

# The Great Outdoors

From Edale to Bolivia, Glen Coe to Pakistan, the range of venues and outdoor activities in King's superb programme is astonishing. Mountaineering, rock climbing, caving, camping, sailing, skiing, mountain biking and orienteering are all there to be sampled.

Senior school pupils have an early taste of what is on offer. An overnight stay in the Peak District, with a day's walking and scrambling, helps new Year 7s get to know each other. The next year brings leadership tasks and teambuilding exercises. Year 9s enjoy the greater

independence of camping in Edale, and pupils from Year 10 onwards may also apply to join the hugely popular Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme.

Peter Edgerton, master in charge of outdoor activities, believes the programme at King's improves pupils' self-reliance and confidence, as well as physical fitness. It also teaches them to work together. But above all, he says, it lays the foundation for enjoyment for life. There are many eager takers for the multi-activity weekends offered by the

Outdoor Activities Club and for the annual Scottish winter mountaineering trips. King's next international mountaineering expedition, to the Spiti Valley in northern India in 2002, already has 25 paid-up members.

King's is very fortunate in the vast amount of experience and competence in its outdoor activities staff and safety is of paramount importance. Peter Edgerton, himself a Mountain Instructors' Award holder, is closely involved in an initiative to help and encourage all schools in the independent sector to operate to the highest standards.

## Former Pupils' Association



Pictured at the FPA's Annual Dinner is Mrs Penelope Shaw, widow of TT Shaw, with former headmasters' Adrian Silcock and Alan Cooper, and present headmaster, Dr Stephen Coyne.

### King's first girl

Girls arrived at King's in 1986. That's the official date. In fact, the bastions were breached nearly forty years earlier. Jean Hampton recalls the curiosity she aroused in 1948 when, as Jean Burrridge, a High School Upper Sixth Former, she joined Mr Underwood's Physics classes. King's first girl pupil in 450 years is still grateful to the school for offering teaching facilities which the High School could not then provide.



Was she apprehensive? Of course. Little mixing was sanctioned between the two schools in those days – even half terms were deliberately staggered. But the boys were a friendly bunch and head boy Daniel Massey took her under his wing. It all helped, she says, in the transition to Somerville College, Oxford, the next year.

Jean's connections with both schools are deep-rooted. Her mother, Annie Wilkinson, attended the High School when it was still at Park Green, moving with it to Fence Avenue in 1909 and teaching there in the 1920s. Jean's uncle, Arthur Wilkinson, won a scholarship to King's before the First World War; her future husband Peter Hampton and his brother John were there in the 1930s. And the link continues: Jean's daughter Shirley now works in the Junior Division.

### Forthcoming events

**Oxbridge Section Dinner**  
22 February at Christ Church, Oxford.  
Contact Ian A Wilson at school.

**London Section Supper**  
23 March. Contact Bruce Shaak. Tel: 01795 476140.

**The Frank Moore Golf Trophy**  
25 May. Prestbury Golf Club. Contact Chris Shingles. Tel: 01625 511073 (H) or 01625 420420 (B).

**Annual Inter-School Golf Match**  
27 June. Bramhall Golf Club. Contact Alan McInnes. Tel: 01625 428961.

## King's 500

Arrangements carry on apace for the school's 500th anniversary and we are still keen to collect any school memorabilia. We would also like to give you and the community a chance to be part of this celebration. *King's Colours* reaches a very desirable group of people from the marketing point of view, including former pupils and feeder schools. It is possible that your organisation would like to put itself in the shop window with these customers. You could do this by advertising in brochures, sponsoring events or providing raffle prizes which show off the company's name. We are confident that the Quincentenary will receive massive publicity in the local media and beyond, providing an excellent opportunity for you and your business. If you are interested, please contact Dr Stephen Coyne at school by telephone, fax or e-mail.

### Quincentenary Art Exhibition

The 2002 Art Exhibition will display work by former pupils, showing the range and diversity of work produced by professionals and amateurs whose foundation was established in the Art Department at King's. Any former pupils who fall into this category and wish to be invited to participate should contact Peter Seddon, Head of Art, at the school.

### Dates for your Diary

1 February	Sixth Form Dinner 7.30 pm Tytherington Club
2 February	UNICEF National Non Uniform Day Junior Division
5 February	Entrance Examinations (Senior Divisions, Infants & Years 3, 4, 5)
7 February	Celebrity Organ Festival Prof Ian Tracey (Liverpool Cathedral) 7.30 pm Cumberland Street Hall
13-15 February	<i>Grease</i> 7.30 pm Fence Avenue Hall
26 Feb-2 March	Year 10 Work Experience
1 March	World Book Day
2 March	Friends of King's Promise Auction 7.30 pm Fence Avenue Hall
7-9 March	Junior Division Musical <i>Dragon</i> 7.15 pm Fence Avenue Hall
9 March	Big Band Charity Concert 7.30 pm St Michael's Church
27 March	Macclesfield Music Festival Concert (Junior Division) 7.00 pm Macclesfield Leisure Centre
27-31 March	<i>Decline &amp; Fall</i> 7.30 pm Cumberland Street Hall

### Admissions

For information about admissions to all Divisions, please contact the School Office on 01625 260000.

Oxbridge offers  
page 2

Parent power  
page 2

Christmas music  
page 4

Great outdoors  
page 5

Former pupils  
page 6

Diary dates  
page 6

# King's Colours

Spring 2001

The Termly Newsletter of the King's School in Macclesfield

### Headmaster's letter

Welcome to this edition of King's Colours. In the last issue I said that I would write with impressions of my first term and they could not be more positive. The commitment of staff and pupils is such that I have found it impossible to see everything that is happening here. Indeed, my letter is shorter than normal because of the amount of news. The reception I have received at King's is a reflection of the mutual respect between individuals at the school. Pupil-teacher relationships are excellent; the time given up outside the classroom is a great testimony to the staff and is the basis of an excellent environment for learning. Without doubt, we have a school of which we can be proud.



## GOING ONE BETTER

**Pupils do better at King's! This may sound like an advertising slogan but now official research has proved it to be true.**

A few years ago, every school in the Headmasters' and Headmistresses' Conference (HMC) agreed to join a programme to assess the value added as a result of their secondary education. This MidYIS (Middle Years in Schools) assessment involved a comparison of pupils on entry with their eventual scores in external examinations. Obviously, we have had to wait some years for the first results to come through but we now have proof that pupils at King's achieve, on average, a grade higher in their GCSEs than do those of similar ability nationally.

The research was carried out by the University of Durham and, although all HMC schools take part in the scheme, it is completely independent. The findings were particularly favourable in that

King's did better than the majority of independent schools in improving performance.

However, it was the comparison against the national picture that was the most pleasing aspect of the exercise and a great testament to the hard work of staff and pupils at the school. Head of Foundation, Dr Stephen Coyne, said, 'It is always encouraging to have public recognition for the good work done here, but this simply confirms what the staff at King's have believed for years: an all-round education brings the best out in pupils.'

One thing is obviously true: bringing your child to this school is a wise investment if you wish them to do well academically.

## Pulling out the stops

David Baskeyfield has been pulling out all the stops for an Oxford scholarship. David, who is in the Upper Sixth and wants to read Modern Languages, applied for an organ scholarship at St John's College. After the usual written report from school and interview, David had a practical assessment, which he passed with flying colours. He has been offered a place at the college for next September.

David will be given free accommodation in a suite of three rooms at the heart of the college and £400 a year. In return, he will be asked to play at the college's choir practices and church services every week. King's Director of Music, Andrew Green, is especially pleased for David who has been a great servant to the school's music since he joined at age 11.

To ensure that David is able to practise to the highest standards, King's has had the school organ refurbished. This was made possible by former pupil John Clowes, a great fan of organ music who was keen to help ensure that the repair was a success. His generosity has been of tremendous benefit to the school and its timing will be of great help to David.





## Sunday Times Parent Power

Every year, *The Sunday Times* produces a pull-out brochure for parents of pupils at independent schools. In the recent edition, King's Junior Division was highlighted with a special feature. Only six junior schools in the north west of England were reported with higher scores and we are extremely proud of this national recognition. In Science, 100% of our pupils achieved level four in their SATs assessments and 99% did so in English and Mathematics. The performance could hardly be better.

### Threading the needle

A team of four King's Economics students has won the regional heat of the Bank of England Interest Rate Challenge. The brief was to examine prevailing economic conditions, assess the outlook for inflation and suggest an interest rate to ensure an inflation target of 2.5%. Lower Sixth Formers Amy Lal, Jonathan Petty, Tejus Oza and Alex Wilson battled against teams from other top schools in the north west and North Wales and now go forward to one of six national heats in February. Finalists will present their findings to Sir Eddie George at Thread-needle Street.



### Operation Christmas Child

From Liverpool to Azerbaijan - that was the route taken by the 619 boxes donated, decorated and filled by the school for Operation Christmas Child. The boxes were checked by Rosie Childs at Fence Avenue and Clare Butterworth at Cumberland Street. The organisers, Samaritan's Purse, said, 'If we had league tables, you would be top of the Premier League.'

### Fashionable causes

Haute couture took over the main hall at Cumberland Street in a memorable pre-Christmas fashion extravaganza. Sixth Form models were joined on the catwalk by members of staff in a two-hour show for 270 paying guests. An eight-girl dance troupe added further entertainment and £1500 was raised for Christies Against Cancer.



### Famous five

Five King's hockey players have been called up for county honours. The boys who have won the right to wear the Cheshire Wheat-sheaf are (pictured left from the foreground) Tom Kirk (U16), Sam Gregory (U15), Richard Isherwood (U17), Edward Barker (U16) and Jack Hardman (U17).

### Congratulations

**David Buttery** (1st class History degree, Balliol College, Oxford)

**Ben Clifford** (invited to play the Last Post at the Macclesfield Remembrance Day service)

**Jamie Greenlees** (selected to play for England in rugby sevens tournament)

**Claire Percival, Catherine Flynn** and **Catherine Rice** (represented Cheshire in the national hockey finals in Southampton)

**Thom Petty** ('Neuroleptic' - specially commissioned piece performed by the Scottish Symphony Orchestra)

**Jon Wild** (ran for Great Britain in cross-country world championships)

### Shooting to win

Netball at King's received a boost in September with the arrival of sisters Lesley and Pauline Scott in the Sixth Form and the Girls' Division. Having played for Hampshire's youth squads they moved back north last summer and both have now been selected to play for Cheshire in their age groups.



### Cards for charity...

Once again, King's girls proved their artistic talent when five had their designs selected by the East Cheshire Hospice. The designs appeared on Christmas cards sold in aid of the charity.

### ...and circuits

Year 11 pupil Emma Gilroy took time off from GCSE studies to raise money for Leukaemia Research. She did 20 sponsored circuits of the Fence Avenue playing field and collected over £500.

### ...and coffee and cakes

Meanwhile, fundraising initiatives by the Infants and Juniors included pastries and coffee at a French Cafe (for Medecins Sans Frontieres), a Non-Uniform Day (for Children in Need) and a sponsored silence, sponsored finger spell, Christmas Cardigans and a Post Office (for the Royal School for the Deaf).

### The sound of silents

Laurel and Hardy provided the inspiration for budding King's composers in November. Thanks to a New Horizons education tour, part of the National Federation of Music Societies programme of Music Experience, Year 11 pupils received tips on how to write music for a classic silent film

*Big Business*. They also had the rare chance to hear their work performed by a professional group, Sound for Silents, at a concert performance at the Heritage Centre. Sound for Silents, a trio for piano, clarinet and flute, play accompaniments to old black and white films and have an increasing commitment to educational work. Year 11 pupil Pippa Lennox is shown here with John Lenehan, the leader of Sounds for Silents.



## Christmas music



### Carols and chamber music

For the fifth year running, the Foundation Choir joined the Northern Chamber Orchestra for a sell-out Christmas concert at the Silk Heritage Centre. The NCO played pieces by Haydn, Delius, Bizet, Massenet and Handel; the 80-strong King's choir also performed two sets of traditional Christmas carols.

### Vintage stuff

Another huge success was the Foundation Christmas Concert. Over 600 tickets were sold. There was the usual high quality of performance, together with the sense of excitement and fun which are the hallmark of music at King's.

### The start of Christmas

Services of Nine Lessons with Carols were sung by the Foundation Choir at Chester Cathedral and St Michael's. The Parish Church was packed with people, for many of whom this service is the beginning of Christmas.

### Festive mix

Over 100 Junior musicians entertained a packed Fence Avenue hall to a mix of individual, choral and orchestral items, culminating in a

finale by the massed ranks of the choir who sang 'Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas'.

### Rock'n roll

A traditional beginning of carols and prayers at the Infants' Concert led into a hilarious performance of *A Rock 'n Rolling Christmas* by Alison Lea. Set at the North Pole, the action involved an inattentive elf, Elfis, who did not listen to Santa and allowed the dastardly Polar Bears to try to spoil Christmas.



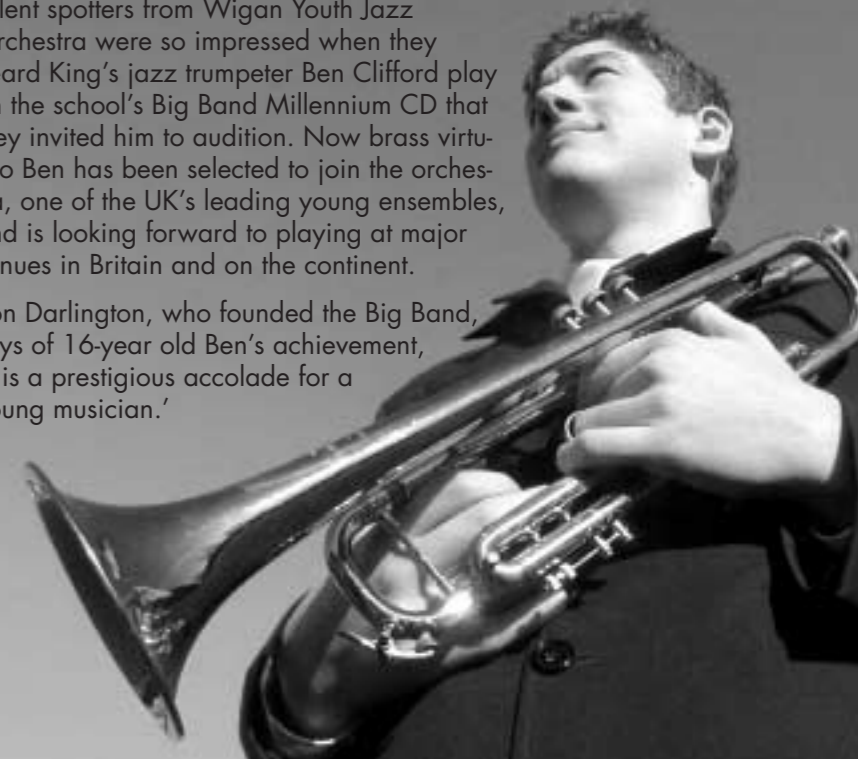
### Hospital harmonies

Past and present Sixth Form students teamed up to sing for the elderly patients of Langley Ward at Macclesfield Hospital. Unaccompanied, but in four-part harmony, they charmed their listeners with an impromptu concert of old favourites, which were received with smiles, tears and applause.

### All that jazz

Talent spotters from Wigan Youth Jazz Orchestra were so impressed when they heard King's jazz trumpeter Ben Clifford play on the school's Big Band Millennium CD that they invited him to audition. Now brass virtuoso Ben has been selected to join the orchestra, one of the UK's leading young ensembles, and is looking forward to playing at major venues in Britain and on the continent.

Ron Darlington, who founded the Big Band, says of 16-year old Ben's achievement, 'It is a prestigious accolade for a young musician.'



## Ten Oxbridge offers

Once again, King's students have proved their worth on a national scale. This year ten pupils have been offered places at the country's two most prestigious universities. Science and Medicine appear to have fared particularly well this year, but there is still a wide mix of subjects in the final list. In a year where much has been made of the advantages for state school pupils in the Oxbridge stakes, it is gratifying that the quality of the applicants is still more significant.

With the girls now fully installed in the Sixth Form, it is pleasing to see how many places they have taken.

Pictured are: David Basketfield (Modern Languages), Lyndsay Lomax (Theology), Miranda Swift (Philosophy & Theology), Louise Southern (Medicine), Peter Seden (Natural Sciences), Alice Betton (Natural Sciences), Alan Williamson (Natural Sciences), Clare Butterworth (English), Jo Adams (Natural Sciences), Miriam Bradbrook (Education).

### Adding up to success

King's mathematicians have again excelled themselves. In the Senior Maths Challenge 2000 in November, James Evans' score put him in the top 0.2% nationally, easily qualifying him for the British Mathematical Olympiad Paper 1 in January. Alice Betton and Rich-

ard Cartmel also won gold certificates and there were no fewer than thirteen silvers and eight bronzes. In the Primary Maths Challenge, Sarah Gales and Charlotte Turner both won gold awards and were selected for the national finals in February.



Infants' Harvest Festival

### Magnificent seven

Nearly half this season's Cheshire U18 rugby team come from King's. Pictured right are (from left) Jonathan Keep, Tom Davenport, Leo Richards, Paul Hanley, Ben Coulbeck, Tom Isherwood, and Adam Halewood. They are following in a long line of King's rugby stars.

