



Ebulletin - January 2021

A message from the President of the Alleyn Club, Simon Dyson OA



It is half a lifetime away (for me at least) since Aretha Franklin released "Who's Zoomin' Who" - little did she know!

Anyway, it looks like we will be Zooming for a few months yet, and our idea that we ought to hold a Spring Reception at the College after the clocks go forward is also now confined to the virtual world.

Two OA contemporaries of mine, Lionel Barber and Stewart Purvis CBE, who have had illustrious careers in the world of news media have agreed to chat to us on 29 March over a cocktail or two (at your own expense and in your own home of course!). As I write, the pictures from the storming of the Capitol in Washington DC are everywhere. I am sure Lionel and Stewart will have plenty to say about how social media has inserted itself (without any serious editorial standards and few checks and balances) into the world that used to be dominated by regulated newsprint and TV. Register for our [Alleyn Club Spring Reception here](#).

May I draw your attention to our [City Networking](#) event which is being held next week on Thursday 21 January, masterminded by OAs Marco De Benedictis and Andrew O'Flaherty. Open to OAs with experience or interest in the city or technology, we'll be discussing a range of topics.

It is with much pleasure that we share the news that Sir Stephen Deuchar CBE OA (1970-75) has been Knighted in the 2021 New Year Honours list for services to the arts. Sir Stephen was the first director of Tate Britain in London, from 1998 to 2010. Between 2010 and 2020 he was the director of the UK's Art Fund.

Finally, please accept my best wishes for a happy, healthy, and successful New Year. Let us hope that the vaccine optimism is not misplaced.

A message from Dr Joe Spence, Master of Dulwich College



I am once again leading a virtual school, with only the Nursery and Kindergarten open, and with small numbers of Critical Worker Children also coming in to the College.

Although we find ourselves back under strict lockdown, we are confident, based on the experience of lockdowns 1 and 2, that we can offer excellent online learning and ensure that our pupils continue to make academic progress and are intellectually stimulated. We are also confident that we can run many of the cultural, sporting and charitable activities that are a core part of a Dulwich education.

As we will no doubt hear at our first OA event of the year (City Networking on 21 January), out of a crisis come opportunities to do better and to make a difference.

So, our progress in remote learning continues apace and we are looking for ways in which to share our best practice and innovations: charitably, with our partner state schools, and commercially through the independent and international school markets.

I will be lobbying in the coming weeks for teachers and those working in schools to have early access to the vaccine so that we can ensure that all schools in the UK are safe spaces and not, in the Prime Minister's phrase, "vectors of

transmission" for coronavirus. Only when schools are open again, and safely so, can we begin to work towards a broader opening of the economy and support the wellbeing of all families.

Thank you for the support you gave to Dulwich College through 2020, and wishing you all the very best for 2021. I hope to see many of you virtually over the early months of the year and in person soon thereafter. I hope you and your families are keeping safe and well.

alleynclub@dulwich.org.uk

Dates for your diary

City Networking - The Global Pandemic: Searching For A Silver Lining



Thursday 21 January

7.00pm

Free to attend, register to receive joining instructions for Zoom

Please join us for a virtual panel discussion and break out opportunities to join experts in their field for an open discussion. This talk is open to all OAs with experience or an interest in the City, Technology and related professions.

This will be an interactive session with each speaker taking a separate break out room. As the audience, you can move between each room, ask questions and express views.

[Register For City Networking](#)

Healthcare Webinar



Monday 1 February

6.30pm

Free to attend, register to receive joining instructions for Zoom

We invite OAs to join us for an exciting programme of short lectures from inspirational individuals in the field of healthcare. Panellists will be announced soon.

[Register For Healthcare Webinar](#)

Alleyn Club Spring Reception - Fake News: What is the future for modern journalism?



Monday 29 March

7.00pm

Free to attend, register to receive joining instructions for Zoom

Join us for our first OA Spring Reception where we invite you to be part of a virtual discussion with OAs Lionel Barber, former editor of the Financial Times, and Stewart Purvis CBE, former Chief Executive of ITN. Lionel and Stewart will be talking about the future of journalism in a world where the pressure to create online content is threatening to make the print medium obsolete, and where social media is giving everyone the opportunity to create their own 'news'.

OA News

New Year Honours 2021



We are delighted to share the news that Sir Stephen Deuchar CBE OA (1970-75) has been Knighted in the 2021 New Year Honours list for services to the arts.

Sir Stephen was the first director of Tate Britain in London, from 1998 to 2010, and between 2010 and 2020 he was the director of the UK's Art Fund.

Celebrating Black History Month, and Diversity and Inclusion at the College



Black History Month

Pupils and staff took part in a number of activities to mark the College's programme Adding to History, celebrating Black History Month in October. Guests included Rodney Clarke OA, (1989-96), pictured, who returned to the College and spoke of his career highs and lows as a professional singer and performer, challenges in his journey and the impact of Covid on the arts. We were also joined by Mani Arthur, founder of the Black Cyclist Network in 2018, and south-east London grime artist, mentor and humanitarian Afrikan Boy. You can [watch these inspirational talks again here](#).

A Greater Emphasis on Diversity and Inclusion

It is right that we focus now on racial inclusion but we are also very keen to hear from anyone who has found themselves in any minority, whether this is because of difference or perceived difference in sexual orientation, religious belief, disability, neurodiversity or gender identity. If you would like to talk to us about this, to share your views and experiences, please do get in touch with the Secretary of the Alleyn Club [Trevor Llewelyn](#) or the Director of Diversity and Inclusion [Dr Malcolm Cocks](#).

The Diversity and Inclusion OA Support Programme

The Alleyn Club and the Diversity and Inclusion Alliance at the College have teamed up with Damilola Adebayo OA (2006-13) who is the Diversity and Inclusion Lead at Scott Bader, and member of our Alliance at Dulwich to establish what we hope, with your help, will develop into a thriving mentorship scheme. The idea of the programme is to make available to all pupils a pool of Old Alleynians who they can speak with periodically and to network. We are particularly, but by no means exclusively, interested in mentors who are themselves from racialised or other minority status groups. We would like our pupils to have a diverse set of role models, and are looking for OAs from a variety of career spaces including The Arts, Law, IT, Medicine, Engineering (STEM), Sport, Culture, Finance, Academia, Teaching, Politics and Civil Service to share their knowledge, experience, expertise and access. If you'd like to find out more, or to put yourself forward, please email [Damilola Adebayo](#) or [Trevor Llewelyn](#), Secretary of the Alleyn Club.

What is your favourite PG Wodehouse book?



The name of Sir PG (Pelham Grenville) Wodehouse KBE (1881-1975) will forever be associated with the College. He was a prolific author with over seventy novels to his name. It is clear that Wodehouse held his time at the College in the highest regard, indeed George Orwell said he was fixated on Dulwich and Wodehouse wrote later in life to his closest Dulwich friend saying that 'everything since has been an anti-climax'. In 1902 he published his first novel, *The Pothunters*, set at the fictional public school of St Austin's, an institution many think was loosely based on Dulwich. He was of course responsible for two of the most familiar comic characters in British literature, Bertie Wooster and his valet Jeeves.

If you have a favourite PG Wodehouse publication we would love to hear from you. Email the [Alley Club](#) with the title(s) and, if you wish, a few lines explaining why it has given you so much pleasure. We will publish a list of the most loved works in a future eBulletin. Image: PG Wodehouse in 1900.



Mentorship Programme on OA Connect

We'll shortly be kickstarting our mentorship programme on our platform OA Connect. Are you interested in becoming a mentor or mentee? Sign up or log in to OA Connect to update your details. We'll need your education and employment information to start connecting OAs. Log in and click your profile image in the top right hand corner and select "Edit Profile" where you can enter the information and choose what sort of help or mentoring you would like to offer or receive. If you are especially keen to get involved, as a mentor or mentee, email the [Alley Club](#).

[Join OA Connect Here](#)

OA Stories



Andy Zhang OA (2014-16)

During 2020, Secretary of the Alley Club Trevor Llewelyn OA interviewed over 30 fascinating Old Alleynians who shared their tales with us for our podcast series OA Stories.

In our International Edit, Trevor had the pleasure of speaking with Andy Zhang OA, who shared with us his life throughout 2020. We joined Andy shortly after he moved to Japan last March, where he was adjusting to his new life, including learning Japanese. As 2020 progressed we learnt more about Japanese culture and history, and conversations turned to the management of Covid in Japan.

The year concluded with Andy attending an intensive residential driving course, and a trip to China; but not before two weeks in a hotel quarantine first.

Listen to season one and two of Andy's podcasts, and all of our other OA Stories below.

[Listen To OA Stories Here](#)



Keep up to date with all the OA news and events by visiting the [website](#) and [OA Connect](#).

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