THE CHESTER ASSOCIATION OF OLD KING'S SCHOLARS



60 YEARS AT WREXHAM ROAD

INSIDE THIS ISSUE





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Introduction and Contents





CAOKS Newsletter Editor *Anthony Russell*

It is by now a well-worn cliché but we are indeed living through strange times, and CAOKS has, with the exception of the newsletter, gone into hibernation. However, we have been looking ahead, and in these pages will be found news of our plans for next year which everyone hopes will come to fruition. The details of next year's activities will be confirmed in the next issue, planned for November.

The school has been operating throughout the crisis and details of how it has been coping will be of interest to many. June 22nd 2020 was the 60th anniversary of the opening of the Wrexham Road buildings, which would no doubt have been celebrated but for the lockdown. David Latham, then Head Boy, has written an entertaining article of his memories of the day. The school has changed enormously since 1960, with IT becoming ever more important, particularly in enabling teaching to continue recently, and this aspect is highlighted in a feature.

As always, it is hoped that everyone will find something of interest in this newsletter. Please consider making a contribution to it. News of what Old King's Scholars are doing with their lives is of genuine interest to others, so overcome your natural modesty and let us know. News items and full articles are always welcome.

Meanwhile, look after yourselves and stay well, and we hope to see you when the situation permits.

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President's Message



From the President *Ravi Jayaram*

As I write this, I'm looking out of the window at a glorious summer's day with bright blue skies, a leafy oak tree and the sun shining in my eyes. Yet, as we are all aware, the world has changed immeasurably since I wrote my first piece as President of CAOKS. COVID-19 will have affected the lives of all of you reading this to a greater or lesser extent. Some of you will have been sent home from universities early, testing the nerves of yourselves and your parents, those of you in key worker roles will have continued to work, fully aware of the potential risks to yourselves, most of you will have had to rapidly adapt to new ways of working involving the electronic witchcraft of MS Teams and Zoom or even being furloughed, and several of you will have had to shut yourselves away from the world to shield. In all probability some of you may have been affected directly yourselves by the virus and I hope that if this is the case you have bounced back to full health.

As a key worker myself, I realise fully how lucky I have been to be able to carry on working and not to have had to shut myself inside trying to teach myself how to make the perfect sourdough loaf whilst playing the ukulele in a downward dog pose. Joking apart, the COVID-19 crisis does seem to have highlighted both the best and worst of humanity. The basic human instincts of kindness and caring have been demonstrated in many ways with communities coming together to support the vulnerable and amazing stories of individual heroism. At the same time, the flurry of conspiracy theories about Chinese laboratories, 5G masts, masks and vaccines has been profoundly disheartening. I have said before that one of the main things that I took away from King's was the ability to think critically and never has this skill been more important than right now. I would hope that the school's alumni, be they in the upper echelons of government or just grafting at the coalface can all do their best to ensure that the right things are said and done to help recover from all of this.

I know that staff at the school have adapted quickly and at short notice to teaching online, putting in a huge amount of work to transfer their lessons to electronic formats. They have also been on steep learning curves to keep one step ahead of pupils who know more about how online networking apps work than they do; I understand that learning how to disable microphones and screen-sharing has been a key skill for teachers! There is still uncertainty about how things will be in September but I know that George Hartley and the team are doing a huge amount of work to enable children to come back safely and continue their studies.

I know it can stir up a lot of conflicting emotions, but the prominence of the Black Lives Matter movement over the last few months and the amount of debate and discussion it has stimulated cannot be ignored, regardless of any individual views. Compared to my time at King's, BAME pupils are probably over-represented compared to the population as whole. I know that a group of recent leavers have written to the school to suggest how this diversity can be reflected in the way things are taught at King's and I think this is testament to the quality of education at the school and an example of how being given the skills to challenge the status quo can be a force for good.

CAOKS has had to postpone many social events, most disappointingly the dinner planned for the autumn but we are working to try to reschedule these for next year as safely as possible. I would like to pay tribute to Adrian Ackroyd who has been honorary secretary of CAOKS for a quarter of a century. He has worked relentlessly to bring alumni together and co-ordinate the running of the group, keeping things going through some very difficult times in recent years through to where we are now, with CAOKS and the school once again working together closely as they should. Adrian is stepping down and we will be looking for a new secretary, although much of the work that Adrian has done will be taken on by the tireless alumni team so the role should be less onerous than is has been.

I would really like to hear from any of you who have thoughts about what you think the alumni association should be doing as by necessity we have to be a broad church representing many generations of pupils, so if you think there is more we can do to represent you please email me at <u>president@caoks@co.uk</u>. I hope that you all stay safe and that we can all return to some kind of normality at some point in the next few months.

From the Secretary Adrian Ackroyd



It is finally time for me to say goodbye. I have served CAOKS in various roles for many years – Dinner Secretary, President and for the last quarter of a century or so as Hon. Secretary.

I had been contemplating stepping aside since the last Annual Dinner but this spring life's excesses caught up with me with a vengeance, along with Covid-19 as an unwelcome bonus. So the decision was made for me. After two months treatment in the Countess of Chester I have been allowed home to rest and recuperate over the coming year. It has been a salutary reminder that 'time and tide wait for no man'. I will formally step down at the 2021 AGM and I am sure that the new incumbent will make a worthwhile contribution to the Executive Committee.

I would like to thank all the Presidents, Headmasters and committee members with whom I worked over the years – it was not always plain sailing at times but on the whole mostly enjoyable - I shall miss it. Particular thanks though go to Alan Vallance, David Wilkes and Olivia Whitlam who as Presidents carried out sterling work of late modernising our constitution and governance to ensure CAOKS lives on for the future. This wouldn't have been possible without the enlightened support of George Hartley (Headmaster) and Liz Gwyther and her team in the Development Office.

It would be churlish if I did not also express my thanks here, especially during this pandemic, for the expertise of the consultants who treated me and the amazing care given to me from day-to-day by the nursing staff at the Countess.

I hope to pen a brief history of my experiences of King's and CAOKS 1964-2020 as my final signoff in the next Newsletter. I do hope to see you at the 2021 AGM in April to say adieu or if not at the 2021 Annual Dinner in the autumn.

My best wishes to you all and thank you for indulging me over these past 30 years.

From the Dinner Secretary *Robin Hardi*



Well, midsummer has passed and we have held off as much as we can but we have reached the point of needing to decide whether or not to hold the 2020 Annual Dinner.

The current thinking is that the coronavirus situation remains too uncertain at present with the potential for further spikes. We also would not wish to make people feel uncomfortable if they felt they were exposing

Officers' Messages

themselves to risk. Therefore, I regret to say that we have decided to cancel the Annual Dinner for 2020. Naturally this is a disappointment and not a decision taken lightly but safety must come first. Any bookings already made will be refunded shortly. Some work has already gone into the 2020 planning stage so let me just thank the development team for organising things to date. Hopefully this planning can just transfer into next year.

Looking forward, we propose to now hold the Annual Dinner on Saturday 9th October 2021 at the School. The date is provisional but please put it in the diary for next year and we look forward to seeing you then. We hope to keep the ticket pricing competitive at under £40 and offer the opportunity to book through the School website for simplicity.

We are also thinking about a summer event outdoors next year at the School just to keep the events going and give us some options for maximising socialising with social distancing. If this is something you would be interested in please let us know.

2020 AGM

Because of the Covid pandemic the 2020 AGM could not take place in June as planned. This is the first time since the Second World War that the Association AGM has not taken place. The Officers and Executive Committee decided that rather than try to arrange a meeting later this year or to attempt to hold a meeting by video link or Zoom the best course was to cancel and hold the meeting in the Spring of 2021. Details of the event will be published in the next issue of the Newsletter together with a formal notice of the meeting and agenda.

This will be an important meeting because the membership will be invited to adopt a new constitution for CAOKS which has been drafted by the Editor and approved by the Officers and Executive Committee. The proposed constitution puts into effect the important decisions made at the 2019 AGM to admit all alumni of the school automatically to membership of the Association and for the Association and the School to act together to operate the Association in conjunction with the Development Office. The proposed constitution also attempts to simplify the Association's rules and governance. A copy of the proposed constitution will be published with the next issue of the Newsletter and Notice of the AGM.

New CAOKS Secretary Expressions of Interest Invited

Adrian Ackroyd will be a hard act to follow. Following his retirement, the Officers and Committee will be reviewing the scope of the office of Honorary Secretary.

Until recently the office has involved almost all of the routine administration of the Association, which has been an onerous task. The decision to extend membership of the Association to all alumni of the school makes it unreasonable to expect one person to continue this responsibility. However, the recent changes in the structure of the Association have resulted in much of the routine administration being transferred to the School's Development Office which has the staff and resources to carry this out. Careful consideration will be given over the next few months to setting out the tasks of the Secretary in the light of these changes.

The office will remain an important one within the Association. It is hoped that there will be some continuity in the role, and working in conjunction with the Development Office and Alumni Team will be one of the major functions of the Secretary, who will remain the principal link between the alumni and the school.

It is hoped that the role will attract interest from members - and those who have not hitherto been involved in CAOKS are particularly urged to put themselves forward. The Committee will make their own enquiries, but are anxious that anyone who wishes to be considered should express their interest to the committee which hopes to make a nomination to be put to the next AGM for election. This process does not preclude the possibility of anyone who wishes to stand for the office at the AGM from doing so.

Initially any member who wishes to discuss the role should contact Liz Gwyther, Head of Development, who will arrange for contact to be made with one or more of the officers to take things forward.

Contact details for Liz Gwyther: <u>eeg@kingschester.co.uk</u> Tel: 01244 689494

Headmaster's Message



From the Headmaster George Hartley

To say it's been an interesting few months at King's during the lockdown is probably something of an understatement: I've often been reminded of the Lenin quote over recent months that *there are decades where nothing happens and there are weeks where decades happen.* The government has certainly kept us on our toes with its various edicts and guidelines, and we have had to be light on our feet through various phases of closure and re-opening (not always easy for a school of 1100 pupils and 230 staff), though I hope, fingers crossed, that we have come through the worst of it and will emerge in better shape than many similar schools across the country.

I am particularly proud that we have done our bit for the community, particularly in looking after up to 60 critical workers' children on a daily basis throughout the period (including holidays) and providing the NHS and local care homes with hundreds of goggles, pairs of gloves and protective visors. The visors, designed and produced within our own Design Technology department, were a stroke of genius by Head of Department Richard Curtis. With being 'at the heart of the community' as one of our key strategic objectives, it was good to have even more opportunity to demonstrate this so willingly and effectively.

There will be plenty of benefits that will emerge from the lockdown period and the associated switch to remote learning on Microsoft Teams. Nearly all of the pupils, and

especially those in the Senior School, switched with ease to the use of Teams and showed their worth as excellent, independent learners. All teachers are now fully conversant with Teams and remote learning, achieving in two weeks over the Easter holidays what we had planned for staff training over the next three years. Such pupil and staff capability will have many advantages going forward, both educationally for King's and our partner state schools, and also possibly commercially with the ability of King's to reach and teach students well beyond its traditional sphere of influence.

Financially we remain in reasonable condition, though as a healthy rather than wealthy school in this respect, there will inevitably be costs going forward. We have had to delay major building projects such as a new Sixth Form Centre for at least two to three years; a shame given our flourishing demand for this part of the school. Of greater concern to me, is that we will now have to lower our ambitions of increasing the number of bursary pupils at King's. For me, not being able to provide as many free or highly subsidised places as we'd like to bright children from poor backgrounds will be the biggest casualty of the pandemic.

More specifically with regard to CAOKS, I am sorry that this year's dinner has been cancelled and that the AGM has been delayed until next year. It also seems fairly likely that the London event at the Savile Club won't be going ahead either in November. I have no doubt at all, however, that CAOKS will come back stronger than ever in a couple of years' time, especially with the new spirit and structure of collaboration with the school.

I was also sorry to learn recently that the long-serving CAOKS secretary Adrian Ackroyd has decided to step down from his role after many years of commitment and service to the association. Although I gather those that knew him at school may have been hard-pushed to find a less likely candidate for such a role when he originally volunteered for it, no-one can deny his immense dedication and hard work to CAOKS over the years.

Finally, and whilst on the subject of notable alumni, I believe that the school and CAOKS should be proud that two King's alumni, in Matt Hancock and Martin Lewis,

Headmaster's Message

have been right in the thick of the national response to the current crisis. Whatever your views on the government's handling of it, the Secretary of State for Health has shown great perseverance and resilience over recent months and the Money Saving Expert great compassion and altruism for those less fortunate. If King's continues to engender such important attributes in its students going forward, it has a very healthy future indeed.

Black Lives Matter

As a school we are always keen to explore and engage with topical news coverage for purposes of education and never has this been more important than over recent months with the Black Lives Matter movement and associated protests against racism.

Despite the lockdown, the protests provided an excellent opportunity to re-iterate to the pupils that the school does not tolerate discrimination of any kind and also to review what we currently do to educate the pupils about racism in particular.

Following remote assemblies by myself and Margaret Ainsworth to the Senior and Junior Schools respectively to raise awareness on the issues amongst the pupil body, a bank of relevant and accessible resources related to anti-racism were provided on Firefly, the school's virtual learning environment. The resources provided stimulus for tutor group discussions amongst staff and pupils.

Having briefly reviewed the school's curriculum with regard to anti-racism, representation of BAME individuals and the issue discrimination more generally, it is clear that all of these have become much more prominent over recent years, grounded in a core concept of the celebration of difference and diversity. We still think there is more that can be done, however, and I have commissioned a full curriculum review next term that will ensure that more specific issues of discrimination, including racism, are fully covered and that the work and histories of BAME cultures and individuals are appropriately represented.



The freshly elected new Heads of School also conducted a fascinating interview with ex-footballer and anti-racism campaigner John Barnes (appropriately socially distanced in my back garden!). Mr Barnes, who has two children at King's, answered various questions provided by pupils and discussed his experiences with racism. His firm belief is that everyone is fundamentally prejudiced and that we all need to accept this and actively challenge our own pre-conceptions. Only then can we effectively and collectively deal with racism and all other forms of discrimination.

This excellent interview led to further discussions amongst pupils, both facilitated by the school and privately amongst themselves.

For me, the most important action for the school must be to maintain a two-way conversation with our student body on this and other related issues, to ensure they remain engaged and empowered in the future direction of the school. I have been impressed and immensely proud of how the pupils have contributed so far and I will continue to give them the platforms and opportunities necessary to do so in going forward.

I am glad to say that the school's diversity is increasing with the highest proportion of BAME pupils in Willow Lodge and The Junior School. This, of course, makes it more important than ever that we ensure racial discrimination of any kind does not exist in King's and that we all work together as a community to create a more tolerant and inclusive society for all.

and C

The COVID-19 Pandemic

Message from The Alumni Team – Liz Gwyther, Nadine Isaacs and Gina Whittlestone.



We would like all former pupils to know that despite being furloughed for a few months and not being able to communicate in the usual ways, our wonderful alumni community have been in our thoughts. We know that many are in the 'vulnerable' older category, or have been shielding and we know it must have been an immensely worrying time. We hope that you have had the support of family and friends and are gradually adjusting to the new 'normal', as we are. We are deeply saddened to have lost some wonderful members of our alumni community over the last few months, including Charles Pritchard and Norman Bebbington amongst others – they will all be greatly missed.

As a Team we would also like to wish Adrian Ackroyd a happy retirement from his role as Honorary Secretary of CAOKS and thank him for his incredible service of 25+ years. Adrian has been an immense help and support to the Department filling in gaps regarding the history of the school, it's former pupils and teachers and without his encyclopaedic knowledge, enthusiasm and commitment our job here at King's would have been infinitely more difficult.

We hope to be able to re-start our events programme as soon as it's practicable and safe to do so. In terms of the school overall, like many other institutions and organisations the global pandemic has been a very challenging time for King's from both a financial and operational perspective. With many staff furloughed and supervision provided only for the children of key workers, the corridors and classrooms have been eerily empty, as teachers worked hard at home to get to grips with new methods of teaching online.

Playing our part



The headmaster modelling one of the visors produced at the King's School

During the peak of the pandemic the Design Technology Department at King's were making 100 visors a day for local NHS Trusts. Production only ceased when the acetate sheets ran out. Several teachers and alumni volunteered free use of self-contained spare rooms in which NHS staff and other key workers were able to selfisolate.

Closer to home we know that some of our alumni, who are employees at Airbus, were involved in the production of ventilators that took place at the welsh governmentowned AMRC Cymru facility in Broughton. Working as part of the Ventilator Challenge UK Consortium, some of the world's most innovative industrial, technology and engineering businesses from across the aerospace, automotive and medical sectors, worked around the clock to help produce more than 10,000 ventilators in just 14 weeks – a truly fantastic achievement.

Richard Elmore retires

Popular biology teacher Richard Elmore retired this July after 26 years teaching at King's. Many hundreds of pupils and have benefitted from his kind, generous and



warm-hearted teaching style and can also thank him for ensuring that their GCSE and A level papers were received/marked/remarked if necessary and returned to the relevant Examination boards. Richard was the school's External Examinations Officer for many years.



Colleagues put together a superb 'This is your life' style video presentation which included some contributions from alumni. Mark Swinton (OKS 1999) wrote "In addition to teaching, Mr Elmore contributed superb musicianship to the School Choir and Schola Cantorum and his singing in assembly added much in the way of quality and encouragement. He has been a credit to King's for over a quarter of a century and deserves a happy retirement."

The Rohan Ingley Centre opens



When the University of Oxford reported recently that their research showed that the lockdown has created a surge of emotional difficulties amongst children, such as feeling unhappy, worried and emotional, few were surprised. Bearing this in mind the completion and opening of the school's new pastoral support centre, known as the 'Rohan Ingley Centre' at the end of March is hugely significant.



Named after a highly talented pupil, Rohan Ingley, who sadly lost his battle with Leukaemia last year, the Centre is where the school counsellor, nurse and SEND (Special Educational Needs) professionals are now based. Amongst the facilities is a purpose-built sensory room in which pupils can relax. There are also a number of private counselling rooms in which professionally trained staff can provide 1-1 support for pupils.

No rowing on the River Dee doesn't stop King's athletes!



Future Events

Despite the fact that no rowing has been allowed on the River Dee since the end of March, King's rowers have kept their fitness training up and were able to taste competition in a range of events in British Rowing's inaugural Virtual Championships.



Luke Dillon

The Championships were held on the weekend of 27-28 June and resulted in some excellent performances all round with Luke Dillon (J15) producing an exceptional performance to be crowned the J15 boys champion. Racing in a highly competitive category, Luke was pushed the whole way by Tees Rowing Club athlete Tod Manners. In a thrilling final, Luke was able to take the title by the smallest of margins. Congratulations Luke! - he certainly has the potential to follow in the footsteps of some of the greatest rowers King's has produced!

News of Future CAOKS and Alumni Events

2020

September - Reunions

Unfortunately, it's very unlikely that the 1990, 1960, 2000 and 2010 leavers' reunions scheduled for September will be able to go ahead. In order to ensure that no-one misses out, the cancelled reunions will run alongside next year's, in Spring 2021. New dates will be published in the November newsletter.

October – Annual Dinner

This year's Annual Dinner has been postponed until Saturday October 9th 2021

November – London Event

The London event at the Savile Club scheduled for the 12th November 2020 is cancelled and will be moved to November 2021

13th November - Snooker vs The Grammar School

It is hoped that this fixture can go ahead as planned at the City Club on Friday 13th November

2021

The CAOKS AGM will be held in Spring 2021 – date to be finalised

July

Battlefields Tour - 11th - 15th July

Following the success of the 2019 Alumni battlefields tour, in 2021 the trip will be to the Champagne region of France. The Marne, the Aisne and the Chemin des Dames may not be so familiar to British ears as the Somme or Passchendaele but the battles there were just as bloody, and, while the fighting often involved the French and the Germans, some of the blood that was spilt was British including that of former pupils. Poignant remembrance of Old King's Scholars at graves and memorials, and tours of the battlefields, trenches, museums of the area will be led by Seb Neal, history teacher and battlefield expert. The itinerary would not be complete without tours of some of the many champagne houses and cellars of the region such as Veuve Cliquot, with tastings and even a little train ride around the champagne caves under the town of Epernay. Do save the dates: it promises to be a tour to remember.

Please contact Events Officer Nadine Isaacs on 01244 689494 or email <u>nai@kingschester.co.uk</u> to book your place.

It is hoped that it will be possible to resume the regular CAOKS events in 2021 and there are ideas for some new events under consideration. More details will be published in the next issue of the CAOKS Newsletter and on the website.

2019 Events

The Bartered Bride Reunion



As readers are aware the reunions for each year group every ten years at the school have proved to be very successful and popular. Last Autumn there was another reunion which came about as a result of a conversation between myself and fellow OKS Andrew Green when we observed that it was 50 years since the King's School Operatic Society and the Queen's School put on a performance of Smetana's opera "The Bartered Bride" in place of the usual Gilbert and Sullivan and wondered about getting together.



The Development Office was approached and enthusiastically took on the project with the result that on Saturday October 19th sixteen members of the cast and orchestra attended a reunion at the school. We visited the Vanbrugh Theatre, in those days the school hall, where the performances took place, followed by a splendid lunch. The years slipped away as we exchanged reminiscences of the performance, assisted by a display of memorabilia assembled by Nadine Isaacs of the Development Office. The School's IT team had been able to digitise the gramophone recording which was played in the background and one of the cast had unearthed a number of photographs which were displayed on screen.

This was a landmark production. In addition to the singers there were dancers and, as the opera includes a circus scene, some of the school's best gymnasts took part as acrobats.



We were fortunate to have two very able singers in the school at the time, to cope with the two demanding principal men's roles, Stephen Boffey, the Head Boy, and Peter Cooke, and the Queen's School's Pat Barlow (then Pat Kasler), who performed the role of the bride, is also an accomplished singer. All three and Andrew Green, who also had a solo role, were able to attend the reunion. Two members of the orchestra, Mike Town who was the 2019 Events

accompanist for rehearsals, and Paul Consterdine who played the violin, were also present.

At the end of the session, which came all too soon, the participants, accompanied by Mike Town, sang a chorus from the opera and showed that they were still in good voice.



In addition to those mentioned above the following people attended: Anthony Russell, John Holden, Peter Holmes, Michael Jessop, Mairi Levitt, Gill Bridgeman, Rosie Green, Gillian Lacreuse, Veronica Ierston, Antonia Kendall and Nicky Woods.

Anthony Russell OKS

Future Reunions

If you have an idea for a reunion to mark a specific event that took place when you were at the school the Alumni Team would be delighted to hear from you and assist in arranging an event.

Please contact Nadine Isaacs at the Development Office [01244 689494]

nai@kingschester.co.uk

King's in the Capital



The King's alumni team hosted another successful London event on Thursday 21 November at the magnificent Oxford and Cambridge Club in Pall Mall.

120 former pupils from a range of professions and leaving years gathered together to enjoy catching up with friends, networking and learning about recent developments at the school. The evening began with a welcome drinks reception and a short speech from Headmaster, George Hartley, followed by a selection of light bites and drinks.

Anthony Fletcher, OKS 2000 and CEO of Graze then delivered an extremely interesting speech about the challenging early days at Graze in the UK and then about the company's launch in the United States. The Headmaster closed the evening with a speech about his vision for King's over the next 10 years.

Thank you to all who attended, we hope to see you in 2021.



CAOKS Snooker



Good news to report – on Friday 1st November 2019, our XV overcame last year's hiccup to regain the John Douglas Trophy from John Hillyer's Grammar School team on with a 9-6 win, despite having to manage without last year's pre-match pep talks from Headmaster George and trophy donor John.

We also missed our new President, Ravi Jayaram, due to a prior contractual commitment singing, or as he puts it, indulging his midlife crisis, with his band, The Deluded.

In the President's absence, Peter Bernie and Mark Thorp made deluded attempts to lead from the front by losing the two opening matches. However, fine wins by Brian Crowe, Euan Elliott, Jim Brotherhood, Nick Phillipson, Alex Horne, Mike Cornes, Mike Hurleston, Robin Hardi and Robin Jones rescued us, taking us to the 9-6 victory.

We have already planned next year's event, and we encourage you to lend us either your talent or your nonplaying support to help retain the John Douglas Trophy at the City Club in Northgate Street on Friday 13th November 2020.

Please ink the date irrevocably into your diary. We plan to hold this event, subject to public health requirements.

Peter Bernie OKS

New CAOKS Ties



We now have a stock of the new CAOKS ties. They are 100% high quality silk. We anticipate demand to be high so please place your order soon.

The cost including postage is £14 for UK members and £16 for ties sent overseas.

Please place your order through the King's School payment portal at www.kingschester.co.uk/caoks-tie

to minimise administrative costs.

If it is necessary to use a cheque please make it payable to 'The King's School Chester' and send it to:

CAOKS Ties, The Development Office, The King's School, Wrexham Road, Chester CH4 7QL



Features

A Distant Pom Recalls

We recently received from Mike Clutterbuck, who attended King's between 1945 and 1956, his recollections of his days at the King's School under his own title "A Distant Pom Recalls", which make fascinating reading, and from which it is proposed to publish some extracts in the Newsletter from time to time. Mike Clutterbuck, who is now aged 83, after leaving school studied at Manchester University and then qualified as a teacher. He taught in schools in Germany for several years, meeting and marrying his wife there, but the majority of his teaching was in Australia. Following early retirement as a schoolmaster, he spent several more years teaching English as a second language in Australian universities. In retirement he has written a number of railway stories. Readers who are interested in reading the complete memoirs should contact The Editor who will supply a copy. Meanwhile here are a few of Mike's observations on some of the King's teachers who inspired him to take up teaching as his profession. Eagle eyed OKS who were at school in the 1950s and '60s will find that all those mentioned appear in photographs in this issue.

The headmaster, The Revd L. F. Harvey, was a man with enormous dignity and he swept in to the Great Hall in cap and gown every morning to conduct the morning prayers and make important announcements. He seemed to me to be somewhat distant in his dealings with us boys, although in fact I only ever spoke to him once. What he was like as an administrator, of course I do not know except to comment that the School appeared to run efficiently under his leadership as far as I could judge. In 1960, four years after I had left the School, I returned briefly to witness the formal opening of the new King's School Building on the Wrexham road and happened to observe the reaction by the Rev. L F Harvey to the Queen Mother's plea for a whole week's holiday to commemorate the occasion. The Head's face was worth watching; he was clearly quite startled (although he recovered well) presumably expecting a request for a day's holiday.

'Tec' Evetts taught us French. He was a no-nonsense teacher and we liked him because he made the subject interesting with his many anecdotes coupled however with an insistence that we did what we were told and were not distracted from learning French by his stories. His end-of-term revision exercises were, I found, invaluable as exam preparation. His son John was also in the class but there was never any suggestion of nepotism, although we did, very occasionally, hear some of the staffroom gossip.

In the Upper Third we had Mr Tolliday for Latin and in the Upper Fourth he taught us maths. He was an entertaining teacher with a range of witticisms. He would set us problems and then begin work out the answers himself but pretended to be on occasions annoyed by Mike Burdekin who would sometimes have the answer before he had it: "You need your backside kicked!" he once growled. (I understand Mike became an esteemed university professor of civil engineering). Mr Tolliday had built his own estate car which he referred to as 'Mabel' after his sister, or so he told us. He also took 22 of us on a holiday to San Sebastian in Spain in about 1949.

Mr A. T. Owen taught us Latin in the Upper Fourth and did so with enthusiasm and competence. He used to bring in copies of a Latin newspaper which he handed round for us to study. I was rather disappointed in that I had apparently missed the basics of the language in my first two years and never really caught up and consequently did not acquire the full benefit of his lessons.

'Greecy' Davies taught chemistry and classical Greek. The latter subject was being phased out and I once saw with regret a blackboard covered in Greek and regretted that I wasn't able to study it; it looked fascinating. (Years later I was compensated by being able to read German in Gothic script.) Mr Davies was an interesting teacher who entertained us with occasional dramatic experiments in the chemistry lab.

Mr Hart was a senior maths teacher as well as a fine baritone in the School's performance of 'The Pirates of Penzance' (1954). He helped me to understand some of the intricacies of algebra. There was a rumour that his brother played football for Manchester United (or was it City?).



Baty Travel Award

Last year a Baty Travel Bursary was awarded to Eve Jawara to enable her to compete in the Head of the Charles Regatta in the USA. The Charles River separates Boston and Cambridge, Massachusetts and the regatta is the largest 2 day regatta in the World. There were 2,263 entries from 762 clubs in last year's event held on 19th and 20th October. The King's School entered a boat in each of the Women's and Men's Fours events. Eve has written this account for CAOKS.

After arriving in Boston in the afternoon, we drove down to the Charles to see the course for the first time. Seeing the

immense number of marquees, trailers and athletes was the moment that it really hit us that, in only a few days, we would be racing at one of the biggest rowing events in the world. The next morning, our first full day in Boston, we went on a tour of Harvard Men's Boat Club, led by a current member of their 1st VIII. In the afternoon we took to the Head of the Charles course for the first time, completing a practice run of the race. The conditions were challenging with strong winds and choppy water, but both crews worked hard to complete the training session and come off the water on a positive note. In the evening, after eating at the Boston University food hall, we headed to watch Boston



University play against Northern Michigan University in a varsity ice hockey match. The atmosphere at the game was incredible with a rink full of people screaming and cheering for the home team and we were lucky enough to have seats on the front row. We were up early the next morning to take part in a Park Run in the Arnold Arboretum of Harvard University – a five kilometre run as the final training before our race the next day. We spent the Saturday afternoon at the Head of the Charles course, watching the university crews with anticipation for our races the next day. The conditions showed a drastic improvement in time for Sunday's racing with the winds dropping and the water became almost flat. The girls' crew finished in 69th place and the boys' in 57th with both categories having 85 entries. Both crews raced extremely well with excellent coxing from Issy down the length of the 4.8-kilometre course. We took part in the iconic Harvard Stadium Steps Challenge the following day. Needless to say, it was a tough training session, and everybody was complaining about aching legs throughout the afternoon. That evening we drove to downtown Boston and we walked parts of the Freedom Trail and we headed to Quincy Market for dinner later on. On the Tuesday, we joined Brookline High School, a local school who we had competed against on the Sunday, and we formed mixed eights and took to the water again undertaking a series of activities and exercises with friendly competition between the two crews. It was a fantastic final training session in Boston as they were so welcoming and it was great to just chat about differences in our lives, US vs UK, and, hopefully, future trips will be able to have the



same experience.

On our final day in Boston, we went on a tour of Fenway Park. Having access to areas such as the Green Monster and the press viewing area and learning about the history of Fenway Park, and baseball as a whole, really helped to complete the true Boston experience. All in all, the tour was a huge success. We learned a lot from the racing, the experiences and the people that we met there. It was an unforgettable experience and we are so thankful to have had the opportunity to go and hope that more King's athletes will be able to travel and compete at the Head of the Charles in future years.

Eve Jawara

Features

The Opening of the Wrexham Road Buildings by HM Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother on 22nd June 1960

Writing about my memories of the 22 June 1960 has been more difficult than I expected. I find myself looking back almost as a spectator of events rather than a participant; was I really there, did it all really happen? Times were so different then from today. Meat had only been off the ration 7 years and sweets 8; choice in many things was so much less.

My recollections start some months before when during one of my regular morning meetings with the Headmaster he asked would I like to try wearing a new light grey suit which Browns of Chester had made; he was thinking of changing the school winter uniform from herringbone grey and went on to say it would be good to make the change in good time for the royal opening of the new school buildings. This was quite a shock to me and I sat down outside his study when he rushed out saying "Please keep confidential what I've just said about the Queen Mother". I realised then that I was going to be involved in quite a day.



In those days at A levels we also took scholarship level papers; in the morning of 22 June I had a 3 hour pure maths scholarship paper and I remember trying hard to concentrate against a background of a Guards Band marching up and down practising their music outside the windows of the what was the Gymnasium in which we sat our exams. I thought if I get an "unclassified" grade I won't be surprised.

I have no recollection of what happened after the exam and none of lunch at all, until we assembled in the Entrance Foyer ready to greet the Queen Mother when panic broke out just before the she was due. The wife of the Bishop, Gerald Ellison, Chairman of the Governors and later Bishop of London, was an imposing, handsome and buxom lady, had let out a cry "Oh! Gerald!", a critical support strap had broken so her décolletage was somewhat lopsided. Panic! No mending kit could be found so I suggested cutting the other strap to even matters up which was not appreciated; the looks I got from the Headmaster and the Bishop - phew - but I was the only schoolboy in that assembled party!

Just previously, whilst waiting, I was in conversation with the Bishop. He asked me what pronunciation of the Latin address was I going to use - classical or Church. I hadn't a clue of the difference then, so answered 'Best Cheshire, Sir'. A scowl and a deep frown from the Bishop followed. In my defence I wasn't aware that it was an interview being broadcast to the audience in the School Hall and the Marquee in the grounds.



The Queen Mother arrived shortly afterwards and W E (Bill) George dressed in sea cadet uniform broke out the royal standard. Carrying a yellow parasol (it was a hot and sunny day) Her Majesty stopped a few yards short of the main entrance doors to the school and I began to read the Latin address of welcome which was written on stiff parchment. Having read it I was to roll it up, wrap a ribbon around it and present it to the Queen Mother. It is hard to tie one handed and harder still to hold it one handed so I warned her it might spring open. I got a lovely smile and handed the scroll over whereupon it sprang open, leapt from her hand and fell on the floor.



For a moment I froze and both the Queen Mother and I went to pick it up at the same time; fortunately, I was quicker and narrowly missed head-butting royalty.

The doors to the school were closed, locked and guarded by two Prefects - Graham Thompson and John Eaton. Graham handed the Queen Mother a key which she inserted and unlocked the doors which John and Graham opened with a flourish and the party entered the School.



After the formal speeches I was to present Her Majesty with a Brierley cut glass vase engraved with her coat of arms and that of the School as a memento of the day; as I gave it to her she promised me she wouldn't drop it. I've often wondered what happened to it after her death and coming up to the 50th anniversary of the new school buildings in 2010 I did write to Prince Charles asking if it was found could it be given back to the School. I had a very warm phone call from one of his Equerries who remembered seeing the vase in Glamis Castle but he didn't know what had happened to it but if it did turn up he would try to see it was returned to the School.

During her speech Queen Elizabeth announced that she had instructed the Headmaster to grant the School a week's holiday at the forthcoming Michaelmas Half Term. It was usually only two or three days at most. A great cheer went up! She certainly knew the way to our hearts.



The Queen Mother had insisted that there be no barriers erected so she could mingle easily on her walkabout. After inspecting the School premises she delighted in stopping and watching two young boys having quite a scrap. They suddenly realised who was watching them and stopped somewhat embarrassed whereupon the Queen Mother asked "Feeling better now boys?"



My last memory of the day is of the Bishop calling for "Three Hearty Cheers" as the Queen Mother drove away and the assembled school was so dumb struck it was more whimper than a cheer.

As soon as the Queen Mother left, the crew of the 1st VIII plus rowing master, Robin Alden, high tailed it to the Station to catch the train to Henley where we were due to race in the Eliminators two days later.

An eventful day! David Latham OKS Head Boy 1959-60

IT at King's

In the 60 years since the opening of the Wrexham Road site there have been many changes at The King's School – the doubling of numbers of students (as they are now known), the admission of girls, new subjects, vastly improved facilities and expanded buildings to name but a few. One change which has particularly struck me has been the use of information technology in the classroom.

In the 1960s when I was a pupil (as we were then known) there was hardly any technical equipment in the classroom – perhaps with the exception of the science laboratories. We saw a slide projector occasionally, or a tape recorder or gramophone was used but very little else. School examination papers were copied on a Roneo machine (often in the teacher's handwriting) and the principal teaching aid was the blackboard!

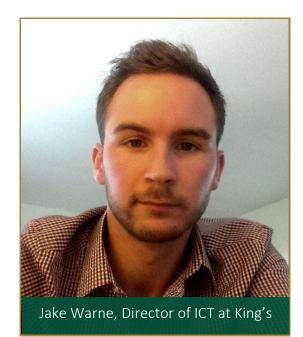
Now the blackboards have gone, as have many of the whiteboards which replaced them. Logarithm tables and slide rules have long been redundant, now consigned to the history books. Gone also are the numerous exercise books we all once used. Homework is usually submitted by email



A Junior School classroom today

these days. Throughout the school upgrading is taking place. Every classroom is filled with technical equipment. Computer screens are everywhere, including huge screens where blackboards once were. Teachers can use their computers to project onto these screens and even demonstrate scientific experiments or dissections using the facilities available to photograph these as the demonstration progresses and show them to the class on the screens.

This was all brought home to me when I spent an interesting and enjoyable half day at the school with Jake Warne, the School's impressive Director of ICT, who leads a team of 10. On the wall of his office is a copy of a memorandum dated January 1992 from Paul Consterdine to the then headmaster, Roger Wickson, about improving the computer system for the school's administration. There were then 3 personal computers in the school and the proposal was to add 6 further computers for use in the administration of the school.



Today things are rather different:

There are over 500 fixed PCs across the site.

• Over 3,000 devices are connected to the school's network daily, from sets of iPads, laptops and student BYOD (bring your own devices), not to mention all the personally owned phones and tablets also connecting.

• Each classroom has interactive technology, wireless coverage and USB visualisers so that documents can be displayed on the screens instantly.

• The network may be accessed by all staff and students.



Jake has been working at the school for 10 years. His responsibilities include the school's security system, the Theatre team as well as all the IT throughout the school. He has recently attended a police training session about safeguarding, an essential part of the school's work, and today all special needs of the children may be accessed by the staff though the computer network so that teachers and staff may be made aware of allergies, family problems, bereavement, etc. of pupils, and act upon them.

Classroom changes



The classrooms have been transformed. The Classics oom is still where we all remember it, but the interior is rather different – I could see no sign of the huge Latin Dictionary that had a variety of uses in the hands of Messrs. Owen and Tolliday! Such whiteboards as remain are more often used as screens from computer projections these days but are becoming redundant as the classrooms are upgraded which includes the installation of large screens in their place. Every teaching point has a computer station and many classrooms have a station for each student. Screens are linked to the computer network, and are interactive with individuals in the classroom. Each student has his or her own tablet and can log into the school system at any computer station in classrooms, and other points around the school such as common rooms, classrooms, the library etc. There are language laboratories and music practice rooms all linked to the network. Homework is usually submitted digitally.

Coping with Covid

The Covid crisis has had a major impact on the use of technology within the school, but in a positive way. Digital literacy of both staff and students has been 'forced' upwards due to the circumstances, allowing a 3year digital strategy outline to be fulfilled and put into practice within the space of a few weeks. Teaching has continued throughout the pandemic at the school, delivered live through Microsoft Teams, as well as through homework tasks being set digitally in the same way as before. Live teaching through MS Teams involved a significant amount of initial training and preparation of training guides for staff, students and even parents, which were made available through the parent portal. Thus, teachers have been able to interact through voice and video with their students, as well as present their screens to lead learning activities. Jake Warne told me: "Supporting this has been challenging but rewarding. Remote support can be tricky to manage when you don't have the devices in front of you to diagnose!"



The digital revolution is affecting us all, and King's is keeping apace of these changes. But, applying the maxim "If it ain't broke, don't mend it", Jake was proud to show me the school's 30-year-old analogue telephone system, operating out of what older members will remember as the prefects' room, which still works perfectly.

Anthony Russell OKS

Thomas Peter Williams 1934 – 2019

Head of the Geography Department, The King's School 1965 – 1994. His colleague for many years, Graham Hutton, has written this tribute.

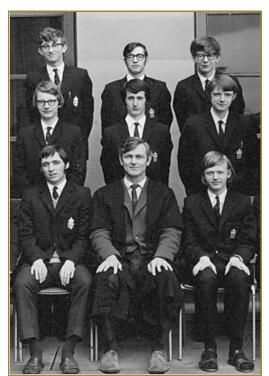


Born in Birkenhead on July 15th 1934, Peter's attentive diligence and ability enabled him to win scholarships first to Birkenhead School and then to St John's College, Cambridge, all the while developing a deep academic interest in Geography and its reality through travelling on family holidays and school trips [incidentally meeting his future wife, Morag during a residential international group event in Paris] alongside his passion for photography and participation in tennis and hockey. Two years of National Service in Belgium and Germany, marriage to Morag, now a teacher, and a post teaching Geography in Cambridge followed, but it was his appointment as headmaster of the British Embassy Study Group School in Ankara with Morag as his assistant that unleashed massive opportunities for travel and which they indulged to the full during holidays and on their regular returns home in his famed Ford Zephyr, chalking off most of the countries of the Middle and Near East and Western Europe.

An invite to talk to the VI Form at Birkenhead School quickly morphed into a geography assistant job offer, the stepping stone for his appointment in 1965 to the Head of the Geography Department at King's. By now living in Neston, Peter's other passion was blossoming, the high yields from his allotment fuelling his now growing family (Susan to be followed by Claire and Ian), neighbours, friends and colleagues as well as his freezer, with asparagus one of his specialities, the harvesting of which regulated the timings of their annual adventures all over the world.

At King's early one September morning a Remove boy, when asked who he wanted to speak to after knocking rather timidly on the Common Room door, responded after some slight hesitation, "Mr. Geography, please". There could not have been any mistake about who he wanted to see; Peter Williams who, with his quiet enthusiasm, inspirational teaching and tireless dedication to all things geographical, had indeed become the epitome of Geography a long time before he retired in 1994 after twenty-nine years as the Head of the Geography Department.

In common with all 'good' schoolmasters, he wore his intellect lightly, set very high standards, taught with a passion and ease and was highly respected and much liked by boys of all ages. The infectious quality of his teaching instilled an appreciation of Geography in all he taught (well maybe a few were immune!). Fittingly over the years many went on to study the subject at university and ex-pupils have themselves spread the gospel in their own teaching in institutions as diverse as Eton and the Cranedale Field Study Centre in Yorkshire.



Lower VI Arts Form Photograph 1970-1971

Field work and therefore travelling was central to his geographical philosophy so the Easter 'holiday' was

synonymous with a typically four day field trip (usually preceded during the Lent Term by a two day staff reconnaissance) to a youth hostel somewhere in the UK from the Isle of Wight to Norfolk, from the North York Moors to South Wales, from Somerset to the Lake District, as much chosen for their lack of close proximity to public houses as the exoticism of their geographical location! Peter's energy and enthusiasm rarely failed him (an exception may have to be made for the eccentricity of the ex-Sergeant Major warden of the Brecon Beacons Youth Hostel who imposed a daily pre-breakfast potatopeeling duty on top of the normal breakfast and dinner duties of any large party) as he drove a minibus, taught and hiked, prepared for subsequent days, undertook his fair share of the chores, supervised the evening write-ups and ASKED boys to 'please be quiet' at two in the morning! Regular day-long field trips into Snowdonia, the Peak District and the Malham and Ingleborough areas in the North Pennines for various year groups helped develop a strong tradition of observation, measuring, recording and interpreting field work data. The same philosophy informed his willingness for the department to organise and manage for a number of years a week long post O-level programme of industrial visits to nuclear power stations, aluminium smelters, car and plane factories, collieries, steel works, potteries, chemical works and docks as well as other experiences such as visits to the local crown and magistrates courts and local newspapers, local flying trips and talks from (hopefully) inspirational speakers.



Field Trip to Blue Anchor Bay Somerset 1980

As is already abundantly clear Peter was blessed with an enviable temperament. His 'temper' was signalled only by a silence the slightest bit longer than normal (and a careful brush back of his hair!). No matter what calamity was unfolding, be it an exhaust falling off the minibus at speed near Blackpool on the first day of a field trip, or a double-booked YHA in Arnside, or an arrest by the police in Moscow while using his camera during a KS trip to Russia (in the police station his sang-froid kicked in and

he 'charmed' them with chat about Liverpool, Beatles and miniskirts using some of his self-taught Russian, lost his film but gained help to get back to the hotel!), or the loss of minibus keys to the fast flowing Nant Melin Dwr (luckily we had spares as I recall!), or losing the way near dusk on an 'easy' Norwegian mountain trek (all party members returned safely but some were rather late!), or the deposition of paint on a YHA gate post by the reversing school coach driven by Mr Scott and directed by Mr Hutton on arrival or simply VI Form Geographers preferring to 'talk' through the night in a YHA dorm, Peter's response was never less than one of equanimity (and the hair thing!). His patience, tolerance, measured fairness and humour always prevailed, always, that is, until he purchased an 'automatic' weather recorder supposedly linked to the computer in the Geography Department!



The Staff Cricket Team 1969

Dedicated as he was to the life of the school, it is no surprise that, over the years, his involvement was diverse and immeasurable. Famed for no nonsense tackling and a ferocious pre-Federer-like backhand, Peter turned out regularly for the staff versus school hockey, tennis and even cricket teams while generations of boys benefited from his coaching of hockey and tennis. The school's photographic club benefitted from his general support and from his skills in and out of the darkroom for decades. His willingness to accompany and lead school holiday trips abroad introduced many boys to the joys of foreign travel. The expedition to Norway saw him mastering a rowing boat on a fjord. His lessons were enriched by the geographically inspired photographs taken by someone who could be described as well travelled but this would be a serious understatement.

His colleagues were the beneficiaries of his stint as Common Room Secretary, a task to which he brought a consummate efficiency and tact (these were the days when the Common Room worked to battle plans featuring lively interactions between the Secretary, acting on Common Room edicts, and the Headmaster rather than five year ones!).

These qualities were displayed daily in the typically quiet and unassuming way he oversaw the purchase, use and maintenance of the school's audio-visual and photocopying equipment (he was always on hand to save lessons from the not infrequent malfunctioning of the film projector, the banda copying machine and later the very temperamental early ink cartridge photocopiers), and in his provision for the frequent school drama productions of concourse displays of his (and Morag's) masterly black and white photographs, virtually overnight between dress rehearsal and first night, to whet the appetite of the audiences and to the delight of the cast.

Peter enjoyed a busy retirement with extensive travelling and photography across the globe, keeping fit through gardening and weekly badminton sessions and involvement with his family, not least his six grandchildren, all featuring prominently. Sadly, it was gardening that proved to be his final undoing as on a beautiful sunny morning last autumn he fell while working in his beloved walled garden, broke his neck and eventually died after a period of intensive care.

On a more personal note, I consider myself highly privileged and very fortunate to have been associated with Peter as a close colleague and friend for so long. I have much to be grateful for, not least all those lifts to school in the Ford Zephyr, sumptuous meals and many 24/7 trip experiences! I am certain that generations of boys and all past colleagues will remember him and their involvement with him with equally great fondness.

G.J.H.

Colin Baird OKS (1953)

Colin William Graham Baird, born on 19th August 1934, died on 23rd January 2020, aged 85.

The son of a schoolmaster who taught at Hawarden Grammar School, and later headmaster of Helsby Grammar School, Colin entered the King's School in 1949, leaving in 1953 having gained a place at Cambridge University. His younger brother, David, also attended the school.

After Cambridge Colin Baird became a chartered accountant and worked in a number of locations including being a Civil Servant in Whitehall.

He and his wife Beth had three children, Nick who entered the Diplomatic Service and became Ambassador to Turkey, James who lives in New York and Jackie who lives in Surrey. Beth Baird died about three years before her husband.

Norman Bebbington OKS (1939)



Norman Bebbington died on 24th March 2020 aged 98. He was the senior and the oldest member of CAOKS who regularly attended the annual dinner, his last attendance being in 2019, 80 years after leaving the school.

Born Frederick Bebbington (always known as Norman) in 1922, he attended the school between 1933 and 1939.

He was a retired banker who settled back in Chester following his war time service. Two of his passions in retirement were Debating and Jane Austen. He was a member of the Chester Debating Society and the Jane Austen Society. He was a true gentleman, always immaculately dressed, positive, genuinely interested in others and extremely kind-hearted with a quick wit and a twinkle in his eye. He attended many drama performances and old boy's dinners over the years and will be greatly missed by all.

In 2015 he wrote a charming piece about his memories of his time at school in that era, of which the following are extracts.

The present Barclays bank building on the corner of St Werburgh Street and Northgate Street together with No 1

Abbey Square was the King's School. The Masters' entrance was the present entrance to the bank. The boys went in through the Abbey Gateway and into the school yard now the bank's car park. In the yard was a tuck shop. In the morning break we could drink our free small bottle of milk in the yard. No food or meals were provided in the school.

No Master or boy came to school in a motor car. These were days when only a small minority of the population owned a car. The Masters' staff room and one classroom were reached by a narrow winding staircase inside a turret. Perhaps today health and safety regulations would be relevant. The Masters wore gowns, and the Headmaster, Mr Baty, was a dignified figure in gown plus mortarboard.

The gym was at the Junior School, Arnold House, in Walpole Street. The school sports field with a small pavilion was situated one and a half miles away on Lache Lane. There was rowing on the Dee and swimming in the public baths. In football the First XI beat Liverpool Collegiate School in the Liverpool Shield Competition and won both times.

The school was a direct grant school a status long since abolished and the fees were miniscule, some £7 a term. I understand the fees are a bit higher today.

The annual prize giving was held in the Cathedral Refectory. The Bishop of Chester was the Chairman of the Governors. There were about 300 boys in the upper school and no girls.

Girls! Some of us would have been too shy to talk to a girl – a nerve-racking experience.

David Paul Cartwright OKS (1966)

Dr Paul Cartwright, retired consultant anaesthetist, died on 23rd March 2020, aged 72, following a long battle with leukaemia. Born on 3rd November 1947, he lived in the city of Chester and attended both the Junior and Senior Schools.

At school he was a Corporal in the school's detachment of the Army Cadet Force, which his father, who was a Burma veteran of World War Two, commanded for a time. On leaving school in 1966 he studied medicine at Manchester University, and was resident at Withington Hospital for some of the time, where he and his colleagues working in the A & E Department "crashed" in a room with two camp beds to sleep between long shifts. They had a bicycle, with flat tyres, which they used for emergency calls, to race down the sloping corridor and burst through the large rubber doors into A & E.



His lifelong friend from his school days was John Tremlett and each of them was the best man at the other's wedding. Paul was married to Elizabeth (Liz) who survives him, and they had three children, twins Emily and Victoria, and Richard.

Paul's interest in Anaesthetics began during a student placement at Edinburgh University but his early career was in Manchester; both in hospitals and in General Practice. After a few years in Manchester, he moved to Bristol where he carried out research into the now well- known drug Fentanyl. Whilst at Bristol, Paul had the opportunity to spend 6 months in Stockholm perfecting the art of epidurals and local anaesthesia for pain relief. This experience led to a love of the Scandinavian way of life which Paul and his family continued to enjoy.

In 1979, Paul was offered a consultant position in Derby. On arrival in Derby, one of his first accomplishments was the introduction of the epidural service for women in labour. Later on, he also played a pivotal part in the setting up of the Day Case unit. Paul achieved much during his 29 years in Derby but one of his greatest achievements was the leading role he played nationally in ending the use of anaesthetics in the dental chair. Paul was also interested in the academic and teaching side of the job. He became College Tutor, and following election to the Royal College of Anaesthetists became an examiner and ultimately Chief Examiner for the College.

Paul's other interests included travel both in connection with work and after his retirement, visiting many parts of the world, often sharing these travels with family and friends. He also enjoyed the challenge of golf and in

retirement took up music, learning to play the euphonium. Dancing and keep fit provided him with a new circle of friends, who, along with his golfing and music friends, gave him a great deal of pleasure.

Paul was diagnosed with Leukemia in early 2018 and had various forms of Chemotherapy treatment for the next two years. He rallied many times, but was plagued by associated infections. John Tremlett comments that despite his illness, Paul never lost his sense of humour and his desire to advise and help people on health matters.

It is appropriate to conclude with John Tremlett's words: "Paul was a loud, larger than life character and a loyal friend."

David Thomas Elston OKS (1959)

David Elston died peacefully on 30th November 2019, aged 78. He attended the King's School from 1949 to 1959 and studied at Aberdeen University.

He became a teacher at South Wirral High School, and during and after his teaching career he pursued a variety of entrepreneurial activities. His main love was the care and management of trees and shrubs. He became a consultant in the subject and in the course of his research and this occupation he travelled extensively throughout the world.

He is remembered for his sense of humour and generosity and is survived by his widow, Sue, children and grandchildren.

Trevor Holmes OKS (1954)

Trevor Holmes, born 6th December 1936, died in April, aged 83, having attended the school with a scholarship.

David King OKS (1953)

David Kendall King, who was President of the Association in 2000 to 2001, died on 16th June 2020, two days before his and his widow Ann's Diamond Wedding, aged 83.

David was born on 5th July 1936 within the city walls and liked to be regarded as a true Cestrian. After Cherry

Grove Infants School, he entered Arnold House in 1944 and the King's Senior School in 1947. Ill health struck him during his time at the school and he spent a whole year in Chester Royal infirmary. After leaving in 1953 he served his National Service with the Royal Signals, mostly in Germany.

After National Service he worked for British Railways until 1959. Then he worked in the grain trade in Liverpool until he was made redundant in 1997. Thereafter he worked for the Chester Solicitor's firm, Walker Smith and Way, until he retired in 2001.

David joined the 35 Chester Scout Group in 1948 and after National Service became their leader, receiving his warrant in 1957. He retired from the post in 1996, but remained a member, receiving his 60 years' service certificate in 2017. During his scouting service he received several awards including the Silver Wolf Award, the highest award in Scouting.

As Scout Leader he was very popular, known by the boys as "Skip". A former Scout wrote to David's widow: "Dave has helped and guided so many boys during his time in Scouting". He was involved in the local Gang Show for many years, and he and his wife were proud to attend services for the Scouts in St. George's Chapel, Windsor and Westminster Abbey.

On 18th June 1960, David married Ann, who survives him. They had two children, Julie and Helen, and five grandchildren, three boys and two girls. In retirement David enjoyed walking and belonged to a rambling group and he played both outdoor and indoor bowls for pleasure.

A loyal supporter of the School, and the Association (as he preferred to know it rather than as "CAOKS") he will be greatly missed by all who knew him.

Charles A Pritchard OKS (1957)

Charles Pritchard, President of the Association in 1995 to 1996, died on 8th April 2020, after a short battle with pancreatic cancer.

In 1952 he entered the Senior School in Remove A and formed a lifelong friendship with Peter Kennan, who was his best man and who has provided some of the material for this obituary.

In a piece Charles Pritchard wrote for the School's legacy brochure he said: "My County Free Place at King's gave me the five most important years of my life." In his typically self-deprecating way, he recounted in his President's message in the March 1996 newsletter, following the death of the former headmaster: "Canon Harvey inspired fear and respect. I well, and often, recall standing alone in his study to explain how my cap had become adapted so that its only place of repose was on the back of my head. He told me: 'We do not regard you as one of our better boys, Pritchard. I don't think you'll ever be a prefect.' "



Despite this appraisal, Charles Pritchard has been one of the most supportive old boys of the King's School and became an outstanding President of CAOKS remaining an active and enthusiastic member of the Association after his term of office. He has been a source of wisdom and advice to numerous officers of the Association. Recently he took a leading role in the establishment of the King's Tudor Society for supporters of the school who had indicated an intention to benefit the school in their wills and was a strong supporter of the Bursary Trust Fund campaign.

After leaving school Charles Pritchard trained as a surveyor and was for many years a chartered surveyor working for Swetenhams. He married Rachel, who is known to many members of CAOKS, and they had two daughters, Carol and Amanda.

Charles was an energetic man with many interests. His immediate predecessor as president of CAOKS, Mickey Moore, notes he was a well-respected member of Eaton Golf Club and a former member of Chester Boughton Hall Cricket Club. He describes Charles as: "Quite a special character of the old school. He always wore long socks when playing golf in shorts. Interested in local history he wrote a history of Eaton Golf Club. He was one of life's gentlemen and a very decent friend. He will be sadly missed."

Peter Kennan describes him thus: "Charlie was a sociable person. He had an outgoing cheerful personality and was in every sense of the word a gentleman. He was always solicitous of others and anyone in his presence was made to feel comfortable and welcome. He had a great turn of humour which could always be relied on to raise a smile."

In addition to his golf and cricket, Charles was an accomplished and keen skier. He had skied with the same group for each of the last 25 years, his last trip being as recently as February this year when he announced he had skied better than ever.

He was a founder member of Tarporley Rotary Club, a member of Probus and the local secretary for the "Constitutional Monarchists", a group of very keen monarchists.

The death of Charles Pritchard robs the School and CAOKS of one of their most loyal supporters and everyone who knew him through King's will wish to extend their sympathy and condolences to his widow, Rachel, and their daughters.

Andrew Pryde OKS (1976)

Andrew Pryde died on 14th January 2020 at the age of 62, following a short illness. Andy, as he was always known to his many friends, was an exceptionally popular member of his generation at King's between 1969 and 1976, who made a significant contribution to King's School rowing.



Tony Boys, Peter Bernie, Adrian Jones, Nigel Whittle, Andy Brown and Andy Pryde at a reunion of OKS friends

At school Andy's principal subject in the Sixth Form was economics and he went on to study at Leicester University and Birbeck, University of London, where he took the degree of M.Sc. His career included working at British Telecom and Kleinworts, but latterly he devoted most of his time to charitable work, with a particular interest in Malawi. He was strongly committed to this work, spoke passionately about it and encouraged others to follow a similar interest.

Numerous of Andy Pryde's friends have submitted recollections of him. Emerging from these is how very much Andy was liked by all who knew him, fondly remembered for his smile and somewhat wild hair, and appreciated for his loyalty as a friend who is sadly missed. Many speak of his always cheerful countenance and great sense of humour with an extensive repertoire of Monty Python lines.



The successful Business Game team with Mr. Norman Hallas – Andy Pryde is on the right in the KSRC blazer

In the 6th Form he was one of a group who successfully participated in a national business game, but his main love was rowing. With Robert Ross, Richard Guppy and Stephen Trowell he rowed in a four which dominated the local rowing scene and had many successes at national level. His cheerfulness and comradeship were much appreciated by the others in the crew.

Aged 16, the four competed at Henley Royal Regatta in 1974, beating a Manchester University crew in a qualifying race, but losing eventually to a Cambridge college crew which included a former King's Captain of Boats. The crew, which was known as the Super Four and won many events, has passed into KSRC legend.



The Super Four in 1975

Andy Pryde is survived by his wife, Janet, and son David.

Malcolm Savage OKS (1964)

Malcolm Savage died on 19th March 2018 at the age of 72, having suffered from cancer for some time.

He worked in the veterinary pathology department at Liverpool University and had a wide range of interests including narrow boating and vintage clock repairs and he had a reputation for being able to fix anything.



However, it was in the world of railway modelling that he achieved considerable distinction, modelling in particular narrow-gauge railways, a layout of his being featured on the cover of Railway Modeller in October 1984.

He was an acknowledged expert in this field and his layouts and knowledge were recorded in various railway modelling journals. He was a familiar figure at model railway exhibitions throughout the country, with a reputation for attention to detail and being a perfectionist, whilst always friendly and helpful to other enthusiasts.

David Sheargold OKS (1965)

David Sheargold died on 5th March 2020, at the age of 72, having been suffering from cancer of the oesophagus and stomach since November 2018.

Born on 29th March 1947, the son of Dr Len Sheargold, a GP, and his wife Kay, David attended the King's School when the family was living in Hawarden. He enjoyed his schooldays and formed two lifelong friendships with George Monk and Will Sutton. A love of football had been nurtured before he entered the school and he enjoyed playing the sport whilst there.



David Sheargold pictured on a visit to the school in 2015

In 1965 he left school to study econometrics at Manchester University, which led to a brilliant career in market research and a head for numbers which made him a bookie's worst nightmare. He continued to enjoy football at university and for the remainder of his life, becoming an avid follower of Arsenal, attending all home games for many years, which also involved a pint and a curry.

His first job was with the Textile Council's statistics department at the princely salary of £1,000 a year. He moved on to the market research department of Avon Cosmetics working his way up to appointment as a director. In 1985 he left to become a freelance consultant.

He lived in Ealing for over 30 years. He is survived by his sister Alison and is remembered as a much-loved brother, uncle to her children and devoted son to his parents.

Jared Whetnall OKS (1941)

Jared Whetnall, who died, after a short illness, on 12th December 2019, aged 96, was born on 5th January 1923 in Newton, Chester. He attended the King's School from 1931 to 1941, becoming a prefect and Captain of his house.

On leaving school he joined the Royal Navy as an ordinary seaman and in 1943 was commissioned into the RNVR as a Sub-Lieutenant, serving on convoy duties during the Battle of the Atlantic, receiving the Atlantic Star, and for protecting Russian convoys he was awarded three Russian medals. In 1944 he convoyed block ships to form a Mulberry harbour at Omaha Beach in connection with the D-Day landings and took part in further convoy trips across the Channel until the liberation of France. For his role in the D-Day landings he was awarded membership of the Legion d'Honneur. For the remainder of the war he served in West Africa.



After the war he remained in the Naval reserves and retired in 1973 with the rank of Lieutenant Commander and continued his naval interest with the Sea Urchins.

In 1946 he was articled to a firm of chartered accountants in Liverpool, where he met his wife, Joyce. From 1951 to 1953 he was the personal assistant to Sir Alec Jeans, Liverpool Daily Post & Echo. In 1957 he joined The United Kingdom Atomic Energy Authority at Risley as an assistant chief accountant and in 1964 became the Chief Accountant at British Nuclear Fuels Limited, Capenhurst, from where he retired in 1983.

Jared Whetnall served for many years with Crosby and Sefton Citizen's Advice Bureaux and he was a governor of two local schools. He liked cycling and from 1961 to 1991 enjoyed sailing his own boat from North Wales to the Isle of Man, Scotland and Ireland with friends or with his family. He is survived by his widow, Joyce, three children, six grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.





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