



NEXT EVENTS

SUNDAY 3RD JULY

QQs SUMMER REUNION

11.45 COFFEE

12 NOON CRICKET QQs V QUEEN'S COLLEGE

13.00 LUNCH

14.00 TENNIS QQs V QUEEN'S COLLEGE

15.30 AFTERNOON TEA

SATURDAY 16TH JULY

CARIBBEAN DINNER

THE COLONY CLUB HOTEL, BARBADOS

WEDNESDAY 7TH SEPTEMBER

QQs UNIVERSITY EVENING FOR PRESENT SIXTH FORM

FRIDAY 11TH NOVEMBER

10.30 COFFEE QUEEN'S HALL FOYER

11.00 REMEMBRANCE SERVICE

12.15 QQs ARE WELCOME TO STAY FOR LUNCH

SATURDAY 12TH NOVEMBER

QQs SUPPER

PAC, QUEEN'S COLLEGE

SUNDAY 13TH NOVEMBER

QQs V WELLINGTON OBs RUGBY

QQ LADIES V WELLINGTON LADIES HOCKEY

FRIDAY 2ND DECEMBER

EXETER CHRISTMAS DINNER

EXETER GOLF AND COUNTRY CLUB

FRIDAY 9TH DECEMBER

QQs LONDON CHRISTMAS LUNCH

HOUSE OF COMMONS

QQs PARTY NIGHT

LOWNDES HOTEL, KNIGHTSBRIDGE

SATURDAY 31ST DECEMBER

MIDNIGHT BALL

QUEEN'S COLLEGE

QQS

Newsletter Summer 2011



Blair's special day was shared with his parents



Mrs Alana Cowan and Group Captain Alan Cowan



A Sandhurst Success

2nd Lt Blair Cowan (1998-2003) completed Commissioning Course 102 graduating on the Sovereign's Parade at the Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst, on 15 April 2011.

Blair attended Queen's College, Taunton, where he represented the school at rugby and was Head of Channon House. He graduated from

the University of Essex with BA (Hons) in Politics and, subsequently, worked, first, in the House of Commons for a MP and then as a political affairs officer in the Embassy of South Korea in London.

Blair is now a Troop Commander with 13 Air Assault Support Regiment RLC.



MIDNIGHT BALL AND CELEBRATION OF CHRIS ALCOCK'S 10 YEAR HEADSHIP

More details on page 5

President's Report



When Kim asked me to put together this report I was delighted to do so as although I have been in post for a short time only there are several points I would like to comment on.

Richard Lewis (1951-1956), the Lord Mayor of Swansea, invited a number of OQs to the Lord Mayor's Parlour. He is now coming to the end of his term but has earned himself a reputation as being one of the harder working Lord Mayors and has achieved more public engagements than any other of his predecessors. He invited several of the Swansea Old Queenians to afternoon tea in the Mayor's parlour (see pictures below). We had a very pleasant afternoon. During his year of office Richard has often been seen in his old boy's tie and has certainly raised the profile of the school locally.

The next event was yet again another successful meeting in the Army & Navy Club hosted by Michael Shellard and Peggy Hannam gave us a very entertaining speech as School Governor. It is very nice to have the interaction of Governors with the Association and an extremely pleasant evening was had by all. There was also an added extra in



that Michael gave a conducted tour of the art works of the Club. This I think was truly oversubscribed! It was a great success and enjoyed by everybody.

As far as future events are concerned, we would really like you to all attend the Summer Reunion on Sunday 3rd July 2011. Please bring family and friends for what is always a very pleasant and well-supported day.

I have also been informed that Kim is organising a New Year's Eve Ball at Queen's which will be a great opportunity for year groups to organise a table and I am sure many of you will be back from university or visiting friends and family for the Christmas holidays. Start planning now and lets see if we can fill some of those tables! Please look to the website for other events. We have spent a great deal of money and care in creating the website and we will be grateful if you would all use it.

I am delighted to note that some OQs have provided work placements for students at Queen's. I would appreciate it, as would the school, if as many of the old boys who can assist students currently at Queen's College with work experience would do so. Let the old boys share their undoubted experience with the present pupils.

As usual, I beg your support at the general events and for specific year group events, which seem to be taking off.

I hope you all have a pleasant summer and if at some time you are passing through the South West call in at Queen's College or attend an event!

**David Jones
President**



News from Hong Kong

Many thanks to Vivian Li our Hong Kong Ambassador for getting in touch with Connie Lam who has kindly submitted the following article:

It has been four years since I left Queen's. Although I am now a million miles away, I still remember the nice study environment, good teachers, good friends, and many happy moments at school. Two years at Queen's, exposed to a different culture, was of great benefit to me. I realized this when I had to work on projects with exchange students and I was able to communicate with them with confidence, in part because of my experience at Queen's. My three years of university life didn't only consist of work but also a lot of sport, especially softball. Being a member of the University of Hong Kong team was one of my best experiences. The residential halls culture in HK is quite different from the UK's and it took me time to adapt to the new environment! There are many traditional features of higher education in HK, introduced since the British colonization, a good example of which is the high table dinner (like the one in Harry Potter).

After my graduation with a degree in business and administration I was so lucky to have received an offer from one of the big four accountancy firms. I am now taking exams and, hopefully, will become a certified public accountant in a few years time. Although my career path seems bright and clear, I really miss the days at Queen's which seemed to be free of pressure and worries. I am grateful to have the chance to inform you of my experiences since leaving Queen's.

Connie Lam (2005-2007)

Thank You

To everyone who purchased tickets in the Prize Draw!

Your support contributed to the sum raised - £4,967. Perhaps a modest sum but it would have been less without your involvement. As with all these projects every little helps and larger sums are made from lots of small contributions.

How the money will be spent has been decided. Insufficient money was raised to meet the cost of all the targets so the Foundation will decide how the money is to be spent.

15 people have particular cause to celebrate being involved. At the drawing of winning tickets on Bank Holiday Monday (May 2nd) the following prizes were won.

Two tickets for a Rugby International	Mrs I Vaughan-Smith
A case of Cava	Tim Spoor
A Week in a Cottage in France	Gordon Fry
A flight in a vintage Auster Spotter Plane	Dr Richard Machell
A Henry Hunt Hoodie	Emily Bland
Two tickets to all the Quartz Festival events 2011	Nat Louis
Golf at Woodbury, Taunton & Pickering and Oake Manor	John Elford
Freshwater Pearl Earrings	Will Downs
Two tickets to a Test Match	Phil Jubb
A weekend in the Jumeirah Carlton Tower Hotel	Sheldon Cole
Two tickets for the Royal Enclosure at Ascot	Terri Hicks
A Selection of Cider	Brian Tanner
A week in a Holiday Home in Snowdonia	Adam Ewell
A night at The Treehouse, Taunton	Anthony Suter
Aromatherapy and Beauty Treatments at Natures Way, Taunton	Henry Bisson

Grandparents' Day

What an outstanding day this always turns out to be; the children excited to show their grandparents around their school and the grandparents enjoying a special moment with their grandchild! More grandparents came along than in previous years.

Grandparents' of our junior school children were welcomed this year by our new Headmistress Mrs Tracey Khodabandehloo. They were escorted by their grandchildren for lunch in the senior school followed by a concert in the Birchall Hall and then taken off to explore the junior school by eager children!

In the afternoon it was the time of the senior school to welcome over eighty grandparents. Miles Quick had, once again, put together a very special and varied programme to include students of all ages in the senior school. The grandchildren then took their grandparents around the grounds to experience the classrooms, science laboratories, drama studio and, of course, the views from the Lower. They were then treated to a lovely afternoon tea in the Queen's Hall Foyer.



Work Experience

Lauren Amirmadhi spent a week at the Jumeirah Carlton Tower Hotel in London and gained an insight into event management. Thanks are due to Derek Picot for organising things.

In addition, Jack Johnson will be shadowing Paul Arditti in Theatre Sound when a mutually convenient time can be arranged.

Leo Hinds, who is hoping to pursue a career as a Vet, will be visiting Martin Pipe in Devon at the end of the month. Many thanks to Martin for helping another one of our students.

If other OQs feel they can offer their services in a similar way we would be delighted to hear from you.

Keep in Touch!

OQs are always very welcome to visit Queen's whenever you are in the area. Either pop in when you are passing or ring Kim to make a date for your visit. **01823 340839**

There is the OQs website which contains up to date information on all events, as well as contact details of OQs. **www.oldqueenians.com**

Facebook is also a very good means of communication. There are many groups which OQs can belong to, so it is worthwhile trying a search for OQs!



A Work Placement in Ghana

This March I was lucky enough to travel to Ghana in West Africa where I worked for a month in a local hospital. This experience was part of my Nursing elective placement for my Masters of Nursing Science degree at Nottingham University.

I stayed in the town of Takoradi on the south coast of Ghana, approximately four hours from the capital Accra. I had organised this placement through a medical elective company called Work The World and had funded the trip myself with help from the Old Queenians Association and the charity AMECA.

The hospital in which I worked was called Effia-Nkwanta Regional Hospital. The hospital was large by Ghanaian standards with 416 beds, 195 nurses and 26 doctors. I chose to spend three weeks on the obstetrics & gynaecology department and one week in accident and emergency, with days spent on the neo-natal ward, the ante-natal clinic, the HIV clinic and the labour ward.

My main aims for this elective were to develop my knowledge of nursing attitudes and roles in Ghana and to experience and understand the cultural differences between nurses in Ghana and the UK.

Working on the wards I frequently came across patients suffering from malaria, with other common diseases being HIV/AIDS, meningitis, measles, typhoid and tetanus. In Ghana, maternal mortality has been declared a national emergency, which is why, despite studying to be a nurse not a midwife, I was interested to experience the conditions of the maternity wards and to see first hand what steps are being taken to improve the statistics. I discovered that women in Ghana don't scream during labour as they often get told off for making too much noise, so instead they click their fingers in the air! Childbirth in Ghana was very different to the UK. The environment in which the women gave birth was uncomfortable and both baby and mother were monitored a lot less closely than over here. Due to a lack of education and equipment, as well as fundamental cultural differences, the women were often not treated correctly which was, understandably, hard to watch.

As my Masters dissertation is on the topic of HIV/AIDS I was very interested to spend a day in the weekly regional HIV clinic, as well as get involved with the mandatory HIV testing on various wards. All expectant mothers were to have a HIV test, as were individuals who were suspected of having the disease. Although patients normally have to buy their own medication in Ghana, HIV medication is free to everyone. This is to help stop the HIV epidemic in Ghana. HIV is not as prevalent in Ghana as it is in other African countries. However, due to a lack of education, finance and accessibility problems, HIV is still a major healthcare issue.

As I expected, the hospital was in a very different condition to those I am used to working in. The walls of the wards were damp and crumbling and the hygiene levels were very low. Insects and flies crawled over the patients and the equipment despite infection control posters covering the walls and student nurses cleaning the wards everyday.

The hospital was better equipped than I had expected, mainly due to donations from countries such as the UK. However, due to a low standard of education for the nurses and no governing body to audit their work, the equipment was often used incorrectly.

Over the four weeks in Ghana I had the opportunity to assist with the delivery of a number of babies, aid doctors with various procedures such as abortions and, most importantly, to comfort patients through these experiences



as this was often something that was alien to the Ghanaian culture. The cultural differences between the Ghanaian nurses and myself were often hard to understand but that was one of my objectives in the first place.

As well as my time spent in the hospital I was also able to travel to different parts of Ghana at the weekends. I visited castles used for the slave trade, attended a Ghanaian Muslim wedding and was able to complete a canopy walk through the rainforest at Kakum National Park. Ghana is a vibrant, beautiful country and the people are very welcoming. I would recommend it to others thinking of completing a similar placement.



I am grateful to the Old Queenians for their financial support as they have enabled me to have this great experience and to further my understanding of the positives and negatives of our own healthcare system. Both the hospital placement itself and the knowledge I gained from travelling around this amazing country have educated me culturally and emotionally, hopefully enabling me to be a better nurse in the future.

Alexandra Houlden (1999-2007)

QQs & Friends Concert

Friday 9th September - 7.30pm
All enquires to Main School office: 01823 272559

QUEEN'S COLLEGE

Katie Gough
Tom Harris
Jonny Hedges
Toby Williams

60th Birthday Celebrations



The above photo was taken at my 60th birthday celebration in January. From left to right: Nigel Marks (1962 - 69), a retired banker, married, two daughters and lives in Surrey; Tony Wade (1963 - 68) owner of a clothing franchise, married, one son and lives in Kent; David Thompson (1962 - 69) owner and managing director of a ship supplies business, married, a son and three daughters and lives in Pembrokeshire and me.

Like David and Nigel, I was at Queen's between 1962 and 1969. I'm the owner and chief executive of a vocational skills training company, operating in England and Wales, and, for those that are interested in these sort of things, it is a product of a management buy-out and a subsequent acquisition. I'm divorced (entirely predictable according to my erstwhile school friends), I have a son and daughter and live in Nottingham.

Paul Willmer (1960 - 68) was also invited to the dinner but couldn't make it. Unlike Nigel, Tony and David, I hadn't seen Paul for a number of years but I met him for dinner, in Cardiff, last November and had an excellent evening. Just like old times, including the hangover!

Tony and Paul would also have left in 1969 but due to various misdemeanours fell foul of Sidney Haynes and departed Queen's a little earlier than planned. Tony speaks fondly (and proudly) how in subsequent years at Old Queenians and Lodge functions Sidney always made a beeline to the two of them and greeted them so very warmly. A truly wonderful man.

Malcolm Free

QUEEN'S COLLEGE

**MIDNIGHT BALL
AND CELEBRATION OF
CHRIS ALCOCK'S
10 YEAR HEADSHIP**

**TO BE HELD AT
QUEEN'S COLLEGE
SATURDAY 31ST DECEMBER 2011
7.30PM - 1.30AM**

£65 PER TICKET

If you register an interest in a table before the 31st of July final payment will be due by 31st October please contact
Kim Boalch on 01823 340839 or email kmb@queenscollege.org.uk



The Army and Navy Club Revisited

Those attending the London dinner for the second year in succession found it hard to believe that a year had passed since the previous occasion. Of course, this has something to do with the speed with which time seems to move ever faster, but also because there is something so comfortable and homely about the Army and Navy Club that on entering the building this year it felt as if you had not really left the place that long ago. Those attending for the first time were similarly impressed with the ambiance.

Once again the staff were extremely welcoming and helpful with everyone happy to make our visit extremely pleasant. They worked closely with Kim, to whom thanks are due for working so hard to organise the event, to prepare the dining room and to ensure that all ran smoothly from the drinks reception to the final farewells. The food was of excellent quality and the service of equal standard. Many stayed overnight in the Club and thoroughly enjoyed the wonderful facilities provided. It was fabulous to see a range of OQs at the dinner. The youngest generation shared a table with Chris and Linda Alcock and they did their best to keep the Headmaster in order. This is an occasion when the children

'If each OQ that attended this year brought a memory, this would turn out to be one of

Those present:
Chris Alcock
Geoff Bisson
Kim Boalch
Tracey Khodabandehloo
Linda Alcock
Georgina Faun (1990 - 2004)
Sophie Barrell (1989 - 2004)

Felicity Herbert (1996 - 2004)
Nick Marsh (1991 - 2004)
William Bell (1990 - 2004)
Andrew Rankin (1994 - 2004)
Sam Monks
Gemma Sear
Simon Stevens (1976 - 1980)
Karen Stevens

John Crocker (1968 - 1975)
Michelle Course
Mark Fairman (1972 - 1977)
Chris Fayers (1973 - 1980)
Michael Gough (1969 - 1976)
Debbie Gough
Katy Gough (2000 - 2010)
David Jones (1964 - 1971)

Marjory Taylor
Philip Robins
Nigel Marks (1962 - 1969)
Shelia Marks
Derek Picot (1966 - 1968)
Paul Palmer (1964 - 1968)
Shirley Palmer
Peggy Hannam



of OQs can join in too and it was delightful to see John Clemo and his family there, for example. Others there for the first time included Seleem d'Aronville, now resident in Japan, who was in London on business and managed to find time to come along before his flight home the next day. Hopefully, he will develop his links with Queen's further having resumed contact with the school. It was a privilege to have Peggy Hannam and her husband, Michael, with us. Peggy is standing down as a governor of the school after an honourable 30 years service. Those who know her will appreciate what a huge contribution she has made to the school and those who were fortunate to hear her speak at the dinner will appreciate how her wisdom, wit and sheer common sense will be missed. She paid tribute to Michael Shellard for his generosity in hosting the event and for his work as a governor and supporter of the school. One of the highlights of the evening was the tour of some of the main rooms of the Club, which most took advantage of, conducted by Michael which was extremely informative and relaxed. David Jones, President of the OQs Association, complimented both Peggy and Michael for their contribution to the evening before offering a toast to Queen's College.



Geoff Bisson

*ght one other OQ next year
'our largest events'*

- Michael Hannam
- Hugh Suter (1968 – 1977)
- Margot Suter
- John Clemo (1966 – 1975)
- Jenny Clemo
- Grace Clemo
- Sally Clemo
- John Elford (1953 – 1959)
- Faith Elford

- Michael Shellard (1948 – 1954)
- David Taylor (1943 – 1951)
- Roger Evans (1947 – 1954)
- Christine Evans
- Roger Sawtell (1947 – 1956)
- Ann Sawtell
- Jo Shaw (1972 - 1980)
- Seleem d'Aronville (1960 - 1968)



Josh & Dan do Land's End - John O' Groats for Help for Heroes

The story of Two blokes, Full kit, and 1200 miles of Britain.

Unsurprisingly for two students between lectures, we were in the pub. We were busy conjuring up escapades which would constructively fill a couple of months after finishing university, and would be a suitable send-off for two great mates before they went their separate ways, namely Sandhurst and Australia. My mate was Dan Cole. For us, it had to be challenging and enjoyable: for charity, long enough to fill a couple of months; for students, both with enormous overdrafts, cheap. We thought up various outlandish schemes, each one invariably scuppered by a shortage of money. We decided to walk the length of the country, keeping to the hills.

Choosing the charity was a no-brainer for us. We had been living a stone's throw from the major military hospital in Selly Oak, and had seen a lot of servicemen and women recovering from injury. We were both aware of the great work that Help for Heroes has been doing in Hedley Court.

I would love to say at this point that meticulous planning and intense training went on before our departure. Certainly, Dan did a fantastic job of securing a major sponsor and support from various members of parliament, while I busied myself with acquiring maps and synthesising a suitable route, wild campsites, and re-supply locations. But, I have to admit to much procrastination too. Monday August 23rd 2010 the big day. The weather was clear and the skies promising, and so we set off on our journey with 60 lbs worth of kit and food on our backs.

For the first week our route took us along the formidable South West Coast Path. This really highlighted our lack of training and both of us struggled both physically and mentally along the demoralising SWCP. Anyone who has done it will know what I'm talking about. There is an enormous amount of ascent and descent for a minimal distance gained. Shoulder blisters for me and worrying knee pain for Dan, along with a large helping of general muscle ache was usually the order of the day! Often in the first week Dan woke up with a strange bruise on his right arm, the result of my effective anti-

snoring technique. I wasn't putting up with sleep deprivation as well.

Soon though we were off the brutal SWCP and up into the rolling expanse of Exmoor where we were to have our first rest day and shower since we set off. By now we had settled into our own daily rhythm and camp routine. Dan had taken on the role of cook, since he had a certain affinity with our temperamental stove. I assumed a maid/DJ role, erecting the tent and sleeping bags combined with music. This routine remained the same for the next two months. Life is remarkably simple when you only have two basic needs; food and sleep.



We had also been carrying collection tins on our backs, combing the beaches and hills in order to collect as much as possible, the weight of which had been rapidly increasing. Our rest day in Horner was the first time we were able to offload the money collected.

By contrast with the demands of the SWCP, Somerset offered easy walking. We also met some hugely generous people along the way; special mentions must go to Beryl and Tony Griffiths, Trish and Nigel and Judy at Thatcher's!

Before we knew it we were in Wales, along Offa's Dyke Path and the beautiful Wye valley. Here we teamed up with a fellow walker, Lucy, who was doing a few days along ODP. The Hatteral Ridge was a highlight, taking us neatly down into the lovely town of Hay-On-Wye, and its many pubs. It was also in Wales that we succumbed to the temptation to gorge on fresh healthy food, like Ginster's Pasties and milkshakes rather than the usual military rations.

From there it was easy going and the miles

fell away. This section skirted the metropolis of Birmingham and earned its place in our memories. Thanks have to go to Steve and the girls at the Craven Arms, Stokesay, and the guy on the street that rang ahead and paid for our beers, a five-star bloke. That evening I decided to inspect my tender foot, only to discover a major blister requiring attention. 'Next time, stop and take the stone out of your boot', I heard a voice say next to me.

Then came the Peaks - our warm-up for the real tests that lay ahead - the Dales, the Pennines and the Highlands. Nonetheless, there were some big days, one of 28 miles. They were also some of the best days, taking in Dovedale, Chatsworth House and the exposed gritstone edges, not to mention the pizza guy who delivered to a grid reference at 11 o'clock at night!

The Yorkshire Dales, too, were fantastic, with spectacular sights such as Malham Cove in the crisp 7 o'clock morning sun. We were joined here by a friend, who has completed challenges of his own, including rowing single-handedly across the Atlantic. The greatest boost, however, was our accent of Pen-Y-Ghent.

Soon though the romances of the Peaks and Dales were over and the steely Pennines loomed. This was a return to the dark days. Constantly wet feet, poor visibility, rain and dropping temperatures reduced morale. It was here that our admin. (and my Ipod DJ-ing) would come into its own, allowing us to keep as comfortable as possible. It also felt like a time of true isolation, with no-one and nothing around, except sheep carcasses, to spur us on. I did, however, stumble on my second geological find of the trip; a galena (lead ore) and fluorite hand specimen. Naturally, I chose to carry this extra kilo of rock with me all the way to Scotland.

Next it was the Border Country. And what country it was! Fortunately, the rain stayed away and we had a few good days. In that time we waved goodbye to good old England, walked a Roman road and stopped over in Jedburgh Park, much to the amusement (I think!) of the locals. The next few days were just magic, passing high above Melrose on the Eildon Hills, Traquair (the oldest inhabited house in Scotland), and through the industrial landscape on the outskirts of the capital. This was a brief respite between the sapping Pennine way, and the imposing Highlands.

The Highlands were breathtaking and soon we had picked up the West Highland Way at Drymen. As we rounded the mountain south of Loch Lomond, the true scale and

magnificence of this area became apparent. In true exploratory style we felt we should immerse ourselves, literally, in our surroundings: we went swimming in Loch Lomond - in October! Fortunately, we picked up a companion who dissuaded us from anymore potentially hypothermic activity. As we followed the WHW, all three of us were enthralled by what was around us; every bend in the track concealed a new setting for our adventure. I tried to inform my companions with my potted knowledge of Scottish geology and natural history cramming well over 500 million years of earth history into a few hours of ad-hoc geology lessons. We passed by Rannoch Moor, the epicentre of Britain's glaciers, through Glen Coe, a classic volcanic complex which, unfortunately, we had to race through in an afternoon.

That evening we were treated to our second real wildlife show (the first was a rabid badger encounter in the early hours on Cannock chase, some weeks back!). It was now the rutting season in the Highlands, and the stags were in full swing. We even did our own bit of stalking, capturing a few action shots on camera. We were now approaching the real mountains, only a day's walk from Fort William and Ben Nevis, and we were both starting to feel the chill. The next day we made Kinlochleven in good time and we stopped for a brew. Studying the map, I realised there was an alternative route to the one planned, right through the heart of the Mamores Mountains, that would take us up two 1000m peaks and traverse a knife edge ridge connecting them, Devils Ridge. Finally, I broached the subject and after a bit of encouragement, Dan agreed it had to be done. So, in classic Scottish wind, rain and low cloud, we began our 1039m ascent from sea level. It would turn out to be a truly unforgettable day. We both fully enjoyed its trials and tribulations, although for Dan more in retrospect. The climb was a real slog, the navigation a real test and the ridae really was The Devils Ridae: droppina



away vertically for 200-300 metres on both sides. This was to be the easy bit though.

We waved goodbye to our last companion and soon we were into the Highlands proper, and

to think we had considered ourselves isolated before! It was at this point that the snow started, as if to really drive the point home. The tent was now regularly frozen solid in the mornings, and the condensation was causing us problems on the inside too. In addition, we were both feeling more tired during the day, as our bodies struggled to keep us fuelled by day and warm by night: clearly our rations weren't going to sustain us up here forever! As we made our way up and over Glens Garry and Affric, out towards the coast, the coastal air was warmer – but much wetter.

One two day period of continuous heavy rain swelled streams to torrents and walkers to drowned rats. It was 21:30 and we were still two hours from shelter. We had followed what was now a raging torrent looking for a place to cross, in order to get to a bothy on the other side. But now, perched high on one side, we could go no further, we had to cross. So, in only the light our failing head-torches could provide, we tentatively tested the water with our poles. Eventually one of us forced a pole to the river bed – so deep it left only the top inch of our pole above the water. Gingerly, I stepped out, bent double into the flow and up to my stomach in water. A few more steps, feeling ahead with my pole, rock by rock. Then I slipped, putting too much pressure on my pole, and lost my footing. I bottled it, and returned to the bank. One more go we decided. With that Dan followed, strangely giving me more determination because now, if one of us went, there would be nothing the other could do. Slowly but surely we made it to half way, guiding and feeling our way across. It started to shallow again and, finally, I could grab the bank. The far bank itself was in a way as much of a challenge as the water itself, having to haul ourselves, and our soaking wet kit, up the 4 ft bank to safety. Once out, we were both shaking out of control; a mixture of adrenalin, intense cold and happiness. Now it was the long uphill slog to Bendronaig Lodge, an estate-run bothy, and shelter. It may not sound much now but neither of us will forget 'our epic in the highlands'.

After that other stumbling blocks seemed insignificant and, indeed, we only had two more upsets before we were home and dry. It was to be Dan's turn first, contracting acute illness through drinking poorly purified stream water just as we had a spell of fantastic weather walking through the snow-capped hills of the Letterewe estate. Although our daily routine was slick, we were both by now physically and mentally drained, and in the most desolate part of the trip, the Northern Highlands. It was here, on the side of the Ben More Assent I was to have my 'man down' moment. On the 300m or so



ascent up the side of the mountain and between headaches, I deliriously began describing to Dan the pink and purple deer I could see, before my legs gave out sending me to the floor with a thud. In my exhausted state Dan was great, taking as much of the extra weight as he could, and constantly feeding me painkillers, chocolate and water.

Over the flat expanse of the Caithness peninsular, pausing only to watch sheep in a head-butting competition and back out on the cliff tops again, was an amazing feeling. We chewed up the miles eager to catch a glimpse of our destination. And there it was, Duncansby Head Lighthouse. We were greeted by a colony of seals, and it was here that we toasted our trip together over a small bottle of whiskey and a few biscuits before making our way back down into John O'Groats, where our huddled little group of supporters were waiting. And so, at precisely 16:54, in the fading October light of Northern Scotland, two and a half months on, our journey finally came to an end.

Ultimately, we raised over £11,000 for Help For Heroes. This will go towards caring for our injured boys and girls that we continue to hear about. In the grand scheme of celebrity fundraising this may seem like a drop in the ocean, but it is our contribution. We still have donations coming in, and if you would like to support our efforts, please make any cheques out to 'Josh & Dan LEJOG H4H'.

Josh Phillips (2003-2007)



The Midlands

During the first weekend in March, OQs from various universities around the Midlands gathered in Birmingham for an evening of food and fun. We dined at a buffet which catered for all different types of palate, offering food from all over the world. Not only was the food good, but the company was even better with people talking as if they were still at school. After a great meal, we all headed out into town for a few light beverages. After a couple of drinks in a local bar, Toby Williams had the bright idea of heading to a nightclub called 'Flares'. With no one knowing about it, everyone seemed keen until we walked in and realised it was an 80s themed disco full of middle-aged men dancing like they were at their daughter's wedding. Nevertheless, everyone was soon into the swing of it, especially James Eley who was quick to consume a couple of 'Strawberry Woo-Woo's'. The highlight of the evening was the dancing of an elderly gentleman who, dressed in a shirt and tie, looked like the nutty professor. It was a fantastic evening and a big thank you is due to Queen's who generously helped fund the evening.

**Alex Pegg (2002-2010) and
Alex Greenhalgh (2001-2010)**



The South West

On the last night of the Bath University Spring term I organised an OQ event for those studying in Bath and the South West of the country. The night was a great success with twelve OQs joining James for the evening.

We started the night with a meal and drinks at the Cork Vaults in central Bath before moving on to the Earl of Manvers and the Weir Lounge and finishing the night back at my place where the party continued! Everyone had a great evening and would like to thank Queen's for supporting the event.

Those present:

Matt Walker, James Loudon Griffiths, Frances Trivett, Lucy Whitley, Stuart Heath, Lucy Tomlinson, Marcus Dunk, Harry McHugh, Megan Sandow, Alex Key, Lilian McLeod, Hamish Walker.

James Houlden (1999 2008)

Uni Nights!

If you would like the support of Queen's to
organise a Uni Night,

Contact Kim: 01823 340839

Obituaries

Stuart Gothard (1954-59) passed away after a long battle with cancer. On leaving Queen's he worked on the family farm and became a member of the Wellington YFC taking part in all the usual activities, in particular stock judging at the Smithfield and local shows. He met his wife, Sally, who was a member of the Taunton YFC and they married in 1968, and they moved to Stoke St Gregory where he continued to farm. They had a son and daughter. Anthony went to Queen's

but did not follow dad into farming. Stuart and Sally have three grandchildren, all boys who, with their parents, enjoyed visiting the farm and spending time on the boat or on holiday. Stuart was a Rotarian, a member of the Queen's Lodge, the Tone Conservatives and the Strand Club. He was a regular attendee of Old Queenian events and he will be sadly missed by all his friends and family.

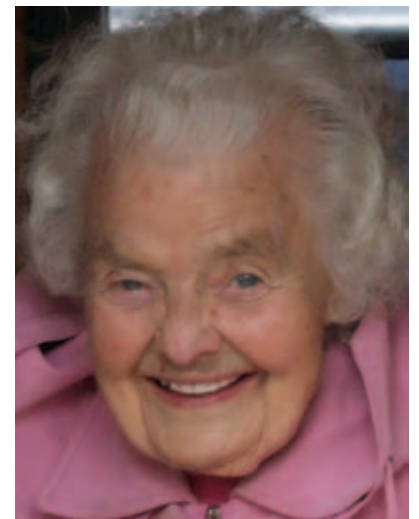
Dr Chris J Lerwill (1955-62) was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer and had started treatment and his sudden death was a shock to his family. He

was a senior lecturer in Professional Healthcare and Therapy studies at the Colchester Institute until he retired.

Thomas Murch Petherick (1933-39) passed away on 30th April 2011 in Palm Court nursing home, Dawlish. Thomas was in his 90th year and died peacefully with some of his family at this bedside. He enjoyed a successful career in the Far East and then California with the Standard Chartered Bank group opening their branch in Los Angeles before retiring at the age of 49 after 25 years service.

Mrs Madge Stubbs

It is with much sadness that I have to report the death of Madge who passed away peacefully in her sleep on the 25th of March this year. She moved down to Taunton from the North of England and started part time work as an assistant to the Queen's Bursar. This post became permanent and she spent the rest of her working life at Queen's. Upon retirement she volunteered to become assistant to the Secretary of the Old Queenians Association and kept the records, took the minutes in shorthand, typed up the broadsheet newsletter and sent out correspondence which included the Wyvern which she undertook all by herself. When I took over the Secretary's job Madge was invaluable to me; her memory of boys at Queen's was exceptional, she kept manual records of subs paid and assisted the Treasurer in this respect. She was very cheerful and will be sadly missed by all who came into contact with her. Apart from Queen's, Madge was very active in the local Girl Guide movement, Mother and Toddlers group, working in the shop at the church of St Mary Magdalene, in the Trefoil Guild. A good number of Queen's staff and Old Queenians attended the service of celebration and thanksgiving at her church in Taunton. Her long and valued contribution to Queen's College and the Old Queenians Association was second to none.



John Elford (Secretary)

CRITIQUES

D.L. Lewis. Vice Captain. 1st colours. Opening bowler and batsman. As a bowler we have had to rely on him a great deal this season and he has not let us down. His batting has been variable, and his promotion to opener was both eminently justified and yet rather disappointing. He must control his hook shot. A very fine fielder with a beautiful throw.

D. Fonseka. 1st colours. He has had a very successful time as a bowler who has taken over five wickets in an innings four times this season, with his off-breaks. As a batsman he has not done as well as we hoped. Often caught driving. Very keen in the field.

From the Archive (Wyvern Oct '61)



An Apology

We would like to apologise for an error in the previous newsletter issued in February. The article entitled 'Alexandra's Trip to Northern Tanzania' was wrongly attributed to Alexandra Houlden, instead of Lucy Whitley. We appreciate this was

embarrassing to both Lucy and Alexandra and especially irritating to Lucy as her experiences outlined in her account would not have been fully appreciated by those reading her piece. We are very sorry, Lucy, that this mistake was made.



Contact Details

The OQA Committee (Elected Nov 2010)

President	James D Jones
Vice President	Graham Ten Broeke
Secretary	John Elford
Governors Rep.	Mike Powell
Treasurer	Mike Randall
Website Manager	Ben Porter
Members	Jim Darlington, Claire Scanlon Roger Westoby, Aletta Warne
Ex Officio	David WO Jones, Phillip Jubb, Chris Alcock (Headmaster), Samuel Monks (Head Boy), Gemma Sear (Head Girl), Kim Boalch (Alumni Relations Manger)
Archivist	John Hellis

Summer Reunion

The Old Queenians will be playing the School at Cricket on Sunday 3rd of July with the match starting at 12 o'clock. If you are interested in playing please contact Calum Douch by phone on his mobile 07500 961138. Queen's have a strong team this year so lets make sure we have 11 players.

On the same day there will be the usual mixed tennis match against the School. We are looking for 3 men and 3 ladies to represent the Old Queenians. The start time is 14:00. If you are interested in playing please contact Jonathan Edwards on his mobile phone 07854 592720.

The occasion is a very relaxed one when you can sit and chat with friends over a drink, whilst watching the cricket and tennis. Bring your family as there is plenty of room for the children to run around and burn off some of their energy! Below is the timetable for the day so please come along; it will be lovely to see you back at Queen's!

- 11.45: Coffee at the Pavilion
- 12.00: Cricket
- 13.00: Lunch on the Lower
- 14.00: Tennis
- 15.30: Afternoon Tea on the Lower

QUEEN'S COLLEGE

OQs Caribbean Dinner

Saturday 17th July
The Colony Club Hotel
Barbados

for more details please contact
Kim Boalch 01823 340839

Queen's Lodge



The above photo is of Geoff Dolling (1954-62) congratulating his son Jonathan (1980-88) on becoming Master of Queen's Lodge at the meeting on 19th March 2011. At this meeting the Alms Collection totalling just over £400 was donated, via the Masonic Grand Charity, in support of the recent Japanese earthquake/tsunami disaster.

Richard Baker (1955-65)

Many congratulations to Sam Schwab (1996 - 2000) on his marriage to Anna on the 14th May 2011. The marriage took place at Haselbury Plucknett Church, Somerset, with Sam having the support of Ed Noble (1996-2001) as his Best Man. Since leaving school Sam has lived in both New Zealand and Australia where he was working as a personal trainer. Sam and Anna start their married life living in Anna's homeland of Brazil where Sam will be training as a physiotherapist and Anna works as an events organiser.



Alumni Relations Manager, Kim Boalch.

It is important for me to have your most up to date contact details, I would appreciate it if you could contact me with any changes.

Tel **01823 340839** Email **kmb@queenscollege.org.uk**

The Old Queenians Association, Trull Road, Taunton, Somerset TA1 4QS

Telephone: +44(0)1823 340 839 Fax: +44(0)1823 338430 Email: info@oldqueenians.com Web: www.oldqueenians.com