

# Alfredians

A Newsletter for Old Alfredians

Autumn 2024



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EX CORDE VITA





## OA Reunion Day 2024

OA Reunion Day in September was lovely and bright, and OAs young and old got to enjoy KAS at its best. Adventures were aplenty on the grounds with **Zanna (OA 2001)** visiting her old classroom and playing a bit of 'I Spy' with her daughter, finding the bust of King Alfred in the vines of the Old Library building. To celebrate their 20-year reunion, Class of 2004 ventured off to the Drama rooms to relive memories of time spent there. You won't be surprised to learn that a few of the OAs did their own thing and decided to check out the music rooms (unbeknownst to the rest of us in Drama), and shortly after got locked in the building! We were glad we were able to rescue them and return them to the rest of their classmates safe and sound. We even had an OA travel to London from California specifically for the occasion. **Yousuf Khan (OA 1995)** was at KAS in Lower School and travelled all the way from Los Altos, California for the reunion. OAs from the 1950s and 1960s gathered a lovely



Class of 2004

group as always. **John Bayes (OA 1962)** brought along an iron bottle opener from Norway he acquired over the summer – quite the precision piece compared to the handmade bottle openers we made at the Forge 10-year Anniversary in June. Our youngest OAs at the reunion, **Sam Shelemy** and **Ori Marash (OAs 2021)** recounted facing their respective KAS TEDxTalk challenges, while we all enjoyed a fab lunch together. Thank you Old Alfredians for making OA Reunion Day 2024 such fun!



Zanna Wing-Davey



Samuel Hampton, Claire Murphy, Adam Back



Harriet Fisher, Lorenzo Sabbadini, Adam Back, Emma de Smith, Dylan Grainger





Samuel Hampton, Richard Salmon, Rita Murray, Harriet Fisher, Emma de Smith, Dylan Grainger

“Just a note to thank you all for the reunion yesterday. Lovely to see Tamlyn again and to meet Deborah, and as usual I had a great time with the gang. Special thanks to the catering team – just my kind of food.”  
**Diana Shelley (OA 1961)**



Deborah Castillo and Yousuf Khan



Harriet Fisher, Emma de Smith, Josh Segal



Raja Adil, Damon Lillitos, Naziq Hussain



OAs 1950s and 1960s



Josh Segal, Emma de Smith, Harriet Fisher



Tamlyn welcomes OAs



Richard Salmon and Rita Murray



Lola Frears, Samuel Hampton, Ella Berman





Main Hall



Diana Shelley, Lucy Moy-Thomas, Xenia Bowlby, Graham Samuel, Paul Davies, Angela Davis, Gillian Sonin, Diana Kornbrot

“Let me thank you for inviting me to yesterday's Reunion Lunch. It was very pleasant and productive, and I learned several new things about Old Alfredians of my generation and some others. It was fun to sit in the hall, which I think is one of the least changed parts of the school, and to think about the events (and meals!) it hosted over the years. So, thanks again.” **Graham Samuel (OA 1956)**



John Bayes



Zanna Wing-Davey with daughter



Emma de Smith, Harriet Fisher, Lola Frears, Josh Segal



Archive Table



OA Reunion Lunch



Sam Shelemy, Ori Marash, Oliver Stephens-Ofner



## 1978 – 1988 Reunion Dinner, 8 May

Bringing together the Classes from 1978 to 1988 for a reunion dinner was special for OAs, as well as former, and current staff and students. OAs enjoyed drinks and a fabulous meal served by our lovely Sixth Form students, while reminiscing about their time at KAS with friends. Pottery, photography, and camps were among the topics

discussed that evening. The archival collection of class photos as well as photos from school events and trips such as KAS Summer Fair and camps took us all back to that era. Our Head, Robert, welcomed our OAs and gave an update on KAS news, including the School's Masterplan, and joined us all for the meal. An evening to remember!

**“I very much enjoyed the reunion last night and meeting old friends and teachers I have not met for many years. On Table 4, we started a KAS reunion WhatsApp group last night.”** **Tim Honnor (OA 1982)**



Nico Rilla, Arnab Banerjee, Joshua Millais



Aran Bell, Justin Parsons, Joshua Millais, Sharon Williams (nee Goodman), Antigone Exton-White, Gabrielle Seymour, Charlotte Holloway (nee Smith)



Tim Honnor, Jane Epstein, Michele Michie

**“Just to say thank you for arranging a very enjoyable evening – it was great to connect with some people I haven't seen for years.”** **Sara Cameron (OA 1982)**



Caroline Messecar, Robert Lobatto, Gabrielle Seymour



Laura Jacobs, Sara Cameron, Georgina Lytleton, Charley Haward



Main Course

**“Thanks for yesterday, Deborah and Tamlyn. Fun as ever.”** **Arnab Banerjee (OA 1987)**



Susan Reed and Charley Haward





Classes of 1978-1988

“I would like to thank you and your team for organising a particularly special reunion last night. It was a lovely evening, so well organised and presented. Being in the school hall brought back so many memories. The food was delicious. You'd collated all the appropriate photos, newsletters, magazines beautifully.” **Ann Driscoll (née Weinstock, OA 1979)**

“Thank you so much for including me in the dinner last Wednesday. I very much enjoyed meeting old friends and we have made plans to stay in touch. Thank you also to the excellent Sixth form waiters and the delicious food. It was much appreciated. I had forgotten how important the assembly hall, lunch hall, rainy day play area, gym was. What a fantastic hall with great memories.” **Claire Hodgson (OA 1983)**



Claire Hodgson, Amanda Mann, Deborah Curtis, Tamlyn Worrall, Susan Reed, Kate Shepard



Jane Epstein and Deborah Curtis

“Another delightful evening. Thank you so much for letting me come. It was terrific chatting to my past pupils, not as a teacher but as equals... all growing old together. Some are even grandparents. It was interesting to hear their recollections of life in my class!!” **Jane Epstein (OA 1964)**



## OA v KAS Sixth Form Football Match, 26 April

In late April, we hosted a friendly OA v KAS Sixth Formers football match on the KAS Astro court. We had a good mix of OAs from different classes spanning from the 1990s to 2019.

**Eliot Katz (OA 1997)**, having returned from NYC to London, joined the match as referee. We also enjoyed broadcasting the first minutes live on Instagram and having our OAs who couldn't attend be a part of the action. All round good fun and great sportsmanship. An afternoon to remember. **Captain Arthur Awenat (OA 2024)**

wrote: "The game started, and it was great to see familiar faces from across the years. Even if ours had changed. I thought that the returning students would not be as skilful or clinical as they were when I was only eight, however they still managed to effortlessly dribble. The game ended and was an amazing experience and I look forward to taking part when I have finished my KAS journey." And we look forward to welcoming you back, Arthur, and all our OAs who are ready to take on KAS Sixth Form!



OAs and Sixth Form Students



William Hohnen Ford, Sam Warshaw,  
Harrison Raphael



Action Shot



William Hohnen Ford



Eliot Katz



Tamlyn Worral and Nick Nielsen



Arthur Awenat



Carlos Kidel and Nic Lenz



Adel Ahmed and Zachary Cheek



## OA Reunion at KAStonbury

Rain didn't stop our reunion at KAStonbury in July. Just a few adjustments and the music, food, and entertainment were ready for those who braved the elements. Thank you to our OAs, Former Staff, and Council members who joined us in the OA Reunion marquee. Great food, even better company!



Dorothy Judd and Diana Shelley



Charlotte Wager



Catering



Anton Smith, Kara, Robert, Dorothy

## Natasha Marcetic (OA 1976) and Phil Sharkey (OA 1973)

Natasha and Phil visited KAS in April. We thank Natasha for sharing a priceless 1970s video of open day at KAS. Memories came flooding back as they walked the grounds, such as Sixth Form Day where students would teach classes for the day, and meeting with friends at the Covered Court. They explored nearly every corner of KAS, even making it all the way up to the printing press. Both were impressed by the lunch menu and noticed lots of updates from the 1970s menu. Thank you, Natasha and Phil, for stopping by. We had a blast!



Natasha and Phil in the Amphi theatre



Natasha with the KAS printing press



Still from the 1970s Open Day video



Natasha recreating a shot from the video



## Diana Shelley (OA 1961)

Diana visited KAS just before the Easter break to spend some time in the KAS archives. Diana was kind enough to submit some photos from her personal albums of her time at the School. Her father, the late Gene Shelley, was a bursar at KAS during Diana's time here. Throughout the years, Gene took beautiful photographs, capturing the playful, creative memories of the King Alfred School from the late 1940s through the 1950s. Among his photos is one (**bottom right**) that

shows KAS children acting in a play written by Diana Shelley in 1948, *The Girl who Wandered Through the Woods*. The children performed this in what was called the open-air theatre, now known as the Amphitheatre. Another of his photos (**below left**) is also in the Amphitheatre but from the 1950s. Diana is first on the left and in the back, holding the heart, is **Lucy Moy Thomas (OA 1962)** playing Cupid. Lucy remembers that "the red paint rubbed off onto everything!"



Diana Shelley at OA Reunion Day 2024



Late Gene Shelley, 1940s



The Judgement of Paris in the Amphitheatre, 1950s (Diana 1st left, then Miriam Brown; Preetam Nandi right front; Diana Freedman back left; Lucy Moy Thomas back centre)



Class of 1961: Diana (7th from left) with teachers Robey and Peggy



Diana and Cathy Boyle (3rd and 5th from left)

## Richard Gilbert (OA 1973) and daughter Leigh-Anne

Richard picked the perfect day to see KAS with his daughter, Leigh-Anne. Manor Wood was at its best in lush green with blue skies. Richard took us back to the 60s, remembering how science teacher, John Pounds, would hold lessons in the Manor Wood field, allowing space for his exploding experiments! Whilst he remembered Squirrel Hall with great fondness,

Richard remembered the field as much bigger in his day. Thankfully, KAS plans to restore this space in the near future, removing the temporary building from the field, as part of the School's Masterplan. Richard also mentioned how the Main Hall is exactly how he remembers as a child. Thank you for your visit, Richard, and Leigh-Anne.



Richard and Leigh-Anne



## Lester Siblings (OAs 1980s)

Three generations of Frankel/Lester family members visited KAS in June. The party of 13, all stemming from Old Alfredian siblings **Julia Frankel (née Lester, OA 1981)**, **Ian Lester (OA 1982)** and **Mark Lester (OA 1987)**, meandered through the KAS classrooms and fields stepping back for a moment to the 1970s. The three siblings attended KAS in Lower School. We were delighted to see Julia, Ian, and Mark share their history with their children and grandchildren, recounting stories of how they learned

and played in the Lower School classrooms. Julia was quite the reader at an early age and remembered her abilities being nurtured at KAS. Mark and Ian stayed a bit longer after the tour to share photos from their home albums, with Ian also spotting himself in a photo featured in an Old Alfredian newsletter. We had captioned it originally Sarah Binn, Marissa Natkin, and Dixie Linder, but now know the little boy on the right is Ian! Thank you, Julia, Mark, Ian, and family, for coming to see us!



The Frankel/Lester Family



Mark Lester & LS teacher in classroom



Ian Lester, Julia Frankel and Mark Lester



Mark Lester and family



Mark Lester, Sharon Lester, David Beach, Ian Lester & Julia Frankel, 1970s



Sarah Binn, Marissa Natkin, Dixie Linder and Ian Lester (R), 1970s



Lester siblings and KAS friends, 1970s



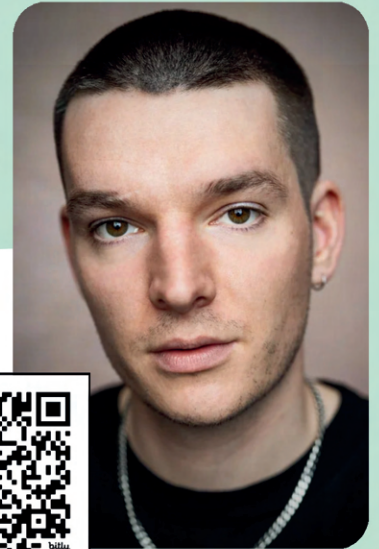
## Clemente Lohr (OA 2015)

Actor and award-winning filmmaker **Clemente Lohr** has been working hard to produce his own independent films since leaving KAS. Last year, he won best experimental film at the BFI Future Film Awards for *Canned*, and it's clear he's destined for great things! On the coattails of this win, Clemente is hoping to raise the final funds for his latest short film.

"I am very excited to be making my next film at the end of October," he said. "It's looking like it may be my 'last' short one before I start working on feature-length films, so I

really want it to be amazing. It's a really fun film about two teenage boys getting up to no good while also trying to cure a curse."

Scan the QR Code to help Clemente.



Heydon (second left) at the Broadcast Digital Awards

## Heydon Prowse (OA 2019)

**Heydon Prowse's** company, Flying Shoe Films, won Best Short-Form Documentary at the Broadcast Digital Awards in July for *When Harry Met...The Far Right Rally*, a Channel 4 documentary on racism. Scan the QR code to watch it on YouTube.



"I wrote the documentary and directed it, and my production company Flying Shoe Films made it," says Heydon. "It was great fun to make and an important issue to highlight."

## Sara Berman (OA 1993)



**Sara Berman** has donated her art that was auctioned off in September 2024 as part of the Digital Art School Exhibition at Hauser & Wirth London's Gallery in collaboration with

Hospital Rooms. The programme brings artist-led digital workshops and free art materials to every NHS patient mental health site in England. Sara appeared in a reel promoting the exhibition in which she emphasised the

importance of art in our lives: "Hospital Rooms is really important. We need art in hidden spaces. When people are really unwell and go into hospitals and care centres, there's this idea that you will be going somewhere... hidden spaces. But Hospital Rooms means we are bringing in something for you. We are not expecting you to go away and hide, disappear away from the world. It empowers people to create their own piece of art. I think without art there is no humanity. If we don't have an appreciation for the arts, we will lose our humanity."



## Richard Oblath (OA 1972)



**Richard Oblath** recently spoke at Argus Media's Net-Zero event. Interviewed by the company's Global Head of Editorial, the event showcased Richard's expertise in

bringing science to the forefront of enacting carbon neutral strategies. The connection came about after Neven Vangelov, KAS music

teacher, attended Richard's Connections Series talk at KAS. Neven then put Richard in touch with his wife, Giulia, at Argus Media, who shared, "Richard was perfect to fill that gap given his impressive experience and to give us an overview of how people at board level think, plan and strategise in the space of energy transition."

We love seeing and celebrating the wider KAS community pulling together!

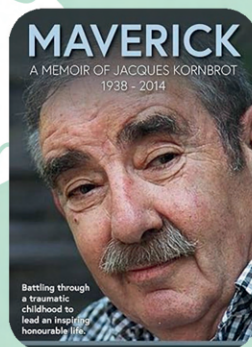
## Jocelyn Ryder-Smith (OA 1958)



**Jocelyn Ryder-Smith** joined us via Zoom for an Alfredian Voices interview. We were greeted by her beautiful smile and stunning garden view from her home in Bristol. After a career at BBC Radio then later in the NHS, Jocelyn is

now focusing on finishing her book on Psychology. Jocelyn has tapped into her KAS community and had a sounding board in **Juliet Mitchell (OA 1958)**, emeritus professor at Cambridge and UCL in Psychoanalysis. Congratulations Jocelyn on your continued work. We love seeing our KAS family work together.

## Diana Kornbrot (OA 1958)



Professor, psychologist and researcher **Diana Kornbrot** published *Maverick: A Memoir* in July, a book in honour of and partnership with her late husband Jacques Kornbrot (1918-2014). This memoir takes a novel approach,

alternating between vivid personal memories of a remarkable individual who overcame immense childhood adversity and the experiences of an ordinary middle-class English child. This innovative structure offers a compelling contrast, enhanced by influential historical events woven throughout the narrative.

## Tansy Taylor (OA 2019)

Congratulations to director **Tansy Taylor** on her recent signing to production company Rattling Stuff.

A post on the company's LinkedIn page read, "A creative powerhouse who has directed over 30 music videos before the age of 23, she [Tansy] possesses ninja capabilities in abundance. So, if you're looking for a creative mind who can turn your project into something truly spectacular Tansy Taylor is your girl"



Still from one of Tansy's videos



## Ethan Prior (OA 2015)

**Ethan Prior** was an assistant producer for *Defiance: Fighting the Far Right* for Channel 4, which aired this August. As posted on LinkedIn, "Across three compelling hours, the documentary examines how British Asians and immigrants were targeted with a campaign of violence and murder between 1976 and 1981, as National Front and extremist activity became increasingly prominent."

"The series investigates seminal events ranging from the Southall protests, the death of Blair Peach, the Battle for Brick Lane and the extraordinary story of the Bradford 12. Through a cache of archive footage and compelling new testimony from key figures on the front line at



the time, the ground-breaking documentary series shows what happened when the British Asian community decided to fight back."

The documentary was recently nominated for a Grierson award for best history documentary and is available to stream in full on Channel 4. Scan the QR code to view.

## 2023 OAs at the London Schools Film Awards

**Tom Dyer, Laura Murphy and Bertie Richmond (OAs 2023)** attended the London Schools Film Awards at Mill Hill School earlier this month with Head of Film Nuray and Assistant Head of Sixth Form Sheila.

It was a brilliant evening, celebrating the process of filmmaking — demonstrating technical skills, attention to detail, dedication to their craft and the hard work that goes into creating something extraordinary.

Nuray said, "Tom, Laura and Bertie went way

beyond their usual lesson allocation for an entire year, editing in the evenings and going back to their work time and again to refine, tweak and edit."

We were excited to learn that out of the 14 awards categories, Laura and Tom won 10. This is an incredible achievement, with 30 schools having entered the competition and eight being shortlisted to the finals.

Congratulations to our OAs on all of your hard work and success.



Tom Dyer and Laura  
Murphy



Tom & Bertie representing  
KAS at the awards

### Awards won:

Best Short Film - a main  
award won by Tom  
Outstanding Achievement - a  
main award won by Laura  
Best Use of Music  
Best Actor  
Best Supporting Actor  
Best Production Design  
Best Original Screenplay  
Best Editing  
Best Director  
Best Sound



## Nic Lenz (OA 1992)

**Nic Lenz** enjoyed an active Summer Term, having joined us for the OA v Sixth Form match in late April, then keeping his football skills strong with a match in Cardiff — as well as finding time (and energy) for a 250-mile bike challenge!

"I wanted to share the below with you following the success of OA football match, as it relates to King Alfred and football!"

"Last week I completed an off-road 250 mile mountain bike challenge which followed the ancient King Alfred bridleway. We started in Goring-on-Thames, made our way down to Winchester to pay homage to King Alfred (see photo below). From Winchester we went



Nic (right) and friend during their bike challenge

to Marlborough via the Salisbury plains and returned back to Goring via the Ridgeway. It was a tough but truly spectacular ride with some incredible scenery.

"I finished the ride last Thursday only to start an international Vets football tournament with Crystal Palace Vets on Friday in Cardiff. We have participated in this tournament, which has teams from all over Europe, for the past 10 years but never won. This year we got our lucky break and managed to beat the local favourites (Cardiff City Vets) on penalties in the final!"

Congratulations, Nic, on completing what sounds like an epic bike challenge, as well as your big win against Cardiff City Vets. We love celebrating our Old Alfredians!



Nic and his biking crew with the statue of King Alfred

# LOST



We love to stay in touch with our Old Alfredians, but we're missing contact details for over 1,600 OAs! One of the best ways to stay in touch is through email. If you're not receiving emails from us, please let us know. Simply use the QR code below to enter your details. If you know of other Old Alfredians who are not in touch, pass along the QR code so they can submit their details too.

# OAS



## Lail Arad (OA 2002)

Music has a way of finding us in unexpected moments. For Lail Arad, it happened during a KAS camp at only 10 years old. Escaping from a game of rounders, she stumbled upon the KAS guitar teacher, Ivor Goldberg, playing Joni Mitchell's *Big Yellow Taxi*. Not only was Lail a huge Joni fan, but this was her favourite song! Lail shyly joined in, hitting every note with ease, making quite the impression on KAS students and teachers. From that day, Lail performed at every KAS concert, including of course the iconic Axe Monsters. Lail went on to establish her career as a singer-songwriter, with three critically acclaimed albums and miles of touring under her belt. This April she came full circle, producing and curating a tribute for Joni



Young Lail at Camp

Mitchell's 80th birthday at the celebrated Roundhouse in Camden — and performing *Big Yellow Taxi* again exactly three decades later. We're thrilled to see our Old Alfredians follow their dreams and finding success in doing what they love!



Lail Arad



KAS Music Review 1995

## Ulf Ehrenmark (OA 1962)

"It was pleasing to see in the last issue that **Vera Rosenbluth (OA 1964)** is alive and well. Her only year (1961/1962) coincided with my last in the Upper Sixth. I had just passed my driving test in the Easter vacation and **Peter Steinberger (OA 1962)** saw an opportunity to get his dreadful 1938 Morris 12 off his hands. Peter is pictured here with Mr. Sofair in one of the more formal A level maths sessions. So, muggins here (me) parted with £30 for the pleasure of driving this beast that had to be cranked by hand —>>>



Mr. Sofair and Peter Steinberger in A level maths



.....→ to start. How Monty (KAS Head) ever allowed me to drive it into school, I will never know.

Anyway, young Vera was foolish enough to volunteer as a passenger one day — dressed in a delightful pink outfit. I remember it well because no sooner had she sat down than a giant black oil slick had covered a significant part of her dress. I was, of course, mortified and expected a large bill from Mr. and Mrs. Rosenbluth. None came, so thank you Vera; I expect you got a talking to at home about boys! I think this is you on the Fives Court — possibly wearing the dress in question prior to the infamous outing (sorry about the scratches on the negative) — but I leave it to others to determine who your opponent is. I don't know if this is of any interest, but I came across the negatives a few weeks ago and thought it was amusing. I don't think Peter was posing; the lessons really were like that. The little girl trying to

crank the Morris 12 is one of two sisters of **Michele Kimche (OA 1962)** who became my first wife. I have some other photos, but I don't know to what extent they would be of interest.

Take care, Ulf"



Left: Ulf Ehrenmark with his 1938 Morris 12, purchased from Peter Steinberger

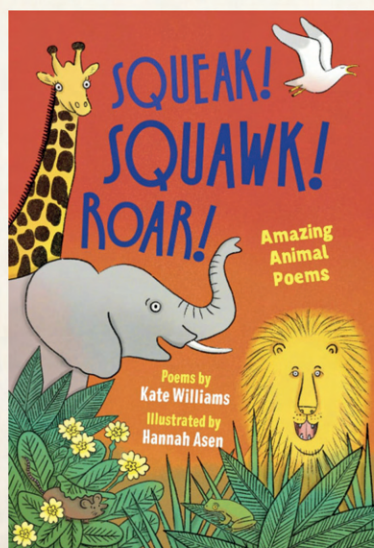
Right: Vera Rosenbluth (left) on KAS Fives Court



## Kate Williams (née Catherine Elliot, OA 1973)

Kate will release her children's poetry book in time for the holidays.

*Squeak! Squawk! Roar!* celebrates nature around us, and we were delighted to learn about Kate's inspiration for the book. "It's hard to pinpoint what inspires poetry-writing, but those early blue-sky days at King Alfred's have definitely contributed. As to this book of animal poems - well, kids love animals, and I'm still a bit of a kid myself. Besides, the array of living creatures around us offers up



such a phantasmagorical feast, all I need to do is dip in!"

Kate's memories at KAS begin at a young age. "My memories of King Alfred School (Juniors) start at age four (1961, 'Jennifer's 'class'), with the wonderful

playground apparatus. What other school provided such delights in those days?

"A long, hilly slide, a gigantic climbing frame, a bar for somersaults, sandpit, swing — and all exclusively for the very youngest two classes!"

"In Pat's class, I loved making clay bricks to build a post office, and in Cynthia's, making cut-out houses through early history. Watching Sylvia (my teacher for the top two years) making toffee one afternoon was also memorably fun, especially as we got to eat some. I was never aware of any timetable or subjects - let alone rules, just a timeless glide through assorted activities. But best of all was break time in the great, green Field, where I spent most of my time upside down on the climbing frame."







Chris Potter's Class, May Day 1990

## Will Fairman (OA 1999)

Will shared this photo of Chris Potter's class during the May Day Celebrations in 1990.

Left to right, it shows: Tom Sabadini, Jamie Hill, Bianca Gacorini, Heydon Prowse, Nicky Menzies, Miles Palister, Jodi Mitzman, Jojo Martin, Judith Norden, Lucy Chapman, Marla Altschuler, Alex Geoffrey, Will Fairman, Mathew Gretton with Chris Potter in the back.

## Graham Samuel (OA 1956)

On the coattails of our OA Reunion Day in September, Graham was inspired to share his collection of photos from his time at KAS.

Clearly gifted with a great memory, Graham has graciously and carefully detailed the names of many of his classmates. As a retired Software Engineer, Graham provided a digital KAS 1950s "yearbook" with black and white portrait style photos of our OAs and former staff from that era. Paired with Graham's memories of his time at KAS with these classmates, the photos are a window into bygone years.

### Graham says:

*Note that a lot of the photos are of my own class in 1954 - I think it was Form 6. I think one or two (classmates) are missing. I was sad to realise I couldn't find pictures of two of my closest friends, Jonathan Davis and David Jobson, who both died tragically young."*



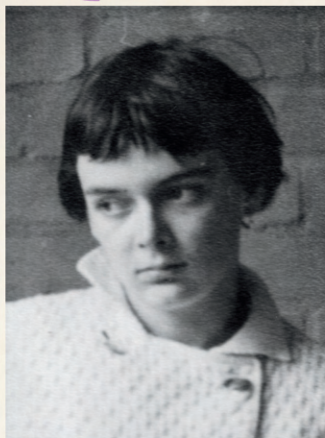
KAS Staff 1954

Graham also shared snippets of memories and the whereabouts of his classmates. Did you know that **Barbara Steel (OA 1956)** went on to become an actress, playing roles in horror films and on British TV? **Geoffrey Dunstan (OA 1955)** went on to become a priest, while **Brian Davis (OA 1956)** moved to Australia. He also remembered interacting with the younger KAS students at the time, giving little **Zoë Wanamaker (OA 1966)** piggy-back rides on the field.

Thank you, Graham, for sharing your memories. They are a priceless addition to the KAS Archive.

Turn the page to enjoy Graham's photo collection. ➡➡





Barbara Steele



Brian Davis



Elizabeth Montgomery



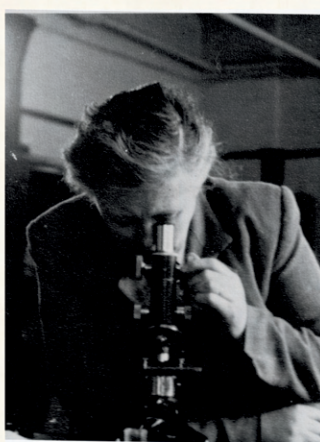
Freda Mabey



Gillian Sonin



Graham Samuel



Judith Seal



Hettie Barber (Staff)



Karen Heward



Mamoun Hassan



Moira Tait



Nicky Alwyn



Sandra Shoot



Ros Ryder-Smith (Staff)



Susan Scott



Talaat Hassan





## Head's Message

When you look back at the history of the school, we have always been ahead of the curve on the role of women. The driving forces behind the school were two formidable Victorians - Isabel White Wallace and Alice Mullins, the school was opened by the champion of Women's Suffrage Millicent Fawcett, and there are striking photos in the archives of gender-neutral cricket in the 1930s.

One of the ways this past has been brought into the present is through our three boats, named after King Alfred's daughters, Æthelflæd, Ælfthryth and Æthelgifu. Æthelflæd occasionally peeks through in the history books. Married off to the King of the Mercia in order to secure a Wessex/Mercia alliance, she was a shrewd operator sometimes compared to Elizabeth I. For similar reasons, Ælfthryth was married to the Count of Flanders, whilst Æthelgifu became the founding abbess of Shaftesbury. All were tutored from an early age and represent Alfred's commitment to education and a progressive view of the world.

On Saturday 21st September, the same day as the OA Reunion, the memory of these three Anglo-Saxons was honoured as our three boats bearing their names rowed down the Thames in 'The Great River Race'. Crewed by our Year 12s and Year 13s, they joined hundreds of other crafts from around the world for 22 miles from Millwall in the East to Richmond in the West.

*“It is undoubtedly by rowing in the same direction that we do the best by the KAS children.”*

These boats were built by staff, parents and students (who of course, are now Old Alfredians) working together, and this always serves as an apt metaphor for our community. At times, it is this relationship which helps us all stay afloat, and at times it is this relationship which enables us to glide effortlessly over the water. As we all recognise, it is undoubtedly by rowing in the same direction that we do the best by the KAS children.

This year, our collective efforts have helped set the course for our most recent OAs, with our KAS students having embarked on their new journeys in places far and wide. Equipped with strong A-level performance, the range of journeys was huge, and it is only possible to mention a few examples (forthcoming), but first we must celebrate our students outstanding results at both GCSE and A-level. ➡➡



KAS Sixth Formers rowing one of the School boats during The Great River Race 2024



→ At GCSE, 55% were at grade 7 or above [the old A grade]. This is well over double the national average [22%] and well above the Independent School average [48%]. 94% were at Grade 4 or above [the old C grade], which again compares very favourably to the National and Independent School picture. A key metric for us is our 'value-added' [VA] score, which shows how well students do in relation to their starting point. We were delighted to see that was very positive [+ 0.4] and our second highest VA score on record.

*“Our rich history shows that contribution and collaboration have long been at the heart of our ethos.”*

At A-level, 58% of grades were A/A\* which is over double the National picture [24%] and comfortably above the Independent School average [49%]. A quarter of all grades were A\*, 4 out of 5 were A\* - B, and there was a 99% pass rate. At A-level, our value-added score was in the top 7% of schools nationally as well as in the top 7% of Independent Schools.

In terms of different paths taken for our recent leavers, in Science, we have students studying Chemistry at Imperial [recently ranked the number 2 university in the world], Natural Sciences at Durham, and Computer Sciences in York and London. In the Humanities, they have launched into Geography at Exeter and Criminology at Loughborough, History at Warwick and PPE at Edinburgh. In Economics and Maths, Alfredians will be studying at Exeter, Bath, Leeds and Manchester. In the Arts, courses include Drama at Bristol, Film Practice at UAL and Fine Arts at Leeds. And to underline the variety, other degrees include Fashion, Nursing, Music Technology and Creative Writing.

The non-university route is also significant. Our students have gained places at the top national Art Colleges and will use this as a springboard to further study. Others will be starting at prestigious Drama schools, which is a highly impressive achievement straight out of school.

Special mention must also go to our three refugee Ukrainian students, all of whom have gone on to secure excellent places for next year.

One of the hallmarks of KAS is that we support each individual to find the right course at the right place for them. We do not say that one thing is better or worse than another – rather the real value lies in whether is going to challenge, inspire and fulfil that young person over the next few years. I am very proud of this group of young people, and hope that the foundations we have given them will serve them well for their next chapter.

As we look back on our rich history and the impact of figures like Alfred's daughters, it's clear that contribution and collaboration have long been at the heart of our ethos. Just as these women shaped their world, our alumni can help shape the future by supporting and inspiring our students today. Whether through mentorship, sharing expertise, or engaging with our KAS community, your involvement breathes life into our values and helps guide the next generation of Old Alfredians. As evident through your contributions to Alfredian Voices: What I REALLY Learnt at School Podcast, as well as your participation as speakers in our Connections Series, we continue the legacy of supporting our KAS community and creating a more forward-thinking society — both within and beyond the KAS gates.

Robert



## Connections Series Talk

**Carol Essex (OA 1988)** led the Connections Series Talk to Year 12 pupils in May. Carol is the Global Communications and Sustainability Director for Vestergaard, a company that serves people in vulnerable situations around the world, supplying mosquito nets to Africa among other initiatives. She was previously the Global Communications Director for Coca Cola with a particular focus on sustainability, and now regularly addresses the United Nations and WHO on malaria prevention.

From delivering pragmatic strategies for preventing AIDS in the most remote locations throughout Africa to implementing emergency strategies at the time of the 2004 Tsunami, Carol has always leveraged her positions in the corporate sector to effect change—a central value to KAS students and community. We were therefore delighted to introduce the KAS student who authored *The Adventures of Molly the Mossy*, to support the Against Malaria Foundation to Carol. Thank you, Carol, from all of Year 12 at the King Alfred School for coming back to KAS and sharing your stories.



**Carol and KAS student Ellie Matthews**



## Connections



**Tamlyn and Carol**

During her talk, Carol encouraged students to be adventurous and go for as many career experiences as possible. A great way to get started is by reaching out to your KAS community on KASConnected. Scan the QR code on this page to sign up today.

Carol later wrote us:

"Dear Tamlyn,

I wanted to express my deep gratitude for the opportunity you gave me to talk to the Year 12 students this week. This visit was not just a professional engagement for me but a deeply personal one. It allowed me to reflect on my career journey, which all began when I finished school almost 40 years ago. Your role in organising this visit has had a profound and lasting impact on me, and I am truly grateful.

As I walked around the school, many wonderful memories came rushing back. I remembered my first day at school (in tears for about five minutes), the teachers, and the vibrant school community I was once .....➡➡



.....→ part of. It made me realise how much I cherished the time I spent there.

"School can be tough for many kids, especially during exam week like the one GCSE students face now. However, the school's supportive environment, beautiful surroundings, and caring attitude will help them overcome these challenges and grow into amazing individuals.

"Throughout my career, I've encountered many difficult situations, and I've always relied on the skills I learned at KAS, like having a positive attitude and building meaningful relationships. I think King Alfred School does a great job of helping kids succeed without being overly competitive – which is a wonderful thing.

"I really enjoyed meeting Ellie Matthews, too, and reading her book about Molly the Mozzy.



Carol and YR12 students

"What a beautiful story and illustrations and such an important message about malaria prevention! I noticed that she is raising money for Against Malaria Foundation, a very important Vestergaard customer. Please let her know that I have donated to her fundraising page and will post a link on my LinkedIn account to help meet her target. If Ellie or her parents are interested in talking further about careers in malaria, either as a scientist or an advocate, please let me know. I am more than happy to help. Similarly, if any of the year 12s are interested in pursuing a career in communications, I'd be glad to be a mentor.

"Please pass on a big thank you to the school team for the coffee, the VIP car parking space (I'm feeling very important now), the IT support, the generous LinkedIn post (I'm practically famous now), and for making me feel so welcome. Who knew little Carol would one day be taking over the staff bathrooms!

Thanks again, and I hope to see you very soon!"

**Look out for Carol's interview as part of our podcast series What I REALLY Learnt at School.**

**KAS Connected features Connections, our series of talks, Q&As and videos providing Sixth Formers with advice and insights into higher education and careers, delivered by Old Alfredians.**

A purple rectangular graphic with a gold circular logo at the top center that reads 'THE KING ALFRED SCHOOL'. Below the logo is the website 'WWW.KASCONNECTED.ORG'. The graphic features four images: two young people smiling, a stone pillar with 'KING ALFRED' inscribed on it, a school building, and a group of people sitting on a stage. A central purple circle contains the text 'HAVE YOU SIGNED UP?'. At the bottom, there are three icons with text: an upward arrow for 'FIND & UPLOAD JOBS TO THE KAS JOB BOARD', a puzzle piece for 'CONNECT WITH OLD ALFREDIANS IN YOUR INDUSTRY', and a double arrow for 'PROVIDE MENTORING AND ADVICE'.

WWW.KASCONNECTED.ORG

HAVE YOU SIGNED UP?

FIND & UPLOAD JOBS TO THE KAS JOB BOARD

CONNECT WITH OLD ALFREDIANS IN YOUR INDUSTRY

PROVIDE MENTORING AND ADVICE



## The Forge 10-year anniversary celebrations

Old Alfredians and current KAS community enjoyed an afternoon in June at the Forge in Ivy Wood to celebrate The Forge's 10 Year Anniversary. Big thank you to Isabella and Nic for hosting us all, and to Tony for showing us what fun banging iron can be!

Everyone got a turn to get stuck in with some Forge work with beginners making a bottle opener and our more advanced Forgers making mantel-ready art. Impressive skills shown by all. Thank you to our OAs for coming to celebrate.



John Bayes (OA 1962)



Isla Sandford & Sam Shelemy (OAs 2021), Tony Lawler, Blaze Sandford (OA 2019)



Ben Farleigh (OA 1998) and Tony Lawler



Isabella Busoni and Nic Bevers



Melissa Garfield and Calum Drake  
(OAs 2021)



Chloe Solomon (OA 1991, right) and  
nephew

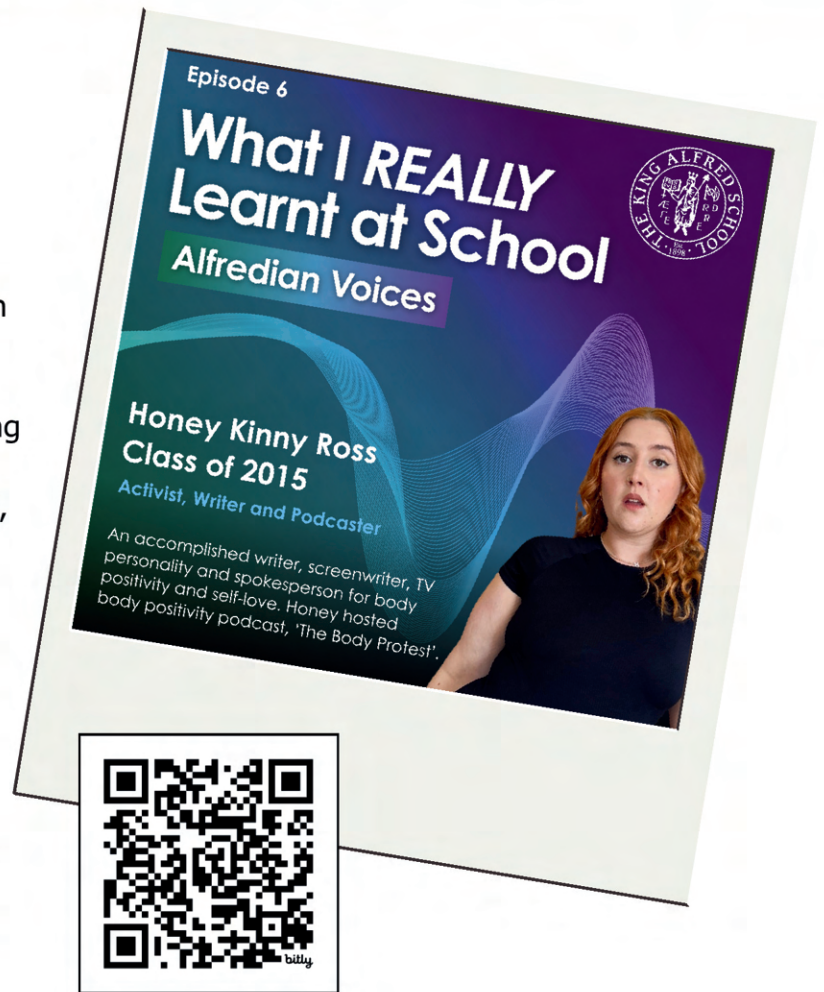


## Alfredian Voices podcast

Episode six of *Alfredian Voices: What I REALLY Learnt at School* is here!

In this episode, **Honey Kinny Ross (OA 2015)** recalls the sense of freedom and open space that characterised the school, highlighting experiences from playing in the mud as a child to lounging on the grass during summer breaks. Honey also discusses the founding of the feminist society at the school, which significantly influenced her personal values and activism in her life after KAS.

Now a writer and feminist activist, Honey credits her time at the King Alfred School for instilling a confidence to be herself and an understanding of the importance of using her voice for change. This episode beautifully encapsulates the lasting impact of King Alfred's unique educational approach on Honey's life and career. Scan the QR code to listen.



Above: 1990  
Dungeons &  
Dragons  
Choice



Right: Pottery  
class as  
Choice



## Choice

Choice has a long history at KAS, offering students the opportunity to learn new skills, exercise or help others. The vision for Choice option was curated into three categories: Head, Heart, and Soul. The 'Head' category provides a chance to learn, apply and consolidate new skills, such as cooking, blacksmithing, and film, while the 'Heart' category allows students the opportunity to get involved with sports like skateboarding and basketball. Lastly, the 'Soul' category gives students the chance to work for the benefit of others by, for example, helping in the Lower School. Every year Choice options have evolved. Which Choice options were offered when you were at KAS? What was the value of Choice for you, and what did you learn? We'd love to hear your stories. Please share your memories with us by emailing [oa@kingalfred.org.uk](mailto:oa@kingalfred.org.uk).



## Year 13 Graduation & David Wolchover Speech

We welcomed our newest Old Alfredians, the Class of 2024, at the Year 13 graduation and Prom this June. **David Wolchover (OA 1965)** addressed the graduates, talking about the KAS experience and applying it to life beyond KAS.

Graduation was followed by a well-deserved party. Congrats to the Class of 2024! We wish you the best of luck and look forward to welcoming you back at KAS.



Far left: Maeve Lock and Charlotte Berry



Near left: Fenn Reeves



Oona O'Brien and Shaan Bhaskar



Lola Nell McCann Ezekiel, Sarah Bloom, Linoy Gabsi



Luca Lunghi, Michael Coleman, Theo Green



Oona O'Brien and Michael Davies



Jake Cossey, Leo Hinder Green, Shaan Bhaskar



## Farewell to Jane, Claire and Ilona

End of last school year, we celebrated three highly respected and much-loved members of staff retiring at the end of that term: Jane Stevens, Claire Michael, and Ilona Ulman. Between them all, they have worked at KAS for over 80 years and are also parents to now Old Alfredians. We would like to both acknowledge and thank them for their dedication and commitment to the school.

Jane first arrived at KAS 43 years ago in 1981. She has taught all year groups from Reception to A-level during her career here, but her passion and strength is working with children with special needs. She has always had a special way of connecting with students who need additional support and is highly respected by both parents and colleagues.

Ilona arrived at KAS thirty years ago in September 1994 as a Lower School Class Teacher. She has worked with many hundreds of children across the age range, building powerful and lasting bonds. Her kind and gentle approach to teaching and learning has meant that the children have felt safe and secure in her care. Always committed pastorally, she has also established strong relationships with generations of parents.



**Claire Michael**

Claire joined KAS over twenty years ago in 2003 as a Lower School classroom assistant. Inspired by her experience, she took the path to become a teacher. Claire is a true professional. She is calm and caring and always puts the children first. Meticulously organised, she runs a truly inspiring classroom – creating a true Alfredian learning environment for the children which is happy and focussed.

Join us in celebrating our three cherished members of staff.



**Jane Stevens**



**Ilona Ulman**



## Heather

Congratulations to Heather as she begins a new chapter at Mill Hill School, bringing her comms savvy to a new batch of Alumni. We were so lucky to have had her as our Alumni and Development Officer over the past 3.5 years, and many of you know first-hand the warmth and care with which she delivered every aspect of our Old Alfredian initiatives. She is truly a kind and creative professional, and we wish her every success in her next step.

Deborah has since stepped into her role and many of you have been in touch with her over the last 18 months.

We also want to welcome Lyla Harris-Quinn as the new OA Office Administrator.



**Zah Rasul**

## Zah

In March, we said goodbye to our highly respected and long-serving Estates Manager, who had been at the School for 21 years.

Head Robert Lobatto said, "During Zah's tenure, the entire infrastructure of the site has been transformed and improved beyond recognition. He leaves an impressive legacy and we wish him the best of luck in his new role."



## KAS 125 Book

See The King Alfred School over the years through beautifully curated imagery from our archives with this special KAS 125th anniversary book. You can still order a limited edition copy via The King Alfred School website. Visit [kingalfred.org.uk/kas-125-book](http://kingalfred.org.uk/kas-125-book) to get yours.



## Ivy Wood

Ivy Wood at the King Alfred School opened its gates to children in 2003. Old Alfredians beginning with Class of 2017 were educated on these grounds for their early years. This beautiful, wooded green space is anchored on either end by the Phoenix Theatre and The DT Centre with its iconic forge. At the centre are the children's classrooms, where the King Alfred School's youngest pupils still learn and play to this day.

### What are your memories of Ivy Wood?

- Do you remember the Ivy Wood Bear?
- What games did you play?
- Who were your teachers?
- Are you still in contact with any classmates from that time?

We are curating the story of Ivy Wood and would love to include your memories. Please share your stories and photos with us by emailing us at [oa@kingalfred.org.uk](mailto:oa@kingalfred.org.uk).



**Our beautiful Ivy Wood**



**2003 Ivy Woods Bear**

## The Ballad of Raggedy Alice

Join us for the KAS Upper School performance of *The Ballad of Raggedy Alice* at the Arts Depot in Finchley on 26th and 27th November. KAS students will surely shine in this venue while the Phoenix Theatre undergoes renovations this year.

The family-friendly musical is for anyone who has ever wondered whether the grass really is greener on the other side. It tells the tale of Alice, who longs to be one of five lucky villagers selected every year to paradise.

But she soon learns that we should be careful what we wish for!

Scan the QR code to book tickets.

## The Ballad of Raggedy Alice

KAS presents:  
A family-friendly musical about being careful what we wish for!

**Tue 26 – Wed 27 Nov**  
7.30pm

**Arts Depot, Finchley**

Scan here to book your tickets now!



## The Village

Summer had arrived just in time for the annual KAS Village Project this year as staff and students worked together to create and maintain liveable space on our Manor Wood homestead. Year 8 resided KAS grounds for one week to live, work, and play in huts they made themselves.

It's lovely to see the spaces in KAS used for community. Among the photos here is a shot of the Amphitheatre being used as perhaps many of you remember. What are your memories of time spent in the Amphitheatre? Email us at [oa@kingalfred.org.uk](mailto:oa@kingalfred.org.uk).



Village meeting at the Amphitheatre



The Forge comes to the Village



Fire pit in the Amphitheatre



Staff accommodation at the Village



Sam (OA 2021) with Year 8 Students



Students building their huts



## Our President's 80th Birthday Gathering

### To Kara – on her 80th birthday

*Good evening to all as we come to celebrate,  
A woman so rare and unique.  
She sparkles with colour as she strides through the door  
Always stylish and always so chic.*

*We know her because of our mutual love,  
For King Alfred and its education.  
For research on the whole child and the human spirit  
GCSEs are our mutual frustration!*

*Kara brings passion and positivity  
Creating Tedx without (almost) any strife  
Detail oriented and ever so yellow  
Out of Kara's bountiful heart, definitely springs life.*

*She's filled all the roles, not just the Presidency  
Teaching, council, committees galore  
Always with a smile and indefatigable wit  
No break since 1984!*

*While you wander down the drive to meet at her house,  
You are met with cheese — brie or perhaps blue.  
Her generosity is endless, hospitality beyond-  
She welcomes everyone — me and you.*

*On the stage, as Bessie, Tamara or Beryl  
She's alive as a wild woman with zest.  
Somehow painting and acting at the same time!  
She's a sunbeam, like her father always said.*

*Her passion and her heart lie with Arthur and Drummond,  
Her job as Goga fulfilled conscientiously.  
Homework guide, sleep coach, shlepper around the globe,  
Loving Nina, Tom and her entire family.*

*So congratulations, dearest friend,  
We raise our glasses anew,  
80 years of joy and energy,  
Such wisdom and grace — we are lucky to know you*

Happy birthday, from the KAS community!

Photos from the KASS Party on 27th June



Kara at her gathering



Kara opening her gift



Celebrating our President



## Margaret Young, 1932-1979

**Margaret Young (nee Hughes, OA 1951)** was a student at The King Alfred School 1937-39, as a five to seven year old. Her brother, Arthur Hughes, wrote from New York to share details of Margaret's life, including this obituary. It is edited from the original written by Arlene Blum for The American Alpine Club.

Margaret Young, an AAC member since 1973, died of cancer on June 17, 1979, after a 27-year mountaineering career including climbs in the U.S.A., Canada, Mexico, Ecuador, Bolivia, Kenya, Iran, Afghanistan, Russia, Nepal, and England. Among her first ascents were Monja Grande in Ecuador, and the south summit of the Moose's Tooth in Alaska.

She made numerous first ascents and first winter ascents of peaks and rock climbs in the Sierra Nevada, and first and last ascents of rock routes in the Glen Canyon area of Arizona (last because the routes are now covered by the waters of Lake Powell). She delighted in making first descents, for example the first descent from Upper to Lower Yosemite Falls by rope and rubber raft.

Margaret made a major contribution to the development of women's climbing. In 1970 she was a member of the first all-women's team to climb Mount McKinley. In 1972 she reached the summit of Noshag in Afghanistan, and with Alice Liska shared the altitude record for women from the Western Hemisphere. Among her climbs with Vera Watson, her frequent climbing partner, were Mount Robson, first ascents of two peaks on the Gruening Glacier, the first all-women's ascent in winter of Pigeon and Howser Spires, and in 1977 the first all-women's ascent of Sajama (21,424 ft), the highest peak in Bolivia. Of all her peak climbs, Monja Grande in Ecuador was her favourite.

## Jean Pappworth, 1923-2016

"My mother, **Jean Pappworth (née Goldberg, OA 1941)** was a King Alfred pupil during the 1930s. She loved her years there and they left an indelible mark on who she was. I am writing about her. She was a woman both remarkable and of her time and place, her life having interacted with Anna Freud, the Hampstead Jewish refugee community, and many local



Margaret in June 1937 (5th from left, looking down)

She brought her analytical skills to bear on her favourite activities — climbing, flying, caving and hang gliding — accepting inherent risks and proceeding with maximum control and safety. A superb photographer, she made stereo pairs of peaks and climbing routes for scientific study and planning climbs. Less widely-known are her sensitive photographs of the minutiae of the mountain world: small flowers, mineral crystals, knotty wood.

In August 1977, Margaret was thrown from a horse and paralysed, but she maintained an extraordinary level of activity. Having time to devote to her longtime interest in solar energy, she designed a solar heating system for use in her home. In the fall of 1978 she was a member of the National Science Foundation's panel on science and the handicapped. She contributed to the American Women's Annapurna I Expedition by making concentrated wine by a process she had invented, as well as pickets, flukes, cable ladders, etc.

In her last years Margaret had many cruel blows — paralysis, the loss of her friend Vera Watson, and finally cancer — but she treated them calmly and matter-of-factly. Margaret had rare imagination and determination — truly a unique woman, an innovative climber, and an inspiring friend.

Margaret clearly led a remarkable life and, like many Old Alfredians, was curious, intrepid and brave.

artists. At King Alfred, she met people with whom she maintained friendships for her entire life. The school's ethos and creative energy were influential in who she became: an artist, and a lover of the English landscape and the outdoors...

Gratefully, Dinah"



NOV  
**09**  
2024

OA Reunion at KAS  
Fireworks

NOV  
**20**  
2024

Inside the Industry:  
Working in Film

NOV  
**26-27**  
2024

The Ballad of  
Raggedy Alice

NOV  
**27**  
2024

KASS Honorary  
Members Festive Tea

JAN  
**08**  
2025

Recent Leavers  
Drinks

JAN  
**08**  
2025

Class of 2024  
A Level Certificate  
Presentation & Drinks

FEB  
**12**  
2025

Old Alfredian Lunch  
(1940s-1960s)

APR  
**25**  
2025

OA Football  
Tournament

MAY  
**08**  
2025

OA  
Dinner



**Tamlyn Worrall**

*Development Director*

**Deborah Castillo**

*OA & Development Officer*

**Lyla Harris-Quinn**

*OA & Development Admin*

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