doughty). She has requested for any other past pupils to email her on cookonejcook@yahoo.co.uk to share stories and memories.

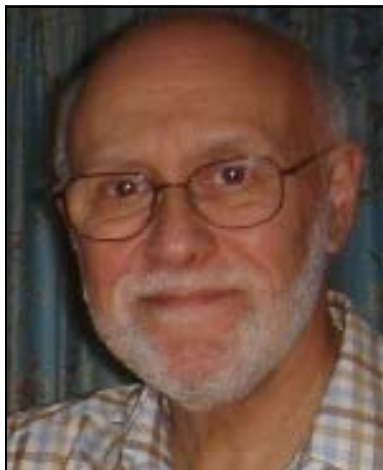


BARRY HYMAN—LEFT IN 1959

Thanks to Mr Barry Hyman, who has recounted for us his successful career at Marks and Spencer, after rejecting University for an opportunity in advertising. He chaired the last Harold Moore Luncheon in October 2010 and now helps out with his children and grandchildren.

"Leaving aged 18 in 1959 with my two and a half A-levels (English, French and a mark sufficient for them to award an 'O' level pass in German), I disappointed the Head by refusing to go on to University. I failed to get into advertising so went, as my parents advised, to Marks & Spencer to kill a year or two till I tried the Mad Men route again. I started a tuppenny bus ride from home at Hackney Store on £350pa.

Thirty five years later, after twenty five years in stores, buying departments, distribution and the design group, I spent my last ten in, and retired as, Head of Corporate Communications, which included PR, Media Relations, Charities, Annual Report production, managing the AGM, Customer Services and the Company Archive. While running the archive I co-authored a biography of Lord Simon Marks, son of the founder.



I appeared in a number of TV documentaries about the Company and, as a senior spokesperson, had to respond to journalists in the print and broadcast media both to protect and promote the company. I worked directly with the Chairman and all Board members and arranged media training for many of them. I travelled to the Continent, Canada, the USA, Ukraine and Israel.

I represented the company at numerous events, which got me a handshake with PM's Thatcher and Major, Israel's President Ezer Weizman, Lenny Henry, Mick Jagger and other celebrities. I also met Prince Philip, Prince Charles, Princess Anne and ended my career, with my wife, also an ex-M&S member - at the opening of the Queen Mother Gates in Hyde Park, followed by tea and cakes with her and the Queen (and 500 others!).

Retiring age 53 in 1994, I worked until 2002 as PR consultant to the Movement for Reform Judaism, the 2nd largest synagogue body in the UK with emphasis on interfaith work. Now I work for my children, looking after my grandchildren!

One teacher wrote on a report 'He must stop seeing himself as the class jester, to the detriment of his work and theirs.' He was right. I talked too much. I had, however, as good a career (thanks Mum & Dad) as any of the more academic of my contemporaries. I may have talked too much in class, but it proved to be a major strength which I was able to put to use as a career path."



GEOFFREY MATHER—LEFT 1960

Thanks to Mr Geoffrey Mather for his lively account of his time at Dame Alice Owen's in the mid-late 1950's and his continued association with our school through the Old Owen's Association.

"My name is Geoffrey Mather and I attended DAOS at The Angel, Islington from 1954 to 1960. My family must have lived about 3 yards outside the 3 mile free fares limit so we had to pay for the No. 4 bus ride. I 11-plussed from Montem Street Primary as did John Pugsley, Gordon Crawford and Peter Sparkall. I assume that I was accepted under the 'Clerkenwell and Islington Alice Owen legacy' because it soon became apparent that I was well below the ability of my peers.

My first year was in 'the cloisters' with 'Jumbo' James who had the philosophy that we would all wake up dead one morning which turned out to be absolutely true for him. The rest of my time I spent in the 'C' stream with 'Baldy' Butler. I seem to remember that he and David Bent (a sixth former at the time) had similar Riley cars although Baldy didn't have green suede boots!

I left school just before my 17th birthday with 3 'O' levels. Maths (thanks to 'Rocket' Stephenson), English Language (thanks to John Sparrow and Bert Fellows) and woodwork (thanks to Stan George).

I didn't do sport. In fact, when we went to Whetstone for our sports afternoon I did the cross country run because we were having our hot shower as the footballers were changing ends and I was home before their final whistle blew. Invariably, David Cantor won the race but then his dad played fiddle at The Finsbury Park Empire and often got us complimentary tickets.

Reg Tricker tried to teach us to stand on our heads in the gym but his beetroot red complexion didn't look too healthy to me! I suppose my best friend at school was Bob Burns who was headed to be a man of the cloth until I introduced him to Elvis Presley. I was best man at his first wedding! I subsequently spent more time with his younger brother, Dave, and his contemporaries Peter 'Bo' Shephard, Alan 'Gus' Dennis, Steve Clifford, and Brian 'Massey' Fry.

The story now develops so stay with it. We decided to attend a bonfire party at Chandos Avenue. The place was heaving and I was introduced to an 'older' OO named Ray Coombes. By the end of the evening not only was I playing football for OOFC but I was skipper of the VI eleven and there had only been 5 until that evening. I went on to become treasurer of the OOFC and then a committee member of OOA (Old Owen's Association) under the chairmanship of John Turner.

As Treasurer of the OOA I oversaw the financial side of the sale of the Chandos Avenue sports ground and the purchase of the site at Potters Bar and the development of the new sports ground and the current pavilion. Brian 'Jock' Martin was, of course, the instigator and main mover and shaker of this mammoth task.

My family were represented at the school throughout the 20th century. My mother's eldest sister, Emily Ellis, my aunt, attended the girl's school from around 1911 and her daughter, Muriel Newnes probably some time in the thirties. I was there in the fifties and my son, Richard, was at the Potters Bar school from 1989 to 1996. Jimmy Everton was head boy when I started at Owens and I have shared many years on various committees with him."



ROY WHITEHEAD—LEFT 1960

Thanks to Mr Roy Whitehead for his contribution and showing how his education has enabled him to put something back into his community as a governor of another prestigious school.

"I left Owens in 1960 and joined Barclays Bank in London. I spent time in branches of the bank and studied for my Institute of Bankers examinations, firstly at night school and latterly at City of London College on day release. The skills I learned at school and the discipline that went with them served me well and I completed by examinations and was awarded my Associate of the Institute of Bankers. I was accepted onto the bank's management development scheme and this allowed me to progress to management quickly. I managed a number of branches in both the West End and the City and retired as the Manager of a cluster of branches at Portman Square. Given my struggles with maths at Owens, this has always surprised my old school friends!

In 1999 I was elected a member of Chelmsford Borough Council and in 2003 became Leader of the Council, a post I currently still hold. Again the skills I learned at school and in the bank have been put to good use and I am also a Foundation Governor of King Edward VI Grammar School in Chelmsford, one of the top grammar schools in the country and founded in 1551. It reminds me very much of Owens as I remember it and my son is an Old Boy of KEGS, so the tradition continues."



JACQUELINE BLAKE—LEFT 1961

Thanks to Mrs Jacqueline Blake for sharing her school memories—she has lived for twenty six years in the small market town of Wootton Bassett in Wiltshire, and during that time has met at least four gentlemen who attended Owen's School, including the local pharmacist! The two photos she kindly sent us are of her as a 15 year old, wearing the winter uniform of white square-necked blouse and square-necked drillslip (purchased from Jones Bros. in the Holloway Road) and a recent one.



"I was a pupil at Dame Alice Owen's Girls School from 1956 to 1961. The headmistress at the time was Miss Ward, and latterly Mrs Kisch. I remember many members of staff including Miss Welch the needlework mistress, Mrs Unger who taught German, and Miss Hudson who taught Latin. I also remember going to St Mary's Church, Islington on special occasions where the service would be taken by the very young curate, David Shepherd, the school chaplain, who went on to be Bishop of Liverpool.

I remember having to curtsy to Miss Ward whenever seeing her in the classroom, or playground and having to especially practice the curtsy before receiving a prize from a school governor at Visitation. I also remember the large proportion of Jewish girls, who would have separate assembly and would go to Tavistock Square each lunch time for their meal. As my time at Owen's was a mere ten years after the war, some of these girls would have most poignant memories of those dreadful years.

I also remember "Beer Money" being given out annually to each girl. We again would have to make a special curtsy or receipt of these newly minted coins, I think I got 2/6d (12½p), and the head girl received 10/6d (52½p). I have fond memories of getting the 609 trolley bus from The Angel up to Chandos Avenue in Whetstone to spend the whole day at the Girl's Sports Ground. We even had lessons in brick built classrooms on the edge of the sports field.



To end on a humorous note I also remember the dreadful knee-length thick divided skirts which we wore for all sporting activities to preserve our modesty!"

Mrs Blake told us she had a giggle when it was explained that our current girls play astro hockey in black skorts (skirt and shorts combination for those of you who aren't up on these things!), long red socks, shin pads, wear a hockey glove, red polo with crest, mouth guards and have black trakkies (track suit bottoms!), not to mention the black hoodies with their surname printed on the back!



In other words, serious kit!

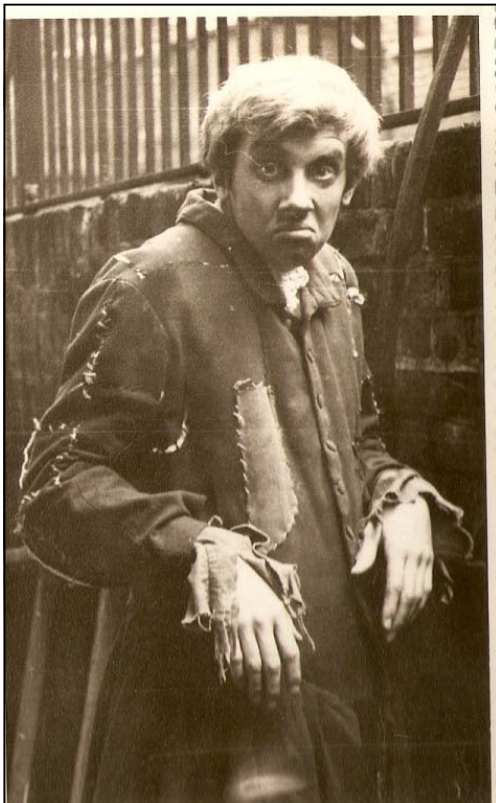
She could just imagine the disapproving looks from her old headmistress, Miss Ward, at seeing the present day girls' astro hockey games with the ultra-modern accoutrements! See our Year 9 girls here at half time in an away match against Queenswood discussing tactics with our Head of Girls' P.E., Miss Stephanie Belcher (goalie standing up)!



MR BILL HARMAN—LEFT 1963

Thanks to Mr Bill Harman, now residing in Auckland, New Zealand, who has sent us his recollections of playing Titus Oates in the play specially written to commemorate the 350th Anniversary of the school in 1963. He has also managed to email some marvellous photos, despite his village being way behind the UK in broadband speed, but acknowledges it is a small price to pay for living by the beach!

He says people in New Zealand are astounded when he tells them he went to a school that was founded 156 years before Captain Cook set foot in their country! We are grateful to him for an extremely interesting account of his life experiences in the world of actors, musicians and singers and hope he can travel to England in 2013.



"I was a pupil from 1957 to 1963 and especially remember my final year because of the play the school staged to commemorate the 350th anniversary.

The play was "Shame in Summer". It dealt with one of the school's early headmasters being a victim of Titus Oates "Popish Plot". The school was privileged to have, as one of its English masters, Malcolm Fellows who, in addition to teaching, was also a recognised playwright. A member of the Screen Writer's Guild he had many screen credits. Prior to writing "Shame in Summer" his play "The Truth About Helen", shown on ABC-TV's Armchair Theatre was judged "Play of the Year".

Mr R.A. Dare, the deputy head when I was a pupil, had written a complete history of the school. He suggested to Mr Fellows that the appalling experience of 17th century headmaster William Smith, inadvertently caught up in the evil machinations of Oates, would be a good subject for a dramatic treatment.

The play was produced by English teachers John Sparrow and David Lindsay and was one of the rare occasions when pupils from both the boys and the girls school, normally strictly segregated, were allowed

to mingle to satisfy casting requirements. There is no doubt that this was the motivation for many of us to audition in the first place.

I had the privilege to play Titus Oates in the play and had a great time doing so. An appalling villain, ugly, repulsive and with no saving graces whatsoever, the character was a gift for any aspiring actor. There were even comprehensive notes in the script referring to the affected way that Oates is reported to have spoken. At the bottom of these notes Malcolm Fellows had written "With this information available to him, the actor must do the best he can". So I did the best I could!



Anniversary play is big success

OBVIOUSLY, Owen's School Dramatic Society have made an extra special effort for their production "Shame in Summer" because it is the school's 350th anniversary. This effort produces a fine, polished show which deserves the congratulations of all.

"Shame in Summer" tells the story of William Smith, who was headmaster of Owen's School from 1666 to 1678, and who dared to defy the power of the demagogue Titus Oates, whose mere word could send a man to the scaffold to be hanged as a papist without a shred of evidence against him.

J. D. Savage and A. L. Hunt played William Smith on different nights with feeling and appreciation of the character. W. H. Har-

man was magnificently villainous as Titus Oates. He drew applause on several occasions.

Television playwright Malcolm Stuart Fellows began writing "Shame in Summer" while he was in Hollywood, California, on a tour of the motion picture studios in 1962.

A member of the Screen Writers' Guild, he has had many screen credits among which is the award for his "Play of the Year," "The Truth About Helen," shown on ABC TV's "Armchair Theatre."

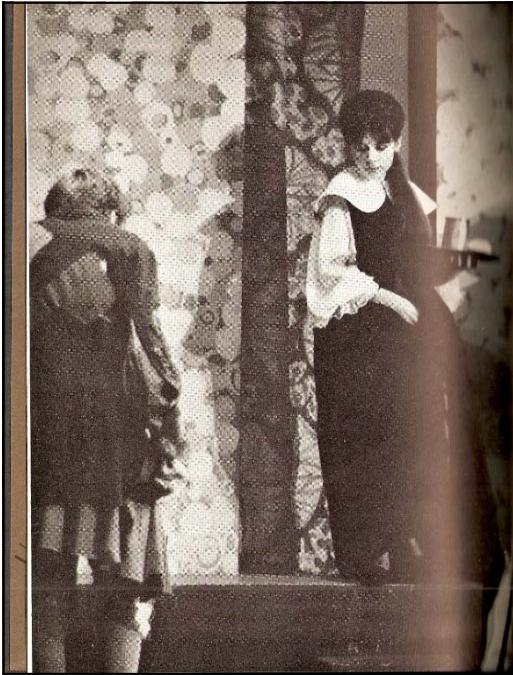
A particularly spectacular scene in the school play was a procession through the hall of about 50 people. Grotesque masks were worn, incense burned and brass instruments played. It was reminiscent of a biblical "epic" film. Producers Messrs. J. Sparrow and D. Lindsay can be happy with this excellent entertainment.—R.W.H.

In fact, it was almost certainly the only notable thing I did in my six years at Owen's, being neither academic nor sporting. It nearly didn't happen for me however as I applied to leave the school about half way through the rehearsal period. (I'd actually been offered a job). Fortunately, the headmaster, Mr Jones, refused permission for me to leave. Seemingly, nobody had considered getting an understudy for the part of Oates, unlike the other two leading characters.

In retrospect, staying on at school for a few more months was the best experience I could have had. The play was very "word heavy" and required a lot of study and rehearsing, but there was a great feeling that we were all doing something very special. Which we were of course. Not often does a secondary school get the opportunity to "premiere" a new production and one tied so closely to the story of the school as well.

It opened on March 27th 1963, my 17th birthday and ran for four nights in the school hall, playing to packed houses every night. Alas, these were pre-video days and I believe black and white photographs are the only visual record we have of our efforts. Film studies were not even part of the curriculum, but there was a report in "The Stage" newspaper.

After the production, the script was reproduced in a limited edition book. Mr F.E.Cleary M.B.E, Chairman of the 350th Anniversary Celebration Committee closed his introduction to the book by writing "I trust that we shall see 'Shame in Summer' produced time and time again and become, as it were, part of the very fabric of Dame Alice Owen's School".



I have no idea as to whether or not the play was ever performed again. Possibly the 400th anniversary would be an opportune time to consider such. Should it be resurrected for the 450th anniversary instead, I'm afraid I would have to tender my apologies for not being present. I would be 117 and (I assume) far too infirm to traverse the globe.

Having left Owen's at Easter 1963, I applied for, and succeeded in getting work as an "Acting / Assistant Stage Manager" in a theatre in Barrow in Furness. At that time, there were quite a number of repertory theatres in provincial towns that put on a play every week or every fortnight. In Barrow, it was every week. As an Acting ASM, you did everything that was needed around the stage side of the theatre - played small parts, built and painted scenery, made or sourced the props, prompted the actors, swept the stage, made the tea etc. Every week we did a new play.

So a typical day consisted of rehearsing next week's play in the morning, out foraging for props or painting scenery in the afternoon, performing the current play in the evening and then going home to learn an act of the next play late at night. It was a gruelling schedule and a real wake up call after the relatively laid back existence of school. We did everything from Agatha Christie murder mysteries to Christmas pantomime. When the GCE English Literature syllabus came out, we staged Hamlet and The Merchant of Venice for students. Goodness knows how we learned the lines in time. It would be totally beyond my capability now, but then again, I'm sure so would playing Titus Oates in Shame in Summer.

I next did a summer season in a theatre in St Peter Port in Guernsey as Actor / Stage Manager. Same sort of repertoire, more Agatha Christie's (they always ensured a full house) and then Macbeth for the GCE students.

In 1965 I spent a summer season at Butlins as "Juvenile Lead" taking the leads in 6 plays in their Playhouse theatre. It was hardly stimulating stuff but a lot of fun for a 19 year old. I think it was while I was there, seeing actors in their 50's and 60's, still waiting for "the big break" that I decided there was more future for me backstage than there was onstage. So, once the season finished, I concentrated on stage management, working for nine months at the London Palladium and other West End theatres as a lighting technician and then stage managing at the very well respected Belgrade Theatre in Coventry for a year.

My final experience of professional theatre was a pre-West End tour of a play starring Dame Sybil Thorndike, one of the greatest actresses of the 20th century; an actress for whom George Bernard Shaw wrote the part of St. Joan. Sybil was in her late 80's then and her husband, Sir Lewis Casson, in his early 90's, yet, as a way to keep their minds active, each morning they would learn a paragraph out of that day's "Times" newspaper and test each other on it.

It was while on this tour that I applied for and was fortunate enough to secure a job at the BBC Television Centre in White City...

Mr Harman has had a very interesting career so we thought we would hold you in suspense and continue the next chapter in his life in television in our newsletter in September—2 more pages!



KEVIN WARD—LEFT 1964

Thanks to Mr Kevin Ward for explaining how he arrived in Amsterdam, his varied career in television and publishing, his extensive travels, and how he is now enjoying retirement.



"I was at Owen's from 1959 until 1964. To my regret sports seemed far more attractive than revision leading up to my O levels. This resulted in me failing abysmally and being told to take the 5th year again. I decided that this was not for me and after 5 happy years I left, much to the displeasure of my parents. Form photo (1963) - I'm in the middle of the middle row—note the white pillars!

Football team photo—I'm bottom left!

I was lucky to find a position as "office boy" at the London office of Southern Television. The best part of this job was to attend the recording of "Ready Steady Go" every Friday evening and then ensure that the tape of the programme was sent by train from Waterloo to the studios in Southampton.

I moved on from Southern Television to Television International Enterprises. This included a 6 month stint working for a radio station in Sierra Leone. I joined Capital Radio prior it going on air in 1973 and worked there until joining some Capital colleagues in the setting up of Radio Victory in Portsmouth. After a couple of years I returned to London and joined LBC. After one year at LBC I again became restless and applied for and obtained a position with a publishing company based in the United Arab Emirates. I moved to Dubai in 1977 (quite a different place than it is now!).



Whilst in Dubai I had to visit Singapore on business and on the return flight to Dubai I started chatting to the lovely KLM stewardess. We seemed to hit off and she started visiting me very frequently in Dubai. We decided to get married and this took place in The Netherlands in April 1979. I returned to Dubai to complete my contract and returned to Amsterdam to stay in 1982.



Unfortunately in 1984 we decided to separate and divorce but by this time I had fallen in love with the city of Amsterdam and decided to stay. I bought an apartment in the city in 1989 and have not moved to this date. I have worked in publishing for all my time in The Netherlands in three different jobs. The last two of which entailed me travelling to virtually every corner of the world with the exception of Europe.

Last year at the age of 62 I decided to retire and spend more time exploring not only my adopted home city but also the many other parts of Europe that have been on my list for many years. By the way the lady I married and divorced is a close neighbour of mine and remains my best friend."

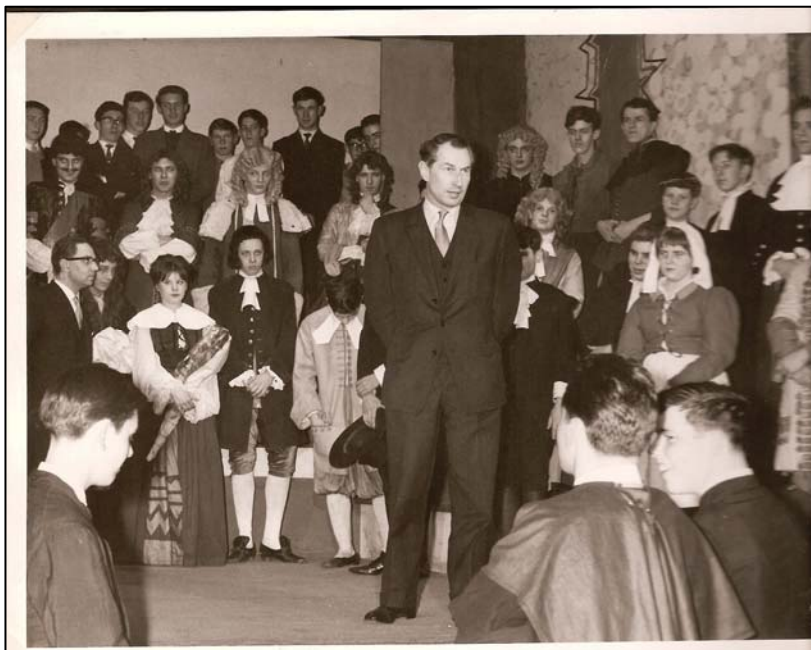


CHRISTINE EBERHARDIE (NEE SAMPSON)—LEFT 1965

Thanks to Mrs Christine Eberhardie for recounting the memorable 350th Anniversary of Dame Alice Owen's School in 1963. She hopes that the 400th Anniversary will be as equally special. She also kindly sent us an account of her career in neuroscience nursing which is reported separately on our Old Owenians page on our main school website: http://www.damealiceowens.herts.sch.uk/about_us/old_owenians_school_news.html.

"St Paul's Cathedral plays an important role in my memories of childhood. It was imposing both inside and outside. In 1963 it was not dwarfed by City skyscrapers as it is today and there were still many damaged buildings which had been bombed in the Blitz.

On April 30th 1963 I was privileged to be in the Dame Alice Owen's School Choir which was invited to sing at the 350th Anniversary Service of Thanksgiving for the school" (at St Paul's Cathedral)
"This was not without its difficulties, the most important of which was the echo. The organist for the occasion was Dr Harold Darke who had been at Owen's from 1898-1903. He composed the anthem for the service.



While we were rehearsing in the cathedral Dr Darke played a note on the organ descended from the organ loft and walked to the centre of the nave under the dome. The echo was still resounding. Nevertheless we rose to the challenge with gusto.

Two other events in 1963 were memorable. The first was the play 'Shame in Summer' written by one of the masters, Malcolm Stuart Fellowes. I played Elizabeth Green, landlady of a tavern. It was a small role in a very ambitious play and great fun. It was about the involvement of a master of Owen's in the Popish Plot to kill Charles II and there was a procession in the play portraying some rather risqué characters such as the Devil's mistress. The photo above shows our Headmaster, Mr Gerald Jones, addressing the cast and audience at the end of the last night—Mr Fellowes is on the left of the photo on the stage.

The second was the opening of the new Girls' School. The school had been bombed in World War II and temporary accommodation had been used. A new school was an exciting prospect after being in pre-fabricated huts with potbellied stoves which were far too hot if you sat near them. The alternative was to sit near the walls and windows which were covered in condensation! I liked the old school building where we had morning assembly, science, geography and cookery classes.

The new building was modern and up to date. It lacked the gravitas of the old one, but it did have a lovely mural. We had watched it being created between classes and in the lunch hour. However our interest was more in the artist than his art!"



MICK FIELD—LEFT 1968

Thanks to Mr Mick Field for sharing his memories of a school trip—he has also requested for anyone who has recollections from Russia to contact him at: mickfield1949@btinternet.com.

"I attended the school from 1961-1968 and I had a tremendous time although unfortunately I probably didn't take full advantage of the education on offer!

When I first joined Mr Burroughs was the headmaster and he was soon succeeded by Mr Jones: some of the teachers names that I remember are Mr Catler (French and my form master for two years), Mr Hamilton (Chemistry), Mr Fellows (English), Mr Sparrow (English), Miss Price (French), Mr Reeves (Latin).



Also he arranged a trip to Russia which I was fortunate to go on; we were away for three weeks visiting Moscow and what was then Leningrad and then coming home on a mini cruise via Helsinki and Copenhagen. What a fantastic trip and if I remember correctly the cost was £72, which was a lot of money in 1964, in fact we were allowed to pay at the rate of £1 per week on every Monday morning, oh happy days!!

It would be great to get any feed back from any one else who was on this trip, Mr Tricker (Games), Mr Stephenson (Maths), Mr Puddephat (History), Mr Butler (French) and many more who's names escape me at the moment."



LAWRENCE TAYLOR—LEFT 1981

Thanks to Mr Lawrence Taylor who has given his permission to recount his exploits. He is interested in keeping in touch with his peers, tutors or anyone who remembers him! He was born and raised in Barnet and attended Christ Church Primary and Dame Alice Owen's Secondary schools. He played rugby for Barnet RFC and in 1985 joined the British Army, Corps of Royal Engineers.

Passing the All Arms Commando Course in 1986, he then served 7 years with British Commando Forces, playing rugby for the Royal Engineers and Combined Services Under 21's, scoring a try at Murryfield vs Scotland (under 21's). He was eventually posted to the Royal School of Military Engineering in 1993, as an instructor on plant machinery.

In 1997 he was posted to the Royal Engineer Yacht Club, serving as the REYC Bosun for the final 10 years of his service. In 2005 he bought his own boat, a Rustler 31, 'Suli' and sailed single handed around the world between 2007- 2009, after his retirement from the Army.



He is hoping to make a 10,000 ft skydive at the Old Sarum Airfield, Wiltshire next year to raise money for Jo's Cervical Cancer Trust (<http://www.jostrust.org.uk/>) in memory of Sarah 'Pixie' Rutter. Sarah, daughter of a family friend Susan Rutter, was diagnosed with cervical cancer in November 2009 and sadly passed away in June 2010, aged just 25.

His attempt in March this year was thwarted by the weather before he had to return to South Africa where he is working on his boat and hopes to sail back to English waters early next year. Whilst working as the boatswain he came back into contact with an ex-tutor at Owens, Ms Christine Townsend and was and always will be amazed at what a small world we live in!

Past Staff News

We received requests from you in our survey in March for contributions in particular from past members of staff. You asked "I would like news of career experiences and school memories of past teachers—they were as much a part of life at school as the students", "I know where some of my friends have ended up but it would be nice to know what some of the teachers did after they left!" and "What are their memories of us?!" So, we are delighted to include the following two accounts.



PETER SALISBURY—LEFT 1981

Thanks to Mr Peter Salisbury for being persuaded to contribute some of his splendid memories, as we're sure many of you will remember your former master of Physical Education— just in case you can't guess, he's on the far right in the photo below! Here's his unedited version as requested...

"For some time now I have been under the gentlest of pressure from your estimable Communications Officer to provide some of my memories of my time at Owens. I spent 16 years at the school (1965-81) and if that sounds like Robert Stroud in Alcatraz, well, we both learned a great deal. I am reliably informed that many ex-students are keen to know what happened to many "old" teachers and their whereabouts. That's nice I thought, then wondered why they should be looking for us after so many years!

I have picked a few stand out bits that did not make the headlines under the working title of "Were you There"?



1. *I started with a fib. I didn't do 16 years at Owens cos I didn't turn up for my first day of work. Took the rest of my career trying to persuade GFJ that he hadn't picked the wrong man. I was sleeping on Euston station at the time but that's another story. Were you in that assembly looking for me when I was announced- but wasn't there?*

2. *The next day I got down to work and received some pleasing sniggering about my purple track-suit. It was, of course, African Violet, respected and recognised world-wide as the colour of Loughborough Colleges- apart from in Islington, clearly. Fair play boys- game on! One of the worst offenders lives in Singapore and he is still sniggering. Rather sad as he has just hit 60.*

3. *I think this is a good one. Were you one of those 90 odd (!) boys in shorts in a long line at Whetstone bending over to receive some punishment from a slipper all in one go? Well, you know it wasn't me but I have three questions to ask you- a) Why? b) What number were you in the line? c) Looking back with all life's rich experiences "behind" you which number in the line would you now choose? Not 1 to 10 please.*
4. *Owens was well respected, then as now, for our sporting prowess and when we reached the London Schools Cup Final against St. Aloysius our outstanding head organised numerous coaches to take hundreds to the game. That was the strongest team I ever remember at the school and St.A. never scored! - so we only lost 0-1. Maund and Robinson - some of us have forgiven you. Own goal OK but it was a classic.*
5. *If you were there you will surely remember Jackson. Mischievous and with boundless energy his greatest joy was to sneak into the changing rooms before games lessons and nick a sweaty sock, or a jock strap if you were middle class and run out on to the field with it hotly pursued by all but never caught. Best warm up drill ever!*
6. *I was standing on the toilet seat in my office in the gym lifting up the lid of the cistern one day and as I know you were not there I will explain. It was the seventies and IRA bomb scares were common. After a phone call and a fire drill all staff were told to go to their own areas and search for anything suspicious. Like what? A device?? A bomb??? I wonder to this day whether I should have reported the lad I saw in the phone box across the road at the start of it all. Rather extreme measure just cos you have forgotten your PE kit, surely.*
7. *I had a second string to my bow which was the teaching of English which I thoroughly enjoyed and took very seriously. I remember sitting up late into the night making sure that my marks for the end of year exams were fair. I eventually gave the top mark for the essay of 92/100 to a 12yo called Kemp, Barry or Gary, or something. It was a long time ago but I often wonder what happened to him.*



BARBARA FINLAYSON—LEFT 2002

Thanks to Mrs Barbara Finlayson (previous German teacher) for recounting her happy memories of DAOS life and inspires us with what she's doing now. She kindly wrote this after having just returned from assisting on our German exchange in April this year.

"I went to Viernheim for the first time 26 years ago (which neatly connects the past with the present), running the exchange for 7 years and visiting off and on over the following years.

I was very lucky when I retired in 2002 after a very busy and enjoyable career at Owen's because I was given the opportunity to do as much supply teaching as I could manage at the school, keeping in touch with staff and pupils I knew without the responsibilities of the past. I also taught German IB (International Baccalaureate) at Haileybury College but was able to develop new interests at the same time.

Having stopped supply teaching about 3 years ago, I am now doing voluntary work for Isabel Hospice in Welwyn Garden City and my local Primary School in Wheathampstead, working with 6 year olds which I find absolutely fascinating because it mirrors a lot of the teaching of foreign languages and is very imaginative.

I am also secretary of our residents association and as I have always enjoyed organising things, I have set up a walking and a reading group as well as an annual Midsummer party. Walking is one of my favourite hobbies and I combine it with my love to travel.

Naturally I still go to Germany to see family and friends but did not move back after retirement as many of my former pupils thought I would do. To finish off with my extensive activities, I have started to learn Italian, taken up dancing and keep fit. I feel very privileged to be in excellent health and to continue my close relationship with Owen's, the school where I spent such a large part of my life and which holds many wonderful memories for me."

***Thank you once again to our valued contributors for
spending time to share their experiences with us.***

And finally...

In our next issue in September, we hope to tell you about the school trips to South Africa this July and update you on our exam results, as well as include more articles from you—past staff and students. Once again, **please encourage all Old Owenians you know to join our 400th Anniversary emailing list** by simply emailing 400years@damealiceowens.herts.sch.uk with their full name and year of leaving date. Those on our list receive email alerts to this quarterly newsletter and other information which may only be available via email, such as priority notice of certain 400th Anniversary events, ability to take part in online surveys (next term we want to get your feedback on types of 400th memorabilia!) or invitations to speak to students about Careers. Usual data protection rules apply and they can unsubscribe at any time.

***Please help us "spread the word"..
...January 1st 2013 is only 1 year, 184 days away!***

School History!

Continue to contact either Mrs Barbara Miller millerb@damealiceowens.herts.sch.uk or Mr Richard Morley morleyr@damealiceowens.herts.sch.uk if you have any historical memorabilia to include in our exhibition and contact Dr Alan Davison if you have any suitable photos to include in our new publication of the history of the school via email: head@damealiceowens.herts.sch.uk or post to the school by 22nd July 2011: Dame Alice Owen's School, Dugdale Hill Lane, Potters Bar, Hertfordshire EN6 2DU.

Photoshop expert!

If you were the person to volunteer help in enhancing old photos in Photoshop in response to our survey, please email us as we didn't get your email address and there may be some opportunity to help our head, Dr Alan Davison over the summer! Thank you in anticipation—email: head@damealiceowens.herts.sch.uk.

You made it to the end!

Well done for ploughing through this bumper edition—we think we have included contributions as promised and already have a few lined up for our next issue at the end of September (deadline for articles 16th September)! If you would like to give us any feedback about any of the content in this newsletter, please email us at 400years@damealiceowens.herts.sch.uk. We hope you have enjoyed reading our news and your fellow Old Owenians accounts and may we wish you all a very long sunny summer.

Mrs Mandy English, Communications Officer

