



CAOKS News | Issue 78 | April 2020

From the Editor

This is a special truncated issue of the newsletter to inform Old King's Scholars of arrangements during the Covid-19 emergency. The committee has been communicating by email and has taken the decision that all CAOKS events for the summer term will be cancelled and that the AGM scheduled for June will be postponed or possibly cancelled. AGMs did not take place during the two World Wars.

If it is practical to do so, some events may be rearranged for later in the year. We are hoping that the annual dinner, which is scheduled for 10th October 2020 at the school, will take place, and indeed this would be a good way to resume CAOKS activities. Planning for the dinner continues and Robin Hardi, the Dinner Secretary, has written a note about this, below.

It is proposed to issue a full edition of the newsletter in the summer, and I would ask members to continue to send news and material for this to me at the email address given with those of other officers at the end of this newsletter.

Whatever our personal political views, no doubt every Old King's Scholar wishes Matt Hancock OKS well, as he and other members of the Government and their advisers lead the country through this difficult period in our lives. Meanwhile I and all the officers of the association send you our best wishes and we hope that you keep well.

Anthony Russell

From the Dinner Secretary

Clearly current events are having an effect on the CAOKS social calendar but we are hopeful that 'this too shall pass' and in that spirit are continuing to plan for the Annual Dinner and are holding the date of 10th October in the calendar. Jonathan Samuels OKS of Sky News will be the guest speaker.

I and the School Development Team are working from home, maximising the use of modern technology (ie the telephone) to develop the menu and freshen up the format a little. Tickets are a bargain £35 and can be booked through the alumni page on the School website. It may be difficult to think of October in early spring but please book early to show your support.

I hope we can make the Dinner a positive restart to the CAOKS social season.

Robin Hardi

News

Andrew Ewart OKS (2001), a journalist, has recently published his first novel – "Forget Me" published by Orion. Described as a "compelling cerebral psychological thriller" it has been well reviewed.

James Heather OKS (1994) gave an inspirational address about his life journey to the Sixth Form in March. James was a pilot for British Airways, but in 2002 he suffered a severe injury as a result of a fall. He discussed his recovery and the challenges he had faced in putting his life back together and urged positive thinking.



CAOKS Ties

The re-designed OKS silk ties have now arrived.
Order online at: www.kingschester.co.uk/caoks-tie/

Or send a cheque payable to 'The King's School' for £14 (incl. UK postage) or £16 (overseas) to: The Alumni Office, The King's School, Wrexham Road, Chester, CH4 7QL

Delivery may be slightly delayed.

The School

The School is closed, but lessons are being given to pupils remotely online. Some pupils are attending the School premises because their parents are in essential occupations and they are being supervised on a rota basis.

A number of the School's support staff are on furlough leave. No sporting or extra-curricular events are taking place.

The Alumni Office

The Alumni Team at King's, Liz, Nadine and Gina have adjusted well to working from home and have now mastered all the technology! The office numbers 01244 689494 (Liz) and 01244 689492 (Nadine) go to voicemail which then gets e-mailed to them, so they can pick up your messages and will get back to you. They are keen to support alumni in any way they can, including passing contact details between friends (within data protection regulations - GDPR) if that will help make this period of lockdown more bearable. As all events until the Autumn are cancelled or postponed, some team members, may be 'furloughed' (put on a temporary leave of absence) until the crisis is over. If and when that happens they will let you know.

Battlefields Tour 2021

Following the success of last year's alumni Battlefields tour a further trip is planned to the Champagne region of France next year. The dates are 11th to 15th July 2021. It is possible to register an interest on the Alumni page of the School website or by contacting the Alumni Office.

Officers and Committee

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Staff Member: Anne Marie McMahon

Alumni Team: alumni@kingschester.co.uk

Deaths

We have learnt of the deaths of the following Old King's Scholars. Fuller obituaries will be published in subsequent issues.

COLIN BAIRD OKS (1953) died on 23rd January 2020 aged 85

PAUL CARTWRIGHT OKS (1966) died on 23rd March 2020 aged 72

DAVID THOMAS ELSTON OKS (1959) died on 30th November 2019 aged 78

ANDREW (ANDY) PRYDE OKS (1976) died on 14th January 2020 aged 62

NORMAN BEBBINGTON OKS, our oldest member, died on 24th March 2020 aged 98