

CAOKS NEWSLETTER

Celebrating 150 years of camaraderie and friendship



February 2016

Issue 70

President's Message

Being the President of CAOKS is a lot more fun than anybody who has not done it would imagine.

During my term of office I have been invited to a variety of events, one or two of which I would not have considered had I not been specifically invited or pressured into attending. I would not previously have considered an invitation to play snooker, for example. Nevertheless, last November I found myself obliged to take part in a snooker match against the Grammar School Old Boys; even worse I was required to lead the CAOKS team into battle against the old enemy; to be first on court, as it were.

It was not, of course, the first time that I have led the School against the Grammar School; sometime around the middle of the last century I did so as Captain of Rowing but that was at least a sport in which I had demonstrated a measure of competence.

Snooker, on the other hand, was a sport I last saw (I will not say 'watched') on a black and white television in the early '70s and therefore I had neither understanding of nor sympathy with it. It is difficult for the casual reader to imagine then the sense of unbounded joy and surprise that accompanied my firing a blue ball into one of those little nets in the corner of the table even though, as it turned out, I had thereby lost 6 points due to having potted the wrong ball. I lost but the team won; so that was what mattered, I suppose. (It was rather different in rowing in that if I lost so did we all).



David Wilkes, CAOKS President (right) attending The King's School inaugural Founder's Dinner with the late Keith James OKS (left).

What struck me more was that it was a really good social occasion and a lot of fun.

I would certainly always have been inclined to attend the Association's London Dinner but had not previously done so due to a variety of constraints. On this occasion, however, the inclination was more a compulsion and so I made the effort to get over from the continent for the event. It was an excellent evening with a great dinner, good location and above all, such inspiring company. I chatted to OKS I had not met since they or I had left school and indeed I met legends from the past I would never have spoken to when I was at school. The age range was remarkable too, the oldest having left the school in 1949 and the youngest just last year!

In this Issue



I recall we had a table full of recent leavers and current London University students to add zest to the occasion. Thanks are due to Alan Vallance for a fine feat of organisation and for bringing together such a congenial crowd.

The Headmaster was kind enough to invite me to attend the Leavers' Cathedral Service and Prize-giving at the end of the summer term. I was impressed by the atmosphere, as indeed I had been when I attended the school as an inmate. I found it a great improvement to hold the commemoration service and prize giving at the end of the school year rather than in the middle of the autumn/Michaelmas term, as had been the case in my time at the school. The high point of the afternoon was certainly the speech of the Headmaster's guest, Jane Hawking.

Between the ages of eight and eighteen, I never failed to be inspired by the Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols on the last day of term just before Christmas. To my surprise, in 2015, there were two services, one in the afternoon for the Junior and Infants' Schools, and one in the evening for the Upper School. It used to be the case that we ran a joint carol service with the Queen's School. In those days we always sang the last carol, "Adeste Fideles", in latin. We schoolboys were always amused by the contrasting pronunciation across the cathedral since we used 'classical' whereas the Queen's School used 'ecclesiastical' pronunciation; their soft consonants seemed to dominate across the nave. Of course, we knew our way was right, even if their pronunciation really sounded much better. I must say I still prefer the last carol in latin; it sounds so much more learned and it scans better.

This year the two services were rather different largely due to the contrasting lighting. The rays of the low afternoon sun shining through the stained glass on the west and south sides lent their ambiance to the Junior' and Infants' service, whereas those that 'choreographed' the Upper School service made ample use of the darkness to enhance the drama of the entrance by candle light of the choir and clergy. In fact at one point it looked as though dramatic effect had dominated over practical considerations, as the lights remained off a little too long and the congregation was unable to read the words and so join in the last part of "Once in Royal David's City" with the accustomed gusto. We struggled for a few lines before normal service was resumed and we got back on track. The choirs and soloists in both services performed superbly.



Chester Cathedral

To wind up this "what a good time I've had" section, I must mention the drama productions to which I was invited. Actually, there is a bit of Shakespeare coming up at the beginning of March, but I want to mention the performance of Mel Brooks' "The Producers" that I attended early last year. Quite apart from the quality of acting and production, which were excellent as we have come to expect, I was amazed, at one point, to see a squadron of King's School boys and girls dressed in Nazi uniforms, goose-stepping across the stage singing "Springtime for Hitler". I remember nervously looking round the auditorium to see if anybody in authority had noticed what was going on; I doubted permission had been obtained in advance. My reaction was, of course, the instinctive one of somebody that had grown up under the Canon Harvey and Arthur Munday regimes! Perhaps I should explain: the story required that the play 'The Producers' were putting on should be in bad taste; and they succeeded admirably. You can see the film on YouTube if you want to know more, but it is not as good as the KS performance! It is difficult for me to think of the last time anything impressed me as much as that performance.



The Producers (2015) at The King's School, Chester

Besides enjoying myself I have tried to do something useful with my time in office, namely to reengage with the School in the matter of alumni relations. About five or six years ago there had been attempts to define structural changes such that CAOKS would in some way combine with the School. That particular démarche did not succeed. In my experience organisations are a lot better at creating structures than they are at making them work. Accordingly we have ignored structural aspects and have made a start at working together to make use of what each does best. The school has far greater administrative and financial resources and has the organisation to connect with students in their final year. CAOKS on the other hand has a long tradition, 150 years, attracts a wide following, contains individuals that would willingly help younger OKS in their careers, and has a good system for keeping old boys and girls in touch with one another.

We have reviewed the programmes of events that have up to now been run by the School and the Association separately, and have seen little conflict. The two dinners held in Chester, the CAOKS event in the Town Hall across the square from the old school and the Founder's Dinner at the school (which I enjoyed immensely), seem to me to be events of quite different styles, which can both thrive, especially given that they are jointly promoted. The excellent London Dinner that I mentioned above and the HMS Belfast event the School has organised for April 22nd are entirely different events that we can promote under a single 'CAOKS' alumni banner. There will still be, of course, the local Chester events run solely by the Association. I will add that the School has been very helpful to Paul Consterdine with the production of the CAOKS Newsletter, engaging, at its expense, a graphic design consultant to help us redesign the format and presentation.



The King's School 1st VIII, 1966



CAOKS vs School Cricket Match, 1913



*The 1967 1st VIII
Two crews that hammered the Old Boys!*

Finally, I would in general like the level of (friendly) sporting competition between OKS and School to be enhanced. In particular, I would like to see the resurrection of the rowing races against the school Vllls that used to be held in the evening of the Wednesday after Henley. It was a great opportunity for the finely honed school crews to have a bash at scratch crews of top quality university, club and maybe even GB rowers. We must see what we can do!

David Wilkes. CAOKS President

Headmaster's Message

The start of term and all the events of this New Year have been overshadowed at King's by the death of Keith James, Old King's Scholar and former Chairman of Governors.

His funeral and memorial service takes place in February and will be separately announced; likewise a proper and full tribute will appear in later editions, once the shock of his illness and quick passing have subsided. For now, I must simply record our extraordinary debt to one of the giants of The King's School. As Chairman, Keith oversaw the first years of co-education, the massive building projects, some exciting times and some challenging ones. His integrity, love for the school, and also his forward-looking determination were wonderful to witness, and I have huge personal gratitude for all he did for me. My most abiding memory though is of his pride in his family: he was probably the first Governor ever to declare a personal interest in proceedings as a *grandparent*, and I well remember the moment when he did so, Sophie having entered the Junior School five years ago. His face was the picture of pride and triumph!

Keith's funeral will be a sad but I hope uplifting event.

Other events will build towards the 475th anniversary celebrations later this calendar year. On September 16th Lord Williams (former Archbishop of Canterbury) will preach at a special Commemoration Service: please do join us. That weekend will see the opening of our new Archive Walk, a permanent display of historic and archive materials, a Gala Dinner (with a Tudor theme) and contributions from many of our best-known alumni. Please see the website for full details and invitations.



Mr Ramsey, Headmaster (left) pictured with the School's current Head Prefect Team



Mr Ramsey, Headmaster (left) pictured with Anthony Russell OKS (Centre Left), Vicky Titmuss, Director of External Affairs (Centre Right) and Anthony Hopkinson, Director of Development (Right)

If, by the way, you have not yet met or spoken to Anthony Hopkinson, our new Development Director, I hope you will soon. Anthony will always be a key presence at these sorts of events.

In the spring, HMS Belfast, on the Thames, will be the venue for our next London drinks on April 22nd: I hope it will be every bit as successful as our Westminster event of 2014. Weekend reunions for year groups continue with 1966 leavers meeting in March. It has been good, as ever, to welcome individual visitors to school, most recently Judge Anthony Russell, one of six OKS senior judges, which we think is a higher number than that boasted by any other school.

School news this January has ranged from a terrific 'crop' of Oxbridge places (twelve this year, the second highest number of recent years, and including a bumper ten Oxford offers), a 1st XI football team who have still only been beaten once since September 1st (in the quarter-final of the ISFA cup), a rowing club working hard towards Head season with great hopes, and a very busy Vanbrugh Theatre season. The dramatists' spring production is *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, Ron Pickup OKS's first school triumph half a century ago! You will be very welcome to join us: tickets via the *What's On* section at www.kingschester.co.uk.

Now the challenge of choosing next year's Removes is upon us, with another excellent and large group of candidates vying for places!

Chris Ramsey

Chris Ramsey, Headmaster



From the Editor

Paul Consterdine

This edition has been composed in co-operation with The School for whose help we are very appreciative. I am, as ever, grateful to our various contributors who, I hope you will agree, have made a second interesting issue during our 150th celebrations.

It is always sad to report the deaths of alumni but reading the tributes sent to us I believe that there is a message about the qualities The School imbues in its students and we learn of lives well lived and many distinctions gained as well as interesting memories of facts of the kind that might otherwise be forgotten or passed unremarked upon.

Lest we forget

As we celebrate our 150th anniversary please join us in remembering and honouring those OKS who lost their lives in 1916 during The Great War.

- 👑 Francis Denham
- 👑 A E Dickin
- 👑 Frank Harris
- 👑 Harry Footner
- 👑 Herbert Ikin
- 👑 Llewelyn Lewis
- 👑 Ronald Hill
- 👑 Percival Richards



THE CADET CORPS, 1916.

We will remember them

Throughout 2014 – 2018, pupils and staff at King's as well as OKS will be commemorating the Great War and in particular the bravery and ultimate sacrifice of our 58 fallen former pupils. This commemoration will be visible in many ways but will notably include:

'We will remember them' in The Herald

There will be a half page dedicated to King's in WWI throughout the 2014-2018 period in order to tell the stories of the time.

'We will remember them' wall display

There is a permanent display in School located outside the Roger Wickson Library with a time-line showing when OKS lost their lives which will be added to each year of the commemoration period.

'We will remember them' on the School screens

The stories of the soldiers will be featured during the week of the anniversary of their death on digital screens situated in and around the Senior School reception.

The School flag

The school flag will fly throughout the commemoration period and at half-mast on the dates closest to deaths of the OKS.

Tree planting

58 trees will be planted around the School throughout the 2014-2018 period, each marked by a simple wooden cross in memory of the fallen OKS.

Memorial Window

The stained glass window located in the Old Library is a listed war memorial and has been repaired as part of our WWI commemoration.

Upcoming CAOKS Events

Your last chance to book

150th Annual Dinner,
Saturday 9th April 2016

We are delighted to be returning to the Town Hall in Chester for this, our 150th Anniversary Dinner. Booking numbers are already well ahead of 2015 so, if you haven't already secured your place, we suggest you do so as soon as possible to avoid disappointment.



As well as toasts from the CAOKS President, David Wilkes, and a representative from the School, former Headmasters Roger Wickson and Tim Turvey are both delivering toasts on the evening.

The drinks reception in the magnificent Council Chamber will start at 6.30pm, after which dinner will be taken in the Assembly Room from 7.30pm, with carriages from 11.00pm.



Ticket prices for Members and Guests are £48.50 and for Student Members just £40.50 which includes a glass of Prosecco on arrival and a 3 course dinner including coffee from acclaimed caterers, Horseradish.

Wine may be pre-ordered or bought on the evening. There are group discounts available for tables of 8 or more but please note the final cut-off date for making bookings is Friday 1st April 2016.

After the launch in 2015 of an initiative to raise funds for the Exhibition Fund, we will once again be running a short auction and a couple of rounds of the very popular 'stand up bingo'!

Your support on the evening is very much appreciated and if anyone would like to sponsor the drinks reception, donate an auction prize or give a bottle of champagne/wine/port/whisky for the stand-up bingo we would be most grateful.

Please contact David Atkin on 07979 523943 or email davidedwardatkin@gmail.com

Other forthcoming Events

- **Bangor Race Meeting & Lunch**

Saturday 16th April 2016

For further information please contact Will Lamb on 01244 534830 or email sixhitter@hotmail.com

- **Annual General Meeting**

Thursday 12th May 2016, 6.30pm

To be held at Willow Lodge, King's new Infant School. To book your supper (£5pp excl. wine) after the meeting contact David Atkin on 07979 523943 or email davidedwardatkin@gmail.com

150th Anniversary Appeal

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 during 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 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.

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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.

~ Will Lamb. Trustee CAOKS Exhibition

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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 <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 newsletter and will be available on the website in due course. We will continue to report progress in future newsletters and on the website.



From the Treasurer

Nick Phillipson

I thought members would appreciate an update on how our 150th fundraising appeal is progressing. To date the response has been slow but steady and we have now received a total of over £2000 personal donations (excluding gift aid). Thank you to everyone who has donated so far!

To those who have not yet donated, do not delay and DO IT NOW and let's go for this target!

As stated within our last newsletter, if a significant number of our members (we have approaching 1100 of various types) were to contribute a small amount e.g. £25 - £50 then it would help us a long way to our target of securing the future funding of the Old Kings' Scholars Exhibition Fund and the Baty Overseas Voluntary Service Award.

OKS News

Steve Leonard (1991) appeared on our screens over the festive season, presenting the captivating ITV documentary – ‘Panda Babies’.



George Nott (2014) has been named in the England Under-20s squad for the upcoming Six Nations. George, who plays for Aviva Premiership club Sale Sharks, is part of a 32-man squad as England look to defend the title they won in 2015



David Mellor (1973) writes:

‘In June I was made an Honorary Senior Visiting Fellow of Cass Business School. In August Pearsons/FT Publishing launched a book called Inspirational Game-changers, of which I am co-author. I was recently appointed as a Freeman of the Guild of Entrepreneurs at the Guildhall. I knew the King’s Education would pay off eventually!’

Gabriel Range (1992) has again graced our screens when his latest documentary, “Inside the War Room”, was recently aired on BBC 2. Gabriel, a filmmaker, is best known for his fictional political-documentary about the assassination of George W. Bush in “Death of a President”.

Anthony Fletcher (2000), CEO of Graze, recently joined Jack Dee and actress Ruth Jones on an episode of The Apprentice: You’re Fired to meet the candidate who bit the dust after a task to create and market a healthy snack.



Martin Lewis (1990) was seen on University Challenge leading the LSE team against Durham. The match resulted in a tie decided by one question - Durham won.



John Everard (1972), former British ambassador to North Korea, wrote in the Telegraph recently assessing North Korea's atomic weapons programme. His article concluded:

'Much of what happens next will depend on China. China has said that it will co-operate with the international community to denuclearise the Korean peninsula. If by this it means that it will actively enforce sanctions on North Korea – it has been very lax on this so far – then that could cause the North Korean regime real problems. But China could go further if it wished. It is in its power to cut oil supplies to North Korea and to close its border to trade, measures that would soon bring the North Korean economy to a halt. China has however been reluctant to do this because it fears destabilising North Korea and making a bad situation worse.

Its reluctance to do so will have been increased by Kim Jong-un's New Year's promise to respond to even the slightest provocation with "a merciless sacred war of justice". Does a "sacred war" involve the use of nuclear weapons? Does anybody want to find out?'

1976 Reunion a great success!

Despite the driving rain and grey skies, a group of hardy individuals who all left King's in 1976 gathered at Wrexham Road on February 6th to celebrate 40 years since leaving. 60% of the year group attended, thanks in large part to the efforts of former Deputy Head prefect Peter Bernie who encouraged those wavering!

With attendees having travelled from all parts of the country and one from Sydney, Australia it was fabulous to see the camaraderie and friendship that still exists between the group. Tours of the school were led by current sixth formers and a buffet lunch enjoyed in the sixth form common room, that didn't exist in 1976!

A hardy (some might say) reckless group then braved the weather in the open top Vintage bus for a trip around Chester. The tour included some of the old school locations such as the Bluecoat School on Northgate Street and the Barclays Building opposite the Town Hall.



Beth Tweddle launches Total Gymnastics programme at The King's School

Beth, a former Queen's School pupil, has a long standing history with The King's School as her brother James attended and her father Jerry was a governor.

Beth's Total Gymnastics programme will now be launched in Willow Lodge as part of the curriculum to encourage and improve grass root training in gymnastics.

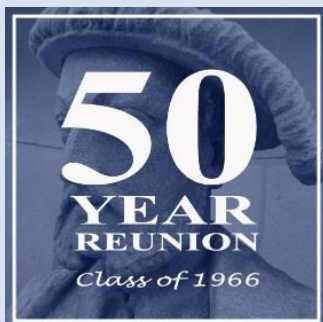
Infant School Headteacher Margaret Ainsworth said "It's fantastic to be able to offer this wonderful opportunity to our pupils. The programme will allow us to make use of the excellent facilities and space newly designed and created for such a purpose. There is certainly a buzz of excitement after Beth's visit with many of the pupils eager to begin their gymnastics journey."

Upcoming School Events: For OKS & Supporters

The School's Development Office organises a varied programme of events throughout the year for former pupils, parent and supporters.

For further information regarding any of events listed and to book, please call Liz Gwyther, Development Officer on 01244 689492 or email alumni@kingschester.co.uk

Reunions



1966 Reunion 5th March 2016

Former Pupils from King's will get together 50 years on in March to reminisce and enjoy a day of nostalgia.



2006 REUNION 21st May 2016

Join King's for a get-together 10 years on! Find out what friends/former teachers are now up to and enjoy a trip down memory lane.

HMS Belfast Networking Event

22nd April 2016

Step aboard historic warship HMS Belfast for one of the School's most prestigious networking events to date.

You will be welcomed on board with a glass of sparkling wine and canapés, with 1940s jazz and big band style music playing to set the scene.


After exploring the ship, guests will re-convene in the ship's Morgan Giles room for fascinating tales from the sea, as former Commander of HMS Fearless, **Rear Admiral Jeremy Larken** describes his experiences during the charge on the Falklands in 1982.

The evening will culminate in a drinks reception, providing an ideal opportunity for networking.


475th Anniversary Celebrations

In September, The King's School will have been colouring the lives of children for 475 years.


To mark this momentous occasion in our history, the School invites you to join them for a weekend of celebrations, starting Friday 16th September 2016.

 **Anniversary Commemoration Service**
16th September 2016, Chester Cathedral
Time: 10.30am Ticket price: Free


Addressed by Dr Rowan Williams, this special Commemorative Service is a fitting way to mark the beginning of a new school year and our 475 anniversary.

 **Official Opening of The King's Walk**
16th September 2016, The King's School Tower
Time: 12.30pm Ticket price: Free


We are delighted to welcome Dr Rowan Williams for the official opening of The King's Walk. The School Tower plays host to this wonderful exhibition of King's history, brought together to commemorate our anniversary.

 **Tours of the School**
16th September 2016
Time: 12.30pm-3pm

Parents, families and pupils past and present are welcome to join us for tours of the School. This is a great opportunity for OKS to visit old haunts and explore the School's exciting new developments

 **The King's Walk and Tours of the School**
17th September 2016, The King's School Tower
Time: 10am-12.30pm Ticket price: Free

Parents, families and pupils past and present, will have the chance to experience The King's Walk and explore the School on our guided tours.

 **475th Anniversary Founder's Dinner**
17th September 2016, The King's School
Time: 7pm Ticket price: £70

Time to relax and enjoy the company of friends for a superb black tie dinner, with a touch of Tudor extravagance! The evening will include live music, a four course meal and an after-dinner speaker.

OKS Guest Contributor

The Rt Hon Matthew Hancock

Member of Parliament for West Suffolk & Paymaster General

These days, it is rare to get a moment's peace but as I sit here and reflect on my time at school, a wry smile has appeared on my face as I recall happy memories at King's. From lunch breaks playing cricket or lessons with the unforgettable Mr Hutton, the memories come flooding back.

To quote Chekov, *"Wisdom.... comes not from age, but from education and learning."* and I couldn't have asked for a better education. Teachers went over and above what they were expected to do, and I certainly wouldn't be the person that I am today if it wasn't for the advice and guidance they gave me.

I wasn't very political at school or University, and more interested in working in my family's small IT business, which is still going strong in Farndon.

I became involved with The Conservative Party after going to Oxford, supporting MPs in the elections of 2001 and 2005. I was attracted because I was interested in how the economy worked, and in supporting small business. Come rain or shine - I would be there delivering literature through letterboxes, trying to avoid the resident dog guarding its home from political activists and their mountain of party literature. In fact, I still have a scar on the back of my hand from when a dog tried to bite me whilst campaigning for my friend, Nick Boles, (now MP for Grantham and Skills Minister) who stood as a candidate in Hove during the 2005 General Election. These are the perils that face an intrepid political adventurer.

My interest in economics took me to the Bank of England, where I spent five years learning the ropes. While at the Bank of England, I also made the rash decision to set out on foot to play the northernmost game of cricket. We trained for months in Norway, where Robert Falcon Scott had trained, and pulling tyres round Hyde Park. When the time for the expedition came, we flew to Resolute Bay in the northern reaches of Canada, and retreated at a hut previously frequented by Ranulph Fiennes and other Arctic heroes.

I didn't make it to the Pole, succumbing to frostbite on the Arctic Ocean, but I did succeed in playing the most northerly recorded game of cricket in a climate of -40 degrees using just an inflatable bat and stumps.



Frostbite is painful, as the cells of your flesh are broken by the freezing ice, but I'm glad I retain all my fingers.

Perhaps to the surprise of school contemporaries, sport has been a recurring theme throughout my life, and I've managed to keep it up in elected office. Shortly after being elected, I took part in a charity horse race at Newmarket's famous July Course. Training for this whilst serving as a local Member of Parliament, I crossed the line first, becoming the first sitting MP known to have won a horse race since the First World War.

So I returned deflated from my polar trek, to a phone call from a then obscure politician called George Osborne. George asked me to join him and help develop the Conservative Party on economic policy. I leapt at the chance to go back into politics and worked for him and David Cameron, eventually becoming Osborne's Chief of Staff, managing the Party's Treasury Team, and advising on policy.

After five action packed years at the forefront of the Conservative campaign, I was absolutely delighted to be selected as the Conservative candidate for West Suffolk for the 2010 general election and stepped down from my role with George Osborne in February 2010 to concentrate on my own election.

The campaign trail was exhilarating and I set about immediately getting to know everything about the constituency – meeting people, looking at problems and deciding what my priorities will be if elected.

West Suffolk is fairly rural, but there are very diverse areas within it and four main towns.

North of the constituency is Brandon, a historic market town, which is positioned on the edge of an ancient landscape known as the Brecks. The northern part of the seat is home to two huge United States Air Force bases, RAF Mildenhall and RAF Lakenheath.

South of the constituency is the largest town, Haverhill, which borders onto Essex and Cambridgeshire. Haverhill is very much a town on the up and has seen some welcome investment over the past year.

Finally, to the west, is Newmarket, a market town that is internationally known for horse racing and houses not only the two race courses themselves but the national Horseracing museum, the clubhouse of the Jockey's Club and huge numbers of trainers and stud farms.

After two years as a backbench MP, I was asked by the Prime Minister to become Minister for Skills, working across the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills and the Department for Education.

As Skills Minister, I was responsible for Apprenticeships, sixth forms and Further Education and later became the Minister for Skills and Enterprise in a joint role driving up standards in skills and taking on responsibility for supporting small business.

In July 2014 I was again promoted to Minister of State for Business, Energy and Enterprise and worked between the Department for Business and the Department for Energy and Climate Change. Then following the General Election, I was appointed as Paymaster General, responsible for digital transformation and public sector reform, drawing on some of the things I learned in my youth. It's an honour and a privilege to do that, and there is a big task ahead.

I am delighted that I am now not the only King's alumni to be in Parliament. This May I was joined by Dr James Davies, new MP for Vale of Clwyd. James did a fantastic job winning that seat with just under 250 votes as it had been Labour for nearly 20 years. I'm sure that he, like me, draws on the time he had at King's in the tumultuous, challenging and unusual career we have chosen.

Events

Chester FC v Altrincham

Due to popular demand, CAOKS sponsored a second match at Chester FC. In this case, it was a local derby versus Altrincham on Saturday 2nd January 2016.

It proved to be a very enjoyable event, with ten former pupils enjoying an entertaining afternoon in the Legends Lounge.

Our special guest was Old King's Scholar, Chas Sumner, who acts as the official club historian and statistician as well as author of several books on the football club. He explained that the original Chester Football Club had been formed in 1885 by an amalgamation between King's School Old Boys and Chester Rovers playing their first matches in Hoole.

Having been introduced to the new Chairman, Simon Olorenshaw, we were given a tour of the stadium where manager Steve Burr appeared to sign-up Past President Robin Hardi for the Blues before the group visited the players in the home dressing room and went out onto the pitch where we had the opportunity to take a picture of the Group.



We were then treated to a sumptuous three course meal provided by the former racecourse caterers, Dougherty and Allen. Pete Bottome and Robin Hardi also received a memento of the day from Chester legend, Gary Talbot.

For the match itself, Chester dominated the first half and went ahead thanks to leading goal scorer, Ross Hannah, but were unable to score a decisive second goal. After half time, despite several chances for the home side, the inevitable happened and Altrincham equalised and the match ended in a draw.

Shortly before the end of the match we were asked to pick the man of the match for Chester. In the Lounge after the game, Masher MacKenzie and Dr Gareth Morgan made the presentation to Chester forward, Craig Mahon, who was the overwhelming choice.



The Association received some good publicity during the match and in the programme and showed our support for the local supporter-owned club. Sorry for those who were unable to attend but, if there is sufficient demand, we could arrange a repeat visit during the following season.

~ Will Lamb (1971)

The London Supper

The 2015 London Supper was held in October at The Bleeding Heart Restaurant in Farringdon. Some forty CAOKS joined President David Wilkes for our annual gathering in the South East where, as always, we enjoyed an evening of very good food and drink, camaraderie and conversation in an informal setting. It was again terrific to welcome new faces to the event, a number of whom have had little interaction with CAOKS since leaving the school.

As always, what I personally find most satisfying about organising this event is looking around the room and seeing alumni representing a span of over 40 years at the school meeting for the first time and chatting within minutes like old friends. There is a common bond that we share and it certainly does bring us all together.

It was also really pleasing to see attendance numbers at similar levels to last year. In fact we may now be a victim of our own success as we are at full capacity for the current venue. So even though the Bleeding Heart has served us well over the last five years, I do have an eye to the 2016 London Supper and the possible need to find a slightly larger venue to be able to accommodate all those wishing to attend.

Many attendees I speak to continue to be appreciative of London-based events to cater for the ever-growing number of CAOKS members who venture south to live and work. This feedback is really appreciated. For those CAOKS based in London and the South East it's a great way to reconnect and network so do come along if you haven't been before. I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at the 2016 London Supper!

~ Alan Vallance (1983), Senior Vice President



SNOOKER Grammar School vs Alumni

The annual event was successfully held again at the City Club in Chester and has now been going for over 25 years! Following an excellent three course dinner, a toast to the Queen and a silent toast were given to those who gave their lives from both Schools in the two World Wars. Moving downstairs to the snooker room, the 'battle of the baize' then commenced. Always hotly contested, but in the spirit of great fellowship, CAOKS managed to retain the trophy with a narrow victory over the Grammar Old Boys. Even our President (who had never held a snooker cue in anger) gave a good account of himself. An enjoyable evening – much to be recommended to those who have never been.

~ Nick Phillipson

Obituaries

Gordon Robert Lidderdale Forrest

I first met Gordon in 1950 in Miss Lester Smith's class in the Junior School, which in those days was situated in a somewhat dilapidated building in Walpole Street, Chester, called Arnold House. We became very friendly and went through the Junior School together, passing the exams to enter the Senior School in 1953. Our paths through the Senior School differed slightly, but we joined up again in the Lower Fifth to take GCE examinations. We continued to A-level on the science side. Having passed the A-level exams Gordon was awarded a GEC scholarship and went to Newcastle University to study Electrical Engineering. On graduation Gordon worked for GEC in Coventry then was moved to their factory in

Newton Aycliffe, which manufactured telephone exchange equipment. His work for GEC next took him to Scotland before he returned to Newton Aycliffe. Gordon was 'head-hunted' by HB Technologies and moved to a post in Hong Kong for just over three years. He continued to work for HB Technologies in the UK for several years before his retirement. Gordon did not forget his friends from Henderson Hall Newcastle University, as for many years he organised a very popular annual reunion dinner and overnight stay at a local hotel for them. Gordon died on 31st January 2016. He was a good friend and will be greatly missed.

~ Stewart Turner

Ian Thompson



The following was written by Tom Jamieson who, like Ian lived in in Vancouver. Sadly, neither Ian nor Tom knew of each other's existence in the same town!

A gathering of around 80 or so (many of whom made the specific journey from the UK and other overseas locations) met on Friday, September 25, 2015 at the Morgan Creek Golf Club, located in a suburb of Vancouver, to remember and celebrate the life of our classmate and friend, Ian Thompson.

The format was a simple one, yet made very special by the eloquence and obvious sincerity of the speeches made by the various speakers. A brief introduction by the MC was followed by a number of speeches from various people who's paths Ian crossed over the years.

These included family members (an aunt from Liverpool), former work colleagues, long-time friends, neighbours and school friends, the latter being delivered on his and our behalf by Richard Yarwood, and by Sarah Wilkinson (nee McClure) on behalf of the Queens school. A short video presentation followed before everyone got together to renew, and in some cases begin, acquaintances.

I have attended a number of similar celebrations of life remembrances over the years but cannot remember one where the presentation and content of the various speeches was, without exception, delivered in such an eloquent and delightful way. This was hardly surprising as a number of speakers had, like Ian, earned their degrees in English. Amongst other things, we learned about Ian's, some would say, manic driving habits and complete intolerance for the rest of us who shared the roads with him; his insatiable thirst for as much trivia as possible, particularly with regard to cinema and music; his interesting work habits which included a consistent deferral in completing a task until the very last moment, at which time he was apparently able to cram 6 months' work into a 36 hour period; his multitude of jobs and vocations; and the two loves of his life - his wife Emelda and dog Susie.

We were regaled with extracts from the Wind and the Willows in which, one of his friends fondly cast him as the toad; Under Milk Wood after which we learned that Ian, in a perfect Welsh accent, was able to convince a group of American tourists in a pub in Wales that Ian had in fact known Dylan Thomas, despite the fact that he had died the year before Ian was born; and various poignant and sometimes comical extracts from a number of poems.

Ian was often described as astonishing and generous by a number of the speakers, but perhaps the most apt, and I recall this in the nicest possible way, was that he was described as a silly man. My only regret, having listened to all of these deliberations, was that I hadn't known we lived no more than 30 minutes from each other over the last 15 years of Ian's life. I would have liked to have spent much more time getting to know once again this silly man.

Memories of Ian

Emelda Thompson - I am writing to thank you all for your thoughts and sympathies and for sharing your memories of Ian, it is very much appreciated. There has also been a lot of outpouring of love and support from his friends in the US, Hong Kong and Middle East but the UK contingent certainly provided the greatest and funniest stories as to be expected. I am sure Ian will appreciate the tributes and chuckle over some of these. Ian was a very special individual and will be greatly missed and remembered. I take comfort in knowing he had a great life and was well loved by many.

The Celebration of Life in honour of Ian's memory is scheduled for Friday noon time at a local golf course in South Surrey BC where we live.

Ian's ashes will be scattered on the beach near us which is also the resting place of our dog Suzie. This will take place late morning the following day. Thank you once again for all your messages. I shall treasure them as I go through the next phase of life without him.



Tim Corless - I connected with Ian through LinkedIn a few months ago and we updated each other on our respective life stories. He seemed happy, although didn't enjoy turning 60 (like the rest of us!), but said he was well considering. He also mentioned that he had continued writing, though less frequently than in the past. He had met his wife while running a ferry company in the Philippines, and moved to Vancouver in 2000. I also remember his obsession with the singer from Middle of the Road, and hot pants (we can all relate!). He truly was a unique character, always curious and able to use his dry wit to great effect.

Andy Macquiban - Ian was a good friend back then, and he shared lodgings at Bangor University where he managed to attend the odd lecture every other day I suggest, while we scientists were hard at it 9 or 10 hours

a day. He used his English degree to great effect by joining Hong Kong Police Force as an inspector. He got a lot out of that, especially the extreme Cantonese swear words. From there I think he became deputy Governor of Wormwood Scrubs, whence he appeared as my best man in 1983. The rest is blurry for me, but I believe he went on to sink the Mersey Ferries, before being transported to US and Canada playing roles of Security expert in multinational corporations.

Adrian Ackroyd - Ian was an amazing character and so much larger than life so it is appropriate that he is remembered by us all as just that in his untimely death. All I can remember from the sixth form is that he was fastidious about his paperbacks. Possibly they were all sci-fi, but the thing that sticks in my mind is he never opened them more than about 40 degrees let alone open flat! (God knows how he managed to read them!) This he told me was to ensure the spines remained in perfect condition and looked pristine in his bookcase at home. Ian was smitten by a blonde lady ten years older than he - Sally (Sarah Cecilia) Carr from the Glaswegian band 'Middle of the Road'.

Tony Bennett - He was a big character and the room was never dull when he was around. He had a good sense of humour, and was very good company. One thing I remember about him was that he had a crush on the girl singer in the group that has a hit with a song called "Chirpy Cheep Cheep" (I can't remember the name of the group or the girl) and often wrote to her. He would enliven the private study periods by regaling us with snippets of their correspondence, which I think went on for some time. I last saw Ian about 30 years ago, by chance on a bus in West London - I was on my way home, and he was off to work at Wormwood Scrubs. Unfortunately we never maintained contact much after that. Ian edited the School magazine and contributed a lot of the articles. He confirmed to me that he did write the [School magazine] report of the "rumble in the jungle" - sorry, the Mike Parry v Martin Hazell boxing match in the gym. It is a pity he never got the chance to update everyone on what he was doing. The back up to his comment that he was "growing old disgracefully" will remain a secret, although it sounded typical Ian. He was a good friend at School, I'm sorry he passed away at such an early age and my condolences go to his wife.

Nick Hoare - My memories of him are that he always seemed to be laughing. Not much else has stuck but I do remember him proudly bringing in an album he had won on the Juicy Fruity Chewing gum competition that I think Radio Caroline was running. I chewed quite a lot but won nothing.

Graham Tristram - I remember Ian well and warmly. He was imaginative and confident and wore his unusual passions on the outside. At school he was a first class eccentric, entertainer and wit and a very good friend. He enjoyed listing: movies; the Ten Most Beautiful Girls; episodes of the Six Million Dollar Man; the Doc Savage stories and other marvels. He made us laugh. After we left school in 1973 we kept in touch by letter (he in Bangor then the world, I in Cardiff then Edinburgh) and I still have them, prized especially for the creative forms of address that he used. We met up on occasion too.

Although I never made it to Hong Kong, I remember visiting his office at Wormwood Scrubs when he was a deputy governor there. He was restless, always moving in search of the ideal career, the fertile ground for his talent, and always writing. Is there a novel, a book of verse, a screenplay? The letters stop in May 1983 and we last spoke a few years after that when I think he was working at a cinema in Reading.

It seemed the perfect occupation for him with his love of movies and encyclopaedic memory for stars and directors, but of course it wasn't. Why we lost contact I have no idea. I always believed that someday we would re-connect and I'd find out how he spent the last thirty years; sadly, not so. It's so good to know that he found happiness.

Andy Miles writes:

For the past several years, Rich Yarwood, Ian Thompson and myself met up for a weekend somewhere. The 2015 meeting had been planned for Chicago on October 2nd. Rich was going to be in the US, Ian was coming from Vancouver and I would fly up from Trinidad. The three of us had been planning this trip since July. I had chatted with Ian several times in August and he had a music quiz prepared to bring with him: this was not so much a test for Rich and myself as a confirmation that Ian still had ALL that music knowledge in his head that he had developed since school days. You may also remember his collections of Marvel comics, Doc Savage paperbacks, the comprehensive knowledge of films and who directed which film in which year, the poems produced with spontaneity etc.

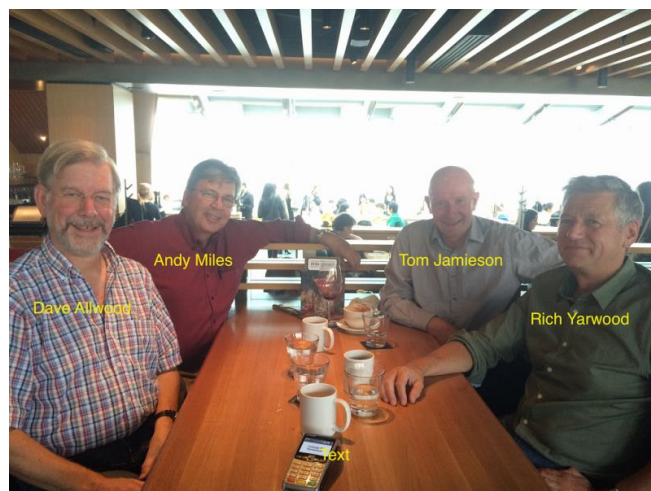
The news of his sudden and unexpected death in early September was literally stunning to Rich and me. We sent out the sad news to school mates and others, sent condolences to Emelda (Ian's wife) and spent that inevitable time trying to make sense where there's none to be found.

Ian left King's and went to Bangor, spent 3 years doing English and then had no clue what to do so he signed up with the Hong Kong Police as an Inspector. He bothered

to learn Cantonese while spending 3 years there, then left and worked with British Caledonian who had started flying to the Far East. He stayed there long enough (about a year) to travel to each habitable continent.

A variety of jobs ensued including Assistant Prison Governor at Wormwood Scrubs, attending MacDonald's University as a trainee manager, Cineplex manager then Manager of Mersey Ferries. Ian was back in the Wirral! Some time spent at Mersey Ferries gave Ian the C.V. he needed to apply for and obtain a similar job in the Philippines with another ferry company. Here, Ian met and married Emelda and they enjoyed several years in the Philippines before moving to Vancouver. One of our earlier weekend meetings that Rich, Ian and I had was in Vancouver in 2009, the year before the Winter Olympics. Ian was working for the City of Vancouver as a security consultant, installing CCTV and training the operators and he also had overall responsibility for crowd safety in the city during the Olympics. This experience padded the C.V. and Ian was then off to San Francisco to advise on physical security for Google, then to the Middle East on various contracts.

In recent times, Ian's work load had reduced but Emelda was working hard both with work and their community. Obviously, no death is easy but even more so when sudden and unexpected. Emelda has great close friends and neighbours and says she is managing well enough, has planned to go to the UK to have Christmas with her sister and carries on with her work.



Emelda arranged a "Celebration of the Life of Ian" held on the last weekend of September on the outskirts of Vancouver at a golf club and quite a crowd was there. Several people came from the UK, including Tim and Sarah (McClure) Williamson. Ian had matched these two up: Tim was a pilot with British Caledonian; Sarah (from Queen's School) and Ian had remained close friends in the 80's and Ian got the two of them together and they married.

Various people spoke at the Celebration: old workmates from the Prison Service, from the City of Vancouver, neighbours, Sarah and then Rich on behalf of Tom, myself and King's.

As may be expected, the tone and spirit of each contribution was melancholy at times but several people spoke of some very funny moments involving Ian. He had obviously made many close friends in his community and at work. These were people he had gone out of his way to help, to smooth their path and ease their plight. Many of us grown men were shedding tears. The following day, we met on the foreshore where Ian would walk his dog. Ian's ashes were spread to the winds and the seas and we all went for tea. Ian had developed a taste for Retsina and so it would probably have been apropos that we toast him with Retsina. However, there are some things we can't do even in the saddest moments and drinking Retsina is one of those!

In all of this, one small piece of silver lining was meeting up with Tom. Rich and I had not seen Tom since school days. He is in great form, just the same character, has had a successful career in accountancy and insurance and enjoyed a long and happy marriage. He has 2 boys and has remained in touch with some King's friends.

The day before the "Celebration", Rich and I met with Tom and had lunch along with Dave Allwood. Dave and his wife had spent a week in the wilderness of Canada enjoying watching bears and they were flying home the day of the Celebration. That lunch was quite a moment: Dave and I had last spent time together on the river in the 1st. VIII at various regattas. Tom and Rich played football for King's in various teams over the school years. Meeting up with Sarah and Tim after 30+ years was wonderful; catching up with old friends and hearing the stories of Ian was a profound pleasure for me. I hope I do half as well in my life as Ian did in his.

Keith James

We are greatly saddened to mark the death of a stalwart of the School community. Keith was a former President of CAOKS and Chairman of Governors. His good counsel and devotion to School will be greatly missed.

Following a private cremation a Service of Commemoration was held at Chester Cathedral on Monday 22nd February at 12 noon.



Keith died on Wednesday 27th January 2016, peacefully at home with his family after a short illness. He was 71, last June, a retired partner with Alfred Green & Co, Chartered Accountants of Runcorn and Chester. Keith was a long serving committee member of CAOKS, President of CAOKS in 1986 and former Chairman of Governors of The King's School during a period of many changes and development.



He leaves behind his devoted wife Sandra, daughters Mel and Angie, sons-in-law Mark and Rob and grand-daughters Sophie and Maisie.

Chris Ramsey, Headmaster writes:

I am deeply saddened to report the news that Keith James, Old King's Scholar and former Chairman of Governors, who has passed away peacefully. His last illness came about suddenly, but he died restfully at home.

No-one has been a more devoted servant of King's nor a more important custodian. He was one of the first pupils at the Wrexham Road site, and as a governor he oversaw the move to co-education and the developments of recent years. He was a devoted family man, and our thoughts are with his wife Sandra and their family. This is a very sad moment for us all: the community has lost one of its greatest friends.

Jeremy Lloyd writes:

I have known Keith since school days and, whilst he was a year ahead of me, sharing the Lower 1Vths with the likes of Nick Bennett, Brian Crowe, John Hampson, Fred Holman, Tony Jacks and Mickey Rickard, to name but a few, there were only a couple of months between our ages.

He left school in 1960 and served as an articled clerk with a leading Chartered Accountancy practice in Chester before eventually becoming a Partner at Alfred Green & Co alongside his friend and fellow old boy Norman Harrison. Keith and I were close neighbours for many years, living opposite each other in Upton Park where we were both involved with residents' committee and we also shared many years as committee members of CAOKS, both of us becoming elected President, me in 1984 and Keith in 1986.

Keith could always be relied upon for sound advice and his career as a Chartered Accountant ensured an astute handling of financial matters which will have stood him in good stead during his time as Chairman of Governors of the King's School.

A railway enthusiast, Keith was once thrilled to have been allowed to ride on the footplate of a steam locomotive, a birthday present from his family. He was also a lover of the countryside and kept himself fit as a regular walker in North Wales and the Lake District. With his wife Sandra, he also enjoyed holidays in warmer climes, especially in the Canary Isles, as a break from winters at home and they also enjoyed reunions with friends who shared their love of sea and fjord cruises.

Initiated as a member of Merchants Masonic Lodge in Chester in September 1988, Keith served as assistant secretary from 1993 until 1996 when he became Lodge Organist, an office he held for 20 years to the present, continuing his love of music. He was also a Lodge accounts examiner.

He was an honest and wholly reliable person and a good friend and he will be greatly missed by many.

Colin Kelsey

Colin Kelsey (1963) died peacefully in hospital on the Wirral on Saturday, 23rd January 2016, having suffered deteriorating health recently. He was 70 last June and worked for most of his career as a Strategy Planner with Liverpool City Council. He married twice, having two daughters, Louise and Claire, with his first wife Pam (Jones) and two boys, Rick and Matthew, with his second wife Carol. His funeral service was held on Thursday, 11th February 2016, at St John the Divine Church, Frankby.

Jeremy Lloyd writes:

It was with great sadness that I learned of the death of my dear friend, Colin Kelsey, whom I have known ever since our early days at the King's School, both of us ending up in Lower VIA in 1962/3 with such legends John Boyes, Ken Dexter, Kit Eatock, George Hardman, Mike Jennings, John Jiggins, Peter Kane, Geoff Tilling and others. Memories of zoology practical lessons with "Taffy" Evans in the new school down at Wrexham Road will always remain. Taffy had us all doomed to fail A-level for our 'casual' attitude and when we all passed it was Colin who suggested that we took him out for a Chinese banquet at the Chanticleer in Chester. Colin lived in Neston and for many years a band of brothers (and a few sisters) grew up on the Wirral bus to Delamere Street, Chester, picking up along the way Phil Smith, Mike Jennings and Pam Jones (Queen's School) from Chester High Road, Sally Gillespie (also Queen's)

from Hinderton, myself and Bernie Ruddock from Willaston and others along the route. The wooden waiting room at Delamere Street, long since the victim of development, was where we met up with fellow travellers heading for King's, Queen's, the City Grammar School, City High and the Convent School and some early romances sparked there! Some years later, Colin married Pam and later still, sadly, they parted but not before producing two beautiful daughters, Louise, and Claire, my wife's goddaughter. Colin will be remembered as being a bit of a free spirit at school and a little vexing to some of the masters. I recall a heated threat - I think it was from an exasperated Pat Garnett - to throw Colin out of a window in the Bluecoat School premises way down into the canal. For both their sakes it never happened!

However, Colin was bright and obtained a place at Loughborough University to study Cybernetics and Ergonomics - we had never heard of it!

He became a Strategy Planner with Liverpool City Council and when I saw him last September, he was still working and having meetings with central government in London. Colin remarried and leaves behind a caring wife, Carol, and two grown up sons, Rick and Matthew. Colin was a character but always a great friend and he will be missed by all who knew him.

Robert Newmarch

Rob Newmarch, who died on September 18th, was a pupil at King's School Chester, between 1960 and 1967. He is remembered as a popular and lively member of his year and a talented sportsman. He represented the school at football (2nd XI), cricket (1st XI) and badminton, of which he was the secretary.

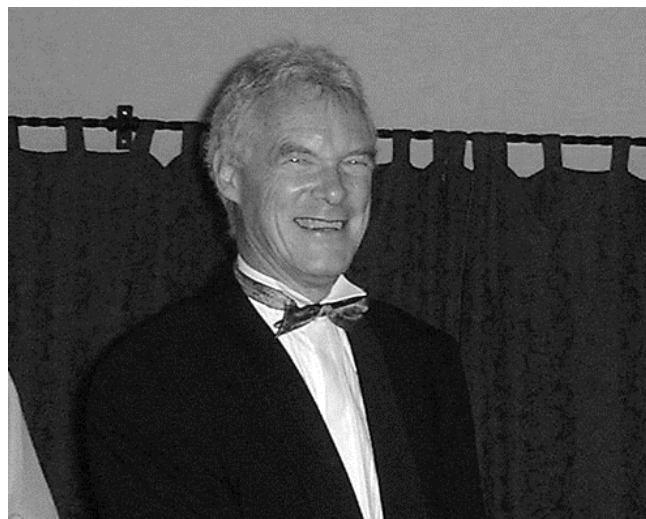
Rob went on to study maths and computer science at the University of Liverpool. He had several jobs during his life, including transportation planning, and latterly developing software for the publishing industry. His work frequently took him abroad, to Australia, USA, Europe and Scandinavia.

He was married to Barbara and had a son, Robbie, and granddaughter to whom he was very close. After many years in Kent he moved to Somerset in 2001. In Kent and Somerset he was very involved with local village cricket teams as well as playing badminton at a high standard. He was captain of New Ash Green cricket club (Kent) and second team captain for Temple Cloud cricket club (Somerset). He represented Avon at badminton in his age group and worked hard to develop badminton in the area.

In addition to work and sport he enjoyed walking, had several walking holidays in Italy, Greece and Madeira as well as in the UK. He loved theatre, especially introducing his granddaughter to the works of Shakespeare, and folk music including the likes of Bellowhead and the Oysterband. Also spending time with friends and eating good food.

Tony Collard, writes

"I went to Handbridge Primary School with Rob and we both went to Kings, starting at the new school in 1960. We were both keen cricketers and kept in touch. He was Captain and Chairman of New Ash Green CC for many years, a stylish left handed batsman.



More recently about twelve years ago he moved to Clutton in Somerset where he had an old cottage with plenty of land for growing fruit and vegetables. His new cricket club was Temple Cloud CC where he again ended up as second team captain.

He also played badminton in both Counties, and recently was an organiser and player in the South West over 60s League.

He worked for the same company in Oxford, but was able to work from home quite a lot, whilst his wife Barbara is a Medical Herbalist.

He was taken ill unexpectedly about four years ago with what turned out to be cancer. He stayed very positive and Rob and Barbara made many journeys round the country seeing their many friends. He underwent numerous operations and treatments uncomplainingly and did not let them get in the way of enjoying life to the best of his ability. In fact he never really looked ill, so positive was he in his attitude to life.

He would have been 67 on the 2nd October".

Kevin Whyman

Many will be aware of the tragic fast jet accident in which Kevin Whyman (1994) lost his life. Only in recent times had he written about his hobby for the Newsletter. His funeral in London was a most moving service in the RAF church, St Clement Danes. It was attended by hundreds, reflecting his popularity in the many areas of interest that his busy life encompassed. Our sympathy is with his wife and children.

Roger Wickson has kindly allowed us to publish the eulogy he gave at Kevin's memorial service.

KEVIN WHYMAN – MEMORIAL SERVICE CHRISTLETON PARISH CHURCH 20TH NOV 2015

It was with a great sense of honour and some pride that I accepted the invitation of Kevin's parents Rob and Pat to speak at this celebration of his life.

I shall focus on Kevin the schoolboy at The King's School and leave it to others to speak of his life beyond school. In doing so I am grateful to a number of people for helping me by providing material from the School archives and for sharing their memories of Kevin as a pupil and as a friend. In my nineteen years at King's I was privileged to know hundreds of boys of distinction. Without doubt Kevin shone out as one of the most illustrious of them all.

One day in the Summer Term of 1993 I invited three young men into my room at King's, Edward Ball, Robert Nelson and Kevin Whyman. The object of the meeting was to tell them that one of them was to be the Head Boy for the coming academic year and the other two would be his deputies. I have never forgotten the look that very fleetingly passed over Kevin's face when I told him that he would be one of the deputies and not the Head Boy. It was a mixture of disbelief and non-comprehension that he would not be leading the team. You might think from this that Kevin was an arrogant young man. That would be very far from the truth. He was not an arrogant young man at all. I think that he was just briefly disappointed that he would not have the opportunity to serve the School in the way he would have liked. Throughout his period of office he supported me and his two friends and colleagues with unflinching loyalty and commitment and his friend Edward Ball, the young man appointed Head Boy, said recently that 'his enduring memory of Kevin is of a hugely driven, accomplished and inspiring fellow.' To this day I cherish a photograph of Kevin, Edward and Robert, in their prefectorial gowns, taken with me after their final Cathedral service.



Comments by those who taught Kevin echo those of Edward Ball. Another Kevin, Kevin Fear, who taught him History, recalls that he was popular with his peers, a great lad, clever, witty and full of life. He was a fierce competitor with his rowing but could deal very well with the usual banter that invariably broke out between members of the Rowing Club and footballers. Another Historian, Seb Neal, recalls Kevin's infectious giggle and beaming grin.

Kevin joined the Senior School from the Junior School in September 1987. Paul Consterdine, Head of the Junior School, remembers Kevin with great affection. The Junior School staff always remarked on his smiling and lively nature. He always showed great persistence whatever he tackled. He had a friendly and willing outlook and a talent that ensured success in almost everything he took on. He set a fine example and was a kind and considerate friend to his school fellows.

I got to know him from the very beginning of his time in the Senior School. I made a point of teaching all the boys in Removes, although I do not remember whether I actually taught him History, Latin or possibly English. It was clear from the first that Kevin was very able academically and he showed this throughout his School career. Kevin Fear said that in the VIth form he was a very strong academic who enjoyed his History. His choice of subject for university was Economics, a subject taught to a very high standard by the brilliant partnership of Norman Hallas and Graham Hutton.

It was right that Kevin should apply to Cambridge to read Economics and a tribute to his ability, supported by considerable hard work, that he was offered a place by Peterhouse, the oldest Cambridge college, one of the smallest and one of the most difficult to get in.

Its long standing reputation for fine food was put to the test when Kevin organised the annual dinner for King's old boys, which I always greatly enjoyed, at Peterhouse.

Kevin's involvement in rowing as a cox, both at King's and at Cambridge, is legendary. Under the forceful and inspiring leadership of Mike Fox, King's became one of the leading rowing schools in the country, the equal of much bigger and wealthier schools like Eton, Westminster and Shrewsbury. Kevin was quite tall for a cox but it suited his forceful personality and his ability to inspire and to urge the oarsmen to success. 1993 was a magnificent year for King's rowing. Kevin did not share in all the successes as perhaps the outstanding one was achieved on July 4th when the coxless four won the Visitors' Challenge Cup at Henley Royal Regatta, our first ever victory at Henley. But there were many other triumphs that year and Kevin played his full part in them. The climax came when Kevin, along with Edward Ball and Gavin Mitchell and their coach Neville Orme, were selected for the British junior team which competed at the World Championships in Oslo at August.

Edward Ball tells a characteristic tale of Kevin's exploits as a cox. Edward remembers him having a near drowning experience tucked into the bow cox's seat for our National Schools Championship coxed fours winning row. The wind could certainly blow at Holme Pierrepont in Nottingham and the lake quickly became transformed from a placid race track to one with dangerous boat swamping waves. This victorious row took place on such an occasion. Kevin's incredibly determined voice could be heard over all others as he pushed us ahead of the field to win a gold medal. He was then found to be swimming in a foot of water in his bow cockpit.

Kevin Fear recalls that on the eve of the 1997 Oxford and Cambridge boat race a great deal was said in the Friday morning assembly. Surprisingly nothing was said on the following Monday about Cambridge's remarkable victory even though Kevin had steered and exhorted them to it. Apparently the word among the staff was that I had been shocked by the language that the TV cameras had picked up Kevin using.

Kevin did not just enjoy steering fours and eights. I once took Robert, Edward and Kevin for a couple of days on our canal narrow boat on the Llangollen Canal. It was almost impossible to prise Kevin from the tiller and let someone else have a steer.

An aspect of School life in which Kevin shone was as a member of the Combined Cadet Force. Had we had a Naval Section he might well have joined that. As we did not, he became a member of the RAF Section.

His spirited involvement invariably singled him out for special praise by the RAF and RN Senior Schools liaison officers. He was sponsored in the VIth form by the Royal Navy with the intention of joining the Fleet Air Arm but he actually took a flying scholarship with the RAF.



A great opportunity to enable members of the Lower VIth to develop their entrepreneurial skills was provided by the Young Enterprise Scheme. In 1992/3 Kevin led a group of fifteen LVI formers who established the company 'Reflex'. Kevin's report appeared in the 1993 School Magazine. The Young Enterprise company 'Reflex' was an entrepreneurial group of 15 LVI formers. Profit was their motive and enjoyment their aim – management and responsibility least on their minds. The company produced bird boxes and bird feeders with the slogan 'worth flocking to'. In the year of its existence the company could boast a turnover of £1400, 15 passes in the Young Enterprise exams and one examination award. It also achieved numerous awards at the local YE board level and a place in the top seven companies of YE nationally. As Kevin said, 'Not bad for an eight month fling with entrepreneurship.'

Graham Hutton commented that Kevin's persistent management drive galvanised the team, (and parents, YE advisers and anyone remotely useful) to such an extent that no one could fail to perform beyond their best. He was irrepressible and irresistible, leading from the front, determined, impassioned and exuberant, excitably articulate, at times verging on the garrulous and all the while immensely proud of what the company was achieving. For his efforts and successes Kevin was awarded a three day visit to the German headquarters of BMW.

Stage productions were a very strong and important of King's School life with several performances being presented each year. It is not surprising that Kevin took part in some of them.

After the Junior School play, in which all members of the top year took part, Kevin's first Senior School appearance was in a Shell production of 'Unman, Wittering and Zigo'. This was a decidedly sinister presentation of life in a minor public boarding school. Kevin was a member of form 5b whose form master had mysteriously disappeared. It turned out that he had been murdered by the boys in his form. One of the outstanding productions in Kevin's time at King's was 'Journey's End'. Kevin was not on stage for this but was one of the Front of House team. Every other year we put on Gilbert and Sullivan productions with Queen's School and they provided a splendid opportunity for boys of all sorts, musicians, scholars, sportsmen and boys with no special talents to come together on stage. The production in Kevin's Lower VIth year was 'The Mikado'. Some of his friends and I think he was one of the Gentlemen of Japan but are not quite certain. There is no doubt that a few months later he took part in 'Salad Days' as Fosdyke, an attaché to Andrew Pugh who was playing an MI6 spy. He, Andrew and Mike Beadle had to sing a song about diplomatic secrecy in which the words 'Hush, hush' frequently appeared.

Edward Ball tells of a musical activity of a different order. He remembers an occasion when Kevin played rhythm guitar to his bass guitar in a very poor band. Having bluntly told us that we were all awful, stronger words were used at the time says Edward, it became apparent that we weren't being helped by the fact that Kevin had stubbornly been playing the wrong chords throughout. Kevin's parents, Pat and Rob, were incredibly supportive of everything he did and it is right that tribute should be

paid to them. From a Headmaster's standpoint they were model parents. They were both very active in the Rowing Club, Rob was a member of the Fathers' Association and Pat supported the Mothers' Guild, later becoming an Associate committee member after Kevin had left. Unlike some parents of talented sons who are often quick to find fault with the School and who support the School primarily to push their brilliant boys, Pat and Rob always showed a wholehearted commitment to the whole School community. It was ever a delight to see them either at School or by the River.

The premature death of a young person, whatever the cause, is always a colossal tragedy. It is impossible to comprehend the suffering that their parents and relations must endure but I am sure that were are all united in offering our most heartfelt sympathy to Pat and Rob, to Kevin's widow and his daughter and to his sister. It is poignant for one who has been a Headmaster to be aware that one of the boys whom he once knew and loved has lost his life prematurely. It is possible to take a little comfort from the knowledge that Kevin died doing what he absolutely loved doing and in his short life he gave to all who were privileged to know him far more than many people who have lived for twice as long could ever possibly give. Thank you, Kevin

SHARE YOUR UPDATES & NEWS



Help us make these publications even better.

We are always pleased to hear of what OKS are up to, be it in their family or professional lives.

Also, please inform us if you know of any alumni who have died. We will always contact family members before announcing the death of any of our members. This information will also be shared with the School to ensure consistency.

Contact Paul Consterdine via email at paulconsterdine@btinternet.com with your piece of news.

About Us.

CAOKS is the social and professional Association for former King's Chester students founded in 1866. CAOKS is run by former pupils for the benefit of former pupils. CAOKS is wholly autonomous and all King's alumni are welcome to become part of "The Association".

As the principal function of CAOKS is to promote inclusivity, friendship and interaction among the alumni various social events are promoted as well as providing members with an exclusive and very active "CAOKS Group" on the professional networking site LinkedIn. All alumni, whether members or not, are welcome to join in with these CAOKS organised activities. An Events Card and Year Book is published annually and regular Newsletters keep members in this country and abroad informed.

Although functioning independently of the School one of our aims is to support the foundation of 1541 that created the King's School. Thus each year the Association gives significant assistance to the School Community including:

- 👑 funding the Baty Overseas Voluntary Service Award
- 👑 awarding the Old King's Scholars' Exhibition which is given to the most outstanding student going up to university
- 👑 recognition of individual achievements on the sports field with awards at School Prize Giving

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👑 Senior Vice President

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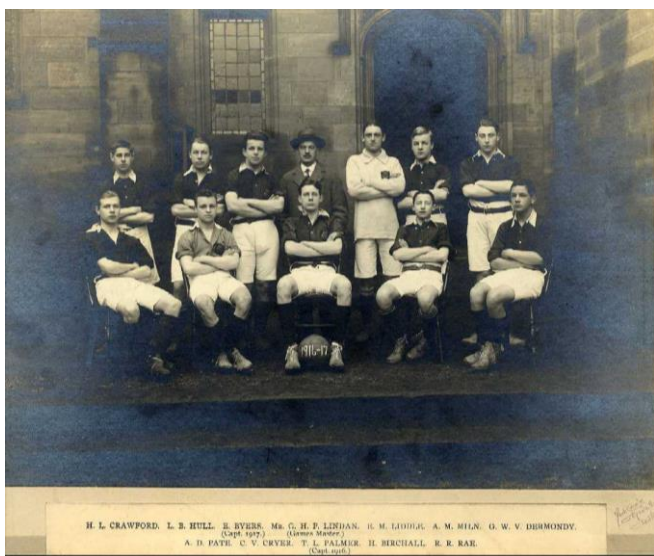
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Subscriptions

Following the AGM in May 2015 subscriptions for 2016 will continue at the current rates.

| | |
|---------------------|--------|
| 👑 Full Member | £18.50 |
| 👑 Full E-Sub Member | £10.00 |
| 👑 Student Member | £5.00 |

Following efforts last year to chase those full members (on paper output) still paying the incorrect subscription by standing order, many transferred to direct debit which is the easiest method, and others did update their standing order to the correct amount (£18.50).



The King's School's 1916 Football Team

However, there are still too many who did not, and who continue to pay a lesser amount. I will have one final attempt in the next few weeks to contact those individuals and collect arrears so why not pre-empt that and contact me now! If the matter is not subsequently resolved, then I give notice that those individuals will only receive an e-newsletter etc. in the future. If no email address is known then no e-output can be sent either – you have been warned!

I am continuing to spend a considerable amount of time and effort on this, which is why I strongly advocate direct debit. If you wish to discuss the above please contact me at nickp.philprop@hotmail.com

~ Nick Phillipson, Hon. Treasurer