

Alfredians



A newsletter for Old Alfredians

Autumn 2020

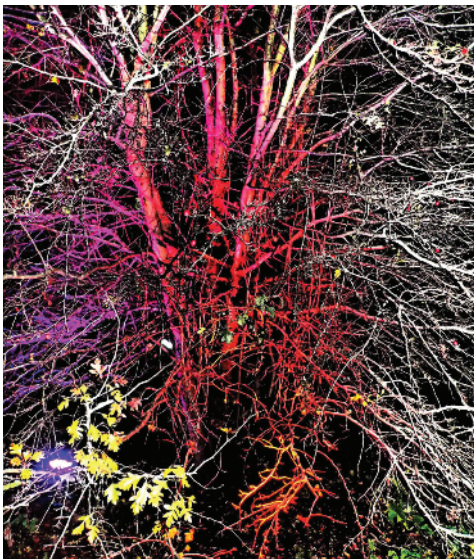
Bonfire Night at KAS

It's wonderful to see that the KAS Fireworks were as enchanting to students almost 100 years ago as they are to us all today. Sadly, this year we had to cancel this hugely popular event but we think Reginald has done an excellent job of capturing the magic of the night in November 1923 for us to enjoy instead.

At the bonfire we had a lovely time. The fire blazed and sparkled, and the fireworks made a light, and coloured balls shot up in the air; but the fire did not burn very well. I think it was because it was a little damp, and, anyway, it was a little frosty in the morning. The big rocket went very high and crackled, and little coloured balls came out of it, and it went about 600 feet high. The other rockets went about the same height, but coloured balls did not come out, except one which was fairly big. The morning before, we helped to get sticks and dried grasses. The bonfire was about nine feet high. Mr. Parker put a funny guy on the top—it looked very silly.

REGINALD RAAB (age 9: 7).

'Bonfire Night at KAS' November 1923



Accompanying Reginald's description from the last century, are Edo's photos of KAS Fireworks this century: 2013 and 2016. Thank you, Edo for this throwback to our annual Community event.

OA News and Achievements



Fraser Beach (OA 1976)
I left the School in 1976 at 17 years old after transferring to Muswell Hill College to study Law before going to LSE, I studied for the bar whilst absolving a day a week in Barristers chambers. My Father, a solicitor, passed away in 1978 and I realised that I didn't want to end up 62 and gone, so I decided to transfer and change my studies dramatically and moved to UCLA, California to study child Psychology. I went to America on a Tennis Scholarship as I was ranked in the top 5 under 21 year olds in England. I qualified in 1982 and played on the ATP Tennis tour for a couple of years. Having then qualified as a Pro Tennis coach at Pepperdine University, I returned to England and worked at Queens Tennis club teaching u16 and u14 year olds, primarily for the LTA National Squad. I then decided to up and away and open my own Tennis Academy in Germany which I ran for over 20 years until I sold it and retired a few years ago, I am now living in Salisbury Wiltshire, play a lot of golf and enjoy the countryside. I was at King Alfred's while Nikki Archer was Head. Roy Greenfield, who sadly passed away recently was my Maths teacher and Mike Swallow was the sports gym teacher. Lovely memories.



Joseph Denison Carey (OA 2016) appeared on TV's This Morning show in early October to demonstrate how to cook Chicken Noodle Soup. He told viewers about his project *The Bread and Butter Supper Club*, serving Michelin quality food in London. Joseph shared that he had founded the project with friends **Noah** and **Henry**, whom he met at KAS in 2009. Joseph came into school a few days before to talk about working with our students in the Orchard Room.



Milla Lewis (OA 2015)
I was a student here from Year 3 right up till graduation in 2015, and I am currently fundraising for my first feature film, which I am producing and working as Director of Photography alongside four other young women.
Beyond The Red Light explores the political, social and economic injustice of sex workers across the globe, exposing the different degrees of conflict faced by the sex-work communities, and celebrating the organisation and activism of their global rights movement. The film challenges the discrimination and violence that exists within the industry, and explores their demands for the recognition of sex work as work in

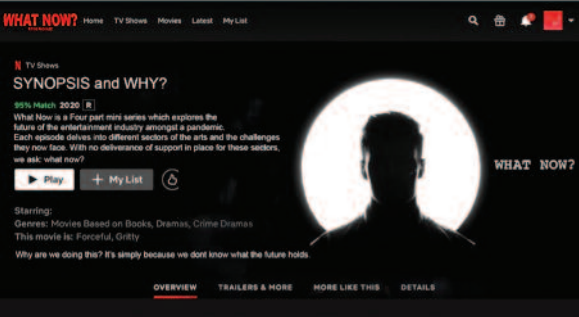
order to access labour rights.
Pre-Covid, we spent a week filming with the East London Strippers Collective, as well as sex worker activists in Berlin, and alongside the International Women's Day March in London. We had plans to travel and film further afield but when we locked-down we turned online, tuning into online strip parties, hosting live panels with a sex workers organisation (in Singapore), and interviewing organisations we'd established firm connections with across six continents to gain a better understanding of what's at stake.
We are looking forward to keeping you updated.
All the best, Milla.

Lara Diamond (OA 2014)
Lara Diamond (OA 2014) contacted us to share news of her current project.
What Now? is a 4 part mini series Documentary exploring the future of the arts and how it can survive during the pandemic. Each episode delves into different sectors of the arts and the challenges they now face. With actors who have starred in *Wicked*, *The Lion King* and *Hamilton*, *Les Miserables* and many more, we are always looking for more people to get involved, whether you're a producer, director, lighting Tech, filmmaker, Musician, or an actor, with no deliverance of support in place for these sectors, we ask: what now?

Lara is looking to conduct interviews with those involved in the arts on the impact for you and your creative business. If you would like to get involved, please take a look at the *What Now?* Pitch package and send us an email on laradiamondsca@gmail.com



https://drive.google.com/file/d/1iwyujYVxxn_Uki_6m12VcgWMvDKAe-SC/view?usp=drivesdk



Lara is a cinematographer, having studied Film at University of the Arts London and filmmaking with cinematography emphasis at the University of Southern California. Her website is www.laradiamond.com.

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martha.kean10@gmail.com
07468 494404
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Martha Grace Kean (OA 2018) messaged us on Instagram about an initiative she launched in the summer in support of Black Lives Matter.

Message from the Head

At 5 pm on Wednesday 18 March I sat in my office listening to the announcement that all schools would close their doors at the end of that week until further notice. It was a dramatic and surreal moment generating a whirl of emotions, thoughts and calculations. It was unlike anything I had previously experienced in my 30-year career.



Fast forward 7 months, and we can look back with pride on this period, albeit with some bumps along the way.
Our on-line learning was up-and-running by the following Monday and was widely regarded to be one of the strongest offerings throughout London. Our staff were brilliant in rising to the challenge, mastering new skills overnight and advancing their IT capabilities in ways not previously thought possible. We had fantastic support from our parent body and our pupils did incredibly well. Whilst it was not always easy, they stuck to their task, learnt a lot about themselves and

stayed resilient, positive and optimistic.
Things took a step towards normality in June when we welcomed Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 back on site, and a further step three weeks later when the rest of the lower school returned.
The willingness of our staff and the unique features of our site meant that we could do far more than the vast majority of other schools, and it was heartening to hear the familiar sounds of school life as the site awoke from its enforced hibernation.
There were many silver linings of this period, not least the involvement of our OAs running sessions for our sixth formers, some of which are featured in this newsletter.
I am always astounded by the depth and richness of our network of former pupils and families, and I am very grateful to Tamlyn for bringing people together in these new ways.
The exam results season was interesting to say the least – handing

out A-level results one day and then handing out a whole new set of results five days later.
Despite everything, our students achieved brilliantly and have now gone on to a hugely exciting range of courses in universities and colleges throughout the country. They are our newest Old Alfredians – we wish you luck with your next phase, and hope you stay in touch for many years to come.
And speaking of exams, you may have seen in the media that a group of leading educationalists are challenging the current system in a campaign called 'Re-thinking Assessment'. I am pleased to be representing King Alfred and believe that this is the best opportunity in a generation to bring about meaningful change. The pandemic has given everyone pause for thought and I hope that by reforming the way students are assessed, we can move towards a more child-centred, less stressful system that focuses on the real purpose of education rather than data for league tables and Inspection reports. Or, in other words, the kind of education that we at King Alfred have always believed in.

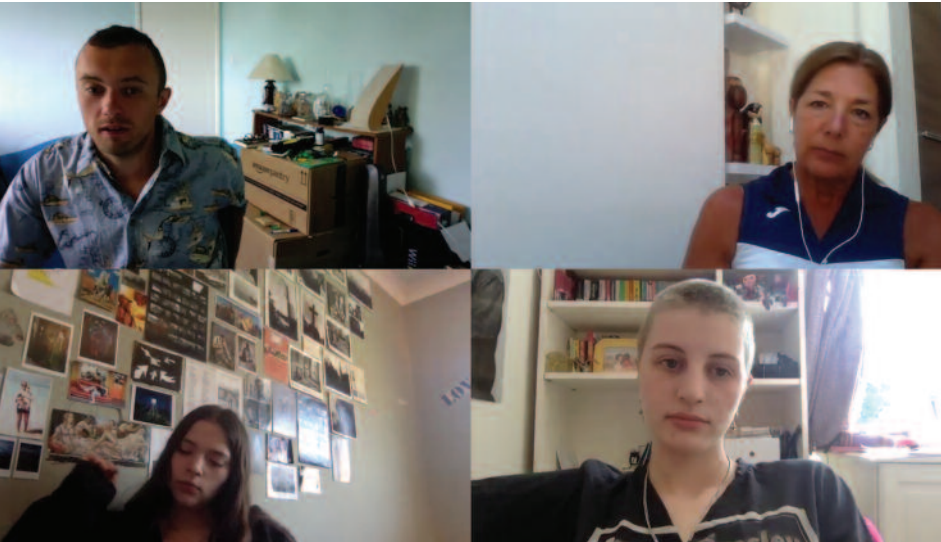
Robert

Connections Series

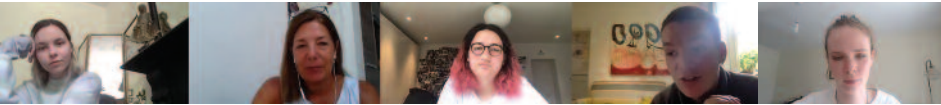
A silver lining of lockdown, and the cancellation of exams, meant that our Old Alfredians had the time to reach out and provide advice to our sixth formers, and our KAS students, released from revision were available to join us on zoom sessions to hear about a range of careers from OAs. Thank you to everyone who gave their time to share their expertise and experience.



Esther Robertson: Art Foundation: The Best Year of my Life
Esther (OA 2019) joined King Alfred for the Sixth Form and after spending a year at Art Foundation, Camberwell, has been accepted for a place at Chelsea. Esther's enthusiasm and love for her first year beyond KAS was infectious, and her advice for students ranged from course to accommodation tips.



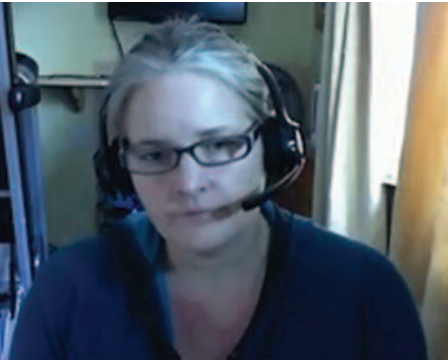
Paul Moore (OA 2009): A Career in TV
Paul recorded a great 30 minute video in advance of his session for our students, summarising how he came to work in TV. It was a work experience placement while Paul was at King Alfred that piqued his interest in working in television, and after university, Paul pursued his goal. His key bit of advice is to say yes to everything, but he also shared tips on websites, contacts and groups with whom to connect if students want to work in TV. Highlighting that many roles remain self employed, Paul's open and honest perspective, and sense of humour gave our students some great insights. Now working as a TV producer, we also enjoyed Paul's questions for our students about what they enjoy watching, how they consume content, and whether TikTok is here to stay.



Clemente Lohr (OA 2015), Hannah Owen (OA 2015) and Eleanor Roberts (OA 2015): Applying to Film School.
Another busy session provided great advice, tips and practical insights into applying to film school, work experience and the types of projects to undertake to develop skills in the sector. This is an area of interest to many Old Alfredians and current students, so questions were wide ranging.



Benjy Goodwin (OA 2015): The Good Gap Year
This packed session with 25 students joining us, was a function of the uncertainty surrounding results and university entrance at the time (May 2020). As we write this, none of us anticipated that the restrictions on travel would remain as significant a barrier to any travel for those wishing to take a gap year, but the advice Benjy shared will be relevant once travel returns. Benjy advised using summer holidays as a time to travel to places which would enhance or benefit a chosen field of study. Practical tips about travelling in South America, along the lines of 'what not to take' were quite amusing, and cemented his view that if you travel alone, you connect more with locals and you will gain a great deal more from your experiences.



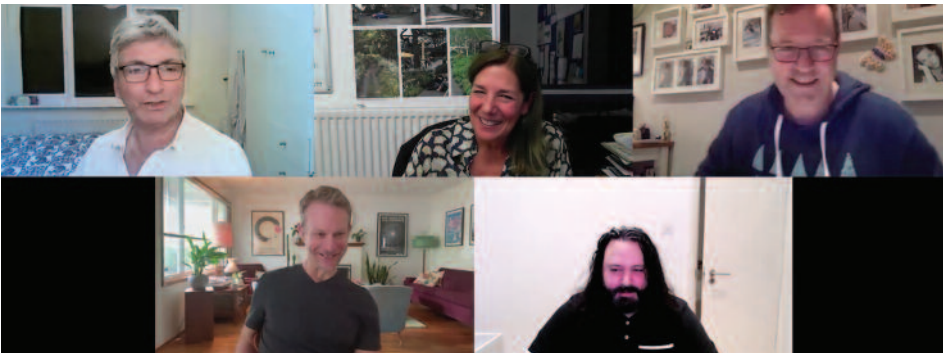
Our thanks to **Will Davies (OA 2011): Working in Music** who gave up his time to talk about his role at Live Nation.
Professor Catriona Savage spent a fascinating hour talking to three of our current students applying for Computer Science, Physics and Maths respectively at university. Professor Savage is a school friend of Council member, **Sam Jukes-Adams** and her experience in designing ships and in naval architecture provided our students with clear insights into STEM subjects and engineering. Covid-19 has meant new developments in the field too, working with game designers to create virtual reality tours of their ship designs for clients.

Virtual Reunions

Axe Monsters; Honorary Members

Over the last year and a bit, we have been working on connecting with our original Axe Monsters. It started with people bumping into each other in a shop in North London, and from there it has fanned out, across the world to find those of you who featured in that first event in 1987. Thanks to Dan, who sent over photos of the original programme (and apparently still has the set list from the night!), Instagram and Ivor, whose links with you all remain strong and are testament to the bonds between student and staff at KAS, we were able to reach out to Axe Monsters of the past. A small group gathered online to reminisce and share the stories of the musical triumphs (and other tales!), alongside poignant reminders of friends sadly no longer with us, before we signed off to watch the Live Stream of King Alfred's present Axe Monsters.

Apologies from Sarah Callis, Oli Rockberger and Katy Edwards from the original gang; Jemma Gilmour was able to join for the Live Stream, and Andy Hampton (former Music Teacher) joined us a for a while to listen to memories of Axe Monsters of an earlier era.
We shall do this again. If you missed the virtual reunion this time, Dan Montuschi has promised to DJ a Dance Tent for OAs at next year's KASTonbury!



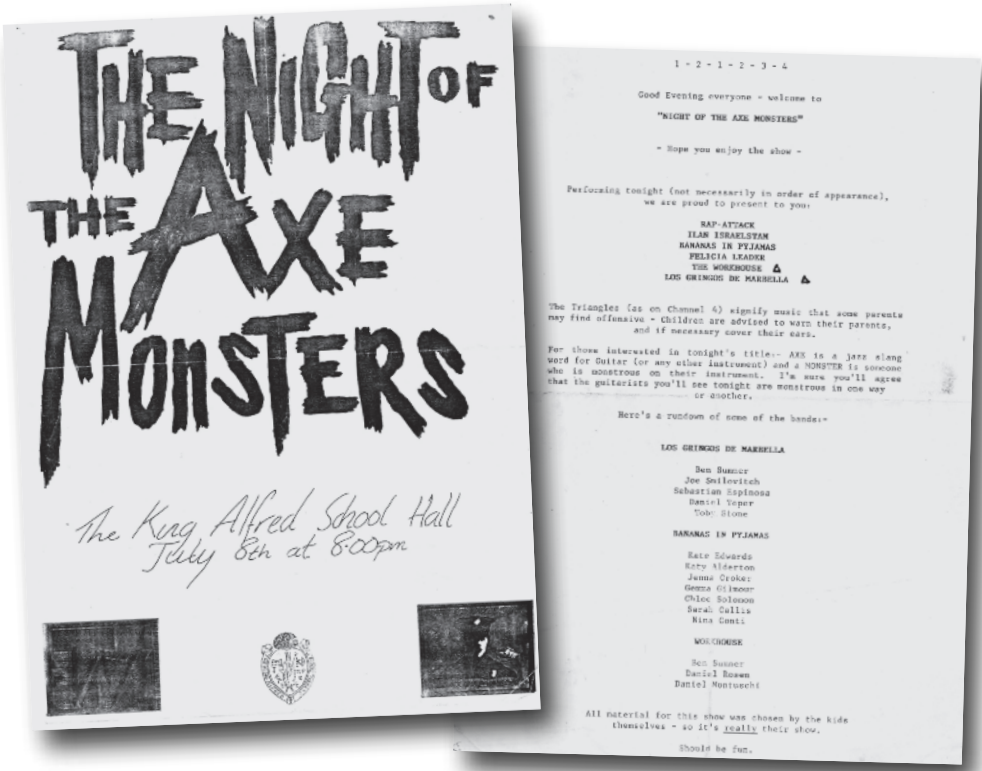
Axe Monsters Virtual Reunion, Clockwise from left. Ivor Goldberg (Former Head of Music), Tamlyn, Dan Montuschi (OA 1989), Peter Hajioff (OA 1989) and Dan Rosen (OA 1989)



Dan, Dan and Ben in action

Dan Rosen (OA 1989), now an Art Director in the US, but still playing the drums, emailed afterwards: "Was really fun catching up with you guys last week. Thanks Tamlyn again for organising, let's do again soon!"
Peter Hajioff (OA 1990)

"Likewise, lovely to see you all last week, and thank you for arranging it, Tamlyn. Wish I could have stayed longer, but it was worth it even for 10 minutes. Hopefully we won't leave it 30 years next time"
Dan Montuschi (OA 1989)



Honorary Members

Before the summer school term ended, Kara, Annabel and Tamlyn gathered our Society Honorary Members for a virtual reunion via zoom. Those who joined were able to share their tales of lockdown challenges and moments. Everyone enjoyed our 'afternoon tea' together, even if we did have to Bring our own Scones!

From the Archive

If you follow us on social media, you will have seen our post during lockdown, asking about the name of the goat at KAS. Your answers ranged from Dulcie, to Daisy to Dolly. **Brian Rance** tells us the story of the goats at KAS, proving that you were all right!



Ooh – such lovely memories! **Rita Balado** (Former Lower School Teacher) originally brought pets into the school, I having agreed (willingly) to look after them over weekends. Then, one year later, Rita left: 'would I like to look after the pets (chickens, ducks and one goat) permanently'? – yes!

The goat was Dulcie. She went to City Farm for her holidays - and came back pregnant, as you do when you are young and attractive. The years came and went (seven of them), the kids came and went, Dulcie was for ever in milk, I milked her daily.

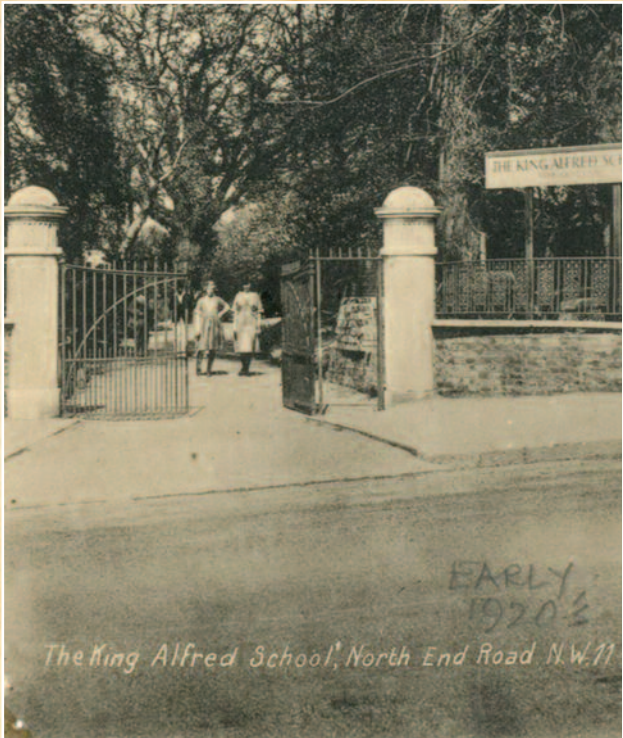
Then tragedy struck: Dulcie swallowed a plastic bag (choked to death) leaving her tiny, bottle fed female kid: Daisy, bereft. We rushed to get Daisy a companion: Dolly, the Anglo-Nubian. Daisy and Dolly became good friends (although Daisy was always no.1) The years came and went (seven of them) during which time Daisy had just one kid (Billy, don't ask what happened to him, but famously he starred in the pantomime that year). Daisy was milked daily, while Dolly succumbed to mastitis in 2001 and Daisy lived the remainder of her life in gentle retirement, before fading away.

Appropriately, for a school, they taught me so much!



Lovely to hear from you. I have been wondering how everyone is doing. I enjoyed the recent OA Newsletter. I am fine thanks, so are the family. Air kisses all round!

● **Brian (Former KAS Archivist, Caretaker and Honorary Member)**



Flash back: 100 years

We like to think that one hundred years from now, KAS will be remembered in our archives for rising to the challenge of 2020 and all it continues to throw at us. In 1920 and the early twenties, the school was going through a period of change too when it moved to the current site, here at Manor Wood. We love this picture of the school gates and the view of the grounds beyond reminding us that whilst things move on and change, fundamentally King Alfred School remains the same.

Images: KAS Archive



Development Office Update

Sixth Form Centre

We are pleased to share these latest photos from the new Sixth Form Centre, where the roof trusses are now in place, and the second floor provides spectacular views across North London. In spite of the pandemic, construction on site has continued throughout and we expect the Sixth Form Centre to be in use by the summer term.



AstroTurf

We featured our Old Alfredians in last year's newsletter who play football on the courts. We are delighted to share with you all that Parent Staff launched an appeal to replace the Lower Court AstroTurf in June of this year. The amazing support of 55 of our families, using the school's first online giving links, plus the money that Parent Staff raised last year through events, was matched by KAS, and our new AstroTurf was laid in the summer. The substantial cost of this reflected the need to install drainage bases, new maintenance gates, new backboards and goal posts, and matting to protect the new surface when students run in off the field in the winter. Our new Director of Sport, Lauren said "Huge thank you to everyone involved with the hard work that went into the resurfacing of this space, it really is a huge benefit. We look forward to a time when we are able to welcome our Old Alfredian footballers back to the school grounds."



At a time of financial difficulties for many people, our Community showed exactly what it means to be part of our KAS family. The school, in line with many other independent schools in London, offered a school fee adjustment to families for the summer term, when King Alfred taught lessons online. Many of our families donated this adjustment back to KAS to support those families experiencing short term financial challenges with school fees. KAS families were supported in this way with over £50,000 given to the Covid19 Fund, including a significant, single gift of £10,000. Thank you to all for their generosity.

2020 – A year like no other

We wanted to share with you the stories of some of our Old Alfredians and members of our community working on the response to the pandemic in a medical capacity.

Phyllis Pitt (OA 1964) wrote to us last year...

My parents Dr David Pitt and Dorothy Pitt emigrated to London in 1947 from Trinidad and Tobago and my brother Bruce any myself came to London to join them in 1950. My father later became Lord Pitt of Hampstead . I attended KAS from 1950-1962. I left after taking O levels and did my A levels at The Polytechnic, Regent Street, London as I wanted to study Science A levels, getting A's in Physics, Chemistry, and Biology. I attended Edinburgh University and graduated MBChB in 1969.

After my Internship in Barbados I returned to Trinidad the country of my Birth and worked at the Port of Spain General Hospital. I returned to London to Specialize in Anaesthetics and Intensive Care obtaining my FFARCS (now FRCA) in 1974.

I got married in 1975 to Heathcliff Miller and we have 2 children, Heathcliff and Tanya. Heathcliff is an Airline Pilot and Tanya after working as a Foreign Service Officer in Trinidad married and moved to California, USA where she is a Real Estate Agent. She has 2 children, Corinth 6years 2 months and Lucca.1year 4 months.

In 1976 I joined the University of the West Indies as Lecturer in Anaesthetics and Intensive Care, became Senior Lecturer in 1994 and Professor of Clinical Anaesthesia and Intensive Care in 2003. I retired from the University in 2009. During my time at the University I was Head of my Department from 1996-1999 and Dean of the Medical Faculty from 1999-2007.

I set up the ICU's in Port of Spain General Hospital and The Eric Williams Medical Sciences Complex, started the Post Graduate training programme in Anaesthetics initially at the Diploma level and later the Doctorate of Medicine(Anaesthetics) programme which is the recognized Anaesthetics Specialist training programme in the West Indies. I was awarded the Chaconia Gold Medal for Long and Meritorious Services to Medicine in 1994.

I have visited KAS with my children about 25 years ago as I wanted my children to see what my school looked like. Though I don't keep in touch I do get your magazine and enjoy reading about the continued success of the school.

Keep up the good work.

Phyllis recently updated us on her work...

Last November I was honoured by the University of the West Indies as I was appointed Professor Emerita of the University in the field of Clinical

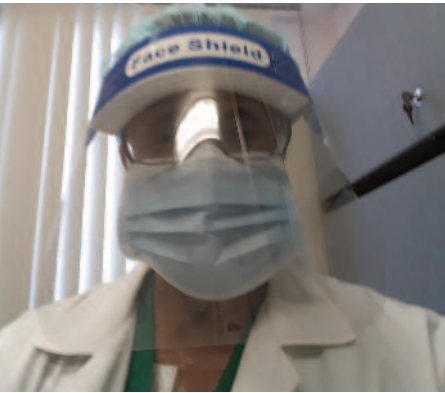


Anaesthesia and intensive Care.

I have continued to provide sessional service at the Eric Williams Medical Sciences complex(EWMSC) where our Medical School is located and as the Pandemic began to affect us our Government chose to run a parallel health system as we had 2 newly built hospitals which were not yet commissioned so that they were used to treat all Covid positive patients as well as our Thoracic Hospital which was built as a TB sanatorium and was perfect for treating the mild Covid patients in an atmosphere of clean mountain air of the Northern range. The patients who needed HDU and ICU care were housed in our new Teaching Hospital in Couva and my Department was split to cover the EWMSC and Couva. As such I was asked to provide Clinical Anaesthesia services at EWMSC so that the younger staff could provide care at the newer hospitals.

At first things went well and we were praised by Oxford University for our management of the Pandemic. Unfortunately, just as in other countries we became complacent and forgot social distancing and the wearing of masks so that we now have Community spread. In fact, we have just come out of a one month temporary lock down to

allow the caseload to plateau to 40 cases a day. Our aim is to get that figure down to 20/day when we will be able to re-establish air links with our Caribbean neighbours. Presently all our borders are still closed and only cargo and special repatriation flights are allowed.



I have attached a photo of myself in my theatre attire.

We are all doing well and getting ready to face this problem well into 2021.

Kind Regards, Keep safe,
Phyllis Pitt-Miller CMT, MBChB, DA, FRCA. Retired Professor of Clinical Anaesthetics and Intensive Care.

David Kovar (OA 2000) A Letter from the front line...

KAS 1988 – 2000
University of Leeds 2003 - 2006
Director of Operational Resilience at North Middlesex University Hospital NHS Trust.

I've been asked to share a couple of specific memories about my time at KAS, and there are just far too many to put on paper, so I will simply say that I loved my time there and I never really realised just how lucky I was to be in such a place until long after I'd left.

I was there from reception through to completing my GCSEs and will always remember those years. From Keith, Edo and Claire's eternal patience for my frankly appalling sporting abilities (these, I'm afraid, have not improved), to participating in school productions unlikely to be made anywhere else (Jaws being a personal favourite), school camps, good friends, building camps in the woods and Fish Finger Fridays KAS will remain an important part of my life.

After leaving university, I spent some time travelling and working, and chose to make a career change in 2008 after a university house mate was diagnosed with leukaemia. I spent six months at Cancer Research UK before joining the NHS in 2009 as part of the NHS Graduate Management Training Scheme.

I have been lucky enough to work in a variety of roles across a range of organisations including managing Neurosciences at Great Ormond Street Hospital for Children, leading Women's

& Children's Services at the Royal London Hospital and being the Managing Director of Haringey Mental Health. I have been at the North Middlesex since March, having been appointed to lead the organisations response to Covid-19.

Working in the NHS in these unprecedented times has been extremely challenging, in ways that few of us ever expected to experience in our careers. I've been constantly inspired by the frontline doctors, nurses, AHP's, paramedics, mental health professionals, administrators, porters, catering staff, security staff, volunteers and managers I've had the privilege of working with. These front line workers have been dealing with death, uncertainty, suffering and anxiety on a huge scale. But throughout it all, their fortitude, compassion and dedication has shone through. My experience of working alongside them will stay with me for the rest of my career and beyond.

This isn't the whole story, it would be wrong of me to imply that anyone has been finding things easy, but if you look you can see an awful lot of hope.

Armies of volunteers donating their time, former colleagues returning to work to treat patients and support staff, endless donations of food, services achieving in weeks what would normally take years, a nation showing its appreciation every Thursday



evening, paramedics working in Intensive Care Units, doctors working nursing shifts and all of us skipping the queue at Waitrose.

If you know any key workers, be kind to them, they're all tired. In the meantime, be kind to each other. Check in on old friends, stay in touch with everyone and call your parents. To my fellow Old Alfredians who are also key workers, thank you, and to all of you, stay safe.

Fiona Hackett, Chair of Grounds and Buildings Committee, Council, Parent of two Old Alfredians, Rory (OA 2006) and Miriam (OA 2010)



Fiona has spent 26 years as a scientist working in the Malaria Biochemistry Lab at the Francis Crick Institute in London, primarily on malaria research and the development of a vaccine for a disease that in 2018 infected 228 million people worldwide according to the WHO. When Covid 19 hit the UK, lockdown was imposed at the Francis Crick Institute as everywhere. However, a group of people at the organisation, led by the Head of Scientific Research recognised there was a massive need for testing, set up a testing operation at the FCI, and asked for volunteers amongst colleagues to establish the necessary pipeline for effective testing. With her particular skills in tissue culture, Fiona stepped up. Within 10 days the facility was set up, including ordering the necessary chemicals and reagents from overseas, and within weeks the FCI was processing 1500 samples a day. Most of these samples were testing for NHS and Care Home staff. Working in shifts,

the work required immense concentration to avoid possible contamination. The PPE worn included two sets of gloves, oversleeves and lab coats, whilst working within a tissue culture hood. During this time, Fiona was grateful to be able to contribute in this way. Cycling into work to a

very quiet London, and working alongside colleagues with whom one wouldn't normally associate was a privilege.

"It was quite different, and rewarding, because you felt useful, during a difficult time".

In July, the FCI had trained other staff who were able to take over and Fiona was able to return to her work on malaria.

It is a testament to the community we have at KAS, that Fiona continues to support King Alfred School, as a member of Council for the past 19 years, even after her children have finished. With her experience of almost 30 years at KAS, Fiona brings a clear view of her role on G&B: "Our job is to safeguard our beautiful site, providing a support and sounding board for the Estates team, whilst steering



capital projects to ensure we understand the effect on the overall landscape of our special school site." As Chair, Fiona has overseen the introduction of a planned maintenance programme, the Health and Safety on site, and the Masterplan of the school which has led to the building of the new Sixth Form Centre.

Retirements

With a combined 100+ years service to King Alfred School, we were very sad to say goodbye to four members of staff at KAS:

Jiaur Choudhury worked for 15 years in the IT department and has left to go to UCL as an IT Manager. **Edo Skender** spent 30 years working in the PE department, and left a gap when he retired as Head of PE. Edo took many Old Alfredians on school trips sailing and skiing, and know that he will be finding lots of time to enjoy these pursuits now in Croatia. **Cathy Brown** was a much-loved reception teacher at KAS, and although retired we hope to still see Cathy back at KAS as an Honorary Member. Last, but not least is **Rita Murray**. Whenever I have a question at KAS, the response is always, "Ask Rita". After an incredible 44 years at King Alfred, Rita is now finding time for her hobbies, although it was lovely to see her recently when she popped into school.

Old Alfredians wrote en masse to share your memories and wishes. We have only been able to include a few in this newsletter, but Rita, Edo and Cathy received your messages at the end of the summer term.

Theo Lovett (OA 1994) writes from the USA:

I was a student in Rita's Geography GCSE and A-Level classes from 1990-1994. I remember we had a majority of boys and just one or two girls Tamar and Sonya. The boys tended to be quite loud and opinionated but Rita would always make sure everyone had the chance to answer questions and give their input. Then if we had all missed a key detail she would diplomatically drop in at the end with that crucial but otherwise overlooked perspective.

Colin Coleman (OA 1991) writes from Norway:

Rita, Hope you have a great bucket-list of retirement plans to tick off. I know that you have inspired me to climb many volcanoes. I am now living in Norway and thanks to you I have found I know more about the processes of glaciation than most Norwegians.

Olivia Nathan (OA 2006)
Dear Rita,

I remember your face and teaching with much fondness alongside your Geography team of Bob and your sister Joan. I can see you now smiling in my minds eye and I feel lucky to have positive memories as a young person. Wishing you so well with your next steps.

Dear Edo,
What a wonderful time I had playing rounders and hockey under your compassionate watch. As a young woman I felt very relaxed and happy in your presence, which is kudos as many

relationships with men can be challenging within the backdrop of the patriarchy. It is only now that I read your leaving piece of your Croatian heritage and I am delighted to hear and share with you that I now sing polyphonic music from the Balkans including Croatia and spent a beautiful summer last year near Pazin learning songs. Wishing you so very well in your next adventures.

Zoë Morrall (OA 2014)
I have clear memories of the lower school library, the authors who came in to speak to us, World Book Day, and of course Cathy who is at the heart of them all. I seem to remember wanting to eat the marmalade sandwich she had in her pocket when she dressed up as Paddington bear one year for World Book Day. I'm glad to say she did not succumb to that whim of mine. I know that my love of reading was nurtured from a young age at KAS. When I was in lower school, I read Michael Morpurgo's 'The Amazing Story of Adolphus Tips', no doubt at Cathy's recommendation. It was one of those books that really turned me into an avid reader, and sparked a love for books that shaped my life. I went on to study English Literature at university, and reading remains an important part



Edo playing basketball

of my daily life. Thank you, Cathy, for encouraging a love for reading in me and many others, it is not hyperbolic to say that it has enriched my life.

Joe Sage (OA 1992) sent us these memorable photos of Edo and his class.

Good teachers leave a lasting impression. Good luck to you Edo in retirement!



Edo and his class

Tribute to Rita Murray
It was the summer of 1990 when I first stepped through the gates of KAS. Everything was new for this fresh-faced 16 year-old kid from Holland. New language, culture, school, curriculum, teachers and friends. Adjusting to my new world in this large metropolitan City was quite a contrast to my sedate rural upbringing and it wasn't always easy.
But KAS was the best possible school environment I could have hoped for and Rita played a big part in making me feel "at home" in my new world. In the classroom Rita was clearly passionate about her subject which resulted in engaging lessons and discussions. Her calm demeanour, quick wit and sense of humour meant there was always a good balance between learning & laughing!
Rita's support towards me went beyond the classroom, periodically checking how I was settling in and always available for a chat. For that I'm eternally grateful.
Rita, you resemble everything that makes KAS such a unique place to be. You have been an incredible support to me and an amazing ambassador for the school. I wish you well in whatever lies ahead.
Lots of love,
Nic Lenz (OA 1992)

Obituaries

Peter Twachtmann

Past Parent and Council
27 February 1943 to 22 April 2020

Peter Twachtmann was a father (of **Björn, Kerstin** and **Anja**) well before he joined KAS as a 'parent' and then Council member (1990) and Treasurer (1991). If I, like many others, will remember him as a good friend – fun, wry, generous of spirit - the school will long remember him, I trust, as an exemplary Treasurer. Some will now have the school on speed dial but in the 1990s Peter had KAS on speed drive – taking his Porsche from the City to Barnet for lunchtime meetings before dashing back to do a little paid work at Warburg's. Later, after he had left Warburg's, he would drive, in the same way I'm told, from his Highgate home to Manor Wood to deliver his daughter and often mine to their KAS day.

At King Alfred School, Peter looked after the finances of an institution much in need of his wisdom and skill. Far from the stereotypical banker, Peter was full of liberal, progressive, even radical ideas. When I worked with him, he was always a figure to be trusted and looked to for advice. If Peter Twachtmann said something would be okay, then okay it would be. The school would never have bought Ivy Wood if Peter had not okayed it, actively supporting it. We felt safe with him. He was committed, always confident, always assured. I know he found our Council meetings long and ponderous, but he stayed and listened. He was a good listener. And he even managed to introduce the comic into financial reporting, as anyone who remembers his AGM speeches will attest. Here is how he began in 2001:

"A few days ago my youngest daughter asked me unexpectedly: 'How are the school's finances?' As I was reading the papers at the time and was probably more occupied with developments in Kandahar and

Jalalabad, I simply said: 'Fine' and kept on reading. However, being a passable Alfredian parent, most of the time anyway, my conscience stirred immediately, which led me to fold the newspaper and pick up the theme by asking: 'Why? Anything I can tell you about it?' Her answer was: 'No, just wanted to know and if you say they are fine... (shrug), I'll take your word for it. After all you are the Treasurer'. Exactly.

● **Peter Palliser, Past Parent, Council Member, Honorary Member**

Was I lucky? Yes I was. I was fortunate indeed that Peter Twachtmann was KASS Treasurer throughout my years as Bursar.

Peter was a remarkable man who lived and breathed the KASS ethos. As Treasurer and Chair of Council's Finance Committee he had overall responsibility for the School and Society finances. He brought perception, financial expertise and common sense to discussions in committee or in school. With these qualities, plus acute awareness of children's short and long term interests and of staff and parents' expectations, he got to the nub of an issue. Peter saw the total picture, without forgetting individuals' wants and needs.

He was not shy to voice his opinion but was equally ready and eager to seek and take into account staff input. His wry sense of humour brought a welcome touch of piquancy to any discussion.

Meetings with him were stimulating

Elvira Hera Jones (OA) passed away in 1995. Ben, brother to Nicholas (OA 1986) wrote to let us know.

Audrey Howorth 1934 to 2020, Former Reception Teacher and Honorary Member sadly passed away in May. Audrey joined KAS in 1970 and taught 30 years of Old Alfredians. Chris Potter reflects on her contribution: Audrey in her time was a legend of the lower school. Or more accurately of the reception class, situated at that time where Lower School music takes place today. Audrey created an island of calm, serenity, order, exploration and love. She was a matriarch; her elegance shone through. She liked her independence and was encouraged to

educate her way. She still instituted the after dinner nap on mattresses on the floor of the classrooms. She created a haven of play, artistic expression and happiness. If a child at KAS during her era was asked, 'Were you in Audrey's class?', a smile would cross their face.

Harald Molgaard (Former Physics teacher)

Bill Hall (Former Staff) wrote to us in July:

I have sad news about an ex-teacher at King Alfred School. I received a phone call from the eldest son of Harald Molgaard, to say that last Wednesday (8th July) at the West Middlesex Hospital in Twickenham,



and fruitful. He focused on ensuring the school's financial stability and security, whilst promoting developments to enhance KAS education and make it available to as many as possible. I recall his vital contribution, with other team members, during the purchase of Ivy Wood, from considering whether we should bid, to complex contract negotiations and funding arrangements.

His philosophy was to encourage individuals, whilst trusting and expecting them to do their jobs. But he was always available to advise and support. It made my job a lot easier to know that I could always pick up the phone and say, "Peter, can you help me with a problem?" or "Peter, let me bounce an idea off you."

Since retiring we stayed in touch, meeting periodically for lunch. Now I miss our friendly chats about anything and everything. If I were to list required qualities of the perfect KASS Treasurer, Peter Twachtmann would tick every box.

● **Tom Bloch, Former Bursar and Honorary Member**

Harald died after contracting an infection. It wasn't the coronavirus apparently but another microbe which came on top of his underlying lung condition.

Harald was a physics teacher at King Alfred School for many years and who left in 2004 when he retired. I enclose a page from The Alfredian magazine of 2004.

Janet Long, nee Morrish (OA) passed away in 2017.

Manjula Banerjee Past Parent and mother of **Arnab Banerjee (OA 1987)** 02/12/36 - 15/10/2020. She was a believer in the school, who loved its ethos.

OAs Notice Board

KAS History at Home

As part of a project we are working on to celebrate 125 years of KAS we are asking you to search your attics, garages and cupboards for photos or even footage of your time here at KAS. We want to hear your recollections of life at King Alfred School and why it's so special to you. If you have any memories to share please do send them or contact us at oa@kingalfred.org.uk

Friends of KAS

Are you a parent of an Old Alfredian?

Having our past parents remain Friends of KAS is something that we actively encourage. King Alfred is such a huge part of your lives as parents and you may wish to remain a part of the KAS community. We will keep you up to date with all the details of our big events such as KASonbury and Fireworks. We enjoy connecting past parents through afternoon teas and other events.

Do let us know if you are interested in becoming a Friend of KAS at oa@kingalfred.org.uk

Reunions

We are planning a reunion for 2011 leavers to celebrate 10 years of leaving school in 2021. Contact **Patrick Crinnigan (OA 2011)**, or oa@kingalfred.org.uk if you would like to attend.

KASonbury 2021

Our planned events are currently on hold in line with government guidance on social gatherings but we will keep you up to date as and when we have more details for KASonbury 2021.

Do you work or volunteer for an NGO?

We are looking for an Old Alfredian that has experience of working within an NGO or overseas Development that might volunteer themselves to come and talk about this fascinating subject with students in the lower school. Please contact oa@kingalfred.org for more details.

Connections

We are still holding our Connections sessions virtually. These are a series of talks, Q&A, and videos providing advice and insights into higher education and careers. Please, if you would like to contribute your expertise to this valuable resource for our students, we would love to hear from you. Similarly, if you want to attend a talk please register your interest at oa@kingalfred.org.

Correction

Our apologies to **Stephan Rudolfer (OA 1960)** for an error in the last newsletter. Stephan's career was as a lecturer in Mathematical Statistics, then subsequently Honorary Research Fellow in Biostatistics, at Manchester University.

LinkedIn

The King Alfred School LinkedIn page provides Old Alfredians with a great way to connect with the broader community of parents and OAs, and a potential support through career choices and moves. Please add www.linkedin.com/school/TheKingAlfredSchool to your LinkedIn profile and connect with us.



New Staff Member

We are delighted to welcome Heather to KAS. Heather joins us as Development and Old Alfredian Officer.

Old Alfredians... we need you!

- Please support our events and gatherings.
- Help us to organise year group reunions.
- 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 social media.
- Share your news and stories with us.

Old Alfredians & Development Office

Tamlyn Worrall, Development Director

Heather Roberts, Development and Old Alfredian Officer

The King Alfred School

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