

King's Colours

Spring 1999

The Termly Newsletter of the King's School in Macclesfield

Headmaster's Letter

Dear Reader

The purpose of our termly newsletter is to provide a glimpse of the activities of the school and some sense of what it feels like to be part of the King's School community. Whilst we rightly celebrate the many successes of our applicants to Oxford and Cambridge, we try to give as rounded a picture of school life as possible, ranging from the Infants' Christmas play to the First XI cricket tour of Kenya.

The full picture can only be built up cumulatively, so I hope you will continue to enjoy reading about the school and letting me know your views and news. I hope, too, you get a sense of a positive, purposeful community – that is how it feels on the inside!

I think it would be helpful for all readers to know that I retire in July 2000. The appointment of my successor will be put in hand in the next few months. Until I retire, however, I intend to concentrate on future plans for the school.

A G Silcock



OXBRIDGE SUCCESS

A group of top students celebrate their success as they prepare to study at two of England's most prestigious universities.

Twelve Sixth Formers have received offers of places at Oxford or Cambridge, with their chosen courses covering a range of science and arts subjects, together with a Choral Scholarship.

Said Headmaster Adrian Silcock: 'We are delighted at their achievement. Competition for places is extremely stiff and their success demonstrates the high quality of teaching and learning taking place in King's Sixth Form.' They will be following in the footsteps of many distinguished former pupils, three of whom have recently had their academic achievements recognised by Oxford University. David Buttery has won the Fletcher Scholarship in History at Balliol, Liz Cripps has been awarded a PPE scholarship at St John's, and Helen Mabelis a Modern Languages exhibition at Wadham College.

Pictured from the front are: Lucinda Clarke (English), Sam Mason (History), Robert Dafforn (Economics), William Wills (Architecture), John Livesley (History), Tom Sleeman (Biochemistry), Andrew Aldcroft (Mathematics with Computation: Choral Scholarship), Daniel Dale (History), Alex Flynn (Chemical Engineering) and James Rider (Chemistry).
Not pictured: Mark Goodsell (Physics) and Jonathan Mitchell (Natural Sciences).

TT Shaw Award



The TT Shaw Award is given by the Former Pupils' Association in memory of King's last Headmaster but one. Awarded each year to a pupil entering the Sixth Form with top GCSE results and a record of strong sports contributions to King's, it is tenable for two years. This year, for the first time, awards were made to two pupils, one boy and one girl: Katherine Coveney and Chris Watts (pictured here with last year's award winner, Martin Tunwell) They were presented by Alan McInnes, Chairman of the KSMFPA, at the Annual Dinner at Adlington Hall in October.



CONGRATULATIONS

Stephanie Somerville
*First Class Honours in Psychology
at New College, Oxford*

Genevieve Bennett
*First Class Honours in Fine Art
at Glasgow University*

Richard Thornber
*First Class Honours in Computer
Science at Manchester University*

John Schofield
Five As at A Level

Katherine Coveney
*County schools representative
Cheshire U18 football team*

Tim Egerton
*Athletics: ranked No 1 at U15 in
1500m and No 3 at 300m*

Natalie Riley
*County schools representative
Cheshire U16 football team*

Kate Ritchie
North-West Athletics Elite Squad

John Yarwood
*Clay Pigeon Shooting: English
Open Junior and European
Individual Junior Champion*

U13 Netball Team
*Trophy winners in the Ciba U13
Netball Tournament*

U14 Tennis Team
Winners of the Cheshire Cup

Girls' Freestyle Relay Swimming
Team Divisional Champions

Andrea Howarth & Hayley Tilley
'Poets of the Term'

Hayley Tilley & Michelle Williams
Published poets

Kim Griffin
*Awarded an MA degree in
English Language (OU)*

Frank Walker
*Publication of first book of verse,
An Alphabestiary*

Richard Cowgill and
Keith Mosedale
RAF Flying Scholarships

Rendezvous with Tony Blair

Two Year 10 girls got more than they bargained for during a trip to the corridors of power when they found themselves taking a photocall with the Prime Minister. Rachel Sewart and Hannah Hardill were members of a team that won a regional competition organised by Amnesty International. As part of their prize they toured the Tower of London and visited the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, accompanied by Macclesfield MP, Nicholas Winterton.

The highlight came as they walked along Downing Street, when the PM, putting aside matters of state, unexpectedly popped out to congratulate all the winners. Said Rachel, 'It was absolutely amazing. Suddenly that big black door opened and out came Tony Blair. He was very relaxed, very friendly and spent some time with all of us. It's an experience I'll never forget.'

To celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the group, which also included Sophie Murphy, Lauren Hindle and Lyndall Lohman, had created a wall-hanging which won the NW section of the Amnesty International competition.



All about books

The art of writing...

Award-winning novelist Melvin Burgess shared insights into teenage life and love in a day-long workshop at the Girls' Division. Melvin won the *Guardian* newspaper's First Award and the Library Association's Carnegie Medal for his controversial tale of teenage drug culture in his novel *Junk*. Since that triumph, he has produced a succession of well-reviewed works, including *Tiger, Tiger* and *The Baby and the Fly Pie*.

Melvin told his audience that he had begun writing seriously as a teenager but had only started to perfect his craft in his thirties. As in his books, he made

a strong attack on the dangers and waste of experimentation with drugs.

...and the craft of publishing

The other side of creating books was explored when Year 8 boys and girls were given hands-on experience of the publishing process. After writing poems on the theme *The Four Elements* in a two-hour workshop, they worked together in mixed groups on two Publishing Days to produce attractive anthologies of their work. Skills used ranged from designing, type-setting and illustrating to editing, paginating and proof-reading. Copies of the books produced are available in the school libraries.

Charities

Money raised by King's for charity included £226 for the Poppy Appeal. Non-uniform days in Years 7, 8 and 9 raised funds for the Mast Appeal and Children in Need, while collections at the carol services made £400 for Save the Children. Three hundred exercise books, chalks and pens, were sent to a school in the Gambia and a sponsored read by Year 7 boys and girls collected a significant sum for Actionaid. Other events raised money for the World Wildlife Fund and Children with Leukaemia.



King's On Stage

KING'S SINGERS AT THE BRIDGEWATER HALL

The lifetime dream for any keen amateur singer? To sing in a superb performance of one of the largest, most exciting choral and orchestral works in the repertoire, in front of an enthusiastic audience of over 1000 people in the most spectacular concert hall in the country?

It happened for a group of forty-three trebles and sopranos from the Boys' and Girls' Division Choirs, when they sang

with the Stockport Festival Choir and Orchestra and eight professional soloists in Mahler's Eighth Symphony (*The Symphony of a Thousand*) at the Bridgewater Hall in Manchester in October. It was exciting, too, for the Director of Music, Andrew Green, who relished the opportunity of playing the stunning Bridgewater Hall organ in the performance.



Dancing to success

Eve Marchant, a Year 6 pupil, was chosen from 700 young dancers from all over the country to perform with the National Youth Ballet. Dancing in works choreographed by Wayne Sleep, she appeared at the Ashcroft Theatre in Croydon and the London Coliseum, as well as on *Blue Peter* in October.



Infants on stage

The Infants' Department delighted an audience of about 200 this Christmas with *The Bossy Christmas Fairy*. Year 2 pupils took the leading roles, with other classes in supporting parts. Every child in the Department had a role to play.

Ali Baba

The Years 3 and 4 play *Ali Baba* in November was a huge success. Packed with jokes and songs, it got the audience into the panto spirit. The rousing finale, *Desert Rock Boogie*, had everyone participating.

Choir's CD

A lasting memento of the term and the year is the choir's marvellous CD of Music for Advent and Christmas, recorded professionally and issued in early December. It is available from the School Office at £10.

World première

A remarkable new work by School Captain Thom Petty, commissioned by the Northern Chamber Orchestra, received its world premiere in December. Entitled 'Do not go gentle', it was performed at a concert at the Silk Heritage Centre by the NCO, with King's Foundation Choir, and was received with enormous enthusiasm.

The choir, under Jo Beesley, with Andrew Green at the organ, gave their usual outstanding performances in a concert that proved a marvellous start to the season. Other Christmas engagements were the carol services at Chester Cathedral and Macclesfield Parish Church.

Hearing was believing

November's Saint Cecilia concert was anything but 'school concert' standard! If you have never been to a King's musical event then you simply cannot imagine the immense talent and superb performances this thrilling evening gave. The concert featured the Foundation Choir, Orchestra and Big Band, the Girls' Division Choir and the first performance of the combined Wind Bands of King's Boys, Girls and Sixth Form, plus other small ensembles.

Another first was the performance of the String Orchestra which included pupils from every division in the school - even Juniors and Infants were represented.

Big Band

There was a very full diary last term for King's Big Band under Ron Darlington. Highly successful concerts took place in the School Hall in aid of the new Macclesfield Methodist Church, at the Friends of King's Beaujolais Evening, at the Sutton Ex-Serviceman's Club and at the Little Theatre. Their CD, recorded live last year, is selling fast but can still be obtained from the School Office.



Sport



High flyer Laura

King's Girls' Division gymnast Laura Flint has won the British Gymnastics Championship at U12 level. Year 7 pupil Laura competed with the North West team at the national event in Guildford and was delighted to be part of the winning team, as well as individual champion herself.

Laura started training at the age of four at Macclesfield Olympic School of Gymnastics under coach Sarah Atwell. She now travels to Liverpool several nights a week for training, in addition to regular visits to Lilleshall.

Selections for the senior gymnastics squad start at the age of 14. Laura's long-term ambition is to represent Great Britain in the 200th Olympics.

Sailing

There was plenty of wind on Lake Windermere for the three 30-foot cruising yachts sailed by twelve boys and staff from King's. The highly enjoyable November weekend began with an exhilarating beat down to Lakeside and ended with a race back from Ambleside to Hawkshead. Lady Alice, crewed by the youngest boys in the party, outsailed the larger, faster boats crewed by older pupils.

From pancakes to paella: European conquests

King's girls set out to conquer Europe at half-term when they fielded hockey, netball and football teams against continental rivals. Holland was the destination for a group of 38 hockey and netball players who enjoyed successful matches against local Dutch competition. Party leader Robyn Hardman said, 'The girls played brilliantly and have

all gained a lot from the experience. A pancake party was the gastronomic highlight of the trip.' Much further south, King's Girls' footballers tucked into plates of paella before demonstrating some fancy footwork against their Spanish opponents. This was the first Girls' Division football tour to Spain and manager Jack Ellis expressed great satisfaction at his team's debut in Europe.



King's cricketers tour Kenya



In December the senior cricket squad enjoyed a highly successful nineteen-day tour of Kenya. It was memorable not only for the cricket but also for the wider experiences of Kenya, from the awesome beauty of the Masai Mara to the grim realities of third world poverty, from the tropical splendour of the Travellers Beach Hotel in Mombasa to the, at times, terrifying mayhem of the Kenyan transport system.

On the pitch, the boys acquitted themselves well against the best U19 cricketers in Kenya. Club captain Martin Tunwell with James Duffy and Eddie Bones were the leading batsmen. James in particular ensured a fitting climax to the tour with a magnificent maiden century to lead us to victory against Kongonis in the final game. Richard Lees, who bowled with genuine pace, and Chris Lester were the leading wicket takers.

Junior football

In the invitation trophy against NW independent schools, the six-a-side Junior team reached the final, sharing the trophy with Bury Grammar School.

All together now: King's Sixth Form

In September 1998, King's Sixth Form opened its doors to its biggest intake ever – 175 students in total.

Students from our own 11-16 Girls' and Boys' Divisions – along with a small group from other schools – armed with superb GCSE results, came together in the first truly mixed Sixth Form.

Girls first arrived in the Sixth Form in 1986, but it was not until 1996 that girls from our own Division came through, and then only in small numbers. Now,

the seeds sown in 1993 with the opening of the Girls' Division have come to fruition – our first bumper crop of 'homegrown' girls *and* boys.

'It's great!'

There was a certain shyness on that first morning as students clustered in separate groups, but that didn't last long!

'It felt strange at first – but now it's great,' enthused one student. Everyone settled very quickly into their new life –

both in and out of the classroom. All students take at least three A Levels – some as many as five – as well as following full General Studies and Recreational Activities programmes. New subjects appeared this year too; courses in Psychology, Sports Studies and Philosophy have proved popular choices, among the many more traditional ones.



*Receptive and perceptive,
Scanning and planning,
Perusing and enthusing,
Thinking and linking,
Liaising and praising,
Consulting and exulting,
Concentrating, negotiating,
Debating and relating,
On to HE.*

Former Pupils' Association

The Association has embarked on its long cherished project, the restoration and modernisation of the old fiction library/cricket pavilion on the Front Field.

Many may not know that the Association built the Pavilion in the 1930s as a lasting tribute and memorial to those old boys who sacrificed their lives in the First World War. Sadly, it has fallen into disrepair. The Association is currently busy fund-raising to cover the estimated £75,000 cost, although well over £30,000 has already been pledged and it is hoped that the work can begin in the near future, possibly by Easter. Once the work is completed, the school will have a modern pavilion which can also be used as a classroom, study and meeting room. It will also once again be a fitting memorial to the fallen old boys.

Our hope is that it will be ready for use this summer but for that we urgently need to raise the balance of the funds, for which a new charity has been set up by the Association. This new charity also aims in the longer term to fund scholarships and bursaries to the school.

If you know of anyone who would like to make a donation, however small, the Former Pupils' Association can be contacted via the school.

Forthcoming events:

London Hotpot, Zetland Arms, South Kensington,
26th March 1999

Annual Dinner, Hunting Lodge, Adlington,
8th October 1999

AGM, 2nd December 1999

(Provisional) Joint Dinner Dance with the High School
Old Girls Association, May, June 1999

King's web site scores down under

Former pupil John Yates (1946-53), now based in Australia, happened upon the King's website in December and sent the following message:

Congratulations on a really magnificent web site. It is well designed and constructed, the information is good and clear, and navigation is easy. It really is top class and a great credit to the school. I only recently discovered the web site and I shall now read it regularly to keep track of what is happening.

After leaving King's, John studied Natural Sciences at Jesus College, Cambridge. In 1957 he went to Australia to do a PhD. What was planned as a three-year visit has extended to 40! He worked for the Australian Government Scientific Research Organisation before retiring in 1997 to become a management consultant. He is currently working as a consultant at the Institute for Semi Conductor Research in Frankfurt (Oder), although home is still Canberra.

The King's Website address is now:
<http://kingsmac.cheshire.sch.uk>

Quincentenary

Our preparations for 2002 continue! We are currently doing an audit to establish what memorabilia and other artefacts still exist from our long 500 years.

Can you help? If you have any stories, memories, souvenirs or anything related to King's history, please contact Mr Perriss at the King's School 01625 260000.

King's Contacts

Dates for your diary

26-30 January	Zadig
3-6 February	Ernie's Incredible Illuminations & Cage Birds
6 February	Rugby 2000 Bavarian Evening
8 February	Entrance Examination (Senior School)
24 February	The Organists Entertain
3-5 March	Annie
12 March	Big Band Charity Concert
17-20 March	How to succeed in business without really trying
24-26 March	Rosslyn Park Sevens
27 March	Oxford Sevens (Boys, Girls, U16)

Details of all school events available from the School Office.

Admissions

For information about admissions, please contact:

King's Infants Mr GJ Shaw
King's Juniors Principal, Junior Division

King's Girls Mr KWW Aikin
King's Boys Admissions Officer

King's Sixth Form Mrs V Kendal
Sixth Form Secretary

If you would like further information about King's, please contact us

tel: 01625 260000,
email: kingsmac@rmpkc.co.uk

or write to:

The King's School
Macclesfield SK10 1DA