



Believe, Belong, Become



Aspire, Achieve, Succeed

Old Camdenians' Newsletter March 2021

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Alan Streeter

News from our President

Dear Old Camdenians

I wanted to start by thanking you for your generosity. Thanks to our "Chromebooks for All" initiative which was supported by the OCC, all of our learners had devices to enable their remote learning during the latest lockdown. It has made such a difference to their learning experience whilst they have been out of school. Nevertheless, there is no substitute for being in school learning and socialising and it has been great to welcome back all of our students to the school since the beginning of March. It has been a difficult few months for the staff and students at the school and I am sure you will join me in remembering those people past and present who have been lost during this pandemic. This strange term has also brought a new dimension to our education practices, with in school Covid testing and a remote Ofsted inspection; things we could not have imagined a year ago.

We also want to extend our congratulations to Denis Piggott, who is the new Chairman of the Old Camdenians, taking over from Ken Ranson. Denis is keen to embrace the school's values in the OCC's membership. Indeed, he wishes to work with Beacon High's "Headteacher Ambassadors" so they can influence the future of the OCC. Denis is a journalist and has been a supporter of the OCC since being at the school in the late 60s.

Yours sincerely

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 of Community Schools

Message from Islington Futures Governing Board

I write this as our students are returning to Beacon High, and they are returning with enthusiasm. Whilst the school has been open throughout, with around 35-40 students each day, by the end of this week all year groups will be back, tested and learning in class. It is not yet back to "normal" but it is heading that way.

The decision to provide each student with a laptop last June was a good one. Your support in helping us do that has been invaluable. In January all our students knew how to use them, knew what to expect and have been participating in lessons in line with the normal timetable throughout. We now look forward to the summer term, with a responsive timetable and plans and hopes to ensure that we also provide a rich experience at school, with drama, music, sports and fun. Our young people need this.

The past few months have seen loss in many parts of our community, and in our school community. This is really hard, whether old or young, natural or violent our thoughts are with family and friends who are missing loved ones.

As spring is here, and many of us (with the benefit of age!) are now vaccinated at least once, let us build on the hopeful signs of a better time ahead for all. **Jill McLaughlin**

Denis Piggott

Chairman's message

Greetings, Old Camdenians. I am privileged to have been asked to be your new chairman, and I should like to introduce myself. I was at Holloway School between 1963 and 1970 and have remained in contact with several of my illustrious contemporaries, Ray Rowe included. I am a journalist by trade (now retired), living in north London, and in my time have worked for both the Guardian and the Daily Telegraph, so my political leanings may be regarded as up for conjecture.

The past year has been an exceptionally difficult and testing one for everyone, beset, of course, by tragedy. However, I am optimistic about the times ahead, and I look forward to working with Ray, the rest of the committee, the members and the school to help bring about a bright new future for the OCC. **Denis Piggott**

Richard Brown

Life Vice-President



Professor Robert Pinker CBE
27th May 1931 to 2nd February 2021

Our school song invites us to recall 40 years on, and wonder what we were like in our work and our play. Now, nearly eighty years on, I recall being with Bob Pinker at Holloway School; it was September, 1943, we were among the first intake to join the school in London after the school returned from evacuation to Towcester. As 11-year-old boys, we had already experienced the London blitz, part-time schooling, food rationing, fathers, elder brothers, and other family members away at war. We had earned our places at Holloway having passed the 11-plus examination. We must have looked a ragged band of third formers for one master to describe us as “guttersnipes”.

Throughout our school years, Bob literally stood head and shoulders above most of us. He was strong, a big fellah, friendly and approachable. I witnessed the embryo of an academic with the common touch. He was so grown up; he spoke with a pleasant bass sound while others shrieked between a broken treble and a croak. In addition to all his educational attributes, he was no mean boxer. Opponents had to be “encouraged” into the ring with him. If required, he could land a bloody nose to a deserving recipient in the playground. Who would not want to, or claim to be, his friend? Bob was an accomplished artist. His striking, dominant, multicoloured paintings decorated the art room walls. Art Brown thought he could make a successful career as an artist.

With the help of Mr Seitz’s jelly tray, I produced a weekly school news sheet, including a prize crossword puzzle. The sheet was distributed on Mondays and the prize awarded on Fridays to the first completely correct answer; invariably, Bob was the first, gladly accepting the 3rd prize.

There is a fascinating account in Dr John Hudson’s *Centenary Retrospect* relating to R.G. Dixon, who taught English, and Bob. I wish every school teacher could read that article; it emphasises the powerful influence that one dedicated and committed teacher can have on the future life of a pupil. Bob’s parents, like most parents of Holloway schoolboys at that time, were neither rich nor well off; they were ordinary working folk wanting to do their best but perhaps did not appreciate or realise the outstanding potential that Bob had.

R.G. Dixon was the same master who had addressed us as guttersnipes on our arrival at Holloway. However, in time he clearly recognised that Bob was something special, and with nurturing and further education would go far. He wanted Bob to stay on in the sixth form, prior to university, Unfortunately, Bob’s parents were not of the same opinion; not because they did not want him to progress, but because they could not afford it. Mr Dixon took the unimaginable step of personally

persuading Mr & Mrs Pinker and convinced them to allow Bob to stay on for the sixth form and university. The rest of Bob's story can be told by any number of people. I had witnessed the X factor.

The determination and impact of one special Holloway School teacher, by taking extraordinary measures, made it possible for a local boy to achieve international recognition. The memory of that act and the effect that it had on me, that alone Bob, remained with me throughout my working life and my membership of the Old Camdenians Club. **Richard Brown**

David Smith adds: I was very sad to hear the news of Bob Pinker. The splendid tribute from Richard leaves little for me to say. I was a year younger than Bob, but both joined the school in 1943. After both dodging the doodlebugs in summer 1944, he became a classmate of mine from autumn 44 until we left school from the upper sixth in 1950. I believe he was a founder member of the Boxing Club under the Latin master M. Mansfield, which had a good inter school record. Ken Ranson would be the authority on this. He also had great respect for the maths master, Mr Griffith (Bunny). Bob's strongest subject was certainly not maths which was one of the compulsory subjects required for Matric, but he made it with great thanks to him. Incidentally, Mr Griffith showed his great empathy toward me while I was at school and particularly about a year after I left when I needed support.

The following is an extract from *Holloway School Centenary Retrospect (2009)*:

Bob Pinker was a contemporary of Richard Brown and remembers being taught by "some outstanding men during my years at Holloway but, when I look back, Grahame (Dixon) stands out as the very best of them all. I can never repay the debt I owe him. When I went to Holloway at the age of 13, I was a precociously well-read, semi-numerate boy, full of literary enthusiasms but totally lacking in any semblance of intellectual discipline. Grahame was my form master in the Remove. He must have seen some promise in me because he took me in hand, taught me the elements of grammar, set me extra essays and encouraged my early attempts at poetry and short stories. Most of all, he gave me the confidence that I inwardly lacked and filled me with ambition".

Bob goes on, "I was the first in my family to stay on at school after the age of 14. My parents wanted me to leave after matriculation. I desperately wanted to stay on so asked Grahame to put in a good word for me at the last parents' evening of my fifth year."

Grahame did more than this; here is a copy of what he wrote on 21st July 1948:

"Dear Mrs Pinker,

I was very sorry to miss you on the evening of Open Day at Holloway School. I understood too late that you were present and should have welcomed the pleasure of meeting you. I wanted to have a word with you about your son, Robert, in whom I am very much interested. I am therefore taking the liberty of writing to you instead.

I am much impressed with his literary talent. I have had twenty-five years teaching boys, most of them being senior boys and candidates for Matriculation and the Higher School Certificate and candidates for University Scholarships. Robert has, I am sure, creative power and a vivid imagination, both of which are vital for a literary career. His command of words is exceptionally good, and his efforts in literary media both varied and promising. His weakness is merely that of youth: a certain lack of self-discipline in his writing. He will acquire that, once his School Certificate stage is past. He needs to toil harder at what he does; he has fluency and facility in writing, and his imagination runs away with him at times. But these are excellent signs of an overplus of creative faculty; he will find inevitably

the need to grapple with his difficulties. His poems are examples of this. He produces verses that show undoubted talent. His prose shows the same fault; he hastens so fast that his punctuation suffers. But it is good prose all the same, full of energy and imagination.

Robert reads a good deal, and he reads good stuff, and thinks about what he reads. He has a genuine taste for good literature. It would be a pity if these tastes and talents were not allowed opportunity for development. Robert is just the boy to gain immense benefit from a post-School Certificate Course in the Sixth Form, and to go on to his Higher Schools Certificate in March 1950. I can give him the guidance and direction for such a Course as far as his English goes, and I know his response will be good, and my efforts well worth while in his care.

I do hope you will consider favourably the possibility of allowing him to remain at School until he can sit for the Higher Schools Certificate. That certificate is a valuable qualification in itself, and I feel sure he should be able to gain it. He is enthusiastically prepared to work hard - I know that. He never wastes a moment of his time; he is always engaged upon some project or other. I sometimes envy his energy; you ought to feel gratified that your son is such a one. He will never let the grass grow under his feet. He has supreme confidence in himself; this is good. It is true his ambitions are heavily salted with youthful impatience; he cannot understand why the magazines will not accept his contributions! They will not do so yet, but I feel pretty sure the time will come when they will.

I do not yet know whether Robert will prove a possible candidate for a University Scholarship, but there seems no reason at present why he should not. He would be the right type for a University career, by the way; it would be the making of him. Preferably my own university or that of Cambridge. It is worth considering.

Please forgive my presumption in writing you. My excuse must be my fondness for your son, and my hopes for his future,

Sincerely yours,

R. G. Dixon

Senior English Master, Holloway School"

Bob's parents were persuaded, and Bob goes on: "Grahame set me a standard in life I tried to live up to during my career as a university teacher - a career that he made possible for me." RIP Bob

P.S. Lesley Meyer OC, daughter of Alan Meyer, recalls Bob Pinker presenting her with her BSc degree at the Royal Albert Hall. Lesley studied at the Royal Holloway and Bedford New College.

George Costas Panayi

14th January 1942 to 21st February 2021



George followed many others by joining the Old Camdenians via the football club, after leaving Holloway school in 1959. From the outset, George was always full of energy, enthusiasm, and encouragement, which continued throughout a career spanning at least 25 years, mainly with the club's lower sides and the Veterans XI.

Initially, George was a successful goal poacher, which occasionally resulted in the ball skidding off his shiny, prematurely bald, head past a startled goalkeeper – alas sometimes his own! Later George reverted to a more defensive role, adopting a strict, but always fair, “Thou shalt not pass” approach.

George was also an occasional cricketer, who never failed to turn out if any side was short. Moreover, George and his ever-supportive wife, Angela, were among the cricket club's touring party to New Zealand in 1987, where George took on the role of team manager for the football matches arranged as ‘relaxation’ from the cricket schedule.

Off the field, George's commitment to Old Camdenians was just as evident by his willing involvement with work at Burtonhole Lane and by his support for fund raising events. George was particularly proud of his appointment as Chairman of the OCFC for several successive seasons. This led to his election onto the main OC Committee, where his common sense and plain speaking were greatly valued for many years.

In short, George was a great clubman, whose contribution will never be forgotten, and whose sense of humour and sociability will be much missed by all who knew him. [Alan Meyer](#)



Old Camdenians Tour Football XI in Auckland, New Zealand 1987
Standing: Martin Quilter, Alan Eales, Dave Cronin, Tony Crick, Roger Gravett, Paul Goff, Martin Davies
Front Row: Ian Scott, Colin Davies, George Panayi, Peter Thompson, John Hensman, Colin Robinson

Adele Panayi writes: George was born on January 14th 1942, in Coventry, to Joanna and Costas Panayi. A couple of years later the family moved to London, settling into the family home at 5 Yerbury Road. George was big brother to five siblings, Peter, Frosty, Christala, Sylvia and Dasy, and by all accounts they had a lot of fun together. Rumour has it George was quite mischievous. There was the time that he put firecrackers under the table and lit them as his dad sat down to eat. Helping his brother and sisters out of a cellar window to play outside when they should have been in. Always making sure that they were all back home by dinner time. George never got caught. As they all grew older George remained very close, meeting up regularly for tea and a chat. Always there whenever he was needed. George was the best brother they could have had.

George was a civil engineer for 50 years, however, on being made redundant George retrained as an electrical engineer working up to 2020. In 1969, George married Angela and started their family with the birth of Adele and then Anthony, having only moved up the road to number 19 where they lived very happily for over 50 years.

Along the way George made some lifelong friends in Margaret & Ron and Malcolm and Carol. George's adventurous, fun, and sometimes excitable side often got him into trouble. There was the time George went camping with Malcolm and Carol, arrived in complete darkness, George drove the car into a field where he and Malcom pitched the tent with only the light from a little tilly lamp, only to find out in the morning that George had pitched up in an army field and there were tanks coming towards them! The many boisterous times that were had at Margaret & Ron's which resulted in all sorts of accidents and injuries – a football through the patio doors, elbows through windows and many bangs to the head were had by all. The fun times everyone had at New Years; playing blind man's bluff and twister. So many memories.

George was very proud of his family and they were privileged to have had George in their lives. Always encouraging Adele and Anthony to try new things and when Adele used to say, "I don't like it, or I can't do it", George's reply was always the same, "How do you know if you don't try it?" Anthony followed in George's sporting footsteps and George was immensely proud of that. Always there with wise words and good advice. George worked hard so that the family could have a good life and nice holidays. Many a happy one in Cornwall, Margate, and the Isle of Wight. George travelled widely around the world on cricket tours, diving holidays and with friends and family, visiting some fantastic

countries like New Zealand, Fiji, Cuba, The Philippines. What an experience that must have been. George really did know how to get the most out of life. George had such a passion for learning new things and that was always in him right up to the end. This was also something George encouraged others to do. Life really is just a journey of learning. George played football, cricket, squash, and scuba diver. George was also an accomplished ballroom dancer. George had such a zest for life and lived his life to the fullest that George could.

All that said what everyone will remember most about George is that George was a very kind, funny, intelligent, compassionate man, never judging anyone, always being there to lend a helping hand when needed.

We are all immensely proud to be able to call George husband, dad, grandad, great-grandad, brother, uncle, and friend, and so very lucky to have had George in our lives. We will all miss George so, so much. George will never be forgotten. [Adele Panayi](#)



In December 2020, George contracted Covid-19 and his health began to suffer. He was taken into hospital on 22nd December and for the next two months he fought the virus. George had one to one care and someone was with him all the time. Sadly, George died on 21st February.

George was well respected, likeable, even tempered and sincere. Our thoughts are with Angela, Adele, Anthony and all the family, to whom we send our condolences.

The funeral service took place at Islington Cemetery, London N2, at 11.45am, on Monday 8th March. George Ives, John Maskell and Raymond Rowe attended on behalf of the OCC. The service was streamed live and many of you joined us. Alex Bols said, "It was a lovely service for George on Monday I thought, always fun to hear more of people's more mischievous sides!"

George was passionate about scuba diving and was both trainer and safety officer at his local scuba diving club. With all his equipment there is still that cheeky smile behind the face mask!

The George Panayi Forever by the Sea Tribute Fund', dedicated to George's memory, is fundraising for RNLi Lifeboats. Visit <https://georgepanayi.muchloved.com> and read the tributes, which include:



"George was one of the nicest people I have ever encountered he was always willing to help me within my dive club. I will miss the pool-side chats"

"A great friend and a loyal Camdenian"

"So sorry you left before your time and a meet-up had been on the cards. Respect to you George and condolences to Angela and family"

"RIP George. Enjoyed diving with you. I was greatly looking forward to meeting you again at the proposed Overboard Diving Club reunion, but sadly that is not to be".

"George, a wise man, had time for everyone, your enthusiasm was an inspiration to me. Always be remembered, never be forgotten. Rest in peace"

"In fond memory of a much-respected diver and friend who was always happy to help club members on their diving journey. A proper gentleman (in the truest sense of the word) at all times. George, you will be sorely missed."

"Sleep peacefully George. Will always be in our hearts xx"

"With fond memories of George as a fellow member of the Old Camdenians cricket club especially the tour of Trinidad and Barbados in 1989"

"In memory of George RIP"

"Always a gentleman. Some people are missed more than others, George will be greatly missed by all who had the pleasure of knowing him."

"A good man & a good dive buddy. We will miss you. with love"

"So sorry for your loss."

"Thanks for everything that you did for the OCs over many years, you will be much missed"

"A gent and a true OLD CAMDENIAN rest in peace."

"Dear George - Thanks for all the great times we have had over the last 50 years during our times with the Old Camdenians Football and Cricket including our great tour to NZ via Fiji, Hawaii and Australia and on an early tour to the West Indies. Your company will be greatly missed"

"Thank you, George, for all your wise advice and assistance. We know that you supported the RNLI, therefore, we can keep that support ongoing. The Old Camdenians"

RIP George

Raymond Rowe

Update on the Old Camdenians' Chromebook Fund

Thanks to your continued generosity, the OCC has donated £4,320, that is 36 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, especially with the return to school. 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 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 a confirmation direct to admin@oldcamdenians.info

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'Old Camdenians Club'

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Donate £120
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Future.

Ray Rowe

Secretary's update

I am delighted that Denis Piggott, a good friend, distinguished journalist, and supporter of the OCC since being School Captain at Holloway School in the late 1960s, is the new Chairman of the Old Camdenians. Denis is keen to embrace the school's co-educational values into the OCC's membership. Indeed, to co-opt Beacon High's Headteacher Ambassadors onto the OC Committee where they can influence the future of the OCC. I speak for all of us when I say we wish him all the best and give him our full support.

Brian Lofts continues to explain the *Making of the Prefects – Part 2* elsewhere in this newsletter. We have serialised it in three parts, but those of you who cannot wait for the last instalment please email me and I will send you a free copy of the complete set. Some of you have done so and this has led to much debate as to the whereabouts of the original film and scripts. The British Film Institute is interested too; so please look in your attics. Mary and Howard Embleton did just that and have found Richard Best's and Brian Lofts' "Script Copy Number:21"; issued to H. Embleton with the words 'PLEASE DO NOT LEAVE LYING AROUND' printed in bold! Indeed, they found a complete set of Holloway School Film Society programme notes: 1 to 30. This is a complete record from the first film, *The Colditz Story*, to *On the Waterfront*. We hope to get these onto our website to share with you – so watch this space and check out www.oldcamdenians.info.

Despite the third Covid-19 lockdown, the OC Committee have been busy and communicating via Zoom. We all look forward to the day when we can meet each other again. In the meantime, if anyone would like to meet up on Zoom with their OC friends, then please let me know and the OCC will see if we can host it for you. A group of 12 OCs, from 1963-70, have been piloting the project and meeting once a month. It is free and fun. As stated above you can join for free via a landline anywhere. Tell your friends about it.

Barbara Stokes Chaubard, daughter of the late professor Eric Thomas Stokes, contacted me from the University of Lorraine, France, concerning an error in the Eminent OC's list. She noticed that St Catharine's College, Cambridge, was misspelt with an 'e' in the middle instead of an 'a'. Also, she stated, "I would be most interested if you have any information about the History master, Mr King, and the evacuation of the Holloway Grammar School to Towcester in World War II (1941/1942?)".

I duly made the correction to the Eminent OC's list and sent Barbara an email:

"I have managed to trace Mr King's connection with Holloway; he went on to become Headmaster of Highbury School. I will stop there, and you can read for yourself what M. W. Brown has to say about Mr King in the foreword to the *Holloway School Jubilee Retrospect 1907-1957*. Also, in the same publication, on pages 18 & 19, is an article on the evacuation to Towcester in WWII. I hope that is sufficient for your needs. Enjoy! Please feel free to add any information that you may have."

Well, in our December newsletter I informed you that we were in receipt of OCC Annual Dinner Menu Cards - 1923-1957. Whilst scanning them I made an interesting discovery and emailed Barbara again:

"W.G.Nursaw's daughter donated all her father's OCC Annual Dinner Menu Cards - 1923-1957, with the exception of 1927 and WWII, as stated in the latest newsletter. I am currently scanning them

to place on the OCC's website and, noticed that your father is there at the OCC's Farewell Dinner for F.R. Hurlston-Jones Esq., M.A., Saturday 7th December 1946: Toasts; 'The School and Staff'; proposed by E.T.Stokes, Esq!!! Serendipitous or what?"

Barbara replied:

"Thank you very much for both your emails. Quite a coincidence that you have just discovered that my father proposed a toast on Saturday 7th December 1946 at the annual dinner. In October 1946 (aged 22) my father, having served in the Indian Mounted Artillery, returned to Christ's College, Cambridge to continue his studies. I imagine he enjoyed seeing his old masters and headmaster on this occasion and had a story or two to tell about his time in India. I will write again in the New Year."

Hopefully, both the *Holloway School Jubilee Retrospect 1907-1957* and the *Holloway School & Old Camdenians' Club Centenary Retrospect* will be available to download from our website. If you need any information or spot any errors, then please let me know. We are making some changes to our website so please be patient.

Lastly, I would like to thank all of you that have contributed to this newsletter and especially to Sarah McDonald for placing Bob Pinker's and George Panayi's obituaries in *The Beacon*. [Ray Rowe](#)

News from some of our committee members

George Ives

Pam and I have had the jab and I have nothing but praise about the experience. First our Surgery went to great lengths to see that nothing stood in the way of an appointment at 5.30pm. Our surgery had combined with four others to open a centre at Wycombe Wanderers Ground, and tribute to them for providing ideal surroundings. When we arrived, volunteer parking marshals helped us to park close to the entrance and encouraged us to stay in the car until just before our appointment time.

We duly did and were met at the door by further volunteers. One who was directing people to the injection booths saw that Pam was very nervous, and I explained she had a phobia regarding needles. He quickly reassured her he would find the gentlest nurse and also hurried over to one to explain Pam's concerns. We were greeted by the nurse who was so kind and sympathetic, and the result was that when Pam was injected, she did not realise it had been done. We had a label stuck on our chests to indicate the time we should be able to leave. Outside once again the marshals were extremely helpful.

I must say that it was an experience I would not have missed because so many of the helpers and staff were smiling and indeed the recipients were also happy. It is a long time since I have been in an atmosphere so enlightening. Proud I am that the organisation was put together, proud of our country and yes, our government that made it all possible. I was in London during the Blitz and have not seen such devotion since then, until now. What it is to be British!

The ongoing saga regarding the annual lunch.

You may recall that we had hoped the postponed annual lunch could take place on June 4th this year. We have reluctantly had to abandon that idea due to Covid restrictions. We are now looking at either Friday October 22nd or 29th. Sorry not to be more precise but it is not yet known whether this will be compatible with the school's calendar as the Government has not finally decided what the school year dates will be. As soon as we get the go-ahead, we will inform you!

On a personal note, I add my sincere condolences regarding the passing of Bob Pinker and George Panayi. Both were stalwarts of the Club and regularly attended the annual lunch. Indeed George, some of you may recall, did a sterling job in organising the reception bar.

To quote an old Army phrase, "One volunteer is worth ten pressed men". We urgently require one volunteer to take responsibility for the bar. The recompense is: "Thanks for the effort." [George Ives](#)

Your Club Needs You!

Please join if you are not already a member



50+ Club 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 the 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](#)

[Ambassador for the Bill and Nora Wraight Old Camdenians Memorial Fund](#)

What a year it has been... being off main campus now for almost four months is difficult for any first-year student, but to think this will continue until September is dreadful. As much as it is upsetting to be away from friends, it has brought the family closer, and work seems to be more comforting when doing it from home.

I have begun my journey as a history student, but have now decided to go straight into law from September due to the pandemic. Time is of the essence, so becoming a lawyer quicker seems to be my only focus.

However, on a positive note, the Bill and Nora Wraight Old Camdenians Memorial Fund has helped massively in contributing to my university life from home. I have been able to purchase new equipment that makes university seem a little more exciting than it really is right now. I am a lover of reading, and this fund has helped buy me new books that could last me a lifetime. My heart goes out to everyone who is part of the Old Camdenians for creating this lovely gesture and helping all these students in the good times but also the bad. So thank you. [Ellie Mandla](#)

Brian Lofts, writer and director of *The Prefects* (1961)

The making of *The Prefects*, part 2 of 3

A word about RC. He was always helpful and prevented us from making many basic errors in production. He left the actual shooting to us unless we specifically asked for his help and guidance. He had much technical knowledge and was instrumental in getting the nuts and bolts done, for example he arranged for the opening credits to be added. In the practicalities of production, he was invaluable and for ever understanding and tolerant. We could have not had a better mentor.

The film was financed by The Parent- Teacher Association. Our movie camera was a mechanical 16mm Bolex (Reflex I believe), meaning you can see through the lens what you are shooting at the time, made by Paillard in Switzerland. It took 100feet reels of film giving roughly 2½ minutes of screen time at 24 frames a second. The camera could be handheld but mostly we used a tripod. The film was sent away for processing and we were never sure what our success rate was until, several days later, we received it back developed. It was run through our splicing machine which had a small central screen for viewing with spools on either side which were wound round by a small handle. It enabled us to splice out the bits we did not want and to stick together the bits we did. This was done on a metal splicer in front of the screen.

Continuity and attention to detail is most important to ensure that no obvious mistakes in background location or physical appearance are made. This can and should be detected whilst editing. Retakes are required to correct any glaring errors. The aim is to make the action flow naturally and therefore good editing is vital. B. Barnes was on continuity, Brian Turner editing and Howard Garelick the cameraman. Although we all did a bit of each as and when necessary, a real team effort !

We attempted to film from the beginning in sequence but as always, some scenes were shot on different days depending on which personnel were available. For the opening shots through the train driver's window and early scenes RC wrote to British Rail for permission to film on the train and the platform at Kentish Town station. The chauffeur meeting me was an English master accomplished in amateur dramatics Mr P K Wright. He was incredibly happy to use his own vintage Rolls Royce which looks so impressive.

Most of the rest of the filming was done out of school hours when we had the building to ourselves. We shot in normal daylight except when we needed to light the staircase when the Head detects and disconnects the warning beam. I was pleased with the long shot down the corridor when the shadow of his gown passes the internal window. Also the long shot when he walks across the playground after receiving the champagne cork on his head and the close up of the whistle in the Prefect's mouth before arresting the smoking boys... **Brian Lofts**

To be continued in the next OCC Newsletter, however, if you wish to read all three parts together then email admin@oldcamdenians.info for your free copy. Also, since publication of Brian's first installment in the December newsletter, there has been much interest from many of those involved in the making of *The Prefects*. Indeed, we are now in dialogue with the British Film Institute which is interested in seeing the original film – is it lying out there in someone's attic?

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. 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?

NEW CHAIRMAN OF THE OLD CAMDENIANS

From *The Beacon* Vol 7: Issue 3; dated 12th March 2021

"Denis Piggott, a distinguished journalist, and supporter of the OCC since being School Captain at Holloway School in the late 60s, is the new Chairman of the Old Camdenians. Denis is keen to embrace the school's co-educational values into the OCC's membership. Indeed, to co-opt Beacon High's 'Headteacher Ambassadors' onto the OC Committee where they can influence the future of the OCC. We wish him all the best and give him our full support".

There were full-page tributes and photos too; for both Bob Pinker and George Panayi.

Keeping in touch

A few members who also got in touch with us: **Martin Daines** (56/59); **John Chandler** (57/64); **Ken Caplan** (56/62); **Bryon Barnes** (56/62); **Bill Rowe** (70/77); **Peter Rowe** (66/73); **Barbara Stokes Chaubard** (daughter) **Prof. Eric Thomas Stokes** (41/42); **Peter Scola** (59/64); **John Bowman** (66/71); **Steve J. Walton** (71/76); **John Bradford** (56/64); **Desmond Fanning** (49/57); **Haydn Boothroyd** (60s); **Pete Gourri** (81/86); **Mary & Howard Embleton** (59/65); **Eric Heliczer** (50/54); **John Fitch** (63/70); **Carolyn Sargent (Denis Steele)** (34/39); **Brian Lofts** (54/61); **Malcolm Zucconi** (63/70); **Louis Batey** (71/75); **Bob Pearson** (55/60); **Alan Robinson** (47/54); **David Smith** (43/50) **Amanda Wolsey** (daughter); **Ken Ranson, Life Vice President**; **Pete Joseph** (68/74); **David Pittom** (55/62); **Ann Neuff (John Simmonds)** (49/55).

Let us know if you want to make contact. We can pass on your details. Indeed, we can arrange a Zoom meeting with your friends – it is totally free!