

QQS



Newsletter
Spring 2024

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President's Report



Queen's has made great efforts to engage OQs across the world lately. Mr and

Mrs Noad hosted a drinks party in Hong Kong at the Renaissance Hong Kong Harbour View and Mr Free hosted one in Lagos at the Movenpick hotel. Closer to home OQs met in Paddington, London. At these occasions were a number of OQs who had not been engaged with the school for quite some time, which was good to see! We will continue to plan more 'get-togethers' and events in the future, but, as always, please let the school know if you would like to organise something (e.g. for a specific year/group) and you will have the school's backing.

As we emerge from what has felt like a long and wet winter, and yet another Calcutta Cup lost to Scotland, the news about the wars in Gaza and Ukraine is at times almost too sad to read and I'm sure that many of the OQ community will feel the same.

You will no doubt be aware that the school's charitable arm, the Queen's Foundation, has continued to support two Ukrainian students throughout the conflict and these students have benefited immensely from the love and care of the Queen's community.

The school is continually trying to innovate new ways of raising funds for the Foundation. Only very recently, Sarah Hickey organised an online auction and thanks to the generosity of parents and OQs over £2,500 was raised. Donations are always welcome. Regular giving is a very effective way of supporting the Foundation and I would urge you to consider doing so. Contributions can be made monthly, quarterly or annually. If you are so inclined, may I suggest the relatively small sum of £18.43? This is because 1843 was of course the year the school opened in Castle House in Taunton and so it seems like an appropriate sum. Do contact Sarah Hickey or Geoff Bisson if you'd like to discuss how you might support the Foundation.

Ben Judge (2010-12)

Services to Education

Tony Bloxham (1973-82) was awarded an MBE in this year's, January 2024 New Year Honours List. This recognition was for "Services to Education; being a champion for sustainable school improvement across the South-West region and wider." The Member of the Order of the British Empire (MBE), recognises achievement or service in and to the community which is outstanding in its field and has delivered sustained and real impact which stands out as an example to others.

Tony has held a number of roles throughout his career including the Headship at Preston School, Yeovil, where he was also Chair of the Somerset Association of Secondary Head teachers. During his headship he transformed Preston School, taking 18 months to move from an Ofsted rating of "inadequate" to a sustained "good" judgement.

He has been the Director of the Taunton Teaching Alliance, and in May 2018 was appointed the Southwest representative on the National Teaching School Council where he oversaw the transition from individual teaching schools to a hub model in line with the policy of the Department of Education (DfE). As an

Educational Advisor for the DfE Tony has also supported a significant number of vulnerable schools both in the region and nationally, working closely with both the Regional and National Schools Commissioners.



In his final years of service, Tony played an instrumental role co-ordinating the Plymouth place-based School Improvement Programme in the City between 2018-2022, working closely with the Department of Education and other partners to raise educational standards in Plymouth.

This work was so successful that it informed both policy and practice in government strategy. Prior to the start of his work the percentage of secondary students in schools rated by Ofsted as "good" or "outstanding" was below the national average in the city. At the end of his work the percentage of secondary students in schools of these categories was above the national average. Tony pays tribute to the civil servants, Plymouth County Council colleagues, school leaders, teachers and students who made this possible. Without their commitment to this work these outcomes would not have been possible.

Cover: Tony Bloxham at Buckingham Palace for a garden party last summer.

Obituary

Rodney Gillies Odartey Heward-Mills (1968-72)

passed away on 17 October 2023.

By attending Queen's he was following a family tradition as his grandfather, Albert Gillies Heward-Mills had been at Queen's in the 1890s.

Rodney's sporting achievements at Queen's were impressive. He was introduced to rugby in his first year and he quickly gained a reputation as a lightning quick winger. Indeed, it was for his athletics prowess that his reputation was established. A sprinter and triple jumper par excellence, Rodney was the Southwest England Area Champion for his age group and went on to become the All-England School (Boys) triple jump champion for two consecutive



years in 1970 and 1971. He was one of the finest athletes to have been to Queen's. This photo was taken at the 1971 championships at Crystal Palace when Rodney set a new record for the Junior Triple Jump of 15.47m.

After completing his 'A' Levels in 1972, Rodney enrolled at De Montfort University, Leicester, to study Law. It had always been his ambition to become a lawyer like his father and grandfather. He completed his degree in 1976 and, again following the family tradition, he enrolled at the Inns of Court (Middle Temple). After qualifying as a barrister Rodney was called to the English Bar in 1977. Soon after, he returned home and was called to the Ghana Bar in 1978.

He was a junior counsel for many years before becoming head of the family's legal chambers, Agbado Chambers, in 1994, which had been set up by his grandfather in the early 1900s. Under his control, the firm thrived and Rodney earned a reputation as a tenacious and skilful advocate who was widely respected by his colleagues in the legal profession.

My brother was diagnosed with cancer in late 2022, a situation he faced with courage. His funeral was in Accra on 15 November.

Ivor Heward-Mills (1972-74)



Remembrance Weekend

Remembrance Weekend is a good time for a reunion as it's a special day in the calendar with events organised specifically for OQs on two days with scope to stay overnight and make full use of the weekend. This year some of those who left in 1975 came together and enjoyed each other's company. Credit to Mark Bradford for organising his contemporaries.

Saturday 11 November



In the early afternoon, they met in the Old Music Room (OMR). Two others had been expected but, at the last minute, Nick Crocker and Robert Yates were unable to be there. Those that were are shown in this group photo. *Back row, left to right: Simon Grattan, Mike Gough, David Gratton, Mark Bradford, Nigel Bird, Kevin Vaux, and seated, left to right: John Crocker, Ian Mathieson, John Clemo and Chris Denington.*

After a lot of reminiscing, we set off on a tour of the school which stimulated more memories about life at Queen's including heroic achievements on the sports fields, antics in the boarding houses and dayrooms, school rules and how to break them (with attendant punishments), the eccentricities of the teaching staff and much more. Afternoon tea in the OMR afterwards was welcome.

All except John Clemo were able to continue the reunion at Castle House in town at 6.00 pm to join other OQs for drinks. When that was done, they retired to the Ring of Bells for a meal (*below*)



A drinks reception has been held in Castle House for the last few years on the Saturday of Remembrance Weekend. It's an appropriate place to meet as this was where the school was first based when it was started in 1843. The occasion is an opportunity for OQs

of all ages to come together where they can also meet the Head of College and the Head Prefects: the Head Boy, Tadhg McAlonan is on the left in the photo below.



Sophia Edwards (2004-20), Yasmin Howard (2013-20) and Naomi Wilde (2005-20) were there.



Also present were **Nick White (1961-68), Graham Rant (1972-79) and Chris Hirst (1960-68)** (left to right below)



Profile: Chris Hirst

He was Head of School. At Queen's, he loved sport especially rugby (captain), hockey and athletics. He was introduced to music by Sidney Lawton and played clarinet in the school orchestra. However, Mr Lawton was not impressed when Chris took up the bass guitar playing in the school rock band and The Queens College Jazz Band, pictured here (*Chris is on the right*).



He went to UCL to read Geography where he also continued playing rugby and music. He was in a three-piece rock band that included drummer **Dave Otway** (OQ). There, he joined the University of London Air Squadron. In 1972 he joined the RAF as a fighter pilot and flew Cold War operations in the F4 Phantom, firstly to the deck of HMS Ark Royal with The Fleet Air Arm and then with 92 Squadron in Germany. He played rugby for the RAF. He returned to the UK as a fighter combat instructor and display pilot on the Hawker Hunter and Hawk at RAF Brawdy in West Wales. In 1982 became a

member of the Red Arrows and in 1983 was privileged to take part in a tour to the US and Canada after which he came to Queen's to give a presentation!

Chris' final posting was on loan service with the Sultan of Oman's Air Force flying the Hunter and training young Omani fighter pilots.

In 1988, he left the RAF and after completing his commercial licences went to Hong Kong to fly for Cathay Pacific Airways where he remained until retiring from flying in 2015. In that time he flew the L1011 Tri-Star, the Boeing 747-400, the Airbus A340 and 330 and finally the 747-8 Freighter. He still plays and sings in a rock band!

Sunday 12th November

10.30: The new Chaplain, Richard Kelly, led a service of Holy Communion in the Old Music Room for OQs and friends. The congregation then filed from there to the front entrance and on to the lawn where they were joined by members of the school's hockey teams.

11.00: In the ceremony before the cross OQs who had died in war since 1914 were remembered. A wreath was laid and Archie Wade (Year 11) trumpeted the Last Post for the third successive year. After the ceremony, tea and coffee was available in the dining pavilion.





11.15: Hockey matches between the School's boys' and the girls' teams and the OQs had to be organised differently this year. It was not possible to play two matches simultaneously as there had been so much rain in the previous days that one of the pitches was unplayable. Instead, the matches were played in split halves of 20 minutes each, with the boys and girls alternating on the same pitch. Both games were very entertaining.

The Men's Match

The team *(above)*, left to right: Max Johnson, Jack Dormor, Toby Bloxham, Tom Langford, Simon Sage, Ben Wiggins (goalkeeper), Sam Dormor, Monty Bult, Matthew Keogan, Mark Davenport, William Venn, Jon Prosser (and Max Carlson).

The best goal was scored by the veteran, **Jon Prosser**, who guided a fast cross from **Max Johnson** past the keeper just inside the post. The OQs hit the crossbar and fired wide on many occasions but the School had several chances themselves including a penalty that the keeper saved. **Ben Wiggins** *(below)* also made an outstanding save in the first half.



The Women's Match

The team, *back row left to right:* Jenny Thurstan, Emily Raybould, Edie Hepburn, Fallon Gillies (goalkeeper), Lauren Lowe; *front row, left to right:* Pippa Drummond, Naomi Wilde, Bea Williams, Eleana Stevenson

The OQs were short of a couple of players and were grateful to the School for supplementing their number. In recent years, OQs have prevailed in this match and they may have done so again in this one. Alas, the match was so high scoring, with the advantage fluctuating from one side to the other, that the umpires disagreed on the score. As this photo shows, those involved really enjoyed it



At lunch the Head of College presented the trophies. Harry Forknall, captain of the School Boys 1stXI, received the trophy after his team's 4-3 win.



Jenny Thurstan and Emily Handel, captain of the School's Girls 1stXI, shared the trophy for the women match after a 5-5 draw (or was it 6-5?).

Geoff Bisson

News of OQs

On Sunday October 22nd, 2023, **Letitia Adu-Ampoma (1983 – 88)** visited Queens for the first time since leaving. It was a visit long overdue!

Letitia, from Ghana, was one of the first boarding girls below Sixth Form to join Queen's. Her brother **Samuel Adu-Ampoma (1976-78)** had attended Queen's before her.

Letitia's remembers her time and journey through Queen's as a time of beautiful connections and kindness from staff and families. She joined Queen's College one year before Southcombe House opened, staying with 'The Daveys' – family of **Jim Davey (1980-87)** for her first year before becoming a boarder.

During her boarding years her guardians were Mr and Mrs Wilson, parents of **JJ Wilson (1980-87)**. Her family connection with the Wilsons was made long before she, her brother Sam and even JJ were born! Mrs Wilson had worked with Letitia's mother in Ghana many decades before. They had lost touch but discovered each other again through Queen's.

After Queen's, Letitia studied PPE at Oxford University. She is eternally grateful to Queen's, and particularly Mr

Hodgson (Headmaster) for helping her to get there! After Oxford, she worked in the City for a while and in 2010 left the UK and moved back to Ghana.

Letitia works internationally in Ethics and Compliance for companies with operations across the globe. Industries and companies she has worked with include Meta (aka Facebook), pharmaceutical companies (GSK and Novartis) and mobile telecommunications. Her time back in Ghana from 2010 – 2021 was the most exciting both personally and professionally as her focus was operations in Sub-Saharan Africa - so she travelled the continent in addition to having the pleasure of being based in Accra and in a climate with sunshine all year round!



She has a daughter, Nyamekye, aged 12 years who recently started boarding school in the UK. The visit to Queen's was a great opportunity to take her daughter, shown next to Letitia, down memory lane and reconnect with the Wilson family, David and his daughter, Jenny.

After achieving terrific GCSE results **Jasmine Blagden (2014-16)** went to Richard Huish where she took A Levels in History, French and English Literature. She then went to the University of Manchester to study History and French, graduating this summer with a first class degree with honours. She is now in the process of applying for jobs in the civil service in London.



Mark Petherick (1961-1971) visited Queen's twice in the last two months of 2023. He attended the Service of Remembrance in November and the Vintage Lunch the following month. He brought with him some items for the archive. These included the rugby cap of his father, **Thomas Petherick (1933-39)**, for the 1938-39 season, replete with a tassle of gold braid, and Mark's colours blazers for cricket and swimming. He was proud to have been captain of swimming for the 1970 season at Queen's, and pleased to have set the school swimming records for Individual Medley, Butterfly, Breaststroke and the team relays.

From Queen's, Mark went straight into a career as a chartered accountant, starting in Bristol in 1971 and in 1982 he opened his own practice in Midsomer Norton, later selling his share in 2001. Since then, he worked as a director in a small but fast- expanding packaging company and also as a part-owner/ director of Appleford School in Wiltshire, a specialist school for dyslexic children.

In early November Miriam Litton, Head of English at Queen's, was walking through Cambridge and, by chance, ran into **Smiley Chan (2018-23)**. They had a lovely chat and Smiley expressed her delight with being at Jesus College where she is reading Natural Sciences.



She says, 'Cambridge is a great city to live in, with plenty of museums, colleges, shops and green spaces to explore. Jesus College is very welcoming and I've enjoyed living in halls with my peers and learning together in supervisions, which are small group discussions about lectures each week. The discussions are often engaging and the supervisors encourage us to think beyond the scope of the topic. The content can be quite difficult at times but it is a relief to know there are lots of people to ask and reach out to if I get stuck, both academically and mentally. I'm enjoying my course, learning a lot of interesting topics in depth. Thinking back, I'm also grateful for the knowledge I gained from those A Level days at Queen's which proved to be really helpful. They provided an essential

foundation to some topics I've come across so far in my course, for example evolution and genetics in Biology, and even probability, statistics and calculus in Maths!'

Lionel Frewin (1955-65) and his wife, Jackie, invited **Joe Lulham (1949-56)** to join them for Christmas Lunch at Cobham Rugby Club last December.



Joe now lives close to the club, but had never been there and was delighted to meet the renowned cricket legend, Micky Stewart, who, together with his wife Sheilagh, had also been invited by Lionel and Jackie. A few days later, Lionel met **Richard Castle (1956-66)** for breakfast. He and his wife, Mary now live close to Lionel having moved from York a few years ago.



Millie Aish (2013-20) was delighted to see some of her old teachers at the independent schools careers fair at Queen's in March. She is working as a Solicitor Apprentice based in Bristol at Reynolds Porter Chamberlain (RPC) which is an international law firm. Currently she is on placement with the Property and Casualty legal team, supporting them closely on all of their cases, including some high profile and high value ones as well as having a handful of low value claims of her own to manage. She has been fortunate to attend client conferences, industry networking events, sit on a panel for an event promoting legal apprenticeships as well as attending careers fairs in the South West.

She is a member of the Bristol and West Hockey Club. As well as playing competitively she sits on the club committee, coaches the juniors and umpires on a regular basis. Recently, she was excited to be sponsored by a hockey brand and she is looking forward

to next season especially if the team wins promotion.



Saleem d'Aronville (1960-68) met **Tony Darby** in central Tokyo on 3 November 2023.

Tony arrived at Queen's in 1996 as a teacher of Economics and Business Studies before moving to Rugby as Head of Department. From there he went to St Edwards, Oxford, as Deputy Head. He is the first Headmaster of the Rugby International School, Japan, which opened in September 2023.

They had a great chat about his new school and about Queen's. Although years apart they had much to share. **Roger Westoby (1950-59, teacher, 1963-98)** came up in conversation and was one common factor. Saleem sends his regards to all who remember him.

Geoff Bisson

Obituary

Peter Lewis (teacher 1954-68) died in January this year. Some OQs will remember him as the Art master, shown here with boys in the Junior School.



Born in February 1929, of humble origins, Dad was always creative and resourceful. Imagination was one of the great motivating forces of his life. After completing National Service in the Royal Marines he continued his interrupted art college course in Bristol, studying furniture design. Although accomplished at woodwork, educating young people in arts and design soon became his chosen career. Throughout his life, Peter had a passion for wood and became very skilled at woodturning in later years.

In his first teaching job - at Queen's College - Peter taught art and woodwork and coached the 1stXV rugby team. For me as a child Queen's was a heavenly place to grow up. Dad, my mother Elizabeth and I spent two years in the tower flat before Peter became Housemaster at Parklands. I remember

him supervising mealtimes in the long huts in our garden and persuading the boys to do their 'prep' in the evenings. I also recall his many hours of labour on a large, cast concrete modernist sculpture for a site on the campus, which, sadly, no longer exists.

As well as excelling in cast and carved sculptures, Peter was a skilled ceramicist, calligrapher, photographer, landscape painter and draughtsman. His inspiration and influence has had a far-reaching impact on many people of all ages.

Peter's innate creativity was expressed through music as well as visual arts. He had had no music lessons as a child yet was an accomplished self-taught flute and recorder player, with a passion for classical music, especially Mozart and Baroque composers such as Purcell and Bach. He led many recorder ensembles over the years, passing on his enthusiasm for this much-maligned instrument to many young people. In Dad's final years he and I often played together. When dementia prevented him from communicating verbally, we were still able to connect through the medium of music.

Dad's zest for life was invigorated by his religious commitment. As well as leading bible classes at Queen's College,

he took on key roles at two Countess of Huntingdon Connection Chapels in Gloucestershire: Gotherington and Woodmancote. He became a lay preacher and contributed, musically, to many services. As a girl, I always loved to hear Dad's sonorous bass harmonies while standing close to him in the pews at chapel. I also always felt that Peter's faith was expressed through his love of the natural world and his happiness when out in the garden or surveying an undulating landscape.

Peter left Queen's College to commit to the state education system and especially the new comprehensive schools that he believed provided a fairer solution to educating young people from poorer backgrounds such as his own. All four of his children attended Cleve School where he was Head of Art from 1968 to 1984. Taking early retirement in his mid-fifties Dad went into adult education, lecturing in Renaissance Art and Architecture for Bristol and Birmingham Universities. He was thrilled by the enthusiasm of these older students and led many popular study visits to Europe.

With a playful approach to art Dad always encouraged his nine grandchildren, and many other young people, to enjoy the sensory surprises of everyday materials, making elaborate

marble runs and complex water fountains in the garden, passing on skills in painting, drawing and modelling, as well as delighting in the silliness of imaginative storytelling.

In his final years Peter frequently recalled his times at Queen's with immense affection. **Ruth Lewis-Jones**

Parklands under Peter and Elizabeth Lewis



Ruth is the little girl standing next to her mother and Paul is the babe in arms on Elizabeth's lap, next to Peter. The photo was probably taken in the summer term 1964. Three questions for OQs.

Who are the others in the photograph? If OQs can identify any of the pupils and the teacher in the light-coloured suit next to Ruth, please let me know. Do you have any anecdotes about Peter as art teacher, sportsman, musician or housemaster? Ruth would be delighted to hear of them. What happened to the sculpture mentioned above?

Geoff Bisson



Lodge News

Pictured L-R: Geoffrey Dolling (1954-62), Chris Crump (Somerset Masonic representative), Dr Lindsay Edmunds (Lodge Master), Andrew Davis (Open Door Trustee), Richard Baker (1955-65).

In February, Dr. Lindsay Edmunds, Lodge Master, was delighted to pass a cheque for £4,500 to 'Open Door', a charity for Taunton's homeless, which he had chosen for the Lodge to support in 2023.

Emma Busby, Manager of 'Open Door', accompanied by Andrew Davis, a trustee of the charity, had given a talk to the Lodge at our Christmas meeting. They are to the right in the photo next to the master and his wife, Melanie.

Very generously, Dr. Edmunds provided a 'sparkling' reception before lunch during which the Head of College, Julian Noad, dropped in for a chat.



Special guests Geoff and Sarah Bisson were welcomed and it was good to see **Richard Lewis (1951-56)** and Angela.

At the conclusion of an excellent Festive Lunch, the serious business began! All money for charity is raised by those attending our four meetings each year including the generosity of guests, particularly through alms, raffle and auction, the latter very effectively



conducted by our resident, retired auctioneer, **Geoff Dolling (1954-62)**. £1,600 was raised at this meeting to add to the £2,400 already collected. A further £500 was added by our Somerset Masonic Centre. **Jonathan Dolling (1980-88)**, became Worshipful Master on 16 March and he has chosen St Margaret's Hospice, Taunton, as his charity to support in 2024.



In October, Mr Frazer Bell, a close friend of our Master, Dr Lindsay Edmunds, became a member. At that meeting, **Jim Wiltshire (1955-63)** was presented with a certificate recording his 50 years in Freemasonry. He had been introduced to Queen's Lodge by **Mike Kinnersley (1954-63)** and **Lionel Frewin (1955-65)**. Lionel's son, Miles, is pictured 'sandwiched' between his Godfathers at the December meeting on his first visit to Queen's Lodge.

If anyone would like to learn more about Queen's College Lodge, our Secretary, **Phil Jubb (1960-67)** will be delighted to hear from you - secretary6988@gmail.com - alternatively check our website www.queenscollegelodge.co.uk

Richard Baker (1955-65)



A Catalogue of Coincidence

At a dinner party earlier this year, I sat next to David Knapman who I had not met before. Dave explained that his grandfather, Edgar Sharp, and his brother, Herbert, had been pupils at Queen's College. Dave did not have any information about their school records but he did have a beaker that once belonged to Edgar when he was at school.

He offered to show it to me and I volunteered to see what I could find about Edgar and his brother at Queen's. The beaker is the only one of its kind I have seen. It appears to be made of bone with a delicate shield pinned to the side. I think the initials QCSS probably stand for Queen's College Senior School but that might not be the case. The date is clear, 1899, by which time Edgar had been at the school four years. Herbert joined a year later in July 1896 as the register shows. It is possible that the beaker was presented to Edgar as a gift to mark his leaving the school. When he left Queen's is not recorded. Plausibly, he may have done so in July 1899 when he was 17 or at the end of the Christmas term after his 18th birthday



in December. Finishing a school career at the end of the calendar year was common in those days.

However, Edgar may have been awarded the beaker as a prize. He was a bright lad who received a prize at his first Speech Day, 1895, passed his College of Preceptors Exams the following year and, later, the Cambridge Local Exams. He was also an active participant in the Debating Society and he played second violin in the orchestra. He was a reasonable swimmer at a time when the pool was open air. Perhaps, beakers were available for purchase and he was tempted to buy one? I am delighted to report that Dave very generously agreed to donate the beaker to the school. In the near future it will be on display.

Dave explained that he visited Queen's within a few weeks of his arrival in Somerset in September 1971 as an educational psychologist to assess pupils with learning needs. At the time, he was unaware that his grandfather had been to the school.

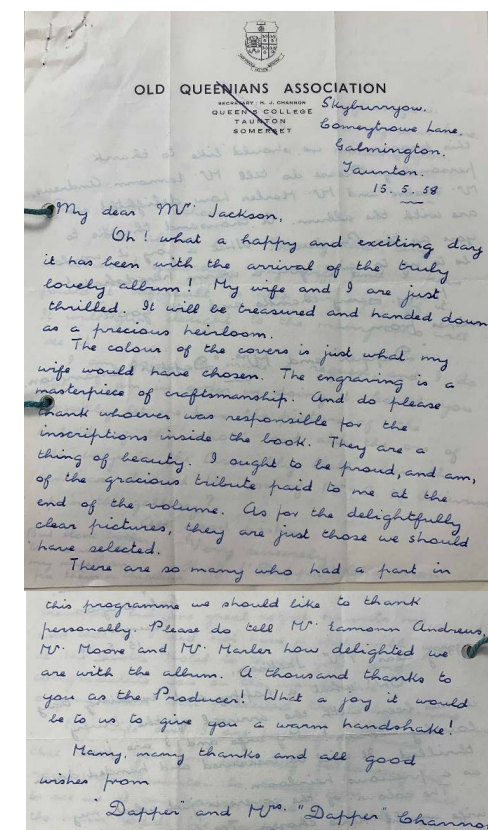
Extraordinarily, it turns out that Dave bought the house on Comeytrowe Lane which was once 'Dapper' Channon's without being aware of it. In reading the information I gave Dave about Edgar, he noticed a fellow pupil called Salway was mentioned. It turns out that Dave knew a Mr Salway who worked for the estate agents Lear, Lear & Dugdale in Taunton many years ago. It was he who bought Channon's house from his widow before selling it to Dave. However, he divided the garden keeping half of it in which

to build a bungalow. Subsequently, Dave moved close to Wilton church where, he learned by accident, Edgar was confirmed.

Back to the conversation at the dinner party. Perhaps naturally, we drifted from talk of Queen's to our own school days to discover another coincidence. Dave went to Hardye Grammar School in Dorchester where I was placed as a trainee teacher.

Geoff Bisson

OQs will remember an article in the Autumn 2022 newsletter entitled, 'Big Red Book' which featured Tony Lee, an expert on the television programme, 'This Is Your Life'. He was in touch again recently having unearthed some letters which 'Dapper' Channon wrote to the BBC following the broadcast from Queen's on 24 February 1958 when he had been the subject of the programme that day. This is one of several letters of thanks 'Dapper' wrote.





The Vintage Lunch

Always a special occasion, the annual Vintage Lunch was well supported and particularly festive. The Christmas tree and table decorations were splendid and those there were gregarious and engaging. Indeed, the conversation over a welcome drink was such that it was difficult to persuade the diners to sit for lunch.



Paul's friends are shown below, from left to right: **Bob Menlove, Robert Tucker, Brian Oram, Mark Weeks, Chris Fayers, John Thomas, Brian Goodman, Chris Hill, Mike Gibson and Richard Roberts.**

Paul Wood was thrilled to meet some of his contemporaries who were here in the 1970s. Although here only for the drinks before the meal he and his wife, Joy, enjoyed the occasion.



There were six tables, on each of which were representatives of the school and former teachers (honorary OQs).



Three Heads of School were able to swap notes about the role. Tadhg McAlonan and Claire Handel, the current Heads of School chat with **Mark Weeks**, Head of School, 1981. Also present was **Kenneth Maxwell**, Head of School, 1959-60.



Edward Jenkins and Cicely Wills, of the Music Department, and six pupils stirred the Christmas spirits with a selection of carols



The Head of College, Julian Noad, then thanked everyone present for coming to the lunch and provided a brief update about the state of Queen's College.

The group photo, taken at the end of a fabulous meal, shows only the OQs present. It does not include their wives, teachers, honorary or current, which swelled the number present.



1978/80 Reunion: 8 June 2024

Chris Hill and his friends enjoyed the occasion so much that they are planning to organise a reunion of more of their number next term. The plan is to meet at Queen's in the afternoon for a Tour & Tea after which they will meet in town for drinks and an evening meal. Those who left in 1978 (after O Levels) or in 1980 (after A levels) interested in being involved should contact Chris Hill (christwhill@icloud.com) or Geoff Bisson (gbi@queenscollege.org.uk)

Profile: David WO Jones (1951-57)

David was seated to the Headmaster's right at the Vintage Lunch (see photo on page 22). After leaving Queen's, David joined the family-owned department store in Llanelli for a short period before joining a firm of stockbrokers in Cardiff and Swansea. With a partnership a distant prospect, he applied to join the Civil Service and took up a post auditing the accounts of the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Centre in Swansea.

Keen to experience life in London, David took a post with the Department for Ancient Monuments and Historic Buildings which subsequently became English Heritage. He really enjoyed being part of a small unit that looked after the presentation of monuments to the public ensuring that the facilities and interpretation of the sites were up-to-date and adequate. This involved a lot of travelling, the length and breadth of England, to many magnificent places of cultural importance.

Kay was also employed in London, but with two small children a return to Wales appealed to them both. The Civil Service transferred them to what was then called the Export Credit Guarantees Department

in Cardiff. This offered insurance cover to UK exporters against non-payment for their goods. Eventually privatised (it is now called Atradius), David found himself travelling overseas looking to recover monies for the UK Government and liaising with overseas credit insurance organisations. He travelled frequently to a number of South American countries and made regular trips to Japan and parts of Africa.

When at Queen's, David was fully involved in school life especially sport and music. He had a fine voice and sang in the choir and he also played in various ensembles. In the picture of the Brass Quartet, below, he is playing the French horn. To his left are **Dudley Clapp (1954-59)** and **Willy Morgan (1951-58)**, trumpets 1 and 2, and **Tom Denley (1954-59)** on trombone.



Geoff Bisson

A Night in Nigeria

Over the mid-weekend of March, I made a trip to Lagos, Nigeria. I left the UK on Friday 15 to attend a fair organised by Nubi Education the following day. It was fascinating to meet families and prospective pupils and, hopefully, some will decide to come to Queen's.

That evening there was time for me to meet three OQs and to talk to another on the phone. **Ayo Otuyalo (1981-84)** graduated from Obafemi Awolowo University with a degree in Pharmacy and then studied at Harvard Business School. In 1997, he began his career as a pharmacist but after a year, he went into the oil industry. At Honeywell Oil and Gas he made his mark becoming personal assistant to the chairman.



In 2005, he set up his own company, Prime Atlantic Limited.

He is a trustee of Impact Your World, an organisation dedicated to improving the lives of youngsters. He is a pastor and the author of a widely read prayer devotional. He is also an excellent pianist.

Kofo Coker (1980-82) and **Henry Iyasere (1980-82)** are both successful lawyers. They were keen to share stories of their days at Queen's many of which were hilarious. They shared a dorm in what is now one of two Maths rooms on the top corridor in the link between the Sixth Form Block and the Haslam Block, which then were known as 'the rabbit hutches'.



On their first night at the school, they discovered the Winchester Arms in town for which they were 'gated' by their housemaster, Brian Robinson, for whom they expressed fond respect. Undeterred, they often frequented the 88400 Night Club in Taunton where they met Joel Garner and Viv Richards (Somerset cricketers and West Indies legends) who introduced them to whiskey.

They were both good athletes and proud to recall that they were part of the team that won the 4 x 100 relay county and regional championships. The other members of the team included **Leke Adedeji (1978-83)**, who I had the chance to talk to on the phone, and **Kiki Coker (1979-83)**, Kofu's brother who sadly died in a traffic accident. Three of these runners are in the school photo of the Athletic team of 1981.



Standing: Henry (3rd from right); sitting: Kiki (first left) and Leke (extreme right)

Andrew Free (1975-84)

The Heads of School

In looking back on the time since the last newsletter in October we remember some memorable moments that took place here at Queen's.

Gauntlet - On the last days of the autumn term, we as Heads of School, hosted the annual gauntlet, in which representatives from each year gather to answer challenging questions for their house on a range of topics from Biology to Christmas, Sport and Music. The final was incredibly intense with Ray House and French House coming head to head, with this year's winner being French.

Carol Service - The term ended with the melodies of our annual Carol Service. The school choir and guest speakers came together to create a magical atmosphere, spreading festive cheer and showcasing the incredible musical talent within our community.

Sixth Form Winter Ball - Sixth Form students dazzled in their finest attire at the Winter Ball. The Year 13 boys and girls songs were done badly but were hilarious for that with the boys singing 'Last Christmas', and the girls singing 'Shut up and Dance'. Following these terrible renditions, the whole Sixth Form and teachers sang together 'Twelve days of Christmas' before hitting the dance floor.

Mock Exams for Years 11 and 13 - On the first few days of the spring term

Years 11 and 13 students faced mock exams – a chance to test their academic mettle. Their dedication and hard work were evident, and we commend them for their resilience and commitment to their studies. These mock exams serve as valuable preparation for the real assessments ahead, and we are confident they will be successful.

Valentine's Celebrations - Love was in the air as our school celebrated Valentine's Day. Students wrote notes of appreciation, creating heart-warming moments that filled the day with kindness and affection.

Pancake Flipping Competitions - Adding a dash of fun to the end of half term, our students engaged in friendly competition during the Pancake Flipping Contest. The Heads of Houses showcased their culinary skills with Joel slightly lagging behind others. Finally, a person from each year came up and flipped pancakes to win the pancake race for their house, with French once again on top.

Emily Handel (Head Girl)
Tadhg McAlonan (Head Boy)

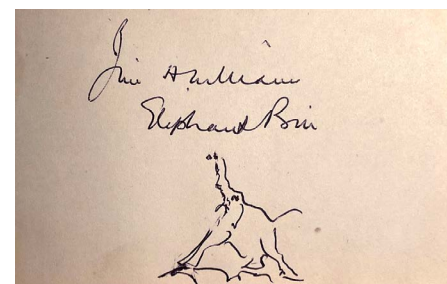


The Head in Hong Kong

Mr and Mrs Noad were in Hong Kong in February to promote Queen's College. They held a reception for OQs and a happy time was had by all.



An Elephantine Signature



Kenneth Maxwell (1951-60) kept an autograph book. Within its pages is the signature of 'Elephant Bill' which he acquired when the famous soldier visited Queen's in the autumn term, 1951. The Wyvern of December that year recorded his visit.

'Elephant Bill', a best-seller, by **Col. J.H. Williams, O.B.E. (1910-14)**, has had a circulation of 250,000 copies, and has been translated into seven languages, with a braille version for the blind. 'Jim' or 'Treacle Top' to his contemporaries, enthralled the School one evening this term with many stories about elephants. The hundred lantern slides he showed were made for him by the Royal Geographical Society. After his talk there was a great rush for his autograph – a proud moment for any Old Queenian.'

1978/80 Reunion

Saturday 8 June 2.00 pm

Old Music Room

Tour & Tea

Evening Meal: tbd

Contact: **Chris Hill**

chrishill@gmail.com

2012/14 Reunion

Saturday 15 June 2.00 pm.

Old Music Room

Tour, Rounders & Hog Roast

Evening at Brazz

Contact: **Hannah Clarke**

hannah.clarke.1505@gmail.com

Sibly Society Lunch

Saturday 22 June 12.15pm

Old Music Room

Lunch & Tour

By invitation only

Contact: gb@queenscollege.org.uk

Cricket: OQs v School

Friday 28 June 5.00 pm

Pavilion

T/20 & Tea

Contact: **Charlie Ball**

c.alex.ball@icloud.com

Max Johnson

maxjohnson8395@gmail.com

1972/74 Reunion (50th)

Saturday 16 November 2.00 pm

Old Music Room

Tour & Tea

Drinks in Castle House (5.00-7.00pm)

Evening meal: Ring of Bells

Contact: **Ray Sapak**

raysapak@madasafish.com

Remembrance Weekend (November) & The Vintage Lunch (December)

Details to follow



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