

# RETURN OF THE NATIVE

The headmaster's study already reflects the personality of its new owner. A series of vivid wildlife photographs hang on the freshly painted walls and Dr Stephen Coyne looks at home and relaxed. This, he says, is thanks to the warmth of the welcome he has received from all at King's. He is delighted to be head of such a successful school and, as one born and bred in Lancashire, delighted to be back in the north. His only complaint, he remarks with a grin, glancing out at the unrelenting rain, is the Macclesfield weather...

During his southern exile, Dr Coyne was deputy head at the Whitgift School in Croydon and considers there is much in common between the two schools. Both are highly successful academically; both boast strong sport, flourishing and well-supported arts, a lively extra-curricular scene and extremely supportive colleagues.

As for the most obvious difference between the two schools – the Whitgift remains a boys only institution – he believes the 11-16 single-sex teaching arrangement at King's gives pupils the best of both worlds.



This year's excellent GCSE results were almost equal across the Boys' and the Girls' Divisions, bucking the national trend of boys under-achieving relative to girls. It is, he says, obviously the right way forward and he is intent on carrying on the academic role of the well-oiled machine he has taken over.

The work of his predecessor and the far-sightedness of the school governors have given him a fine foundation on which to build. Of course, he will want to make his own mark but it is early days yet.

The dramatic prints on the study walls look like the work of a professional photographer. In fact they have been taken by Dr Coyne himself and bear witness to two of his passions – photography and travel. With his wife Judith (pictured with him left), an ancient and mediaeval historian and archaeologist, he has visited such far-flung places as the Galapagos Islands, Alaska, India, Finland and Borneo. His photos appear regularly in travel journals courtesy of The Royal Geographical Society Picture Library, among others. Other abiding enthusiasms are badminton and running, though he no longer enters marathons. With such experience, expertise and qualities of endurance, he is certain to put his own very individual stamp on a very individual school.

Dr Coyne with Matthew Shribman ZJRH



## Congratulations

### London Exhibition

Ceramics by sixth former Amanda Thomas appeared in the Mall Galleries Exhibition this summer. The London gallery provides an annual showcase for the cream of young British artistic talent and Amanda's work was praised by art critics for its originality and dexterity.

### Gold Medallists

Twelve-year old Gary Ledger represented the UK in the Junior Mathematics Challenge and came home with a gold medal. The school's overall haul of medals in the Maths Olympics came to a remarkable eleven gold, nineteen silver and 46 bronze.



### Young Poets

Rebecca Lea has been selected as a runner-up in the Simon Elvin Young Poet of the Year Award. Over 6500 young poets entered; the prize-giving is at the Royal Festival Hall in October. Rebecca's poem appeared in the September issue of *Young Writer*. Another published Year 10 poet is Sarah Bennett, who had a poem in the Summer 2000 anthology of the same magazine.

### Mastering Italian

Just one year after starting to learn the language, nine Year 11 boys have passed their Italian GCSE exams with flying colours. Having taken Latin a year ahead of schedule, they were invited by Head of Classics Mike Houghton to study Italian. The result was six A grades (two at A\*) and the remainder were B grades. Italian is now all set to become an established part of the school curriculum.

### Music Prizes

Fiona Howe and Rebecca Lea starred at the Buxton Music Festival, Fiona winning two prizes and Rebecca four.

### Shooting for England

Ed Gladman, currently in the Upper Sixth, is a member of the England U18 clay pigeon shooting team, having regularly been ranked first in his age group. Watch out for the name in future Olympic Games!

### Hockey

D Constantine, M Grundy, S Parker and A Ward were part of the Macclesfield team which won the Cheshire Youth Millennial Games and went on to represent Cheshire at the National Games.

### Netball

The Senior Netball Team won the Macclesfield District Netball League.

### Trampolining

E Bowers, L Bradbury, M Currie, L Hindle, R Lamb, K Livesley, L Lohman, L Perry and R Rosing were awarded British Trampolining Federation Grade 6.

E Bishop, E Gilroy, P Harrison, S Heaton, O Naylor, H Partington, K Riddell and A Slade obtained BTF Preliminary Awards.

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# King's Colours

Autumn 2000

The Termly Newsletter of the King's School in Macclesfield

## Headmaster's Letter

Dear Reader,

It gives me great pleasure to write my first letter as Head of the King's Foundation. I look forward to corresponding with you every term. I am exceptionally pleased to be taking over the reins from Adrian Silcock who has been a headmaster of vision and imagination. I am particularly grateful for his help and co-operation since I was appointed.



I arrive at the school at an auspicious time. Not only is it the millennium, with the quincentenary of the school just around the corner, but this summer saw the first fully co-educational group move through the school. The Upper Sixth Form achieved record A Level results in the process and the GCSE results also demonstrated the strength of the exceptional system of education at King's.

In the Girls' Division, 47.6% of the grades were at A/A\* and this figure was 48.9% for the boys. These figures, like the pass rate in the two divisions, are almost identical, and are in contrast to the much publicised national picture where boys are falling behind girls academically. It is a tribute to the wisdom of the Governors in adopting our system of single-sex education from 11-16 that both boys and girls are able to achieve such excellent results.

Our Key Stage 1 and 2 results were also well above the national average and I know that I am arriving at a school which is flourishing and in good heart.

Stephen Coyne

## TOP MARKS

Record figures were yet again seen at King's when this year group's A Level results came out. Not only did the whole year group do well but two students gained some of the top marks in the whole country.

The overall picture was:

- 35 achieved three A grades or better
- 14 obtained four A grades
- 9 managed five A grades
- 53.6% achieved A/B grades
- The pass rate was 98.5%
- Average points per pupil: 28.7

All these percentages are a record for the school and a tribute to the hard work of staff and pupils. Ten students are off to Oxford or Cambridge. Many more are going to other top universities, having obtained a place at the institution of their first choice.

The overall quality of the results underlines how each individual pupil has benefited from the high standard of learning and teaching in King's Sixth Form.

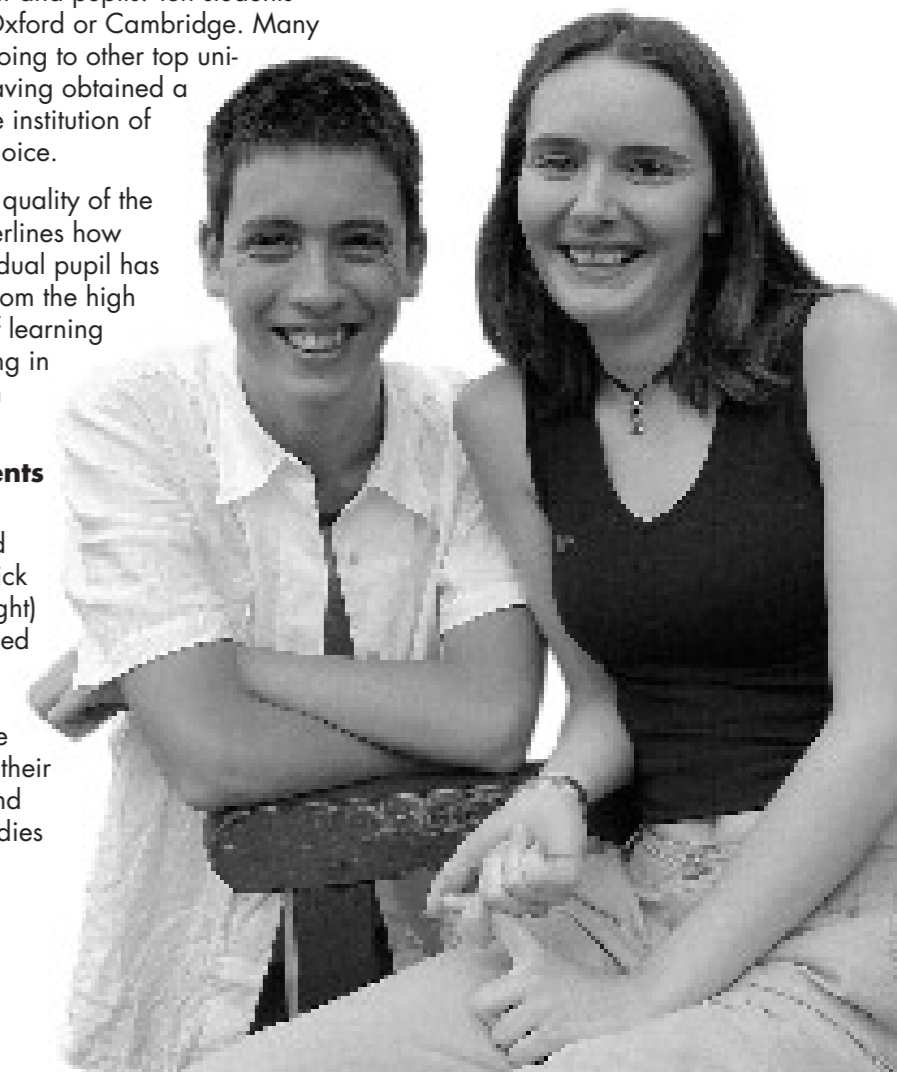
### Top Students

Margaret Spence and Ben Crabstick (pictured right) both obtained one of the top five marks in the country for their Geology and Theatre Studies

papers respectively. The examination boards were so impressed that they wrote to congratulate them both. Ben has a place to read English at New College, Oxford, while Margaret will be reading chemistry at Bristol University.

### Sparkling GCSEs

At GCSE, the overall A\*-C pass rate was 95.9%. Two pupils passed eleven subjects at A/A\* grades, seven managed ten such passes and 21 students obtained nine A/A\* grades. Again, these were impressive statistics, having been bettered only by the record results seen two years ago.



## Former Pupils' Association

### Pavilion Appeal

The target of just over £53,000 has been reached, and the committee are very grateful to all those who have contributed. There is an excellent display of First XI photographs in the pavilion and, although some years are missing, we are hopeful of obtaining them in the near future. Please contact Alan McInnes at school if you have any photographs of First XI cricket teams for the years 1942, 1951, 1952, 1957, 1964 and 1968-1976 inclusive.

### Times Past

A 1935 cigarette card has come to light which depicts Macclesfield Grammar School's 1st XV. Part of a series of school rugby teams featured on a long-gone brand of cigarettes, it shows J Malins, believed to be the grandfather of two boys in Years 8 and 10, and the father of an Old Boy who practises as a dentist in Macclesfield.

### Forthcoming Events

#### AGM and Hot Pot

7 December at the Old Boys' and Park Green Club, Macclesfield  
Contact Mike Hyde on 01625 423732

#### 'Young' Former Pupils' Social Evening

18 December  
Contact Ian Wilson at school

### Dates for your Diary

8 November	Friends of King's Mothers' Lunch
9 November	Open Evening (All Divisions)
18 November	Boys' Division Tour Beaujolais Nouveau Evening
25 November	Girls' Division Tour
30 November	Foundation Christmas Concert 7.30pm, Cumberland Street Hall
2 December	Friends of King's Christmas Fair
4 December	Foundation Christmas Concert 7.30pm, Cumberland Street Hall
7 December	Infant Christmas Concert Charity Fashion Show
8 December	Carol Service, Chester Cathedral
9 December	Foundation Choir Concert with Northern Chamber Orchestra
14 December	Junior Division Carol Service School Carol Service, St Michael's Church, 8.00 pm

### Admissions

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

## Play Time

A hitherto unused part of the school has been transformed into an exciting play area for infants and juniors. It was officially opened by retiring headmaster Adrian Silcock, who planted a Millennium Tree (a flowering cherry) in the border.



## Cash and Care for Charity

Will Roberts and Phil Reynolds celebrated the end of term with a charity busk which took Chestergate by storm. Their two-man band, with Will playing a badran and Phil the trumpet, entertained traders and shoppers and raised cash for Christie's.

Meanwhile, Oliver Barber and Mark Woodcock were walking coast-to-coast with friend Ben Rathbone. Their epic journey on foot from St Bede's Head to Robin Hood's Bay was to raise funds for Christian Aid and Macclesfield's new Drop In advice centre.

Another King's sixth former, Carys Jones, has been honoured for her 'remarkable' work at the hospice in the Silk FM AstraZeneca Community Awards 2000. She was presented with the overall prize, as well as the Local Hero Award.



## Prize Giving

Music played by organ scholar D A J Basketfield opened the King's Prize Giving at the Silk Heritage Centre in September. The address was given by the new Head of Foundation, Dr Coyne, who highlighted examination success, congratulated pupils and thanked Adrian Silcock for his hard work and his significant development of the school.

142 pupils received prizes (in the form of books) and certificates were presented to 46 students awarded Development Trust Scholarships for outstanding pieces of independent research. Cups were presented to J M Gartside (Deryck Siddall Cup) and H S Roberts (Macclesfield High School Cup) for all-round achievement.

Afterwards, students, parents and staff were invited back to school for refreshments. It proved a very pleasant social occasion and provided the chance to say farewell to leaving Sixth Formers.

## New Roles

The new Admissions Officer for the King's Foundation is Christine Harrison (pictured far left). Val White is the new Vice-Principal of the Girls' Division.

Formerly director of the software division of an international company, Mrs Harrison chose to pursue her first love, mathematics, and started teaching here in 1995.

Mrs White joined King's in 1994 and has been a Head of Year and Senior Subject Teacher for History at Fence Avenue. A keen horse-woman, she also enjoys gardening and reading.



## Net Gains

Contacting French Internet sites, word processing and checking databases are things that all Year 7 and 8 pupils can now do with ease, thanks to improvements in the Rock Reading Room. Twenty-four newly delivered, top specification PCs have been installed to make it one of the most up-to-date suites around. Pupils from anywhere on the Cumberland Street site will soon be able to access work on a central server and log on anywhere on the site. This has proved of great benefit to the pupils and they are making the most of the opportunity during lessons and at lunchtimes.



## Virtual Language

Language learning at King's Girls' Division has moved emphatically into the 21st century with the installation of a new state-of-the-art multi-media language laboratory.

Known as the Virtual Language Laboratory, the system is software driven and runs through the PC network at Fence Avenue. In addition to the features of a traditional language laboratory, the system offers exciting new possibilities in language learning, including interactive video.

Girls' Principal Catherine Buckley explained: 'This system will undoubtedly enhance our language teaching and will enable the girls to benefit from the very latest technology available. The Virtual Language Laboratory will also allow us to keep up with new developments without the need to replace expensive hardware.'

## Testing...

A ten-strong team of King's A Level scientists scooped the silver medal in a national chemical analysis competition. Battling it out against nearly 80 state and independent schools in a competition set up by VAM and the Nuffield Foundation, they analysed the concentration of four samples of ethanoic acid.

Meanwhile, the claims of the SAS Survival Guide regarding the anti-septic effects of garlic and water-cress were rigorously put to the test by Damien Ming and David Edwards in their Zeneca Science Prize project. A team of four – Yannick Malins, Stephen Colville, Rick Cartmel and David Johnson – entered the annual Chem Quiz at Manchester University, coming a creditable sixth out of 34.

Yannick also attended a Chemistry Camp for Year 10 students at Birmingham University.

## Monet and Disney

In a hectic three-day schedule in May, a party of 76 Juniors, parents and staff travelled to Paris for a special millennium visit. Highlights included a fun day at EuroDisney, an evening tour of Paris on the River Seine and a breathtaking visit to the delightful surroundings of Monet's garden at Giverny. Pictured right are Pennie Aspinwall and some of the pupils.

## Musical Farewell

It was positively the final appearance for many at the magnificent choral music concert at the end of June: the last performance by many superb Upper Sixth Form singers; the last concert for Adrian Silcock (it was really organised for him, as he was so keen on the singing at King's); and the last event as MAST fundraiser for Bridget Brooks. A capacity audience attended and over £1,000 was raised for the Mast Scanner Appeal. The end of concert was rather like the escape of the Von Trapp family in *The Sound of Music*, as Andrew Green and four pupils left as the last note was being sung to catch a train to London for the ISC Millennium Service in St Paul's...

## King's Musicians at St Paul's

Straight from the demands of the MAST Scanner Choral Concert, Sarah Varney (Violin), Richard Caswell (Tuba), Ben Clifford (Trumpet) and Will Roberts (Timpani) caught the late evening train to Euston with the Director of Music. They stayed overnight as guests of the Headmaster of St Paul's School before taking part in the service of Thanksgiving and Rededication at the cathedral. The 62-strong orchestra was made up of players from 38 schools. Some, like Eton, provided up to three players, but King's led the way with four.



The King's headmaster and school captain joined the packed congregation at St Paul's for the inspiring service.

## Singing and Dancing

A delightful performance by all the Infants of *The King's Magic Cloaks* entertained an audience of almost 200 parents and grandparents before a retirement presentation was made to Adrian and Jenny Silcock.

The Junior Summer Concert displayed the tremendous musical talent available in the Junior School. Individual items performed by Junior Music Festival class winners, interspersed with choral and instrumental groups – and dancers! – gave a resounding farewell to the Silcocks. The evening ended with another retirement presentation and a moving encore of 'Look At Us Now', dedicated to the headmaster.



## Memmingen

This year's exchange visit to Memmingen coincided with the holding of the regional garden festival in the town and the annual Fishing Day. This involves the men of the town in a huge competition to catch all the fish in the river. It proved enormous fun and at least one of the King's group was roped in to help. There were also visits to Ulm and Munich, as well as a dramatic gorge walk on the edge of the Alps and a day with the Luftwaffe, witnessing their staff dealing with a real-life emergency.

The visit was the last to be organised by Simon Skeens before his retirement and he was made much of by the German hosts, with whom he had created a firm relationship. As ever, the King's party was made most welcome and everyone enjoyed the programme of visits and activities.

## A Château in Cherbourg

A thoroughly enjoyable, if often wet and mud-covered, time was had by Year 7 pupils on a week spent at the beautiful Château de la Baudonnière in the secluded countryside of the Cherbourg peninsula. Pupils tasted a range of activities, from kayaking to archery to climbing - all conducted in French - while mealtimes provided the opportunity to sample escargots. Excursions included a visit to the local market at Villedieu-les-Poêles, followed by a coastal walk and also to the Champrepus Zoo.

# Rugby on Three Continents

In an action-packed three-week rugby tour in July, King's players, staff, parents and supporters visited Singapore, Australia and South Africa. The 1st XV and 2nd XV won seven of their eleven matches in Singapore, Cairns, Sydney, Mpumalanga and Pretoria. In the World Schools' Tens at MacQuarrie University in Sydney, the 1st and 2nd teams lost 19-20 in the Plate Final.

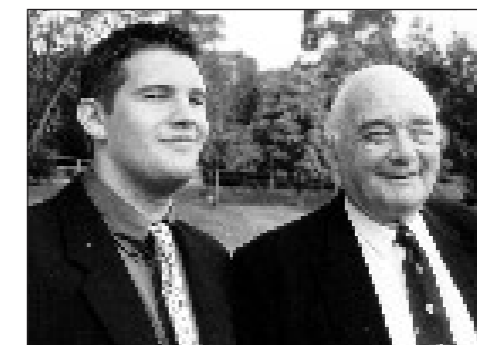
Joining the world record crowd at the Bledisloe Cup Match at the Olympic Stadium, the tour party watched the All Blacks beat Australia, with a Jonah Lomu try in the final seconds of the match. At Witbank, they were spectators at a match in the Puma Stadium against an all African Mpumalanga Development XV.

There were plenty of non-rugby experiences to be enjoyed too: sightseeing in Singapore, a Chinese seafood banquet, white-water rafting in Cairns (shown below), diving and snorkelling on the Great Barrier Reef, the splendours of Sydney Harbour, African game in the Kruger National Park, touring Soweto and visiting the world famous Loftus Versfeld Stadium in Pretoria and the Blyde River Canyon and Three Rondovelles in Northern Transvaal.

Less pleasurable was the flight from hell: 26 hours from Sydney to Perth to Harare to Johannesburg – to be met by a bus with no luggage lockers! There were 105 pieces of luggage on the bus and no spare seats!

## Old Boy Host

Before the matches against Central Coast GS in New South Wales, the tourists were delighted to meet up with King's Old Boy, Dan Massey (1st XV Captain in 1947-48 and 1948-49) who entertained them generously at his home.



Dan, pictured above with Euan Moran (1st XV Captain 1999-2000), was the son of the Gawsworth policeman. He won England Schools' Rugby caps (v Wales in 1947 and 1948) and Oxford Blues in 1952 and 1953. He played for Cheshire, who won the County Championship Final, as a nineteen-year-old – an amazing achievement for a prop forward! After Oxford he became a schoolmaster at Fettes before emigrating to become a headmaster in Australia where he is now retired. He hopes to return in 2002 for the Quincentenary Dinner of the Former Pupils' Association.



## Cricket

### Coaching England

Peter Moores, who left King's in 1981, has recently been appointed coach of the England A team for its tour to the West Indies early in 2001. Peter played cricket for England Schools, and after short spells on the Lord's grounds staff and as a young professional at Worcestershire, moved to Sussex as wicket-keeper and middle-order batsman. He was awarded a testimonial by the county a few years ago, and then moved into coaching, as county coach and cricket manager. He has been involved with the England cricket coaching set-up in a junior capacity for some years.

### MCC v King's

Retiring headmaster Adrian Silcock greeted King's end-of-term victory over the MCC as 'one of the notable wins in the school's history and a great credit to both the teams and the coaching staff'. Against a strong visiting team, King's produced one of the best batting performances of the season, with every player taking responsibility and building an innings.