

# CAOKS NEWSLETTER

Celebrating 150 years of camaraderie and friendship



April 2019

Issue 76

## From the President



Starting a new chapter can be exciting if a little daunting - there is the thrill of knowing we are becoming an alumni association that can thrive in the modern world whilst still respecting our traditions, and the agony of worrying if we are doing the right thing.

Which is why I fall back on a principle I applied throughout my rowing career "that as long as you have the reasoning and a plan behind what you are doing you are able to control the outcome" this works as well for testing whether a new type of high caffeine sports drink will get you down a 2km rowing lake any faster, as it does

for figuring out how we were going to rebuild a positive relationship with the school. And my goodness have we been testing the theory! Copious amounts of committee members time and endless patience from The Head, George Hartley and Liz Gywther (Head of Development) have got us to a place where we aren't compromising, but have found a path that allows us to collaborate, bringing the best of both parties to the fore.

I would urge you to take a little time to peruse pages 11-14 where we detail our proposals for CAOKS and how we work with the School going forwards. Most are simply capturing practical, day to day considerations but at the core of the changes is the recognition that CAOKS is an association run for and by Alumni and refocuses our attention on the reason that CAOKS exists, The Exhibition.

I look forward to hearing your views on the proposals and hope you will welcome the increased inclusivity and reach our Association stands to gain from them.

Finally, it would feel remiss for me not to mention another act of inclusion, this year is the 20th anniversary of girls joining the School, another somewhat larger revolution than our Proposals, that didn't work out too badly in the end!

**Olivia Whitlam**  
President of CAOKS

### In this Issue



# From the Editor

*Anthony Russell*



Welcome to this issue of the CAOKS newsletter. I hope you find it of interest. A large portion of this issue is given over to explaining proposals for the future of the Association and I would urge all members to consider these with care. See pages 11-14. A great deal of thought and hard work has gone into the discussions with the school and the formulation of these proposals, which will be put to the membership at the Annual General Meeting. There is an opportunity to make representations to the Committee before the AGM.

Having become involved in the affairs of the Association only recently following my retirement, I have been very impressed with the dedication of those who have been working on the project and consider that the proposals are in the best interests of the Association, the Membership and the School. I very much hope that they will be adopted and believe that the changes will lead to a successful future for CAOKS in full collaboration with the School.

As the Headmaster points out, the great event of this year will be the opening of the new Sports Centre which looks most impressive. There will be more about this in the next issue. 20 years of girls at King's is an important landmark. Inevitably, as their influence filters through, the complexion of the membership of our Association will change and it is important for the events we arrange to reflect this and cater for all.

**The next issue will be published in the Autumn. Please send any material for inclusion no later than 18<sup>th</sup> October 2019.**

**We greatly appreciate all articles and items of news for inclusion. Photographs and paper documents will be returned if requested, or they can be donated to the School's Archives for conservation. When using email please forward contributions as MSWord files. Pictures are best sent separately from the text in JPEG format.**

**Any contributions should be sent to the Editor, Anthony Russell, whose contact details are on the back page.**

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## From the Secretary

Adrian Ackroyd



Since Christmas we have continued the good progress in our objective of developing a closer relationship between CAOKS and the School. The General Committee has recently unanimously endorsed the end results of the many extensive discussions between the CAOKS steering group and the School. The steering group's proposals are published later in this Newsletter. I whole heartedly back these proposals as the work of the President, Hon Sec, Hon Treasurer and other Officers will be unchanged as will the interaction of members with the Association and the School.

Also in this issue is the booking form for the CAOKS Annual Dinner which is now back at the School – I would advise you to reserve your place (and a pre-dinner tour of the School) soon – Saturday 7 Sept 2019.

## From the Dinner Secretary

Robin Hardi



I am happy to report that plans are well underway for the 2019 Dinner, to be held on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> September.

I am working closely with the Development Office on the arrangements for bringing the Dinner back to the School this year, with the generous encouragement of the

Headmaster. The catering team have proposed an excellent menu (see Booking Form) and we are just finalising the last few details for the event.

This year the School have kindly offered to help with the booking website and collecting payments so you will see a few new details on the booking form. The ticket price will be £39, a 20% reduction from last year and another reason why we moved venue. I would like to encourage you to book online but it will also still be possible to pay by cheque and send the booking form in by post.

Arrangements generally remain the same with the Black Tie reception starting at 6.30 pm. However as there have been big changes to the School facilities since many of us were pupils we will be offering a tour of the School from 5 pm, which can be pre booked. We will hold the dinner in the Vanbrugh Theatre (the old assembly hall for some of us) and we are really hoping that a return the School and an excellent menu will encourage you to attend with your classmates and guests. So please dig out your address book, call up those old friends and let's make it a great evening.



## Annual Dinner Details

**Booking Form enclosed**

**OR Book on line:**

<https://www.kingschester.co.uk/alumni-dinner/>

**Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> September 2019**

**Dress Code Black Tie**

Timings:

5.00 pm - Optional Tour of the School

6.30 pm - Welcome Reception

7.30 pm - Dinner

11.30 pm – Carriages

*For further information contact Nadine Isaacs (Alumni and Events Officer) at the school. Tel: 01244 689494*

*Email: [nai@kingschester.co.uk](mailto:nai@kingschester.co.uk)*

# Headmaster's Message



Eagle-eyed locals will have noticed that our wonderful new Sports Centre is now finished and ready for use by students. Although it's taken a little longer to complete than we'd hoped (something of an inevitability, it seems, for such large-scale projects?), there is no doubt that it will significantly improve our sports provision for pupils across the whole school, enabling us to progress our 'Sport For All' objective, as well as provide further fantastic facilities for the local community in the evenings and weekends. We're also delighted with the striking new signage on the side of the building, promoting 'King's Sport' and the school to all that pass.

Participation in sport at King's is certainly on the up, as can be seen on any Saturday morning and various other times of the week at both Wrexham Road and the Boathouse, with over 600 of our pupils involved in extra-curricular sport on weekly basis (including 180 boys and girls currently involved in rowing). I believe involvement in sport is a really important aspect of school life and know that many CAOKS members feel the same, often mentioning happy sporting memories of their time at school at alumni events above other activities! Sport at school is important not just for the obvious benefits of physical exercise but also for the relaxation, great pleasure and camaraderie it generates, as well as

developing skills such as teamwork, leadership and perseverance. It is naturally our hope that all students who come to King's are actively involved in some sport or another and have the opportunity to represent the school in some way, thereby feeling inspired to continue to be involved in sport throughout their adult lives.

The Sports Centre is the first major project our ten-year 'Transforming King's' master-plan which will re-invigorate our buildings and facilities to help provide the best possible education for our students in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Next on the plan is the redevelopment of spaces within the older part of the Junior School to create better facilities for learning, music and drama. With the school's CCF base moving to bespoke facilities in the Sports Centre, we are also about to renovate and redesign the current CCF building into a student well-being centre in line with our strategic objective that 'Every Student is Known, Values and Cared For'. The centre will comprise of a new medical centre, the learning support department and counselling services.

I mentioned in the last newsletter that the school and CAOKS had been working more closely together recently in a new spirit of collaboration and partnership. This process has manifested itself more tangibly in a number of proposed key changes for the future of the partnership and membership of CAOKS, which are explained here by the current CAOKS President, Olivia Whitlam. Needless to say, I am 100% behind all the proposals and envisage a very positive future relationship which will greatly benefit all CAOKS members as well as the school. I would also like to thank all of those involved, particularly members of the CAOKS committee, who have been so co-operative, open-minded and supportive of the changes involved.

One physical manifestation of the new relationship will be the first CAOKS dinner to be hosted by the school in many years next September. I hope to see as many of you as possible on September 7<sup>th</sup> to celebrate together this new dawn of positive collaboration.

**George Hartley**



# Forthcoming Events

## Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> May

2.30 pm 1999 Reunion

6 pm 2009 Reunion

Contact Nadine Isaacs at the Development Office for further details (01244 689494)

## Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> June 2019 – 6 pm at the School

**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING** – see below for details.

Contact : Adrian Ackroyd Email:

[adrian.a.ackroyd@gmail.com](mailto:adrian.a.ackroyd@gmail.com)

## Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> June 2019 – from 6 pm

**BOWLS AND SUPPER** – Note new venue

A relaxing and convivial evening in the glorious Cheshire countryside. Partners and friends most welcome. Bowls provided for a nominal fee. Two-a-side knockout competition then your choice of supper in the pub. Good choice of reasonably priced food too!

Red Lion, Vicarage Lane, Little Budworth, Tarporley CW6 9BY <https://www.redlionlittlebudworth.com>

Contact Jeremy Lloyd 01244 323548 (H)

[jemandjennylyoyd@aol.com](mailto:jemandjennylyoyd@aol.com)

## Friday 5<sup>th</sup> July 2019 at 1.30 pm

**CRICKET - CAOKS v The School**



The annual cricket match between CAOKS and the School is scheduled for Friday 5<sup>th</sup> July 2019. The match will start at 1.30 pm, 45 overs per side.

Any OKS wishing to play should contact David Atkin – [davidwardatkin@gmail.com](mailto:davidwardatkin@gmail.com)

Spectators are very welcome and encouraged to lend their support to this event.



The 2017 OKS Cricket Team *Back Row* L to R: Rik Bengree, Jon Gunnerby, Ed Peel, Ian Thistlewood, Tom Jones, Guy Dunbavand, Rick Vaughan-Davies, Saul Marks (Scorer)  
*Front Row:* Glen Coppack, Sanjoy Bannerjee, David Atkin (Captain), John Duckworth and Kate Coppack

## Friday 5<sup>th</sup> July 2019

### HENLEY ROYAL REGATTA PARTY

As in previous years the Alumni Team will be offering hospitality at Henley on Friday 5<sup>th</sup> July, from 1pm – 3pm. The team will be pitched on the cricket club grounds for a buffet and drinks reception. Register your free place online: <https://www.kingschester.co.uk/kings-at-henley/> or call Nadine Issacs on 01244 689494 to let her know you'll be joining us.

## Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> July 2019

### 20 YEARS OF GIRLS AT KING'S – A Summer Celebration

From 1:45pm to 5pm at the School. Tickets: £15 including afternoon tea and unlimited drinks - available to book online now. <https://www.kingschester.co.uk/a-summer-celebration/> or call Nadine Issacs on 01244 689494

## Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> July 2019

### ROWING – Alumni Vllls v School Vllls

The mini regatta of Alumni and School Eights will take place on Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> July from 5pm – 7pm @ The Boathouse. There are alumni co-ordinators for the Boys, Girls and Master's race who will be the point of contact for those interested. More information can be found on the school website in the Alumni section.

**Friday 12<sup>th</sup> July 2019****GOLF AND SUPPER**

This year's event will take place on the afternoon and evening of Friday 12<sup>th</sup> July at Runcorn Golf Club. The arrangements are being made by David Sandiford and Will Lamb.

The cost is £35 - for bacon butty pre-round, round of golf (tee reserved from 1.30p.m.), prizes and evening meal.

Anyone who wishes to come just for the evening meal is very welcome. For those wishing to attend for the evening meal only the cost is £15.

Nigel Evans, a contemporary of Mickey Moore's, is going to attend. He was until recently Chairman of the English Golf Union and his wife is the first Lady President of Runcorn Golf Club.

Numbers for both golfers and those attending the meal are needed ideally a fortnight before the event.

Please contact David Sandiford if you wish to attend or have any enquiries [david.sandiford@hotmail.com](mailto:david.sandiford@hotmail.com) ]

**Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> September 2019****ANNUAL DINNER – See enclosed application form**

The CAOKS annual dinner is returning to the School after many years on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> September. At 5pm there will be an optional tour of the school. The evening will commence with a reception at 6.30pm, concluding at about 10.30pm.

Tickets: £39 available to book now online:

<https://www.kingschester.co.uk/alumni-dinner/>

Or using the enclosed booking form via cheque. Please send your cheque with the enclosed booking form to: The Alumni Office, The King's School Chester, Wrexham Road CH4 7QL.

**Friday 1<sup>st</sup> November 2019****SNOOKER v GRAMMAR SCHOOL OBS**

The annual match will take place on Friday 1<sup>st</sup> November 2019 at 7.00 pm at the City Club, St Peter's Churchyard, Chester. Dinner will be followed by the Competition for the Cup. Contact: Peter Bernie (07836 567490)

[prjbernie@gmail.com](mailto:prjbernie@gmail.com)

**Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> November 2019****KING'S IN THE CAPITAL**

The Alumni Office has arranged a London Reception on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> November from 6pm to 10pm at The Oxford and Cambridge Club, 71, Pall Mall, London SW1Y 5HD. £25 per person ticket includes welcome drink and light bites.

Tickets are available to book now:

<https://www.kingschester.co.uk/kings-in-the-capital/> or call Nadine Issacs on 01244 689494

**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AND SUPPER**

**Thursday 6 June 2019 at 6.00 pm. The King's School**

**AGENDA**

1. Apologies for absence
2. Minutes of the AGM of 2018
3. Matters arising
4. Hon. Secretary's report
5. Hon. Treasurer's report
6. Officers' and General Committee's recommendation for closer ties with the School (see the article in this Newsletter explaining the *raison d'être*)
7. Dinner Secretary's report
8. Newsletter Editor's report
9. Reports of Events held 2018-19
10. Events proposed for 2019-20
11. Honoraria
12. Election of President
13. Election of Officers and Committee
14. Any Other Business

## SUPPER

**Supper will be served at 8.00 pm. To reserve your place you must contact the Hon Secretary by 31<sup>st</sup> May**  
[adrian.a.ackroyd@gmail.com](mailto:adrian.a.ackroyd@gmail.com)

Warm tart of goats cheese and caramelised onion, saffron aioli

\*

Roast breast of chicken filled with chorizo, sage and onion stuffing,  
 served with green beans in Serrano ham, fondant potato and sweet potato purée

or

Mixed wild mushroom and tarragon risotto dressed with white truffle oil (V)

\*

Tart au citron, blackcurrant sorbet and a raspberry coulis

\*

Tea and coffee

***£20 per person, payable on the night including wine and mineral water***

## MINUTES OF THE CAOKS AGM - 24<sup>th</sup> May 2018

**1. Apologies:** A. Vallance, D. Wilkes, M. Sayer, M. Hurleston, C. Banner, J. Szerdy, D. Atkins

**2. Minutes of the AGM 2017:** Reviewed

**3. Matters Arising:** Dinner moving to the school. Next dinner will be Sept 2019. Discussion about what the dinner should look like to feedback to the school. Items raised: Black Tie dress code to remain. Speeches could be adjusted so Headmaster does a welcome address pre-dinner including highlights from the year and future plans, possible to explore Head of School to do the review of the year. Separate reception to be abolished. Discussion of cheaper ticket for U25's, wish to see this be significantly cheaper than full priced ticket. Toasts to remain.

**4. Report from the data protection sub committee:** Privacy policy in place and circulated to members. Assumed consent if members don't get in touch. If they return the form then we can share their details with the school's. If they contact us we will delete their details upon request.

**5. Report from the governance sub committee:** Proposal and discussion in principle to move to a system where all future pupils become alumni. Points of discussion around implications.

**ACTION** for committee to go away and work up a full proposal to include details of how to tackle the implications such as data sharing, then circulate it to all

member for input. Suggested in the meantime there is more we could do with the school to collaborate.

**6. Hon Secretary's Report:** Proposal to remove the word "Teaching" from rule 1. VOTE Passed

**7. Hon Treasurer's Report:** As circulated in Newsletter. Martin William's accountant has reviewed the accounts. No queries raised.

**8. Dinner Secretary's Report:** See Attached.

**9. Events Held:** All went. Low numbers at London Dinner – suggest Drinks event next spring to replace dinner.

**10. Newsletter Editor Report:** Thanks to P. Consterdine for his contribution as Newsletter Editor.

**11. Future events:** Golf, Bowls, Race Day, RIBA autumn event all on track. Snooker has changed date to weekend earlier due to venue. Cricket match 2<sup>nd</sup> July has been cancelled as school is unable to pull team together. Will move the date to earlier in the year for next year.

**12. Honoraria:** VOTE Agreed

**13. Reconfirmation of President:** VOTE Agreed

**14. Election of Officers and Committee:** A. Russell proposed as newsletter editor. VOTE Agreed. All other officers to remain in post. VOTE Agreed

**15. AOB:** None

# ACCOUNTS

## CHESTER ASSOCIATION OF OLD KING'S SCHOLARS INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2018

	2018	2017
	£	£
<b>INCOME</b>		
Subscriptions & donations	8,879	9,120
Bank interest	17	3
	<u>8,896</u>	<u>9,123</u>
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>		
Printing & stationery	761	813
Postage	1,741	794
Newsletter	2,299	1,973
Insurance	497	319
Website	14	54
Trophies & prizes	847	1,251
Subscriptions & donations	50	235
Honoraria	400	400
Bank & DD charges	421	548
Sundry expenses	70	145
Old balances written off	0	(200)
	<u>7,100</u>	<u>6,332</u>
Net cost of functions		
Annual Dinner	208	(70)
London Supper	135	0
AGM & stuffing evenings	635	455
Snooker evening	(48)	0
	<u>931</u>	<u>385</u>
	<u>8,031</u>	<u>6,717</u>
<b>Excess income for the year</b>	<u>865</u>	<u>2,406</u>



**CHESTER ASSOCIATION OF OLD KING'S SCHOLARS  
BALANCE SHEET  
AT 31 DECEMBER 2018**

	2018	2017
	£	£
<b>TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS</b>		
At nominal value	2	2
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>		
Sundry debtors	0	864
Cash at bank	18,006	16,630
	<u>18,006</u>	<u>17,494</u>
<b>CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>		
Subscriptions in advance	383	383
Baty Travel award	200	200
Sundry creditors	50	403
	<u>633</u>	<u>986</u>
<b>Net current assets</b>	17,373	16,508
	<u>17,375</u>	<u>16,510</u>
<b>GENERAL FUND</b>		
Balance at 1 January 2018	16,510	14,105
Excess income for the year	865	2,405
<b>Balance at 31 December 2018</b>	<u>17,375</u>	<u>16,510</u>

**CHESTER ASSOCIATION OF OLD KING'S SCHOLARS - EXHIBITION FUND**  
**RECEIPTS and PAYMENTS for the Year Ended 30th September 2018**

	2018		2017	
	£	£	£	£
Balance brought forward		5387.46		6599.96
<b>Add: Receipts for the Year</b>				
Donations - CAOKS Individual		0.00		25.00
Donations - annual dinner		325.00		465.00
Donations - other (CWAC)		0.00		47.50
Gift Aid reclaimed		0.00		0.00
		<u>5712.46</u>		<u>7137.46</u>
<b>Deduct: Payments for the Year</b>				
Exhibitioners:				
H Milner	0.00		250.00	
V Walker (3rd year)	250.00		250.00	
B Cliff (2nd year)	250.00		250.00	
J Hodgkinson (1st year)	250.00		0.00	
	<u>750.00</u>		<u>750.00</u>	
Baty Award				
S Parker (16)	0.00		500.00	
D Kumar (17)	0.00		500.00	
No award (18)	0.00		0.00	
	<u>0.00</u>		<u>1000.00</u>	
Exhibitioner Admin Costs	<u>0.00</u>		<u>0.00</u>	
		750.00		1750.00
<b>Balance carried forward</b>		<u><u>4962.46</u></u>		<u><u>5387.46</u></u>

<b>ASSETS of FUND at 30th September 2018</b>	2018	2017
Current a/c	4962.46	5387.46
Other Assets Held	0.00	0.00
	<u><u>4962.46</u></u>	<u><u>5387.46</u></u>

I certify that the above is correct

Byways  
 106 Laohe Lane  
 CHESTER CH4 7LT

Mark Thorp  
 CAOKS Hon. Treasurer



## Proposals for the Future

**This article sets out for the benefit of the members of the Chester Association of Old King's Scholars (referred to as CAOKS) important proposals for the future of the Association which will be put to the current membership at the Annual General Meeting to be held on Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> June 2019 at 6 pm at the School.**

### The Background

CAOKS can trace its history back to at least 17<sup>th</sup> October 1865 when the Exhibition Fund trust document was signed by CAOKS Officers. It seems likely that the Association was set up earlier but there is no documentary proof of this. The Association is the oldest of its type in the United Kingdom.

The major founding principle was to set up and continue to provide for the Chester Old King's Scholars Exhibition at university. More recently the Association has been charged with the administration of the Baty Voluntary Service Overseas Travel Award and provision of funding for that. **Administering these two awards continues to be the major charitable work of the Association.**

Over time other objectives have been pursued and the Association's functions currently include:

- Strengthening the ties between the alumni and the School;
- Supporting the educational activities of the School in co-operation with the Governors and the Headmaster;
- Promoting the interests, advancement and good fellowship of the alumni. In this connection there has been an increasing emphasis on networking and career support.

In recent years there have been a number of developments which have affected the effectiveness of the Association and, as many members will be aware, there have been some difficulties in the relationship between the School and the Association. The Committee feels that it is not helpful to dwell upon these difficulties or the reasons for them, but that we should look ahead and strive to operate CAOKS in conjunction with the School, always being faithful to the founding principles and the objects as they have evolved so as to create an association which benefits the membership and the school in an all-inclusive way.

### Some Significant Developments

#### 1. Size of the School

Over the past few decades there has been a substantial increase in the size of the School. In the year 1968-9 there was a total of 546 pupils, all boys (431 in the Senior School and 115 in the Junior School). This has now more than doubled with over 1100 students in all. During the past 20 years girls have been admitted throughout the School. More recently the Infants School, Willow Lodge, has opened. **These changes have significantly altered the character of the School, and thus the numbers and constituency of the alumni, which will continue to change as the years go by, and should be taken account of by the Association if it is not to become moribund.**

#### 2. Declining CAOKS Membership

However, these developments have not been reflected in an increased CAOKS membership. Indeed, in recent years leavers have not been joining the Association in large numbers. In the past there were initiatives to encourage Upper Sixth Formers to join the Association at a buffet event, but these have lapsed.

#### 3. The Annual Dinner

Attendance at the Annual Dinner has fallen from numbers in the region of 180 about 20 years ago to less than half of that recently. The change of venue this year back to the School may improve the attendance but there is a lot of work to be done to encourage more participation in CAOKS events generally.

#### 4. Other CAOKS Events

These largely take place in or near Chester, yet with increased mobility fewer alumni remain in Chester area to work, and indeed most local OKS are retired or near to being. It seems desirable to arrange further London alumni events and possibly some regional or even international events - but the organisation of these is beyond the financial and administrative capabilities of CAOKS as currently established. **A major advantage of working more closely with the School is that we can better embrace this far-flung and disparate community.**

#### 5. The Development Office

A further change in recent years has been the creation of the Development Office. Part of its role is to communicate with alumni. Until recently there has been a perception that the School and the Development Office may have been attempting to take over and control alumni events pushing CAOKS into a secondary role in relation to alumni. However, it has become clear that, whatever was the previous position, the focus of the Development Office has become to 'facilitate' and not to 'control'.

The School is keen for closer ties between CAOKS and the School, and the new Headmaster has shown that he is anxious to work alongside the Association's membership and committee to achieve this end and to foster better relations than have sometimes been the case.

It is acknowledged by all concerned that there have been problems and misunderstandings in the past, but the Officers and Committee are satisfied of the good faith of the School in seeking closer working with CAOKS and that the School's desire to achieve this is not to be regarded as a takeover bid.

#### Preliminary Discussions with the School

For some years there have been discussions with the School in relation to the future of CAOKS. In about 2008/9 the Governors indicated that they considered that membership of the alumni association should be free and, as some members will be aware, an attempt was made to establish another alumni association run by the school. This was not a success.

However, more recently discussions have taken place around the following principles:

- That all alumni should automatically be members of CAOKS unless they specifically decline;
- There should be no subscription;
- There should be close collaboration between CAOKS and the Development Office in connection with all alumni events and the Officers of the Association and the Development Office should work together to plan future events and avoid duplication;
- Consideration should be given to planning new events which may appeal to the wider membership reflecting diversity (in particular the increasing proportion of female members), geographic location of the membership and a greater range of activities.

#### Recent Progress

When he was President David Wilkes set up a working party to consider these matters, and his successors Alan Vallance and the current President have continued this initiative. Since 2015 the Officers of the Association and the School have maintained a continuing dialogue to explore the best ways forward to expand alumni membership, to encourage alumni engagement and to ensure the continued success of the Association in the future.

Following the appointment of the new Headmaster and a decision at the last AGM to proceed in principle with the project, a steering group comprising The President, Secretary, Treasurer, Anthony Russell (Editor of the Newsletter) and David Wilkes has met on several occasions over the past 12 months to see if progress could be achieved. Throughout this period the Headmaster and Liz Gwyther (Head of Development) have been consulted.

The Steering Committee decided that for any changes in the relationship between the School and the Association to be acceptable there were several fundamental principles to be adhered to in order to preserve the character of CAOKS and operate in the best interests of all the alumni:

- CAOKS must continue to be true to the founding principles – in particular, the Association should retain control of the OKS Exhibition and Baty Travel Award;

- CAOKS should be self-governing, retaining its independence from the School, although acting in close co-operation with the School through the Headmaster and Development Office, and its officers should be elected by the membership;
- Day to day running of CAOKS should be in the hands of a committee on which the OKS have a majority of members;
- The current events should continue, including the local events such as the bowls evening and races visit which although attendance is small are popular occasions with a loyal following, and the main social event of the year should be the Annual Dinner, to be held in Chester and if possible and practical at the school;
- New ideas for future events should be considered including provision of networking events and career support for alumni.

It became clear that these principles were acceptable to the School and had the full support of the Headmaster and Head of Development and it was thus possible to draw up a more detailed proposal which is set out in the next section.

### The Proposals in Detail

1. The fundamental tenets have always been that CAOKS, as the oldest alumni association of its kind in the United Kingdom, will remain true to its founding principles, will retain control of the Exhibition Fund and Baty Travel Award charities, and will continue to be a self-governing organisation for the alumni of the School in collaboration with the Development Office.
2. The Association's founding principles from 1865 were to provide the Chester Old King's Scholars Exhibition at university and later to provide funds for the Baty Voluntary Service Overseas Travel Award. CAOKS also exists to strengthen the ties between the alumni and the School, to support the educational activities of the School in co-operation with the Governors and the Headmaster, and to promote the interests, advancement and good fellowship of the alumni, including providing opportunities to facilitate networking and career support.
3. If the membership approves, the default position will be that all alumni of the King's School will become members of CAOKS and there will be no membership subscription.  
*[However, it has been suggested that members may wish to pay (or, in the case of existing members, continue to pay) a voluntary modest subscription on the understanding that this goes primarily towards the OKS Exhibition and Baty Travel Award funds and may also be used for any minor administrative costs not covered by the School as set out in Paragraph 6 below.]*
4. If the membership approves, CAOKS will be run by a Committee comprising 9 members. The representatives from the alumni will be the CAOKS President, the Hon Secretary and the Hon Treasurer plus the Dinner Secretary, the Vice-President and the Newsletter Editor. The School representatives will be, as now, the Headmaster, the Head of Development and a former or current member of staff. The Vice-President will still be chosen from suitable candidates by the Committee and will shadow the current President for one year before taking office as President for two years.
5. The Committee will meet each term at the School on 21 days' notice. **There is no change in that the day to day running of CAOKS will be by the Committee, with CAOKS having the majority of the members; the President will chair all meetings.**
6. The CAOKS Officers to serve on the Committee will be proposed, seconded and elected by the membership at the Annual General Meeting. The revised constitution of CAOKS will provide for government by the membership through the AGM or an Extraordinary General Meeting on 21 days' notice.
7. The Hon Secretary and the Hon Treasurer will be provided with all necessary access to the alumni database held centrally by the School.
8. The School will pay for the printing and distribution of the Newsletter as well as the annual CAOKS School Sports Awards Trophies and other running costs. In exchange, initially membership will be bilateral since new members will have free membership but current members will be encouraged to use their subscriptions to continue to fund the OKS Exhibition and Baty Travel charity awards. Incentives to continue to be or to become a new 'donating' member will be offered.
9. The local organisers of CAOKS will continue to run local events in liaison with and with additional support of the Development Office. Correspondence, promotional material and the Newsletter will use a newly created CAOKS logo that reflects our long heritage.



The Officers and Committee of CAOKS have considered these proposals with care. It is considered that they represent a positive way forward for the Association and that they are in the best interests of CAOKS and the School. It is recommended that they should be approved by the Membership.

Olivia Whitlam

President of the Chester Association of Old King's Scholars

The final proposals will be put before the Annual General Meeting for approval on Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> June 2019 at 6 pm at the School.

The Officers and Committee invite current members of the Association to make representations for consideration before the final proposals are drawn up. Accordingly, you are invited to submit any comments by 18th May. Comments on the proposals should be submitted in writing, preferably by email, to the Honorary Secretary, Adrian Ackroyd, whose contact details are:

Dr. Adrian Ackroyd

Beinn Cianta

2, Heath Road

Upton

Chester CH2 1HU

Email: [adrian.a.ackroyd@gmail.com](mailto:adrian.a.ackroyd@gmail.com)

## ALUMNI NEWS

### Gordon Beck OKS (2008)

Gordon Beck has become Vice-President of Barclays Investment Bank in New York, after several years working for the bank in London. After leaving the school he studied economics at Gonville and Caius College followed by a Master's degree in Finance and Economics. Whilst at Cambridge he rowed for his college.

### Kelvin Lawson OKS (1995)

Kelvin Lawson recently accepted an Emmy Engineering Plaque.

Kelvin is a Software Engineer and Director of Cheshire-based software company [Lisden Technology](#) and received the award on behalf of the [Customised Animal Tracking](#)

[Solutions \(CATS\)](#) team. This particular award demonstrates a high level of engineering and importance of a technology within the television industry. The Engineering Emmys recognise the world's most innovative individuals, companies and organisations.



The Plaque was awarded for the "CATS Cam", a video camera that is attached humanely to wild animals to capture footage of their every move, both above and below the ocean. The BBC's Blue Planet II, National Geographic and the Discovery Channel are amongst the many that have used content from the cameras.

It was created by the international CATS team, where Kelvin worked remotely as Chief Software Engineer, alongside CATS director's Dr Peter Kraft in Germany and Dr Nikolai Liebsch in Australia.

Reflecting on some of his favourite projects, Kelvin said, "Obviously, working on the animal-borne cameras that have been attached to whales, sharks, turtles, seals and penguins has been a highlight – particularly with the cameras being used to provide underwater whales'-eye footage for the BBC's Blue Planet II series. Other interesting projects include body-worn video cameras for security uses and we also design and develop mobile apps and have created apps for lots of different sectors, including retail, sports and home automation apps that control smart devices."



Amelia is in her first year at St. Anne's College, Oxford, reading Mechanical Engineering.

*This year's University Boat Races took place shortly after this issue of the newsletter went to press, so we are unable to publish the result of the race.*

## Amelia Standing OKS (2018)

Amelia Standing, who left the school last year, has been selected to stroke the Oxford University Women's Boat Club crew in the 2019 Oxford and Cambridge Women's Boat Race. Amelia has already had some significant rowing achievements as part of Team GB in the Junior European Rowing Championships in 2017, where she gained a silver medal in the Girls' Eights and two gold medals in the Coxless Fours.

## ARTICLES

### Memories of the Junior School in the 1930s

*This article was one of many received a few years ago when members were asked to submit their memories but not published – we felt that these reminiscences deserved a wider audience. John Maddock was President of CAOKS in 1970-1971. Whilst this issue was being prepared, we received the sad news that John Maddock died on 19<sup>th</sup> March following a short illness, aged 95. We publish this article as a tribute. A full obituary will appear in the next issue of the Newsletter.*

I apologise for not having responded earlier to your request for reminiscences of ex-pupils who had spent their earlier schooldays at Arnold House. You appear to have been inundated with replies but as yet I am not aware of any submissions from Old Boys who commenced their King's School education there prior to the Second World War. I was one such.

I make no claim to experiences any more interesting than those already submitted, but I am at least a survivor of that era which may, in itself, prove to be a more tangible connection to that past. This scribe wielded his pen as a pupil over 77 years ago and asks that consideration be given to a memory that may be clouded by time.

Having been born and bred within easy walking distance of Arnold House, I was fairly familiar with its brick-wall boundary in Walpole Street. In due course I gained access to the school by way of an Owen Jones Scholarship, my father being a Freeman of Chester. My books and a school cap were also provided. At the time my parents were in no position to finance my further education at the King's School.

Early in September 1934 I was escorted by my mother to the entrance gate in Walpole Street. I was ten years old, soon to be eleven.

Within I found myself with a group of boys which grew to be about 50 or so in number. Of these about two thirds were moving upwards either from Form 1 to 2b or from 2b to 2a. A number of “new boys” were destined for Form 1. Another “new boy” and I, being of similar age, found ourselves being allocated to one or other of Forms 2a or 2b. I was selected for the latter.

At one stage we were addressed by the Headmistress, Miss Lester-Smith. I was quite used to headmistresses but not to one whom we were expected to address as “Sir”!

In due course we entered the school building where boys for Form 1 went upstairs, those for Form 2a had the room immediately on the right and those destined for Form 2b passed through the rear of 2a, where Mr Bentley presided. A drawback was soon apparent; 2b pupils would not dare to be late for classes nor to leave early!

Our form-master was a Mr Owen who welcomed us in a friendly manner. I could not imagine a kinder man and assumed that this was why he earned the nickname “Daddy”.<sup>1</sup> Our timetable was outlined and this is when it was confirmed that school was attended on a Saturday morning, with games on the playing field in the afternoon, more often than not. As a pupil this was a routine with which I was entirely happy. On Saturday mornings in the Summer term of 1935 Mr Owen pinned a small piece of paper on the notice-board on which he had drawn part of a coastline of an unknown country, with a dot representing a place to be identified. At the end of the last class a number of us would pore over this. As the Saturdays passed by the numbers of participants dwindled until only two of us “completed the course”. In the event Billy Rose and I both received an “Emgee” propelling-pencil (a prized possession!).

We had periods of PT under Mr Broome which normally took place in the gym. The latter I recall as being well-equipped with horizontal bars along two opposing walls, climbing-ropes, leather topped boxes over which we leap-frogged and the “horse”. There was no slacking under Mr Broome; running on the spot, climbing the ropes, running around the gym, dangling from the horizontal bars with many a groan from the “lads”, as he called us – “come along lads”, “not like that lad”. But I’m sure Mr Broome enjoyed PT, especially on a cold winter’s day with snow on the ground when we stripped down to shorts and were taken for a run around the playing field! We were glad to keep running if only to keep warm. I recall boxing bouts in the gym which took place at the end of the day, one in particular when my opponent was much bigger than me who, soon with a bloody nose, being further encouraged with the inevitable “come on lad”. Doctors’ notes to be excused from PT were treated with scorn! Remarkably we all survived.

A rather less energetic sport took place in the gym one afternoon a week. This was music under Mr Robinson and the only occasions that I recall when a master was “ragged”. He sat at the piano which was on the stage which put him at a disadvantage. Our piece de resistance was to introduce “Barbara” to replace “Sylvia” in the song of the name, Barbara being his daughter’s name. Our grey-haired master would explode with anger!

A small wooden hut stood against the Walpole Street wall of the playground. This was the “tuck shop” which opened up only at break times. Here one could spend a little of one’s pocket-money. In the Summer a Walls Ice Cream man on his tricycle would greet us outside the school gate but modest pocket-money rarely stretched to this luxury.

My second year at Arnold House was much the same as my first but under Mr Bentley one was expected to work harder and my recollections are those of note-books brimming over with sketches of plants, trees, birds and small mammals. How I wish I had been more diligent that year.

At our more advanced age in Form 2a we patronised a sweet-shop known as Miss Lane’s, situated at the junction of Liverpool Road with Parkgate Road on Upper Northgate Street. There, after school, boys would crowd into an area of about 50 square feet, masticating delicacies under the eagle eye of Miss Lane. No misbehaviour here, I can tell you! Of course, woe betide any boy who was caught eating in the street.

My strongest memory is one of much pleasure in my Arnold House days, no less so in Big School.

*John Maddock OKS*

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<sup>1</sup> This was Mr R W Owen who taught in the Junior School for many years until the late 1960s. By then he had acquired the nickname “Popeye”.

## "Just back from Lache Lane, Headmaster."

*This entertaining anecdote was penned by the much-loved Keith Lysons and has been submitted by his son Richard. H.B. was an ex-professional footballer, Manchester University graduate, and fearless teacher of general science.*

When the Kings School lived in the centre of Chester, and the buildings seemed an annex to the Cathedral, we did not take ourselves quite so seriously as we do now. At the end of the school year, the boys put on (without staff assistance), a series of sketches, briefly rehearsed, minimal props or costume, dialogue impromptu, but deeply rooted in school experience.

One such sketch had a highly qualified and competent teacher copied by a boy aware of a) the teacher's propensity to sweat, b) his (single) knee tremble when annoyed. The sketch which included him had the boy who was taking his part equipped with a small damp sponge, squeezed at the appropriate moment. The audience yelped with glee.

Another sketch involved H.B. There was a token class assembled, and then came in one dressed in academic gown plus bicycle clips - instant recognition. A brief sort of science lesson followed, including pyrotechnics that today would have the Health and Safety executives close the school. H's bicycle clips were an indicator that he was just back from the games field, or possibly his pig farm. Everyone in the school knew about H's pigs, everyone except the headmaster. Those splendid jokes about "You can tell which is Mr. B. - he's got his hat on" were still current among the juniors.

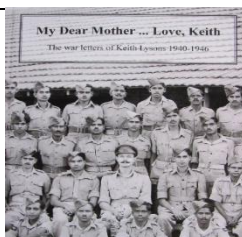
The headmaster, the Revd. L. F. Harvey, although generally a frugal man, had bought a new bright blue carpet for his office. His concern for the carpet was such that he insisted the cleaner rotate it through 90 degrees every month, and monitored the process by sticking a pin on the underside of one corner. The cleaner, not being stupid, moved the pin.

We must get back to H.B. His pigs, alert and sociable animals, required tending, feeding etc. every afternoon. One such occasion happened to coincide with a staff meeting, to be held as usual in the head's office, which the new carpet adorned.

Now H.B.'s responsibilities as games master required his attendance at the games field, in those days down Lache Lane, a mile or so from the school premises. You can guess what's coming. We were all assembled for a staff meeting, held at 4pm, sitting around the perimeter of the room with the Revd. Harvey facing the door. All present except H.B. Some fifteen minutes into the meeting the door opened, and in he came.

"Just back from Lache Lane," he said, and walked across the carpet, leaving yellowish fragrant footprints at every stride.

K.S.L.



**Richard Lysons' book of his father's letters to his mother from India during the Second World War – "My Dear Mother...Love, Keith - The war letters of Keith Lysons 1940-1946" - is now published as a Kindle e-book available from Amazon.**

# 50 Years on – the Reunion of 1969 Leavers

At 6 pm on Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> March a small group of former King's pupils assembled in what was remembered as the dining hall for, in most cases, their first visit since leaving the school in 1969. One of this group (your editor and author of this article) was there under false pretences, having left the school in 1970 after staying on to do the Oxford entrance exam, but I specifically asked to be included because the majority of my contemporaries left the school after "A" levels.



Some of us had a natural sense of foreboding returning to the place after half a century (possibly as a result of the expected arrival of Storm Freya), but this was soon dispelled by the warm welcome received from Liz Gwyther and Nadine Isaacs of the Development Team and the new Headmaster, George Hartley, whose cheerful and friendly approach was a marked contrast with what those who recalled the somewhat austere countenance of Canon Harvey might have been expecting. It was also a particular pleasure to meet up with three of the teachers who had taught us in our latter years at the school, Reg Read, John Leyshon and Graham Hutton.



*L to R: Graham Hutton, Derek Cooke, Anthony Russell, Reg Read, Graham Yeats, Robin Lennox (Batty), John Marston, Roger Gardner, Mike Town and John Leyshon.*

The evening commenced with a tour of the school led by the current Head of School, George Bell, and two other prefects. The changes in 50 years are for anyone who has not seen them quite staggering, and the guides were charming and informative and they also enjoyed learning about what life was like at the school 50 to 60 years ago. Our year group was the last to have experienced King's before Wrexham Road for two terms so those memories also came to the fore.



Some of the major changes in the school facilities, apart from numerous new buildings, include the transformation of the school hall into the Vanbrugh Theatre, set up for the school's production of "Cabaret" the following week, and the creation of a dining facility out of the old gym.





After the tour we were treated to a presentation by Liz Gwyther, Head of Development, drawing attention to some of the highlights of the 1960s, including an embarrassing moment for the Editor, and then we sat down to a splendid meal in the Gallery, which we knew as part of the old dining hall.



Another striking contrast with our time at the school is the excellence of the catering today. Those of us who were expecting cabbage boiled for several hours or a dollop of lumpy custard were pleasantly surprised.



These events are much appreciated by those who pluck up the courage to attend them, so when the invitation arrives don't be apprehensive but make every effort to

go. Unless your fondest memory of the school is of over-boiled cabbage and lumpy custard served from an ageing metal jug you will not be disappointed! This was a thoroughly enjoyable occasion, renewing old friendships and making new ones, and we are all looking forward to the next reunion in ten years' time when we shall be approaching our 80<sup>th</sup> birthdays!

*Anthony Russell OKS (1970, not 1969!)*

## The Development Office – its role and purpose

by Liz Gwyther – Head of Development

The Development Office as it exists today, was established in 2008 by the then Headmaster Chris Ramsey and Marketing Director Vicky Titmuss, with the full support of school Governors. Our main objective is to serve the needs of former pupils and promote friendship and camaraderie through a multitude of events and activities. We strive to provide opportunities that will enable King's global network of 4,000+ alumni to remain engaged with each other and with the school, starting from the day they leave and continuing throughout the rest of their lives.

I was recruited in 2010 primarily to organise a programme of alumni events and activities that would encourage participation. I began by introducing year group reunions and over the last 9 years we have welcomed more than 800 alumni back to King's, to catch up with their old pals and former teachers. Other events have been held at the Houses of Parliament, aboard HMS Belfast, at the Honourable Society of the Middle Temple and at the Headquarters of the Royal Institute of British Architects. Without the co-operation and support of alumni none of these events would have been possible.

I have had the privilege of meeting many of the school's alumni and wholeheartedly believe that our alumni are our greatest ambassadors, advocates and supporters. Many volunteer their time, expertise, contacts and philanthropy, to help to keep the school strong now and to build for the future.

In May 2018 I took over the role of Head of Development, with overall responsibility for the development and delivery of King's Fundraising and Alumni Relations Strategies.

Nadine Isaacs joined in July 2018 as Alumni & Events Officer and is responsible for organising all events, encouraging alumni to give careers talks to pupils and for alumni communications. Gina Whittlestone is Alumni Relations Coordinator & Admissions Assistant. She provides vital administrative support to the Alumni Office, particularly helping to maintain our busy programme of events, communications and database management.

I am delighted that the activities of CAOKS and the school Development Office will be aligned more closely in future, as this can only be beneficial to both.



Nadine Isaacs, Liz Gwyther & Gina Whittlestone

## OBITUARIES

### Graham Atkinson OKS (1959)

Graham Atkinson, who had a distinguished career in public service and latterly as an independent consultant specialising in international infrastructure and regulatory advice, died in November 2018 aged 78.

Born on 3<sup>rd</sup> September 1940, Graham Atkinson entered the King's School in 1952, leaving in 1959. He read economics and politics at Durham University, and after completing his degree he gained a Post-Graduate Diploma in Education in 1964 and a University Prize for distinctive achievement. Also, in 1964 he was awarded a Fellowship in Human Resource Development, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD).

From 1966 to 1969 he was an economist at the Department of Education. He then spent the next 2 years in Canada as a senior research economist at the Department of Manpower. Returning to the UK, in 1971 he became Senior Fellow, Institute of Manpower Studies at Sussex University.

In 1975 he returned to the Civil Service as Economic Adviser at the Department of Employment, transferring to the Department of Trade and Industry the following year as Senior Economic Adviser from 1976 to 1981. In this latter role he was in charge of the provision of economic

advice on the restructuring of the nationalised industries – posts, telecommunications, steel and aerospace. He participated in the first tranche of privatisation proposals and drafting of legislation and was a member of the Government group drafting privatisation legislation.

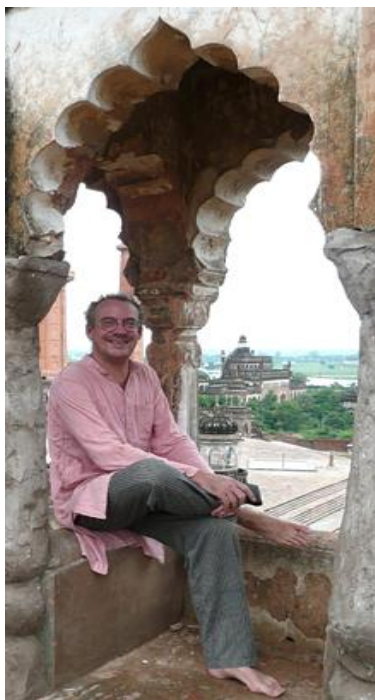
From 1981 to 1985 Graham Atkinson was the Chief Economist at the Office of Fair Trading (OFT), becoming Director of the Mergers Division of the OFT from 1985 to 1991, in which capacity he was responsible for advising the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry whether to refer qualifying mergers to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission.

From 1991 to 2000 he held the post of Director, Major Overseas Projects Division, at the UK Trade and Investment Department. In this capacity he was responsible for the strategic development of private sector-led Sector Groups for winning overseas projects in water, power, airports, ports and rail sectors. He led major overseas missions with Ministerial and Prime Ministerial support to promote UK expertise overseas.

On leaving Government service in 2001, he became a consultant in similar fields advising governments and major international companies in connection with projects in several countries, including China, South Korea, Thailand, Malaysia and Indonesia.

Graham Atkinson was the author of numerous publications. He lived in Beckenham, Kent and leaves a widow, Jenny.

## Michael Axworthy OKS (1981)



On 16<sup>th</sup> March 2019, Dr. Michael Axworthy, MA, PhD, FRSA, FRAS, distinguished academic, author and commentator, a leading expert on Iran, died at his home in Rome following a two - year battle against cancer. He was 56 years old. Michael Axworthy was born on 26<sup>th</sup> September 1962. He attended the King's School between 1974 and 1981, gaining a place at Peterhouse, Cambridge to read history.

During his time at the King's School Michael visited Iran on a number of occasions during school holidays because his father, Ifor, was working there on a project for the Midland Bank. This period coincided with the last days of the Shah and Michael recalled leaving Tehran around September 1978 following large scale demonstrations against the Shah who was deposed shortly afterwards. His experiences fostered a lifelong interest in the affairs of the country and region.

After graduating from Cambridge Michael Axworthy joined the Foreign and Commonwealth Office where he remained for 20 years. He was Head of the Iran Section between 1998 and 2000. He also previously served in posts in Germany and Malta. In 2000 he took leave from the Foreign Office and commenced to pursue his academic and writing career, resigning from the Foreign Office in 2005.

Michael Axworthy became a Research Fellow at the Centre for Middle Eastern and Islamic Studies, at the University of Durham, in December 2001. In 2005, he took a post at Exeter University, where he was appointed the first Director of the University's newly established Centre for Persian and Iranian Studies in 2008. In 2012 he

was awarded a PhD, and became a Senior Lecturer in the University's Institute of Arab and Islamic Studies. He was a Visiting Fellow of Peterhouse, Cambridge in 2017 and remained a Senior Research Associate of the College. He was a member of the Peterhouse Alumni team which won the most recent University Challenge Christmas tournament.

Dr Axworthy was the author of three major books on the recent history of Iran and wrote and contributed to numerous articles on the subject. He was an acknowledged expert on the country and was frequently approached to advise, lecture and broadcast on the subject. He was a Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts and the Royal Asiatic Society.

Michael's wife, Sally, is also a diplomat. She is currently the British Ambassador to the Holy See. He also leaves a son and three daughters.

## Brian Robert Jenkins OKS (1950)

Brian Jenkins, a keen member of the Association who always enjoyed receiving and reading the newsletter, died on 6th December 2018 aged 87 years.

Brian Robert Jenkins was born in 1931 at Thornbury, Gloucestershire, to Mansel and Ruth Thornbury. The family moved to Chester in 1933 and in 1939 Brian entered Arnold House leaving the King's School in 1950. He was a good sportsman becoming Captain of Boats and he was appointed Head Boy. He also captained cricket, football and rugby teams.

Although he gained places at university to study forestry, he decided to do his National Service first and joined the 8<sup>th</sup> Royal Tank Regiment, serving in Paderborn in Germany. It is said that he and a colleague "sank a tank" in a sand trap on Salisbury Plain whilst training. Despite this setback, when his period of service ended he was offered promotion to remain in the Army. However, he declined this and trained as a chartered surveyor. His period of articles was 3 years for which he was paid in total the princely sum of £200. Upon gaining his qualification he was immediately offered the post of branch manager with Miles, Denton, Clark at Llanidloes, Montgomeryshire.

In 1957 he married Mary who he had known from his teenage years. They had four daughters. In 1970 the family moved to Malvern when Brian took a position at Worcestershire County Council where he remained until his retirement. He was much loved and admired by his colleagues.



Brian continued to play sport, retiring from rugby and taking up golf. He had a wide range of other interests. He was a founding member, Treasurer and later President of Llanidloes Round Table. His faith was central to his life and he was licenced as a Lay Reader in 1959 by the Bishop of Bangor. In Malvern he was Treasurer of Christ Church and St. Mary's for approximately 40 years. He was a Governor of the local Church Primary School and a Director of Park View where he and Mary moved to live in 2016.

Following the break-up of Yugoslavia in the Balkan Conflict, Brian Jenkins and a close friend from Scotland made several trips to the region to deliver essential supplies to the people and especially the children who had been affected by the war. This humanitarian act involved personal sacrifice and placed them in significant danger.

He bore his failing health with dignity and courage, retaining his sense of humour. He died at home, peacefully, leaving his wife of 62 years, Mary, 4 daughters, 10 grandchildren and 1 great grandchild.

## Ian Gordon Shaw OKS (1959)



Ian Gordon Shaw FCA, born on 21<sup>st</sup> September 1941, died, aged 76, on 20<sup>th</sup> March 2018. He attended the King's School between 1953 and 1959. He was the eldest of three brothers all of whom attended the school in the 1950s and 1960s.

On leaving school Ian Shaw was articled in Liverpool, and qualified as a chartered accountant in 1965 subsequently becoming a Fellow of the Institute of Chartered Accountants. He worked with several accountancy firms including Spicer and Pegler and Touche Ross in London, Birmingham and finally Nottingham, where he and his family lived for 50 years. He was involved with various business and charitable organisations in Nottingham and was a Freeman of the City of London.

His widow, Margaret, describes Ian as having a wonderfully quirky sense of humour which greatly

amused the family, sometimes regaling them with hilarious tales from his schooldays. At the school he enjoyed rowing and when his firm sponsored the Nottingham Regatta he presented the trophies, and was pleased to meet up with King's School crews. Following his death his ashes were placed in the River Dee by the School Boathouse as he had requested.

Ian Shaw is survived by Margaret, his widow, three children and five grandchildren.

## Lt. Col. Ian Roel William Solloway TD OKS (1942)



On 28<sup>th</sup> October 2018, a few weeks before his 94<sup>th</sup> birthday, Ian Solloway, a former President of the Association, died peacefully after a long period of declining health.

Ian Roel William Solloway was born on 1<sup>st</sup> December 1924 in Christleton, where his father, Thomas Solloway was the Headmaster of Christleton Church of England Boys' School. At the age of 10 Ian gained a scholarship to the King's School where he distinguished himself academically, winning several form prizes. He played in the cricket and football teams, cricket being his favourite. At Wadham College, Oxford he played both sports and continued his cricket for several years at Boughton Hall, Chester.

On leaving school in 1942, Ian went up to Wadham College, Oxford to read Classics, known as "Greats", a demanding degree course, although in later years he said he should have read Mathematics. At Wadham College the Classics tutor was the legendary Maurice Bowra. At University Ian enlisted in the Senior Training Corps thus commencing a long association with the Army during and after the Second World War. He joined up as a Private in the Queen's Royal Regiment and was then called up, joining the 6<sup>th</sup> Battalion Infantry Division in May 1944.

Ian took part in the Normandy landings in May 1944, as part of "Operation Overlord", and was wounded having made it to the northern edge of the "Falaise Gap" from "Gold" Beach. Although he was shot in the leg, he did not realise this until a fellow soldier pointed this out to him and, no doubt fuelled by adrenaline and his concentration on carrying out his duty, was desperate to continue. However, he was sent home to hospital and then to Newcastle, County Down, for a period of recuperation.

In early September 1944 he returned to active duty, posted with the Herefords, a T.A. regiment affiliated to the King's Shropshire Light Infantry (KSLI) which he joined after the Herefords disbanded. He served in France and Germany thereafter assisting with the "clear-up" as he described it, returning to England in July 1947 to resume his studies at Oxford, changing his degree course to "Modern Greats" as PPE is often known. Meanwhile he had been commissioned and when the KSLI disbanded he joined the 4<sup>th</sup> Battalion of the Cheshire Regiment with which he served for the rest of his military career, rising to the rank of Lieutenant-Colonel and command of the Battalion at Chester in 1967. This was a Territorial Battalion and Ian was the last Colonel of the 4<sup>th</sup> Battalion before it was amalgamated.

Whilst studying at Oxford after his return from Germany Ian met his future wife June, the sister of a fellow undergraduate, at a ball at Somerville College. They married in 1950. June Solloway (nee Collins) had also done significant service in the war as a member of the Auxiliary Territorial Service serving in France and Germany. For a time she worked at Bletchley Park in the Italian Section where Arthur Munday and his wife were working in the Japanese Section <sup>2</sup>

Following their marriage Ian and June lived in Chester for most of their life together - with a break from 1957 to 1965 when they lived in Trentham, Stoke-on-Trent. They had 4 children, 3 sons, Jeremy, Peter and Michael all of whom attended the King's School, and a daughter, Veronica (Veronica Ierston), who since 1978 has been a visiting music teacher at the school and who, as a pupil of the Queen's School, took part in the two schools' production of Smetana's opera "The Bartered Bride" in 1969. Ian's interest in the school was considerable and in 1978-9 he was a much-respected President of CAOKS.

For 19 years Ian worked as a broker for the Royal Assurance Company, but decided he would like his own business. After a year as Personnel Manager for Freeman's Department Store in Liverpool he and his wife went into business together as Roel Solloway and Co,

based in Chester with offices in Grimsby, Birmingham and Palma de Mallorca. Their son, Jeremy, also joined the business. Ian became President of the Insurance Institute of Chester and the Chester Rotary Club. He was a member of the Cheshire Pitt Club and a Sidesman of Chester Cathedral, later transferring his allegiance to Malpas Parish Church in 1994 when he and June moved there. Two of his great loves were the language of the Book of Common Prayer and the music of the Swing Era's Artie Shaw. He is said to have been an accomplished mimic of Frankie Howerd.

In 2008, their health failing, Ian and June Solloway moved to live with their daughter Veronica and her family, in Waverton. June died in 2014, aged 93. While remaining quite fit physically Ian's health gradually deteriorated over the succeeding years until his death last year, also at the age of 93.

## John N H Wood OKS (1950)

We recently learnt that John Wood, who left the school in 1950, has died in Australia having been in poor health for some time. John Wood was a successful businessman who at one time owned Northop Hall Country House Hotel where he established a successful casino. He subsequently emigrated to Australia and lived at Mermaids' Beach, Queensland.

## John Maddock OKS (1941)

John Maddock, a former President of the Association died on 19<sup>th</sup> March 2019 following a short illness, aged 95. An obituary will be published in the next issue.

A memorial service will be held at St. John the Baptist, Vicar's Lane, Chester CH1 1SN on Tuesday 18 June at 10.30 am with refreshments afterwards. His daughter Jennifer would particularly like OKS to attend.

<sup>2</sup> See Newsletter No.74 (2018) for information about Arthur Munday's war service





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### EXHIBITION FUND TRUSTEES

The Lord Mayor of Chester

The Sheriff of Chester

W. S. D. Lamb Esq.

The President of The Association

The Hon. Treasurer of The Association

The Hon. Secretary of The Association.

### JUNIOR VICE-PRESIDENTS

Ben Paxton (2015)

Megan Pode (2015)

Emily Moss (2013)

Arthur Jebb (2012)

Luke Howarth (2012)

Joe Benson (2011)

Oscar Hayward (2010)

Will Orchard (2007)

Ben Crooks (2005)

Laurence Ankers (2015)

Kartik Upadhyay (2013)

Will Marshall (2013)

Miranda Harle (2012)

Siobhan Barnard (2011)

Peter Johnstone (2011)

Lauren Phillips (2007)

Rhodri Owen (2006)

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