

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF
THE OLD ALDENHAMIAN SOCIETY**

Wednesday 10 March 2021
via Microsoft Teams at 18:00 hrs

Present:

James James-Crook (JJC)	President (& Chairman)
Richard Wood (RW)	Vice President
Neil Sutherland (NS)	Vice President
Frank Rogers (FR)	Honorary Secretary
Richard Peart (RP)	Honorary Treasurer
Lydia Chapman (LC)	Committee Member
Chris Stern (CS)	Committee Member
Dan Andrews (DA)	Committee Member
David Hayes (DH)	Committee Member
Clare Yeabsley (CY)	Committee Member
James Fowler (JF)	Headmaster
Andy Williams (AW)	Head of Senior School
Ann Saffery (AS)	Development & OA Manager
Alice Erman (AE)	Committee Member (proposed)
Martyn Berg (MB)	Chairman of OAFK

Apologies:

John Edwards (JE)	Vice President
Glynn Humphreys (GH)	Committee Member (proposed)
Claudia Greenway (CG)	Committee Member (proposed)

1	Apologies JJC welcomed everyone and when FR joined the meeting a little later, he gave apologies on behalf of GH & CG. There was no news from JE. Apologies were subsequently received from JE who had experienced online connection difficulties.	
2	Minutes of the 2020 AGM RP pointed out that two amendments were required before the Minutes could be signed as true. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Item 2 in the text should say 2019 AGM Minutes <u>not</u> 2018. • Item 13 the heading should read March 2021 <u>not</u> November 2020 	JAW JAW
3	Matters Arising Nothing to report.	

4	<p>Election of Officers (Hon Treasurer & Hon Secretary)</p> <p>RP as Hon Treasurer was proposed by JJC and seconded by FR. FR as Hon Secretary was proposed by JJC and seconded by NS in order to serve another year long term.</p>	
5	<p>Update of OA Society Rules</p> <p>FR proposed 3 minor amendments to the OA Society Rules. The proposals were: Rule 5 now allows the Society to have 10 Committee members, instead of 6. Rule 11 concerns the re-election of officers and their length of service. Members are initially elected for 3 years and then retire but they are eligible to be immediately re-elected, a practice that has been in place for several years, but not written in the Rules. Rule 19 and the powers of the Committee to act against members who contravene reasonable behaviour amended to include Honorary OAs as well as OA Members. These amendments were unanimously agreed. The updated rules will be sent out with the Minutes and posted to the website.</p>	FR/JAW/AS
6	<p>Re-election of Committee Member – CS and election of new Committee Members</p> <p>CS has agreed to stand for another 3 years proposed by JJC and seconded by DA.</p> <p>New members to the OA Committee AE, CG and GH were proposed by JJC and seconded respectively by DA, FR and FR.</p>	
7	<p>President’s Report</p> <p>JJC said almost one year ago to the day the OA AGM was in progress , albeit with safe distancing, in the Whitbread Room. Little did anyone fully realise then just how much impact the pandemic would have on everyone globally and how people would have to adapt their day to day lives.</p> <p>Like so many organisations and institutions facing these challenging times, the OA Society also had to think laterally. When elected as President of the OA Society, JJC’s key chosen word for his tenure was communication. It still is. Thankfully, with sophisticated technology, the Society has been able to communicate</p>	

and connect with others around the world unlike one hundred years ago when the Spanish flu pandemic struck families across the world already grieving for loved ones lost during the Great War.

8th May 2020 marked VE (Victory in Europe) Day and events of 75 years ago were remembered, especially those OAs who took part in the Allied invasion of Normandy between 6 June and 31 August 1944 known as Operation Overlord and often referred to as D-Day, the largest seaborne invasion in history. Similarly, the 75th Commemoration of VJ Day on 15 August 2020 and those OAs who gave their tomorrow for our today were remembered. JJC noted there are over 120 OAs who, since 1914, have been awarded the Military Cross.

During this current worldwide pandemic where life as we know it has changed, possibly forever, on behalf of OAs worldwide JJC paid a huge debt of gratitude to James Fowler, Headmaster & CEO, The Aldenham Foundation and to his dedicated team across the three schools for steering the Aldenham Foundation through this crisis with skill, determination and carefully considered forethought. We are so fortunate to have them.

JJC also gave thanks to the NHS and other front line workers for their skill, bravery and dedication to duty during these times and tried to imagine how pupils and staff at Aldenham coped during the Spanish flu pandemic of 1918-19.

Whilst face to face meetings have not been possible JJC said OAs were staying connected via the OA website, Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, LinkedIn, e-newsletter and of course, the OA Review.

In May 2020, the OA Society Committee held its first ever meeting via Zoom which has now become the norm. It is and indeed will be JJC's continued priority to stay connected electronically with as many OAs across the world as possible.

To that effect on 7th June last year, on what should have been OA Day with Beevor's House hosting the Gaudy and the celebration of 40 years since girls started at Aldenham, JJC sent a pre-recorded video message from his summerhouse via social media together with a video message from the Headmaster to

OAs around the world. The OA Society continues to work side by side with the School.

A fortnight later, as part of a live virtual Visitation Day, a pre-recorded video of 24 OAs from the UK, India, Nigeria, Switzerland and the USA plus 15 members of the Aldenham staff including the Headmaster were streamed at this event singing the Aldenham School Song in Latin. It was a classic example of Aldenham team effort at its very best and indeed helped boost morale and reconnect with OAs, staff and the wider Aldenham community.

At the end of June 2020, the OA President sent a personal video message of welcome to those pupils who were leaving Aldenham and joining the OA Society.

In August, JJC was honoured to be elected to the Governing Body of the Aldenham Foundation and during a safe site visit to the new Aldenham Prep School met with Trevor Barton, Chair of Governors, Karl Mahon, Bursar, and AS. JJC saw at first hand, the impressive construction of the new Vincent Building and learnt more about the wide range of facilities available to young pupils fortunate enough to attend this school. This is a particularly exciting time in the history of the Aldenham Foundation. During this visit, JJC was able to inspect the site of the newly installed and highly sophisticated irrigation system for Cooke's Fields and was pleased to announce that the OA Society had agreed to donate £7,000 to the Aldenham Charitable Fund which equated to 50% of the overall installation costs.

On behalf of the OA Society, JJC thanked LC, and her capable team, when she stepped down as Editor, OA Review, for her focused dedication since 2017 in producing four innovative and informative annual issues of the magazine for which the OA Society should be proud. At the same time, JJC welcomed LC's successor, Claudia Greenway (P2011-19), who will take the OA Review forward, with the next issue due in the Autumn. JJC thanked Heather Sherman for helping with the OA Review proof reading and, in recognition of her support and close connections with the OA Society over 25 years, is delighted that she is being elected an Honorary OA.

Last September, John Jarman (P1934-37) celebrated his 100th Birthday and was delighted to receive a copy

<p>of the 'History of Aldenham' book and an Aldenham mug sent from the School also flowers from the OA Society.</p> <p>In October, a joint video message from the Headmaster and the OA President was recorded to reach out to the entire Aldenham community for financial support to help a remarkable young man continue having treatment for cancer. Will Rutt (M&B2012-19). Unfortunately, Will lost his battle on 21 February despite receiving "cutting edge immunotherapy" treatment in Mexico. Close to £100,000 had been raised to help Will with the treatment, travel and accommodation costs, sadly it could not save this brave young man and he will be remembered for evermore.</p> <p>Over the last year a few other notable OAs passed away including Brigadier Frank Henn (SH1934-39). An outstanding Aldenhamian and OA, Frank saw wartime action in France and later was appointed Chief of Staff and Commander of the British contingent of the UN Forces in Cyprus. He passed away just short of his 100th Birthday.</p> <p>John Handcock CVO DL (SH1944-47) died on 11 January aged 90. One of Windsor's most prominent citizens, long time Secretary of the Prince Philip Trust Fund for the Royal Borough, Captain of the Lay Stewards at St George's Chapel, and hailed as an institution who probably knew more about Windsor than anyone. The Handcock dynasty has strong links with Aldenham including John's two sons, David Handcock (SHE1976-80) and Jonathan Handcock (SHE1979-83); his brother, Michael Handcock (SHE1945-50) married the sister of John's close school friend, Richard Thwaites(SHO1944-49). John's two nephews are Roger Handcock (SHE1975-80) and Trevor Handcock (SHE1979-84). John was appointed a deputy lieutenant of the Royal County in 1986 and retired with a CVO in 2002.</p> <p>Tony Laurenson (M1971-75) passed away in January. On leaving Aldenham, Tony enrolled at Cassio Catering College before setting up his first business producing cooked food in his parents' garage in Northwood. 'Eat to the Beat' was established in 1983 supplying food to the Music, Business and Film industries. CEO Global Infusion Group 1991 - Global Catering, Logistics & Brand Support to Live Industry events. Foodservice Event Caterer of the year 2015, Tony's company</p>	
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received the Queen's Award in Enterprise for International Trade 2017; Favourite Caterer Buckinghamshire County Business of the year; Buckinghamshire Exporter of the year; Top Dog Awards Best Catering Company; Unsung Heroes Award at The Arthurs. Tony's company supplied food for the London Olympics 2012; Sochi Winter Olympics 2014; Rio Olympics 2016.

On a lighter note, JJC acknowledged the financial acumen of Richard Peart, Hon. Treasurer, in handling the OA Society accounts, dealing with subscriptions and donations.

The OA Society's close and supportive relationship with the School continues and JJC is enormously grateful to the Headmaster and all his staff whom he has got to know well since taking up the Presidency of the OA Society in 2017. The OA Society continues to develop close alumni relations, provide mutual support for OA activities and support the School. Voluntary subscriptions and generous legacies from OAs continue. The close working relationship with AS and Jackie Wilkie continues to thrive and the OA Society thanks them for their hard work and support.

JJC acknowledged the ongoing work achieved by Committee members, all on a voluntary basis, in devoting so much of their leisure time in supporting the OA Society and promoting its activities and he thanked each one of them. He is pleased and encouraged that the OA Society had moved and evolved with the times.

At the beginning of this report, JJC remarked that during these unprecedented times the OA Society has had to think laterally. Clearly it was not possible to hold the OA Annual Dinner in March 2021. Therefore, two months ago the initial idea of holding a quiz instead of the Dinner was discussed. With the full backing of the Headmaster, this acorn of a plan quickly evolved into an almighty OA virtual Evening 'at' Aldenham event providing an eclectic mix of entertainment with around 100 attendees from Australia, Belgium, Canada, Germany, Switzerland, Russia, USA and the UK tuning in on 6 March. This was a Team effort at its best and history in the making for the OA Society. Messages of gratitude and good wishes have come flooding in from OAs around the world and JJC is grateful to the Aldenham community for their support especially JF and Vicky Gocher (Prep Head) when there is so much

	<p>else going on and this virtual event helped bring the Aldenham community closer together during these challenging times.</p> <p>However, above all, JJC is indebted to AS with whom he has worked so closely, albeit remotely, over these past two months and for her tireless contribution in bringing this virtual event together. It would not have happened without her and the OA Society is so very fortunate.</p> <p>During his continued OA Presidency, JJC is keen to encourage commitment, continuity, communication and positive change to the OA Society. JJC is proud that, at this moment, there are four OA women on the Committee and, in this age of diversity, will encourage others to join.</p> <p>JJC hopes everyone stays safe and well. The future is not cancelled.</p>	
8	<p>Headmaster's Report</p> <p>JF said that very rarely has a year between 2 AGMs been so extraordinary. Last year's report to the AGM followed a familiar pattern of reporting on normal school life – this year's report cannot expect to do that since there has been no normal school life since March 2020.</p> <p>Days after last year's AGM the School was instructed to close in what was Lockdown 1 which went on until September 2020. Lockdown 2 started after Christmas and School resumed in March 2021. There is so little of normality to reflect upon – only four sports fixtures in a year; no plays to audiences, no concerts to audiences, no mixing of pupils between year groups in houses, no parents coming in and out of School, new Governors who have never had a chance to visit some parts of the Aldenham Foundation, including JJC. JF said it had been a journey and there had been so much to learn, which he reflected upon.</p> <p><u>What we did and what did we learn?</u></p> <p>What we did?</p> <p>Wednesday 18th March, – given 48 hours to close the School. By 20th March we needed to be saying farewell to students and staff with no knowledge of when we might see them again. But I don't think we thought we would not see most until September. Particularly hard for those in their last year, who had to suddenly realise</p>	

that there were going to be no 'A' Levels taken, but also no proper farewells or events to mark the end of their time in School. Hastily arranged, but extremely sad celebration on the Friday afternoon.

By the following Monday, we needed to be up and running with ongoing education for all – from 3 year olds to 18 year olds. We had technology in place – good cloud based system Microsoft 365, and a policy of all staff having laptops to work on, but relatively little idea of how to use it effectively in these circumstances. Only one week till the end of the Lent Term fortunately, so we did what we thought we should do – get work to pupils in traditional ways. Rather like setting conventional homework. But it quickly became apparent that this wasn't going to suffice, so we looked at it again over the two weeks of the Easter holiday, which I think were two of the busiest weeks I have ever experienced and returned at the beginning of the Summer Term to a traditional timetable with normal school days, and familiar routines.

We trained our teachers in how to teach online. Some of our staff were already involved in thinking about this and superb teaching of our teachers by their colleagues took place. We looked at additional technology – planet e-stream- to host everything. And of course, we made some key decisions about the disciplines needed for all to follow – how much work to set, how many lessons would be live, what would the rules be for live lessons, how every lesson would begin and end, what pupils were to wear, how to set, receive and mark written work. We actually became very prescriptive – far more than normal.

We also put the same amount of attention into the pastoral care of pupils that we would normally do. We made sure that we talked to pupils at home as much as we could. A normal pattern of a Housemaster was to talk to every pupil in their House every week and flag up to the welfare team anyone who wasn't engaging or who gave concerns.

And we made sure that some of the rituals and routines of the School could be replicated even though no one was here. We ran virtual Open Days, virtual Induction Days for new pupils, virtual House competitions and even a virtual Visitation Day with speeches, prizes, music performances, and the announcement of the new Head Boy and Head Girl. We didn't quite manage the Tug of War competition, but we did ask everyone to

toast the School and its success in either Pimms or of course Beer!

Lessons we learnt:

You don't need to follow the crowd, even if it makes you unpopular.

We never allowed Zoom which made us appear absolute pariahs, but we had great reasons for doing so – in terms of the safety of the children and the pedagogy that we wanted to use.

Your clients will support you if they can understand what you are trying to do.

We do pride ourselves on having excellent communications with our parents at all times, and in this period, we simply multiplied this. We wrote to parents a great deal, we talked to a lot of parents about what they would do, and we explained why we were doing things. And the results were most pleasing – we collected over 97% of fees for the Term, even though we thought it would be hard to do anything like this. And no children were withdrawn from the School.

Children can be trusted to be far more independent than we had imagined.

A common focus for almost every school in the last few years has been to encourage the independent learning of children. We had it as a recommendation in an inspection some years ago. But rather like almost everyone else we only really paid lip service to this, since I don't think we thought our pupils could be good independent learners. But lockdown taught us that we had to trust our children to work at home by themselves and not surprisingly they were able to be remarkably independent and resourceful in their work.

Staff, young and old can learn new tricks very well and then add creativity and passion to their teaching, just as they would in the classroom.

Our staff were put under extraordinary challenges during this time, not least in having to become great online teachers, having previously been great classroom teachers. And they did so by being willing to explore things, to try new techniques, to create excellent films (which certainly take far more time than doing the same thing live). And they managed to generate the energy which is required for being successful teachers away from the stimulus of pupils, by sitting in their own homes. Hard to imagine how dispiriting it can be to teach in this way when you

	<p>cannot get the response from a child's case you would get in a classroom, but to have to depend upon generating the atmosphere yourself. Maybe it is true that all great teachers are really great actors after all.</p> <p>You can take this sort of opportunity to review and refresh everything and we will emerge with some new routines and regimes which will be immensely helpful.</p> <p>The lockdown to some extent stopped the clock on the School year in a way which no-one wanted, but which it has never been possible to do before. So now we cannot repeat any event and every date in the calendar will not happen in the same way. Everything can be looked at afresh – systems, processes, events, rituals, normal ways of doing things –and we are certainly taking the chance to do so.</p> <p>And finally, that schools when we did get back to them are far more than a series of lessons learnt which could be done online, since all the other things that can take place in school cannot be replicated. The energy and sense of belonging that our schools generate can only really happen when we are here together.</p> <p>We are though really happy that we have been able to keep in touch with you through the means of technology, however well this may work in different situations. We look forward to being able to welcome you all back to Aldenham in due course and hope that you keep well in the meantime.</p>	
9	<p>Honorary Treasurer's Report</p> <p>RP had previously circulated a copy of the Accounts and all the Committee members were happy with them. The Accounts were approved.</p>	
10	<p>OA Communications – Website & Social Media</p> <p>Website: FR said there had been some interesting statistics this year. Desktop access had gone down from 62% to 50%, whereas access by phone had increased from 30% to 45%. He gave thanks to Hugh Schermuly (M1974-79) for ensuring the website could be viewed properly on mobile phones. Surprisingly tablet use had gone down from 8% to 5%. The number of users reached a maximum of 316 on one occasion. Last year there were 520 returning users and this year</p>	

	<p>759, a 46% increase, of which 87% were from the UK. The most used pages were 'Archive' whereas before it was 'Events'. The second most visited page was 'News' followed by 'About Us' and then 'Profile'.</p> <p>(Post Meeting Note: An analysis of the user age ranges indicated a range from 15-20% by each of the 5 decades from 25 through to 65+ with 10% for age range 18-24.</p> <p>The above analysis is based on comparing the 12 month periods starting 1 March 2019 with that of the similar one of 2020).</p> <p>Social Media: JJC would like a fresh approach to Social Media and is therefore keen for AE to help with this in her role on the Committee. AE said she had spoken to DA and they feel that Aldenham Connect was the way forward. She said the fact that the website is now more compatible with phone use had really helped. AE would like access to the statistical information along with DA so they can dig through it a bit more. She would also like a meeting with DA/AS to discuss ways in trying to grow the diversity as well as engage with a younger community. JJC said he would like to be at this meeting and AE suggested that RP may also like to be present as there could be a discussion on budgets. AS to set up a Teams meeting for this (24 March at 1pm).</p> <p>Communications: AS said she would be happy to receive feedback on things the OA Office does and has updated Facebook as best she can and spent a lot more time on this during the lockdown when unable to organise events and access the database and engagement had noticeably increased. Regarding emails to alumni, she said it is heartening, but very time consuming, that after a mailshot she is inundated with responses. JJC wondered whether the Committee should consider some form of backup/help. AS said the huge response rate is evidence that OAs love to belong and enjoy corresponding with Aldenham and the OA Society.</p> <p>AE asked what the open rate was. AS said, it is at least 50% which AE said was very good and quite unusual.</p>	AS
11	OA Review	

	<p>In her absence CG's report from the January Committee meeting is used to report to this meeting:</p> <p>CG thanked JJC and LC for their offers of support. She has gathered the material received so far and is sifting through it. She has categorised this and is considering topics for key features. One idea is to feature OAs on the front line during the pandemic, thanking them for their work and inviting them to share their experiences. She may also follow up the feature on Vincent House in the last issue with a potted history of the Prep School. CG is a former pupil of the Prep School and has personal experience, which will be useful.</p> <p>JJC encouraged CG to keep up the good work. A feature on Headmasters would be a good follow up to the Housemasters feature in the last issue, and CG will plan to do this for the next issue, following JF's announcement that he will be retiring. This would be a good topic in 2022, which will see in issue No.50.</p> <p>AS is in regular contact with CG forwarding information for possible inclusion in the OA Review.</p>	
12	<p>OA Charities – Update</p> <p>Letchmore Trust: JJC as Secretary of the Letchmore Trust commented that the Trust had made a donation of £1700.00 to restore two of the Stanley Spencer drawings. This had been completed and the drawings returned to the School. JJC had also been in communication with the Bursar regarding an updated insurance valuation on the four Stanley Spencer drawings.</p> <p>The annual Junior Art Prize still went ahead last year and was won by Cameron Mahon. This competition was open to pupils in years 7 and 8 and the theme changes every year. The title was 'Out of Place' and the standard was very high.</p> <p>RW asked whether postcards or prints of the Stanley Spencer cartoons could be produced and sold, also images of the two paintings that were sold, if this did not contravene copyright rules, as the School no longer owns them. JJC was not sure this was possible because of copyright rules and in fact he and the Bursar had been asked by the restorers if they could publicise a video of their restoration work on the Stanley Spencer drawings but this was denied as they felt it could cause security issues for the School.</p>	

<p>Aldenham Club Trust: RP reported: The original Club was a building in Kentish Town and was initially set up for the youth in the area. In the 1920's it was a Boxing Club, but later became a youth club for both boys and girls. However, the building was sold in the 1980's and the money invested (c£200K) and money is donated every year to about 6 youth clubs in the area. During the last year only 2 clubs applied for a grant, presumably because of the pandemic. These two clubs were given £2,500 each. New bids will be considered again in May. AE asked how they decided what charities to support. RP said it had to be youth clubs within the Camden area and RP had looked at the list and discounted those that are funded by the Local Authority and hence these 6 clubs have benefited over the last 10 years or so.</p> <p>AE had a proposal as she had been asked by a company about sponsoring a music scholarship for disadvantaged children and she felt this could be good publicity for the OA Society as well as helping sponsor the tuition of a child. RP felt publicity was not necessarily something required but AE said maybe the benefit could be the child performing at an OA event. RP asked AE to put something in writing so the Trustees could consider this.</p> <p>AW informed the Committee that he had read that the band 'Madness' claimed they had met at the Aldenham Boys Club in Kentish Town and formed a band, which was a precursor to 'Madness'.</p> <p>Aldenham School War Memorial Education Trust: JF said this is a well-managed Trust and now not entirely run by OAs. In fact, at present, there are two current parents as trustees. Unfortunately, due to the pandemic they had to reduce the money given to the School this year because of the marketplace, but as a Trust they meet annually and they are hoping this partial funding to pupils can be restored to normal levels soon.</p> <p>Aldenham Foundation Charitable Trust (FCT): JF said this Trust is the recipient of funds that come into the school which the School, its Governors and independent Trustees decide at what pace and where the money should be used in the School. AS wanted to give thanks to the donors, most of whom were OAs, and to note that their donations are aligned with what they stipulate the money should be used for.</p>	<p>AE</p>
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13	<p>OA Day 2021 – Beevor’s House Gaudy (126 years) & 41 years’ Celebration since girls started at Aldenham</p> <p>JF said working within the Governments current restrictions (no large gatherings before 21 June) the initial date in early June would not be possible and therefore the proposed ‘safe’ date for OA Day could be Sunday 27 June, which is the day after Visitation Day.</p> <p>JF said the School is going to erect a marquee on Top Field for about a month during June/July, which will be a facility to hold events. As it would be an outside facility it would be a safer environment in relation to the pandemic. AS will follow this up with the Bursar regarding the practicalities of the marquee’s use and catering arrangements for OA Day.</p> <p>AE asked about Visitation Day and whether there would be an OA presence in the form of a pop-up awning, similar to those used by the Houses, as this is something that has been mooted in the past. JF thinks it is a good idea, as does AW. AE feels this would a good way to engage young OAs, especially to the Year 13s and recent leavers who often return for Vis Day and don’t come to OA Day. CY thinks this would be a good idea, in particular, for the 2020 leavers who did not get an event because of the pandemic. JF says the School is hoping to have an event for what is being called the ‘Year 14s but nothing has been decided yet.</p>	<p>AS</p> <p>JJC</p>
14	<p>OA Annual Dinner 2021</p> <p>JJC said the OA Society liked an OA Dinner to be held once a year, but because of the pandemic this was not possible this year. A virtual OA Evening ‘at’ Aldenham was held instead on 6 March to replace the Annual Dinner. After discussion it was decided to work towards the next Dinner being held in March 2022, which is a much nicer time of year, being in the Spring, rather than the Winter.</p>	
15	<p>Other Events 2021</p> <p>Aldenham Connect: JJC thinks this should be a virtual event. DA said the theory is to do something in and around the future of work for people in general and make it a round table / Q&A event. DA has some ideas about who should be involved and suggested CY (Manufacturing), Charlie Craze (Sales), David</p>	

	<p>Rawlinson & CS (Hospitality) & Ravi Mohda (Finance). DA & AE to co-ordinate this and AS and CY to attend the meeting on Wednesday 24 March to discuss alongside development of social media.</p> <p>Sussex Regional Lunch: JJC said this is still held in the calendar and maybe in September 2021 but tbc.</p>	<p>DA/AE/ AS/CY</p> <p>JJC</p>
16	<p>Election of Honorary Members</p> <p>Nominations: FR said there were 5 nominations being: David Breeze, Tony Riley, Heather Sherman, Helen Wilson & Luke Kirsten.</p> <p>JJC was keen to recognise Heather Sherman's 25 years' service at the School as she is outside the normal remit (ie. not a teacher with at least 5 years' service) particularly as she helped the OA Society back in 2000 when asked by Lord Vincent to help with the <i>Aldenhamiana</i> magazine.</p> <p>All 5 were proposed by JJC and seconded by RP.</p>	
17	<p>OA Sports Clubs Update</p> <p>O AFC: Martyn Berg said it has been a strange year, especially with the news that the league will not be able to be completed due to the pandemic. A regionalised mini league is being proposed for next season, beginning hopefully in April 2021. A lot of OAs are wanting to play football, especially the younger cohort and MB thinks this is because a lot of university students have not been able to be at their universities. The O AFC won a cup match at the end of December, but obviously there will now be no conclusion to this Cup either.</p> <p>MB said he is encouraged by the number of OAs wanting to join the O AFC.</p> <p>O AGS: FR said the Hon. Secretary, Ian Eggleton, had been in contact and had sent a fixtures list with the first match due to be held on 29 April against the Old Berkhamstedians.</p> <p>The Halford Hewitt is hoping to take place in September. The sad news during the year was that Ian Muir (SHE1942-46) had died aged 92. Ian had achieved the handicap of 6 and was a great all round</p>	

	<p>sportsman. There is a Muir Cup for Fielding (Cricket) which he presented when he left school.</p> <p>FR reported that Matt Wallace (L2003-08) had had a good year and is now in the list of top 50 golfers.</p> <p>FR reported that the OAGS have deferred taking their grant for 2021 from the OA Society.</p> <p>Fives: FR had received a note from Graham Pulsford (M1971-75) saying there are about 20 regular OA Fives players in the Aldenham Fives Club, although lockdown had curtailed their activities, but they had been able to play at times at Mill Hill School. They can re-start playing there again from 30 March and are looking forward to returning to Aldenham when advised that they can do so.</p> <p>The club has reached the quarter final of the Barber Cup against the Old Westminster's although the date is to be confirmed.</p> <p>Graham said they are always looking for new players.</p>	
<p>18</p>	<p>Confirmation in length of Presidency – James James-Crook</p> <p>Last year JJC was re-elected at which time he said he would continue as President for a further year and decide on his 3 year tenure at a later date.</p> <p>Having considered this JJC has decided to remain in office for the full 3 year tenure which would end in 2023. He felt this would help both the OA Society and the School during the transition period when a successor is found for JF, who retires in 2022.</p> <p>This was accepted unanimously.</p>	
<p>19</p>	<p>Any Other Business</p> <p>AS responded to feedback from the virtual OA event on the diversity of the Q&A panel. She wanted to make it clear that a concerted effort had been made to showcase OAs of different gender, colour and age. Unfortunately five businesswomen who were invited were unable to commit to the event. She asked new members of the OA Committee to help address the issue raised by encouraging people they know who</p>	<p>AE/CG</p>

<p>would fit the demographic to get in touch and to support OA activities.</p> <p>As a point of interest AS told the Committee about a book being returned to the School Librarian recently from Theodore Tall (B1941-43) with apologies for its late return! He is 95. Unfortunately, he is 'Lost' to the OA Society, but AS asked if anyone knew his whereabouts, we would love to contact him. AS had posted his letter on Facebook and Instagram.</p> <p>RP has in his possession an etching of the School by Charles H Clark which is owned by William Pumfrey (P1962-67). It is a limited edition (25/150) and RP wondered if the School had one as William did not want it anymore. JF said he did not recognise it and JJC said it was not on the inventory of the School. JJC suggested Mr Pumfrey donate it to the School if he did not want it and JF suggested the Letchmore Trust should look after it. RP had checked and its value is probably in the region of £30-£50. (Post Note: JAW says the School has no. 7/150 in their archive).</p> <p>RW thought the Vesper Martini recipe given by CS at the recent virtual event was very strong. JJC thanked RW for sending in his photo with his glass of martini during the event.</p> <p>NS wanted to raise a note about Titles. He feels Vice Presidents should be called Past Presidents as the wording VP creates confusion as they are not acting members. FR raised concerns and RW feels it would complicate matters by changing a system that has been there for a long time. However, JJC agreed with NS and it was decided further discussions would be required. NB: Not all Vice Presidents have been Past Presidents.</p> <p>DA says he liked the fact that since the meetings have been virtual, they are speeded up and this should be something to take forward.</p> <p>JJC noted that the last register was written in 1997 by JE and RW and JJC feels a 13th edition should be thought about, but many things need to be considered ie. cost/data protection/ format/ feasibility /demand/ timescale.</p> <p>FR thinks it is a good idea to explore but it is a major task. RP remembers discussions 10/15 years ago</p>	<p>All</p>
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	<p>about this and it was thought digitising was the future, although RP feels there is a lot of missing information on the database.</p> <p>AS said the website only shows what members choose to disclose and the database behind the website holds a lot of information. AS would be happy for Committee members to come and look at the database and explore possibilities.</p> <p>JF says the GDPR implication of producing a printed register is huge and probably could not be done legally. He agreed that an update of the history would be a valuable exercise.</p> <p>DA says the format should be reinvented.</p> <p>JJC says the last book by Roger Payne was a 'Foundation for Success' which was more about the history rather than a register. It was agreed to discuss this further at the next OA Committee meeting.</p>	All
20	Next OA Society AGM meeting	
	Wednesday 9 March 2022 – venue and date tbc.	JJC