



CAOKS 150 1865-2015



Chester Association of Old King's Scholars Newsletter No 69

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The CAOKS is 150 years old; the oldest alumni association in the country. The school is, of course, rather older; approaching the 475th anniversary of its foundation in the monastery of St Werburgh by King Henry VIII. The school has changed markedly since its inception. Even within the period of my involvement, which started in 1957, it has evolved from a very old-fashioned, boys only, part-funded institution, housed in an array of decrepit but stimulating buildings in the Chester city centre, to a modern, thriving, independent establishment in purpose-built accommodation on the edge of the city. Today it is twice the size it was in my time, educates both girls and boys and fields a range of activities that we could not have imagined. I admit to being rather proud to be associated with this school, even though, except for some involvement with the rowing club, I have played no part in its development in the years since I left.



Somewhat to my surprise I find myself the President for the year in which CAOKS celebrates its 150th anniversary. The Association has changed much over its 150 years, not least in that it was a "Chester Association" suggesting that it really served those members that resided in Chester. I was invited to my first "Old Boys' dinner" in 1967 and I remember that the attendees were largely local business men who used it as an opportunity for socialising and networking (although the word had not then been invented), together with quite a number of the school staff and miscellaneous old boys, many of whom were of the younger generation of school leavers who came back to Chester to reunite with old friends. There was a bar open after the dinner and it was my impression that significant quantities of drink were consumed, certainly by the younger generation around me. Today we see a more eclectic crowd at our annual dinners and rather less drink; and of course nobody smokes!

These days, the vast majority of former King's School pupils make their careers away from Chester and the requirement is more for a long-distance alumni organisation that keeps us in touch with other alumni, our friends and former classmates. To this end Adrian Ackroyd, our Hon Sec, has developed a thriving LinkedIn Group which has served as a platform for lively debates about current and historical matters associated with the school, our schoolmates and particularly the staff that presided over and taught us. It is perhaps not surprising that participation in the group has been dominated by those who were at school between the 1950s and 1980s, covering a roughly 40 year timespan. Since last year the Association also has a FaceBook page, where items of news concerning upcoming events are posted. However, the most useful 'keeping-in-touch' forum is the LinkedIn Group.

A particular forte of the Association is its ability to track down lost alumni and friends. Again Adrian is the man to speak to. It is this aspect, that of getting news of, finding and staying in touch with former school friends, that has been important to me since I left school. Until recently, I have not lived in the Chester region. I spent my career mainly in the nuclear industry based initially at Dounreay in the far north of Scotland, followed by involvement in European projects in the south of France (Cadarache), Germany (Karlsruhe), leading eventually to a spell in the EU Commission in Brussels (a sure cure for ones euro-ideology). Then I moved on to adventures further east, Berlin, Kiev, Prague and Russia, and more recently to "green-energy" projects in Italy. I have thus valued those services provided by the Association that have kept me in contact with the OKS community. I have made less use of the opportunity to attend events in Chester and London.

There is nevertheless significant demand for the events held near Chester, be they sporting events (cricket, golf, rowing and the like) or social events such as the CAOKS annual dinner, the various suppers and the lighter activities (bowls, snooker, etc); not forgetting that for the many OKS based in London there is the very successful annual London dinner. We are continuing to review the palette of local events with a view to involving the younger, more recent leavers, who almost by definition will still have a base in the Chester area. Indeed we would welcome suggestions for activities from this section of our community.

Most of our members will be aware that the School too has its Alumni organisation, one that has been running in parallel with CAOKS for the last five years or so. Although the organisations cooperate, there is inevitable confusion, particularly in the minds of recent leavers; each has its own LinkedIn Group and each its own FaceBook page, and each runs events in Chester and in London. The situation needs to be resolved and we are currently discussing ways of combining and rationalising our efforts. Any changes that we propose will be put to the members in order to get their opinions. In the meantime, my advice is to join both organisations and to benefit from both lots of activities. There is plenty of choice!

One of the founding objectives of the Association is to provide a measure of funding to former pupils of the school. As part of this objective CAOKS has two funds in existence to offer financial support, "The Old Kings' Scholars Exhibition Fund" set up in 1885 and the "Baty Voluntary Service (formerly Travel) Award", set up in the late 1960's. The Committee wishes to secure the future funding of these awards and has set itself a challenging target to raise £25,000 in our 150th anniversary year. As a charity the Exhibition Fund should attract gift aid, which will increase donations by 25%. Our new dinner secretary, David Atkin started the ball rolling by successfully organising some fundraising at the annual dinner in March. We are asking all our members and associates (totalling over 1100) to make a donation of £25 / £50 / £100 to enable us to reach this ambitious target by April 2016. If everyone donates at least £25 then it is achievable!

In addition the Association has set up an online merchandising page with a range of 150th Anniversary themed items. Please visit the site on <http://www.netprintmanager.com/CAOKS>

David Wilkes

DATES FOR THE DIARY

ADVANCE NOTICE - 150th Annual Dinner, Saturday 9th April 2016, Chester Town Hall

We are delighted to announce that we will be returning to the Town Hall in Chester for the 150th CAOKS Annual Dinner, to be held on 9th April 2016. After the success of the 2015 dinner menu, we will once again be offering a 3-course menu including coffee and as it's a special anniversary, we're upgrading to a glass of Prosecco on arrival. Full booking details (including menu & wine options) will be available from 1st September but, in the meantime, if you would like to pre-book a table or reserve individual places, you can do so now at the early booking price of £42.50 for Members and guests (normally £48.50) or £32.50 for Student Members (normally £40.50). We are expecting this prestigious anniversary event to be very popular and with a limit on the numbers allowed in the main room, we suggest early booking. Contact: David Atkin at davidedwardatkin@gmail.com

- * **Student Evening**; Fri 4th September, 7pm Pitcher & Piano, Chester
Contact nickp.philprop@hotmail.com
- * **London Supper** Thurs. 22nd October details TBA
Contact: alan.vallance65@gmail.com
- * **Snooker v City Grammar School at the City Club** Fri 6th Nov.
Contact : nickp.philprop@hotmail.com
- * **Bangor on Dee race meeting** Sat 16th April.
Contact: sixhitter@hotmail.com
- * **President's Evening** TBA

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FROM THE EDITOR

I hope that members of The Association will enjoy this edition of the Newsletter that celebrates 150 years of our existence.

I am very grateful to all our contributors and The School for assistance with archive material.

Paul Consterdine

FROM THE HEADMASTER

It has been a momentous year for King's: the ISI report in February produced excellent comments, and indeed 'excellent' grades in many categories. One mark of an inspection is always what they have to say about pupils, and in verbal feedback the team brilliantly described King's students as 'clever, capable and funny', though in the more formal language of the edited written report that became 'notably articulate'! Still, it's a great accolade, and one I definitely recognise.



The year comes to an end with the Junior School Learning Centre complete and Willow Lodge, our new infant's school, now ready for action across the field from it. Do come and see this new series of developments, which completes the King's family of schools on Wrexham Road. What is more Willow Lodge is full for 2015 – as indeed the school as a whole is!

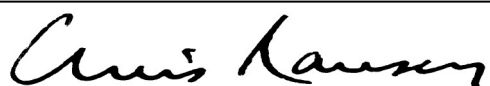
As usual at the end of a year there are some staff leavers: Karen Dickson, Jim Pownall, Marian Griffin and Sheila Whitta are all retiring from their posts in the Junior School, and in the Senior School, Trish Housden retires, and three colleagues leave us after one-year contracts.

The sporting highlight of the year was without doubt the inspirational victory of the U13 football side in the English Schools' Football Association Cup in May. The final took place at Reading FC's stadium and reminded us all of previous triumphs at professional stadiums. During the year the boys' hockey teams and girls' netball teams in particular have had great seasons: please do see our website for details of the 1000+ fixtures this year!

Then there have been many other events of the term: music, drama, art exhibitions, two design finals in London, charity events and a growing lecture series, including this year Rob Eastaway OKS and historian Dan Snow. Matt Hancock OKS co-hosted the alumni event at Westminster last autumn, and he is joined now in the House of Commons by newly-elected James Davies OKS, MP for the Vale of Clwyd.

It has been a privilege to meet many former pupils at our regular Saturday reunions, and at the end of this term to be joined by many former rowers at Henley, where we once again held a reception, joined by the 1st VIII whose valiant performance took them to the Thursday of the week before a narrow defeat to one of the top US schools, Andover. I hope many of you will also be planning to come to the inaugural Founder's Dinner in September (details on the website): John Everard OKS will be speaking, and many former members of staff, current staff and – I'm delighted to say – my two immediate predecessors will be joining us. It should be a memorable evening.

Then, in 2016, we celebrate 475 years of King's: there will be a special Commemoration service, receptions and the opening of our Archive Walk, the first time we have been able to put on permanent display much of the historical material which you, as former pupils, and others, have donated. There will be more on this during 2015-16, and I hope you will come and see us then, if not before



ALUMNI NEWS

- * Congratulations to **James Davies (1998)** who was elected as Conservative MP for Vale of Clwyd.
- * **Ravi Jayaram (1986)** has been on TV as one of the consultants in 'Born Naughty'.
- * **Chris Sumner (1962)** has recently married.
- * **Sir James Dutton (1972)** has recently relinquished his post as Governor of Gibraltar.
- * **Andrew Norman** is to start a new teaching post at Radley College.
- * **Philip Bowcock (1949)** writes: I'm obviously only a junior at 82 but would be interested to know of any more of my vintage who are members. For the record I am a chartered surveyor and was elected to ARICS at 21; I don't think there are many RICS members who managed that. My wife and I were also foster carers for 45 years and cared for about 136 children. I am a keen organist.

EMILY MOSS (a Junior Vice President) writes:

As a fairly recent King's leaver (2013), I initially struggled to think of an event in the last two years which could rival the anecdotes from much more senior CAOKS members. That isn't to say that I haven't had an interesting couple of years though. In this time I have developed an excellent working knowledge of central London based entirely on the location of dental hospitals, found myself explaining in French to the father of a child in my care that the reason why his daughter was half naked was due to an unfortunate incident involving projectile vomiting and in one journey to Australia I managed to lose two passports, three boarding passes and enter the country on an expired passport without having to pay a penny (although the five hours spent in Hong Kong immigration weren't the most relaxing of my life). Despite this seemingly hilarious catalogue of events, I wanted to write about something so recent it is still happening and which has made me reflect a lot on my time at King's.



Back in December I decided that I'd like to be a teacher of English to speakers of other languages (TESOL, TEFL, TESL – pick your favourite acronym, I'll soon be all of them). After an entry procedure more rigorous than that of university admissions I completed my first year at University College London and prepared to spend my holiday undertaking what had been described to me as 'the most intense learning experience of your life'. With this in mind I packed as many books of English grammar as possible, a few packets of paracetamol and the most morally supportive teddy I own and headed north as I had decided to do this teaching course (the CELTA) in Dundee. (I can assure you that any joke about learning English in Dundee has already made, much to the annoyance of my fellow course mates.)

I now find myself entering the fourth and final week and, ignoring the flurry of lesson plans beneath which I am currently disappearing, remain fairly upbeat. There have been some late nights and the odd stressful day but overall it has not been as horrendously challenging as I'd been led to believe. In terms of the theory of teaching, it has been a steep learning curve. I cringe to think of the first lessons I gave despite them only being a few hundred hours ago. Teaching an elementary French student to pronounce correctly a 'th' sound and writing on a whiteboard in a way that doesn't make me look as though I'm drunk, short-sighted or both are skills that will no doubt come in due course. Despite issues such as these along the way I feel

as though I have got through the course relatively unscarred and am looking forward to the future. While most of my colleagues aspire to teach in China (coincidentally both as geographically and culturally distanced from Dundee as possible), I have less wild short-term plans. In two weeks I will be in Australia (mental note to check passport expiry date) teaching English to study tours of Japanese teenagers. On returning I have three more years of my linguistics degree to complete, one of which will be in France. However, wherever my teaching career takes me (don't I sound all grown up?!) I want the same awareness of my students' needs that my own teachers had, the same fun and loving atmosphere that they created and the same inspirational ability that makes the King's School Chester such a wonderfully conducive learning environment. While it would be completely false of me to say that I knew how to teach before I started the CELTA course, I certainly knew what I was aiming for. Without realising I had already observed 7 years of 'model' lessons.

Will Marshall (a Junior Vice President) (2013) writes:

Promoting STEM careers with Engineers Without Borders

One of the first things I got involved in at University was an organisation called Engineers Without Borders. My primary reasons for joining were the name's association in my head with Médecins Sans Frontières and the thought that I could put some of my newly acquired knowledge to altruistic use. Certainly the (unreferenced) claim by the group at the Freshers' fair that 'Engineers save more lives than doctors was enticing!

The fledgling organisation does some fantastic work in equipping people in developing countries with the knowledge and tools that they need to improve their lives, but it was another facet of the group that I have become particularly involved with in the last two years. Branches of Engineers Without Borders work in partnership with the organisation STEMNET to provide volunteers for workshops in schools and colleges, promoting both sustainable engineering and STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) careers in general.

At King's, as you might expect, the number of older students I knew who had gone on to study STEM subjects and adults I knew who were in STEM careers, was relatively high. So the concept of studying Engineering, or a similar subject, was always present. Perhaps also unsurprisingly, a great many of my peers at University are from similar backgrounds to myself. All this makes it very easy to forget that a great many potential students in the UK do not have such influences.

According to the Institute of Engineering and Technology, the UK currently has an annual shortfall of 55,000 Engineering graduates, a skills gap they predict could cost the economy up to £27 billion per annum over the next 7 years. In my experience over the last two years this skills gap has been fostered by the education system's failure to properly inform students about STEM careers and about the industry in general. This failure also extends to basic primary school science and parents not making up for its shortfalls. In one session given to 11-year-old students I posed the question: "How do you think your family could reduce their environmental impact?" The first response was: "Drive off from the petrol station without paying!" Whilst this is undoubtedly an extreme example, it illustrates a deep set lack of understanding of the challenges we face in the next few decades and how students might be able to position themselves to help.

In light of this, it has become apparent to me how important a responsibility it is for those in the STEM community to try to influence the next generation of potential STEM students, who may not be in the privileged position of having the necessary role-models around them. Certainly my experience has been hugely rewarding, and the thought that I might have swayed a few towards a career in STEM, or even just enlightened them with knowledge of sustainable engineering and renewable energies, is fantastic. I would urge anybody involved in these areas to do what they can to pass on some of their knowledge in schools.

More information about Engineers Without Borders can be found at www.ewb-uk.org, more information about STEMNET can be found at www.stemnet.org.uk

Benedict Cooke reports on Swamp Soccer

Whilst it's not quite an Olympic Gold Medal or winning the Boat Race, I'm sure it has its place in the record books!

On the 12th June, six hardy young men, including the Old King's Scholars of Benedict Cooke (2008), Charlie Cooke (2005), Matthew Evered and Andrew Stocker (both 2006), travelled to Istanbul to represent their country at the Swamp Soccer World Cup. Having cut their teeth in previous tournaments in Scotland, Bruce's Bogtrotters felt prepared for anything that could be thrown at them. This confidence grew as they sailed through their group without conceding a goal. But then came the might of Dr Tusz from Poland; 12 angry looking men, shaven headed and built like oxen, but lovely all the same.

Bruce's Bogtrotters fought valiantly but a slim 1-0 defeat ended their hopes of becoming



World Champions. They returned to Blighty with heads held high, a runner's up trophy held aloft, and mud in every orifice.

Special mentions should go to Matthew Evered (Player of the Tournament), Benedict Cooke (Save of the Tournament), Andrew Stocker (Most Clean sheets (and dirtiest kit)) and Charlie Cooke for



managing the rabble and resisting the urge to play with a broken arm.

The School recently hosted a visit of **Mike Fox** and his wife Hilary.



Mike with some 2015 rowers

MEMORY LANE

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1. GRAMMAR SCHOOL OF KING HENRY VIII

CHESTER.

REPORT OF THE PROCEEDINGS

AT THE

FIRST ANNUAL MEETING

OF THE

Chester Association of Old King's Scholars,

INCLUDING

THE INAUGURATION DINNER

AT THE GROSVENOR HOTEL, CHESTER,

ON FRIDAY, JUNE 22ND, 1866 .

CHESTER:

PUBLISHED AT THE COURANT OFFICE.

This Association was established at a preliminary meeting of about 40 Old Scholars convened 'by circular, on the 8th of this present month of June. Its main object is to bring together in annual reunion all old "Foundation Boys," irrespective of age and to cement them together in one common bond of union and brotherhood, with a view to keeping alive the public interest in the School, and to restoring and enlarging, as far as possible, the ancient advantages of the Foundation. The School was founded by royal charter, under the seal of King Henry VIII., in the month of June, 1545, and the Latin Statutes of the Founder are still extant, incorporated with those of the venerable Cathedral.

It was at first proposed that the members of the Association' should dine together within the walls of the old School itself, which was, in pre-Reformation times, 'the refectory or dining-hall of the monastery. Acting, however, upon the advice of the present venerable Dean, Dr. Anson, this part of the project was, for convenience sake, abandoned, and the banquet accordingly took place in the large room of the new Grosvenor Hotel. There were about 75 Old King's Scholars present, many having travelled from distant parts of the kingdom, for the very purpose of meeting their old school fellows and friends on this occasion.

(another 20 odd pages follow!)

The School in War Time

Any school placed as is ours in the heart of a military centre must have had the whole of its life during the past year coloured and transformed by the stir of a Nation in Arms

When the War first broke out, during the summer holidays the School became the busy centre of the Working Committee organized by the Mayoress and of the St. John Ambulance, suffragettes volunteering for the clerical work 'occupied the Head Master's Room, our Wireless Apparatus was dismantled: at a later period, the Governors were warned that the School buildings might be needed for hospital purposes but, happily, that need has not arisen.

Our numbers, instead of declining, as was feared, have increased to a hundred and seventy, the highest for the last thirty years: four are Belgian guests who have received a warm welcome from the School.

It was, perhaps, inevitable that there should be at first a certain amount of restlessness and difficulty in settling down to work, but even young boys have been sobered by these times of trial, and the prefects and elder boys in general have never more fully realized their responsibility. Elsewhere will be found the list of nearly two hundred Old Boys serving their country, between fifty and sixty of them holding commissions.



1915

Norman Okell (1909)

Dardenelles

Wilfred Tait (1907)

France

Edward Whitfield (1910)

Dardenelles

Arthur E. Jones (1902)

Dardenelles

THE PRESIDENT'S EVENING

The President's Evening was held at the School, on Friday, the 10th September 1965 and was considered to be one of the most successful yet held. The President, John L. Hudson, and his wife, received the guests on arrival and spent the evening wandering among the large company of members and their friends, who numbered about 100.

It is an occasion when members can meet informally and either renew, or make, friendships with the present members of the staff.

It was a happy thought that this annual function should be held on the school premises because it strengthens the tie with the School and gives some an opportunity to see the conditions under which the present Scholars work. The appreciation of the Association is given to Mr. A. R. Munday, the headmaster, for allowing it to meet in these pleasant surroundings. It was an opportunity to see some of the recent redecorations which have taken place at the school.

Thanks are also extended to Piers Dutton, and his wife, for their help and hard work in organising the refreshments, and to those who were responsible for its preparation and serving. There was only one thing that was not in order. The president was improperly dressed. He was not wearing the President's badge. Alas, a few days before, thieves had entered his home and had removed not only many of Mr. and Mrs. Hudson's personal property, but also the President's badge.

THE PRESIDENT'S BADGE

The President's badge was given to the Association by Hugh T. Dutton, who for many years was secretary. It was the Westminster Gold Medal, awarded to him in 1902. The adaptation for use as a badge of office was paid for by the Association. It was the equivalent - on the scales - to nine sovereigns. The donor wished that it should be worn at all meetings of the Association; social gatherings; the Cathedral Service; and speech day at the School when the President was invited to sit among the Governors.

50

YEARS

AGO

Annual Dinner

Piers Dutton, the president, presided over the annual dinner, which was held at the Blossoms Hotel, Chester on the 9th of January. The chief guest was His Excellency Sir Glyn Jones, G.C.M.G., M.B.K, Governor- General of Malawi. The Mayor of Chester, Ald. Miss Mary Heaney; and the Bishop of Chester, Dr. Gerald Ellison, were also guests. Others were the headmaster, Mr. A. R. Munday and past headmasters, Canon L. F. Harvey and Mr. C. W. Baty, together with past and present members of the staff of the school.

The toast of the "Mayor and Corporation of the City of Chester" was proposed by the Bishop, who spoke of happy relationship between the City Council and the Cathedral - which had not always been so in the past. He referred also to other countries where every position on local government was financially remunerated. There was something fine in the fact that citizens of this country were willing to give their time and knowledge for the comfort and welfare on their fellow citizens without financial reward.

Replying, the Mayor, who was the only member of her sex present in the large gathering, said that the future of education in the City was to be considered, but expressing a personal view, said she felt that a school with the tradition, character and spirit of the King's School should not be altered in any way, whatever system may be adopted in Chester. This was received with applause.

CAOKS EXHIBITION FUND

Extract from original foundation

It is proposed to found an "OLD SCHOLARS" SCHOLARSHIP, by means of Donations from old Foundation Boys and other friends of the School, such Donations to be spread, where desired, over five or more years. This Scholarship to be open under competitive examination before the assembled School, to all Scholars educated on the foundation of the Royal Grammar School of King Henry VIII. at Chester, and to none other. The Scholar so selected by competition, to present himself for examination and to satisfactorily pass at the Oxford or Cambridge Middle Class Examination, at Liverpool or elsewhere, at the like discretion of the Trustees

PETER BERNIE was a recipient of the CAOKS Exhibition back in 1976 to 1979.

Following on from some excellent maths teaching at School from Paul Consterdine, Jammy Marsh, Jimmy Higgins, Reg Read and John Scott, I was fortunate enough to do well in the 1975 Oxford entrance exams and won a scholarship to study Maths at Merton College, which in turn led to CAOKS awarding me the Exhibition.

My parents and I very much appreciated the Exhibition from CAOKS and the financial assistance it gave and so decided to put something back by taking out life membership of CAOKS.

The financial assistance I received from free university tuition fees, from a nominal student grant, from my parents, from CAOKS, from Merton, from summer vacation jobs and from unemployment benefit (for which students were then eligible) all added together to mean I was able to leave university completely debt free, something which today's students can unfortunately hardly imagine.

I thoroughly enjoyed my time in Oxford but decided that three years was enough. I signed up for accountancy articles with Peat Marwick & Mitchell in Puddle Dock in London, working in the same department where David Barron had done his articles a few years earlier. I stayed for a couple of years after qualifying, before moving back to Chester to work initially for ICI, then later for three different marine insurance managers, including Charles Taylor where I now work.

So School and CAOKS played roles in helping me towards a career where I have worked for both the insurers of the Titanic and the insurers of the Costa Concordia.

PETER JOHNSTONE from 2011

In 2011, as I left King's School, I was fortunate enough to be awarded the CAOKS Exhibition. I am now about to finish my fourth year studying medicine at Oxford and it certainly feels like a long time since I was wandering the corridors of Kings as a student there. In those four years I have moved from lecture halls learning basic physiology and anatomy through in depth scientific study of, if we're honest, fairly niche topics finally to arrive at the local hospital, seeing patients and trying to find out what medicine really is on a day to day basis. It has been a wonderful four years, all the clichés about university being challenging and rewarding in equal measure seemingly actually true (somewhat to the surprise of this cynic). I really have enjoyed my time in Oxford immensely, a good thing given that I still have two years to go until I finally graduate!

Medicine was never going to be easy and I have been the grateful recipient of help from many different sources, be they friends, tutors, family or those who support from afar. I believe CAOKS falls into that last category, wishing well for all those who leave Kings and supporting them in any way possible, providing a network of old friends and colleagues and, in the case of the Exhibitions, a fund which can help ease the ever increasing financial burden of going into higher education. For me personally, this fund has helped pay for textbooks, academic dress and my stethoscope as well providing a much needed help with living costs. I am incredibly grateful to the Association for their help and I would certainly encourage any and all leavers to apply for this fantastic award.

Please see on the next page the Appeal to support these funds

CAOKS FUNDRAISING – in its 150th Anniversary Year

The Chester Association of Old King's Scholars has, amongst its various objectives, the aim of supporting former pupils. As part of this objective CAOKS has two funds in existence to offer financial support, **The Old Kings' Scholars Exhibition Fund** set up in 1885 and **The Baty Overseas Voluntary Service Award**, set up in the late 1960's.

The Exhibition Fund is designed for 'the promotion of good general scholarship' and to provide funds to support former pupils at university. There is a distinguished list of past beneficiaries. Each recipient currently receives £250 a year, for three years to help fund the significant cost of university study.

The Baty Overseas Voluntary Service Award (usually up to £500) supports former pupils to conduct voluntary work abroad during a gap year or occasionally post university where relevant to their studies. In recent years the recipients have done meaningful voluntary work in, for example, Africa, Asia and South America. The excellent reports published in our newsletters on their return illustrate this.

As an organisation we believe that it is imperative to secure the future funding of these awards. To this end the Committee has set itself a challenging target of raising £25,000 in our 150th anniversary year. As a charity the Exhibition Fund should attract gift aid, which will increase donations by 25%. Our new dinner secretary, David Atkin started the ball rolling by successfully organising some fundraising at the annual dinner in March - the stand-up bingo and various auctions raised a healthy **£787**.

We are asking all our members and associates (totalling over 1100) to make a donation of £25 / £50 / £100 to enable us to reach this ambitious target by April 2016. If everyone donates at least £25 then it is achievable!

Other suggestions include – though not taken up yet - sponsoring our Honorary Secretary, Adrian Ackroyd, to undertake a cross country run (as in the old days when the pitches were too wet). Watch this space for that!

In addition, the Association has set up an **online merchandise page** with a range of quality 150th anniversary themed items including t-shirts, mugs and umbrellas. Commission from each item sold will be given to the Association's fundraising effort. Please visit the site from our website link (when available) or direct via <http://www.netprintmanager.com/CAOKS>

As we enter our 150th anniversary year, as the oldest alumni organisation in the country, let us support the future of the Association, and give generously to our charitable funds. A donation leaflet with more details is enclosed with this mailshot, and will be available on the website in due course. We will report progress in future newsletters and on the website.

Will Lamb – Trustee CAOKS Exhibition Fund
Nick Phillipson – Hon Treasurer

ARTICLES

Chester FC v Woking

In a first for the Association, CAOKS sponsored a match at Chester FC. In this case, it was Chester v Woking on Saturday, 28th March 2015, the same day as the Annual Dinner. In what proved to be a very popular event, ten former pupils enjoyed an enjoyable afternoon in the Legends Lounge. Several members had travelled long distances to combine the two events including Steve Dodswell, who had come up from Cornwall, Andrew Brown from Bishop Stortford and Mike Thorpe from London.

We were given a tour of the stadium including the home dressing room where we had the opportunity to take pictures with the players such as goalkeeper, Jon Worsnop and midfield dynamo, John Rooney, brother of the England captain.

We were then treated to a sumptuous three course meal provided by the former racecourse caterers, Dougherty and Allen before receiving a memento of the day from Chester legend, Gary Talbot. The match itself was very entertaining, although unfortunately Chester lost 2-3 to a spectacular winning goal from the Woking number 7, Josh Payne.



Shortly before the end of the match, we were asked to pick the man of the match for Chester as well as the opposition. The unanimous choice was Chester midfield player, Kingsley James. As they had very similar hair styles, it was decided that Steve Dodswell would make the presentation to Kingsley James in the lounge after the match. The Association received some good publicity in the match programme which informed the supporters that the original Chester Football Club had been formed in 1885 by an amalgamation between King's School Old Boys and Chester Rovers.

My apologies to those, whom we could not accommodate on the day, as this proved to be a very popular event. However, we are thinking about a repeat visit during the coming season.

Will Lamb

**MCC Cricket Tour to Suriname & Panama.
12-25 March 2015**

I was hugely honoured and privileged to be invited to represent 'The Club' on their first overseas tour of 2015. As custodians of the laws of the game, whilst also being charged with ensuring it is played in the right spirit, The MCC undertakes up to 5 tours each year. The squads are chosen depending on the quality of the opposition and from all parts of the UK, so I was delighted to be asked.

The tour party met in the away dressing room at Lord's (a treat in itself!) to collect our kit before using a brief overnight stay at Heathrow to start to get to know each other. After a fairly gruelling day's travel, we arrived in Paramaribo, Suriname's capital. For those of you now looking for an atlas to find out where this is, Suriname was previously named Dutch Guyana and sits between Guyana and French Guyana on the Northerly coast of South America.

The next few days were a whirlwind of acclimatisation, nets, press conferences for the tour management team, coaching sessions and then matches against a Suriname Select XI followed by the National side. Cricket Suriname are working very hard to promote the game to youngsters, so the coaching aspect was very important. The whole tour party was involved with fielding drills and then specific one-to-one work with individuals across a variety of age groups and abilities. There is some very promising talent emerging, as we found out when some of the youngsters we'd been coaching played in the Select XI the day after!

Our first match was played at one of the main grounds in Paramaribo, the Dr Snellenpark Oval, which is an impressive ground with a grandstand and newly-installed nets. If we were in any doubt about how difficult it would be to win in searing heat, on a wicket that behaved very differently from those at home and against a Surinamese side packed with wily spinners and pinch-hitting batsmen, we soon found



out. Restricted to 132 all out off 41 of our allotted 50 overs (0 not out for yours truly), Suriname set about demolishing our total in 25 overs (yours truly and most other bowlers dispatched to all parts). To help accustom ourselves, we then played a 15 over friendly, which despite also losing, showed signs of improvement with both bat and ball.

So on to Sunday, a T-20 vs Suriname and a duck curry cook-off at the ground at the same time, supposedly attracting 5,000 spectators! This turned out to be more like 500, but nonetheless it required an improvement in our performance to keep the rum-fuelled crowd at bay. A wicket first ball (caught and bowled by yours truly) and some good fielding/tight bowling for the rest if the innings restricted Suriname to 177. Despite some power hitting all the way down the order, MCC unfortunately came up short again, finishing on 158. Considering Suriname's team contained virtually all the players that recently earned promotion to Division 1 of the ICC Americas league and who will be playing in Division 6 of the World Cricket league in Essex in September, we felt we had acquitted ourselves well and given the very supportive crowd a decent game of cricket. I finished with 2-26 off 4 overs, including breaking a stump in half! They must be brittle in Suriname but it will make a nice souvenir.

The hospitality shown by Cricket Suriname and the people of Paramaribo was first class and we were looked after superbly at all times. In presenting our hosts with some gifts from Lord's as a thank you, our tour manager wished them the best of luck with their development programme and hoped one day we would see Suriname on the highest world stage; a hope all

the tour party shared. After a well-earned day off, we headed to Panama (via Aruba) for the second half of our adventure.

We expected Panama to be a very different proposition than Suriname and it was, on many levels. A busy city with a feel of Miami about it, Panama is split into two halves, with the beautiful old town now dominated by the imposing skyline of the new side.



We were straight into action the day after arriving with our first match of the 5th Central American Cricket Championships. MCC had been invited to play alongside hosts Panama (who fielded 2 teams), Mexico, Brazil, Peru, Costa Rica and El Salvador. Drawn in Group B for the pool matches, we were up against Peru, Panama A and Brazil. The tournament venue was the old American air base, which has now been bought by a development company and is being converted into a small city in its own right with apartments, a business district and leisure facilities. The Panama Cricket Association had worked tirelessly to create 2 cricket pitches side by side on a disused piece of land in the centre of the base. Despite the unevenness of the outfield, the matting wickets played very well, taking seam and spin but also allowing the batsmen to go through with their shots.

The Club cruised to victory over Peru in the first match, came up against a sterner test vs Panama A on the second day but still recorded a victory to secure a semi-final place and then comfortably beat Brazil to finish top of the group (I played the first and third games, taking a wicket vs Peru). Peru and Brazil are largely made up of ex-pats living and working there, but are trying to encourage younger players to get involved and play the game. Brazil, in particular, are putting a great deal of effort and what little funding they receive into coaching, reaching over 1,200 children through the dry season.

Finals day was going to be a tough ask with 2 games in 30± degree heat but the squad was in confident mood after a rare quiet night in and took on Mexico for a place in the final. Restricting the opposition to just 78, MCC then knocked off the runs for no wickets to set up the final versus the full Panama side. What a game it turned out to be! As the day wore on, more and more people came to watch, including Steve Coppack – father of OKS Glenn and Katie and fellow Chester Boughton Hall Member - who was working in Panama and who know some of the Peru team from his time there.



Panama batted first and posted 164 from their 20 overs, with the home crowd going wild for almost every run (1 wicket for yours truly). Having conceded a few too many extras, we felt that was 20 too many but the batsmen applied themselves very well and we kept pace with the run rate in the first 10. Wickets fell regularly as Panama bowled with enthusiasm and passion,

matched by the intensity of the crowd. Their ground fielding and catching on a difficult surface were very impressive and they continued to take wickets as the required rate rose to 10s. With 9 wickets down, I joined in form match captain Luke Blackaby to try to get the remaining 21 runs off just 10 balls. We started with a single and a 2, but when the bowler bowled a no-ball and Luke launched the free hit high into the leg side, the resulting catch confused the fielder who celebrated, which caused yours truly to stutter and despite a frantic lunge and a strong feeling I was over the line, the umpire raised his finger. Game over. Cue wild celebrations from the players and a pitch invasion!

The win meant so much to the Panama team and despite being disappointed with the result, we were all pleased that the crowd enjoyed themselves and that the tournament had been rounded off in such a good way. Cricket (and especially the spirit of it) was the winner, as they say. The camaraderie was brilliant between all the sides and we were made to feel very welcome by the Panama Cricket Association. After the game, we swapped shirts with several players from the other sides we'd played and gave away some excess kit to youngsters. After 5 games of cricket in 4 days, it was nice to have a rest day and we took the opportunity to visit the Miraflores locks of the Panama Canal, a very interesting experience, followed by a tour of the old town.

The tour has been an amazing experience, on and off the pitch. Cricket brings people together and we had such a good group here; we all got on really well and enjoyed each other's company immensely. We've played hard cricket in a professional manner on the pitch and laughed and partied off it. A brilliant tour to be part of.

David Atkin

A Scantlebury Tale

Nobody that rowed for the school in the past 50 years will fail to remember the "Scantlebury Duck" or "Scantlebury Trophy", as it was originally known. But who was Scantlebury and where did his strange trophy in the form of a wooden duck originate?

These were the burning questions that tested the investigative powers of a group of OKS recently. In fact, the matter had arisen a couple of years ago and had formed the subject of an enthralling exchange of emails between former Captains of Boats, DJ Roberts (1963), JG Payne (1966) and DJ Wilkes (1967). Naturally David Roberts knew the most; he remembered a very tall man (about 6ft 5), sporting a duffle coat and a bright red Lady Margaret Boat Club scarf, who coached for a term whilst on teaching practice for his Post Graduate Certificate of Education. John Payne remembered him coaching Vllls from the cox's seat; David Wilkes remembered nothing, having started rowing a year later than Payne. Hence we deduced that he must have been at the school during the Lent term of 1962. In that brief period he guaranteed his everlasting fame by crashing a boat at full speed into the landing stage, as a consequence of which there was awarded at the Rowing Club Dinner after the 1962 Head of the River Race, a trophy named after Mr Scantlebury. We think the trophy might initially have been the three feet long piece of the bows of the boat that had to be replaced. But by the next Rowing Club Dinner, there was no



physical trophy, and so it remained until 1967 when Payne and Wilkes decided to present a permanent trophy in the form of a yellow rubber duck.

Here is picture of the trophy being presented by John Payne to its next recipient, Jonathan Peto, at the 1968 dinner.

It is not known how long the rubber duck lasted, but a new trophy carved from wood was presented in 1984. The Scantlebury Duck has been presented each year either at the dinner or these days at the pre-Christmas Pudding Races. Here is a picture of the handsomely carved wooden trophy.



What were the criteria for selecting the winner of this prestigious trophy? Essentially it was awarded to the club member or, better still, coach/teacher who had caused most damage to club property the previous year. Payne's recollection is that it had to be measured in at least approximate financial terms, that is the most costly, unfortunate act committed, although there should also be an element of humour in it, allowing for a particularly idiotic occurrence. This would allow a truly moronic, but less expensive act, to trump just a costly one. In a year of multiple mistakes there could theoretically be nominations, like the Oscars, stories of the events and an envelope opening at the KSRC dinner.

But was it all true, and who was Mr Scantlebury? At this point in the story the dossier was put in front of Adrian Ackroyd, our intrepid Hon Sec and chief researcher. Roberts had thought Mr Scantlebury was an old Etonian, but Eton admitted to no knowledge of him. The bright red, LMBC scarf was, however a clearer and, above all, visual memory that suggested an approach to St John's College, Cambridge. St John's alumni organisation came back to us with a possible ex-student who had matriculated in 1956 (that means 'went up', apparently). He had studied Geography/Archaeology and Anthropology and seemed to be a good candidate. They kindly offered to forward a letter from CAOKS. Here are extracts from the letter sent to St John's and from the reply we received:

"Dear Mr. Scantlebury,

We are trying to trace a Mr. Scantlebury who taught for a short time at the King's School, Chester in the early 1960s. More significantly, he coached at the school rowing club during the Lent Term of 1962, we think. If you are indeed he, you may be interested to learn that your name is well known to all members of the rowing club to this day, some 53 years later. Your fame arises through the annual award of a trophy bearing your name.

There are very few of us that remember those far off days. DJ Roberts (CUBC 1965-66) was a first VIII oarsman at the time and has the clearest memory. He remembers two masters (on teaching practice for the PGCE) coaching at the club during that term. He recalls Mr Scantlebury wearing a duffle coat and sporting an LMBC scarf on the river (hence our approach to St John's). At the club dinner after the Head of the River Race the two young teachers presented

trophies in each other's names. The other teacher may have been called Booth (possibly a St Catherine's, Oxford man), but his trophy and the reason for it have been forgotten.

I started rowing in the Michaelmas Term of 1962 and so missed all the excitement, but at my first rowing club dinner (after the "Head" in 1963), the rowing master presented the "Scantlebury Trophy" to a member of KSRC in acknowledgement of some piece of spectacular damage to a boat that he had perpetrated. Mr Scantlebury, he explained, had been a master at the school, who coached at the rowing club. At the end of an outing (he was coaching from the cox's seat), he announced to his crew that they would do a "start and 10" into the pontoon, and this is precisely what they did, having presumably misjudged the distance the crew would travel in the 13 or so strokes at full power. The last three feet of the bows of the clinker boat were wrecked in the full speed collision with the landing-stage.

There was, however, no trophy as such until 1967 when I and my predecessor as Captain of Boats, JG Payne, decided to provide a trophy to allow future generations to properly celebrate the tradition. Accordingly we purchased from a toy shop in the town, a yellow rubber duck; spent much time in the prefects' room gluing a stiff piece of card on to its base, and inscribing the name of the first winner on the card. At the dinner after the Head of the River Race, I presented Payne with the duck. It seems that at some later time it was decided to procure a more permanent and fitting trophy in the form of a handsomely-carved, wooden duck. Thus today, the trophy is known as the "Scantlebury Duck".

If any of the above seems familiar to you, please do let us know."

Extract from Mr Scantlebury's reply:

"Dear Mr Wilkes,

You have indeed traced the right Scantlebury!

Thank you for your letter, which I found on my return to London. It has brought back so many memories of my term at the King's School although I had forgotten about the presentation of trophies at the rowing club dinner. The choice of a rubber duck was most appropriate to commemorate a disaster that I had hoped might be forgotten. I did not know that a 'Scantlebury Trophy' had been established so soon after the event for the amusement of subsequent generations!

I am delighted that after so many years the rubber duckling - surely well past its best - should have been grown into a handsomely carved wooden duck.

Thank you for bringing back memories of more than fifty years ago. One of them, if I recall correctly, was the story of an admiral and a bishop that I recounted at the end of the rowing club dinner, and which was far from appreciated by the then headmaster. In spite of that, and my nautical mayhem, I was still awarded my diploma."

By the way, we would like to hear from anybody that won that trophy, since we are trying to establish a definitive list of Scantlebury Duck winners together with the reasons for their success. Please contact either David Wilkes on djwilkes1@gmail.com or Liz Gwyther at the school on LizGwyther@kingschester.co.uk

EVENTS

The Annual Dinner**CAOKS Annual Dinner, 28th March 2015**

113 former and current pupils and staff attended the 149th Annual Dinner at a new venue – the Town Hall in Chester – for the annual black tie dinner. The traditional reception was held in the Council Chamber, followed by dinner in the Assembly Room, steeped in history and looking impressive after a recent refurbishment.

The 3-course meal was provided by Chester Racecourse's caterers, Horseradish, and was well received with the committee having several very positive comments on the evening and immediately afterwards. After the toasts, we were entertained by speeches from former Head of History and now Headmaster at Nottingham High School, Kevin Fear, the current Headmaster, Chris Ramsey, our President, Robin Hardi and Will Lamb. Kevin recounted some entertaining tales of his time at Kings and spoke of how influential it had been on his career; Will focussed on launching a fundraising initiative that will run alongside the 150th Anniversary celebrations. The aim is to raise £25,000 to bolster the reserves of the Baty Travel Award and Exhibition Fund and the campaign was started on the evening with a silent auction, live auction and 'Heads & Tails Bingo'. Led by MC Alex Horne, these new initiatives raised over £787.

There was a lively atmosphere throughout the evening, with plenty of reminiscing and renewing of old friendships. The date for the 150th Dinner is already set for 9th April 2016 and we will return to the Town Hall.



Bowls

Some of the hottest days since the 70's led up to a warm and sunny evening on Friday 3rd July for the annual CAOKS Bowls Tournament at The Goshawk, Mouldsworth. Despite this perfect evening, many of the usual players and supporters were unable to attend this year, including last year's winners Paul and Mary Consterdine, which left us with just eight players to start and a question mark over the viability of this fun event next year! I had only just returned home after two months in Australia and Malaysia so I apologise that chasing up was very last minute. However, a little later Kit Eatock (1963) and son Jamie arrived from a visit to Henley where they had met some OKS rowers, including our President David Wilkes, and also Phillip Lockett (1988) arrived via Mouldsworth rail station from work in Media City at Salford Quays.



Thanks to Jenny, Stewart Turner, and Mike and Wendy Cornes for their continued support but Nick and Jane Phillipson outshone us all to claim the cup. Good food, ales and wines were enjoyed in The Goshawk where we were later joined by Charles Pritchard who had won his golf match.

Jeremy Lloyd

Cricket

CAOKS Cricket Match vs The School, Monday 6th July 2015

CAOKS were delighted to accept an invitation from The School to play a timed match after a couple of years of Twenty/20 encounters. The 'Old' Boys and Girls team seems to be getting younger each year and we were also very pleased to welcome back 2 sets of siblings in Glenn & Katie Coppack and Adam & Guy Dunbavand. It would also have been the first match to involve girls on both sides, with Maeve Sparks in The School side. Our most notable Old Boy was Garri Jones, who represented Cambridge University and was awarded a Blue in the late 80s/early 90s.

Alas, the fixture was called off without a ball being bowled, although we were treated to a lovely lunch in between the showers and we managed to spend the time wisely - reminiscing about our School days... cricket and otherwise. A thank you to Richard Lunn & Seb Neal for their efforts, the ground staff and the umpires for sticking with us while we tried to salvage a game and to the CAOKS players for giving up their time and staying around in the hope we could have some play.

During what would have been the tea interval, some of the players joined many former staff members and parents in the Sixth Form Centre where Harvey Mellor led a presentation to The School of a memorial bench in honour of former groundsman Terry Winter, who sadly passed away in July 2014 after a short illness. Harvey, along with main organiser Adrian Neeves, John Hargreaves and Seb Neal, had contacted many former pupils, parents and friends of The



The School of a memorial bench in honour of former groundsman Terry Winter, who sadly passed away in July 2014 after a short illness. The main organiser, Adrian Neeves, together with Harvey, John Hargreaves and Seb Neal, had contacted many former pupils, parents and friends of The School who all contributed to the purchase of the bench.

Terry had served at Kings from 1984-1999, spending 14 years as head groundsman where he transformed the playing fields into the condition they still boast today. It was the cricket wicket that had the most attention, where Terry turned a once dangerous place to bat into a much truer surface and one where many hundreds of us enjoyed some great matches. In chatting with Terry's wife Jean, we commented on how ironic it was that on the day of his presentation, we were forced inside due to the weather, which he'd no doubt battled on many (most?!) of his days at King's. The turnout for him was testament to his dedication and commitment to his work. Terry's bench will sit on the far side of the ground, looking back over the pavilion and The School, and we all look forward to sitting on it and remembering him.

SCHOOL NEWS

KING'S U11 WIN AT GOODISON PARK

Whilst most premier league players were off sunning themselves aboard their luxury yachts, the U11 team from the Junior School at King's were gracing the turf at Goodison Park, home of Everton F.C.

The road to Goodison had been a very long one and saw the team playing no fewer than 10 games against schools from Cheshire, North Wales, Merseyside, The Wirral, Manchester, West Lancs and Warrington prior to reaching the Everton Schools Partnership Grand Final. The squad travelled to the venue in style, namely the Leicester City team bus. How these modern day footballers are pampered!

Lining up in the tunnel alongside our opponents, Town Green from Ormskirk, and then running out to the theme tune of Z Cars one could sense a steely determination amongst the boys in green.

The first half drew a stalemate as both sides probed to find a way through resolute defences. Midway through the second half Dylan Allen poked the ball into the opponents net following a goal mouth scramble only for us to concede an equaliser minutes later. Extra time loomed as we twice struck the base of the post and saw two further shots cleared off the line in quick succession. Extra time it was to be!

Both sides went in search of a winner. It was not to be, however, and the final was to be decided on penalties! Such drama! Town Green went first.... scored! The pressure was on! King's missed! The pressure was really on! Town Green.... saved by George Rooker-Roberts! King's.... goal from Joe Flory! Town Green..... hit the bar! The pressure was really, really on! Up stepped 'The Ice Man' Oscar Jacksoninto the net! King's had WON. Celebrations abound but great respect and sportsmanship shown too for a most worthy opponent.

ESFA PlayStation sponsored Schools' cup - King's U.13 National Winners

See this at: <https://playstationschoolscup.com/playstation-schools-cup-festival-live-in-hd-tuesday-19th-may/> - or on YouTube at about 8min into video.

Aspiring Lawyers and Legal Alumni Event - 6th Nov. 2015

This is a wonderful opportunity for our current students interested in law to meet former pupils who can share with them their experiences, knowledge and passion for the legal profession. We have also invited a number of eminent Guest speakers from our Alumni. The itinerary will include:

2.30pm Tour of the School for Alumni

3.30-4pm Drinks Reception

4-6pm Keynote speakers

6-8pm Hot buffet followed by networking clinic.

For more information email eeg@kingschester.co.uk

CAOKS FUNDRAISING – 150th Merchandise

As part of the 150th anniversary year celebrations, and to boost our fundraising effort, an online merchandise page has been created with a range of 150th themed quality clothing and gift items for the discerning purchaser. These include sweat-shirt (with hood), T-shirts, rugby shirts, mugs and an umbrella. The clothing comes in a range of sizes, and all prices include delivery. Commission from each item sold will go to the fundraising effort. There is a selection of the range below with prices and some photos to give you a flavour. Please note the 'models' used received no financial inducement!

The range includes:

Sweatshirt with hood	(var.sizes)	£24.99
Rugby shirt – male	“ “	£27.99
Rugby shirt - female	“ “	£23.99
T-shirt	“ “	£11.99
Mug		£12.99
Umbrella		£22.99

The site can be accessed directly at:

<http://www.netprintmanager.com/CAOKS>

or via our website link (when available). Just set up your login and shop away!

Finally many thanks to Peter Harrison at the Printing House, Crewe for all his help in setting this up.

Nick Phillipson – Hon Treasurer



OBITUARIES

John Bell (1976) died early this year.

Elizabeth Munday (wife of Arthur Munday, former headmaster) died recently.

John (JB) Hopwood (1973), died suddenly on 21st April, while out running. He was 60 last September. Formerly of Plas Newton and Hawarden, he had been living in the Irish Republic in Rock Lodge, Killiney, Co Dublin. He leaves behind a wife, Mary Ann, and two young sons, Owen and Gareth. His Humanist Funeral Service was held on Monday April 27th, in the Victorian Chapel at Mount Jerome Crematorium, Harold's Cross, Dublin.

Two contemporaries write:

I have known John since we both entered the Junior School at Kings, at the age of 8. Particular memories of those times involve entering a tennis tournament in Hoole at the age of 13 which, after spending many hours practising in his back garden, we were convinced we would win. We lost in the 1st round, 6-4 having raced into a 4-0 lead. A classic case of "snatching defeat from the jaws of victory", as my mother still reminds me to this day. I remember we got soaked watching a 7 a side football competition at Wrexham FC where it poured with rain all day and, being too young to go into the bar, we had to stand outside on the terraces. It was well worth it though, as Chester beat Wrexham in the final.

Chris Woolf has reminded us all of the 1972/73 Second XI Football team, which won 20 out of its 26 matches, with John scoring 26 goals. Something he would continue doing until fairly recently.

After we left school, our paths continued in Nottingham, where we were both on a 4 year sandwich course – John at the University and me at the Polytechnic. Our meetings invariably involved real ale, and watching Notts County FC. I met a lot of his friends at University, some of whom became, and still are, good friends of mine. That was one of John's strengths – getting people together.

After college, we didn't meet up so often – my father, brother and I met up with him at the 1977 Wales v Scotland World Cup qualifier at Anfield - Scotland won, thanks to a dubious penalty, something which still rankled with John.

Although we didn't see so much of each other in the ensuing years, we kept in touch, and I also received news of him via mutual friends from our Nottingham days. The advent of e:mail increased the contact we had – we would commiserate over and, occasionally, celebrate the fortunes of Chester FC (he was a more reliable source of their scores than the BBC which, considering he was living in Ireland was no mean feat.) and John would send me links of bands that he had seen.

We met up about 9 years ago at a mutual friends home, and it was as though we had last seen each other only a month previously. Last December, my wife was playing in Dublin and we met up with John and his family. We had a great time, and John met us the following day to give us a tour of Dublin. We were hoping to meet up again this year, sadly that will not happen. When we last met, it was obvious that John and Mary Ann were immensely happy. He spent a lot of time with his two sons, Owen & Gareth, and his death at such a young age will leave a massive

gap in all their lives which will be hard for them to fill. The eulogy at John's funeral referred to "his humour, his sense of principle and justice, and his enthusiasm for football, music, films, and for life". I cannot express it any better – that, for me, was the John Hopwood I have known for the past 52 years, and I, along with all his many friends stretching back over the years, will miss him.

Tony Bennett

John Hopwood was a good friend from my arrival at Kings in 1966 until my departure in 1973. He is remembered by many as being decent, courteous, sociable, and with a positive disposition and a mature view of life's important aspects. In this respect he probably contributed as much to my education as any member of the school staff.

In the Sixth Form we socialised more outside school despite our diverging academic interests as in those days arts and sciences were incompatible. Our common interests were largely centred around friends and music. In the summer following the Lower Sixth, John organised a hitch-hiking trip to France down the Loire Valley where by chance we ended up in Tours, thanks to our only successful lift from a one armed German Ex U-boat commander. It was a memorable holiday much of which was photographed and therefore easy to recall many years on. After leaving school our paths diverged and John and I lost touch. Social networks, email and smart phones didn't exist. We had only letters and land-lines and fewer reasons to visit Chester so it was inevitable that we would lose contact. It was still a great shock and very sad to hear of John's sudden death at a comparatively early age so of course our thoughts and condolences go to his family.

Thanks to an emailist maintained by Adrian Ackroyd many of our year group have been in touch again, either actively replying to open discussions reminiscing about our relationships with John or viewing these discussions without comment and in some cases privately renewing contacts with old friends.

John's death has been a catalyst for our reconnections, recollections and reflections as well as having provided a shocking reminder of our own mortality. Discussions about our families, our health and our lives in general have caused us to recognise that our time at the School has shaped us all in some way whether we like it or not. Some of us may now stay in touch but when the frenzy of electronic activity dies down these friendships may lie dormant again. We will not have the benefit of a further 40 year gap so despite the sadness surrounding John's death we are all grateful for his legacy in offering us this opportunity to reconnect.

Peter Goldberg

Robin Wenham Alden – English master and Rowing coach

Robin died on 4th March 2014 aged 81 years. His funeral Service was held at St Giles Church, Oxford on Wednesday 19th March 2014.

Robin was evacuated as a child to Canada in 1940, returning to England in 1945 where he continued his education at St Edwards, Oxford. He taught at King's from 1955 to 1961. He moved on to St Paul's at the beginning of 1962 and then to St Edward's in 1965. In 1970 he joined Rugby School as Head of English, and from 1984 until he retired in 1994 he was House-

master of Town House.

He oversaw the most successful years of King's School rowing in the late 1950s. He was a highly respected rowing coach and his influence on the club continued for many years after he had left. Robin and his St Paul's and St Edwards' ('Teddies') crews were regularly seen at Henley and other regattas. He returned to KSRC in 1991 to christen a new boat bearing his name.

King's School Rowing Club honoured Robin's contribution as KSRC Coach the current Director of Rowing, David Blackham, placed a black bow of ribbon on each of the bows of the boats racing at the North of England head on the 22nd March on home waters. The boat named after Robin featured in the Race. The flag at the boat house also flew at half mast on the day. At Rugby he was acknowledged to have inspired the prolific novelist and screenwriter Antony Horowitz who has written over 40 books and is the creator of Midsomer Murders and Foyle's War.

Members reminisce:

I don't recall him teaching me, but he always seemed to be one of the friendly teachers and others spoke of his skill and enthusiasm. He was an excellent cyclist, being very adept at avoiding pedestrians, whilst riding at speed along the riverbank and shouting across to the rowers. **[John Tremlett (1967)]**

Although never a member of the rowing fraternity, I do remember him from my latter years at Wrexham Road. Nice to see that he lived to a grand old age, although I suppose nowadays the 80s is not viewed as such. **[Steve Crewe (1961)]**

The ups and downs of the English Department meant that we got him for one term each in the Removes and Shells. I feel sure that a longer time with him would have benefited us greatly. As I've said elsewhere, his first wife, Christine, was an occupational therapist and worked at Walsgrave Hospital, Coventry (not far from Rugby School) for a time whilst I was a manager there. But it was an enormous place and we never met. **[Ian Warburton (1967)]**

Although it turned out to be a short-lived venture, it was Robin who first transplanted me into the upper echelons of club rowing. It was the 1st VIII which disbanded after - I think - the 1962 North of England Head of the River, but I was grateful for, if overawed, by the opportunity. He was a good man who inspired confidence and brought out the best in his charges. **[Peter Chandler (1964)]**

Robin was one of a small group of extraordinary teachers when I was at King's 1955-62. They used King's as a stepping stone up the Public School ladder and those pupils who were fortunate enough to experience their teaching were blessed. I have just attended our Writers' Week here in Wellington, NZ. What more marvelous gift can you be given than an understanding and interest in writing! **[Keith Johnson (1961)]**

I was always a bit in awe of Mr Alden firstly because his wife looked amazingly sophisticated and secondly because he lived in one of the houses in the street that led east off Abbey Square. He coached, with help from David Roberts, a four I rowed in the the Upper Fourth. While we (the Green twins, Paul Vinall and I) rowed he stood on the cox's seat and leant forward on the tiller lines which at the time impressed me immensely. We trained for a regatta held on the

Dee at the end of the Michaelmas Term and our only ambition was to beat Shrewsbury. I think that must have been December 1960 just after the School moved to the Wrexham Road. Any English I was taught came from Doggy L I believe. **[Martin Manning (1964)]**

Sometimes mistaken for sixth former, he was nevertheless a serious and tireless supporter of education both in the English class room and on the river, where is enthusiasm for rowing inspired my generation. Fondly remembered. **[Kit Eatock (1963)]**

Robin Alden 'taught' Peter Cluer and me to row in a tub pair in the dusk of several evenings - he standing up quoting Shakespeare and Shelley - we struggling on fixed seats in an ancient boat, as we drifted down towards the weir! In the classroom he fostered my love of literature and I considered reading English rather than Medicine - he quickly put me straight, advising I maintain my love of reading for relaxation and pleasure, and that life as a doctor would offer a wider choice of opportunities, and if and when I retired then was the time to use those experiences in writing for pleasure - he was a good teacher, but expressed some reservations about teaching strictly to a syllabus as a preparation for exams, urging us to read more widely. I met him on the towpath at Walton regatta in 1962, cycling along with his crew. He was, as always, keen to share my progress, and encouraged me to go for the UL trials in the autumn. David Latham stroked the UL 1st eight to victory in the 'Grand' at Henley that year. I remember the exciting close finish with David pushing his crew to the limits of exhaustion. **[Nigel Wheeler (1961)]**

Remember him well. He was one of two masters to whack me - for dropping stink bombs in his history lesson. Although I wasn't a rower, I remember a story when potential rowers had to go to Chester Baths to demonstrate their swimming ability. One boy appeared to be in trouble and Alden jumped into the pool, fully clothed, to rescue him. The first thing he did after getting out of the pool was to look for his wallet! **[Mike Jones (1963)]**

I too benefitted from Robin Alden's English teaching - in the Removes as I remember (1956-7). He could only have been about 12 years older than us but it was double our age. I was not a rower but, nevertheless, his lessons have inspired me to be a more literate engineer through my career. **[Geoff Tilling (1964)]**

He was a very encouraging, courteous and modest teacher. He was never dogmatic or aggressive - though he didn't suffer foolish behaviour gladly! I can see him now reading enthusiastically to us. He seemed very young for a teacher - unsurprisingly, now I know he was only nine years older than me! **[David Selzer (1961)]**

I remember Robin quite well. I left at the end of the 3rd form in 1962 and thought he was still there at the time. I am almost certain he was my form master for a year but can't remember whether that was in the Shell or 3rd. He taught my brother-in-law (some dozen years younger than I) at Rugby but I am not sure of (=don't know) the years. Canon Les Harvey had the idea of getting masters to give a "sermon" at morning assembly and I think Robin may have been the first to do so. Rowing-wise, he was a member of Leander, was he not? (For non-oarsmen, invitations to join Leander are only given to people who have made significant achievements in rowing). RIP, Robin. **[Martin Wheeley (1962)]**

[With many thanks to David Wilkes (1967) and David Roberts (1963) for verification of background information]



TAILPIECE



Behold I tell you a mystery

When British mathematics students tumbled out of this year's GCSE exam (given to 16-year-olds), one question was on their minds.

A fiendishly difficult problem involving a girl named Hannah with two different colours of sweets stumped thousands - and many took to Twitter to complain.

Radio 4's More or Less asked **Rob Eastaway (1980)** author of "Maths for Mums and Dads", to show how the problem can be solved. If you'd like to have a go here's the question in full:

There are n sweets in a bag.

6 of the sweets are orange.

The rest of the sweets are yellow.

Hannah takes at random a sweet from the bag.

She eats the sweet.

Hannah then takes at random another sweet from the bag.

She eats the sweet.

The probability that Hannah eats two orange sweets is $\frac{1}{3}$

(a) Show that $n^2 - n - 90 = 0$

(b) Solve $n^2 - n - 90 = 0$ to find the value of n

To see Rob's explanation go to: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/magazine-33023123>

2015 marks the **150th** anniversary of the assassination of President Abraham Lincoln, the 16th US President, while attending a performance of 'The American Cousin' at Ford's Theatre in Washington, DC.

Edith Cavell the British nurse was born in **1865**. She helped some 200 Allied soldiers escape from German-occupied Belgium during the First World War. She was subsequently found guilty of treason and executed by a German firing squad in 1915.

2015 celebrates the **150th** anniversary of the inauguration of The Chester Grosvenor by Richard, second Marquess of Westminster.

In **1865** the lyrics to the hymn "Onward, Christian Soldiers" were first sung by children going to St Peter's Church, Horbury, West Riding of Yorkshire.

In **1865** the first speed limit is introduced in Britain - 2 mph in town and 4 mph in the country.

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