

# Alfredians



A newsletter for Old Alfredians

Spring 2021

## Old Alfredians working with NASA

**Tom Bernard (OA 1974)** has shared his experience working with NASA in previous issues, but as promised he sent us some wonderful photographs of his work on the Shuttle.



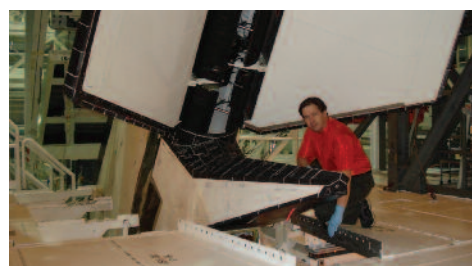
Tom & OV105 Endeavour...



...at Crew Entry



...inside the Shuttle



...with the Atlantis Rudder Speed Brake



...on the Shuttle Launch Pad Ramp



...with Orbiter on its way to Pad 39B



The STS-123 launch

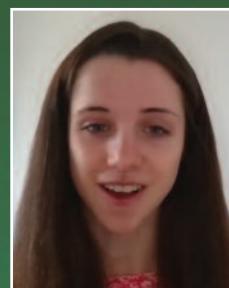
We were very excited to learn that **Joby Hollis (OA 2006)** is currently living and working in the USA, with NASA, where he has been a member of the team working on the Mars Perseverance Rover.

### In this issue...

Features inside include Connections, KAS Society News, A Different Kind of Gap Year, and Old Alfredian **Ian Lush** awarded an OBE in New Year's Honours list for services to NHS Charities Together.



Ian Lush



Connections Sessions

# OA News and Achievements

**Sam Ibrahim (OA 1980)**  
Over the last year, I have had the pleasure of a couple of calls with Sam Ibrahim (**OA 1980**), in place of being able to meet for a walk around KAS. Sam asked us to find the programme for The Snow Queen in the KAS Archives. We talked about the Snow Queen and how much he enjoyed being in the show. Everyone was involved in some way at the school. Scilla Furey and Ross, the drama teacher from Australia were key. In Main Hall, the PE office used to be in the corner near the



## Top of the Form

At the start of this year we had the loveliest email from **Julie James Bailey, née Heyting (OA 1951)**: “The recent 2019 Spring Newsletter with the TED photo and article reminds me of the time when BBC radio “Top of the Form” was broadcast from the Hall. No television in those days!!  
We had a senior team **Naomi Elkan** and **Sylvester Bone** and a middle school team **Simon Ryder-Smith** and me, **Julie Heyting**.  
The four British schools from England, Scotland, Wales and N. Ireland were in a knock out competition playing four schools from Scandinavia. We beat Sweden, but ultimately



Seated L-R seated Simon Ryder-Smith (OA), Naomi Hull née Elkan, Wynford Vaughan Thomas (question master) Julie Bailey, née Heyting (OA) and Sylvester Bone (OA). L-R standing Mrs H. M. E Barber (Kas Head) Mr F.P Thomson (managing editor of English Illustrated)

Photo credit: The English Illustrated, April 1951

CAST		
The Storyteller	Theresa Potts	The Snowflake Army: Ruth Allford, Victoria Button, Vanessa Carlson, Amanda Freedman, Clare Grant, Susan Harris, Penny Horne, Claire Hodgson, Tim Honor, Laura Jacobs, Sara Johnson-Perry, Karen Kingsley, Ruth Kneoff, Julia Meyerholm, Old Odgers, Katie Preston, Sarah Wise.
Gerdie, a girl	Lucie Nicholson	
Way, a boy, her friend	Marius Brill	Jacky: Sam Ibrahim, Dixie Linder, Sarah Parvin.
The Chancellor	Chris Scott	
Gerdie's Grandmother	Ricky Gershon	Guards: Nigel Raffles, Richard Warren.
The Snow Queen	Mary Myers	
Earl, a raven	Ben Rogers	
Klara, another raven	Lella Cohen	
Prince Klaus	Fergus Henderson	
Princess Christine	Jane Poulkes	
Back legs of a horse	Sue Walton	
The King	Ben Carter	
1st Robber	Charlie Wager	
2nd Robber	Flaxy Eaton	
Clof, a robber	Peter Best	
Barbro, another robber	Richard Stayte	
The Robber Woman	Maggie Shivpuri	
Wenki, her daughter	Lucy Michael	
The Reindeer	Leda Franklin	
Musicians: Anne Elliott (Accordion), Ian Lush (Violin)		

kitchen itself. Jack, Tim and Mike Redfern used to help with the show. Sam also remembers a play called The Children's Crusade between 1976 and 1978.  
He explained the openness at the school for children to do creative stuff, completely open to doing anything you wanted. Sam remembers school with a great deal of fondness. KAS is

associated with a lot of joy and fun. The fashions of the 70s were quite wild, but you could wear whatever you wanted. KAS was about free thinking. Sam reminisced about the food being very good at KAS. Teachers used to sit next to the children in the dining hall, and he remembers looking at **Margaret Maxwell's** food (she was vegetarian) and thinking he would prefer that.

and I identified KAS as one of the most influential and important years in my life. I arrived soon after the war to bombed out London and KAS had recently returned to Golders Green. The co-education which allowed me to play cricket, the choice of subjects for the afternoon timetable when I could try out all sorts of crafts and sport and where I was introduced to drama taught by **Renee Soskin** determined my future career.  
I am lucky to be very healthy and hope to visit KAS for the 125th anniversary in 2023! I am writing my memoirs and the influence of KAS is featuring very prominently. I listen to the news of the lock down in the UK and hope everyone is safe and well. Thank you KAS.”

**Mamoun Hassan (OA 1956)**  
We enjoyed some wonderful conversations last summer with **Mamoun Hassan, Lyford Cross** and **Judy Bryer (née Seal)** and are pleased to have been able to put three Old Alfredians back in touch with each other.  
Mamoun is a screenwriter, director, editor, producer and teacher of film who held prominent positions in British cinema during the 1970s and 1980s, frequently backing experimental work. He was head of production of the British Film Institute (BFI) and later managing director of the National Film Finance Corporation (NFFC).

**Memories and thanks to a wonderful Teacher**  
**Lisa Milne Henderson (OA 1986)** had approached us about writing to **Naomi Hull** as she had been in her thoughts recently. This is what she wrote.

“Dear Tamlyn, I will try to go away and compose the perfectly structured and non-tautological missive for Naomi, as she taught me and deserves!  
She was a proper old-fashioned teacher, the Craig Revel Horwood of KAS; where others were chummy and twinkly, she was serious about her subject, and her teaching and judgements were rigorous. A good mark from Naomi really meant something. I appreciated all of that, and sought her good opinion wherever possible, seeking out those red As in the margin of my homework to see eagerly if I had plusses or minuses next to them, or even a dreaded B, which meant go home and work much much harder.

## When KAS was on the farm

We were fortunate enough to hear from **Yvonne Wells née Lehman's (OA)** daughter, Alison Wells recently. Yvonne is one of our Old Alfredians who attended the school when it was evacuated to Flint Hill Farm in Royston during the war.



Yvonne Wells née Lehman (OA)

“My mother... She was very happy there and stayed in touch with the people who ran the farm there for very many years afterwards.  
She then went to St Anne's College Oxford to read Geography.  
I have attached a photo of her taken a few years ago when she and my father Alan were living in Canada - he is a geologist and worked for Shell in the oil business all his life so they both lived in a number of different

English was my subject anyway, in a sea of subjects that made no sense to me, so her teaching was very important to me. I left after my O'levels to go to St Paul's, but would have been much happier and done much better had I stayed at KAS. However, English remained the one subject I reliably did well in, and I went on to read it at Cambridge, which I'm sure wouldn't have happened without Naomi's predicative clauses.

My kids went to KAS, and it is the happiest of schools for both of them. My niece and nephew have also gone all the way through the school.  
Many of my fellow Alfredians are now parents at the school, which is lovely. I stayed in touch peripatetically with Clemency Davidson and Cressida Fforde in particular. Rita and Laszlo taught me, as did Androulla, all of whom are either there or have left only recently.  
Definitely a joyous school.”

countries while prospecting for oil such as Turkey, Iran and Oman. My brother James and I would visit them from the UK during the school holidays so we have been fortunate to travel widely. During the term times Mum often taught English as a foreign language in local educational establishments and while in Canada volunteered with ARBI (Association for the Rehabilitation of the Brain Injured) helping patients to read and talk again.

Both my parents now live in a Care Village up here in York though they are in different areas as Mum is on the Dementia Floor. They were allowed to be together on their 70th wedding anniversary this year (July 27th) and the family was also allowed to visit them which was great!”

## Julian Anderson (OA 1956)

After a visit back to school some years ago, Julian called last month to ask after the school, update his contact details and to share with us some wonderful photographs and memories of sport, study, and School Council at KAS. As Editor of the School Magazine, Julian also has a number of magazines from across the years. We hope to share more of these with you in coming issues of our newsletter, as we head towards the King Alfred School's 125th anniversary in 2023. Julian shared the memorable story of his Geography O Level exam when the KAS cricket team had a match on the same afternoon. They instructed the KAS team to field first if they won the toss; sat their exam in the Old Library; and in those days students were able to leave the exam after half an hour, which they duly did to rush down to the match and open the batting for KAS!  
Julian went on to study at Wadham College, Oxford and after a formative year of teaching, went on to spend 30 years in the Civil Service, including as one of the UK's negotiators during the Accession of the UK to the European Union in 1973.  
If you appear in these photos, or remember who else was on the team, please do let us know, so that we update our KAS Archive.



**Cricket team probably 1955 or 56. Front row. Julian, Eric Z, Stephen X, Nick Alwyn (Captain), Lyford Cross, Freddy Herzog: Back row, Mamoun Hamid Hassan Kahn, Sydney Thompson, Uncle Bill. Team Umpire on many occasions.**



**Cricket Team probably 1953 or 54. Front row. Mervyn X, Eric Z, Freddy H, Captain, Lyford C, Hugo Bulbullion. Back row. Victor Z, Nicky A, Julian, Peter Preston, TBC, Stephen X.**

**Navin Karu (OA 2002)**  
We reconnected with Old Alfredian, Navin on Instagram when he shared his wonderful video on how inspiring his time was at KAS. However long or short your journey at KAS you are always a part of the OA community. Navin now lives in Malaysia and is the Founder of Ocean Flair Group, which includes Sago Catering, Vin's Restaurant in Kuala Lumpur, Manja KL, Velvet Lounge and Big Boyz BBQ.



Navin Karu (OA) talks about the recipe book that went on to inspire what he does today. Watch the full video @oldalfredians

## Nicole Gidoomal née Nanji (OA 1992)

Nicole filled us in on where life has taken her since leaving the UK.  
“We went back to Kenya where I attended school and completed my O and A levels. Then I went to Los Angeles to a community college called, Santa Monica College, where I attained a Bachelor of Science degree after completing a course in graphic design. I returned to Kenya after and joined several ad agencies after which I started my own advertising company. I got married in 2004 and have two beautiful boys who are now 10 and 9. I have some wonderful memories of King Alfreds.”

# Message from the Head

As we have navigated the twists and turns of the pandemic and puzzling Government decisions, this year, at times, has felt like a rollercoaster. The partnership between our incredible staff, our resolute parents and our brilliant pupils, however, has meant that not only have we made it through but in important ways, we have emerged stronger. And looking forward, we can feel very optimistic about our future.

Two main themes stand out. The first is the independence of our children and young people. The unfortunate cliché about education is that the older a child gets, the less opportunity they have for independence - it's a downhill ride from the freedoms of Reception to the straitjackets of GCSEs. If ever we needed a reminder that this can be different, then lockdown has proven it.

The second lesson is the importance of human connection. As we know, we are social animals at heart and need people around us to thrive. One only had to see the look on the faces of all year groups coming back to school after lockdown to be reminded of the importance of being with each other.

These twin ideas have always been at the heart of KAS and we are now finding new ways to make them live and breathe.

The most visible example will be our new curriculum in Years 6 to 8. The



momentum is steadily building towards the launch in September where we will teach an interdisciplinary enquiry-based curriculum which will stretch the notion of what our young people at this age and stage can do. Inspired by best practice from around the world, we have made powerful connections with like-minded schools, and have exciting plans to research and share the project.

Alongside this, we have refreshed our vision for the sixth form and this will be encapsulated in our new building opening in the summer term. Together they will help the sixth form to become an even stronger bridge between school and whatever comes next – be it University, College or the world of work. They will also encourage our students to develop their independent and collaborative working, to take meaningful decisions in the community, and to develop and to act on a strong social conscience.

At the other end of the age group,

we continue to make strides in our practice throughout the Lower School. Student lead conferences for example, were introduced last year with great success. These involve every pupil from Reception upwards talking through a portfolio of their work with their parents, and with a little training, it was remarkable how well they could do this. Such activities are emblematic of an approach which gives them as much agency as possible over their work and which supports them at a young age to develop the characteristics of being an effective learner.

And finally, we are going to reform the experience at Year 9 to 11 to create a more intellectually fulfilling experience than the current mechanistic and limited GCSEs. As a founder member of the high-profile Rethinking Assessment group, we will be pioneering new courses and approaches which will not only benefit our own students but serve as a model for other schools who want to follow a similar path.

As in so many other parts of society, this post-pandemic moment is an opportunity for us to champion a better vision. We can push the boundaries of what is possible for our children and young people, lift that artificial lid which limits ambition, and enable every individual to reach their full potential. And, just as our founders intended, we can model new ways of working which will bring significant improvement not just for our children and young people, but for children and young people everywhere.

Robert

Running testing facilities on our return to school after the third lockdown, meant two of our facilities had to be repurposed temporarily to test staff and students in those first weeks of March. Testing is now taking place at home.



Fitness Suite as a Testing Centre



Sports Hall set up for testing

# My Covid-19 Year

**Ian Lush, KAS 1964-1978; Chief Executive Imperial Health Charity.**

On 12 March 2020 we held an awayday for my team of 36 people at Imperial Health Charity. We enjoyed our discussions at a venue near Liverpool Street and a social event in the evening. Even though we knew, given our work with five London hospitals, that this 'pandemic' was getting worse, I am sure none of us imagined that a year later we would still not have returned to our office, and only our heroic on-site volunteer

management teams would have seen each other in person rather than on yet another Zoom call.

Similarly, when I agreed, earlier that same fateful month, to take over as Chairman of NHS Charities Together (NHS CT) from 1 April, I had no idea what I was about to experience. NHS CT went from being a small, rather obscure membership organisation with 3.5 staff and a turnover of £450k, to becoming the highest profile charity in the land, recipient of the late Captain Sir Tom Moore's extraordinary £33million in



Ian Lush OBE (OA 1978)

fundraising, part of a total now standing at over £155million. Along with NHS CT's CEO Ellie Orton, I found myself drawn into a media frenzy, as they sought something positive to talk about with the country in lockdown. Captain Tom's story resonated in a totally unexpected way and suddenly everyone, it seemed, wanted to know about NHS charities. I spent several mornings glued to a mobile phone talking to local radio breakfast shows, with a cue sheet in front of me making sure I mentioned their local hospital charity. I appeared live by Skype on BBC Breakfast 'alongside' Captain Tom, and then when his knighthood was announced did several TV interviews from 10.30pm – midnight, followed by breakfast TV again the next morning! But of course the most important part of this extraordinary year was the difference Imperial Health Charity and our 240 fellow NHS charities throughout the UK have been able to make to the staff, patients and families of the NHS. This huge amount of money has been put to very good use, funding staff well-being and counselling, improvements to facilities, tablet devices for patients in isolation to see their families and countless other wonderful things – all thanks to the generosity of our donors. For me the icing on the cake was being the proud recipient of an OBE for charitable services to the NHS in the New Year's Honours, and I would definitely trace my long career in the non-profit sector back to the values instilled in me at KAS from the age of 4-18.

## Development Office News



This month, the scaffolding around our new Sixth Form Centre came down, revealing the beautiful cladding around this new building. Work continues to take place inside the new building to fit out the state-of-the-art study, social and meeting areas for our growing Sixth Form. We expect the building to be ready for limited use during the Summer Term 2021, and it is likely that it will be opened officially in September.



We were delighted to discover this beautifully written poem within the pages of an Alfredian newsletter published in 1923. As Chris (current teacher) who, shared this beautiful photo of Spring in the KAS grounds put it, "It never fails to amaze me the deep wisdoms of ones so young."

**Spring**

Pure, slender and green,  
Comes the lady Spring,  
More lovely than any queen  
And too wise for any king.


As through the wood she trips  
She throws the trees a kiss,  
And opens each bud at the tips  
To wake them up to bliss.

She calls each shoot by name,  
From the biggest to the tiniest,  
And tells the sun and rain  
To do their duty and their best.

For she wants them to live long  
And bear the fruit assigned them,  
And she wants them to grow strong  
That weeds may not bind them.

And then she flits away,  
To call her sister Summer,  
Who is welcomed the next day  
By all as a sweet new-comer.

C. EPSTEIN (age 11 years).



Spring. A poem taken from a KAS newsletter published in 1923  
Photo: The KAS Archives

Spring at Ivy Wood by Chris Raymond (current staff)

# KAS Society News



Honorary Members of KASS virtual afternoon tea, November 2020 (above) and February 2021 (below)



**Honorary Members**

We have held two Honorary Members Afternoon teas by zoom since our last issue, and were delighted by the response to our most recent one, with almost half of our Honorary members either attending or sending apologies. We look forward to seeing more of you at our next one in the summer.

In February, Kara, Annabel and Tamlyn welcomed some first-time attendees to the screen as well as the familiar. We enjoyed hearing everyone's news and listening to some lovely memories too. **Jack Black**, Former Chair of Council summed up the event perfectly, "what a marvellous idea - it keeps people together." It was lovely to welcome Jack to his first Honorary Members Afternoon Tea.

**The King Alfred School Society (KASS)**

Society membership is offered to all parents and staff on joining the school – and indeed to any former parents, staff or pupils who want to remain actively involved. Membership entitles you to take part in the running of the Society, attend and vote at the Annual General Meeting, and elect or stand for Council. The annual subscription fees for membership fund the research projects and conferences.

By becoming a member of the Society you are able to have a voice in furthering the aims of the Society and the school. Three Old Alfredians currently sit on Council, elected from the Society membership. For more information on joining KASS (the Society), please email [development@kingalfred.org.uk](mailto:development@kingalfred.org.uk).

## Visitors to KAS

**Tal, Gad and Noga Haker (OA 2017)** stopped by the school on the 8th December 2020. The last time Noga was here she was a student in Ivy Wood. Noga and her siblings, **Yuval** and **Rona** all came to KAS and now live in Tel Aviv, Israel. Noga was able to find the bird she designed on the iconic school gates.



Noga Haker (OA 2017) and her parents on a tour of the school in December

## Are you able to help?

**Jolyon Michael (OA 2015)** is running the Brighton Marathon on 12th September 2021 to raise money for Pancreatic Cancer UK. He writes on his Justgiving Page: "This charity is very close to my heart after we lost my wonderful Dad to this disease in November 2020."



Jolyon and his Dad, Brian Michael (Past Parent)

**Pancreatic Cancer UK:** More than half of people diagnosed with pancreatic cancer die within 3 months. Survival rates have improved enormously for most cancers, yet for pancreatic cancer, this is not the case. Pancreatic Cancer UK is dedicated to taking on this injustice using every possible means. They're supporting people with pancreatic cancer now, campaigning, and funding vital research to transform the future. Help them to make the breakthroughs that people with pancreatic cancer so desperately need.  
<https://tinyurl.com/7mw7hnmr>

## Exercising the Revolutionary spirit at KAS

In the space of just a week in February, we were reminded of the KAS spirit of Rebellion and Activism.

No more so than when we discovered two of our recent Old Alfredians, **Lazer (OA 2019)** and **Blue (OA 2021)** were featured in newspaper articles and Headline TV news on Friday 5th February. Lazer and Blue were part of the group taking part in environmental action against HS2 in tunnels beneath Euston Square. Our thoughts were with Lazer as images emerged of him face down with his arm in the vice like grip of a metal contraption bolted to the ground,



Lazer (OA 2019) and Blue (2021)  
Photo: The Times



L-R Blue, Lazer and Roc Sandford at an Extinction Rebellion event.  
Photo: @rocsandford

designed to prevent his removal by the bailiffs. Their father, Roc Sandford (who spoke at our inaugural TEDx talks in 2019) was interviewed at length about his concerns for their safety but also expressed his support for the cause. We were relieved to hear recently that Lazer and Blue both emerged unharmed from their time in the tunnels.

Earlier that week, during the Honorary Members Zoom Tea Party, Kara had posed the timely question,

"what are your greatest memories of Revolution at KAS?" To which we got to hear some wonderful stories. Mike told how the politics of fractious council meetings would be explained in the pub afterwards. Rita talked of the time when, as the National Union of Teachers representative a number of staff refused to do their lunch duties in solidarity against the educational cuts other schools faced. Jane reminisced of the time when David turned away the Ofsted inspectors because she was retiring in six weeks and as such was ill timed. Silvia recollected her initial concern at the children climbing the trees and how it almost put her off taking the job!

As our school is built on the very foundations of being Changemakers – against the Victorian educational system and ideals, we are still very much a place where standing up for your beliefs, and having the conviction to engage in them, is respected.

# The snow must go on!

Sadly, the annual KAS ski trip was cancelled this year but it didn't stop us from taking a look back at some of the wonderful snowy trips to the slopes made over the years by KAS students and teachers. Here are some of the highlights - thanks again to Edo's albums.

Please let us know if you spot yourselves! [oa@kingalfred.org.uk](mailto:oa@kingalfred.org.uk)



Edo was able to raid his albums to bring us these fabulous photos from just some of our wonderful annual KAS ski trips



## Snow Day at KAS, 28th January 2021



## Connections

Lockdown round 3 and we were treated to more insightful Connections Sessions hosted by our generous OAs. **Jemima Stevens (OA 2006)** joined sixth formers and year 11 students on zoom to talk all things Finance and how she came to find herself enjoying a varied and interesting career as a Vice President in Technology and Operations at Morgan Stanley. She enlightened students to the fact it is not always necessary to follow orthodox pathways into your career choice but to draw on your varied experiences and collect connections; you never know where they may take you. Thank you, Jemima.

### Quotes from students:

"I was interested to see how one's choice of A level subjects greatly differed from their career choice, and how they got there. So I found it very helpful to see how Jemima got to do the career she wanted through alternative pathways." - **Phoenix**

"It was very insightful, especially for work experience and gave me a good scope for jobs following a financial path." - **Lucas**

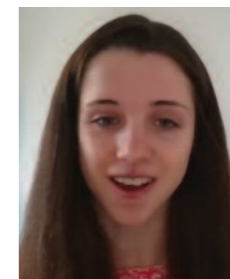
"The session helped me see what it's like to work in the financial services industry. It encouraged me to look at alternatives to university." - **Jamie**

**Jessica Leeney (OA 2017)**  
Jessica presented our latest Connections series on Friday 19th



A career in Finance with Jemima (OA 2006)

March. In her fourth year of Medicine at Nottingham University, Old Alfreidian Jessica shared some key insights on the rigorous application process, advice on the best way to gain the required work experience in advance of your application, and the academic journey once at university. "Medicine is effectively detective work, and in modern medicine, a more holistic approach is important, so your extra curricular hobbies are valued



"Medicine is a very human thing to do. You are involved in the most intimate moments of people's lives."

for what they demonstrate about you as a person."

Our current students who are considering medicine, and their parents found Jessica's advice very helpful. Being able to connect Jessica with Old Alfreidian, **Rosie Hughes (OA 2013)** who is a Junior Doctor currently based in Liverpool is an extension of the Connections series, by supporting OAs across their journey from school to further study and into the workforce.

## A different kind of Gap Year

**Rhodri Beynon (OA 2020)** writes about his experience supporting KAS students during his Gap year.

Like everybody else, Covid significantly changed my Gap Year plans but it did allow me to be part of another Upper School Show (I thought 2019 would be my last). The ever-inventive drama department, undaunted by the pandemic, came up with a review-style show for 2020 which could be rehearsed in a Covid-safe way by having separate performances for individual year groups. Performing in front of a live audience

clearly wasn't possible, so all the acts were filmed and edited in the hope that the KAS community could enjoy a screening of the show later in the year. In what I regard as a huge act of faith in my abilities, the drama department approached me to film and edit the show. Over two weekends and a number of evenings in the Autumn Term we filmed all the acts with (thankfully) minimum disruption from any Covid cases among the students. It was hard work, but a lot of fun, with plenty of laughter and a good stock of out-takes! It was a fantastic experience for me and it also gave the students a new perspective on performance, as they were playing to a camera, rather than to a live audience. The resulting film "Here's Looking At You Kids!" is a memento of the Covid-hit year, showcasing some



wonderful KAS talent, so do look out for it when it (hopefully) gets released next term.

The film can be viewed here: The King Alfred School (@the\_king\_alfred\_school) @kingalfredphoenixtheatre



# Obituaries

## Rajni Khotari (OA 1970)

17 September 1952 to 14 January 2017  
Obituary from Bridport News in January 2017.

Tributes paid to Raj Kothari, former barrister and filmmaker from Bridport, who died aged 64

By Rene Gerryts

### TRIBUTES have been paid to Raj Kothari.

Mr Kothari was well-known around town and was a regular at both The George and The Ropemakers where a half pint of lager were left on the bar with notices saying he would be much missed.

Friends and family paid tribute to the man who made his mark as both a filmmaker and a barrister.

After the King Alfred School, he went to University College London and studied law but didn't want to go into law and went into film instead.

He worked his way up working at the Moving Picture Company and Rushes before moving to the BBC where he worked as a film editor and a dialogue editor on programmes like Play for Today.

His own father worked on the Richard Attenborough film on Ghandi and Mr Kothari was later to make his own documentary about Ghandi in England which was shown on Channel 4.

He later decided to return to law and started work as a barrister, which took to him all over the UK, including Lincolns Inn and Chichester.

He wrote a book about his father's life and the making of the Ghandi film which is yet to be published and various plays and movie scripts.

His son Merlin said his father, who loved Bridport, was passionate about local and national issues which led to him writing regularly to numerous papers.

Merlin said: "He firmly believed in Ghandi's peaceful conflict and resolution, including non-violent solutions.

"When we moved to Bridport in 2005 we all fell in love with the place. He would always make time for people, even if it was inconvenient. He cared deeply about the community

"He loved the market and the community spirit of Bridport and its fresh and creative atmosphere and the good food."

Long-time friend cartoonist Sam Smith, who has known Mr Kothari since 1974, said: "He was an old school socialist all his life.

"He loved cricket and horse racing and organised many trips to race courses for 20 or 30 people at a time.



"He was always prepared to help people who would present him with a variety of enquiries.

"He very kindly opened his chambers and let me have an exhibition of my law cartoons there.

"He liked his music, and used to play bass guitar."

Geraldine Baker, landlady at The Ropemakers said he'd be sorely missed.

She said: "It is very, very sad. He was always ready to help people.

"He was incredibly good at cryptic crosswords. We had a crossword corner in the pub which he put the sign up for. He was teaching lots of people how to solve them.

"He was a very interesting man to talk to. He knew an awful lot about an awful lot of things.

"There will be a lot of people who go to his funeral."

turned writer herself and in due course published three successful novels as Margaret Tabor, The Baker's Daughter (1979), Unity Penfold (1980, published in the US as Eclipse) and The Understudy (1983). Much to Shosh's amusement, in 1998 Unity Penfold mutated into an American film called Nightmare Street, starring Sherilyn Fenn, which bore a faint resemblance to her book.

Shosh was married in 1958 to David London, a fellow stage manager, with whom she had two children, Gideon and Emma. After their divorce, her second marriage, in 1965, was to the actor Peter Copley, and she became stepmother to his daughter, Fanny.

In 1982 the Copleys left London for Bristol, where they became well known in the theatre community centred on the Theatre Royal, and Shosh herself became a much sought-after editor of manuscripts for her writer friends. After several years of ill health, she endured the final onset of thyroid cancer with her inspiring mix of dark humour and stoicism.

Peter died in 2008, and Gideon in 2010. Shosh is survived by Emma and Fanny, and four grandchildren.

Article and Photo Credit: The Guardian, Alison Sterling, Wednesday 13th January 2021



## Fram Patuck (OA)

We recently learnt that **Fram** passed away in 2014. His daughter, Anne Urquhart kindly forwarded a postcard from his belongings, entitled Mrs Boulter's Pipers 1930. Fram attended KAS between 1928 and 1938. Some of you may also remember his younger sister **Dina (OA)**, who also attended the school. Sadly, she died around five years ago.



Mrs Boulter's Pipers, 1930

**Jane Hagger (OA 1957)** passed away some time ago, but we have recently been informed. If anyone has photos of Jane from school days, please do get in touch.

## Margaret Copley (OA 1952)

My friend Shosh Copley, who has died aged 86, was part of the team creating a revolution in theatre in the 1960s with Richard Pilbrow's company Theatre Projects, as the professions of lighting, sound and theatre design consulting were founded in the UK. Among the shows she worked on as a stage manager were Blitz! (1962), A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum (1963), Fiddler on the Roof (1967) and Cabaret (1968), all produced by Theatre Projects with Hal Prince. Her friendship with Pilbrow continued for 60 years and she was involved in editing his groundbreaking book Stage Lighting Design (first published in 1970 as Stage Lighting).

Shosh was the only child of David Tabor, a Soho wine merchant, and his wife, Min (nee Lorraine). Her parents named her Margaret, but she was universally known as Shosh – her infant mangling of Shoshana, the name she wished she had been given. Her education at King Alfred school in Golders Green was interrupted by the



second world war and evacuation to Royston, Hertfordshire.

She was a keen theatre-goer as a teenager, saving up for matinee tickets, so after school she rejected the idea of Oxford University and

went to train as a stage manager at Central School of Speech and Drama in 1953, when it was still based at the Albert Hall. Her work took in the Arts theatre, the Edinburgh festival, the Stephen Joseph Theatre in the Round in Scarborough (where a young Alan Ayckbourn was her assistant stage manager), and the avant-garde, sensual and experiential performances of Liquid Theatre, which had arrived in London from LA, via New York and Paris.

Shosh moved swiftly from theatre into floor managing for live television, including a stint on That Was The Week That Was. Then she was invited by Pilbrow, who had been a fellow Central student, to join his new company, Theatre Projects.

After working on his book, she

## Feedback from our Autumn newsletter

**Theo Lovett (OA 1994)** The OA Newsletters "always brighten up my day and renew a sense of belonging for me - however long distance that may be nowadays."

**Tom Bloch** (Former Staff) The Newsletter is "a great mix of current news, history, people's experiences and notices. It's so good, but not surprising, to read how much KAS is achieving in this strange new world. What the school is doing, under all the constraints, certainly demonstrates its ethos."

**Sally Clark née Harris (OA 1951)** "You made a very old Alfredian happy. Thank you so much for your kind note and the hard copy of the Autumn edition.

It gives me much pleasure reading all the news, and even more pleasure to think you still remember me.

I have difficulty with reading the e editions, so to receive the hard copy makes it so much easier to read and keep."

We are always happy to post hard copies of our newsletters to our OAs, but of course this year, the post took a little longer to reach shores further afield. Our newsletters arrived in the post in Australia at the start of the year, so as we went into our third lockdown here in the UK, it was heart-warming to receive messages and phone calls with Old Alfredians in Australia. Sean shared his stories of his adventures surfing across the world, after he had returned to



If you have missed an issue or would like a hard copy of an issue please let us know – oa@kingalfred.org.uk

Australia. **Sean Dawson (OA 1951)** remembers when the school field was flattened by the bulldozer and sorted out by parents and staff, children wrote messages to the future and buried them in the school field. In 1952, they buried these in exactly this location: from the main hall back

offices door, walk straight towards the field 20 or 30 paces, then step 5 or 6 paces to your right. That is where they were buried. There is a large tree there now, which was planted by Sean and others at this time! Time capsules are still a part of KAS life today.

# OAs Notice Board

## Save the Date

### KAStonbury

Reunion for all Old Alfredians

**Saturday, 3 July 2021**

## Year Group Reunions this year:

**2011 – 2001 – 1991 – 1981**

**Reunion for the Class of 1981** – Forty years since you left KAS. Sophie Prett (née Black) and Ruth Kossoff Leeny are helping us gather this year group back at King Alfred for a get together in person. Hopefully, the lifting of government restrictions on 21 June will mean we are able to gather. If you are interested in attending, please email [oa@kingalfred.org.uk](mailto:oa@kingalfred.org.uk) with Subject line: **Class of 1981 Reunion**.

## Don't miss our emails!

OA emails, invitations and newsletters are delivered predominantly by email. Please add [oa@kingalfred.org.uk](mailto:oa@kingalfred.org.uk) to your Contacts to make sure our emails come into your inbox safely.

## Save the Date

### The KAS Fireworks are back!

**Saturday 13th November**

**We need OA volunteers.**

If you have recently left KAS and want to help on the night please get in touch at [oa@kingalfred.org.uk](mailto:oa@kingalfred.org.uk) or DM us @oldalfredians on Instagram



## Join us on Social Media!

Over 300 followers on our Instagram page! Thank you for following us. As King Alfred School moves towards a paperless school (part of our Sustainability efforts), Old Alfredian stories will be shared on our Social Media accounts. We are on **Twitter**, **Facebook**, **Instagram** and **LinkedIn**. If you have a LinkedIn profile, please add King Alfred School to your Education (selecting the right school page with the KAS logo, click this link: [www.linkedin.com/school/king-alfred-school/](https://www.linkedin.com/school/king-alfred-school/)), and follow us. Our aim is to provide Old Alfredians with connections across sectors.



@oldalfredians



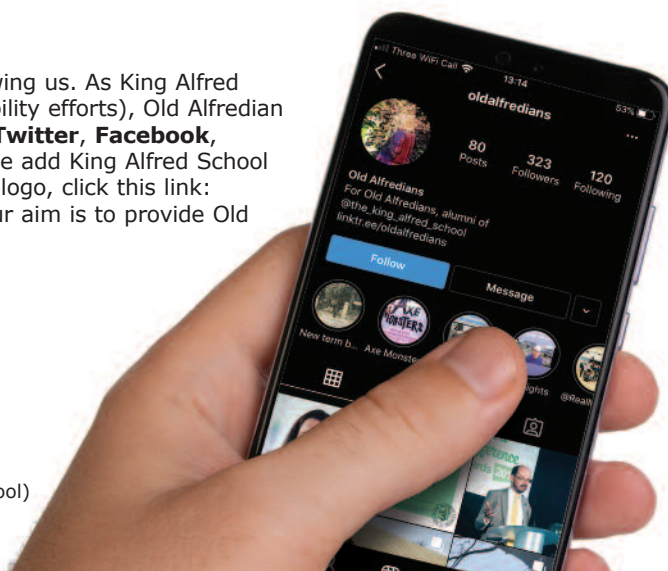
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@thekingalfredschool



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