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# CAOKS

## Newsletter

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The King's School Alumni Association Newsletter #42 - August 2003

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE - NICK PHILLIPSON



It seems like only yesterday when Alex was vacating the President's chair at the AGM and I was thrust into the 'Presidential spotlight'. The AGM passed off well (someone murmured it was one of the longest AGMs on record! – is that a compliment or not?), followed by an enjoyable supper. Since then I have attended a number of Governors' meetings to finalise and confirm the many exciting developments due to take place at

school over the coming twelve months. Heady stuff indeed – but vitally important to the future of the school.

If there are any OKS out there who are not aware of these developments or would like to know more, please contact the school who will be happy to help. The 1541 Society continues to grow as the umbrella for the various strands of the school of which we are an integral part. I know that the Association can play an important role both now and in the future to make 1541 a success. The Leavers' lunch in early May produced an excellent response of new members. During the lunch I made a presentation of two racing prints to Mrs Helen Hooley who has retired as the Headmaster's secretary.

*Continued on page 2*

## DATES FOR THE DIARY

**CATHEDRAL SERVICE** - Sunday 7th September 2003 at 10.00 am. The Cathedral, Chester. The Headmaster invites all members and their guests to attend.

Contact the Headmaster's Secretary on 01244 689523 (B).

**COMMEMORATION SERVICE** - Friday 24th October 2003 at 10.30 am. The Cathedral, Chester. The Headmaster invites all members and their guests to attend.

Contact the Headmaster's Secretary on 01244 689523 (B).

**SNOOKER vs. THE GRAMMAR SCHOOL** - Friday 7th November 2003 at 7.00 pm. The City Club, St. Peter's Churchyard, Chester. Dinner is followed by the competition for the cup (the ability to hold a cue is not always necessary).

Contact Glyn Meacher-Jones on 01244 357 203 (B) or 01829 270516 (H).

**REMEMBRANCE DAY PARADE** - Sunday 9th November 2003 at 10.30 am. The War Memorial, Chester Cathedral. On the Association's behalf, the School CCF Detachment will lay a wreath in memory of the 114 Old King's Scholars who lost their lives in the two World Wars.

**KRSC RACE NIGHT** - Saturday 6th December 2003 at 7.30 pm. The King's School. Director of Rowing Matthew Hackett invites members and guests to attend this fun event. The "winning" crews will go on to compete at the Pudding Races. Contact Matthew Hackett on 01244 689500 (H).

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**SEND YOUR UPDATES & ARTICLES TO:**  
**newseditor.caoks@kingschester.co.uk**

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE CONTINUED

A beautiful evening in June took Jane and I to the bowls where all concerned enjoyed a fun game or two and a good supper afterwards. The cricketers also 'suffered' glorious weather and a glorious result. The President's evening was held outdoors 'chez Smithy' and was enjoyed by all who attended. I would like to thank all who helped, particularly my wife who, if ever she lost faith in management consultancy, would give Jamie Oliver a run for his money in an alternative career. The golf day at Eaton was another keenly contested competition with some good scoring – I won't mention the presidential three putts. Congratulations to Ian Beech on his excellent score.

As a possible addition to the sporting calendar if there are any badminton players out there, please contact me as we are looking to organise an occasional (rather than annual) match against the school.

As some of you may know, I have a great love of Scotland and in particular walking up Munros (mountains

over 3000ft). There are 284 in total, and I have summited 30 so far. My target during this presidential year is to reach 50, and towards this goal, Alex Horne and I enjoyed a recent weekend in my cottage in the Highlands when we successfully climbed three (his first, but probably not his last !?). I shall update you of progress in future newsletters.

So the Presidential year has begun at a hectic pace but nevertheless has been thoroughly enjoyable. Finally, I wish to thank the Association for placing its trust in me, I feel greatly honoured. I would also like to take the opportunity, both personally and on behalf of the Association, to thank Alex Horne for all his hard work as our President, some of which I have witnessed but much unseen. I trust you are having a good summer.

Nick Phillipson

## FROM THE EDITOR

With baited breath, we could feel you eagerly anticipating the next instalment in the saga that is, The OKS Newsletter. "It's nearly September" we hear some of you cry. True, it's nearly back to School time, but then again it's nearly Christmas too - it's all relative. Expect the next bumper edition on your door mats come the first week in December. You will then have a matter of weeks to gather your throng and submit the Annual Dinner order form, so I suggest you begin throng-gathering now.

News of Nigel Cunniffe (1984) has come in via David King, who bumped into him on holiday in Italy. David learnt that Nigel has been living and working in America for 13 years. He is married to Lauren and they live in new Jersey, where he works in Real Estate around golf courses.

Mickey Moore (1963) has sent in one of his jokes from this year's Annual Dinner speech after he realised that it was much funnier if you wrote it down:

**Breaking News from Strasbourg...** on the latest developments in the language policy for Europe (pronounced Yeurpl), which is the next step toward full European integration for the British public. The European Union Commissioners have announced that agreement has finally been reached to adopt English as the preferred language for all European communications, rather than German, which was the other possibility.

As part of the negotiations, Her Majesty's Government conceded that there was some room for improvement in English spelling and has accepted a five year plan to adopt what is to be known as EuroEnglish (or Euro for short).

In the first year, "s" will be used instead of the soft "c". Certainly, some sivil servants will resieve this news with joy. Also the hard "c" will be replaced with "k". Not only will this klear up confusion, but typewriters will have one less letter.

There will be growing publik enthusiasm in the sekond year, when the ever-troublesome "ph" will be replased by

"f". This will make words like fotograf 20% shorter.

In the third year, public akseptanse on the new spelling can be expected to reach the stage where more komplikated changes are possible. Linguists will encourage the removal of double letters, which have always ben a deterrent to akurate speling. Also al wil agre that the horrible mes of silent "e"'s in the language is disgrasful, and they would go as well.

By the fourth year, peopl wil be reseptiv to steps such as replasing "th" with "z" and "w" with "v". During ze fifz year, ze unesesary "o" can be dropd from vords containing "ou", and similar changes vuld of kurs be applied to ozer combinations of letters,

After zis fifz yer, ve vil hav a reli sesibl styl. Zer vil be no mor trubls or difikultis and evrivun vil find it ezi tu understand ech ozer. Ze drem vil finali kum tru!

John Faulkner (1961) has written in to advise us that there were several errors in the photograph caption of John Eaton's article on the Queen Mother's visit to Chester. Many apologies, and the correct names should have been (left to right): Neil Tranter, Chris Manning, Martin Gledhill, John Eaton, Howard Davies, unknown (possibly John Bisson), me (John Faulkner) and Graham Thompson.

Paul Consterdine reports that Brigadier James Dutton, commanding 3 Commando Brigade, was prominent on the television during the Iraq operations. He appeared frequently to explain the campaign, particularly as it concerned the securing of Al Q'sar.

He also spotted Matthew Slee (1995) on 'Who wants to be a Millionaire. He progressed quite well before withdrawing with a very handsome sum of money.

If anyone else has seen one of their peers on the television, or anywhere else for that matter, please do send in your reports. If we could have a regular 'Eye Witness' column made up of snippets of Old Scholars, that would be great.

David Atkin

# FROM THE HEADMASTER

It has been very good to enjoy a certain amount of summer weather during this term and to have seen a good deal of cricket taking place which all too often in some years falls victim to summer rains.

Despite the good weather in the final month of term, I reflect with some dismay on the outcome of the annual CAOKS match. The talents of our youth could not quite match the impact of your experience and your victory was deserved.

We look forward to next year's game when we are determined that the tables will be turned. In confidence of another classy match we are proposing to move the fixture to a Sunday so that we can make it part of a weekend of summer celebrations at the school. Arising from discussions in the Governors' Marketing Committee and consultations that I have had with your President and Secretary we hope that there would be a CAOKS reunion function on the Saturday evening, the Rowing Club barbecue on the Sunday lunchtime (to which CAOKS members would be invited), and strawberries and cream during the tea interval of the cricket match.

The date of this weekend has yet to be confirmed and we have yet to consider the impact of these changes on the school's own calendar but early signs that this plan may reach fruition are hopeful.

## Staff

This term we say farewell to Ms Louise Love, who moves back to her native Scotland to take up a teaching post at Fettes College, Edinburgh, and to Mr Roger Shaw who moves to Radley College. From September Mr Barry Lewis will be head of mathematics and Mr Kevin Lloyd becomes a full time member of staff in the design technology department.

We shall welcome to the Common Room a number of new colleagues in September: Miss Alice Pitkin joins the history & politics department, Mrs Dawn Hearne joins us as learning support co-ordinator and Mr Clive Canty joins the mathematics department. Mrs Jane Jepson joins the science department part time. Mr Routledge takes up his new role as director of studies in September, with Dr Bradley as assistant director of studies. Mr Tim Heavisides will join us in January as head of English.

## Building works

The term has seen many periods of uncertainty as the pieces of this complex jigsaw have been put into place. We have experienced delays (as is usually the case with building projects) over planning and with the discovery of hitherto undetected pipes, conduits and ducts running through, under and round areas where we are trying to build.

Work has begun in earnest on the junior school additional classrooms, the extensions to the art and design

technology buildings, the links between the Walsh wing and the main corridor and the car park at the front of the school. Steps have been taken to preserve as many of the fine trees in the area in front of the Headmaster's House which will be the site for the new staff car park.

During the summer, work will take place within the school buildings and girls' toilets will be provided in the junior school. Work will also start on the all weather pitch and on the senior school common room.

The tennis courts beyond the junior school are in the process of being enlarged and completely refurbished to give us a greatly improved facility for use from the start of the Michaelmas term.

We are awaiting planning permission for additional changing rooms and the fitness suite at the sports hall, two further classrooms for the junior school, floodlights for the all weather surface and an extension to the playing fields.

## CAOKS

I very much enjoyed the President's evening which, unusually but rather successfully, took place in July on a dry if slightly chilly night. Those of you unable to attend missed a wonderful menu and missed seeing the Headmaster and Second Master in action at the table tennis table. All for no additional charge. I extend my thanks to the President and his lady for their kind hospitality to the Association on that occasion.

Chiefly as a result of the 1541 Society mailing I have received a number of most interesting letters from Old King's Scholars around the country. Of considerable interest is the growing collection of memorabilia which is coming my way. I had not before seen the collection of seven picture postcards of the King's School, dating back to around 1920, which the son-in-law of a 92-year-old Scholar [Arthur Pickett who was a pupil in the 1920s] sent to me.

I am also involved in an e-mail correspondence with Sandy Blair who, with his brother Ian [assistant commissioner of the metropolitan police, recently knighted] was a pupil at the Cathedral Choir School before its closure. We are discussing whether we should rightly assume that alumni of the Choir School are alumni of King's, on the grounds that, upon its closure, the choir school was amalgamated with King's junior. Neither of the Blair brothers appears on our database, so this assumption may be incorrect. If it is one that we should make, there may be others out there with whom contact has been completely lost. I would be interested to receive further intelligence about this matter from anyone with records or a long memory. I wish you all a relaxing summer break.

Tim Turvey

We have received two pictures of the 2003 London Dinner, which will be published in the December edition of this Newsletter. If you have any photographs of any size or shape, black and white or colour, which you feel would be of interest to other OKS, please feel free to send them in (we will, of course, return them). Pictures of your time at School, sports teams and reunions all work well. Please always try to name the people pictured and send them to:

David Atkin, 45 Canadian Avenue, Chester. CH2 3HQ

# ALUMNI NEWS

## CHRIS ELDRIDGE (1997)

We are often told variety is the spice of life. If that be so then my life since I left Kings has been a veritable chicken vindaloo. I left King's in 1997 to study history at Magdalene College, Cambridge. Three years later after tremendous fun, a damaged liver and a 2.1, I wasn't ready to leave.

Remembering the many hours spent working under the school's memorial window to the victims of the two world wars I decided to combine my interest in military history with research into my alma mater and similar institutions by undertaking a Masters on the public school ethos in the First World War. As a result I spent a fourth year in Magdalene with very enjoyable trips to many of the nations' best schools: Harrow, Haileybury and of course Kings to name but a few.

During this period I vacillated wildly as regards career choices, inquiring into such diverse fields as the Church, law and the army. Indeed I even went as far as securing a place at Sandhurst in the pursuit of the latter option. One too many weekends spent lying in a rain-filled trench with Cambridge University Officer Training Corps however, persuaded me that this was not the career for me.

With this in mind I made yet another change of direction and decided on a career in industrial marketing, gaining a position in telecommunications company Marconi in Coventry beginning in autumn 2001.

Many will doubtless be aware of Marconi's recent history – the collapse of the IT market resulted in one of the biggest crashes in British corporate history, Marconi shares plunging from nearly £16 to 3 pence in less than a year. With unerring sense of timing I joined right in the middle

of this! Although all in all a thoroughly depressing experience, this crisis was ultimately beneficial to me for it enabled me to see that the corporate world was not, after all, my cup of tea. But what to do next? Finally, realising that I was missing my subject terribly and realising that social interaction is what I crave above all in a career I settled on one that would enable me to do both: a history teacher.

Thus it was that in 2002 I entered Magdalene for the third time, this time for a Postgraduate Certificate in Education which prompted many pointed comments (Are you ever going to leave? etc). It has proved a long and challenging course, but I have enjoyed it, and have secured a post at Highgate School in London commencing this September, an institution markedly similar in many ways. By a curious coincidence, the headmaster of Highgate, Mr Richard Kennedy, was taught by Roger Wickson as a pupil at Charterhouse when Roger was doing his PGCE at Cambridge! The wheel has turned full circle indeed...

## DAVID HINDLEY (1959)

David has kindly provided the Newsletter with the fascinating 'School Camp 1952' Letter and 'List Of Things To Bring' published in this Newsletter (pages 5 & 6). He noted in his letter to the Hon Sec that the kit bags were very heavy and that 50 years has just flown by!

The originals have been passed on to the School for them to keep in the archives.

# OBITUARY

## H T (TONY) DAVENPORT (1939)

From an early age Tony wanted to be a doctor and after he left King's, he entered medical school in Liverpool. He qualified in 1944 and spent a year in various hospitals in Liverpool and then joined the RNVR as a Surgeon Lieutenant. Most of his time in the Navy was spent in the Mediterranean, principally at Bighi Hospital in Malta.

In 1949, he got his diploma in anaesthesia and then decided to go to Hartford and New Haven hospitals in Connecticut to do a years postgraduate study. The last month of this time was spent in Montreal, where he was offered a post at the Montreal General Hospital. When he returned to England for a holiday in 1951, he was offered a job as a consultant anaesthetist in Chester, but after just two years we was enticed back to Canada.

He worked at the General Hospital and then the Chil-

dren's Hospital in Montreal, spending a further five years at the Children's Hospital in Vancouver. He did pioneer open heart surgery at this time and also started Day Care surgery, which was then virtually unknown.

In 1971, he spent a year at the Erasmus Hospital in Rotterdam, then came back to England and spent the rest of his working life (until the age of 70) at Northwick Park Hospital in Harrow.

Soon after retiring, he developed thyroid cancer and although he remained relatively well for a number of years, the cancer recurred and in 2000 he had a laryngectomy which left him without a voice. In January 2003, he suffered a stroke, which further incapacitated him and he passed away peacefully at his home on 15th April aged 81. He is survived by his wife, son and two daughters.

Margaret Davenport

# OBITUARY CONT'D

## HERBERT (BERT) DUTTON (1936)

Bert Dutton was a past President of the Association and former Governor of the School. The following Obituary appeared in **The Chester Chronicle** on 14th August 2003:

The funeral took place on August 11th at St Peter's Church, Plemstall of Herbert (Bert) Dutton of Wicker Lane, Guilden Sutton. Mr Dutton died at The Countess of Chester Hospital on August 1st aged 83 years. Mr Dutton was born in Sandbach in 1919. When he was four years old he moved with his parents and sister Kathleen to Guilden Sutton which is where he lived for the next 79 years. During the war he met Sheila and they were married in 1946. Over the years their family grew, Carolyn., Sara, Andy and Miles.

Bert was a devoted father taking great pride in his children's achievements. Sadly, Carolyn was taken from them. In due course their family extended with the additions of Andrew and Peter and their four grandsons, James, William, Tom, and Louis. Bert had been a farmer all his working life from the 1930's, first as a partner with his father and then on his own account. He was involved in farming politics both locally and regionally and was the driving force behind the formation of an agricultural

trading company, becoming the regional director. Mr Dutton was a governor of the King's School and had been a pupil at Arnold House (King's Junior) and later at Senior Kings. He was also president of CAOKS in 1961.

Mr Dutton was a founder member and later chairman of the post-war Chester Round Table, he also became a member of Chester Rotary Club, the Pitt Club and the City Club. He was a very keen and respected Mason, enjoying Cestrian Lodge as a member and Master and also Cestrian Chapter.

His interests included shooting, and he was a founder member of Peaton shoot at Craven Arms as well as a shoot in Anglesey. He was also a member of Vicars Cross Golf Club.

Family mourners included: Sheila Dutton (wife); Sara Chantler (daughter); Andy Storrar (daughter); Myles Dutton (son); Andrew Storrar (son-in-law); Peter Chantler (son-in-law); James Storrar, William Storrar, Tom Storrar. and Louis Storrar (grandsons); Kathleen Brereton and Margaret Fair (sisters). Also present were representatives of The National Farming Union; Chester Association of Old King's Scholars; The City Club; Cestrian Lodge; King's School and Guilden Sutton Parish Council.

# SCHOOL NEWS

## Senior School

The builders have now arrived on the premises to begin the first phase of work to allow for the increasing student numbers with the advent of girls at all ages.

The production of 'South Pacific' was a great success and enjoyed by cast and audiences alike. Currently in preparation are productions of 'The Tempest' and 'The Pied Piper' to be performed by junior pupils.

The senior soccer XI managed to bring some silverware home with a good win in the district cup final against Bishop's High School. On the rowing scene old boys Tom James and Peter Rudge are busy in the Olympic development programme and are therefore involved with the country's rowing elite. An article written by Tom's father appears earlier in this Newsletter.

Two boys, Dominic Benson and Andrew Sissons, achieved excellent results in the national Physics Chal-

lenge, Dominic being placed in the top ten in the country. Dominic and another student, Jim Park, also reached the top 25% of the national intermediate Maths Olympiad.

## Junior School

The term will conclude with a performance of 'Macbeth' in the Shakespeare for Kids series.

The school is proud to have 4 county squad cricket players, a National Tennis Futures player and 2 county chess representatives.

Recently enjoyed by the top year was the adventure activities course at Plas Menai.

There will be 22 girls joining the school in September.

Paul Consterdine

**THIS IS A MUCH REDUCED NEWSLETTER. ONLY CAOKS MEMBERS RECEIVE THE FULL EDITION. IF YOU ARE NOT A MEMBER BUT WOULD LIKE TO JOIN, PLEASE E-MAIL ADRIAN ACKROYD AT [honsec.caoks@kingchester.co.uk](mailto:honsec.caoks@kingchester.co.uk)**