



Believe, Belong, Become



Aspire, Achieve, Succeed

Old Camdenians' Newsletter July 2020

<https://www.oldcamdenians.info> email: admin@oldcamdenians.info

News from our President

Dear Old Camdenians,

I wanted to thank you all for the ongoing support of the youngsters at your alma mater Beacon High. I'm sure many of you remember Holloway School fondly and have built successful lives from a solid foundation. Sadly, at this time, many of our youngsters have been out of school for almost 4 months and their learning has suffered hugely. Many have been able to access online learning, but this is not the best education and certainly not what we would consider an ideal situation for our own children. Coupled with this is the impact that absence from school has on the mental well-being and socialisation that is so important during our formative years. We have kept in touch with our students throughout the pandemic and are aware that not only have some been affected by the loss of loved ones, but they have also been unable to leave their homes because of shielding. We all know that sport and social activity is such a big part of growing up and we have a generation that has been forced to miss out for most of this year. The Chair of Islington Futures Federation has written an article out-lining a way forward for our youngsters in the new academic year. At the moment we are planning for social distancing measures to still be in operation in school in the Autumn Term in some capacity, so it is essential that we are able to provide them with the technology that they will need to make a success of their education.

One thing remains clear, despite the Coronavirus pandemic, that the school will do everything that we can to provide for our students. The school has not shut for a single school day, nor during the holidays at Easter and May half-term. Our most vulnerable and key-worker children have been in attendance and our teachers and support staff have gone above and beyond the call of duty in ensuring they and their families have been supported. We have not only provided a place to be, but also looked after the well-being of our school community with food parcels, home visits and weekly phone calls. During lockdown we had higher attendance than any other local secondary school.

I do hope that you will continue to support our students in whatever capacity you can, every little bit goes a long way. Thank you for the kind donations thus far. Believe. Belong. Become.

Yours sincerely, Alan

Alan Streeter Headteacher Beacon High and President of the OCC



*The Old Camdenians'
Chromebook Fund
Donate £120
Change a Child's
Future.*

Chair of Governors – Change a Child’s Future

On Friday 23rd March 2020, all UK schools closed to the vast majority of pupils and staff. They had a couple of weeks of speculation, but no real significant notice or planning. At the time, some pupils were issued with computer devices but not many. Teachers rapidly put material on-line and made up learning packs to distribute. This affected students across the country at Eton, at Manchester Grammar and at Beacon High. but the impact was not the same for all and it is the disadvantaged who have been disproportionately affected.

In a community where some families were not in work, and now others having to work from home, in homes where very few of which have a separate office area, own bedrooms and outdoor spaces and the uncertainty of being furloughed, perhaps on part income, the capacity to learn from home is so much worse for our students than many others.

Many of our students have engaged well with Beacon High and the remote teaching and provision that they have been providing, but others have not for a variety of reasons. Professional families who only have one or two computers are now competing for computer use between 5 of them and single parent families with a smart phone but no computer terminal face extreme difficulties.

We are welcoming the return of schools, and we are hoping that the virus is suitably controlled so that full return can be achieved, but we know there is a high risk of a short-term return to isolation. A teacher catches it; a pupil catches it; a member of the catering team; the class; year or school is closed for two weeks. Education must continue, and we cannot risk our young people falling even further behind.

Our intention is to provide each student at Beacon High with a quality Chromebook – their personal Beacon High workbook. We are looking to ensure that every student has a Chromebook on 2nd September. We are going to be asking parents to contribute fifty per cent of the cost. This is a high cost for a school with a significant deficit that will take at least 5 years to clear, and we need to be able to afford it every year. We know that some parents will not be able to afford to contribute, but they are the very ones who need the most support in their education. So, we are looking to secure student sponsorship to help those who need it the most.

For £120 a student will be given a new Chromebook, that they will keep for their time at Beacon High and will take them through into post 16 provision. It will be maintained and updated. So, are you able to sponsor a student at Beacon High – or a quarter or half, your contribution will really make a difference? It will provide access to high quality education all year, irrespective of our schools being open or closed, it will not solve all the issues of education, but it will take out one of the factors, and by demonstrating that people care, it will contribute to developing aspiration and belief that working towards the future is worth it and it will provide a vital tool.

Jill McLaughlin, Chair of Governors, Islington Futures Federation of Community School

The Old Camdenians’ Chromebook Fund

Since 1909, Old Camdenians have been supporting both the school and its pupils with bursaries for education, foreign visits, a large donation towards funding new gym equipment, the school’s Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme, the school choir and now, funding Chromebooks for students during the Covid 19 pandemic.

As a start, this year, the OCC will be sponsoring fourteen (14) Chromebooks from our '**Old Camdenians' Chromebook Fund**', which consists of £1200 ear-marked for the school's DoE and, £480 ear-marked for the ten (10) £50 bursaries donated at the AGM and Annual Luncheon. With your help we could sponsor more students with a '*vital tool*' and change a child's future. If you wish to contribute to the '**Old Camdenians' Chromebook Fund**' please send a cheque to Martin Quilter, OCC Treasurer, at 12 Darlands Drive, Barnet, London, EN5 2DF. If you wish to pay electronically please ensure that you send Martin an email at admin@oldcamdenians.info confirming that you have done so – many thanks!

'Old Camdenians Club',
TSB Bank,
34, Broadway, Crouch End, London, N8 9SH
Bank Sort Code: 30-92-43
Account No: 100746

The Old Camdenians'
Chromebook Fund
Donate £120
Change a Child's
Future.

Chairman's update

Dear Old Camdenians,

I trust that you and your family are well? I live alone, but I have my carer, Philomena. I do miss my family, but we must live with that. I was at Holloway School during World War Two when the world was in turmoil and we were evacuated to Towcester. We got through that, and I am certain we can get through this Covid19 pandemic. Good luck to all Old Camdenians. **Ken Ranson**

Treasurer's update

I was unlucky to get the virus (Covid19). I had been travelling to work in central London on the underground three times a week, I started to get a persistent cough that did not clear up then a fever set in with horrible headaches. I ended up isolating in bed for over two weeks, I was taking paracetamols every 4 hours, my son had to come back from Liverpool to help. I could only drink water and soup, there were numerous calls to 111, even though I was very weak they did not take me in to hospital as my breathing was stable. After the two weeks I started to slowly improve, but my energy levels were zero. I lost over two stone in weight. I gradually started eating again, but it took well over another four weeks to feel that I was getting back to normal again, not a very nice experience. Thankfully, no one else in the family caught the virus. **Martin Quilter** Editor: All our best wishes Martin

Secretary's update

I completed my Swimathon 2020 challenge the day before lockdown and the pools closed, but not before raising £530 for Cancer Research UK and Marie Curie. Three months later I received my medal and a lovely letter from Duncan Goodhew MBE, President of Swimathon. Also, I have used electronic banking to pay £120 for a Chromebook - it was easy! Keep safe. **Ray Rowe**



Dr. Ray Rowe, OCC Secretary, has been using Zoom, WhatsApp, Skype, and other means of communication to contact family, friends, and the wider OCC community. He is working with Dr. Bob Hartley to improve our website www.oldcamdenians.info. You can contact Ray at admin@oldcamdenians.info

News from our Committee Members

Alan Meyer

Being confined to barracks through our 'vulnerable' status, we miss the social interaction that shopping provides. Happily, though, we now see more of our guardian angel from Guildford (daughter Lesley), with her weekly delivery of essentials. Bookham's excellent community support, plus willing neighbours give us valuable back-up. For escapism, pottering in the ever-changing garden, secateurs at the ready, never fails to satisfy. For more vigorous exercise, we, luckily, have easy access to miles of wooded countryside, where, thankfully, Nature seems oblivious to the virus.

Despite the lockdown, it was still possible to celebrate Janet's coming of age (80!) very enjoyably, albeit not quite on the same scale as originally planned. Uncertainty about the future remains a major concern and we hope that the heroic efforts of so many front-line staff and volunteers will continue to be appreciated. In the meantime, let's look forward to Arsenal staying in Europe; England beating the Windies; and most of all A HAIRCUT! Keep smiling – it's more infectious than the virus and better for your health! Stay safe and hope to see you in October. **Alan Meyer**

George Ives

The Committee are still hoping that the Annual Lunch could take place on Friday October 30th, 2020. Please keep the date in your Diary and do not be persuaded by **anyone** that other destinations are desirable.

You will see that the Club on behalf of the School are launching an appeal to buy equipment for the students especially those who have been deprived from Study by the effect of Virus. The Club is supporting this appeal but please note that the monies for this support emanates from the 50+ Club. If you are not a member please sign up now.

The 50+ Club costs £60 per annum or £5 per month Standing Order.

Last Saturday in the Month the First two Numbers in the National Lottery Draw

are the Winners in the 50+ Draw.

First Prize £100 (£200 in November)

Second Prize £20 (£50 in November)

Hope you are all well and see you at the AGM/Lunch on the 30th October! George Ives

George Panayi

I knew Andy Georgiou (*see Obit*) he was a lovely man. We were neighbours for a few years. Several Old Camdenians lined the street outside the church, owing to the social distancing restrictions for funerals, they could not attend.

Like many others in lock-down I have been using Zoom to contact my diving friends. It is free for forty minutes, although we sometimes go over that. I use my laptop and others use their smartphones. I suggest that we could use Zoom for our OC Committee meetings. **George Panayi**

John Maskell

Nothing much to report about the Clubhouse. Virtually no sport taking place. No date given to resume cricket. Two football clubs are training with social distancing. Again, no date for the start of competitive football. The opportunity has been taken to carry out maintenance works including painting, repairs to goal mouths, a sight screen, cricket outfield, and boundary fencing. **John Maskell**

Mike Capocci

In February 2020, my wife and I went to Verona, Italy. We were to stay a couple of months for me to pass 'O' level Italian language exam to get Italian citizenship. Verona is next door to Lombardy – Covid19 hot spot. Ray Rowe sent me a text one Sunday morning stating he'd heard the news and asked were we alright? From the information we had Mary and I decided to stay and complete the course. Soon the course closed, and I was offered one-to-one tuition in Verona and no need to travel. However, that ended too and we were forced to get home. We were a little late getting the last flight back to UK and had to make our own '*Great Escape*'. We hatched a cunning plan to return to UK via Milan; take the last train to Geneva and then a flight from Switzerland for home – quarantine for 14 days. Well, that was the plan. The last train was cancelled, had our British passports and money stolen in Milan. The British Embassy was extremely helpful and gave us papers to travel, but all the flights had to be re-booked. We finally arrived home and slept for 14 days and nights. Steve McQueen made it look so easy in the film '*The Great Escape*'. I will tell you the rest of the detail at the Annual Lunch in October. **Mike Capocci**

Ellie Mandla

Dear Old Camdenians, I have just completed a two-year A-level course, at the London Academy of Excellence, and I await the results of my exams in English, History and Politics. I want to study law at Warwick University and become a solicitor, however, I need three grade 'A' passes – so keep fingers crossed for me on the 13th August. I have been assisting Ray and other Committee members to represent the Old Camdenians at Beacon High school. Indeed, I attended the school with Ray in February last year to advise Year 11 students about the transition from school to college; the importance of getting evidence for the 'Personal Statement'; and a few tips about studying for their exams. I enjoyed the AGM and Annual lunch last year – hopefully, I'll be there this October. Yours faithfully, **Ellie Mandla**

News from our Members Overseas

Phivos Kimonis in California, USA

Old Camdenians, I was pleased to be asked to contribute something in the OCC Newsletter by Raymond, for although I am 50 years and 10,000 miles away, from Holloway School I still look upon with affection at my time there and still keep in touch with so many of my Holloway friends.

I was also one of the many Greek Cypriot boys that attended Holloway School in the sixties, and one of the ones that got away, having graduated in Chemical Engineering from Southbank, like George, I worked for five years in London married a Physician, had two beautiful daughters and then all of a sudden we all got the travel bug. We started with Dubai, that fed the ex-pat bug with money and international friends, and gradually having travelled all over the middle East and Far East, found ourselves in Boston, US. The US is an easy place to travel and with a population that is the melting

pot of all the nations on earth, one can find a contrast and something new in each place. In the last 30 years in the US, we have lived and worked in Boston, Washington DC, Springfield Illinois, New Orleans, and now Southern California and in my corporate career, I have averaged 300,000 miles every year on planes visiting half a dozen companies in my corporation all over the US and Mexico. We now live on the Campus of the University of California Irvine (UCI), where I am now retired, and my wife is a Professor in Genetics. Southern California is one of the nicest places in the US, with beautiful beaches, forested mountains and national parks, and most importantly beautiful golf courses, my new passion.

With regards to Covid 19, a every wants to write about, although the US is now GREAT (according to our idiot), and the leading country in this Disease it has not really affected us in a University Campus emptied of 30K students, although a great number of our friends and my wife's colleagues are actively working on vaccines and treatment research for this disease. Most in our circles are leading scientists that take precautions and we have experienced none of the awful infections now rampant in the US.

As I mentioned to Raymond, I am open to answer any questions by old and new Camdenians, on either my field of work, the places I have lived and visited or life's experiences since leaving Holloway School or should I say Beacon High. Stay Safe, **Phivos Kimonis**

Philip Patsalos in Cyprus

Cyprus: An island experience of the corona virus pandemic

For the Patsalos family, 2020 was to be a year of celebration and plans were in place for the christening of our first grandchild, Iris Eleni, in Cyprus in April and the marriage of our daughter, Maria, in London in May. As I flew to Cyprus on 19th February, in advance of my family, I was oblivious as to what was to unfold. The World Health Organisation (WHO) was tracking the enveloping corona virus and it soon declared that a pandemic was to hand. Many countries went into lockdown but not Cyprus or the UK. However, my wife, Ellie, took the last scheduled BA flight from Heathrow to Larnaca on 16th March and joined me but was required to be in self quarantine for 14 days; which she did at our house in Larnaca. The first indication that the Cyprus authorities had put effective measures in place to deal with the virus was when 2 days after Elle's arrival she was contacted to be tested for the virus. Despite worrying signs that she may be infected, the test come back negative; I was impressed by the efficiency of the testing procedures. For 14 days we slept in separate bedrooms and kept our distance as much as possible and used hand gels sparingly. Lockdown in Cyprus started on 31st March and I was impressed as to how the population instantly responded; the streets were devoid of people, shops closed with the exception of supermarkets and pharmacies and the odd car may be seen. Larnaca was like a ghost town. People were allowed to go out once a day, unaccompanied, but had to have prior authorisation via an apt. Walking one's dog or undertaking physical exercise was allowed and indeed encouraged. I used to go to the supermarket once a week; there were no queues and no panic buying and social distancing and gel use was mandatory. In the event that the police stopped one and no authorisation could be shown, a fine was due. I used to look forward to my weekly trips to the supermarket as it was the only time that I was able to see fellow human beings.

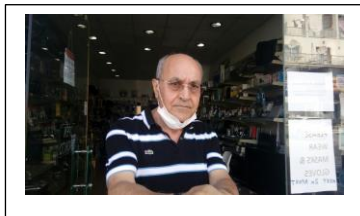
My wife and I had structured our days so that they entailed both physical activities (walking and jogging) and mental well-being activities (reading, singing and puzzle solving); watching the BBC1 6 o'clock news was a must followed by a movie. I was part of a WhatsApp group comprising of 15 Holloway School alumni; all graduates of the late1960s, and it was great fun. Hundreds of messages flowed between us daily and I believe we learnt a lot from each other, and we shared fond memories

of our time at Holloway School. Understandably, the corona virus and its consequences were always discussed with forensic detail and extrapolation as to the future. We also had two Zoom calls, which for me were somewhat emotional because I saw, for the first time after 40 years, two of my school friends.

Lockdown was relaxed on 21st May after approximately 7 long weeks of isolation. Meeting up with up to 10 people with appropriate social distancing was now allowed, and it was perfect timing because the following day it was Ellie's birthday! We decided to throw a party. Eight family/friends were invited to our house and we had food delivered by our local Indian restaurant. We had a wonderful evening eating and drinking in our garden and chatting till midnight.

We plan to return to London in August knowing that life will be different and challenging for all. My experience as a 7/7 survivor highlighted that life is fragile and we should never take life for granted because we do not know what will happen tomorrow. The pandemic has re-emphasised to me the fragility of human life. **Philip Patsalos**

Andy Georgiou in Cyprus



Andy and his family were wonderful hosts when we visited them in Cyprus Sept'18: Phivos, Nic, Mike, Nic and me. Keep safe Andy.



I am very pleased to be and have been in Cyprus during this covid19 crisis. The response by the government had been immediate, we adopted all the best advise/safeguards as implemented in other successful countries and now we are reaping the benefits by having had a minimal number of deaths and infections. Cyprus can now be seen as a safe country to visit /holiday.

On a personal level, we had a lockdown for around 6 weeks which meant we had to obtain SMS permission for leaving the house, e.g. for shopping, exercising, visiting the Doctor etc. This was strictly enforced, I had to close my shop but I managed to continue work, to an extent, by using my smartphone, a visa machine ,printer and laptop at home.

After lockdown I opened up my shop again but with restrictions like: 2m distancing, no more than 4 people in my shop at one time, wearing masks and gloves and have sanitizer gel and gloves available for customers at the entrance. Also I have decided to only work mornings because of the slowdown in business activity and the ability to carry out 90% of my work by only opening mornings.

My grandchildren go to school and only half the number of children attend per class to implement social distancing as well as other restrictions. During the lockdown all the schools were transmitting their lessons on internet so that children were able to continue their education.

By being in the EU, we benefited by taking part in bulk acquisition of PPE and a multi trillion coronavirus fund to support individuals and businesses to help them survive economically.

This is our success story; Boris eat your heart out. I am sorry to see that the UK did not carry out such a timely and successful operation and many thousands of people have died unnecessarily as a consequence. **Andy Georgiou**

Old Camdenians – Alumni Success Stories

www.oldcamdenians.info

Have you visited our website recently? Dr. Bob Hartley (OCC Archivist) has been contacting many of our members and adding to the rich history you can mine there. Do you have any photos or documents from your time at Holloway and/or Beacon High? If so, we will share them with your friends on our website and include them in future newsletters. Also, we would like to include school team photos on the website in the photo gallery and it would be nice to include the names of the team members. You could send in your team photos for a variety of sports

Also, there is a link from our website to www.beaconhigh.org and likewise. If you go to Beacon High School's website in the tab '**About Us**' you will find '**Community Links**'. Click on that and you will see a tab entitled "**Old Camdenians – Alumni Success Stories**" that takes you straight to a link to our website <http://www.oldcamdenians.info>. Why not give it a try?



Holloway School U13 Football Team 1962-63

Standing (L-R) Mr. Poole, Paul Bradford, Mickey Foot, Dennis Jackson, Bobby Lyles, Ron Perversi, Freddy Ryde, Stephen George, Alan Wright
Sitting (L-R) Bobby Hartley, Kenny Sharp, Bobby McDonagh, Tommy Youlden, unknown, Alan Caunt, Stephen Chandler

Holloway School Under 13 Football Team 1962-63

Where are they now?

Make a Note in Your Diary

- Reunion Lunch

Friday 30 October 2020

Contact

George Ives, 32 Amersham Hill Gardens. High Wycombe, HP13 6QR

Tel: -01494 524 501

Email george.ives@btinternet.com

or admin@oldcamdenians.info

Images from last year's Reunion Lunch 2019



Editor: Memories of our Annual Luncheon before social distancing rules.

Obit Andrew Georgiou



We sadly announce the passing away of Andrew Georgiou

Andy passed away on Wednesday April the 8th 2020 at the age of 70 and leaves behind his wife Irene, two daughters Alexandra and Kristina, a grandson Ocean, and three sisters Dora, Julie and Thalia. Andy was born in Famagusta the son of Christoforos (Taki) and Loulla Georgiou from Komi Kebir and Famagusta, respectively

At the age of two he immigrated with his family to London then after two years moved to Liverpool where his Father worked in building construction and opened a fish and chip shop. He lived there for ten years which accounts for Andy supporting Everton. The family later moved to London where Andy attended Holloway School. Andy played football for Holloway School being a member of the London Schools S.E. Tye Trophy (U18) winning team in 1968 (centre forward). He also played for the Old Camdenians football and cricket teams for many years. He was a keen spin bowler and achieved a hatrick against Kodak in August 1970. He co-founded and was player manager of Dynamo AFC that used to play in the KOPA Cypriot Football League. He also played for PAOK and Anorthosis in the KOPA League.

He attended Southbank College and became a quantity surveyor and later joined his father Taki who had started a successful building construction company called G&S Formwork that were helping to build massive buildings all over the country which included Heathrow Airport terminals. On April the 8th 1979 he married Irene the daughter of Hambi and Maroulla Michael from Khirokitia and Ora respectively. Hambi was a former editor of Vema Cypriot newspaper in London. In 1993 he founded and became a partner in a successful estate agents, Desirable Residences Ltd. (known as Des Res) based in Belsize Park. The day he passed away was Andrew and Irene's 41st wedding anniversary.

Andy was a great guy with an infectious smile and a wonderful sense of humour. He had many friends and always had time for people. He was a true gentleman, honest and hardworking. He achieved much for his community and loved his family and was so proud of them. He will be sorely missed. **Dr Bob Hartley**



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