



Old Owenians Newsletter

Third Quarter—30th September 2014
Edition 15

A message from our Head...

"Dear Old Owenians

Firstly, welcome to new members if you've signed up to Old Owenians In Touch over the summer and thanks to those of you who've updated your details. Our new database has recorded lots of activity and we hope it'll be an easier way of helping you to find your past peers and enable you to register more detailed information. We're delighted seven businesses have joined our Old Owenians Business Directory and we're happy to include more! We also hope to see many of you at our annual Old Owenians Harold Moore Reunion Luncheon in London in October to support our new organiser, Sandyann Cannon (Class of 1985) and MC Perry Offer (Class of 1977).

August brought an excellent set of examination results in spite of the national drop in results for our Years 10, 11, 12 and 13. Their hard work, and the support of dedicated staff and parents, has ensured a truly outstanding, well-deserved outcome. Key highlights below (further details on our website):

- *22% of all A-Level entries were awarded the A* grade*
- *86% of all A-Level entries were graded A*, A or B*
- *21 students have confirmed places at Oxford or Cambridge*
- *99.5% of students in Year 11 secured 5 A*-C grades (a new school record), with 96.5% securing 5 A*-C grades when English and Mathematics are included—over 66% of all entries were graded A or A**

Also, we'd like to congratulate Old Owenian, Jodie Williams, Class of 2012, who secured silver medals in the Commonwealth Games in July and the European Championships in August in the 200m and a record breaking gold medal in the 4 x 100 relay. In addition, current Owenian, Gabby Jupp, has been selected for the Senior British Gymnastics team for the world championships in China this October! We hope to cheer them both on in 2016 in Rio!

**Old Owenians Harold Moore
Annual Reunion Luncheon
Monday 27th October 2014
Imperial Hotel,
Russell Square, London,
from 11.30am till 4pm
More details on page 2!**



Students and staff were busy with other activities in the holidays - a group of 19 students from years 11 & 12 had a life-changing experience (their words not mine) when they spent three weeks in Tanzania visiting our partner school and the Amani Centre for disabled children. Prior to departing they raised an amazing £11.5k to donate to the Centre, the schools it supports and its community. Whilst visiting they were involved in redecorating the Centre and the school, harvesting maize and making home visits in the slum of Morogoro to disabled children and their carers. The students also enjoyed the spectacular sights of four of the 'big 5' in The Serengeti and some well-earned chill out time on the beaches of Zanzibar with staff, Miss Anderson and Mr Simpson.

Our old Drama building is no more! Our Premises Team were on hand in August to manage the start of the fully funded building work for our new Languages, Drama and SEN (Special Educational Needs) Building with completion expected in April 2015. Details of this project were reported in our last Newsletter and you can see photos as the development progresses on our website—see also page 4. We look forward to sharing more news with you in December.

Dr Alan Davison"



Invitation to our Old Owenians Harold Moore Annual Reunion Luncheon

Our new organiser, Sandyann Cannon, would love you to join us at this reunion event on Monday 27th October 2014, 1-4pm, with pre-luncheon drinks from 11.30am. Our invitation is extended to all Old Owenians and Staff from the Islington Girls' and Boys' schools, and from the Potters Bar school. This year the luncheon will be attended by our Deputy Head of School, Mr John Godfrey, and accompanied by the Head Girl and Head Boy, with Perry Offer as Master of Ceremonies. Also invited are previous Heads of School, staff past and present, and honoured guests.



The Luncheon will be held in the Elizabethan Restaurant of the Imperial Hotel, 61-66 Russell Square, Holborn WC1B 5BB. Getting there is easy – the nearest tube is Russell Square on the Piccadilly Line or parking is available from CC Parking – see the hotel website for their tariffs:

<http://www.imperialhotels.co.uk/>

Guests gather from 11.30am onwards in the 1st floor bar of the hotel and lunch is served at 1pm. The price represents great value—£38 covers a three-course meal, coffee, wine or mineral water, room hire, gratuities and administrative costs, but excludes pre-luncheon drinks. The main course will be chicken, but if you have special dietary requirements you can state these where indicated on your application. To apply, please complete the form on the Newsletter page (PDF available for printing) and post to Sandyann—early replies would be much appreciated, but in any event please reply to her direct by Monday 20th October. We'd love you to contact your old school friends to encourage them to share in this splendidly informal occasion and very much look forward to meeting you there!

School Events for Alumni this term!

Our **Science Society Lecture programme** has an excellent reputation for inviting really interesting speakers from a wide range of areas—our evening series is listed below—we'd love you to come along—just email Mrs Kika Dorotheou, our Science Enrichment Activities Coordinator on dorotheouk@damealiceowens.herts.sch.uk to let her know you'll be attending—all events are free, held in the School Hall 7-8pm and are attended by staff, students, parents and alumni.

Monday 6th October—**Professor Minhyong Kim**

Department of Mathematics, Oxford University—"The mathematics of optimal matchmaking"

Wednesday 15th October—**Dr Jeya Balakrishna**

Consultant Forensic Psychiatrist Defence Medical Services, MOD—"Mad, Bad or Sad: Forensic Psychiatry in Courts, Prisons and the Armed Forces"

Wednesday 12th November—**Mr Glen Lloyd**

Detective Chief Inspector, Homicide and Serious Crime Command—"The use of science and forensics in homicide investigation and disaster victim identification"

Prospective Parents Tours for secondary admissions—Thursday 2nd October and Friday 3rd October 9.15am—for more details see Admissions, Key Dates.

Open Afternoon for external applicants to the Sixth Form entry 2015—Wednesday 12th November 2-5pm

Concerts events this Autumn are:

Senior Chamber Concert—Wednesday 19th November, Choral Concert—Thursday 27th November

Windbands Evening—Wednesday 10th December, Orchestral Concert—Wednesday 17th December

Request to support our Business Studies students

As part of the A2 Business A Level, students are required to carry out research on a certain topic area each year. This year the focus is on comparing different manufacturing businesses in the UK and the challenges they face. The research is heavily reliant on students finding relevant case study material.

Should you therefore have any experience working in UK manufacturing we would love to hear from you. Last year we set up some Skype calls with Old Owenians Guy Parsonage in Hong Kong (right) & Richard Leyton which were a huge success. If you are interested in helping out, please contact Jamie Bird (Head of Business) at birdj@damealiceowens.herts.sch.uk to discuss further.

See also a report on Andrew Savvides talk to students on page 9.





Are you at University?

Are you thinking about a career in teaching?

The Advanced Learning Alliance is offering school internships to prepare University Students for Teacher Training via School Direct. School Direct involves work based training with a bursary in certain subjects and a PGCE qualification. Observations will be offered in local Outstanding Schools. We will support you to gain the most out of school internship by:-

- Offering support and mentoring to you throughout the Internship
- Providing the opportunity to work with small groups and whole classes
- Providing the opportunity for you to mentor sixth formers in preparation for their University application
- Giving you the chance to take part in projects and activities
- We will provide written testimonials and references for Interns who successfully complete the course, as well as comprehensive information on the School Direct route into teaching

Placements will be available in June and July 2015 and applications are now open. We are particularly interested in Maths, Science, English and Modern Foreign Languages, however other subjects will be considered.

To apply please email a letter and CV to Ms Jane Hart, Assistant Headteacher, Watford Grammar School for Girls, j.hart@watfordgirls.herts.sch.uk

Stop press – if you are thinking of applying for School Direct training in September 2015 please get ahead of the application process by sending a CV and letter now to Jane at the above email address.

Dame Alice Owen's School has 4 graduates on the School Direct programme who started with us this term – Dan Latham, who's been recruited to work in our History Department, is an Old Owenian!

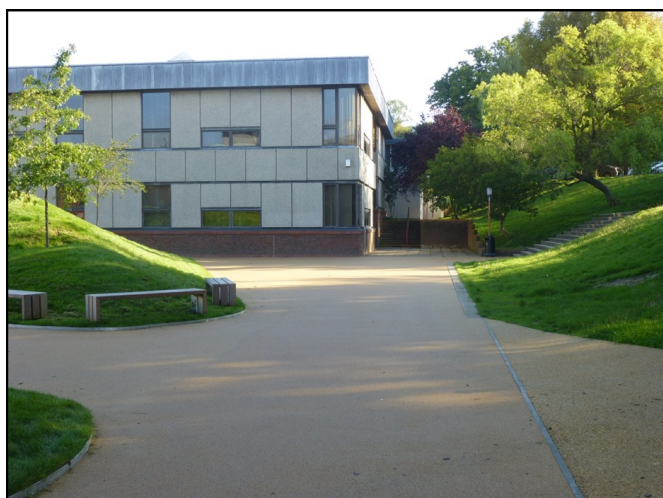
Paco Sanz Ojero (MFL)	Subject Mentor (Tony Meekin)	Professional mentor (Bob Pepper)
Judith Nicolson (Maths)	Subject Mentor (Louise Price)	Professional Mentor (Bob Pepper)
Samantha Nicholls (Art)	Subject Mentor (Steve Willcock)	Professional Mentor (John Johnstone)
Daniel Latham (History & Politics)	Subject Mentor (Charlotte Grove)	Professional Mentor (John Johnstone)

Development Work

Contributors to our 400th Anniversary Appeal for our new Science Building will be delighted to know that the final jigsaw in our post-building site management was put in place with the opening of Brewers' Garden on the 16th September 2014, during the Masters and Brewers visit to our School for the traditional Visitation tour. Senior Prefects thanked the guests for their huge contribution to our School. We were also pleased to welcome the new Master of the Brewers' Company, James Arkell, who became chairman of the family firm in 2008. Arkell's has been brewing beer in Swindon since 1843—the company celebrated its 170th Anniversary last year, just as our school celebrated its 400th.



Our School Council had voted on the most appropriate name for the area left by the old Science Building, which is now a campus style garden for staff and students. More photos are shown below and yes, students are allowed on the mounds to sit and picnic during break and lunchtimes in fair weather!



New Languages, Drama and SEN (Special Educational Needs) Building



Work is now progressing quickly to develop our new learning space with minimal disruption to staff and students. Hoardings now cordon off the surrounding area and to alleviate the reduction in our already inadequate parking on site, we have created a number of additional spaces in front of the Arnold Lynch Building and by the Grounds facilities, which our visitors may wish to use.

As Dr Davison mentioned in his “message from the Head”, our new building is fully funded, however we do have a Dame Alice Owen’s School account which is set up to receive any further donations for future Projects. We often receive requests from alumni, asking how they can financially help our School, so if you wish to make a contribution, we have provided a single donation form as a PDF on our Newsletter page, which you can use. Mrs Jackie Campbell, our Assistant Business Manager, will always be very happy to discuss any more detailed requests on campbellj@damealiceowens.herts.sch.uk.

Information about our current project is on display in our main foyer and Mrs Campbell has full details of our future Master Plan which involves the rebuilding of our main teaching block (Geography, English and Languages). Some of this information was reported on in our Old Owenians Newsletter March 2014, page 5, and more comprehensive information is available on request. The governors are committed to ensuring our facilities are the best they can be to be able to continue to deliver an outstanding education for all our students. Our Chair of Governors and Old Owenian, Peter Martin, shares more about the school’s funding on pages 6 & 7 of his July 2014 Visitation speech, which can be read in full at: http://www.damealiceowens.herts.sch.uk/about_us/governors.html



Old Owen's Association—Charity Status

The Old Owen's Association, with the support of the School, has made an application for charity status. This will protect the investment made by former students in the clubhouse and pitches in Potters Bar for all former, current and future students, and the move to charitable status will ensure that facilities are available for students to play sports and enjoy meeting up after their time at school. Our School Business Manager, Gill Keating, and Advanced Learning Alliance Manager, Linda Linwood, have worked hard to enable this charitable status application.

Alan Hunter, the Honourable Membership Secretary of the Old Owen's Association, outlines below how you can join the Old Owen's Association and lists the benefits and details of membership for anyone who's interested:

"The Old Owen's Association is based at Old Owen's Sports Club, Coopers Lane, Potters Bar, EN6 4NF. The Sports Club, which is run by John & Lynn Clark (Managers), has the following facilities:

- 4 Football pitches (Owen's has 6 Saturday XI's playing in the Southern Olympian League & a Vets Sunday side in the Mid-Herts League)
- 2 Cricket Squares (Owen's have 3 Saturday XI's playing in the Saracens Herts League & a Sunday XI playing Friendlies)
- Clubhouse (open 7 days a week), with bar serving drinks way below Pub prices, lounges with 3 TV's (including a large screen TV showing sporting events), function room (available for hire for events such as birthdays, weddings, anniversaries, meetings etc.), kitchen which serves food
- Changing rooms with showers



If you are a member of the Association you are entitled to a Loyalty Card which gives you a 10% discount on drinks bought at the bar. Social events are also organised by John & Lynn at various times (e.g. quizzes, Elvis Nights, Hog/Lamb Roasts, Fireworks night) - see the Association website <http://www.OLDOWENS.COM> for all event details.

The Objectives of the Association is to advance in life and help former Owenians through:

- The provision of recreational and leisure time activities provided in the interest of social welfare, designed to improve their conditions of life*
- Providing support and activities which develop their skills, capacities and capabilities to enable them to participate in society as mature and responsible individuals*
- To advance the education of the pupils at Dame Alice Owen's School by providing and assisting in the provision of facilities for education at the School*

Full Membership is open to former pupils of Dame Alice Owen's School who either went to our school in Islington or here in Potters Bar and to personnel who are or have been employees or Governors of the school. Associate Membership is open to other individuals who do not satisfy the criteria for Full Membership. The Membership year is from the 1st August to the 31st July the following year. The normal and preferred anniversary date is the 1st August but individuals can still join the Association at any time during the stated period.

Membership fees are currently as follows:

Full or Associate members	£22 per year
Retired members	£7.50 per year
Students in Full time education	£11.00 per year

There is currently a special scheme for Year 13 students attending our School, in that they can become members of the Association for £5 for a period of 3 years at the end of which they can apply for Full Membership or as Students in Full time education. Application forms for Membership of the Association can be obtained from the Association website <http://oldowens.com/ooa-membership-application-form> or if you have any enquiries please contact Alan Hunter (Hon. Membership Secretary) at 53hunteralan@gmail.com.

We understand that individuals might be reluctant to become a member of the Association if they live afar and would not be gaining any benefit from using the facilities outlined above, but the Association is a non-profit organisation and the funds for membership helps to secure the Association with regard to its facilities and objectives for future generations of Owenians, so please join."

The George Frampton marble and bronze statue of Dame Alice Owen

The George Frampton marble and bronze statue of Dame Alice Owen has been asked to be part of a Victorian Sculpture Exhibition at the Yale Center for British Art in New Haven, Connecticut and Tate Britain in London. The statue was moved to Connecticut USA during our summer break and will be travelling to Tate Britain London early next year. It will be returned to our school in June 2015—here are the professional photos that were taken before she left—full size one overleaf!



This will be a major exhibition on Victorian sculpture entitled, *Sculpture Victorious: Art in an Age of Invention, 1837-1901* that has now opened at the YCBA this September and will be on at Tate Britain in the spring of 2015.

The exhibition focuses on sculpture produced in Britain and the British Empire during the reign of Queen Victoria, and will bring together a rich array of works that highlight the visual diversity, originality, and imagination that characterized sculptural production across the period. Many of the objects are rarely, if ever, seen by a wider public, as they reside in private homes, estates, regional collections, and institutions not generally open to the public.

The school is very proud that the statue will be part of this exhibition. Please click on the Facebook link below to see her in situ at the Yale Center and share with your friends!

<https://www.facebook.com/video.php?v=10154573747975099>

The plinth where Dame Alice stood in our Dining Hall has been temporarily replaced with a sign explaining where she is on her travels! Thanks to Shaunee Cole at Yale, for these fantastic detailed photographs of our Foundress.





DAME ALICE OWEN.

"This matron havinge advanceed & enriched
all her children kept greate hospitalitie. Shee
also in her lyfetime so fvrthvred the pvvlieve
weale of this state as her charitable deedes to
the Cittie of London, both Vniversities, Oxford
and Cambridge, especiallie this Towne of Islington,
can testifie: a monyment of her pietie to fvvire
ages beinge extant in the South end of this
Towne more woorthie & largelie, expresseing
her pietie than these gowlden letters as mych
as deedes are above woords. Shee, havinge
lived religiovvlie to GOD, svfficientlie for
natvre bvt not for her children and frends, her
jvft soyle is in the hands of the Almightye,
when her bodie departed on the 26th day of
November, anno domini 1613."

Spandau Ballet Film Premiere

Many congratulations to Old Owenians Tony Hadley, John Keeble, Gary Kemp and Steve Norman, who with Martin Kemp (Central Foundation School for Boys), created the famous Spandau Ballet in the late 1970's were recently given a prestigious Heritage award by PRS for Music in celebration of their contribution to music.



They'll be appearing together at the Royal Albert Hall on Tuesday 30th September at 7.45pm for the European premiere of their film "Soul Boys of the Western World" with a Q&A and special live performance following the screening. Thanks to Gary Kemp for permission to reproduce this photo from their website! Note! If you can't make the RAH, cinemas are also screening the film on the same night and Odeon are offering a Spandau Ballet prize pack!

Senior Prefects and Honours Degrees

We are delighted to continue to receive updates to our Senior Prefects list—Catherine Haisman (nee Hooker) - Deputy Head Girl in 1981 and Julia Smith (nee Moss) - Deputy Head Girl in 1978. Also, alumni are reminded that we have name boards on Bridge Corridor for students who are awarded First Class Honours Degrees. If this applies to you, please inform Mariette D'Castro, in our Accounts Department, so she can arrange for you to be included in the annual September update—email her at: dcastrom@damealiceowens.herts.sch.uk.

Congratulations to **Christopher Lloyd** (Class of 2003), who was awarded a First in Mathematics BSc (Hons) from King's College London, **Simon Maine** who graduated from Oxford in 2008 with First in PPE (Philosophy, Politics, and Economics) and **Jenny Johnson** who achieved a First in BSc (Hons) Geophysics from the University of Edinburgh (Class of 2010) - she tells us she's going to start a job with BAE Systems Applied Intelligence and will be on a technical graduate training scheme for two years. Also from Class of 2010, congratulations to **Sam Whiteley**, who's graduated this year with a first in English Language and Literature from Exeter College, Oxford. He's going on to study the GDL (law conversion course) at City University London this year and tells us he's *"very excited to see where it takes me"*.

Maths Department Honours Board

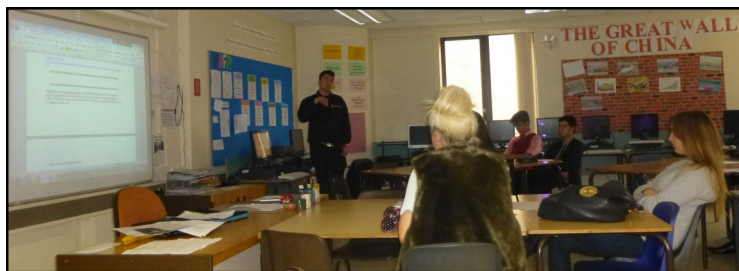
Our Maths Department is putting together a Mathematics Honours Board for Old Owenians in the Arnold Lynch Centre for Maths and Technology (building completed in 2006), for all DAOS students who went onto study Maths at University from 2007 onwards. They'd also like to feature those of you who can tell us what you're doing now to inspire our current students with what you've been able to achieve and where you've ended up working.

If you'd like to take part by providing us with your current employment and experiences post University, please email direct to our 2nd Head of Mathematics and Curriculum Director, Dr Matt James at:

jamesm@damealiceowens.herts.sch.uk.

Andrew Savvides shares his Year in Industry with Business Studies students

We were delighted when Andrew Savvides agreed to speak to our Year 13 Business Studies students about his amazing year at Rolls Royce in Nottingham this September. Andrew left in 2013 to take year out in industry before starting his Mechanical Engineering course at Sheffield University this year. In response to our Head of Business Studies, Jamie Bird's request, to support students in their research about manufacturing in the UK, he kindly gave a talk on Monday 15th September 2014.



When considering the impact of technological change on business manufacturing in the UK, he cited the introduction of 3D printing as giving the most opportunity for potential cost savings in recent years.

Rolls Royce is investing significantly in research and development in the aircraft engine arm of their business in the hope to gain competitive advantage using this new technology. They believe 3D printing can

deliver “complexity for free” – producing highly complicated designs consistently which will enable even better efficiencies in their engines (needing less fuel), ensuring they manufacture at the very highest quality.

Students were very appreciative of Andrew returning to spend time with them before dashing off to Sheffield for his Fresher's week!

We'd also like to congratulate Andrew on reaching the national final of the Year in Industry Award (one of only 9 candidates, chosen for the contribution they made to the companies they worked for) after winning the regional Award and wish him much success with his studies at Sheffield.



Bursaries and Awards

Just to remind students of funding they can apply for under our Awards scheme for those in full time education.

E H Thompson Bequest and FE Beecham Awards

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 ex-students from Dame Alice Owen's, currently in higher education. The closing date for 2014 applications is Friday 24th October 2014 - please see letter from Dr A Davison explaining full details on our website under Bursaries:

http://www.damealiceowens.herts.sch.uk/sixth_form/bursaries.html . Successful applicants will be invited to attend an interview at Brewer's Hall.

Request from Old Mercers

The Old Mercers Club, consisting of former members of Mercers School, are trying to locate two Old Mercers who moved from their school to Owen's when the school closed in 1958. Mercers' School had existed since 1447, but in 1958 the Court of The Mercers' Company decided that they could no longer continue to support their school financially. It was on a small site in Holborn which made expansion of the school to a financially viable number impractical. Therefore, school closed and, in the early part of 1958 arrangements were made with a number of public and grammar schools in and around London, one of which was Owen's, to assimilate almost all of the Mercers' schoolboys.

Today, 55 years after the closure of the School, the Old Mercers' Club still flourishes. In recent years several former students of Mercers' School, who moved to other schools, have joined the Old Mercers' Club and enjoy a number of social events throughout the year. The Old Mercers' Club General Secretary, Howard Stephens, would like to get in contact with D. Cunnington and/or W. Mabey or anyone else who was in the same situation. They could make contact through their web site at <http://www.oldmercersclub.org.uk/> or directly by email at hs@howardstephens.co.uk or by letter to The Old Mercers' Club General Secretary, 'Pleroma', St John's Road, New Romney, Kent TN 28 8EW.

And now for alumni reports and your contributions...



BRITTANY MCGOWAN - CLASS OF 2009

Ms McGowan was at Owen's September 2002 till November 2004, until she returned to Australia with her family. Now, aged 23 (studied Journalism at Queensland University from 2010) she's just represented Australia as an athlete in the Commonwealth Games in Glasgow in the summer (originally a hockey player!) and we wish her continued success in her athletics career!



DAMIEN YING—CLASS OF 2013

Congratulations to Mr Ying for taking part in the year-long recital series in celebration of the Royal College of Organists' 150th anniversary. He played during the '150 for 150' celebratory recitals at St. John the Baptist Church, in Barnet, on August 30 and said in anticipation of the event: *"I am really excited to support the RCO's 150 for 150 challenge because it gives me the great opportunity to play for an audience and for them to hear me play enjoyable music."* The free recital included music by Bach, Franck, Vienne, Glass and other well-known composers.



DOUG SCOTT – LEFT 2004

Thanks to Doug Scott, who left DAOS Sixth Form in 2004, for volunteering his holiday time to come in and speak to students (June 2014) about how he's now working for film companies in Canada and the challenges in his role. Doug studied English, History and Art A Levels and went onto Central St Martins to take a year's Foundation degree before continuing at Coventry School of Art to qualify with a Bachelor of Illustration. He had a mixed experience at Central St Martin's due to the quality of teaching and was told at the end of his degree at Coventry that the Print industry was collapsing and they should have been teaching digital illustration to reflect the changes!

He had various internships and was editor of the Student Union Newspaper, majoring on photography, thus considered a career in photo journalism but rethought this when he discovered that jobs in the market were shrinking.

Having had a great experience at Camp America one summer, he returned to the US while deciding what to do long term. When an opportunity came for him to take a position in Vancouver, he jumped at it and left his home in Wood Green with a passport, a computer and a few changes of clothes recognising that the days of the freelance illustrator were limited.

After a few random jobs, he built up a network of contacts and landed a job working on Mission Impossible. He's now a freelance Art Department Assistant, working for major companies, such as Paramount and Disney, in the third largest centre for the film industry in North America. The work is totally project based – usually for 3-4 months at a time, which affords him flexibility and time to do illustrations as a hobby. He emphasized that being just an illustrator alone doesn't pay.



British Columbia give tax breaks to American film companies to provide an incentive to go there – in Vancouver, they also have the advantage of pretty much the full range of terrain—a Director can choose from settings in the City, suburbs, mountains, dessert and coast and the industry employs around 36,000 people.

The work is exciting, often confidential and Doug emphasized that good communication is key to ensuring everyone is “singing from the same song sheet”. Typically, he will receive a script and highlight the relevant details according to design—this is then revised and eventually put into practice – with items often being delivered to the final set with wet paint! A film called Tomorrow Land will be released sometime next year, but to give you an idea of timescales, he’s had to sign a non-disclosure agreement (not uncommon) until the Premiere Screening as he’s worked on the film and cannot reveal the plot (stars George Clooney and is now complete)!

Doug wants to go back to study Set Design at University – this will mean working during the day and studying at night. He gives valuable advice that in today’s pace of change due to technology you have to keep moving forward and adapting to the business environment and the latest technologies. It’s fresh and exciting and a 12 hour day – 7am-7pm. He recommends a couple of ways to see imagery – look at Concept imagery for Harry Potter, view as much artwork as possible and look at DVD extra footage into the making of films.

Finally, Doug recommends students to try Camp America (CCUSA pay the most!) while at University or on a gap year, as he got the chance to teach children (he was taught himself how to teach Rifling, Shooting and High Ropes – they give you as much training as you need), only had to pay minimal for board and lodgings, flights and health insurances are paid and they give you time off to travel – he’s been twice and toured California!

We wish Doug continued success and hope to see his name in credits soon!



NICHOLAS RULE – LEFT 1971

Thanks to Mr Rule for sending us this interesting article about Julian Bell, an alumnus of DAOS in the early 1920’s.

“The Bloomsbury Group and Owen’s

Julian Bell (b. 1908), the son of Vanessa and Clive Bell of the Bloomsbury Group, was briefly an Owenian in the 1920s when he was in the same class as my late father Frank Rule (1919 – 24). Dad told the story of how Julian Bell had failed to appear at The Field one morning. Although JB had been helped onto a train by class friends at Kings Cross that morning, it made its first stop at Peterborough rather than at Oakleigh Park. This easy misdirection led to an angry investigation back at school the next morning.

Apparently JB was also known for his glasses that had to be repaired regularly with black cotton. Perhaps it was not a surprise that in 1922, Mrs Bell called on Mr Cholmeley, the Headmaster and against his advice, took her son out of Owen’s and sent him instead to Leighton Park, a Quaker school near Reading. Mr Cholmeley had also urged Mrs Bell not to take JB with her that year to St Tropez but she ignored that advice.

JB later went on Kings College, Cambridge where he was a member of The Apostles and had a book of verse published in 1930. Appointed a Professor at Wuhan University, China in 1935, he returned to Europe as clouds darkened over Spain. In June 1937 he left for Spain, to drive ambulances for the Spanish Medical Unit but sadly Julian Bell was killed at Brunete in July that year.”

This is what Wikipedia says about the Bloomsbury Group – “The Bloomsbury Group—or Bloomsbury Set—was an influential group of associated English writers, intellectuals, philosophers and artists, the best known members of which included Virginia Woolf, John Maynard Keynes, E. M. Forster and Lytton Strachey.

This loose collective of friends and relatives lived, worked or studied together near Bloomsbury, London, during the first half of the 20th century. According to Ian Ousby, "although its members denied being a group in any formal sense, they were united by an abiding belief in the importance of the arts". Their works and outlook deeply influenced literature, aesthetics, criticism, and economics as well as modern attitudes towards feminism, pacifism, and sexuality.

There were 10 core members: Clive Bell, art critic, Vanessa Bell, Post-impressionist painter, E.M. Forster, fiction writer, Roger Fry, art critic and Post-impressionist painter, Duncan Grant, Post-impressionist painter, John Maynard Keynes, economist, Desmond MacCarthy, literary journalist, Lytton Strachey, biographer, Leonard Woolf, essayist and non-fiction writer, Virginia Woolf, fiction writer and essayist"



LUCY DODGE—CLASS OF 2014

Congratulations to Lucy Dodge for a string of awards this summer. As well as achieving A*'s in History and Politics A Levels and A in German, she received 'The Nicholas Barnes Trust prize for the EPQ' at our prize giving, being awarded £1,000 for the quality of her submission entitled, "How far is the continued survival of the NHS simply a matter of political will" and won the 'John French prize for Government and Politics'. She's moved onto Warwick University this Autumn to study History and Politics and is very grateful to Old Owenian, Andrew Porter, for his support in her research. Andrew also studied the same subjects at Warwick (left Owen's in 1991) and was delighted to have been of assistance! Old Owenian, Nicholas Barnes, in the last year, has set up his own trust to help students and has been invited to join the governing body to be closer to, and more aware of the needs of our school. We wish Lucy the very best of luck at University!



JAN ALLAIN—CLASS OF 1976

Thanks to Jan Allain for getting in touch with us as promised to let us know about her forthcoming album and the launch concert! The Band line up looks impressive and Rolling Stone magazine say 'Britain's Best Kept Songwriting Secret!'. She says *"tickets are selling fast for my 'Freedom's Daughter' ALBUM LAUNCH GIG on SUNDAY 2ND NOV at THE BRUNSWICK PUB in HOVE. £7/£9. Doors 7:30pm/Music at 8pm. As capacity and seating is limited you can RESERVE SEATS/TABLE PLUS FREE SNACKS AT DISCOUNT PRICE £7 by sending me a TEXT ASAP to 07972654001. Example : 'album gig SMITH x 4' Please use YOUR surname for your booking. Please Invite & BRING YOUR FRIENDS!! This way you can pay on the door and avoid wegotickets charges. But please come for sure if you book. Venue: <http://www.thebrunswick.net> Band: <http://www.janallain.com>"*

Jan Allain was one of our Old Owenians Careers Speakers in March this year—report Old Owenians Newsletter March 2014, page 9. We wish her a sell out gig and much good luck with the new album which is now available on her website.



LES GIBBINGS – CLASS OF 1971



Thanks to Mr Gibbings for this 11th contribution and recounting memories of the First World War. Your editor recently visited the 'Blood Swept Lands and Seas of Red' art installation at the Tower of London, where the moat is being filled with 888,246 ceramic poppies—each poppy representing a British fatality during the First World War. It's a sober reminder of those who had to give up their lives for the life we enjoy today.

"With the range of activities and events organised this year in remembrance of the centenary of the start of the First World War (FWW), I began to reflect on how we remembered the fallen and survivors from the conflict at Owen's during my time there and other related matters.

All I can recall in the way of formally paying respects to the memory of the 170 (?) former pupils who had fallen in the FWW was the annual ceremony close to Armistice Day - but there was certainly nothing remotely approaching the portrayal in the film 'Goodbye Mr Chips' with a regular reading out of hosts of names of those who had tragically perished – not as far as I can recall anyway.

But there was always a mild military influence at Owen's as by the time we reached the 4th year, we were expected to choose to either go into the school Army Cadets (a vision of army uniforms, hobnail boots, marching in the quad passes before my eyes when I think of this) or undertake Task Force duties (the role of visiting old people in the vicinity of the school for a chat and maybe doing errands or jobs like the scouts bob-a-job - of which I had had much experience).

I was never really sure if the Cadet corps was a hang-over from the National service that had ended during the early 1960s in the way of being a sort of preparation if pupils wanted to consider a career in the forces or was the school's way of showing its disappointment that it had ever ended. It was clear that some of my peers loved it and I well remember one or two particular pupils who seemed to enjoy the 'dressing up' and stomping about in their black boots while a few shouted orders out loud as they paraded about the Quad - while others were appalled by the whole concept. Chatting about this recently to an old class mate, he reminded me that very few of those who were in the Cadets ever had uniforms or boots and actually completed manoeuvres in their school uniforms on those blessed Friday afternoons in London.

What I remember of my time representing Owen's on undertaking Task Force (TF) duties were those who were in my small group. If memory serves me well it composed myself, 'Oz' (more formally known as **Malcom Osgood**), 'JJ' (our pseudonym for 'Jolly'...) **Jeff Hulbert** and my close neighbour in N19, **Peter Joannides**.

Our 'task' was to visit one or two pre-identified elderly people who lived in the vicinity of the school and we ended up as I recall going to the homes of an elderly man and then a woman living in the flats around the City Road/Goswell Road area. Despite being as dutiful as boys from Owen's might be expected to be - being trusted to go off in school time to complete a task and represent the school - the foray into the wider world in pursuit of this didn't last very long and not beyond a handful of visits as on a couple of occasions the person we were scheduled to call upon was either out or told us 'it is not convenient' with the result that we just said our goodbyes and went home a bit earlier than expected.

I found that the role of lending a friendly ear and conversing about the personal memories of those we visited would often encompass events around the FWW. The conversations I had enjoyed with my maternal grandfather (whose medals are shown right) and especially those relating to his experiences in the trenches held me in good stead (I had revelled in details of his participation with the Royal Fusiliers at the infamous battle of Passchendaele).

I also found myself acting as an informal 'errand boy' for an elderly man who lived beneath our family's flat and who regaled me with details of his life in the Royal Mail in the years before war broke out telling me about a very different world. One in which there were mail deliveries on Christmas day & treats of mince pies and sherry in the kitchen of big Edwardian homes in Hampstead (where coincidentally my younger brother and Old Owenian, **Peter Gibbings**, is still the 'postie' I think). This elderly neighbour ended up being invalided out of the army and the trenches in France when he picked up a mutilating arm wound caused by shrapnel.



In any case I suspect many Old Owenians have family stories from the Great War and similarly I have mine but there is probably some synchronicity here in terms of feelings and attitudes of those who were on the frontline. Although I am aware that my grandfathers and various grand uncles enlisted and served and survived in the conflict, the most cherished memory that I have uncovered concerns what is a seemingly uncensored letter written to my paternal grandparents in pencil dated in January 1917 from my great uncle Reg. He had been serving in the trenches of Northern France with the London Regiment from early on in the war and his feelings of dejection are clear. Writing to say thank you for their gift to him of a cake for Christmas 1916 he complained of the bad weather and recent snow and cursed the 'rotten war' wanting it to be over so he might be back home sitting with the family round a blazing fire. Such sentiments were probably not uncommon amongst disillusioned troops. He concluded by sending his regards to everyone 'not forgetting the boy' (who was only nine months old at the time and would much later become my father).

Sadly, and probably like many others, he didn't get his wish as he was killed a few months before the end of the war in August 1918 at Arras by a sniper when out on early morning patrol. Reg was an unmarried 25 year old. But what particularly interested me was the manner in which his commanding officer subsequently wrote a letter of condolence to my Great Grandmother in a style redolent of a bygone era about it which was intended to give solace to the bereaved next-of-kin of those who had perished in the conflict. It said 'He was a noble and fearless lad and respected by all his comrades, and in him England has lost one of those who have made the Empire what it is today. Please accept my sympathy. He died doing his duty. Surely that was a noble death?'

Perhaps it was based on some sort of template given to officers to use and I wonder how many close relatives of those Old Owenians who did not return from the war received something similar in the post?"



We're sure many of you will remember Robert Pepper, who following 22 years as Deputy Head of our School, stepped down from this post in the summer. Bob made a very significant contribution to our School, not only as the conductor of the Symphony and Chamber Orchestras, which was the most visible of his numerous roles, but also guiding the development of the School's curriculum and teaching and learning. Bob was always willing to give freely of his time to extra-curricular music activities and across the whole school. His skill as a timetabler and in

curriculum development enhanced the experience of countless thousands of students. We're lucky that Bob has very kindly agreed to stay on to continue to run the Orchestra and contribute to the School more widely.

Old Owenians In Touch and Newsletters biannual from December 2014

Once again, thanks to everyone who's updated their details on Old Owenians In Touch and welcome to new our members—please help by spreading the word for others to join. Our **Business Directory** is now live and we'd love to promote your companies— **this area of the website is now in the public domain—see link below:**

<http://damealiceowens.web-intouch.com/frmPrimesDisplay.aspx?A= 7> —just email your editor with details!

There is a username and password reminder facility on the site if you've forgotten and remember to update your email address details with any changes, so we can still keep In Touch.

From December we're consolidating our regular communication into **two demand-led Newsletters per year**, both including school news and alumni updates that you've sent us. Our **December** edition will report on our Harold Moore Annual Reunion Luncheon event and our issue in **June** will feedback our Old Owenians Career Talks Week in March. We'll continue to signpost all school events you're welcome to attend and do send us your contributions as we know how much you enjoy reading them. **Remember, the deadline for articles for our next Newsletter is 8th December 2014!**

'Class Of' Category on Old Owenians In Touch

Thanks to Richard Bradford for getting in contact to compliment our new Old Owenians In Touch website and to highlight a potential issue with our new 'Class Of' year category. He's explained that *"we had a lower, middle & upper 6th. People normally left in middle 6th, not in upper 6th in our era, as your guideline suggests. Those in upper 6th had stayed an extra year to retake A levels, so they then remained in their peer age group."*

As our aim with the 'Class Of' category is to be able to contact those who mostly all left together at the official end of the Sixth Form (for example to support you with Reunions), it seems that the 'Class Of' year for some of our Islington alumni would be the **middle 6th** as Mr Bradford points out. We hope that clarifies this anomaly!

Changes to our School website!

In case you're used to browsing and wonder what's happened to a few of our links, we've summarised the changes below:

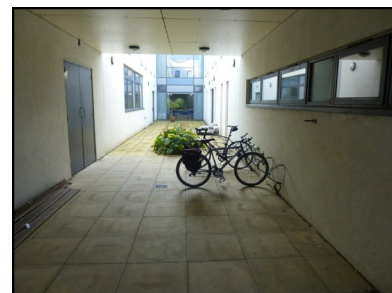
- The Myddelton Building page now appears under 'School History' (also with a 400th anniversary link) and is replaced by the Languages, Drama and SEN (Special Educational Needs) Building page (top right)
- We have a new page dedicated to our Partner School in Tanzania under 'Curriculum/Extra Activities'
- A new Bursaries* page can be found under 'Sixth Form' *Bursaries are also mentioned on page 9 of this Newsletter
- Our Old Owen's Sports Ground – Home of the Old Owens Association, now has its own link under 'About Us'

Cycling to work

As British Cycling, Sky, Boris and Dr Alan Davison (as a keen cyclist himself!) continue to encourage us all to get on our bikes, your editor has taken to cycling to work—a trend, which as you can see from our covered Arnold Lynch Centre bike shelter, is taking time to catch on. Luckily for me, National Cycle Route 12 is part of my commute, so I'd back anyone investing in provision for safer cycling on roads as it makes it a reality for me!



Thanks also to an alumnus who sent in a photo of an old Owen's Cycling Club badge...although we currently don't have a Cycling Club, several staff will be taking part in the Blenheim Triathlon next June, which includes a 19.8km bike ride! Hoping for a mild training winter... Until December!



Mrs Mandy English, Alumni Relations and Website Manager

P.S. Save the date! Our **Old Owenians Careers Talks Week** will be running again in conjunction with National Careers Week—2-6th March 2015—we'll be sending an invite to all of you who are registered on Old Owenians In Touch to join us in January 2015 to inspire our students with your achievements!