



CCF cadets with HRH Prince Charles outside Wellington Barracks before marching to the Cenotaph on Remembrance Sunday.

FEBRUARY 2012

HEADMASTER'S MESSAGE

I am sure that many of you will be as saddened, as I was last week, to hear the news of the death of two distinguished former members of staff. Firstly, Paul Griffin, who as Headmaster from 1962 to 1974 oversaw one of the most turbulent periods of the School's history, known forever I suspect as the "If" generation. He himself described the Sixties as "dreadful" and there is little doubt that he did a great deal to keep the ideas of school authority alive against the prevailing tide. He kept in touch with the School up until the time of his death in Suffolk where he maintained his interest in writing poetry. Secondly, there has been news in the last few days of the untimely death of Geoffrey Barker, former Director of Music, from cancer. I know that many OAs will join me in sending condolences to their wives and families.

Over the last few months I have been delighted by the warm response to the new book about the school, "A Foundation for Success" which was edited so skilfully by Roger Payne and to which many OAs were initial subscribers. Copies do remain for sale at a price of £35 (£40 inc p&p). The launch event was a particularly happy event, as was an unexpected visit of Marcus Blake (Paull's 1951-6) in November, whose remarkable family spanning five generations at Aldenham is illustrated on p32 and 33 of the new volume.

And as each week passes we are getting ever closer to the completion of The Wells Centre. This project has proceeded very smoothly over the winter, with the green oak frame now complete and the contractors still well on course for mid-summer completion. I have been most gratified by the number of OAs who have been keen to support this project, but would urge any others who would consider buying a beam or making a development donation to contact Ann Saffery in the OA Office as soon as possible. We were very well aware of the main mailing having been sent out just before the Christmas rush, but would hope to draw your attention once again to this most exciting opportunity now that we are settled in the New Year.

I very much look forward to seeing many of you at OA or School events during the course of 2012.

James Fowler
Headmaster

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Firstly, may I wish you and your families all the best for 2012, which promises to be a challenging and yet exciting year. I sincerely hope that you find the time to enjoy some of the activities offered by the OA Society and Aldenham School and look forward to seeing you in due course.

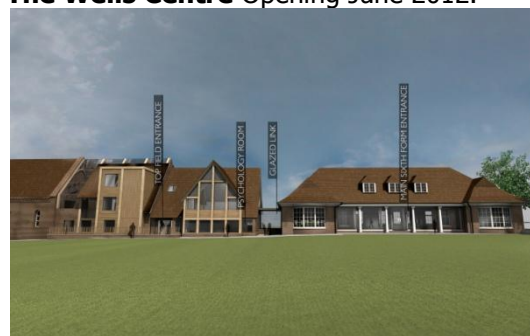
There are two key things on my agenda for development and sustainability of the OA Society. The first is an urgent need to identify a new Editor for

DEVELOPMENT & OA E-NEWSLETTER

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Date	Event
Weds 7TH March 2012	OA Society AGM – 6.00 pm – Aldenham School
Weds 25th April 2012	Regional Lunch – South West Region, Yeovil
Mon 14th May '12	Brewers' Hall Event <u>Details TBC</u>
Spring '12	New York Lunch <u>Venue TBC</u>
Sunday 24th June 2012	OA Day - Kennedy's Gaudy & 50 Year Celebration - Aldenham School
Full Calendar	<u>http://www.aldenham.com/oldald/index.php</u>

The Wells Centre Opening June 2012.



Aldenhamiana. This important role is vital to the OA Society's communication process and the magazine is always well received by OAs of all generations. Our new OA & Development Manager, Ann Saffery, has a wealth of experience in producing publications for education and charities and will be able to support the volunteer, to ensure that deadlines are met and that the quality of the magazine is upheld. Please do feel free to talk to Ann if you can offer your time and skills, so that we can continue to produce our popular magazine. I am also very keen to establish a Mentoring Scheme for OA Members. There is a huge pool of knowledge and experience in our Society and by sharing this with each other I feel sure that there will be benefits all round. I hope that many of you will agree and sign up to the scheme, either by offering your support as a Mentor or by seeking impartial advice for your professional development. I see this as a real incentive for existing members to continue to support the OA Society and as an attractive benefit to attract new membership from school leavers.

Neil Sutherland (B1966-70)
President of the OA Society

NEWS

THE WELLS CENTRE UPDATE

The Wells Centre Development is progressing well and is on schedule for completion in June this year – Those of you that plan to visit on OA Day will be able to see the new facilities. The school website development pages are regularly updated with the latest pictures of The Wells Centre Development, so that you can see the various stages:

http://www.aldenham.com/devel/Latest_Pictures.php

The green oak frame, which is a key design feature of The Wells Centre and the focus of our current fundraising campaign, is now in place. **Thank you to everyone that has supported the development so far. We have already raised nearly £150,000 through beam sponsorship, development donations and pledges.** Particular thanks to the Aphthorp family for sponsoring two of the main beams in the green oak frame and also the upper floor meeting room, which will be named after them.

The whole project will cost £2.3 million and our fundraising target is £350,000. If you would like more information about how you can help us to ensure that Aldenham continues to develop and thrive into the future, please contact the Development & OA Office.

For full details about our vision and in particular The Wells Centre Development: <http://www.aldenham.com/devel/index.php>

ALDENHAM SCHOOL – A FOUNDATION FOR SUCCESS

The new History book, Aldenham School – *A Foundation for Success* was launched in November to great acclaim from everyone that had pre-ordered their copy of the book. Written by Roger Payne (CR1971-2000) and commissioned to celebrate the success of Aldenham over more than 400 years, the book charts the history from Richard Platt's original foundation, through the Quatercentenary celebrations and Princess Anne's visit in 1998 to an inspiring vision for the future of the school. If you haven't already bought a copy, please do so now – you will be delighted by the quality and content of the publication.

<http://tmiltd.typepad.com/aldenhamschoolbook>

OA SOCIETY MENTORING SCHEME

The President of the OA Society, Neil Sutherland, has mentored young people for some years and is keen to introduce a scheme for OA members to provide and to benefit from.

Mentoring is: "helping and supporting people to manage their own learning in order to maximize their potential, develop their skills, improve their performance and become the person they want to be" (Parsloe, 1992).

OAs that are interested in participating in this new initiative, either as a Mentor



The green oak frame – Have you sponsored a beam yet?



Purlins £450, King posts £1,200, Tie Beams £5,000 (less tax if Gift Aided).



Roger Payne signs a book for Frank Rogers (SHE1953-58).



Friends re-unite at a reception for subscribers to the History Book.



or a Mentee, are invited to register this with the OA Office. Details such as current position, work location, experience and qualifications will be collected to enable the OA Society to make suitable matches.

Neil has offered to run a briefing session for Mentors in due course, which will be hosted at Aldenham and we hope that the scheme will encourage valuable new connections between members and be a key benefit to belonging to the OA Society.

Please email Ann Saffery aesaffery@aldenham.com or Jackie Wilkie Jackie@aldenham.com to register your interest or for more information.

REMEMBRANCE

On 11 November a very moving Remembrance Service was held in the School Chapel. The bell was rung 288 times as tribute was paid to the 288 Old Aldenhamians who had perished in past conflicts. On the following Sunday, members of the school community joined in the Letchmore Heath Remembrance Parade and some CCF cadets met HRH Prince Charles before attending a wreath laying ceremony and thanksgiving service in the Welsh Guards Chapel at Wellington Barracks in London.

ANNUAL DINNER

Over 80 people attended the Annual OA Society Dinner at Aldenham on Friday 18th November. It was a splendid occasion and a great opportunity to catch up with friends and to forge new acquaintances with fellow OAs, their partners and associates.

The Pre Dinner Talk was excellently presented by Sir Martin Sweeting OBE (B1964-70). Sir Martin is Director of the Surrey Space Centre and CEO of Surrey Satellite Technology Ltd. His talk highlighted the modern world's dependence on satellite technology and how this continues to develop with some astonishing ideas for the future.

Details for this year's OA Dinner will be announced shortly on the school website.

<http://www.aldenham.com/oldald/index.php>

The OA Committee is now giving consideration to this year's Dinner. The feeling is that Aldenham is the most popular location for this event, judging by the increasing take up over the last few years and the particularly lively atmosphere and good food this year. The OA Office is always happy to provide details of places to stay in the area, for those that wish to make a night of it. As the enhanced music facilities in The Wells Centre will be open, it has been suggested that an OA musical performance, instead of a pre-dinner talk, may be popular.

In 2013 a London venue may be used again, perhaps in the St Pancras area, as Richard Platt had owned land there which was compulsorily purchased to make way for the railway terminus. Some of the funds generated from this sale were used to support Aldenham. The Committee invites venue suggestions for the 2013 OA Dinner.

ARTHUR DUNN CUP

The OA Footballers had a great start to the season and, through a hard fought battle and replay, secured a place in the second round of the Arthur Dunn Cup. Sadly they were knocked out by Old Tonbridgians, "a better side on the day" according to Martyn Berg (B1989-94), the Club's Chairman. In his match report Martyn also gratefully acknowledged the support from different generations of OAs, whose encouragement from the sidelines was much appreciated by the players and the Club as a whole.

FUTURE PLANS

REGIONAL LUNCH – SOUTH WEST

The next Regional Lunch will be held at Little Barwick House, Barwick, Nr Yeovil, Somerset <http://www.littlebarwick.co.uk/> on Wednesday 25th April. Thank you

Reverend Bond leads the whole school in remembrance of OAs lost in conflict



Headmaster, James Fowler and Head Boy, Stephen Wright laid wreaths in Letchmore Heath.



The school band, led by John Wyatt, Director of Music, accompanied the village remembrance service.



Sir Martin Sweeting speaking before the OA Dinner 2011.



OAs meet in the Library before the Dinner.

to Judith Graham, who lived and worked at Aldenham for many years, for this recommendation. Invitations will be sent shortly to OAs in the South West and if you would like to attend please contact Ann Saffery aesaffery@aldenham.com Or complete and return the reply slip [http://www.aldenham.com/uploads2/1/Reply_Slip - Little Barwick House 1.pdf](http://www.aldenham.com/uploads2/1/Reply_Slip_-_Little_Barwick_House_1.pdf)

New York

Peter Shaerf (P1967-71) wrote to suggest that it is time for another OA gathering in New York, as the last one was in 2003. To our knowledge there are currently 12 OAs living and working in New York, so look out for further information to be confirmed shortly.

ALDENHAM.NET

The next OA business networking meeting *aldenham.net* is likely to be held in London – further details will be with you soon. If you have not already registered your interest in belonging to this group and would like to receive invitations to events, please contact Jackie Wilkie Jackie@aldenham.com

OA DAY – SUNDAY 24th JUNE 2012

All OAs are invited to visit the School on OA Day which includes a Chapel Service, reception and lunch. This year the day will focus on a Gaudy Reunion for Kennedy's House, which celebrates its 50th Anniversary. To see the programme for the day and to register interest please go to: http://www.aldenham.com/uploads2/1/2012_OA_Day_Flyer_1st_draft.pdf

RICHARD PLATT SOCIETY

Members of the Richard Platt Society are people who have left a gift in their will to the School. They leave these gifts for different reasons indeed Richard Platt himself left orders in his will for the establishment of the school to acknowledge his own fortune. Whatever the reason and whatever the gift, a commitment of this sort will provide the school with a secure Bursaries Fund and enable it to offer academic, cultural and sporting facilities that will attract the quality of student that is synonymous with Aldenham. If you would like more information please contact the Development Manager, Ann Saffery aesaffery@aldenham.com

ALDENHAMIANA – EDITOR WANTED

Having edited and produced 17 editions of *Aldenhamiana* – The OA Society's annual magazine, Trevor Barton (K1971-75) has retired from the post. **We are looking for someone to fill Trevor's shoes – could this be you?**

The magazine is published and distributed in the Autumn and requires someone with a flair for journalism and an eye for design. They will be supported by the OA Office who will collect interesting stories, pictures and information from OAs throughout the year and will help with copy writing, layout, proof reading and arranging publication and distribution.

The Editor of *Aldenhamiana* is also a member of the OA Society Committee, which meets four times a year.

This is your magazine and we are keen that it has the leadership of an OA, to ensure that it has the feel and content that members will enjoy. Please contact Neil Sutherland familysutherland@talktalk.net or Ann Saffery aesaffery@aldenham.com for further information or to pursue this opportunity.

NEWS & VIEWS

The OA Office is always delighted to hear from OAs. We receive calls and post daily from people all over the World, sometimes with pictures from the past and the present. Please keep this coming so that we can share your exploits with the whole school community and especially your OA contemporaries.

It is particularly important to keep us informed of Births, Deaths & Marriages and change of address – so that the information we hold is up to date.

Please send items to the OA Assistant, Jackie Wilkie Jackie@aldenham.com



From left to right: John Handcock (SHE1944-47), John's Wife Peggy and his brother Michael Handcock (SHE1945-49).



A Winning Team – Arthur Dunn Cup Replay against Old Chigwellians, Saturday 3rd December '11.

Back Row, left to right:

Max Raby (L2004-11), Jason Adebisi (M2003-05), Ross Pincus (R2002-07), Ben Weinberg (L2002-09), Matthew Miel (K1996-03), Chris Papadopoulos (L2004-09), Thomas Beckley (M2006-10), Conor Woolley (P1999-2006), Martyn Berg (B1989-94), Toks Sotande-Peters (K1996-2003)

Front Row, left to right:

Kevin Worsnop (B1992-97), Hamoun Jamali (L2003-08), Patrick Harding (L1997-2002), Oli Salami (B2004-09), Tom Hall (B2000-07)



Bill Waite (CR1982-00) was Head of Mathematics 83-89, and Housemaster of McGill's 89-02. He retired in 2008, having been diagnosed first with PSP, and then Parkinson's in 2009.

To raise public awareness of Parkinson's and other neurological conditions, and to raise money for vital research, Bill has organised, and is taking on the exciting challenge of playing 18 golf courses in May 2012. The challenge will take place in the US and Canada. Bill will be seeking sponsorship through the 'Just Giving' web-site and would love to hear from people he knew at Aldenham. Bill can be contacted via email at: bill@PDpG.org.uk

If you are unable to read this e-Newsletter you will also find it at

<http://www.aldenham.com/develbulletins/index.php>

or should you have any comments or feedback with regard to this e-bulletin please contact please contact:

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