



Believe, Belong, Become



Aspire, Achieve, Succeed

Old Camdenians' Newsletter June 2021

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Jill McLaughlin

Chair of Governors: Islington Futures Federation of Community Schools

Wow, time rushes past and here we are nearing the end of the summer term. It may be just that I am getting older, but everything seems a little less settled. That includes the weather and of course the Covid situation.

Beacon High, led by the admirable and incredibly conscientious Alan Streeter, has we think fared well, or as well as could possibly be hoped. The short Ofsted review of last term was incredibly positive. I saw for myself the strength of Alan and his senior team in responding to their enquiries, in showing off the school to its best advantage. Despite the significant disruption to their education since March 2020, Year 11 left the school having committed to intense learning and testing since returning to school in March. Gradually, the reputation of Beacon High is improving in the community by word of mouth, which is being reflected in increasing numbers coming to the school at a time when the number of children and young people in Islington and surrounding boroughs is reducing, and where there are significantly more school places than pupils to fill them. So, as we near the end of this term, Alan and his team deserve a resounding and loud cheer.

Beacon High is one of the schools in the Islington Futures Federation, which has been led by Jo Dibb, Executive Head. Jo's involvement in education in Islington started in Elizabeth Garrett Anderson School, the other secondary school in the federation. Jo is a force of nature, an inspiring leader who encouraged Alan to join what was then Holloway, who has worked closely with Alan and his team in their work to improve the school for everyone. Jo was due to leave us to take up that very active next stage of life (retirement doesn't really cover it) in December 2020, but at the outset of the Covid pandemic said she would stay on a while longer, and we are all grateful that she did. Jo is, though, now leaving, and is hoping that travel will very soon be allowed! I am sure she will very soon be working in a different way, with much more flexibility, continuing to contribute to the future of young people. I would encourage everyone to recognise the impact of Jo's leadership, her commitment to ensuring that pupils from all backgrounds have access to the best education, and her commitment to her team of staff. Inevitably, any plans we might have had for a celebratory thank you and farewell have fallen at the extension of social distancing restrictions.

Jo's successor, recruited over Zoom, is John Beighton, who has been working with us on a part-time basis since the beginning of April and takes over responsibility from Jo on 1st September. John has many years of broad and varied experience in education and we are confident he will help us all navigate our way through the current churned up education landscape. Changing bosses is always a little unsettling, but I and my fellow governors are confident that John will build on Jo's great work and see our schools go from strength to strength.

School governors are among the largest, if not the largest, group of volunteers in the country. It is not always clear what the impact of this time and effort is on a school. For the headteacher, we can at times seem like more work. Poor governance is more often than not highlighted at a time of an

organisation failing. The corollary surely must be that good governance, while often invisible, makes a difference, contributes to an organisation's success, and particularly ensures its resilience. In that vein I would ask you to give a big thank you to Alex Bols who took on the role of Chair of the Beacon High school committee, a founding member of the Islington Futures Federation, in September 2018. After three years Alex has decided to step down to focus on other areas of his life, including a new family member. Alex excels in many ways, he has been a stalwart supporter of the school, his analysis of data and organisation of it has proved of immense value in the two Ofsted inspections we have enjoyed, and has enabled us to plot and recognise the significant improvements in behaviour and achievement that have resulted from Alan's leadership. Alex has been a real supporter of Old Camdenians, and we shall miss him, thank him for his great work and wish him well in the future.

So, thank you all round, and as we go off for a well-earned summer holiday, enduring queues on the M1 rather than the departure lounge at Luton airport, it is a good time to look back, reflect on the last two years, remember those who are no longer with us, recognise what our schools, our students, staff and leaders have achieved, enjoy the company of our friends and relatives and make time for a good rest!

Denis Piggott Chairman

Thank you, Jill, for that uplifting message, and for highlighting the magnificent contribution made by all concerned to guiding the school through turbulent times to what is shaping up to be a bright future. Thank you, too, to Dennis Warwick, who below reminds us of the fun times at the last AGM and lunch we were able to enjoy together. As George Ives reports, we are on course to meet up again in October. Do come along if you can. There's an order form at the end of this newsletter.

It is particularly gratifying to hear from OCs here and around the world and find out what they've been up to. Read on for some great photos and tales of heroics on the football field. Remember, if you do get in contact with us, tell us the years you were at the school. It's a great reference point, and a memory jogger for your old classmates out there who may be reading this.

Dennis Warwick Vice-President

Unaware of world-changing events on the horizon, all enjoyed the 2019 lunch, although feast is perhaps a more accurate reflection of George and Pam's organisational skills. There are some who say it's the attraction of such an excellent, companionable lunch with copious 'refreshments' that ensures the preceding AGM is so well attended. However, AGMs sometimes overrun, as happened on this occasion, so was adjourned until later to enable the prepared feast to start on time. Of course, later was after bellies were filled, food washed down by unending liquid refreshment. As lunch drew towards a close, Ray reminded all they had yet to conclude the adjourned AGM. This resulted in a lively and robust response from all, not normally encountered at any AGM. Ray deserves credit for maintaining some control, desperation only surfacing when, meeting ending, he called for nominations for a new three-year Vice President. My particularly rowdy table, no doubt extracting revenge for perceived sufferings on their table, nominated me. Perhaps the least thought-out recommendation in OCC history. However, I confess to some pleasure that this North London lad, who could certainly identify with all others at the school of a similar humble upbringing, was now a VP. Nice title, assumed just honorary. Wrong.

So why this background? Being a VP introduced me to the ongoing activities of the committee. Previously I had attended AGMs and lunches, enjoyed meeting my peers and sharing with all, irrespective of age, the common bond of remembered time at our school and life thereafter. And, regretfully, again failing to acknowledge all the work of the few who ensure the OCC continues to survive in an ever-changing environment. The AGM and lunch being the culmination of a year's work to ensure the club survived, could continue its interface with the school, offer support to existing pupils and an open door for all to maintain ongoing contact when their school days were over. I guess Covid has reminded all of us not to take partners, family and friends for granted. Events have forced most, including myself, to contemplate what life would be without a loved one. While I will not go as far as to

say the OCC committee falls into that loved category, my role as VP has opened my eyes to all the background activities, week in week out, accomplished by the OCC team. United in a collective desire to maintain the link with the school that supported them through their formative years. These unpaid individuals ensure the OCC remains the connection between past, present, and future pupils and I will never again take this dedicated team for granted.

As one advances in age, for many of us it is only then, upon reflection, you really understand the importance of your school days and can appreciate having your own club that allows you a window into the past. However, with time, the existing committee will change, then it will need current or former pupils to provide the ongoing inspiration to drive our club forwards into future decades. It's a club worthy of our continued support.

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 pay electronically, and 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

**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.*

Fundraising for Beacon High

From *The Beacon* Vol 8: Issue 4; dated 14th May 2021

Fundraising is a little difficult at this time, while we're unable to hold events in person. The school is now registered with easyfundraising, so you can raise FREE donations for us when you do your everyday online shopping. All you have to do is find the retailer you want to shop with on the easyfundraising website or app, shop as usual and the retailer will donate to us when you make a purchase – at no extra cost to you!

https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/beaconhigh/?utm_campaign=raise-more&utm_content=s-n3

Ray Rowe Secretary

Brian Lofts concludes his explanation of the *Making of the Prefects – Part 3* elsewhere in this newsletter. We have serialised it in three parts, but those of you who missed any of the instalments please email me and I will send you a free copy of the complete set. As mentioned before, some of you have done so and this has led to much debate as to the whereabouts of the original film and scripts.

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.

News from committee members

George Ives

I am pleased to confirm that the annual lunch will take place at the school on Friday October 29th 2021. As per usual the lunch will start at 1pm, and will be preceded by the AGM at 12 noon. More importantly, the reception bar will open at 11am, which is when the school tour starts. The order form at the end of this newsletter has full details.

Owing to the sad demise of George Panayi, who ran the bar for more than 10 years, we shall have a new bar manager, namely our treasurer, Martin Quilter. He will be new to the job, so please do not overwhelm him!

Those of you who have not been to the school recently, please come along and see the enormous changes that have taken place. One important decision the committee has taken is to keep the price of a ticket the same: it's £30 per head, inclusive of all drinks at reception and during lunch (alcoholic and non-alcoholic). There is a special price of £15 to those under 21 or still in education. Another special price, of £7.50, will apply to parties of students who wish to meet up as a group. Why not arrange your own reunion at our reunion?

We hope that all of you will take advantage of the opportunity to meet old friends and make new friendships - and we can promise you all good food, good wine, good company and a good time.

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! But it is finally over, and I cannot wait to jump straight back in to my second year. So far studying at Warwick is great, the friends I have made, the relationships I have built and the support I have received is beyond what I expected.

The Bill and Nora Wraight funds have helped massively, and also don't know what I have done without the support of all of you too. Ray has been amazing and I always look forward to the

conversations we have about my university experience. I can't wait to tell you all about year two! Have the best summer.

Brian Lofts

Writer and director of *The Prefects* (1961)

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

I have been asked how I persuaded all those masters including Mr CF Lewis, the headmaster, to take part in the *The Prefects* filming. I approached Mr Lewis first and fortunately he readily agreed and in fact appeared to be enjoying the film-star experience! As for all the other masters who were happy to take my direction, I suspect, once they heard that the head was involved, were happy to join in too. They all entered the filmmaking experience with good humour and a sense of fun especially in the casino lounge scene.

While we were making our film, a unit from the BBC arrived to make a film about a particular aspect of school life. I was obviously very interested to speak to their director and cameraman. During a chat about general filmmaking principles, one of them asked me how much film we used and how many retakes we had to make. I told him that we usually managed to use most of what we had shot on any given day and therefore about 90% was in the final edit. He was astounded. He said that generally they only used about 50% of their first takes – if that!

It is surprising how normal everyday events not noticed while filming can often add to a scene, making it relate more to everyday life: people not involved in the film just walking in and out of shot, such as women with pushchairs or life just going on around the chauffeur waiting at the station.

We premiered the completed film, in the main school hall, for the Parent-Teacher Association, which had financed the enterprise. It was a great success and received many complimentary comments. Looking at the film years later, I can see how it could have been improved with more close-ups to emphasise actions, shorter shots and different angles, etc. Despite the shortcomings I now perceive, the film went on to achieve some success. In 1961 it was entered in the National Children's Film Awards competition organised by the National Union of Teachers. In October 1961 EA Terry, writing in the *Amateur Movie Maker* magazine, said *The Prefects* was “an unusually sophisticated comic fantasy, it proved to be far the best of the bunch. I shall never understand why *Scramble* got first prize when *The Prefects* was in the running.”

In July 1961 I was invited by the compere of BBC Television's *Film Club*, Tony Rose, to be interviewed about the making of the film live on BBC TV. After the interview, the last 10 minutes of the film was broadcast.

The Prefects was also entered in *Amateur Cine World* magazine's 16mm section along with some 80 other amateur films. The annual competition organised by the magazine awarded stars from 1 to 4 with GOLD at the top. In May 1962 they announced the awards for 1961 and said of *The Prefects*, “The film has high entertainment value and is an excellent example of school filmmaking.” They awarded the film a gold star.

Actors

W Barrow, Brian Brown (P), B Burgess, Leslie Button (P), Jacques Clokie (Master entering classroom and motioning to the prefects to sit), **Howard Embleton** (who I believe was responsible for the production of the DVDs on sale at the OCC's lunches), **G Faulkner, Howard Garelick (P)** (also cameraman for most shots), **William Harbison (P)** (the boffin in the white coat), **P Jolley, C F Lewis Headmaster, P Parr, Jeff Pritchard (P), Michael Rand (P), Ron Sorkin (P).**

Others were involved in minor roles and not credited.

Crew - who did not necessarily stick to their designated role but helped out as and when required.

D Gibson, B Heard - Camera. Responsible for looking after the camera and other jobs e.g. holding the scene take board before a shot.

Brian Turner - Editing

Howard Garelick - Cameraman

B Barnes - Continuity

Others involved in various production roles - **R. Best, Howard Embleton, J Hiscock, A Merel.**

Obviously, many masters were involved in the rooftop Casino Lounge scene, but I cannot remember all their names.

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 instalment in the December 2020 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?

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?

Keeping in touch

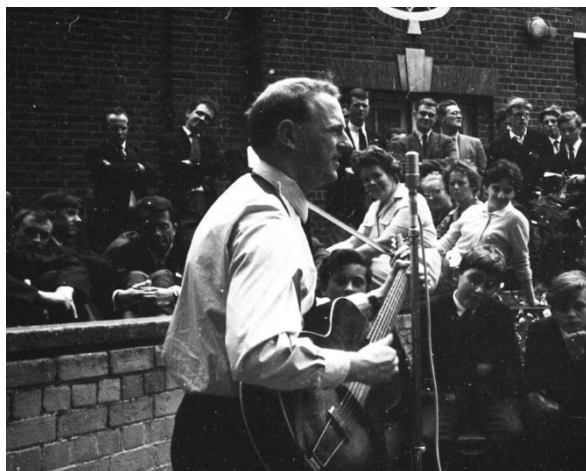
Geoff Seago (60/65) has written to us from Phuket, Thailand, where he moved to start a new life in 2010. He played in the 1964 London Grammar Schools U15 Cup winning team (pictured on the website), alongside Bobby Hartley, Tommy Youlden and the former Arsenal star Charlie George. Geoff is now 72 and continues to play in a multinational, multi-age-group club called Football for Fun & Fitness, with occasional guest appearances by the likes of Liverpool legend Alan Kennedy. Geoff says, "If anyone reads this and remembers me, please get in touch. I would love to hear from you." He is pictured here celebrating his birthday with his sons.



Continuing the football theme, **Owusu Abebrese**, a barrister, tribunal judge and legal academic, tells us he was in the Holloway team, along with **Tony Paul** and **Billy Penny**, that reached the English Schools U16 Final in 1977. The match was drawn and the trophy shared. Owusu recalls that he and **Toyin Okitikpi**, a social work academic and writer, were in the same class from the age of 11 and both associate schoolboys with Tottenham Hotspur. And Tony Paul has put on YouTube a video of the final of the U12 Holloway team winning the Ritchie Cup in 1973 - <https://youtu.be/7EWvs9rh1dU> .

Others who have made contact include: **Peter Holland**, who was at Holloway School from 1968 to 1975 and now lives in Suffolk; **Mike Newman** (53/56), a multiple England bowls champion, pictured here in two of his uniforms; **Panos Nicolaidis**, a former college lecturer and banker.

Finally, below we have some pictures from 1964. Can anyone put names to any of the faces? They are of a pop concert held in the Old Hall, a performance outside the library (is the guitarist a teacher?), and some cool dudes in class. **Remi Adefarasin** (OC and distinguished cinematographer) took the photos.



If you have information or wish to contact anyone mentioned here, please email admin@oldcamdenians.info



In memoriam

We have been informed of the deaths of the following OCs: **Brian Marson** (55/58) d. August 2018; **Pierre Curtis** (59/67) d. November 2020; and **Mike Denyer** (58/63) d. December 2020. Mike's friends from his band the Exeats have posted a moving musical tribute to him on YouTube at https://youtu.be/a_GaHWI_e0



Pierre Curtis and Mike Denyer

Old Camdenians Grand Reunion Lunch

At preCovid Prices

To be held at Beacon High School, London N7 0JG (tel.0207 607 5885)

Please return to **George Ives, 32 Amersham Hill Gardens, High Wycombe, HP13 6QR**

Tel:-01494 524 501

Email george.ives@btinternet.com

I shall be attending the Lunch on Friday 29th October 2021

Please reserve.....places for me and the following

I would like to sit near ----- If possible

I would like to donate £..... towards selected Students attending as guests

I enclose a cheque to **Old Camdenians Club** for £.....(£30 per person inclusive of wines etc.
Nonalcoholic drinks available (Students, and under 21's, £15)

I remitted £.....to Old Camdenians TSB Bank A/C Number 00100746 Sort Code 30-92-43

I remitted via Pay Pal £.....

I/We would like to apply for _____ special Student Tickets @ £7-50 each

For _____

Vegetarian meal-----YES/NO _Special Diet_____

I/we would/would not like to tour the new **School Facilities** at 11-00am

Name..... Dates at Holloway School.....

Address.....

.....

.....

Post Code.....Tel.No.....Mobile No.....

Email Address.....

N.B. Reception 11 am, School Tour 11am, AGM 12 noon, Lunch 1pm.

Off road parking available at the School. Enter via the original gates (closest to Camden Rd) that used to lead to the "Caretakers" House. Bus from Kings Cross is the "390"