

CAOKS  
NEWS

ISSUE NO. 91 | MAY 2026

King's in the Capital



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CAOKS 160<sup>th</sup>  
Annual Dinner  
*March 2027*



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# Introduction and Contents



The Headmaster, Mrs Jones and some of the "Class of 1990"



## From The Editor *Steve Williams*

Welcome to the Summer edition of the CAOKS newsletter.

As I begin putting finger to keyboard, it's February 14th – Valentine's Day. It also seems like the first day without rain for months. I'm sure that is an exaggeration but not by much I feel. I always like to be ahead of the game where possible.

By the time you read this issue we will have had the latest edition of the CAOKS Annual Dinner. Another fine evening with great company and great food. There will be a full report in the next issue.

The CAOKS AGM will take place on Friday June 12<sup>th</sup> at the Ship in Handbridge, Chester at 19:00, followed by an optional supper. Please find full details elsewhere in this issue but please do come along and join us for the meeting and a bite to eat.

We do have some interesting articles relating to former staff members and students. One of the best things about doing this "job" is when OKS get in touch via email because they recognised names of former classmates in an article. This often prompts the reader to submit a piece themselves, which is what keeps the whole thing turning of course.

As we head towards the Summer, minds turn to holidays and visiting families and such like. I've never been one for two weeks in the sun. I remember my Dad saying when I was young – "We will go abroad when we have seen everything here" which of course we never did as there is so much to see and do on our own doorstep. I've been fortunate to visit many places with music but that never leaves time to see anything.

Have a wonderful summer, whatever you have planned.

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## President and Officers' Messages



### From the President

*Steve Williams*

I'm writing these words just a few days after the 159<sup>th</sup> CAOKS Annual Dinner which was held at school on March 21<sup>st</sup>. What a splendid evening it was all round, all made possible by the superb work done by Gemma Carvell and Marissa Donnelly along with CAOKS Dinner Secretary Andy Jones. I would also like to commend the school catering team for a tremendous menu and brilliant service, all served up in the Vanbrugh Theatre.

It has been a real privilege for me to take on the role of CAOKS President this year, and I very much enjoyed the opportunity of delivering a short (at least I think it was short) speech to wrap up proceedings, along with delivering the final toast "The Immortal Memory of Henry VIII.

Mentioning our founder also recalls the fact that we are 15 years away from the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of the school. What a momentous occasion that will prove to be, I'm sure.

Whilst we will be saying farewell to Headmaster George Hartley at the end of the academic year, in September we will be welcoming the new Headmaster Luke Rogers. I look forward to meeting Luke in due course, not least as he grew up in Wales and is a music graduate.

We are also saying farewell to Deputy Head (Academic) James Millard after 22 years of service to the school. It was great to see and hear from James at the recent Annual Dinner as well and we wish George and James all the very best in their future endeavours.

Everything changes of course. People come and people go. Buildings spring up and in due course are replaced but we keep the memories of all these things alive with the fellowship that is the Chester Association of Old King's Scholars.

Steve Williams 25/03/26



### From the Secretary

*Peter Bernie*

If you are invited back to your year group reunion by School, I encourage you to go along if you possibly can. My 1976 leavers were invited back in February when seventeen of us attended. The event was particularly special because five of our former teachers joined us, despite the oldest teacher now having reached 92.

And please do join CAOKS for this year's AGM at The Ship in Handbridge. The AGM starts at 19.00 on Friday 12 June – the formal business usually takes only a few minutes so is followed by supper for those who choose to stay and enjoy that. If you would like to reserve a place for supper, please let me know by D-Day, Friday 6 June. Hoping to see you in 2026.

Peter

**EATON GOLF CLUB**

**KING'S ALUMNI CAOKS**  
CHESTER ASSOCIATION OF OLD KING'S SCHOLARS  
EST. 1865

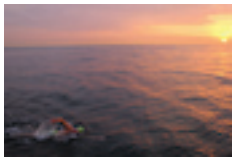
**CAOKS GOLF TOURNAMENT**

- 📅 THURSDAY 18<sup>TH</sup> JUNE  
12.30PM START
- 📍 EATON GOLF CLUB  
Guy Lane, Waverton,  
Chester, CH3 7PH
- £ FROM £65.00 PP

**Join Our Alumni Golf Tournament!** Email Michael Moore (OKS 1964) to confirm your place [michaelwemoore@btinternet.com](mailto:michaelwemoore@btinternet.com)



# Officers' Messages



## From the Dinner Secretary

*A.D Jones*

The 159th annual dinner took place on Saturday, March 21st, maintaining the recent practice of allowing guests a few extra months to recover from the festive season's indulgences. The event took place in the Vanbrugh Theatre at the school, but attendees would hardly have recognised it thanks to the extensive decorations and table settings added by the Development Staff.

After 158 dinners in charge Robin Hardi retired as Dinner Secretary. Thank you Robin for your sterling service to CAOKS in running the dinner so well for so many years! Some might say that the many years of volunteering his body for the tasting of all possible delicious courses had finally worn him down, but Robin is made of stern stuff and kindly offered to continue to assist with this. The search to find a suitable new Dinner Secretary within the CAOKS Committee couldn't find anyone as good as Robin so CAOKS will have to make do with myself.

The recent changes in dialing down some of the formal tone of the event were felt to be positive so this trend continued. A more significant change was made in opening the dinner to include Parents of future CAOKS members in addition to spouses and significant others of CAOKS members. I understand members appreciated the care taken not to sit any individual members' spouse with their significant other.

With both the Headmaster (George Hartley) and the Deputy Head Academic (James Millard) leaving the school at the end of this academic year they were permitted to wax lyrical about their adventures at the school and their hopes for the future. They didn't disappoint. Members

were only briefly jolted out of their state of repletion to suck in bellies and look intelligent when George told the parents present that "if they wanted to know how their children would turn out, just take a look at the CAOKS members present".

With this year's dinner selling out to capacity we will offer CAOKS members the option to purchase tickets for next year's dinner for a few days before the event is opened to parents of future CAOKS members. Many thanks to the Development and Catering staff for all their hard work for the event – it didn't go unnoticed and was much appreciated.

Dates for next year's 160th dinner will be announced in a forthcoming issue.

## Flashback to 2017

**The Herald** 2017 Winter  
EVERY OPPORTUNITY. ENDLESS POSSIBILITIES.

A warm welcome to our new Headmaster, George Hartley

Top performing school in Cheshire

Leavers impress with A Level success 4	Celebrating our best ever GCSE results 4	14 pupils in their stunning production of <i>Guys and Dolls</i> 16	Infants create beautiful poppy display 18
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## Headmaster's Message



### From the Headmaster

*George  
Hartley*

Dear all,

I am writing this in the wake of an excellent CAOKS dinner held in the Vanbrugh Theatre. At once time a rather stiff and formal affair, with various idiosyncrasies involving processions, clapping in unison and pseudo-sacramental ornaments, I am glad that the event has been brought happily into the 21<sup>st</sup> century and that we were all able to enjoy a relatively relaxed evening with great food, excellent company and a heathy dollop of the warm camaraderie associated with such events. For the first time we also invited current King's parents who enriched the evening and made it a very special occasion as my last CAOKS dinner.

I'm delighted to say that I will be leaving King's with our alumni association in great shape. Upon arrival back in 2017 let's just say things were interesting in terms of school-alumni relations, though since then, thanks to a succession of brilliant, open-minded and progressive Presidents and CAOKS Committee members, as well as significant investment from the school, we have a fully revitalised and thriving programme of CAOKS events with higher levels of engagement than ever before. Of course, this has been helped by opening up CAOKS membership to all pupils who have ever attended King's though also by ensuring we offer events that appeal to the full range of members. As ever, I would encourage you all to attend such events and look forward to hopefully seeing you and sharing a drink in the sunshine before I leave this summer.

In school all is well with 'Strategy 2030' now firmly in place, which will provide key areas of focus over the next few years. I won't bore you with all the details but simply mention here the six strategic straplines which are *Academic Excellence, Character for the Future, Sustainability & Growth, One Family, Four Schools, Staff Valued & Excelling and Community Strength.*

As I've mentioned before in this newsletter, the last year or two hasn't been the easiest of time for the UK independent school sector but by all measures, including school numbers which reached a record high of 1172 this year, record exam results last summer and a whole host of national sports titles (with more likely to come this year), King's remains in really great shape. I am also proud to say that we have more super-bright bursary pupils at King's than ever before and would like to especially thank all CAOKS members who have contributed to this noble mission.

So finally and given this will be my last introduction to the newsletter before handing over to Luke Rogers, it just leaves me to say '*adiós y hasta pronto*'. I have always really valued all my happy work and interactions with CAOKS members over the years and if you ever find yourself in Madrid, I would be glad to meet up for a cheeky cãna or two to talk about the good old times.

George Hartley

[hm@kingschester.co.uk](mailto:hm@kingschester.co.uk)

CAOKS would like to thank George for his support and help in revitalising the Association over the past 9 years. It's fantastic to have such strong support from the Headmaster, and we look forward to catching up one more time before George heads to Madrid.



### An Appreciation of Mr Joseph Howgego – former Master at King’s

Former pupils of my era will recall Joseph Howgego, who taught French and German at the school for some years from 1959.

Mr Howgego died on 27 March 2025, at the age of 91, only a few weeks before his successor at King’s, Mike Fox.

Joseph Howgego was born in Crewe on 4 April 1933 but grew up in Rochdale and attended Manchester Grammar School, where he excelled in modern languages, to the extent that he won a scholarship to attend Queen’s College, Cambridge, where he read modern languages, specialising in French and German.

Briefly, his career history started when he took up a teaching post at Birkenhead School. During this time, he married Barbara and their first home was in the Wirral, where the eldest of their four sons, Bill, was born.

He then taught for several years at King’s School, which of course is where I got to meet him. After this, he became Head of Modern Languages at King George V Grammar School for Boys, Southport.

A change of direction took him and the family to Scotland in 1967, where he joined the Scottish Schools Inspectorate to become a HMI, based in Edinburgh and living in Gullane. In 1978 he moved to Aberdeen to become a District Inspector for the North-East of Scotland. In 1983, he and the family returned to Edinburgh when he became Chief Inspector for Further Education, retiring from this post in 1993. He and Mrs Howgego then lived in Gullane for a further 20 years before relocating back to Southport in 2013 to be nearer family.

What of his time at King’s School? He taught me French and German in the Upper Fourth and was

also our Form Master. He certainly took his work very seriously, which meant that he prepared us very carefully for upcoming O Levels and expected high standards of work from us, but he always had a lighter side to his nature and was by no means averse to joking with us and allowing us to joke back with him. As our form master, he was always caring and conscientious and communicated with us very well.

However, I first came to know him a long time before he taught me, as I joined the school Operatic Society when I was in Remove A and was hence in the chorus when he played in two Gilbert and Sullivan works, firstly as Marco in the Gondoliers (in which production Mrs Howgego played Tessa) and then as Frederic in the Pirates of Penzance two years later. Both parts gave him every opportunity to display his beautiful tenor voice and his skill as a very good comedy actor.

Away from the classroom, he took school parties on trips to Germany and on ski-ing trips. Having obtained his Passenger Service Vehicle licence, he was a designated driver of the school bus, along with Mr Clamp, and drove to and from school camp at Abersoch at least once.

He was at King’s for the official opening of the then new buildings by Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother in June 1960. He was in charge of a group of 6<sup>th</sup> form boys who were equipped with black umbrellas to protect Her Majesty in case there was rain. In the event, they were not needed. In his teaching role he gave his absolute all and this will surely have applied to his other commitments, too.

What did Mr Howgego do outside work? He was an active man, with many other interests—he spoke a number of languages beyond French and German and family members recall him giving a speech in Korean as the father of the groom when his youngest son David married his Korean wife Hyunmi in Hong Kong in 2005.



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## Alumni and School News

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Throughout his life, he and Mrs Howgego often visited the Lake District and various parts of the Pennines. They roamed the Balmoral Estate whilst living in Aberdeen and greatly enjoyed long walks and the freedom of the countryside whenever they were on holiday.

From being a lad, he had always had a particular interest in birdwatching, which he passed on to all of his sons. He was never a “twitcher”, just a keen “birder”, as they are called nowadays. i.e. able to identify and enjoy everyday birds as well as rarities if they happen to come along. It’s not so long ago that his son Bill was able to take him to the hide on Marine Drive in Southport, set up a telescope and let him enjoy watching the waterbirds on the lakes or turning the other way and, from a vantage point in the car park, scan the salt-marshes with binoculars for anything of interest.

He was always interested in sport. Whilst growing up, he lived a stone’s throw from Old Trafford, so was naturally a lifelong Man U supporter. He also participated in sport at a high level, representing Cambridge University at table-tennis and playing in college teams for both tennis and soccer. He was, too, a keen squash player.

He was an enthusiastic cyclist in his time, often cycling home from Cambridge to Manchester and back when he was a student. When they were first married, he and Mrs Howgego owned a tandem. This was to be the chosen mode of transport for their honeymoon in North Wales and it’s a long way round to get there starting from Birkenhead! They also famously rode their tandem through the Mersey Tunnel to visit relatives north of the river in the days when this was allowed. Mrs Howgego still remembers a large lorry breathing down their necks as they struggled up the incline to reach the tunnel exit. For downhill sections, speed was no problem.

When they moved to Scotland, he naturally took up golf. It was difficult to avoid in Gullane with its 3 fine links courses and the Muirfield

championship course close by. It was a way of life there and he took part with enthusiasm as a player and active member of various clubs and societies. Just recently, Bill found a golf scorecard from the early 80s which he’d kept as a memento of probably his best round and it included a hole-in-one!

He had musical talents, too. He had a fine tenor voice and sang in many choirs and as a soloist. A vinyl record was made of his performance in the Pirates of Penzance, so his soaring tenor voice is preserved for posterity. He played the violin, which he learned from his father. He enjoyed playing with his wife as accompanist on the piano in local amateur music groups and with other family members.

He was never shy to embark on ambitious practical projects. At the house in Gullane, he installed a large crazy-paved patio, using broken paving slabs he’d done a deal to acquire from a local building site. He knew the site manager through the golf club, who’d given him leave to help himself to any broken slabs and even break a few whole ones if he couldn’t find enough on the scrap pile! He also built sheds, gates and walls and carried out many home-improvement projects. In retirement, he took up the Scottish art of “stick-dressing”, which involves making walking sticks with ornate crooks carved from wood or horn. The family has many examples of his work which he exhibited at country shows and others were donated to family members or even offered for sale.

Wherever they lived and especially in retirement, he did his bit to support his local community by being on committees and helping run and organise things. He ran a youth group in Gullane, was an elder in the local church and was a driver for a community transport scheme. When the village library was threatened with closure, in his role as Chairman of the Community Council he was instrumental in raising support and money to keep it open. It thrives to this day thanks to his efforts.



## Alumni and School News

On moving back to Southport, he joined various clubs and discussion groups. This proved to be a very successful move, not least owing to the friendships and support enjoyed from neighbours and members of All Saints Church.

Much as his life was one of achievements across so many aspects, perhaps his proudest achievement was his family: his wife, 4 sons, 10 grandchildren and 4 great-grandchildren. Especially in later life, his family was a particular pleasure, and he often spoke about this and how important it is to support and cherish family. He was a much-loved husband, father, father-in-law, uncle, grandfather and great-grandfather.

I would like to express my heartfelt thanks to JH's son, Mr W J Howgego, for allowing me to quote extensively from the funeral eulogy. I also want to thank him and JH's widow, Mrs Barbara Howgego, for freely letting me share from their treasure chest of memories. Without their valued participation, this appreciation would never have been written

Ian Warburton  
January 2026.

### A Letter from Sir Michael Wright OKS 1951

Dear Alumni Team,

Thanks, and compliments on the new newsletter – which is certainly packed with information! I am moved to write to you – for the first time in aeons – because for the first time in ages some familiar names have appeared which has awakened some memories, in an otherwise very defective recollection!

I went to King's aged 13, in 1945, and my first vivid recollection was the then Headmaster, Canon "Len" Harvey (named after the then current heavyweight boxing champion!); his real

first name was Leslie. He tutored some of us in Divinity, and was always formidable, although I seem to remember that some years after I had left, so did he, under something of a cloud – I know nothing more.

Then among the staff I remember with affection "Tec" Evetts (a totally brilliant English tutor, who I truly believe got me into Oxford), Tolliday, Owen, Lyons and Lysons; also Clamp (ex-sergeant-major) in the Gym. It was Tolliday who put on the amateur dramatic productions, notably "Trial by Jury" where I played the Judge, and I well remember David Miller playing the Clerk of the Court! I can faintly remember Michael Ellis as the obstreperous juryman! (but then we were all known only by our surnames!) I also recognise Philip Mullock's name – we all went down a coal mine in North Wales together!

Another memorable event was the production of Macbeth in full costume in the Cathedral Refectory – then, of course, right next door to the school, which ran for several nights. I was King Duncan, who got murdered in the first Act with others, but we had to stay backstage for the whole play for the final credits. I well remember walking -not alone – in the gloom of the Cathedral cloisters awaiting our call to reappear! Very creepy!

There was more music than your correspondents recollect – there was a Joint Madrigals Group – joint with the Queen's School – which had some success at festivals in Cheshire, and once in Liverpool. Also, there was a pretty reasonable School choir as I remember.

Best wishes to the alumni team, and to all your contributors

Michael Wright - OKS 1951 (I think)



## CAOKS Snooker 14/11/2025

In the thirtieth year of the John S Douglas Snooker Challenge Trophy, the annual November snooker evening was again well supported and greatly enjoyed, so please do get in touch if you are interested in joining us for this year's Friday evening in November 2026.



Andy then led the President's XI!!! to a closely fought 7-6 victory over the Headmaster's XIII. George Hartley was clearly disappointed to see his side suffer defeat in his final appearance in the John S Douglas Snooker Challenge Trophy, but accepted it with good grace, probably resolving he will continue his efforts on baizes new in Madrid!

Peter Bernie



In 2025, we had twenty-seven signed up, nineteen from King's plus eight from the Grammar School. Sadly, the President had to withdraw from the squad, so VP Andy Jones took charge, and it was he who asked us to raise the customary Remembrance glass to the Old Boys from the Grammar School and the one hundred and fourteen Old King's Scholars who lost their lives in the two World Wars.



# Alumni and School News

## Class of 1976 – 50 Years On

Thanks to our Honorary Secretary Peter Bernie for providing the images and details from this recent reunion event. Half a century – great effort chaps!

Of course as a member of the Class of 1990, Mr Hutton, Mr Leyshon, Mrs Flitcroft and Mr Aves were all very much part of my school days between 1981-1990 (Ed).



### Top Row

- Barry Mayers
- Nigel Whittle
- Andy Brown
- Mr John Aves (Physics)
- Nick Buxton
- Adrian Jones
- Alan Darlington
- Charles Higgin

### Middle Row

- Stephen Miller
- Michael Burt
- Peter Bernie
- Jeff Isaacs
- Jonathan Browne
- Robert Ross
- Neil Johnson
- Euan Elliott

### Front Row

- Mr Graham Hutton (Geography)
- Mr John Leyshon (Chemistry)
- Mrs Flitcroft (French)
- Paul Buist
- David Roberts

Mr Harvey Mellor (Chemistry) was there but missed the photo.



The legendary Mr John Leyshon

## Michael Bainbrigge 1932-1997

I was recently contacted by Mrs Phillipa Seale regarding her Uncle Michael Bainbrigge who attended Kings between 1951-1952 but left before taking A levels. Does anyone remember Michael and why he left school suddenly? Mrs Seale is trying to piece together her Uncle's life and would be grateful for any recollections from CAOKS members.



## King's in the Capital 2025

### *An Evening to Reconnect*

In November 2025, King's alumni gathered once again for *King's in the Capital*, held in the elegant surroundings of Fortnum & Mason in London. For many Old King's Scholars living and working in the capital, the event offered the perfect opportunity to step away from London life for the evening and reconnect and reminisce with the King's community.

This year marked my fifth time attending the event, and it has become something I genuinely look forward to in the calendar. The annual event brings together a wonderful mix of familiar faces and new connections, all linked by the shared experience of life at King's.



One of the greatest pleasures of the evening is seeing friends not seen for years, and in some cases, decades. Conversations quickly pick up where they left off and invariably drift into shared memories of school life. It's a reminder of how easily the King's connection endures long after leaving Chester.

It is always a real treat to catch up with teachers who helped shape our time at school and our lives long after leaving. Seeing familiar faces from the classroom brings back plenty of memories, and the chance to chat informally about life since King's with old teachers is lovely.

The setting at Fortnum & Mason provides a wonderful backdrop for the evening. Guests enjoyed delicious Fortnum's grazing boards alongside excellent wine, creating a relaxed and sociable atmosphere. The evening brings together a great mix of alumni, from recent leavers beginning their careers in London to those returning with many more years of experience and stories to share.

A particular highlight of the 2025 event was the wine tasting led by fellow alumnus, Harry Langley (OKS 2019). Harry guided guests through a selection of wines with warmth and enthusiasm, adding a fun and interactive element to the evening. His insights and passion made the tasting informative and highly enjoyable, and it was fantastic to see a recent alumnus contributing to the event in such a memorable way.



Above all, *King's in the Capital* is about community; reconnecting with old friends, meeting fellow alumni for the first time, and celebrating the shared bond of being part of King's.

The good news is that the event will return to Fortnum & Mason on Thursday 19 November 2026. If the warmth and atmosphere of last year's gathering are anything to go by, it promises to be another memorable evening and one well worth booking early for. I hope to see you there.

Zoe Soutter (OKS 2015)



## Surviving the Holocaust



On Friday, 6 March, Lower Sixth students had the opportunity to hear first-hand testimony from Holocaust survivor Harry Kessler BEM, as part of a visit organised by the Holocaust Educational Trust. During the visit, students listened attentively as Harry shared his life story, entitled *My Accidental Life*, including a moving connection to Chester and The King’s School.

Harry was born in Vienna in August 1930 and grew up as an only child in a loving family, enjoying a normal and very happy life until the rise of Nazism and the Nazi annexation of Austria in 1938 dramatically changed everything.

Harry gave a deeply personal and moving account of his early life and described how a chance encounter on a river trip with a couple from Chester would change the course of his life.

On a Danube trip, Harry and his father met Mr and Mrs Jones who were in Vienna for a dental conference. When the couple missed their stop, Harry’s father invited them back to the Kessler home for coffee and cake before showing them back to their hotel, an act of kindness that Mrs Jones wrote to thank him for on her return to England.

A few years later, after fleeing Vienna and living in Czechoslovakia for a year, Harry’s family once again found themselves under Nazi occupation

and they made the decision to try and leave. Needing a mass of paperwork, including a signed affidavit from a family prepared to take full financial responsibility for them in the country they were moving to, Harry’s father remembered the letter from Mrs Jones and wrote to the family, asking for their help to move to England.

Harry’s family arrived in Chester in May 1939 with just a few shillings, no knowledge of the English language and huge debt of gratitude to the Joneses.

By extraordinary coincidence, and bringing special significance to Harry’s talk at school, we discovered that Mr Jones, a dentist whose practice was on Whitefriars in the city centre, was a former pupil of The King’s School. Even more remarkably, we also learned before Harry’s visit that Mrs Richards, one of our maths teachers, is the great-granddaughter of Mr Jones.

Mrs Richards had grown up hearing Harry’s story through her family but had never had the opportunity to meet him. During the visit, she was able to share lunch with Harry and his wife, Mary, along with Helen Andreson, granddaughter of the Joneses and her husband, Peter. Mrs Richards’ mother, also a granddaughter of Mrs and Mrs Jones, also joined the lunch, making the occasion a deeply personal reunion across generations.

Mrs Richards said: “Having heard the story though my own family history, it was such an honour to meet Harry and hear his words today. His message of kindness and tolerance is one that I hope we all carry with us.”

Mr and Mrs Jones’ grandchildren, Terry and Helen, were grateful to have the opportunity to hear Harry speak and reflected on their own family’s role in Harry’s life: “We were honoured to be there to hear about the part our grandparents played in Harry’s “accidental life”. We think that our grandfather would be pleased – and amazed – that the little boy whose life he saved was giving such an inspiring talk to pupils at his own school



## Alumni and School News

87 years later, and in front of his grandchildren and great-grandchildren no less.

“He would also be proud that our respective families are now friends. Harry’s story is a testament to how kind deeds can ripple profoundly through time and his message of tolerance and kindness feels more important than ever in today’s world.”



Harry Kessler (front left) with his wife Mary were joined by (from left on the back), Terry Brownrigg (Mrs Richards’ Mum, and granddaughter of the Joneses) , Frankie Richards (King’s maths teacher and great-granddaughter of the Joneses), Helen Anderson (granddaughter of Mr and Mrs Jones), and Peter Anderson (husband of Helen and former King’s pupil)

### Kindness and Tolerance

In his testimony, Harry spoke movingly about those members of his family who did not survive, including his aunt who was deported to Terezín and was later murdered at Auschwitz. His testimony powerfully illustrated both the devastating consequences of antisemitism and hatred, and the importance of compassion, courage, and standing up for others.

Harry’s testimony was followed by a thoughtful question-and-answer session, which allowed students to deepen their understanding of the Holocaust and reflect on its lessons for the modern world.

He left the students with one powerful message: Kindness and Tolerance. An act of kindness saved the lives of Harry and his parents and he encouraged students to be purposefully and deliberately kind, and to seek to tolerate others regardless of religion, race and background.

Harry’s visit was organised by Mr Bircham: “It was a privilege for us to welcome Harry into school today and his testimony will remain a powerful reminder of the horrors so many experienced.

“The fact that it was one of our own former students who showed a kindness to Harry that saved his life has made Harry’s testimony all the more powerful. I hope that hearing Harry’s testimony will encourage our students to learn from the lessons of the Holocaust and make a positive difference in their own lives.”

### The Holocaust Education Trust

Harry’s visit was made possible as part of the Holocaust Educational Trust’s extensive year-round Outreach Programme, which is available to schools across the UK.

Karen Pollock CBE, Chief Executive of the Holocaust Educational Trust, highlighted the importance of the programme: “The Holocaust Educational Trust educates and engages students from across the UK, from all communities about the Holocaust and there can be no better way than through the first-hand testimony of a survivor. Harry’s story is one of tremendous courage during horrific circumstances and by hearing his testimony, students will have the opportunity to learn where antisemitism and hatred can ultimately lead.

“At the Trust, we impart the history of the Holocaust to young people, to ensure that we honour the memory of those whose lives were lost and take forward the lessons taught by those who survived.” Harry now lives in Southport with his wife Mary and is a proud father, grandfather and great-grandfather.



## Calendar of Events

If you would like to book onto an event, please visit  
[www.kingschester.co.uk/alumni/alumni-events/](http://www.kingschester.co.uk/alumni/alumni-events/) or call Gemma on 01244 689492

### Ladies Day - Chester Races

Sat 13<sup>th</sup> June 2026 11am start

### CAOKS Golf Day

Thurs 18<sup>th</sup> June 2026 - Eaton Golf Club, Guy Lane, Waverton, Chester, CH37PH

12:30pm start - From £65 PP

Email Michael Moore (OKS 1964) if interested via the following. [michaelwemoore@btinternet.com](mailto:michaelwemoore@btinternet.com)

### CAOKS Cricket v School

Fri 19<sup>th</sup> June, 2026 - King's School 1.30pm

If you are interested in playing for the CAOKS XI then please get in touch. You can read all about the epic encounter this year in these pages.

### Henley Tea Party

Friday July 3rd, 2026

Latest edition of this very popular event.

### CAOKS Rowing v School

TBC June 2026 - The Boat House - 5pm Start

### Curry and Quiz Night - The Original

Thurs September 24<sup>th</sup> 2026

Get a team together with friends and former classmates. Get your entries in quick as this one will sell out fast!

### CAOKS Snooker Night

Friday Nov 13th 2026 - City Snooker Club

### Kings in the Capital

Thursday Nov 19th 2026 - Fortnum and Mason 6pm

This is proving to be one of the most popular events in the CAOKS calendar as so many OKS now study, live and work in the London area.

### King's Carol Services at Chester Cathedral

December 17<sup>th</sup> 2026

Join us for the traditional services at the end of the Michaelmas term. Just the thing to get you into the festive spirit.

### 2026 Leavers Catch Up

Sun 3<sup>rd</sup> Jan 2027 - Liquor and Co 6pm

King's will be hosting a catch up for this year's leavers on Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> January at Liquor and Co, 31 Watergate St, Chester CH1 2LE, UK

### 1997/07/17 Reunions

Sat 6<sup>th</sup> Feb 2027 - King's School 2:30pm

### 1957/67/77/87 Reunions

Sat 6<sup>th</sup> March 2027 - King's School 11:00am

### CAOKS 160<sup>th</sup> Annual Dinner

TBC March, 2027 - King's School

All alumni spanning the decades are invited to join us for what promises to be a fabulous evening of great food, good wine and camaraderie! Full details in the next issue.



### 'A Wartime Romance' – the Memoirs of Betty Munday

A few months back I was chatting with Peter Bernie about a lack of articles for the newsletter when he happened to mention he had been sent, by one of his contemporaries Nick Hudson, the wartime memoirs of Betty Munday. Betty was married to Arthur Munday who was Headmaster at Kings between 1964 and 1981. Reverend Nick Munday had in turn passed this down to Nick Hudson.

I hope you enjoy reading this wonderful piece.

**Bedford 1943, ISSIS, Japanese language course.  
Bletchley Park 1943 -1945. Military Section, Japanese translator.**

**Betty Munday's memoir 'A Wartime Romance', kindly provided by her son, the Reverend Nick Munday.**

In 1943, I had just finished my final exams, the Cambridge Classical Tripos Part 2, when I was recruited to go to Bedford on a crash course in written Japanese in preparation for translation work at Bletchley Park. I was never in fact involved in code work, so I have no exciting revelations to unfold to you, but we were still sworn to deadly secrecy about everything that went on there.

So imagine my feelings, when shortly after I was settled in a billet in Bedford, I heard my landlady, Mrs Hadley, saying over the garden fence to her neighbour "I got a lodger now, you know. Quite a nice little thing... going to be one of them codegirls over at Bletchley." I was horrified. Not only was the information inaccurate, I was going to be a translator not a codegirl, but how did Mrs Hadley and her neighbour know about codegirls? Even though I was in a completely different department, I had sworn that I would say nothing to anyone about anything that went on anywhere at Bletchley and my conscience was clear, unless - awful thought - Mrs Hadley had somehow heard me talking in my sleep!

Looking back, I realise that hundreds of people in the Bedford and Bletchley area; billetters, shop keepers and so on, must have had a pretty shrewd idea

that something of great national importance was going on at Bletchley. But somehow, the Germans never got to know the secret. As Winston Churchill said "B.P was the goose that laid the golden egg. But the goose never cackled."

Anyway, our 6 months learning Japanese passed quickly and at the end we were all pronounced fit to be let loose on captured enemy documents 'capdocs' as we called them. I must say that our good progress was largely due to the excellent teaching we received from a brilliant young Army Officer called Eric Ceadel. I little thought that 60 years later I would be chatting to his widow Pam Ceadel, a resident at my sheltered accommodation, Gretton Court.

After the language course finished, although I was working at Bletchley, I stayed in the same billet with Mr and Mrs Hadley at Bedford, to my great satisfaction. They were endlessly kind to me. Mr Hadley was a carpenter, a quick, nervy little man, always in a hurry, and yet, quite unasked, he took over the maintenance of my ramshackle old bike, pumping up the old tyres, mending punctures, and even putting the batteries of my cycle lamps in the oven to try to lengthen their life! Mrs Hadley was a large, slow-moving, rather lugubrious looking woman with a heart of gold. She was an excellent housewife and cook – in spite of war-time shortages her meals were splendid and a great treat to me after 3 years at college where the food was healthy and adequate but not exciting fare.

Less welcome, however was her interest in my meagre love-life. At that time, I was "walking out", as she put it, with a pallid Lance Corporal called David, whose only claim to distinction was that he professed to be a Communist. I think that he knew as little about Communism as Mrs Hadley did, but nevertheless she regarded him with deepest suspicion. "You want to be careful Betty" she would warn me. "You never know what those Reds will be up to."

Fortunately, I was already getting tired of David, and when one day he told me with evident pride that his mother always fainted when she went to the hairdressers, I decided he came of weak and sickly stock and I soon terminated our relationship, to Mrs Hadley's great relief.



## Features

In those days, the railway between Oxford and Cambridge was still in use, and every day, a number of people billeted in Bedford travelled on it to their work in Bletchley. It was a pleasant rural half hour's journey through quiet countryside and past villages including the little one of Fenny Stratford, where an Anglophile American was heard to say reverently "Ah, Fenny Stratford, the heart of Shakespeare country."

When we alighted at Bletchley, we were always greeted by a recorded announcement. "We are asked to remind YEW of the dangers OF careless talk WHILE travelling." Actually, they needn't have worried. We were a merry, youthful party, more interested in our own affairs when off duty, than in speculating about war secrets. One thing that always amused us was a large poster on one of the platforms, advertising face-powder which showed a girl with an improbably flawless complexion saying brightly "stays MATT whatever happens." There was much unseemly discussion about what exactly was covered by those words, "Whatever happens."

Among the travellers was a young man called Arthur Munday. Like me he had been reading Classics at Cambridge before being called up, and we discovered that we had in fact attended many of the same lectures, though we'd never noticed each other. This was perhaps not surprising as the audience of the Classics lectures instinctively divided itself into male and female sections and I, of course, was always immured in what was, unknown to us, dubbed by the male students as the Hen Roost. But in the less restrictive atmosphere of the office where Arthur and I were both now working, we were able to converse freely and, gradually, we began spending more and more of our scanty free-time together.

There wasn't much to do in wartime Bedford. When funds permitted we repaired to a local pub and each forked out half-a-crown for a cherry brandy which we managed to make last for the whole evening. But until summer brought light evenings, which we could spend walking or cycling in the country, there wasn't much to do, so most of our time was spent in my billet under Mrs Hadley's watchful eye. Fortunately, she took a great liking to Arthur. "He's a regular cough-drop," she would say delightedly after he had gone. This was the highest accolade she could award to anyone she considered husband material and could only be won by someone who was

good-looking, kind, friendly, reliable, polite, but also what she called "a bit larky." Her own husband she designated "an old shoe" – again the highest award but in the class of those who had been married some time. As far as I could see, Mr Hadley earned it by always taking her a cup of tea in bed in the morning and agreeing with everything she said.

One evening, when I returned from seeing Arthur off the premises, I found Mrs Hadley looking unusually animated. "Oh Betty," she breathed. "I think it's a case. He was looking at you ever so lovey-dovey." The next morning I duly reported this to Arthur who said airily "Yes well, I saw her eying us expectantly, so I thought I'd better give her something to think about. She's such a nice old thing, I didn't want to disappoint her." This was not quite the romantic response I had hoped to evoke in him. But I comforted myself by thinking, "Well, at least he likes and appreciates Mrs Hadley." This was in sharp contrast to David, the Communist ex-boyfriend, whose only comment after spending a whole evening under the Hadley's hospitable roof was, "Tell your landlady her piano needs tuning!" Ugh!!

Anyway, under Mrs Hadley's diligent surveillance, or perhaps in spite of it, our romance as she called it, blossomed and flourished, and on October 28th 1944, Arthur's birthday, we announced our engagement. We went to London for the day to celebrate, and were sitting on the top deck of a bus, holding hands, when there was suddenly an almighty crash. This was not, however, Jupiter signalling by thunder on the left his approval of the eminently suitable union of two Classical students, but the sound of a V2 landing nearby. This was our first experience of those horrible rocket bombs, which fell from the sky without warning. Fortunately, this one did little damage and I don't think anyone was seriously injured. Although we were a bit shaken, we were too wrapped up in our own happiness to feel really frightened.

Mrs Hadley was delighted when I told her the news of our engagement. "You're a lucky girl," she said, "getting a nice clean-living chap like him. Then, after a pause that lasted just a fraction of a second too long, she added "of course, you're a nice girl too." But I had a feeling she thought Arthur was marrying just a little bit beneath him. However she really was happy in our happiness-sometimes when she was doing the housework, I heard her singing softly to



## Features

herself, "Someday my Prince will come..."

We decided we'd get married the following summer and she took a lively interest in the wedding preparations. One evening, I announced that my bridal outfit was complete, except, I went on, that I hadn't got a decent pair of stockings to wear and I'd used all my clothing coupons. "Still", I said, "I'm not bothered. I don't see I need stockings at all. I'll be in a long dress, so no-one will know." Mrs Hadley was appalled! "You can't get wed without stockings on my girl!" she cried. "Whatever next!" You might have thought I was striking a blow at the very roots of civilisation.

For a few moments she sat very still with her hands in her lap. Then, with the air of one who has made a large decision, she got up and marched out of the room. I heard her footsteps overhead and the sound of drawers being opened and shut. When she reappeared, she was holding what looked like a big white ball, which she unfolded and held up before my astonished gaze, an outsized pair of thick, white, cotton stockings. "Betty," she said shyly, "I think I could give you a lend of these if you like." It was my turn to be horrified. I was deeply touched by the generosity of her offer. But in those days, I was a skinny little thing; she was what nowadays Alexander McCall Smith would call "traditionally built." I had visions of myself on my wedding day shuffling down the aisle with thick, white, cotton wrinkles protruding below the hem of my bridal gown... I thanked her profusely and sincerely but said I couldn't accept her kind offer. If anything were to happen to the stockings, I'd never be able to replace such a special pair, with all the difficulties of war-time shortages. But, I said, my sister did say she might be able to let me have a few coupons, so if she would, that would solve the problem. The relief on Mrs Hadley's face told me I had done the right thing. As she carefully rolled up the stockings, she said to me, "You know what I'm saving these for – to be laid out in when I die."

Well, I'm glad to say when we were duly married on June 16th, 1945 at St Benet's Church, Cambridge, the bride was decently attired in brand-new, if inferior, stockings. And so began our 45 years of happiness together.

### **A brief postscript.**

The Far Eastern War ended only two months after our

wedding. When we got back to Cambridge for Arthur to finish his degree, we decided to ask the Hadleys to come over and have tea with us. I rather dreaded the occasion, knowing my standards of housekeeping fell far below Mrs Hadley's. I spring-cleaned the two rooms we were renting in Marlowe Road, Newnham, with loyal, albeit reluctant help from Arthur, until even his patience rebelled. "We're not doing anymore," he said, throwing down his duster and collapsing into our one armchair. "Mrs Hadley isn't going to get down on her hands and knees to check if you've swept under the bed or behind the sofa." Being young and thoughtless it didn't occur to us that the occasion might be even more of an ordeal to our guests than it was to us. It wasn't the easiest of tea parties. Arthur tried to keep the conversation going, while I poured the tea with trembling hand, and he offered fishpaste sandwiches and revolting little buns made from a war-time recipe, involving dried egg and chopped beetroot, to simulate sultanas. Mr Hadley munched his way glumly through the proffered fare, not saying a word until about 10 minutes before they were due to leave for the station.

Then he turned to Arthur and said, "So you want to be a teacher, do you?" "Rather!" said Arthur, his eyes shining at the prospect of the noble profession he had set his heart on entering ever since he was 5 years old. "Mm" said Mr Hadley, "There's a bit about one of them in our paper this week. Yeah, be'avin' improper he was, up the Kimbolton Road." By a stupendous effort, Arthur and I managed not to catch each others' eyes. But ever after, 'Be'avin' improper up the Kimbolton Rd' became part of our family language and folklore.

We did not see them again. They must both be long dead now – Mrs Hadley arrayed in her white stockings, I hope. But I'll always be grateful for the part they played in my life. I'm touched when I think of the grace with which they accepted me, a shy, gauche, Cambridge bluestocking into their hearts and home. They were simple folk, to outward view their lives humdrum and limited. I wish I had understood them better, and appreciated them more fully. But I shall always think of them.



## Memory Lane – Liverpool College Cricket Festival 1988

Memory is a curious thing, especially as we grow older. Those of us who are of the same or similar vintage tend to remember the main thrust of an event or story but we often differ in terms of the detail. This got me thinking that a new feature for the newsletter could be a walk down memory lane type affair. So, if you are sitting comfortably, I'll begin.

Cricket was one of my favourite aspects of school life. I was a medium/fast bowler who could swing it both ways and I was thrilled when I was called up to the First XI when I was in the 5th form, along with Jeremy Casey. Jeremy was a fine opening batsman (as well as being equally comfortable bowling seam and spin) and scored so many centuries that the school had to change the policy of awarding a new bat for every century scored.

However, I digress. Towards the end of each school cricket season was the annual Festival of Cricket which also involved Liverpool College, King William's College from the Isle of Man and a school from Hemel Hempstead whose name escapes me now. The schools would take it in turn to host the festival and in 1988 it was at Liverpool College and our game against the hosts was one of my most memorable.

The game was heading towards a draw. There was one over left to bowl and Liverpool college were 7 wickets down. They had no chance of winning the game but a draw was very much the favourite outcome at this point. Chris Goodier threw me the ball and we set the field, with opening bat Garri Jones placed very close to the bat at short leg - helmet and all. Earlier in the game Garri had dropped a catch at long on that had gone through his hands and the ball hit him on the head. After that he put a helmet on no matter where he was fielding that day.

I took a wicket with my second ball of the over - a bat/pad chance to Garri at short leg, which seemed to hit him and stick in his midriff. The fifth ball of the over produced another wicket - again a catch to Garri at short leg. This time it really was a fantastic grab low to his left.

So there was one ball remaining and one wicket to take. The Liverpool College Number 11 took an eternity to come out from the pavilion. The home umpire was furious about this and threatened to "time out" his own player due to what he believed to be unsporting behaviour. Eventually said Number 11 trudged slowly to the middle and took guard.

I walked back to my mark wondering what delivery I should bowl. Inswinger? Outswinger? Short one? In the end I plumped for a full swinging delivery that landed on the foot of the batsman. Plumb as you could get I thought. Up went the appeal and up went the umpire's finger. We had won the game with 3 wickets in the final over.

The umpire put his arm around my shoulder as we walked off and congratulated me on a fine bowling performance and said that he was hoping I'd get the last man out given how long he took to come to the crease. It was just such a thrilling experience, made more so by the fact that I was one of the youngest in the team. What an ending that was.

I'm forever grateful for the cricketing opportunities that King's offered me. We had some fantastic people looking after the cricket pitches. I'm sure many of you will remember Terry Winter and Bob Mapp who, along with Harvey Mellor, made cricket such a fantastic experience and created memories for me like the one described above.

Sadly, a back injury towards the end of the 1989 season pretty much put a stop to my cricketing days. I was gutted to put it mildly. I managed a few games in the 1990 season before leaving school that summer. I tried club cricket but unfortunately my back wasn't up to bowling, so that was that in around 1995.

Steve Williams (OKS 1990)

If you have any sporting tales and recollections like the above – Please get in touch. It doesn't have to be sport either, it can be anything related to your time at school.



# Features

## CAOKS AGM – 12/06/26

Date : Friday 12 June 2026

Venue : The Ship, 18 Handbridge, Chester CH4 7JE

Time : 19.00 meeting, followed by optional supper

### Agenda

1. Apologies for absence
2. Minutes of the 2025 AGM
3. Matters arising
4. Approval of the Annual Accounts for the year ended 31 December 2025
5. Election of Officers until the next AGM:
  - (a) President - Steve Williams offers himself for election
  - (b) Vice President - Andy ('AD') Jones offers himself for election
  - (c) Honorary Secretary - Peter Bernie offers himself for re-election
  - (d) Honorary Treasurer - Mark Thorp offers himself for re-election
  - (e) Dinner Secretary - Andy ('AD') Jones offers himself for election
  - (f) Newsletter Editor - Steve Williams offers himself for re-election

Whenever someone holds two or more Officer roles, an additional Alumni member can be elected, and so the Committee nominates Ravi Jayaram and Robin Hardi.

6. Vote of thanks to the School Alumni Team
7. Invitation to 2026 events
8. Any other business

## Wrights of Wrexham Buses



For a couple of years, probably between 1982 and 1985, Wrights of Wrexham ran a bus service that passed through where I lived in Johnstown/Rhosllanerchrugog and, via Wrexham, continued on to Chester.

These were coaches as well, not your Crosville D1 or such like. I can remember it being only 50p return for a child. Imagine what that would be now! (Ed)

**WRIGHTS — Telephone Wrexham 265327 or 823705**

**CHESTER**

Monday to Saturday

	EX	A.M.	A.M.	A.M.	A.M.	A.M.	P.M.	P.M.	P.M.	P.M.	M.—F.	P.M.	P.M.
Wrexham King St. Bus Station	8.00	8.20	9.35	10.35	11.35	12.35	1.35	2.35	3.35	4.40	5.10	5.40	
Technical College, Mold Rd.	8.03	8.23	9.38	10.38	11.38	12.38	1.38	2.38	3.38	4.43	5.13	5.43	
Gresford Colliery	8.06	8.26	9.41	10.41	11.41	12.41	1.41	2.41	3.41	4.46	5.16	5.46	
Gresford Cricket Ground	8.09	8.29	9.44	10.44	11.44	12.44	1.44	2.44	3.44	4.49	5.19	5.49	
Marford Red Lion	8.12	8.32	9.47	10.47	11.47	12.47	1.47	2.47	3.47	4.52	5.22	5.52	
Rossett Golden Lion	8.18	—	9.53	10.53	11.53	12.53	1.53	2.53	—	4.58	—	5.58	
Pufford Church	8.19	—	9.54	10.54	11.54	12.54	1.54	2.54	—	4.59	—	5.59	
Chester Bus Interchange	8.35	—	10.05	11.05	12.05	1.05	2.05	3.05	—	5.10	—	—	

EX — Journey terminates at Grosvenor Museum. M.—F. — Monday to Friday only.

Chester Bus Interchange

	A.M.	A.M.	A.M.	A.M.	P.M.	P.M.	P.M.	P.M.	P.M.	P.M.	P.M.
Chester Bus Interchange	8.53	—	10.17	11.17	12.17	1.17	2.17	3.17	—	4.17	5.30
Rossett Golden Lion	8.55	8.37	10.19	11.19	12.19	1.19	2.19	3.19	3.55	4.19	5.32
Marford Red Lion	—	8.41	10.23	11.23	12.23	1.23	2.23	3.23	3.59	4.23	5.36

Gresford Plough

	A.M.	A.M.	A.M.	A.M.	P.M.	P.M.	P.M.	P.M.	P.M.	P.M.	
Gresford Plough	—	8.44	10.26	11.26	12.26	1.26	2.26	3.26	4.02	4.26	5.39
Gresford Colliery	—	8.47	10.29	11.29	12.29	1.29	2.29	3.29	4.05	4.29	5.42
Technical College	—	8.50	10.32	11.32	12.32	1.32	2.32	3.32	4.08	4.32	5.45
Wrexham King St. Bus Station	—	8.53	10.35	11.35	12.35	1.35	2.35	3.35	4.11	4.35	5.48

\* — Operates via Princess St., Northgate St., St. Werburgh St., Eastgate St., St. John's St., Pepper St., Grosvenor St. to Grosvenor Rd.

**SAMPLE Connecting Services**

1. Rhosymedre - Ruabon - Johnstown - Chester

	A.M.	A.M.	A.M.	A.M.	P.M.
Rhosymedre	7.25	9.55	11.50	11.55	12.50
Ruabon	7.39	10.10	12.04	12.10	1.04
Johnstown	7.44	10.15	12.09	12.15	1.09
Chester arr.	8.35	10.50	1.05	12.50	2.05

2. Brymbo - Pentre Broughton - Brynteg - Caego - Chester

	A.M.	A.M.	A.M.	P.M.	P.M.
Brymbo	9.10	10.10	11.10	12.10	1.10
Pentre Broughton	9.20	10.20	11.20	12.20	1.20
Brynteg	9.27	10.27	11.27	12.27	1.27
Caego	9.34	10.34	11.34	12.34	1.34
Chester arr.	10.05	11.05	12.05	1.05	2.05

3. Penycae - Rhos - Ponclau - Chester

	A.M.	A.M.	A.M.	A.M.	P.M.	P.M.
Penycae	7.30	9.03	10.03	11.03	12.03	1.03
Rhos	7.38	9.11	10.11	11.11	12.11	1.11
Ponclau	7.40	9.14	10.14	11.14	12.14	1.14
Chester arr.	8.35	10.05	10.50	12.05	12.50	2.05

4. Summerhill - Gwersyllt - Chester

	A.M.	A.M.	P.M.	P.M.
Summerhill	9.15	10.55	12.55	—
Gwersyllt	9.18	10.58	12.58	—
Chester arr.	10.05	12.05	2.05	—

\* — arrive Chester M.—F. at 1.05 p.m.

Find out more here

<https://www.ronsbusesandcoaches.com/Ceased/wrights-penycae>



## Rowing Update



As regatta season gets underway, the end of Lent Term has been a busy time for athletes and coaches at The King's School Chester Rowing Club (KSCRC).

### Runcorn Spring Head

The boys' J16 coxless quads raced over 6000m on the River Weaver with the two crews taking first and second place in their division. A brilliant haul of gold and silver medals!

### Schools Head of the River

The Schools Head of the River is the largest school head race in the country with more than 2000 competitors racing over 6.8kms on the River Thames. We were very glad of the support of members of our alumni community who were in great voice along the course.

The King's School spirit was on display through the competition, especially for our J16 girls who experienced an equipment failure during their race. Showing resilience and determination, they finished the race in less than ideal racing conditions without a fin to keep them straight.

Notable results from the day were a fourth-place finish for the Senior Boys' VIII and second place

for the J16 Boys' VIII. The Senior Girls also put on an impressive performance in a championship field.

### North of England Head of the River Race

The Senior and J15 squads were out in force for the North of England Head with 14 KSCRC crews taking to our very own River Dee. The quality of racing was outstanding and we were delighted to achieve a number of podium finishes. Congratulations to the J15 Boys' Coxed Quad, J16 Boys' Coxless Quad and J17 Girls' VIII who all won their divisions.

### Boat Naming

It was a huge pleasure and honour to welcome back James Gray to the boathouse for the official naming of the *James Gray*, a senior boys' coxless quad. Mr Gray was the Assistant Director of Rowing for many years and also stepped up as Acting Director of Rowing for the last two terms of last year. He was a well-respected member of KSCRC who gave many years of service and we were pleased to recognise his commitment and dedication to the club in this way.



### GB Spring Trials

We are incredibly proud of two of our Senior girls, Lucie Thornton (L6LES) and Eleanor Williams (U6DUT) who were invited to trial for the GB U19 team in Nottingham recently. The girls were two



# Features

of just 40 women to be invited to trial, placing at the very top of their age group in the country.

## Junior Inter Regional Regatta (JIRR)

Rowers from our J15 and J16 squads competed against other crews from the North West for the opportunity to represent the region at the JIRR in Nottingham on 25 April. Congratulations to the J16 Girls' Coxless Four, the Open J15 and J16 Coxed Fours who have all qualified to represent the North West, and to Ralph Whittingham (4WAL) who will cox the J16 VIII and Emilia Potocki (4LES) who is the women's junior reserve.

## KSRCPA Spring Ball

Many thanks to our wonderful KSRCPA for another wonderful spring ball. The Parents' Association is an amazing support to the club and we are very grateful for everything they do for the athletes and the wider club. The spring ball raised important funds for the club whilst giving parents and rowers alike an opportunity to enjoy good food, good company and some impressive dancing! Thanks to the speaker, GB rower Sarah MacKay, who was such an inspiration to our young athletes.

## Top Performing Co-Ed in the North West

We are delighted to announce that The King's School Chester has been named the top performing co-educational school in the North West in this year's *Sunday Times Parent Power Guide*.

The guide, which has been published today (December 5), based the ranking on national A level, GCSE and IB outcomes from summer 2025

Our incredible results last summer – 84% 9-7 grades at GCSE and 60% of A level grades at A\*-A – have propelled the school an impressive 50 places in the national rankings; now firmly within the top 100, we are proud to be recognised as the

79th best independent secondary school in the country.

Highlights from the guide include:

- A rise of 50 places nationally
- Top co-educational school in the North West and North East
- Ranked 79th nationally – one of only three North West schools to feature in the top 80
- Highest ratio of A\*/A grades for A levels in Cheshire (60%)

Headmaster George Hartley welcomed the news.

He said: "This achievement is a testament to the hard work, dedication, and passion of our students, staff, and wider school community.

"The title of the top performing co-educational school in North West comes just weeks after ISI inspectors highlighted our co-curricular programme as a significant strength, demonstrating the richness of the all-round education that we provide.

"Academic excellence, combined with the breadth and quality of our co-curricular programme, lies at the heart of a King's education. Together, they nurture well-rounded young people who fulfil their potential and are ready to thrive in the modern world."





## Wout Kallis OKS (1969)



Memories of Wout Kalis, who sadly died on 26th July 2025, by his wife Clare Kalis.

“Wout was born in the Wirral in 1953. His parents and family were Dutch, and had moved to the Wirral, working for the family company BosKalis, a dredging company, who were working at the time, on a project in Liverpool Docks. He was very proud of his heritage and enjoyed speaking Dutch whenever he had the opportunity.

I have lovely memories of the times we spent in Holland sightseeing and visiting his relatives. His parents retired to De Haan, in Belgium where we also spent many happy times, especially good for us as we both love chocolate and always returned with a good supply to share, which was well known to our friends!

Wout loved sport both as a participator and a spectator. As a very young boy he lived in Canada, where he was a member of an ice hockey

team and won a trophy which he still has on display. When he returned to the Wirral he attended Mostyn House where tennis and football were coached to high standard and tennis stars of the day such as Fred Stoller and Margaret Court came to visit and give expert tuition. From an early age Wout was an accomplished tennis player and as team captain, reached the semifinal of the All-England Preparatory School’s tennis tournament at Wimbledon club in 1965.

Whilst at Mostyn House, Wout was also captain of the school football team, and has treasured a photograph of himself with Sir Stanley Matthews, when he visited the school to give the team a coaching session. His love of football continued, and later at Phillips Auctioneers he was a member of their football team. Later he continued following football as a spectator, his favourite team being Liverpool.

After Mostyn House, Wout moved to Kings School, which he remembered with great affection. He had many happy years at the school and enjoyed keeping up with the news and especially enjoyed the alumni events. He later moved to Millfield and was very pleased that as a follower of Formula 1 Lando Norris, a former old boy won the British Grand Prix.

He was also a very keen golfer and so enjoyed being on course with friends as much as he could. I hope he is teeing off on a heavenly course now, aiming for a hole in one, which I am sure he will achieve.

In his working life, Wout was had excellent marketing and promotional skills and had worked in Montreal and Brussels, before returning to London. His most treasured memories of his career were the time he worked at Phillips Auctioneers in Bond Street. As well as his love of antiques and paintings, he appreciated the



wonderful people he worked alongside and made many friends there. today. It was a special place for me to too as that is where I met Wout in 1989.

He loved classical music, modern music and theatre and he was particularly a fan of the Beatles. Our lives were and still will be always entwined. I have so many wonderful memories of our life together and especially our time in Rye where we have been spending most of our time for the last 18 years.

Wout always had a twinkle in his eye with a wonderful sense of humour. He was always interested in people and learning new things and information, He was a very kind, generous, considerate, caring and handsome man, who I greatly love and miss. It was a great privilege and honour to be his wife and soulmate."

## Peter Ward Jones OKS (1963)



Peter Ward Jones died peacefully at home on 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2026 aged 81.

Even before he left Kings, Peter, a gifted keyboard player, became a Fellow of the Royal College of Organists, a remarkable achievement for someone while still at school. He went on to Balliol College, Oxford where he was Organ Scholar from 1963 to 1966 and then temporary lecturer at the Royal College of Music. Peter was appointed as a graduate assistant in the Music Section of the Department of Printed Books at the Bodleian in 1969 and retired in 2009 after forty years as Music Librarian. He was a former Fellow of St Cross College, Oxford.

Peter became conductor of the Oxford Harmonic Society at the age of 27 and was choirmaster at St Aldate Church and, subsequently, St Giles Church, both in Oxford. He was equally proficient at the harpsichord as the organ and gave recitals on both instruments.

Peter had pursued research in major European libraries on the concerto in the mid-eighteenth century, tutored for all periods in the university's Music Faculty and contributed to the 1740-1790 volume of the *New Oxford History Of Music*. He worked on a catalogue of Mendelssohn's music and through a detailed study of the whole collection of the composer's scores, letters and diaries became a world authority on Mendelssohn's life and works. In 1997 the Clarendon Press published Peter's edition of Mendelssohn's honeymoon diary which coincided with a highly acclaimed exhibition at the Bodleian. Peter even took study leave to follow the newly wed Mendelssohns' honeymoon itinerary to identify every place visited and every prospect described.

Peter's seminal book, *British Choral Singing: A History from Medieval Times to the Present Day* was recently published and he donated a copy to the Kings School.

Peter married Shirley Bailey in 1978 who predeceased him. He leaves a son Michael and daughter, Sarah. His funeral took place, appropriately, at St Giles Church in Oxford where many former choir members attended.



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# Officers

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