

# Alfredians



A newsletter for King Alfred School Alumni

Autumn 2012

## Concert Going

I am going to a concert. Come with me. On second thoughts, don't. There are not two people in the world that I would invite to a concert with me, although I might endure the presence of perhaps half a dozen.

It is Monday. Staff-meeting. Long agenda – permits, stages, roofs, afternoon time tables, and, slight consolation, tea. Tea till five; then minutes of the last meeting; at last we begin on the real business. Time draws on. Six, half past six, seven. I must go. I do.

Down the hill, home. Taking my ticket and the *Times*, I make for the Underground and board the first Charing Cross train. Hampstead – the deepest underground. Belsize Park, for board-residence. Chalk Farm, sadly changed. Camden Town, for the Zoo (and Camden Town). Euston. Warren Street. Goodge Street.

I get out. Left out of the station, left again, down Tottenham Street. Pawn brokers and dress agencies. The Scala. A few children let off fireworks in the street. On past the Middlesex Hospital, past the home of Amami, past "Pussy's Butcher," a wretched little shop, about eight feet by three, with a disgusting selection of meat calmly displayed. Through Union Street, across Great Titchfield Street (they are holding a market here), along Ridginghouse Street. Not far now. A door marked "Private – Artists Only." The great man is leaving his taxi. Well do I know that kindly face. A smile, and he is gone. Door No. 6, Block D.

I am in the area to-night, in the cheap, but not too nasty seats. Luckily I find a place in the front row. Before me are the stalls, the back row, where late corners will be least frequent. Firmly I occupy the whole of my allotted space. It is no joke sharing a seat all the evening. Not long ago a man fell asleep on my shoulder and ever since I have been careful to avoid somnolent neighbours. To-night my companions seem pretty safe; neither is unaccompanied, and, heaven be praised, neither has a programme. I go on with the *Times*. I have nearly got to the news now, but I must put it by and look about me. No one that I know. Many familiar faces, but no one likely to come across and say something unnecessary.

The players filter in; the drummer has



*The Queen's Hall in 1911 (Sir Edward Elgar and the London Symphony Orchestra)*

been there some time, hard at work. Now they come in groups, the 'cellos, violas, second violins, first violins. The leader comes in last to take his little round of applause.

The stage is set. The curtains on the left are parted. The conductor steps up to his place. He bows left, right, little still bows. The deeper ones later, when the audience have earned them. A volley of coughs, a last rush of late-corners, an imploring left hand upraised; the overture is launched. Leonora, No. 3. Perfectly played.

There is a short interval. Much conversation. I am aware of the green of the hall with the contrasting colours of the audience. Only five unshaded lights below the organ to irritate one. Even they will be forgotten after ten bars. I remember the great ones I have heard there, the singers, 'cellists, pianists; the noblest orchestras and choirs, the most famous violinists. Yet none of them more wonderful than the one I am soon to hear. None to compare with Kreisler playing Beethoven.

A tremendous reception awaits him. It is good to see him again, good to know that the feast I have promised myself for the last six months is actually at hand.

The orchestra begins well. This is not the night for slackness. With all the confidence in the world one can but hope that he will surmount the difficulties of his opening passage in octaves, the ruin of all comers. There he stands, biding his time; his left hand holds his coat; the matchless fiddle hangs down from his right. Not a

movement, just a calm, steady gaze. Now it is his turn. From the first note all doubt is gone; here is the master; all will be well. A perfect first movement. The second, with its accompaniment of horns and muted strings, a thing of infinite beauty. A short cadenza leads into the irresistible Rondo which takes its triumphant course to the tremendous finish.

A lull, then thunderous applause. Again and again he is recalled; always he comes grave and modest; no boastfulness, no scorn shows in his face. At last he is allowed to leave. After all, even Kreisler must not be allowed to shorten the time available for a smoke and a drink. Crowds swarm out.

I too. I must go back. I cannot hear any more with that music still in my ears, that sight still in my eyes. Back at a great rate. I see little. A heap of paper where late the market was held, still there are children in the street, figures in the shadows, and that night-attraction, the fish saloon. The Hampstead train.

The journey is short. Out and up that long, long lift. One must have air; the cool breeze on the hill is always fresh. Up a side street to miss the traffic, through the shadows, past inviting steps and alleys. A flower falls at my feet, blood-red. From some window box, doubtless. No time for that now. On to the pond; then down the hill, home.

R.

**From *The Alfredian* 1931**

# Joyce Rathbone

9 February 1929 –  
19 December 2010

*Joyce Rathbone, talented musician and extraordinarily gifted teacher, died at the Highgate Nursing Home at the age of 81. The following commemoration is an edited text from the humanist funeral conducted by Jill Satin and is published with the permission of Joyce's goddaughter, Pippa Harris.*

Literature, music, left wing politics, art, and theatre had a huge influencing role in, and became lifelong interests for Joyce. Music was her abiding passion and around this she built her professional career. She played both the piano and violin. Following her training at the Royal Academy of Music, she became a successful concert pianist, including solo concerts at the Wigmore Hall and a solo BBC Haydn recording. She also played in a celebrated duo (piano and cello) with Joan Dickson and later, the two women set up a summer music school at Westonbirt.

Joyce was born on Feb 9th 1929 in London. Her then (unmarried) mother Nellie had had an affair with the renowned Irish novelist Liam O'Flaherty. Liam was married at the time and Joyce discovered many years later that she had a half sister, Pegeen.

Joyce's step father, Mr Hugo Rathbone, was by all accounts a gentle, and kind man and it was his financial support which allowed Joyce to buy her own house, No. 31 Chepstow Place, in Notting Hill, in the late 1950s. She lived in bohemian chaos in the house for the rest of her life, until her dementia forced the move into a nursing home in 2006. She had no interest in creature comforts – never bothering to install central heating – though she did put down a kind of attempted sound proofing in her music room, as it held two grand pianos and her much-loved, 18th-century fortepiano for teaching on.

Joyce's schooling was at King Alfred's and her education certainly helped to shape her own views on teaching, and the importance of allowing children to develop at their own pace. She loved King Alfred's, and even when she was getting very ill with dementia, could point herself out on the school photo taken in June 1938. This combined home and school background helped to forge Joyce's strongly independent spirit and enduring loyalty for her work and for her close friends. She was a woman with great close friendships, and she lived to the full; she loved London, and took

advantage of much of what it had to offer.

Joyce was an independent, self-reliant, formidable woman who came from a line of strong, feisty left-wing women. Both her mother Nellie and her aunt, Rose Cohen, were members of the British Communist Party. Nellie also worked at one stage as secretary to Sylvia Pankhurst. When Joyce discovered that her Aunt Rose, along with her husband, had been executed by Stalin in one of his purges in 1938, Joyce decided to track down their son, her first cousin. The boy had been put in a orphanage after his mother's execution and Nellie had lost touch with him. With characteristic determination and only a smattering of Russian, Joyce travelled to Moscow in the 1990s and found him, his children and grandchildren.

Joyce went on to be a Communist, reading the Morning Star and the Islip Newsletter, was a member of CND and probably went on some of the Aldermaston marches. There is an amusing story of when the census was taken in 2001, when the interviewer asked Joyce what paper she read, she replied "the Morning Star." Not finding it on the long list, the census officer suggested ticking the Daily Star instead... you can imagine Joyce's firm and clear response to that outrageous and ignorant suggestion. In fact she stood firm until it was written in.

Joyce was a woman of many complex sides; she could be private about her innermost thoughts, although she formed and held strong opinions and was at times outspoken in her views. When one got past her direct speech and more than occasional rudeness she was a great and loyal friend. Her greatest asset was that she was great company, often irreverent, outspoken but full of humour and wit, and not above a practical joke or two. Because Joyce had no physical vanity she was in many ways non-threatening and had no interest in fashion, make-up or trends. She did have the most beautiful and piercing blue eyes. She lost her hair through alopecia in her 40s and thereafter wore the same style brown, pudding bowl wig. She had a total lack of vanity, and wouldn't care if her wig slipped slightly in the heat of an argument or while playing golf.

As a gifted musician herself and then mentor and teacher.... though she was capable of being rather stern, and frightening, as well as a hard task master, she was also hugely inspiring. She expected hard work from her students, and hated the cult of the child musical prodigy, young musician of the year competitions. Young musicians thrived under her tutorage and her plain speaking, always tempered with her sense of humour, worked brilliantly. Of course she wasn't everyone's cup of tea.



Pippa Harris remembers, "Joyce was one of those life-enhancing people whose intellect and passion influences everything and everyone around them..." She had a vast book collection, including a collection of Jane Austen, who was her almost favourite author. Joyce also wrote herself and had a children's book, *Martin Bosey*, published in 1979.

In the late 1960s she met the cellist Joan Dickson and recognised a kindred spirit. They became firm friends, taught, played and worked together. Joan maintained that Joyce made her rethink almost everything she did. She once said of Joyce, "Her extraordinary intellectual grasp of music has been most beneficial, not only to me – because I'm more intuitive – but also to my teaching."

Joyce's relationship with Joan, both personal and professional, was without doubt the most significant in her life. They spent many happy summers together at Dartington Summer School of Music. Whether it was coaching chamber music, playing concerts themselves, or simply as a formidable duo on the croquet lawn, they clearly gained enormous pleasure from being together. Their professional collaboration reached its height when they set up the summer school at Westonbirt.

But one word also springs to mind when thinking of Joyce – uncompromising. Whether it was as a friend, a teacher or musician, she refused to be swayed from what she thought – no, knew – was the right way of doing things. She even took the same sensibility to golf which she took up in her sixties. Pity the poor lady member who suggested one day that slacks and a fisherman's smock weren't suitable attire for the clubhouse.

But along with the fiery determination was a great generosity and kindness – which is why she inspired such tremendous loyalty in her pupils and friends. Uncompromising and generous – it wasn't a bad combination, was it?

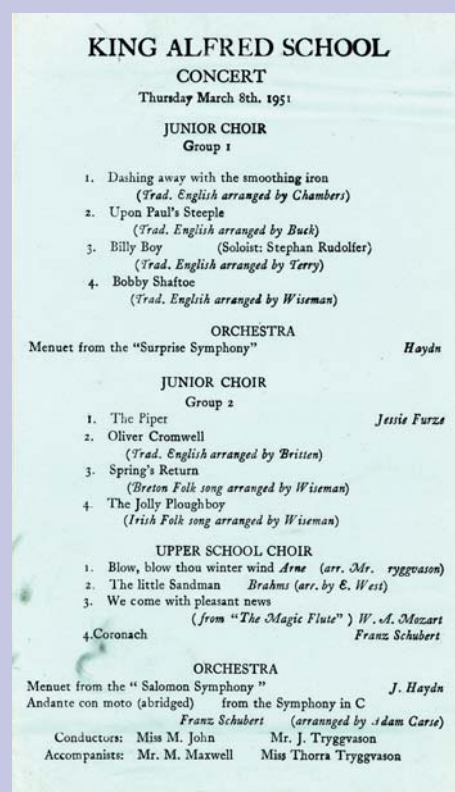


# Music over the Years

*The reporting of music over the years at King Alfred School has been patchy at best. It has definitely improved. Here are some samples...*

We had a wonderful series of Sunday concerts, generously given by busy and celebrated artists, in order that the children might get the benefit of some first class music and in support of our piano fund. The artists included Mark Raphael, Karl Ulrich Schnabel, Adila Fachiri and Vera Moore, Rose Keen, Grace Thynne and Norma Semino. The series was concluded by the concert on May 8th by our own Solomon on our own Steinway grand piano (which he chose for us). He always makes his concerts delightful, not only by his beautiful and interesting programme, exquisitely interpreted, but by his very genial presence and obvious delight in being an Old Alfredian. The success of the concerts and other activities for raising the funds was so great that we closed the account not only with the piano paid for but with a margin which has enabled us to procure a first class wireless with gramophone attached. The school is in consequence far better equipped musically than ever, and it is a pleasure to make mention of the admirable voluntary work done by Mrs. Boulter in organizing a small orchestra after school hours, which has already performed successfully at end of term concerts.

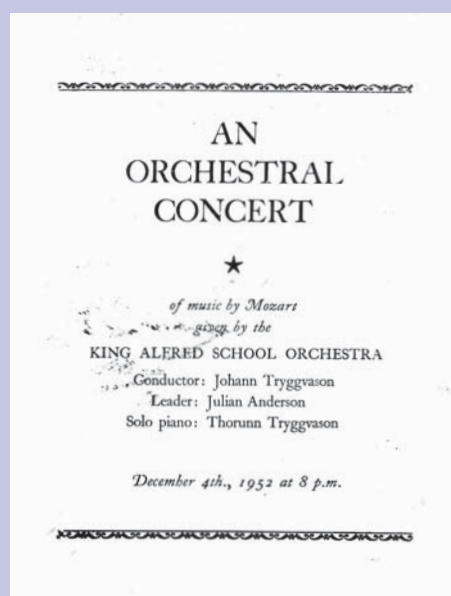
*(From the Headmaster's Report to Council, 1932)*



Mrs. Boulter has increased the number of her piping classes to accommodate the applicants for this popular and successful branch of music...

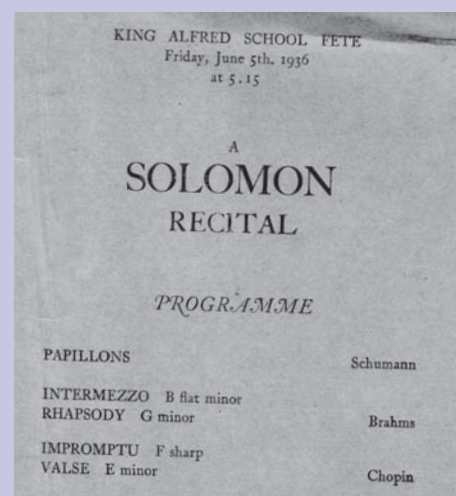
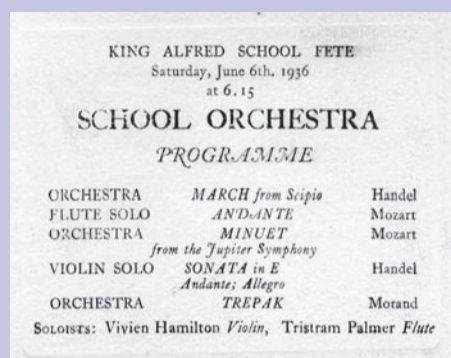
... In the Spring Term a performance of scenes from Gluck's Orpheus was given by the combined activity of Singing, Piping, Orchestra and Dancing classes. It was a most ambitious effort, and the highly creditable result was, we think, a sufficient answer to those who believe that our stress on the individual side in education disqualifies K.A.S. pupils for successful co-operation.

*(From the Head's Report, 1934-35)*



The interest in music has increased in every part of the school including the Nursery. That the standard of work has been raised considerably was evident from the enjoyable concert given on 8th March by about forty children from Mr. Tryggvason's classes. The development of the Orchestra which now has fifteen players has been an outstanding feature of the year's work. In the Lower School interest in singing has been stimulated by Miss John's entry of a group of children at the Festival of Choirs.

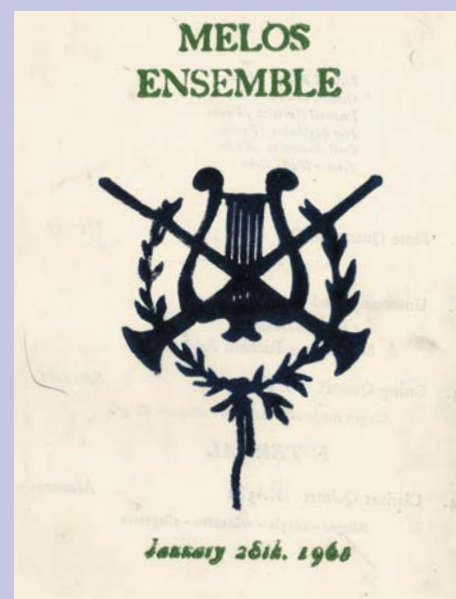
*(From the Heads' Report, 1950-51)*



There was another impressive concert on March 11th. The programme included a Beethoven piano concerto with Thorunn Tryggvason as the soloist, a Mozart symphony by the school orchestra, songs by the school choir and violin solos by the leader of the orchestra. For the first time the concert was recorded—by the kindness of the parent of a junior school child, from whom copies of the records can be obtained.

Our first violinist who has for three years been a member of the National Youth Orchestra of Great Britain went on a concert tour with that orchestra to the Continent and to the North of England.

*(from the Head's Report, 1955)*



In March was the school concert in which a high standard was reached both in solo and orchestral playing. On this occasion for the first time one of the works played by the Orchestra was conducted by one of the boys. This was the last concert in which our First Violin would lead the orchestra, which he had done ever since it was formed. We record with pleasure that he was chosen to lead the National Youth Orchestra in its concert at the Edinburgh Festival in September.

*(From the Head's Report, 1956)*



## SCHOOL FUNCTIONS

The usual school functions have continued of course throughout the year and it is difficult to know which to select for mention. Omission of any must not imply that they are less important. As always those functions put on for public performance tend to steal the limelight, and it is true that the drama this year has been of a high standard...

The Music Society put on three recitals during the year. In the first, William and Tony Pleeth and Margaret Good performed a programme of 'cello solos and trios. It was a great pleasure to have both William Pleeth and his wife again (they were the first to give a recital for us about five years ago), and Tony who left the school about two years ago. In the Spring we had a programme by Sebastian Bell and Stuart Bedford, Sebastian Bell being an Old Alfredian who left the school in 1959 and now plays the flute in the B.B.C. Welsh Orchestra. The Summer Recital was a programme by some of the Hampstead Young Music Makers, conducted by Joyce Riddell, together with wonderful 'cello

playing by Christopher Bunting. The school Music Concert gave us a pleasant evening although the school orchestra's small numbers needed considerable augmenting with outside help.

*(From the Head's Report, 1965)*

School music continues to flourish and the concert with the Young Music Makers was well attended. The Music Society numbers were lower than last year which was disappointing for the organisers.

*(From the 1966 Annual Report, now under Music and Drama)*

## MUSIC DEPARTMENT

The music department has had a busy and eventful year. Early birds passing by the music room on Thursday mornings will have heard Roger Pascoe's Baroque Orchestra rehearsing. They gave their first concert in March playing movements from concertos by Vivaldi and other Baroque composers. Lower School Choir also participated, singing five songs in popular style.

Jean Mercer's Brass Group also rehearsed regularly before school. In December they went on their annual trip through the 'streets of Hampstead and Highgate playing carols for charity. Even the youngest pupils from Lower Family Group joined in. In the summer term they presented a successful music circle concert.

In July Ivor Goldberg's guitar pupils from lower and upper school presented an evening of popular music entitled "Night of the Axe Monsters." By popular request these concerts have since become a termly event.

In the summer term Jaffa Galbinski's piano pupils, ranging in age from five to sixteen, presented their annual piano concert to a packed hall.

Middle School presented a Concert in March organised by Anne Elliott in which the Band Method class, Middle School

Orchestra and Andy Hampton's wind ensemble combined in a variety of ensembles.

The Band Method was begun four years ago in middle school with a pilot string class (violins, violas, cellos and basses). Pupils play in ensemble in their class lesson and go to a back-up lesson in small groups. The Band Method has now been extended to all first formers. The school has purchased a large quantity of orchestral instruments and every pupil plays in ensemble for a year in either a string or wind class. Thereafter they may continue privately and join orchestra or one of the ensemble groups.

The school now has a keyboard laboratory equipped with 24 electric keyboards, synthesisers and organ which are used in second and third form class lessons. This enables pupils to work individually on performance and composition.

The music department supplied original music for the Lower School productions of "Alice in Wonderland" in December and "The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe" in June.

Middle School pupils continued their tradition of performing at an old people's home just before Christmas under the direction of Roger Pascoe and Denise Gibbs.

There have also been a number of informal music circle concerts presented by the violin, brass and piano pupils of our peripatetic staff. In fact, wherever the opportunity has presented itself the music department has been there looking for a chance to take part.

*(From the Annual Report, 1988 – notice that Music now has its own Department – ed.)*

## MUSIC REPORT

1992 – 93 has seen an expansion and consolidation of music within the school. Several new appointments have been made in the peripatetic music staff: Hannah Lang (flute), Helen Jenkins (voice), Dinah Beamish (cello) and Scott Bywater (percussion). Ken Reay (percussion) and Jamie Moore (guitar) leave K.A.S. to pursue their careers as professional musicians. With a team of 3 full-time members of staff (Liz Mellor, Rob Hersey and Mary-Lu Hurley) and 12 specialist instrumental teachers the quality of provision of music education has developed with over 50% of pupils receiving individual lessons and a range of performance opportunities increasing likewise.

Performance landmarks throughout the year have included several successful workshop performances organised by Andy (woodwind), Sue (strings), Jaffa (piano) and Jean (brass). Feature concerts have included the Parent/Staff/Upper School "Xmas"







choir, "Jazzworks" and the Valentine's Concert – "The Language of Love" which also involved staff/pupils reading poetry and singing in a range of languages. Other collaborative ventures included video/shadow play and music composition with visiting Creative Arts Lecturer Fritz Reinhardt from Germany, and Art/Music composition as part of the Xmas Lower School production.

The performance year culminated in Music Week (May 19 – 27). Items in the week included (Wed) a Parents' Evening for those receiving instrumental tuition; (Thurs) Baroque Concert featuring solo violinist David Chivers; (Mon) Axe Monsters featuring Rock Bands throughout the school and original compositions by Tom Kenyatta; (Tues) The Friends of the Earth Concert featuring Environmentally Friendly songs composed by Middle School pupils and G.C.S.E. and A-level compositions; (Wed) Lower School Concert featuring Lower School Strings, Windband, Orchestra and Choir, Recorder Groups and Class Compositions; (Wed) Jazz Piano recital featuring Oliver Rockberger,

(Thurs) "Strawberry Fair": a selection of English part songs and poetry featuring Upper School string quartet joined by clarinettist Louisa Ranpe, Middle School Choir, Upper School Chamber Choir, Parent/Staff Choir and Jazzworks.

All venues were full to overflowing and as Music Week culminated in the "final concert" it seemed like music had come alive at K.A.S. for the school as a community. One of the reasons why the year was particularly successful was not so much in the quality of the leadership but in the quality of the team committed to raising standards both in the classroom and in the "public" eye. Whilst the department creates an atmosphere to encourage musicianship at all levels of ability it also recognises that musical development can be fun and learning through disciplined rehearsal worthwhile. In this way its value is enhanced, its authenticity authorised by the participants and audience and its energy

made magnetic. K.A.S. can look forward to many more successful ventures. Many thanks to the "team" and those who wholeheartedly gave their support this year.

*(From the Annual Report, 1993)*

This has been a blockbuster year for the Performing Arts!

The department has remained busy, ensuring the full Concert Programme and variety of Musical events held over the academic year allow as many students as possible to demonstrate their talents.

We heard some fantastic singing and developing bands performing in Unplugged and Axemonsters, while the Soloist Concerts each term, remain a great opportunity for those students preparing for their Grade Examinations to perform in public.

The Christmas and Summer Concerts reflected the variety of Music that goes on in the department with performances that ranged from Handel to Jimi Hendrix! A highlight for many was the collaboration between the Orchestra and Chamber Choir who performed Zadok the Priest by Handel

with such passion and commitment that it was a very moving occasion.

The Choirs have been as busy as always with Middle School Choir preparing for their performances at Disneyland Paris and the 90-strong collaboration of Jazz and Middle School Choir that performed at the Royal Festival Hall in the regional rounds of the National Festival of Music for Youth. The students are now having an uncharacteristically busy Summer Term as they sang so convincingly, they were picked to go through to the next round. They will be performing in the Adrian Boult Concert Hall in Birmingham in July, where we hope to raise the roof King Alfred style!

Jazzworks was also successful in the above mentioned competition and will be performing in Birmingham as part of the Jazz Festival also in early July. We are extremely proud of the achievements of both of these groups, as it is the first time two groups from KAS have got through to the next stage of this prestigious national competition.

For many, the all singing, all dancing





# 1988

Are you in the photo? We'd love to hear from you.  
Please drop us a line.









production of *Grease* that was put on in December will be one of the highlights of the Performing Arts' year. The dedication and commitment of the cast was the main reason for the success of this production. It is always so special to see students from a variety of year groups bonding and working together so effectively. Friendships are formed and the sense of ensemble is something that students who take part in extra-curricular activities never forget.

Other notable occasions over the year have included the Watford Singing Festival, where several KAS solo singers performed. Despite facing some stiff competition, the KAS students really shone and I was so proud of their achievements. Some singers were very experienced, having sung for many years, while for others this was their first public performance. Once again the students represented King Alfred in such a positive light and their confidence and communication skills were remarked upon.

One of the things the adjudicator said

which really resonated was the importance of being able to stand up in front of people and present yourself with confidence.

Whatever the students choose to do in their future they will at some point have to present themselves, whether in an interview, in the boardroom, on a stage, in a classroom. As a singer you have no instrument to hide behind and seeing young students commanding the stage with such authority and confidence was a real reflection of the work that goes on throughout the school.

The singers at King Alfred were fortunate enough to have worked with and watched the soprano Lesley Garrett, who came into school and gave a Masterclass. It was such an entertaining and informative evening. Everyone who was there came away with a greater understanding of the physical nature of singing and the importance of performance skills. There was incredibly positive feedback from the audience and students alike. Particularly impressive was the way in which Lesley

engaged with the students, understood their individual needs, and really made a difference to the sound they made!

I know the singers who performed and watched were excited and inspired by the work that took place. The Phoenix Theatre is such a great venue for Masterclasses such as these, and this is an area the Performing Arts Department hopes to expand upon next year, not only for singers, but instrumentalists and Drama students too.

Every year I wonder if we can top the last as the highly skilled Upper Sixth students move on to the next stage of their lives. However, I was inspired by the Lower School Callover I saw recently, where several young students performed with the confidence and talent to reassure me that there are budding musicians developing throughout the school and waiting for their opportunities to shine!

*(From The Alfredian, 2012, article written by Anna Broad, Head of Performing Arts)*







**Richard Adeney** (KAS – 1932-34), the renowned flautist wrote that KAS was "...a civilised school in North London, where I still managed to avoid being educated, but did learn how to make recorder-like instruments out of bamboo." At King Alfred's he became obsessed with tuning his little instruments and trying to make them sound sweet. "The usual tensions of family life and worries about growing up disappeared when I played—and last I'd found something I could do well." (from Richard Bigio's obituary, published in the Summer 2011 *Alfredians*)

And **Barbara Richmond**, née **Bolton**, (KAS 1931-1936) wrote as a follow-up:

"Richard Adeney. The Greatest flautist I have ever heard, but I had no idea he went to KAS. I still have the bamboo pipe I made, as he did. It seemed a good thing to be doing at the time and perhaps in his case it was the starting inspiration for all that followed."

#### Janet Craxton

"We were sad to hear of the death of Janet Craxton in July this year. An Old Alfredian, she had studied at the Royal Academy of Music where she held a Chair and also at the Paris Conservatoire. She was principal Oboe at the Halle Orchestra and with the London Mozart Players and the BBC Symphony Orchestra, and since 1970, with the London Sinfonietta. Sir Lennox Berkeley, Alan Rawsthorne, Elisabeth Lutyens and Oliver Knussen were among those

who composed works for her. She and her husband, Alan Richardson, gave concerts for the school, the last of which took place in July 1978, and she always retained a kindly interest in our activities."



*From the Head's Report in the Annual Report, December 1981*

*To Janet Craxton*

An extract from *SINFONIA CONCERTANTE Op.84* for Oboe and Chamber Orchestra by Sir Lennox Berkeley – one of many works inspired by the artistry of Janet Craxton

## A word...

### ...from the Editor

A short word of apology for not producing a Spring edition of *Alfredians* this year. I'm afraid that family and health concerns (too uninteresting to go into here) made it difficult for me to work on the magazine. I hope we are now back on track and can look forward to the usual two editions per year.

I hope you all have a festive end to 2012 and a Happy New Year 2013.

Peter Palliser

## Deaths

**Dorothy Kothari – born 27.10.1919, died 12.02.2012**

A nursery school assistant. Mother of Raj and Shanta Kothari. Grandmother of Merlin Kothari (Raj's son at KAS)

Dorothy left in 1952 and returned in 1953 as a Nursery School helper. She left in 1955 and returned in 1956 to replace Miss Smithells in Nursery School. She left in 1963.

**Nicholas Bullock – born 22.12.1938, died 17.11.2011**

**Gerry [Gerd] Weiss – born 31.05.1923, died 28.05.2012**

Gerry was at KAS between 1936 and

1940 and also acted as Honorary Treasurer of the King Alfred School Society from 1951 to 1963, giving his final, 14th report, at the December 1963 AGM.

*(A fuller tribute will appear in a later edition – ed.)*

**Siobhan Morris – born 12.01.1988, died 24.09.2012**

A student at the school from 1996 to 2004

**Sophie Coleman – born 10.08.1987, died 18.11.2012**

A student at the school from 1996 to 2005

## Diary



### Open Day/Summer Fair

In 2013, Open Day will probably become a Summer Fair. Whatever it is, the day will be on Saturday 29 June, 2013 – from 12 noon to 4pm.

Bring a picnic, if you want, but there will be food for sale on site.

### Bonfire Night

Saturday 9 November 2013  
4:30-8.00 pm  
Reception 6 to 7:15 pm

*Alfredians* Autumn 2012. *Alfredians* is a biannual newsletter distributed in May/June and November/December.

We always welcome news and memories from Old Alfredians for publication. All copy should be sent to:

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*(I had promised to publish the following three letters in the Autumn 2011 edition, but failed to do so. Many apologies – ed.)*

Hello,

It was lovely to spot my son, Buster Turner, in the school photo, in your last issue (*it was the Autumn 2010 issue – a long time ago now and apologies, ed.*).



He is the cheeky blonde, second row from front right with a grey sweatshirt on it marked with a W.

On a sadder note, my brother Simon Turner, another cheeky KAS boy from way back, died on October 13th after a long illness. He was a wonderfully warm hearted rebel, who, on being hauled up before Nikki Archer for a misdemeanour, ate a raw onion beforehand and proceeded to blow gently at her throughout the telling off.

He is truly missed. A wonderful man and an avid Chelsea supporter - King Alfred at that time turned out a lot of Chelsea supporters. I think that Simon had something to do with that!

**Carol-Anne Turner** (ex-KAS from way back as well)

Just saw the recent newsletter, is great. Would have loved to have come to that conference in fact, as I work in education myself these days.



Anyway, my name is Michael Mann, am in the photo from 1992 second from top row, below the kid 7 from the left. In fact, that kid is Samuel Potter, who I met again for the first time the other day in the National Theatre - which was amazing. Am also now sharing a flat with Matthew Gretton from KAS (who is the photo somewhere too), and am still good friends with his brother Jamie Gretton, and recently met up with Simon Kirk in New York, when I was passing through, so the KAS spirit lives on even though I left when I was 9 after Beth's class. Ollie Lockett is two down from me in the photo too, and is business partner with Jamie and saw him too at the national theatre, and he looks the same now too - although a lot

taller! Still also in touch with Tom Pollak

Anyway, I was working for the Clinton Foundation HIV/AIDs Initiative last year in the Caribbean as a regional analyst, and have now come back to London and working with Absolute Return for Kids, a children's charity, in their UK education arm. Living in Highgate, all is well, although after a year in eternal sunshine the snow is taking some getting used to!

**Michael Mann**

Dear KAS Friends,

I am writing for a few reasons:

1. Please update my records. Currently you have : Joanne Steinbeck, 3801 N Swan, Tucson, AZ 85718. My new address is: 6569 E Ghost Flower, Tucson, AZ 85750 USA.
2. The name Joanne is fine as that's how people know me: Joanne Warner. However, for the last 20 years, I have used my Hebrew name, Batsheva (I lived in Israel for many years). Steinbeck was my married name.
3. I would like to respond to the recent article and conference, "What does it mean to be well educated?". My family left London (and I sadly left KAS) when I was 13. We moved back to NYC, our original home, and I went to the Calhoun School. I notice that Steve Nelson was at your conference and spoke of nurturing, not murdering, free thought in education. I have had the great honor of being educated at open-minded and erudite schools such as KAS and Calhoun (and then went on to Grinnell College, a similarly minded institution). I have chosen a life of educating people using the tools of yoga; not your typical path, and yet something so rewarding and fulfilling for me. I am truly blessed to have attended schools that allowed me to find my highest, unique expression of myself. Many thanks.

**Batsheva**

*And more recently:*

Thanks to all concerned for the latest *Alfredians*. Always such an interesting and nostalgic read.

I was very sorry to learn of Joyce's passing. This reminded me of one of my earliest memories of Royston, where I was throughout the war. My mother had delivered me to school one Monday morning, during the early period when I

was a weekly boarder. I was walking, homesick and tearful, past the stables towards the barns, when I heard piano music coming from one of the stables. I entered the room, and saw two of the older girls playing the piano, an arrangement for four hands one piano of the first movement of Mozart's 40th Symphony. Joyce was playing the bass part, and the upper part was being played by Janet Craxton - the late sister of Michael, whose obituary appears next to Joyce's. This affected me greatly, and to this day whenever I hear that symphony I'm reminded of that episode. I look forward very much to the next issue, and to reading more about Joyce.

**Paul Davis** (1937 - 1951)

*(Paul is referring to Joyce Rathbone – please see her obituary in this issue and the small memorial to Janet Craxton as well – ed.)*

**Esmond Harris** (KAS 1937-1939) sends us his new address:

The Old Police House  
Main Road  
Sutton, Woodbridge,  
Suffolk IP12 3DU

## Retirements

**Brian Rance – KAS 1983-2012**  
Caretaker, Goatherd and Archivist

**Nora Evans – KAS 1987-2012**  
English Teacher  
Head of Sixth Form  
Head of English  
Head of English and Curriculum Support  
Acting Deputy Head (Pastoral)

**Dermot Allen – KAS 1990-2012**  
Head of History  
Head of History and Government and Politics  
Director of Studies  
Head of Upper School  
Deputy Head (Academic)

## Final Retirement

**Mike Young – KAS 1982-2012**  
Head of Lower School (retired 2006)  
Ivy Wood Coordinator (2006-2012)



# Obituaries...

## Peter Raymond

1 June 1941 –  
8 November 2011

Peter died a few days after suffering a severe heart attack not long after he had received applause for a well-received piece of prose he had read to the members of his creative writing club... He leaves his wife Margaret and two daughters, Catherine and Helen. He also leaves behind a granddaughter, Isla, who was born in August. He would sometimes say, "I hope I will see Catherine's baby." He did, and what joy his granddaughter brought to him.

He became a pupil of KAS in 1945 at the age of four, attending kindergarten at the school's wartime premises at Branch Hill on the edge of Hampstead Heath. During his years at school he developed a talent for drawing and writing, with a taste for English literature and History, but an aversion to Mathematics. He finished school in the summer of 1959 after completing his

advanced level GCE.

Upon leaving school, Peter attended the Art College and later the London College of Printing. Having worked in industry for several years, he decided to teach Art, training at Bristol. His first job was in Dagenham, at Hunters Hall Junior School. Later, he became class teacher there, where he met Margaret. They were married in 1975 dwelling at first at Lymm. When Peter became qualified to teach the new subject, Design and Technology, in secondary schools, they moved to Ashton in 1981. Peter taught the subject in Skelmersdale, until his early retirement at Our Lady Queen of Peace RC High School, in 1993. However, until he reached 60, he worked as a supply teacher at St Edmund Arrowsmith's, teaching mainly Design. In the following years after they moved, Peter and Margaret were blessed with their two daughters. The family regularly attended St Thomas' Church (Peter is buried in the churchyard). He gradually became involved in many ways in the church's works, in particular, in hospital visiting and the designing of church banners. Soon after their arrival in Ashton, Peter joined



the local Art Club, and was its Chairman for several years.

Shortly after his retirement from Skelmersdale, Peter joined the team at the Craft Gallery in Haigh Hall. In his retirement, he enjoyed walking, visiting places and touring abroad.

Peter will be sadly missed by his family, colleagues and his closer classmates from KAS, including, among others, Diana Kabadi, Julie Mitchell, Hugh Sheridan, Nicky Rubashow and Paul Papadopoulos.

● Paul Papadopoulos

## Joan Morris

2 July 1952 –  
22 February 2012  
KAS: 1993–2012

For 11 years Joannie was my boss, my mentor and my friend. I fear I am not a sufficiently talented wordsmith to do her many attributes justice but the ones that spring readily to mind are wise, considerate, honest and strong.

Joan loved to laugh but, unlike many of us, mostly chose to do so only when things were actually funny. When you took a problem to her you could be assured that



she would listen, and when she spoke you could be assured that she meant what she said. She didn't bother too much with false niceties and trivial banter; an honesty of

approach that I personally treasured about her.

Her love and commitment to her own children was absolute, as was her dedication to and affection for the students she taught. I have no doubt that there are countless current and former pupils of this school who, like me, will be forever grateful for her patient guidance and geographical expertise.

Our department and our staffroom have lost a kind and consummate professional, a supremely reliable source of common sense and clear thinking, and a genuinely good person. Her family have lost much more.

Thank you Joannie; gone but never forgotten.

● Bob Stephens

## Diane (Rawling) Davies

1 May 1964 – 30 December 2011

Diane started teaching Geography at KAS in January 1990. Over the next twenty odd years she was involved in the school in every capacity imaginable – teacher, friend, parent, member of Council and, at the end, Chair of Parent Staff. The school has been, and still is, an incredibly important part of our lives. That was reflected in the wonderful turnout at Diane's

funeral. Diane took me to the end of year party in July of 1990. The outgoing Head of History described the school as a 'community'. Diane believed passionately in that idea. In recent times it has, to me, felt exactly like that – a community. On behalf of my family I want to thank everyone at the school for the love and support they have shown us over the years and over the past



few months in particular. A really heartfelt thank you.

● Alan Davies



# Ducks over the years

This really is about the DUCKS

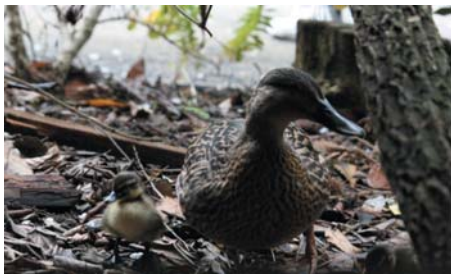
There can't be many people at KAS who now remember a most marvellous man called Tom Bond or "Bomber" Bond as I remember him (don't ask!). Tom was the Accountant who dealt with the manual payroll as well as lots of other financial stuff and had the ordeal of training me up to take over from



*Ducklings hatching in the tree...*

him when KAS was dragged kicking and screaming into yet another computerised system in 1990.

I had initially come to install the new computers at KAS and train staff on the software that the school had bought and, like many others before me, and indeed since, KAS became a major part of my life. In fact I found it so amazing that I stayed (now 22 years). The proof of KAS' pull was that I happily travelled all the way up here from the depths of Surrey every day.



*After falling from the tree by Squirrel Hall the mother duck and ducklings hid in bushes until the coast was clear.*

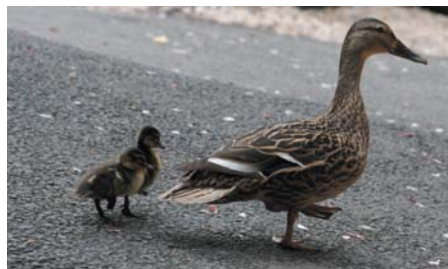
My love for KAS also meant dragging my two children out of bed at 6.00 am when they joined the school in 1997 because, as far as I was concerned, nothing could match KAS and its ethos – it would allow them to "fly." Robert (now 31 and a Financial Analyst) went into the L6 after attending a



*Making their way out of the bushes towards the pond...*

boys' public school and said it was the only two years of school that he had enjoyed. Whilst Rob was in the 6th form, Alex was joining up to Reception at the other end of the school! Alex completed his studies last year and has taken a gap year before going to Sussex (King-Alfred's-by-the-sea) in October.

I am sorry, I digress –



*They nearly ended up in the Green Building !!!*

Tom helped me understand what KAS was really about – not a school but a family. Tom had come to KAS when he retired from his "proper" job as a Bank Manager at 65. I don't believe he ever thought he would be at KAS until he was 82, but he was, and in fact had to be told to stop shifting all the files over from the "old" bursary by Francis Moran in 1994, when the new bursary was built. The "old" bursary is now where David and Meg have their offices.

Tom was a mine of information both financial and otherwise. He had lived a varied and interesting life and I loved to hear his stories from around the world and at KAS which were amazing. I admired the way in which he supported his wife Dolly when she developed Alzheimer's.



*Onto the Field...*



*Finally into the pond...*

I can remember talking to him about my being totally doolally at times and he asked me if I knew what the real meaning of the word was, and then proceeded to tell me that it came from the 1900s when there was a Sanatorium called the Deolali Sanatorium in Marashtra where British Army serving in India were sent, when they suffered madness from the harsh life in India, before being sent back to England.

I digress again... now onto the real reason of the story... DUCKS!

Tom's stories included one about the ducks and Squirrel Hall, both close to my heart. He told me that every spring the female duck would lay her eggs in the tree in Squirrel Hall and when they hatched he would watch mum very carefully flutter down with her babies in her wings one by one. Tom never knew how the ducklings got back up there but every morning at 7.00 am he would watch them flutter down until they were old enough to leave home. It was a wonderful story and I would have loved to have seen it happen and I have often repeated it to people who would listen to me.

Imagine my amazement when Becky Barker (Estates) came up to me yesterday (25.4.12) and told me that she had seen the ducks fluttering down from the tree once again. Presumably this is because the cladding around squirrel hall has been taken down and mum has been able to lay her eggs in the tree once again! Becky has



*Happy Endings...*

managed to get some wonderful photographs of the ducks. I am just so glad that Becky came up the Bursary yesterday and told me, she has taken some of the most amazing photographs of the ducks who, I believe, are now residing in the duck pond in Lower School.

Talk about history repeating itself – isn't life wonderful?

● Tricia Still, Bursary