



Believe, Belong, Become

Aspire, Achieve, Succeed

Old Camdenians' Newsletter Dec 2020

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

Twitter: [@old_camdenians](https://twitter.com/old_camdenians) Facebook: [@old_camdenians](https://www.facebook.com/old_camdenians)

News from our President

Dear OCC members,

I trust you are looking after yourselves in what has proved to be a difficult year for us all. Let us hope that 2021 brings a much-anticipated break from the coronavirus pandemic. Beacon High has managed to stay open for our learners since September and that is down to the dedication and hard work of all of our teaching staff and support staff. As public servants it is our duty to do the best, we possibly can for all our youngsters and their families. With that in mind the Chromebook fund has been put to good use and all of our learners, no matter what their home circumstances are, now have access to remote learning. Thank you once again for your generous contribution to the fundraising.

We had a wonderful celebration of Black History Month in October, you can see our youngsters and staff discussing what it means to them in this video link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Kveiae-rzLs&feature=youtu.be> . In addition, we continue to work on our Holocaust Education Beacon Status award. This year the theme is 'shining the light in the darkness'.

With sadness we honour the life of Eric Meyer Mark (1935 – 40) an Old Camdenian who passed away on 6th November 2020, aged 98 years. Eric was at Holloway School whilst his mother and father lived under the NAZI regime in Germany. They sent him to London to survive; sadly they did not. Eric's story is a truly remarkable one; a story that will remain forever linked to Holloway School and one that has much to teach our students.

I would also like to thank George and Pam for their dedication to the OCC over the years. This newsletter is a fitting tribute to their service and commitment over the years. Thank you both.

The Committee have also agreed to bestow on Ken Ranson an **'Honorary Life Vice Presidency'** following his resignation, which he has accepted. Ken served as Chairman of the OCC for six years and always loved coming to the school and meeting our young people.

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.*

Jill McLaughlin

Chair of Governors Islington Futures Federation

That was the year that was! As we come to the end of this term and this year, I am incredibly proud of Beacon High School. Alan Streeter was appointed as permanent head in September 2018. What a transformation he has achieved. He has a strong senior leadership team in place, year 11 results were much improved. He has a school that stood firm as the gales of COVID blew around it. Open throughout it has provided a safe and secure place for young people to learn. The pastoral support that surrounds the students is fantastic and is making a real difference to those who need it the most. In place of exclusions we have a 12-week programme to support their return to being able to succeed in the classroom. We have a stable, engaged staff group who report that they are proud to work at Beacon High, a well-maintained school building and high-quality technology. We have a strong Islington Futures Federation Governing Body, with an experienced and energised School Committee chaired by Alex Bols and the active support of The Old Camdenians. Plans are developing to further develop the school, focusing on high quality skills education, preparing young people for high quality apprenticeships. It is all very exciting, and we are hopeful, that notwithstanding the changing demographics around us, that we will see more parents and pupils selecting Beacon High for their future next year

2021 - looks promising, with the announcement of the approval of the first vaccine, but we know that the impact will not be felt in the first term. We have changes in the wider Federation of schools as our Executive Headteacher Jo Dibb, finally gets to retire in the summer, having delayed her departure to support the schools through the pandemic. Recruitment of her replacement will take place early in the new year. As a Governing Body we are delighted that we are looking for someone to work with Alan, supporting him in further developing Beacon High, building on its strengths.

It has been an exhausting year for Alan and his team, and I am sure that you will join with me in wishing them a restful and peaceful Christmas break and a calmer but as successful 2021.

And may I take this opportunity of thanking you for your continued support, and wish you all a Merry Christmas and a happy and healthy 2021...

Jill McLaughlin Chair of Governors Islington Futures Federation

Alex Bols

Chair of the School Governors Committee

Merry Christmas to you all – I do hope that you are keeping safe and well. As Chair of the School Governors Committee I am pleased to write a few words to you as we emerge from the latest lockdown and prepare for Christmas and I hope you are able to have a chance to celebrate and see your loved ones, even if only via electronic means!

I was so pleased to be able to join you for the Old Camdenian's AGM last month. We may not have able to have our usual annual reunion lunch this year, which has been so well organised by George and Pam Ives in recent years as well as keeping us all in line during the meal as Master of Ceremonies, he will be much missed when he steps down from organising the lunches as well as his decades of service to the Society.

Whilst the AGM was different this year it worked remarkably well on Zoom and enabled us to be joined by OC's from around the world, as well as being able to watch the film from the school back in the early 1960's which was certainly fascinating for me having only been associated with the school more recently.

At the AGM I was able to thank the Old Camdenians for all your support for Beacon High School over the last year, and in particular the Chromebooks for All campaign, and I wanted to take this opportunity to restate those thanks.

You have been hugely generous raising over £3,200 – or the equivalent of 27 Chromebook laptops – which has made a real difference to the education of the young pupils that are studying at the school today, over what has been a hugely difficult period.

The last 9 months have been a very different learning experience, with school and all education moving online – with lessons, homework – although unfortunately not the sport - and so having access to laptop is absolutely key. So, thank you all.

I also wanted, if I may, to say just a couple of words about the school today. We were pleased in the Summer to receive much improved GCSE results, the best for many years, which were backed up by rigorous teacher assessment, it was such a privilege to be able to go into school that day in August – wearing my facemask of course – to see the happiness of the children's faces as they celebrated their success with their friends and teachers.

I would also highlight that we were very pleased to be selected as one of the winners in the Evening Standard award for inclusive schools which was announced earlier in the term – it was an excellent piece of work by our head teacher and President of the Old Camdenians Alan Streeter who is looking forward to a well-deserved Christmas break after having been in school almost every day since back in March.

The Evening Standard Award provides the school with significant funding to support planned interventions to help pupils who would otherwise be at risk of permanent exclusion.

I hope you will agree with me that the future of the school is looking both positive and exciting.

As so wishing you all the best over this festive period and I hope you are able to truly deck the halls with boughs of Holly to help put the past year well and truly behind us.

Chairman's update

It is with much regret, that I announce my retirement as your Chairman. I have been in office for over 6 years and have enjoyed every minute of it, particularly attending the school on Exam Results Day; the Annual Dinners and Lunches; the AGMs and EGMs that are so necessary to keep the OCC fit for the future; the 'Dinning-In' of our Presidents – and we have had a few! I have spent many months in lockdown alone, but I had my memories of our friendship and good times. I am incredibly pleased with the appointment of our first Ambassador of 'The Bill and Nora Wraight Old Camdenians Memorial Fund' Ellie Mandla. I see them as our life blood and future. I pay particular thanks to Dr. Raymond Rowe who has been there for me throughout – well done! But before I go, I wish to pay tribute to George and Pam Ives who have always been there and served me well. The 50+ Club and the excellent Annual Dinners and Lunches. I look forward to seeing you all on 4th June 2021. Merry Christmas and a happy New Year to everyone. *Ken Ranson 6th December 2020*

Obituaries

Alan Cornelius (1946/53)

Alan Cornelius attended Holloway School from 1946 to 1953. He died in hospital on 23rd November 2020. Those of you from the 'Old School' will remember with great affection this good sport who was good at sport, racing down the left wing on the top pitch at Bow Lane and the halcyon days that followed when the Old Camdenians were able to field 7 football teams in winter and three cricket sides in summer on a Saturday afternoon. Alan, with great sporting ability, was an automatic selection on the team sheets for both football and cricket first X1's. At school, he captained both the football and cricket teams: he excelled at running in 440-yard track events and represented the school at inter school athletic meetings. He used his speed to the full when on the football field. Playing on the left wing, he didn't so much as dribble past the opposing right back; he would push the ball forward and race past the defender. Heavy full backs made him suffer when they weren't able to match his pace and would attack his ankles.

Alan had a brief period as a semi-professional footballer for Enfield Town. Precise football records are not available, but as an established member during the period of a highly successful OC's first XI, he probably played over 250 games and scored more than 150 goals. During this time, he also won representative honours with the LOB league X1. When he changed from shorts and top in winter to full whites for the summer game, his prowess and talent as a left-handed batsman in the upper order enabled the OC's to reach respectable scores on many occasions. He didn't hammer the red ball in the style of Ben Stokes but would stroke it more in the elegant manner of David Gower. He would use the pace from the fast bowler to glance the ball either side of the wicket past the wicket keeper or take a full stride down the pitch and with a full back lift and follow through reverse the direction of the ball back past the bowler where it would gather speed down the slope at Bow Lane to the boundary fence. He performed the left hander's typical hook shot with assurance. According to club cricket records, he played 307 games from 1951 to 1964, scored 6413 runs, including 2 centuries and 30 fifties. Occasionally, he was required to turn his arm over for a reward of 20 wickets and as the complete all-rounder, took a total of 138 catches.

Alan was not a great social drinker, as some of us might have been at that time, but he joined many OC's who would socialise and enjoy refreshments at the Archway Tavern before and after the game. Following National Service in the 50's, we shared a number of cricket tours and several holidays together. One such holiday was with Brian 'Ned' Kelly to Mt Pilatus, Switzerland where we climbed to Kandersteg wearing our service boots.

Alan started work at BP in the City and remained an employee till he retired at the age of 50 in 1984. In September 1961 he married Jill and I was privileged to be his best man. The couple moved to Southgate. After Jill died in 2015, Alan's health began to suffer. He was taken into hospital with a kidney infection and died a week later. Alan was well respected, likeable, even tempered, and sincere. Our thoughts are with Paul, Alison, and family to whom we send our condolences

Richard Brown

"One remembers odd things that are themselves totally unimportant. We had an Alan at left wing and another Alan, me, at right wing. In what was to become a Spice Girls nomenclature later, we were named on the pitch as Alan C and Alan S. Perhaps the important aspect is that we do remember."

Alan Shearn

The funeral service will take place at Marylebone Crematorium, East End Rd, East Finchley, London N2 0RZ at 1.p.m, on Monday 14th December. While Covid -19 restrictions may apply, Richard can be contacted at richnjo.brown@btinternet.com

Eric Meyer Mark (1935/40)

Last of the 'secret listeners' who eavesdropped on captured Nazi generals in English country houses:
Eric Mark obituary - The Times

Mark's work led to the identification and destruction of most of the launch sites for V2 ballistic rockets. Locked up in a camp on the Isle of Man to hold enemy aliens, Eric Mark, a German-born Jew and a refugee from Nazi tyranny, was eager to contribute to the war against his homeland. After two years an opportunity materialised.

British intelligence routinely interrogated enemy prisoners of war for tactical and technical information, and when the first German general was captured in 1942 a seam of strategic information was opened. Intelligence officers knew that a general, despite the humiliation of capture, would be too proud to demean himself by aiding his country's enemy, but if caught off-guard in a private moment he might carelessly reveal a crucial secret.

More generals were captured and elaborate arrangements for their accommodation began. The estate of Trent Park in north London was requisitioned and each room bugged with microphones that were linked to listening points in the cellar. Trees and bushes in the grounds were also bugged. The idea was to create "special gilded quarters" for the "guests" to put them at ease and encourage loose talk. A Savile Row tailor even visited to make uniforms for them. Similar provisions were made at Latimer House and Wilton Park, both in Buckinghamshire, for U-boat commanders and Luftwaffe aircrew. Meanwhile, teams of German speakers were assembled.

After demobilisation, Mark obtained an economics degree from the London School of Economics and began working for Shell International. Mark had enlisted in the non-combative Pioneer Corps and become a lance corporal. Called to the company office, he was informed he was now a sergeant in the Intelligence Corps and transferred to the Combined Services Detailed Interrogation Centre, where he was joined by other previously detained enemy aliens. Assigned to Trent Park, he became part of a team of secret listeners monitoring the German generals' conversation in two daily shifts in the so-called M (for miked) Rooms: one shift from 8am to 4pm and the second from 4pm until the generals fell asleep.

"Listening to them talk was one of the most difficult times I ever had, but I could not show any emotion," recalled Mark, who would sit in the cellar recording conversations on to a disc, which was then taken away for translation. "Most of them liked to boast about how many Jews they had killed, saying things like 'I knocked off about 1,500', which was tough for me to take, being Jewish." Occasionally he and the other listeners would walk around the grounds and speak to the generals "who had no idea what we were doing".

It quickly became clear that the generals fell into two camps: those who philosophically accepted the inevitable defeat of Nazi Germany, especially after the reverses at El Alamein in October 1942 and the surrender of their 6th Army at Stalingrad in February 1943, and those who had faith in the rumoured Vergeltungswaffen [retaliation weapons] that would change the whole course of the war. Discussions about the latter led to the secret listeners' most significant breakthrough. Generals Wilhelm Ritter von Thoma and Ludwig Crüwell, both taken prisoner in the Western Desert campaign in 1942, were overheard discussing a German secret rocket programme. This was swiftly linked to a conversation at one of the other listening sites between two officers about concrete ramps they had seen in the Peenemünde area close to the Baltic coast. Air intelligence pounced on this information to help to identify the purpose of the site, believed to be a factory, in a cleared part of forest adjacent to the ramps. Here was the rocket factory and the launch pads ready for the missiles.

The night of August 17-18, 1943 marked the first of a series of RAF Bomber Command attacks on the Peenemünde factory and facilities. Mark and his fellow listeners at Trent Park had unlocked the secret of the Vergeltungswaffen, the V1 “flying bombs” that were to be launched on to southeast England the following year. Their discovery also led to the identification and destruction of most of the launch sites for V2 ballistic rockets. “As soon as I heard something interesting, I put the needle down on the record . . . My job was to pass it on quickly for others to analyse,” Mark said.

Eric Meyer Mark was born in 1922 in Magdeburg, the son of Otto Mark, an importer of shop fittings, and his wife, Erna. He attended the local “Gymnasium” until his parents sent him to England, aged 12, to escape Nazi persecution. He attended Regent’s Park and Holloway schools and was planning to go to university when he was arrested as an enemy alien in 1940. His parents were sent to Treblinka concentration camp and did not survive.

In 1947 he met Miriam Majerfeld, a Polish refugee, at a party in London to mark the Jewish festival of Purim. They were married in 1951 and had three children: Anne is a Blue Badge tourist guide, David manages a photography gallery, and Sandra is a genealogist. After demobilisation, Mark obtained an economics degree from the London School of Economics and began working for Shell International. From 1973 to 1987 he was head of the European Commission’s directorate of transport.

In 2012 he became the poster boy for Helen Fry’s book *The M Room*, later republished as *The Walls Have Ears* (2019), and a television documentary on the secret listeners. At the launch of Fry’s book, Mark received a standing ovation after a short speech in which he apologised that he was a little deaf — “ironically for a listener”.

Eric Mark, listener at the wartime CSDIC, was born on July 18, 1922. He died on November 6, 2020, aged 98

Update on the Old Camdenians’ Chromebook Fund

Thanks to your generosity the OCC has donated £3240 that is twenty-seven (27) Chromebooks from our ‘**Old Camdenians’ Chromebook Fund**’, We had an amazing thank you in the school’s weekly newsletter ‘*The Beacon*’. There were interviews with some of the recipients on how useful the Chromebooks are. Donations are still coming in and we are now up to £3360 (28) – well done! With your help we could sponsor more students with this ‘*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! You can also use **PayPal** and send direct to admin@oldcamdenians.info

TSB Bank,
34, Broadway, Crouch End, London, N8 9SH
Bank Sort Code: 30-92-43
Account No: 00100746
‘Old Camdenians Club’

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

Secretary's update

I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Ken Ranson on becoming '*Honorary Life Vice President*'. I wish him all the best for the future and to thank him for being there to support the Old Camdenians and me. Ken liked it most when he could speak with the pupils, our new OCs, on Exam Results Day and, at the Annual Luncheon, wishing them well for their future.

Also, I would like to thank all of you that supported the Committee and joined us for our 111th Annual General Meeting, at 8pm, on Friday 30th October 2020. It was held via Zoom, chaired, and hosted by me, at the request of the Committee. It is quite evident that the numbers attending previous AGMs was much higher, however, the lure of a George and Pam Annual Reunion Dinner or Luncheon was not to be on this occasion. We had a few laughs and enjoyed ourselves using this new technology and means of communication. We can empathise with the Prime Minister when he came out of isolation to address the nation: he was 'muted' on live TV. We had Old Camdenians from all around the world: New York, California, Cyprus, Australia, New Zealand, and many parts of the UK.

Alex Bols, Chair of School Governors Committee, gave a passionate address to the meeting and toasted the '*Old Camdenians*'. Dennis Warwick, Vice President, spoke to the meeting, however, we realised that he had not been formally elected! This was soon put right, and I welcomed Dennis on board and wished him all the best. After the AGM we showed Brian Lofts' award-winning silent film '*The Prefects*'(1961). I do apologise to the two members who had joined us using their land-line phones; yes, it was silent for 16 minutes and no pictures! The meeting then went into '*breakout*' rooms of six, but this was more like breakdown, since some people left just after the film, but all in all it was a success and I will tell you more when we meet for the Annual Reunion Lunch on Friday 4th June 2021, at the school.

You will notice that Brian Lofts explains about the '*Making of the Prefects*' elsewhere in the newsletter. We have serialised it into three parts, however, for those of you who cannot wait for the next instalments please email me and I will send you a free copy of the complete set.

Last year, the late John Simmonds's partner, Ann Neuff, presented a copy of John's book '*The Telephone on my desk rang...*' to the school library. John recounts an episode that occurred during his working life in the early 1970s. Upon retirement he resolves to explore the mystery that harked back to a post war Europe and weave a tale around it. Into his story John brings his legal knowledge and experience whilst exposing his own human emotions, warmth, and humour. This is a tale of unresolved love, mystery and intrigue worthy of Sherlock Holmes or Poirot. An unfinished tale for you to sleuth and to write an exciting ending.... If you would like a free e-copy of John's book, please email me. If you like it, you might be of a mind to make a donation to Ann and John's favourite charity the '*Arthur Rank Hospice Charity*'.

Apart from getting to grips with Zoom I have been learning why the computer says '*No!*' when I try to update the Old Camdenians' website. Basically, the answer lies in HTML; CSS; Java script and Microsoft Expression Web4. Yes, it was all new to me too. I now feel sufficiently confident and more able to get your photos and other documents uploaded – so watch this space and checkout www.oldcamdenians.info.

If anyone would like to meet up on Zoom in the New Year, please let me know and the OCC will see if we can host it for you. A group of twelve OCs, from 1963-70, have been piloting the project. It is free and fun. As stated above you can join for free via a landline anywhere. Tell your friends about it. Also, I would like to thank all of you that have contributed to this newsletter and to '*The big thank you to George and Pam Ives from their friends and family the Old Camdenians*' I wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a happy and healthy New Year 2021. **Ray Rowe**

News from some of our Committee Members

George Ives

Good News for a change. It is proposed that the postponed Annual Lunch will take place on Friday June 4th 2021 at the School. George Panayi will be on hand to dispense Alcohol so preventing hopefully, any over hung Virus! You should by now receiving your 2021 Diaries so enter the date immediately to guarantee your seat! No interference from family or friends will be tolerated. Let us make it a joyous occasion for family and friends What about making up Parties to celebrate our return to NORMALITY!!

I hope that you have read the article in the 'Beacon' where the School's Head praises the Old Camdenians for supporting their appeal for Chromebooks. Apart for individual OC's donating the Club itself contributed £1700 to this appeal. This was only possible because of the 50+ Club.

Your Club Needs You!

- Please join if you are not already a member -



Membership is £60 per year or a Standing Order of £5 per month. A number between 1 and 59 is selected and that is entered into a Monthly Draw which is determined by the First Two Numbers drawn in the National Lottery. Prizes are £100 (£200 in November) and £20 (£50 in November).

Your contact for Annual Lunch and 50+ Club is George Ives, 32, Amersham Hill Gardens, High Wycombe HP13 6QR. Phone: 01494 524 501 Email: george.ives@btinternet.com

Ellie Mandla

I left Holloway School/Beacon High in the summer of 2018, I have now started my History and Law Conversion course at Warwick University. Thanks to the Old Camdenians, I have been awarded a £2000 bursary from 'The Bill and Nora Wraight Old Camdenians Memorial Fund'. I will be using the money to support my studies, buying books, stationary and other equipment, as well as to pay for some of my travel costs. I am finding this extremely helpful in addition to my student loan. I had not realised how expensive living independently can be! When I left school, I studied A Levels at LEA Tottenham. I liked their approach to learning as it was more like school with lots of support, structure, and intervention, unlike many college courses. I knew as early as Year 11 that I had an interest in Law and wanted to go on to study in this field at University after my Year 11 academic mentor, Ms Blanche, managed to find me work experience in Chambers in Gray's Inn Road. I hope to work in Construction Law in the future. As an Ambassador for 'The Bill and Nora Wraight Old Camdenians Memorial Fund'. I will come back to school to speak to Beacon High students interested in pursuing a future in Law and the benefits of 'The Bill and Nora Wraight Old Camdenians Memorial Fund' and being an Old Camdenian.

News from some of our Members

Brian Lofts (*the Writer and Director of 'The Prefects' (1961)*)

The Making of 'The Prefects' Part 1 of 3

I have always been interested in film ever since my days of going to Saturday morning pictures in the 1950's at my local Forum cinema at Kentish Town London.

The role of the director particularly intrigued me. He after all is mainly responsible for interpreting the work of the author of the material to be filmed. Obviously, the script is the starting point, and the visual interpretation of the script is the director's job. Of course in the case of *The Prefects* I was the author, so it made things much easier. I did not have to refer to anyone else.

When I arrived at Holloway school in 1954 I found that there was a film Society and immediately joined. Later, when I became secretary, one of my duties was to thread the hired film through the projector in the gallery of the old hall where they were shown after school. The films were selected by Chemistry teacher Mr R C Vannoey, (RC from now on) the Chairman of the society, who oversaw operations.

I vividly remember showing *Great Expectations* directed by David Lean (1946) and being so impressed with the opening sequence in the churchyard on a dark windy night when Magwitch frightens the living daylights out of Pip. I decided that I would like to have a shot at making a film one day. In the 5th form following encouraging discussions with RC, we attempted a film along the lines of "*The Invisible Man*" popular on TV at the time. Our version told the adventures in the school of a boy who makes himself invisible by drinking an unknown liquid in the chemistry laboratory. It was entitled "Heard and Not Seen", I have no idea what happened to this film, I guess it ended up in that great film library in the sky!

This encouraged us to make a further attempt again with the tremendous encouragement and guidance from RC and this was the 'The Prefects'.

After all this time I really cannot remember what gave me the basic idea for the film. I just thought it would be fun to have the tables turned on the high and mighty disciplinarian Prefects ruling the school with a rod of iron and clamping down on all illegal activities, when in fact they were running a Casino Lounge including gambling, drinking, smoking etc, out of bounds, on the roof of the building.

At first, we created a 'Storyboard' which maps out each shot in sequence one after the other. We stuck to this originally, but I think it got left by the wayside at the end depending upon what we wanted to shoot, and which actors were available at the time.

When I speak about 'we' I mean the crew who could be different people at different times whoever was involved with particular shots. This would normally include Howard Garelick, our cameraman. I always listened to anybody's point of view but as the director my decision was what we shot.....

(To be continued in the next OCC Newsletter, however, if you wish to read the all three parts together then email admin@oldcamdenians.info for your free copy)

John Godfrey

I thoroughly enjoyed listening in to the AGM in October. Ray had given me lessons on how to get onto Zoom with my landline phone for free. I even came into one of their Committee meeting as it finished and talked about my experiences of being evacuated from the school during WWII. Thank you all.

Old Camdenians – Alumni Success Stories

www.oldcamdenians.info

Have you visited our website recently? There is a rich source of information for you to access. 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. Read the school's weekly newsletter 'The Beacon', where we have a voice too with links to our website. Visit Beacon High's website and 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?

CHROMEBOOKS FOR ALL

(An extract from *The Beacon* Vol 5: Issue 2; dated 13th Nov 2020)

"As you will have recently been reading in our coverage in the Beacon, our students have benefitted from the 'Chrome books for all' initiative. We are very lucky to have support with this project due to the generosity of The Old Camdenians. I interviewed students for some feedback on how they were finding using Chromebooks as a learning tool. The overwhelming view was that it was really good to have them both at home and in lessons for independent research around topics that were covered in lessons. One student said he "liked the quizzes because they are fun and interactive and you can instantly see how you do compared to your friends - but in a good way!". Students preferred using them at home for learning and felt that if they had to self-isolate and work from home for a short time it is preferable to using their phones to access content, as with phones there was a tendency to "procrastinate".

"Dear families,

*Thank you to all of you who engaged in our first virtual Academic Planning Day. It was a positive experience for most of us, although I appreciate there were some technical difficulties. If you were unable to meet with your child's Form Tutor, please do arrange a time as soon as possible. As I have said in my last couple of newsletters things at school remain positive and our learners have settled into the new way of working. Almost all of our learners now have Chromebooks which are really helping their learning. Our teachers are also uploading all of their lessons to Google classroom so that any students who have to self-isolate can also access their lessons from home and follow their normal school timetable. There should be no missed learning days. If you have been unable to commit to purchasing a Chromebook, please contact us to discuss any support you may need. We have been lucky enough to receive a payment from the Old Camdenians to purchase Chromebooks for families who are having financial difficulties during the pandemic. **Their generosity has been amazing.** Year 11 Mocks begin in one week. Could Year 11 families please ensure that they are studying at home. It is even more imperative than normal that our learners achieve as highly as they can in these mocks as the outcomes not only help us decide on tiers of entry and predicted grades for college applications, but they may become an important part of our teachers' final assessments of their learning." Yours sincerely Alan Streeter*

FORMER STUDENT STARTS LAW CONVERSION COURSE AT WARWICK

(An extract from *The Beacon* Vol 5: Issue 3; dated 20th Nov 2020)

Ellie left Holloway School/Beacon High in the summer of 2018, she has now started her History and Law Conversion course at Warwick University. Thanks to the Old Camdenians, Ellie has been awarded an £2000 bursary from 'The Bill and Nora Wraight Old Camdenians Memorial Fund'. She is using the money to support her studies, buying books, stationary and other equipment, as well as to pay for some of her travel costs. She is finding this extremely helpful in addition to her student loan. She said she had not realised how expensive living independently can be! When Ellie left school, she studied A Levels at LEA Tottenham. She liked their approach to learning as it was more like school with lots of support, structure, and intervention, unlike many college courses. She knew as early as Year 11 that she had an interest in Law and wanted to go on to study in this field at University after her Year 11 academic mentor, Ms Blanche, managed to find her work experience in Chambers in Gray's Inn Road. Ellie hopes to work in Construction Law in the future. She has offered to come back to school to speak to Beacon High students interested in pursuing a future in Law and the Bill and Nora Wraight Old Camdenians Memorial Fun. For more alumni information check out this link

Contact from some of our Members

Ann Batterbury (nee Nursaw)

Ann's father, William George Nursaw, born 5th September 1903, attended 'Holloway' from 1913-1918. Bill was a keen sportsman and at the age of 18 ran youth clubs at the Round Chapel, Clapton Park and then the Congregational Church, Chingford. Bill had a successful career in the City and wrote weekly financial articles for 'The Observer' and published a number of books (see *website*). Bill attended every Old Camdenian dinner from 1923 to 1957, with the exception 1927 and during WWII. Beale's Restaurant; the Kings Head Hotel; the Comedy Restaurant and the Connaught Rooms. How do we know? Ann has donated Bill's 'dinner menu' cards – all signed by other guests! Wow, many thanks Ann. I will scan these and place them on the website for all to see. Bill passed away on 3rd August 1994. Meanwhile, Ann is trying to piece together more information on Bill (*to be continued*).

A few more members who also got in touch with us:- **Trevor Meboroh-Collinson** (72/80); **Paul Smith** (88/97); **Pete Gourri** ((81/86); **Dr. Ahmed Lawal** (91/96); **Brian Lofts** (54/61); **Phil Cowley** (55/60); **Howard Embleton** (59/65); **Eric Heliczzer** (50/54); **John Fitch** (63/70); **Carolyn Sargent** (**Denis Steele** (34/39); **Patrick Pearman** (57/63); **Michael Dawson** (58/64); **Philip Patsalos** (63/70); **Brian Heard** (56/63); **Berry Jordan** (**Paul Coffman** (56/64); **Pete Joseph** (68/74). **John Godfrey** (41/44); **Dave Morgan** (63/70) Let us know if you want to make contact. We can pass on your details.



Old Camdenians' Newsletter Dec 2020

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

Twitter: [@old_camdenians](https://twitter.com/old_camdenians) Facebook: [@old_camdenians](https://www.facebook.com/old_camdenians)