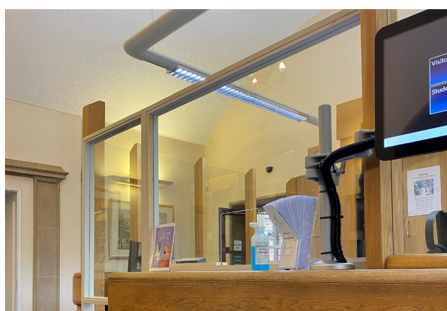


CAOKS  
NEWS

ISSUE NO.80 | DECEMBER 2020



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# Introduction and Contents



The New King's Scholars of 2020



## CAOKS Newsletter

Editor  
*Anthony Russell*

2020 has been a difficult year for the world, but there does seem to be some light at the end of the tunnel, with good news about potential vaccines, as I draw this edition of the newsletter together. The prospects for resuming a near normal life in the not too distant future seem reasonably good, and this means that we should soon be in a position to resume CAOKS events, about which there is some news in this issue.

In order to bring into effect the changes which were agreed at the 2018 AGM it will be necessary for a new constitution to be approved at the next AGM, and, with my apologies for the fact that it is not the most entertaining article in the newsletter, the proposed constitution is set out in full for your information, together with an explanatory note from myself, who drafted it.

Elsewhere readers will find some further recollections of Mike Clutterbuck, sent from Australia, this time about Arnold House immediately after the war, news of the careers of two OKS whose work as diplomats is distinguished and interesting, and a tribute to our long-serving secretary Adrian Ackroyd. As always, I hope that everyone will find something of interest, and urge all OKS to send me news and contributions.

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## President's Message

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### From the President *Ravi Jayaram*

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The leafy oak tree to which I referred in my last update is looking somewhat forlorn and sad in its autumnal state, which is very apt when reflecting on how just how bizarre and surreal 2020 has been. The rulebook of reality appears to have been jettisoned and replaced with an increasingly baffling series of incomprehensible and esoteric challenges for us all to disentangle. At the start of the year, if someone had told us that we would be living as we are now (furlough schemes, wearing masks, talking to each other on Zoom calls, self-isolating every so often, following one way systems in shops - Ikea was clearly ahead of its time - and putting more alcohol onto our hands than into our stomachs), we would have questioned their sanity and suggested that they might urgently check-in to a detox unit. Very few of us will have fulfilled any of our ambitions for the year and most of us will probably be happy just to have come this far with our physical and mental health intact.

Even without the ravages of Covid-19, this would have been a challenging year with a background of major political and societal changes on the horizon. However, I do think there have been a few positives on which to focus. As a society, I think that the innate human instincts of kindness and caring have once again become valued assets and not taken for granted, or even seen as some kind of weakness. People have started looking out for each other and perhaps (even if not demonstrated in political discourse at a higher level or in the world of social media) having a little bit more respect and understanding.

2021 onwards will challenge us all even more. The news on Coronavirus vaccination is positive and hopefully by this time next year things will be approaching some kind of normality but I suspect the mess left behind on many levels will take a long time clear up. Although in the general scheme of things it may seem trivial, CAOKS has also been hit by the pandemic. My first year as president has been bereft of the traditional duties associated with the role. No annual dinner, no AGM, no planned inaugural CAOKS quiz night, no sports events or reunions. However, I remain optimistic that next year we will be able to arrange some face-to-face events and plans are already being discussed as to how this can be done safely so watch this space for news of further developments. I am determined to get to wear the presidential medal at least once during my tenure as president.

The alumni team led by Liz Gwyther has done a sterling job in keeping things ticking over in the background and I am particularly grateful to my fellow committee members for all the work that they continue to do for the association.

We are lucky to have the full support of the school and being able to work together and pool resources has made the running of CAOKS a lot easier. There are number of changes to the constitution that have been incubating for some time that will hopefully allow the association to develop further and these will be put out for review in the next few months.

I am still very keen to hear more from more recent alumni as to how they feel CAOKS should move forwards as I remain acutely aware that "old-timers" (I include myself in that description) seem to predominate. Any suggestions as to how make CAOKS as relevant to the relatively youthful as it is to those of us who are slightly more matured and wizened would be greatly appreciated.

I hope by the time of my next update there will be a bit more to tell you about. I know that King's alumni all over the world are doing great things that need to be celebrated. In the meantime, I hope you all have as good a Christmas and New Year as you can, given the uncertainty around us all and please stay safe and well.





## Officers' Messages



From the  
Secretary  
*Adrian  
Ackroyd*

It is strange times indeed at the moment with none of our usual events going ahead. It may just be me but I wish lockdown and restrictions were coherent and consistent – I'm fairly confused and I am probably breaking some new law or other every day! As I had a hell of an education at King's and as a bio-scientist I ought to be able to understand the logic of it all, but I can't.

As many of you know earlier this year my life was hanging by a string with a less than 5% chance of making it and, to quote the acute care Consultant at the Countess of Chester, "You nearly shook hands with God". Being a Humanist I did afford myself a wry smile inside. His good intentions were what mattered after all.

So, a thank you – to my old school friends and other alumni across the UK and around the world who have sent in messages of support and kept me going forward – especially in the dark days when I never thought I'd be active again. But as a fighter and not a quitter my mantra for my recovery has been from 1984 – not Orwell but Schwarzenegger "I'll be back" – albeit at 90% and not yet quite 100%!

It would be remiss of me not to thank the School Development Team for their support in my recovery. In particular Liz Gwyther's constant encouragement and support during some very dark days. It has been humbling to know so many out there are willing to lend a hand.

With a bit of luck and a vaccine or two, or three, or four we might get back to some semblance of normality later in 2021.

Best wishes to you all. Have a safe and Happy Christmas and New Year.



From the  
Dinner  
Secretary  
*Robin  
Hardi*

I must admit to a pang of regret as the date of this year's Annual Dinner came and went in October without so much as a sausage roll. Even the small get-togethers like the snooker were cancelled as Wales went into lockdown and England followed shortly after. However, we must be positive and think of how our next gathering can be all the more enjoyable as we look forward to meeting old friends again.

In our last committee meeting the Covid situation remained uncertain and as such we have made no plan for events in the Spring. However rather than wait to meet in the Autumn for the Dinner we are proposing an additional Summer event. Something more low key and casual such as a buffet style event to be held in the school grounds. An opportunity to meet outdoors with an element of social distancing and without the need for masks. We are still in the planning stage but will let you know as soon as things are firmed up. The Annual Dinner remains the principal CAOKS social event of the year and although we are in discussions about modernising the format a little it will remain the formal dinner you know well. One thing that has been settled are the dates of the events. The dates for your diary are Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> June for the Summer afternoon event and Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> October for the Annual Dinner. I look forward to seeing you there.

Let me wish you all a safe and festive Christmas and a Happy New Year.





## Officers' Messages

### Adrian Ackroyd – A Tribute

In the last issue of the Newsletter Adrian Ackroyd announced his intention to retire from the office of Secretary after many years' service. We hope that when we are able to resume our regular social activities there will be opportunities to pay tribute to Adrian in more enjoyable ways, but the officers wish to acknowledge the debt that CAOKS owes to him and wish him well for the future after what has been a particularly difficult year for him.

Those who remember Adrian in his schooldays may recall the boy who was always getting into trouble. Indeed, he boasts of holding the record for detentions, both masters' and prefects' detentions, which is something of an achievement although not one of which the headmaster during his time, Arthur Munday (who was rather proud of records, particularly academic ones), chose to boast!

However, there was much more to Adrian than that unenviable record. In the Junior School, which he joined in 1964, he excelled at gymnastics, carrying this skill into the Senior School in 1967, where he also took up hockey as his winter sport. A scientist in the sixth form he left the school in 1973 to study physiological zoology and genetics at Newcastle University followed by a Ph D in the biometrics and genetics of ageing at Swansea.

Adrian's professional career has been interesting, varied and distinguished. In the space available justice cannot be properly done to it. Much of his work involved developing occupational health and safety management systems in a variety of industries, and he became a consultant with many leading companies as clients. His expertise spread into the fields of business re-engineering, organisational learning, cultural impacts of mergers and operational management. This work involved much travel to Europe and the Middle and Far East, giving him the opportunity to meet many people from diverse cultures.

However, it is as Secretary of CAOKS that most of us have come to know Adrian. His first active involvement was to restart the newsletter, which had not been published for some time. After a couple of issues he handed this over, and a new editor was appointed. A little time after this he took on the important role of Dinner Secretary and in this role organised a number of very successful dinners at the school. He was an obvious choice to take over as Secretary when Norman Harrison retired in 2000, and

this year he completed over 20 years in that post, as well as serving as President in 2004-5.

In these various roles Adrian has been keen to encourage more diversity in the association. His time has coincided with the admission of girls to the school and Adrian has invited staff and senior pupils to attend CAOKS events. He has steered the association through some difficult times and been instrumental in encouraging the improved relationship which exists between CAOKS and the school after a tricky period.

As Secretary, Adrian has been responsible for the administration of CAOKS, a huge task, involving sending out correspondence and the newsletters to hundreds of members on about four occasions each year, writing letters of condolence to the families of deceased members (and often offering them some solace over the phone), attending funerals and memorial services, organising wreaths for Remembrance Services – and much more. The "stuffing sessions" where OKS attended his home to fill the envelopes, with the reward of an excellent meal showing off Adrian's culinary skills have become legendary.

His knowledge of the history of the association and its membership is second to none, and we hope it will be possible for Adrian to gather together this information so that it is available to future generations.

The officers, and the membership, of CAOKS owe a considerable debt of gratitude to Adrian for the huge contribution he has made to CAOKS during the past quarter of a century. Although the administrative burden is no longer as great because of recent changes in the running of the Association, his will be a very hard act to follow.







## Headmaster's Message



From the  
Headmaster  
*George Hartley*

As the 'interesting few months' of my last newsletter entry become an 'interesting year' for the school, I am pleased to be able to update you on how we are faring. Whilst the dreaded virus and its implications have not dominated everything at King's, it has had a very significant impact on school life, both negative *and positive*, and in true British fashion we have tried very hard to make the best of a difficult situation. Whatever the slings and arrows of the whole affair, writing this summary of the last few months is a cathartic and useful process of reflection for me so I thank CAOKS for that.

The greatest boost to the King's community at the start of term was welcoming back all the pupils, the majority of whom hadn't set foot in school for the previous 6 months. Whilst this was understandably an anxious experience for some, very nearly all returned willingly and happily, with smiles on faces and springs in steps; not always what one experiences at the start of term! I have no doubt at all that such a return to educational normality, with the opportunity to see friends again and engage face-to-face with others, whilst getting involved with all the activities on offer at King's, was hugely beneficial to both pupils and staff.

And we have strived to maintain that normality throughout the term, despite the escalated restrictions of the recent lockdown. Pupils have been back in school full-time, undertaking full curriculums, with a moderated but healthy co-curricular offering of sport, music, drama, CCF and various clubs and societies. Whilst we have had to introduce various measures to keep everyone safe and year group bubbles apart (pupils staying in same classrooms, one-way systems in corridors and prodigious amounts of hand-washing and disinfection), we have very much taken a 'the show must go on' approach for the benefit of all. I am sorry that this hasn't involved all CAOKS activities, although I am sure you will appreciate

that the pupils have been our priority and we do look forward to welcoming you back soon.

At the time of writing, and whilst grabbing every piece of wood in the vicinity of my desk, we have fared well in terms of pupils and staff having to self-isolate, with a small minority needing to this thus far. This may well relate to the comprehensive programme of safety measures in place, though my gut feeling is it's been just as much about luck. The academic impact of pupils being away from school, however, has been minimised thanks to the ability of staff to teach pupils in classrooms and remotely at home concurrently.

Indeed, the ability of our entire teaching staff to deliver 'remote learning' (mainly via Microsoft Teams and OneNote), which was borne out of compulsion at the start of the period of school closure back in March, has been one of the biggest benefits of the whole pandemic experience for the school. I very much doubt that a three-year staff ICT training target has ever been achieved in a three-week holiday period (Easter) before. Never has 'necessity being the mother of invention' been so true. Here are a few more examples:

- Remote parent evenings have gone down very well, with time being efficiently used (no more queues in school), everything running to time and parents being able to have productive discussions about their children from the comfort and convenience of their own homes.
- With all the additional hygiene and safety measures in place, we have had few fewer cases of illness this time with associated benefits for pupil learning.
- We have completely re-modelled drop-off and pick-up arrangements at the start and end of the school day, resulting in far less on-site congestion and far fewer frustrated parents.
- The movement of pupils around the school site has been much more orderly and calmer.
- Perhaps most importantly, I believe that pupils have become more persevering, flexible and creative in their approach to life. They also have a better understanding of themselves and what they can and cannot control in their lives. They are more confident and resilient.

I wouldn't want to portray the whole experience as a bed of roses, however, and of course there have been down-sides. Although I do believe that the great majority of pupils will benefit from the whole experience, there have





## Headmaster's Message

been some who have been significantly unsettled by it, particularly those who have lost family and loved ones. They will receive our ongoing support.

It has also been a demanding time for staff, all of whom have had to shoulder additional workload with extra duties and new ways of working. Some staff have also been understandably anxious, particularly those with vulnerabilities or those who live with vulnerable family. We have done our best to keep morale and spirits up in such difficult times for many.

We have also had to reduce our usual extensive co-curricular offering this term, which has meant cancelling all sports fixtures against other schools and not allowing year groups to mix in drama or music ensembles, for example. We naturally hope that such activities will return in their full glory come the new year.

From a personal perspective, it has been an odd and somewhat discombobulating experience as a Headmaster, but I am very proud of the way the whole community has worked through the various challenges and I remain as optimistic and excited as ever about our future. I know that King's will be stronger for what we have had to deal with and adjust to.

Another consequence of the pandemic for many people has been a re-assessment of what's important to them and therefore what they should prioritise and make sure they look after going forward. One aspect of King's that I have always been very passionate about is ensuring that we are accessible to pupils from all backgrounds, including bright pupils from low income families in the Chester area. I know that many of you will have benefitted immensely from King's having come from such backgrounds, possibly with the help of City or County scholarships.

Unfortunately, the pandemic has had quite a significant impact on the school's finances, to the extent we will be restricted in supporting future bursary pupils as well as we'd hoped. Partly for this reason, but also to give everyone an opportunity to support such a noble and worthwhile endeavour, we will be launching a bursary fund-raising appeal to all alumni in the new year. I do hope you can do what you possibly can to support such highly deserving pupils when the time comes. I wish you all a happy and enjoyable Christmas.

### Operating with Covid



Steve Downey,  
Faculty Head of  
Creative Arts and PE,  
comments on King's  
under Covid.

Returning to school in September was a great boost for everyone. Being at home is great but being with your friends after so long really gave everyone a lift. After months of Teams calls it was a relief to be back in the classroom and seeing familiar faces and a familiar routine. Except that it wasn't a normal routine. Covid measures are in place and there is a one-way system guiding students around the school, lessons run back to back with no mid-morning break, teachers moving from room to room instead of the students, students restricted to their year group bubble and strict adherence to sanitising and hand washing have all been at the front of our minds each and every day.

We are trying to carry on as usual even though there is nothing usual about the world right now and it is a testament to the energy, enthusiasm and positivity of everyone at school that we are doing well. Sure, it is tough and energy draining to be thinking about being Covid safe on top of lesson content, marking, preparation but school is doing well. Absolutely everyone at King's is working very hard to make things run smoothly and there is a very strong commitment from all the staff, from the support staff, the ground staff, house-keeping, kitchen staff and the teachers too.

It will be a relief when the restrictions are lifted and we can start to do some of the things that add a bit of shine on the day. Trips, concerts and fixtures have all be cancelled of course and we are looking forward to being able to take part in all of that sometime soon but spirits are still high and students are healthy and remarkably cheery.



## SCHOOL NEWS

### Government COVID Recommendations

The Grounds Team worked very hard over the Summer to ensure the school complied with all the recommended COVID rules and regulations.



### ***New one-way directional signage in corridors and covered hand-washing stations***

During the first lockdown from March to September as only key workers' children were allowed on site, the school's buildings and maintenance team were able to carry out some modernisation to classrooms. Below is a before and after picture of room 37.



Before



After

### Improvements for the King's School Rowing Club

As no rowing was possible on the River Dee for many months, the opportunity was taken to make some improvements to the Rowing Club. These included building new internal racking structures to store boats and also replacing the old landing stage with a state-of-the-art new one.





## New Landing Stage



The original landing stage was constructed by King's School parents, and was completed in 1978. It has since done over 40 years of sterling service, but was sadly beginning to show its age.



The new platform is larger, allowing more boats to be launched and landed at the same time. Its non-slip coating improves safety, particularly during the winter months when a combination of river water and freezing temperatures can become a challenge for even the most sure-footed rower. The perforated deck also ensures water rapidly drains off the platform, as well as preventing the accumulation of snow.



We are delighted to announce that the Winner of the 2020 Alumni Leading Light Award is Olivia Whitlam. Many thanks to everyone who submitted nominations for the Alumni Leading Light Award 2020. This year a record number of nominations were received and reviewed by the panel. After all scores were collated the clear winner was Olivia Whitlam (OKS 2003.)



Olivia, currently Head of Sustainability for Siemens, represented Great Britain in rowing at the 2008 and 2012 Olympics and was the Under-23 World Champion in 2007 in the pairs with partner Heather Stanning. She took over as President of CAOKS in 2017 and was instrumental in re-shaping the Association's relationship with the school. She was also Guest Speaker at the School's 2019 Prize-giving service held at the Racecourse.

## ALUMNI NEWS

**Mark Swinton OKS (1999)** – received a 5-star review and was Editor's Choice in the latest Organists' Review for his CD 100+: Organ Music of Francis Jackson. On the CD Mark (organist at the Collegiate Church of St Mary, Warwick) pays tribute to the doyen of British organists, with a survey of his organ music, encompassing works written throughout his 100-plus years. Francis Jackson celebrated his 100th birthday in 2017.



**Claudia Minchin (OKS 2019)** – Congratulations to Claudia whose photo was chosen to be part of the 'Hold Still' exhibition spearheaded by the Duchess of Cambridge. There were 31,500 entries and only 100 were chosen. Claudia photographed her Grandma showing her old family photos through the window, during the height of the pandemic. This one is of her Grandma and Grandad on their honeymoon in 1964.



Have you received your invitation to our online get-togethers?

In January we are organising two short online get-togethers to share some information about our King's 100 Challenge. The online get-together will begin with a welcome message from our school Patron, The Duke of Westminster. This will be followed by an update from the Headmaster outlining our ambitions to make King's more inclusive and how you can get involved to transform the lives of some highly deserving young people. If you haven't received your invitation, please contact Nadine Isaacs on **01244 689494** or email to [nai@kingschester.co.uk](mailto:nai@kingschester.co.uk)



Join us on our  
Battlefields Trip  
July 2021

With the positive news of a possible COVID vaccine on the horizon we are hopeful that our 2021 Battlefields trip scheduled for 11 – 15 July may be able to take place. All being well we will be heading 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.

Several people have already informed us that they would like to join the trip. If you're interested please call Nadine Isaacs on **01244 689494** or register online at [www.kingschester.co.uk/battlefieldstrip2021](http://www.kingschester.co.uk/battlefieldstrip2021)

FORTHCOMING ALUMNI EVENTS 2021  
Subject to Covid Restrictions being lifted

**Tuesday 8th June** – CAOKS AGM & Supper (evening)

**Saturday 26th June** – Alumni Summer Garden Party

**Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> July** - Henley Tea Party 11am – 3pm

**Saturday 10th July** – 1960 & 1961 Reunion (lunchtime)

**Saturday 9th October** – Alumni Dinner

**Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> November** – London Get Together at The Savile Club (evening)

The Alumni Team will be in contact about the planned reunions for 2021 in due course.



## WERE YOU THERE?

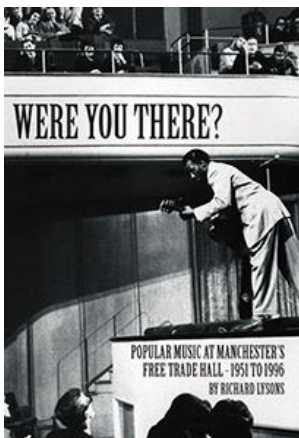
### POPULAR MUSIC AT MANCHESTER'S FREE TRADE HALL - 1951 TO 1996 - BY RICHARD LYSONS

FOREWORD BY CLINTON HEYLIN

Manchester's Free Trade Hall was the most important popular music venue in Great Britain. After several incarnations, the current building was constructed in the wake of the Manchester Blitz and opened in 1951 as the new home of the city's esteemed Halle Orchestra. Yet it was popular music which would secure the venue its fame as it responded to each wave of popular music from trad jazz and skiffle, through rock 'n' roll and folk to prog, punk and heavy metal. From Billie Holiday to Blondie, Duke Ellington to Led Zeppelin, Pink Floyd to Happy Mondays, Rolling Stones to The Beach Boys, David Bowie to The Smiths and Suede, just about everyone who mattered played there. The Free Trade Hall was also the venue for incendiary gigs by Bob Dylan and the Sex Pistols which changed the course of music history.

Richard Lysons' 'meticulously researched tome' will be of interest of anyone who ever attended a concert at the venue or has an interest in the history of popular music in Britain's most musically important city. Alongside his own expert commentary on every headline act he gives the reader a sense of what was going on at other venues in Manchester. There are photographs of several seminal blues gigs by Brian Smith who attended concerts at the Free Trade Hall throughout the 1960's.

**RICHARD LYSONS OKS (1976)**, son of popular King's teacher, Keith Lysons, attended his first Free Trade Hall concert in 1972. After a career teaching English, he is now a music researcher and writer. He was chief researcher for the highly acclaimed Discover Amazing Women by Rail project. 'Were You There?' is his first book.



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## CAOKS Ties

We now have a stock of the new CAOKS ties. Demand has already been high so please place your order soon – a tie would make a great Christmas present!

The cost including postage is £14 for UK members and £16 for ties sent overseas. To minimise administrative costs, please place your order through the King's School payment portal at:

[www.kingschester.co.uk/caoks-tie](http://www.kingschester.co.uk/caoks-tie)

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





## New Constitution for CAOKS

### Explanatory Note

*This draft constitution, which has been agreed by the Executive Committee was drafted by me to take account of the decisions made at the 2019 AGM to open the membership of the Association to all former pupils of the school, for the school to fund the running of the Association and to abolish the annual subscription. The draft constitution, which as far as possible replicates the existing Rules of the Association, brings into effect these changes, and the opportunity has been taken to tidy up and simplify some of the existing rules. The Executive Committee will be proposing that the draft constitution be approved at the 2021 AGM.*

*The principal changes are as follows:*

- i. Membership – Section 2 There will be three categories of membership as set out. The overwhelming majority of members and all alumni will be full members. It was felt by the Executive Committee that it was important that members of staff and governors should be welcome to become members of the Association if they wished to do so, but that current members of the staff and governors should not have voting rights in respect of the constitution, so they will become associate members. However, once they have retired or left the employment of the school, they can become full members. The reason for this was to ensure that the school could not exercise an undue influence over the Association's constitutional arrangements. There is also provision to enable friends of the school and/or the Association to be made honorary members.
- ii. Objects – Section 3 – These have been brought up to date.
- iii. Subscriptions – Section 4 and Communications – Section 5 – These provisions bring into effect the proposals agreed at the 2018 AGM
- iv. Governance – Section 6 – This section contains various changes to bring into effect the changes agreed at the last AGM and to take account of recent practice, and set out a summary of the duties of the various officers. Section 6 (l) gives power to the executive committee to take steps to appoint temporary acting officers in the event of an emergency.
- v. Suspension/Expulsion – Section 7 – These provisions, which were added to the Rules some years ago to cope with a specific incident which had arisen, have been tidied up and simplified. It is hoped that it will never be necessary to invoke them.

**Anthony Russell OKS (1970) – Vice-President and Newsletter Editor**

### CONSTITUTION OF THE ASSOCIATION TO BE PROPOSED FOR ADOPTION AT

#### THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING ON 8<sup>th</sup> JUNE 2021

#### 1 **Name**

The Association shall be called The Chester Association of Old King's Scholars (CAOKS).

#### 2 **Membership**

There will be 3 categories of Membership, namely Full Members, Associate Members and Honorary Members.

- (a) **Full Members** All Alumni, namely former pupils or students of The King's School, Chester, will, upon leaving the school, and having attained the age of 18, automatically become Full Members of the Association, unless they indicate a desire not to become a member. Any person in this category who subsequently wishes to join the Association may do so upon application to the Honorary Secretary. Any former member of the teaching or support staff and any former Governor of the School may also apply to become a Full Member of the Association.
- (b) **Associate Members** Any member of the current teaching or support staff at the School, and any current Governor of the School, who desires to join the Association may become an Associate Member of the Association upon application to the Honorary Secretary. Associate Members will have all the privileges (except voting rights in respect of the Constitution) of Full Members.
- (c) **Honorary Members** The Executive Committee may, at its discretion, award Honorary Membership of the Association to others who do not fall into the above categories.

Membership is for life.

Any member who wishes to resign from the Association may do so by notifying the Honorary Secretary.

#### 3 **Objects**

The objects of the Association are:

- (a) To strengthen the ties between the Alumni and the King's School;



- (b) To further the educational and general interests of the King's School in every possible way in co-operation with the Governors, the Headmaster, the Teaching Staff and the Development Office;
- (c) To promote the interests, advancement and good fellowship of the Alumni of the King's School, including providing opportunities to facilitate networking and career support;
- (d) To provide funds for and administer the Chester Old King's Scholars Exhibition and Baty Voluntary Service Overseas Travel Award;
- (e) To make arrangements for holding an Annual Dinner and other Social Gatherings from time to time.

#### **4 Subscriptions**

There will be no annual subscription. The School will fund the administrative costs of running the Association. Members who were Ordinary Members of the Association before this Constitution was adopted will no longer be required to pay a subscription and may cancel their standing orders in favour of the Association.

However:

- (a) Members who wish to have communications from the Association, including the Newsletter, sent to them by post rather than by email, will be invited to pay an annual subscription to cover the cost;
- (b) Any monies from subscriptions which former Ordinary Members continue to pay will be treated as donations to the Association and put towards funding and administering the Chester Old King's Scholars Exhibition and Baty Voluntary Service Overseas Travel Award;
- (c) Members will be given the opportunity to donate a voluntary annual sum or lump sum to be put towards funding and administering the Chester Old King's Scholars Exhibition and Baty Voluntary Service Overseas Travel Award.

#### **5 Communications**

The usual means of communication from the Association to its membership shall be by email. Any member who wishes to be communicated with by post will be invited to pay a subscription to cover the costs [See Paragraph 4 (a) above]. It is the responsibility of each member to notify the Honorary Secretary of any change in their postal and email address details.

#### **6 Governance**

- (a) A General Meeting of the Association, for which 21 days' notice shall be given, is to be held once every year, in the second quarter of the year. Special General Meetings may be convened at any time by the committee on 21 days' notice. The President shall preside at all General Meetings if present; in the absence of the President the Vice-President shall do so. If the President and the Vice-Presidents are absent, a Member present shall be elected Chairman of the meeting. The Chairman, whose decision on any point of order shall be final, shall regulate the order of the proceedings and shall have a casting vote.
- (b) At every Annual General Meeting the Officers of the Association for the ensuing year shall be elected, and any other business may be transacted.
- (c) The day to day running of the Association shall be conducted by an Executive Committee comprising 9 members, 3 of whom shall be representatives of the School, as follows: -
  - i. The President, Vice-President, Honorary Secretary, Honorary Treasurer, Dinner Secretary and Newsletter Editor. In the event of a person holding two or more of these offices a further Alumni member of the Executive Committee will be elected at the Annual General Meeting.
  - ii. The Headmaster, Head of Development and a former or current member of the School Staff.
- (d) The Executive Committee will meet each term at the School on 21 days' notice. The Executive Committee shall control the general management of the Association and its Finances. The Executive Committee may delegate any of its powers to any Sub Committee or Officers of the Association.
- (e) The Officers of the Association shall comprise the President, Vice-President, Honorary Secretary, Honorary Treasurer, Dinner Secretary and Newsletter Editor who shall be elected at the Annual General Meeting. The Committee may appoint other officers [who shall not be members of the Executive Committee unless elected under the provisions of Paragraph 6 (c) (ii) above] to perform specific roles as considered desirable.
- (f) The President  
On being elected to the Chair, the President shall be invested with the Presidential badge and thereupon shall make and sign a declaration undertaking to wear the same at formal gatherings which he or she attends as President and to keep



the badge in good order and condition whilst in his or her care or custody. The President's Declaration shall be entered in the Minute Book and attested by the Immediate Past President, if present, who shall then cease to be responsible for the care and custody of the badge. If the Immediate Past President is not present the Declaration shall be attested by the Senior Past President at the Meeting. The Presidential Badge shall be insured against fire and theft at the expense of the School and kept securely at the School when not in the care or custody of the President when attending formal gatherings as President. The School shall also insure the Association Mace and keep it securely at the School.

The President shall hold office for 2 years. The President shall, if present, preside at Association social gatherings and at all Executive Committee Meetings.

(g) The Vice-President

The Executive Committee will appoint a Vice-President who will shadow the current President for one year with a view to succeeding as President, subject to election at the Annual General Meeting. Before appointing the Vice-President the Executive Committee will make soundings and hold an "expressions of interest" exercise.

(h) The Honorary Secretary

The Honorary Secretary shall be elected at the Annual Meeting and shall be eligible for re-election. The Honorary Secretary shall receive an honorarium the amount of which (if any) shall be determined at each Annual General Meeting. It shall be the Honorary Secretary's duty, with the assistance of the Development Office, to keep all proper minutes of all Committee and Sub-committee meetings and to send out all notices of the Association's gatherings and other literature to which Members are entitled.

(i) The Honorary Treasurer

The Honorary Treasurer shall be elected at the Annual Meeting and shall be eligible for re-election. The Honorary Treasurer shall receive an honorarium the amount of which (if any) shall be determined at each Annual General Meeting. It shall be the Honorary Treasurer's duty to collect any subscriptions, donations and ticket money of any social gatherings and to ensure that all the Association's accounts are paid. The Honorary Treasurer shall draw all necessary cheques on the Association's bank account and shall present an Annual Statement of Accounts at the Annual General Meeting.

(j) The Dinner Secretary

The Dinner Secretary shall be responsible for organising the Annual Dinner with the assistance of the Development Office.

(k) The Newsletter Editor

The Newsletter Editor shall be responsible for the production of the CAOKS Newsletter with the assistance of the Development Office. There will be two issues each year. The School will be responsible for the costs of production. The Editor will have full editorial control of the contents of the newsletter, but will submit the final draft of each edition to the Head of Development for the School's approval of the contents.

(l) Resignation, Death, Illness or other incapacity of Officer

In the event of the resignation, death, illness of an officer of the Association or any other incapacity to act as an officer arising, the Executive Committee may appoint any member of the Association to act in his or her place for such period as the circumstances require until the officer is able to resume his or her duties or until a general meeting can be held.

7 **Suspension of Membership or Expulsion**

The Executive Committee may suspend or expel any member whose conduct is considered to be detrimental to the reputation or objects of the Association or the School or the interests of the members. Before a member is expelled or suspended the member's conduct shall be inquired into by the Officers of the Association. One calendar months' notice shall be given in writing to the member of such an enquiry in order for the member to have full opportunity to explain such conduct as aforesaid. Notice of the enquiry shall be deemed correctly served if it be sent to the address last known to the Association. The Officers of the Association shall report the results of their enquiry to the Executive Committee which will decide whether to suspend or expel the member. The member has the right of appeal to a Sub-committee set up ad hoc, comprising 3 Past Presidents, of whom the senior Past President will preside. The Sub-committee will uphold or dismiss the appeal by a majority. A member suspended shall forfeit all the privileges of membership and all rights against the Association for the duration of the suspension. A member expelled shall forfeit all the privileges of membership and all rights against the Association.

8 **Amendment**

This constitution may be altered or added to at any Annual or Special General Meeting of the Association, provided that notice of such alteration appears on the Agenda summoning the meeting.





### A Distant Pom Recalls

Further Recollections of Mike Clutterbuck  
OKS (1956)

I was enrolled in The King's Junior School, known as 'Arnold House' in 1945. It was then situated in Walpole Street just off Parkgate Road, not far from the 'George and Dragon' pub (an institution which was of little interest to me until another dozen years had passed). My family had moved into Abbots Park and my sister attended the primary school directly opposite and we walked to school together until I moved three years later into the Senior School.

I only have pleasant memories of Arnold House. There were three classes, Forms 1, 2b and 2a in that order. I was introduced to the concept of homework, which I found, initially at least, quite stimulating as it hadn't been set at my previous primary school in Upton. Here I also came across the concept of the 'form order' which had each boy sitting according to his place in the academic rating of the exams at the end of each term (I normally sat somewhere near the front well away from the intellectual giants in the back row). One day on the way to school I found a dead mouse and put in the desk of another boy for a joke, but the joke backfired; the other lad was absent for a couple of days and our form teacher Miss Smith (whom we addressed as 'Sir') made me exchange desks with him and my replacement desk stank for weeks afterwards.

The building itself was rather cramped with Form 1 upstairs and the other two forms on the ground floor. The small asphalt play area was on two levels, with a set of steps separating the two. The lower level led to the gymnasium and the Woodwork room both of which also served the Senior School. However, for more demanding sports like cricket and football, we used the field across the road. This field still lives firmly in my memory due to the glorious, monster snowball battle which occurred one winter's day, when we spent a whole hour there after an unusually heavy snowfall. It was organised by the staff and all joined in with enthusiasm. We were given a set time to construct barricades behind which the wounded could shelter until they were fit again (after a brief rehabilitation), and ammunition could be prepared before being brought into action. It was also there I handled my first cricket bat, not with any success however; I never scored a single run during my three years there.

The form teachers were, without exception, firm but kindly. Form 1 had a Miss Lester Smith, in 2b we had a Mrs Bentley, and in 2a we had a Mr Broome. I recall our drilling in mental arithmetic; Mr Broome would call out a calculation, give us a few seconds to write down the answer and then call out sharply: "pens up!" and we all had to lift our hands with pens in the air. We were carefully prepared for the "11-plus Exam", which was to decide our future schooling, and consisted of three parts: English, Intelligence and Arithmetic. During the latter exam, Mr Broome was on supervision duty and as I was working, a large thumb suddenly appeared on my paper. I looked at where the thumb was placed and saw an error. I never found out whether that one corrected question was what got me over the pass mark, but I will be forever grateful to him.

Our uniform was grey shorts, a grey jacket and sweater, and the cap was navy blue with a green segment at the front containing the School badge. We were required to wear it at all times when out of the house, even on holiday.

We were technically King's School pupils, but were quite separate from the Senior School and had no dealings with it (although I remember an occasion on which I was required to visit the Senior School one Saturday morning for an hour's detention but cannot recall what my misdemeanour was).

The three-year introduction in Arnold House to a tighter and more formal discipline than had reigned at my previous school stood me in good stead on my arrival at the Senior School; I found it easier to adjust to the new regime.

Those historians who surf the school archives will not find my name as having achieved anything outstanding either in scholastic or sporting success (although I once scored two goals for Shepherds in a house match), yet my years at the King's School led me to thirty satisfying years as a schoolteacher, beginning in Germany and Britain with a very brief sojourn in Saudi Arabia, but mostly here Downunder.





## King's Diplomats

**It is always good to receive news of Old King's Scholars, and recently we have heard about two from different generations who have worked in the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, John Everard, who became the UK ambassador to Belarus, Uruguay and North Korea, who was the second King's pupil to win a Leading Light Award, and John Edwards, who has spent much of his diplomatic career in China where he is currently British Consul-General in Shanghai, leading the British Government's engagement in East China.**

### John Everard OKS (1972)



I have lots of happy memories of King's, but perhaps my favourite is of gathering with all my friends during breaks and exchanging copies of the magazine we created together - the official organ of NASW, the National Association of Spooks and Weirdos! (And this was decades before Dominic Cummings asked for weirdos to enter 10 Downing Street.....). I used to type up the magazine (laboriously, with two fingers) on yellow-orange paper salvaged from one of my father's conferences and cut the pages with zig-zag crimping shears as I could not lay my hands on normal scissors. The result was idiosyncratic but legible!

I joined the Foreign and Commonwealth almost by accident - my long-suffering careers adviser at Cambridge suggested, almost as an afterthought, that I fill in the application forms as the deadline was imminent. I did so, sent them off the next morning, and thought nothing more of them until I was invited to sit the first round of entrance examinations. Several further tests and interviews later I was offered a place.

I spent 27 years working mostly in East Asia and South America, with long bouts in London. I somehow got identified as being able to cope with strange environments and was sent to Minsk, Sarajevo and finally to North Korea. After I retired in 2008 I was a fellow at Stanford University from 2010 to 2011 and then worked for the United Nations Security Council from 2011 to 2012. I have since been trying to retire, with limited success.

My career has had many strange moments. I was able to watch at first hand as Lukashenko came to power in Belarus. I have sat in half-dark rooms in Sarajevo (no electricity) with Serb war criminals, angry that their war had been stopped. I have watched silent torchlight parades in Pyongyang, modelled on Hitler's rallies. I have been caught up in a police chase in Nigeria with the criminals firing over my head at the police behind me.

In 1979 I travelled up the Yangtse on a rickety steamer and, bored, I asked the kind man who worked the gang plank for permission to leave the boat to stretch my legs. Hesitantly he agreed. I walked up the main street of the next town at which we docked. Women screamed and picked up their children to carry them indoors. Men stood and gaped at me open-mouthed. As I walked slowly up to the inevitable Mao statue in the main square I turned around and realised that the entire town had come to a stop as everybody came to stare at the foreigner. At that point the local policeman asked me politely to get back on the boat so that he could have his town back. I later learned that I was the first foreigner to visit the town since 1949.



*In Pyongyang, Capital of North Korea*

I once accompanied Princess Anne on a trip to the remote north of Chile when an indigenous headman told me that she must meet his princess. And as Princess Anne stood in the mountain sun, dazzling in expensive





## Features

western clothes, a diminutive young woman emerged from a hut in an equally dazzling but simple white dress, walked regally towards her and greeted her very seriously and formally in the language of the Aymara, a former tributary people of the Incas. Nearly five centuries after the defeat of the Incas there was still an Aymara royal house.

But if there is one moment I shall always remember it was crossing the forbidden bridge from China into North Korea on foot in 2008. The Chinese tourists at their end of the bridge suddenly stopped chattering and stared at the foreigner who walked across the half-way line, the Chinese border guard rushed towards me, checked my papers and then saluted smartly as he saw that they were in order, and the North Korean guards at the other end watched in disbelief as I walked towards them. It was a strange, spooky experience. I felt I knew how it must have been to cross checkpoint Charlie in Berlin on a spy exchange in the cold war!

There were many challenges in the work. Where do I start? Stress, fear, exhaustion. Frequent jetlag. So often having to cancel promised outings with my long-suffering wife. Having to think lucidly and create convincing policy at 3.00am after I have been working for 24 hours non-stop (this happens often in crises). Trying to explain to Belarusian engineers that my generator needs a transformer.

I'm not sure that I ever had an ultimate career goal. My career was largely driven by accidents rather than objectives! If it has a parallel it would not be James Bond but more Forrest Gump! In my spare time I cycle everywhere, I read voraciously, I write frequently and have political arguments with all kinds of people.

### John Edwards OKS (1992)

I went to King's Junior School and then on to the Senior School, leaving in 1992. I was incredibly lucky. Everything you might want from a school I got - inspirational teachers that open your mind to different ways of thinking, friends who stay close for life through thick and thin, and happy memories (being on the river, school camp in North Wales) that only become more vivid as I approach (very early) middle-age.

I went on to University where I met interesting and intellectually challenging people. But the skills I have used most in my subsequent career - clarity of thought



and communication - I attribute almost entirely to my time at Kings and to Paul Fentem, the then Head of Classics, in particular.

It was actually a chance friendship with a fellow university student who had studied languages abroad that opened my eyes to the possibility of an international career. Hearing his stories of playing football on the rooftops of Cairo with the call to prayer echoing around him sounded incredibly romantic. So, when I left university I had a vague idea of joining the Diplomatic Service. After a year of temporary jobs, that usefully knocked a bit of the entitlement out of me, I entered the Foreign and Commonwealth Office in 1996.

I started off dealing with UK nuclear weapons policy, then studied Chinese full-time for two years, worked in Shanghai as a jack of all trades junior diplomat, came back to London to work on international poverty reduction, human rights, consular services (i.e. looking after British nationals in trouble overseas) and finally as a speech writer to the Foreign Secretary. Since the end of 2007 I've been abroad again (an unusually long time to be honest - I'm hoping no one in the London Head Office sees this blog). First as the Deputy Consul General in Jerusalem, then the Embassy in Beijing working with the Chinese on climate change, energy, health and scientific research collaboration, back to Shanghai as Consul General (running the British government's operations in East China) and from May this year in Beijing as HM Trade Commissioner for China and Hong Kong.

During that time, I've done much which was fun (looking after Paul McCartney in the West Bank and Ian McKellen in Shanghai), lots which was interesting (travelling with the Foreign Secretary around the world, grappling with the complexities of the Middle East Peace Process) and some that I hope was useful (helping with the aftermath of the 2004 Asian Tsunami, working with the Chinese on emissions trading schemes and low carbon technologies, sourcing and shipping £1bn of PPE and ventilators back to





## Features

the UK from China at the height of the first COVID wave). The job I have now is the most challenging I've faced. We do a £100bn of trade with China and HK every year. They are one of the biggest investors in, for example, our offshore wind farms. And China is a growing technology superpower. But it's also an authoritarian one-party state with strategic aims and values that are not the same as ours - particularly and most recently in Xinjiang and Hong Kong. Trying to navigate a policy that serves the UK national interest best is tough.



*Climbing The Great Wall of China*

After so much of my career in China (12 years and counting - more than I've worked in the UK), when I'm asked what my "goal" is the obvious answer to give would be to be the Ambassador there one day. But actually, I prefer not to plan that far - or that narrowly - into the future. My priorities will always be the happiness of my family and doing something I enjoy. So far that's led me down a varied and fulfilling path.

When I'm not working, I try to spend as much time as possible with my 8-year old son. He's fun. When he gets bored of me I run and read books.



CAOKS Secretary, Adrian Ackroyd, has devised this Christmas Dinner Menu. The recipes may be found by following this link:

[www.kingschester.co.uk/uploads/flippingBooks/files/AlternativeChristmasDayMeals/](http://www.kingschester.co.uk/uploads/flippingBooks/files/AlternativeChristmasDayMeals/)

### **Seafood filled filo pastry shells with a light thermidor sauce**

Lobster, prawns, scallops, crab, salmon and cod topped with Parmesan and Gruyere

### **Piemontese Brasato**

Braised Beef in Barolo wine  
with a selection of vegetable dishes chosen from  
Fluffy creamy mashed potatoes with Gran Padano  
Kale, squash and chestnuts  
Roasted cauliflower and Brussels sprouts with raisins and toasted pine nuts  
Mixed greens with garlic, rosemary and anchovy savoury butter  
Roasted Carrots with Parsley

### **D'Artagnan's Bresse Turkey**

Turkey breasts poached in savoury turkey stock and served with confit turkey leg  
Classic forcemeat, Winter chestnut, Fresh herbs, and Special fruit and nut stuffing  
Pigs in snug blankets, Special cranberry sauce  
Classic bread sauce and Turkey jus  
with a selection of vegetable dishes chosen from  
Honey roasted parsnips  
Glazed carrot batons  
Brussel sprouts braised in stock  
Cream braised celery  
Baked cauliflower cheese  
Wafer thin crispy potatoes and onion layers cooked in butter and roast garlic  
Ultimate crunch roast potatoes

### **Retro Christmas Trifle**

Individual rectangular prisms of Genovese sponge, summer fruits in jelly, rich brandy infused custard and topped with sweet whipped lemon cream sprinkled with edible glitter





## Obituaries

*Unusually, but thankfully, no deaths of Old King's Scholars since the last issue have been reported to the Association at the time of going to press. However, many members will be saddened to learn of the death of a popular teacher.*

### David Yalland

David Yalland, Head of Physics at the King's School from 1996 to 2012, died at the end of August 2020.

Brought up in Holyhead, where as a child he would go swimming from the breakwater, on leaving Anglesey to settle in England he was happy to forget his knowledge of the Welsh language which, according to his family was never very proficient.

He studied physics at Manchester University. Whilst a student he was told by a professor that he should give up physics as he was useless. Despite this he carried on to become a highly regarded teacher of the subject at a number of schools in the area including Manchester Grammar School, Birkenhead School and King's where he was Head of the department.

When teaching at Manchester Grammar School a young John Hargreaves asked his teacher why he had been placed in the bottom set, 3C. David Yalland replied: "Hargreaves, the only reason you're in 3C is there isn't a 3D". John Hargreaves came to King's as a teacher and became deputy head and thus became David's boss!

Colleagues at King's remember him as a quiet and modest man. He was a brilliant teacher of physics, who was universally liked and respected by the students and all those who worked with him. He shunned the usual leaving speeches on his retirement, as he had done at Birkenhead School when he left there.

An enthusiastic supporter of Liverpool FC, having a season ticket for over 40 years, a lover of animals and with a wide range of interests, his first love was his family. He and his wife, Irene, had a son, Mike, who became an aeronautical engineer and a daughter, Kate, who went into veterinary medicine.

Sadly, at the end of his life David suffered from a degenerative neurological disease which he bore with courage and dignity.







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# Officers

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## OFFICERS AND EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

PRESIDENT	Ravi Jayaram (1985)	<a href="mailto:President@caoks.co.uk">President@caoks.co.uk</a>
VICE PRESIDENT	Anthony Russell (1970)	
HON. SECRETARY	Adrian Ackroyd (1974)	<a href="mailto:HonSec@caoks.co.uk">HonSec@caoks.co.uk</a>
HON. TREASURER	Mark Thorp (1977)	<a href="mailto:Treasurer@caoks.co.uk">Treasurer@caoks.co.uk</a>
DINNER SECRETARY	Robin Hardi (1987)	<a href="mailto:DinnerSec@caoks.co.uk">DinnerSec@caoks.co.uk</a>
EDITOR	Anthony Russell (1970)	<a href="mailto:Editor@caoks.co.uk">Editor@caoks.co.uk</a>
HEADMASTER	George Hartley	<a href="mailto:headmaster@Kingschester.co.uk">headmaster@Kingschester.co.uk</a>
HEAD OF DEVELOPMENT	Liz Gwyther	<a href="mailto:eeg@Kingschester.co.uk">eeg@Kingschester.co.uk</a>
STAFF MEMBER	Anne Marie McMahon	

The preferred means of communication is by email. Paper correspondence to CAOKS officers and committee should be sent to:

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

Telephone: 01244 689494

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## CAOKS EXHIBITION 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

