



ALDENHAMIANA
ISSUE 52
October 2024

OA REVIEW

News from the
OA Society

News from The School

News and Features

Celebrating Charities

Obituaries and Tributes



Aldenhamiana

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FROM THE EDITOR



First of all I want to say a big thank you to the readers of this magazine. Thank you for sending in your stories and news and thank you for reading!

I have had the privilege this year not only to edit our magazine, but also attend the wonderful events put on by the OA Society; the OA Dinner, OA Day for Paull's House including the library's centenary event and the mixed OA hockey match organised by **Tom Ripper (K2010-17)**, **Charlotte Yeabsley (P2011-18)** and **Megan Yeabsley (P2012-19)**. It has been nostalgic to visit the School and relive the memories from my time there, seeing how so many things have stayed the same. However, it is also impressive to see how it has developed and changed. Paull's House has created new bedrooms to accommodate the increasing interest in girls boarding, the new astroturf that was opened last year and the sensory garden has allowed a quiet space for neurodivergent students to relax. I hope you experience this same feeling, and look forward to reading more about the events from the OA Society and the development of the school, in the rest of this year's issue.

Most of the School developments and the OA Society activities are only possible because of the many generous OAs giving back to the School with their time and through the Aldenham Annual Fund and the Richard Platt Society. It is because of this that the theme for this year's issue naturally came to be 'Charity'. I believe Aldenham encourages its students to be generous and promotes opportunities to give back. This is evident from the news received from OAs, the OA Society and the school this year.

I need to thank all of the people that make this magazine possible. Thank you to Jackie Wilkie for preserving the archives and helping connect me to OAs. Thank you Jackie, **Ann Saffery (Staff 2011-24)**, **Claudia Greenway (P2012-19)** and **Richard Peart (SHO 1955-60)** for proofreading the articles. I know this is often last minute during the summer period, so thank you for your patience and availability. Thank you **Hugh Schermuly (M1974-79)** for the design and piecing the magazine together.

Most importantly, I need to thank Ann Saffery, thank you for supporting this magazine for so many years and providing Issue 52 with, once again, remarkable stories from OA's. You have been instrumental in reconnecting and maintaining the relationship with OAs and Aldenham. I hope you have a relaxing and fulfilling retirement.

Please enjoy Issue 52 of the *OA Review*. I hope the articles this year interest you and you find something in here to connect you with your fellow OAs and Aldenham. Have a wonderful year!

Nicola Butchart

The President's Message

Dear Old Aldenhamians, It is with immense pride and privilege that I write this forward as the newly elected President of the Old Aldenhamian Society, a role I assumed in March 2024.



This is a historic moment for the Society, as I am the first woman to hold the position of President. I feel deeply honoured and excited to step into this role, and it is a reflection of the important strides our Society is making in embracing diversity and inclusion. Women have always played a crucial role in Aldenham's history and, now more than ever, we see the importance of ensuring that every member of our community – past and present – can contribute to its legacy. I look forward to serving all OAs with dedication and enthusiasm.

One of the key aspects that defines the Old Aldenhamian Society is its commitment to fostering lifelong bonds between its members, and one of the greatest ways we do this is through sport. Sport has always been a vital part of Aldenham life, and it is a joy to see this tradition continue so strongly among Old Aldenhamians. I had the great privilege of attending the OAGS

Competition Halford Hewitt this year, where our team performed exceptionally well. The spirit of camaraderie and friendly competition was inspiring, and it was a delight to see so many OAs coming together in the name of sport.

I was also fortunate enough to witness the OA Football Final in the Arthurian Cup between Old Aldenhamians and Old Kimboltonians. Although we sadly lost on penalties, the team displayed incredible skill, determination, and sportsmanship. Such moments remind us that sport is not just about winning but about perseverance, teamwork, and the joy of coming together.

I'd also like to take a moment to recognize two remarkable Old Aldenhamians who are excelling at the very highest levels of their respective sports. **Matt Wallace (L2003-08)** continues to shine on the professional golf circuit, recently securing a victory on the DP World Tour and representing Europe with distinction in the Ryder Cup. His achievements are a testament to the talent and dedication nurtured at Aldenham. Similarly, **Myles Lewis-Skelly (L2018-23)** made his debut for Arsenal in the UEFA Champions League this season, marking a significant milestone in his burgeoning football career. These two outstanding athletes serve as an inspiration to the next generation of Aldenhamians, showing what can be achieved with hard work and passion.

This year's theme for the *OA Review* is Charity, a value that has always been close to the heart of our community. Aldenham's long-standing partnership with Ripple Africa is a shining example of how we can make a meaningful difference in the world. This year marks the 15th anniversary of the School's work in Malawi, and it was particularly special for me, as my daughter was fortunate enough to take part in the three-week trip. She returned with a profound sense of personal growth and a deeper understanding of the power of giving

back. Her experience reaffirmed the importance of charity in shaping not just the world around us, but also ourselves.

However, this year also brought the sad news of the passing of one of Aldenham's most generous benefactors, **John Apthorp CBE (P1949-53)**. John was a tremendous supporter of charitable causes, and his generosity extended far beyond Aldenham. His legacy will continue to impact many, and we will forever be grateful for his contributions to our community. His passing reminds us of the importance of giving back, something John did so selflessly throughout his life.

It has truly been a remarkable year for the OA Society. The Annual OA Dinner, held in March, was a fantastic occasion. We have often showcased the creative talents of Aldenhamians at these dinners, and it was wonderful to celebrate two recent alumni who have gone on to achieve great success in the arts. **Geoff Berrisford (M2018-23)** starred in the West End hit musical *Everybody's Talking About Jamie*, which closed this summer after the London and UK tour, it is an incredible achievement that highlights his talent and dedication. Meanwhile, **Louis Thresher (L&M2018-23)** has been making waves on screen with a role in a recent Netflix production. These successes are a testament to the breadth of talent within the OA community, spanning sport, the Arts, and many other fields.

I would also like to take this opportunity to extend my heartfelt thanks to two key figures who have played significant roles in the OA Society in recent years. Firstly, to **Ann Saffery (Staff 2011-24)** who is retiring after thirteen years as OA & Development Manager. Ann has been a pillar of the Society, offering tireless dedication and commitment to ensuring the smooth running of our operations. Her warm, welcoming presence will be greatly missed, and we owe her a debt of gratitude for all she has done. Secondly, I would like to express my

deep appreciation of **James James-Crook (M1968-72)** Governor 2020-Present, who has stepped down as OA President after an incredible seven years in the role. James has been an outstanding leader, steering the Society with vision, creativity, and unwavering good humour. Under his leadership, the OA Society has gone from strength to strength, with revitalised Committees, improved communications, and a real sense of forward momentum. His contributions will leave a lasting legacy, and we are all grateful for his exceptional service.

None of what we have achieved would have been possible without the continued support of the OA Committee members, who have worked tirelessly throughout the year. Their dedication and regular meetings have ensured that our Society remains vibrant, connected, and forward-thinking. I would like to extend a special thank you to **Nicola Butchart (P2010-17)** for all her hard work on this *OA Review*, Nicola has dedicated many hours of hard work to this edition

and I am sure you will all agree with me, it is spectacular.

As I look ahead to the coming year, I am filled with excitement for the opportunities that lie ahead. The OA Dinner which is being held on Saturday 15 March 2025 is always a highlight, and we are also planning to resurrect some Aldenham Connect events, allowing more OAs to reconnect with the Society, regardless of where they are based. OA Day next year will be Kennedy's Gaudy and I hope to see many of you at School on Sunday 8 June 2025. Together, we will continue to build on our successes and ensure that the Old Aldenhamian Society remains a strong and supportive network for all its members.

Thank you to everyone who has made this past year so special. I look forward to working with you all and to seeing our Society grow from strength to strength.

With best wishes,
Clare Yeabsley
President of the Old Aldenhamian Society

OA Society Membership

The OA Society is a unique network of friends and fellow students of the Aldenham Senior School.

A Membership subscription is usually paid along with school fees and covers the cost of administration, communication, and services relevant to members. In order to grow and develop the activities on offer, OAs who left Aldenham more than 20 years ago are invited to make a further, voluntary contribution to OA Society funds. An appropriate minimum sum, to help cover the rising cost of producing and distributing the *OA Review*, would be £10 per annum and larger amounts would be welcome.

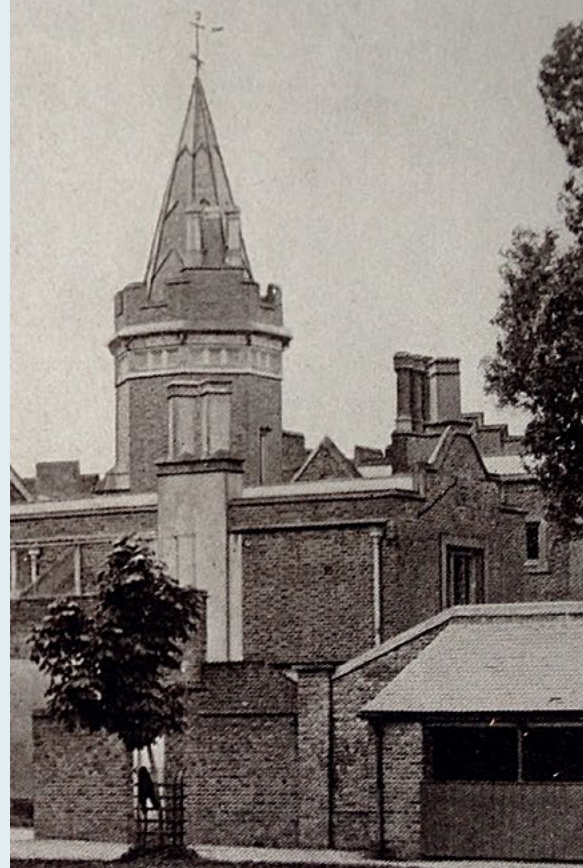
Please contact the OA Office oas@aldenham.com today for the bank details so that you can set up a Standing Order for an annual payment from your bank account.

OA COMMITTEE MEMBERS

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| Clare Yeabsley née McCarty (K1988-90) | President (& Chair) |
| James James-Crook (M1968-72) | Vice President & Past President |
| Neil Sutherland OBE DL (B1966-70) | Vice President & Past President |
| John Edwards TD JP (B1946-51) | Vice President |
| Richard Wood (CR1966-98) | Vice President |
| Richard Peart (SHO1955-60) | Honorary Treasurer |
| Frank Rogers (SHE1953-58) | Honorary Secretary |
| Glynn Humphreys (SHE1960-64) | Committee Member (OA Mentoring) |
| Claudia Greenway (P2011-19) | Committee Member (Social Media) |
| Charlotte Yeabsley (P2011-18) | Committee Member (OA Girls' Hockey & Social Media) |
| Megan Yeabsley (P2012-19) | Committee Member (OA Girls' Netball & Social Media) |
| Chris Stern (P1973-78) | Committee Member (Annual Dinner) |
| Adam Thrussell (B1992-97) | Committee Member (Aldenham Connect) |
| Nicola Butchart (P2010-17) | Committee Member (Editor, <i>OA Review</i>) |

Nominated School Representatives:

- | | |
|-------------|--|
| Alex Hems | Head, The Aldenham Foundation |
| Katy Miller | Deputy Head (Co-Curricular, Operations & Outreach) |



Clare Yeabsley née McCarty as our first female OA Society President

Following **James James-Crook (M1968-72)** stepping down from his role as OA President, **Clare Yeabsley (K1988-1990)** was unanimously elected by the OA Committee as the OA Society's new President.

During James' tenure, one of his many positive developments included achieving a more diverse and inclusive OA Committee, largely due to his tenacity at encouraging participation across the OA community. It is therefore fitting that James' successor, Clare, is the first woman – in the 122-year history of the OA Society – to hold the office of President. It has also not gone unnoticed that this historic election took place on 8 March this year, which was International Women's Day, entirely apt with this year's theme being 'Invest in women: Accelerate progress'.

Clare started as a pupil at Aldenham in 1988, 8-years after girls were first admitted at the school. At the time, the school had around 36 girls, 18 in her year and 17 in the year above, alongside 350 boys. Clare was in Kennedy's House, whilst her brother, **Paul McCarty (M1987-92)** was two years below her and in McGill's. However, Clare's

connections with Aldenham extend further than her school days, she returned to live onsite with her husband **Michael Yeabsley (CR2008-Present)**, Housemaster of McGill's and their children, all of whom have attended the school. Clare brings into this role her experience at Aldenham as a pupil, a parent, a Housemaster's wife, her 9 years experience as a member of the OA Committee, all along with her business acumen.

Whilst passing on the baton of OA Society President, James James-Crook praised Clare as a brilliant networker, communicator, and public speaker, these are all of course evidenced in her being a

successful business woman and being a valuable OA Committee member since 2015. These qualities were also seen in Clare during her time as a pupil at Aldenham in her role as 'Peasant Woman' in the school's production of Brechts' *The Caucasian Chalk Circle*, the 1990 December edition of 'The Aldenhamian' stating "provid[ing] inventive, stylized acting, within the limitations of the roles, was particularly well-handled by Clare McCarty". With all of this, and her brilliant commitment to the Aldenham ethos, the OA Committee are confident Clare is going to be a magnificent OA President, and looking forward to what's to come, wishing her the best of luck.



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Class of 2024 A Level Certificate Presentation Evening
Monday 16 December 2024

OA Society AGM 2025
Wednesday 22 January 2025

Annual OA Dinner
Saturday 15 March 2025

OA Day & Kennedy's House Reunion
Sunday 8 June 2025

Eros to Eros Run
Friday 27 June 2025



For full details and other events not listed visit the OA Society website www.oldaldenhamian.org



OA Day 2024 and Paull's House Reunion

Over 170 people enjoyed the reunion of Paull's House OAs and a centenary celebration of the Memorial Library on Sunday 9 June 2024.

Guests gathered in The Wells Centre for coffee and refreshments after their journey back to Aldenham. OAs came from as far afield as America & Canada as well as Switzerland, Germany, Italy, Belgium and the breadth of the UK.

The focus in the morning was on Paull's House and some current students showed guests around and shared experiences. A Thanksgiving service in Chapel was followed by drinks in School House Garden and then lunch in the Dining Hall.

Special guests included **Nick Pulman (CR1977-2015)**, 6th Housemaster of Paull's, 1987-1981 and his wife, Char. They met the then Housemistress, **Rebecca Cassell (CR2020-2024)** and **Lisa Sherman (CR2017-Present)** who took up the post of Housemistress in September '24.

Ages of those present ranged from 18 to 92, with **Derek Redmayne (SHE1945-50)** being the eldest OA present and close on his heels was **Tom English (M1947-52)** at nearly 90. Tom was described by **Frank Rogers (SHE1953-58)** as 'OA Royalty' as his

father, **Fred English (CR1915-51)**, was Housemaster of Beevor's, 1936-51, known then as 'English's'. His father-in-law **William Hook (CR1948-73)** was a renowned Director of Music who married **Betty Hook, Matron of McGill's 1948-73**, and they had a son at Aldenham, **Michael Hook (B1960-64)**; quite an Aldenham dynasty.

Throughout the day cricketers played a tribute game to **John Dewes (B1940-45)** on Top Field. Then at 3.30pm guests met in the Library, where they enjoyed music from Year 8 student Dimieari Abbey who played the cello donated by **Edward Oatley (P1958-62)** as they gathered to celebrate the centenary of this memorial building and to say their farewells before making their way home.

CENTENARY CELEBRATION OF THE LIBRARY

An exhibition of Library and WWI memorabilia was on display in the Memorial Library on OA Day 2024. Aldenham's War List 1914-18 was mounted on the Library shelves in tribute and to honour the memory



See more photos from OA Day and the Paull's reunion in the Event Galleries

of lives lost. **Ben Frais (P&R2001-06 & CR2014-Present)** spoke about the history of the Library and all that it means to the school.

'But of course the armistice on the 11 November 1918 marked the point where finally the members of the Aldenham community were able to take stock and think about a suitable way to memorialise the sacrifice and contributions Aldenhamians made to a war unprecedented in scale and impact on certainly European humanity. The Aldenhamian magazine mentions that even during the war, when the outcome of the conflict was still in the balance despite American aid and military assistance, that at a meeting on 12 December 1917 quote, "it was decided to build a large school hall and library as a memorial."

And what better way to show the significance of the efforts of men like Robert Adams, Denis Bonham, Harold Bowman, James Bryson, Alan Campbell, Harwood Clover, Evelyn Collison, Reginald Cusack, Charles Elam, Meredith James, John MacVicker, Joseph Rostern, Clifford Sewell, Harry Shepherd, Gervase Walker and Edward Winch than to construct a permanent building of learning, scholarship and education firmly in the heart of the school. All those men, you may have guessed, were in Paull's House during their time at Aldenham; lest we forget,;

Two students, **Alex Sinani (B2018-Present)** and **Dani Elias (P2022-Present)** also spoke passionately of the quiet space that provides the academic heart of our school. It's where students come to immerse themselves in their studies and are drawn by the calm and focused environment it provides.



OA Day & Kennedy's Reunion

OA Day is an annual summer gathering for former pupils and staff of Aldenham School. The event in 2025 will include a Gaudy reunion for former members of Kennedy's House. The last time Kennedy's hosted this event was in 2018. The Head of Foundation, Alex Hems, James Kerslake, Housemaster and **Clare Yeabsley (K1988-90)**, OA Society President, look forward to welcoming OAs back to this popular event. This full

day of activities provides an opportunity to come together and reflect on the past, enjoy the present and hear plans for the future. Guests will share experiences from their time at Aldenham and beyond the school gates as they visit the open House, attend a Thanksgiving service in Chapel and take lunch in the Dining Hall. The traditional John Dewes cricket match will be played on Top Field in memory of **John Dewes**

(B1940-45) and afternoon tea will be served at the Pavilion to close the proceedings.

We look forward to welcoming guests to Aldenham for this popular event. If you would like to attend, please book online or contact the Development and OA Office on **01923 851612/4** or email oas@aldenham.com

OA Mentoring & Aldenham Connect

The OA Office at Aldenham often receives requests for career guidance and contact details for fellow OAs who may be able to offer personal development advice, like the one below from **Olly Hague (K2015-22)**. This is a valuable service and one that we are keen to provide in an efficient and helpful way. It is essential that the information held securely by the OA Society is up to date. Personal data is usually captured on leaving school and afterwards we are reliant on OAs updating their details when they change, for example higher education qualifications and employment information. Members of the OA Society can update their personal profile online at www.aldenhamian.org – Your Profile.

CAN YOU HELP OLLY?

Dear OA Society,

I completed my A-levels at Aldenham, class of 2022. I am currently studying Mechanical engineering at The University of Manchester, and was interested in the OA mentor scheme as I am unsure about next steps regarding Masters courses and general career advice.

I have looked at the list of registered mentors and there are none in the field of engineering. I was wondering if you are aware of any OAs in the field of engineering and might be up for advising me.

Kind regards
Olly Hague (K2015-22)

The Society is making a plea for OA Mentors to update their details & register interest by email to oas@aldenham.com. A LinkedIn connection may be included for ease. There are many ways that OAs can help one another for instance by offering an internship, being available for one-on-one support or even coming into the school to speak to the sixth form about their future careers or sharing university experience.

NEED GUIDANCE AS A MENTEE?

The OA Society has a vast network of members, many of whom may have overcome many obstacles or challenges throughout their career. As a young member of the Society or someone who is experiencing a large change in their life, we can support you by putting you in contact with an appropriate member. Please visit the OA Mentoring section on the website and use the search facility or email oas@aldenham.com to see how OA Mentoring may be able to support you.



Annual OA Dinner 2024

The Annual OA Dinner 2024, held on Saturday 9 March 2024, was enjoyed by over 80 guests.

Ag^Ages ranged from 18 to 84 with OAs representing every decade from the 1950s to the 2020s. The Head of Foundation, Mrs Alex Hems, welcomed everyone back to Aldenham with drinks and canapes in the Aphorhp Room in The Wells Centre, where guests gathered at the start of the evening. Newly elected President, **Clare Yeabsley (K1988-90)** thanked **James James-Crook (M1968-72)** for his dedication to the role over a seven year tenure and said she will do her best to continue connecting with OAs of all ages and across the world.

A delicious three course meal was followed by entertainment from professional magician, **Christopher Whitelock (B2000-07)**. OA sports and social clubs were well represented with members of OAFc, OA Golf Society, Aldenham Fives, OA Hockey & Netball as well as the Old Aldenham Lodge all present and correct. **John Griffin (SHO1976-81)** travelled from Switzerland and **Duncan Wallace (P1963-66)** came from Bulgaria to join the occasion.

Great fun was had by all with Instagram poses and Tik-Tok footage put together by younger members of the OA Committee determined to raise the profile of OA events to Generation X, Millennials and Gen Z, as well as the Boomers! Dinner convenor, **Chris Stern (P1973-78)** made a point to thank the caterers, Holroyd Howe, who did a fantastic job and also subsidised the wine for the event, to help keep the ticket prices attractive.

The whole evening was a great success and set the bar high for a similar standard for 2025. Photographs taken on the evening may be viewed in the Event Galleries and feedback and suggestions for future OA gatherings are invited – please send all thoughts to oas@aldenham.com



Jayden Prempeh (Head Boy (B2017-24), Phoebe Donoghue Head Girl (P2022-24) & Clare Yeabsley (K1988-90) President OA Society)



OA Society Committee: Back Row: Richard Peart (SHO1955-60), Chris Stern (P1973-78), Katy Miller (Deputy Head), Clare Yeabsley (K1988-90), President OA Society, Alex Hems, Head of the Aldenham Foundation, James James-Crook (M1968-72), VP OA Society & School Governor, Glynn Humphreys (SHE1960-64) & Frank Rogers (SHE1953-58) Front Row: Nicola Butchart (P2010-17), Claudia Greenway (P2011-19) & Charlotte Yeabsley (P2011-18)



Charlotte Yeabsley (P2011-18) taking a photo of Josh Weller (B2014-19)

Richard Platt Society



Members of the Richard Platt Society have kindly left a gift in their will to the School.



Philip Osmond (P1938-43) with a Year 7 student in 2018 at the 80th anniversary of the Chapel Consecration.

It is well known throughout the Aldenham community that the School's founder, Richard Platt, left orders in his Will for the establishment of the School and to acknowledge his own inheritance from his ancestors. It remains a common myth however that only the rich and famous leave money to charity when they die. This could not be any

further from the truth. The reality is that without gifts left in Wills by ordinary people many of the charities we know and support would not even exist.

Earlier this year we received notification of a gift in the will of **Philip Osmond (P1938-43)**. Philip died in December 2023. He had been a regular supporter of the School's fundraising campaigns and a member of the Richard Platt Society since June '23, when he informed the Development Office that he had left a gift in his will to the School. It was a great pleasure to welcome Philip to the 80th anniversary of the Chapel Consecration in 2018, at that time he was one of just two surviving OAs who had been at the original service in 1938. Philip will be missed and we are grateful to him for loyally supporting Aldenham and the OA Society throughout his life.

This type of unrestricted gift is very valuable to the future stability and further development of the Aldenham Foundation. Gifts for specific causes such as bursaries are also extremely important.

A regular increase in charitable gifts means that Aldenham would be able to provide more bursaries and improve the facilities on offer to current students across the Foundation. Most importantly, things could happen more quickly, and the benefits would be immediate.

Your Will is one of the most important documents you will write. It is a chance for you to provide for your loved ones and to keep making a difference after you are gone. The size of the gift is irrelevant, whatever the reason and whatever the gift, a commitment of this kind will help to provide the Aldenham Foundation with a secure future.

Regional Lunch 2023 East of England

Guests gathered at the Sole & Duck in Trumpington, near Cambridge, for a sociable Aldenham lunch on 12 October 2023.



1) Robin Dawson (SHE1957-62), 2) David Reynolds OBE DL (SHO1954-58), 3) Vivien Powles, 4) Mark Flynn (M1971-73), 5) Alan Gelson (SHE1956-61), 6) Richard Peart (SHO1955-60), 7) Pauline Collis, 8) Billy Brown, 9) Nigel Wright (M1967-72), 10) Andrew Nicholas (M1969-73), 11) Trevor Barton (K1971-75 & Former Governor & Chair), 12) Matthew Humphreys (SH1986-91), 13) Tim Collings (SHE1963-66), 14) James Goodwin (K1980-85), 15) Kathy Collings, 16) Veronica Weatherhead, 17) Michael Powles (SHO1969-74), 18) John Collis (P1951-56), 19) James James-Crook (M1968-72 OA Society President & Governor), 20) Alex Hems (Head of the Aldenham Foundation), 21) Glynn Humphreys (SHE1960-64), 22) Clare Yeabsley K1988-90), 23) Chris Stern (P1973-78), 24) Ann Saffery (Development & OA Manager). Missing from the photo are: Philip Swingler (CR1970-72), Mark Weatherhead (M1954-57) and the photographer Jackie Wilkie (Development & OA Assistant)

Old Aldenhamians from the 1950s, 60s, 70s and 80s enjoyed sharing memories and catching up with each other over a drink before sitting down for a super meal when more stories were told, and life experiences exchanged.

After lunch, Alex Hems, Head of the Aldenham Foundation, updated guests on activities at their old school and **James James-Crook (M1968-72)**, then President of the OA Society, thanked everyone for their support over his seven years tenure as President. He explained his plans to stand down from the role in the spring and looked forward to working with a successor in due course.

Another great event, well supported by members of the OA Society living in the East of England.

Honorary OAs

Members of the Senior School Common Room are invited by the OA Society to become honorary members after five years of service at Aldenham. This year's invitation was accepted by **Panos Yfantoudas (CR2018-24)** and **Rebecca Cassell (P2020-24)**.



Old Aldenhamian Lodge

The Old Aldenhamian Lodge founded in 1926 is part of the Public Schools Lodge Council (PSLC) which currently comprises 37 schools.

As part of our Lodge's charitable effort this year we were delighted to support one Aldenham student in a quest to join the School's annual trip to Malawi to work with the Ripple Africa project. As many OAs will know, 'Ripple Africa' is a UK registered charity founded by OA **Geoff Furber (SHO1970-74)** and his wife, Liz, in 2003. The charity works with communities running environmental, education and healthcare initiatives in Malawi.

Amar Patel (L1998-2005), pictured centre, was installed as Master of the Old Aldenhamian Lodge in March 2024 supported by a group visit from the Old Brightonian Lodge (Brighton

College) who sponsored us into Freemasonry in 1926.

The PSLC community has grown with the addition of lodges from Mill Hill School, King's College School and King's School (Canterbury). The PSLC 2024 Festival was hosted by the Old Lancing Lodge at Lancing College on the 1st June. Lancing College Chapel is a magnificent Gothic Revival chapel set in the South Downs National Park, in the grounds of Lancing College, and is the largest school chapel in the world – the height of the nave is 90ft to the apex of the vault. It was founded by Nathaniel Woodard in 1868 and consecrated in 1911.

Lodge members enjoy meetings and activities with other members of the PSLC Lodges which sometimes includes dining in prestigious London clubs. Freemasonry provides a marvellous opportunity to broaden horizons and make new friends from diverse and interesting backgrounds.

Do contact the Secretary for further information and membership enquiries.

Simon Mitchell (K1970-73)

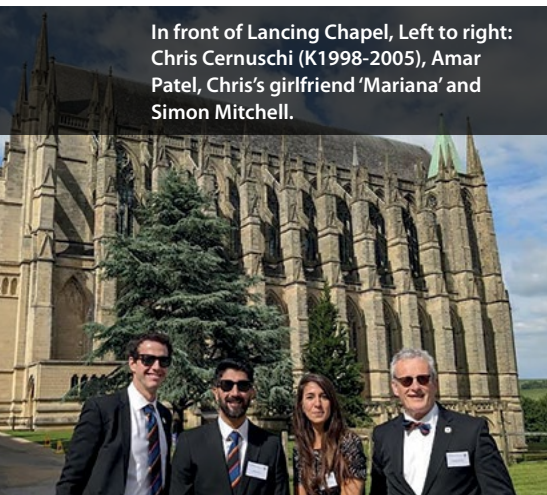
Old Aldenhamian Lodge, Secretary

Email: smitchell1263@gmail.com

Mobile: 0787 656 2435

oldaldenhamian.org/OAFreeMasonry

In front of Lancing Chapel, Left to right: Chris Cernuschi (K1998-2005), Amar Patel, Chris's girlfriend 'Mariana' and Simon Mitchell.



Back Row: 1st from left, Dom Ferrara (P1994-99), centre, The Master: Amar Patel (L1998-2005), 4th from right Jay Thakrar (R2000-05), 3rd from right, Boon Sin Tan (K1978-81).

Front Row: 4th from left, John Westmore (SHE1970-74), 2nd from right, Simon Mitchell (K1970-73), Far right, Viraj Mehta (SHE1980-85).

OA Football



23-24 - THE LEAGUE

A very mixed season in the league saw the OAFc win some very memorable games, including 2 big wins to start the season off against Old Berkhamstedians and Old Cholmeleians to go to the top of the league. Some of the newer recruits then went off to University, which derailed the team somewhat but they soon found their footing and most games were won or lost by the odd goal. Having survived relegation last season, finishing the season in a respectable mid-table position was a step in the right direction.

23-34 – THE CUP RUN

On the flip side, the OAFc put together a phenomenal cup run that took them to the JLC Final and the first appearance at the Arthurian League's Super Saturday. Beating the likes of Old Albanians and Old Sennockians led them to a Quarter-Final away in Twickenham against run away league champions Old Alneyians. A master class midfield display by **Alex Wilkinson (K2014-19)** and **Harvey McLoughlin (B2021-21)**, who scored both goals, took the game to penalties, which the OAFc triumphed. Drawn away again for the semi-final, this time away at

Old Tonbridgians, the OAFc produced a very professional display, dispatching OTs by 4-1. Another 2 goals for Harvey McLoughlin, a goal by **Charlie Hodges (K2015-19)** and a goal and a MOTM display by **Finnlee Ferguson (L2016-23)** meant the OAFc booked their place in their first final in 8 years.

THE 2024 JLC FINAL – OLD ALDENHAMIAN FC V OLD KIMBOLTONIAN FC

Coaches: **Sam Pennycook (CR2009-Present & Beevor's Housemaster 2014-Present)**, **Martyn Berg (B1989-94)**, **Greg Ellingham (K2013-18)**

Squad: **Oliver Beyrich (M2008-25)** (GK), **Murray Slater (B2012-17)**, **Josh Weller (B2014-19)**, **Sam Woolley (R2011-16)**, **Finnlee Ferguson**, **Toni Ademuwagun (B2011-18)**, **Oscar Martin (M2018-25)**, **Noah Gray (L2012-24)**, **Alex Wilkinson**, **Dan Shores (M2010-17)**, **Charlie Hodges**, **Ben Weinberg (L2002-09)**, **Roman Pirani (K2018-23)**, **Harvey McLoughlin**, **Joe Sadler (K2018-)**, **Martyn Berg (B1989-94)**

With a good crowd in attendance, the final was a tight affair, with the OAFc dominating the early stages of the game. The first goal was a sweeping move after

10 minutes with Finnlee Ferguson and Roman Pirani combining, culminating in Finn crossing for Noah Gray to finish. The first half was dominated by Aldenham, with the odd Kimbolton breakaway being mopped up by the defence of Murray Slater, Finn, Josh Weller, Sam Woolley and Noah. Despite the Aldenham dominance, they couldn't find the 2nd goal, with Murray and Joe Sadler both coming close. Aldenham didn't start as well in the 2nd half and Kimbolton crept back into the game. They scored midway through the half to level it up and then went ahead with 10 minutes to go, which meant a very tense last few minutes. A superb reflex save from Oli Beyrich to keep Aldenham alive seemed to kick start Aldenham into gear again. A sweeping move down the left, this time Noah Gray returning the favour and crossing nicely for Finn to score and take the game to extra time.

Now Aldenham were in the ascendancy and really should have won it with Oscar Martin's header being well held by the Kimbolton keeper. Without a winner, the game went to extra time and it started terribly with a lack of communication at the back allowing a Kimbolton player to sneak in at the far post and score. This seemed to galvanise the troops and Aldenham went up a gear again. A scrambled cross by Josh Weller allowed Finn Ferguson to grab his second of the game with another half of extra time to play. Despite their continued dominance, Aldenham just couldn't find the winner, so the game went to the lottery of penalties. Finn, Alex Wilkinson, Roman, Harvey McLoughlin & Ben Weinberg all bravely stepped up but with the first 3 scoring and the last 2 not, it was not to be for Aldenham. Maybe next year!

Player of the season: Harvey McLoughlin

Report by **Martyn Berg**

If you are interested in joining the OAFc please email oas@aldenham.com



Left to right: Back Row: Harvey McLoughlin (B2021-21), Noah Gray (L2012-24), Sam Woolley (R2011-16), Oli Beyrich (M2008-15), Josh Weller (B2014-19), Finnlee Ferguson (L2016-23), Oscar Martin (M2018-25), Martyn Berg (B1989-94), Toni Ademuwagun (B2011-18)
Front Row: Charlie Hodges (K2015-19), Murray Slater (B2012-17), Alex Wilkinson (K2014-19), Dan Shores (M2010-17), Roman Pirani (K2018-23), Joe Sadler (K2018-), Ben Weinberg (L2002-09)

Fives celebrates its centenary

Aldenhams Eton Fives players celebrated the centenary of the OA Fives Club, 26 July 1924 to July 26 2024, by piggybacking onto the Eton Fives Association dinner to celebrate their own centenary in the Long Room at Lord's on October 23.

Two hundred and fifty players gathered at the home of cricket to celebrate the sport including OAs **Paul Kendall (K1976-81)**, **Graham Pulsford (M1972-75)**, **Mike King (SHE1960-65)** and **Phil Lyndon (K1976-81)** as well as others who regularly attend Aldenhams Tuesday evening games.

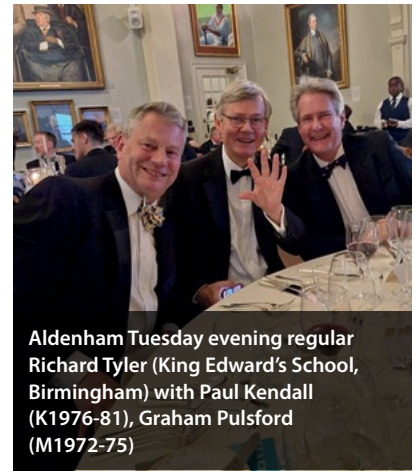
From 1924 the OA Fives Club traditionally played in the 'London Circuit', starting with fixtures at the Queens Club and extending out to all central London Courts as the fixture list increased – notably Westminster School where the OAs were notoriously difficult to beat. In the early 80s a second Aldenhams-based fives club was started by the then Headmaster **Peter Boorman** – this was called the Heath Eton Fives Club and comprised OAs and seasoned

players living in the locality. By the late 80s the OA and Heath clubs merged and on entering the EFA League the new club won Division 2 in 1989 and 1990.

Over time it was found that few teams were willing to travel to Aldenhams and by popular consent the club withdrew from the league in 1995 but continued its Tuesday evening sessions.

In 2011, the club changed its name to The Aldenhams Fives Club (AFC) with the objectives of cultivating closer connections with the School and being seen as a natural venue for OAs wanting to play social fives. The Aldenhams Club won the EFA Trophy in 2015 and 2017 and was only prevented from further victories as the EFA banned our top players who were deemed 'too good'!

As well as the regular club fixtures there is the annual Heath Tournament



Aldenhams Tuesday evening regular Richard Tyler (King Edward's School, Birmingham) with Paul Kendall (K1976-81), Graham Pulsford (M1972-75)

and a regular ladder competition for the honour of winning the Phil Marsh Trophy. The OAs also continue to play in both the Barber Cup and the EFA Trophy.

The club plays every Tuesday at the School between 7.30 – 9.00pm and follow on from 9.15pm at the Roundbush PH. Anyone wishing to revisit Eton Fives, whether they attended Aldenhams or not, is welcome. Email phil@columncomm.co.uk.

OA Hockey - Continuing and creating traditions

Continuing on from the first OA Girls hockey match last November, the girls played in their new kits gifted from the OA Society.



Back Row (left-right): Lauryn Edwell (P2011-18), Bex Pedrithes (P2012-17), Isabella Yeabsley (P2012-Present), Alina Cofie (R2016-23), Clem McQuoid (R2013-22)
Front Row: Charlotte Yeabsley (P2011-18), Rachel Crawley (P&R2012-19), Lexi Yeabsley (P2012-Present), Georgie Yeabsley (P2009-16)

2024 marked the first mixed OA Hockey Match, with OA Men and Women playing alongside Aldenhams staff, students and OA spouses. **Tom Ripper (K2010-17)** reported on the match:

'Our OA hockey game was a great success! After a struggle trying to get players, we ended up with 26 players (5 students, 3 coaches, 5 OA girls, 12 OA men's and 1 wife). We had an injured OA, **Daniel O'Sullivan (K2012-17)** who stepped up to be umpire. It was a fun evening with a 5-2 win to non-bibs (I think). Even though, the weather was meant to be raining and lighting, we were lucky with some great weather! It was followed by beers and pizza at the pavilion where everyone was catching up.'

Tom Ripper, Megan and Charlotte Yeabsley will look to organise this and other events with the school in future years as it was enjoyed by all and a good event to meet old faces.

OAGS - Halford Hewitt

OA Society President Clare Yeabsley Inspires at Halford Hewitt's Centennial: A New Era Begins for The Old Aldenhamian Golfers at Prestigious Tournament.

It was with a profound sense of excitement and privilege that the new Old Aldenhamian President **Clare Yeabsley (K1988-90)** and her First Man, **Michael Yeabsley (CR2008-Present)** (Housemaster McGill's House), attended their first Halford Hewitt tournament at the esteemed Royal St George's Golf Club in Sandwich, Kent.

Widely regarded as the most prestigious amateur golf competition in the world, the event brought together teams from 64 schools, each consisting of their top ten players, competing in a challenging match-play format with no handicaps. Celebrating its 100th anniversary, the tournament's history is as rich as its competition is fierce, having been a favourite venue of Ian Fleming, the creator of James Bond.

PRE-COMPETITION CELEBRATIONS

The event began on Thursday evening at The Rose in Deal, where an important celebration dinner took place. This dinner was not just a routine gathering but marked several historic moments.



Will Kirby (L2006-11) wearing the Old Aldenhamian blazer

It was the first time women attended, a progressive step led by the new President, Clare Yeabsley, who has been heralded by **Jamie Wells (M1990-95)** as "a breath of fresh air." Her leadership is part of a broader initiative to invigorate the society and reintroduce the Old Aldenhamian Blazer, which was stylishly donned by **Arran Kanth (M2014-19)** and **Will Kirby (L2006-11)** (MVP) during the evening. **Ian Wilson-Soppitt (P1958-61)**, the esteemed OAGS President, made poignant remarks that evening, and his eloquence was matched by his generosity as he awarded **Shon Williams (M1975-80)** the John Woodrow Trophy for his lifetime services to the Old Aldenhamian Golf Society. Clare expressed heartfelt thanks to The Society for their generous hospitality and wished our ten lead players luck, underscoring the camaraderie and high spirits that define this event.

A particularly memorable addition to the dinner was the introduction of singing the school song, a tradition that I am sure will endure for years to come. The diners included Sara Wilson-Soppitt, **Ian Eggleton (SHE1958-63)** (Hon. Sec OAGS), **Dick Hall (K1969-74)**, **John Yule (SHE1966-71)**, **Michael Beavis (SHO1980-83)**, and Jamie Wells, all revelled in the initiation of this new custom, which resonated deeply with everyone present.

Rob Alter (B1988-91) presented a significant token of commemoration – a sleeve of Aldenham Golf Balls specially commissioned for the centenary of the Halford Hewitt. Each guest and player received a pack of three. The festivities extended well into the night at the King's Head, reputedly 'The best Pub in the Country', where Yeabsley, along with Wells and Williams, enjoyed the complementary brandy and lively atmosphere that only such a historic event could offer.

Adam Thrusell (B1992-97) and Arran Kanth (M2014-19)



COMPETITION DAY

The Halford Hewitt Competition began in earnest the following morning under glorious sunshine. **Alexis Shead (CR2012-Present)** (Head of Golf), **Matt Buckland (CR2016-Present)** (Head of Geography), and **James King (CR2022-Present)** (Geography), also descended to support the team. Sadly, the feeble James King suffered a bout of sunburn, which necessitated a break to watch The Masters inside The famous Clubhouse. Much to his delight, he heard the commentators in Augusta send well-wishes to the Halford Hewitt participants and even give a shout-out to some of the teams present at the tournament.

The Aldenham Staff were there to support all the players but particularly to support Arran Kanth, who had flown in from Texas. Kanth, turning professional later in the year, was partnered by Captain **Adam Thrusell (B1992-97)**. It was a pairing that proved strategic as they secured a win early on. Earlier, Thrusell's nerves had been eased by the cries of 'Long Live McGill's' – It proved to be a real delight as his drive off the first tee landed sweetly in the centre of the fairway.

James Surridge (L1993-98) and **Dan Andrews (B2000-07)** took to the tee next, buoyed by their recent victory in the handicap Stapleford Competition at Prince's, where they scored 39 points the previous day. It was a great honour for the OAGS to have the winners of the Peter Kenyon Bowl Trophy in their ranks. Facing Hurstpierpoint, Aldenham contested each of the five matches fiercely; unfortunately, the overall match concluded with a close 3-2 defeat. However, every performance was most certainly highly commendable:

Arran Kanth & Adam Thrusell triumphed 4&3

Dan Andrews & James Surridge unluckily lost out 4&3

Will Kirby & Jon Stott (L1994-97) secured a powerful win 3&2

Ben Thrusell & James MacAlpine (B2009-14) faced a defeat 3&2

Rob Alter & David Rawlinson (B1988-93) were bested 5&4

After a healthy lunch, Aldenham were invited to play at The Prince's Golf Course in the Plate Tournament. Our team showed resilience against The Ley's School Cambridge, last year's champion, and a tightly contested match ended with a 2-1 victory for Aldenham. Dan Andrews and Will Kirby, reuniting a successful partnership, alongside Ben Thrusell and James McAlpine, secured victories. Although sadly, Arran Kanth and Adam Thrusell were unable to overcome their opponents.

The competition drew to a close for The Old Aldenhamians with a second-round loss in the Plate against Merchant Taylors. A match that extended to the final putt on the 18th green. Despite the defeat, the spirit and camaraderie of the event were undiminished.

It is clear that the Halford Hewitt is not just a golf tournament but a celebration of sportsmanship, history, and for us being an Old Aldenhamian. As we look forward to next year, both Presidents are excited to encourage more support from new enthusiasts and seasoned aficionados to join in this splendid tradition. The Old Aldenhamians are eager to return in 2025, hopeful to advance further in the competition and continue to build upon the legacy of this remarkable event.

In closing, let us reflect on our school song, a reminder of the rich heritage and the bonds that unite us:

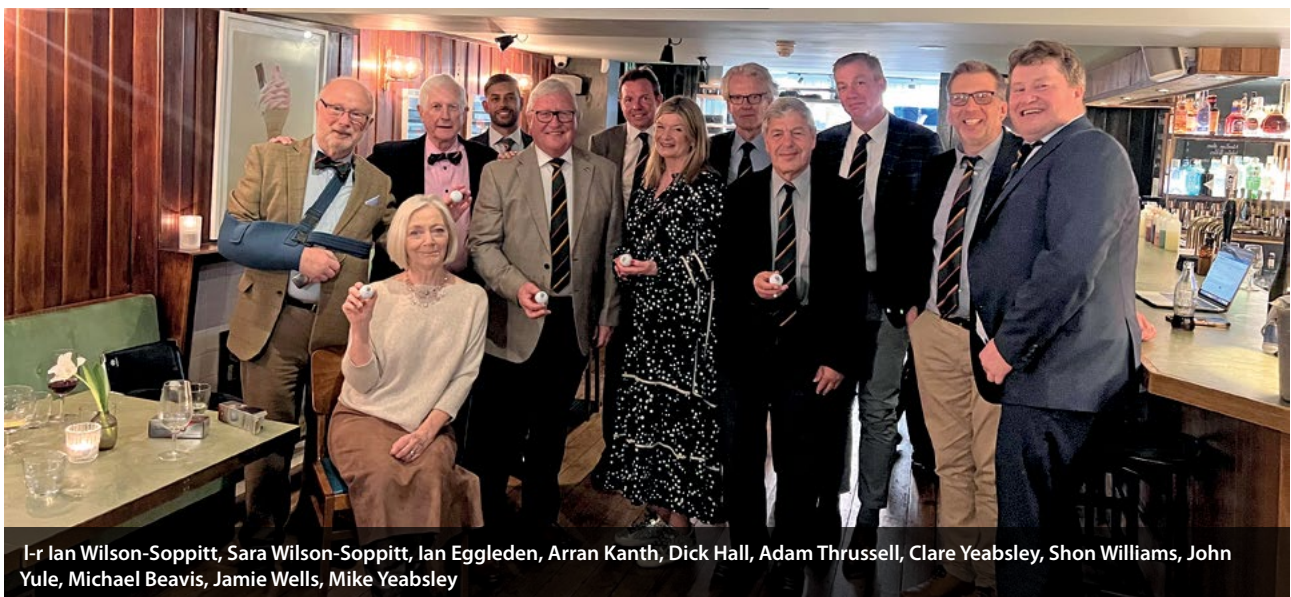
Let us now praise famous men

Laudate nunc praeteritos
Et omne bene meritos,
Nobilium memoriam
Et fundatoris gloriam
Ricardi Platt:
Qui suis largitatibus
Fundavit in his partibus
Et dedicavit artibus,
Hanc Aldenham, Hanc Aldenham-
Nunc Aldenhamiensibus,
Praeteritis, praesentibus,
Hanc Scholam diligentibus,
Sit felicitas!

Written by First Man, **Michael Yeabsley**



Mike Yeabsley, Arran Kanth & Adam Thrusell



I-r Ian Wilson-Soppitt, Sara Wilson-Soppitt, Ian Eggleaden, Arran Kanth, Dick Hall, Adam Thrusell, Clare Yeabsley, Shon Williams, John Yule, Michael Beavis, Jamie Wells, Mike Yeabsley

From the School

Letter from the Head



With the Christmas Term now well underway, school is as busy as ever. I have always valued the fact that Aldenham manages to strike a balance between celebrating its history and traditions while looking outward to the future and changing to meet the needs of new generations. Any of you returning to the school today would see much that would feel very familiar to you, and I hope you would

sense a great deal of continuity in the values that have held true over the years. You would see House Music rehearsals being squeezed into every available moment; over the course of the year you would also recognise many of the other House competitions such as House Drama, House Maths and the Business Challenge. You might spot some new ones, such as House Linguistics, House Science and House English, which we have introduced in order to widen the range of opportunities for students to shine and gain that all-important confidence in their own abilities.

I am so glad that this edition of the *OA Review* is focusing on charitable activity. Many of you will have memories of having travelled to Malawi to work with Ripple Africa during your time at Aldenham. You will be delighted to hear that, following a gap during and immediately after the Covid period, our students have returned to Malawi and this year's trip, which was the second since the break, was immensely successful. This is a wonderful opportunity for our young people, which many describe as life-changing. The sense of connection that transcends

differences in race, religion and age is one that we value highly, and are keen to build on this year as we expand our out-reach and charitable work in our local community. We will be engaging with the problem of homelessness on our doorstep in Watford this year, by taking part in the Big Sleep Out. The Leeman's Christmas Gift appeal which many of you will remember, continues, as does our Harvest collection for local food banks. We are expanding our relationships with other local organisations and are keen for this work to go beyond simply collecting funds, important though that is, as we believe that it is the person-to-person contact between a child and an elderly person for example, which is the most powerful and genuinely life-changing element of this work.

I know that many of you are actively involved in volunteering and in working with the charitable sector in a variety of ways. I am delighted that this is the case, and that this edition of the Review will put that work in the spotlight.

With best wishes to you all.

Alex Hems

Exam results

Congratulations to the Class of 2024!

On Thursday 15 August the Year 13 (Upper Sixth) opened their A level results to great applause. 58% were graded in the A* to B band, which is the highest ever at Aldenham. There was also an increase in the number of entries awarded A* which has reached 7.3% this year, up from 4.3% last year, and this is despite exam boards indicating that they would be awarding fewer A*s this year. One student gained four A* grades and another three A*s. At 8am on Results Day, 95% of the Class of 2024 who had made a Higher Education application (including international applications) were accepted onto a course at either their first or second choice institution, which is significantly above the national average of around 80%.

The following week the Year 11s (16 year olds) received their GCSE results, of which 47.5 % were at grade 7 or above, equivalent to an A or an A* in the old grading system. 27.6% were either 8 or 9, the very highest grades, while 9 students gained 5 or more grade 9, including one who achieved 12 straight 9s, an altogether extraordinary result. This is the strongest set of grades ever seen at the School.

All these young people have worked extremely hard. At Aldenham, we are



Dr Pat Reid (CR2006-Present), Deputy Head Academic, congratulating his son Ben Reid (L2009-24) on his excellent A Level success

especially proud of the fact that these results come from students who have continued to represent the school in extracurricular activities such as; sport, took part in plays, performed in concerts and completed their Duke of Edinburgh Awards. That breadth of interest and commitment is a core part of the Aldenham ethos.

As it currently stands, 90% of the Leavers will be attending a UK University, with the remaining 10% attending an

international university, entering employment, embarking on a gap year or taking up an apprenticeship. Of those students taking up a place at a UK University, 48% will be attending Russell Group universities such as King's College London, Newcastle, Manchester, Nottingham, Bath, Bristol, Exeter and Warwick. They have chosen a full range of subjects including extremely competitive Natural Sciences, Dentistry, Mechanical Engineering, Law and Architecture. The highest number of students will be going to study top level Computing, Coding or Technical Engineering than ever before. Geography has been another popular subject this year. It is good to see the humanities and creative subjects well represented as well, including Classics, PPE, English Literature and Fashion Marketing.

Aldenham takes great pride in sending leavers on to destinations that are the right ones for them. It is always one of the absolute highlights of the year, to see young people who we have known and cared about over a period of years, set out on their next steps in life, well equipped to meet its challenges.

Many congratulations and best wishes to them all as they begin their journey as OAs.



Jackson Miller (M2017-24) impressed his family with outstanding A Level results

Letchmore Trust Art Prizes 2024

There was a wide variety of styles on display when the Senior Letchmore Trust Art Prize were judged by **Hugh Schermuly (M1974-79)** on the day before Visitation Day. The Trust were delighted to award the following prizes: First place in the Senior Art Prize was awarded to **Felix Freed, Y13**, for capturing a wonderful expression in the face of his subject. The fact that the face is not anatomically correct but you still get a vivid sense of character is excellent. He won a year long National Art Pass, giving him free access to any Art Gallery in the UK.

This year's Intermediate Art Prize was won by **Alfie Cockburn Y12**, for his architectural studies in pencil. Looking at

the same building under different lighting conditions but also playing with space and form was fantastic to see.

For the Junior Art Prize the theme was Hope. This was won by **Alex Wyand, Martineau's** for his brilliantly observed photograph of a flower breaking through the tarmac. Second place was won by **Leon Lanzman, Woodrows** and third place by **Nancy Belkin, Martineau's**. Highly Commended were **Lottie Lewis, Emily Kagalwala** and **Kiana Patel**. The Junior winner received a drawing kit with pencils, pastelles and crayons.

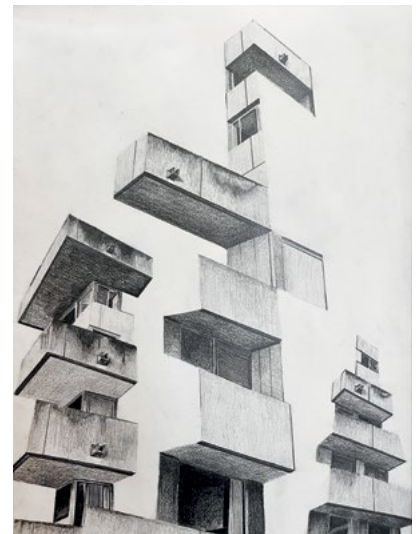
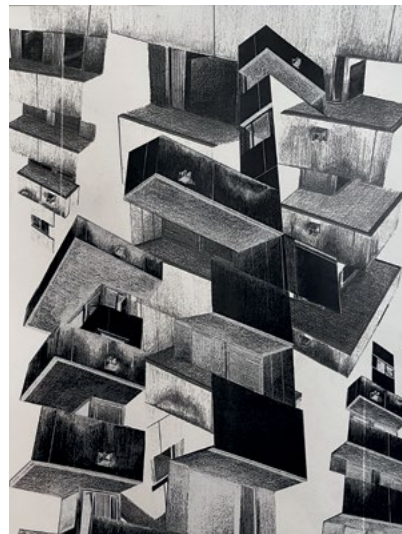
A big thank you to **Katie Nicholson (CR2022-Present)** for her help in organising the entries and her assistance in judging.



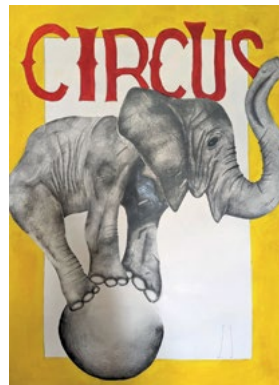
Felix Freed - 1st Place senior art prize



Alfie Cockburn - 1st Place Intermediate art prize



Junior 1st place Alex Wyand, Martineau's



Junior 2nd place Leon Lanzman, Woodrows



Junior 3rd place Nancy Belkin, Martineau's

From the School

Careers guidance



Amanda at her desk in the OA Office

Amanda Gale joined Aldenham in 2023 as Careers Co-ordinator and has already worked with several OAs who have visited the School, held interviews, online and in person, and attended the Careers Fair.

If you are keen to get involved with careers guidance, please email oas@aldenham.com

Amanda is currently focussing on sessions and advice for year 12 (Lower Sixth) students however this will be extended eventually to create an engaging careers programme for Years 7-13 (11 to 18 year olds).

The success of the careers programme is reliant on speakers, mentors, networking and work experience opportunities. There are

Introducing Aldenham's Careers Co-ordinator

a range of industries and careers that the students are interested in, and Amanda is looking to partner with the OAs to match these interests. This could be something as simple as answering a few questions on an email from students to offering interview advice or work experience. We are keen for the students to leave Aldenham with the reassurance that they have confidence in their choice of course/career, and this may have been inspired by the OA network.

Lead a careers session – Mondays at 2.00pm or Fridays at 2.15pm for 45 minutes aimed at 80 students. To discuss how you got to where you are, about the industry you work in and opportunities within that and any general advice and tips. Great opportunity to also discuss how much you loved your time at Aldenham.

Lead a skills session – e.g. on presentation skills/ minute taking/ shorthand/ events budgeting

Email responder – if you are happy to respond to a few simple questions via email from students about a particular field you work in – The School is currently looking for those who work in criminal law or the art industry but also open to all professions. It would only



Oliver Marler (L1988-93) talks to students about his role at McClaren

likely be one or two students at most that would email you.

Career Events – would you be interested in attending an event (or sending someone from your team) such as a careers fair or interview prep evening? Hosting simulation events at place of work – e.g. a practice assessment centre/ product development review/ newsroom writing article practice.

Venue availability – do you have a space/room/venue that you could offer for OA networking events?

Amanda is also open to any suggestions you may have on what you can offer to showcase careers to the students.

From the School

New Chaplain for the Aldenham Foundation

Revd. **Tony Richardson (CR2023-Present)** joined Aldenham as Chaplain to the Foundation in September 2023. A formal licencing service, conducted by The Right Reverend Dr Alan Smith, Bishop of St Albans, was held with students, staff and friends from across the Foundation there to welcome Revd. Tony into the Aldenham community.

Whilst Chapel services are no longer a daily part of school life at Aldenham, the role of the full time Chaplain remains

an important one. There is one whole school Chapel service a week, which includes Christian hymns, a Bible reading and prayers including the Lord's Prayer. There is also a talk or reflection, often from a visiting preacher, including leaders of other faiths. The service is delivered in an inclusive way for those of all faiths and none. OAs had the opportunity to meet Revd. Tony on OA Day 2024 when he arranged and delivered the Thanksgiving Service and joined guests for the annual reunion.



Revd. Tony (left) with the Bishop of St Albans, Assistant Chaplain, Revd. Philip Green (CR2005-Present) and Head of the Aldenham Foundation, Alex Hems

Farewell to Andy Stephenson (CR1999-2024)

7th Housemaster of Paull's 2001-02, 5th Housemaster of Ridings 2007-17, Director of Sport 2009-2024

When Andy Stephenson started his career at Aldenham School the Vengaboy's topped the charts, Ed Giddins, Darren Maddy and Ronnie Iraní were playing test cricket for England and Ade Akinbiyi was slotting them home at Molineux, the home of Andy's 'beloved' Wolverhampton Wanderers FC. Apparently, goals by **Daniel Levenfiche (L1993-2000)** and **Sam Tabiri (M1998-2000)**, combined with the tenacity of **Bradley Lutton (B1993-2000)**, the reliability of **Will Galvin (B1993-2000)** in goal, and **Scott Willmott (K1995-2000)** in the heart of the defence, led to a spectacular upturn as Andy's 1st XI football team dismissed John Lyon and Corinthian Casuals in successive matches.

The year was 1999 and Andy arrived as Head of PE from Perrott Hill School in Dorset clearly determined to bring his wealth of expertise to Cooke's and Top Fields in equal measure. He had been on a well travelled and storied journey beforehand which no doubt has contributed to his success at Aldenham. Shrewsbury School, Wolverhampton Grammar and a Californian establishment, Oakwood, saw a young Andrew Stephenson establish a pedigree and skill set one would associate with a brummie goalkeeping prodigy.

A supremely talented sportsman in all aspects Andy is one of the rare types that can consummately manage a 1st XI football AND cricket team at the same time. A 13 year old me, **Ben Fraiss (B2001-06)**, arrived at the school 2 years after Andy in 2001 and with a reputation as 'an all round sportsman' mainly derived from the incessant hyperbole emanating from my Dad. My Dad has wonderful memories of Andy's hospitality, warmth and wisdom. Someone else from my era who Andy will remember as a fine cricketer and all round sportsman, **Karani Manish (R2001-06)**. Manish lost his Dad in 2017 and said of Andy that "I know my dad was



Andy Stephenson, 2nd left, with fellow School House Housemasters and Housemistresses, past and present. Taken at a School House reunion held on OA Day 2019

very appreciative of all the life skills Mr Stephenson taught me during my time at Aldenham. These moments were some of the best memories of my life (and my dad's). Watching us all play cricket, I am forever appreciative of the support Mr Stephenson gave us all. And what support. We played schools ranging from Bryanston to Liverpool College. We went on memorable tours, to Barbados and St Lucia. The Aldenham Cricket Festival Andy set up at the end of the school year was superb and finally the 3 glorious days of the festival when Aldenham scored over 600 runs in three days". Andy's development of football and cricket at the time was meteoric, placing Aldenham firmly on the map and dining at the top table of public school football and cricket.

But Housemastering was Andy's calling. A compassionate pastoral leader, Andy was appointed Housemaster of Ridings in 2007, succeeding **Paul Dunstan (CR2000-2016)**, now Commercial Director. **Subhan Iqbq (R2008-16)**, one of Andy's former Ridings "rogues" and Head Boy, says that, "I personally couldn't have asked for a better Housemaster to guide me through my senior years in Aldenham. We all had the utmost respect for him. He was like a father figure for a lot of us. He could be great fun, a mentor, and in many ways we wanted to make him proud and do well for the House."

Through the flood of tributes that have come Andy's way since the announcement of his departure, it is clear that swathes of colleagues at Aldenham have felt the deep impact of 'Stevo's' mentorship. Two of his Assistants throughout his time in Ridings, **James Kerslake (CR2008-Present)** and **Charlotte Martin-Guruge (CR2012-18)**

both describe Andy as cool, calm and collected. A man of great integrity who helped the boys in Ridings through his calm, compassionate and controlled leadership. James comments that "Andy was a great mentor for me and I will never forget the help, care and encouragement he gave me to set me on my path. One of the reasons I was inspired to become a Housemaster was through working with Andy in Ridings".

If you want to understand Andy's Housemastering style in a nutshell, how about hearing from the man himself, speaking here in the 2010 edition of the Aldenhamian magazine; "We do not and should not measure the year in terms of House trophies or the overall House position - although it is nice to win! The spirit in the House remains one of its biggest strengths and it is difficult to do justice to this in words or pictures."

In the last stage of his vaunted Aldenham career Andy has established himself as, in the words of his great friend, **John Fleet (CR&Prep2006-20)** "an expert in his field" who is "very highly regarded in the Director of Sport world". The impact he has made in this role is tangible. At Aldenham, students can now play Padel tennis, Basketball, Fives, Golf and Volleyball as well as the more traditional 'major' sports. A strong sportsman when he was at school in the 2010s, **Jonny Bryer (B2010-15)** commented that he was "always very appreciative of Mr Stephenson's attention to detail and care towards the sporting curriculum. This built a great foundation for me and others to thrive. I was able to play a wide range of sports (including fives!) and participate in playing sports most days. This allowed me to fulfil my

sporting potential at school and achieve over a hundred first team caps. I am still very proud that I achieved this milestone which Mr Stephenson would have overseen and facilitated."

As with his Housemastering, it's also clear to see that Andy's leadership style made significant impacts on the wide range of staff he has dealt with, from Heads of Sport to those managing recreational football. I had the pleasure of sharing the management and coaching of a cricket team with him for four years. We managed to get four talented cricketers, who simultaneously despised each other, through two middle years of cricket. We got our first team of U14s to a county cup final and that aforementioned rabble to the final of the Berkhamsted sixes competition. Andy is a confidence builder and a strategist, he's always been on hand to delve into his encyclopaedic knowledge of sport to help staff and students. As former Head of Cricket, **Luke Kirsten (CR2010-11 & 2015-Present)** comments: *"Andy is an amazing mentor always willing to give time and expertise."*

Latterly, Andy has fitted in seamlessly into the Junior section of the school as a highly valued tutor. Munching on a toffee crisp and with a hearty cup of Yorkshire tea to hand, first Martineau's and more recently, Woodrow's. Both **Louise Gall (CR2004-Present)** and **Niamh Brewer (CR2014-Present)** comment on how caring, supportive and skilful Andy is as both a personal Tutor and as a member of the Junior Tutor teams.

So, how to sum up Andrew Stephenson, the boy from Wolverhampton who has done so much at Aldenham School over 25 years?

Andy has proven to be a constantly wise, calm and in all the right ways, a reserved presence at Aldenham. Never one to jump to conclusions, for Andy things are rarely black or white. He gets here early, leaves late and works weekends. His dedication and passion is hugely appreciated by colleagues and by Aldenhamians, past and present. A giant of a man in so many ways. Andy, thank you for your service.

By **Ben Frai (P2001-06 & CR2014-Present)**, Head of History & Politics

A fond farewell from Ann Saffery



Ann Saffery enjoyed 13 years at Aldenham

Having been at Aldenham for almost thirteen years, in June 2024 I welcomed my last cohort of OAs to the OA Society and saw my final Eros to Eros race on the last day of the summer term. Having enjoyed cheering on many brave OA athletes, in my time, this year I saw **John Miller (P1971-74)** complete the course and **Edward Fraser (M2015-18)** and **Edwin Schooling-Latter (B1984-86)** coming in first and second respectively. It was always great to see the OA runners enjoying their comeback at Aldenham and meeting OA friends at other events too.

I wrapped up my communications, with an email to over 5,500 OAs, staff and friends of the School by explaining that I would be leaving at the end of August.

The response was overwhelming, and I want to take this opportunity to thank everyone for their kind words and for the love and gratitude expressed. I will genuinely miss you all!

During my time as Development and Alumni Manager, I thoroughly enjoyed learning about the chequered history of Aldenham and building relationships with so many interesting people across the community and throughout the world.

It was a tough decision to accept that it's time to retire but I am proud of the legacy I have left with your help and support, especially the trees in the Spinney and the digital archive, both wonderful assets secured through donations to the Annual Fund. I feel that I am much richer for the experience and the OA connections that I know I will continue to enjoy. I am excited to be getting away from my desk to do more Nordic walking and looking forward to being more involved with local politics by supporting the residents of Woodside and Watford as a local Councillor.

Aldenham is a great school with amazing people and an incredible history which I am now lucky to be part of.

Thank you for having me and especially for bestowing Honorary OA membership upon me – I will wear my badge with pride and hope to see you again on my travels.



Ann with Saagar Ruparelia (M1999-2004)

Eros to Eros run

From the School

With 6 OAs and 2 'about to become OAs', participating in the Eros to Eros run 2024, it was pleasing to see the first two runners home coming from the alumni community. In just over an hour and a half, **Edward Fraser (M2015-18)** strolled home in first place, with **Edwin Schooling-Latter (B1984-86)** breezing in seven minutes later to take second.

Representatives from the Class of 2024, **Noah Gray (L2017-24)** and **Ben Prior (B2019-24)** took 4th and 10th places respectively and **Ben Fraiss (P&R2001-06 & CR2014-Present)** came in at number 11. Other impressive performances came from **Cameron Grant (L20002-09)**, **John Miller (P1971-75)** and **Nicholas Walker (M1983-84)**. This popular end of term event always creates a great atmosphere as the early risers come out to cheer the runners back from their even earlier start of 5.00am from Piccadilly Circus. To add to the personal achievement the run also raises funds for charity, with this year's proceeds going towards Bernardo's.

Well done to all those who took part! Who will take up the challenge next year?



Edward Fraser (M2015-18), first home

THE RESULTS

Position	Name	Role	Time hr:m:s
1	Edward Fraser	OA	1:33.11
2	Edwin Latter	OA	1:40.22
3	David Breeze	Staff	1:41.43
4	Noah Gray	Student	1:46.44
5	Elliot Hague	Student	1:48.18
6	Roland Kemp	Staff	1:49.31
7	Ethan Saunders	Student	1:53.03
8	Lucas Jackson	Student	1:54.14
9	Charlie Reid	Student	2:02.25
10	Ben Prior	Student	2:04.43
11	Ben Fraiss	Staff	2:07.59
12	Abbie Green	Staff family	2:08.04
13=	Freddie Rexephi	Student	2:13.07
13=	Christine White	Current Parent	2:13.07
15	Billy-Ray Ralph	Student	2:13.09
16	Henry Long	Student	2:15.15
17	Cameron Grant	OA	2:16.28
18	Ben Hutton	Student	2:20.50
19=	Miles Dhawan-Foster	Student	2:20.52
19=	Riain Murphy	Student	2:20.52
21=	Emma Clarke	Current Parent	2:22.42
21=	Scott Fraser	OA Parent	2:22.42
23	Arun Rodrigo	Student	2:24.03
24	Ollie Zazzi	Student	2:28.57
25	John Martin Miller	OA	2:34.06
26	Nicholas Walker	OA	2:37.01
27	Zain Khan	Student	3:18.33
28	Jackie Cheng (Ao)	Student	3:20.58

News and Features

A Delightful gathering of octogenarian alumni in York

From the 1st to the 4th of October 2023, a group of our distinguished alumni and their spouses convened in the historic city of York for a memorable reunion.

This special gathering marked a significant milestone as all the Old Boys celebrating their 80th year shared laughter, stories, and camaraderie in a series of delightful events.

On Monday, 2 October the group gathered for a dinner at the Guy Fawkes Hotel, a venue steeped in history and charm. The dinner set a warm and inviting tone for the days to follow, despite some unfortunate absences. Fiona, wife of **Roger Marsh (SHO1956-61)**, was unable to attend due to illness, and **Andrew de Moleyns (SHO1957-60)** and his wife Jill were kept away by COVID-19. Sadly, **Chris Carnaghan (SHE1956-60)** was also unable to join due to health reasons. Their presence was missed, but their spirits were felt throughout the gathering.

During their stay in York, the alumni and their spouses explored the city's rich tapestry of sights. The groups visited iconic landmarks such as The Minster, Jorvik Centre, and the Railway Museum. Others wandered through The Castle, the ancient castle walls, or enjoyed a tranquil cruise on the river. Each couple or group found their own unique way to experience the city, making for a personalised and enriching reunion.

Another especially poignant moment came during the Regional Lunch at the Sole & Duck in Trumpington, Cambridge

on Thursday 12 October. Organised by the OA Society, **Robin Dawson (SHE1957-62)** reported that the lunch was a resounding success, earning praise for its impeccable planning and execution. The venue was well-chosen, providing an ideal setting for reconnecting with old friends over a delicious meal.

A series of serendipitous encounters added a layer of charm to the regional reunion. Among them was a meeting between **Richard Peart (SHO1955-60)** and an old friend after 64 years, and the discovery of mutual acquaintances

between Alex Hems and **David Reynolds (SHO1954-58)**. These moments underscored the small, interconnected world we live in.

The alumni expressed their heartfelt gratitude to Aldenham for organising such a splendid lunch and facilitating these connections. The group looked forward to future gatherings, including the OA Dinner in March, with a renewed sense of connection and anticipation. The York reunion was a testament to the lasting bonds formed at our school and the joy of reuniting with cherished friends.



Clockwise from left: Lois Phillips, Derrick Swain (SHE1956-60), Helen Norman widow of Peter Norman (SHO1956-60), Robert Sentance (SHO1956-61), Mike Phillips (P1966-70), Rosie Dawson, Tory Swain, Anne Sentance & Robin Dawson (SHE1957-62)

National Association of Jewellers - Clarity and Success award

OA, **Anya Gibbins (P2009-16)**, is awarded the best JET Certificate project by the National Association of Jewelers



Anya Gibbins is on the buying team for Ernest Jones and H Samuel for Diamonds, gold and branded Jewellery, under the Signet Trading wider company.

In June this year, Anya was selected as the winner of the National Association of Jewellers - Clarity and Success award, following completion of her JET certificate, back in January.

As the winner Anya had a featured interview in the summer issue of *The Jeweller magazine*.

'The interview talks about my love for jewellery which led my to career with Signet and the Jet course, including

my final project, focusing on various industry topics and iconic brands such as Van Cleef & Arpels.'

The JET Certificate is a course ran by the National Association of Jewellers (NAJ). It takes six months to complete and features 12 key learning modules based around various areas of the jewellery industry. There are 4 written assignments and a final project to complete. The final project allows students to showcase what they have learnt throughout the course and their own research. After the final submission, a winner is chosen for the best final project and is selected as the Clarity and Success Award winner.

"This award is selected by the tutors who nominate the best JET Certificate project. That is then judged by a moderator to select the final winner, so it is an amazing achievement," said Chloe Thorn, Education Officer, National Association of Jewellers

"We are super proud of Anya's fantastic achievement; we know she worked very hard and put a great deal of effort into her course. She is a true asset to our team. Well done, Anya!" said Head of Product and Trading at Ernest Jones and H Samuel, Gemma Balm.

During her time at Aldenham eight years ago, Anya studied Art and Design

and Technology, her pieces have featured throughout the halls of Aldenham. It is inspiring for Anya's hard work to be recognised in her career and we wish her every success in the future!

Extract from 'The Jeweller', 19 June 2024:

'Belinda Morris, editor of *The Jeweller*, sits down with Anya Gibbins, the January winner of the Clarity & Success award, highlighting the best JET 1 project of the month.

"I joined the world of jewellery just over a year ago, as an assistant buyer for Signet Jewellers, under the Ernest Jones brand. Before that, I had worked in fashion buying since graduating with a fashion degree in 2019. I always loved the way jewellery allowed for personality and a wow factor to complete any look on the catwalk and in magazines. When the opportunity arose to work with jewellery, I knew I would thoroughly enjoy learning more about this exciting industry.

Within my current role, I work with beautiful jewellery, from classic gold pieces to elegant pearl and diamond styles, so having knowledge of gemstones, metal types, designs and components is very important, especially in a role where product is a key focus.'

DO YOU HAVE AN INTEREST IN JOURNALISM, PUBLISHING OR EDITING?



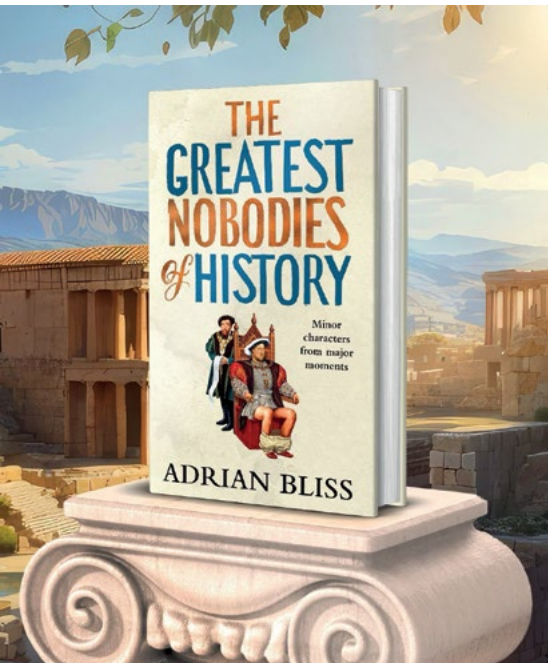
For next year's issue I want to expand the team for the *OA Review*. This is our magazine and I think it is important for all Old Aldenhamians to have the opportunity for their voice to be reflected in it. If you are an aspiring journalist or editor or you have experience and enthusiasm to offer, please get in touch with myself or the OA department at oas@aldenham.com to register your interest and let us know

in what capacity. This can be to help gather research, write articles or proofread.

HELP WANTED

From the stage to the page: Adrian Bliss (M2004-09) brings out his debut book

Last year the *OA Review* reported on Adrian Bliss' success on his social media channels, emmassing 7.9 million followers on Tik Tok and 6.17 million subscribers on YouTube, and his sold out show at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival, 'Inside Everyone.'



Since then, Adrian has been commissioned by the publisher, Penguin, to write a factual book on history, and funny unknown stories.

His debut book, *The Greatest Nobodies of History: Minor Characters from Major Moments* was published in August this year and was on The Sunday Times bestseller list. Stephen Fry called it, 'Funny, touching, dazzlingly informative and fascinating, brilliantly imaginative and altogether wonderful.'

Check out the description below:

History belongs to the heroes. But to get the full story, sometimes you have to ask the side characters.

The lives of Leonardo da Vinci, Henry VIII and Queen Victoria fill bookshelves and fascinate scholars all over the world. But little attention is given to the ferret

who posed for the renaissance master, the servant who oversaw the Tudor's toilet time, or the famous horse who thrilled the miserable old monarch.

These supporting cast members have been waiting in the wings for too long, and Adrian Bliss thinks it's high time they join their glory-hogging contemporaries in the spotlight. Fortunately, - thanks to some recently discovered ancient complaint letters, court transcripts and memoirs in bottles - now they can.

Equal parts fascinating and hilarious, the *Greatest Nobodies of History* is a surreal love letter to life's forgotten heroes featuring hitherto undocumented accounts from Ancient Greece to the frontlines of the Great Emu War.

All that follows really happened, and some of it could even be true.

Colonel Alan Jukes - 100 Years Young

Many congratulations to **Colonel Alan Jukes (SHE1937-41)** who reached 100 on 3 November 2023.

He was delighted to receive a card and an Aldenham mug from Alex Hems, Head of the Aldenham Foundation, which took pride of place on his shelf along with a card from the King. Alan's PA told us that he was hoping to get one from Queen Elizabeth and said that "the one from King Charles would do".

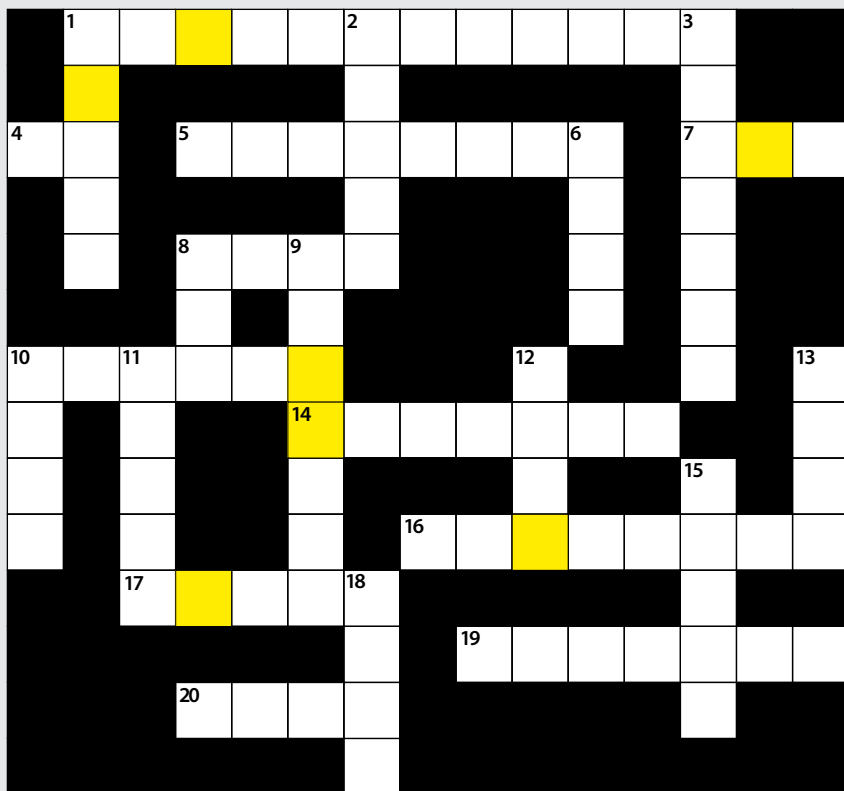
Guests at a celebration arranged by staff at Admiral Jellicoe House, where Alan is a resident, included the Lord Mayor of Portsmouth and the Royal Marines Corps of Drums gathered to provide the pomp and ceremony befitting a Naval Officer.

Alan's special birthday was justly reported on the Royal Naval Benevolent Trust website. They announced that, 'It was a special day for everyone and especially Alan.'



Alan Jukes (SHE1937-41) with the Royal Marines Corps of Drums.

Puzzle page



The letters in the yellow squares are an anagram of building that was constructed in memory of the First World War

ACROSS

- 1. Royal who opened the astroturf pitch (8,4)
- 4. Abbreviation of Old Aldenhamians (2)
- 5. OA who is the founder of Surrey Satellite Technology (8)
- 7. The nickname of the old Sanitorium (3)
- 8. School House was split into 2 houses. This is one of them (4)
- 10. Main sport played in the Spring term (6)
- 14. This house's motto translates to 'who strives valiantly' (7)
- 16. The title given to OA, Karen Brady (8)
- 17. The last word in the School motto (5)
- 19. This house has 1887 set into its wall (7)
- 20. This word comes before Aldenham in the School Song (4)

DOWN

- 1. The School Founder's surname (5)
- 2. School House was split into 2 houses. This is the other one (5) [See 8 across]
- 3. The name of the town in Aldenham's address (7)
- 8. Type of tree planted to commemorate the Golden Jubilee of Queen Elizabeth II (3)
- 9. The name given to pupils who didn't board before 1979 (3,4)
- 10. Surname of the present Head of Aldenham Foundation (4)
- 11. Surname of the Master who gave Hermes or Mercury to the school (5)
- 12. The number of Fives courts originally built 1916 (4)
- 13. Name of the statue in the School grounds where an annual run finishes (4)
- 15. The name of the new centre with new sixth form common room (5)
- 18. Sweets and treats available to buy (4)

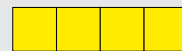
SODOKU

Each Sodoku puzzle has 4 yellow squares. These squares form a date reading from top to bottom. What are the significances of these dates?

		6				5	8
1		2	3	8			4
			2			1	9
				6	3		4
	6	3	4		5	8	7
5	4		9	2			
	8	7			4		
2				9	8	4	7
4	9					3	



		3	5	7		2	
2	9		1		3		6
					4	1	9
	8	2		3			1
			7		8		
9	1			4		3	6
	2	1	4				
7			8		1		2
		5		9	2	6	



Answers can be found on page 29

Memories of the 1940s

We often hear from Old Aldenhamians who share memories about their time at school. Here is an excerpt from a recent letter from 92 year old **Ambrose Barber (P1944-48)**.

“**T**here are two themes that govern the background to my recollections of Aldenham in 1944-48, – the Second war and its impoverished aftermath and also, the regime of our long-serving Headmaster, **G.A. Riding (1933-49)**, wounded in the First one.

My first sight of Aldenham was during the 1943 Christmas holidays. I was very pleased when Aldenham was chosen for me, where my cousins had been many years earlier, and I still am.

That first visit was for an interview with the Housemaster **Mr G Mead (CR1914-44)** and his sister, who between them ran the House which I was to join. Today, Aldenham’s Houses have permanent names, but in my time there most were known by the name of the current Housemaster, so that when I entered what had been ‘Mead’s’ House

the ‘P’ didn’t yet stand for ‘Paull’s’. It was in September 1944 that I joined Pollard’s.

The reception for newcomers in Pollard’s was friendly, and there were no ‘humiliating chivvies’. For our first three terms ‘boyeing’ chores were usually carried out by team rotas and corporal punishment was very rare indeed. In those days, each House had about 50 chaps.

On starting at school, my first impression was an ethos of ‘fresh-air’ compared to the well intentioned but stifling over controlled regime of my Hindhead prep school. The lack of communication with the outside world, however, led to a feeling of belonging to a closed community. Those who’ve grown up in the era of the mobile phone and other devices will find this perplexing, but without access to landlines except through the School

DID YOU KNOW?

Did you know what the term ‘boyeing’ means?

It was a form of fagging. In the first three terms you had to fill in a card each week with initials of prefects for whom you had performed a service. A prefect would stand at the end of the house room and call “boye” and the first one there got the job. There were penalties if you had not filled your card.

Secretary in case of real emergency, and the nearest payphone being in Letchmore Heath, the basic communication with home was by letter.

My stroke of luck came in early May 1945. While confined to the school Sanatorium, which was equipped with headphones, I was able to listen avidly to the BBC’s war reporters as they gave running commentaries on the final disintegration of Nazi Germany’s war effort!

Soon after his victory over Germany, I remember Churchill calling a General Election and the School decided to hold a mock one, at which in contrast to the national event, it was Labour who were trounced!

Having enjoyed eleven terms at Aldenham, I set out to become a chartered aero engineer, by enrolling at the Chelsea College of Aeronautical Engineering. Since then I have remained friends with contemporaries at Paull’s with two being godfathers to my sons.”

We are grateful to OAs for keeping in touch, and we have captured a great deal of we School’s history on the digital archive. This can be accessed by all students, staff and members of the OA society, funded through the Aldenham Annual Fund.



Paull’s House 1946 with Ambrose Barber, 3rd row, 9th from left. See digital archive for more names and similar House photos.

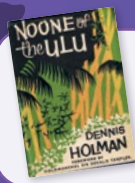
From Around the World



**PARIS 2024
OLYMPICS**
PAGE 29



**A TIME FOR
VICTORY!**
PAGE 28



**NOONE OF
THE ULU**
PAGE 26

The Enduring Legacy of Pat Noone: Noone of the Ulu

An Aldenham Alumnus' Extraordinary Tale of Adventure and Tragedy

In the archives of Aldenham School's rich history, certain names stand out not just for their academic or athletic achievements but for the remarkable lives they led beyond our storied halls. One such name is **Herbert Deane "Pat" Noone (M1922-27)**, whose life, as

chronicled in Dennis Holman's 1958 book, *"Noone of the Ulu,"* is an extraordinary blend of anthropology, wartime heroism, and personal tragedy.

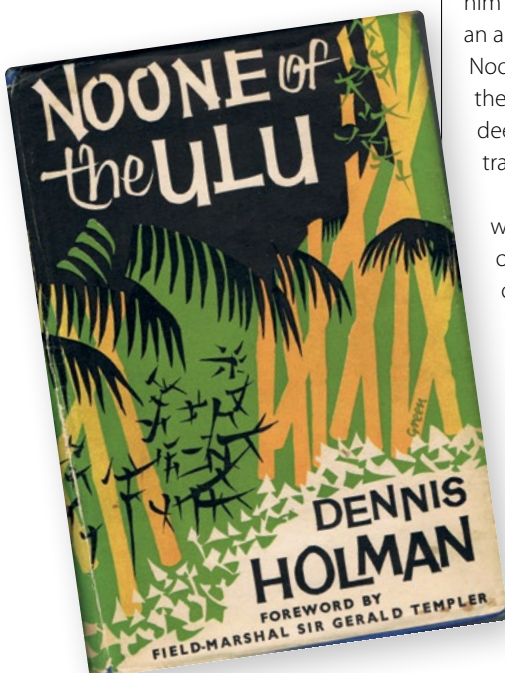
Pat Noone's beginning was at Aldenham, and then graduating from Cambridge in 1931, Noone's path led him to the dense jungles of Malaya. As an anthropologist and museum director, Noone immersed himself in the study of the Temiar tribe, a community with a deep connection to their land and traditions.

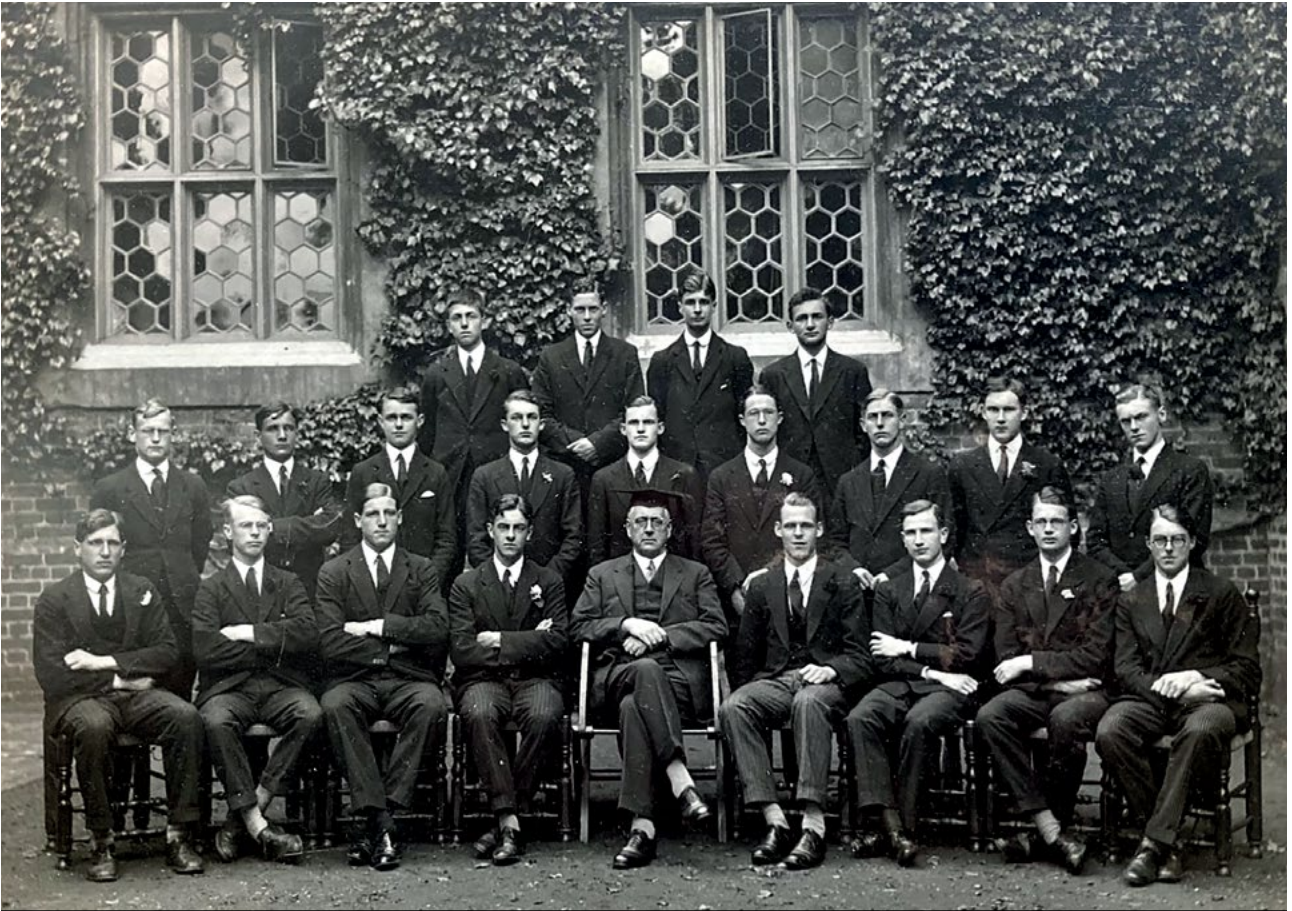
The calm of his academic pursuits was violently disrupted by the onset of World War II. The Japanese invasion of Malaya in 1941 threw the region into chaos, and Noone found himself trapped behind enemy lines. *"Noone of the Ulu"* meticulously details his struggle for survival, navigating both the dangers of the jungle and the threat of Japanese forces. However, it is the mysterious circumstances of his disappearance that form the crux of this compelling narrative.

Pat Noone, as revealed in Holman's book, was not a mere casualty of war but a victim of murder, orchestrated by a love rival. Noone's deep bond with a beautiful young woman from the Temiar tribe, whom he married, had incited deadly jealousy, leading to his untimely death.

This tragic turn of events left many unanswered questions, which his younger brother, **Richard Noone (M1931-35)**, sought to address in his 1972 book, *"Rape of the Dream People."* Richard's book delves into the aftermath of his brother's disappearance, providing a poignant account of his own journey to uncover the truth and seeking justice for Pat.

Sometime in 1934, when his brother was still in the fifth form, Pat had dazzled Aldenham students when he returned to the School with tales and illustrations of the Temiar tribe during a well-received lecture. Despite the Headmaster's prudish ban on pictures of bare-chested young women, Pat Noone's lecture left an indelible mark on those who attended. It showcased not only his





Pat Noone in Gilbert's House immediately behind Gilbert

passion for anthropology but also his ability to engage and inspire young minds. His legacy, mixed with the lush landscapes and cultural tapestry of Malaya, continues to captivate and educate.

The connection between the Noone brothers and Aldenham was recently rekindled through OA **Andrew Hicks (K1963-66)** after speaking to a friend in Petersfield, Hampshire, and discovered that his acquaintance had family ties to the Far East. It was then revealed that his mother was a Noone, and Pat and Richard his uncles. This discovery unearthed precious memorabilia, including a group photo of Gilbert's House and a One Mile trophy won by Pat in 1925. Additionally, an obituary from *Old Aldenhamian* quoting *The Times* dated July 23, 1973, recorded Richard Noone's death from lung cancer at the age of fifty-five, highlighting the premature end of another remarkable life.

"Dick Noone, one of the original and greatest of South-east Asian jungle fighters and counter-insurgency experts,

has died in Bangkok of lung cancer. He was a brilliant anthropologist from Cambridge, fought with the Australians against the Japanese in 1941, served with Marshal Sir Gerald Templer and Robert Thompson in the Malayan jungle 'Emergency' of the fifties, and had been a master security adviser with Seato's counter-subversion and counter-insurgency forces for the past six years. His toughness was matched by his modesty. He was 55 when he died."

Pat and Richard Noone's journeys from the halls of Aldenham to the jungles of Malaya and back again are a call to remember and cherish the remarkable lives that have passed through our gates, ensuring that their contributions continue to inspire future generations of Aldenhamians.

To read his full obituary posted in *Old Aldenhamian* 1973, please visit the school archives. Members of the OA Society may access the Archive by logging onto the OA website www.aldenhamian.org.



Noone Athletics Trophy

Time for victory!

Matt Wallace wins OMEGA European Masters in Crans-Montana, Switzerland



At the beginning of September, one of our very own alumni, **Matt Wallace (L2003-08)**, put on an incredible display at the Omega Masters, one of the most picturesque and prestigious golf tournaments in Europe. Formerly called the Swiss Open, it has remained at the same venue in Crans-Montana since 1939, making it the oldest golf tournament in Europe to be played on the same course every year. Matt secured his first victory at Crans-Montana and received the winner's watch, an OMEGA Seamaster.

Playing at the stunning Crans-sur-Sierre course, framed by snow-capped mountains, Matt led the field for most of the competition. It seemed like he was destined for a smooth victory until the final day, when the pressure began to mount.

Despite dealing with tough weather conditions on the days leading up to the final round, Matt went into it leading by four shots, but faced a tense day ahead. A birdie from his Spanish playing partner, Alfredo Garcia-Heredia, on the final hole meant both finished tied at 11 under par, leading to a play-off. Continuing with composure, Matt secured an 8-foot birdie putt on the first extra hole. This gave him his victory, marking his fifth DP World Tour title, which is his first since the 2018 Made In Denmark.

Coincidentally, it was local resident of Crans-Montana and OA **Simon Wharmby (B1961-66)**, who unbeknownst to him witnessed his fellow OA take the trophy;

"At the Swiss Open last weekend, he led all the way until mid-way through the last day when he dropped several strokes and Garcia and Johnstone "the beef" caught up. [] remember he went to a play off in '23 and came 2nd so it was super nerve racking for him.

On Monday, **Gareth Wilson (B1962-66)** contacted me to ask if I'd attended and did I know Matt was an OA – I did not, and other than the Halford Hewitt cup wasn't aware of any golf point of reference at school."

"It's been a very exciting summer of sport for OMEGA with our Official Timekeeper roles at the Olympic and Paralympic Games, as well as the America's Cup. Supporting the golf in Crans-Montana has been another genuine highlight. We congratulate Matt Wallace on his win and thank all the players for making this year's OMEGA Masters so memorable."

Raynald Aeschlimann, President and CEO of OMEGA

OA Golf Society Note: The above referenced Halford Hewitt is the biggest amateur event in World golf and is contested by teams from 64 Independent Schools. Matt, before turning pro, represented the OAGS with distinction. If you are an aspiring OA golfer, please do make contact with the OA office for details of how to join this great society. We wish Matt even more success for the year ahead and we hope he achieves his dream of qualifying for the European Ryder Cup Team in September of 2025.

Grandchild of Old Aldenhamiam in Paris 2024 Olympics



85 years after **Terence Reuen O'Neill (P1939-42)** attended Aldenham, his grandson competed in the Paris 2024 olympics!

Using the school's archives the OA department uncovered that during Terence's time at the School he was a keen gymnast, part of the House Physical Training Team in 1942, the House Junior Cricket Team 1940 and Junior House Acting Competition report from 1940. Unfortunately, O'Neill passed away in 1967 at the age of 42, leaving behind his young daughter Susan. Susan's son (Terry's grandson) is Nicholas D'Amour.

D'Amour represents the US Virgin Islands and competes in the sport of Recurve Archery. He competed in Tokyo aged 17 (with all of the COVID restrictions in place), and qualified once

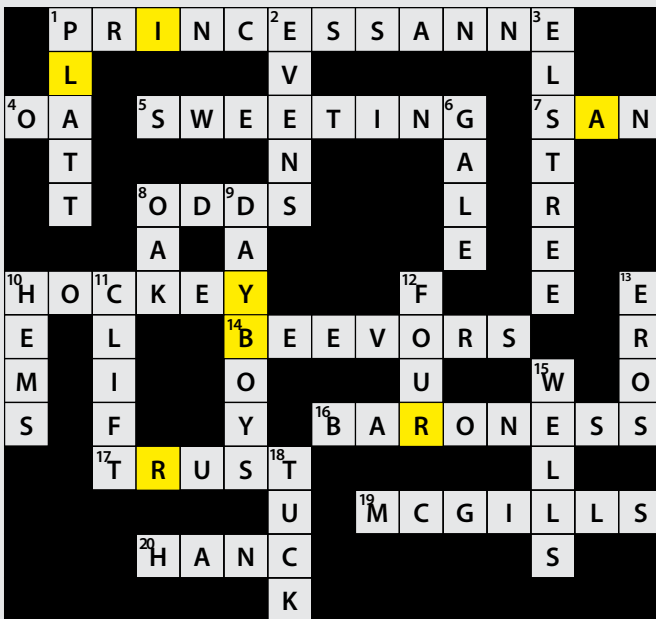
again this year aged 22. At Tokyo 2020 he became the first Archer representing the US Virgin Islands to compete at an Olympic Games. He was eliminated by Ryan Tyack (AUS) in a shoot-off in the first round.

In 2021, he recorded seven top 10 finishes, which propelled him 196 spots into the top five in the world rankings. He is currently ranked no. 13 in the World. Nicholas was very excited to have a completely different Olympic experience in Paris 2024 without all of the restrictions of covid. He ranked 16th in the first round and was then unfortunately eliminated by Japanese contestant, Saito Fumiya.



Back Row (l-r): Mick Down (P1939-44), Eric Batterham (P1939-43), David Rawlings (P1939-43), Michael Reading (1939-44), Terence O'Neill (P1939-42), David Blake (P1939-43)
Front Row: John Winckley (P1938-43), Alan Anderson (P1938-42), Peter Taylor (P1938-41), William Topliss-Green (P1939-42), John Eisler (P1939-42)

Answers to quiz



L I B R A R Y

3	9	6	7	4	1	5	2	8
1	5	2	3	8	9	7	6	4
8	7	4	2	5	6	1	9	3
7	2	1	8	6	3	9	4	5
9	6	3	4	1	5	8	7	2
5	4	8	9	2	7	6	3	1
6	8	7	1	3	4	2	5	9
2	3	5	6	9	8	4	1	7
4	1	9	5	7	2	3	8	6

1 5 9 7

School founded

1	6	3	5	7	9	2	8	4
2	9	4	1	8	3	7	5	6
5	7	8	6	2	4	1	9	3
4	8	2	9	3	6	5	1	7
3	5	6	7	1	8	9	4	2
9	1	7	2	4	5	3	6	8
6	2	1	4	5	7	8	3	9
7	3	9	8	6	1	4	2	5
8	4	5	3	9	2	6	7	1

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First girls at Aldenham



Celebrating Charities

The Aldenham Annual Fund 2023/24

In the academic year from September 2023 to the end of August 2024 the Aldenham Annual Fund raised over £30,000 and we were once again delighted with the support received from OAs all over the world for this regular giving campaign.

The focus of the Aldenham Annual Fund is to support current students and to provide valuable resources for learning. This year the key aim was to provide more bursaries and scholarships and to enable students to flourish. **Amol Gill (M2017-24)** was a worthy recipient of the Annual Fund Award for two



Amol Gill (M2017-24) recipient of the Annual Fund Award for Sixth Form study



Adi Kulkarni (L2020-Present) Recipients of the Annual Fund Award for Sixth Form study

academic years from 2022 to 2024, which enabled him to stay at Aldenham to complete his A Levels this summer. Having secured A grades, Amol is now heading off to university and aspires to become a dentist. Amol was also Sports Captain and House Prae – He says; *"I really appreciate all the opportunities Aldenham has given me and have loved everything about this School, thank you for having faith in me"*. The Annual Fund Award was given to **Adi Kulkarni (L2020-Present)** in September 2023 meaning that he is able to pursue his dream to become a Formula One racing driver while still at studying. Adi was selected as Subject Ambassador for Economics given his dedication and enthusiasm for the subject. He will be taking A Levels in 2025 and is expected to achieve highly.

We were grateful to the Old Aldenhamian Lodge for a grant towards the Ripple Africa trip this year. Their gift was allocated to **Dani Elias (P&R2022-Present)** who was able to join the adventure and had an amazing time. Dani reports: *"During our time with Ripple*



Dani Elias (P&R2022-Present) with Ripple Africa child

Africa we were put to work making mud bricks, clearing overgrown areas, planting seeds and watering trees. It was fascinating to see how Malawian farmers look after their land and the hard work it takes to do simple tasks that we take for granted. We were invited to a beautiful church service on the Sunday morning, everyone dressed in their Sunday best and we all sang familiar hymns together. We all enjoyed playing football and netball matches during which we learnt so much about the students and their aspirations to be pilots, mechanics, teachers, scientists and so many other ambitions which was truly

inspiring. On our final day at the Ripple camp, we painted a local preschool as a group and then returned to the camp for a campfire to reflect on our experience and spend time with the Ripple staff."

Using donations to the Annual Fund we were also able to buy musical instruments with a gift from **Giles Turner (SHO1952-57)** and present the McAllister Award to two outstanding students in memory of **John McAllister (CR1967-2005)** on Visitation Day. Other projects supported through the Annual Fund this year include creating a Wellbeing Space for students and staff in the Chapel,

providing shelter for the CCF Shooting Range and commissioning new murals for Kennedy's House.

The Aldenham digital archive is an ongoing project funded by donations to the Annual Fund. It is already of great benefit to the whole community. Current students use it across the curriculum, and it is regularly dipped into by OAs and their families. To access this treasure trove of photographs, magazines, and memorabilia, members of the OA Society can log onto the OA website www.aldenhamian.org and click on the Archive tab.

List of donors

Ambrose Barber	Phil & Lucy Elder	Edward Oatley MBE	Mr Neil Sutherland OBE DL
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Mr & Mrs Trevor Barton	Mr Lawrence Eta	Ian Partington	Peter & Heather Titus
Marcus Blake	The Freed Family	Richard Peart	Roger Topping
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Jim & Catherine Cockburn	Mr David Greenhouse	Mr Dick Richards	T F Wells
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Mr Tony Dey	Michael King	Richard Schooley	Mrs Daphne Woodrow
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Mr John Edwards TD JP	Old Aldenhamian Lodge	Ronald Somerville CBE	6 Anonymous

John Apthorp (P1949-53)

We were saddened to learn that **John Apthorp (P1949-53)**, died on 9 July 2024 after a short illness. John is described as a 'serial entrepreneur', having been awarded Guardian Young Businessman of the Year and as the founder Bejam, the forerunner of Iceland the frozen food chain. He turned Majestic Wine into the national success it is today but much more than all of that he was a most generous philanthropist and supported many charities including Aldenham. John was awarded the CBE in 2014 for his charitable work and will be very fondly remembered for his loyal and regular support.

Some words from those who knew John: John was a really strong supporter of the School and so much that we were able

to achieve was due to his generosity. **James Fowler (Headmaster 2006-2022)**

John Apthorp was a true friend of Aldenham and of the local community. **Trevor Barton (K1971-75)**, Governor 2009-2015 & Chair 2015-2021

John's support and generosity to Aldenham School and our community will be forever remembered. **Clare Yeabsley (K1988-90)**, President of the OA Society

John was a major benefactor for Aldenham School. He should be remembered by many; OAs of his generation will remember him fondly. **Neil Sutherland (B1966-70)**, Vice President of the OA Society



John gave regularly and generously to the Annual Fund and to major development appeals. We are grateful for his generosity.



Commitment to charity work: Josh Weller

News and Features

At Aldenham, we take great pride in the accomplishments of our alumni, who often go on to make a significant impact in various fields.

One such individual is **Josh Weller (B2014-19)**, whose recent charitable endeavours exemplify the spirit of compassion and service that we strive to instil. Josh, who works at Agilitech Services Ltd, recently participated in a remarkable charitable initiative, showcasing his commitment to giving back to the community.

This year, Josh and his colleagues at Agilitech took part in an event at St. Cuthbert's Church in Earls Court. Teaming up with Stuart Cassidy and Chris Oso, Josh spent an entire day serving a three-course meal to homeless individuals and vulnerable adults. This event was organised in collaboration with Refettorio Felix, an organisation dedicated to providing nutritious meals and a sense of community to those in need.

Agilitech Services Ltd, has long been a supporter of charitable causes, but this event at St. Cuthbert's Church was particularly special. The initiative by Refettorio Felix aims to not only address food insecurity but also to create a sense of dignity and respect for its guests. By creating a welcoming environment and serving high-quality meals, the organisation strives to uplift those in difficult circumstances, offering them a moment of respite and connection.

Josh expressed his gratitude for the opportunity to contribute to Refettorio Felix's mission. "It's easy to take for granted the stability and support we have in our lives," he said. "Being part of this initiative reminded me of the importance of giving back and the difference we can make, even in small ways. I encourage everyone to find ways

to support their communities and help those in need."

As we celebrate Josh's contributions, we also extend our gratitude to organisations like Refettorio Felix and companies like Agilitech Services Ltd, whose support makes such important work possible.

We are incredibly proud of Josh Weller and his commitment to making a positive difference in the world. His actions resonate with the ethos of Aldenham, demonstrating that the education and experiences gained here prepare our students to become compassionate, responsible, and proactive members of society.

For more information on how you can get involved with Refettorio Felix and support their mission, please visit their website (refettoriofelix.com).

Racing and philanthropy in high gear

We are thrilled to bring you an update on **Alex Jones (L2007-10)**, whose career in motorsport has taken off spectacularly since he left Aldenham School.

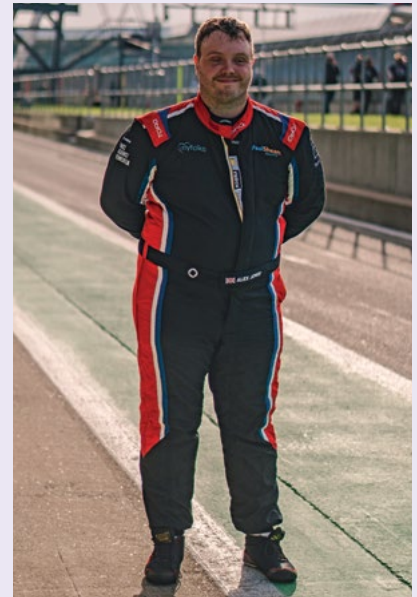
Alex has been a prominent figure in the racing world since 2013, and his latest challenge is competing in the Mazda MX5 Supercup, marking his 12th season in the fast-paced world of motorsport.

Alex began his journey in the Formula Vee series, a single-seater championship known for its challenging format devoid of slicks and wings. This demanding start paved the way for his transition to testing various other vehicles, including two Formula 4 cars, a Citroën C1, and an Audi TT. Alex's dedication and skill saw him race in the Formula Vee series from 2013 to 2020 before moving to the Mazda MX5 Supercup in 2021.

Throughout his career, Alex has had

the privilege of racing in support meetings for the prestigious TCR package, one of the UK's significant racing championships. His talent and perseverance have also attracted several sponsors over the years, with the most notable being the Racing Against Dementia charity, founded by the legendary Sir Jackie Stewart.

The charity, founded by Sir Jackie Stewart in honour of his wife Helen, who was diagnosed with dementia, aims to fund breakthrough research and innovative thinking to find a cure for dementia. Alex's involvement with the charity is a testament to his commitment to giving back to the community and using his platform to



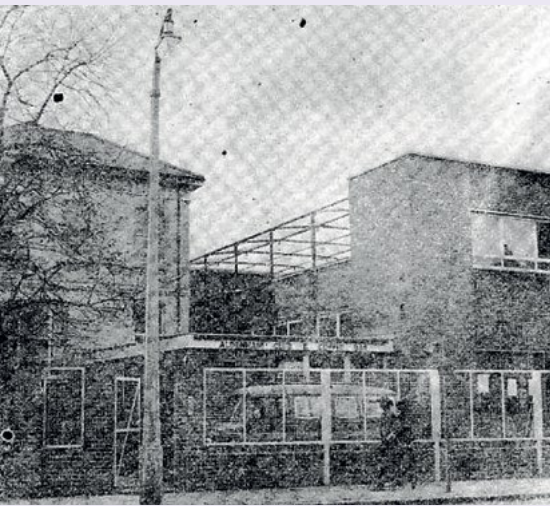
raise awareness and support for this critical cause.

As Alex gears up for another thrilling season in the Mazda MX5 Supercup, we wish him continued success on the track and commend him for his outstanding charitable efforts. We look forward to following his future achievements both in racing and philanthropy.



Aldenham Boys' Club

Along with most public schools, Aldenham supported a "mission" in the early 20th century. These were set up in our cities to improve the conditions of the "deserving poor", whose life and environment ranged from sub-standard to frankly appalling.



In 1911, ours was set up in Kentish Town near that part of St Pancras connected with Richard Platt. The premises were at 93 Highgate Road, a large Victorian house, and comprised changing rooms with showers, physical training and games facilities, a library and hobbies rooms.

The money for these improvements came from Aldenham School and grants from the London Federation of Boys' Clubs. **Alec Churcher (B1915-19)** ran it under the auspices of the Church Lads' Brigade from 1920-30 "in a highly unconventional manner", when he became dissatisfied with the C.L.B. as a medium for work with boys, and the Boys' Club was born. During the early 1930s Alec Churcher, **Frank Ottley (P1917-19)** and **Alan Matherson (P1926-30)** were all involved.

In 1935, the property became available for purchase from the London Midland Scottish Railway and this sum of £2000 was shared by the then Headmaster, **George Riding (Headmaster 1933-49)** and **Rupert Clift (SH1914-17 & CR1922-37)**. Many other OAs were involved. Plans for an extra building on the front were thwarted by WW2, but eventually realised in 1962. In 1966, girls were admitted and the Club was informally re-named The Aldenham

Club. Further alterations were carried out in 1969 and the canteen converted into an open coffee bar with the Club functioning behind it.

There were quite frequent exchanges with the School. The Club would camp on the school site at the end of the cricket field at Whitsun. Several other visits were made during term time. In return, boys from the school visited and helped at the club, sometimes staying overnight.

Unfortunately, during the 1970s, the state of the old building suffered from lack of capital endowment. An ambitious fund-raising exercise followed, master-minded by **John Woodrow (B1946-51)**, but even his persuasion and contacts were not enough. There was also a difficulty in attracting leaders, partly due to the cost of living near that area.

In 1982, the decision was taken to sell the premises. The Club became a Registered Charity in 1984 and the premises were finally sold in 1985 for £106,000. The money was invested in stocks and shares, and the interest thereon was distributed to a variety of other youth clubs in the Kentish Town

area. Advice was taken from the London Federation of Youth Clubs as to which clubs would be suitable and this grew to a list of some dozen clubs by 2002. By then, John Woodrow decided to retire due to ill-health and the Trust continued with **Richard Peart (SHO1955-60)** as Chairman, **Ian Luetchford (B1948-51)** as Treasurer, **Tony Harvie (B1970-75)** as Secretary and Ronald (Nobby) Clark who had been a boy at the Club before WW2 and an assistant Leader after the war. Later, Sue Clark, daughter of Nobby) joined us as a Trustee.

By the early 2020s, with low interest rates, it was decided to wind up the Trust and distribute the money, by then some £320,000, to the six remaining charities which were being supported. By agreement with the then Head, James Fowler and the OA Committee, it was decided to ask the charities to bid for the money and this resulted in grants varying from £40k to £70k being distributed to each. The Trust has now been de-registered from the Charity Commission.

Richard Peart

Club Trustees celebrated the 90th birthday of former Boys Club member, John Usher, at Aldenham in 2016 with his family



OA on the King’s first New Year Honour’s List

Last year **Nigel Robson (K1964-69)** was awarded an MBE for services to education.



Nigel Robson has had an admirable career as a former lawyer in an international law firm, international head of engineering and constructions, global head of energy and managing partner. He was also an accredited mediator, and fellow of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators. Additionally, he has been a trustee and chairman of many organisations.

He is currently chairman of the Western Excellence in Learning and Leadership (WELL) board which is an evidence-informed, transformational, multi-million pound funded education project, whose aim is to improve educational outcomes for young people in West Cumbria, particularly those facing disadvantage. The resounding

success of his professional career and dedication to improving educational outcomes for the disadvantaged have led to his recognition.

Robson commented to his local newspaper in Cumbria, "I have devoted 20 years, locally and nationally, to meeting the challenge of educational underperformance. I was attracted to this particular project, first, because the programmes and strands of investment, in professional development, targeted interventions, building local capacity and promoting pupil wellbeing resilience are evidence-led, and secondly by the clear commitment of the team led by Dale Hill, and of the sponsors, Sellafield Ltd and Nuclear Decommissioning Authority."

West End Wonder

Last spring **Tom Wainwright (M2004-11)** performed in the limited West End Production of *Mind Mangler: Member of the tragic circle*.

The mind-bending comedy, from the creators of the play that goes wrong, graced Apollo Theatre for six delightful weeks early this year. On April 7th, a group of ten OAs and Aldenham staff arranged to watch Tom perform as 'The Stooge' in the production.



Alice Erman (P2005-12), right, organised the theatre outing for OAs and Aldenham staff to see Tom Wainwright, centre

Everybody’s talking about Geoff!



Geoff with Housemaster Michael Yeabsley and Louis Thresher (L&M2018-23)

The London and UK 2023-24 revival of 'Everybody's talking about Jamie' came to an end this summer. OA **Geoff Berrinsford (M2018-23)** graced the stage as 'Sayid' in the production, making his debut straight after finishing his education at Aldenham. During the tour he received various visits from friends, family and the Old Aldenhamian community. The show has been a resounding success and are excited to look out for Geoff's next acting project!

Obituaries and Tributes

Deaths	House and dates at the School	Died
J S Allen	P1947-49	15 October 2023
J D Apthorp	P1949-53	9 July 2024
P P Archbold	SHE1941-42	27 June 2019
C C S Carnaghan	SHE1956-61	17 March 2024
I H Collinge	SHO1942-45	26 July 2016
J M Colvin	SHE1952-56	4 August 2024
J R Cowen	SHO1945-48	3 July 2024
T E De Clerck	L2012-15	18 March 2022
E A Eastwood	SHO1947-52	Date Unknown
S L Finch	K1962-67	7 September 2024
R F M Forward	M1947-51	14 January 2024
K H Fowler	SHO1947-52	13 August 2024
B M Furness	B1936-39	5 May 2007
M Galvin	Staff 1984-99	17 March 2024
S H Greenblatt	B1969-73	Date Unknown
R Griffen	SHO1949-52	9 November 2023
R J Harrison	B1952-56	11 April 2024
A E H Higginbottom	Wife of Headmaster 1983-94	17 August 2023
R Jewison	SHE1946-51	22 December 2023
J S Kinross	M1947-52	30 April 2024
B Lassman	P2000-02	4 August 2024
H B Maddox	SHE1951-56	25 May 2024
M D Millar	P1942-46	1 February 2024
L S Mills	SHE1955-61	20 November 2023
P A Osmond	P1938-43	10 December 2023
R A M Ost	B1942-47	2 March 2019
M T Phillips	M1952-57	13 July 2024
P D Rae	B1965-71	October 2023
D W Robinson	SHO1947-51	7 April 2024
P H Rochman	M1956-61	25 May 2023
R C P Rose	SHE1975-79	11 October 2023
I A Samson	SHE1958-62	14 March 2024
P G Sheldrick	B1939-43	Date unknown
D B C Skelton	B1950-54	14 July 2023
G B Smethurst	P1944-48	28 August 2024
M J Smith	P1949-53	20 October 2024
C C St George Sproule	M1944-48	9 January 2023
R G Topping	SHO1951-55	23 July 2024
S J Van Geesbergen (née Aylett)	K1983-85	22 March 2024
T M S Winfield	M1944-47	12 December 2023
A G I Winram	SHO1951-55	21 February 2021

Ben Lassman (P2000-02)

I first met Ben when he arrived at Aldenham for the sixth form and we shared a study in Paull's house (then a boys' day house).



Initially I was apprehensive at being paired with a student I had never met, but I needn't have worried. Ben was one of those people who upon first meeting made you feel like you had always known him, such was the warmth

of his personality. I certainly wasn't alone in that feeling. Ben had many firm friendships in our year group and I think there was hardly a student or teacher who didn't know him. He had the rare ability to be able to find common ground with anyone.

Ben's warmth extended much further beyond his friends. He spent many years living in Africa and became 'the unofficial mayor of Arusha' in Tanzania. One of his many friends from Africa described how he would often buy a sandwich and a coffee for a homeless man they passed when he had returned to London. Over time this ritual grew so that he began taking a full rucksack of essentials to countless homeless people in the area. That story alone tells you all you need to know about him.

I know that Ben's family were overwhelmed by the amount of people from across the world that contacted them to say how much Ben had meant to them. I'm not one bit surprised, as I and many others will miss hour-long phone conversations that pass in a flash and the ability to give advice that was always 'just right' whatever the topic.

Although there is a deep sadness that cancer has taken Ben far too early, it's a reminder to live life to the fullest (which Ben's tequila collection will attest) and that one person can make a positive difference to so many people's lives, setting an example to us all. I know wherever he is now, he'll be doing exactly the same.

Written by James Palmer (P1995-2002)

Phillip Osmond (P1938-43)

19 October 1924 to 10 December 2023

Until beyond this 99th and last birthday, Philip spoke often and with affection for his days at Aldenham. The camaraderie and guidance he experienced remained with

him. He subsequently had a successful career at Oxford University and in the Foreign Office, and attributed this in no small measure to the grounding he had received at school. His family would all

like to extend heartfelt thanks to Aldenham and its community.

Tribute from Phillip's stepson, Peter Lawson.



1940's Paull's House Junior Hockey Team photo, Phillip is front centre, proudly holding the cup.

Geoffrey Smethurst (P1944-48)

Geoffrey died on 28 August 2024 in Tunbridge Wells, Kent, a town he had lived in or near since 1963.



He was born in 1931, lived his young life mainly in and around Bromley, narrowly escaping a German bomb in 1944 which destroyed his house. After prep school at Bickley Hall, he joined Paull's House also in 1944 and had a successful career at Aldenham, specialising in Classics and enjoyed the CCF and playing squash. He did National Service with the King's Royal Rifle Corps which (perhaps to his surprise) he

enjoyed enormously. On completion of this he read Classics at Pembroke College, Cambridge, and then trained as a Chartered Secretary. He worked for a number of years in Peterborough and London for Baker Perkins (a manufacturer of baking machinery), and then for various employers until his last and favourite job with Rowe and Maw, solicitors, where he specialised in company law. He married Elizabeth Shefford in 1956 and they led a very fulfilled family life with their three boys. Geoffrey retired in 1994 and spent many years toiling happily in his large garden near Tunbridge Wells, and travelling.

Geoffrey had a deep love of classical music, was a keen choral singer, was choirmaster and organist at a local church, and was a keen member of U3A where he studied various subjects he'd never before considered, loving learning for its own sake. He was chairman of the local conservation/historical society and also created and wrote most of the magazine for the local branch of the Chartered Secretaries. When Elizabeth

died in 2003, he moved to a smaller house nearby but continued to be active both in his garden and in the local community until his own health began to fail, and he spent his final years in a nearby care home.

He was a very sociable man and was always interested in others and accepting of their beliefs and foibles. Fundamentally decent and honest, he cared deeply for his family and friends, and will be missed by the many whose lives he had improved by his interest and calm presence.

Written by Geoffrey's son, Hugh Smethurst



Harry "Basil" Maddox

Basil Maddox (SHE1951-56), class of 1956, passed away peacefully at age 86. Basil received an MA in Engineering from Christ's College, Cambridge and was a member of the Institution of UK Mechanical Engineers. He married Jennifer in 1962 and had three children. Basil spent most of his career working for Proctor and Gamble, moving to the U.S.A. in 1973. He has several engineering patents to his name and wrote two historical novels in his retirement years. He enjoyed travelling, sailing, tennis and golf as well as woodworking and working on his British cars. Basil was previously featured in our 2012 publication, when he celebrated his golden wedding anniversary in 2012 with his wife Jennifer.

Mark Thornton Phillips

Mark Phillips (M1952-57), passed away in July at the age of 86.



He was admitted into McGill's House in 1952. He'd previously been Head Boy at Westminster Abbey Choir School, where he was the youngest chorister to perform at Queen Elizabeth's wedding.

He loved sport, and was appointed captain of both the tennis and squash teams. He was made Captain of School in 1957.

After leaving Aldenham, Mark studied French and German at Worcester College, Oxford where he won a squash Blue.

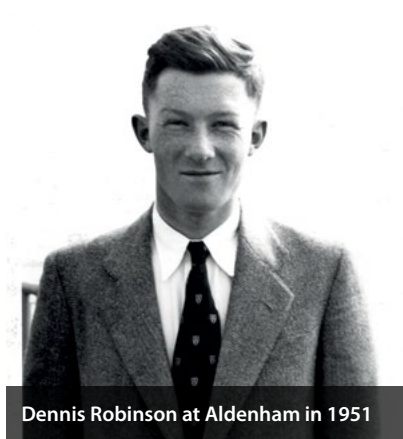
For almost his entire career, he taught at Eton College; heading the Modern Languages department and being a House Master.

He retired to Wallingford, Oxfordshire, where he pursued his interests in silver, walking, antiques and photography.

Mark was the uncle to one of our current Governors - **Alan Phillips (1977-82)**

Dennis William Robinson

4 June 1933 – 7 April 2024. Adaptation of the tribute from his funeral, written by his children Veronica, William and Sara.



Dennis Robinson at Aldenham in 1951

Dennis Robinson (SHO1947-51), devoted husband to Josephine, father to Veronica, William & Sara, Father-in-law to Rachel and Tim and Grandpapa to Loryn, Sophie, Edward, Matisse & Henry. To his friends Dennis, to his nephews and nieces, Uncle Dennis and at work Mr Dennis.

In writing Dad's tribute, some of his favourite sayings returned to our minds, such as "if a job is worth doing, it is worth doing well". With that in mind, you may have to bear with us as we now do our best to encapsulate our much loved fathers life.

In his own words, he enjoyed an extraordinarily long and fulfilled life. He was blessed that he remained sharp and bright as was his wish right to the end, often saying that he never thought he would outlive his wife, his brothers and their wives, to be the last surviving Robinson of his generation.

In 1946, aged 14 he moved to Aldenham School, in Hertfordshire, where he completed his Ordinary and Higher School Certificate examinations which were the forerunner to A levels. An indication of his ability to collect things is that his exam papers are still in his desk at home. He enjoyed his years at Aldenham and remained a proud Old Boy long after he left in 1951.

It was during Dad's school years that war broke out. Life changed for everyone. On leaving school Dad was called up for National Service, joining up

on 6 September 1951. He served as a gunner in the Royal Artillery for 2 years stationed at Port Siad (Si-eed) in Egypt. For those with an interest in history, he was there at the height of the Suez crisis. He would often say it was a period of great change. Dad left Britain with a King on the throne, arriving in Egypt to another King. When he left, Egypt had a President and Britain had crowned Queen Elizabeth the second.

Dad met our Mum (Josephine) and married 18 months later on Mum's 28th birthday, prompting a headline in the Stockport Express 'JP marries Barrister'. That was the start of their 52 year marriage.

Dad was passionate about our family business, it was a huge part of his life. Shortly after returning from National Service he joined the company in October 1953, as a trainee brewer. He was the first of his generation to join the business and the last to step away after over 70 years' service.

He was a founding trustee of the Battersby Trust, joining the board in 1963 and retiring in 2019. The trust built and maintained sheltered accommodation for residents of Stockport.

Dad was appointed as a magistrate in December 1964, at 31 he was the youngest person to be appointed to the bench in Stockport, a record I believe he still holds. During the 39 years which followed, he held the roles of Chairman of the Stockport Magistrates Court Committee and Chairman of the Bench.

After covid he would often say how fortunate he was to have his family close on hand who were able to call in and see him, very well aware that this is not always the case. He was able to drive to our houses, see his grandchildren grow and develop, with all the humour and fun that goes with that.

In the last 18 months Dad has enjoyed the company of Sara and Tim and their family in his house. He loved this daily interaction, the life it brought back to our childhood family home and the constant flow of visitors.

It also meant he could enjoy as much football as he wanted to watch knowing that Henry would be very happy to sit with him and chat about the players at any and every opportunity. I imagine much to our late mothers dismay, Sara would sometimes take his supper through so he could continue to watch the match.



Dennis with his wife Josephine in 2018 on their Golden Wedding anniversary with their five grandchildren.

Tributes to Jim Robinson (CR1974-85)

JASON VALLINT (K1984-89)

I was with **Andrew Aldridge (K1984-89)**, **David Edison (M1984-89)** and **Farshid Rameshni (SH1984-87)** only last week in London and we reminisced about time at Aldenham – and guess who featured as part of our memories? Yes, Jim Robinson. We compared how many ‘blues’ he had received and tried to recall who in particular he bestowed the coveted ‘blue’ on most frequently. I am sure some old boys will have a tally somewhere!

Never a great one for science, and struggled with Chemistry in particular, I nevertheless vividly recall the mandatory class recital of the periodic table with Jim leading the way, over 40 years ago. On one notable occasion **James Long (M1984-87)** (also sadly departed at too young an age) improvised by squeezing in the name of Kennedy’s Matron ‘Maureen’ in amongst the flow of “Chlorine, Fluorine and Bromine” in similar drawn-out Jim Robinson pronunciation while reciting out loud in front of the class.... a raucous laugh was emitted from the class of 13-year-old boys and I believe even Jim could not hide a smile while dishing out a well-deserved blue for the outburst.... ah, fond memories.... Let’s hope James and Jim can carry on the merry recital in the afterlife... may they both rest in peace.

NAMBI VISWALINGAM (K1974-76)

Wonderful memories of Jim Robinson from the day he arrived from Africa in January 1973 with a jeep covered in mud, which they diligently washed off before us dumbfounded students. Always called me Fitzwallingam, especially when I was dozing off in Chemistry. A private person in many ways, but with a big heart. And a strong, dauntless runner effortlessly leading us through the cowpat littered paddocks in the icy winters of Lent term. I had a wonderful chat with him when we met at **Chris Arkell’s (B1946-52 & CR1962-93)** funeral some years ago. He wrote down his email address for me, unfortunately

one or two words of the address must have been in error, so I was not able to make contact. A passing of an era, one of which I have nostalgia for, and of an adventurer who was willing to try something different. May the Lord watch over him and may he rest in peace.

KEITH WHEELER (SHO1978-83)

Rest In Peace Smiler!

KIYA SAFAI (K1974-77)

I have very fond memories of Mr. Robinson and had the pleasure of seeing him a few years ago at the Kennedy’s reunion.

I remember Mr. Robinson giving out “Blues” for being tardy to class, and for what he referred to as “tete-a-teting” during exams.

He had a great sense of humour; I once imitated him and told him to, “take a blue” for chewing on the corner of my homework paper...he smiled and said, “sorry, sorry”.

He’d allow a few classmates and myself to watch television on Sundays while he marked exams in his study across the hallway. There was always plenty of bread, butter, marmite, and coffee for us to enjoy while watching the football matches and the Muppets Show.

Great memories of a generous and kind mentor.

HENRY DICKINSON (K1975-80)

I was a pupil in Kennedy’s and took both O and A level Chemistry under Jim’s instruction.

Jim was known as “Smiler” by the boys, simply because he always was smiling. He had some very distinctive mannerisms, which some of the boys could emulate very convincingly, but always with affection.

Jim and I used to cross swords gently at the start of A level lessons as each of us had set our watches to the BBC and would debate to the second, which of us were late / early.

I have had a lifelong aptitude and use for inorganic chemistry (I’m still a

practising metallurgist), for which I have Jim to thank. He is very fondly remembered by many of us.

COLIN MARSHALL (M1975-80)

I spent many hours being taught Chemistry by Jim, notably at “A” level. Despite not knowing Jim on a personal level, he had a profound effect on me. He had mastered a teaching system which was spectacularly simple – he would give the hapless pupil the facts and the notes to learn, and if you spent the time learning, you would get a good result, with very little uncertainty in the outcome. I’m sure proponents of new teaching techniques would patronisingly frown on his system, which appears to be more akin to “rote” learning, but nobody could doubt its effectiveness. He did not seek to instil a “love” or fascination for chemistry but was laser-focussed on getting his pupils to pass exams – which actually was his role.

The reason why I value the fact I was in his class was not just because my good grade in Chemistry was probably a key factor to getting into University, it was also because he encouraged pursuing a serious work ethic, with self-evident benefits.

When I was at Aldenham I experienced the whole gamut of teachers, from the hopelessly-out-of-their-depth to pure mastery. Jim was one of the few at the “mastery” end of the scale. I always assumed his mastery was actually a natural consequence of his innate character. If I had been told he had, in his free time, contributed to finding a cure for cancer, or risked his life rescuing a small child in a river rapid, I would not have been surprised!

Jim was, in my mind, the classic “unsung hero” of an organisation. I don’t think they ever did this, but I believe Aldenham should have regularly shown his pupils’ examination results, along with all the other teachers’ results. I am pretty sure his results would have been exceptional. (And very (deserving)ly embarrassing to some of the less gifted teachers).

Jim made a difference to me, in a very positive way, and I thank him for that and wish I had told him that when he was alive.

PHIL JENKINS (SHO1980-84)

Sad news about Jim.

My first Chemistry master was **Ken Barnard (CR1956-91)**, then I moved up a year and a set into Jim's lessons. Fun times when things went right and when I look back at it now hilarious when things went wrong. I seem to remember a little fire we had in the lab! But like all things Aldenham, memorable.

Outside of classes Jim was also my Cross Country Master, along with **Terry Ford (CR1979-)**; a team I was honoured to be in for all my time at Aldenham. Saturday runs usually resulted in the team piling into his BMW, (more bodies

than seats) and heading off somewhere for a brisk 6 to 7 miler, usually with a strength sapping dirty great big hill at the end to where the car was.

TEJA SAFAI (K1974-77)

Sad news indeed.... I had the privilege of being a boy at Kennedy's during late Mr. Robinson's tenure. If I am not mistaken we both joined the Aldenham family in the same year. He was a well-travelled man and had even gone by land through Iran to India. We had both travelled the same route from the UK to Iran and had plenty to share and reminisce. The one funny thing that sticks out in my mind is a "Customs Transit" sticker that they had affixed on his windscreen upon his entry into Iran, which he was unable to peel off. He asked me what kind of glue we use in

Iran; as he could use it to fix some of his cracked English porcelain together. After each of his visits to Iran, he would enquire this of me. My answers varied, until I finally said that it was a National Secret that we used to keep the fibres of Persian rugs together for decades and centuries, thus making the Persian rugs everlasting and exceptional.

Naturally, he knew of the humour behind the comment and graciously accepted the fact that in order to get rid of the sticker, he either had to replace the windscreen or get rid of the car.

My profound condolences to his loved ones and the Aldenham family at large. God bless you and yours.

John Rutland Cowen (SHO1945-48)

Born in Petts Wood, Kent on 18 October 1931. Died on 3 July 2024 aged 92 years.

I am writing to tell you of the death of my husband, **John Cowen (SHO 1945-48)**, on 3rd July 2024. He was 92 years old.

After leaving Aldenham John spent the first 16 years of what was to prove a varied and interesting career, in advertising and marketing. In 1955, at age 23, his London employers selected him to set up and run a subsidiary company first in Lagos, Nigeria and later another one in Accra then in the Gold Coast, both of which were still Colonies at the time.

In what little spare time he had, John joined the Special Constabulary and, for the Royal Tour of Nigeria in 1956, he was chosen to drive the police escort car carrying the Royal Protection Officers for the Duke of Edinburgh.

Both enterprises were very successful but, in 1957, John contracted polio and was forced to leave Africa prematurely. Although he was totally paralysed, thanks to the dedicated care of his doctors, first in Lagos and then in London, and to the skill of the specialists in the Farnham Rehabilitation Centre, he was fortunate to make a complete recovery.

In 1966, in what was a dramatic change of career direction, John was headhunted to be the Deputy Group Managing Director of the publicly quoted Norcros Group, a large industrial holding company with 37 subsidiary companies, many of them household names such as the high-performance Jensen Motors, the quality kitchen unit manufacturer Hygena, Maws baby and nursery products, and Dow-Mac civil engineering products.

Another far-reaching change came in 1971 when Sir Maxwell Joseph appointed him Managing Director of Robert Fraser, a small merchant bank of which Sir Maxwell was the controlling shareholder. Within 4 months, Fraser acquired the much larger Henry Ansbacher, an old established merchant bank in the City of London, which led to the creation of the investment and merchant banking group, Fraser Ansbacher, of which Sir Maxwell was Chairman and Joint Group Managing Director as well as Chief Executive of Henry Ansbacher.

In 1978 he was persuaded to use his industrial and financial management experience to turn round ailing

companies (mainly publicly quoted) and, for the 14 years before he retired, this is what he did. Almost always in the combined role of Chairman and Chief Executive, it was a stressful occupation but, in saving the livelihoods of workers and the investments of shareholders, and meeting the just claims of often small creditors, one which he found extremely rewarding.

John retired in 1992 and, in 1998, he made the life-changing decision to swap Kensington for the peace and tranquillity of the beautiful Shropshire countryside, a decision neither of us ever regretted.

John is also survived by two daughters from his first marriage, four granddaughters, two great-grandsons and a great-granddaughter.

Written by his wife Suzanne Cowen

Christopher Stuart Carnaghan

A friend to many OAs over his lifetime, **Christopher Carnaghan (SHE1956-61)** was finally lost to us in March 2024 after a long illness.



Commercial Vice Consul in Strasbourg and Brussels. Very much a “people person” Chris moved into executive search, where he ran his own firm with considerable success over many years.

A man of many interests and pursuits, the greatest of which was his love and study of trees worldwide exemplified by his active involvement with The International Dendrology Society. He collected more than 20,000 books which he housed at his final home in King’s Langley. Fluent in French, Chris moved to Normandy when 60 years old, buying a charming property near Falaise then stocking the grounds generously with a wide range of saplings for the benefit of future owners and as a lasting testament of his vocation. There, in 2006, Chris hosted a reunion of his OA chums of School House intake 1956, now an annual event. At the close of 2023 he notified us that he had only a short while to live, so it was in January that a group of us arranged a lunch for him at The Three Horseshoes, Letchmore Heath. Chris insisted on picking up the bill, joking it was his last chance to stand us all a round. We have lost his encyclopaedic mind, his enthusiasm, his humour and his abiding friendship, but we are left with wonderful memories.

Derrick Swain (SHE1956-60)

He never allowed his optimism for life nor his thirst for knowledge to dim, despite long hospital stays and subsequent commuting to clinics. He will be sadly missed by his brother **Robert (SHE54-58)** who was also his closest friend and by his wife Sandra and their two sons.

Chris was born In British India during WWII where his parents were stationed at Belagavi (Belgaum), Karnataka State. Following Independence in 1947 the family moved to a new home in Watford. In later life Chris took on his father’s role administering The Indian Police Officers Association and was a committee member of BACSA, dedicated to the upkeep of British cemeteries in India.

Despite his poor eyesight Chris (aka “Naggers”) was a keen sportsman at Aldenham, playing in the First XI Football team. Always a leading scholar, he gained an open Exhibition to St. John’s

College, Cambridge where he acquired an MA in Social Anthropology. His interest in commerce led him to The London Graduate Business School, achieving an MSc. He spent several years abroad with the FCO, working as





Mary Galvin (Staff 1984-99)

We are very sad to announce that Mary Galvin, Kennedy's Housemaster's wife and Matron (1990-93), died on Sunday 17 March 2024.

Aldenham played a large part in Mary's life as she lived here as a child when her father, **David Wallace-Hadrill (CR1950-55 & 1962-86)** was Kennedy's 1st Housemaster. She went on to marry **Austin Galvin (CR1970-2006)** who was initially Head of Biology and then the 3rd Housemaster of Kennedy's. Mary and Austin's son, **Will Galvin (B1993-2000)**, was married in the Aldenham School Chapel in 2016. Their daughter, Eleanor married **Peter Duddles (CR2000-04)**, a Physics teacher and Martineau's House Tutor at the School and their daughter, Alice was also married at Aldenham in 2008.

We would like to extend heartfelt condolences to Austin, Alice, Will, Eleanor and Peter and their whole family, as well as to Mary's brothers, **Peter Wallace-Hadrill (B1961-66)**, **Ben Wallace-Hadrill (B1970-74)** and **Robert Wallace-Hadrill (B1973-77)**.

Mary's funeral was held at St John the Baptist Aldenham Church on Tuesday

16 April. A reception afterwards at Aldenham Golf Club was attended by many OAs and Aldenham friends who remember Mary fondly, including President of the OA Society, **Clare Yeabsley (K1988-1990)**. Clare has kept in touch with Austin and Mary Galvin, since being in their House as a student, this

is testament to their kindness and the care that they both showed to Aldenham students.

Mary's family very much appreciate the many tributes received from OAs, friends and colleagues at Aldenham.

Our thoughts are with all those affected by this loss.



Mary's daughters gave a heart, crafted by Mary, to Stephanie Barnard at her wedding in 1984 with Sue (Staff 1956-91) & Ken Barnard (CR1956-91) looking on

Ritchie James Harrison (B1952-56)

Ritchie James Harrison, aged 84, passed away on the 11 April 2024.

Ritchie, born on the 2nd May 1939, grew up in Roehampton, South West London before moving to Welwyn Garden City and followed in his father's footsteps studying at Aldenham School from 1952- 1956, where he was in Beevor's House.

Most of his life was spent in the sales and marketing of Tobacco, living in the Far East from 1994 to 2000, he returned to Bristol to retire in 2002.

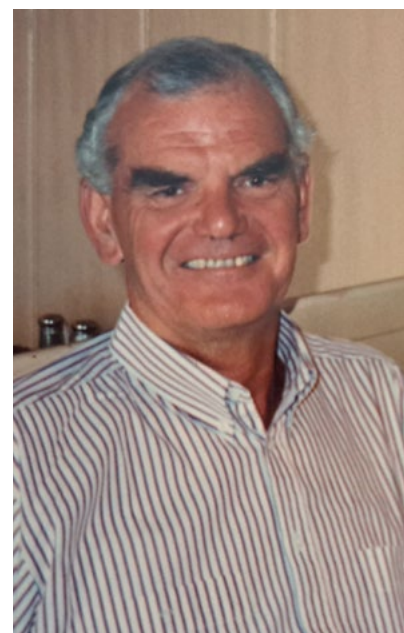
He married Megan in 1964, and went on to have two children. He had a love for all sports especially rugby and Formula 1, as well as reading a daily newspaper!

He is survived by Megan, two children and one granddaughter.

Tribute written by Dafina Keys, Ritchie's Daughter



Ritchie as a teenager with his father



Neil Douglas Melvill (K1965-70)

On a bright, sunny day in Hertfordshire, nearly 100 people gathered to say farewell to Neil, a superb supporter of the OAGS. This included 24 from Aldenham, several from the Lutine Golf Society, Ashridge Golf Club and the Hammers (a golfing group of which Neil and some OAs are members).



Neil's two sons, Alistair and Jonathan, spoke eloquently about their father. He was a keen sportsman at school, playing football, hockey, cricket, fives and squash. He was House Captain of Kennedy's before leaving in 1970.

Alistair described how Neil followed his father into the world of banking and investment where he enjoyed a successful career in Standard Chartered Bank, with a few spells abroad in Johannesburg and Hong Kong, and ending his career with the old established investment firm, Henderson Crosthwaite.

Both Alistair and Jonathan had some touching memories of family life. At Christmas, Santa's Grotto was essential even though it took hours and hours to assemble. At Easter, Neil would organise an Easter egg hunt which was fun except that the eggs were never found and Neil could not remember where he had hidden them!

Despite working in the City, he never fully embraced technology but Alistair explained that he did manage to sign up to a 4G network which included:-

Garden – he loved his garden with pond, fish and an (unwanted) heron.

Golf – at Ashridge and with the OAGS, Lutine, Seniors and Hammers.

Gastronomy – a good lunch or dinner with plenty of wine was de rigueur.

Generosity – not just with money but also time and family support.

NEIL MELVILL – HIS LIFE AS AN OLD ALDENHAMIAN

I first met Neil when we were both selected for the OAFK 2nd XI. Selection is something of a misnomer – we were both available and needed to make up a full team. He was a skilful, hard-working midfielder and difficult to shake off the ball when in possession.

I also met Gill who was a regular spectator at the OAFK matches. She trudged through the mud on Cooke's Fields, often in atrocious conditions and joined us in the Three Horseshoes afterwards for a well-earned drink. Neil and Gill married and although they divorced more than 20 years ago, they remained on good terms. It was very good to see her at the funeral, holding an OAGS plaque which we placed on Neil's coffin.

He was also a good squash player. He has played all his life, including OA squash with Phil Murphy, John Yule et al in the North Middlesex League.

As everyone finds, one's running speed has a nasty habit of declining so at this point Neil turned his attention to golf. Always a steady player, and a delight to play with, he joined the OAGS. He won an OAGS trophy on no less than 36 occasions, the first in 1995 when he and John Yule won the afternoon foursomes and the MT Allen Cup, a cup he won 8 times. Neil loved foursomes, especially after a good lunch, so it is no surprise that he won a foursomes trophy 22 times, 6 of them for the Prevost Salver on the infamous European Tour.

Neil played almost every time there was an OAGS event and is probably top of the attendance chart. A regular tourer in the UK and in Europe, he adored the chance to try out the cuisine in each venue and was always keen to examine the wine list. He was great company and his enthusiasm was infectious – and

probably responsible for many of my hangovers.

As a member of Lloyd's of London, he survived the worst of the crisis in the 80s and 90s but was always supportive of that great institution. He became a member of the Lutine Golf Society and was a conscientious supporter. It was good to see at least 5 LGS members at the funeral.

I must also thank James **James-Crook (M1968-72)**, the previous President of the OA Society, as well as Alexis Shead and Ann Saffery from Aldenham School for their presence.

All these things made it such a memorable experience.

And so we said farewell to a much loved OA who will long be remembered but not as a drug baron which his black Mercedes S-Class, elongated and with darkened windows, would indicate.

We will remember his 4G connectivity which made him a wonderfully kind, loyal and passionate man who contributed to everyone's enjoyment of life.

God bless you, Neil, and all your family.

Written by **Ian Eggeden (SHE1958-63)** October 2023



Sally Jane van Geesbergen (née Aylett) (K1983-85)

Sally sadly passed away on the 2nd March 2024 after a short illness.



After leaving school she trained at Seale Hayne, in Newton Abbot, Devon and qualified with an HND in Agriculture. During which time she had many placements on farms up and down the country, from lambing on a Welsh farm where she was mortified that she was unable to bring the poorly lambs home with her to looking after the pigs at Oakland's College which was probably the smelliest job - she was definitely made to undress on the back doorstep before coming in for a shower and some supper. Sally was always game for a challenge.

Alongside her love of animals Sally was artistic and loved music and sport, she was a keen netball player, runner and would give any sport or activity a go. She played the Clarinet, Saxophone and piano and was part of many orchestras and bands at school and college.

In her final year at Seale Hayne her interest turned to food and nutrition. When she returned from her round the world travels, she lived in London and started her own marketing business creating campaigns for Health Food Shops including Neal's Yard in Covent Garden. She went on to qualify as a personal trainer and helped many people struggling with their health.

She loved to travel and was very interested in people and their different cultures around the world. In 1990 she set off round the world starting a year of travel commencing in India she travelled to Indonesia, Australia and the Americas. More recently she invested in a camper van which she named Dolly, so she could go off with her children and create on their own adventures.

In the mid 1990's Sally moved back to St Albans, she married Eric in the Lady Chapel at St Albans Abbey in 2001, and

her twins, Hannah and William were born in 2003.

She had always had a keen interest in her family's business, Aylett Nurseries, and became involved with the Gift Shop. Her talent and skill in creating eye-catching displays made her a natural and soon she took over the buying and expansion of this part of the business. Her love in finding new suppliers amongst artists who were starting out or needing a helping hand is a true testament to her personality.

She was the kindest of people, always putting others before herself, and as many of you will remember she had a wicked sense of humour, loved to laugh, did not always like to conform but do things her way. Amongst so many things she particularly loved her garden, chickens, bringing in a harvest in the autumn, being self-sufficient, baking special birthday cakes, and taking trips in Dolly. She will be sorely missed by her family and friends.

Written by her sister, Julie née Aylett

Robin Francis Miller Forward (M1947-51)

He emigrated with his parents to Australia during the 1950s, and attended Melbourne University for one year before returning from Australia. At age 19, he disembarked the ship in Naples, Italy and rode his green BSA Bantam 125cc motorbike back across Europe to Gloucester. Following in his grandfather's footsteps he qualified in Medicine in 1959 at St Thomas's Hospital London. He gained further qualifications in obstetrics.

Returning to Australia, he worked as a GP and Occupational Health Doctor at an Open Cast Coal Mine where he first used his Anesthetics skills. The environment and basic facilities gave him the opportunity to put his practical

skills and natural ability to improvise, with what equipment he had, to the test.

On return to the UK he qualified as an anaesthetist and gained FRCA status. He was appointed Consultant Anesthetist at Yeovil Hospital 1972 where he gave 27 years service before retiring in 1999.

Highly respected in his field, he gained a reputation for being a very personable and well-liked colleague. Robin could always be relied on to crack a joke, have a good sense of fun and chat informally with his colleagues. All whilst maintaining a serious and professional approach to the procedures carried out.

Robin also developed his skills in writing poetry, His work was reviewed by

the then poet laureate Ted Hughes and has been published in academic journals worldwide. As a fellow of the Association of Anesthetists of the South West Region he published an anthology of 50 poems to celebrate their 50 year jubilee.

Robin also picked up his guitar and started singing, although his youngest granddaughter and the dog Mollie were the only audience to stick around!

Robin passed away peacefully on 14 January 2024 after enduring an illness that sadly took away his creative ability but he has left a comprehensive legacy to his family and those who knew him RIP.

Tribute from his wife Judy Forward

Tony Welton (SHO1940-44)

Tony sadly died on 14 October 2023. He was born on 25 May 1926 alongside his late twin brother Mick, **Roy Micheal Welton (SHO1940-44)** who died on 23 May 2018



Tony joined Aldenham School from Alleyn Court Prep School in Southend. He excelled at sports, especially hockey where he would eventually go on to play for the Essex County A Team.

From school Tony joined the navy in 1945 as a cipher clerk on board frigate HMS Dart, travelling extensively. When he was finally demobbed, he found himself in Ceylon and returned from there on HMS Ark Royal in 1947.

After his time in the Navy, having initially studied accountancy and simultaneously finding no appeal in the insurance industry (the family business was E.J. Welton of Lloyds) he was introduced to the Parker Pen Company.

At age 26, the European President asked Tony whether he would be interested in working in Southern Africa, an opportunity he grasped. Travelling from Heathrow on a 5-day flight to Salisbury in Southern Rhodesia (Zimbabwe) - which ultimately resulted in 18 years living in Africa. Tony married Irene just outside Salisbury in 1953, coincidentally, by a minister who had attended Aldenham School himself. Tony

and Irene had three children: Christopher (June 1954, Salisbury), Ashley (April 1956, Cape Town), Stephen (February 1961, Johannesburg). The turn of 1970/71 marked the family's return to England.

Tony's years with Parker took him to 52 countries around the world undertaking various senior positions in what proved to be both a successful and fulfilling career.

Retirement years were filled with Tony's trademark enthusiastic 'can do', 'want to do' style, spanning: father, grandfather, great grandfather, golfer, artist, freemason and volunteer. Outside work and family life Tony had many interests. Golf proved to be his main sporting pursuit and featured in every decade of his life. He became a member of The Royal Eastbourne Golf Club when relocating to the area in the early 80's, joining the Committee in 1993 and being elected Captain in 1994. In the same year he also took on the role as Treasurer, a role that he undertook for 11 years. Tony was made an Honorary Member in 2005.

In 1996 Tony, was invited to join the Masonic movement – in his case The

Royal Connaught Lodge No. 2676, Eastbourne where he would ultimately work his way up to Worshipful Master 7 years later. It was a significant accomplishment – particularly having only embarked on this just a few weeks before turning 70.

Tony was a supporter of various charitable organisations throughout his life, but one particularly worthy of mention was the RNLI where he was a volunteer in the seafront shop for 28 years. It might even have been longer but for the intervention of Covid but even so, he turned out to be their longest serving volunteer. In similar vein, Tony also spent many happy days helping in the Herstmonceux Castle Shop on behalf of the art group.

A natural and fitting place to end this tribute covers only a short period of his 97 years – but is perhaps the most poignant and high on the list of lasting memories. Tony visited St Wilfrid's Hospice in Eastbourne many times with family and friends, and this is where he ended his days. He was in their tender care for 8 weeks totally content, happy and at peace.



In Memory of John Apthorp (P1949-53)

A memorial service, organised by John Apthorp's family, was held at Aldenham on 25 October 2024.



Juliette Anthony, Sculptor with Dr Michael Wilson (SHE1941-45)

A memorial service, organised by John Apthorp's family, was held at Aldenham on 25 October 2024. The service was attended by over 300 friends, family, business colleagues, employees and charity beneficiaries.

Dr Nigel J Balcombe paid tribute to his friend John, who he had known for 60 years saying:

"It's certainly no surprise to see so many people here today to honour to the life of John Apthorp, because John was a man who altered several facets of our daily lives. From selling pre-washed, potatoes, door-to-door with his father to floating Bejam, then Lodge Care Nursing Home company and finally, Majestic Wine. John was truly a lateral thinker who boasted not having gained GCE 'A' levels, nevertheless he became a Governor of an Academy. He was extraordinarily 'Innovative and Smart' in his thinking.

John set up The Millie Apthorp Trust, named in memory of his mother. Through this Trust a large amount of money was distributed to many worthwhile causes, a good percentage of them close to Barnet, here in Aldenham and Radlett.

After the sad loss of his dear wife, Jane, 6 yrs ago John retreated from his active social life, although he continued to enjoy the company of his friends. John was very proud of his children, his many grandchildren and all their achievements.

If John were here today, I suspect he would simply say 'goodbye' using that Fisherman's phrase of which he was so fond "Tight Lines!!"



Finally, some words by Robert Louis Stevenson:

"The man is a success, who has lived well, laughed often, & loved much. Who has gained the respect of 'intelligent men,' and the love of children."

This seems to encompass John, a truly generous, unique and outstanding giant of our time."

The School was honoured to host a memorial to one of its greatest OA supporters and for a family with strong Aldenham connections. John's son, **Justin Apthorp (P1975-80)**, his Grandson **Jamie Arnold (M2010-11)** and Great Nieces, **Molly (P2013-20)** and **Charlotte Goldingham (P2018-21)** all attended Aldenham as did his brother, **Dr Brian Apthorp (P1951-56)**. Two of Justin's closest friends are also OAs, brothers **Paul (K1976-81)** and **Stephen Kendall (K1978-81)**, both were sporting their OA Society ties.

The congregation included **Dr Michael Wilson (SHE1941-45)** a

longtime Apthorp family friend, Sue Barnard, widow of **Ken Barnard (CR1956-91)**, 6th Housemaster of Beevor's 1967-82, and Juliette Anthony, a local artist who made the bronze cross that hangs in the Chapel today. Her sculpture replaced the renowned Stanley Spencer painting which was displayed above the alter until the early 1990's.

During the service John's granddaughter, described her 'Dearest Grandpa John' as: *"The best Grandpa I could have asked for and the Heart and Soul of our family"*.

There is no doubt that John Apthorp was one of a kind, a generous man, who gave so much to the local community, including Aldenham and his old Prep School, Edge Grove. It was fitting that his memorial was held at the School where his memory will live on as The Apthorp Room in The Wells Centre and the Apthorp Studio in Vincent House, Aldenham Prep School, are named in his honour. He will be truly missed.

John Sang Kinross (M1947-52)

Adaptation of the Eulogy from John Kinross's funeral

John Sang Kinross was born in Ealing in 1933, to his Scottish parents John & Mary. His father, a city financier, built a new house in Haslemere in Surrey called Springfold, where John grew up with his older sister Mary and younger sister Sheila.

John was sent to Aldenham school in north London, chosen because it was close to his father and his new family at Woodmans Farm. On his visits there he helped sell day old chicks at St Albans market and drove a three wheeled tractor for the market garden.

Aldenham brought many lifelong friends and the chance to play more sports. A tennis match for the 3rd team was arranged against a friend's sister's school. John played mixed doubles with a "Mary Smith" who expertly wielded an expensive Dunlop Maxply racket. Many years later on a visit to the Danish royal palace, a photograph of a young girl in tennis whites with a Maxply racket was spotted on the mantelpiece.

Aldenham did not give John the grades to study history at university so at his father's insistence he was made

to study accountancy. So he was glad to escape when he was called up for National Service. After basic training in West Kirby in the Wirral he was sent to RAF Credenhill where he was taught to type on an Imperial typewriter. Four months later and after a long flight via Malta he became a medical clerk at RAF Aden where he joined the hockey, tennis and sailing clubs. He arranged to spend a fortnight's leave in Kenya, but when the plane landed in Mombasa it was met by his younger cousin Richard Hall in a Rolls Royce staff car with driver. He was taken straight to play in the Governor's tennis tournament in his Bermuda shorts and stayed with the Halls, never joining his friends at the Nyali beach hut.

After two years of National Service he bought a newer MG TC and worked for Nelsons publishers in Edinburgh where he visited his grandmother on Sunday lunchtimes. He married Jacy in 1962 and they went to live in Addison Gardens, but she was disappointed when he was forced to trade in the MG for a Mini by his father.

In 1965 they moved to Weedon in Buckinghamshire where Alastair and Phoebe soon joined them. In the 1970s they moved to an old rectory near an abandoned village called Fleet Marston. The small church still stood in the brambles nearby. A threat to build a new London airport nearby spearheaded the successful "Wings off Wing" campaign that eventually picked Stansted instead and Phoebe's first protest march aged 5.

Jacy and John still travelled the country visiting gardens, houses, a different cathedral every Easter and Pitlochry for the Scottish theatre in the summer. A series of books on small churches followed, inspired by Fleet Marston, and a series on castles, churches, chapels and houses of the Marches. When the Bee Books business was sold it reappeared the following week as Bumblebee Books New & Old.

His time in hospital was not good without speech, but he finally escaped to a stately nursing home where the nurses reported that he had made them laugh one way or another.

Robert Griffen (M1944-47)

My father passed away on 9 November 2023. My father loved his time at Aldenham and spoke fondly of his cricket playing. He also spoke about when my grandfather was asked to attend a drill parade as an ex-regimental sergeant major in the Irish Guards. My Dad continued his link with Aldenham by sending me to Camp Aldenham.

Written by his daughter Liz Kay (née Griffen)

Tom Winfield (M1944-47)

He was 93 years old and we were married nearly 68 years. So I really feel lucky we were together for so long and have three children and six grandchildren and one great granddaughter.

Our two sons, son in law and three grandsons carried him into the chapel for his funeral on 10 January 2024. They all were with me the day before he died and our two sons were with him when he passed away. They are helping me so much and feel very lucky to have their support.

Written by Tom's wife, Gina Winfield



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2025 Annual OA Dinner

Saturday 15 March 2025 at Aldenham

This popular annual event will be held on Saturday 15th March at Aldenham.

This occasion provides a chance to catch up with school friends, celebrate anniversaries and meet new people in the unique OA network.

We look forward to seeing a full Dining Hall once again.

Tickets: £60 PER PERSON
(OA Society member and guest).

£50 per person for those 25 or
under on the day of the Dinner.

£65 per person for Non-members
of the OA Society.

The OA Society will subsidise
members and their partner.

Price will include pre-dinner
drinks, wine with dinner and
coffee with mints.

There will be a cash bar for
additional wine and soft drinks.

Wine £10 per bottle.

Members may book and pay
online ([oldaldenhamian.org/
OAEvents](http://oldaldenhamian.org/OAEvents)) for themselves and
a guest.

To reserve a full table
(10/12 bookings), please email
jackie@aldenham.com or call
01923 851614.

When booking please state any
dietary requirements or let the
OA Office know prior to the
evening.

Abbie James

From Aldenham prodigy to outstanding professional, **Abbie James (P2012-17)** will return to Aldenham to wow the Dinner guests with a virtuoso performance. Abbie first performed at Aldenham as a Year 7 student in September 2012 at the opening of The Wells Centre and again at the OA Dinner that year. It will be great to welcome her back to the School in her now professional capacity.

Abbie James is a talented acoustic and electric violinist. She has dazzled audiences with her energy and talent at high-profile events such as Watches of Switzerland and Paco Rabanne, as well as premium celebrity weddings in the UK and around the world. Abbie has starred on television on numerous occasions, notably performances on This Morning's Christmas Day Special with Sir Cliff Richard, The BRIT Awards with Ed Sheeran, and Michael McIntyre's Big Show.

