

Alfredians



A newsletter for Old Alfredians

Autumn 2021

We're back!



The Class of 2008 celebrate being back together at KAS

With the easing of restrictions, we were able to catch up on lost time and host a series of reunions on what turned out to be a gloriously sunny Saturday in September.

Old Alfredians of all ages gathered in the Main Hall to hear from Head,

Robert, enjoy reminiscing about their time at King Alfred School and how it has shaped them today. In spite of the age gaps one thing that they all agreed on is that the Old Library smelt exactly as it did the day they left school!



Old Alfredians gather for their reunions

In this issue...

	Page
KAS Reunions:	2
Forties and Fifties Reunion Lunch:	5
OAs support Identity project as part of the 6 to 8 Curriculum:	5
News from Old Alfredians:	6
Message from the Head:	12
Current School News:	12
KAS Sixth Form Centre Opens:	13
Obituaries:	14
OAs Notice Board:	16

KAS Reunions

Class of 1988 to 1990

With the help of **Lindsay Markwick (OA 1989)** and **Peter Hajioff (OA 1990)** we were able to invite Old Alfredians to a reunion for the classes of 1988, 1989 and 1990. School photos from the archives and the personal albums of **Dan Montuschi (OA 1989)** provided much entertainment in the form of splendid hair styles and sartorial choices. Meanwhile **Phil Skourides (OA 1989)** was on hand to take some beautiful photographs of the afternoon having driven from Norfolk to visit. It was a special day bringing back those with whom we had lost touch, as well as those who are regular visitors back to the school. In true KAS style, everyone moved on to the Bull and Bush!



Catherine Strauss, Lindsay Markwick, Pat White, Jess Gentle, Polly Hayes and Toby Baker at the Bull and Bush



Dan Teper, Phil Skourides with current students, Toby and Ben



Pat White and Phil Skourides



Hasan Kazmi and Zoe Kaill



Polly Hayes, Lindsay Markwick and Harriet Gordon née Button



Dan Teper, Damon Lillitos, Jon Cohen and Peter Hajioff



Damon Lillitos, Robert and Naziq Hussain



Harriet Gordon née Button and Damon Lillitos



Naziq Hussain and Peter Hajioff



Harriet Gordon née Button, Polly Hayes, Jess Gentle, Lindsay Markwick and Jo Robins



Jon Cohen, Dan Montuschi and Peter Hajioff look at School photos from the KAS Archives



Jon Cohen and Dan Montuschi



The KAS school field

If you would like to hold a reunion for your year group, please do let us know at oa@kingalfred.org.uk. Your help in contacting OAs and linking them with our office through this email address or the website, is crucial to these lovely reunions.

Class of 1979

It was so wonderful to be able to gather Old Alfredians from the Class of 1979 together at King Alfred School in September to enjoy their company for the afternoon. We talked about what an artistic year group they are and how many Old Alfredians from the year have gone on to work in the creative

industries. **Justin Parsons (OA 1979)** credits their inspiring art teacher, Stella Magarshack for this. Current Sixth formers Ben and Toby were on hand to offer tours of the school and to show off their new Sixth Form Centre. Old Alfredians all wandered over to the amphitheatre where the afternoon was well spent sharing stories about their KAS days.



Matthew Freeman, Antigone Exton – White, Justin Parsons, Charlotte Holloway and Nadia Rodin



Joshua Millais, Aran Bell and Charlie Paul



Francesca and Gillian Tigner-Orchudesch

Class of 2008

The Class of 2008 gathered at KAS from as far away as the Cotswolds and Bristol to enjoy their reunion. It was lovely to see such a great turn out as Old Alfredians enjoyed catching up with one another and relaxing on the field. We were able to unearth the yearbook they produced in Reception from the archives. Quite a few Old Alfredians

that had attended throughout the whole school spotted their four-year-old selves and it was a joy hearing what they have achieved since leaving KAS. **Polly Salmon (OA 2008)** approached us earlier in the year to host the reunion and with the help of **Bertie Brandes (OA 2008)** we were able to reconnect with Old Alfredians for whom we had no contact details before the event.



Max Bogaert with his Reception work



Gabi Margulies with her Reception work



Jeff Harlow, Charlotte Hall and Polly Salmon



Nick Eisa, Nikita Nerozin, Nick's wife, Barbara and Max Bogaert



Charlotte Hall, Polly Salmon, Gabi Margulies and Claire Murphy



Naomi Grant with her partner and daughter, Charlotte Hall, Alex de Ville and Robert Everard

Forties and Fifties Reunion Lunch

Recently, we welcomed Old Alfredians back to the school for lunch in the Old Library. It was a particularly special day as some had started the school in the 1930s and attended Royston during the war years.

It was a busy day spent sharing their fascinating stories, taking in the school photos from the KAS Archives and comparing life at KAS with current students. It's always such a pleasure to meet Old Alfredians who have not been back to the school for many, many years. During the day, Year 13 photographers took portraits of our Old Alfredians. We look forward to sharing these with you as we build towards our 125th anniversary.



Ulf Ehrenmark, Anton Smith, Anthea Goldsmith, David Wolchover and Jonathan Epstein



Moirai Tait and Mamoun Hassan



Paul Davis and Jill Duncan look at School photos from the KAS Archives



Anton Smith being interviewed by Year 7 students



Mamoun Hassan, Anthea Goldsmith and Jill Duncan

OAs support Identity project as part of the 6 to 8 Curriculum

Old Alfredians **Georgia Norton née Howe (OA 2000)** and **Michael Mann (OA 2001)** were invited back to King Alfred's to talk to our Year 6 and Year 7 students about Identity and what it means to be an Old Alfredian. Students prepared a whole host of interesting

and thought-provoking questions for their visitors to answer. A highlight was listening to Michael read some of his stories he wrote, age 7 at KAS. He still has the beautifully bound and illustrated books that he credits with igniting his love of writing fiction. The

Old Library, houses a wonderful collection of photos from the KAS archives and Georgia was delighted to spot herself dressed up for Victorian Day when she was a student in the Lower School. It was a lovely day full of special memories.



Georgia Norton née Howe with students



Georgia Norton née Howe



Michael Mann reading stories to Year 6 students

News from Old Alfredians



Michael Faraday (OA 1957) "It's always a pleasure to receive the magazine and even if I haven't been back to school since leaving it in 1957 (I now live between France and Canada) the reminiscences always give that feel-good feeling.

I was amused to see the two photos of the school cricket XI but they are too small to identify faces. However, I am sure that Roger Pearman (now deceased alas) is in there and perhaps I am too as an occasional wicketkeeper for the team. Nicky Alwyn and Julian were the batting stars of the team."



We recently reconnected with **Nigel Raffles (OA 1981)** to talk about his exciting new venture, Rude Heath Retreats.

Nigel left KAS to study catering at Upminster college in the late seventies, he then moved to Norfolk in the mid Eighties where he went on to open and run several successful restaurants. After putting his heart and soul into his restaurants, Nigel began to feel the mental strain the businesses were having on him. "When the stress and anxiety finally became too much, I found there was little help and support available. The stigma of how I was feeling made it hard for me to communicate... One of the few things that really made a difference was cooking. When you're in the kitchen, all your focus is on the food and the task at hand. This gave my mind a break and allowed me to unwind, relax and de-stress."

Nigel drew upon his own experiences and developed the idea of Rude Health retreats. "One of the aims of our retreats is to give men the chance to make friends and build up an effective support network, where you can freely express yourself without the fear of judgement". Coupled with cooking great food and taking part in daily yoga and wellness classes, Nigel hopes to create a safe space for men to open up the conversation about stress and anxiety. www.rudehealthretreats.co.uk

Congratulations to all of our Old Alfredians who have graduated this year under such unprecedented circumstances.

We were delighted to learn **Harry Davies (OA 2016)** has graduated with a BSc in Philosophy from UCL.

Congratulations to **Marie Moloney (OA 2017)** for achieving a First Class Degree in Spanish from St. Andrews. Her name was placed on The Dean's List for academic excellence. **Stella Arnold (OA 2017)** also gained a First in Psychology from Sussex University.

We caught up with **Gigi Williams (OA 2017)** since graduating from St John's College, Oxford this summer with a First in Music: "After leaving KAS I took a year out because I wasn't sure what I wanted to study at university. I made a late decision to apply for music at Oxford and luckily got a place. I loved studying music at university, in part due to the inspirational teaching I received at KAS (shoutout to Richard, Anna, Nell and Josh). I graduated in the summer of 2021 - just in time for things to begin opening up again. As my time at university was cut short by the pandemic, I'm happy taking my time just trying to figure out what I'm good at, and what I want my future to look like (a legacy of an education at KAS!). Since leaving KAS I have realised I would like a career in the music industry, although I haven't decided



Gigi Williams

exactly what I would like to do. This summer I was live music coordinator for a new small festival called 42 Degrees, and I am looking forward to the 2022 edition. I've been releasing music as a singer songwriter and I plan to pursue this as well. I'm looking forward to seeing what the future holds!"

Jolyon Michael (OA 2015) ran the Brighton Marathon on 12th September in memory of his Dad, Brian. Jolyon raised over £ 1000 for Pancreatic Cancer UK.

Sophie Jackson (OA 2020) has written her Debut play 'Just Be Normal' which opened at the Phoenix Theatre in late September to rave reviews. The play stars both Sophie and her sister **Emma (OA 2018)**.



Sophie and Emma Jackson



Josie Steed: Retirement

In July, we wished Josie a fond farewell as she embarks on her retirement in Wales.

After 37 years of looking after Old Alfredians we managed to catch up over a cup of tea before she left.

How long have you been at KAS? 37 years.

"After my mother, Kath retired from teaching at sixty she came to KAS to offer support to classes in the lower school. She loved to knit and created some beautiful and intricate designs." It was through this connection that Josie joined KAS to help as a morning only assistant and then began assisting with art lessons.

What's the best thing about working at KAS? The people and the personalities

What makes KAS, KAS? It's a

moveable feast and something that you make yourself. It is a lot easier to define what KAS isn't!

If you had to think of one item that makes you think of KAS what would it be? The Gates or King Alfred on the wall – he is quite majestic sat up there, like he might come to life if your back was turned!

How has KAS impacted your personal values? What personal values? I have none! Ha ha, I am joking. Don't write that down! My philosophy over the past years, thanks to the school, has developed and I have learnt:

1. Breathe
2. Nothing stays the same
3. This too will pass and last, but not least
4. If it's not kind don't say it!

What is your favourite spot or place at King Alfred? Wherever my



clay is. That's where I get lost.

Josie and her valuable contributions to the school will be sorely missed.

Old Alfredian and cyclist, **Colin Ballbach (OA 2021)** has already had an incredibly busy time since leaving KAS this year and has also managed to put his French to very good use. Colin filled us in on his incredible summer.

On 6th July 2021 the Haute Route Pyrenees started in Ripoll, Spain in Catalonia. This was the race I was preparing for and training for most of my preseason. It was 5 days from there all the way to Pau, France in the Occitan region in southern France. Each stage was about 100km or more with around 2500-3000m of altitude gain with two or three major climbs per stage. After stage 1, I was 12th out of around 200 people which was honestly a big surprise for me. From then on, I got better each stage placing 6th on the final stage and 8th overall on GC (general classification) and 3rd for my age group of 18-29 and the first American rider out of 10-15 or so. Around 150 people finished the 5 stages so a top 10 was a real accomplishment for me. My dad saw me on the final stage in Pau France but the rest of it I was alone and on my own making new friends from all around the world and practicing my French I learnt at KAS - I don't know any Spanish or Catalan though!

I had a couple of days of recovery and processing the race, then I started my training again to prepare for more racing in the late summer. From the 23rd – 25th July 2021 there was a 3 stage race in the central Pyrenees called Campilaro Pyrenees. This time I started



Colin Ballbach ready to race at the Haute Route Ventoux



Colin Ballbach

a bit slower but still ended 15th on GC out of around 200 which was still another decent result.

My dad did that race as well so I wasn't all alone this time, but my French continued and improved as all of it took place in France. I then trained for a month straight, for my next big race in Italy on the 12th of September in the Italian Alps near Bormio.

It was a one day race of about 140km and 3000m of climbing to finish on the iconic Stelvio pass at 2750m high. Out of around 400 this time I finished 4th overall so just off the podium! I won my age category which was a great success. That race felt very good, I spent



Colin racing the Haute Route Pyrenees

another week there training high in the mountains with my dad (well, until he got dropped on the climbs!)

My last big race of the year then was this weekend, 1st – 3rd October 2021 in Provence called the Haute Route Ventoux. A three day stage race up the iconic Mont Ventoux near Bédoin, France. This first stage was a disaster with a wrong turn and mechanical issues, so my GC was over in the first day, but I continued on and finished 14th and 13th on the following 2 stages out of around 250 people. My European racing season is over for now, but I will continue to do a couple smaller races in the UK and continue to train abroad in Girona Spain and near Condom, France where we have properties. I'm just starting my gap year now and will continue to see how far I can take training and to have a go at becoming a professional someday.



Racing through the Pyrenees

Old Alfredian Visits

Donald Neal (OA 1952)

Donald and his wife, Pat, wrote to us during lockdown in March 2020, so it was a pleasure to finally be able to visit in person this May, when government restrictions allowed. Donald's story of his time at KAS is a familiar one for many Old Alfredians: King Alfred School gave him the confidence to know his strengths and pursue what he loved. Rather than be on stage, he was happiest designing and setting the lighting for the productions of **Rene Soskin** in the Main Hall. He remembers the performance of **Richard Martin Thomas (OA 1953)** as Hamlet. Rene had requested so many lights that Donald kept telling her they would blow the mains, but she insisted. In keeping with KAS ethos, Donald had complete responsibility for the lighting and sound; its design, its implementation, and its troubleshooting! He made sure he had a plan in place when the electricity did 'trip' during the performance, but the show went on seamlessly, thanks to his expertise. After KAS, Donald studied an engineering apprenticeship with a company, and went on to work with many of the biggest engineering firms in the world, as an expert in tunnels. His work has taken him to Canada, and Hong Kong, where he worked on access to the city's new airport.

Donald credits his KAS education with the determination to put himself forward for what he knew he was good at and loved doing. Still gathering with friends from school on a regular basis, including overseas trips, Donald showed me the metal bowl he made at KAS when he was 12.



Donald and Pat in the garden



Donald's metal bowl from school



Jessica and Takako, Head of Sixth Form

Jessica Leeney (OA 2017) visited KAS and welcomed Year 13 Leavers (Class of 2021) as our newest Old Alfredians before their Prom at the end of the summer term. Jessica who is studying Medicine at Nottingham University, spoke about what it means to be an Old Alfredian and the value in staying connected to the KAS community. She summed up her own experience of KAS perfectly "King Alfred's does not spoon feed you a version of how it thinks you should be but encourages you to be the best version of yourself"



Robert and Jessica Leeney

Naomi Hull (OA 1951)

After a long catch up on the phone during the lockdown in January, Tamlyn had the pleasure of visiting Naomi at her home in the country. Set in beautiful gardens, overlooking the valley, Naomi's home clearly provides a

great deal of joy to her. Having come to KAS as a refugee, and enabled to stay at the school through financial support from the community, Naomi returned to KAS to teach. Many Old Alfredians who were taught English by Naomi still keep in touch. During the visit, she selected her favourite poems from the Alfredian

magazines to read. Naomi edited the school magazine for many years, so to have this work captured in Naomi's voice will mean a great deal to our Old Alfredians and the school. We look forward to sharing these with you as we build up to the King Alfred School's 125th anniversary.



Naomi in her garden



Naomi's garden in spring



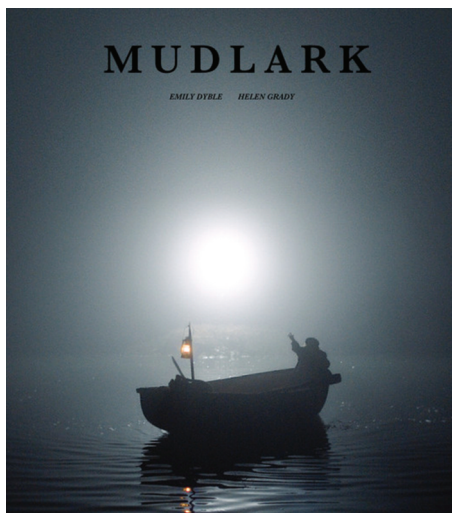
Naomi's garden pond

Michael Mann (OA 2000) is celebrating the recent publication of his first book, *Ghostcloud*. Despite only attending KAS between the ages of 4 and 8 years old he credits the school and his teachers with igniting his love of reading and writing stories. He said: "I have wonderful memories of learning to read with Audrey in reception." He managed to dig out some of the stories he had written from his school days "I can see the connection to my book, *Ghostcloud*. There's a magic lamp and a time travelling machine, they're all quite fantastical stories where a kid is transported to some other world in some way. *Ghostcloud* is relatively bonkers, there's lots of imagination and new worlds being discovered so it's nice to see that that was fostered in my writing when I was here." Michael's book is aimed at readers of around 8 - 12 years old and available from all good book shops. Read more about him



on our website here:
www.kingalfred.org.uk/news-events

Clemente Lohr (OA 2015) and Toby Elwes (OA 2014) have shown their new film 'Mudlark' at the Peckham Plex cinema in September. Actor and Film Director Clemente and Cinematographer Toby created the film during the pandemic and it was shown alongside other short movies.



Past parent, Christine Troughton got in touch to share with us her daughter's fantastic achievements. **Liliorose Troughton (OA 2020)** has taken up a place at the prestigious Bolshoi Ballet Academy in Moscow. After completing her GCSEs at KAS she went on to gain a diploma in classical ballet at the Belarus State Choreography College. We look forward to seeing her on a stage near here very soon.



Nayan Doshi (OA 1997) got in touch with the school earlier this year as he launched his new Cricket Academy. With an outstanding cricketing pedigree (his father Dilip played for India, taking 114 wickets in 33 tests as a left arm spinner), Nayan was a pioneer in T20 cricket long before the IPL. In 2005 and 2006, Nayan was the country's leading wicket taker playing for Surrey and he became the first bowler to take 50 T20 wickets in England. This year, in a bold move, Nayan joined the IPL auction, as the oldest player. This summer he launched his cricket academy and hopes to find a permanent winter home for it.



Doshi Cricket Academy

07594 626 375

[doshicricketacademy](https://www.doshicricketacademy.com)

play@doshicricketacademy.com

www.doshicricketacademy.com

Old Alfredian, **Jamie Toeg (OA 2021)** took time out of his busy new schedule to tell us about his alternative route to higher education.

"After a challenging year, it was amazing to see so many of my peers head off to university to continue their education. The atmosphere on results day was electric, with most of us excited to continue our life after KAS.

However, I've chosen to do something a little bit different for the next 4 years. From September, I've been doing an apprenticeship with Monitor Deloitte (ex-monitor group) in Strategy consulting. This consists of working 4 days a week at the Deloitte office and consulting with impressive clients. On the 5th day, I'm taking paid time off to study a degree in business management, with the Open University, fully funded by Deloitte.

I chose to go down this route because of a multitude of reasons. Although I've really enjoyed my KAS education, I decided that I'd rather go out into the workplace, learning real skills, and getting hands on experience now.

I feel that often there's a stigma around apprenticeships as a lesser alternative to university, but so far that hasn't been the case. On this scheme, apprentices are treated exactly the same as graduates. Everyone has the same job title, so nobody knows who the apprentices are. Deloitte are very insistent that it's about how you think rather than what you know -which has made settling in much easier. I'm doing real work on real client projects and so far, it's been amazing. The highlight of the scheme has been the surplus of social events! On 3 nights a week, there are office socials, with all expenses and drinks paid! How's that for an alternative to freshers?

King Alfred's was absolutely fantastic when looking at post sixth form options. Careers advisor, Sheila helped me out with interview practice and arranged for me to speak with connections in strategy consulting to understand what it was about, and how I should prepare for an interview.

Currently I'm working on an exciting project where I've really been thrown in at the deep end. I'm doing real client work and next week, I'm helping to run a client workshop with over 10 Deloitte partners! Commuting to the office every day is quite different from my KAS commute! But so far, my apprenticeship has been a real eye opener and I'd encourage anyone thinking about one to go for it! There are apprenticeships in pretty much every field, from Engineering to Architecture. If anyone is considering alternatives to university, I'd recommend apprenticeships highly!"

Are you interested in hearing from Old Alfredians about their career experiences? Sign up to our Connections Series of talks, Q&A, and videos providing advice and insights into higher education and careers or you can connect with us on LinkedIn.

We were delighted to receive this special recollection from **Arnab Banerjee (OA 1987)** about his time spent at KAS. Written on a snowy bank holiday Monday earlier this year he was able to share with us photos from the family albums, which are always such a treat to see.

A group photograph of the 1977-78 cricket team. Eleven men are posed in two rows on a lawn in front of a brick building. The back row consists of five men standing, and the front row consists of six men sitting or kneeling. Most are wearing white cricket uniforms, while one man in the back row wears a white shirt and dark trousers and holds a microphone.

'but frustrating as you seem to distance yourself, to feel it wouldn't be good enough to be personal, to talk about you.' 'I only dare say this because, colonial subject like you that I am, brought up to the same mores and ideals, 'self is bad' and 'selfishness is a sin'. Please unlearn that.' When writing, he entreated, 'all that really matters is how you felt, what it meant to you, the love of it, the soaring spirit, the depressed self, the glory of the thing for Arnab eyes and Arnab ears and Arnab feet and hands and heart. Does that count? Or, rather, is anything else worth anything at all?'

I was at the school from 1980 to 1987 but, every time I returned over the following decades I would be welcomed back, and recognised, as part of the same community. That was the defining characteristic of KAS for

matter, we all choose our principles to live by. And I loved my time there, I love the fact that I still retain strong connections and that it gave me a foundation to build on.

A group of five people posing for a photo in front of a wall covered in graffiti. Four people are standing in the back row: a woman on the left holding a white paper, a woman in the center, a man in a blue jacket, and a man on the right. A man is sitting on a brown couch in the front row, wearing sunglasses and a dark jacket. The graffiti on the wall includes the text 'TO KAS 6th 4th work well' at the top and 'E-Nu' at the bottom left. There are also various abstract drawings and symbols.

Cricket Club. Being totally in love with Heather and having something of a man-crush on Mark for, being tall, good-looking, slim and sporty, he was everything I was not! Naomi, Hilary, badminton with Sue and Keith and Dawn. Jean and Stella who could only say 'he tries hard' in pottery and art respectively. Joe, Bill, Jos and Cathy, Roy and Laszlo guiding me through A-Levels, Rita, Tony, Denise and Francoise. And Gordon and Francis – too many now gone.

And of course, my friends. Primarily, the class of '87 and the fun in the Common Room. I regret that I did not build strong relationships with the many who left in '85 at O Levels. I was most definitely at the non-glamorous end of the spectrum while many of those who left could be found at the Dugout Café and came in on Mondays with stories of wild parties. My inhibitions were many and, if truth be told, always felt at something of a disadvantage. But some of that group are now friends on Facebook and perhaps we will meet post-lockdown and we can build something strong. And of the '87 year, those two years were just wonderful, I remain close to several and they remain life-affirming – yes, it is all about me!!

Page 10

Honorary Members Afternoon Tea in July



Honorary Members Zoom

We welcomed our biggest group of Honorary members for our virtual afternoon tea in July, including some who joined us for the first time. After our usual connection issues, and news catch up, we all talked about an object that would always make us think of KAS. From Brian's goat collar, to Kara's grass on the school field, to Christine's Tree in a pot, to Miriam's t-shirt, designed by Katharine Hamnett 'Jazz at KAS', to Stephen's 1940s graffiti pencilled on the Maths classroom doorway, to Julie's painting of the school gates, to Denise's farewell gift from a Japanese student of the stained glass window in the main hall, to Silvia's post-it notes from the children with messages on, these

items themselves tell a story of the King Alfred School of the past. Denise tells us "In the 1980's, we were so lucky to have several lovely Japanese families – as Fathers were working in London. As you can imagine the students were adorable and the parents so very supportive and understood and appreciated KAS values. I think it was **Keiko Nagao (OA)** who made it at KAS and gave it to me before she left as a farewell present."

As Old Alfredians, do you have an object that will always make you think of KAS? Please tell us what it is, or better yet, send us a photo! Would there be 125 items? Email us at oa@kingalfred.org.uk.



Stained Glass gift for Denise



From left to right, Donald Neal, Penelope Rowlatt and Anthony Amendt at Festival Hall

Penelope Rowlatt (OA 1952) got in touch with us having met up for an impromptu lunch with fellow Old Alfredians, **Donald Neal (OA 1952)** and **Anthony Amendt (OA 1952)** She wrote, "Actually, stimulated by your

invitation, three of us met up by the Festival Hall yesterday and had an outdoor lunch with a bottle of champagne to celebrate. It was wonderful!"



Moses Gavron

Moses Gavron (OA 2013) is making a short film and visited KAS to audition current students for a part. He joined us for lunch and chatted with Old Alfredians **Mamoun Hassan (OA 1956)** and **Moiria Tait (OA 1956)** who both have long and successful careers within the film industry and were interested to hear about Moses' project.

Message from the Head

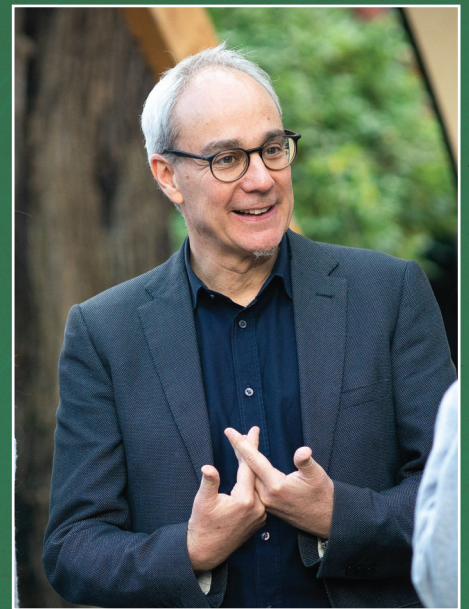
It may have been 18 months since our last Old Alfredian reunion at KAS, but our gatherings in person this past September, showed it was worth the wait. It has been a pleasure to welcome back so many OAs to the school: from those of you who joined the school before the Second World War, to those who left just over 10 years ago. The warmth, laughter and memories shared over the last month, has shown us all the value of our friendships. Thank you to all those who came back to KAS recently. To those who were not able to join us this time: we hope it is not too long before we see you.

Over the summer, we celebrated the achievements of our Year 11 and 13 students with outstanding GCSE and A Level results. Credit must go to the student, and their teachers in an extraordinarily difficult year with constantly shifting parameters. I am particularly pleased to report that an analysis of the 'value add' put us in the top 1% of schools nationally.

KAS has always sought to challenge the boundaries of education and to

influence the educational landscape through our approach. With KAS a founder member school of the 'Rethinking Assessment Group', we are pleased to be hosting the first meeting on 8th October at Ivy Wood. This year also sees the launch of our new 6 to 8 Curriculum, designed to broaden the skills, enquiry and cross curricular opportunities for our students in years 6, 7 and 8. Their new home in the temporary buildings above the field has been described as 'revolutionary' in a recent news report about the school.

Inviting Old Alfredians to support this new curriculum seemed a fitting approach. Thank you to our Old Alfredians, many of whom started at KAS during the War, who helped with this project by agreeing to be interviewed. Your efforts had a big impact on our students who shared your stories with their families. The excitement of the children in learning about the history of KAS truly showed the value of linking Alfredians across the generations. On the same day, our Year 13 photographers took portraits of our OAs. We look forward to continuing



to build these relationships as we head closer to our 125th anniversary.

Your stories of the past will help shape the stories of our future.

Robert

Current School News

TEDxKing Alfred School

On Sunday 19th September 2021, The Phoenix Theatre was finally able to play host to the long awaited TEDx talks. King Alfred School students, staff and parents gathered to present and listen to a series of short talks covering a broad spectrum of topics.

Organiser Kara Conti said: "It was wonderful to see it finally happen. The thing I enjoy most is seeing the different people up on the same stage and the confidence it gives to them - something that's so valuable, especially for the students but is equally true for the adults."

With half of the talks presented by students from Years 11-13, it highlighted the importance of student voice in the KAS philosophy.

Audience member Lucy commented: "What surprised me most today was the diverse range of topics and the fact that there is such a broad range of interests in the school. I especially enjoyed the students' talks - they were fantastic, really punchy and pertinent. I've really enjoyed the way it's a collective vision of contemporary society."

All the talks can be found on our website:
www.kingalfred.org.uk/news-events



The King Alfred School TEDx speakers



Current student, Alanna, presenting her TEDx talk



Matt Cargill and Kara Conti

KAS Sixth Form Centre Opens

Old Alfredian Opens Sixth Form Centre

On a beautifully sunny Friday afternoon, we celebrated the opening of King Alfred School's new Sixth Form Centre, a stunning new building at Manor Wood. Replacing the old MFL buildings, but nestled between the existing trees, the Centre was officially opened by Old Alfredian, **Ian Lush OBE (OA 1978)**, CEO of Imperial Health Charities and Chair of NHS Charities Together.

Ian reflected on the symmetry of opening the building when his father,

Cecil Lush was School Architect from 1964 to 1978, whose buildings include the Science building. He talked about the influence of his education at KAS:

"Neither my brother Peter nor I have ever worked for an organisation that deliberately makes profits. That King Alfred School desire to make a difference has driven my career, through arts management at the Barbican, to the funding and restoration of beautiful old buildings by the community, to Great Ormond Street Hospital, to running a cultural project for London 2012. KAS has had a profound influence on my life, my career and I am delighted to be here

to open this splendid building for the sixth formers here, and those to come."

Built over 18 months, during lockdowns and a global pandemic, the timber clad structure has large study and communal areas over two floors alongside a seminar room, kitchen areas and offices for the Head of Sixth Form and our UCAS advisor. The design, by architect's Walters and Cohen is sympathetic to the school's existing buildings, and is a simple, robust and beautiful addition to the KAS grounds. Above all, our students love it!



Sixth Form Centre



Robert and Ian Lush OBE



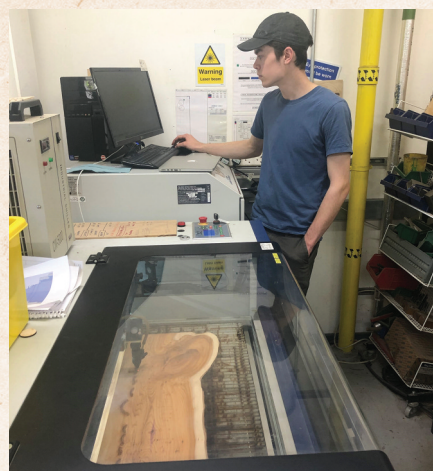
Inside the Sixth Form Centre



Sixth formers inside their new building

Old Alfredian Designs Plaque

The beautiful plaque was designed and created by **Leo Larche Hitchcox (OA 2021)** in the King Alfred School Design and Technology Building. The piece of wood came from a 300 year old yew tree on the Manor House Estate, part of which is the school's main site. It had been drying for 8 years in preparation for use, but it seemed fitting to see this wood being made into our plaque for the Sixth Form Centre.



Leo working on plaque



Sixth form Centre plaque

Obituaries

Alan T Holmes (OA 1951)

4 April 1943 to 18 March 2021

Alan grew up in Kenton, near Wembley, where he was unhappy at the local school. Fortunately, his parents decided to send him to King Alfred School, where his cousin John was. KAS was set up in 1898 by Hampstead Fabians – it was vastly different: free of many regulations, Co-ed, no religion, students called teachers by their first name, and his favourite teacher was Hettie Barber.

A delight for this quiet little 7 year old, as the school was evacuated to a farm in Royston in Herts, with a huge old barn which seems to have been the centre of school life. Alan and his mother went and lived first in caravan and then small cottage. His father stayed in London throughout the war. At Royston, he met his lifelong friend **Paul Davis (OA 1951)** and they hoped to celebrate 70 years of friendship this summer. Together they explored every railway in North London and spent Saturdays becoming experts about the London underground.

Obviously school was formal enough for him to get the grades which were accepted by Kings College London, where he got his engineering degree. Alan was a Member of the Institute of Chartered Engineers, but after childhood holidays in Wales, he became an enthusiast on narrow gauge railways, publishing a book on quarries nearby, 'Slates from Abergynolwyn'.

Alan and I met through our involvement with the Narrow gauge Museum Trust alongside the railway at Tywyn Wharf station. I was the Education officer and he had joined the Museum Trust as secretary a few months earlier, after many years of involvement with the railway and quarry.

Alan was a polymath: aside from his love of railways and the underground, woodwork was his great joy (he spent happy years renovating our home). In his later years, he was awarded an academic qualification in the Astronomy he had always loved.



Alan at Open Day

One of Alan's biggest thrills was the Total Eclipse of the sun in 2009, an event to which he had looked forward since boyhood. Isfahan in Iran was recommended by his Astronomy magazine as the best place in the world to witness it. You can imagine Alan, with the telescope his father had bought him in his teens! He was quite unfazed by the elaborate equipment which other enthusiasts had brought.

We have had 30 happy years of travel, in about 20 countries, including Burma, many of them following his interest in railways round the world, starting with a month around India in 1992. Long haul flights often involved going via Hong Kong or Singapore wherever his daughter Carol happened to be, and ultimately Australia, where we had already visited friends and relatives, including Old Alfredians.

Alan had even read Bede's History of England and loved the work of Charlotte and Emily Bronte. He could discuss Opera with anyone.

It was in Dolgellau Record Office doing some historical research about 10 years ago that he had a tiny 'blip' which was the first sign of his eventual medical diagnosis in 2019 of Dementia with Alzheimer's Disease. I look back on the gradual deterioration from walking stick, elbow crutches, zimmer frame, wheelchair, mobility scooter to Alan's physical disabilities were added increasing mental disabilities, and my nice gentle quiet kind Alan disappeared. Almost twelve months of hospitals, carers, covid and terrible isolation due to Care Home regulations were to follow.

He died quite suddenly on March 18th in St Mary's Home Stone, about 10 minutes walk away from his home. It was the first week that regulations had relaxed sufficiently and for the first time I had been allowed to visit him in his room and hold his hand.

Helen Holmes, Alan's Widow.
Helen wishes to remain a
Friend of KAS.



Alan and Paul

Sue Boulton

Sue Boulton very sadly passed away in June of this year having been diagnosed with brain cancer shortly before her death. Sue was Deputy Head at KAS for several years before she stepped in as Acting Head before her retirement in 2003. Here are some of the tributes we received from Sue's former colleagues and students.

"I am greatly saddened to read of Sue's death. She was Deputy Head during my fifteen years at KAS. I knew her to be a stalwart colleague and an able administrator who valued and promoted the ideals we all lived by. We developed together and both taught the SPACE programme for Middle School pupils. She brought compassion and understanding to this interaction with young people. I cherish her memory."

Peter J. Andrews.
Head of English 1987-2002.



John Peisley and Sue Boulton



Sue Boulton

"I was just thinking about Sue out of the blue recently and then got this email.

I remember her as smiling and helpful, in a sort of perpetual motion. Very oriented to serving the needs of the students.

Best regards, Theo"

Theo Lovett (OA 1994)

"Sue and I worked together as Deputies till 2001.

I loved working with Sue, you knew where you stood with her as she always spoke her mind.

As well as being a great partner, Sue was a brilliant administrator. She undertook the painful duty of doing the

covers first thing in the morning. Sue always ensured this was done in the fairest way possible by keeping a tally to ensure no one teacher was overloaded.

Having said that Sue was never afraid of making unpopular decisions, it was from her that I learnt the expression 'tough titty'!

However, Sue was far from being tough herself but in fact quite vulnerable with the most generous and warm heart.

Her untimely death deprived her of those years of happiness she so deserved."

Denise Gibbs
Head of Foreign Modern Languages
1971-2000

Chris Barber (OA 1948) 17 April 1930 to 2 March 2021

Son of Hettie Barber, teacher at KAS. Chris Barber was the celebrated and influential jazz trombonist.



Nicholas Alwyn (OA)

13 June 1938 to 16 June 2021

Nicholas Alwyn was an English first-class cricketer who played for Cambridge University Cricket Club. His highest score of 41 came when playing for Cambridge University in the match against Essex County Cricket Club. He is the son of the composer William Alwyn.

Julian shared with us his memories of opening the batting for King Alfred School First XI with Nick. Old Alfredians may remember the wonderful photos of the cricket teams from the Spring issue.

Ruth Goldsobel (OA 1969)

1950 to 2020

Karen Heward (OA)

passed away in April 2019.

OAs Notice Board

Save the Date Recent Leavers Drinks

Wednesday 15th December 2021
in the Old Library. Did you leave KAS
between 2018 and 2021? Come and join
us for a festive drink. 5.30pm – 7pm.



RSVP to oa@kingalfred.org.uk

Year Group Reunions

Following on from the success of this year's reunions please
do let us know if we can help to gather your year group
back at King Alfred School in person.

Please email Heather at oa@kingalfred.org.uk

Don't miss our Old Alfredian communications

OA emails, invitations and newsletters are delivered
predominantly by email. Please add oa@kingalfred.org.uk
to your Contacts to ensure their safe delivery. If you aren't
receiving our emails or you have moved, please update us
with your contact details:

www.kingalfred.org.uk/old-alfredians

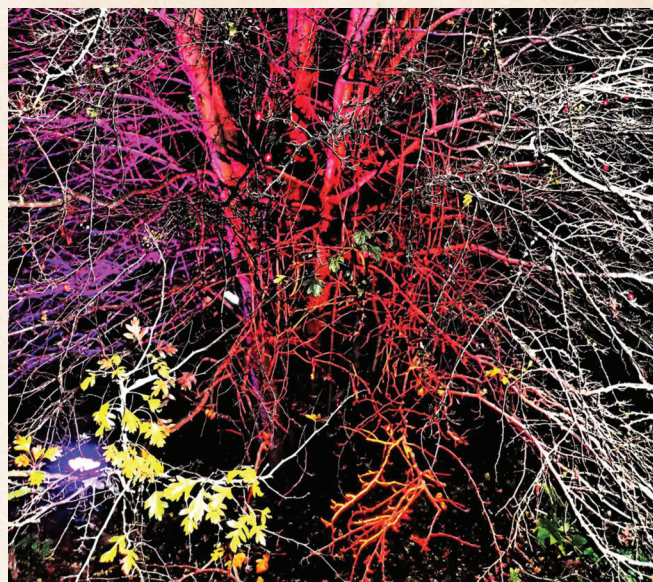
The KAS Fireworks are back!

Saturday 13th November 2021

4.30pm – 6pm for OA drinks in the Sixth Form Centre

Tickets are only available in advance and will not be sold on
the door. The link to buy tickets will be sent to you by email
or you can purchase tickets here:

<https://kingalfredschoo.nuwebgroup.com>



Join us on Social Media!

Over 400 followers on our Instagram page! Thank you for following us. As King Alfred
School moves to a paperless school as part of our Sustainability efforts, Old Alfredians
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),
and follow us. Our aim is to provide Old Alfredians with connections across sectors.



@oldalfredians



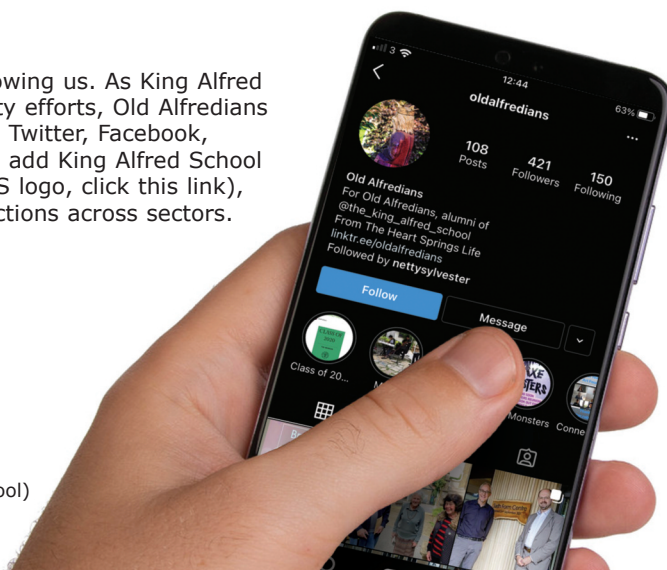
@OldAlfredians



@thekingalfredschool



LinkedIn
(The King Alfred School)



Old Alfredians
&
Development Office

Tamlyn Worrall, Development Director

Heather Roberts, Development and Old Alfredian Officer

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