

# CAOKS NEWSLETTER

Celebrating 150 years of camaraderie and friendship

February 2017

Issue 72

## President's Message

My year as CAOKS President is flying by and it will soon be over. It has been a very enjoyable one and a real honour to serve in the role.



It's been a year full of change. I took over from my predecessor David Wilkes in May 2016 at the end of the CAOKS Annual General Meeting (AGM). We held the AGM at Willow Lodge, the School's newest building on Wrexham Road which was opened in September 2015 and serves as the infant school. The official opening ceremony was performed by the School's long-serving patron the 6th Duke of Westminster.

Since that AGM the UK voted to leave the European Union, the Prime Minister David Cameron resigned and Theresa May took up the post.

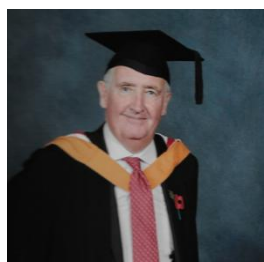
Across the Atlantic the United States had its own elections a voted in its own new President and, as I write, the rest of the world seems to be signing up country by country to what the press is calling "populist politics".

Closer to home, my presidential year has seen changes that will no doubt be just as significant to the world that is CAOKS and the School. I wanted to mention a couple of these events.

In August 2016 we received the news of the Duke of Westminster's death. Gerald Grosvenor had been the School's long-serving patron and many of us have memories of him being at the School. My initial memories were, I must confess, more about the car than the man and started with a rare sighting in circa 1980 as I rounded the corner of the gym (now the 1541 restaurant) and saw standing before me, in the teacher's car park outside the School's entrance door, a gleaming Series 2 Aston Martin Lagonda.

As an avowed lover of cars I was transfixed and stood ogling at this rare sight on our roads, along with a group of fellow similarly "car-struck" school boys. It seemed like we were standing there for hours but in reality it could only have been minutes. We were all instantly awoken from the collective reverie by the presence, or should I say the voice, of Tom Clamp, shooing us away from this wondrous beast of a car. For those of you who don't know, Tom was the School's PE teacher at the time, an ex-Army NCO and PT instructor. In addition to his main duties as our PE teacher, Tom had an uncanny ability to be omni-present every break and lunchtime patrolling the School buildings and grounds!

## In this Issue



After the car I saw the man himself numerous times at the School. His Grace's death was a sudden, sad and significant event. I wrote a letter to his widow on behalf of all CAOKS members expressing our deep condolence for her loss.

Another significant change was the announcement that current Headmaster, Chris Ramsay, would be taking up a new post as the Headmaster of Whitgift School in Croydon from September 2017. Some of you would know that Roger Wickson, one of our School's former Headmasters (in post in my Sixth Form years) is an old Whitgiftian so it must be a fine school though not quite as fine as ours!

Chris still has the remainder of the 2016-17 school year in post, but as I will be finishing my role sooner than that I would like to take this opportunity to thank him for his ten years' service as Headmaster and wish him every success in his new role.

A short time after we were also informed of the appointment of George Hartley, Chris' replacement as Headmaster. George is currently the Principal of Elizabeth College on Guernsey. I had the pleasure of meeting George late last year in London when he was kind enough to make some time during a one day trip away from the Channel Islands to drop in and meet me in my offices in central London. Over the course of an hour or so I introduced George to CAOKS and we also talked about the School. It was a great conversation which I enjoyed very much indeed. One thing that also really impressed me was the recruitment process itself which George told me a little bit about. He was interviewed by some of the pupils which would never have happened in my day! So my congratulations to Jo Clague and the Governors for allowing that to happen.

In the course of our conversation I discovered that George has been very supportive towards the alumni association at Elizabeth College and indicated he was very keen to do the same with CAOKS.

The final big piece of news was the retirement of Simon Malone was Head of Junior School and the appointment of Margaret Ainsworth as his replacement.

Over the course of my time to date as President we have continued our conversations with the School led by Anthony Hopkinson, the School's Director of Development. As immediate Past President David Wilkes and I have both previously commented, Anthony has been a great supporter of CAOKS and he continues to be very helpful and suggest ways we can collaborate more effectively going forward. I would like to take the opportunity to thank Anthony again for all his efforts.

In terms of outcomes from these conversations, we are still to lock specific events in but have recently been talking about holding joint events in London. The first such event may be held towards the end of 2017 and may complement or even replace the current London Supper format. Watch this space, we will let you know more as soon as we have details locked in.

I am now looking forward to serving the remaining couple of months of my year as President. The big remaining event during that time is the CAOKS Annual Dinner on Saturday 1 April at Chester Town Hall. A great event at a fantastic venue. We have the Mayor and local MP confirmed as attending and it will be a very enjoyable evening, so if you haven't already booked a ticket then please consider doing so. We would love to see as many CAOKS members as we can pack in, along with their guests.

Best wishes



**Alan Vallance. CAOKS President**

## Headmaster's Message



On the last Saturday in January, the External Relations team were involved in two big events which summed up their work, and much of what we are increasingly about as a school. In the morning, we held a Music Day for pupils in local primary schools, and dozens of young people who would not perhaps before have known about or thought of King's, came to enjoy a day of tuition, exploration and fun. Perhaps some of them will want to come to King's, perhaps for many it will be their only visit. But even then it has been worth doing, as so many of our 'outreach' activities are, simply because we are part of a community and want to serve it.

In the evening we held one of our group reunions, for 1996 leavers, joined by Roger Wickson, several members of staff from those (recent) days and of course many old friends. We're always grateful to all those who come to these reunions, and especially for the year group leaders who seem to emerge each time, the ones who have kept in touch most closely with their friends, and who help us do the same.

It has been a momentous year already in lots of ways! Early in the New Year we announced some big changes to the way we look after students and organise their education. Important for teaching, but probably affecting students' daily lives only slightly, is our move from September to group academic departments together into four Faculties, each under a Head of Faculty who will lead the learning and teaching in a more co-ordinated way. Do see the details on our website!

More significant still is our move to Houses (always a feature of life at King's) as, from September, the pastoral

'units' through which tutoring and pastoral care will be organised. We will be replacing Heads of Year and Form Tutors with Heads of House and tutor groups for each year within Houses, in a model which we think will ensure the students are better known and more coherently looked after. The current four Houses (Evans, Falles, Lindans and Shepherds) will continue to operate as now in the Junior School, but eight new Houses will then operate from Shells to Upper Sixth. Each will have a Housemaster or Housemistress, they will be mixed (boys and girls) and each year group will therefore be split into eight tutor groups, the students staying with their Tutor (and obviously Head of House too) through the school.

We've decided to find eight new names, since we don't want our own Junior School pupils to form a 'clique' as a monopoly of four of our Houses, and students and staff are choosing the names this term, drawing them from names of people, places or things with a King's resonance, the only agreed criterion being that named people are not to be alive (thus, we hope, avoiding potential embarrassments).

With George Hartley starting in the autumn when I move to Whitgift, a new Director of Studies (Adam Dewbery) and Senior Tutor (Roy Wheeler) in post too, you can see that we are not standing still.

Otherwise all continues as busily as ever. In an unprecedentedly 'tough' year we had four Oxbridge successes; our young girl rowers beat off all opposition at Wycliffe in January; our girls hockey players continue to beat all comers and our young boys football side continue to impress. This term's musical, *Little Shop of Horrors*, will be light hearted but stylish (do come) and music, art and our 130 clubs and societies continue to thrive, as you would expect.

I look forward as ever to seeing you at school whenever you would like to visit.

Chris Ramsey, Headmaster

# From the Secretary

*Adrian Ackroyd*

## Annual General Meeting 2017

**The AGM will be held at The School on Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> May at 6.30 pm.**

A three course supper will be served after the meeting at around 8.00 pm. Please email me if you wish to attend so that the Minutes of the 2016 AGM can be sent to you for perusal prior to their acceptance, amendment or rejection under Item 2 of the agenda.



Note that paper copies of the Agenda and Minutes will not be provided at the AGM to avoid waste. Please bring your own copies with you.

The supper will again be provided by Holroyd Howe. Cost is £10 (or £12 including wine). To book your supper please email me at [adrian.a.ackroyd@gmail.com](mailto:adrian.a.ackroyd@gmail.com) confirming your preferences from the list below.

1. A vegetarian or an omnivore starter
2. A vegetarian or an omnivore main
3. Wine (+£2) Bottled mineral water is provided gratis

## Agenda

- 1 Apologies for absence
- 2 Minutes of the AGM of 2016
- 3 Matters arising
- 4 Hon. Secretary's Report  
Including:
  - the impact of the new General Data Protection Regulation
  - the need to ensure proper and effective governance
- 5 Hon. Treasurer's Report  
Including:
  - a report on I&E accounts
  - major items of income and expenditure
  - appropriations to the Chester Old King's Scholars Exhibition Fund and to the Baty Travel Award
- 6 Dinner Secretary's Report
- 7 Reports of Events held 2016-17
- 8 Newsletter Editor's report
- 9 Events proposed for 2017-18
- 10 Honoraria
- 11 Election of President
- 12 Election of Officers and Committee
- 13 Any Other Business



## From the Editor

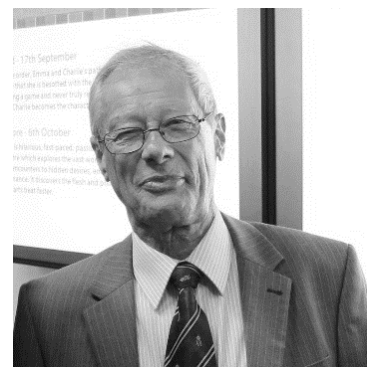
*Paul Consterdine*

My thanks to all those who have submitted information and articles for the 72<sup>nd</sup> edition of our newsletter.

Comments and suggestions about our newsletter are most welcome. Members are encouraged to send me a few lines about their achievements to be included in the next edition.

We are, as ever, grateful to The School for its help in the production of the newsletter.

The school's alumni reunions (See page 7) are proving most enjoyable. They show that the fellowship between former pupils is highly valued. If you wish to learn more attending or organising a reunion Liz Gwyther at the School on 01244 689 494.



## From the Treasurer

*Nick Phillipson*

### 2017 Subscriptions

The 2017 direct debit run for subscriptions was successfully taken on Tuesday 24th January, with only a few queries to follow up!

There are still quite a few members paying by standing order, who despite my efforts over the last year, are still paying the incorrect amount - it should be £18.50.

**If you do not wish to change your payment method to direct debit, and your standing order is still for less than £18.50, please ensure it is increased to the correct amount.**

For those who live abroad and may find it difficult to pay subscriptions (due to no longer having a UK bank account) we can now offer an alternative option. You can now pay by **PayPal** (including debit / credit cards) with the online payments system. To use this method go to [www.caoks.org](http://www.caoks.org) and follow "About us" and "Membership". If you wish to discuss any of this please contact me at [nickp.philprop@hotmail.com](mailto:nickp.philprop@hotmail.com)



### CAOKS Annual Membership Dues

Full Member £18.50	Full E-Sub Member £10.00	Student Member £5.00
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### Annual Dinner 2017 – final reminder

The 151<sup>st</sup> Annual Dinner takes place on **Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> April 2017** in the Assembly Room at the Town Hall, Chester. Please come along and support our President, Alan Vallance and bring some friends – it is a great night. There are still spaces available.

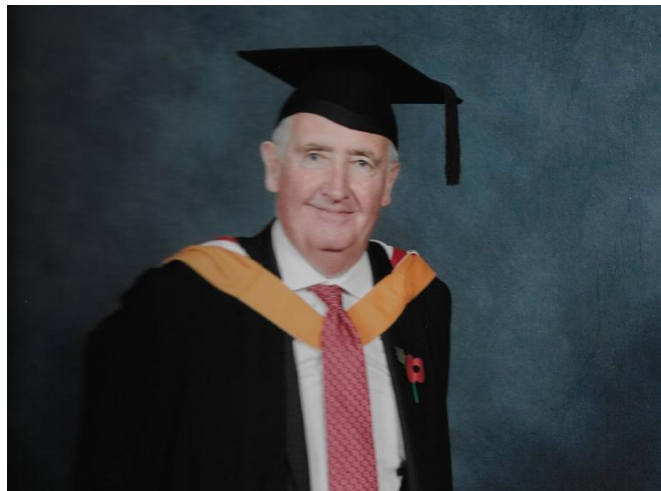
It is now only three weeks to the booking deadline of **Friday 24<sup>th</sup> March**, so don't delay booking. If you have lost your original booking form, you can access and download one via [www.caoks.org](http://www.caoks.org). Simply follow the links to the "Annual Dinner". You can even **book and pay online in one go**.

The dinner form will also be found at [www.kingschester.co.uk/uploads/file/email\\_links/CAOKSAnnualDinner2017.pdf](http://www.kingschester.co.uk/uploads/file/email_links/CAOKSAnnualDinner2017.pdf)

Any queries please contact me at [nickp.philprop@hotmail.com](mailto:nickp.philprop@hotmail.com)

# OKS News & Updates

## Robin Jones (President 1985) awarded Honorary Degree



We are delighted to report that Robin Jones (President 1985) has recently been awarded an honorary degree of Master of Laws at Chester University. His commendation runs as follows:

Robin Jones was born and bred in Chester. Along with his parents, John and Edith, and older sister Judy, he grew up in homes full of books, moving from Hoole to Newton, and eventually settling in Upton. He attended the King's School, first in a building next to this very cathedral, and then at its present site on the Wrexham Road. Robin told me that one vivid memory he has of his schooldays is of listening to 'extremely dry speeches' here, in this cathedral - a memory that has, I must admit, made me a little apprehensive.

In 1970, Robin qualified in Law at the University of Liverpool. When I asked him about his university memories, he called to mind Liverpool in the heyday of the Swinging Sixties: the era of the Beatles and Gerry and the Pacemakers, the Animals, and Manfred Mann. 'It was', he reminisced, 'a fantastic time - interrupted by a little bit of study'.

In 1971 he married Carolyn, and the couple are proud parents to Michael and Sarah, and grandparents to Charlie, Henry, Lucy, and Amy.

Robin's career in commercial law, and commercial property law, spanned an impressive 44 years, during which time he worked briefly at Knights' Solicitors; was senior partner at Wayman-Hales; and was Chester's managing partner at Hill Dickinson, a remarkably successful company with some 1,000 employees.

The legal profession has undergone some major changes over the last three decades, of course, and Robin realised that, in his words, 'Solicitors have to be businessmen as well as lawyers [ ... ] the competition is so much stiffer and more people are involved in the profession, particularly women'. Indeed, his own daughter, Sarah, is a corporate lawyer, formerly with Clifford Chance in London.

Robin's a man with a real joi de vivre, and he's thoroughly enjoying the life of a retiree. He's been a Liverpool supporter and, latterly, a season ticket holder at Anfield, for over half a century. An accomplished amateur golfer, he had a handicap of 13. As a keen cricketer, he captained Chester's Boughton Hall first team for eight years, during which time - extraordinarily - two little-known players, Winston Benjamin and Curtly Ambrose, played under him. He tells a lovely story about driving Ambrose - 6' 7" in his stockinged feet - in his Ford Granada Ghia, the famous fast bowler's red cap sticking up through the car's sunroof. He enjoys holidays, with Barbados being one of his favourite destinations: when there, in his own words, he 'reads, eats, and does very little'.

Robin is a trustee of various institutions. Working with the Tessa Briggs Charitable Trust, he was instrumental in making a very sizeable donation to Clatterbridge Hospital to establish the Papillon Unit. Here, bowel cancer patients can undergo ground-breaking, non-invasive, contact radiotherapy treatment, overseen by the renowned consultant Suny Myint. Robin is now a member of the Clatterbridge 1862 Club, dedicated to the development of the Oncology Unit at Clatterbridge, and he has also made donations to other, Chester-based, institutions.

When asked what he regards as his key achievement, he named two. The first being married for 46 years; the second was growing Wayman-Hales from a modest provincial law firm to a more exciting concern with a varied portfolio of clients.



## 1998 Get-together enjoyed over Christmas

Boys from the 1998 vintage, returning to Chester over the Christmas period, took the opportunity to indulge in some festive fayre at The Architect.

Mark Mills, Adrian D'Enrico, Tom Lee, Christopher Jones, James Martin, Stephen Douglas, James Clayton and James Skelland - all regular former school football team members - made the starting line-up along with a mix of friends, wives and girlfriends.

The evening was a great success and an important opportunity to continue long established friendships in a relaxed environment.



## Retired Judge Anthony Russell's pens engaging read

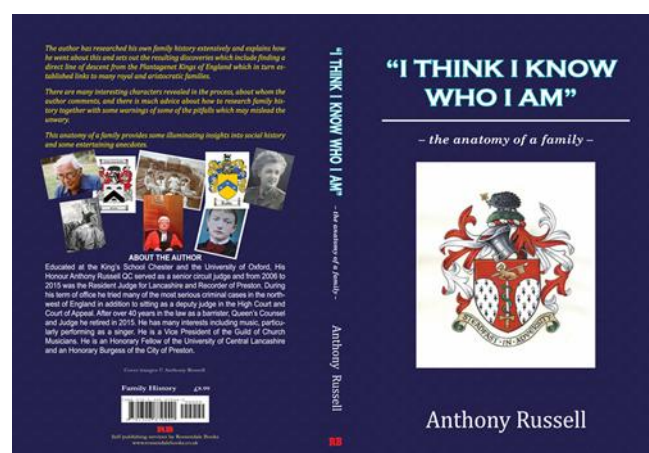
Retired Judge Anthony Russell's interest in his family's history has led to this book in which he explains how he researched his ancestry and the resulting discoveries. He has been able to trace some of his family origins back to the time of the Norman Conquest and earlier which reveal distant relationships to the Plantagenet Kings and many other distinguished families.

The book serves as a guide to how to research family history by use of tools readily available on the Internet, shows what can be uncovered and warns of some of the pitfalls which may trap the unwary.

Many interesting characters are revealed in the course of the history including judges, smugglers, clergy, members of the armed forces, peruke makers, cordwainers and a variety of other tradesmen and professionals. There are a number of short biographies

of various of the author's ancestors and relatives set out in the text including Air Marshal Sir Geoffrey Tuttle, Ebenezer Tuttle, Wing Commander Anthony Eyre, The Revd John Eyre, Angela Mortimer, John Byrom and The Right Honourable Sir Patrick Russell.

"I think I know who I am Anthony Russell" is available in paper back and as an eBook, published by Lulu Enterprises Inc. The book is also available from various other outlets including Amazon.



## Class of 1996 Reunion

There was merriment and nostalgia on Saturday as the School welcomed back a fantastic group of 1996 leavers and former staff to celebrate their time at King's.

As well as making the trip to Chester from across the UK, Old King's Scholars journeyed from as far as Dubai to catch up with old friends. Several of those attending had not been back since leaving over 20 years ago.

It was a wonderful opportunity to catch up with old friends and past teachers before touring King's with current prefects, marvelling at the changes whilst appreciating that which has remained the same.

The gents congregated in the Sixth Form Lecture theatre to look at old school photos and enjoy a presentation from the School's Alumni Relations Team before going on to share a delicious evening meal.

Thanks must go out to James Storrar OKS who invested a great deal of time and effort tracking down his former classmates, turning this 1996 Reunion into a reality!





## Blast from the past

Terry Collier (1954) has sent us this picture (above) taken on a school trip. He believes it was to the 1951 British Grand Prix which was won by Jose Froilan Gonzales. His identifications, so far, on the picture are: (L to R)

1. J C Starling?
8. D K King
9. M W Heath
12. N D Stears
15. J R Chipperfield
16. C P Olive
18. T S Collier
20. H R Ploszek
21. The driver!
23. R D Chaloner
24. Mr G R Tolliday

He asks if anyone has pictures from the school trip (accommodation under canvas!) to the 1951 Festival of Britain.

## An update from Philip Bowcock OKS

I was at Kings 1944 – 49 and left after the end of the 5th as the then Head, Harvey, said that it would not be worth my while to go to university. As a matter of interest I was elected a chartered surveyor (at the age of 21) in 1954 and from 1969 – 1998 was Lecturer in Valuation in the Department of Land Management, Reading University. I am now fully retired but still active in professional studies. My wife, Sheila, and I were foster carers for 45 years and cared for about 136 children. We retired three years ago after I had a minor stroke (TIA) from which I am now fully recovered. I am also organist at a parish church near Reading.

## An update from Charles Hagon OKS

Charles Hagon has lived in Germany for 14 years now. At ECB he is Head of Section for Romance and Mediterranean languages. He and his wife have two children aged 12 and 9. He's not so happy about Brexit, given his job at the European Central Bank(!), but it looks now like it will happen!



# Baty Overseas Voluntary Service Award

## Ben Paxton OKS reports.

In the summer of 2015 I left King's, completed my A-levels and then went travelling around Eastern Europe with 4 friends from school who I'd rowed with for 5 years at the rowing club. We all had an incredible time and loved travelling and being on the move; visiting multiple different cities and countries across 25 days and meeting tonnes of great people in each different place. Convinced that travel was how I wanted to use my spare time and money I decided to make the most of the first of my long university summer holiday and visit Latin America.

I started off by spending a week in Cuba visiting a friend who had already been there for 3 weeks doing a Spanish course. We stayed in the town of Viñales, which is in the Cuban countryside among coffee, fruit and tobacco farms, and also spent two days in the capital of Havana, an amazing city full of crumbling colonial buildings and beautiful rugged streets. My time in Cuba challenged some of my preconceived ideas about communism as a dull and weary regime, because the Cuba I saw in my short time there was bright, flamboyant and full of friendly people. Yes, the cars may have been old and rickety, the buildings in great need of repair and the farms still hugely inefficient but overall people seemed happy and content with their lives. Our last day in Havana was Fidel Castro's birthday and the lady we were staying with had made an elaborate cake for the street party her neighbours were throwing to celebrate.



My very brief visit to Cuba did not turn me into a communist convert or a Marxist enthusiast, but it did make me question some of our society's immediately dismissive attitudes towards communism and help me understand the great sadness of the Cuban people when Fidel Castro passed away late last year.

While travelling around Eastern Europe after leaving school I had felt that next time I visited another part of the world I wanted to do some community based work, both to gain a more realistic understanding of the local culture and also to try and do something to help the people of the country I was visiting. While in Peru a friend from university and I spent 2 weeks living with a family who run the charity 'Carismaperu' which is involved in multiple projects within the Andean City of Huancayo. During the two weeks there we taught English in a rural primary school outside the city which doesn't have full time English teachers and so relies on volunteers to help the children gain a basic grasp of English. This was a very challenging but also a hugely rewarding experience. As well as teaching in the classrooms we played volleyball and football with the children and it was great getting to know them and sharing in their jokes and laughter.

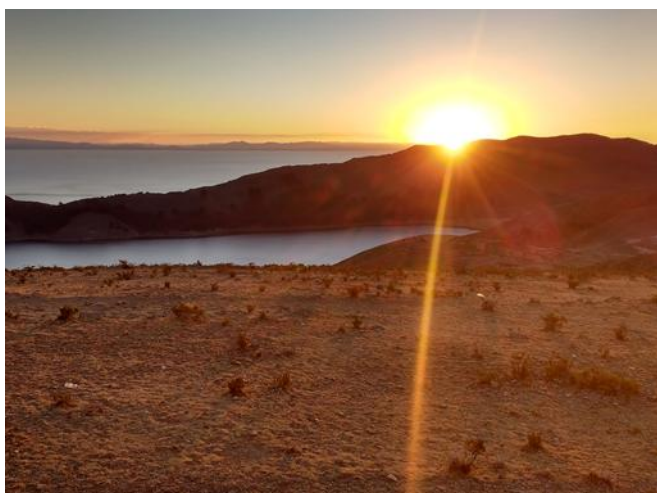


We also spent some afternoons in the city working at an after school centre for young children who would otherwise have been having to work with their parents at street stalls and markets, where we helped them with homework and organised activities. Staying with a local family for our time in Huancayo was a fantastic way to experience the culture of the place and by shopping, eating and watching the Olympics together as well as getting invited to their big family gathering for the Santiago festival, they really adopted us into their family.

After my time at Carismaperu I travelled on my own to the old Inca Capital of Cusco, where I began a 5-day trek to the abandoned Inca city of Machu Picchu. Our 4 days of trekking and then getting up at 3am on our final day to complete the journey were rewarded by reaching the ancient city before anyone else arrived and seeing the clouds lift to unveil the stunning ruins and backdrop of forest covered mountains.



Craving more trekking and spectacular landscapes I travelled to Arequipa, to climb one of the two imposing volcanoes that stand above the city. Our group of 6 reached the 6000m summit just as the sun was rising and were treated to incredible views of the city, salt plains and mountains on the edge of the Atacama Desert. I also had the chance to visit the Isla Del Sol, a beautiful island on Lake Titicaca, the highest navigable lake in the world, famous both now and among the Incas 500 years ago for the incredible sunrises over the snow-capped mountains of Bolivia. After this I travelled to bustling city of La Paz, the highest capital city in the world, from where I flew back home.



I had an amazing time over the summer visiting Latin America and am even more convinced than before that going travelling is worth the time, expense and hassle it takes and so I am very grateful to CAOKS for helping to financially support my trip through the Baty Overseas Voluntary Service Award. In travelling you get to see breath-taking sights which you would never get the chance to see unless you get away from home and visit these remote parts of the world. You experience places, cultures and ways of living beyond your normal bubble of life which is eye-opening and humbling. And in each of these places I visited I met kind, friendly and fun people, both locals and people travelling, which helped to remind me that in the midst of the confrontation, division and intolerance which seemed to be recurring themes in major international events in 2016, that this world is full of great people doing great things, and is an amazing place to be alive in.



## SHARE YOUR UPDATES & NEWS

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. This information will also be shared with the School to ensure consistency.

Contact Paul Consterdine via email at [paulconsterdine@btinternet.com](mailto:paulconsterdine@btinternet.com) with your piece of news.



## OKS Guest Contributor

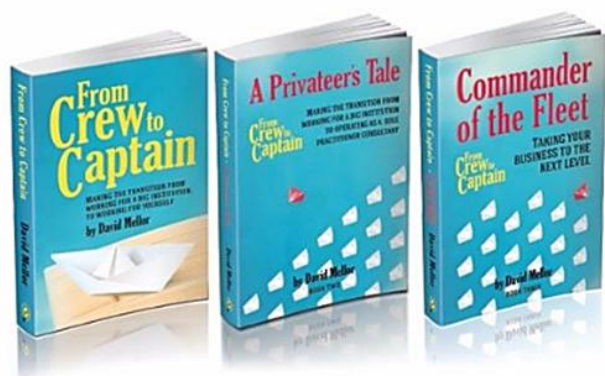
### David Mellor (1973) FRS

Since 2001, David has developed a portfolio of activities which derive principally from 25 years' experience in commercial and investment banking with HSBC and Deutsche Bank. His consultancy activities embrace strategic planning and implementation, and mentoring existing and aspiring entrepreneurs.

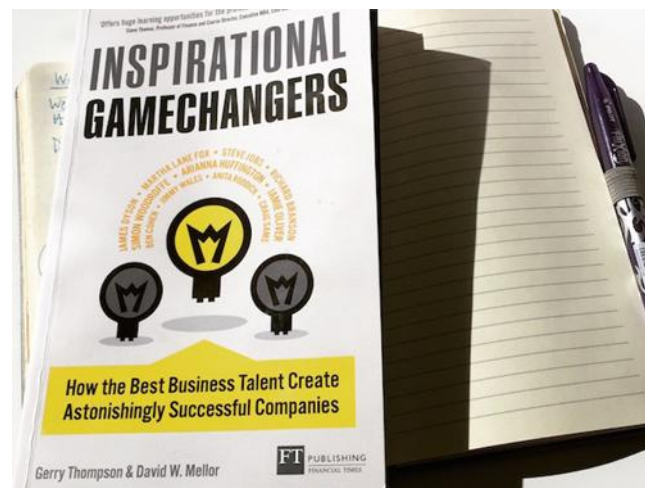


David is a recognised expert in his field, regularly speaking at conferences and running seminars and workshops. He provides one-on-one and group mentoring to aspiring entrepreneurs, many of whom are aiming to establish themselves as consultants.

He published "From Crew to Captain" in 2010, written for people making the transition from working for big institutions to working for themselves. He has followed that up by launching "From Crew to Captain: A Privateer's Tale" in 2014, which is written for people establishing consultancy practices. The third book in the trilogy – "From Crew to Captain: Commander of the Fleet" was released in November 2015. He is also co-author of FT Publishing's "Inspirational Gamechangers" which launched in 2015.



He is an Honorary Senior Visiting Fellow in the Faculty of Finance at Cass Business School, where he has run workshops on managing strategic change, entrepreneurship, corporate entrepreneurship, leadership, building high performance teams and sales. In addition, he has acted as course director and provided facilitation and mentoring support to participants in small groups and on a one-to-one basis.



David is a Freeman of the Guild of Entrepreneurs. David holds a Bachelor's and a Master's degree from the University of Cambridge, and is a member of the Institute of Directors. He is a Certified PRISM Brain Mapping Practitioner.

We asked David for his thoughts about entrepreneurship and he put down the following ideas:

### Entrepreneurship – Top 10 Tips

If somebody challenged me to come up with my top 10 tips for a budding entrepreneur, and present them in "tweet length", this would be my response to the challenge:

- ★ Look in the mirror – capitalise on your self-awareness; leverage strengths and mitigate weaknesses.
- ★ Find a mentor – he/she can help combat loneliness and act as a sounding board re attitude, mindset and business idea.
- ★ Surround yourself with quality – don't compromise on business partners, associates, staff or service providers.
- ★ Launch "eyes wide open" – make sure you know what you are getting into.

- ★ Work on your personal brand – make sure it is consistent and coherent across all touchpoints.
- ★ Understand your financial drivers – margins, breakeven, liquidity, debtors.
- ★ Work to a plan with simple performance metrics - where are you going, and how will you get there.
- ★ Learn the art of networking – how to build rapport, trust and relationships; “be interested not interesting”.
- ★ Develop your communication skills – written and verbal. Don’t forget to listen.
- ★ Never stop investing in your own personal development.

Each of these merits an article in its own right, but as a high-level checklist this is a good place to start. If I were to sneak an extra one in, it would be “strap yourself in and enjoy the ride!”

Between 2010 and 2015 I published my trilogy of self-help books:

- ★ From Crew to Captain (how to start a business)
- ★ From Crew to Captain – A Privateer’s Tale (how to set up as a sole practitioner consultant or equivalent)
- ★ From Crew to Captain – Commander of the Fleet (how to grow a business or create a consultancy practice).

The three books neatly cover the universe of clients I work with in the entrepreneurial community. They also reflect the journey I had been on personally between 2001 (when I came out of the corporate world) and 2010, and the experiences I had had, both good and bad! Part of the rationale behind the books was “I wish these had existed when I set off on this adventure”!

The three biggest lessons I learned are captured in 3 of the 10 top tips which I have shared.

Firstly, I had not realised how lonely it can be running your own business. (Tip 2)

Secondly, I was hurt (both financially and emotionally) on more than one occasion, as a result of lacking discernment and intuition at times, and engaging with people who let me down (Tip3)

Thirdly, I was somewhat naïve in terms of my expectations around getting paid (Tip 6)

Hopefully, if you see yourself as an aspirational entrepreneur, these tips will help you to avoid some of the common pitfalls. Going into this type of career “eyes wide open” gives you a huge advantage.

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## Middle Temple fundraising dinner a great success

A number of special guests attended the first ever fundraising dinner in London to support The School’s ‘King’s 100 Challenge.’ Set in the glorious surroundings of Middle Temple – one of the four Inns of Court, the dinner focused on celebrating the successes of our legal alumni.

The event, which raised several thousand pounds for The School’s fledgling bursary fund, was organised with the kind assistance of alumnus His Honour Judge Anthony Russell QC who has proved one of our most stalwart supporters over the last year.



Each of the four Inns of Court were represented at the dinner and moreover four of the OKS present have gone on to secure prestigious positions within the judiciary since leaving King’s.

The School hopes to build upon the success of this event with a second fundraising dinner scheduled for Friday 10<sup>th</sup> November, which will focus on celebrating the success of our alumni working in science, technology and engineering.

Look out for our next event, The 2017 Founder’s Dinner scheduled for Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> September, which this year has a decidedly sporting theme!

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## Other News

### Abbey Gateway to be transformed

The cathedral plans to carry out a makeover on the medieval Abbey Gateway which links Abbey Square, Market Square and Northgate Street. Full planning consent has been secured and works are set to begin soon to transform it into an exclusive two bedroom residential property.



The Abbey Gateway dates back to 1377 when the monks of the site were issued with a 'license to crenellate' or build fortified entrances to their abbey complex.

The upper storey of the gateway dates back to 1800. It features windows on both sides with views of Market Square and Abbey Square and houses the rooms over two floors which will be refurbished and let.

Does anyone remember how the space was used when School was based in town? Jim Brotherhood says that the tuck shop was on the ground floor.

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### Passion for Learning

The King's School has teamed up with local community interest company Passion for Learning to offer our alumni a fantastic opportunity to give something back to our local community.

Passion for Learning recruit volunteers from all walks of life willing to go into schools and establish a relationship with individual children. The volunteer enjoys around an hour a week with each of 3 children sharing books, playing games, doing art and crafts and tackling interesting projects together.

The work they do is designed to spark a passion for reading and learning, a curiosity about their world and, most important of all, ambition and hope for the future.

Passion for Learning works in schools in some of the deprived areas of Ellesmere Port and Chester.

The children they support have challenges that can impede their learning as well as their social and emotional well-being. Typically they are not making the expected levels of progress at school. Problems with learning, reading and writing affect the children's confidence and enthusiasm, impacting on their aspirations and their ability to fulfil their potential.



The School would like to encourage those alumni based in and around Cheshire West to volunteer some of your time to this worthy cause.

This partnership ties in seamlessly with the School's desire to encourage applications from gifted children and those who would be unable to attend King's without financial support. We welcome donations of all sizes to fund our means-tested bursaries.

For an informal chat to see if this is the right opportunity for you please email Viv Couche at [viv.couche@passion-for-learning.com](mailto:viv.couche@passion-for-learning.com).

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# CAOKS EVENTS

## London Supper 2016



The 2016 London Supper was held at The Bleeding Heart Restaurant in Farringdon. Normally held in late October the dinner date had to be moved to early November and this resulted in numbers being slightly down on previous years. Lesson learnt!

Some 25 CAOKS joined myself in my year wearing the CAOKS President and also the London and South East "hats" for our annual gathering. 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.

As ever, recent leavers mixed instantly with CAOKS leavers from many more years ago, a category I have now like so many others slipped into without ever noticing it! That common bond we all share certainly does bring us all together at these occasions.

The Bleeding Heart venue has served us well for a number of years now and the format seems well received by all who attend. That said, I have been speaking with the School about the possibility of organising joint events in London starting in 2017.

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 and working more closely with the School will allow us to consolidate our efforts and better serve the needs of the large number of alumni who work or live in or around the capital. 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 our 2017 event.

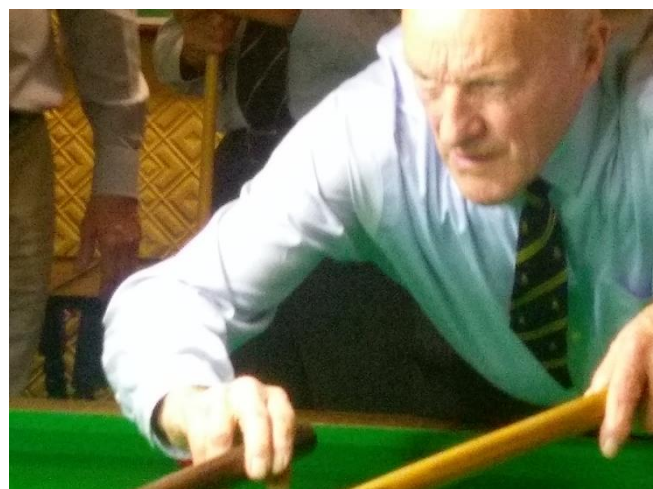
~Alan Vallance

## Snooker: CAOKS v Grammar School Alumni

This event was successfully held at the City Club in Chester on Friday 11th November 2016 where former pupils from both Schools came together for the annual snooker match. Numbers this year were disappointing, and down on recent years on both sides. This is something I hope is temporary as it is a friendly evening of fellowship, notwithstanding the competitive snooker!



*Nick Phillipson with the victorious Grammar School captain*



*Brian Crowe concentrating intently*

The usual excellent 3-course meal and wines provided by the City Club, was followed by a toast to the Queen and a silent toast to the fallen. Then on to the snooker. A close fought match was won narrowly 6-4 by the Grammar, with the usual good pots, fouls and friendly banter that this evening engenders.

I hope more will be able to attend in 2017 to participate in this enjoyable event.

~Nick Phillipson

# Dates for the diary

## CAOKS EVENTS

### CAOKS RACE DAY

*Saturday. 25th March 2017*

To book contact Will Lamb 01244 534830 (H)

[sixhitter@hotmail.com](mailto:sixhitter@hotmail.com)

### 151st ANNUAL DINNER

*Saturday 1st April 2017 at 6.30 pm*

Reception from 6.30 pm. Dinner at 7.00 pm prompt. Full booking details (including menu & wine options) will be available online from 1st September. The Assembly Room, Town Hall, Chester. Contact Nick Phillipson 01244 300550 (H) [nickp.philprop@hotmail.com](mailto:nickp.philprop@hotmail.com)

### ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

*Thursday 25th May 2017 at 6.30 pm*

Please see page 4 for AGM Agenda. Pre-booked supper is served after the meeting at 8.00 pm. The King's School, Wrexham Rd, Chester CH4 7QL Contact Adrian Ackroyd [adrian.a.ackroyd@gmail.com](mailto:adrian.a.ackroyd@gmail.com)

## SCHOOL EVENTS FOR ALUMNI

### Reunions

#### ★ 1987 LEAVERS' REUNION

*Saturday 25th March 2017*

#### ★ 1967 LEAVERS' REUNION

*Saturday 13th May 2017*

#### ★ 2007 LEAVERS' REUNION

*Saturday 13th May 2017*

### 475 DRAMA Performance

*Wednesday 28th June 2017*

Pupils from all year groups will be involved in this special production dramatizing the rich and varied history of the School - one not to be missed!

More details to follow in due course.

### Alumni Tea Party at Henley Royal Regatta

*Friday 30th June 2017*

An annual highlight of our events calendar, our alumni picnic at the Henley Royal Regatta is a wonderful opportunity to meet with friends, family and old classmates for a memorable day.

For further information please contact the School's Alumni Office on 01244 689 492

### Old Boys/Girls vs School rowing

*Wednesday 5th July 2017*

For further information please contact the School's Alumni Office on 01244 689492

### 2016 Leavers get-together

*Saturday 8th July*

An informal opportunity to catch up with school pals and share your experiences one year out.

Invitations will be sent out via the School's Alumni Office nearer the time.

### Founder's Dinner 2017: Celebrating Sport at King's

*Saturday 23rd September 2017*

This year's Founder's Dinner will focus on celebrating King's great sporting traditions. Guests will dine with alumni ambassadors who have achieved particular distinction in sport - be it in the stadium, on the water, on the track or in the boardroom.

To find out more and to book please call Liz Gwyther on 01244 689492 or email [eeg@kingschester.co.uk](mailto:eeg@kingschester.co.uk)

### Fundraising Dinner: Championing Science at King's

*Friday 10<sup>th</sup> November 2017*

Join your peers and leading regional figures working in science, technology and engineering for an exclusive evening of networking, debate and fine dining. All proceeds from this event will go towards improving our science facilities and our bursary fund.

To find out more and to book please call Liz Gwyther on 01244 689492 or email [eeg@kingschester.co.uk](mailto:eeg@kingschester.co.uk)



# Obituaries

## Charles Seddon (1938)

Charles Seddon aged 92 died last Autumn. He was a long standing General Committee Member in the 1960's. He was married to (late) Eileen and had three children Clive, Nigel and Helen. John Douglas represented the Association at a service of thanksgiving.

## Harold Morris(1946)

Susan Annesley, Harold's grand-daughter, has informed us of the death of her grandfather aged 86 years: Harold Morris was at the School 1941-1946. He leaves behind Mary, his wife of more than 50 years. The significance and importance of his Chester roots and of the King's School were mentioned in his Eulogy, which we publish here. He worked for Raglan Squire and Partners as an Architect eventually becoming responsible for the design of buildings for the Hilton Hotel Group world-wide.

I think it can be said, without fear of contradiction, that Harold, My Grandfather, had a full, and certainly an interesting and varied life. He travelled to, and lived in many far flung / exotic places in the world, with his work as an Architect for Raglan Squire & Partners. Something I suspect he could never have foreseen as boy, born and brought up in Chester during the war years.

Harold's Chester roots were a significant and important thread that ran all through his life, from the chums he made at the Kings School and the Tennis Club, to the annual trips back for school and friends & family reunions – the most recent in June this year. His architectural thesis was on the medieval Rows of Chester - a unique feature of Chester's city fabric. Once he achieved his Architects qualification he joined RS&P- a London practice well known for Hilton Hotels and other such prestigious projects.

He married Mary, whom he had known for many years, and their world travelling and expat life began with an assignment to Rangoon in Burma in 1955, for the construction of the Engineering College for Rangoon University. A far cry in culture and climate from the parochial life in rural Cheshire. Returning from Burma Harold was dispatched to the RS&P office in Risley to work on the Atomic Energy Authority Project. Not long after the birth of their only child, Sue, Harold & Mary travelled south to join the London office and ultimately moved to Weybridge in 1962.

However, before settling in Weybridge, it was overseas again - this time 2 years in Iran working on the design

and construction of the Royal Tehran Hilton Hotel. Other foreign visiting assignments followed with the Cyprus and Tunis Hilton Hotels and then subsequently a move westwards to the Caribbean with an hotel at Ocho Rios, Jamaica. This obviously required regular Caribbean trips for site visits & meetings – including a visit to Grand Cayman as part of a feasibility study for a potential development. Sue and Howard subsequently spent 4 years in Grand Cayman and the principal input Harold had at the time was – ‘the mosquitos there are like jumbo jets’, and he was not wrong!

Such was his perceived high life with this foreign exotic travel it was determined in family circles (and particularly among the Peers Family) that he must really be another James Bond working undercover for MI5.

The mid 1970's then took Harold and Mary to Panama for 2 years and then in the 80's it was Bahrain. Bahrain was the end of the expat high life but probably just as well, as Harold was getting a little old for espionage work! More sedate work in London was to follow until his retirement in his 80th year!

Post retirement, not being one to sit around, Harold got involved with the Brooklands Museum working in the Library 2 days a week. Old and vintage cars, along with all sorts of museums, were a particular interest of Harold. If ever he went missing (when asked to wait in a particular place) he could always be found in a museum or place of historical interest. As Sue recently found out on a trip to the Llangollen Canal in Wales.

When not at Brooklands, Harold would be either pottering in his office or in the garage. My Mother says that throughout her life my Grandfather would collect old toasters, alarm clocks and radios to repair them! They never returned from the garage. Such repairs, as far as we can tell, never actually materialised but it was task clearly waiting for the appropriate moment.

Apart from squirrelling away objects for repair Harold had other foibles. The racks and racks of big band or swing music audio cassette tapes, carefully recorded over the years are a feature, not of the garage, but of the TV room at Clare House – clearly speedily accessible at any time. A quick inventory indicates there are some 726 tapes each of 90 minutes duration giving a total of over 1000 hours recorded.

Harold was a keen sportsman – more in a participant way rather than necessarily spectating, although Wimbledon Tennis was a particular favourite.

He disapproved of the Corporate and members enclosures of the modern Wimbledon and much preferred Ground Tickets enabling him to wander the



grounds and visit the outer courts, where he considered himself to be amongst real tennis enthusiasts.

He was a good tennis, badminton and squash player and a dab hand at table tennis. When Howard had begun visiting Sue he had noticed Harold disappear every Wednesday and Friday evening with sports bag in hand. Eventually Howard's curiosity got the better of him and he asked where he went – 'Oatlands Squash Club' was the answer and it was not long before Howard was a member taking up the game that subsequently dominated his post school sporting activities.

Two of Harold's closest friends and colleagues shared memories, which many of you will find so familiar.

Peter Kennedy mentioned that whilst on his first business trip to New York, Harold insisted he see the sights. They were out for 14 hours and did in a day what many would do in a week! Now I know where my Mother gets it from!

Ian Thompson said 'Harold was a good man in every sense of the word. In all the 60 years I knew him I never heard him swear, even when they published the New Years' Honours Lists!'

Many people have said in their letters to the family that he was the Quintessential Gentleman ..... And he was!

## Roy Bowcock (1953) belated report.

Roy graduated in science at Liverpool. He became a teacher and taught for a short time at Kings before moving to Bradford on Avon. Later on he decided to become a full-time market gardener in Cornwall. He died in March 2004.

## John Neil Rutter (1964)

Neil Rutter, of Sandiway, died, aged 71, on 2<sup>nd</sup> January after a short illness. He was loved by his family and had a wide group of friends through his hobbies and interests in Cheshire and beyond. He had a good sense of humour and was a kind, generous, and unconventional man, with a style all his own and a strong sense of fairness.

The family Committal Service was held at Vale Royal Crematorium on 26th January, followed by a Service of Thanksgiving held at Sandiway Methodist Church. The Church was overflowing for the Thanksgiving Service, with family, and friends including those from King's [Mike Masters, Jim Brotherhood, Robin Jones, Richard Birchall, Bill Rutter] and from the various groups and societies in which he was active.

He was brought up in Hartford and Sandiway, attending The Grange School, Hartford, and King's Chester. At school his favourite subject was art, and he excelled at football and cricket. After school he qualified, with Jim Brotherhood, in architecture at the Northern Polytechnic, London, and then after early work in architecture in London, he obtained a degree at Liverpool. As a Chartered Architect his specialty was restoration work on historic buildings including the Ruskin Rooms at Knutsford and many others. He was involved in several prize winning projects, and won a national competition for internal refurbishment of the Royal Liver Building in Liverpool. He worked in practices in Carlisle, Barrow, Birmingham, and Great Watford, before setting up his own practice in the 1990s. He carried out work all over Cheshire until his retirement in 2006.

In 2014 Neil attended the King's School 1964 Leavers' 50th Year Reunion and those who attended were delighted to see him again.

Neil was a regular attender at Sandiway Methodist Church, and had wide interests outside work. Neil sang in amateur operas at school and in Birmingham. On return to Cheshire he was an active member at Northwich Folk Club, singing with an individual style, songs like 'Rose of Allendale'. He sang with groups in Chester and elsewhere in Cheshire, and with a Salvation Army group entertaining at retirement homes.

Neil had his own band for a period, and his appearance with a well-worn guitar, a characteristic cap, and his dog not far away, was well known.

He was a Liberal Democrat activist and committee member, delivering large numbers of leaflets and posters at election times.

A fine sportsman, playing football and cricket for King's first elevens, he played until well into his thirties as a forward for amateur teams wherever he was studying or working, scoring many goals. His unconventional approach included his support for Premier league teams. He was an enthusiastic supporter of both Manchester United AND Manchester City, but his greatest love was for Northwich Victoria. He was a prolific letter writer to the press and to politicians and football managers, having some success in influencing building developments, but having much less influence in Fergie's team selections!

His charming individuality will be greatly missed by all who knew him.

~William Rutter (1961)

## Peter McLoughlin (1985)

Passed away suddenly but peacefully last month

## Reverend Alan Stubbs (1948)

After King's and National Service in the RAF, he worked in local government in Chester, Fleetwood, Ellesmere Port and Halton. He was a mature candidate for the ministry and was ordained in 1986. After serving in Stoke-on-Trent (South) and Market Rasen Methodist Circuits, he retired to Buckley and Deeside Circuit.

## In Memoriam

There is evidence that about 415 OKS were enlisted at the time of the Great War. In addition to Mentions in Dispatches there were 43 DSOs, 9 MCs, 1 Military Medal and 1 Croix de Guerre.

At this time we remember in particular those who fell in the early months of 1917:

- ★ John Oscar Laybourne
- ★ Norman Roe
- ★ Henry Bedo Hobbs
- ★ Robert Parr



## Chester student housing scheme could be named after an OKS!

Developers behind a 379-bed student housing scheme on the site of the railway station car park next to Hoole Bridge will name the complex after a Chester-born railway engineer and Old King's Scholar if their planning application is successful.

Thomas Brassey (1821) was educated at home until the age of 12, when he was sent to King's. As an articled apprentice he helped to survey a new Shrewsbury to Holyhead road (now the A5) being constructed under the engineering expertise of one Thomas Telford.



Brassey was responsible for building much of the world's railways in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. He built around one-third of the railways in Britain, as well as one in every twenty miles of railway in the world; including three-quarters of the lines in France plus major lines in other European countries, Canada, Australia, South America and India. He also built the associated infrastructure including the docks, bridges, viaducts, stations, tunnels and drainage works. Closer to home he built Chester Railway Station, which opened in 1848.

He also progressed the development of steamships, mines, locomotive factories, marine telegraphy, and water supply and sewage systems - part of the London sewerage system he constructed is still in operation today.

## About Us.

CAOKS is the social and professional Association for former King's Chester students founded in 1865. 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

## Officers 2015-2016

### ★ President

Alan Vallance (1983) [alan.vallance65@gmail.com](mailto:alan.vallance65@gmail.com)

### ★ Senior Vice President

Olivia Whitlam (2003) [olivia.whitlam@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:olivia.whitlam@hotmail.co.uk)

### ★ Vice Presidents

Ben Kapur (2004) 07740 351765 (M) 01244 671572 (H) [benjaminpkapur@googlemail.com](mailto:benjaminpkapur@googlemail.com)

Mike Sayer (2002) 07507 846782 (W) [mike.sayer@bentley.co.uk](mailto:mike.sayer@bentley.co.uk)

### ★ Hon. Secretary

Adrian Ackroyd (1974) 01244 390819 (H) [adrian.a.ackroyd@gmail.com](mailto:adrian.a.ackroyd@gmail.com)

### ★ Hon. Treasurer

Nick Phillipson (1977) 01244 300550 (H) 07774 184456 (M) [nickp.philprop@hotmail.com](mailto:nickp.philprop@hotmail.com)

### ★ Junior Vice Presidents

Ben Paxton (2015)

Laurence Ankers (2015)

Megan Poole (2015)

Kartik Upadhyay (2013)

Emily Moss (2013)

Will Marshall (2013)

Arthur Jebb (2012)

Miranda Harle (2012)

Luke Howarth (2012)

Siobhan Barnard (2011)

Joe Benson (2011)

Peter Johnstone (2011)

Oscar Hayward (2010)

Lauren Phillips (2007)

Will Orchard (2007)

Rhodri Owen (2006)

Ben Crooks (2005)

## General Committee Members

- ★ Peter Bernie (1976) 07836 567490 (M) [prjbernie@gmail.com](mailto:prjbernie@gmail.com)
- ★ Paul Consterdine (2001) 01978 853796 (H) [paulconsterdine@btinternet.com](mailto:paulconsterdine@btinternet.com)
- ★ Steve Downey 01244 689533 (W) [stevedowney@kingschester.co.uk](mailto:stevedowney@kingschester.co.uk)
- ★ Robin Hardi (1987) 07798 700496 (M) [robinhardi@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:robinhardi@yahoo.co.uk)
- ★ Alex Horne (1985) 01244 323232 (H) [alex@matthewsofchester.com](mailto:alex@matthewsofchester.com)
- ★ Michael Hurleston (1981) [mike.hurleston@gmail.com](mailto:mike.hurleston@gmail.com)
- ★ Will Lamb (1971) 01244 534830 (H) [sixhitter@hotmail.com](mailto:sixhitter@hotmail.com)
- ★ Jeremy Lloyd (1963) 01244 323548 (H) [jemandjennylloyd@aol.com](mailto:jemandjennylloyd@aol.com)
- ★ Simon Malone 01244 660030 (H)
- ★ Kate Phillipson (2010) 07947-648039 (M) [kate\\_phillipson@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:kate_phillipson@hotmail.co.uk)
- ★ James Szerdy (1983) [james.szerdy@dwf.co.uk](mailto:james.szerdy@dwf.co.uk) (W)
- ★ David Wilkes (1967) [djwilkes1@gmail.com](mailto:djwilkes1@gmail.com)

## Exhibition Fund Trustees

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