



CAOKS Newsletter

The Association of Former Pupils of The King's School Chester

Number 58

November 2010

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President's Message

I am delighted to be writing as your President. It is a considerable privilege as a former member of staff to be able to take office. I hope that I will be able to follow the excellent example set by Joe Marsh and Steve Downey, not to mention all the many others who have 'stepped up from the ranks' for a year.

I can at least claim to have attended another Henry VIII 1541 foundation. This is a signal year in the school's history and we celebrate the 50th year of life at the Wrexham Rd site. How the school has changed both in terms of buildings and its make-up. This was very apparent to the group of 1968 leavers who gathered recently at school. I was delighted to meet again 'boys' whom I had encountered when I was just a new member of staff. The school made the group most welcome and the new student heads of school were on hand to show people round. I hope that others may be encouraged to have year reunions which the school and CAOKS are anxious to promote.

I have already enjoyed attending several school events. The new style prize-giving at the Chester Racecourse was a great success. At this, as well as at a concert at school and in the Leavers' service I was struck in particular by the very high standard of musical performance in a wide variety of genres.

I have to report one casualty of our annual programme and that is the Cricket match versus the school. For the first time that I can remember and despite valiant efforts, Jeremy Brummitt failed to raise a full team. I hope that next year we shall enjoy the renewal of this event.

And so to the 50th Anniversary celebrations. We enjoyed an excellent weekend with tours of the school, a concert, a Ball and The President's Lunch. In addition there was the rowing event on the river and a cathedral service. Some detail and pictures will be found in this issue.

I hope that members and indeed any former



Paul Consterdine

pupils will try to attend some function or other. The London Supper at The Bluebird restaurant in Chelsea is on Thursday 28th October – please contact me as soon as possible if you would like to attend. Members will already be aware of the change in date of the Annual Dinner – now to be held on Sat 9th April 2011. Please put the date in your diary and start getting a table together. I have invited a distinguished former pupil and a past member of staff to speak.

I must record my thanks to two key members of the Association – Nick Phillipson and Adrian Ackroyd for all their work in organising and supervising our affairs. During the next year we will be having discussions with school about the future and I hope to be able to report on our deliberations in due course.

Paul Consterdine



Dates For Your Diary

COMMEMORATION SERVICE

Wednesday 20th October 2010 at 10.30am
The Headmaster invites members to attend at Chester Cathedral.

Contact: Angela Wilson 01244-689523 (B) or angelawilson@kingschester.co.uk

LONDON SUPPER

Thursday 28th October 2010 from 7.00pm
An informal 3 course supper in a stylish restaurant for £30 a head
Bluebird Restaurant, 350 Kings Road Chelsea, London, SW3 5UU

Contact Paul Consterdine on 01978-853796 or paulconsterdine@btinternet.com

SNOOKER v GRAMMAR SCHOOL OB

Friday 12th November 2010 at 7.00pm
Dinner followed by the Competition for the Cup City Club, St Peter's Churchyard, Chester
Contact Nick Phillipson on 01244-300550 or nick.philprop@hotmail.co.uk

WINTER SUPPER at the BREWERY TAP

Monday 6th December 2010 at 7.00pm
All are invited to an informal get together at the Brewery Tap, 52 Lower Bridge Street, Chester.
Contact: Peter Bernie 07836-567490 (M)

ROWING PUDDING RACES

Saturday 11th December 2010 at 9.00am
Including the annual CAOKS vs School race, with mince pies & mulled wine for spectators.
The School Boathouse, the Groves, River Dee.
Contact Stuart Gillies gillies@hushmail.com

CAROL SERVICE

Thursday 16th December 2010 at 10.30am
The Headmaster invites all members to attend this popular service in the Cathedral.

Contact: Angela Wilson 01244-689523 (B) or angelawilson@kingschester.co.uk

WINTER SUPPER at the BEAR and BILLET

Friday 7th January 2011 at 7.00pm
Informal gathering and supper on the 1st floor, Bear & Billet, 94 Lower Bridge Street, Chester
Contact: Peter Bernie 07836-567490 (M)

WINTER SUPPER at the ALBION

Monday 7th February 2011 at 7.00pm
Informal gathering and supper at the Albion Inn, Park Street, Chester
Contact: Peter Bernie 07836-567490 (M)

ADVANCE NOTICE

145th ANNUAL DINNER

Saturday 9th April 2011 from 6.30pm at the Grosvenor Hotel, Eastgate Street, Chester, dinner at 7.30pm

The President warmly invites all members to the annual reunion.

Advance bookings will be taken from December 2010 (please see webalumnus news section then for details)

Contact: Nick Phillipson on 01244-300550 (H) or nick.philprop@hotmail.co.uk

From The Dinner Secretary



Just a few dates to remind members about – the London Supper in late October, hosted by the President and particularly aimed at those living in the South-East, and the always enjoyable snooker evening against the Grammar School Old Boys on Friday 12th November. Non players are most welcome. Full details of all forthcoming events are in 'Dates for the Diary'.

Annual Dinner 2011

Finally, as members are aware, the date of the 2011 Annual Dinner has been moved from early January to Saturday 9th April. It will be held once

again at the Grosvenor Hotel. Although it might seem a long way off, time will fly in the New Year so please note the date in your diary now. We will have full details available from December 2010, including costs, menus etc. Bookings will be accepted from then. These details will be available to view in the CAOKS news section of Webalumnus, and additionally an e-mailshot will be sent to recent dinner attendees. (A final reminder and booking form will also be included in the Spring newsletter).

Nick Phillipson

From the Editor



I'm now wearing my other hat in order to add a few more remarks.

This edition carries a full tribute to Jim Siddall a much revered former member of staff. We are very grateful to Keith James for composing this and the help given by Jim's family. Everyone has

a story to tell and I am always very pleased to receive any accounts with school or career connections. The next edition will be early in the new year.

Paul Consterdine

From the Headmaster

It has been a memorable, exceptional start of term. Schools need the support of their former pupils, their parents and their governors, and this term has seen the real, tangible evidence of all three types of support: in turn, the school is in terrific heart and shape!

Old King's Scholars supported us in their dozens at the 50th Anniversary weekend, which was a wonderful two days of celebrations, commemorating 50 years since the school had the vision of a new site and a new shape. Actually, as several OKS told me, teaching had started in the Wrexham Road science labs in 1958; still, the Exhibition centred firstly on those 1960 celebrations, and decade by decade showed highlights of memory, uniforms and programmes, magazines and photos: we must now find ways of preserving the work Caryl Roberts and James Carr (OKS) did for us all. Saturday September 11th also saw the unveiling of the anniversary sculpture (a tree with 50 copper leaves, each individually made) by the Rt Hon Frank Field MP, as well as, later, a Gala Ball. Sunday saw rowing on the Dee pitting OKS

boats against school crews (honours even) and the President's Lunch. Thank you to all.

Parents have supported us by filling the school fuller than ever. Surveys only tell us so much, I know, but we now run 'parent satisfaction surveys' and they show overwhelming admiration for what The King's School is doing for young people.

Finally, Governor support is most tangibly seen by their decision to proceed with the long-awaited Theatre project. Between this September and next summer the school hall will be closed, as it is transformed into a new theatre, with retractable raked seating, new backstage and technical facilities and a new entrance foyer and offices. All very exciting indeed, and a mark of confidence in the vision we all share: a King's School which is unquestionably the great co-ed school of the North West and one of the great schools of England!

Chris Ramsey



*"Old King's
Scholars supported
us in their dozens at
the 50th Anniversary
weekend..."*

CAOKS Events

Golf at Eaton Club

The annual golf tournament was held on 21 May in glorious weather at Eaton Club followed by a most enjoyable supper. There were a number of new faces which was encouraging. The winner was our recently retired President, David Atkin, with 35 stableford points followed by Gareth Prestige [34] who also won the longest drive competition. Dom Evans won the nearest the pin prize.

50th Anniversary Weekend - Ball and President's Lunch

To celebrate the 50th anniversary of the School's move from Cathedral Close in 1960 to the Wrexham Road site, a number of events were organised over the weekend of 10th – 12th September. The large marquee erected in the School grounds hosted an enjoyable concert on the Friday evening. A very successful and well attended open day was held during Saturday when visiting alumni were impressed by the developments the School has made since their time there. Saturday culminated in the Anniversary Ball with over 400 parents, alumni and staff sitting down to an excellent four course meal, followed by the highly entertaining School Big Band, and rounded off with a disco to dance the remainder of the night away. Alex Horne acted as toastmaster for the event in his own inimitable style! CAOKS organised the pre-ordering of the wine and champagne for the meal. Two of our new student recruits, Kate Phillipson and Charlotte Gillies managed the wine table during the evening.



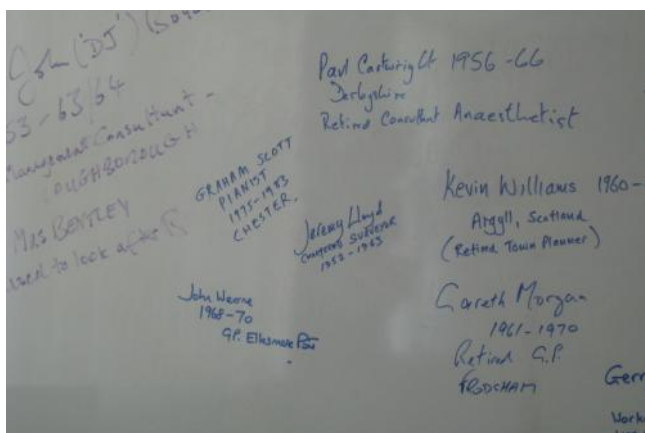
On the Sunday our President held a lunch gathering in the reception marquee to celebrate the occasion. 40 members and guests, including some rowers who had been competing on the river earlier in the morning, turned up to enjoy a drink, a barbecue, and home produced cooking and desserts courtesy of Jane and Kate Phillipson and Adrian Ackroyd. Many took the opportunity offered by the Headmaster to have a look around the School between courses!

Our thanks go to Liz and Vicky from the Development Office for their help over the weekend. All in all an excellent weekend of events to celebrate a notable milestone in the School's history. (More pictures from the weekend can be found overleaf. Ed)

Nick Phillipson



Photos from the 50th Anniversary Weekend



Chester FC—The Rebirth

Following the article in the last newsletter about the demise of Chester City Football Club and its origins from a merger of Chester Rovers and King's School Old Boys in 1885, I thought it appropriate to give readers an update.

The phoenix has indeed risen – Chester FC was officially born in April 2010, and resides back at the Deva Stadium in Chester. After a further anxious wait the FA placed the new club in the Evo-stik Division 1 North (level 4). The old club had dropped out of the Conference Premier (level 1) - so the drop has not been as severe as feared. The club is now 100% owned by the fans (there are now over 2500 members) and at long last is debt free, with the chance to establish a sound financial base and have strong links with the local community. The club has a new major sponsor, MBNA, and has recently become the 'Exacta' Stadium following their generous sponsorship. On its lower budget the club can no longer afford to employ full time professional players, but the manager has gathered together a good group of part time players who seem to enjoy their football more!



The first home match in September attracted a very impressive gate of 2734, including many families which are great to see. Also attending was Radio 5live's Colin Murray and ex professionals Pat Nevin and Perry Groves who have watched and commented on Chester City's demise. Murray has paid £2000 to sponsor the two ex players to be 'named but unused substitutes' in Chester's matches!

So the future looks good – and on the playing side the start has been very promising with promotion up the leagues the target. If you wish to keep up with the latest news on this exciting adventure please go to www.chesterfc.com or join CityFansUnited (£5.00 pa) and own a piece of the action!



Nick Phillipson

1968 Leavers Reunion

Martin Balderson organised a reunion of 1968 leavers on the weekend of 6th and 7th August and 9 former pupils attended:

Martin Balderson
 Martin Roberts
 David Peover
 Mike Town
 Tony Statham
 Ormonde Joel
 Jonathan Powell
 Steve Parrish
 Alan Green

Martin Balderson writes:

We were welcomed to Kings by Vicky Titmuss and then given a guided tour of the school by 3 Sixth Form Students who had been kind enough to give up their Saturday morning to show us around. It was wonderful to visit King's after so many years and it brought back many happy memories. Although the buildings have changed and developed, the essence of the school is the same.

After coffee and biscuits we had time to look at the memorabilia that Vicky and her team had prepared for us, including School Lists, School magazines, and lots of old photographs. Of particular interest was a photograph of the "womens chorus" from the 1962 production of The Pirates of Penzance - the chorus was made up of boys from the younger classes including at least 3 members of our reunion, and very pretty they looked too!

After leaving the school, we had lunch at The Tudor House, followed by a leisurely stroll around old haunts in Chester. In the evening we all assembled at Francs Restaurant where we enjoyed a wonderful dinner whilst exchanging many reminiscences.

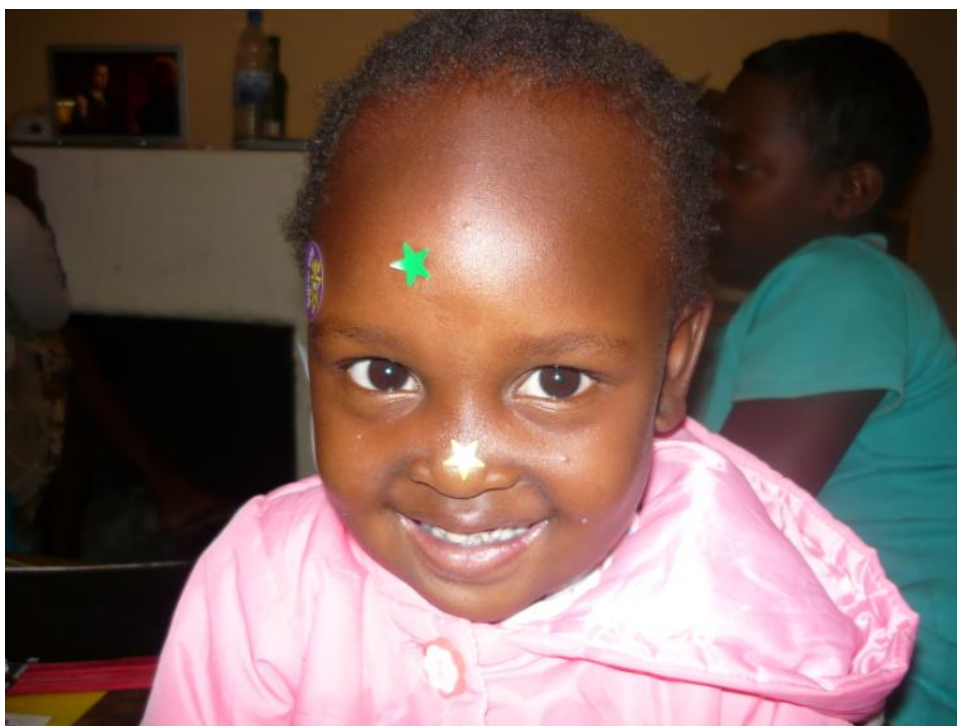
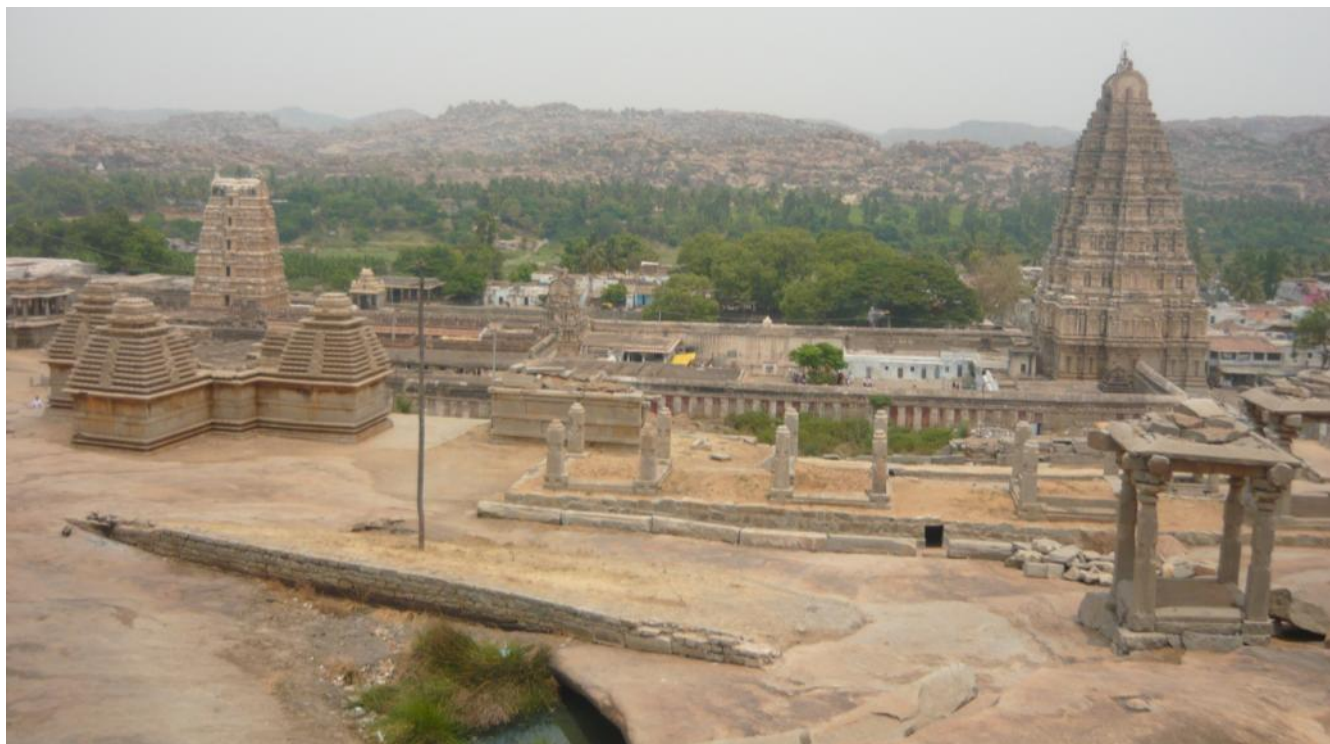
An excellent weekend, with our visit to the King's School as the "icing on the cake". Thanks to all who made it possible.

Martin Balderson

Baty Travel Award - Clare Bayliss

Bored of wet and miserable Britain and fed up of exams year after year? I know I was; although the temptation of a drink fuelled student life was tempting I knew that I needed a break before starting afresh. Travelling and working sounded a lot more enticing then having to use my brain again. Whether it's working a ski season, doing charity work in Romania or just travelling South-East Asia there really is something for everyone.

As classmates packed for university and sorted through their student finance I shopped for mosquito nets and stocked up on industrial size tubs of sun cream. Before I knew it I was on a plane to Tanzania with 7 other gap year students whom I had met through the company, "OysterWorldwide". I was based in Tanzania for 3 months teaching English to secondary school students. It was absolutely amazing. While I was there not only did I personally tutor a teacher's daughter, set up girls football, netball and an English club but I also managed to learn basic Swahili (a lot easier than it sounds), how to kill a spider with a frying pan, haggle and how to chase rats with brooms (although that did backfire as I broke my flipflops). I also learnt how to make the most of so little, my patience grew and I was touched by how generous people with so little can be. With 3 months of teaching and a week of safari under my belt December started and the Christmas holidays began which meant the end of school thus I said some sad farewells and thank yous.



However I wasn't ready for Britain yet and I extended my stay for an extra month and along with the girls in my group, who are now some of my closest friends, I climbed Kilimanjaro and reached the summit (and yes I did 'chunder' everywhere in the process) before travelling further South to Dar-Es-Salaam and catching a ferry over to Zanzibar where I spent Christmas and New Year. Instead of turkey and mince pies I had barbecued fish and rice and spent New Year at a full moon party on a beach which carried on in full swing despite the tear gas bomb that went off half way through... 'T.I.A'.



I flew home on the 14th January and was content at home for a month catching up with family and friends. However I soon got the travel bug again and after reading 'Shantaram' by Gregory David Roberts I decided that India was where I next wanted to explore. My first experience travelling had been organised by a company however after 4 months of living in a different country I had grown a lot more confident and figured it would be easy enough to backpack and organise it myself with my classmate, Rebecca Logan. We spent a month travelling India using the public train which was a fantastic experience as we got to talk to a lot of local people and other backpackers; as well as giving us some funny experiences such as a man haggling Becca for her iPod and a ladyboy strutting his stuff up the aisle. The highlights of India for me were exploring the ancient ruins of Hampi on our own motorbikes (which we hired for a pound for the day), the Taj Mahal and exploring the vibrant markets in Jodhpur.



Without a doubt my gap year did have its low lights such as suffering badly from altitude sickness on the descent of Kili, having to sleep on a filthy overnight bus in India with my hands out of the window to catch a breeze due to sun blisters and maybe even the odd pang of homesickness but I would not change a single thing for the world. I would just like to end by saying a big thank you to CAOKS for the Baty Travel Award which helped me achieve an amazing gap year.

Clare Bayliss

School News

From the Senior School:

- The King's School are delighted with the number of A* graded A levels achieved by their Sixth Form students this year, with over a fifth of the total A level results graded A*. Almost a third of individual pupils achieved more than 3A*/A grades: 29 pupils got 3A*/A or higher, 8 pupils got 4A*/A or more and 3 pupils gained 5A*/A. Three pupils achieved outstanding results: with 5 A* -James Carr, 18, of Hawarden and Emma Walker, 18, of Guilden Sutton and Sam Lewis, 18, of Chester who gained 4 As and 1 A*. Gaining 4 A*/A: were Sophie Clough, 18, of Conway (3 at A*), Will Moreland, 18, of Great Sutton (3 at A*), Charlotte Gillies, 18, of Christleton (2 at A*) and Isabel Hughes, 18, of Chester (2 at A*), Jack Webb, 18, of Chester (3 A*). 2 pupils gained achieved over 3 A*: Matt Ireland, 18 of Prestatyn, James Oldman, 18, of Holywell. Overall there was a 99% pass rate and 77% of students who submitted their AQA Extended Projects gained A*/A. This is a new introduction for King's this year.
- Once again this year, King's pupils have achieved excellent results at GCSE. Almost 40% of pupils gained A*/A grades in ten subjects or more and just under three quarters of all grades awarded were at A* or A. Miriam Bowen 16, of Oswestry passed 12 GCSE with 10 A* and 2 A grades. Five other students gained straight A* in all their ten subjects – Kate Coppack, 15, of Hawarden, Felicity Elsegood, 16, of Bunbury, Laura Haylock, 16, of Llanbedr DC, Luke Howarth, 16, of Mickle Trafford and Henry Crouch-Smith, 16, of Great Barrow. A further 29 pupils gained 10 A*/A grade GCS and one student gained 11 GCSEs with A/A*.
- Following their superb performances during the 50th Anniversary Weekend, the King's Big Band played to a sell out audience on 21st September at Eaton Hall in a fundraising evening for the Chester Lions Association.
- On Wednesday 8th September, a group of musicians from King's entertained over 100 guests in the Long Room at Eaton Hall in aid of Tarporley War Memorial hospital. The clarinet quartet of Lewis Ankers, Ben Cuffin-Munday, Tommy Metcalf and Edward Andrade opened the evening. Solos were performed by Selim Ungut and Tommy Metcalf on piano, Jeremy Telford on cello and Edward Andrade on clarinet. Simon Bate (an ex-pupil) joined the group and played his own composition on piano and trumpet. The evening was a great success and there were many positive comments from the audience about the standard of music played.
- Six students from The King's School took part in the Intermediate Mathematical Olympiad ran by the United Kingdom Mathematics Trust. Of the participants, only the top 25% receive Certificates of Distinction; the rest receive Certificates of Participation. Additionally, the top 100 in each year group receive a medal and the top 50 in each year group receive a book prize. Only the top 1600 from the Maths Challenge were invited to sit the Olympiad - a fantastic achievement in itself! Eleanor Barnard (3MG), Jeremy Telford (4DL), Sean Telford (4DL), Matthew Temple (4AC) and Luke Howarth (5KL) have been awarded "Certificates of Merit." Matthew Hill (4JH) was awarded a Certificate of Participation.
- Sophie Clough (U6AM) was selected to represent Wales U21s in the Celtic Cup competition in Ireland. Wales competed against Scotland, Ireland and France. This was Sophie's first representation in international competition at this age group, having previously represented Wales at U18 level on over 20 occasions.

From the Junior School

- Once again the Year 6 children at The King's School Junior School wowed audiences with their production of A Midsummer Night's Dream. All children in the year group had a part in the play which is a Shakespeare 4 Kidz musical interpretation of the original play, designed especially for children. Directed by Junior School teacher Mrs Vanessa Gibson, the pupils worked extremely hard to produce a performance of quality which truly belies their tender years. The actors were accompanied by a band of fifteen Year 5 pupils, directed by teacher Mrs Barbara Roberts and supported by other members of the teaching staff with set design, front of house, costumes etc.
- King's won the U11 Soccer Tournament Plate competition for the second consecutive year. Having played very well in the early stages of the main competition, we were eliminated, despite playing some good football, due to our inability to convert numerous goal-scoring opportunities. The final stages of the Plate competition saw us beat Bury GS 2-0 in the semi-final before overcoming Stockport GS 1-0 in the final.



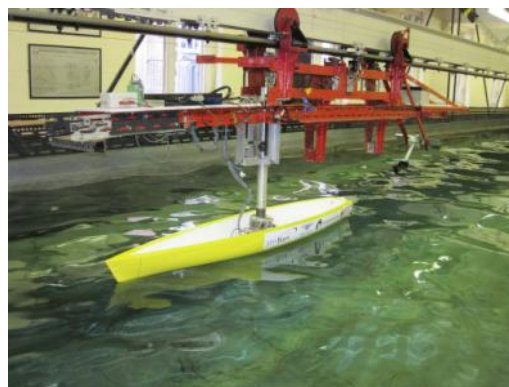
Alumni News

- **Mark Swinton** MA, FRCO (1999) is Director of Music, Kendal Parish Church.
- The Queen has been pleased to approve the appointment of **Robin Godfrey Spencer, Esq., (1973) Q.C.**, to be a Justice of the High Court with effect from 14 July 2010. The Lord Chief Justice will assign Mr. Spencer to the Queen's Bench Division. Mr. Spencer, 55, was called to the Bar by Gray's Inn in 1978 and took Silk in 1999. He was appointed a Recorder in 1998 and is approved to sit as a deputy High Court Judge.
- **Dr Richard Eales (1969)** has been teaching at Kent University and has recently published an English Heritage pamphlet on Peveril Castle. He is a chess Grandmaster.
- **John Hardman (1963)** has a book about to be published by OUP.
- **Stephen Howarth (1963)** is researching the influence of the Unitarians on English society during the first half of the 19th century.

Project Torpedalo - Update

In the Spring Newsletter of this year, I wrote a short article about an ambitious trans-Atlantic pedal-boat project called Project Torpedalo. The project sees myself and a colleague designing and building a 9-metre-long carbon fibre pedalo, which we'll attempt to pedal from the Canary Isles to Antigua at the end of next year to raise £250,000 for the MND Association and Make-A-Wish. In the seven months since that newsletter was published, a huge amount of progress has been made towards the ultimate goal of pedalling a boat 3000 miles across the Atlantic!

With the design freeze of the exterior surfaces of the boat rapidly approaching (19th November), simulation and analysis work is almost complete. Three rounds of hydrodynamic testing at the Newcastle University's MAST Towing Tank has produced a hull shape that has 40% greater hydrodynamic efficiency than the current ocean rowing boats. The shape and size of the internal compartments of the boat has been optimised around digital models of myself and my crewmate Mark and all of the equipment that we'll be taking. Boat stability has been carefully calculated, simulated and adjusted to ensure that the boat self-rights in the event of a capsize. The upper surfaces of the boat will be finalised after aerodynamic testing in the large-scale wind tunnel at MIRA in Nuneaton, as although the boat will only cruise at 3 knots the wind could be up to 40 knots on a daily basis. Then, all that stands between us and the start of mould-machining for carbon fibre surface production is some final structural analysis.



Final hydrodynamic testing

While all of this design and analysis work has been happening, we've also been sourcing all of the £40,000-worth of equipment that we'll need. I'm pleased to report that we have almost all of it confirmed, without spending a single pound, through around forty sponsorship deals. We've also been gaining sponsors to help us promote the project through support for our planned live events. It's extremely exciting when a new package of equipment arrives from a sponsor, but it also serves as a reminder that our departure date of 4th December 2011 draws ever closer!

Marketing and publicity plans for the project have also advanced a great deal. We have confirmed exhibition space at the London, Liverpool and Southampton Boat Shows next year, as well as presence at the Geneva Motor Show as part of the Bentley Motors stand. On top of this, we're organising two events of our own - a drinks reception at the Jack Barclay showroom in Mayfair at the start of November, and a Gala Dinner and Fundraising Auction also to be held in London, in May 2011. We've been contracted to TV production company Lion Eyes TV in Manchester, who have just completed filming of a pilot film which is now going to commissioning editors at various channels. BBC2 have already expressed initial interest in commissioning a documentary about the project...watch this space!

Latest news about the project, along with photos and videos (some serious, some not!) can be found at www.torpedalo.com. You can also follow us on Twitter and on Facebook (www.facebook.com/torpedalo).

Mike Sayer



Mark and Mike with hero Richard Noble!



A sketch of the boat - undoubtedly not your average pedalo!

Obituaries

MIKE RICKARD, (Evans Michaelmas 1955-Summer 1962), b. 08 Sep 1943, died recently. Mike was a chartered chemist. He worked for Quest International [Unilever] and was Site Director//Business Manager Savoury Europe 1962-1997.

PROFESSOR GEOFFREY DUTTON, BSc PhD DSc Hon Phil D LLD. (1943) b. 30 Dec 1924.

JAMES BRIAN LEWIS (1959) Brian died recently, aged 70. Born locally, he spent most of his life living in Chester. He was a considerable scholar and went on from Cambridge to be a dedicated schoolmaster. He will be remembered with affection by the many whom he taught at various school and colleges, including Wallasey Grammar School, Sir John Deane's and West Cheshire College. He was a keen historian and prominent in other areas such as the English Speaking Union. We extend our sympathy to his wife Ann and the family.

EDWARD IAN MASON (c1947) died on 28 April 2010. He left King's when the family moved to Shipley so he completed his schooling at Bradford Grammar School. He worked in insurance all his career, mainly abroad with the Royal Insurance Company (in Kenya, Nigeria, Malawi, Kuwait and Jamaica), before retiring to Newton Stewart, Scotland. He is survived by a son (Robert) and daughter (Katherine).

JOHN BRAMALL (1956) Tributes have been paid to former Mayor of Chester John Bramall who has died after a long illness. Born in Tattenhall on 27, December 1938, John attended The King's School, then went on to agricultural college in Cirencester before worked in marketing for Bibby's. In 1961 he married Elvira, a native of Kassel in Germany and they have two grown-up children and four grandchildren. He took over the family farm in 1973. John joined Chester City Council in 1981 representing the Waverton ward and was Council Leader from 1987 to 1990. John was Mayor between 1990 - 91 and stood down in May 1992. The title of Lord Mayor was created in that year. Cheshire West and Chester Council's Culture and Recreation Executive Member Richard Short who was also a former Lord Mayor of Chester City Council said: "It was very sad to hear of John's death. He was a steadfast leader and had an easy-going and relaxed approach to his role with an underlying strength of character. His many friends will miss him." Sue Proctor, who was Deputy Mayor when John was Mayor, said: "He was a true gentleman, kind and considerate, admired and respected and looked up to by all members of the Council, irrespective of party affiliation." Former Lord Mayor, Brian Bailey, said: "My wife and I have been friends of John and Elvira for a quarter of a century and it was our privilege as Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress to attend John's 70th birthday celebration in 2008. John was a first class representative for the people of Waverton and in his work for the City Council was always courteous and thoughtful - possessed of a strong resolve, but never dogmatic or unnecessarily confrontational - a role model for all councillors." John took part in amateur dramatics with the Tattenhall Players. He enjoyed cricket and tennis and loved music playing the piano and guitar. John's funeral took place at Chester Crematorium followed by a Service of Thanksgiving at St Peter's Church, Waverton on Friday 2 May.

Kenneth James Siddall (1924-201)

Some Personal Views of his Life and Times

Despite his parents living in Hoole, Jim's birth certificate shows that he was born at Coriander, Denbigh Castle, on 17th February 1924. This he ascribed to the superior midwifery services available in Wales at the time and that as a result of Nurse Owen's delivery, he was, at least technically, a Welshman. That Jim became a pre-war pupil, a Cathedral chorister and, in due course, a master at King's was only due to further medical skills and some good fortune. At the tender age of four he fell into a lime-pit and was rescued by a chance passer-by. Not only was his sight threatened but his very existence; he only returned to good health after a long convalescence. He joined the school and became a member of the small but growing band of oarsmen in those pre-war days of limited and quite heavy boats.

The experience of the lime-pit evidently did not have an adverse effect on his voice. Keith Lysons, his long time friend and teaching colleague, tells of Jim's terrors of being a Cathedral boy soloist, this when singing Felix Mendelssohn's "Oh for the Wings of a Dove", his very first solo. This experience no doubt contributed to Jim's love of classical music which gave him so much enjoyment, particularly in his later years.

After war service Jim looked to a career in teaching and returned to become one of new Headmaster Leslie Harvey's early recruits. He well remembered entering the old school through the large door in Werburgh Street, reserved for staff and visitors. Then, using the bottom section of the spiral staircase (staff only), up its second section, used by all, to eventually reach the staff common room at the very top of the building. He was one of the new post-war cohort, along with, in particular, Alf Owen, Keith Lysons and Joe Marsh. Both Alf and Joe have sadly passed on but Keith Lysons, who recently celebrated his 90th birthday, remains in very good form, living in Matlock, Derbyshire.

Jim's principal subject was Woodwork, taught in a small workshop at Arnold House, the Junior School site in Walpole Street. In addition, the premises comprised the school gymnasium and the parking area for the school bus. The workshop's location probably suited Jim very well as he lived only a stone's throw away in Cambrian View. This enabled him to cycle to and from the main school and its satellites at the Bluecoat (for lunch) and Arnold House in a very short time indeed.

James Siddall was a very precise and proper schoolmaster. His brylcreamed dark hair and heavy framed glasses gave him a serious, composed air which, when allied to constant smart dress and proper speech, always invited respect. His workshop, smelling of newly sawn timber, shelack, sharpening oil and even, on occasions, bubbling glue was in its pristine state an invitation to pupils to acquire new skills in a welcoming, tidy and most suitable atmosphere.

In his initial years Woodwork did not occupy all his time and he undertook some general teaching with Junior School pupils. It was not long, however, before Jim Bentley asked the Head for some assistance in the Geography Department above Abbey Gateway. Jim Siddall took up this fresh challenge and also became Form Master for Remove B. Jim's pre-war rowing interest had continued upon his return, so much so that he built a motor boat for rowing staff to use. The Chester Chronicle carried an article and photograph, showing the launch of "The Jimsid" in June 1964. It was perhaps ironic that he left King's a month later for pastures new.

I first met Jim on joining Remove B in September 1955. The new boys had lined up in the yard (now Barclay's car park) which contained a long bike shed and was overlooked by the Choir School. We were ushered into the lower corridor; Remove A took off to the left towards the office where "Hank" (Mr Hankinson) the School Secretary and sole administrator of the school was to be found. Remove B on the other hand angled slightly right into the immediate, dimly lit confines of our cramped classroom. It was at the bottom of the back stairs leading up to Bob Sutton's music room, the gallery and main hall. This small classroom was granted some natural light through highly placed leaded windows looking towards the Town Hall. It has changed little to this day, now being used as Barclay's staff canteen.

In retrospect, what perhaps mattered to pupils (most of whose fees were met in the form of City or County free places) was the ability and quality of those who taught us. That the school needed new facilities was not in doubt. The move to Wrexham Road in 1960 followed by the academic uplift brought about initially by Arthur Munday saw a great transformation take place. In 1955, however, it was a case of make do with what there was. Old buildings on three separate sites and playing fields on Lache Lane meant poor working conditions and much time wasting, an almost Dickensian state of affairs.

Through all this gloom shone members of staff whose professional pride was so obvious. To me Jim Siddall exemplified this. From a personal perspective in twelve short months he imbued in me a confidence that had been so lacking when I joined King's. For that I shall be forever grateful. Not that his efforts in my direction were totally successful! He was most succinct (and in my case prophesied my ultimate Woodwork failure) when he wrote my Lent term Woodwork report - 'all thumbs at the moment'. In today's world of political correctness those words would be actionable.

The move to Wrexham Road in June 1960 consolidated the school's teaching. The Woodwork Department occupied a (still small) classroom on the main corridor overlooking the quad. Jim was extremely proud to be one of the teachers whose departments were visited by HM the Queen Mother. To be filmed greeting her was a bonus. That official opening of the new school did, incidentally, occur on 22nd June 1960 during the 'O' level season. Those of us taking History the following day had little opportunity for last minute revision. Such unbelievable timing would not occur today.

The advent of a new Headmaster (in this case Arthur Munday) often coincides with staff moving on in their careers and so it was in Jim's case. He moved south with Mary and their four children to a new position at the Friends' School, Saffron Walden, which lasted some three or four years. At the conclusion of this short spell, he responded to a request from the Head of Giggleswick School, North Yorkshire, which would utilise his skills to the full. The workshops at "Gigg" had lain unused and unloved for many a year. He was initially charged with their renovation and subsequently spent, for many happy years, the majority of his teaching career in that beautiful part of Yorkshire. He carried on, part-time, after official retirement continuing to enjoy great satisfaction and much success.

I renewed my acquaintance with Jim when updating the Association's subscription records. I subsequently visited him whilst undertaking the ascents of the local Three Peaks. His cottage lay in the picturesque village of Giggleswick close by both church and pub. We remained in contact when he moved to the more convenient town of Skipton, although, sadly, Mary passed away leaving him a widower for quite some time. He did, however, continue to live in a very ordered fashion. He took the Telegraph daily and even when mobility became a problem he would make the steep descent into Skipton to shop. His day was enriched by Radio Four (until 10.00 am) and then the music of Classic FM for its remainder. He had an immaculate home workshop and had renovated his home to have a first floor lounge, enjoying views over church, castle and away to Skipton Moor beyond. He and Mary collected some fine furnishings; his particular pride and joy was the Chester made long case clock by John Smith.

Jim died on 18th June 2010, aged 86. His funeral service at Skipton Parish Church commenced with his wicker coffin borne into the strains of a boy soprano, an old recording of "Oh for the Wings of a Dove". He was buried at Woodland Cemetery at Rathmell in the Ribbles Valley. His grave looks towards the first of the Three Peaks - Pen-y-Ghent and is close by Giggleswick. His last resting place will be marked by a spindle tree; how appropriate for someone who had not only spent his life working with wood but had also been instrumental in planting many fresh trees.

Sandra and I had attended both funeral and burial on 6th July. Later that week we took our places with my fellow Governors and the whole school family at the end of summer term Leavers' Service in Chester Cathedral. It was so poignant that Zara Fyfe, a sixth form leaver, should so beautifully sing "Oh for the Wings of a Dove". The circle was complete.

Keith James

Addendum

I am indebted to Nicholas Siddall, who was a one time pupil at King's, for his assistance in some details which Jim had committed to paper for his heirs. I was delighted to speak to and exchange correspondence with Keith Lysons who I last met many years ago crossing the stepping stones on the River Dove under Thorpe Cloud in Derbyshire. I hope that by expanding my thoughts about some aspects of school in general, others might feel moved to provide more memories for the Association newsletter.

Leavers' Destinations

Aberdeen	Mechanical Engineering	2010
Aberdeen	Biomedical Science (Pharmacology)	2010
Aberystwyth	Environmental Earth Science	2010
Aston	Logistics	2010
Bath	Natural Sciences	2010
Birmingham	English Literature and Philosophy	2011
Birmingham	Philosophy and Political Science	2010
Birmingham City	English and Drama	2010
Bradford	Chemistry with Industrial Experience	2010
Bradford	Biomedical Science	2010
Bristol	Medicine	2010
Bristol	Medicine	2010
Bristol	Anatomical Science	2010
Bristol	Zoology	2010
Bristol	Aeronautical Engineering	2010
Bristol	Veterinary Science	2010
Bristol	Biology	2010
Bristol UWE	Architecture and Planning	2010
Buckingham	Economics with Information Systems	2010
Cambridge	Computer Science	2011
Cambridge	Geography	2010
Cambridge	Medicine	2010
Cardiff	Zoology	2010
Cardiff	Medicine	2010
Cardiff	Dentistry	2010
Chester	Fitness and Health	2010
Coventry	Motorsport Engineering	2010
Coventry	Industrial Design	2010
Durham	Business Economics	2010
Durham	Physics	2010
Durham	Aeronautics	2010
Durham	Natural Sciences	2010
Durham	Archaeology	2010
Heythrop College	Philosophy	2010
Hull	Law	2010
Imperial College, London (ICL)	Biology	2010
Keele	Biomedical Sciences	2010
Kings College, London	French and Hispanic Studies	2010
Lancaster	Accounting and Finance	2010
Leeds	Sociology	2010
Leeds	Chemistry	2010
Leeds	Medical Microbiology	2010
Leeds	Medical Sciences	2010
Leeds	Biology	2010
Leeds	Architectural Engineering (International)	2010
Leeds	Philosophy	2010

Leeds	English Language and Literature	2010
Leicester	History	2010
Leicester	English	2010
Liverpool	English	2010
Liverpool	Medicine	2010
Liverpool	Biological Sciences	2011
Liverpool	Medicine	2010
London (Southbank)	Criminology	2010
Loughborough	Industrial Design and Technology	2010
Manchester	Engineering	2010
Manchester	Geography	2010
Manchester Met	English and Philosophy	2011
Manchester Met	French Studies	2010
Newcastle	Architectural Studies	2010
Newcastle	Business Management	2010
Newcastle	Spanish, Portuguese and Latin Americal Studies	2010
Newcastle	Marketing	2010
Nottingham	Medicine	2010
Nottingham	Medicine	2010
Nottingham Trent	Sport, Leisure and Outdoor Management	2011
Oxford (Merton)	Law with European Law	2010
Oxford	Mathematics and Philosophy	2010
Oxford Brookes	Business Management/French Studies	2010
Portsmouth	Economics	2011
Queen Mary London	Film Studies	2010
Reading	Meteorology and Climate	2010
Royal Holloway	English	2010
Sheffield	Real Estate Business Managment	2010
Sheffield	Philosophy	2010
Sheffield	English Literature	2010
Sheffield	Mechanical Engineering	2011
Sheffield	Politics	2010
Sheffield	Biochemistry and Microbiology	2010
Sheffied Hallam	Business and Enterprise Management	2010
Southampton	French	2010
Southampton	Sports Studies	2010
Surrey	Electronic Engineering	2010
Pratt Institute, USA	Fashion	2010
University College, London (UCL)	Medicine	2010
University College, London (UCL)	Architecture	2010
Warwick	Classical Civilisation	2010
Warwick	Mathematics	2010
Warwick	Politics	2010
York	History	2010
York	Economics,Econometrics and Finance	2010
York	English/Philospohy	2010
York	Philosophy, Politics and Economics	2010

Bold Universities are members of The Times Top30 University List

Members' Information

1.Subscriptions

Please note that the subscription rates for next year are unchanged:

Full Member – paying by direct debit.....£17.50 pa
 Full Member – paying by standing order£17.50 pa
 Student Member - paying by direct debit..... £5.00 pa

For those paying by **direct debit the payment for your subscription will be debited from your bank account in the week commencing Monday 17th January 2011.** There are a number of members still paying by standing order, who despite being reminded, have not increased their payment to the correct amount or paid their arrears. If you are one of those members please rectify the situation immediately, or if you are not sure please do contact me to clarify your position. I remind members that continuing to pay the incorrect amount or being in arrears will result in loss of membership and all the benefits that entails!

2. PayPal Payment Option

Three years ago we introduced a **new payment option using Paypal, which we believed would be of benefit to some members, particularly those who now live abroad, and as a consequence may no longer keep a UK bank account.** As a result these members do not have a cost effective method to pay subscription monies to the Association. (It either costs them too much to make the payment or the Association too much to bank!) A simple email invoice through Paypal offers a cost effective payment method for these overseas payments. There is a small handling charge of £1.00 which we have to pay, and is passed on to the member. Thus a subscription paid this way would be invoiced at £18.50 to cover this charge. If anyone is interested please contact me, and I will supply the details.

Nick Phillipson

Rules of The Association

RULES OF THE ASSOCIATION AS ADOPTED AT THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING ON 17th MAY 2006

- 1 The Association shall be called The Chester Association of Old King's Scholars and shall consist of Former Pupils of The King's School, Chester who have, in writing, applied for membership, and of any Member of the Teaching Staff at the Senior or Junior School who desire to join the Association. Former Members of the Teaching Staff at the School, Former Pupils of the King's School, and past and present Governors shall also be eligible as Honorary Members if selected by the Committee.
- 1a Members of the Teaching Staff at the School who do not desire to join the Association as Ordinary Members shall be deemed Associate Members of the Association during their period of service as Members of the Teaching Staff and as such shall pay no subscription. They shall not, in that capacity, ordinarily be eligible for election to the Committee or to any office in the Association (except where the Committee shall see fit to co-opt a Member of the Teaching Staff to assist in its business) nor shall they vote on any matter.
- 1b On leaving the service of the School, any Member of the Teaching Staff who has joined the Association in accordance with Rule 1 shall be in a position to continue membership by continuing to subscribe.
- 2 The objects of the Association are:
 - (a) To strengthen the ties between the Past and Present and to further the general interests of the School in every possible way in co-operation with the Governors, the Head Master and the Teaching Staff.
 - (b) To promote good fellowship among, and the interest of, Former Pupils of the King's School.
 - (c) To make arrangements for holding an Annual Dinner and other Social Gatherings from time to time.
- 3 The annual subscription shall be determined by resolution, with due notice, at an Annual General Meeting. Subscriptions shall be paid by direct debit, due on 1st January of each year. The first annual subscription from a Former Pupil joining the Association at any time during the year shall be paid upon joining the Association.
- 4 Student members who have left school shall be eligible to pay a reduced 'student' subscription for the duration of their university studies, such amount having been determined by resolution at an Annual General Meeting. Those student members who leave school in July, and immediately join the Association on payment of the student subscription, shall be held to include the year following, beginning 1st January.
- 5 Any member who is in arrears of their subscription, and to whom there have been sent two reminders for payment, the last of which referring the defaulting member to this rule, at the discretion of the Committee, the member's name shall be removed from the Roll of Membership. Any communication shall be deemed correctly sent if it be mailed to the last known address.
- 6 Any member who is in arrears of their subscription shall be sent only a communication notifying them of the Annual General Meeting and of their arrears, until such time as the arrears are paid, or the member's name is removed from the Roll of Membership. Any communication shall be deemed correctly sent if it be mailed to the last known address.
- 7 Any Member wishing to resign may do so by notice in writing to the Hon Secretary but no refund of subscription already paid shall be made and any arrears up to the date of resignation shall be collectable.

- 8 Any member whose conduct is in the opinion of any other member detrimental to the reputation of the Association or its objectives or the interests of the members may be expelled or suspended from the Association. Before a member is expelled or suspended the member's conduct shall be inquired into by the Officers of the Association. One calendar month's notice shall be given in writing to the member of such an enquiry in order for the member to have full opportunity to explain such conduct as aforesaid. Notice of the enquiry shall be deemed correctly sent if it be sent to the address last known to the Association. If a majority of the Officers of the Association present when the matter is inquired into are of opinion that the member has been guilty of such conduct as aforesaid and that the member has failed to justify or explain it satisfactorily then the Officers of the Association may suspend the member for a stated period or call upon the member to resign. The member has the right of appeal to a Sub-committee comprising the President and the immediate four Past-Presidents. The Sub-committee will uphold or dismiss the appeal by a majority of those present when the appeal is considered. A member suspended shall forfeit all the privileges of membership and all rights against the Association for the duration of the suspension. If when called to do so the member does not resign within one calendar month of the decision of the Officers of the Association or on the dismissal of an appeal to the Sub-committee the Officers of the Association shall expel the member. A member expelled shall forfeit all the privileges of membership and all rights against the Association.
- 9 A General Meeting of the Association, for which 21 days notice shall be given, is to be held once every year, in the second quarter of the year. Special General Meetings may be convened by the committee at any time.
- 10 The President shall preside at all General Meetings if present; in the absence of the President a Vice-President shall do so. If the President and all the Vice-Presidents are absent, a Member present shall be elected Chairman of the meeting. The Chairman, whose decision on any point of order shall be final, shall regulate the order of the proceedings and shall have a casting vote.
- 11 At every Annual General Meeting the Officers of the Association for the ensuing year shall be elected, and any other business may be transacted.
- 12 On being elected to the Chair, the President shall be invested with the Presidential badge and thereupon shall make and sign a declaration undertaking to wear the same at all gatherings which he attends as President and to keep the badge in good order and condition. The President's Declaration shall be entered in the Minute Book and attested by the Immediate Past President, if present, who shall then cease to be responsible for the care and custody of the badge. If the Immediate Past President is not present the Declaration shall be attested by the Senior Past President at the Meeting. The Presidential Badge shall nevertheless be insured against fire and theft at the expense of the Association.
- 13 The President shall preside at all Association social gatherings and, if present, at all Committee Meetings.
- 14 There may be three Vice-presidents who shall as far as possible be respectively:- (a) a Member of over 40 years of age; (b) a Member between 30 and 40 years; (c) a Member under 30 years of age. They shall be elected at the Annual Meeting and it shall be their special duty to encourage Former Pupils of the King's School to join the Association. There may be up to five Junior Vice-Presidents who shall each serve a term of up to five years from their leaving school. Their U6 year group shall elect them and it will be their special duty to keep in contact with their year group, and to encourage them to join the Association.
- 15 The Hon. Secretary shall be elected at the Annual Meeting and shall be eligible for re-election. The Hon. Secretary shall receive an honorarium the amount of which (if any) shall be determined at each Annual Meeting.
- 16 It shall be the Hon. Secretary's duty to keep all proper minutes of all Committee and Sub Committee meetings and to send out all notices of the Association's gatherings and other literature to which Members are entitled.
- 17 The Hon. Treasurer shall be elected at the Annual Meeting and shall be eligible for re-election. The Hon. Treasurer shall receive an honorarium the amount of which (if any) shall be determined at each Annual Meeting.
- 18 It shall be the Hon. Treasurer's duty to collect all subscription and ticket money of any social gatherings and shall see to all Association's accounts being paid. The Hon. Treasurer shall draw all necessary cheques on the Association's bank account and shall present an Annual Statement of Accounts at the Annual Meeting, which shall have been audited by the Hon. Auditor.
- 19 The Hon. Chaplain shall be a Member of the Association. The Hon. Chaplain shall be elected at the Annual Meeting and shall be eligible for re-election. It shall be the Hon. Chaplain's duty to say Grace at the Association's Annual Dinners and Suppers.
- 20 The Hon. Auditor shall be a Member of the Association but hold no other Office. The Hon. Auditor shall be elected for a period of one year at the Annual Meeting and shall be eligible for re-election. It shall be the Hon. Auditor's duty to audit the Annual Statement of Accounts.
- 21 The Committee shall comprise the President, Vice-Presidents, Junior Vice-Presidents, Hon. Treasurer, Hon. Secretary, Hon. Auditor, Hon. Chaplain of the Association, and not more than 20 nor less than 12 other Members elected at the Annual Meeting. The Committee shall have power to fill casual vacancies among the Officers until the next Annual Meeting.
- 22 The Committee shall control the general management of the Association and its Finances. The Committee may delegate any of its powers to any Sub Committee or Officers of the Association.
- 23 These rules may be altered or added to at any Annual or Special General Meeting of the Association, provided that notice of such alteration appears on the Agenda summoning the meeting.
- 24 Everyone becoming a Member of the Association shall be deemed to have agreed to be bound by all present and future rules.



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Newsletter

We greatly appreciate all articles and news items sent in for publication whether hand written, typed or by email. all material will be returned if requested. If emailing please send your contributions in text as MS Word (.doc) files and pictures are best sent in JPEG (.jpg) format.

Mike Sayer
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Don't Forget!

- The Annual Dinner is fast approaching - book your tickets now to avoid disappointment! With a new date in April, hopefully we can have a record attendance! Don't miss out!
- We begin collecting material for the next newsletter now - if you'd like to contribute, please contact Mike Sayer.
- An electronic version of this newsletter is available in PDF format. Please contact Mike Sayer should you wish to receive it.
- There are lots of friendly and enjoyable events approaching - check the Dates For Your Diary section for details. Why not come and meet friends old and new at a Bear and Billet supper?
- To promote an alumni event in this listing or on King's Online contact Adrian Ackroyd on 01244 390819 (H).
- Recitals, concerts, art exhibitions and drama productions are listed on the school website - www.kingschester.co.uk.