



# Old Owenians Newsletter

First half—21st June, 2017

Edition 21

## A message from our Head

*"As we're nearing the end of the Summer Term, I can reflect on a very dynamic first year as Head of this amazing school. It was lovely to meet so many of you at our 7th and successful Old Owenians Careers Talks week in March – read more feedback from page 2. Thank you to all who volunteered and to those who've contributed to this Newsletter – you really do inspire each other and our current student, staff and parent community."*

**Monday 23rd October  
2017—  
Harold Moore Annual  
Reunion Luncheon for all  
Old Owenians—see pg 31!**

We're thrilled to have **secured government matched funding** at last to replace our dilapidated teaching block, for which construction is aimed to start in January 2018. However, we still have to equip it! This will be one of the final main builds to bring the original 1970's school up to date; we also have ambitions to include a new sports facility at some stage the future.

**Challenges to our main school budget however remain extremely tough** (separate from the capital fund for new buildings) and staff are working very hard to enable us to continue the excellence in education which has been at the heart of Owen's ethos for over four centuries.

We were honoured to have a **visit from the Secretary of State for Education, Justine Greening**, on 30th March. She spent time in a variety of lessons where she saw some of the wonderful work going on in class and spoke to a variety of students. She was delighted to hear the Senior Strings perform and to share some anecdotes about her own time in the school orchestra! Her visit terminated with a grilling by some of our students who wanted to know how she intended to ensure that no one would be disadvantaged in society due to their gender and how she planned to make sure that all young people had access to a high quality education regardless of geography. The staff were also delighted to have the opportunity to discuss issues which concerned them around teacher training, recruitment and workload—more photos on page 12.



After Easter, we welcomed **our new Deputy Head, Stephen Fry**, who joined us from Watford Grammar School for Girls, with responsibility for continuing to drive up standards to teaching, learning and staff development. I'd also like to **welcome Sonja Winborn and Tess Cleverley who will be jointly managing our alumni from July**. Mandy English is leaving to take her first degree at the University of Hertfordshire (BA in Design Crafts) in September and I'd like to thank her for her bundle of energy and enthusiasm in developing our alumni programme. Many of you will remember her involvement in the 400th Anniversary and more recently her contribution to our Gold Duke of Edinburgh's Award scheme. As Sonja and Tess will be incorporating work into their already busy roles (see page 32), **we'd like to invite anyone who might have a few spare hours a month do donate**

**to the school to support them**. If you're creative and excited about helping to keep the Owens family connected in spite of the passing of years, we'd be delighted to hear from you to take our programme from strength to strength. Please contact me directly on [nemkoh@damealiceowens.herts.sch.uk](mailto:nemkoh@damealiceowens.herts.sch.uk).

Finally, I'd like to welcome all our Year 13's who join the world of Old Owenians this summer and wish them all the best of luck with their results in August and future University courses, job placements, travels and work experience. Please keep your Newsletter contributions coming; email either Sonja or Tess at [oldowenians@damealiceowens.herts.sch.uk](mailto:oldowenians@damealiceowens.herts.sch.uk). Remember all our current school news is available on our website and you can keep in touch via our alumni Twitter account @DAOSAlumni. I look forward to seeing you at the Harold Moore Luncheon in October.

Hannah Nemko

## Old Owenians giving back...young Owenians being inspired

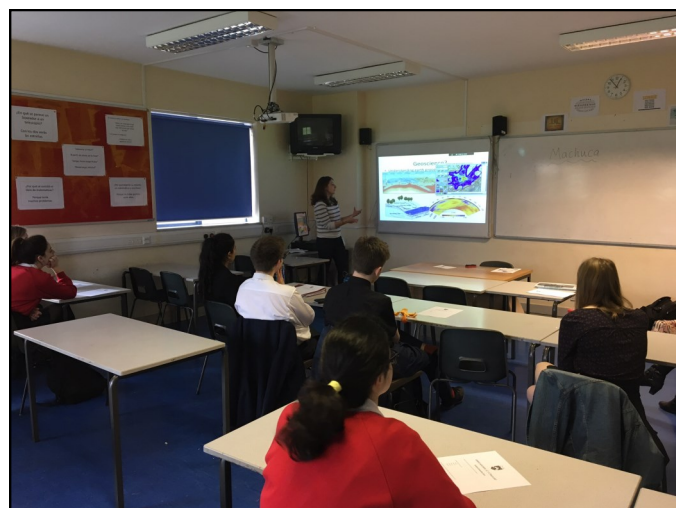


Many thanks again to all our Old Owenian speakers who volunteered their time to inspire our students about their personal career experiences. Now in our seventh year, the talks were held over four lunchtimes during National Careers Week 6th-9th March 2017 and we view this event as an essential part of our curriculum. Students in Years 9-13 (previously Years 4 & 5 and the Sixth Form!) were encouraged in assemblies to take the opportunity to explore those careers they had an interest in, or to find out about a new one to expand their general knowledge. March is the ideal time of year for our students, who are then deciding GCSE, A Level and University courses. We've had some great feedback from speakers and students alike—details below:

### Joanna Wallis (Class of 2005, Career as a Geophysicist):

Thanks to Joanna, who studied Geophysics with Geology BSc at Durham, spent nearly 2 years in industry working offshore in Africa and Europe on survey vessels, then took an MSc in Petroleum Geophysics at Imperial College London. She then joined the BG group graduate scheme and worked for them for 5 years, including 6 months living in Australia. Now works for a small geophysical consultancy.

Her talk included her role as a geophysicist and the various types of engineers, geologists and geochemists that she's worked with, the type of data she looks at (i.e. seismic) and the tools they use to analyse it (focussed on 3D visualisation and modelling). Joanna really enjoyed her visit and is often nostalgically reminded of DAOS when she sees our "train" at Kings Cross station!



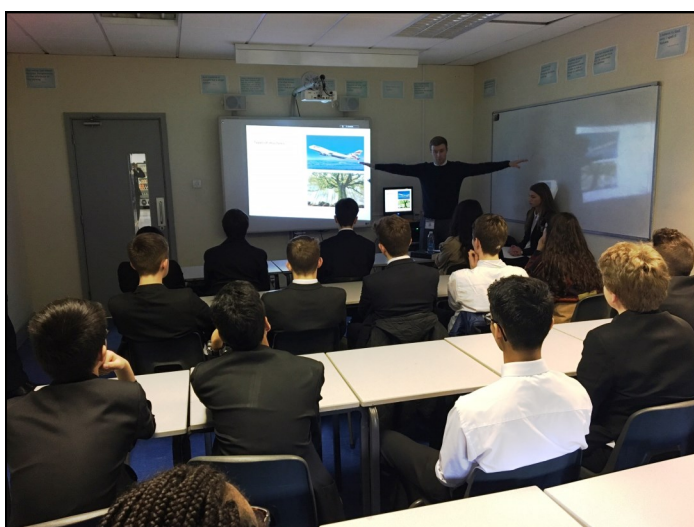
Our students said:

*Good insight into the loads of jobs from Geophysics* – Emily Prior 11KM

*Very useful – described and gave information on multiple areas* – Julia Dickinson 12PS

*I found it useful to hear about the various options and pathways in the industries and what they entail* – Korina Chapman 11LC

### Orlando Gibbons (Class of 2005, Career in Structural Engineering):



Thanks to Orlando, who, after a gap year in Senegal, on Africa's west coast, teaching English and IT in a community education centre, studied General Engineering at Cambridge, specialising in Civil, Structural and Environment Engineering for his final year.

Now he works as a Structural Engineer for Arup, an international independent firm of designers, planners, engineers, consultants and technical specialists offering a broad range of professional services. His talk included what he's been doing at Arup, time at Owen's (Head Boy) and University, pros and cons of a gap year and other work experience he has had.

He told us: *I think that the school provides a great opportunity for the students by getting in speakers to talk about their careers. It was really well organised and the staff showing us around were really friendly. I'd be more than happy to do a talk again next year. A very enjoyable return!*

Our students said:

*Speaker offered good perspective, showed other benefits and relatable as went to Owen's* – Dom Griffin 12AH

*Good speech, good knowledge on gap year and university projects* – Thomas Vimpany – 10NEG

*Has helped inspire me into a career in engineering* – Max Castiglione 12KDO/SNL

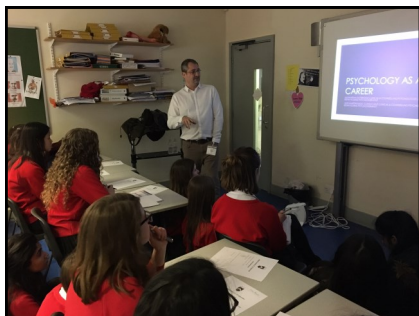
*Very good speaker and had very interesting things to say – definitely worth my time* – Andrew Cabreza McGraith 10LN

*It was really interesting to see the path he took to do what he's doing now* – Annabel Hall 9MAP



### **Samantha Gutteridge (Class of 1989, Career in Psychology):**

Thanks to Sam for volunteering! After studying BSc in Psychology at UEL, she taught GCSE and A level Psychology for several years, and then qualified as a Counselling Psychologist from City University MSc & Post-MSc. She worked for the NHS for 15 years in Primary and Secondary Care, grand-parented into Clinical Psychology and completed a Post-Grad Dip in Cognitive Behavioural Therapy at Royal Holloway University. Since 2013, she's been the Lead Clinical Psychologist in a Hospice. She was supported by Martin Sugg (below left), a Consultant Psychologist working in the NHS specialising in Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder and refugee work. Their talk included up to date information about the NHS.



Sam said: *I very much enjoyed coming back to the school. I was inspired by the interest and enthusiasm of the pupils.*

*I would like to continue my involvement with Dame Alice Owen's especially after engaging with the Careers week, meeting staff and pupils.* Martin Sugg (support speaker for Samantha) said: *I felt very welcome; your students were thoughtful in their questions and were a credit to the school and themselves.*

Our students said:

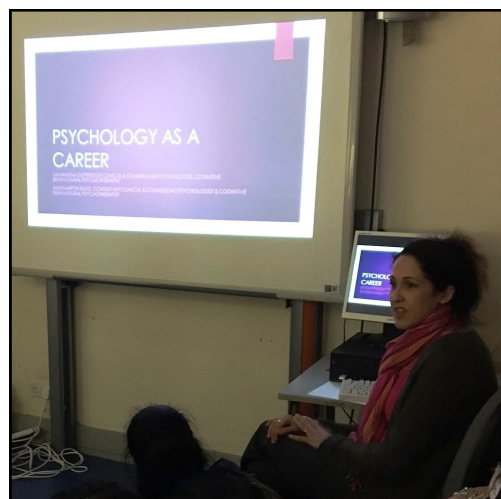
*Very well explained, helpful to understand different types of psychology, good tips about psychology careers and what they involve. How to get into degrees was very helpful. Gave me an insight into the career* – Anna Pascoulis 9ARK

*They were very passionate and informative* - Priyanka Mukerjee 11JPF

*It was very easy to understand and informative* – Caitlin O'Connor 9OCG

*I learnt a lot of new information about the career* – Ami Fudeuchi 11TD

*I thought this talk was very interesting and gave me a clear understanding of the process to become a psychologist and what is included in the overall career* – Abigail Naughton 10BFW



### **Dr Christos Michaelides (Class of 2004, Career in Pharmaceutical/Biotech Industries):**



Thanks to Christos, who studied Biochemistry before working for four years as a Cell Biologist at one of the largest pharmaceutical companies, Pfizer. Then studied a PhD in Neuroscience at King's College London and is now employed as a Neurology Analyst at GlobalData Healthcare, conducting market research for pharmaceutical companies. His talk covered careers in an academic research environment, the opportunities, advantages and disadvantages of working in the pharmaceutical or biotech industry, as well as providing an insight into the growing opportunities in business and consultancy firms for graduates with a strong scientific background.

Christos said: *It was great to see how many students were interested in a career in science, and it was wonderful to see how much the school has changed.*

Our students said:

*Very well prepared, really good comprehensive presentation, really helpful* – Millie Wright 11TD

*Gave me loads of information about the BioTech industry and very interesting* – Sasha Little 11MHJ

*Very informative and thorough explanation* – Kavindu Rathnayake 12KDO/SNC

*Very interesting, covered all areas in a lot of detail* – Abi Peel 9OCG

**Mark Bevis (Class of 1994, Careers in Publishing, Training, Restaurant Management and Furniture):**

Thanks to Mark, who, after Owen's, took an Art Foundation at the Central School of Speech and Drama, then a Furniture Design course at Buckinghamshire College. He then spent 11 years progressing in McDonalds, then completed CELTA (Certificate in English Language Teaching to Adults) while in Colombia, South America as an English teacher. He's now based in Cambridge, working for the University Press, supporting Learning Solutions for Mexico, China and Saudi Arabia. He also part owns a Vintage Furniture space with items sourced from around the world.



His talk included his experiences and what you can do to prepare for different eventualities.

Mark said: *120 minutes of hair-raising nostalgia just didn't quite seem enough time. I had to leave to join a work call, so regrettably had to cut the tour short, therefore I would jump at the chance to spend more time revisiting the old haunts and so many new ones. It's 23 years since I was last on the hallowed ground and the memories came flooding back. Thank you for the invitation, the lunch, the face-time with DAOS futures and the bucket of flash-backs. My 400th mug has now taken pride of place in the Coffee room at Cambridge. Colleagues are well-jell!*

Our students said:

*Enjoyed how interactive it was and how presentation was done through pictures of his own life* – Maya Kotecha 9MAP

*Less focussed on the specific varied careers but more on how to use school in the future and how to live* – Cammy Nguyen 9IK

*Inspiring and accessible – not as focussed on career obligations and background as expected but delivered with delightful energy and feeling* – Isobel Nendrick 11TD

**Aniket Sandana (Class of 2001, Career as a Vet/Zoologist/running a tour company):**



Thanks to Aniket, who studied veterinary science and zoology at Bristol University. He now works for himself, providing contract services in the South Atlantic Islands (Falklands, Ascension and Tristan da Cunha) and around Bristol and London. His work involves routine clinical work with small and farm animals and a supervisory role in the film industry. He also has a wildlife tour company which he set up in 2011 called Focus Nature. His talk included what it's like working as a vet and also about becoming self-employed to achieve a better work/life balance and the freedom to start a business.

He told us: *It was a great pleasure to visit the school again, part of my own up-bringing of which I am very proud. The careers talks were very well organised and I was made to feel very welcome on arrival and throughout my time at the school.*

Our students said:

*Very interesting and informative. Very inspiring.* –Caterina White 10LN

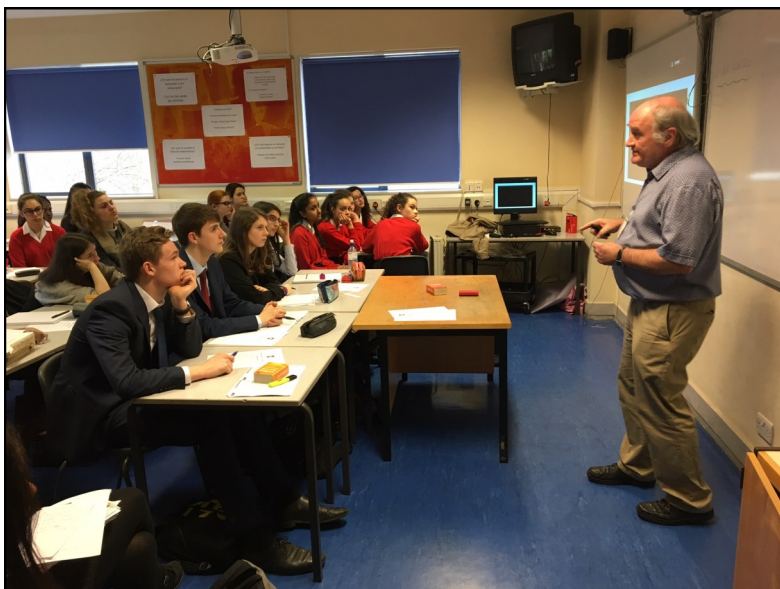
*It was a very interesting talk, I thoroughly enjoyed listening and learning about the job opportunities should I wish to be a vet in the future* – Anne Ranasinghe 11LC

*Answered questions with lots of detail, gave honest personal views, very informative* – Anna Adrian 12RT

*Covered lots of topics* – Emily Burgess 12AH



### Dr John Pizzy (Class of 1974, Career in Neuroscience):



Thanks to John, who after leaving Owen's, took a BSc in Biological Sciences at Sussex University, followed by a PhD in muscular dystrophy at Imperial College, London. Since then, his research has focussed on different aspects of neuroscience and in particular on why nerves of the central nervous system fail to regenerate after injury. He is now a senior teaching fellow at King's College London as well as admissions tutor for their BSc and MSc neuroscience programmes and an interviewer for MBBS admissions. His talk described the different opportunities for careers in neuroscience.

He said: *First time visiting the new school and there was an energy, friendliness and industry about the place that was a delight. Very nostalgic to see some familiar sights such as the portraits of head teachers, the statues - and even some of the furniture in the Old Library. It was wonderful to see*

*that these have survived the trip from Islington, when I was last at the School! I was looked after exceptionally well and I certainly intend re-visiting. Many thanks to all involved.*

Our students said:

*It was very informative and well structured – in addition it was very interesting to see how neuroscience can be applied*

– Irene Karderinis 12PS

*I liked the use of case studies to explain the way the brain works and they were very interesting* – Jemima

Atputharatnam 10AL

*Confident (you can tell he's a lecturer!), interesting and helpful* – Xane Safdar 11KM

*I like how he explained the field of neuroscience fully and also covered his experiences as well as the qualifications needed and pathways to get into the field* – Zara Guppy 11JPF

*Very informative and helpful in terms of next steps to take* – Holly Cole 11GAS

### Simon Maine (Class of 2005, Career in Public Relations):

Thanks to Simon, who studied (PPE) Philosophy, Politics and Economics at Oxford then worked for Lord Browne as a speechwriter and parliamentary researcher. He moved to private equity investment specialising in renewable energy and political risk before joining Brunswick, a global public relations agency. He works with different companies advising on political campaigns and media crises.

His talk focused on what exactly 'public relations' means today, why that's changed over recent years and how to acquire the skills needed to succeed in the industry. He's on the interview panel at Brunswick so explained what they look for in young candidates entering the workforce.

He told us: *It was great to see the enthusiasm of the pupils for current affairs and the issues affecting society. The buildings change but the ethos stays the same!*



Our students said:

*Interactive, personal and interesting. Very willing to discuss specific career path* - Lore Sturmy 12LV

*Very engaging and also some very funny moments* – William Merrett 12FS

*Really interesting* – Livia Barreca 12KDO/SNL

*Very broad and accessible, thought provoking about "the mercer barrier", with great interview tips and talks* – Isobel Nendick 11TD

**Lt Andrew Ward RN/Peter Ward (Class of 2006/2008, Join the Navy/Army – see the World):**



Thanks to Andrew, who studied (PPE) Philosophy, Politics and Economics at Oxford, then took a year's exchange at Washington & Lee University in Virginia, USA. He joined the Royal Navy in 2012 as a warfare officer, training in navigation, ship-handling and maritime security. Most of his career has been in destroyers, including escorting the Russian aircraft carrier Admiral Kuznetsov through British waters, and deploying to the Mediterranean and Middle East on counter-Daesh duties. His talk detailed the variety of naval and military careers available and the completely unique training, progression and travel opportunities on offer.

He was joined by brother, Peter, who entered the Army in 2012 and told us his experiences too.

Peter said: *It was fascinating to return to the school after 9 years. It was encouraging to see that the school*

*is as vibrant as ever and the students are as enthusiastic and motivated as I remember. Seeing so many teachers I recognised was also a pleasant surprise and it was good to catch up with how they were getting on. The new buildings that have been built were also very impressive and the school certainly feels more modern than when I was there!*

Andrew said: *My brother and I were made to feel very welcome at Owen's, especially by our former teachers of which we were heartened to see quite a few, and to be remembered. The current pupils were very interested in the Careers Talk we gave and asked well thought-out challenging questions.*

Our students said:

*Very well done, really well timed and interesting while addressing any thoughts I had, plus, had an F35 picture!* - Oliver Greenwood 11GAS

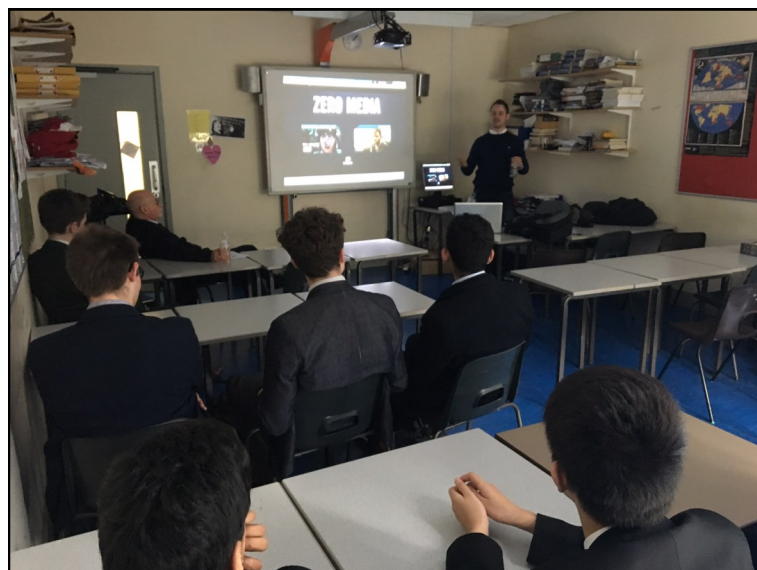
*Lovely guys – very engaging and funny* – Amelia Georgiou 12RAM

*Really informative and interesting. Definitely intrigued by the idea. Looks really fun and useful* - Sammy Winder 10NEG

*Really interesting and provided lots of extra info that was from an honest point of view* – Claire Coomey 12JJ

*Really insightful into military life and they were engaging and helpful* – Eliya Ojji 11MHJ

**Steve White (Class of 1999, Career in Digital Visual Effects (VFX) Industry):**



Thank to Steve, who kindly returned to give another talk to students about his new role (previously volunteered in 2013). He studied a degree in digital special effects & computing mathematics at Teesside Uni., followed by a Masters in Computer Animation. Started as a freelance 3D animator in Soho, working on various commercials (e.g. 'Compare the Meerkat' ads), video promos (e.g U2 & Gorillaz) as well as Nike's World Cup animated short film 'The Last Game'. Now progressed to feature films - currently working on 'Life' at the Oscar winning studio Double Negative (who did VFX for the latest Harry Potter film), one of the top visual effects companies in the world. His talk included how to get into the industry and challenges you would face.

He said: *Students all very attentive and engaged, I was asked some very specific questions which made me feel they were all taking a genuine interest.*

Our students said:

*The speaker had a very good resume and clearly had a lot of experience* – Harri Jones 12AV

*Very motivational and a good insight into the computer animation industry* – Nico Coles 11GAS

*Very engaging and interesting – I enjoyed it very much* – Rhys Leung 9MHP

*Inspiring and informative* – Joseph Yianni 9OCG



### Tabatha Mossman (Class of 1998, A Legal Career Journey):

Thanks to Tabatha, who studied Geography (with Education Studies) at Cambridge until a chance discussion in 2001 focused her attention on a legal career. Qualifying as a Solicitor in 2003, she practised as a corporate finance lawyer for nearly a decade before taking a family career break. She joined Roche (the World's largest biotech) in 2013 and is now their Managing Legal Counsel, being awarded "In-House Lawyer of the Year" by the Law Society in 2016. Her talk highlighted the various ways to practice law and the importance of keeping an open mind.

She told us: *It was wonderful to be able to come back to Owen's and to talk to your inspiring and driven students about my journey since leaving in 1998. Mandy and Carol were incredibly welcoming (thank you both) and I was overwhelmed by the number of students willing to give up their lunch break to come and listen to what I had to say. The school has not changed as much as I thought it would have - it all still felt incredibly familiar despite being nearly 20 years since I last walked through those doors as a student. I certainly got a real "buzz" reading such lovely feedback from the students so thank you for sharing that with me.*



Our students said:

*Gave lots of information and showed us what work in law is really like, very interesting, also lots of tips* – Abi Peel 9OCG

*Very well explained and told us the process in getting a job in the legal profession and what jobs are available* – Hannah May 9AJ

*Really informative – liked the fact that it covered a broad range of aspects – very realistic which was helpful* – Niamh Griffin 12FS

*Felt more clear about decisions and more confident with my deciding for future* – Alannah Smith 11LC

### Howard Levy (Class of 1978, Career in Banking and dealing in Corporate Markets):



Thanks to Howard, who left Owen's after GCSE's and joined NatWest and completed Business and Professional qualifications. After having worked in a broad variety of banking roles, he is now a Senior Director at the Royal Bank of Scotland (RBS) working in the Corporate Market. Typically working with companies who turnover £100m+ per annum many of which are publically quoted, he provides them with a variety of solutions. His talk gave an insight into RBS, the wider banking market and his actual role.

He said: *I thought it was a time well spent. I certainly enjoyed returning to the school but more importantly I hope the students who attended found the session to be of value to them.*

Our students said:

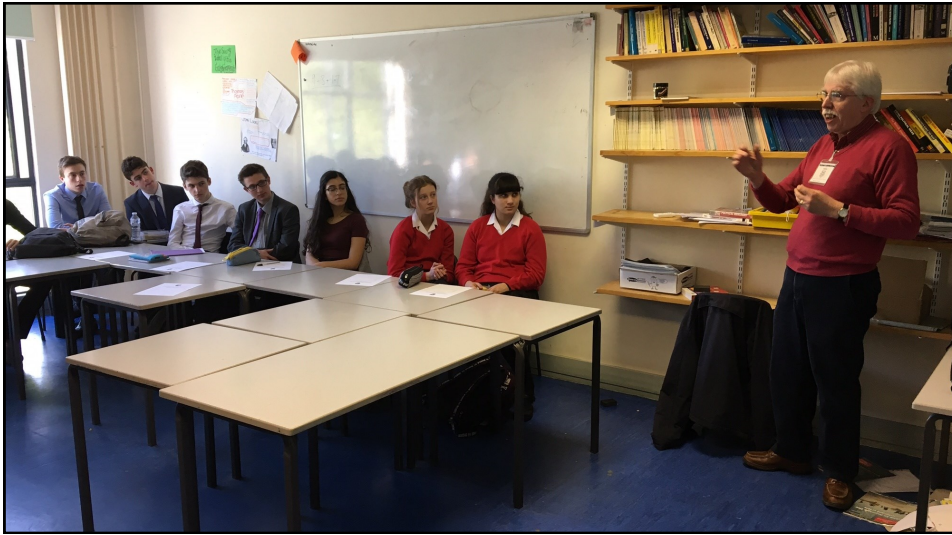
*Good examples of who he's worked with. Informative and personal* – Mineli Cooray 10BFW

*Explained well, concise* – Cammy Nguyen 9LK

*Very interesting and full on. Good detail and relevance* – Christopher Gerrard 11MHJ

*Very informed about banking. I'm aware now of what's involved and its relation to the world* – Year 10 student

### Chris Riley (Class of 1971, Career in Engineering):



Thanks to Chris, who studied electrical engineering at UCL, sponsored by GEC Power Engineering, then worked on large generators and electromagnetic design software for GEC. He moved to Compeda (Computer Aided Design company) and lectured at University of Liverpool before joining Vector Fields in Oxford and then as VP in Chicago. He returned to the UK as a Director of Vector Fields. His talk included his career in Engineering and his current involvement in advanced technology and science such as MRI magnets, particle

accelerators (like the Large Hadron Collider at CERN), wind power generation, electric vehicles and naval magnetic signatures. He told us:

*It was great to visit the school as it was all new to me (Islington boy). The campus is very impressive and the facilities are wonderful - very jealous. The students were very polite and, as far as I could tell, were interested in what I was saying. The feedback I received afterwards was useful and I could improve the talk if I give it again.*

Our students said:

*I liked the focus on finding spaceships in industry* – Daniel Nolan 12RM

*Good to hear about personal choices and pros and cons* – Korina Chapman 11LC

*Very interesting insight into electrical engineering* – Ben Marcus 12PS

*Very insightful* – Annabel Hall 9MAP

### Robin Gupta (Class of 1986, “Eat when you can, Sleep when you can, and Don't play with the Pancreas!” - how to train as a surgeon):



Thanks to Robin, who studied at the Royal Free Hospital (University of London) then entered St Bartholomew's Hospital in London, also working at Great Ormond Street and the Royal London Hospitals. He undertook specialist surgical training in Cambridge for the next 6 years and during this time spent a year as a trauma surgeon in Australia and 3 months as Surgical Fellow in the USA.

In 2003 he was appointed Consultant Surgeon in Chesterfield and Sheffield. Currently in charge of the Bowel Cancer Unit and an Honorary Senior Lecturer at Sheffield University and on the emergency surgeon roster for Mediciens Sans Frontieres. He said: *Many thanks for inviting me to speak at the Careers Week. Thoroughly enjoyed my visit and was immensely impressed with the current standard of facilities and future plans for development.*

Our students said:

*I found the talk vivid, interesting and clear. It's made me seriously consider a career in surgery and research more in terms of the field* – Anahitha Vijay 9AJ

*Learnt a lot – very helpful. I want to be a surgeon now* – Tulsi Dave 10AL

*Best talk I have attended during my time at Owen's* - Christian Colletta 12LL

*Good detail when answering questions* – Urvi Kataria 12HW

*Valuable knowledge in terms of medicine* – Evra Unal 12RTM

*He used several anecdotes which I really enjoyed. It was very informative and he bought to me a vivid picture of the life of a doctor* – Irene Karderinis 12PS



### Careers in Brewing and Livery Schools Link

Following on from the success of the previous Brewers Company lecture in Spring 2016, the Sixth Form and a number of staff had the pleasure of attending a repeat lecture this year on the 28th February. This unique event comprised of a talk on beer and brewing by Fergus McMullen, Production and Sales Director at McMullen and who is part of the sixth generation of McMullen's to commit to the business and also a talk by two members of the McMullen team who shared their own experiences of further education and opportunities in the brewing industry.



Students and staff really enjoyed hearing about the History of the brewery, and in particular how Peter McMullen, who founded the business in 1827, did so after being unsuccessful in a series of apprenticeships. This example of resilience resonates with the school's values of hard work and perseverance and students commented on how they found the story very inspiring. They were also fascinated to learn that the well at the Hertford Brewery is longer than Nelson's column!

The students and staff thoroughly enjoyed tasting three of the beers following the talk and some were

surprised to learn that different beers should be served at different temperatures. Students were really interested to learn about the colour gradients of the beer and a favourite beer amongst them was 'Hertford Castle'. One student remarked that 'I didn't realise there was such a scientific way of tasting beer'. To accompany the beer were a fantastic range of pies, including steak and ale, pork and roasted vegetable which were extremely popular. The school would like to thank Fergus McMullen and his team for providing such a wonderful opportunity for our students to learn about brewing which is such an important part of the school's history and also the catering team for the delicious food.

This report first appeared in our half term School Newsletter in February 2017. The Worshipful Company of Brewers isn't the only Livery Company to link with Schools. Thanks to Old Owenian, **Christine Eberhardie (Class of 1965)** for bringing to our attention an article in the Faculty of The History and Philosophy of Medicine and Pharmacy, The Worshipful Society of Apothecaries Newsletter January 2017. She thought it would be interesting to share.

*They reported that: "In 2003 the Livery Schools Link was set up with the aim of creating a liaison between the Livery Companies and the schools in the City, particularly those with children from disadvantaged backgrounds. The intention was that the Livery would offer help and advice to assist pupils in preparing themselves for the transition between school and employment. Apart from the links that have been formed between individual Companies and a school, larger projects have been arranged. For instance a number of Livery Showcase Events have been held, the most recent being in March 2016 in the Guildhall. Thirty Companies set up stalls that provided the 300 pupils attending the opportunity of discussing the job options offered by the Companies' trade or profession, and how the students' personal skills might fit them for work in the modern world."*

The Worshipful Society of Apothecaries is linked with the George Green School on the Isle of Dogs. They are assisting some of their artists in the creation of an exhibition, to be mounted in the Guildhall Art Gallery in March 2017, to commemorate the First World War. They're joined by the Barbers, Shipwrights and Master Mariners in examining the theme of medicine, surgery and hospital ships. They're also trying to set up a scheme that will encourage George Green pupils to consider a career in medicine, in all its aspects, and assist them to gain entry to appropriate training.

### School News reminder—where to find it

You can read all about our current school news on our main website under Latest News (weekly—<http://damealiceowens.herts.sch.uk/news-dates/>) or under School Newsletters (every half term—<http://damealiceowens.herts.sch.uk/news-dates/school-newsletters/>)

### Old Owenians In Touch—Privacy Notice for your information

In anticipation of new EU legislation regarding General Data Protection Regulation (from May 2018), we now provide a Privacy Notice on Old Owenians In Touch for full transparency about how your personal data is protected, stored and used. This is in the form of a pdf on our FAQ's page, question 1. If you have any queries, please don't hesitate contact us. You can opt-out of receiving our mailings at any time by emailing us and remember to update if you change your address!

## Old Owen's Association – report from retiring President Alan Davison



This has been a very successful year for your Association. As well as acquiring charity status we have secured a significant grant from the AFA (Amateur Football Alliance) to support the upgrade of the changing rooms, thanks to the hard work of Ian Breeze, who I'm sure you will remember! Why not come and have a drink with us at your clubhouse and take a look around?

All at the Association would like to offer our thanks to Mandy English. During her 6 years setting up and leading the alumni office she has been an inspiration to us all. We do not underestimate how significant her contribution has been to the success of the Association and the 400th anniversary celebrations - Herts Unis gain is certainly Owen's loss!! Thanks Mandy, enjoy the Fine Arts!!

The committee is trying to restart netball and have agreed to fund a netball coach for the start of the 2017 in September (the first two terms are paid). If you know someone who may be suitable or may be interested yourself please email Head, Hannah Nemko, via Véronique Duvergé [duvergev@damealiceowens.herts.sch.uk](mailto:duvergev@damealiceowens.herts.sch.uk). Please also make contact if you would like to represent your school again in netball. On Owen's to the fray!

We're also introducing a series of reunions for year groups at the club, which started with the class of 2010 hosted by Orlando Gibbons on Sunday 11th June and we'd like to secure new blood on the Committee. Key players have worked tirelessly to provide support for the Club; however, many of those, like me, are getting long in the tooth and we really need some younger, more energetic members to bring new life to the Committee. If you feel you could help in any capacity, and would like to know more, please contact Chairman Tim Lane, via Véronique Duvergé [duvergev@damealiceowens.herts.sch.uk](mailto:duvergev@damealiceowens.herts.sch.uk) or ring her on 01707 622 841.

Finally, welcome to Head, Hannah Nemko, as the new President of the Old Owen's Association, who looks forward to working with the committee.

## Old Owen's Cricket Club Season 2016 – report from Alan Hunter

Old Owen's Cricket Club has 3 XI's that play on a Saturday during the cricket season at Old Owen's Sports Ground, Coopers Lane, Potters Bar, EN6 4NF. The 3 teams cater for players that are past pupils of Owens School and from the local community. There are 2 cricket pitches available that include facilities of changing rooms, pavilion and a Clubhouse equipped with bar, TV lounges and a function room.

In the last cricket season 2016 all 3 teams played in 'The Saracens Hertfordshire Cricket League' in their respective divisions i.e. Division 2, Division 7A and Regional Division B East.

It was a fairly successful season for the Cricket Club as the 1st XI, a young team, were promoted to Division 1 for season 2017 and the 2nd XI and 3rd XI both finished 3rd in their leagues.

During the 2016 season the Old Owens Association and Sports Club Limited that incorporates the Cricket Club, provided the opportunity to other Community groups that are not Old Owenians by offering the use of the pitches and facilities to play cricket at very reasonable rates of hire.

On Saturdays the 2nd cricket pitch was shared by Finchley CC 3rd XI, who had use of the pitch every other week. On Sundays the 1st Cricket pitch was used by Finchley Ladies CC 1st and 2nd XI's and the 2nd Cricket pitch was used by Archway Ladders CC.

During Midweek, the pitches were used by Hertfordshire County for School matches and for Over 60's and Over 70's matches against other Counties.

For the next cricket season 2017 the pitches and facilities will again be used by the above mentioned Community teams with the addition of Rosslyn Park CC sharing with Archway Ladders CC on the 2nd cricket pitch on Sundays.

The Community groups mentioned above have been most appreciative of the services and facilities that we provide to enable them to play cricket, as they have all found it difficult to get the necessary facilities. Old Owens Association and Sports Club Limited are pleased and happy to promote Community participation in healthy recreation by the provision of their facilities to these groups.



### Old Owen's Football Club 2016/17 – report from Paul Kennedy, Chairman Old Owens FC

We marked the 125th anniversary of Old Owens with our now annual 'club day' which culminated with the 1st XI taking on local rivals Winchmore Hill and coming away with a great 4-0 victory in the league. The attention then turned to the evening celebrations when we held a superb Anniversary Dinner at the Royal Chase Hotel in Enfield. It was great to see so many faces, both past and present, at the dinner to celebrate this occasion and I would like to thank all the members of the organising committee for helping to put on such a fantastic event.

It has certainly been a very challenging season for the club both on and off the pitch; we happen to be one of a number of clubs within the SAL (Southern Amateur League) that are suffering from dwindling playing numbers and unfortunately this ended up in the decision to remove the 2nd XI from the league at the end of November.

Over the last few years' clubs have noticed a drop off in players that don't appear to be committed to playing every week and unfortunately some only seem to want to play home games and are unwilling to travel to away fixtures. It wasn't any easy decision to make but by reducing the club to 4 teams for the remainder of the season it has meant that we can focus on rebuilding the club for the future. We have managed to build up a strong enough squad in our 3rd XI who are now preparing for life as the 2nd XI next season and we have been boosted by the recruitment of some players in the lower XI's that can only bode well for the future.

Despite these issues we have had some success on the pitch with the 1st XI winning the Senior Old Boys Cup with a 4-2 victory against Old Parkonians, they have now won this cup a record 12 times, the 4th XI also reached the Old Boys Final but unfortunately came up just short against Old Wilsonians eventually losing 3-1.

The 5th XI have had a great end to the season not only winning the SAL Cup with a last minute winner vs. Carshalton FC (2-1) but also securing promotion as top of the table (just like NUFC!). This is a great achievement for a side that was originally going to be dropped from the club due to lack of players.

I would also like to take this opportunity to congratulate the School 1st XI on winning the County Cup recently with a great victory over Knights Templar school. I know that some of the lads have already played senior football at the club this season and we look forward to them being involved in many more years to come.

As a club we were also asked to host both the Senior AFA Cup final and Senior Old Boys Cup final, both were great occasions for the club as part of our 125th anniversary at it was an honour for me to be the host representative for the day and welcome members of the SAL and AFA committees to the club. It was extra special as the 1st XI won the Old Boys cup as well and the celebrations went late into the night.

On final highlight to the season is the commencement of the refurbishment works to the changing rooms, after 18 months of meetings, paperwork, forms and more meetings we were able to secure an FA grant that has been match funded by the Association so that all changing rooms can be redecorated and we can now convert changing rooms 8 and 9 into just one room for referees (and cricket umpires) to use. Massive thanks must go to Ian Breeze for all his hard work in securing the grant and also the Association for giving their continued backing to the project. I look forward to seeing the work finished in time for the start of the 2017/18 football season.

### Old Owen's Association (OOA) updated website



Please take a look at the OOA website which now shows photographs of the facilities, including the Chandos Bar, the Les Williamson Suite and the Main Hall: <http://www.OLDOWENS.COM/club-facilities/> and lists forthcoming social events: <http://www.OLDOWENS.COM/social-events/>. Happy exploring!



The Club is managed by John and Lynn Clark. If you'd like to book the Club or make an enquiry please contact the main clubhouse: 01707 644211 or either John Clark (mob: 07828 502027) or Lynn Clark (mob: 07766 535567) or direct by email: [jlcowens@gmail.com](mailto:jlcowens@gmail.com).

### Old Owenian meets royalty

Many congratulations to Susan Newby, nee Pearce, (Class of 1980), who was awarded 'Nexus Aviation Journalist of the Year 2016' by the Royal Aero Club and received her trophy from Duke of York at the Royal Aero Club in Piccadilly, London. She tell us the citation read: *"Susan is the editor and producer of Sailplane & Gliding magazine. Although the primary audience for this audience is the UK gliding community, there is a growing and important international following. Unlike most of the magazines produced by air sport organisations, gliding club members can choose whether or not to subscribe. Despite the challenge of the internet and that of persuading people to supply interesting and timely copy, she has continued to develop both the all-important magazine content, as well as tune the production process and maintain subscription levels."*



Susan was at Owens from 1973-80 (being in the first year that Owens opened in Potters Bar). After Owens, she studied journalism at the London College of Printing and has continued in journalism/publishing ever since. Her parents (David and Pat Pearce – nee Smith) both attended Dame Alice Owens Schools in Islington. You can read about the magazine she edits here: <https://www.sailplaneandgliding.co.uk/current-issue>. We wish her continued success with the publication and its worldwide distribution.

### Secretary of State visits DAOS—more photos for you—reference Hannah Nemko on page 1





**DAOS Physics teacher featured in the New Scientist**—read the profile of Simon Poliakoff who many of you will have been taught by #theowensway. This advert appeared in the 1st April 2017 edition of the publication and thanks to our Old Owenians who spotted it!



# Calling STEM graduates

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Department  
for Education



*Simon Poliakoff is the head of physics at Dame Alice Owen's School, Potters Bar. After graduating from the University of Cambridge with a degree in Natural Sciences, Simon began his career as an electronics engineer. It didn't take long to realise that this wasn't the right career for him. So he decided to try something different and trained to be a physics teacher.*

## What did you do before becoming a teacher?

I worked for two years doing research into optical fibres and optical communications at Nortel Networks in Harlow. I was working with a very interesting and professional group of people, but this was the time the dot-com bubble was bursting, so it didn't feel like there would be a long-term future there. Also I didn't really enjoy it, so I decided I should try something different.

## When did you first consider teaching?

I had considered teaching when I was still at university, but it didn't appeal to me to go straight from my own education to being a teacher. After leaving Nortel, I did voluntary teaching in Ethiopia with Voluntary Service Overseas. That was a challenge with class sizes of up to 100, regular power cuts and not much equipment beyond a blackboard. I realised that I enjoyed teaching and the enthusiasm it generates in the students.

## How does teaching compare with academia or industrial research, in terms of the culture?

My father is a successful academic so I'm very aware of what working in academia is like. One of the things that attracts me to teaching is that it is entirely a team initiative, in that if you work out a better way of teaching something then there is every incentive to share it with as many other teachers as you can. There is no real competitiveness. In academia, the race to be the first person to work something out, or the need to be secretive about what you're working on until it's ready for publication, are aspects that don't particularly appeal to me. I prefer the environment in teaching where you can bounce ideas off other people and share resources that you've made. If something gets widely used by other teachers then that's great. At the same time, you have a great deal of control over how to teach things in your own classroom. Though the syllabus may be specified, it's up to you to decide the best way

to teach a particular topic. That's a freedom you wouldn't necessarily get in a lot of careers, certainly when you're in a more junior role.

## Are there examples of where you've inspired students to follow careers in physics?

One of the physics teachers at my school is someone I taught physics to in the sixth form. He went off to university and trained to be a teacher before coming back to teach at the school. It has been a pleasure to see him develop into an excellent teacher over the first few years of his career. Others have gone into careers in engineering. Most years there will be several students that go on to study physics and engineering at university.

## Physics teachers are in high demand. How has that affected your career?

There is a high demand for good science teachers in all subjects and there's a particular shortage in physics. You can be selective about the schools you apply to. One of the positives is that there are a lot of opportunities for rapid progression, to move up quite quickly to a head of physics role or head of science. I became head of physics during my third year at my school. In other careers you would take rather longer to progress. ■

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More at: [education.gov.uk/newscientist](http://education.gov.uk/newscientist)



## No more fishing in our Lake!



One of our volunteer alumni careers speakers asked if fishing was still permitted in our lake – unfortunately the answer is no. Members now need a DBS (Disclosure and Barring Service) check as they sometimes fish when students are around so the club has decided not to continue as it would be too expensive.

We thought we'd include some photos of our lake for a "virtual" trip down memory lane – many of you might remember walking around the lake during break times and for those students who relocated from Islington in the early 1970's, the lake added to the completely rural feel to the school (photos taken May 2017).

If you'd like to visit our School, the next opportunity is on our **Open Day on Thursday 20th July 2017, from 2-5pm**. There'll be lots of activities going on and everyone's welcome, including our alumni. The whole school is open for you to do your own tour or be allocated a student guide in a group. There's no need to book—just turn up and enjoy a relaxed afternoon. Please be mindful of our neighbours when parking—thank you!



## Funding for New Teaching Building approved!

We explained our plans for our New Teaching Building in our Old Owenians Newsletter in December and are thrilled to have confirmed matched funding for it to start in January 2018. Photos overleaf show where the new build will be sited, on the side of Brewer's Garden, nearest to the Lake. See full plans on p10, Old Owenians Newsletter December 2017 . Thanks again to Old Owenian grandparent, Peter Simpson, for the fantastic aerial photograph.







## Serendipity at the Menin Gate in Ypres

Thanks to Mrs Marian Morris, who sorted through some papers recently and found this article she wrote last year (title as above), but had forgotten to send it in – we reported about this briefly on page 13 of the June 2016 Newsletter. She thought her view point would be of interest. We're delighted with her comments and have passed them on...

*"In early June this year (2016), we visited the World War II battlefields in Belgium and went to see the famous Menin Gate that had so many thousands of names carved into the stone. We then decided to wait for the 8pm Last Post ceremony, a ceremony that has been enacted every night since 1924.*

*While we were all waiting, we became aware of some lively English schoolgirls behind us and I asked them where they were from. When they replied, "Potters Bar" I asked whether they knew of Dame Alice Owen's School? They replied excitedly that that was their school. I put my hand on my husband's arm and said, "Brian went to Owen's in Islington many years ago!" The girls were very excited and rushed off to tell their teacher. They dragged her over to us and said, "Miss, Miss, we've found an Old Owenian!" Mrs Blaskett and the girls were a joy to talk to and their enthusiasm for their school was evident. Brian really enjoyed meeting them, he was a teacher and he still very much enjoys talking to students. At one point, we found ourselves standing at the Menin Gate and all singing a verse from the School Song, something like, "...Never let your ardour cool, for the honour of the school, Owens to the fray." We had to cool our chatter as the Last Post began and the girls were as quiet as mice; we all were.*

*Brian left Owen's and became a Maths teacher and later a lecturer at Brunel University. His sister's children, Sarah and Charlotte and Lauren Day all attended Owen's in Potters Bar in the 1990's and have gone on to have very professional careers. Brian loves the fact that the girls went to Owen's.*

*Sadly, three years ago Brian was diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease, but meeting the schoolgirls at the Menin Gate brought all those schoolboy memories flooding back and the girls and their teacher were a real credit to Dame Alice Owen's School."*

It's wonderful to know when on school trips, our students reflect Owen's high standards #theowensway. You never know when you're going to bump into an Old Owenian...

### Invitation from our Owen's School Association (OSA)

*"The OSA is hosting the School Summer Fete, on Saturday 8th July 2017 from 3 to 6 pm and are delighted to extend a warm invite to you, our Alumni, to attend with your friends and family. The event promises to be a fun filled afternoon and a great opportunity to support our wonderful School. There will be a selection of foods from around the world, live music, fun activities including a silent auction, stalls and lots more. If any of you would like to take a stall or become a sponsor please contact [fete@theosa.org.uk](mailto:fete@theosa.org.uk). All proceeds from the Fete will go to the School to allow them to purchase much needed additional equipment, books or teaching aids. We look forward to seeing you on Saturday 8th July!"*

### Vet & Med Soc's (Veterinary Science and Medicine Societies) need your help

Our Head of Biology, Finty Clarke, tells us our Year 12 students have just set up two new societies for those interested in Veterinary Science and Medicine. The students are running these themselves and aim to help students get more experience and help with applications as well as inspiring those in lower years. She says, *"We're really in need of expertise from Old Owen's students and would be very appreciative for any help you can offer."*

Our Year 12 student's requests are below:

#### **Veterinary Society**

*We'd love anyone currently working/studying in the field of veterinary medicine/animal welfare who'd be able to come in one Monday lunchtime for 30 minutes to share their knowledge specifically about applying to Vet School.*

#### **Medicine Society**

*We'd love for anyone to be able to give cases/scenarios for any patient simulations for Sixth Formers that have not had much training in terms of patient communication and any professionals who'd be willing to talk to students on their speciality. Finally, if anyone can lend a first aid dummy to students or ideally be able to run an emergency simulation we'd be grateful if you could get in contact.*

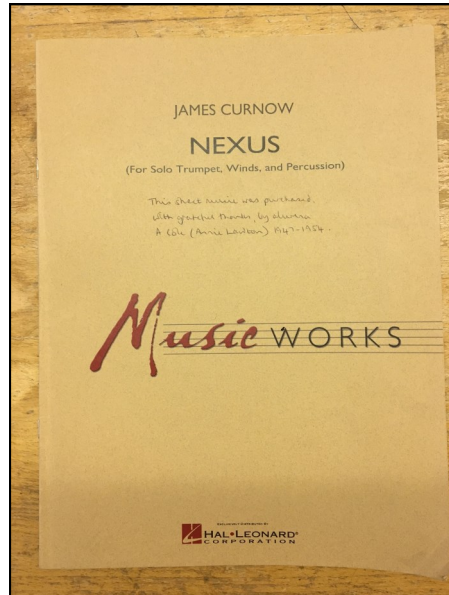
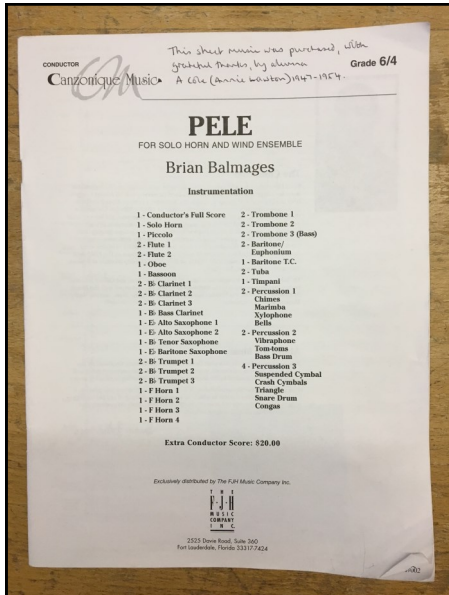
If you think you can help, please email Finty on [clarkef@damealiceowens.herts.sch.uk](mailto:clarkef@damealiceowens.herts.sch.uk) with your details and she'll pass onto our Year 12 students—many thanks.





### Alumni donation becomes a reality

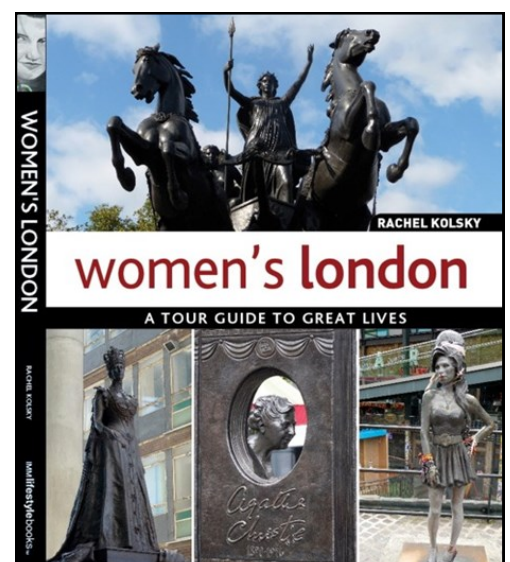
Mrs Annie Coles (nee Lawton), Class of 1954, was delighted her financial donation to our Music Department for the purchase of sheet music (reported Old Owenians Newsletter December 2016, page 3/4) became a reality this year as her signed scores were used at our Senior Orchestral Concert before Easter. Sixth Formers, Eppie Sharp and Tim Crook-Sycamore were the solo instrumentalists who followed the scores during the fantastic Performance (rehearsal photo below). Mrs Coles is looking forward to attending our Senior Orchestral Concert on 13th July as our guest, with fellow alumna, Peggy Smith, who organises their Class Of reunions. We thank her once again for her kind donation.



### Daughter of Old Owenian to publish book

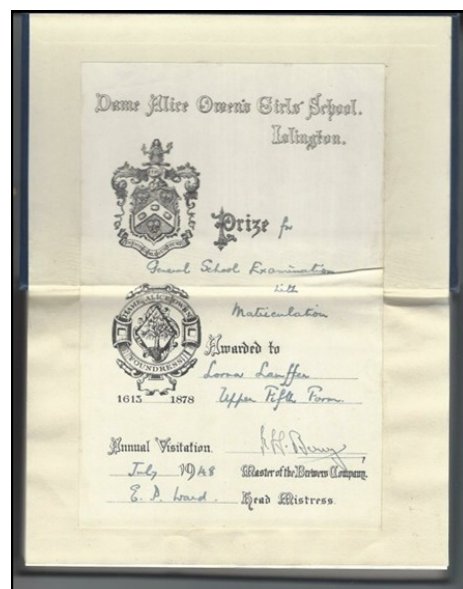
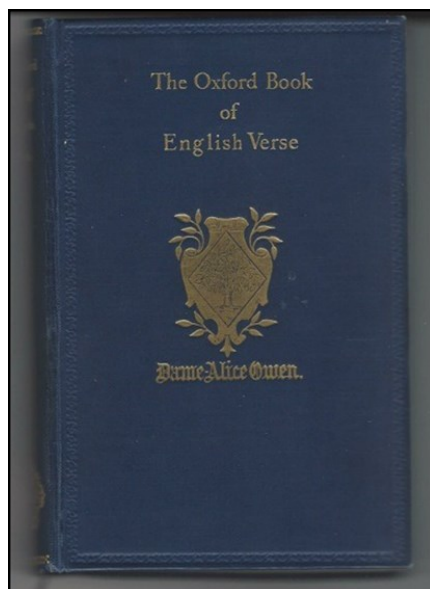
Rachel Kolsky, a registered Blue Badge London Guide and daughter of an Old Owenian, is writing a book entitled, *Women's London: A tour guide to great lives*. Dame Alice Owen features in a chapter called 'London's Female Streetscape', which covers streets named after women, as Owen Street, Owen's Row and Owen's Fields are all named after her. Rachel will be including a photo of our magnificent statue of Dame Alice Owen and referencing the great legacy Dame Alice started by endowing, on our old Islington site, a school for 30 boys.

Rachel tells us, *"I know Islington well as it is where my Mum - then Lorna Lauffer - was born and brought up. She lived on Liverpool Road and went to Laycock Street Primary School and then Dame Alice Owen. Her sister also went there - Hilda Lauffer - and they stayed in touch with other pupils such as Hettie Fisher and Lesley Norris (I only know her married name) but it was wonderful how often the four DAO girls did meet up well into their 70s. The meet ups ended as my dear Mum and her sister died. But Auntie Hettie and Lesley are still alive which is fabulous!"*



Rachel has requested if anyone has any archive images of the school from the 1940s, she'd love to see them as she doesn't have any photos of her Mum and Auntie Hilda when they were at school.

She says *"Mummy was born in 1930 and Auntie Hilda a few years before that. Their education was dislocated due to evacuation but I think they both got their Matric at DAO and Mum was awarded a prize. We do not have any photos of them from these school days. She was gifted the history book though."*



Please contact her directly at: [info@golondontours.com](mailto:info@golondontours.com) if you can help. Photos here show the book prize her mother was presented with in 1948. We wish Rachel good luck with her new publication – last September she published a book called Whitechapel in 50 Buildings, which sold out in 2 months! She'll kindly be sending a copy of Women's London for our School Library.

### Now for your contributions...



#### NIKKI ZHAO - CLASS OF 2012, HEAD GIRL

Thanks to Nikki for a brief update of what she's up to now. After leaving Owen's she graduated from the University of Cambridge with a degree in Economics and is now working hard at Deutsche Bank in Corporate Finance in London, having completed a summer internship there. She enjoys her role immensely and has been working on one of the largest mergers of the year (British American Tobacco and Reynolds). She credits her time and experience at Owen's for all her opportunities, and can't believe it was only four years ago when she was sitting in the K block in an Economics lesson with Mr Archer and building paper planes!



#### MICHAEL BARKER – CLASS OF 1980

Thanks to Michael for sharing his experiences with us since leaving Owen's. Following a career in banking, he's now enjoying life as a self-employed small business owner. He understands the importance of our Careers Talks Week as during his career, he's been mentor, coach and companion in tough times to colleagues and received executive coaching at a very high level. At one organisation he participated in events supporting a local school in its business development classes and has given internal careers talks for students from deprived areas of London.

*"With not the best academic results in the world I did not attend university. I left school going directly into high street banking and after two years moved to international banking. A few more years later, my career moved me to the Operations arena of investment banking. My recent career positions have been in Operational Risk – defined as risk of actual or potential loss resulting from failures in process both human and non human. My last employed position was as a contractor working for a Russian Bank as head of London Operational Risk.*

*I have been lucky to have worked with some extremely talented people and wonderful management. I have also witnessed the worst of the worst! Excitingly, I have recently turned self employed and work as a handyman for friends and friends of friends. Many of these friends have come from the motorcycling community where I have been a Motorcycle instructor for over 25 years!"*





### KATRINA THOMPSON – CLASS OF 2013

Thanks to Katrina for keeping in touch. She's now the Student Engagement and Widening Participation Coordinator at the University of Exeter, Penryn Campus. She told us she enjoyed her time there so much as a student that she applied for an internal role! Wishing her all the best of luck with her future career!



### JADE KONG – CLASS OF 2013

Thanks to Jade for getting in contact and telling us about her adventurous trip to Africa this summer. We wish her the best of luck!

*"Hello Owenians! I am currently a fourth year English Literature finalist at the University of Warwick and this summer I will be volunteering with Warwick in Africa teaching English for 6 weeks in Kilombero, Tanzania to help educate, inspire and change the lives of young learners through education. So far, since its creation in 2006, Warwick in Africa has benefited over 370,000 learners and many more will be positively impacted by the efforts of this year's volunteers."*



*Since the programme is funded entirely by donations, I am aiming to raise a minimum of £1000 (over half which I have already raised!) to ensure that Warwick in Africa can continue changing the lives of young learners in some of the poorest schools in rural South Africa, Ghana and Tanzania and deliver sustainable improvements to Maths and English education. Our aim is to enhance the education of young people in Africa in order to liberate them from poverty.*



*Thank you to everyone who has donated so far and I would be extremely grateful for your continued support to help me hit my fundraising target. Please donate to this very worthwhile and inspiring cause. Your donations and support will have a lasting impact and will help make a massive difference to the lives of these children. Just £10 could help teach an African child for an entire month!*

You can find out more about the programme here: <http://www2.warwick.ac.uk/giving/community/wia/>  
This is the link to my fundraising page: <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/Jade-Kong>



### CHRISTIANA STAVROU – CLASS OF 2010

Thanks to Christiana for getting in touch and we wish her good luck on her application for a visa to spend a year abroad in Australia as a doctor. We hope she'll be able to come back one day and speak at our Careers Talks.



### CHRISTINE EBERHARDIE—CLASS OF 1965



Thanks to Christine for keeping in touch – she's spoken twice (to full audiences!) at our Old Owenians Careers Talks (in 2014 and 2016) on the subject of neuroscience nursing (as Honorary Principle Lecturer at Kingston University and St. George's, University of London) and is now studying again. We'd like to offer our congratulations as she's been 'Declared ' as a Foundation Freeman of the Guild of Nurses in the Guildhall on 2nd February 2017. In addition, she's a member of the faculty of History and Philosophy of the Worshipful Society of Apothecaries. We'd also like to thank her for volunteering to answer any questions from current or past students about nursing – to get in touch, just email us or contact her direct via Old Owenians In Touch.



### ROBERT TOMLINSON – CLASS OF 2014

Many congratulations to Robert who recently achieved an Oxford Blue for Boxing during his 3rd year at Balliol College Oxford. He combines his sport with a PPE (Politics, Philosophy and Economics) degree and is due to graduate this summer. We wish him good luck in his future career.



### RUSSELL FELL – CLASS OF 1963

Thanks to Russell, for sharing with us the varied roles he's had since leaving Owens in Islington, where he was school captain of athletics & cross country. He tells us he's had an unusually rich and varied life. He enjoyed the Harold Moore Luncheon last October and Sir Alan Parker's speech and if he was invited to speak at a Careers Talk, would emphasize to students the importance of books, the influence they've had and the pleasure they've given him during the course of his life.

*"...An only child, I grew up on a council estate in Stoke Newington. Not unlike Stephen Lawrence I was the victim of a knife attack shortly before taking my A-levels. After a brief spell working in a bank, I went on to study Chinese at Leeds University (1964-8), and that was another turning point in my life. After graduating, my wife and I went out to Sierra Leone, to a small up-country diamond mining town, where we worked as teachers. As it turned out, though, my main role there was coaching the town's football team.*

*On returning to England I became a primary school teacher for much of my career, and the last 16 years of that career were spent at a prep school in north London. Throughout my career I've always been heavily involved in extra-curricular activities, mainly football and chess. Before I retired, I turned North Bridge House into one of the top chess playing schools in the country.*

*After retirement, I worked for Chiltern Railways as a station announcer, as well as continuing to work as a part-time chess coach. In 1979 I did a year's retraining course in design, craft & technology, and although I didn't pursue this afterwards, it opened my eyes and taught me a great deal.*



*After I finished the course, we went out to teach in China for nearly three years, and that was a pivotal point for our family. My older son is now the director of the Centre for Taiwan Studies at S.O.A.S.. My other son has an internet business selling bus and rail images, and I now work with him, providing him with the images I've taken of London buses over the past 40 plus years.*

*In my mid-fifties I took up marathon running, and now in my early seventies I am still running, and so too is my wife of nearly fifty years. Among my other interests are railway history, portrait drawing, garden designing, writing and model railways. My wife was also a teacher, and we share a deep interest still in education. Apart from supporting Spurs, we never attempted to influence the direction our children would take, and we feel this partly explains why we are strong as a family."*



### **SYLVIA GAMBIN (NEE GODFREY) – CLASS OF 1964**

Thanks to Sylvia for getting in contact with an enquiry about Miss Lowe. She wonders if anyone else can remember that Miss Lowe also taught Religious Education?

In our June Old Owenians Newsletter last year, we reported on Miss Lowe's 100th birthday and that she taught P.E. – Sylvia remembers being taught R.E. by her and says, *"I recall, as one of three Jewish girls in my form, being sent to sit at the back of her class to learn whole chapters from the Old Testament while the rest of the class studied the New Testament! I'm probably being very blasphemous here but it was soooo boring! Sorry Miss Lowe!"* She also tells us, *"There was also a small mention of Miss Lowe in the editorial of the school magazine from March 1958. It states that, 'Through Miss Lowe, religious discussions were arranged during Michaelmas Term between VIth Forms of the boys' & girls' schools with the Reverend F. Coleman as chairman. We are very optimistic as to the wider understanding gained at these talks and hope they will be continued by future VIth forms.' This would seem to confirm my memory of her as an RE teacher."*

Sylvia would love to hear from you if you have more information and can confirm this or can recognise anyone in the picture below. She's sent this fantastic section of a school photo from around 1959 and says, *"In the row where the teaching staff are sitting, you can see Miss Ward, the Head, sitting in what is actually the centre of the picture wearing her gown. To the Head's immediate right is Miss Welch who taught, what was called then Domestic Science, then Mrs Shipman (aka 'Old Ma Shipwreck!'), who was a Maths teacher and next to her is Miss Lowe. Included in the picture is the caretaker, Mr Stansfield, who was mentioned in the article by Valerie Cross about Miss Lowe. It shows all the staff & students and I remember we all had to stand very still in a semi-circle while the photographer set up the camera which moved slowly round on a motorised tripod with our bright smiles slowly fading!"* Please email her direct at: [clooneygambin@aol.co.uk](mailto:clooneygambin@aol.co.uk).



Sylvia thinks our Old Owenians Careers Talks Week is *"such a good idea for students to get a more realistic picture, enabling them to make good choices for their future"*, and reflects on her own career: *"I have now retired and my original career has changed beyond recognition."*

*I worked for many years as a medical research technician at the Middlesex Hospital in the West End specialising in Biochemistry. At that time we had to do analysis by hand using glassware, pipettes etc., whereas often nowadays a sample goes in one end of a machine and the answer comes out the other (which is a very simple version of events). Also the training is very different now. I used to work 4 days a week and went to college 1 day but that day started at 9am and ended at 9pm as we had an evening class at the end of it. We also had to go on another evening each week for a class at the London/Brompton hospital to train with their Chief Technicians in the 4 specialities (Bacteriology, Biochemistry, Haematology, & Histology) to get our qualifications and so progress up the career ladder.” She admits that, “even if my career path were relevant, I am the worse possible public speaker as I panic in front of an audience!” I’m sure many Old Owenians will be able to identify with her!*



### ELLEN GARLICK – CLASS OF 2013

Congratulations to our Leadership Intern, Ellen, who secured a job as PA to the Financial Controller at Condé Nast Publications (publishers of e.g. Vogue, GQ, Traveller) at Easter. She’s been an invaluable help to staff, since joining us last September and working closely with Head, Hannah Nemko. It’s been great to have her as part of the team. Ellen told us, *“I’ve loved coming back to Owen’s and getting the opportunity to work with some of my old teachers and new members of staff. I’ve absolutely loved this role and I’m really sad to be leaving...”* We wish her much continued success in her new role and future careers.



### STRUAN TAYLOR – CLASS OF 2016

Congratulations to Struan Taylor, who was presented with his Gold Duke of Edinburgh’s Award at St James’s Palace on Wednesday 22nd March 2017. The Duke of Edinburgh spoke to him about his trip to Salamanca in Spain for his Residential Section. The family had a wonderful morning and enjoyed a celebration afterwards.



### Duke of Edinburgh’s Gold Award Presentation (GAP) to alumni from Class of 2016!

Congratulations once again to twelve more of our alumni who were presented with their Gold DofE Awards at Buckingham Palace by Prince Edward on the morning of Wednesday 24th May 2017. It was the Duke of Edinburgh’s retiring DofE event in the afternoon—GAP’s are usually held at St James’s Palace. Our DofE Co-ordinator, Miss Alyson Lord, also attended the event—her first visit to (either) Palace!

Left to Right: Amish Jethwa, Jasmin Ranu, Emma Page, Hannah Marie Burkett, Harry Anderson, Sophie Hallums, Emma McIntyre, Alva Murphy, Amari Korpall and current Year 13’s, Sarah Fishwick and Adam Ashing

Not pictured:

Caitlin Creeley, Eleanor Wright and Sophie Wilson

This is a fantastic achievement for all—

#theowensway







## RICHARD DENMAN—CLASS OF 1965, MICHAEL STEIN—CLASS OF 1965, DEREK WEBB—CLASS OF 1963

### *Diamond Jubilee of the “1957 entry” – reunion to celebrate!*

Old Owenians, Richard Denman (previously Head Boy), Michael Stein and Derek Webb, would like to arrange a luncheon on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> September 2017, (the day school started) for those alumni who joined both the Islington Boys and Girls schools in 1957 (Class of 1963) - sixty years ago! The invitation is also extended to those starting near to 1957, who might still be around! The expected venue, depending on numbers and feedback, is likely to be The Duke of Cambridge in St Peter's Street, at The Angel – location and time will be confirmed. **Please contact any of them directly at [richdenman@hotmail.com](mailto:richdenman@hotmail.com) [baggies1919@gmail.com](mailto:baggies1919@gmail.com) [dwebb@metalweb.co.uk](mailto:dwebb@metalweb.co.uk) by 8<sup>th</sup> August 2017 to let them know if you're interested – they very much look forward to hearing from you.**

If you're reading this from another Year Group and would like to hold a reunion for your own group of peers, just get in touch with us and we'll mail your Year Group directly with the details. We can search for numbers of alumni on Old Owenians In Touch to tell you how many alums are registered to your Year Group (Class of) so you can gauge the response.



## NICK KLEIN – CLASS OF 2010

Thanks to Nick Klein for keeping in touch. Since leaving Owen's and graduating from Durham University in 2015, he's been working at Student Minds, the UK's student mental health charity. He's kindly passed on his blog below about the work he's been doing - we find out more about mental health at university, and Nick's experience of working at Student Minds, as Digital and Campaigns Manager.

*“Moving from school to university is a fantastic opportunity for students to develop academically and socially, but often not talked about are the challenges of such a transition. Living independently for the first time, academic demands, adapting to new support structures, and being far from home are all noted as key stress factors for new students.*

*With 75% of mental health difficulties (such as depression, anxiety and eating disorders) developing in mid-twenties, increasing amounts of students are struggling with their studies, dropping out of university due to lack of support, and in rare cases taking their own lives. While I remember there being regular discussions throughout my 6th Form years about selecting the right university and getting the necessary grades, there was (and still is) a lack of education for prospective students about identifying a problem with mental health and how to reach out for help.*

*Student Minds is the UK's student mental health charity, and we're working hard to address these harsh facts. By training students to run support groups or awareness campaigns, running workshops for staff, or working with HE sector leaders to recommend best practice, we're doing what we can to transform the state of student mental health.*

*While I've been at Student Minds, I've been responsible for leading our communications (social media and the Student Minds Blog), working on awareness campaigns such as University Mental Health Day and coordinating a network of student campaigners. As we grow we're seeing more students open up about their mental health, the stigma of mental health difficulties being challenged at universities, and more students learning skills and becoming confident to support friends.*

*Attitudes towards mental health are moving in such a positive direction at the moment, it feels like we're riding a wave as more and more people join mental health campaigns or open up about their experiences of mental health difficulties. There's a long way to go, and university still poses a significant challenge to students' mental health, but by working with students directly we are able to teach them when they need support, where to seek support at their university, and how to be a positive supporter to a friend or housemate.*

*We're interested in working more with schools to help 6th Formers in their transition to university and with parents to provide them with helpful resources for supporting a child going to university.*

*Want to be involved in one of these future projects? Visit the Student Minds website <http://www.studentminds.org.uk/schools-and-colleges.html>. Or want to support the work of Student Minds? Become a fundraiser <http://www.studentminds.org.uk/fundraising.html> to support student mental health or donate <http://www.studentminds.org.uk/donate.html>!”*



Nick is leaving Student Minds this June 2017 to travel to New Zealand, and is passionate about continuing work with other small charities to challenge the stigma of mental health. We wish him much success for the future.

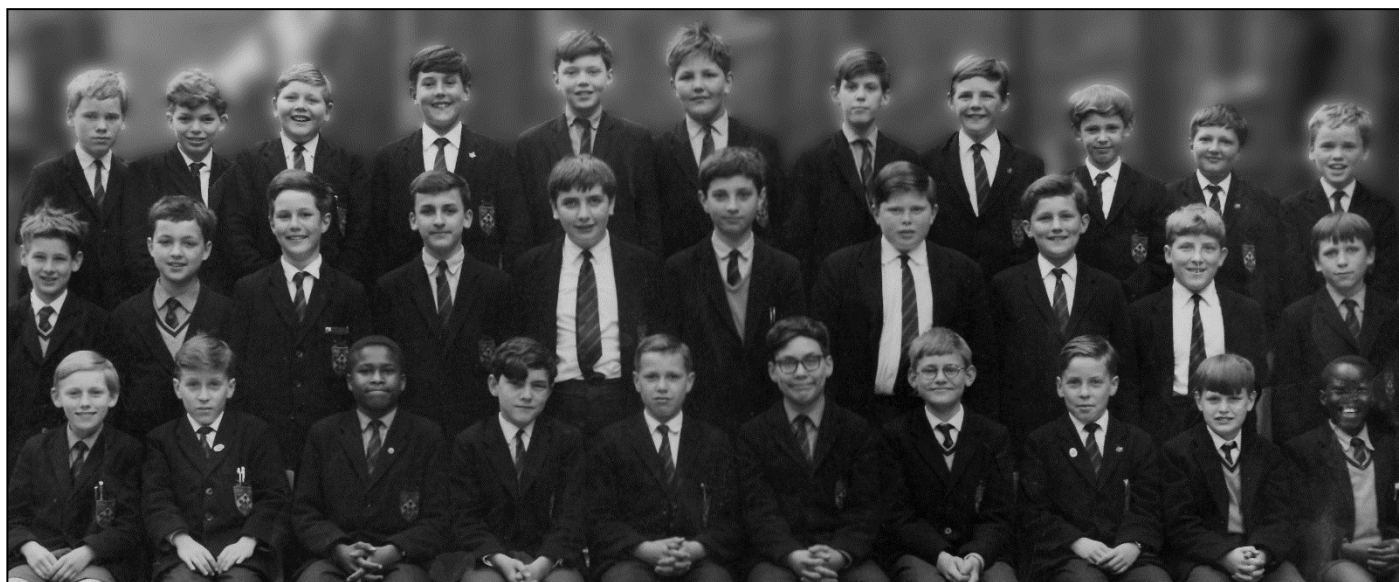


### LES GIBBINGS – LEFT 1971

Many thanks to Les Gibbings for this further contribution—we are indebted to him for his continued articles.

*“I had thought that I had come to a logical end of my school reminiscences and reporting, but it occurred to me that unlike others from my year, I had not hitherto reproduced the one and only Form photograph taken of us by Mr George, the Woodwork Teacher, in our first school year. Although Forms members were changed slightly in the course of the next few years, the core of the class were largely those who shared the initial delights of getting to know the school in Islington, its teachers and its traditions together in the first place.*

*So here is my copy of the photo from 1964 of Form 1 DR Neal, taken just outside the technical block down the road a-piece from Owen’s Street. I recalled almost all the names without any need to consult with anybody else. However, there were just one or two that needed the briefest but most sagacious verification by former class mates (including Malcolm Osgood and Vince Sartori). Reproducing this here may just initiate a response to this veritable organ about what they got up to since leaving the school all those years ago and what they are doing now.*



*The photo has been amended slightly to permit a closer cropped picture that really allows the observer to see how handsome we all were! ... and especially when compared to the other Forms from that year!*

Back Row [Left to Right]: Jimmy King, David Darvell, Jeff Hulbert, Bob Harness, Terry Gibson, Paul Fordyce, Mickey Burns, Les Gibbings, Mark Franklin, Peter Joannides, Hans King [Jimmy’s Twin brother].

Middle Row [Left to Right]: Phillip Clifford, Malcolm Osgood, Andy Massey, Antony Pyzakowski [with apologies for the spelling], Phil (the) Woolway, Vince Sartori, Tom Owen, David Morley, Bob Massingham, Graham Comerford.

Front Row [Left to Right]: John Richier, Robin Goddard, Hymers Wilson, Robinson [a boy of ‘mystery’ that no one can recall the forename of], Peter Martin [Current Owen’s School Governors Chair(man)], Colin Myers, Tony Morton, Bruce Goddard [Robin’s Twin Brother], Tommy Taylor, Georgie Lee.

*Those with good memories reading this, may be somewhat surprised to see Phil Woolway without what was to become his ‘trademark’ half-length ‘Icelandic’ blue coat that he wore for so long during his years at the school. It was probably an urban myth that the coat, which had a texture akin to an old front door mat in azure blue with a black collar, was modelled on those worn on north sea fishing trawlers. However, it certainly made Phil stand out and served to clearly identify him from distance which was probably a good thing for the rest of us! Because of its prominence I have often wondered if that coat had a sort of distorted significance for Mr Woolway analogous to the way the picture in Oscar Wilde’s Dorian Gray had – but perhaps it still lurks somewhere at the back of his wardrobe rather than languishing somewhere in his loft? “*





### In Memory of TREVOR VINCETT – CLASS OF 1959

Thanks to Anne Esson (nee Rowland) - Class of 1958, for writing this obituary for her late step-brother, **Trevor Vincett** (left) for any readers who might remember him.

*"Trevor died in February 2017, aged 74, leaving Eva his wife for 45 years, his two sons, and two grandchildren. His terminal diagnosis came as a great shock to the family, as Trevor was so fit, active, and enthusiastically involved in his business, his competitive tennis, his wildlife photography, and life in Dartmouth. When I saw him in January, he had, at last, started writing his extraordinary memoirs, but sadly they remained unfinished. Trevor had a difficult childhood and early adulthood. His young Mother died when he was 6, and his Father enrolled him, and his younger brother, in Royal Wanstead Boarding School. The two boys were later removed from the boarding school following a serious abuse scandal, and Trevor was transferred to Owens School in 1955.*



*He didn't enjoy the academic side of school, but loved the H.A.C. (Honourable Artillery Company). Hardly surprising then, that he left Owens at 17 to join the Army. Trevor's military life was peppered with 'adventures' and he was posted to Christmas Island during the UK/USA nuclear bomb testing programmes of the early 1960s. He recalled the officer's minimal safety instruction - "If you lads want to watch the explosions, wear sunglasses."!*

*After the Army, Trevor returned to his great love of sailing, which had been developed during our many weekends on his Father's 33 ft. sailing boat at Burnham on Crouch. He quickly built a good reputation as a skilled sailor and, largely self-taught, Trevor passed his Board of Trade Master Skipper's certificate in 1968.*

*From then, Trevor never looked back, and his global sailing adventures continued. He was even recruited by the BBC to Skipper the famous top-sail schooner "Charlotte Rhodes" for the highly acclaimed 1970s TV series "The Onedin Line", and filming took place on Exeter Quays, and in Dartmouth waters. Trevor and his wife fell in love with Dartmouth, and remained there. They built a wonderful family life, and he created his highly successful business based in Dartmouth: <http://www.tvyachtdelivery.com/>. When I first met my amazing step-brother, he was a sad, confused, wild and angry 7 year old boy. Any Old Owenians who remember him may be surprised, and mildly amused, to hear it turned out so well!*



### DR EDMUND EDWARDS MCKINNON—CLASS OF 1952

Thanks to Edmund for keeping in touch and sending us, as one of the joint authors, a research article from the Journal of Geophysical Research: Solid Earth on the 2004 Indian Ocean Tsunami, back in January. The introduction starts:

*"One reason that recent giant earthquakes and tsunamis have been extremely devastating is that their predecessors occurred in the very distant past. Such events had thus been considered extremely unlikely, if they had been considered at all. Events that occur every few hundred to thousands of years seldom capture the attention of those faced with much more immediate social, political, and economic matters."* He says a career in seismology sounds fascinating and extremely promising in a world increasingly subject to climate change and geological uncertainty. You'll find the full article (dated 2014) on our Old Owenians In Touch Newsletter page.



### JEFF OWEN – CLASS OF 1967

Thanks to Jeff for this second instalment as promised. Owen's School Memories, Part Two!

*"Since Part One of my memories of Owen's was published I've managed to dig out one or two of my old reports from the 1960s. Before taking up where I left off I thought readers might like to see how I fared in my first term in 2WJC. So here's the report for my first few months in Flossie Cutler's form. It would have made an appropriate addition to the first episode of my memories but unfortunately I didn't have it to hand. Better late than never... (see over). You can see it was a very short term we were about to begin after Christmas! Strangely it was indeed a bit shortened for me as it was soon after Christmas that I fractured my ankle and had to take a few days off.*



Owen's School.

31<sup>st</sup> Dec. 1961.

### REPORT.

Name Jeffrey OWEN Form II WJC

Place in Form — No. of Boys 31 Average Age 12 yrs. 3 mths.

Attendance—Absent — half-days and late 4 times. Weekly Detention — times.

#### GRADES EXAMINATION PERCENTAGES FOR:—

Maths	Geog	Latin	French	Rud.	Hist.	RI	Englsh	Science
2	2	5	2	2	4	4	2	4

#### GENERAL CONDUCT AND PROGRESS.

A rather mixed report of Jeffrey's work! On the whole, his standard is quite high, and was especially so in Mathematics and Geography. He must, however, improve in Latin & Science. Conduct very good, on the whole.

WJ Butler Form <sup>mistress</sup> Master.

First Day of next Term:

9<sup>th</sup> Jan. 1962

Last Day of next Term:

10<sup>th</sup> Jan. 1962

Good — but he must now interest himself in the subjects that he hasn't taken thoroughly!

EH Burroughs

Head Master.

Anyway, where was I? I recalled how, partway through the second year, our form was taken aback by the sudden death of Mr Lloyd-Williams, our form master. I can still recall the roll-call of my form mates at that time and I'm sure many of them reading this may also remember that unsettling time when Mr L-W passed away. I wonder if any of these chaps also remember me:

Jimmy Baker, Roger Biggs (lived in Geldeston Road, Clapton and had a younger brother, Jeff, at the school), Malcom Brown (had an older brother at the school and lived in Brixton), Derek Callum, Mickey "Potty" Chambers (lived in Upper Street), Peter Connelly, Richard French, John Gibson, Trevor Harvey, John Jacobs, Derek Johnson, Graham Kendal, David Knowles, Laurence Lacey (dad owned a furniture store), Stephen Langston, Alan Lockyer (had an older brother, Malcolm I think, at the school), Tony Martin, John Matthie, John Morgan (lived in Chalk Farm), Paul Oliver (had an older brother at the school who was tragically killed riding a motor scooter), [Me], Philip Reed, Bob Sanderson, Philip "Wormy" Saunders, Peter Savidge, Albert "Abbo" Swinson (lived in Kings Cross), Philip "Toby" Tobias (lived in Osbaldeston Road, Clapton), Martin Vigon (lived in Evering Road, Stoke Newington, now I believe resident in his native Canada), Dickie Wilmore (lived in St Kilda's Road, Stoke Newington) and Graham Woodward (had an older brother — Ronald, I think — in the school).

I hope I've not mistaken any names or left anybody out. Apologies if so, but it has been fifty-five years!



Most of us seemed to get on well and I had a few particularly close friends. Davy Knowles was one of them. He lived at the top of Crouch Hill and I would sometimes cycle there after school. It was a slog to the top of the hill and Davy's Mum would ply me with a much-needed cool drink upon my arrival. Martin Vigon, Dickie Wilmore, Roger Biggs and Toby Tobias were also among my circle as we used the 73 bus to get to and from school. Most bus routes away from the Angel carried a few Owenians soon after 3:40pm during term time but the 73 was particularly popular.

A few changes had taken place as I began my second year. That year saw the retirement of Mr Burroughs and the arrival of Gerald Jones as Headmaster. Head Boy Paul Kelly had left and I seem to recall his immediate replacement being Lathrope, though there may have been somebody in between. I never knew Lathrope's first name and it seemed few others did either, with the possible exception of his parents. Lathrope was huge and was a positive asset to those seeking law and order within the school. Among the other prefects I recall were the Mace twins, Eric Le Seuer, and, of course, Bill Hamilton-Hinds.

The team striving to continue the battle with our ignorance had also changed somewhat and in fact continued to change as we made our way through the Third, Remove and Fourth forms. Among those I remember, Dr Cast took us for French, Mr Stephenson (Room 13) and Dave New helped us grasp simultaneous (and later, quadratic) equations. Mr Copping also assisted with our numeracy and I shall explain a little more about some of his strange idiosyncrasies in a later episode. Mr Dare took over where Mr Williams had left off with our history (somewhere between the Stone Age and the Vikings, I think) though Gym Chant took over at some point as will be seen from one of my later reports. Ron "Siren" Crocker took the helm in the Physics lab.

Meanwhile Mr Hamilton initially continued with our Chemistry though "Oscar" Legge went on to teach us how to blow things up, boil various toxic and corrosive liquids and set fire to a multitude of substances to produce different coloured flames. I vividly recall one practical lesson with him where I had to dash to the toilet with a handkerchief stuffed in my mouth. I'd taken a mouthful of sodium hydroxide solution when sucking up the caustic liquid into a pipette. I have no idea what we were doing with the stuff - that aspect of the lesson didn't stick very well. But one thing I did learn from that session (and which has stayed with me forever) is that sodium hydroxide should not come into contact with the delicate tissue inside one's mouth!

I also recall Frank Witham taking over with Biology and "Hattie" Jacques taking us forward with Geography. Malcolm Stuart Fellows taught us English in his velvet smoking jacket along with Ted Lindsay and a Mr Cosham. My only recollection of him is his uttering "Today we shall do Julius Caesar properly!", but little else.

From the beginning Mr Chant and I didn't get on. Although I think he could have been a little more accommodating, it was mainly my fault. I could not play football very well at all and to Gymbo Chant that was worse than being unable to read and write. Added to that my prowess in the gym was nothing to write home about. I was a reasonably mediocre cricketer, making a few runs here and there when the occasion demanded, but that was no saviour. Fortunately, when progressing to the Remove we had the option of a wider range of sports and I chose to row at Kew but for me, life in Gymbo's Third form was a troublesome time.

Apart from my lack of sporting prowess, by far my biggest shortcoming was my timekeeping. I was frequently late and on the wrong end of "late class". Mr Lloyd-Williams scarcely left the main building except to go home and was unconcerned about my lack of punctuality. He probably took the view that if I was daft enough to prefer to spend 30 minutes detained after school rather than to leave home ten minutes earlier in the morning there was not much he could do to address my stupidity. Gymbo, however, took a very different view. It seemed to me that whenever he had a spare moment he would roam the school looking for miscreants.

The names of the recipients of "Late Class" and "Prefects' Detention" were, unfortunately, posted for all to see in the window of the Prefects' Common Room on the ground floor of the art block. That practice would probably be prohibited today under "data protection" or the right to privacy but no such protections existed in the 1960s. He would scan the contents of the lists hungrily almost every day believing that any members of his form who were subject to those sanctions were tarnishing his name and bringing his form into disrepute. He would take angry delight when he found my name there (which he did - frequently) and would seek me out to give me an ear bashing. Our brief exchanges usually went something along these lines:

DEAC: "Owen, you have two late classes. Why is it you're never on time?"

JO: "Well sir, there's been quite a bit of trouble..."

DEAC: "I come from Pangbourne. That's forty miles. You only live a few miles up the road [which I did, in Stoke Newington]. I can get here on time, why can't you?"

JO: "But Sir, I think..."

DEAC: "I don't want to hear any more of it. Just get here on time or I'll beat you."

*Of course it was fortuitous that he always cut me off because realistically I had no answer. I had often considered offering an explanation for the discrepancy between his punctuality and my lateness along the lines that he must obviously enjoy getting up far earlier than me. Fortunately I always thought better of it. Instead my usual tactic consisted of suggesting that the vagaries of the 73 bus were to blame. It's fortunate that I was rarely allowed to get very far with that idea because it would not have cut much ice. As I mentioned earlier, plenty of boys used that route and few of them were late.*

*The plain truth was that I simply did not allow myself enough time to reach the Angel by ten to nine. It was a constant bone of contention between us, even more contentious than the (one and only) day I came to school sporting green "Hush Puppies" and white socks. (For younger readers, Hush Puppies were suede shoes, popular with "Mods" at the time and were definitely not regulation issue). That only lasted a day and would have lasted considerably less than that had he seen me earlier than the last period of the afternoon. Most unusually, I must have been late for registration that morning! But Late Classes and the accompanying admonishments from Gymbo were to become part and parcel of life.*

*I adopted some interesting strategies to avoid detection. I realised that the prefects on the gate sometimes left soon after assembly began and there was a slot where one could sneak in between then and the beginning of the first lesson at 9:20. Wet weather was also an opportunity to avoid being apprehended as the prefects would take shelter on the steps to the entrance hall and would often be somewhat unsighted. The best approach was from the Goswell Road end of Owen Street as the stretch past that end of the school curved slightly and was out of sight of the main entrance. A swift entry could be achieved via the official route down the stairs to the basement and past the dining room. However, some of the prefects took to posting one of their number at the foot of the steps. Approaching from the St John Street end avoided this and if one kept tight to the railings after rounding the "Crown and Woolpack" it was often possible to sneak in, without being seen, through the Armoury door.*

*However this was fraught with danger because, as all pre-1971 Old Owenians will know, entering through that door was a capital offence in itself. I can recall on one wet morning adopting this strategy, silently turning the cast iron handle on the door and sneaking in. I closed the door quietly, congratulating myself on my subterfuge. My euphoria was short lived as I found, to my horror, that I was facing Lathrope looking at the football team listings posted on the notice board inside. He handed me not only a prefects' detention (PD) for the Armoury Door offence but a Late Class as well! I tried arguing along the lines of "double jeopardy" but my pleas were dismissed, backed up with the threat of a clip round the ear. Half an hour spent in PD seemed a decent trade off when weighed against a "clip" from one of Lathrope's paws, which to me at that time seemed more to resemble three pounds of pork sausages than a pair of human hands.*

*The year 1963 was, of course, 350<sup>th</sup> Anniversary year. The Reverend "Tubby" Turner had been recalled from retirement to oversee the fund raising exercise (we had no world-famous musicians among our alumni then as we had fifty years later!). The target was £30,000 and progress against this target was measured on a "thermometer" which was installed in the well of the main staircase. I believe it was graduated in £2,000 increments with the target figure being located somewhere between the first and second floors. I don't know to this day how the ever-growing red line was adjusted on the device.*

*Today full scaffolding would have to be erected in the stairwell no doubt with safety nets. A comprehensive risk assessment would have to be undertaken before anybody was allowed near the site and anybody making the adjustments would have to be fully trained and kitted out with a hard hat, ear defenders, hi-viz jacket and steel toe-capped boots. But this was 1963 and the red line did grow (adjusted, I imagine, by somebody leaning over the tiled balustrade, perhaps with an assistant holding on to his legs) and the target was reached. The funds, if I remember correctly, enabled the school to buy Harrock House with enough left over for the pipe organ which sat at the back of the main hall.*

*In September 1963 my form mates and I became members of "The Remove" and Mr Chant continued as our form master. Our form room for our second year had been room 15 (Mr. Lloyd-Williams's old room). On graduating to the Remove we were relocated to room 3 (the first of the rooms in the "cloisters" under the hall).*

*Alas my bad timekeeping continued to plague both me and Gymbo. Looking back I don't really know who suffered the most as he seemed to become increasingly exasperated at his inability to improve my punctuality. To be perfectly fair his threats of corporal punishment (at least for my lack of punctuality) were never carried out. But he (quite justifiably) badgered me constantly. Here, for all to see is his scathing assessment of my timekeeping in December 1963. This the first time this historic and very delicate document (which I handled with white cotton gloves as they do in documentaries on the History Channel) has been made available to the public.*





# OWEN'S SCHOOL

TRUSTEES:  
THE WORSHIPFUL COMPANY OF BREWERS

Report for the Half-year ending December 1963

Name Owen, J. Age 13-3 Form RDEAC

Place in Form 

Term	Each	Final
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Number of Boys 30 Average Age 13-9

SUBJECT	EXAMINATIONS		REMARKS
	Per-centage Marks	Place in Form or Set	
RELIGIOUS KNOWLEDGE	65	25	Good.
LANGUAGE ENGLISH LITERATURE	62	60	Good work and progress. R.
MATHEMATICS	75	20	Excellent. P.
HISTORY	28	28	NOT very good. He must get down to learning facts.
GEOGRAPHY	45	14	Fair result - has improved this term P.
LATIN	-	-	
FRENCH	85	5	Very good work all the time. B.C.
GERMAN	60	22	Working well and ought to do very much better soon. R.B.
PHYSICS	53	18	More effort is required.
SCIENCE CHEMISTRY	58	9	Fairly good - but he should get down to a bit more work J.H.
ART	-	-	Satisfactory. C.R.
HANDICRAFT	-	-	Not very good - should work harder. J.H.
Biology	34	1	Good. J.H.
* He has failed to be on time on an average four days out of five!!!			
ATTENDANCE: <u>12</u> DAYS AND LATE <u>22</u> TIMES. FIRST DAY OF NEXT TERM <u>9-1-1964</u>			
CONDUCT: DETENTION <u>1</u> AND CONDUCT <u>1</u> TIME <u>1</u> ON <u>1</u> NEXT TERM <u>26-5-1964</u>			
His English has improved and apart from History he has all his subjects. I shall tell to the History personally!! Rather an "imp" in behaviour. J.H.			
FORM MASTER			
Generally good progress. He is no more of his habitual lateness. J.H.			
HEADMASTER			

I think his figure of 80% lateness is a little harsh. I would have put it closer to 50% myself but even now, more than half a century later, I am still programmed not to argue too much with Gympso so I must reluctantly accept his figures. Readers will also notice his determination to "see to" my deficiencies in History himself and his belief that I was "rather an imp"!

Despite all that, being in the Remove opened a host of new opportunities including a choice of sports. For me this meant a half day out of the clutches of Gympso and the relative peace of a couple of hours on the Thames. There's lots more to tell about this, the "mass slippings", my (perfectly legal) avoidance of conscription into the school's Army Cadet Force, some further news on my timekeeping and a little bit more. Alas that will all have to wait until the next issue, so watch this space!





## ROY VANDERMEER—DIED 2017

Many thanks to The Telegraph for their permission to re-produce this obituary about our alumnus, Roy Vandermeer. This appeared in the paper on 3rd May 2017 (full script below) and a further report was published in The Times on 10th May 2017.

### ***"Revered and feared planning QC who presided over the gruelling Heathrow Terminal 5 inquiry***

*Roy Vandermeer, who has died aged 85, was one of the outstanding planning Silks of his generation and presided over the longest ever planning inquiry.*

*His capacity for work was astonishing. He mastered complex briefs rapidly, absorbing huge volumes of paperwork with ease and with an uncanny ability to spot flaws in the opposing party's expert evidence. His memory was usually infallible and he was a master tactician in planning inquiries.*

*Adroit on his feet, Vandermeer not only dominated proceedings but could mould the case in his client's favour. He deployed his cross-examination skills, honed in his former criminal practice, with devastating effect and invariably without notes. Expert witnesses hardened by years of experience feared his questioning and even his own witnesses were anxious when he re-examined them, in case they could not keep up with his ingenuity. At a time when barristers were drawn largely from privileged backgrounds, his upbringing in a tenement flat beside Euston station was no impediment to a successful career at the Bar.*

*Arnold Roy Vandermeer was born on June 26 1931, the only son of William, the manager of a nearby factory, and Katherine Vandermeer. There were two sisters and the family lived in a flat in Eversholt Street NW1, sharing an outdoor lavatory with the hairdresser on the ground floor.*

*After passing the 11-plus, Roy attended Dame Alice Owen's School, where he excelled at ball games and captained the First XI. He took the LLB at King's College, London, working part-time as a waiter at the Savoy to help fund his education. So impoverished was he that he and another waiter shared the same suit, working on alternate days.*

## Roy Vandermeer

### Revered and feared planning QC who presided over the gruelling Heathrow Terminal 5 inquiry

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Vandermeer with his wife, Caroline: there was a sense of outrage at the Bar that he was not honoured with a knighthood



attended Dame Alice Owen's School, where he excelled at ball games and captained the First XI. He took the LLB at King's College, London, working part-time as a waiter at the Savoy to help fund his education. So impoverished was he that he and another waiter shared the same suit, working on alternate days.

Vandermeer was called to the Bar in 1955. After a short service commission in the RAF, in 1960 he joined the chambers of Eric Blain at 2, Harcourt Buildings (now Francis Taylor Building). He rapidly secured a large criminal practice in Kent, his cross-examination feared and admired in equal measure by the criminal fraternity. But his adversarial talents soon propelled his move to town and country planning, the mainstay of his chambers.

He was one of the busiest juniors at the Planning Bar. He took Silk in 1978. He was a Recorder of the Crown Court (1972-97), a Deputy High Court Judge

(1989-99), and was appointed a Bench of Gray's Inn in 1988.

Vandermeer's qualities quickly came to the attention of major retailers, who, from the mid-1970s, sought to develop large supermarkets in out-of-town locations. Local authorities invariably refused planning permission and so inquiries resulted. Vandermeer became the preferred counsel of Tesco and was engaged on its behalf in well over 100 appeals between 1980 and 1995. His success rate was impressive, and his contribution to the car-borne shopping revolution may now be seen throughout the country.

In 1995 he was appointed by the government to be the inspector at the inquiry into the proposed Terminal 5 at Heathrow, expected to last two years. Despite his attempts to expedite the proceedings, the inquiry sat for an unprecedented 524 days, concluding in March 1999 after hearing 734 witnesses and receiving 18,000 written submissions.

Despite his reputation as a ferocious advocate, to those who appeared at these proceedings Vandermeer was fair, patient and thorough and produced an impeccable report with careful recommendations after a gruelling inquiry which he endured with good humour – despite the financial sacrifice involved in foregoing his practice as a barrister.

There was a sense of outrage at the Bar that he was not honoured with a knighthood. Instead he was made a scapegoat for delays which were either

inherent in the system which he operated, or were caused by the government itself.

Vandermeer had previously been chairman of two Examinations in Public for the Structure Plans of Greater Manchester and Avon. The extended length of the Heathrow inquiry, however, forced him to retire prematurely from the Bar in 1996.

Outside the legal arena Vandermeer was a sensitive and even sentimental person who was easily reduced to tears. He enjoyed a very active social life with a wide circle of friends. He married Caroline (née Christopher) in 1964 and they were devoted to each other and their children, one of whom, a daughter, was born with special needs.

His wife's mastery of the kitchen and his of a bulging wine cellar played no small part in their family and social life. They were members of the MCC, and he regularly entertained friends at the Savoy, an experience which must have had particular resonance for him.

Vandermeer showed great kindness to all who sought his advice. He worked tirelessly for the Home Farm Trust that cared for his daughter and in 2009 was appointed OBE in recognition of his charitable efforts.

His support for Caroline in her final illness was unstinting and he faced his own death with great bravery and without complaint. His three children survive him.

**Roy Vandermeer, born June 26 1931, died January 13 2017**



*Vandermeer was called to the Bar in 1955. After a short service commission in the RAF, in 1960 he joined the chambers of Eric Blain at 2, Hardcourt Buildings (now Francis Taylor Building). He rapidly secured a large criminal practice in Kent, his cross examination feared and admired in equal measure by the criminal fraternity. But his adversarial talents soon propelled his move to town and country planning, the mainstay of his chambers.*

*He was one of the busiest juniors at the Planning Bar. He took Silk in 1978. He was a Recorder of the Crown Court (1972-1997), a Deputy High Court Judge (1989-99), and was appointed a Bencher of Gray's Inn in 1988.*

*Vandermeer's qualities quickly came to the attention of major retailers, who, from the mid 1970's, sought to develop large supermarkets in out-of-town locations. Local authorities invariably refused planning permission and so inquiries resulted. Vandermeer became the preferred counsel of Tesco and was engaged on its behalf in well over 100 appeals between 1980 and 1995. His success rate was impressive, and his contribution to the car-borne shopping revolution may now be seen throughout the country.*

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## **HAROLD MOORE ANNUAL REUNION LUNCHEON—FOR ALL OLD OWENIANS—Monday 23rd October 2017**



This event is for all Old Owenians—set up in the 1970's by alumnus, Harold Moore (Head Boy, 1939), his legacy has been continued by Ray Coombes, Michael Harold and Stanley Gould for over a generation. If you'd like to book a ticket, please use the application form (PDF) on our Newsletter page and send to Sandyann Cannon, the Luncheon organiser. We'll also be sending you a reminder from Old Owenians In Touch early in September.

### And finally...

#### Do you know your alumni definitions?

This might be useful for those entering University life—the terms are perhaps more familiar in higher education than mainstream secondary schools and we know are often confused. We've kept the term Old Owenians to refer to our alumni. These original Latin terms below relate to former students from educational institutions, former members or employees and are explained by: <http://grammarist.com/usage/alumna-alumnae-alumni-alumnus/>.

**Alumni** is a plural noun referring either to a group male graduates or to a group of both male and female graduates. The singular **alumnus** refers to one male graduate, **alumna** refers to one female graduate, and the plural **alumnae** refers to a group of female graduates. These Latin loanwords preserve their original plural forms, and incorrect use of the words abounds because many speakers of English are understandably unfamiliar with the genders and plurals of Latin nouns.

If you have trouble keeping track of them all, one alternative is to use *alum* and *alums*. These increasingly appear as replacements for the traditional words—though they may be considered out of place in formal contexts—and they have the extra virtue of being ungendered and hence unconfusing.

#### Good luck to staff leavers

We wish the following members of staff, who are leaving us at the end of this term, all the best for life after Owen's!  
Sarah Davies – Head of MFL (Modern Foreign Languages) – relocating to Hampshire  
Dr Rosie Gillman (Geography) - relocating  
Jenna Coakley—promotion to Head of Girls PE at Parmiters School  
Ian Breeze (P.E.)—retiring (although retains responsibility for Sports Hall lettings)  
Nigel Richards (Physics) - retiring

Welcome also to our new alumni paid interns; Amy Harrington—Class of 2014 (attached to Physics) and Will Underhill—Class of 2015 (attached to Computer Science) who are joining us till the end of the summer term.

#### Welcome to Sonja and Tess (pictured: Sonja, left, Tess, right) —your new alumni contacts and request to support them

Sonja Winborn, our Facilities and Special Events Manager, is adding the role of editor of our Old Owenians Newsletter to her current responsibilities; she'll also be helping to organise alumni events and meet and greet you when you visit the School. Sonja joined Owen's in September last year from Barnet Homes where she dealt with housing appeals and continues as a governor of a local primary school. She lives in Potters Bar and has two children.

Tess Cleverley, our Office Team Lead, is incorporating the administration of our alumni database and website into her busy role. She joined Owen's in January last year from Cardtronics UK where she managed the IT Support department. She also lives locally and has two children.



You can contact both Sonja and Tess via the [oldowenians@damealiceowens.herts.sch.uk](mailto:oldowenians@damealiceowens.herts.sch.uk) email address.

Carol Whiter will continue to be your point of contact for the **Old Owenians Careers Talks Week (5th - 9th of March 2018)**—information about next year's event will be mailed to you in January 2018. Remember, we'd be very grateful if any of our alumni have time to volunteer to support them for a few hours a month to maintain and develop our valued relationship with our alumni to ensure we reach and connect with as many Old Owenians as possible in the years to come. Please email our Head, Hannah Nemko, directly if you can offer your help on [nemkoh@damealiceowens.herts.sch.uk](mailto:nemkoh@damealiceowens.herts.sch.uk) – many thanks.

#### Goodbye from your Editor

Massive thanks to all of you who've supported us over the last 6 years since our amazing retired Head, Alan Davison, started planning for our 400th Anniversary and we initiated our alumni programme. You can feel very proud the continuing drive and enthusiasm which led to its creation as part of those celebrations still flourishes here at Owen's—I know I am. Your presence enhances our special school community and we're extremely grateful for all that you give back in terms of volunteering, mentoring and contributions. I'll miss all the very dedicated colleagues I work with, while excited to start a new direction, and will keep in touch as an alumna! Hannah, Sonja and Tess look forward to working with you—please support them.

**Mandy English**  
Alumni Relations Manager

P.S. Deadline for the next Newsletter is **Monday 4th December 2017**—keep your updates coming!