

Alfredians



A newsletter for Old Alfredians

Autumn 2019

KAStonbury

Old Alfredians Gathering 22nd June 2019



Antigone Exton-White, Victoria Williams,
Charlotte Holloway and friends

The Old Alfredians gathering took place under the canopy of Squirrel Hall. We were delighted to welcome over 40 Old Alfredians back to school, some of who hadn't visited in 50 years. It was lovely to see Old Alfredians of all ages mingle and share memories of the school.

KAStonbury, so named as it

combines the King Alfred School summer fair with a music festival, took place on a glorious, sunny day. The standard of music performed by pupils of all ages was superb and there were plenty of stalls with food, drinks and crafts. The proceeds from ticket sales raised funds towards the refurbishment of the Orchard Room



(L to R): Benji Goodwin, Liam Michaels
(council member), Megan Van Pelt



(kitchen) in the Fives Building. The room will be turned into a multi-station cookery room where pupils can learn cooking skills to put the 'Healthy Minds, Healthy Bodies' philosophy into action'. Thank you to the Parent Staff Association and volunteers for organising an excellent event.



(L to R): Barbara Fraiss, Paul Davis, Areta Hautman



Alan Thomas left, with brother Ian and wife



Ulf Ehrenmark and Anton Smith



Katie Lord and daughter



(L to R): John Williams, Tony D'Arcy, Ralph Erle, Peter Keeble,
David Morgan



Arnab Banerjee, Jacqui Taylor and Joe Leader



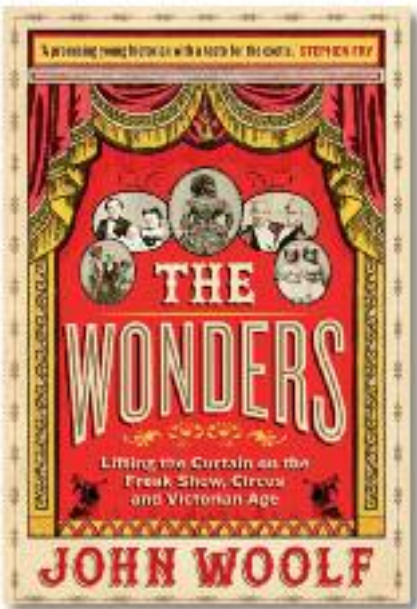
Oliver Hart and Dave Rindl

OA News and Achievements

Old Alfredian **Dr John Woolf (OA 2005)**, historian and researcher, co-wrote the bestselling audiobook *Stephen Fry's Victorian Secrets*. Having read history at the University of Cambridge, John went on to obtain a PhD on nineteenth-century freak shows. Since then John has developed the BBC4 series *The Real Tom Thumb: History's Smallest Superstar*, has featured on the BBC4 documentary *Dwarfs in Art* and was Assistant Producer for *Queen Victoria's Letters: A Monarch Unveiled*.
Now John has authored his first book *The Wonders*, based on his PhD. John's mother, Fay Woolf was PA to Mike Young the Head of Lower School up to 2005. In 2017, *The Wonders*



Dr John Woolf



was awarded the Biographers' Club Tony Lothian Prize for the best proposal for an uncommissioned first biography. *The Wonders* is a radical new history of the Victorian age, where we learn the truth behind 'The Greatest Showman' and meet the forgotten and extraordinary performers whose talents and disabilities helped define an era. In this richly evocative account, John uses a wealth of newly discovered materials to bring to life the often tragic, sometimes triumphant but always extraordinary stories of people who used their differences to become some of the first international celebrities.



'A promising young historian with a taste for the exotic.'
Stephen Fry

'Fascinating and thought-provoking. A marvellously researched account of the freak industry - an extraordinary side of Victorian life which has been ignored for too long.'
Jane Ridley, author of Bertie

John will be coming to KAS as part of the Lecture series for Sixth Formers on **8 November**

Family Way by Jeanette Glasser

Creative, talented people who work well in a team is what we do at KAS! 'Family Way', a short, all-female cast play written and directed by Jeanette Glasser, Learning Support teacher in Upper School, played three sell-out nights at the Etcetera Theatre Club in Camden High Street at the end of June. "It was a family affair!" explains Jeanette. "A former KAS student played one of the four main characters - the pregnant, middle sister who lives with a woman on a barge; Nicola Lohr, our KAS Access Arrangements



In rehearsals; Jeanette (right) with Lauren and OA Molly



Officer, did set design; Brodie Stoppard, current Year 12 Photography student took photos as did Nicola's husband; and Nicola's son, **Clemente Lohr (OA 2015)** filmed the production.

"**Molly Moody (OA 2011)**, did acting training in Oxford, and is an absolute gem on stage," says Jeanette. "It's hard to take your eyes off her! She has a totally magnetic presence."
Congratulations to Jeanette and all the KAS participants.



Wedding Bells... Jorge De Jesus & Sophia Antoniou (OA 2009)
Huge congratulations go to Jorge De Jesus, our hard working Estates Officer at KAS, and Old Alfredian Sophia Antoniou. Their wedding took place in Rhodes on the 31 May. The best man was Jorge's cousin **Andre Mourato (OA 2009)**, Upper School Choice co-ordinator at King Alfred. We wish Jorge and Sophia many years of happiness.



We are delighted that **Megan Van Pelt (OA 2015)** has joined KAS in September. Megan has recently completed a degree from University of Birmingham and she is now an intern working with Takako, our new Head of Sixth form. Her goal for the future is to create communal literary spaces that encourage reading and writing across all ages through events and a strong sense of community.

Lorraine Kent, School nurse at KAS for over 17 years had her last day in October. Many Old Alfredians will remember Lorraine fondly. We will miss her and wish her the very best.

Sophie Wilson (OA 2011) Upper school Learning Support Assistant left KAS in July. She still comes back to KAS every week to teach Yoga.

Max Stenham (OA 2012) is working for a UK electronic processor designer, based in their Swedish office. He helps to design the no. 1 mobile graphics processor by volume in the world. After he left KAS Max attended Woodhouse College sixth form in North Finchley for A levels and then went onto the University of Southampton where he got a 1st class Hons in Electrical & Electronic Engineering. Max says, **'I'm still in contact with all the people I met at KAS, and they remain an integral part of my friendship group even after moving away, and I feel that won't ever change'.**

Sabrina Greenberg (OA 2005), runs an online magazine, 'Her Move' with co-founder Charlotte. The magazine is dedicated to creating inclusive, accessible & responsible fitness content for women. They strive to ensure all images used are diverse, inclusive and a realistic representation of women exercising. **They were recently looking for a venue for a photo shoot. Sabrina remembered King Alfred's 'great sports hall along with a big outside playing field', and suggested the school as a location for the shoot. Old Alfredians get a discount if hiring the School as a venue - see back cover for more details.**

Clemente Lohr (OA 2015) plays one of the main characters in *The Good Scout*. The play received phenomenal reviews at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival, and is coming to London.

Olivia Williams (OA 2014) is the lead vocalist in *Wandering Wires* an Oxford-based contemporary jazz quartet; a searing mix of jazz, soul Brazilian and electronic sounds. *Wandering Wires* are establishing themselves as one of the most exciting emerging bands on the UK jazz scene. Since forming in 2016, they have supported the likes of the Comet is Coming and Flamingods, and appeared across the UK at venues including Oxford's O2 Academy, Band on the Wall (Manchester), the Canteen (Bristol), with QM Records (Brighton), as well as at Truck and Are You Listening festivals. The group's latest studio album, 'Homecoming' has been featured regularly on BBC Introducing and was described as 'genre-fluid treat' by *Nightshift Magazine*. **Olivia was also on the judging panel of the French Festival which takes place at King Alfred School every year.**

Sarah Phillips (Council member & Past Parent)
Sarah has been appointed to the voluntary role of Treasurer of the Association of Governing Bodies of Independent Schools (AGBIS). Sarah is currently a member of Council and was Treasurer of the King Alfred School Society for 14 years before stepping down last year. Sarah's work as a director and trustee of AGBIS is a reflection of the Society's increasing involvement with the wider world of education.



Happy 60th Birthday Don Zadek Ewing. Don's wife Michelle (inset), was former Chair of Parent Staff and Don taught at KAS. Don organised a football match at KAS as part of the birthday celebrations on 30th June. Don and Michelle's children **Poppy (OA 2010)**, **Felix (OA 2013)** and **Oscar (OA 2012)** attended KAS.

70 year reunion



Front row (L to R): Jenny Leigh, Lesley Sheringham Ma, Liz Pulver Callis, Naomi Cotton, Claire Epstein Yacobi. Back row: Ian Jacobs, Bob Bierman, Tony Hoffman, Michael Hermann

It is now three months since we had our "70's reunion". Nine of us met in the Bull & Bush to meet up with old classmates. Some of us had spent 14 years together, while others joined us later. I was sorry that more of the class could not make it but it proved an interesting experience, learning what we had all done in our lives, and what we are doing now. Those of us who came were: Elizabeth Callis (nee Pulver), Naomi Cotton, Jenny Leigh, Lesley Sheringham, Ian Jacobs, Robert Bierman, Tony Hoffman, Mike Herman and myself, Claire Yacobi (nee Epstein). I had not seen or heard from most of them for over 50 years, but while going round the grounds of KAS before the get-together, we shared and laughed at so many common memories of the places and the things we got up to at school.

We visited the nursery school, whose red rooves and stone walls made it recognizable despite the new windows. The junior school "covered court" has long since disappeared and I was sad to see that Squirrel Hall in the upper school has all but disappeared, and hope that the bell which we saw in the archives (situated in what used to be the girls cloakroom!), will find a place of honour somewhere in the grounds. Squirrel Hall was a central place in our lives in the middle and upper schools, where every morning the class registers were called. I was glad to see the all-important tennis courts/netball courts on the way to another important spot, the open-air theatre, where we put on plays and played in break time. Although it has been renewed somewhat, it still has the old feeling, while the field where we played hockey, football and cricket is still there and has not yet been built on. The Hall is being refurbished but still has the same lay-out and façade.

During our reunion, Lizzie asked us all what we had taken with us when we left KAS. There were several reactions: freedom, equality, acceptance of others,

thinking outside the box. I do hope that today's children have the same and even more opportunities we experienced. I trust that next time I am in London, I will be able to meet up with all those I met in July, and many more. KAS has an important place in my childhood memories and experiences.

I would like to thank Shalaka for her efforts in trying to locate our classmates, and for enabling us to go round the school during the summer holiday, and also the archivist for letting us see some of the old photos.

● Claire Epstein Yacobi (OA 1966)

After the reunion, we received messages in the OA office from some of the group.

Liz Callis wrote:
'What a lovely afternoon, I think this may have to happen again for those who were unable to make it....Thank you so much Shalaka, wish I had gone to KAS and looked at all the photos! In the meantime, it was very lovely of you to come to the Bull and Bush and take photos. I was in actual fact terrified as I walked towards the doors of the Bull and Bush... shows what confidence KAS showed us.. which is strange, as usually in a crowd of



people I do not know, I am fine, but this was different. Any way after about 2 seconds I was fine, as everybody was SO lovely.

Ian Jacobs wrote, **'Family - the family that KAS indeed was for many - and my own family as my sister Ruth and brother David were both there when I was, and the importance that my parents placed on the type and style of education that KAS was offering. KAS was egalitarian, eclectic, fair and helped us see the best in people in an unprejudiced and unbiased way. Appreciating others for their qualities and talents was a great education, it certainly has helped me in my life and particularly my work when I was a GP'.**

Lesley Sheringham responded, **'I didn't know you all but so enjoyed the get together. Lizzie's question about KAS and my one word would be 'confidence'. The school aimed to bring out best in all and appreciate each individual for who they are. It has given me self-belief and a certain confidence throughout my life. Also, tolerance and respect for others!'**



Anna Bravessmith who couldn't attend, wrote, **'KAS was an awakening for me, after earlier experiences of being stuck in a restrictive boarding school, and there I began to learn trust in others and to repair my relational capacities. Importantly, we had a lot of fun there!'**

Those who couldn't make it but sent their best wishes were Bruce Pitt, Mike Hurwitz, Ilsa Pole, Glasha Peters, Corinne Pearlman, Annabel Bravessmith (née Bamberg)

The Alfredians office is here to help you to organise reunions for your year group so please do drop us a line at oa@kingalfred.org.uk

Old Alfredian School Visits

Kim Franklin

On a visit from his home in Spain, **Kim Franklin (OA 1973)** shared memories of playing football on the field, skipping PE to spend more time in his favourite language classes (time well spent obviously, as Kim travelled the world after school expanding his knowledge and is now a language teacher), and his pleasure at seeing much of the school unchanged from his time at King Alfred. For some years, Kim was instrumental in gathering Old Alfredians from his year groups together. With his help, we shall be planning another reunion of this era (KAS in the 60s and 70s), possibly even with a football match. Please get in touch with us to ensure that we have your up to date email address.



Tom Bernard

We were delighted to meet **Tom Bernard (OA 1973)** in June when he paid an impromptu visit to the school. Tom lives in California and was visiting London. He left school in 1973 and had not been back since then. We took Tom on a tour of the school with lunch in the school hall after 46 years! It's always interesting finding out what our pupils go on to do after school and impressively, Tom is a retired NASA engineer who worked on the Space Shuttle program.

When he heard about **Roy Greenfield**, Tom wrote to us...

Shalaka,

I remember Roy very well. When I was there in June I could not see him because he was very ill and in a special place for dealing with his illness. For many years he taught maths to me and for my last year (1972-3) at KAS he was my form master, Form 6X.

I remember that I was having a terrible time grasping the relatively simple concept of basic Algebra. The idea of solving for letters rather than numbers proved a difficult concept for me. Roy very patiently took the time to work with me until I had managed to grasp the concept. He would take me into the staff lounge, ply me with tea and work with me. I do not like to think about how I would have done several years later in Calculus if not for his guidance. Then later when I went on to study for my B.S. in Structural Engineering in University it was clear to me that his patience and diligence when I was at KAS was



invaluable and I often think I could not have gone into engineering without what he did.

I worked for almost 30 years for NASA on the Space Shuttle program, both here in California and in Florida at the Kennedy Space Center. I just retired this year when I turned 65. As I say, I think that, to a large extent, I owe much of my success directly to Roy. He was a wonderful teacher and a great person. Although I have not seen him for many years I am saddened at his passing and will always remember him fondly. My heart goes out to all of his family, I share in their sorrow.

All the Best, Tom

It is lovely to meet OAs from near and far, but to avoid disappointment, please do email or call us ahead of time so we can spend time with you. oa@kingalfred.org.uk t: 0208 457 5175

Past Parents Afternoon Tea on 10 October

As part of our series of Afternoon Teas for Past Parents, Ian Levene and Irene Panayiotou joined Kara Conti and Head, Robert to hear more about King Alfred today. Irene writes, **'It was so lovely to be back there with such beautiful memories of happy times long ago. It truly is the most wonderful school.'**

We were delighted that Old Alfredians **Mike Hurwitz (OA 1966)** and **Ilsa Pole (OA 1963)** (who weren't able to make the 70 year reunion), attended the tea. Ilsa wrote **'...and it was so good to hear the others talking of their experience of the school. It really is remarkable how profound an effect KAS has had on so many lives! Thanks again for putting it all together and for showing me around the old haunts. It triggered lots of happy memories. That tree house is a wonder!'**



Mike Hurwitz



Kara (standing), seated from left: Ian, Irene, Ilsa

30 years of the Village Project

The skills pupils learn from the Village project are as relevant today as they were thirty years ago



Jo Jo Martin and Stephen de Brett, July 2019



The Village Project (known as 'the Village') was the brain child of Stephen De Brett (DT teacher) in 1989 when Dawn Moore was Head. One of the first external visitors was a young Ray Mears who taught woodland crafts and survival skills. Over the years, the national Press has reported on the Village as an excellent opportunity for learning out of the classroom and the opportunities for learning a variety of essential life skills.

After a break for some years The Village was resurrected in 2013 and is still going strong today. Year 8 pupils (age 12-13) spend a week building their own huts, living outdoors in a technology free zone with a lack of running water and electricity, with the

aim of learning practical living skills, discovering new resources for entertainment, developing social skills and team work, being challenged yet having fun. However it is so much more than that.

Stephen says, 'Underpinning the whole project is the notion of teaching children how to live well together and how to build a community, which includes an understanding of governance as a whole community as well as in hut groups'. Pupils are learning all the important things in life that you can't learn in a classroom'. He recalls an Old Alfredian telling him, 'I went in a rather quiet girl, but I found my voice in the Village, by speaking up for myself'.

Some of the crucial skills pupils

learn are negotiation, self reliance, how to live in close proximity with each other, tolerance for peers and what hard work it takes to cook meals and keep your hut and kitchen area clean.

The project takes herculean amounts of effort to organise and KAS Staff are committed to making sure each group of Year 8s has a Village experience they may treasure for years to come. External project leaders and current staff come in to lead on a whole range of activities from bush craft, foraging, black smithing, candle making to knitting. One staff member who is on her 7th year of being a Villager said, 'This project is the epitome of all things Alfredian'.



Stephen de Brett



Memories of Old Alfredians

Roy Greenfield

Roy Greenfield Head of Maths and Deputy Head died in July 2019, shortly after his wife June passed away in June. Roy was a much loved teacher and he retired in 1987 after 27 years at the school.

We received many tributes and messages about Roy from Old Alfredians from around the world on social media and email and here are a selection... **'A friend, a gentleman, a legend'.**

'Like everyone here, I have very fond memories of Roy. He made a real impact on me and my

experience at KAS. A big man, with such a gentle and kind way about him, and not surprisingly very well regarded and respected. Sad news'.

'I can only echo what everybody else has said, I learnt more from Roy in the few years I worked with him, about children and education than anybody else in my entire career, I will always be so grateful to have been looked

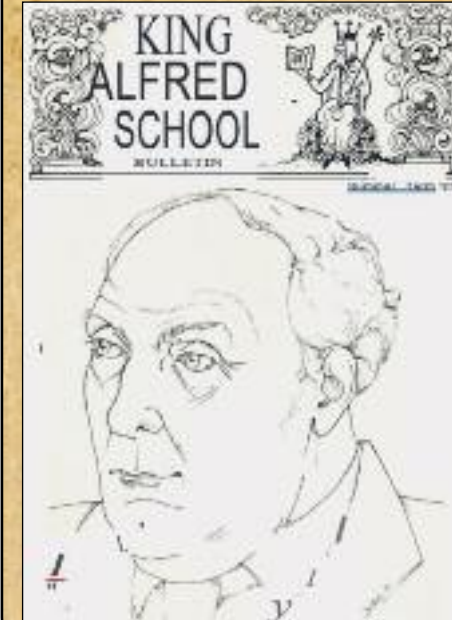


after by such an inspirational man.'

'He was a kind, calm, inspiring and hugely intelligent person – everything a great teacher should be. Rest in peace Roy'.

'Roy saved me! I had slumped into the lowest of low regarding maths, teachers that had no patience for a slightly dyslexic child, (not really known in the late 50's) Roy had such patience and understanding and from getting about 5% in my tests, I shot up to 70%. Even though I still have a fear of maths, Roy gave me the confidence to trust myself. Thank you Roy Greenfield.'

FROM THE ARCHIVES: This is the Bulletin from 1987 which features Roy Greenfield's retirement from King Alfred



John Tunnel (1934-2019)

We received John's obituary from his wife Pamela who wrote:

Thank you for sending us the Alfredians magazine regularly, John did appreciate it. He is very highly regarded in our village. Thank you for giving John such an excellent start to his life.

This is an edited version of the obituary printed in '3 Heralds' parish magazine written by Malcolm Acheson (Rector of Storrington 1994-2014). John Derek Tunnell was brought up in Mill Hill with his younger brother Robert (Bob). Throughout the Second World War the family were able to remain in their family home at Mill Hill, but shortly afterwards they stayed for quite a while with a relative in the Devon countryside.

After returning to London John and Bob became 'Alfredians' – they attended the rather progressive

King Alfred School, a secular co-educational day school striving to encourage the personal development of pupils as well as academic achievement.

John enjoyed tennis, squash, hiking and snooker as well as chess. He loved classical music and his favourite pop artists were Lulu and Shirley Bassey. John's career was with Sun Alliance as a Specialist Insurance Underwriter in the Overseas Division. His work took him to Bermuda and Australia and also to South Africa just before retirement. But he was mainly based in Horsham. Around 1964, John went walking with a holiday fellowship to the Black Mountains and Brecon Beacons in Wales. There he met Pamela Thorpe, a lively and attractive nurse who shared his faith, his good humour, and his care and concern for others. Pam and John were married in Bath Abbey on 14 May

1966; they enjoyed a happy family life with their children Anthony and Catherine and later their grandchildren Ethan, Zoe, Sophia and Matthew.

John was a steadfast Christian and at various times John was Treasurer and Churchwarden at Storrington; he was editor of 3 Heralds magazine and later Chairman of the magazine committee and treasurer and trustee of the Alison MacDonell Trust. He was a Lay Minister of Communion. He was genial and benevolent, supportive and positive, he made everyone feel at ease. He carried out his responsibilities not only with diligence but with excellence.

Since coming to Storrington, Pam and John's hospitality has been legendary and they have taken great delight in welcoming all comers with loving kindness. John's various infirmities have been eclipsed by the warmth of his personality; he has been a blessing and an encouragement to all who have known him.

Areta Hautman (1933-2019)

Areta Hautman made a very significant contribution to the school over many years. She was a member of Council for a remarkable 40 plus years, and there was no one more committed to supporting school events. Both her children Jennifer and Geoffrey came to KAS, and her grandson, Garvin, is currently in the Lower School.

Among many things, Areta was always passionate about the aesthetics of the site, and through her contribution to the Grounds and Building committee, would always take care of our environment. She was highly committed to the school's ethos, as well as being the 'guardian' of the archive, which contains so much of the

school's rich history.

Areta's funeral took place at Golders Green crematorium on Saturday 31 August followed by a celebration of her life at the school. The large number gathered at her memorial service is testament to how loved and respected Areta was by Old Alfredians, staff and parents. A touching poem was read by Zah Rasul, Head of Operations and tributes were read by council members, teachers, the Head Robert Lobatto and President of KASS, Kara Conti. We miss Areta very much at KAS.

A full obituary will appear in the Spring newsletter and in the Old Alfredians section of the school website.

Many Old Alfredians left tributes, here is a small selection:

'Areta knew every tree and its history, every development however small would get her attention and interest.'

'Her descriptions of KAS's past were so vivid that you'd think she served on the 1897 founding committee and knew every headmaster personally!'

'Areta attended more concerts than anybody, she was always there.'

'She was endlessly enthusiastic and inquisitive... something so intrepid in her, about her, and coming from her.... What she had was soul. Lots of it.... She was on Council longer than anyone else. Through thick and thin, from one head of school through another, from one era to another era.... There was something timeless about her and when she spoke at meetings she seemed to be speaking from the past, the present, and the future all in one vocalization.'



Areta supported music and art events at the School through regular attendance. In her honour, the Art and Photography department will be holding an exhibition of archive material in December. There will be a music concert organised, with the help of Paul Fishman, in March 2020. Old Alfredians are invited to both events and details will be sent shortly.

Philip Leuw

Message from Philip's daughter Susan.

Thank you for the Spring newsletter, it reminded me that I had forgotten to inform you that unfortunately my father, Phillip Leuw passed away on 7th October 2017. I believe he attended from approximately 1945 to 1948. I have seen some photos of him when they were reproduced in one of your earlier newsletters looking very blond and handsome, which is how I like to remember him as he was quite bald by 35!

He had very fond memories of KAS as he had previously been unhappy at various boarding schools that he had attended from the start of the war, even running away from one, only to be found on the local station platform. He was obviously longing to be back in NW3 and with family in Maresfield Gardens. He was a perfect fit for KAS as he loved all things practical and became very competent at woodwork.

The school gave him the belief that he could try his hand at anything from engineering to cooking, building to electrics, as well as dealing with bookwork and later tackling EU regulations.

After joining the family business at Smithfield he moved to Sussex to run his own business in bacon manufacturing, which was very successful for 40 years and he thrived on the many challenges it brought.

Deceased OAs

We are sorry to report the deaths of the following Old Alfredians. Some of the deaths listed may not be recent, however we came to know of them due to the huge mailing of the spring edition of the *Old Alfredians* newsletter.

Please do let us know if you know of any OA deaths so we may take their names off our mailing list and avoid causing any distress to their families.

- John Derek Tunnell: April 2019
- June Greenfield (wife of Roy): June 2019
- Roy Greenfield: July 2019
- Barbara Fraiss: July 2019
- Areta Hautman: August 2019
- Sally Soames: October 2019
- Philip Leuw: October 2017
- Marianne Archer (nee Collingwood): June 2014
- Mary Kelemen: 2013
- Jonathan Marc Sykes: 2013
- Peter John Francis Raymond: 2011
- Jennifer C Jackson: 2011
- Peter Zadek: 2009
- Anthony Frederic Rapson: 2008
- Juliet Bingley: 2005
- Steven Bullock
- Francesca Doughy
- Theodore Goldsmith
- Erica Sigrid Harper
- Ruth E Jacobs
- Gideon London
- Robert J A Luckham
- Audrey Mason
- Margaret Maxwell
- Leopold Steinlauf
- Jacqueline Ann Watson

Sally Soames (1937-2019)

Old Alfredian Sally Soames died after a long illness aged 82 on 5th October 2019.

She spent 32 years as a star photographer on *The Sunday Times*. Her body of work amounted to nothing less than a visual chronicle of the social, political and cultural history of the second half of the 20th century.

Her subjects included Hollywood moguls, half a dozen prime ministers, sports and movie stars, Booker prizewinning novelists, painters, captains of industry and ballet dancers. A total of 17 of Soames's black and white portraits are in the National Portrait Gallery's collection, ranging from Edward Heath to Salman Rushdie. Her portraits of Rudolf Nureyev, the ballet dancer, and Lord Denning are in the V&A's collection.

All were shot in classic monochrome for she abhorred the "vulgarity" of colour and stu after Fleet Street's conversion to electronic production and colour printing. She would also have objected strongly to the description of those she photographed as "subjects", and even refused to refer to her pictures of the rich and powerful as "portraits". They were, she insisted, "photographs of people".

A lifetime spent lugging heavy photographic gear around resulted in an increasing immobility, which eventually forced her into retirement. "She suffered for her art and eventually her body gave in," said her only son, Trevor Soames, a photographer and barrister.



Devoted to friends, family and "anything furry", she loved riding until forced to stop after breaking her arms when a polo pony bolted.

She was born Sally Winkleman in London in 1937, to Fay (née Goldstein) and Leonard Winkleman.

Educated at King Alfred School in north London and St Martin's College of Art, after winning the *Evening Standard* photography competition Soames received her first newspaper commission from *The Observer* in 1963 and joined *The Sunday Times* in 1968.

Petite, vivacious and strikingly beautiful, she was a pioneering woman in a man's world. Her charm and ability to establish a personal connection, however fleeting, meant that her subjects went out of their way to co-operate.

In retirement Soames had become "completely allergic" to her camera and declared that her idea of heaven was "having a coffee and cigarette, nobody phoning me and not having ten minutes to get to Heathrow."

Development News

It has been a busy first 6 months getting to know Old Alfredians, Past Parents and our whole King Alfred community. Whether a cup of tea, a tour of the school or a lovely phone call, getting to know King Alfred School through your memories has been fascinating, full on and fun! Our conversations always lead to connections with other OAs and bringing these recollections to a wider audience as we approach our 125th anniversary, is the aim of our '125 OA Voices'. Launching with the school's new website next year, we can't wait to hear more of your stories about KAS.

● Tamlyn Worrall



Tamlyn and Arnab Banerjee at KASonbury

Squirrel Hall

Squirrel Hall is one of the first things many OAs ask about when they visit the school. It holds fond memories for Old Alfredians and they are always a bit disappointed when we have to break the news, that although the area is still known as Squirrel Hall, the building itself is no longer there.

Squirrel Hall was the school's first

new building in 1920 consisting of a roof with supports. By 1969, as it approached its half century, Squirrel Hall was in need of major reparation and there was concern it might have to be demolished. In true King Alfred fashion, pupils, parents and staff set about repairing it on weekends in the summer and by 1974 it was watertight. A further three years of part time work resulted in renewed seating. By 2008, the building was so weak, there was no



choice but to knock it down. Subsequently, a generous parent donated money to put up the current roof structure that looks like sails and pupils still enjoy the space for learning and relaxing.



Chris Raymond DT teacher writes, 'If you visited Squirrel Hall today, you would see huge, gnarled tree stumps distributed around the field. Some weighed up to 5 tonnes. The tree was a giant Sweet Chestnut, one of two ancient trees that made up Squirrel Hall (see photograph above, which was taken from where there the steps up to the Blue building are now).

This particular tree was dated some years ago to be "well in excess of 1000 years old", which means it was most likely standing when King Alfred was fighting off the Viking hoardes! Sadly, but rightly the tree had to come down as it was very unstable. The tree died many years ago when we cut through its roots to build the Green building, what a great lack of foresight that was.

Anyhow, they are wonderful amazing pieces of history which I hope will now seem even more beautiful!

If you go onto YOUTUBE, there is a short clip 'Treetop School' from 1946 of the trees in their heyday'.

www.youtube.com/watch?v=zSJQjAVuF6g



Message from the Head

We have returned to the new school year after an excellent summer.

Our 15th trip to Namibia was a great success. We were delighted that our partner school was recently awarded school of the year in its region and that the Head made a special point of thanking KAS for our contribution. A very successful family sailing trip was held in Norfolk, and we had our first cohort complete the Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award with trips to the Lake District and the Scottish Highlands.

Closer to home, important work was carried out on the site. The Main Hall had a significant and much needed refurbish. Less spectacularly, but perhaps equally importantly, we have new toilets in the upper school and the wiring programme was continued. I was somewhat taken aback when the



electrician showed me a 1930s junction box that he had just replaced.

Our main building project this year will be our brand new, state-of-the-art 6th Form Centre, and much of the preparation for this was completed over the summer.

Sadly, the magnificent Chestnut trees in Squirrel Hall had to be chopped down due to severe internal rot. We now have giant sections dotted around the grounds, some weighing up to five tonnes. Counting the rings showed it was over 200 years old. Our new challenge is to rethink the Squirrel Hall area, which holds such affection for so many Alfredians past and present.

The other project which has caused much excitement is the treehouse 3.0. You can find out more about this in the pages below.

Whilst always keeping results in their correct perspective, we were delighted with the GCSEs and A-levels achieved by our students this year. Most importantly for us, the progress was excellent, with GCSE results in the

top 25% of all schools nationally, and A-levels in the top 10%. Our Year 13s are now off to a wide variety of locations to study an eclectic range of courses, and I am sure you will join with me in wishing them every success for the future.

The year ahead promises to be an exciting one. We have important work lined up to develop our curriculum, and particularly join up the experience from 4 to 18. We are welcoming ever-growing numbers of visitors to the school from this country and abroad, all interested to see how we live out our broad and humane philosophy of education. And we have, as always, an excellent staff seeking to bring out the very best in all our children and young people.

I hope that you can visit at some point of the next 12 months, and I look forward to hearing more of your stories about your time at KAS.

With best wishes,

Robert

Treehouse

Over the summer break, final work to install the first, large platform for the treehouse was carried out. This completes the structure that holds up the new 'trees'. The final set of workshops took place last half term and the CHOICE students completed the rear boundary, parkour wall and part of the Active Boundary. The structural timber used in the decking is Keruing, salvaged from Southend Pier. As the 'bottoming out' ceremony (normally 'topping out' in building parlance) did not happen at the end of last year, we are planning this for just after October half term.



A planning consultant has confirmed that we are able to install the workshop and can build up to 5m high on the treehouse, all under the school's

Permitted Development Rights. Last term the students progressed the design looking at positioning the second platform. We are intending to submit a full planning application for this soon. Over the next school year, we will introduce them to all that the treehouse can offer and try to involve other departments in designing/using the new structures. CHOICE will be looking at completing the Active Boundary (to replace the temporary chestnut fencing), in part using wood from the old Squirrel Hall chestnut trees that had to be taken down over the summer. Some ideas to involve other departments include a science wall, water recycling, art and music installations and high ropes.

Anthony Meacock (OA 2005), Old Alfredian from Assele continues to take workshops once or twice a term. This term he will be looking at how the ground level under the new platform can be used. This is a large space that offers a lot of potential.

● Belinda Webb Architect

OAs Notice Board

Recent leavers Reunion drinks

Thursday 12 December at Bull & Bush

If you are 25 years or under, please join us at the Bull & Bush from 5pm – 7pm. **First drink FREE** if you arrive by 6pm! Invites will be emailed in November but please spread the word amongst your friends. There might even be some teachers there!

Reunion of 1960s and 1970s leavers in September 2020

If you left School during the 1960s or 1970s, please contact Shalaka oa@kingalfred.org.uk or **0208 457 5175**

TEDx at King Alfred

Saturday 8th February 2020

Tickets on sale soon

Networking event: Media & Creative Arts

We are organising our first networking event for those interested in or working within the Media & Creative Arts. This is a broad category including acting, film production, theatre, TV, photography, publishing, digital media, journalism...

Please register your interest by emailing oa@kingalfred.org.uk

We'd like to hold this event in **March 2020**. Are you able to host this event at your work place? Please let us know.

OAs in employment

Our sixth formers would benefit from learning about different industries and jobs. We'd love to learn about your role and what a typical day is like, what are the working hours, what are the best bits and what don't you enjoy? What's your advice for a young person going into your profession? All useful for pupils who are choosing A level subjects and career paths so please get in touch.

OAs at university

We would love to hear about your course and your college or university. Sixth form students, who are making their choices find it useful to hear views from like minded Alfredians. What do you like about your course, what do you wish you knew? What are your inside hints and tips? Please get in touch.

Hire the school as a venue

OAs get a discount for hiring the school as a venue. We can do all sorts of events like conferences, parties and meetings. The spaces we hire out are the Main Hall, Lower school hall, Old Library and Classrooms.

Contact: Jorge, Lettings Manager at jorge@kingalfred.org.uk

For the **Phoenix Theatre** please contact Rob Messik, Artistic Director robertm@kingalfred.org.uk

Old Alfredians... we need you!

- Please support our events and gatherings.
- Help us to organise year group reunions – our next one is for all Alfredians who left school in the 1960s and 70s.
- Come and give a talk to pupils about a topic of interest.
- Offer career advice or work shadowing to young Old Alfredians or sixth formers.
- Stay in touch and make sure we have your contact details.
- Follow us on Instagram and Twitter @oldalfredians
- Share your news and stories with us.

We need your email address to keep in touch!

Old Alfredians
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