



CAOKS Newsletter

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

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President's Message

A warm welcome to you all for this summer issue of the CAOKS newsletter. I write this with the Tour de France, the World Cup and the Wimbledon final all on the TV, but I have ditched them all for something more local, the Chester Raft Race. The event was helped this year by glorious sunshine and a lively crowd that reminds us all not to take ourselves too seriously at least one day a year.

Let me introduce myself, I'm Robin Hardi, class of 87; an Aircraft Engineer; a Cestrian, half Scottish and half Croatian. It is my pleasure to be your 149th CAOKS President. I was approached a couple of years ago to go on the list of 'potentials' and can't believe that at aged forty five I have reached the level of respectability that makes me CAOKS Presidential material. At this rate I'll be a pillar of the community soon!

I left Kings in 1987 and started working at the Airbus factory (British Aerospace as it was then) in Broughton with a view to moving on after a few years. Twenty seven years later I'm still there, now a manager and part of the establishment, or is it furniture. It seems a remarkable feat in today's uncertain world to stay so long with one firm but in a company of fifty thousand people I have been lucky enough to have found opportunities on some of the most complex aircraft engineering projects, working round the world. And yet Chester draws me back as my base and my home.

Those of you who live local to Chester and who have spoken to me have all asked the same question. 'What is that big plane that comes over Chester twice a day?' Well it's the 'Beluga' wing transporter, no it isn't going slow, and yes I can bore you to death about it should you come for a chat.

Talking of home, I met my wife Lisa at City University in London and we approach our twentieth wedding anniversary next year. We live in Handbridge where Lisa has recently started a business as a reflexologist. As I write this we have just returned from a super week's holiday in the Yorkshire Dales. It is so refreshing to discover that, despite travelling the world, the best of places can be found almost on the doorstep. We laughed when we realised that the three hours it took to drive to the cottage equals the time from leaving home to boarding a plane, never mind going anywhere!

Anyway, to business. CAOKS continues to grow as a community and support its members with the usual events to tempt young and old. The 2014 annual dinner was a very enjoyable event with numbers down a little on previous years, but with the added spice of a Scottish piper to get the feet tapping (as a Scot I thought it was great). Accounts, I fear, were not a pretty picture following the dinner and so in 2015 we must face facts and cut our cloth accordingly, more of which in later articles.

I recommend to you the programme of events for the coming year. If you missed the bowls evening I can



confirm it was well attended and won by Paul and Mary Consterdine. Personally I missed the bowls but arrived in time for the meal and wine. I think they call that a lifestyle choice. I hope future event will tempt you to participate. They are all good fun, open to all ages and provide a chance to keep in contact.

This spring I visited the school's new Vandenburg Theatre to see a show. Apart from nearly getting lost (very embarrassing...well its changed a lot since 1987) I thought the venue was superb and it reassures me to see the school investing and growing with the times. Even if it is disturbing to walk through what to me was the canteen, sit high up in what was the hall and look at the orchestra sitting ten feet above the stage.

I have noticed immediately that the role of CAOKS President has given me a great opportunity to engage with all CAOKS members and I have met more people in the last three months than the previous twenty years, which in all honesty, is probably my fault. Everyone has been welcoming, supportive and friendly. I hope that in the coming year I can meet more of the alumni and help to keep the CAOKS community engaged and growing.

So, as the 149th CAOKS President, I encourage you to keep in touch with each other, to participate in any of the events that take your fancy (or run your own) and to be reassured that though your life will inevitably take you away from the school, CAOKS will be here when you want to return.

Best wishes for the summer season.

Robin Hardi

Dates For Your Diary



'YEAR OF 2014' STUDENTS EVENING

Friday 29 August 2014 at 7.00 pm
Informal get-together for 2014 leavers. Meal and a drink at the Pitcher & Piano, Chester. Free tickets for new Student Members, others £10. Contact Cameron Szerdy or Nick Phillipson, 01244 300550(H), nickp.philprop@hotmail.com

PRESIDENT'S EVENING

Saturday 20 September 2014 at 7.30 pm
A curry night in the hope of an Indian Summer. Drinks in the Old Harkers Arms from 6.30pm, dinner at 7.30pm. Southern Indian cuisine. To book contact Nick Phillipson

LONDON SUPPER

Thursday 23 October 2014. For those in and around London, the annual informal get together hosted by the President. Only £33 a head.

The Terrace Room, Bleeding Heart Yard, Grenville Street, London EC1 N 8SJ. Contact Alan Vallance, alan.vallance65@gmail.com

SNOOKER v GRAMMAR SCHOOL OB

Friday 7 November 2014 at 7.00 pm
Dinner followed by the Competition for the Cup. City Club, St Peter's Churchyard, Chester. Contact Nick Phillipson

RACE MEETING AND LUNCH

Saturday 29 November 2014, Bangor-on-Dee with luncheon in the Paddock Restaurant. Package includes Paddock admission badge, table for the day, 3 course Lunch. To book contact Will Lamb 01244 534830 (H), sixhitter@hotmail.com

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Thursday 12 May 2015 at 7.30 pm.

From the Editor



As always I must thank those who have provided material for the newsletter, be they organisers of CAOKS events or occasional contributors. I hope that members will welcome the news of the new arrangements for the 2015 Dinner. It promises to be a very enjoyable occasion.

As will be seen I have enrolled the goodwill of some of those former pupils engaged in aviation to tell us something of their experiences. I have to admit that as a keen amateur pilot the topic is of particular personal interest! As such I have the

privilege of wandering (carefully) around European skies, albeit a lot more slowly than those who have written for us and in much smaller aircraft! Of course the variety of experience and careers shared by OKS varies enormously and I am always delighted to hear from any of you about your life and work. Don't hesitate to send me anything you would like to share.

Paul Consterdine

From the Headmaster



The end of the summer term is always a full and joyous time, and for King's, this term has moved us forward in a couple of major ways. The Junior School Learning Centre is literally taking shape, and will transform facilities for Science, Art and Design Technology. It's been long overdue, and we look forward to its opening in October. Meanwhile the plans for the Infant School (Willow Lodge) are really taking shape: enquiries are already very strong, and we have appointed Mrs Margaret Ainsworth to be Head. Margaret is a former Junior School parent, currently Deputy Head at Queen's Lower School, and an outstanding leader and manager. She takes up her post in January 2015.

Elsewhere, we are busy recruiting a new Bursar, the outstanding Penny Mackay having accepted a post as Bursar at Wolverhampton Grammar School from September. Penny has been commuting from Market Drayton for the last year or so, since her marriage, so a move was always on the cards: she has been instrumental in the development of the school over these last ten or so years, and she will be greatly missed.

What else has crowded the calendar this last term? Well, we were delighted to meet a large number of alumni at the Henley event, the 1st VIII's narrow defeat (3/4 of a length) to Latymer being the only cloud on an otherwise sun-filled day. We look forward to seeing well over 100 alumni at our House of Commons event, courtesy of Matt Hancock OKS MP. We have welcomed professional productions into the Vanbrugh Theatre as part of a growing repertoire of both student and community work, and this term's Tempest astonished and delighted audiences with artfully created magic, storms, pursuits and mystery.

We have, as ever, sung and played music in both the Summer Concert and the Cathedral, as well as at Prize Giving in Chester Racecourse. My diary also reminds me we have had a foreign language poetry competition, dance show, enterprise challenge, Ullswater week for the Thirds, victorious athletics meetings, reunions of 1960s leavers, taster days ... full and joyous indeed.

At my final assembly I thanked and paid tribute to leaving colleagues. Chris Smith has been a loyal and dedicated technician, and Jyoti Pancholi has been with us this year as Marketing Assistant and has

*"Liz and
Vicky in the
Alumni Office
are always
happy to show
former pupils
around the
school."*

helped enormously, including getting a lot of us successfully on film! Babette Shannon has taught in the Modern Languages Department and Michaela Wilson in the English Department, and both leave this year. So do Dawn Hearne, who has done great things both for Learning Support and English, and Jayne Sabio, whose dedication to Spanish has included running numerous exchanges. Going on to bigger (at least numerically) things are Neil Shepherd, Head of Maths, and Toby Hughes, Head of Sixth Form. To all of them, our warmest wishes for future success and happiness.

Please do come to see us whenever you can, come to events (all advertised on our website) and above all, keep in touch!

Chris Ramsey

CAOKS Events

148th Annual Dinner 2014

86 members and their guests gathered at the Chester Grosvenor in early April for the 148th renewal of our prestigious Annual Dinner. There was the usual good mix of ages, including recent leavers, as well as some staff and partners. The evening began with the President's Reception hosted by President, James Szerdy. After the receptions everyone gathered in the Belgrave suite for a delicious four course meal, with an excellent duck starter and fish main, served to the normal Grosvenor standard. The School archive slideshow allowed 'memory lane' to be revisited while the meal was served. The toasts were followed by the Lord Mayor, Councillor Jill Houlbrook, presenting the 2013 Exhibition Fund to Chris Robson.

Four excellent (and differing) speeches followed. David Whitley, former pupil and childrens' author gave a witty and interesting account of how his education had stimulated his love of writing. The new Deputy Head, Jane Byrne responded with an enjoyable account of her arrival at the School and review of recent School achievements. Fraser Fowlie, JP then gave a musical 'speech' to the Association through three short pieces played on the bagpipes – surely a first for the dinner – and very much enjoyed by those in the room. (Note: for those confused the President has some Scottish ancestry!) The President then rounded matters up and gave thanks for everyone's help and support during his year of office, and concluded the formalities with the toast to the Association, followed by the final toast to 'Henry VIII'.

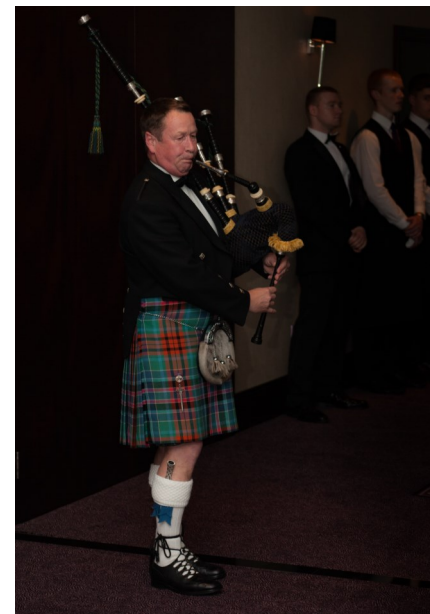
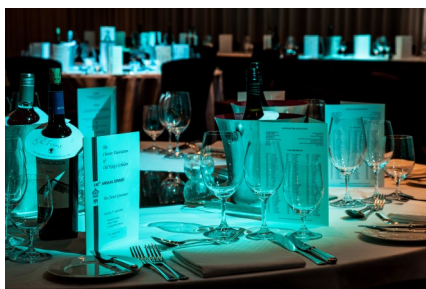
These formalities over, there was time during the rest of the evening to relax, enjoy and reminisce with friends old and new. Our thanks go to Will Gater and his staff at the Grosvenor for producing an excellent dinner and evening.

Postscript:

This was my last dinner as Dinner Secretary having serving in the post for twelve years. The only disappointment with an excellent evening, as in 2013, was the numbers attending. These were down to below 100 which begged the question "Is the dinner sustainable in its current form?" The Dinner Committee was tasked with looking at this issue to try and find a solution. I have asked David Atkin to take on the role of Dinner Secretary, which he has accepted. David's expertise, apart from cricket and golf, is in event management. He has proposed some new options with my help as Hon Treasurer. These were discussed and agreed by the Dinner Committee in June. He has outlined the exciting way forward elsewhere in this newsletter - please give him your support at the 149th Annual Dinner in 2015.

Nick Phillipson





CAOKS Girls Triumph Again in 2nd Annual Hockey Match

The second CAOKS Girls vs The School hockey match took place on Saturday 29th March. This year the CAOKS team was made up of a mixture of 2010-13 leavers, showing how even new leavers of the school are keen to return to the hockey pitch!

After CAOKS inaugural win the previous year, pride and retaining the trophy were at stake – which unsurprisingly made for an exceedingly exciting affair. On a beautiful spring morning (perfect weather for the second year running!) the two teams hit off. CAOKS took the lead with some great play upfront from captain Amy Bellis, combining well with Sophie Clough. CAOKS soon doubled their lead with another goal from Amy Bellis, shortly followed by a fantastic individual effort from Hannah Morgan. At 3-0 CAOKS were fully in control and dominating the game.

The second half started similarly to the first, with CAOKS going further ahead, with a fantastic team goal starting from a clearance from goal keeper Alice Plews and ending with yet another goal for the old girls, making the score 4-0. The school subsequently scored a consolation goal ten minutes before the end, which was well deserved given a good passage of play. With the game drawing to a close CAOKS secured another goal to finish the game 5-1, Hannah Rudge with a confident finish one on one with the school's keeper.

So the CAOKS name anoints the trophy for the second consecutive year! This fixture initially started as a way for former pupils to reconnect with the school, through reuniting to play a sport once a regular occurrence in their weekly calendars. But the positive feedback and success of the past two fixtures has been fantastic and secures the place of this annual contest in the schools calendar.

As with last year I'd like to personally thank Krista Jones and her fellow games colleagues for her help in organising the event, along with Russell Hornby and Claire Sumner who kindly agreed to umpire. After the success of the last two matches we hope to organise a CAOKS boys' team to take on the school too. If anyone is interested in helping organise or taking part in a future hockey match feel free to contact me!

A date has already been set for next year's fixture - Saturday 28th March 2015 (and the same date as the Annual Dinner). It would be great to see more CAOKS members there to support and enjoy a morning of competitive entertainment!

Kate Phillipson



CAOKS Annual Golf and Cricket

17 golfers met at Hill Valley near Whitchurch to compete for the Phillipson Trophy on a warm and sunny afternoon. Once again, Ian Beech won the distance competition by combining the match with a visit back to the UK from Northern France. This narrowly beat the efforts of Andrew 'Jock' Douglas, who drove up from London for the day. Despite the nice weather, it was a fairly low-scoring affair. There were 3 people tied on the same Stableford score, with Mark Burgess being crowned the winner on a count-back and President and 2013 Champion, James Szerdy, coming in second. The longest drive prize went to Garth Morgan's guest Terry Harvey and nearest the pin was that man Ian Beech. After golf, we enjoyed a hearty dinner and retired to our private bar for the presentation.

For 2015, we are hoping to venture a little further afield and possibly play 2 rounds with a night away in between. Further details will be available in due course, but to register your interest, please email davidedwardatkin@gmail.com.

Unfortunately, the planned annual 20/20 cricket match was called off. It was due to be played on 9th July, the last day of term, however this is a very busy day for the School with the Cathedral Service, Prizegiving and Leaver's Ball. We have already set a date with the School of 6th July 2015 for a full day game starting at 11.30am. 2015 will be the 20th anniversary of Seb Neal's involvement in King's 1st XI cricket so we would especially encourage all former cricketers who have played since 1995 to put the date in the diary.

David Atkin



Bowls

3pm, Friday 20th June 2014 and things are a bit tense! Keith, who has my order to supply sixteen sets of bowls, has not been seen at his premises in Hoole all day and I only have a 'phone number for him there. The garage man next door says Keith has had an operation on his eye but thought he would come to open up. As this now seemed unlikely, it was time for plan B which was B & B - beg and borrow. I have a friend who plays bowls and his wife said he was playing at Christleton. A dash to Cheshire View at Christleton and they said "...not here, he will be finishing about now at Waverton Men's Institute." Thankfully they were still there and by the kindness of a couple of members I was able to borrow half a dozen sets and a couple of jacks which, together with four sets which The Goshawk had available, saved our bacon.

Much relieved and drinks organised, we started with Mick Moore & Jane playing a game against Paul Conserdine and Mary, Adrian Ackroyd and Tracy against Stewart Turner and Paulene and last year's winners Charles Pritchard and my wife Jenny against a couple of our guests, Sarah and Elaine.

A three team final saw Paul and Mary as the winners, with Adrian and Tracy beating Charles and Jenny on points for second and third places. Although the bowling green looked a bit parched in places, we were all well fed and watered afterwards with a choice from The Goshawk's menu and were delighted to be joined by our new President, Robin Hardi.

As a post script, Keith the bowls man has now retired but he has sold the hire woods to Chester City Club so we should be ok for the foreseeable future.

Jeremy Lloyd



The Future of the Annual Dinner

The Committee has fixed the date of **28th March 2015** for the 149th Annual Dinner, to be held at a **new venue – The Town Hall, Chester**. We have had some fine dinners at the Grosvenor, with exceptional food and attentive service, however after much deliberation and researching of alternative venues in and around Chester, the Committee took the view that we should have a change for 2015.

The Annual Dinner is the most important event in our calendar and presents the best - and in some cases the only - opportunity for OKS to meet up with former contemporaries, friends and staff members. One of the benefits of moving to a new venue is that the evening becomes a little lighter on the pocket, however we were very keen not to compromise on the quality of the food and service. By choosing the Town Hall, our caterers will be Horseradish, who along with several high profile off-site assignments such as the Cholmondeley Pageant of Power, are the in-house catering company at Chester Racecourse and offer exciting menus and a first-rate level of service.

Prices are currently being finalised, however we expect that the full ticket price will be £45.50, with an early bird price of £40.00. Student members will likely pay £30.00. This will include a welcome drink, 3 course meal with a choice of dessert or cheese and coffee. Pre-ordered wines start at £17.50 a bottle.

The Venue

Steeped in history, the Town Hall was built in 1865-9 and opened on 15 October 1869 by HRH The Prince of Wales, Earl of Chester, later King Edward VII, who was accompanied by W.E. Gladstone, the Prime Minister. It was designed by William Henry Lynn of Belfast, who won a competition to design a replacement for the 'Exchange', the city's administrative offices, after they were destroyed by fire in 1862. The buff and pink sandstone structure is a High Victorian Reinterpretation of the 13th century Cloth Hall at Ypres in Belgium, with its main tower and spire measuring 160 feet in height.

The Assembly Room is the largest room in the Town Hall. Above the stage is painted the former armorial bearings of the City of Chester, with the Latin motto, 'Antiqui Colant Antiquum Dierum', which is translated as 'Let the ancients worship the ancient days'. The armorial bearings are also depicted in the circular stained glass window.

The ten full-length portraits of the Grosvenor family of Eaton Hall form the grandest sequence of paintings in the Town Hall. They range from Sir Thomas Grosvenor, 3rd Baronet, who became Mayor of Chester in 1684, to Gerald, 65th Duke of Westminster, who became the first Chancellor of the University of Chester in 2005. Another painting in this room depicts the light cruiser HMS Chester, which took part in the battle of Jutland in May 1916. Outside the Assembly Room is a war memorial to the 768 citizens of Chester who died as a result of the First World War and a plaque to the memory of those who died in the Second World War.



Horseradish

Born out of the Chester Racecourse portfolio, Horseradish was initially founded to deliver innovative, quality catering for Chester Race Company's 220,000 customers during a race season. Now Horseradish's dynamic team will deliver first-class on and offsite event services through its expanding portfolio of unique venues including Chester Racecourse, Chester Town Hall, Bangor-on-Dee Racecourse and Llangollen International Pavilion.

As Horseradish seeks to position itself as a leader in the market, it has recruited Angus Wilson as Head of Catering. He brings with him a wealth of experience from the Hospitality industry having previously worked for De Vere Hotels, the Compass Group

(at a variety of its top venues including the O2 Arena) and ACC Liverpool: "For many years we have worked with a large number of well known clients, providing creative catering for their events. Working with a number of exciting venues, we can offer a wide range of exceptional on and offsite event services. Whether it is a private dinner for 20 people or an outside event for 45,000 people, our attention to detail ensures we deliver outstanding events that exceed client expectations. "



The Exhibition Fund

A primary function of CAOKS is to administer The Exhibition Fund, which was set up on the 17th October 1885. The Originator of the Exhibition, Thomas Hughes Esq. F.S.A., together with Charles Brown Esq. the Mayor of the City of Chester, Thomas Brown Esq. Sheriff of the City of Chester, and the President, Secretary and Treasurer of our Association, and The Senior Ex Old Scholars Exhibitioner, all signed the original Trust Deed. The sum raised was £1,500 (equivalent to £ 178,500 today (source: Bank of England)). The Exhibition was called the "Old King's Scholars Exhibition" and was originally set at £60 per annum to cover tuition fees, books and lodgings.

To this day the holders of the above offices in the City and in the Association serve as Trustees as long as they hold office. However from the 1980's, due to the tendency for the Senior Ex Old Scholars Exhibitioner to be of some age, that position as a Trustee was replaced by a Trustee nominated by the Association (currently Will Lamb). The stated purpose of the Exhibition is "the promotion of good general scholarship" with no special preference to be given to any particular branch of Study. The continuation of the award to the Exhibitioner being subject to satisfactory reports from their tutor. Originally each year an Old King's Scholar, who had obtained a place at Oxford, Cambridge, Edinburgh or Victoria (England) Universities, was selected by examination to receive the Exhibition each year for three years. Today the Trustees consider an Old King's Scholar with a confirmed place at any British University as eligible for the award. The Victoria (England) Universities referred to in the Trust Deeds are those at Liverpool, Manchester and Leeds and were called such as they arose from an idea of Prince Albert to extend the then University system to remove inequalities of opportunity. At the time the Trust was set up only members of the Church of England could graduate from Oxford and Cambridge (although those of other religious beliefs could study there) and there was no opportunity for women to attend Oxford or Cambridge.

Nowadays, on publication of the A-level examination results, the Headmaster and the senior teaching staff nominate whom they adjudge as the most outstanding pupil as the recipient of the award.

We will be operating a raffle on the evening to help raise funds for this extremely worthwhile cause.

David Atkin

The CAOKS Flying Corps

Our resident aviation enthusiast, Paul Consterdine, asked three CAOKS members with differing aviation careers to write pieces for this newsletter. We are grateful to Myles Gallimore, Kevin Whyman and Charles Skilton for the insights in to their profession.

Myles Gallimore describes his time in the Royal Navy:

When Paul Consterdine asked me to write an article for the CAOKS Newsletter, my initial reaction was slight bemusement - why would anyone want to read about the career of a navy pilot? Clearly, I was flattered and honoured to be asked, especially as I maintain such a keen interest in King's, past and present and Paul being my ex-headmaster (still feels bizarre addressing him on first name terms!). But that primary question kept returning - why?



I should have known the answer but it did not become apparent until Paul and I engaged in conversation - even with our shared passion of aviation, I found myself trying to explain my role in HM Forces. Quite simply, the Royal Navy (RN) has diminished in physical size to such an extent that the very population it exists to protect seldom has contact with it and, consequently, struggles

to understand its role in the current world. At the end of the Second World War, 800,000 officers and men and 73,000 WRNS were in uniform. There was not a family in the land that did not have a direct connection with the Royal Navy. Only two generations later, there are only 30,000 men and women serving in naval uniform and the family connection has been lost in most cases. Added to that, through historical legacy, with the exception of Faslane in Scotland, the main naval bases are concentrated in the southern part of the UK so opportunities for community contact are virtually non-existent. And finally, by its very nature, the RN conducts its business generally far from public view - either at sea or overseas. Despite this, we remain an island nation with responsibility for 14 British Overseas Territories (12 of which are islands). Notwithstanding the security of the United Kingdom and her territories, 95 per cent of the UK's trade (£524 billion) is dependent upon the ocean. The argument for an agile, dependable navy to secure the freedom of the seas for our country to trade needs no articulation - it is essential. To meet its charge, the navy structures its 30,000 strength into 4 fighting arms: ships of the General Service, aerial strength of the Fleet Air Arm, the covert Submarine Service (including the nuclear deterrent) and the elite amphibiousness of the Royal Marines (the RN's soldiers). Further support, in the form of refuelling tankers and logistics ships is provided by the civilian-manned Royal Fleet Auxiliary.

The RN tries hard to promote its work but not always with success and, in my personal opinion, it needs to improve its public and media engagement. Ask the average man in the street who's been fighting in Afghanistan for over a decade and he'll likely answer that it's been the sole preserve of the Army, perhaps with some RAF helicopters for support. It may surprise you to learn that the RN has had a continuous presence in Afghanistan since British Forces first entered theatre in 2001. And also that at one point, 80 per cent of all UK forces were Naval personnel - comprised of a naval fighter squadron providing air support to a Royal Marines Commando (equivalent to an army brigade), supported by naval medics, logisticians, engineers and chefs.

My career in the RN began after leaving King's (Junior and Senior 1983 – 1993) and attending the School of Oriental and African Studies where I read Mandarin Chinese. I joined up in 1997. After a year at Britannia Royal Naval College, Dartmouth I passed out as a junior Warfare Officer, responsible for navigating a warship from the bridge and leading a team of 24 sailors of the ship's company. In 1994, I was selected for pilot training which had always been my ultimate goal.

And so the long and arduous journey of navy flying training began. After 4 months of classroom study at the naval college in Dartmouth, land and maritime survival training and courses in aviation medicine, I finally began being taught how to fly - initially in a single engine piston aeroplane. From the outset, emphasis was placed on operating the aircraft to its limits so we were not only taught aerobatics but encouraged to develop our own aerobatic sequences and practice them during our solo flights.

Every flight during a naval pilot's training is assessed. Flying training is expensive and there is no appetite for wasting taxpayer's money on an individual if they are not able to keep apace. The quality of the flying training is second to none but the demands of the courses are rigorous. The recipe for success is a mix of natural talent, complete dedication, self-discipline and good luck. The navy operates a "3-strike rule". If a student fails an individual sortie they will be issued with their "first strike" and offered the opportunity to fly it again. A second failure will result in an additional "strike" and a re-training package which usually consists of a brief from another instructor to reinforce the aims of the sortie followed by a practice in a simulator. The days of medieval instruction and ruthless discipline are long gone - navy flying instructors are modern day coaches and mentors, able to tailor their instruction to the needs of their students and hold the best interests of their students at heart. On completion of the remedial training package, the flight will be re-flown; failure results in the end of a pilot's dreams; success allows onward progression to the next stage but with the accompanying two strikes until the instructing staff deem that the individual has fully regained lost ground.

This system may sound draconian but it is born of necessity and experience. Aviation is an unforgiving environment in which to make mistakes; the maritime aviation environment (where there is regularly only one ship on which to land) particularly so. The RN operates a fleet of multi-crew helicopters; it has a moral and legal obligation to ensure that the people it charges to fly those aircraft are competent to operate in the heat of battle, at night in a pitching sea from the deck of a ship.

Thankfully, after a year of flying aeroplanes, I passed the elementary stage of flying training and went onto learn how to fly helicopters at the Defence Helicopter Flying School at RAF Shawbury in Shropshire.

A further year later, on graduating from Shawbury, I was appointed to Royal Naval Air Station Yeovilton in Somerset to learn how to fly and fight Lynx attack helicopters. This was my first true taste of maritime aviation. The 18 month course is split into two halves; the first teaches advanced flying skills such as autorotation (sycamore leaf-type gliding in case of all engines failing) ultra low level flying (under power lines) and landing on the back of warships (day and night). The second half focuses on tactics and weaponry - how to attack an enemy ship unseen, find and prosecute a submarine with torpedoes or deliver special forces covertly to an oil rig.

The culmination of a successful course is the wings parade where pilots are finally awarded the coveted naval wings badge on their uniform that identifies them as a fully-fledged naval aviator. On graduation, after a journey that has taken nearly five years, pilots are assigned to their frontline squadron.

For me, I was sent immediately to join HMS EDINBURGH, a Type 42 Destroyer, operating as part of a NATO security patrol in the Mediterranean and Middle East. After returning, we spent the winter preparing for the impending action that was forthcoming in Iraq so it came as no surprise when we sailed for the Arabian Gulf in January 2003. I found myself on the Al Faw peninsula on day one of the invasion supporting the Royal Marines as they assaulted from the south towards the strategic port of Umm Qasr and the second city of Basra, being shot at by both the Iraqi army and the US Navy (another story!). Tragically, on the second day of the war, two Royal Navy Sea King helicopters from one of our sister squadrons in HMS ARK ROYAL collided at night whilst operating tactically with reduced lighting - all seven crew were killed.

I returned to the Arabian Gulf for a second tour of Iraq and counter-piracy operations in the Horn of Africa later that year. In 2004, I spent the early part of the year on exercise in the Norwegian fjords before being selected for fast-jet training which started in 2005.

Fast-jet training follows a similar format to helicopter training except things tend to happen a lot faster! The RN sends its fighter pilots to train alongside the RAF in Anglesey for their initial tactical training. Navy pilots must pass the rigorous year-long selection process at the top of their course, above their air force colleagues, and with an overall grading of Above Average to progress to their frontline aircraft. The attrition rate on this course is particularly high and it is not uncommon for 50 per cent of a course to fail.

Fortunately, I managed to pass the course and was appointed to the Harrier conversion unit based in Cambridgeshire in 2007, where began yet another year of training! Eventually, I graduated to the RN's frontline fighter squadron – 800 Naval Air Squadron, joining the squadron on its return from Afghanistan. Over the next couple of years I learnt how to fly and fight this unique aeroplane in a variety of locations, including the aircraft carriers HMS ILLUSTRIOUS and ARK ROYAL. At the time, the Harrier had undergone a comprehensive upgrade programme and emerged as the world's finest Close Air Support platform, capable of delivering a variety of weaponry with escalating lethality precisely to support coalition troops on the ground.



Astonishingly, on 19 October 2010, whilst the UK still had considerable forces at risk on the ground in Afghanistan, as part of the Strategic Defence and Security Review it was announced that all Harrier aircraft and aircraft carriers would be decommissioned as part of a budget-saving measure. At that time, the aircraft and its mobile platform were both extremely capable and when used in combination, provided the UK with the ability to deploy a conventional strike capability anywhere on the globe, notwithstanding its ongoing role to provide UK troops with the best possible air cover.

My squadron was disbanded and I returned to Somerset to fly Hawk training jets as the Senior Pilot of the Royal Navy's Flying Standards Flight in a simulation and instructional role whilst re-evaluating my career. Having served my commission, I retired in January of this year after 18 years service.

Nowadays, I can be found enjoying a more leisurely lifestyle on the flight-deck of a Boeing airliner taking fare-paying passengers on their holidays. The days of aerobatics are long gone! But, I haven't completely abandoned my navy ties – I serve as a Reservist, continuing to work in an aviation safety related position where I use my experience and training to analyse and mitigate aviation risk of the RN's fast-jet operations.

You may be interested to learn that as I write this article, the RN is conducting security operations in the Baltic Sea, continuing to search for missing Malaysian Airlines MH370 in the Pacific, providing security escort for the removal of chemical weapons from Syria, continuance in Afghanistan, carrying out counter-piracy operations on the east coast of Africa, protecting UK interests in the Antarctic and Falkland Islands, conducting fishery protection and search and rescue operations in UK waters and providing a continuous nuclear deterrent among others.

For the first time since the Second World War, the Prime Minister no longer has a Royal Navy aircraft carrier and accompanying air group at his disposal to deploy in time of crisis. The next generation of aircraft carriers is being built - HMS QUEEN ELIZABETH was recently commissioned but will not be ready to deliver a strike capability until she receives her new aircraft in 2020. Let us hope that the 30,000 men and women of the RN can maintain our island's and territories' security until then without the need for an aircraft carrier.

Kev Whyman writes about the continuation of his flying career after leaving the Royal Air Force:

During my time at the Kings School Chester I first caught the flying bug whilst a member of the CCF, enjoying Air Experience Flights on Chipmunk aircraft from RAF Woodvale. After graduating from Cambridge University (Peterhouse, Economics) I joined the RAF and had the great privilege of flying Tucano and Hawk aircraft as part of Fast Jet Flying Training. A couple of years after leaving the RAF I learnt of ex-military jet flying being done from North Weald airfield in Essex. A couple of syndicates were operational with Jet Provost aircraft (the basic RAF trainer that preceded the Tucano) and it was there that I learnt the trade of Display Flying. Display flying is most easily explained with reference to the flying of the RAF Red Arrows aerobatic team, who conduct formation flying and aerobatic manoeuvres in close proximity to each other and also the ground!



I started flying the Folland Gnat in 2006 when I bought a part-share in one with a close University friend and a fellow Jet Provost pilot. The Folland Gnat was flown by the Red Arrows when they were first formed in 1964, being replaced by the Hawk aircraft in the late 1970s. The Gnat is less user friendly and practical than its replacement in terms of refuelling and maintenance but as an aircraft to fly (which is all a pilot really cares about!) it is utterly superior. It is swept wing for starters (the Hawk is not) which makes it significantly more manoeuvrable and has a powerful Orpheus engine which comfortably generates 350-400 knots at low level at a power setting of around 90% RPM.

Two fellow aviators and I formed the Gnat Display Team in 2007 when a second jet was acquired. 2009-2011 were very busy seasons for us, flying Pairs Displays in front of public air shows and private RAF families days and celebrations. Additionally we did fly pasts at weddings, sports grounds and other open air events. In 2011 we added a 3rd Gnat to the team and began a restoration project to get it flying. In 2012 the efforts of the team and associated maintenance organisation were recognised with full Charity status by the Charities Commission and the Heritage Aircraft Trust was borne, with its official aim to restore and show these jets to the public through the Gnat Display Team. 2014 is the 50th anniversary of the Red Arrows and we were able to celebrate with the successful air testing of the 3rd aircraft enabling the team to launch a three-ship display.



As part of the Red Arrows 50th anniversary celebrations this year we were invited to fly with them in formation at the two UK headline airshows in July, RAF Waddington and the Royal International Air Tattoo at RAF Fairford. This was a privilege beyond our wildest dreams, many a fast jet pilot has spent years in the RAF and never been anywhere close to the Red Arrows when airborne! For further details on the team, the charity, where we will be displaying, and what we do, please visit our website at www.gnatdisplayteam.com. You can also follow us on Facebook and Twitter.

Charles Skilton tells us about this ongoing career in commercial aviation:

Having completed my Private Pilot's Licence and RAF Flying Scholarship during the summer of 1996, I left King's the following year having had my career goal of Commercial Aviation firmly set in my sights for some time. I remember the School's Cadet Liaison Officer reminding me that, when it comes to aviation, it is always wise to show you have "many strings to your bow," and hence I had decided that it would be wise to try and obtain a degree prior to an application with any airline.

I decided to study Avionic Systems Engineering at Bristol University, whilst heavily Engineering based, such a degree would enable me to work in a variety of careers, should my attempts to achieve my dreams be unfulfilled. As I completed my degree in Summer 2000 a number of airlines opened their door to sponsorship and having competed against a few thousand applicants I was fortunate to be one of six selected for the Air2000 cadet sponsorship scheme (requiring some £25,000 upfront!) that started in March 2001 and I joined the airline as a First Officer flying the Boeing 757 a year later.



Over the last twelve years I have seen two airline name changes and a merger, now working for Thomson Airways. I have worked in the Training department, writing, presenting and standardising both recurrent and initial training before joining the Fleet Management team for the Boeing 757/767 fleet (three of us for 21 aircraft and 260 pilots) in June 2012. Whilst this role takes me away from the aircraft for half of the month, the challenge of managing our Explorer round the world operations (10 trips, 3 aircraft, business class seating with passengers paying almost US\$100,000 per ticket) together with assisting in writing new procedures and specific briefs for some of challenging airports we fly to, reviewing air safety reports and resolving some of the day to day events that present themselves makes for a real challenge in itself and one I thoroughly enjoy and makes the opportunities I have to fly even more enjoyable.

It is sad to say that sponsorships such as the one I was awarded by Air2000 are rare these days due to the number of potential pilots and the cost of the course to an airline but such opportunities do exist if you look hard, e.g. Cathay Pacific as well as British Airways. However, it is true to say that with the ever expanding world of aviation and the number of pilots that are approaching the mandatory age of retirement, there will be an increasing number of opportunities to enter commercial aviation over the coming years.

There are several websites that aid in preparing for aptitude tests or pilot interviews e.g. www.airlineprep.co.uk together with links from the British Airline Pilots Association (BALPA) together with some of the large flying training schools www.ctcaviation.com who have strong links with a number of the major airlines. If like me your goal is to fly commercially, it can be done, it is very rewarding but make sure it is definitely the career for you as the costs involved to get there are the equivalent of a mortgage in itself (approximately £100,000 if you choose to self-fund through one of the major training schools)! What I can say though is that every day is different, has its own challenges but never fails to bring a smile!

School News

From the Senior School:

- Mrs Margaret Ainsworth is to be the founding Head of Willow Lodge, leading The King's School Infant School as it opens in October 2015.
- The Tempest was performed by the Removes through to the Fourth Year.
- 113 members of the King's School Rowing Club attended the National Schools' Regatta at Nottingham, winning 5 medals.
- * Look on the School's website for more details of the above and all news. See also 'King's TV' at: <http://www.kingschester.co.uk/media>



From the Junior School:

- J4 pupils progressed to the regional final of the National Young Mathematicians Award, whilst Luke Mulholland (J4H) also reached the national final of the Primary Maths Challenge.
- Some eighty-seven pupils entered the Extreme Reading competition. There were wonderful pictures of pupils reading in all sorts of strange conditions and positions, including in snow, sand and even under water!
- At the AJIS Swimming Gala, we recorded our highest number of finalists (15) and medallists (5). Special mention must go to Tom Hughes (J4P) who became AJIS backstroke champion for a third time and to Freya Beyeler (J3S) who secured a first place finish in the girls' backstroke event.
- With Tom Hughes leading from the front, once again to become AJIS champion, we were able to record a resounding success at the AJIS cross-country event. The U11 boys took team silver and with both the U10 boys and the U11 girls being crowned champions, King's were comfortably the overall winners of the competition.
- At the AJIS Indoor Athletics Championships, King's had a record number of medals overall and eight gold winners.
- The girls' and boys' hockey teams both reached the North of England championships. Both teams were eliminated at the semi-final stage in penalty shoot-outs! Only goal difference prevented the girls being champions of both the Cheshire Schools' and North West of England competitions.
- Special mention must be made of two internationals we have within our community: Sophie Williams (J4P) has represented Wales at dressage and Riyaan Yesudian (J4P) has represented England at chess.
- The generosity of Junior School pupils (and their parents) never ceases to amaze us. At least thirteen charities have been supported this year. A record amount of £3,397 was raised via our Readathon

Alumni News

Nigel Wheeler's (1961) latest book is called 'Harmony and Dissonance'

Dr. Tim Macquiban (1970) is now Director, Methodist Ecumenical Office, Rome.

Nigel John Evans (1961) is named in Queen's Birthday Honours List 2014 for an OBE – for services to Amateur Golf. Nigel is Chair, England Golf and is to be President of England Golf in 2015.

Alex Hazzledine (2005) is now an English Teacher at Bupyeong Dong Middle School, Bupyeong-gu, Incheon, Korea. He attended the University of Newcastle-upon-Tyne, Bachelor of Arts, German Studies 2005 – 2009 and was Erasmus student at Martin-Luther-Universität Halle-Wittenberg 2007 – 2008.

Andy Meyrick and his co-drivers drove the Bentley Continental GT3 to success in the Blancpain Endurance Series at Silverstone and Paul Ricard, and recently completed the 24 Hours of Spa in Belgium, finishing 13th.

Paul Faulkner (1996) has been elected on to the Board of Directors of the FA after success as Chief Executive of Aston Villa.

Mike Bendall (2011) has secured a scholarship to train as a helicopter pilot at Bristol's flying school at Staverton. He was recently presented with the Airbus Helicopter Trophy at The Air League Awards held at St James' Palace on the 20th May. The Air League was founded in 1909 to promote the need for aviation national defences. This is an extremely prestigious award and all at King's will be watching with great interest to see what happens next in his flying career.

Obituaries

John Pierce Margaron (1941)

"Tried and Valiant, for Duty not Display" - The motto of the Border Regiment, the motto my Father lived by.

Lt Col (Ret.) John Pierce Margaron, OBE, TD, JP died at the Countess of Chester Hospital on 10th February 2014 aged 89 after a short illness. He left a wife Margaret (Peggie), 3 children - Pamela, John and myself Elizabeth, grandchildren Karin, Fiona, Gareth, Anneke, Nicholas and Laurence and great grandchild Rosa. He had two goddaughters Joanne and Sarah.

John Pierce was born above the Sandycroft Post Office, the only child of Tom and Ethel Margaron, in 1924. His parents were the

local postmasters. Both his grandfathers were postmasters. His father's twin brother, his uncle Ted was also a postmaster. He in turn became a postmaster taking over Queensferry in 1952. His wife Peggie was also a postmaster running Shotton Post Office. The Post Office was in his blood.

He was educated first at Sealand School then, after an altercation with the Headmaster, he was moved to The Kings School in Chester when it was based at Chester Cathedral. He was proud of the King School and an active member of the Chester Association of Old King Scholars, serving as their President in 1980. During his teens he was a scout and a first aider with St John's. He delivered telegrams.

John Pierce began his military life during WWII joining as a Young Soldier enlisting with the Border Regiment in Carlisle in 1942 just before his 18th birthday. After completing officer training and after being commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant he was sent to India in 1944. He fought the Japanese in Burma. At the age of 20 as a result of heavy fighting with the Japanese Imperial Guard on the banks of the Irrawaddy he was the only officer left in "C" Company, 2nd Battalion, Border Regiment, (100 Brigade, 20th Light Indian Division, 33 Corps, 14th Army). The action and the loss of so many fellow soldiers had a profound effect on him.

After the war had finished he went back to the UK to marry his sweetheart Peggie Rhodes. He loved his wife dearly and was devastated when she took ill late last year. Their relationship was a love match that lasted over 68 years. In 1946, after two weeks of marriage, he went back to India to help keep the peace during partition. He was at that time also an Instructor with The Small Arms School of Western India specialising in Sniping. He maintained his interest in guns joining the NRA and keeping a gun licence for a .303 rifle, a .22 rifle and a shotgun to the end of his life.

On leaving the regular army as a Captain, he joined the Territorials, based at Chetwynd in Birkenhead. He went to many annual camps and he ultimately gained the rank of Lieutenant Colonel. He maintained an active interest in the military and the welfare of servicemen. He was actively involved with the charity SSAFA. He was a member and past president of the local Medallist Association. He was a member of the British Legion and the Officers Association. He participated in all he could with the Border Regiment attending many functions in Carlisle and London and helping with their history and the recording of the lives of those who served. He was a local councillor, joining the West Saltney Parish Council in 1967 and serving for over 25 years. He was a Brother of the Order of St John. He was an active member of the Conservative Party. He was a JP and magistrate for over 30 years, serving as chairman of the bench in Mold. For services to the community he was awarded the OBE in 1997.

He was a businessman not only running at one stage two post offices in Queensferry and Sandycroft, but also a portfolio of rental properties. He was many times the renter of last resort accepting tenants who had been rejected by others. He was a hard worker, a workaholic often working late into the night, following after his puritanical roots. John Pierce often wrote letters over principles and morals. Peggie was his spell, grammar and tone checker. The pen became mightier than the sword.

As a hobby he kept bees. There were often many hives on the roof of the house. He would chase swarms and sell honey in the shop. He spoke a smattering of many languages and practiced his Italian, Hindi, Urdu, Welsh, French, Polish and Portuguese often with the staff of ethnic restaurants. He loved a good curry! On Saturday lunchtimes, after the Post Office had closed, he loved to hitch up the caravan and take off into the Welsh countryside. Most of our family holidays consisted of hitching up the caravan and taking the ferry over to France for a good old fashioned camping experience.

He was a regular church goer and a committed Christian. He was raised in the Welsh Presbyterian Church and was only confirmed an Anglican at the age of 60. He was a commanding figure even with his family. Very Victorian in his values he set high standards and expected obedience. He could be stubborn and did fall out with family and friends, often for many years but he melted in his later life.

God, Queen and Country came first in his life. He was British first and Welsh second. Duty was expected and done. Command and control was his style. Charity to others was his virtue. He cared for those in genuine need. He loved the Post Office and the staff who worked with him. He dearly loved his wife and his family. He worked to the end and died with his boots on. I am proud of his achievements. R.I.P.

"You have fought the good fight, you have finished the race, you have kept the faith." (from 2 Timothy 4:7)

We thank his daughter, Liz Prins, for allowing us to reproduce this Tribute based on the Eulogy given at John's Funeral. Past Presidents Will Lamb, James Brotherhood and Charles Pritchard were able to attend John's funeral service, indicating their representation of The Association.

Charles Pritchard reflects:

I found the service most uplifting and there was a large following of mourners. John's ideal of service to the Community was stressed, from his three years of active service during WW2 through to his service to his lifelong home community in Deeside as sub-postmaster, following in a family tradition in that field. He was prominent in the TA, rising to Lt Colonel, and later with SSAFA, for whom a retiring collection was made. The eulogy was superbly and unwaveringly delivered by his daughter Elizabeth and the 23rd psalm was beautifully rendered solo, by Billie Allin, a granddaughter of a family friend.

John was our President in 1980 and was a quiet but always constant supporter of The Association. His wife, Peggy, is not enjoying good health but was present in her wheelchair. They were both always chatty and welcoming to me from my earliest attendance at Association functions and John was a man whose acquaintance I count as a great privilege.

Norman Harrison 1936 - 2014

Norman was educated first at Cherry Grove school before moving on to King's with a free place. He enjoyed the academic challenge but, of his own admission, probably rejoiced more in the sporting opportunities! He also had a keen interest in scouting which he maintained after leaving school. To continue his sporting interests he joined Chester Nomads Football Club from school and was also a scorer for Boughton Hall Cricket Club. He remained active throughout his life and loved walking the coastal paths of Cornwall and Pembrokeshire as well as the Highlands and Islands of Scotland.

On leaving school Norman became articled to the accountancy firm Haswell Brothers where he qualified before working with them and other local firms. He eventually retired aged 58.

Rose and Norman married in 1960 and were blessed with 3 children, who, in turn brought them the pleasure of being grandparents. Norman joined CAOKS in the 1950s. Through the Association he maintained lifelong contact with a wide group of friends and was a regular participant in social events. His involvement led to his being President in 1979 and a greatly enjoyed year of office. Not content to rest, he then held the posts of Secretary and Newsletter editor for various periods of time.

Rose and family would like to thank so many old boys for attending the thanksgiving service.

Chris Jones (1964 - 2014)

Before Chris passed away he asked Bill Rushton to do the eulogy at his funeral. He's kindly agreed to let us print it here.

Christopher John Jones was born on the 28th May 1946, the second son of father Harry and mother Joyce. Big brother Alan had arrived two years previously and I arrived three years later, making the Jones family complete. Alan was the practical child who always got stuck in. Chris was the studious child who was always thinking about a plan. I was the little sister who generally asked too many questions and got in the way.

Chris was born in Liverpool, the home town of his father. At the age of five he attended Netherton Moss Primary school. When Chris was 8 years old the family moved to live in Ormskirk, Lancashire. Here, for a short time, we all went to Greetby Hill primary school. Chris was the blue eyed boy in the Jones family. When he was 11 years old Chris was encouraged to take a scholarship for entrance to Hutton Grammar Public School in Preston. Chris passed this scholarship and spent the next few years travelling from Ormskirk to Preston daily to attend Hutton Grammar. The family moved house once again to live in Aughton, just a train stop away from Ormskirk. Because of Chris's long journey to and from school as a day boy and his academic timetable he had very little time at home. The time he did spend at home was generally with his head in a book. We used to call him a hot house plant, as he rarely came out for air.

Having an ambitious father, the family moved yet again, because of Dad's job promotion, to live in Chester. Travelling to Preston was no longer feasible for Chris, so he then went on to study at The Kings School in Chester. Chris played an active part in arranging get togethers with his old school chums...I believe they call themselves "The Cocks".

Chris stayed at The Kings School achieving good O level results and then good A level results. This he managed in spite of some of his schooling being interrupted by a serious road traffic accident, culminating in a long recovery. After achieving his A levels Chris then went on to study electrical engineering at Leeds University. However, university life was not for Chris. At least the academic side of it wasn't. But he did enjoy the students union and rag week. Chris opted out of university after one year. I do remember Chris returning from University in the holidays causing a stir at home. One time he arrived home wearing holey jeans and sporting a Jesus hairstyle. Not the done thing in the quiet middle class cul de sac where we lived. Mother shrieked in horror and Father duly set to with a pair of scissors on the hairstyle. Not having learnt his lesson, he next returned home with peroxide blonde streaks in his hair. Needless to say this was met with the same reaction from our parents and once again he was in trouble. Chris did not learn by his mistakes.

After leaving University Chris then went to live in Alsager working for English Electric Leo Marconi, later to become ICL, International Computers Limited. He then moved to live in Holmes Chapel whilst still working for ICL. During this period of time he made many friends and became interested in Amateur Dramatics, working behind the scenes, something that he became more involved with in the years to come. Chris became chairman of Holmes Chapel Operatic and Dramatic Society for a number of years and contributed greatly to its success.

Chris's job in ICL and life in Holmes Chapel became uncertain and in 1973 Chris came home to Coedpoeth...yes, the family had been moved once again by their enterprising father. Chris was to join brother Alan and father Harry in the family bakery business that had been bought some years earlier. As Chris would say ... "Alan cooked the bread and he cooked the books!"

Some years later, no one was more surprised than myself to learn that Chris and Eirawen had got together and were later to marry. I had first met Eirawen many years earlier when I was 17 and we worked together in the Midland Bank in Wrexham. I have to say that Chris made a wise choice.

In 1986 Chris left The Village Bakery to pursue a career, once again working with computers. Chris set up his own company, Frondeg Hall Technical Publishing. In 1990 this was to become TRTS Business Services and TRTS Publishing. TRTS stands for Teaching Reading Through Spelling. Through this company, Chris supplied schools and teachers with educational resources for 20 years.

As two brothers and a sister, we became a dysfunctional family for a few years. Each one of us had inherited family traits. We were strong, we were independent and, just sometimes, we were unreasonable characters. Time and wisdom taught us all a great deal and when we finally functioned again, we enjoyed the happy times spent together in each others company and realised that Family matters.

After Chris's passing, I asked each of his three nephews and two nieces to give me three adjectives that they thought summed up Uncle Chris. Amongst the replies were...Intelligent, Principled, Pedantic, Respected, Stubborn, Charitable and Expressive. Chris will be remembered for being all of these things and much more. Chris will be remembered for playing Chinese whispers and somehow always managing to be at the end of the line and coming out with the most outrageous mutations of the original sentence. Chris will be remembered for his role as The Fat Controller when playing Thomas the Tank Engine with great nieces and nephews. Chris will be remembered for always having the knack of being able to extend his stomach out like a huge balloon and then gently popping it with the end of his finger and making a hissing noise as his stomach deflated, whilst young and old alike gazed on in disbelief. Chris will be remembered in so many different ways, by so many different people. Each and everyone of us will hold him in our hearts.

On behalf of the family I would like to say thank you to Eirawen for loving Chris and being his soul mate for so many years.

Remember me in your heart, your thoughts, your memories of the times we loved, the times we cried, the times we fought, the times we have laughed. For if you always think of me, I will never be gone

Robin Wenhan Alden (1933 - 2014)

Robin Wenhan Alden died peacefully on 4th March 2014 aged 81 years. Beloved husband to Pip (Anne - formerly Carstairs) and the late Christine. Loving and beloved father and stepfather, grandfather and stepgrandfather. Robin Alden was master for English and Rowing in the late 50's and into the early 60's.

Christopher Rowland OBE

Dr Christopher (CJ) Rowland OBE OStJ, at school 1942-1952, died 18th December 2013.

Peggy Ashley

Tim Ashley (1976) wrote to tell us of his mother's death. Many will remember the cheery disposition of Mrs Ashley, sometime lab assistant at King's.

Members' Information

Subscriptions for 2015

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

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

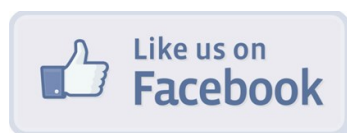
Many of those still paying by Standing Order have not increased their payment to reflect the new £18.50 rate (where they receive paper output). Due to Annual Dinner commitments I have not contacted those members yet. However, I intend to do soon, and, where possible, to collect the arrears and encourage them to change to paying by direct debit. Why not pre-empt that and contact me now! Not only does direct debit make it easier to collect subscriptions (particularly where rate changes have occurred), it also saves a considerable amount of administrative time and effort on my part. To discuss contact me at nickp.philprop@hotmail.com

Nick Phillipson

Facebook

Stay Connected - CAOKS Facebook Page Now LIVE!

Want to stay connected with CAOKS news and events on the go? The official CAOKS Facebook page is now live!



Simply click this link or type in to your preferred web browser: <https://www.facebook.com/CAOKS>

Our new Facebook page is the place to stay up to date on all CAOKS diary events, including ticketing information on the annual dinner. It is also the perfect forum for reconnecting with past friends and discussing fond memories of school life. The page also allows members to ask any questions they may have on upcoming events or sporting fixtures.



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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.

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Don't Forget!

- The 149th Annual Dinner will take place in the new and exciting location of the Town Hall in Chester on 28th March 2015. After a disappointing turn-out this year, let's make 2015 a success for the Association with a new style of Annual Dinner. Prices are currently being finalised, however we expect that the full ticket price will be £45.50, with an early bird price of £40.00. Student members will likely pay £30.00. This will include a welcome drink, 3 course meal with a choice of dessert or cheese and coffee. Pre-ordered wines start at £17.50 a bottle.
- Contact the new Dinner Secretary, David Atkin, to book your place now:
 - 07979 523943
 - davidewardatkin@gmail.com