

Alfredians



A newsletter for King Alfred School Alumni

Summer 2010

Plus Ça Change...

When I first received this photo from Karin Weaver (see more from Karin on Page 5) what struck me most was the recurrent importance of trees at King Alfred School. There's a tree atop King Alfred's crown in the first school logo. There are all those trees we have at the school and the ones we plant in memory of those we love. We've had classrooms up trees and tree houses. People climbing trees. So my next thought was how much KAS – its essence – has remained the same all this time. People often feel that it has indeed changed, that it has become more this or less that, better or worse. It has been known as many things – hippy school, arty school, zoo on the hill, demonstration school and, I'm sure, a host of other things.

But then consider this from Ron Brooks' history of the school: *The afternoons from 2 to 4 pm were also run on Dalton lines and were devoted to private study or to clubs where each pupil had the choice of participating in a wide range of activities including country dancing, eurhythmics, visits to industry, games, photography and handicrafts.* And then look at the piece from "Snapshot" on page 3.

Think of the image of John Russell, one of the school's very first heads, as remembered by Mrs Claremont in 1932: *JR walked with great strides and, as he passed down the hill to our right, looked a very big man, and in contrast the children looked very small. Some of them were very small, but even those of ordinary height contributed to the general effect:- that of a giant followed by a line of little people from*



Up a tree 15 July 1946 – Karin Weaver, Barbara Manning, Mary McBean, Gilly Cowen

another world. 'It is the Pied Piper of Hamelin!' I cried under my breath, for fear of shattering the illusion, though we were too far from the scene to be heard. 'Now I know,' replied my friend: 'I have often wondered over and over again of what Mr Russell reminded me. Of course, it is the Pied Piper! Shall we follow and see what happens next?'

Of what he himself wrote about the school: *Ex corde vita* we have chosen for our motto – translating: "Keep thy heart with all diligence, for out of it are the issues of life". A little child can, I believe, be made to understand that his feelings, his shame his joy – in a word, his heart, burning or cold,



Up a tree 2010

is the helm of his life.... And of change: *The law of change is the great law of life, and we must be ready – not only year by year and term by term, but day by day and hour by hour – to readjust our conceptions of life – even of school life – to abandon here, to experiment there, to seek truth in the new thought rather than in the old.*

And then finally we can join it all up with something from our present prospectus, a quote from another past head, BH Montgomery, in another time: *The pattern of KAS may, I think, be likened to the valley of a river. The width and length of this valley does not greatly alter over the years, but the actual*

river bed is being shaped continually by the movement of the water which is always seeking out the best route to follow and altering its course accordingly. We and the children in the school represent the river and all those who are, or have been, a part of the school have made their contribution... those who return to KAS after 10, 20, or 30 years of absence recognise an atmosphere and a spirit that does not change. This spirit is perfectly summed up in our motto: *ex corde vita*... It is not what you put into the child, but what you draw out that constitutes education.

● Peter Palliser



EX CORDE VITA



Dear Editor? Shome mishtakes, shurely?

First, thanks for publishing my letter, but my name is Simon Peters, with an 's', the one without an 's' is in the Bible, and secondly, pace Nick Alwyn and his helpful notes on the Fives Courts, the woodwork master's name was DAVE Thomas, not Daniel.

I remember playing fives when I first entered the Upper School which must have been in about 1957, but it steadily dwindled in popularity, and was, I suggest, never played at all by about 1960.

Nice to see a picture of Misha Norland looking unchanged.

Best wishes, **Simon Peters**

Thank you for the school photograph with the caption 'Are you in the picture'.

I attach a cropped portion (approximately 8cm from the left hand side



of the original) which shows me (fuzzy hair) with Jennifer Thompson on my right and Sheila Bathhurst (arms folded) on my right.

You will recall publishing an obituary for Sheila within the past 2 years. Jen and I have re-established contact relatively recently and you published a note from me on our nostalgic visit to Flint Farm.

With a frequently failing short term memory recollection of my friendships at KAS remain strong. However I have been unable to recognise the many other friends who must be in the picture somewhere. These include my younger brother Adrian who died in February 2008.

With my very best wishes to all,
Philip Stanley (1936 - 1939)

Paul (please give us your last name) writes:

I was delighted to receive the Autumn 2009 "Alfredians," and to see the 1938 school photo. The last time I saw this photo was on the occasion of the Jubilee, in the 'thirties' room. There I am! I arrived at KAS in 1938, and can be seen in the top photo, 9th from the right in the front row, and already showing signs of the physical characteristics which would lead to my nickname at school, Skinny, which would stay with me until I left in 1951. My only memory from before the

war is being pushed off the swing in front of the nursery school by Conrad, and cutting my knee. Robey gave me a big cuddle and washed and put a plaster on my knee – activities which today would surely incur the wrath of the health and safety brigade.

If you look at the underside of the protruding roof outside the nursery school, you will see the hooks from which the swings were hung. These swings, like the climbing bars in the hall, have long since vanished – again because of H & S no doubt.

My parents decided to follow the school to Royston, living in different rented houses in different places – I recall Foxton, near Cambridge, Yelling, near St. Neots, and finally two places in Royston. I was therefore a weekly boarder to start with, and later on a daily pupil. I remember arriving at school on my first Royston day, and walking down the path in front of the stables on the left – these were classrooms, the last one being seen in the picture at the top right on P.3 of 'Alfredians'. I suddenly became aware of the sound of a piano being played in one of the stables. I approached and saw two older girls, playing what I later learned was an arrangement for 4 hands 1 piano of the first movement of Mozart's Symphony No 40 in G minor. This impressed me greatly; this music always brings back this memory most vividly. The girls were Janet Craxton and Joyce Rathbone.

Being a daily pupil in Royston meant that I missed a lot of the activities referred to by others in various articles. However, I do remember struggling to be near the entrance to the air raid shelter during raids, so that we could see the dog fights taking place, when our fighters attacked German bombers coming in from the east. I remember helping on the farm, being called out from a class to see a cow giving birth, Jane Banham falling off a threshing machine and breaking her ankle, and above all, hearing Mr Churchill's victory speech over a radio setup erected by two of the older boys, Will Nickless and John Gibson. This was battery powered – there was no mains electricity in the school buildings, remember, but we all heard the speech pretty clearly.

I also remember cycling to Bassingbourn US Airforce base, north of Royston, on Wednesday afternoons, when there was no school. The G.I.s would give sweets (candy to them!), which greatly boosted our meagre ration. On one occasion a misguided G.I. gave us a packet of Camel cigarettes. So four of us sat down in the spinney one break with the cigarettes, a box of matches and some toothpaste to hopefully conceal the smell on our breaths, and had a smoke! One or two of us were sick – but not me.

I'm sure this led to me becoming a heavy smoker in later years, but I gave up 45 years ago.

Finally, we came back to Manor Wood after the war, and soon started playing fives! See the last 'Alfredians'. I must agree wholeheartedly with Nick Alwyn – the school should restore the courts, and take steps to reintroduce the game. We played a lot, usually in breaks, but I also seem to remember a period devoted to the game, led by Harry Kemp or Philip Haselden.

Wonderful to see my world in 1947 again, although I am just a blur bottom left. At 6 years old I obviously had not got the hang of photography yet. I do see many of my contemporaries: Taisie (Anastasia), Janet Brown, Michael Adler and, of course, Liz Monty.

Two questions occur to me: Did Jacqueline Honeyfollwyck really marry a bull fighter? We certainly had a lot of bull fighting posters up in the classroom. What was the story of Mr Kruger? He was German and taught us in the juniors.

Yours sincerely, **Mary Marden** (nee Moy-Thomas)

Wilf and Mary Marden

The Smithy, Pandy, Llanbrynmair, Powys SY19 7DY. Tel 01650 521287

Jacqueline Watson, née Thompson, at KAS 1928-1944, writes from Norfolk, telling us that after KAS, she went to the Webber Douglas Dramatic School and acted in Repertories and in the West End Theatre. She joined the WAAF during the war, was posted to Yorkshire for training, then managed to get a posting in Norfolk, guarding the coasts. Jacqueline got married in 1952 and now has two children and six grandchildren.

And a Fives P.S. (from previous correspondence)

Not that this information will be of any use, but I couldn't help smiling when I read your article about the fives courts. By the 1970s their state of disrepair - and relative seclusion - made them the perfect spot for my friends and I to let off increasingly large explosions. We said we were making a film - and in some ways we were, as we liked having a record of what we were doing - but looking back it's a little miracle we weren't seriously injured. The company who provided the professional quality chemicals never checked our ages.

Great to read that the courts are going to be put to more serious use.

Good wishes, **Sebastian Cody**. OA: 1966-1974

From the last issue of 'Snapshot' newsletter...

What's the buzz?

An Apiary at KAS feels right somehow. We have traditionally offered a predominantly outdoor based 'natural' curriculum with hands on learning so what could be more appropriate than bees?

The idea began following a fascinating talk given to a Year 2 class by a beekeeping parent, Vaughan Thomas. The children were intrigued and quickly became experts on the lifecycle of the honeybee and they waxed lyrically about the maiden flights of queen bees and the lazy life of the drones! The life of bees is the most

wonderful 'story' and children and adults alike are quickly drawn in and keen to discover more.

Following wide consultations, our first colony of bees arrived in Ivy Wood in April. Their monarch is a New Zealand queen, known to be a docile breed of bee and therefore suited to life in a busy school community.

The KAS colony has had its fair share of early difficulties but the recent spell of warm weather has helped considerably and we hope that our small but determined colony will survive the winter and perhaps provide

us with our first batch of King Alfred School honey next summer!

Many teachers and parents are taking part in the beekeeping course run by Vaughan and the £800 raised will go towards the KAS bursary fund. In the spring we will extend the apiary to provide hands-on learning for parents, teachers and older students. The Years 2 and 4 children will also gain information and experience during rural study sessions. A generous donation from parent/staff has enabled us to invest in the necessary equipment and with support from the CDT department we are hopeful of some innovative ideas to ensure the maximum involvement by even our youngest pupils.

● Sheila Jaswon

A model school!

The fourth annual Model United Nations General Assembly took place in the Lower School hall on 6th July.

This year the Geography department returned to the theme of climate change with a rehearsal of some of the arguments which will be hammered out by delegations for real in Copenhagen in December. Whether it is because the venue is so suitable, the fact that we ask Year Nine students to address each other respectfully and dress in a businesslike manner, or because they realise the importance of the subject under discussion, each year the teachers are increasingly impressed by the quality of speeches, and level of debate.

Perhaps thorough preparation is the most important factor in delivering a convincing and persuasive oration. We

began the process with a special screening of the powerful film "The Age of Stupid." Set in 2055 it examines, by means of flashbacks how human beings didn't save themselves from global warming when they had the chance.

We were also particularly fortunate this year to have the help of an expert from Cambridge University. Aled Jones who is a deputy director of the Cambridge Programme for Sustainability Leadership came to talk to Year Nine once they had been assigned their delegate roles. The students found his advice invaluable and some said that he gave them confidence in the ways that they were thinking in role.

As the day approached, there was much lobbying amongst groups of delegates. Increasingly complex amendments to the resolutions put forward



by our hosts the honourable delegation for Denmark began to emerge. A watered down 30% (from 50%) reduction in CO2 emissions from the more developed countries was rejected, as was an optimistic call by poorer countries to be able to increase their emissions substantially. In the end, a clever and thoughtful sliding scale of changes to emissions put forward by the erstwhile glacial Russian delegation was voted upon: 21 for and only 3 against.

We are hoping that the real players in the UN will be as far-sighted.

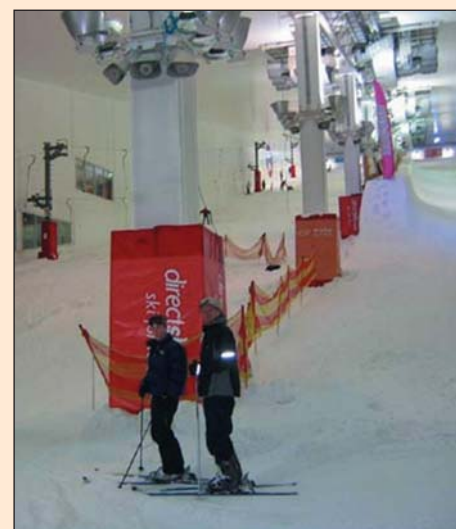
● Rita Murray

The Freedom of Choice

Choice activities on Wednesday and Friday afternoons offer an opportunity to learn new skills, exercise or help others. Historically, Choice afternoons have been designed to give students a chance to enrich the subject-based school curriculum and engage in new and exciting projects. At the moment the activities on offer fall into three categories. The 'Heart' section offers mainly sports and physical pursuits including ultimate frisbee, aerobic fitness and skiing. The 'Soul' option gives students a chance to work for the

benefit of other people, such as helping in Lower school or assisting children with learning difficulties at Oaklodge School. The 'head' section provides a chance to learn, apply and consolidate new skills, such as cooking, sailing, and hat-making. There are four modules of eight weeks in a school year and students are required to engage in every category for at least eight weeks. This still gives students a chance to repeat their favourite choice in a school year.

● Edo Skender



Esther Knight (born 7 November 1930, died 23 August 2008) used to teach in the Junior school at KAS. She was there between 1957 and 1964. These two photos were taken around 1963 (a guess by her daughter, Dr Elizabeth Flinn) when she taught a Reception class. The class was involved in an advertising shoot for Australian fruit. Esther used to talk about this - apparently she had nothing to do all day except keep in the background, while the children were photographed "playing" with Australian apples and pears. The photos are from the company who did the photo shoot. They show about 20 children and quite a good area of classroom.



KAS for Australia



KAS History... An invitation from Edward Webb, Head of History & Politics





King Alfred School

The History Society is in the process of writing a **STUDENTS HISTORY OF THE SCHOOL** And we want **YOUR** memories and anecdotes to put in it!!

Share your memories and experiences of the school with future generations of students!!

E-mail your stories to: edwardw@kingalfred.org.uk

We look forward to hearing from you!!

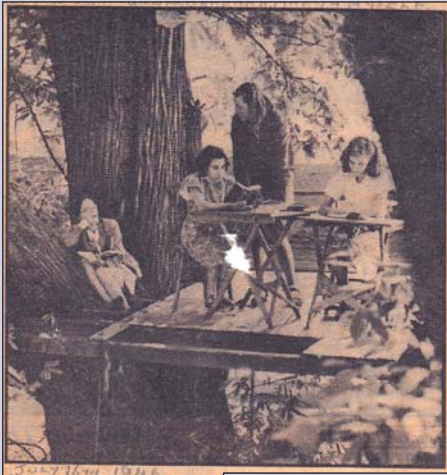
The annual KAS History Society Lecture in Memory of OA Raphael Samuel will be held on Wednesday 30 June at 6pm in the Old Library and is entitled 'Memoryscape'. We are very lucky to have Toby Butler giving the lecture on his area of expertise - digital heritage and oral history - and we hope to see many Old Alfredians there. There was a full house for last year's lecture and a pleasant evening was had by all. Please do pass on this message to friends and family. Refreshments will be provided so do come early and catch up with friends, teachers and OAs!

History & Advertising

The notecard shown here is the work of Old Alfredian Gad Simon (KAS - 1946 to 1948), who is embarking on a second career with a small company called Uniquity. This is a photo of the 1948 KAS First Eleven Hockey team, which he has made into a small card. His range includes postcards and bookmarks, among other things. If anyone is interested in having a favourite photo turned into something new, please get in touch with Gad at 25 Ravenscroft Avenue, Wembley, Middlesex HA9 9TJ or on 020 8904 4181.



A Treasure Trove from Karin Weaver in Australia



Tom Brown's Schooldays
A "tree-top" classroom at the King Alfred School, Hampstead, London. Pupils often go up after school hours to do their homework in sylvan quiet.

L to R: Gillian, Barbara, Mary & Karin



Tom Brown's Schooldays – L to R Back Row: Willis Vandersmidt, Phillip Haselden, Sylvester Bone, Gay Galsworthy, John Williams & Larry Ruda. Front Row: Raph Samuel, Julian Berrisford, David Wasserman & Peter Seglow. (June 20th 1948)



Gillian Cowen 1947



L to R: Sally Phillips, John Williams, David Shackle, Alan Holmes (behind Dave), Gad Simon and Phillip Leuw (back off). Behind is Lower School. They are facing cricket nets. (June 18th 1948)



Gay Galsworthy – In Renée Soskins car in drive. The lodge is behind with gates onto North End Road. He is facing playing field. Beer mug used in "Tom Brown's Schooldays." (June 20th 1948)



Jennifer Davis – At Head's room windows. (June 20th 1948)



Pageant Autumn 1946 – A group of those taking part in the pageant at KAS Autumn Term 1946.



Ronald Fuller – 1948, At his table in English room. (June 1948)



Karin Weaver & John Williams – My hair set for Jane Eyre scene. He is pulling my red scarf off. Marquee behind and nursery school behind that. Larry took photo. (June 20th 1948)



Sally Phillips at Marquee (June 20th 1948)



Mary Mathieson & Karin Weaver – In "The Importance of Being Earnest" (Pageant at KAS Autumn 1946)



Phillip Leuw (June 20th 1948)



Barbara Manning – As a narrator in a pageant at KAS 9 (End of Autumn Term 1946)



1984

Are you in the picture?

This is the 1984 KAS school photo. Are you in the picture? Can you identify anyone? We would love to hear from you if you can. Please drop us a line.





Obituaries...

Richard Gregory



Richard Gregory at the Exploratory centre in Bristol in 2004

Richard Gregory, who has died after a stroke, aged 86, was an outstanding figure in the scientific study of visual perception and an energetic, charismatic communicator in promoting the public understanding of science. His book *Eye and Brain*, published in five editions and translated into 12 languages since 1966, transmitted his excitement for his subject and the clarity of his thought to generations of students and general readers. He was a passionate advocate of hands-on learning about science, which led him to establish, in 1981, the Exploratory centre in Bristol, a model for many interactive science exhibitions that followed.

Richard's creativity in devising experiments and demonstrations was exceptionally diverse – from measuring neural noise in ageing to studying the apparently scanning eye of a tiny marine crustacean. His research and thinking from the 1960s onwards focused on the idea that sensory information provides only incomplete or ambiguous evidence for what we see, or believe we see. According to this view our perceptions represent hypotheses, using the analogy of a scientific hypothesis which is devised to fit with and explain the evidence available.

This approach had its roots in the idea of unconscious inference, proposed by Richard's scientific hero, the 19th-century German physicist and physiologist Hermann von Helmholtz. It implies that perception is not simply a bottom-up analysis of the pattern of light entering the eye, but

intimately engages top-down information based on our implicit knowledge, experience and expectations about the world. Visual illusions, where the brain adopts an incorrect hypothesis, provide a prime source of support for this view. Richard's fascination with these phenomena, and ingenuity in developing and exploiting them, led to his books *The Intelligent Eye* (1970) and *Seeing Through Illusions* (2009).

At Cambridge University in the 1950s and 60s, Richard established a wide-ranging research programme on vision. My wife, Jan Atkinson, and I were among the many students there who were inspired into research on perception by Richard's sparkling demonstrations of visual effects. He undertook a landmark study with Jean Wallace on the visual abilities of a patient, SB, whose childhood blindness was reversed by an operation in his 50s.

Alongside his perceptual experiments, he set up a laboratory to develop his ideas for novel instruments. These included a device for using a light source to draw stereo images of 3D shapes; a scanning microscope that could image a solid block of tissue on to a whirling helical screen; and a camera that corrected the atmospheric distortion of astronomical images by selecting optically the moments of "good seeing". It is notable that these problems were all treated years later by digital computing devices.

Richard was pleased when a Cambridge team incorporated the principles of his astronomical camera into their software, but generally was happiest with solutions whose workings could be appreciated through mechanical intuition, rather than those that depended on the impenetrable magic of computer programming.

However, computing as a model for the brain's processing of information had an evident and timely appeal to Richard, who saw psychology and the brain as engineering problems. Artificial intelligence was a new

and exciting prospect in the 1960s, and he was attracted to Edinburgh University in 1967 to join the computer scientist Donald Michie and the mathematical chemist Christopher Longuet-Higgins in the interdisciplinary innovation of a department of machine intelligence and perception. When W Grey Walter (a pioneer in bringing together neurology and robotics) and the biologist Gabriel Horn offered Richard the possibility of a chair and his own brain and perception laboratory in Bristol's medical school, he welcomed the opportunity. He moved to Bristol in 1970 and became professor of neuropsychology, remaining there for the rest of his scientific life.

Richard was born in London, the son of Clive Gregory and his wife Patricia. His father was a distinguished astronomer at University College London. He followed his father in being intrigued by the design and possibilities of scientific instruments and shared his intellectual curiosity for embracing and uniting science from basic physics to the nature of the mind. However, Richard admitted that he never understood the theory of O-structure, which embraced paranormal phenomena and to which his father devoted his later years.

Richard was educated at King Alfred school in Hampstead, north London. His education was interrupted by the second world war, during which he served in signals in the RAF. In 1946 the air ministry gave him the job of explaining radar to the passing public at the bombed site of John Lewis in Oxford Street. He went on an RAF scholarship to Downing College, Cambridge, in 1947, where he started to study experimental psychology through philosophy (the only route available in Cambridge at that time). Following work at the Medical Research Council's applied psychology unit under Sir Frederic Bartlett, in 1953 Richard was appointed as a demonstrator and then lecturer in the new department of experimental psychology in Cambridge. He remained at Cambridge until 1967.

His books developed broad ideas on the history of scientific ideas (*Mind in Science*, 1981) and the relationship between science and the visual arts (*Illusion in Nature and Art*, written with Sir Ernst Gombrich, 1973). His interest in art and visual perception led him to organise, with Priscilla Heard, the scientific component of an exhibition on *trompe-l'oeil* painting in the Palazzo Strozzi in Florence in 2009. He also edited the wide-ranging *Oxford Companion to the Mind* (1987). He founded and for many years edited the scientific journal *Perception*. In contrast to the rather pompous formality of the journal's competitors, Richard cultivated elements of diversity, quirky speculation and refreshing wit.

Richard communicated to others an inquiring spirit that looked for satisfying explanations as a source of delight. After working on the Launch Pad hands-on gallery at the Science Museum in London, he threw his energy, charm, and considerable networking skills into establishing, fundraising and directing the Exploratory centre. This was first set up on a small scale, with dedicated support from Priscilla, in the Victoria Rooms in Clifton, Bristol, in 1981, and then at a much more spacious site at Temple Meads station. The Exploratory continued until 1999 when it mutated into the more lavish Explore@Bristol.

Richard also played a key role in combining science education with astronomical heritage, promoting the development of the former Royal Observatory site at Herstmonceux, East Sussex, into a science centre. He was a prolific exponent of scientific ideas on television and radio, and in public lectures.

Among his many achievements were winning the Waverley gold medal for inventing the solid-image microscope in 1960, fellowship of the Royal Society of Edinburgh in 1969, appointment as CBE in 1989, fellowship of the Royal Society of London and the award of its Faraday medal in 1992.

Richard's Who's Who entry declares his hobbies to be pondering and punning. The puns came thick and fast, possibly a linguistic equivalent of the ambiguous perceptions he loved, excruciating or enlightening, and sometimes both together. I treasure: "Men are esteem engines; women are perpetual emotion machines," which characteristically coupled a superficial disregard for political correctness with an underlying sympathy for the frailties of both halves of the human race and allusions to the history of technology.

His enduring, boyish pleasure in paradox, ingenuity, insight and the general richness of life could always override scepticism or intellectual disagreement. As well as the heady excitement of ideas, Richard inspired affection and good humour in his friends and colleagues. This was touchingly apparent when his first wife, the experimental psychologist Margaret Muir (married 1953, divorced 1966), his second wife Freja Balchin (married 1967, divorced 1976) and his longterm companion and colleague Priscilla all sat warmly together with him in his last hours. He is also survived by a son, Mark, and a daughter, Romilly, from his marriage to Margaret.

● Oliver Braddick

● Richard Langton Gregory, psychologist, born 24 July 1923; died 17 May 2010

Gillian Gore

My wife, Gillian Gore, who has died aged 55 of breast cancer, was born into a family with many connections to the worlds of stage and film. In the 1920s her grandfather, Bert Aza, and his brother, Archie Pitt, were part of a music-hall act known as the Aza Boys. Eventually, Bert became a very successful agent and manager, in particular of Gracie Fields, who became Archie's husband.

After Bert's death, his widow Lillian carried on the business, passing it on to their son, Morris, Gillian's father. Gillian's uncle on her mother Sheila's side was the actor Sidney Tafler, and her aunt Hylda was married to the film director Lewis Gilbert. Gillian, however, decided to eschew a life in show business.

Born in Marylebone, central London, she attended Orange Hill county grammar school in Edgware, Middlesex, then left aged 16 to work as a secretary. She married me when she was 21, and at that time was working at Visnews, the news-gathering arm of the BBC, where she remained until 1979, when our eldest son was born.

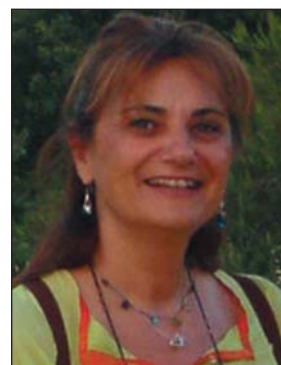
Apart from bringing up him and his younger brother, she helped me run various

retail businesses until 1996. Gillian then decided on a change of role and devoted her working life to King Alfred school in Hampstead, north London.

Her main interests were art, travel and spirituality. At 25, she had begun a lifelong involvement with meditative pursuits, including Kabbalah. She was always deeply concerned for the welfare of others and was a constant source of advice for family and friends.

In 2008, having lived at different times in Australia and France, we decided to move to Sardinia, Italy. As she had throughout her life, Gillian quickly made friends. All those who crossed her path were taken by her beauty, her joie de vivre and, in particular, her compassion. Gillian lived life in a whirl of energy and fun. She died just one month after her illness was detected. She is survived by myself and by our sons, Sam and Jackson.

● Peter Gore

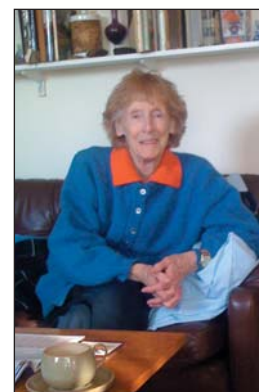


Betty Keeble

Born 10 September 1926, died 24 May 2010

Betty was a parent at the school, wife of Lewis, who was Chair of Council in the early 1980s, and mother of David, Alan and Peter, who were all at KAS. Alan and Peter were at the school before 1968, when the family moved to Australia, so Betty's connection with KAS goes back a long way. In the 1980s, Betty and Lewis were instrumental in obtaining planning

permission for the Lower School playground when an objection was lodged by neighbours and the school had to deal with the Inspectors' enquiry. In their capacity as Town Planners, they represented the school and were able to push through the planning application.



Tony Young

7 July 1968 – 4 June 2010

Tony, Tony, Tony!

Tony was a true gentleman and a great friend. A man with a big heart and zest for life. He was not someone to sit by and watch his life pass him by. He lived it to the full and was always looking for the next adventure or that next project.

I was lucky to have had the opportunity

to get to know Tony and be able to not only call him a colleague, but a friend. One who was generous with his time and his heart.

Kat Grant



Jack Pole

Jack Pole, who has died aged 87, was one of the most erudite and insightful of British historians of early American history, and one of the first British historians of America whose work was taken seriously by US historians. He had the courage to tackle the big ideas of American ideology – among them liberty, equality and representation. He also anticipated, in work shared with his friend Jack P Greene, the modern interest in Atlantic history. Throughout his career, he showed great intellectual independence. Because he could take a very broad view, and root it in detailed mastery of the archival sources, he compelled respect even from those who did not expect to agree with him.

His intellectual method, in fact, resembled his style in the game of cricket, the other great obsession of his life. Crouched at the wicket, he would defend, if necessary, for hours, with infinite tenacity, then abruptly deliver the most elegant of off-drives or a blatant slog over the bowler's head.

For 10 years until 1989, he held the Rhodes chair of American history at Oxford University and a fellowship at St Catherine's College. He succeeded in ensuring that American history should be taken seriously at Oxford, and caused waves by insisting that it should be taught only by qualified specialists. He was also one of the ringleaders in the successful move to deny an honorary degree to Margaret Thatcher, not (as Conservatives who did not know him maintained) out of snobbery, but because he considered that Thatcher had damaged British higher education.

For such a careful researcher, Jack was a prolific author. His 1966 book *Political Representation in England and the Origins of the American Republic* first established his reputation. In 1983 he published *The Pursuit*



of Equality in American History, which many scholars regard as his best book, though his 1975 work, *The Decision for American Independence*, has been influential for generations of students.

Jack was born in London. His father, Joe, a journalist and later head of publicity in London for the Hollywood studio United Artists, and his mother, Phoebe, daughter of the Rickards haulage and taxi-owning family, were classic Hampstead intellectuals of the period. They moved in a world of academics, psychoanalysts and socialists. Jack's father knew all the stars of Hollywood's golden age, and Jack himself received a Christmas card for many years from Charlie Chaplin.

Jack was sent to King Alfred's, the progressive school in Hampstead. It was there that he began his love affair with cricket. It is said that until late middle age, his batting average – mostly accumulated on behalf of the Trojan Wanderers, the team he founded with his lifelong friend, the music critic David Cairns – exceeded his years.

The Trojan Wanderers survive, a nomadic team for which the conductor Colin Davis, the tenor Robert Tear and many others (including myself) have turned out. On one occasion, an Indian academic was pressed into service to make up the numbers and put in at number 11. When he made

60 in a few minutes, it turned out that he had admitted not to playing a bit in India, as Jack thought, but to playing for India.

Pole's service in the second world war was as an anti-aircraft officer, first at Scapa Flow in Orkney, then in the campaign against the Italians in the Horn of Africa, famous for the exploits of Orde Wingate's Gideon Force. After the war he went to Oxford to read history. The decisive connection of his life came when he went on a scholarship to Princeton, in New Jersey, and met three British students who became lifelong friends, Cairns, Anne Robbins (daughter of the economist Lionel Robbins, who became an editor at Penguin) and the historian Gerald Aylmer.

Jack and Cairns started the first cricket team at Princeton. But the high point of his years in the US, perhaps, came when Jack, David and his sister Margaret, and Anne drove across the continent in an elderly Chevrolet, sleeping in the open air most nights. In Hollywood they were treated royally by the friends of Jack's father.

At Princeton, Jack came under the influence of the great American liberal historian Richard Hofstadter, and while working for his PhD he became, for a time, an instructor at the university. There he met and married Marilyn Mitchell, with whom he had a son, Nicholas, and two daughters, Ilsa and Lucy. The marriage was dissolved in 1988.

In 1953 Jack returned to a lectureship at University College London, where he taught until he was called to Cambridge to be reader in American history and government and a fellow of Churchill College, of which he became vice-master (1975-78). In 1979 he moved to Oxford.

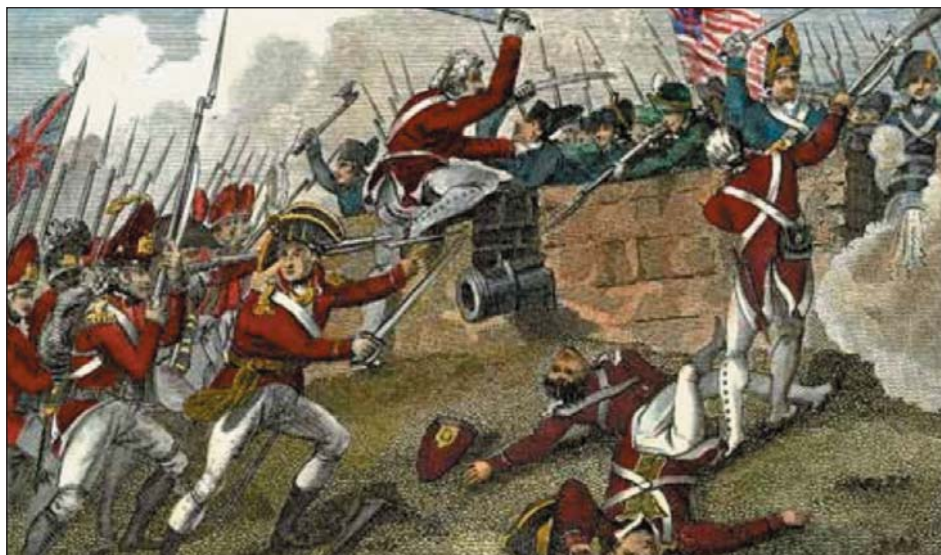
In his early 70s, he was diagnosed with Parkinson's disease. However, he continued to work in spite of the disease for many years. Jack was a talented painter and, with the onset of more serious symptoms, he converted effectively to a style that involved stippling the paint instead of brushstrokes.

Almost a decade after his diagnosis, in 2005, he came out with a definitive edition of *The Federalist Papers*, in which James Madison, Alexander Hamilton and John Jay laid out the fundamental political ideas of the American revolution. It was a subject ideally chosen to engage Jack's grasp of the relationship between history and political philosophy.

He is survived by his three children and five grandchildren.

● Godfrey Hodgson

● Jack Richon Pole, historian and cricketer, born 14 March 1922; died 31 January 2010



The 1775 Battle of Bunker Hill, a recurring theme in the books of Jack Pole © Time Life/Time & Life/Getty Image

Dolly Lush

22 May 1929 to 12 March 2010

Dolly Lush was a King Alfred School parent from 1958 to 1978, as her sons Peter and then Ian attended the school. Her husband Cecil was the school architect for many years.

In her working life she was a Child Psychotherapist, working for many years at the Child Guidance Training Centre at the Tavistock Centre. She was also chair of the Association of Child Psychotherapists from 1971 to 1974. Away from work she loved her family and for relaxation enjoyed



Dolly with husband, Cecil

watching tennis.

Much missed by Cecil, Peter, Ian, daughters-in-law Ceri and Margaret and her grandchildren.

David Waterman

David Waterman – he was still called Wasserman when he was at school - died at the end of October after a courageous struggle against Parkinson's.

Together with his brother, Peter, he was at KAS from just after the war, till about 1953. David made life-long friends at KAS, illustrated by the fact that apart from Peter, four other Old Alfredians came to his funeral.



David Waterman (Wasserman) and Peter Seglow in Le Tignet, France



David at KAS in 1948

David leaves his wife Sheila and is also survived by his son Shaun, his daughter Rebecca and three grandchildren.

Peter Seglow

Katy Munden

KATY MUNDEN Widow of Max, Mother of Marc and Madelaine. Born 1st January 1921, died peacefully 18th February 2010, aged 89.

Nikki Archer writes:

Katy Munden's death is a loss to me, although we were rarely in contact since I left London. The school owes her a great deal and I could not have worked as well without her careful help and constant support throughout some very difficult times. She was efficient, loyal to me and the

school. My difficulties would have been greater without her constant and efficient presence. She worked quietly and loyally for the school and the staff and I could not have done my work without her support. She will be remembered with affection by myself and many others and was a great strength to KAS during her long time there. I shall miss our (sadly rare) telephone conversations after my retirement and I was happy to see her a couple of times when I went back to London for a rare visit.



Julian Cottenden

1956-2010

Julian was Deputy Head at KAS from September 2003 to December 2006. He died tragically in March this year from lung cancer, having beaten throat cancer last year.



I first met Julian in March 2003 when he came to KAS for a deputy headship interview. It was clear from the start that he would bring a dynamic and innovative energy to the school and he was swiftly appointed. From September 2003 he brought a fresh and positive approach towards all school matters; this when combined with his open-mindedness and his sense of fair play created a strong lead in embracing new ideas.

Julian was an experienced teacher of A level geography who inspired his students with his commitment to local and global issues. He cared so much about the world beyond the school gates and he brought his experience and compassion to bear on the subject, making it relevant and accessible to the students. His overall programme of trips and exchanges introduced many students at King Alfred School to exciting and often profound experiences. He developed our first link with the TJB school in China and one of the longest lasting legacies we have from Julian's time at the school is the Kinniya King Alfred Pre-School which he established in 2005 in response to the devastation caused in Sri Lanka by the Boxing Day tsunami. A new computer room set up at the pre-school will now be named after Julian and the school community has helped to fund the hardware needed.

Julian touched thousands of lives: he had been a project development officer for UNESCO, a volunteer speaker for Oxfam, as well as being the UK coordinator for Life-Link Foundation. He established traditions of Model United Nations General Assemblies in many schools and with his infectious enthusiasm led ambitious expeditions, both in this country and abroad.

Julian was an outstanding humanitarian who could assimilate himself into a wide range of cultures. His own interests were equally wide-ranging, including water sports, international affairs, sustainability, ornithology and photography. He was also a keen mountain climber and a qualified Mountain Leader. Julian will be sorely missed by us all.

Dawn Moore

'What Does It Mean To Be Well Educated?'

The KAS Society invites you to join us for a conference on Saturday the 9th October 2010, from 10am to 4pm

What Does It Mean To Be Well Educated?' is the latest in the KAS Society's series of conferences which challenge the assumptions behind education today.

One of society's highest values is providing children with 'a good education' and yet it is far from clear what we actually mean by this term. In an attempt to develop greater clarity, the KAS Society is bringing together high profile speakers from a range of disciplines:

Steve Nelson - Head of the innovative Calhoun school in New York, established in 1896, whose primary aim is to cultivate 'critical thinkers'.

Frank Furedi - Professor of Sociology at Kent University and author of a series of books on today's society, including 'Wasted: Why Education isn't Educating'.

Catherine Burke - Senior Lecturer in the History of Education at Cambridge and initiator of a project with The Guardian called 'The School I'd Like,' which asked 15,000 children nationwide to imagine their ideal school.

John White - Emeritus Professor of the Philosophy of Education at the Institute of Education in London and an influential figure in education for over 35 years.

Kathryn Ecclestone - Professor of Education and Social Inclusion at Birmingham University and Visiting Professor at Oxford Brookes University, co-author of 'The Dangerous Rise of Therapeutic Education'.

Stephen Law - Senior Lecturer in Philosophy at London University's Heythrop College, author of 'The War for Children's Minds', a passionate defence of a liberal approach to education and to parenting.

This one-day conference costs £15 per person (including continental breakfast and buffet lunch). The day is open to everyone, including family and friends.

We are delighted to welcome back as Chair the award-winning BBC radio producer **Piers Plowright**, whose programmes have often explored the fundamental questions of society.

CONTACT: Lisa Keane, KASS Chair at lisagodolphin@yahoo.co.uk or at King Alfred School, Manor Wood, 149 North End Road, London NW11 7HY, for a Registration form and a full programme. Please book early to avoid disappointment.

Another word...

...from the Editor

I'd like to apologize for the delayed appearance of this issue – so delayed that it has moved from being a "Spring" edition to a "Summer" edition. It also means that your chances of coming to the KAS History Society Lecture on 30th June are made very difficult. I can only plead injury: I was injured playing tennis in March and my life seems to have moved into slow motion in the last few months. However I hope you enjoy this edition and shall try to be more timely with the next.

Also an addition, rather than a correction, to the last issue. I should have given the bride and groom's last name in the piece entitled "At last Tom and Victoria get married!" on the back page: the lucky couple were Tom Keverne and Victoria Weatherby.

● Peter Palliser

Diary



2010

Open Day

Saturday 26 June,
1.00 to 3.30pm
Reception: 4.00 to 6.00pm

Bonfire Night

6th November, 5:30-8.00pm
Reception 6:30-7:30pm

2011

Open Day

25th June, 12:30-3:30pm
Reception 4-6pm

Bonfire Night

5th November, 5:30-8.00pm
Reception 6:30-7:30pm

Deaths

Peter Levy

Born 27 September 1923, died 18 October 2009

Anne MacMillan (née Anneliese Levy) writes to tell us that her brother Peter died last year in Tiverton, Devon. Peter had been an electrical engineer. Sadly he had not been well for a long time.

Adrian Stanley

Born October 1929, died February 2008

Adrian worked for a long time with the Probation Service, followed on retirement with work for a charity called Langley House Trust, which provided residential support for ex-prisoners. His wife, Katherine, wrote to say that "he spoke of his time at your school with real affection and reckoned it was a good education in the fullest sense."



Alfredians Summer 2010. *Alfredians* is a biannual newsletter distributed in May/June and October/November.

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

Alumni Coordinator, King Alfred School,
Manor Wood, 149 North End Road,
London NW11 7HY

Email: oa@kingalfred.org.uk
Tel: +44 (0)20 8457 5282
Fax: +44 (0)20 8457 5249

PLEASE KEEP US INFORMED OF ANY
CHANGES OF ADDRESS.

The King Alfred School Society is a Company Limited by Guarantee
No. 57854. Registered Charity No. 312590. Registered in England.