



OAs met on the 67<sup>th</sup> floor of the Chrysler Building in New York

## DEVELOPMENT & OA E-NEWSLETTER

**May 2012**

### HEADMASTER'S MESSAGE

I have greatly enjoyed having the opportunity to meet a significant number of OAs over the last month with three specific events taking place. Firstly, the OA reunion in New York City which was memorable not least for the opportunity to begin the evening at the top of the Chrysler Building, where Peter Shaerf has his office. The range of OAs and their partners who were able to join us reflected on the special part that the School had to play in their lives, in most cases before they emigrated. I also took the chance to find out more about the US education system which, certainly at university level, is increasingly attractive to UK students who face rising university fees.

Only a few days after New York, Ann Saffery and I were delighted to be able to take over the whole restaurant at Little Barwick House near Yeovil as the venue for our South West regional lunch. In talking to a range of guests there, it became apparent that some had never had the chance to revisit the School since leaving and I am always keen to encourage those who would like to do so to come back and see us. A normal school day in term time is ideal with the chance to see the School in action, but if you contact Ann Saffery or Jackie Wilkie they will of course be able to arrange a suitable time.

Last week's event at Brewers' Hall was a celebration both of progress on The Wells Centre and also of the ancient links between the Brewers' Company and the School. On display, by permission of the Guildhall museum, was the original charter to found the school given to Richard Platt by Queen Elizabeth I. In the Diamond Jubilee year we are especially keen to recognise that our school's origins go back to the first Elizabethan age. In fact we are linking these facts together this year with the first completion of the Brewers' Bowl competition which will be competed for by boys' and girls' senior houses and includes competitions in music, drama, chess, business challenge, public speaking and archery. The last element commemorates the wish of the founder in his original instructions that boys were to play only on Thursday afternoons with "bowes and arrows for the better exercising of their bodies".

I am delighted that so many of you with Kennedy's connections will be joining us for their special celebration of 50 years in that house on OA Day and look forward to seeing you then or at other events over the summer.

**James Fowler**  
**Headmaster**

### DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Date	Event
<b>Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> June 2012</b>	<b>OA Day – Kennedy's Gaudy</b>
<b>Monday 25<sup>th</sup> June</b>	<b>Evensong venue and details TBC</b>
<b>Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> June</b>	<b>Cricket – John Dewes XI at Aldenham</b>
<b>Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> June</b>	<b>Hockey – School v OAs at Aldenham</b>
<b>Friday 6<sup>th</sup> July</b>	<b>Eros to Eros Run</b>
<b>Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> August</b>	<b>Memorial for John McAllister at Aldenham</b>
<b>Friday 14<sup>th</sup> September</b>	<b>Opening of The Wells Centre</b>
<b>Friday 16<sup>th</sup> November</b>	<b>OA Annual Dinner at Aldenham</b>

### NEW YORK DINNER Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> April



**Front Row**, from left to right: James Fowler, Headmaster, Jonathan Brett (M1963-68), Michael Little (B1954-57),

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Welcome to another edition of the e-newsletter, which I am sure you will agree is both interesting and an excellent way of keeping in touch with OAs across the globe. Recent alumni events have shown just how much OAs value their contacts with friends and keeping up to date with the School. It is very encouraging to see how much support there is for The Wells Centre Appeal, which will provide some outstanding facilities for the expanding Sixth Form. Please do consider if you can help the appeal, as pupils at Aldenham we have all benefitted from previous appeals when enjoying the facilities of the School, so OA contributions are particularly welcome.

OA Day will be our next major event, on Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> June and I am sure that Kennedians will come from afar to take part in the House's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration. Our ever popular OA Dinner on Friday 16<sup>th</sup> November will give everyone an opportunity to be entertained in The Wells Centre before the meal. We expect a large turnout of OAs at the Memorial Service for John McAllister on Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> August and will print the inspirational address given by Canon Joe Hawes (SHO1978-83) at John's funeral in the next *Aldenhamiana*.

I was delighted to have received three applications for the editorship of our alumni magazine and, capitalising on a breadth of creative talent, we have formed an editorial team under James James-Crook (M1968-72) and look forward to this year's edition in the Autumn. I hope you enjoy this newsletter and my thanks to Ann Saffery and Jackie Wilkie for their sterling work in making it so interesting and attractive.

**Neil Sutherland (B1966-70)**  
**President, OA Society**

## EVENT NEWS

### NEW YORK DINNER

Peter Shaerf (P1967-71) reports:

"April 21st heralded the first OA gathering in New York since 2003. It was high time!

Taking advantage of a school break, Headmaster James Fowler and his wife, Dr. Charlotte Fowler picked a perfect week, weatherwise, to visit NY.

There was a very good turnout indeed. We had 14 OAs and their companions spanning the years from 1950 to 2002 and representing all houses.

Geographically the OAs came from along the east coast from Connecticut through New York down to Virginia and North Carolina and even from Illinois. The party began at my office atop the Chrysler Building. This was a big draw - the office, in the bottom of the spire, affords wonderful views of the city and the perfect weather created great opportunities for photography and for soaking up the NY atmosphere.

We then walked a couple of blocks to a delightful Italian restaurant where the evening continued with a fine, jovial spirit that allowed OAs of different generations to share and hear from the Headmaster of the developments at the school.

New friendships were forged, old ones renewed and the Aldenham spirit was omnipresent."

### REGIONAL LUNCH – SOUTH WEST

Little Barwick House in Yeovil proved a popular location for the Regional Lunch, attracting 27 OAs to book places. The only thing that went against us on the day was the weather. The howling winds and torrential rain made travel conditions treacherous and outside photography impossible. Fortunately the OA spirit was not dampened and the 42 people present enjoyed a delightful meal in good company, sharing anecdotes of times at school and swapping interests.

Maggie Hilderley (B2000-02), Babak Amirfeiz (SHO1978-81) **Middle Row:** Peter Shaerf (P1967-71), Teja Safai (K1974-77), Charlotte Ibarra (B1993-95), Tom Hilderley (SHO1959-62) **Back Row:** Dick Richards (M1963-68), Timothy Scopes (SHE1965-70), Mat North (R1991-96), Kiya Safai (K1974-77), Rob Gibbs (M1990-95), John Dyson (SHO1950-55)



Wives and girlfriends, from left to right: Betsy Scherl, Nazli Shivazi, Nadia Scopes, Brigita Betsworth, Clio Rubinos, Connie Richards, Charlotte Fowler, Susan Seidelman & Lynn Little



Swapping stories and catching up



## SPRING CELEBRATION

Members of *aldenham.net* the OA Business Networking group were invited to Brewers' Hall to see artefacts from the Brewers' Company archives and to join the Headmaster in celebrating the progress of The Wells Centre Development, with OAs, Parents and other Benefactors.

If you would like to join *aldenham.net* please register your interest with Jackie Wilkie [jackie@aldenham.com](mailto:jackie@aldenham.com)

The aim of *aldenham.net* is to provide opportunities for OAs to meet informally to exchange business details, which may be mutually beneficial.

## FUTURE PLANS

### OA DAY – SUNDAY 24<sup>th</sup> JUNE 2012

Over 100 people have already registered their intention to come to OA Day and we look forward to welcoming them all back to Aldenham.

The focus this year will be on Kennedy's House as it is their 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. What were you doing in 1962 when Kennedy's first opened?

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QO5WJh6HAPg>

Where were you in '72?

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-9JOmU2jFUo&feature=related>

What were you up to in '82?

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sE1ppCuLXmc>

Were you with us in '92?

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-zVChf15jJE>

We all remember 2002!

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nbJyB67dMcc>

Now here we are in 2012 – Please let us know if you want to join us to share your memories, see 'Aldenham today' and celebrate 50 years of Kennedy's.

[http://www.aldenham.com/uploads2/1/2012\\_OA\\_Day\\_Flyer\\_1st\\_draft.pdf](http://www.aldenham.com/uploads2/1/2012_OA_Day_Flyer_1st_draft.pdf)

### MEMORIAL FOR JOHN MCALLISTER

Many people attended the funeral to pay respects to John McAllister and we are now planning a Memorial Service to be held in the School Chapel on Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> August. This date was the one that suited the McAllister family best and we hope that, despite it being the holiday season, many of you will be able to join us and celebrate John's life. There will be a Chapel service at 2.30pm, which will be followed by afternoon tea.

Please let Jackie Wilkie know if you plan to come to the memorial service

[Jackie@aldenham.com](mailto:Jackie@aldenham.com)

### ANNUAL DINNER

The date for the Annual Dinner has been set for Friday 16<sup>th</sup> November and it will once again be at Aldenham. There will be a chance to admire The Wells Centre and enjoy some pre-dinner entertainment in this new building.

Consideration is being given to London venues for the 2013 Dinner; suggestions so far include St Pancras Hotel, the RAF Club and the East India Club. Please let the OA Committee, via Jackie Wilkie, know your preference or if you have any other suggestions for consideration [Jackie@aldenham.com](mailto:Jackie@aldenham.com).

## CLUB NEWS

### FIVES

#### Heath Tournament

Amidst bright sunshine, Graham Pulsford (M1971-75) and Aldenham schoolboy Darshan Patel overcame strong competition from Chris Austin and Richard Dennis, to win the final of the annual Heath Tournament on Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> May 2012. Chris and Richard now play for Aldenham, although they attended Wolverhampton Grammar and Berkhamstead Schools respectively.

Twenty four players turned out for the Aldenham competition this year, with several players from North Oxford, despite being scheduled for a second game



### SOUTH WEST REGIONAL LUNCH –

Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> April

39 OAs and guests joined the Headmaster, OA President and the Development & OA Manager for lunch in Yeovil.



The Headmaster, right chats to John Haines (SHO1944-49) and Wendy Upton, wife of Christopher Upton (M1944-48)



From left to right: David Hubble (P1955-59), Frank Rogers (SHE1953-58) & David Meldrum (SHO1955-59)

at Marlborough School in Wiltshire, later the same day.

All pairs played five games of 20 minutes each with a sixth game played to determine the overall winners. Graham and Darshan were awarded the cup and Heath shirts by the Master of Ceremonies, Jim Fredenham from Aldenham. It was also Jim's job to select two players who gave their all and "played out of their socks", he chose North Oxford's Karen Hird and Aldenham's Dave Goad (SHE1973-78) to receive the accolade.

The event closed with a barbecue, which was enjoyed by everyone.

**The Fives Club meets weekly at Aldenham on Tuesday nights from 7.30pm and welcomes new players. If you are interested in joining, please contact Phil Lyndon (K1976-81) [phil@columncomm.co.uk](mailto:phil@columncomm.co.uk) or Andrew Fraser [bursar@aldenham.com](mailto:bursar@aldenham.com)**

## FREEMASONRY

The Old Aldenhamian Lodge is a Freemason's Lodge for former students and staff of Aldenham School. Lodge meetings are held four times a year in central London and membership opens up affiliation to the world wide fraternity of freemasons. If you are interested please contact the present secretary, Boon Sin Tan by email [boon@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:boon@blueyonder.co.uk) for further information.

## OTHER NEWS

### ALDENHAMIANA – EDITORIAL TEAM

We were delighted to receive interest from several OAs about the role of Editor for *Aldenhamiana*. Trevor Barton has Edited 17 issues of the magazine and will be a hard act to follow. However, into his shoes steps James James-Crook (M1968-72) who will lead an Editorial Team made up of volunteers, Hugh Schermuly (M1974-79) and Sara Price (CR1987-2006). Ann Saffery and Jackie Wilkie will continue to assist in producing and distributing the magazine, which promises to be as interesting as ever with contributions from OAs around the World.

If you have any stories, memories or articles about your current role in life please send them to Jackie Wilkie in the first instance [Jackie@aldenham.com](mailto:Jackie@aldenham.com)

### THE WELLS CENTRE NEARLY COMPLETE

The Wells Centre is now well on the way to completion and we are planning an official opening on **Friday 14<sup>th</sup> September**. All Donors will be invited to celebrate this exciting event.

Nearly £200,000 has been raised towards The Wells Centre Development. We are sincerely grateful to all those who have given and pledged their support for this major project, and encourage others to help us reach the final target of £350,000.

There are still beams available for sponsorship at all three values - £450, £1,200 and £5,000. Development Donations of any value are also very welcome and gratefully received.

Please remember that if you are a UK tax payer we can claim Gift Aid and so your donation can be less than the beam value, with the difference being made up by the Inland Revenue.

For further information and to download a donation form please go to the Development pages of the School website

[http://www.aldenham.com/uploads2/1/ALD\\_WELLS\\_CENTRE\\_final\\_proof\\_21\\_10\\_11v1.pdf](http://www.aldenham.com/uploads2/1/ALD_WELLS_CENTRE_final_proof_21_10_11v1.pdf)

OAs in the USA who wish to make a tax efficient donation, we advise you to do so via the British Schools and Universities Foundation [www.bsuf.org](http://www.bsuf.org) Please use the personalised Donor Transmittal Form, which can be downloaded from the School website <http://www.aldenham.com/devel/>

**Groups of individuals may wish to sponsor a beam together and Clubs and Societies are also encouraged to give their support to The Wells Centre Development. The OA Society has pledged to sponsor the Careers Room, which will be named after John Rimer (P1956-60), who**



Edred Bowman (M1948-52) & Andy Limb (SHO1971-75)



OAs from the left Simon St Leger-Harris (K1968-73), Philip Hanson (K1969-74) & Neil Sutherland (B1966-70)



From left to right: Peter Hull (M1952-56), Sally Hitch & Steve Hitch (P1954-58)

### **Aldenham.net @ Brewers' Hall –**

Monday 14<sup>th</sup> May 40 OAs, School Governors, Current Parents and other Well Wishers joined the Headmaster for a Spring Celebration.

left a gift in his will to the OA Society, and The Aldenham School Parents' Association has sponsored the social area of the Sixth Form Centre.

**THANK YOU!**

### OA SOCIETY MENTORING SCHEME

In response to a feature in the February E-Newsletter, four OAs have now been logged as Mentors for the Society. We would like to hear from more people interested in supporting people in their career development and also those that would like some guidance from a fellow OA, as a Mentee.

To read the original feature about the OA Society Mentoring scheme go to:

[http://www.aldenham.com/uploads2/1/January\\_2012\\_Draft\\_1.pdf](http://www.aldenham.com/uploads2/1/January_2012_Draft_1.pdf)

Please email Ann Saffery [aesaffery@aldenham.com](mailto:aesaffery@aldenham.com) or Jackie Wilkie

[Jackie@aldenham.com](mailto:Jackie@aldenham.com) to register your interest or for more information.

### AGM REPORT

The OA Society AGM was held on 7<sup>th</sup> March 2012. Minutes of this meeting are on the OA website [www.oldaldenhamian.org](http://www.oldaldenhamian.org) You will need to log in to the Members' Database to access them. Please contact Jackie Wilkie if you have forgotten or not received your Username and Password [Jackie@aldenham.com](mailto:Jackie@aldenham.com)

### FILMCLUB

#### Sponsorship

The Old Aldenhamian Society now sponsors the School's membership to FILMCLUB <http://www.filmclub.org/> an education charity that helps schools set up clubs that will provide young people with the chance to watch, discuss and review a diverse range of films – feeding their imagination and nurturing their social and intellectual development. A popular activity, this membership has already recognised the talents of some of our current pupils.

Year 8 student Dan Shores was named FILMCLUB Reviewer of the Week in April for his "elaborate and articulate review of *The Social Network*".

Andreas Leonidou, Year 12, was invited to become a FILMCLUB reporter in April. Hosted by FILMCLUB, the charity offers students the opportunity to interact with filmmakers in a number of live webcasts. Pupils from Aldenham were one of only five schools to enjoy a rare chance to quiz German filmmaker Werner Herzog in a live webcast on March 28<sup>th</sup>, where our students asked a variety of questions. The charity is championed by Headteachers and key figures in education, and is supported by the Department for Education and LOVEFILM. Film is a uniquely powerful medium, which can introduce young people to a wider world, while promoting better learning, improved social and communication skills and raising aspirations. By supporting a FILMCLUB at Aldenham the OA Society provides a valuable extracurricular activity that can broaden horizons.

### STRONG WOMAN: AMBITION, GRIT AND A GREAT PAIR OF HEELS

Have you read Karren Brady's (B1985-87) book with the above title? Published this year by Collins, Karren was spurred into action to write about her journey after realising that the women she met at Downing Street to mark International Women's Day, were the same ones she'd met in previous years. "Where was the new generation of women leaders?" she asked herself. "The new inventors? The new charity workers? The new scientists and lawyers? Where were the young women who were going to change the world?" She wanted to shake things up and her book is a 'call to arms', encouraging women to develop their own paths to success.

Karren's experience at Aldenham was a very positive one, which she tells in the first chapter 'My Road to Independence' and with a growing number of girls throughout the School today, we trust that Aldenham is truly doing its bit to support her cause to get women into the boardrooms.

Thank you Karren for your honest account of the School and congratulations on your publication.

To keep up with Karren, visit her website <http://www.karrenbrady.com/>



Informal business networking

### Fives Tournament



Darshan Patel, Year 13 & Graham Pulsford (M1971-75), winners of the Heath Cup 2012.



**ALDENHAMIANA** – Editorial team

Far right James James-Crook (M1968-72) discusses the future of the OA Magazine, with Sara Price (CR1987-2006) next to him, Hugh Schermuly (M1974-79) and Ann Saffery, OA Manager, left.

## A PERSONAL CHALLENGE

In the last E-Newsletter we reported on Bill Waite's (CR1982-2000) personal challenge to raise public awareness of Parkinson's and other neurological diseases by playing 18 golf courses in the USA and Canada. Here is a TV report of his tour.

<http://origin->

[www.golfingworld.tv/videos/973232859001/1632316718001/parkinsons-play-golf](http://www.golfingworld.tv/videos/973232859001/1632316718001/parkinsons-play-golf)

## 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](mailto:aesaffery@aldenham.com)

## OTHER EVENTS

### EROS TO EROS RUN

The Eros to Eros run is scheduled again for the last day of term, Friday 6<sup>th</sup> July. This event has become a well established tradition of the School and usually attracts about 25 to 30 pupils, staff and OAs, the record number of participants is 85. This year only 1 OA has signed up to take part Alan Phillips (M1977-81) – so why not take this opportunity to join Alan and make your way back to School? There's plenty of time left to train for this 14.5 mile challenge from Piccadilly Circus to Aldenham. You can do it just for fun or you can raise funds for a charity. This year the School participants are supporting The Watford New Hope Trust <http://www.wnht.org/>

### ASPA SUMMER BALL

Aldenham School Parents' Associations invite OAs to the Summer Ball to be held on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> July 2012. This year they'll be transporting you to Hawaii for a fantastic evening in a stunning marquee in the school grounds, with dinner, dancing and dodgems. **Why not make up an OA table and get together with friends at the School?** [Please click here](#). If you require any further information or wish to discuss seating arrangements please contact [aspa@aldenham.com](mailto:aspa@aldenham.com) or telephone Alison Worsley on 07976 206186

## The Wells Centre



School Governors in the Foyer of the new building delight in the glazed roof with solar panels and the green oak beams.

## Summer Ball – Friday 6<sup>th</sup> July



Aloha! Hawaiin Summer Ball, Friday 6<sup>th</sup> July – Book Now [aspa@aldenham.com](mailto:aspa@aldenham.com)

## Eros to Eros Run – Friday 6<sup>th</sup> July



Piccadilly July 2011

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:

**Ann Saffery**

**Development & Alumni Manager**

Tel. 01923 851612

[aesaffery@aldenham.com](mailto:aesaffery@aldenham.com)