




ISSUE NO. 85 | MAY 2023

Successful 156th Annual Dinner



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Harvest Camp



Introduction and Contents



The President and guests of the Association at the 156th Annual Dinner in January 2023

From The Editor *Anthony Russell*

Welcome to this issue of the Newsletter.

As we return to normality after the Covid years it is good to be able to report on successful CAOKS events and to give news of some new proposed events for the future. Details of forthcoming events will be found in this issue.

The memories of Mr.Tolliday’s holidays keep on arriving. These trips left a great impression on the schoolboys of the 1940s, ‘50s and ‘60s. It is easy to forget that in those days holidays abroad were something of a rarity.

I have been editing this newsletter for six years, and I have come to the conclusion that the time has come for me to retire from this role. I am now aged 72, and subject to re-election at the AGM as proposed by the committee I shall hold that office coupled with the office of president until the 2024 AGM. I am firmly of the view that it is desirable for a change in editor. It is important in any institution that new personalities and ideas come to the fore – otherwise dullness can set in. So, I hope that someone will volunteer to take on the role of Editor. It is an enjoyable post, and not too onerous, particularly with the assistance of the alumni team. It is also a post which can be performed by someone who does not live near Chester. Anyone who might be interested in taking over should contact me to find out more about the role.

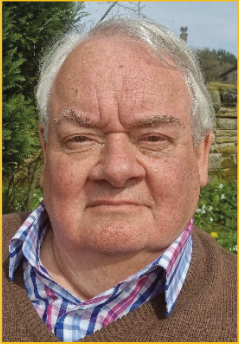
The next issue of the newsletter will be published in December 2023. Contributions should reach me by mid-October.

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President's Message



From the President

Anthony Russell

I am enjoying my Presidency of CAOKS, and the fact that after the Covid years, despite the virus remaining with us, things are getting back to normal. My first official duty was to attend the annual carol service in Chester Cathedral, an event in which I participated every year I was at the school as a member of the choir, when the service was held jointly with the Queen's School. Unfortunately, although I had allowed an extra hour for the journey I became stuck in a complete logjam around Manchester which detained me and prevented my attendance, so I am hoping for better luck next December. I was very disappointed.

However, in January, the postponed annual dinner took place, we had a good attendance and I think everyone enjoyed themselves. It was great to see OKS of all generations there, and I think the subtle changes we have made to the format, retaining the traditions but relaxing some of the formalities, have worked well. A number of people questioned the traditional toast to "The Immortal Memory of King Henry VIII". Although historical perceptions about Bluff King Hal have changed, to raise serious objections to this toast strikes me as ridiculous, and I hope we will continue to toast our founder at CAOKS dinners. The toast has been observed at our dinners from our association's foundation. Perhaps it should nowadays be regarded as a bit of fun, and not taken too seriously, and those who wish can always omit the "t" and toast the *immoral* memory of Henry VIII.

It was a great pleasure to attend the school's production of "Les Miserables" in February. This was a stunning show and a great achievement for which all who participated are to be commended. When I was at the school I took part in all the productions of the Operatic Society, under the direction of David Lyons, and various other drama productions, and they were wonderful and memorable aspects of my schooldays. In that period there was no drama department or technical team which helps to make these events so

successful today; instead our teachers performed these roles with assistance from some of the pupils of the day. But what shone through all these performances was the enthusiasm of the participants and the excitement of the performances, and in that respect nothing has changed, which is wonderful to witness.

I try to attend the reunions if I can, and wish to echo what the Headmaster says about these in his message. These have been happening for over a decade, and they have proved to be very successful and much enjoyed by those who attend, even if some OKS are somewhat apprehensive about whether to return to the school after many years' absence.

I commend the school's attention to pastoral care and the provisions for mental and physical health of the pupils. In my time (the 1960s) there was no school nurse, if you felt unwell you were put in a quiet room and mental health was not a topic on anyone's agenda. Things have changed significantly and for the better. The excellent facility of the Rohan Ingley Centre is something of which the school is rightly proud and the Mental Fitness Ambassador Scheme, the Tutor Scheme and the increased role of the School Houses, all referred to by the Headmaster, are features which should serve as a model for others when young people face so many pressures, including bullying, often online in social media.

It is not only young people who face pressure these days. As I was writing these notes I came across a news item about the Conservative MP for Blackpool North and Cleveleys, Paul Maynard, who suffers from cerebral palsy. When he speaks in Parliament, he receives a considerable amount of on-line abuse accusing him of being drunk. This is terrible. Paul Maynard should be applauded for his courage rather than abused, and his treatment is a sorry reflection on the state of our society and the nasty side of social media which seems to embolden unpleasant people to behave in this deplorable manner.

Of course, social media has many benefits, and increasingly we are connecting with OKS by means of social media, WhatsApp groups and the like. Please keep in touch with us, and do please come to an OKS event so that we can meet in person from time to time. In this newsletter will be found details of the events for the next few months, and we hope that the variety of them will be attractive. The summer barbeque is an



Officers' Messages

occasion when OKS can bring members of their family and friends to a relaxed afternoon in the (hopefully) pleasant summer weather, the quiz night is a new venture, the London gathering is a well-established occasion, and we hope the Newcastle event will be the first of other similar activities around the country. Finally, please note the date of the next annual dinner (20th January 2024). I look forward to meeting you on one or more of these occasions and other OKS activities.

Best wishes
Anthony



From the
Secretary

Peter Bernie

Looking ahead at the programme of events for the next twelve months, we start with our June AGM, which will again be held at School but the option to join in via Zoom.

As well as a series of more focussed and local events, there are some larger events I want to promote:

- CAOKS BBQ ,at School on Saturday 1 July
- Networking in Newcastle upon Tyne on Thursday 19 October
- King's in the Capital, at the House of Lords on Thursday 23 November
- Annual Dinner, at School on Saturday 20 January

Holding an event in Newcastle is a new idea and for those who don't live in the city sounds like a good excuse for a visit.

I went to the most recent equivalents of the other three – they were all lovely, popular events, so I encourage you to join us this time if you possibly can. And outside these organised events, it's also enjoyable to meet up informally. In March, enthused by our new WhatsApp group, eight of my school year dodged the

rail and tube strikes to meet up at The Parcel Yard inside King's Cross Station to enjoy supper and a few pints of Fuller's. It was great to catch up with them and we aspire to do something similar again in a few months' time.

Hoping to see you at a 2023/24 event
Peter



From the
Dinner
Secretary

Robin Hardi

With a welcome return to January, the CAOKS 156th Annual Dinner was another highly enjoyable and successful event. We had a good turnout of 75 people, up from last year, as people were getting back to normal socialising post Covid and our social media marketing paid dividends. The school catering team served an excellent Daube of Beef and the desserts continue to compare with any fine restaurant. The guest speaker was The Right Honourable Sir Stephen Phillips (OKS 1980), a distinguished Court of Appeal Judge and friend of our President, who shared a few anecdotes on the legal system and of course our President, His Honour Anthony Russell KC (another judge!), rounded off the evening with a few stories of his own. Personally it was a great pleasure to reconnect with a few of my old classmates (1987 leavers) and make some new friends. I'm always surprised by the variety of roles and experiences the alumni have and its fascinating to listen to people's stories.

Once again my thanks to the school development and catering team for supporting the event, in particular to Gemma Carvell who was thrown in at the deep end for her first CAOKS dinner and did an excellent job coordinating the evening.

We continue to modernise the annual dinner little by little to provide an engaging experience but also to respect tradition. It's a fine balance and we welcome feedback. As with all our events the aim is to continue



Officers' Messages

to provide the alumni with an opportunity to maintain and grow friendships.

We hope to see you at the 157th CAOKS annual dinner on 20th Jan 2024 at the school. Tickets are now available to purchase, from the school website:-

<https://www.kingschester.co.uk/alumni/alumni-events/>

Meanwhile there are other social events which you might like to attend at the school, in particular supper after the AGM, the summer barbeque and the quiz and curry evening, about which you will find details elsewhere in the newsletter. Tickets for these and other CAOKS and alumni events may be purchased using the same weblink, so it is worth checking this link from time to time to see what is coming up.

Regards
Robin



Notice of Annual General Meeting

Date : Tuesday 13 June 2023
Venue : The King's School and via Zoom
Time : 19.00

Agenda

Copies of all relevant documents will be available at the AGM. Copies of the accounts for the past year may be obtained by following this link or by contacting the alumni office

<http://www.kingschester.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/04/CAOKS-22-Final-Accounts.pdf>

1. Apologies for absence

2. Minutes of 2022 AGM
3. Matters arising
4. Hon. Secretary's report
5. Hon. Treasurer's report, with accounts for the year ended 31 December 2022. The accounts may be viewed by following this link: Alternatively contact the alumni team for a copy.
6. Dinner Secretary's report
7. Newsletter Editor's report
8. Reports of events in 2022-2023
9. Events proposed for 2023-2024
10. Election of six Executive Committee members to hold office until the next AGM:
 - (a) President - Anthony Russell offers himself for re-election
 - (b) Vice President - Mark Thorp offers himself for re-election
 - (c) Honorary Secretary - Peter Bernie offers himself for re-election
 - (d) Honorary Treasurer - Mark Thorp offers himself for re-election
 - (e) Dinner Secretary - Robin Hardi offers himself for re-election
 - (f) Newsletter Editor - Anthony Russell offers himself for re-election
 - (g) Further Alumni member(s) (if someone holds two or more of above offices)
 - Ravi Jayaram and Steve Williams offer themselves for re-election
11. Any other business

Minutes of AGM of 7 June 2022

Venue: School (and via Zoom)
Time: 6:30pm
Chair: Anthony Russell (AR)
Present: Peter Bernie (PB), Martin Gruffudd-Jones (MGJ), Liz Gwyther (LG), Robin Hardi (RH), George Hartley (GH), Tim Macquiban (TM), Jeffrey Storey (JS), Mark Thorp (MT).
Via Zoom: Jeremy Lloyd (JL), David Phillips (DP), Ian Travers (IT).

1. Apologies for absence

Adrian Ackroyd, Paul Consterdine, Alex Horne, Ravi Jayaram, Will Lamb, Anne Marie McMahon, Martin Meredith.



Officers' Messages

2. Minutes of the 2021 AGM

These were approved as drafted.

3. Matters arising

AR explained that following last year's Hon Treasurer's report, the Executive Committee had agreed to disburse funds by increasing CAOKS Exhibition awards, subsidising iPads for bursary pupils in the senior school and contributing to other School causes, including prizegiving trophies.

4. Hon. Secretary's report

PB noted the reduced attendance at this year's AGM and attributed this partly to the notice of meeting being less prominent, by being included within the Spring newsletter rather than attached as a separate page(s), and partly due to the impact of GDPR reducing the number of members receiving hard copy newsletters and/or email.

Action PB: review the database to see how many committed CAOKS members have inadvertently opted out of communications.

5. Hon Treasurer's report

MT presented the accounts for year-end 2021. Members' donations continued to provide an income which would be used for the CAOKS Exhibition award, iPads, and other school causes, as explained during matters arising.

6. Dinner Secretary's events report

RH explained that COVID had tended to keep attendances down at the few events that took place in 2021. The 2021 Summer Event had nevertheless attracted 65 people and the modernised-format 2021 dinner had 63 attendees. The most successful event in 2021 was the London event at the Saville Club – with many members working or living in London, an 18.30 start time, and a central London location it proved to be convenient and attractive.

Bookings are now open for various events including:

- Bowls on 18 June (Phone Jeremy Lloyd)
- Summer BBQ on 9 July (book online by 18 June, when we will assess viability of numbers)
- Golf on 29 July (phone Ian Beech)
- Annual dinner on 10 September (book online)
- London event on 10 November (book online)

Action All: whip attendees for Summer BBQ (in next ten days) and annual dinner (less time pressure)

7. Newsletter Editor's report

AR commented briefly on the latest newsletter. Everyone agreed this seemed to have been very well received, particularly the piece about Steve Williams' career in IT and rock music.

8. Election of Executive Committee

Anthony Russell was unanimously confirmed as President for the second year of his term (to September 2023) and the following were each unanimously elected for the next twelve months: Mark Thorp as Vice-President, Peter Bernie as Hon Secretary, Mark Thorp as Hon Treasurer, Robin Hardi as Dinner Secretary, Anthony Russell as Newsletter Editor

Ravi Jayaram (under the Constitution's Clause 6(c), given AR now holds two of the above offices) Steve Williams (under the Constitution's Clause 6(c), given MT now holds two of the above offices)

9. Any other business

AR passed on recently received news of the January death of past President Peter Shobbrook (1927-2022) whose obituary would be included in the Autumn newsletter.

TM asked about the whereabouts of the CAOKS archives. These were thought to be in three parts:

Those held by school, probably labelled either 'CAOKS' or 'St John Walsh';

Those held by the City Records Office; and

The few retrieved from Adrian Ackroyd, Hon Secretary 2000-2021, held now by PB or RH.

TM kindly agreed to make enquiries of both the new school archivist and the City Records Office to find out more and assess whether the City Records Office might be persuaded to hand back the archives it holds.

Action TM

PB suggested CAOKS appoint a representative in each year group to act as a focal point for year group news and encourage peer participation in CAOKS events. It was agreed this sounded like a promising idea which should be developed at the next Executive Committee meeting. **Action PB**

Buffet Supper

Following the AGM a buffet supper will be served. If you are intending to attend the AGM at the school and would like to stay for supper, please let Gemma Carvell (alumni@kingschester.co.uk) know by Monday 5th June for catering purposes.



Headmaster's Message



From the Headmaster

*George
Hartley*

One of the greatest pleasures of my job is welcoming back alumni to King's and we have enjoyed three recent get-togethers, all involving a school tour, lunch or supper and a presentation from me (yawn!) about the school today. Whilst numbers vary considerably (we had 11 for the classes of 1960-63 recently and no fewer than 58 for the class of 2012 last term), perhaps for obvious reasons, I believe that alumni nearly always leave with a smile on their face and warmth in their hearts, despite what they may have experienced during their time at school.

Hearing about your experiences at school is always the highlight for me at such events, as alumni recount their favourite stories about their old teachers, assorted triumphs and disasters and, of course, their old school chums. As the events progress and tongues loosen, anecdotes tend to get increasingly bawdy and risqué, which is of course is even more fun, though I am not sure I'd like to see a repeat of some infamous capers today; suspending unwilling pupils from a height and turning staff cars upside down would probably not go down well today either.

I do appreciate that many alumni are somewhat reluctant to return, given the risk of stirring up bad memories or possibly bumping into old foes, but I really would encourage it if you can. For a start, the school has changed a good deal over the years and most people are impressed with what they see and pleased with what they hear about their 'new' old school. We are also aware there are a few year groups who missed out during the pandemic (we invite back year groups that left 10, 20, 30 etc. years ago so the classes of '19, '20 and '21 were particularly affected) so we would be delighted to host a special school gathering for any such groups provided there are at least 10 school chums. It would be great to see you.

One specific area of modern provision that I tell alumni about with a real sense of pride is the pastoral care for individuals that we have at King's today, something that was given the highest judgement of 'excellent' in last year's ISI inspection for the first time. I was recently biffing on about this to an old boy who stopped me and said: *'that's great but what exactly is pastoral care?'* so I should explain; it is basically all that we do to ensure all our pupils are happy and that they are known, valued and cared for as individuals. We all know that happy learners are good learners so it makes good sense for any school to ensure all its pupils are content and well looked-after. We would also say it is vital for its own sake at King's, not least in the context of the current mental health epidemic amongst young people today.

Every day pastoral care is provided by form tutors who each have about 12 pupils to look after throughout their time at school; this means that tutees are exceptionally well-known as individuals. Pupils also belong to one of eight houses in the Senior School, consisting of around 80 pupils, each run by a Head of House who will also know all the pupils in their house extremely well. In addition to their tutor and Head of House, pupils can talk to Mental Fitness Ambassadors (Sixth Form students trained in mental health first aid) at any time. All pupils are also given specific lessons and various assemblies in how to stay mentally fit during their time at school. We also now have a well-being nurse available to all pupils during the school day in the Rohan Ingley centre (our well-being centre, previously the caretakers' cottages!) and, of course, a school counsellor.

Whilst these are our formal structures and systems to provide pastoral care, of course the best way our pupils can stay mentally healthy is to enjoy their work at school (we encourage them to work at their 'sustainable best'), involve themselves enthusiastically in the co-curricular programme, stay nice and healthy via sport and physical activity, get plenty of sleep and have positive relationships with others. It's not rocket science, but given the pressures on children today it is sometime easy to overlook these basic tenets of a healthy young life.

School News

Rowing Report

In 2022 Henley went very well on the boys' side, 3 boats at qualifiers, boys' 1st VIII (qualified) 2nd VIII (Temple – didn't qualify) and Quad (Fawley – didn't qualify). The girls' VIII narrowly missed out on qualifying in the girls' Vllls event, as the quickest non qualifiers after many of the crew had won a bronze medal at the National Schools' Regatta. The boys' VIII had the best run in years, making the quarter final in the Princess Elizabeth Cup, defeating Clare's Court and Scots College, Australia (selected) en-route to a quarter final with Eton.

Three memorable OKS wins this year at Henley as well, two for Thames RC and one for Leander. Patrick Hanratty (OKS 2013) stroked the British four that won, Olivia Rogerson (OKS 2015) was in the Women's Thames VIII which won the Wargrave Cup. Wilf Le Brocq (OKS 2017) coxed the Leander VIII that won the Ladies Challenge Plate.

Harry Brightmore (OKS 2012) is currently coxing the GB men's VIII and won gold at the World Championships.

Representation was again high at Henley, with OKS in many club and university crews across the 6-day regatta.

On the International front. 6 KSRC athletes achieved international vests in the summer. Lily Wood was stroke of the GB Coupe VIII which won 2 golds, Lucy Thomson was in the GB girls' 2 (Coupe) that won gold and silver. Mica Hird and Isabella Jones both represented Team Wales at the Home Countries International (HCI), as did Issy Donnachie, who was the England Team Junior Women's Captain. Issy won 3 Golds at the HCI. Andreu Palet (boys' 1st VIII cox) coxed the Junior Women's Welsh VIII at the HCI.

The end of term BBQ was a great event and the first major social event post covid. The Staff VIII picked up their first victory in many years against the School VIII, a close fought affair by ½ length. The boys' School VIII defeated the OKS VIII, again a close event, however the girls' alumnae VIII defeated the school VIII.

Other notable mentions for the year were 4 school crews making the A finals at the National Schools'

Regatta (NSR), with the girls Championship coxed four winning bronze. The club once again had over 100 athletes racing at the NSR and the highest amount of crews of any club or school at the National level event. For the 2022-2023 season, the club will have over 200 active athletes for the first time in its history, and finally, 28 boys & girls visited Boston, USA on the Head of the Charles trip and raced at the Head of the Charles (Boys' VIII, Girls' VIII, Boys' coxed quad and Boys' U17 Coxed four) The trip was a great success.

It has been a memorable year, on many fronts and a platform for both the club and the OKS to build on in 2022-2023.

David Blackham, Director of Rowing

Les Miserables



This year's major drama production over four evenings in February was the popular musical Les Miserables. This was a huge and ambitious venture with a cast of over 60 pupils, and many more participating in the orchestra, as stage crew, assisting in the front of house, etc. Over the four nights more than a thousand people watched the show which attracted rave reviews.



The director, Julia Williams, said: “ I always knew this production would be a challenge, but it has left me with a complete and utter sense of awe of the talent of the young people here at King’s.”

Songs of Praise

On Easter Sunday the BBC broadcast of “Songs of Praise” was from Chester Cathedral, recorded in February. There were six King’s students in the Cathedral Choir, and one King’s teacher, Head of Philosophy and Theology, Mr. J.R. Rees, participating.



This is not the first time that King’s has taken part in “Songs of Praise”. In 1964 several King’s School boys, including the current President of CAOKS, took part in a “Songs of Praise” programme, also broadcast from Chester Cathedral on Easter Sunday.

Reunions

A number of successful reunions have taken place this year. These events are always greatly enjoyed by those who attend them, and there have been very good attendances at some of them. Sometimes however the acceptance rate is so low that operating a reunion with only a handful of OKS attending is not a feasible proposition, in which case a private visit to the school has been arranged for those who expressed an interest.



The 1963 leavers



The 1990 leavers

This year there was a very well-attended reunion for those who left the school in 1990, re-scheduled because of the Covid pandemic. This group, apparently referred to by staff of the time as “The Reprobates”, has kept in touch through a thriving WhatsApp group, and includes Martin Lewis and CAOKS committee member Steve Williams, and they appeared to have a very good visit, with some of them ending their day at The Brewers Tap, which is owned by one of their number.

Some thought is currently being given as to how best to organise reunions in the future, but they will continue to enable OKS to reconnect with the school and their contemporaries.

CAOKS support for the School

Last year the officers and committee of CAOKS decided that some of the funds accumulated in the CAOKS accounts should be used to support projects to assist current pupils at the school in addition to an increase in the annual amount awarded to the CAOKS exhibitors.

In September of last year, as reported in the last newsletter, 6 bursary students were provided with subsidies for iPads required for their school work and this scheme will continue.

There is a proposal for the association to support a scheme to enable all Remove students the opportunity to learn an orchestral string, woodwind, or brass instrument for free. This is an initiative common to many similar independent schools, especially those with thriving musical programmes. Furthermore, pupil participation in music suffered disproportionately amongst the creative arts during the Covid period when many pupils disengaged with lessons and/or fewer started learning instruments. The scheme would provide a much-needed, major boost to participation in all musical activities over the coming years.

The scheme would run throughout the Michaelmas term in 2023 and in 2024. In addition to further tuition it will involve the purchase of additional musical instruments so that each student will have the custody of their own instrument which can be taken home for practice.

The committee will be considering this proposal at its next committee meeting and will report to the membership in due course.

Alumni News

Marissa Landy OKS (2015)



Following a successful run at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival, Marissa Landy (OKS 2015) returned to the school on 17th January for a special performance of her play, *A Non-Emergency*. Marissa runs Baloney Theatre and wrote *A Non-Emergency* to explore the strength of the elderly population over the last few years, as well as to shine a light on the work of the often overlooked ambulance care assistants.

The play follows a day in the life of two ambulance care assistants and five of their patients, revealing what really takes place in the back of a non-emergency ambulance. Whilst writing the play, which was nominated for a LET Fringe award, Marissa worked with real-life ambulance care assistants and the GMB Union to ensure that it was authentic and representative of the ambulance service.

“At Baloney Theatre, we use dark comedy to tackle issues of mental and physical health. When it’s done well, theatre can help audiences understand the subject matter more deeply, as well as affect them emotionally.” Before the evening performance, Marissa and her company spent the day in school, working with some GCSE and A Level drama students.

Harry Higginbottom OKS (2016)



In January Harry Higginbottom (OKS 2016) returned to King's to talk to students and parents about his experiences of studying in the USA. Harry took a gap year after Sixth Form during which he was recruited to the rowing team at Princeton.

He will graduate this summer with a degree in Economics and gave current students and parents a fascinating insight into life as a student at the ivy-league university. As well as dispelling some of the myths around studying in the USA, Harry also gave useful application tips to students and spoke about the many opportunities it has afforded him, including a recent internship at the United Nations in New York.

The USA is an increasingly popular university destination for King's students. 2022 leaver Lily Woods is now studying at Rutgers in New Jersey, and current Sixth Former Lydia Bills will be taking up a place at Princeton in September.

King's in the Capital

Last November the King's in the Capital event took place at the impressive One Moorgate Place, a beautiful grade-II listed building in the heart of the City, home to

the Chartered Institute of Accountants, a fitting venue for the guest speaker, Forensic Accountant Benedict Cooke (OKS 2008).



There was a large turnout and guests spanned the decades with leavers dating from 2021 back to 1960.

A plea from the Editor

The news of OKS is largely dependent upon former pupils informing me or the school of their circumstances, so please keep us informed of your activities, such as changes of job, promotions, retirement and other activities and interests.

Many OKS find it interesting to learn about what their contemporaries and other OKS are up to, and the information is of assistance to the school in arranging events or contacting OKS who may be in a position to help others or current students in a mentoring capacity or something similar.

It is also important to inform the alumni office of any change of address, etc. Contact details are on the back page of the newsletter.



Annual Dinner Photos





Calendar of Events

If you would like to book onto an event please visit www.kingschester.co.uk/alumni/alumni-events/ or call Gemma on 01244 689492

2003 and 2013 Reunions

April-May 2023

Reconnect with your peers and enjoy a tour of the school, a look through some archive material finishing with a delicious buffet lunch/dinner.

Ladies Day for Alumnae

Fri 12th May 2023

Ladies Day at Chester Races, an exclusive event for our Alumnae. Final Furlong May Festival package to include: Admission badge, table reserved for your exclusive use throughout the day, a glass of house Champagne on arrival, four course grand buffet lunch, all inclusive bar (include house wines, beers, lagers, standard spirits & soft drinks), race card, afternoon tea, complimentary parking, television viewing

CAOKS Golf Day

Fri 23rd June 2023

Join us for the CAOKS Golf Day at Chester Golf Club, Tee-off times from 1.30pm followed by Dinner and Prize Giving after the Golf. Dress code: Golf attire and then for the dinner, jacket and tie for Gentlemen, smart attire for the Ladies. (No jeans or trainers)

Henley Tea Party

Fri 30th June 2022

Join us at the King's gazebo on the Henley Cricket Field to enjoy the world-renowned Regatta and the free flowing Pimm's and Prosecco! Register your interest now.

Summer Get-Together

Sat 1st July 2023

Bring the whole family along and join us for an afternoon of fun!
BBQ lunch, drinks, ice cream, rounders and plenty more to keep the adults and children entertained!

Curry and Quiz Night

Thurs 28th September 2023

Gather your friends and see if you can be crowned winners! Come along for a fun night and enjoy a tasty meal whilst having your general knowledge put to the test.

Newcastle Networking

Thurs 19th October 2023

This year we have decided to extend our King's in the Capital Networking event and hold a second networking event to reach our Alumni based in the North. Our guest speaker is confirmed as Dr Ravi Jayaram (OKS 1985) he is a Consultant Paediatrician at The Countess of Chester Hospital.

King's in the Capital

Thurs 23rd November 2023

This year's event will take place at the House of Lords with our guest speaker confirmed as Jonathan Samuels (OKS 1991) Jonathan is an experienced broadcast journalist and for more than 20 years has reported on breaking news stories around the globe for Sky News, BBC, Channel 4 and Five.

CAOKS Annual Dinner

Sat 20th Jan 2024

This event is a highlight in our calendar. All alumni spanning the decades are invited to join us at School, on Saturday 20th January for what promises to be a fabulous evening of great food, good wine and camaraderie. The evening will commence with an optional tour of the school followed by a welcome drinks reception, and delicious 3 course meal. Guest speaker TBC

School Trip to San Sebastian 1949

Mr. Tolliday's holidays have attracted much interest and awakened memories of many OKS. Mike Clutterbuck's memoir of his schooldays, from which extracts have been published previously, contains this account of the trip to San Sebastian.

One of our more entertaining and genial teachers, Mr G R Tolliday (maths and Latin) organized a school trip to San Sebastian in, I think, 1949. Youngsters of today might not realize that overseas school holiday trips of that period were extremely rare, and those few that did venture away from British shores usually went to northern France. For the King's School to send boys to Spain was unheard of.

We travelled in a manner which would doubtless horrify modern school authorities; there were 22 of us with one teacher in sole charge. We travelled by train via London, Paris and Hendaye on the Franco-Spanish frontier. Most of us were in Shell or the Third form. When we arrived in San Sebastian we were given pretty free reign during the day to do what we liked, provided we were present for meals. Mr Tolliday did not speak Spanish although he had some Portuguese which seemed to suffice for our basic needs, nevertheless I don't recall any of us having communication problems. We shared two to a room in the hotel.

On one occasion, Colin Peters and I visited an aquarium down by the beach and while we admired the fish, we were both repelled by the ugly octopuses which we observed with their black ink squirts. Back at the hotel, we were all sitting down to lunch when some odd pieces of what looked like rubber in a dark juice were served. We tasted it hesitantly until Mr Tolliday announced, "Well boys; you are eating octopus today." Instantly twenty-two sets of knives and forks were placed back on the table indicating a sudden and mass loss of appetite. Readers need to remember that four years after the War most of us were used to plates which contained a small piece of meat with two veg. During the war years and for some years afterwards, rationing still held sway, anything different was Not British, unknown, and hence largely despised as 'foreign muck'.

In San Sebastian we were initially rather puzzled, as our city explorations were hampered by finding that everywhere was shut after lunch for three hours, a period we learned was called the *siesta*. However, we were gratified to discover that the city woke up later and carried on until late. No nine o'clock bedtimes for us; we partied until eleven most evenings. Spanish visitors were invited and they taught us how to swallow red wine poured out of spouted glass jugs shaped like teapots. The trick was to start near the mouth and then gradually withdraw the spout while keeping the wine pouring neatly into the mouth. The fact that we were all 13 or 14 years of age had no bearing on the matter. Near the hotel there was a *cantina* which Colin and I frequented as they had a table football game, and the proprietors were quite happy to supply us with a large carafe of cider for two and a half pesetas (about sixpence if my memory serves – well within our financial limitations). Spaniards had apparently no problem with serving alcohol to children and we didn't abuse the unexpected freedom offered. However, we did once arouse the ire of the police. We had been swimming one morning and had left our bathers on the hotel balcony to dry in the sun; local residents were highly indignant at the scurrilous and indecent display of such intimate apparel.

A rather more unfriendly encounter with the *Guardia Civil* occurred when a few of us took a tram ride from the city to the nearby frontier town of Irun. The ride to Irun was interesting as the ancient tram swung and swayed along its tracks through the countryside, but the return journey on a bus gave us a scare. Halfway back the bus was stopped by police armed with machine pistols, and all passengers were searched and required to show papers. I had a rifle muzzle stuck into my face, but we were only glared at as we had no bags that could be searched. It was nevertheless an uncomfortable experience. On a later day another moment of serious discomfort was experienced by one of our classmates. He was sitting on the veranda side gate at the back of a tram in the countryside. As we entered a tunnel at

about 30 km/h the gate clasp came loose; the lad swung out almost into the rocky wall of the tunnel and only saved himself by clinging for his life to the thin upright frame holding the roof of the vehicle. I regret to confess that we laughed at the spectacle as he pulled himself back to safety.

One day Mr Tolliday had booked a tram-ride for us all elsewhere into the countryside, although I don't recall the destination. Shortly after the tram left the city it stopped in the middle of a wood. The driver got out and walked away along a forest path leaving us wondering. He returned forty minutes later, climbed into the tram without a word to anyone, and we continued our journey. In those days of our innocence we couldn't imagine what he might have been doing, possibly a late lunch? Speculation nowadays would have a rather more mischievous tone, I suspect. On another occasion we were due to travel to a nearby town called Deva whose mayor Mr T had previously contacted by letter. He bore a formal greeting from the Mayor of Chester to the Mayor of Deva. We gathered in the town centre with the Mayor and other dignitaries for the obligatory photographs, but aside from that I do not remember anything else about the day except that our hotel provided us all with a large bread roll filled with a mixture of egg and potato which I still remember with great pleasure. The only other recollection I have of Spain is of passing a Spanish air force station and sighting a squadron of Messerschmidt 109s.

On our return journey to the UK, we stayed overnight in a youth hostel in Paris where we were startled by the toilet arrangements. How exactly did you handle a simple hole in the floor in the middle of the cubicle? In a zoo not far from the hostel, Colin and I hired a rowboat and practised our schoolboy French on an attractive young lady in an adjacent boat, doubtless to the annoyance of her rowing boyfriend, as we passed them several times. We then spent time watching the monkeys; several of whom were watching a group of spectators pulling faces at them. This left me wondering on which side of the barrier the real clowns were.

What was my personal gain from this trip? Quite apart from the stimulation of being in foreign parts and discovering that exotic food could actually be very tasty, I learned that foreigners in their own country could be pleasant and normal people. (Remember that in Chester at that time one very rarely met foreigners.) Five years later, holidays with a German penfriend in Hamburg turned out to be even more rewarding. Now living in Melbourne more than sixty years later and twenty thousand kilometres apart, that penfriend and I with our respective wives are still in regular contact; but that is a very different story.

Mike Clutterbuck OKS 1956

World War II Harvest Camps

When browsing some school magazines to search for information for an obituary I came across an interesting article about four King's School boys attending a Harvest Camp at Bryanston School in Blandford Forum, Dorset, held in the summer of 1940 as part of the country's war effort. This is a little known piece of King's School and national history.

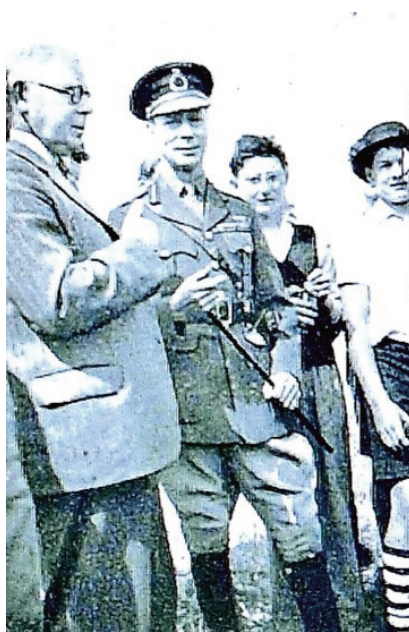
In August 1940, four King's School boys, J.W. Pearson, J.F. Weaving, K. Wallace and C.W. Seddon set off to travel the 200 miles to Bryanston School by bicycle to participate in the harvest camp, set up for public schoolboys in the summer holidays. Bryanston School is a grand house in extensive grounds much of which were given over to food production during the war. There were 45 boys and masters from seven schools working at the camp in the school grounds and surrounding farms for two weeks.

The work was hard – from 10 o'clock to half past five each day with a break for a picnic lunch the boys gathered in the harvest, mainly stacking sheaves of corn and some threshing, but also picking turnips and clearing fields of weeds for later sowing. In addition all the domestic cleaning, food preparation and cooking meals was done by groups of the boys, so there was little time for leisure, except on Sundays which were free.



On August 14th the boys were informed that King George VI would be visiting. K. Wallace reported this in an article for the school magazine.

“On August 14th we had a particularly happy surprise. Mr Cobb announced at breakfast that His Majesty the King was to pay the camp a visit during the morning. The party was divided for work on two farms, and hiling (stacking sheaves of corn) went on spasmodically until about eleven o’clock, when the King arrived. His Majesty chatted merrily to the company for some time, asking questions about the work and comfort of the camp. Photographs were taken, and then beer and ginger-beer were handed round. Before he left, the King shook each boy by the hand, and was enthusiastically cheered. The whole party was thrilled and delighted: no-one could understand why such an honour had been bestowed on the camp.”



K. Wallace concluded his article: “On the Sunday evening before the camp broke up there was a grand party, in which all concerned with it took part, boys, masters and farmers. On the Monday morning, the King’s School party packed up and set out on the long cycle ride back to Chester.”

In 1940 the school’s games field at Lache Lane was ploughed, and there were further harvest camps in the remaining years of the war, up to a thousand camps each summer. King’s School boys took part in camps at Chipping Campden from 1942 onwards. It was not until 1950 that the scheme ended.

Anthony Russell, Editor



OBITUARIES

Hilary Fox 1930 – 2023



It is with great sadness that we announce the death of Hilary Fox, who taught modern languages at the school from 1980 to 1994. Hilary graduated from Liverpool University in 1952 and subsequently consolidated her language skills while working for NATO Headquarters, then based in Paris.

Hilary Colecliffe met Mike Fox at university, where they shared a passion for languages that would shape the rest of their lives. They married in 1956. They moved to Chester when he was appointed Head of Modern Languages at the King's School in 1964, where they remained until they retired to live in France in 1994. Even after their retirement, they remained in touch with the school through the contacts they retained with the many pupils whose lives they had touched over the decades.

Hilary taught French on a part-time basis while bringing up six children, five of whom attended the school. She taught French and German but especially enjoyed teaching French literature to senior classes. Her passion for French culture shone through when she taught not just not just language skills, but also literature ranging from Molière, through Flaubert to Camus. The combination of her intellect and her love of these works meant that she was able to convey to rooms of teenage boys an interest that for many would stick with them for life (and, as a helpful side-effect, would improve their A Level results).

So immersed was she in French culture (Mike and she would take their family to spend as long as possible in France every summer) and so rich was her knowledge of the language that many of her pupils (and some colleagues) firmly believed that she was French rather than the proud Lancastrian she really was.

Hilary was committed to life-long learning. She taught herself Spanish in 1975, as well as Flamenco guitar, and was responsible for introducing Spanish to the school curriculum in the 1980s. In the days before the bypass was constructed, Hilary was often to be seen crossing the Old Dee Bridge on her bicycle, en route from Christleton to the school, with 24 exercise books balanced precariously on her pannier.



Mike and Hilary Fox

As if that wasn't enough, Hilary was a dedicated supporter of the Rowing Club, run by Mike. She spent many a Saturday at regattas all over England and hosted officials of the Amateur Rowing Association on their visits to the North West. In the later years, they travelled together as representatives of the International rowing federation to elite regattas around Europe, from Sweden to Slovenia. She and Mike were a team who both played a major role in raising the profile of rowing at the school and made King's Chester a force to be reckoned with at national level.

This obituary was compiled by members of the Fox family.



Richard Francis Chaplin OKS (1957)



Richard Chaplin, who attended the King's School between 1947 and 1957, died on 20th January 2023, aged 82.

Whilst at the school Richard rowed in the First VIII and competed in the Princess Elizabeth Cup at Royal Henley Regatta. On leaving school he joined the Royal Chester Rowing Club and rowed in the 1963 VIII which won at several provincial regattas and competed in the Thames Challenge Cup at Henley.

After a period in the Merchant Navy his career was in various tax departments which took him to the South of England, returning to the Chester area as a VAT specialist officer.

Rowing remained his principal sporting interest throughout his life. When working in the South he rowed for Marlow Rowing Club, returning to Royal Chester Rowing Club when his work brought him back to Chester. He served as Treasurer of the club for a number of years.

Ill health curtailed his rowing, but his interest in the sport never waned.

His wife, Gillian, pre-deceased him. They had a son, William.

Robin Thomas Gibson OKS (1949)



Robin Thomas Gibson died suddenly on 17th August, 2022. He was born on 23rd January 1932 in Frodsham, Cheshire. After studying at The King's School, he went to Durham University to study Mathematics and Accountancy.

After completing Articles and Auditing with several companies he became Financial Accountant at PZCussons, producing the company's Annual Accounts. He worked there for about 35 years and met his wife-to-be, Yvonne, who worked in the computer department. They married in 1971 and spent nearly 51 years together. They had a son, Christopher who is a deputy headteacher, and a daughter, Jane, who trains her company's clients to use their software. They gave him a granddaughter, Grace, and two grandsons, Oliver and Benjamin.

During his time at The King's school Robin was greatly influenced by his English Master, "Tec" Evetts, who gave him his lifelong passion for the English language and great literature. Robin had a very eclectic library of some 1500+ books. He was a member of The Folio Society, who produced many beautiful books including special prestige volumes, from his late teenage years until he died. He had read each one except the last eight which arrived a few weeks before his death.

Another lifelong passion from his university days was music. He had a vast collection of CDs and DVDs of opera, ballet, orchestral and chamber music; early music to the present day. His favourite composers were Verdi, Mozart and Beethoven.

Steam engines and railways generally were also of great interest to him since boyhood. He was a member



Obituaries

of 9 Railway Societies until he died. He travelled widely in Europe and the UK satisfying many of his interests with guided arts and railway tours visiting theatres, galleries, museums etc. He returned with many photographs (another hobby).

Robin had a lifelong passion for Liverpool Football Club and was a season ticket holder for about 45 years – with Yvonne also for the past 30 years. Apart from football, he was interested in many other sports, and played challenging board games and strategy games. Robin enjoyed meeting people and was an engaging conversationalist. Until his last day he read his daily broadsheet and followed national and international news. He regularly watched PMQs and parliamentary debates.

He was nearly 91 years old when he died and had developed several medical problems.

Robin's widow, Yvonne, compiled this obituary.

Michael Younger OKS (1969)

Michael Younger, who attended the school from 1959 to 1969, died suddenly on 29th November 2022 at the age of 72.

At school Mike was an excellent all-round sportsman. He played for the school football and cricket teams from the junior school right through the senior school and continued playing cricket after leaving school. He was also a very competitive golfer and he won the CAOKS trophy when the competition was last held at Chester Golf Club in 2018.

Having studied sciences in the sixth form he continued studying science and went into industry where he had a successful career in a number of sectors.

Mike leaves his widow, Lynn, and they had three children, Abigail, Claire and Simon. Simon also studied at the King's School.

Mike regularly attended CAOKS events, and is remembered as a delightful friend, warm-hearted and generous with his time and hospitality, with whom it was always a pleasure to be. His funeral was attended by several of his schoolfriends, including Ian Beech, David Sandiford, Monty Goodman, Will Lamb and Mickey Moore.

Other deaths

We have been informed of the deaths of the following Old King's Scholars. Obituaries may follow in the next issue.

David Clemence OKS (1953) died in March 2023

Jeffrey Stuart Chrimes OKS (1961) died earlier this year

Stuart Dutton OKS (1961) died in March 2023

Footnote

John Peers OKS of Menai Bridge, Anglesey has written of his friend **Michael Cornes OKS (1959)** whose obituary was published in the last issue:

"I was sad to read the obituary to Michael. I spent 5 years in the same form as Michael, he was a good friend. One memory is when Michael made the National Press. He paddled from Farndon to Chester by canoe to attend school. I unfortunately can't remember the reason, strike or bad weather? Yes I am now 80 so memory a bit lacking!"

Other Diary Dates for 2023

In addition to the events listed on page 13 the following fixtures have been arranged:

Rowing - CAOKS v The School – Tuesday 4th July 2023
Alumni/Parents vs School followed by a complimentary BBQ for Alumni. 5.00pm - 6.30pm

Cricket - CAOKS v The School – *New Date, Tuesday 4th July 2023

Snooker Evening at Chester City Club – 10th November

For further information about any of these events, please contact Gemma of the Alumni team:

alumni@kingschester.co.uk



Officers



OFFICERS AND EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

PRESIDENT	Anthony Russell (1970)	President@caoks.co.uk
VICE-PRESIDENT	Mark Thorp (1977)	
HON. SECRETARY	Peter Bernie (1976)	HonSec@caoks.co.uk
HON. TREASURER	Mark Thorp (1977)	Treasurer@caoks.co.uk
DINNER SECRETARY	Robin Hardi (1987)	DinnerSec@caoks.co.uk
EDITOR	Anthony Russell (1970)	Editor@caoks.co.uk
CO-OPTED	Ravi Jayaram (1985)	
	Steve Williams (1990)	
HEADMASTER	George Hartley	headmaster@kingschester.co.uk
DEVELOPMENT OFFICER	Gemma Carvell	alumni@kingschester.co.uk
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The preferred means of communication is by email. Paper correspondence to CAOKS officers and committee should be sent to:

CAOKS, The Development Office, The King's School, Wrexham Road, Chester CH4 7QL

Telephone: 01244 689492

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