

Alfredians



A newsletter for Old Alfredians

Spring 2020

Happy 20th Anniversary A Tale of Three Boats

Sailing trips have always been a part of King Alfred life; the 1919 school magazine features a school trip to the Norfolk Broads. Fast forward to the year 2000 when the tale of three boats began with the school building its own boats.

The 'King Alfred Class' boat was designed in Cornwall, financed by a generous parent, and built at Manor Wood in a special 'classroom' by students. The school's resident boat builder, John Barker and several teachers including John Peisley and Stephen de Brett worked with the students on this building project.

Countless pupils and parents have sailed in the boats and have travelled all over the UK and Europe. Read an edited version of Edo's marvellous talk this year on Page 2 which captures these three vessels as 'outdoor classrooms' of a different kind. Edo's full talk is available to listen on Youtube and can be accessed via the school website under NEWS www.kingalfred.org.uk.



Photos: Kathy Mansfield www.KathyMansfieldPhotos.com e: Kathymansfield@mac.com

In this issue...

Features inside include Memories of Dawn Moore (1963 – 2019), The New Sixth Form Centre, Memories of Old Alfredians and photos from many OA events.



Dawn Moore



The new Sixth Form Centre

Making Waves



What do you get when you put together two teachers, half a dozen parents, a troop of children, a boat builder in residence, a shed on school grounds and a famous boat designer? Ladies and gentlemen, I present you Aethelfleda. Yes – we built a boat. And not just one but three of them!

The story begins in Cornwall at a local pub where two teachers met Nigel Irens, a well-known classic boat designer. Having already secured financial backing from nautically inclined parents, they were after an 'exploration type' of vessel propelled by sails and oars. Nigel sketched a gaffed-rigged, three-mast cutter large enough to accommodate up to 10 sailors and quite nimble when crewed by only a few. As this was a unique design, the boat class was named 'King Alfred'. Between 2000 and 2003, a flotilla of three boats was put together.

A connection between the past and present was fortified, the boats were named in honour of King Alfred's daughters – Aethelgiva, Aethelswiva and Aethelfleda.

Thanks to the 3 King Alfred daughters I've learnt how to sail, instruct and combine safety with peril. How could I not be enchanted by these beautiful creatures? I've got to know their soul; they can be lazy, capricious, aggressive, obedient, stubborn, happy, curious. Aboard these emotional

outdoor class rooms I've learnt my best lessons. And the cost? You'll spend far more cash building a single hard-standing classroom.

By road and by water the boats have trailed all across England, to Scotland, Wales, Croatia, Italy, France, Austria, Belgium, Slovenia and Germany. This voyage brings us to the present, two decades into their existence.

On a regular basis, we sail our boats on the Welsh Harp, a local water reservoir. We take them to Norfolk Broads and the Wash. A four-day rowing trip on Thames between Abingdon and Reading is an annual event for 14-year olds. Grasping the physics of rowing and of operating river locks; familiarising with the history, geography and flora and fauna of places and people along the way; introducing Three Men in a Boat as a must read at evening BBQs; discussing nutrition for exercise; the list of different educational disciplines crossing their paths is limitless.

Our boats really are the best classrooms in the world. The learning is endless, it encompasses all subjects, doesn't rely on high tech, connects students, parents and teachers in different roles, offers a journey into 'the zone', travels across ages, languages and cultures. The floating sisters facilitate the teachers' mantra of "what I hear I forget; what I see I

might remember; what I do, I know".

Family sailing trips in summer holidays are the real highlights of the season. Titled 'Beaches, Boats and BBQs' they offer the most varied sailing and fun beyond water activities in Croatia and south of France. When I see a young child casually teaching sailing skills to his parents and teachers, my heart skips a beat, for this is the pinnacle of my career. Our regulars include 6th formers who soon earn the 'stripes' to venture on their own, without a certified skipper on board. At lunch time they organise the gathering of wood for BBQ, entertain younger sailors, arrange a diving competition, excitingly mingle with locals. And the locals; their query starts with why, how, what, who. Our ambassadors, members of the school sailing community, happily provide answers.



We enter the Great River rowing Race each year. The race is 22 miles long, starting in Greenwich and ending in Twickenham. We cross our bows with 350 boats for about 4 hours, riding high tide on Thames through central London. The river throws its worst tantrums at you, creating choppy waves and shifting heavy, anchored obstacles on the way. My heart is in my stomach at the finishing line; will all the boats arrive safely? When they do, I whisper the words of John Peisley, my original skipper who got me into boating, "We got away with it. Again".

The journey doesn't end here; the future is blue, red and green (this is what our kids call the boats). Next year we plan to offer each subject a day on a boat. The floating outdoor classrooms will host a class with a subject teacher on board tackling a topic of their choice.

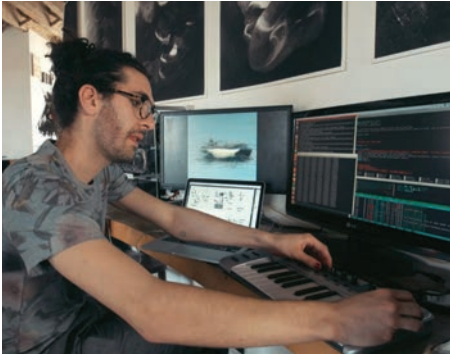
My hope is that other educational establishments will recognise the benefits of such enterprise and embrace the idea of introducing sailing and perhaps even building their own boats. This can be a bonding tool between different curriculum subjects and separate parties that make up the fabric of every school. The exhilaration is frequently shared between your best athlete and unco-ordinated student. **I have never seen a child stepping off our boat without a broad smile of excitement on their face.**

In the words of Chery Fee, an avid sailor and windsurfer: "Don't just sit there, sail something."

● Edo, Head of PE



OA News and Achievements



Jake Elwes (OA 2012) graduated from the Slade School of Fine Art (UCL) in 2017 and has received recognition as an artist and early adopter of machine learning and artificial intelligence in art, investigating the technology, philosophy and ethics behind it. Jake says, **'I am forever grateful for the support I received at King Alfred School as well as the freedom to experiment and encouragement from Will, Jeanette, Sean and John in the Art department'.**

He featured on the BBC4 documentary on the history of video art 'Kill Your TV: Jim Moir's wonderful world of video art'.

Selected exhibitions include the ZKM, Karlsruhe, Germany; Today Art Museum, Beijing, China; Newcastle & London, UK; Victoria and Albert Museum, London; City Loop, Barcelona; Nature Morte, Delhi, India and the Centre for the Future of Intelligence (CFI), Cambridge, UK.

You can find his work at www.jakeelwes.com or instagram @jakeelwes.



Thank you to **Joe Leader (OA 1992)**, now a successful saxophonist who joined us at KAS in 2019, for sending the Music department a large box of reeds for our students. Joe has toured extensively, with his debut solo album 'Seductive Sax' launched in 2011. Joe plans to come into KAS later this year for a performance workshop with our woodwind students.

Jack Mann (OA 1999) has published his first sci fi novel 'Gravity's Arrow' for young adults aged 13-17 years old. It's about a boy struggling with his beliefs as he tries to survive in a galaxy on the verge of war. Jack writes, **'I was at KAS until my family relocated to Yorkshire in 1992 when I was 11 years old. I have the best memories from the place. I'm still in touch with my friends from KAS and, by comparison, hardly speak to my Yorkshire friends (nothing wrong with them, but I just connected more successfully with my primary school Alfredian friends).'**



You can purchase Jack's book via Amazon and it is also sold in "The Village Bookshop" in Woodford. www.gravitysarrow.com

Hannah Owen (OA 2015) is doing a MA in Filmmaking at the London Film School. Her term 4 project is a ten minute black and white film about a teacher's assistant who accidentally breaks one of the student's art projects and doesn't own up, which subsequently sends the whole classroom into chaos. Hannah writes, **'I'm super excited about this project and to come back to KAS and work with the kids. I left KAS in 2015 after being there for 11 years. I'm working with 14 students from lower school. We've been rehearsing every weekend and they are going to come to the studio in Covent Garden and film with us for two days at the end of February!'**

Gabrielle Soskin (OA 1958) is putting on a play at The Gatehouse theatre, Highgate, London N6. The play, 'Counting Aloud' is written and performed by Gabby and can be seen on 16th - 19th April 2020.

www.persephoneproductions.org

After a highly successful tour of Counting Aloud in Canada, Gabrielle returns to her homeland where it all began. *Counting Aloud* is her intimate story. A passionate woman of 'a certain age' who has struggled with inner demons all her life, seeks a way to escape from the ghosts of her troubled past through music. She decides to take up the piano. Told with humour, angst, and inspired by some of Shakespeare's most famous truths, Gabrielle's challenging musical journey becomes a universal metaphor for life and love.



Silvia Beevers King Alfred School Nurse 1984-1999

'It is great meeting up again with so many lovely former pupils always ready to give their old school nurse a big hug.'

Silvia bumped into two of her former pupils from KAS last October and wrote in to say, **'I was out on my mobility scooter in Hendon a few weeks ago and a car pulled up in front of me and out of it jumped a past KAS pupil Carly Schaverien (OA). She rushed up to me shouting, 'Silvia, Silvia my old school nurse. You look exactly the same as when we were both at KAS. 20 years ago!'**

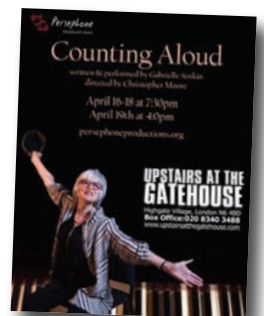
'She gave me a big hug and we promised to keep in touch. Last week Carly came to my home for afternoon tea and brought with her, Millie her seven year old daughter who is absolutely gorgeous with a great personality. Millie age seven now looks exactly like Carly when she was at KAS age seven and putting the two seven year olds together in photos they look identical.'

'This week the same thing happened when out on my scooter, I met old KAS pupil Polina Boiko (OA). She has her own son in year 7 at KAS at the moment and she said she will bring him over for afternoon tea very soon.'

Gabrielle's mother **Renee Soskin** taught for many years at KAS and her siblings

Veronica (OA) and Anthony (OA) both attended KAS. Gabrielle writes **'Very old Alfredian returns**

to her homeland! I attended KAS for 10 formative years then went on to train as an actor at The Bristol Old Vic Theatre school and later trained as a drama teacher at Trent Park College. After a few years of teaching, including helping in the junior school at King Alfred, I emigrated to Montreal, Canada.'



King Alfred School Events

Lunch with old friends



One of our favourite events this year has been hosting a lunch on the 2nd March for a group of friends who attended KAS between 1950 and 1964. We had a lovely time listening to their stories and it was so interesting to learn about their lives after leaving school. Post KAS, the variety of careers included Professors at University, stock broking, psychotherapy, authors, retired barristers and teachers to name but a few. Some of the group went on a tour of the school with two year 9 pupils Bea and Santi. After the tour, the group

gathered in the Old Library to look at school photographs and magazine articles. Lunch was a sit down meal and we were joined by the Head Robert and Georgina, a year 13 pupil who will be going to read History at Cambridge.

Attendees: **Diana Kornbrot, Juliet Mitchell, Joyce Riva Joffe, Jocelyn Ryder-Smith, Lucy Moy-Thomas, Jane Epstein, Jon Epstein, Michael Flesch, Ulf Ehrenmark, John Mason, David Wolchover.**

Anton Smith, Derek and Howard Cheek and Hildred Knott unfortunately



L to R: Michael Flesch, Jane Epstein, Ulf Ehrenmark, John Mason and David Wolchover



L to R: Jon Epstein, Diana Kornbrot, Ulf Ehrenmark, John Mason and David Wolchover



Georgina Cooper Friedlos and Juliet Mitchell



couldn't make it to the lunch.

Diana Kornbrot (who was Head Girl at KAS) shares her thoughts on the day:-

Invigorating Reunion of Alfredians Born in '40s

Personal account of reunion, 2nd March, organised by wonderful Shalaka. Started meeting in new luxurious reception, with new form of greeting, knuckles. Fascinating tour by enthusiastic Year 9 pupils Santi and Bea. Squirrel Hall was a shock! In our day, less than 200 pupils sat on logs while Head or School Four pontificated from tree stump.

On to almost unchanged Open Air Theatre, sadly now lacking the challenging single rope swing. Then on to slide, now replaced by pupil built tree house and area to 'live wild' for a week – we were green-eyed. Finally, lunch in Old Library attended by Head, Robert, Director of Development Tamlyn and university bound Georgina. Fascinating to learn how our different lives had unfolded and how KAS had evolved. Inevitably, 'league tables' now headed. However, key features remain: open rooms for individual challenging academic work, experience of crafts, sports and team projects. As ardent scientist and feminist, I regret still only a minority of girls take STEM route. More homework than in our day, even if less than most places, but hopefully still a parent free activity?

Only wish the KAS opportunities to enjoy and make key learning decisions, together with the necessary resources, were freely available, to every child the world over. Our generation failed to advance that goal much, even in the rich UK. Maybe current generation will do better? Here is to them, and their fellow citizens.

Million thanks for a great day from all of us.

● **Diana Kornbrot (OA 1955)**

Recent Leavers Drinks

11 OAs braved the rain to attend the get together in the Bull & Bush on Thursday 12 December and were rewarded with a free drink. Some had arrived at the pub after voting in the general election. There was a large group of teachers assembled to catch up with their former pupils. Going forward, this gathering might have a later starting time enabling OAs to attend after work.



December reunion: Maths teacher **Jeff** with **Benji**, **Jolyon** and **Josephine**

Film screening in Phoenix 9th November



The event was a first screening of shorts made by former KAS students, in collaboration with other film school graduates they have met since leaving higher education. There were films by **Clemente Lohr** and **Hannah Owen**, with **Toby Elwes** as cinematographer and **Lara Diamond** assistant director.

From a zombie buddy film to a documentary about grief and family, the films covered a range of genres and

styles. The final short crossed borders, from England to Italy, then Mexico, in a seamless narrative about love, relationships and ice cream.

The response from the preview audience at the Phoenix Theatre was very enthusiastic, so we decided to organise an event for a wider audience to a screening and panel Q and A event. See back cover for details.

School Events

TEDx on 8th February 2020 on 'Connections'

King Alfred School's second TEDx event was a huge success and very well attended, with the Phoenix theatre packed full. The theme was Connections and the 21 speakers covered a diverse range of subjects ranging from online bullying (not of young people but of adults – in this case the presenter's own mother), making disability more visible, the thrill and connecting power of sailing to the power of objects and their meaning to each of us.

The audience was inspired, empowered and emotionally moved. The students in particular were vibrant and inspiring in their choice of subject and its delivery. The talks are available to watch on the school website. www.kingalfred.org.uk



AGM on 11 February

We were delighted that Old Alfredians **Michael Jaffe (OA 1977)**, **Liam Michaels (OA 2015)** and **Harry Wingate (OA 2017)** stood for Council this year along with current parents of the school. Over eighty members of the King Alfred School Society attended the AGM with 150 votes cast. This year KASS members were invited to drinks before the AGM began, giving them an opportunity to meet the candidates standing for election and to catch up with friends. A full list of Council members can be found on the school website under Governance www.kingalfred.org.uk

Class of 2019 A level certificate presentation

Wednesday 8th January

Following a few attempts at finding a suitable date which worked for the year group for this new event, we were delighted to welcome a group of 14 recent leavers, and some parents, to collect their A Level certificates.

Robert welcomed everyone back to school and congratulated the class of 2019 on their success, before presenting each pupil with their certificates. Ania (former Head of Sixth form) read out personal anecdotes for each student, which highlighted just how well the teachers knew their pupils, resulting in much amusement amongst the gathered audience. It was heart-warming to see our youngest Old Alfredians chatting and joking with each other and their teachers. They are settling into university life but remain part of the King Alfred community.

Attendees: **Lachlan Sandford, Billy Hohnen-Ford, Shira Frankl, Esther Robertson, Amelia Dyson and mum Susan, Sophy Green and mum Eliana, Esther Robertson,**



L to R: Sophy Green, Amelia Dyson, Esther Robertson and Shira Frankl



A level certification presentation, Class of 2019

James Boardman, Nicolas Gilly, Leo Codron, Rufus MacCrae and mum Gemma, Harrison Raphael, Cassius Carey-Johnson and mum Lorraine, Noah Kahn, Debbie Friedman (on

behalf of Max).

From the school: Robert, Ania, Takako, Penny, Shyama, Fiona, Anna, Dan, Tamlyn, Shalaka.



L to R: Billy Hohnen, Ford Rufus, Macrae Leo Codron, James Boardman and Nicholas Gilly



L to R: Noah Kahn, Lachlan, James, Rufus and Billy with Takako

Current Parents OA Drinks on Wednesday 26 February

Robert and Karen hosted a drinks reception in the Phoenix theatre foyer for Old Alfredians who are also parents at the school. We are honoured that so many OAs choose to send their children to their old school. Although it was a small gathering, as many OAs couldn't make it, the OAs who attended had a



fabulous time looking at their old school photos and catching up with each other. It was lovely to see Jodi Mitzman and Joanna Silver who were friends at school, have maintained their friendship and now their daughters are friends at KAS. Phoebe D'Arcy has a strong connection with KAS as her father Tony and grandfather Douglas are Old Alfredians and now her children attend the school. It was also nice to hear that many parents maintain their connections long after their children have left school.

L to R: Mischa Gorchoy Brearley, John O'Farrell, Phoebe D'Arcy, Jodi Mishcon, Jenny Hautman and Jo Silver



L to R: Adam Friedman, Robert and Sebastian Cody

Fireworks Gathering in Old Library

Over 70 OAs ranging from 2019 leavers to **Geoff Harris** and **Ray Tomkin** who left in 1963 attended this gathering. After the event Geoff wrote, **'Just a note to thank you both once again for your charming welcome that put this elderly gent at his ease. I walked back through the school gates after some 56 years with a degree of trepidation. My final day at KAS was very difficult and marked an abrupt end to childhood and the security I had known since the age of 4. It's a shame that I remember the negative event and have forgotten so many of the good times of which there were undoubtedly many. You can therefore imagine that to receive such a warm reception was very reassuring, so please accept my gratitude and all good wishes for the future'**.



L to R: Dan Parker, Connor Geoghegan, Luke O'Neill and Natali Davidson



Romy Summers and daughter

We were delighted to see the Old Library packed full with so many OAs, former staff members such as Juliette Fardon, council members and current staff enjoying the pre Fireworks drinks. Romy Summers popped in with her husband and children and caught up with her teacher Lucy Bailey.

'Nice to meet you at the OA gathering at the Old Library on fireworks night. My kids enjoyed the eve too. It was lovely catching up with teacher Lucy, who taught me 29 years ago!'



Juliette Fardon, Conor Geoghegan and Luke O'Neill



Liam Michaels, Benji Goodwin and friends



We were assisted by our 2 new U6 event volunteers Charlotte Baker Maher and Georgina Cooper Friedlos who ably registered our attendees at the door. Georgina wrote **'I would say it was a fantastic opportunity to connect with OAs, all inspiring people who have clearly put their KAS education to good use! It was also an excellent way to gain some work experience in organising events'**.



Leon Barody, Nell Sternberg



Megan Van Pelt, Benji Goodwin, Lulu Cooper and Eve Burke

Old Alfredian School Visits

We are always pleased when OAs come and see us but please remember it is best to call in advance so we can show you around properly.



We were delighted to spend time with **Richard Lehner** and sons **Tommy & Willy** when they visited the school in November 2019 from Georgia, USA. Richard's mother **Lilith Elkan (OA)** and aunt **Naomi (OA)** both attended KAS. They thoroughly enjoyed the tour of the school and especially liked looking through the Green Book where they spotted a picture of Naomi and Lilith from their time at Royston.

We contacted Naomi who taught at KAS and she replied, **'I used to be responsible for the Alfredian KAS magazine from 1973 – the 75th anniversary – up to 1987. As I am now 86, I couldn't find many recognisable names from my time as a pupil, but several from my time as a teacher'**. Read Naomi's memories of school on page 12.



Geoff Field (OA 1964) visited on 23rd December with a friend from Australia.

'Just a short note of appreciation for managing to get Robert Preston to give us such a friendly welcome and provide an enjoyable walk around some buildings and locations for my reunion with some happy moments of nostalgia. I attach a photo of myself with Greg Geoghegan, a fellow globetrotter from Tasmania, who has also been re-tracing his formative years near London.'

I spent quite a while in the KAS amphitheatre, not doing Shakespeare with classmate Zoe Wanamaker (OA), but swinging from the rope that used to hang from the tree there or else retrieving tennis balls that had flown over the fence above!'



John Sheppard (OA 1996) popped in on 17th December and enjoyed showing his young son Henry around the school. John was visiting from Berlin and was going on to visit his father **Paul (OA)** who is also an Old Alfredian.

Polly Rockberger (mum of musician Oli Rockberger OA 1998) came to see us and gave us recordings of the KAS Jazz Trio performing at the Royal Albert Hall in the late 1980s. Oli took part in AXEMONSTERS when he was at school; we are organising a AXEMONSTERS reunion in the autumn so please get in touch if you would like to be involved. oa@kingalfred.org.uk



Polly donated a book which features her art work to the School library

Jalal Ashraf (OA 1989) came into school in January to sign Dawn's memorial book and had a whistle stop tour of the grounds. Jalal attended from age 4 – 18 and his son **Eheraadh** and his siblings **Sabahath, Raza** and **Faiqa** also attended KAS.

Development News

Sixth Form Centre

In spite of delays associated with unexpected and necessary ground works on site, the new Sixth Form Centre work has begun. In December 2019, the demolition of the old MFL buildings, originally known as the Arts and Crafts building, was a poignant moment for King Alfred. Built in 1930, and housing the school's printing press, these

buildings hold many memories for Old Alfredians. However, being nearly 90 years old presented many problems for teaching and learning today. The Languages teaching has moved to temporary buildings overlooking the field, while 'Breaking Ground' took place in early March on the new home for King Alfred's sixth formers.

● Tamlyn (Director of Development)



Arts and Crafts block, 1930, from main entrance

Sustainability Statement

A small working group of students and staff have met regularly this term to develop a Sustainability Statement for King Alfred School. Many initiatives are already in place, but the desire for an overarching purpose around sustainable goals within our community was needed. We are pleased to share with Old Alfredians this statement:

Sustainability Statement:

At King Alfred, we aim to be an environmentally responsible community of activists, both at school and beyond.

Sustainability Principles:

- Sustainability will be at the heart of every decision we make
- To be classified as an Eco School
- To continue to reduce our carbon footprint as a school
- To have a positive impact on the environment, through nurturing and increasing our plant and tree cover
- To protect and promote biodiversity within our school grounds and beyond
- To find creative solutions to the challenging issues around our buildings
- To develop stronger links across the whole school from Lower School through to Upper School, and ensure sustainability is not dependent on particular individuals but is embedded in the culture of the school
- We promote an enquiry led curriculum; a creative curriculum focusing on United Nations sustainable goals
- We try to extend this type of learning, where there is flexibility in the curriculum
- Maintain an open discussion on ecological concerns whilst educating each other across our community
- Helping people feel empowered to act on an individual level
- Creating an environment of acceptance and openness where our community are comfortable to ask questions and interested to build their knowledge and keep informed.
- Promote sustainable transportation
- Encourage student to student communication on the environment
- Our purchasing, through our preferred suppliers, will conform with our sustainability principles

My School Days

A Glimpse of Pre-War KAS

Esmond Harris emailed, 'Is it too far in the past for a brief recollection of two years at KAS immediately before the war to be of interest to readers of the magazine?' Of course we replied, 'Not at all, we would be very interested in reading all about your time at school' and so here are Esmond's memories of his time at KAS.

I had been at a little two class private elementary school but then life really began for me in 1937 at age ten when I went to KAS. The day started for me with a long daily bus journey to Golders Green and the pleasant anticipation of walking up North End Road - it seems to have become North End Lane now! - to be greeted by a group of boys, lead by one red haired girl, **Sheila Sullivan** nee **Bathurst**, leaning over the entrance under the school notice board with ribald comments on each of us as we arrived. Soon I was privileged to join this happy band before trooping of to Squirrel Hall - then with four fine sweet chestnut trees but I think now only three - for morning assembly. Eighty years on all this still conjures up memories of a very happy atmosphere.

The staff seemed almost one of us, only distinguished by being older. **Mr Burkett**, the Headmaster, was always approachable, enhanced for me by working in his little print shop to set up type - the terms 'upper and lower case' are still realistic to me as two banks of type letters, one above the other, were placed in what I think was called a 'stick', spelling out the words before being put into the press to be pressed down on the paper by a large winding handle. This took place in the afternoons or Saturday morning if one was lucky enough to be asked to come in for some special job. Illustrations for the school magazine were cut into pieces of linoleum by the more artistic pupils in the art room, not far from the print room also to be put into the press. (In those days we were 'pupils', not students until we reached university.) One went home with printing ink all over one's clothes. I can smell it today as I write!

Miss Hyett was the Headmistress and she taught history in one of the classrooms towards Squirrel Hall. She was keen that we should start to learn to speak in public so periodically the day came around when one had to read out some work that we had prepared. This was supposed to take a specific length of time but I got through mine too quickly and so went back to the first paragraph again. To my surprise all the children laughed, surprised because I had not thought they would be listening to me!

Mr Montgomery taught geography in the next classroom. A shy man but he brought the subject alive for me and

years later it was one of my 'main' subjects in Higher Certificate, leading in turn to an interest in geology. There was also the rather remote **Miss Jenkins** who taught English but she was also an author. I remember seeing her renowned biography of Jane Austen, published in 1938, in a bookshop window in North End Road on the way up to school.

Mr Shepard taught maths but my main memory of him is carving large slices off joints of beef in the indoor gymnasium at lunch time. We did not like it if it was under cooked and **Sheila Bathurst**, who made up names for everything and everyone, called the slices of blood red beef 'red flannel'! (Later she and I found ourselves at a vegetarian school, of which she approved.)

Mrs Barbour had a new biology lab just opened when I went to the school and I remember in particular the teak benches all round the sides of the room, teak she told us because spilt acid would do no damage. Her lessons set me on my later career of forestry. She also took us camping in the summers of 1937 and 1938 out at Flint Hall Farm near Royston. I was privileged to travel there up the A1 in her open topped tourer and we sang all the way. Brought up in the London suburbs, those camps were a wonderful introduction to the countryside for me, where I was later to spend my professional life.

The second teacher who had the most influence on me was **Mr Morrish**. He was both the woodwork teacher and school caretaker living at The Lodge by the school gates. His woodwork classroom was beyond Squirrel Hall near the squash courts. His teaching lead to a life-long hobby of woodwork for me.

My memory of the Munich crisis at the beginning of the autumn term in 1938, is of enormous tins of golden syrup! If war was declared the school was to be evacuated to Flint Hall Farm. The children whose parents had opted for them to go there if war should break out, were going on a practice evacuation week-end there. Food and bedding was piled up to be loaded on a lorry but what attracted my attention were several of these enormous, square tins of golden syrup! I was disappointed that my parents had not included me just because I would miss the golden syrup! Actually, although the



Esmond receiving his MBE at Buckingham Palace in 2009 for Services to Forestry and Conservation in the south west. After retiring from full time forestry work, Esmond was Chair of a small organisation in Cornwall set up by the Dartington Estate to try and get unemployed young people into practical employment, particularly forestry.

numbers who went were small, I believe the education was good.

Yvonne Wells nee Lehmann, in the same class as myself, who contacted me after an obituary I wrote on **Sheila Sullivan** several years ago, was taught there well enough to get to Oxford from the evacuated school at the farm.

When the holidays started at the end of the 1939 summer term, we expected to return in the autumn but that was not to be. Little did we know that we would not be assembling again. **King Alfred's was a wonderful start to life for me in how to learn and how to live, in a world so very different from today's.**

● Esmond Harris (OA 1939)

Jocelyn Ryder Smith (OA 1962) recalls her time at Flint Hall Farm during the second world war.

'I started in KAS in the nursery school in 1942, at Flint Hall Farm, Royston and left in 1962 to go to university. King Alfred's was therefore my whole school experience. So of course, like others, I have many memories. I have, in recent years re-met some of those from my class.

I now live near the Mendips, South of Bristol and do not often come to London. I lived with my mother Ros (who taught at KAS) and brother Simon, in a caravan on Flint Hall Farm, when the school was evacuated there during the war. It was an extraordinary time in the school's history'.

We had the pleasure of meeting Stephan Rudolpher and his wife Christine in their home in Stockport near Manchester. We travelled up to see him one wet and windy day in early March and received a warm welcome from them. We were delighted to spend time with Stephan and Christine and hear all about his time at school and all about his career as a Professor of Bio Statistics at Manchester University. Stephen wrote about the visit for us.

A blast from the past

I've not had many interviews in my life - I'm not famous enough for that! So what a surprise and joy when Tamlyn emailed me asking for an interview. Furthermore, she and Shalaka were prepared to drive all the way to Stockport to carry out the interview - I was impressed and honoured! They stayed for three hours, which flew by. I have to say that these two lovely ladies made me feel completely at ease, and helped me to recall some of the many events in my 15-year stay at KAS. I was there from 1945 - aged 3 ½ - until 1960, when I left aged 18.

So it's 60 years since I left KAS. So much has happened since: I studied Mathematics at Imperial College, London University, gaining a BSc and PhD, eventually ending up as a lecturer in Mathematical Statistics at Manchester University, where I spent my whole academic career. I took early retirement in 2000, and stayed on as an Honorary Research Fellow (which means unpaid!) until 2018. Since then, my life has been busy and fulfilled, my main activity being as a Methodist Local Preacher.

The principal reason my father chose KAS for me was that he was a Jewish atheist. He and his wife had fled the Nazis from Prague in 1939, to take up a completely new life in this country. After his father had tried to bribe him to go to synagogue, he was convinced that there was no God. He was very concerned that I would not be "contaminated" by religious indoctrination, and was delighted when Miss Roby, the kindergarten headmistress, told him that the children were taught that some people believed in God, while others didn't.

My time at KAS was a bit of a

curate's egg. I have often been asked whether KAS was a good school. My answer is a conditional one: provided the teachers have got what it takes to keep order, the idea of giving the pupils more responsibility is an excellent one. Responsibility should increase maturity, or so the theory goes. Unfortunately, in my 15 years at KAS I encountered both wonderful and inspiring teachers, and others who could barely keep order in the classroom.

It would be invidious to name any of the latter type of teacher (speak no ill of the dead, etc.), but I can't resist mentioning some of the stars in the KAS firmament. They made life interesting, challenging and enjoyable.

Margaret Maxwell was a real lady, with a quiet authority and deep love as well as knowledge of English. From her, I developed a great love for, and interest in, the language and literature which has stood me in very good stead for the rest of my life.

"Tryggie" (Johann Trygvason) our music teacher was an eccentric genius with a great sense of fun, sometimes at others' expense. His knowledge and application of music was second to none. He was a highly accomplished pianist, who could easily illustrate musical ideas on the piano. I remember periods of music appreciation where we would listen to great works of classical music which he would explain to us. He also was the conductor of the School orchestra, in which I was a player, ending up as leader.

Harry Kemp was a brilliant mathematician who, alas, left the school before I could seriously engage with him. As I recall, I may have had him as a teacher for a few years, but by the time I took O-levels he had



gone. That is one of my regrets, that I did not have him all the way through to A-level Mathematics. He had a quiet authority over the class, and attending his lessons was like sitting at the feet of a guru, so deep was his insight.

To round off this little trip down memory lane, I'd like to square the circle by explaining how a Jewish boy brought up in a religious vacuum ended up as a Methodist Local Preacher.

I can't go into the details for lack of space, but with hindsight I realise that God had his hands on me from the word go. As I later learned after my father's death, he had me baptised at the age of one in the George Whitefield Memorial church in central London. That was just the beginning, possibly as an insurance policy against a Nazi invasion, hoping that Jewish Christians ranked lower in the queue for Auschwitz than Jewish Jews. Over the years, I encountered Christians in various places. In the end, I married a lovely German Catholic girl, becoming a Catholic myself three years later. Since then, our various Christian peregrinations led us to the Methodist Church, which we know in our hearts to be our spiritual home.

So, thank you KAS for not indoctrinating me religiously, and giving me the freedom to find my religious destiny myself. May you long continue to enable children to develop their own identities and talents!

● **Stephan Rudolpher (OA 1960)**

Sally Clark née Harris (OA 1951) remembers her last day at the school vividly.

'I am now 85 years old and love receiving the KAS news. I live in Australia, have been widowed for over 20 years after a very happy marriage. I have 3 sons, 8 grandchildren and 3 great grandchildren.

I still remember our final day at KAS in 1951 and we were all 17 years old. We decided to go to the Bull and Bush (we had never been there before). As soon as we entered we saw Mr Kemp, our maths master. He took one look at me and said, 'I've come here to celebrate the fact that I wouldn't see you again'. I was a hopeless student with maths, he just couldn't get anything into my brain. That didn't deter us, we drank a glass of cider each, which I think was wrong. We were under age but the publican didn't seem to mind!'



Donis Wasserman Howard Davis John Turner
Eric Zilberkneit Francis Morland Felix Moore
Peter Seglow Seglow
Sheila Woolfe Sally Harris Anthea Ionadias
Sally Rapson Pat Essex (absent Julie Heyting)
Taken by Tony Kafetz, July 1951
in front of Geography Room

KAS Memories

I arrived at KAS after the war, together with some of the pupils and staff who had been evacuated to a farm near Royston. My sister, Lilith, had been in Royston too, but I, being six years younger, had attended a local primary school where I was bullied and lonely, so I approached my new school with caution.

KAS was wonderful: the classes were small enough for the teachers to give us much attention; our opinions held in the School Council in Squirrel Hall were taken seriously, and often acted upon; most of the staff were addressed by their first names; there was a huge library to which I could retreat; every morning, first thing, we were able to do our 'homework' in the relevant classroom, with the teacher present to help. At first I was so shy that during breaks I used to hide in the boiler room under the stage, but gradually I made friends. Janet Samuel (now Wardman) is still a good friend; she has helped me to put this together.

Once a year there was a staff holiday, when the older pupils taught the younger ones and the few staff who remained stayed firmly in the office. Another exciting annual event was caring for a duck who shepherded her ducklings through the grounds and on to the park; the staff had to stop the traffic for her.

Every term we were given a list of choices for all five afternoons. In my time, before exams took over, I explored bookbinding, printing (concert programmes and the magazine), weaving, country dancing, a little

'estate work' (i.e. hauling a log), and lettering. Drama with **Renée Soskin** was very exciting: we learnt to project our voices and how to appreciate and perform Shakespeare.

Much of what I learned then has stood me in good stead ever since. However

painting for the first time with John Berger was a painful experience: he gave us a subject, but no guidance, and when he came round the class he was so critical of my work that after the lesson I went enraged to Mr. Montgomery, the headmaster, and asked if I could change my choice. Monty, a kindly and tactful man, gave me permission. Later, when I was teaching, I often thought of this episode. At games time I used to play fives in the fives court: hard on the hands but excellent for getting rid of emotions. Sometimes I kept the cricket score, and admired the expert wicket keeping of my goddess, Janet Craxton, who played the oboe superbly as well.

I looked forward equally to my morning lessons: Mr Fuller – never Ronald – taught English expertly; he widened my reading horizons sufficiently to get me to university. Ros, who taught me French, and Fred, the geography teacher, became my



friends after I had left school in 1951. These lessons were taught in the very chilly buildings left over from the war; when possible we would huddle round the tortoise stoves. If we complained about the cold in maths lessons Miss Levin would produce a skipping rope and send us out for some exercise. Some memorable biology lessons were held by Miss D'Eath at a pond on Hampstead Heath; her attempts to teach us the facts of life were equally memorable.

Years later, I learnt that because Lilith and I had been Jewish refugees KAS had taken us in at greatly reduced prices. **I was very glad to return then as a teacher, to do my best for my considerate, helpful, artistic and very interesting pupils.** I still enjoy reading the KAS Magazines which we edited.

● Naomi Hull née Elkan (OA 1951)

Congratulations to Paul Temple and his bride Yosanni who married in September 2019 in the Dominican Republic, where Paul has lived since 2006.

'I have not had a linear career but the helter skelter of moving between unrelated occupations has been exciting and memorable'.

Paul is a retired teacher, teacher trainer, IT educational consultant and author of children's science books, "How To Make Square Eggs", "Creepy Crawlies", "How to Grow Weird and Wonderful Plants" and, for hobbyists, "Carnivorous Plants". More recently, he co-authored two books on carnivorous plants, describing all known members of the genus *Pinguicula* (butterworts). Paul recalls his school days...

I attended KAS while Monty, then Nicki Archer, were heads, which would have been 1958-1969. I'm (obviously) no spring chicken now but still remember time at school. With the benefit of hindsight but also based on my experience then and since, I remain proud to be an Old (perhaps too accurately) Alfredian and, as a



professional teacher (retired), I consider it was the best school I could have attended, then or since. What I most value about KAS is that my time there helped teach me to think independently, not so much because it formally taught such thinking but because it very definitely tolerated it. It is probably no longer the memory of any staff member still at KAS but I was the uppity brat who convinced the school to discard the Student Council's model of 2 representatives per class (plus 2 staff advisers), introducing it its place a right for anyone to attend council and vote. The experiment didn't last beyond my leaving but I'm glad I tried democracy, if only to learn some of its shortcomings. I must also say that while I was too young to share

much time with beloved Monty (who I remember to this day), I had too many encounters with Nicki to believe other than that she rued the day I began using the independence and originality of thought that KAS allowed we students, and especially me(!) to develop. (I believe I remain the only student ever to achieve 0% in a class test, since adding one's name to the paper gained 1%; I added my name to identify the paper's owner but crossed it out so the 1% couldn't be awarded. Nicki rued attempting to discuss this poor performance with me -- requiring the presence of my parents did not help her case -- and I gained the cessation of History studies, as had been my intention.)

No matter the petty inconveniences I may have caused, **these experiences and many more gave me what no other school would have, the ability to be innovative and the independence to try.** For those, I will always hold KAS as a valuable and cherished experience. I truly hope the ethos has not changed and I hope even more that those seen as rebellious are nurtured rather than castigated.

● Paul Temple (OA 1969)

Memories of Old Alfredians

Areta Hautman (1933 – 2019)

Given that many of you reading this will be very familiar with Areta's work at the school, I thought I'd say a bit about her early life, which you may not know.

Areta was born in Los Angeles at the height of the Depression to George and Norma Lea, the oldest of four in a family of Seventh Day Adventists. Her father took any work he could find, which resulted in the Leas moving about 25 times by the time Areta was 12. As the oldest, she often worked in the fields, picking peaches, or driving trucks while her father sprayed crops. She became familiar with the workings of cars and tractors, and drove them as soon as her feet reached the pedals. Life was tough. At times they scavenged for food in dustbins. There was never enough of anything, and Areta found that she had to take the lead in her family, as her father was often out, and her mother could be harsh and scolding. She realised that education was her way out, so she worked hard in school, took on paid work to fund her studies, and as much as she could, took her siblings with her on this journey.

From a young age, she was fascinated with England, and dreamed of coming to London to see the Queen. So from her birthplace in California, she kept moving east, first to a boarding school in Colorado, then to College in Massachusetts. At school, she became head girl, and as the first in her family to attend college, whilst there, she took just about every leadership role there was, whilst also working various jobs to fund her way. She graduated in 1955, and completed a Masters in psychiatric

social work at the University of Nebraska in 1957. During the Cold War, she was given a role supporting young recruits at Strategic Air Command in Offutt Airforce base. SAC was responsible for command and control of the U.S. military's strategic nuclear strike forces, with nuclear bombers on 24-hour alert. In the 60s, she moved back to California, where she worked in a school supporting teenage girls.

The 60s brought about its own revolution in Areta. It was a time of great change, with Civil Rights, the war in Vietnam, and Music. Having grown up being taught that Elvis was 'the Devil', Areta discovered Jazz, and liked it. She also bought herself a car, a red Mustang convertible, from a teenage boy who won it in a competition but couldn't afford the insurance. One day in 1966, Areta was driving with friends in her Mustang, to a picnic on Venice beach. In the front passenger seat was her good friend and colleague Manny, and in the back seat was his wife Maria, and her brother Henry, visiting from London. When the engine started to make a strange noise, she pulled over to pop the bonnet and check what was wrong. Henry Hautman, being a mechanical engineer, naturally offered to help, but she gracefully declined, simply described exactly what was wrong, and declared that she had already fixed it. As they continued with their journey, Henry asked his sister: "Who is she?"

Areta and Henry married in Los Angeles in 1967, in an Adventist church to please her mother, and then (secretly) went to party with friends up in the Hollywood Hills, enjoying 'illicit'



drinking and dancing. They honeymooned in Mexico, and Areta moved to Highgate, where they settled. Geoff and Jenny were born in 1970 and 1974 respectively, which brings us to her time as a parent at King Alfreds.

Passionate about education, she embraced the school for its child-centred learning, its founding ethos of parental involvement, and its natural environment. For four decades, true to her American spirit of honouring ones 'founding fathers', she held up the school's founders (radical, rational, free thinkers) and founding principles, protecting the KAS constitution, just as she tended its buildings and green spaces. Former school architect, Suzanne Bollas, worked with Areta for many years, and remembers how:

"She knew every tree and plant in the school grounds by their botanical names, and held the amazing and diverse history of KAS in her mind... 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."

How will we ever replace her and what she represented? Of course we can't. Perhaps the least we can do is to make Ron Brook's book mandatory reading for all council members (and test them on it)

"May her spirit and love forever be expressed in how she tended you in the blossoming of your life."

● Jennifer Hautman (OA 1992)

Since the death of Areta Hautman last August, the Art & Photography department put on an exhibition in her memory. **Cliff Bevan**, Head of Photography said, 'The show went very well. There was a good turn out from council members, former staff, parents and Old Alfredian photography students **Tal and Michal Arenson, Lola Aviva Abinieri and Nicolas Gilly**. There were in the region of 60 visitors across Art and Photography. **Kara Conti and Jenny**, Areta's daughter both gave lovely speeches and the **Art department's gallery space will now be renamed the Areta Space - a new sign will be made for it.**

Dawn Moore (1963 – 2019)



The school will be holding a memorial event for the Alfredian community to remember Dawn and to share memories and stories, and this will take place in the next academic year. Any event will, of course involve and include Dawn's family. We will notify all Old Alfredians once we have a clearer idea of a date.

As head of The King Alfred School from 2003-2015, Dawn Moore was a well known and loved figure in the local community. After being diagnosed with stomach cancer in October 2019, she sadly passed away on 28th December 2019, aged 56, surrounded by people she loved. Around 300 people, including many from the school community, made the journey to Nuneaton on the 14th January to attend her funeral and share fond memories of Dawn. She is survived by her husband Keith, who also worked at King Alfred and her children Kristy and Holly who both attended the school.

Starting out as a newly qualified biology teacher in 1986, Dawn remained at the school for the next 29 years taking on many roles including PSHE Coordinator, Head of Biology, Organiser of INSET, Deputy Head and then finally Head from 2003 to 2015. During her time at the school she was responsible for broadening the curriculum to include Psychology and Classical Civilization and championing provision for students who needed additional support in Lower and Upper School. She was instrumental in

ensuring the development of the school in line with its ethos. This included: the acquisition and development of the school's play-based Early Years centre and Phoenix Theatre at Ivy Wood; creating a dedicated Design Technology centre and blacksmith's forge and overseeing the fundraising for and delivery of the Fives Court Building in Lower School. She also trained and worked as a school inspector, deepening her knowledge of the education sector.

Kara Conti, President of The King Alfred School Society met Dawn when she first started at the school. She remembers: **"She had a brilliant, sharp, perceptive mind and a heart which cared for thousands of children, significantly enriching their lives. She understood the school completely and cared about every aspect of it passionately. Above all she put the children first and was able to communicate with them in a profoundly intuitive way."**

She was an inspiring teacher, and when whispering at the back of the class, pupils would be amazed that she knew what they had said. What they

perhaps didn't know was that Dawn had suffered significant hearing loss since childhood, and as a result, was a highly skilled lip reader. **"I asked Dawn to talk to one of my Year 7 classes about the strategies she employed to cope with her deafness,"** remembers Rita Murray, a current staff member who was here throughout Dawn's time at the school. **"They were astounded to discover that she was partially deaf."**

As a teacher, parent, partner, and manager, Dawn was able to see the school from the point of view of all its stakeholders. One long-term member of staff described her as 'The Listening Head'. This was a strength but also brought its challenges. She was a great supporter of women, promoting many to management roles and cared deeply about the lives of the individuals and families who made up the community.

Annabel Cody, Chair of Council at KAS said: **"As a school community we are united in our sadness at the loss of an inspirational figure who is an integral part of The King Alfred School's history. Dawn always put the children at the centre of everything she did. Our thoughts are with her family who we know, must miss her terribly."**

Current Head of The King Alfred School, Robert Lobatto said: **"While many KAS staff worked with Dawn for a long time, I only worked alongside her briefly as she handed the reins to me in 2015. She was incredibly helpful during that process and I was immediately struck by her dedication to the school. Though I know leaving was difficult for her, she kept the interests of the school at the heart of our transition and did everything she could to support me, and others, throughout. It's no exaggeration to say that she gave herself fully to the school. She was a deeply compassionate and kind person, who touched the lives of many people over her 29 years of service."**

Here is a small selection (from a large number) of tributes received from Old Alfredians.

'We will remember Dawn very fondly. She was so warm and welcoming and we will always be grateful to her for her stewardship of King Alfred when our daughters attended and they benefited from her interest, vision, dedication and care in their all round education and development'.

'Whilst words can never truly speak to the immense gratitude for someone's presence, or indeed express love, they can point towards this gratitude that so many of us share for Dawn's presence, for having walked with us through our learning years, and they can point to the love that surrounds you all at this time'.

*'Dawn taught me Biology during my GCSE years. I can recall her passion on the subject and how knowledgeable she was. She was a very warm person and much liked by all pupils across the different age groups. Like many teachers at KAS, she will always be remembered and treasured in the memories that one holds of the formative years spent learning and growing up at KAS, as faithful and privileged Alfredians'.
'I am so sad to read this. I have fond memories of Dawn as my teacher some 30 years ago. She was so lovely'.*

'Dawn was an inspirational and very special person who will be deeply missed'.

'So sad to read that Dawn passed away. I regularly reflect on one of my earliest memories; that of a biology teacher who was kind enough to record/gift a young boy their first ever cassette! (Tracy Chapman, which Dawn impressively deduced from my poor rendition of a song stuck in my head!) Funny to think how much impact a simple, warm hearted gesture can have - Dawn was a wonderful influence and KAS through and through'.

Humber Bridge Half Marathon: 28 June 2020

Alan Davies, who was both a parent and teacher at KAS, will be running this Half Marathon to raise money for Macmillan Cancer Support in memory of Dawn Moore, and his late wife Diane, who many of you may remember taught Geography at KAS. If you would like to sponsor him please go to the link https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/alan-davies27?utm_campaign



Stella left, Jan Bradley and Kara Conti

Stella Magarshak, Head of Art at KAS in the 1970s and 80s passed away on 4th December 2019. Staff recall Stella decorating the school hall for Christmas every year and producing a calendar. She inspired many students to study art.

Deceased OAs

We are sorry to report the deaths of the following Old Alfredians. Some of the deaths may not be recent however we have been notified in the last few months. Please do let us know of any OA deaths so we may remove them off our mailing lists and avoid causing distress to their families.

- Sidney Thompson
- Peter Lipton
- John Kay Picknett
- Lilith Lehner
- Richard Gilford Adeney
- Penelope Goldsworthy
- Teresa Horton
- Anna Nicholson
- Andrew Duncan Smith (OA 2014) died on Saturday 18 January 2020.

Message from the Head

We are living in unprecedented times with the current global COVID-19 outbreak. My main focus is to keep the school community well informed and safe. The school has taken robust measures to look after pupils and staff, such as cessation of call-overs, school trips, musical events and reinforced good hygiene habits such as hand washing with hand sanitisers dotted around the site. As of 16 March, the school remains open and although there are fewer pupils, those that are here, are in good spirits and lessons continue.

The new year started with the sad news of the loss of Dawn Moore. Dawn had been a great help and support to me when I joined the school in 2015. She held the interests of the school at heart as she supported this transition. I, along with many staff, attended her



funeral and it was clear to see just how many lives she had touched within our community. The school will be holding a memorial event to celebrate her life, with the involvement of Dawn's family. We will let Old Alfredians have more details, as soon as we have them.

Before Coronavirus took over our thoughts, school life was of course

as vibrant and varied as always.

The upper school production of Les Misérables was a sell out with outstanding performances from the cast. Lucy Hall, Head of Drama said, 'The level of commitment from the pupils has been incredible, the passion and talent on stage spoke for itself.'

The ski trip in December was a poignant one as it was Edo's last before retirement. 24 pupils and 4 staff thoroughly enjoyed the snow in the

resort of Tignes.

The annual French Festival took place in March with 13 schools taking part. The overall winner of Best Play was King Alfred School. Eton won Best Unique Theatrical experience and Haberdashers won the Jury Special Award.

Sports at King Alfred has seen some great successes with 21 students from Years 4-9 going to the regional cross country championships and 4 of our students making it to Nationals in Nottingham. All students did our school proud and showed great resilience on the day.

The Year 8 Netball team took part in the ISA Regional netball tournament and walked away with second place medals. This means they are through to the ISA National Netball tournament.

Congratulations to sixth form student Rhodri whose film 'Ghost Bois' has been selected from hundreds of applicants as part of this year's Into Film Awards 16-19 category.

I wish Old Alfredians, near and far, good health. Stay safe, and we hope to see you back at KAS in the not too distant future.

OAs Notice Board

Reunion for 1966-1976 Leavers

Saturday 12th September

Tennis and Tours of school at 11am, lunch at 12.30pm
If you were at School anytime from 1966 – 1976, please
contact **Kim Franklin (OA 1976)** directly
drtfranklinkim32@yahoo.com or **Tamlyn** on
oa@kingalfred.org.uk or **0208 457 5175**

Edo Retires

This summer will see the retirement of King Alfred's Head of PE, Edo, after 30 years at KAS. If you would like to join us to say goodbye, please email **oa@kingalfred.org.uk** with subject: Edo Retires. Details TBC.

Axe Monsters Reunion

Date TBC

Calling all musicians who have been part of the legendary Axe Monsters at King Alfred: a reunion is planned for the autumn. If you would like to attend please email **oa@kingalfred.org.uk** with the subject: Axe Monsters. Please spread the word amongst fellow Axe Monsters to make it a really special occasion.

Film Screening Event

**Friday 3rd July in the King Alfred
Phoenix Theatre 6.00pm**

Come and watch a variety of innovative short films produced by our talented Film Studies A Level students and Old Alfredians who are nearing the end of their film school degrees both here and the USA.

The evening will consist of a drinks reception, followed by the screening and the opportunity for an informal Q and A session with the filmmakers and industry professionals.

Please come and support our young directors and cinematographers as they showcase their work. It promises to be a very enjoyable event, and you may just be rubbing shoulders with the BAFTA nominees of the future.

Please contact Tamlyn **oa@kingalfred.org.uk** to register your interest.

Connections Event – Creative Arts & Media

**Thursday 14 May in the King Alfred
Phoenix Theatre 6.30pm**

Our first *Connections* event for OAs interested in or working within Creative Arts & Media. This is a broad category including acting, film production, theatre, TV, photography, publishing. Please register your interest by emailing **oa@kingalfred.org.uk**

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 were at the school between 1966 and 1976.
- 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: @oldalfredians
- Share your news and stories with us.

We need your email address to keep in touch!

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