

King's Colours

Summer 2003

The Termly Newsletter of the King's School in Macclesfield

Head's letter

King's is having a remarkable time by anybody's standards. We thought that there might be a slight lull after the hectic year of the Quincentenary but not a bit of it. You probably know that the school achieved great things in music by winning the BBC Songs of Praise Senior Choir of the Year Award. This led to their performing at the Albert Hall, as well as recording works for Radio 2. The Arts were also highlighted by an excellent production of A Midsummer Night's Dream towards the end of last term.

This may seem enough for any school but King's has been excelling itself on the sporting front recently, too. There are reports in these pages of the varied successes we have had. The school has won national or county championships in a variety of sports, from biathlon to hockey.

In my time here, I have not known us perform so well on so many fronts and this is reflected in the number of pupils in the school which looks set to rise yet again next term.

In this context, there could not be a better time to announce the date of the school inspection. This will be in the week commencing 29 September 2003, with the Independent Schools' Inspectorate sending a large team to look at all the pupils in the Foundation aged from 3 to 18. We hope that their findings will show how well we are doing.

Stephen Coyne



BBC TROPHY FOR CHOIR

Songs of Praise Senior School Choir of 2003

The King's Foundation Choir has won the title of BBC Songs of Praise Senior School Choir of the Year!

After two preliminary rounds, King's was selected to perform in the Finals, in front of eminent judges Malcolm Archer, Carrie Grant and Pete Waterman. This fantastic experience was a prize in itself. The competition, held at Symphony Hall in Birmingham, culminated in the finalists participating in a spectacular Songs of Praise broadcast. For this, the Foundation Choir performed the inspirational song, "Up Where We Belong," arranged especially for the occasion by conductor Jo Beesley.

In the competition, however, it was their vibrant singing of a compulsory traditional hymn and a lively own

choice item, "Little David," that impressed judges and created the all-important "tingle factor" that earned King's the prize.

The Choir won a magnificent glass trophy (shown below with Aled Jones and judge Carrie Grant) and £1000, which is being put towards the education of a young person at the Nile Institute in Uganda.

This success is bringing the choir further exciting opportunities. Some members performed in the Songs of Praise "Big Sing" in the Albert Hall at the end of March, and the choir has made recordings for two of Radio Two's Sunday Half Hour programmes on 11 May and 27 July.



Congratulations to

Krister Ardern, Luke Goodsell, Jenny Swinden, Chris Weight and **Emma Wood** who were awarded Royal Academy of Engineering EES certificates

Katherine Baker for representing Cheshire in the Inter-Counties Cross Country match

Sam Baker for representing Cheshire in the National Schools Cross Country Championship

Anna Beesley, Daniel Brown and **Hope Ward** who have won scholarships into the Senior School

Anna Beesley and **Allie Potter** for winning Music scholarships

Libby Cooper who attended a Smallpeice Engineering course

Key Doncom who qualified for the European Maths Challenge

Kate Grundy, Emma Mycock, Rose Richardson and **Frances Seddon** for winning the Best Teamwork Award at the Royal Society of Chemistry Chem Quiz.

David Illingworth and **Emily Middleton** for their success in the Millrace Short Story Competition

William Laughton who won the NW Regional U16 Sculling Time Trial

Matthew Shribman for gaining a Merit in the Year 9 Kangaroo Maths Challenge

Amey Sumpter who came second out of 3000 in the Dick King-Smith Romanian Story Challenge

U11 Swimming Team for yet again winning the trophy at the Macclesfield & Bollington Primary Schools Swimming Gala

U13 Rugby Team for winning the King's Festival

U15 Netball Team who won the Macclesfield & District Netball League

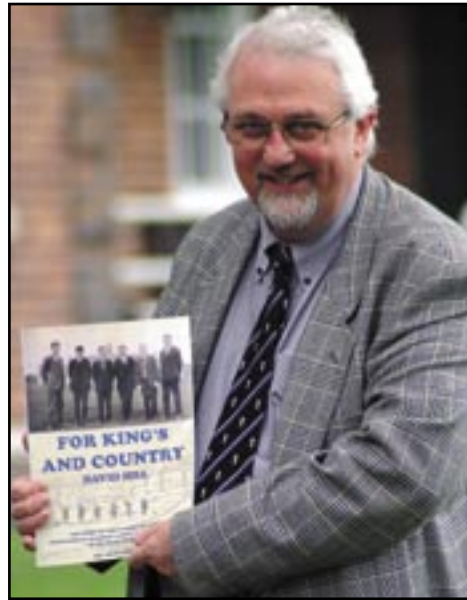
Craig Cooper who played for the English Universities Rugby Team

Dawn Gibbons (Greaves) for winning the Veuve Cliquot Business Woman of the Year Award

Nicola Few on the birth of a baby daughter, Olivia; **Kim Griffin** on the birth of Alasdair and **Catherine Whelpton** on the birth of Jacob

Read all about it

King's has two new authors! Ian Wilson's book, *The Economics of Leisure*, has just been published - on the same day that he became a grandfather for the first time. Ian has been principal examiner for the A2 Economics of Work & Leisure module for many years and last year was commissioned by Heinemann to write the book as part of their Economics series.



Meanwhile, in *For King's And Country*, David Hill (above) explores the tragic stories behind the names of 70 young men listed on King's First World War memorial plaque. The project took root 15 years ago when he started taking parties of students to the battlefields of northern France. His findings highlight the waste of a generation of Macclesfield's young men.

The house that Sam built

Sam Bacon is back from an exciting gap year in Honduras, Central America. Working with Save the Children, he helped build a house for a local family in a small village - not the easiest task when you are working with the most basic of tools. He also taught English as a Foreign Language in the country's capital.

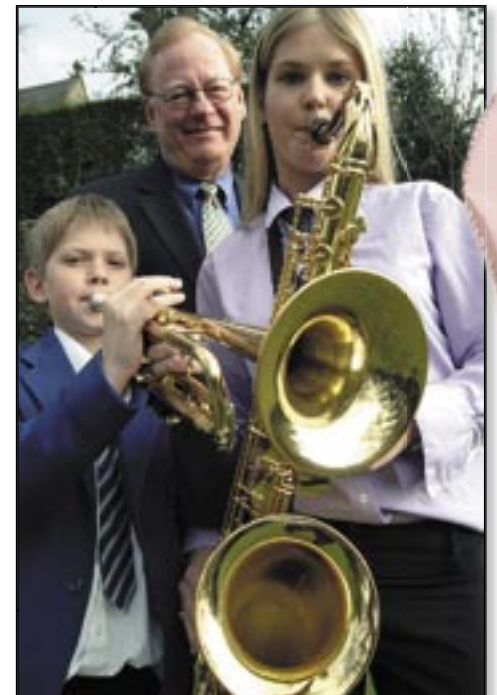
Jazz legend at King's

American Jazz legend Dick Dunscomb wowed the King's School Big Band with a two-hour workshop during a whistle stop world tour. He is a leading musical arranger for Warner Brothers, director of the University of Florida Big Band and a former President of the International Association of Jazz Education.

Dick commented: "It's wonderful to see such a strong movement to teach jazz in this country. I was immensely impressed with the work at the King's School. There are over 50 players working in two bands and achieving such outstanding performances."

King's has a 24-piece Big Band and a 28-piece training band, which perform regular charity concerts throughout the community. Tutored by Macclesfield's very own Mr Swing, Ron Darlington, King's is one of the few schools nationwide to appear on Jazz FM.

Dick is pictured below with King's brother and sister jazz duo Sarah and Allie Potter. Allie, aged 10, said: "I love the rhythm and the tunes."



Foundation Choir events 2003

Songs of Praise from The Albert Hall on June 15 and October 12.

Sunday Half Hour, BBC Radio 2, July 27.

Look out for the Foundation Choir's new CD *Spread a Little Happiness*, which they are in the process of producing as a souvenir of this exciting year.

Fun with funding

An amazing £13,000 has already been raised for charity this year. The Games Department's sponsored run netted over £6,000, shared between Park Lane Special School and a school in Romania; Charity Week produced nearly as much again, and the Sixth Form Fashion Show contributed another £1,750. Meanwhile Mrs Pentreath, Robert Hart and David Illingworth spent a week on a Third World diet of rice, oats and water, raising nearly £600 for UNICEF; the English Department's sponsored read funded four Third World children through the Action Aid programme, and the Non-Uniform Day (below) raised considerable funds for a variety of charities.



Honk!

Based upon the story of the Ugly Duckling, this is a lively and witty musical. Year 6 children did it full justice. Assorted duckyard creatures were led by Laura Boyd and James Plowright as Ida and Drake. Their unprepossessing offspring was

played by Thomas Coleman, while Victoria French appeared as the ever-hungry Cat. The whole cast sang, acted and danced their way into the audience's hearts, producing three very memorable evenings' entertainment.

Shakespeare meets Sergeant Pepper

The setting for the King's production of *A Midsummer Night's Dream* was the swinging sixties; the exploits of the play's eccentric characters were set against a colourful backdrop of tie-dye and psychedelia, and the result was stunning. The cast wore costumes that were carefully matched to the style of the period, and music ranging from the Beatles to Acker Bilk gave the final authentic touch.

A group of rather simple artisans provided many hilarious moments: Coral Briggs as "Rita" Quince

especially stood out, demonstrating both comic timing and an outrageous costume! On alternate nights, the same roles were played by younger members of the school, all of whom showed great promise.

Robbie Unterhalter, who played Bottom, said: "The main aim was to explode the myth that Shakespeare is dry and boring. We hopefully showed the audience that comedies like this one can be great fun."

David Illingworth





Unbeaten biathletes

At the British Schools Biathlon Championships King's beat the runners-up by over 340 points to become National Champions in the Year 12/13 age group. The King's biathletes ran breathtaking times in the 1000 metres

and achieved many personal bests in the swimming pool. The Year 7 girls' team also became National Champions, clinching the title over resilient opposition.

Sevens successes

King's U16 team beat some of the best rugby playing schools to be crowned champions of the Stonyhurst Sevens competition. After winning their opening match against Kirkham 16-12, they beat Oratory School and drew with Ampleforth, finishing top of the group.

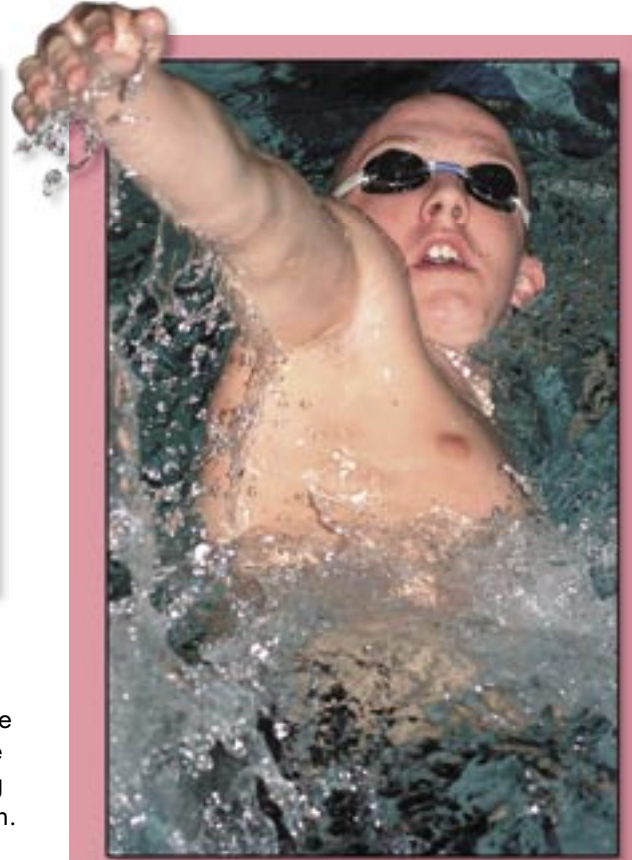
In the quarterfinals, King's beat Audenshaw 19-7 and conquered Sedbergh by a remarkable 34-0. The final was a repeat of the Cheshire Sevens final one week earlier, which King's lost 24-7 to St. Ambrose. King's failed to convert all three of their tries but they held on to win 15-14.

The U14 team also won a Sevens tournament at Solihull. They were unbeaten in the tournament and defeated Aylesbury 21-14 in the final.

Hockey champions

The U14 boys' hockey team have become North West Champions. In the semi final they beat Merchant Taylors' 3-1, with a goal from Alex Hall and two from Alex Garlick. In the final at Oxtot Hockey Club, they beat Neston on penalties after a 2-2 draw after full time. Alex Garlick and Lyam Hollis netted for King's and Jamie Kavanagh got the important penalty flick to secure the title.

Seven wins ensured victory for the Year 7 netball squad (right) in the Macclesfield and District tournament.



Olympic ambitions

Ace swimmer Simon Birch has set his sights on the 2008 Olympics. Ranked third in Britain in his age group in backstroke and individual medley, he is definitely following in the wake of his father, former English International David Birch.



Happy Birthday King's Infants

King's youngest children are celebrating a very special birthday: the Infants' Department is five years old. Though it seems only yesterday that the unit was opened, it is now an established part of the Foundation and the demand for places is so high that it has doubled in size. There are now almost 140 King's infants.

They celebrated their birthday as you would expect - with a party. There were cakes, party hats and an entertainer. And, thanks to the generosity of the Friends of Kings, the department has also acquired some splendid new toys (far right).



Perhaps the most exciting of these is the Wildlife and Environmental Study Area. This has been divided into different habitat areas - hedgerow, woodland, bog and dry - and a ginkgo tree has been ceremonially planted (main photo). Ginkgos have been around since the time of the dinosaurs. Lots of wildflowers are also being planted and the site should attract a whole range of wild creatures. It will provide a marvellous environmental studies resource for the whole school.



The sale of tea towels printed with each infant's self-portrait (left) has raised over £500 for charity and there are other initiatives to commemorate the birthday.





Return of 1933 rugby captain

Seventy years after gracing the King's School's rugby pitch, George Frith returned to present the trophies at the U15 sevens tournament. Now aged 87, George captained the School in 1933 and still enjoys watching the game at the Derby playing fields. George is pictured with U15 captain Kyle Ridgeway.

Former Pupils' Association

Roy Harrison 1929 - 2003

The school is sad to announce the death of Roy Harrison, Governor and Former Pupil. Roy was noted for his keen sense of humour and enthusiasm for the game of cricket. He will be much missed by all at King's.

Jazz fit for King's

There will be an open-air Jazz Concert in the Main School Quadrangle on Saturday 28 June 2003, organised by the KSMFPA in association with the Macclesfield High School Old Pupils. This event was very popular last year and the The Mart Rodger Jazz Band will be entertaining us with a fantastic jazz repertoire once again. The concert starts at 7.30 pm, with picnic facilities and bar available from 6.30. Last year £2,500 was raised for the East Cheshire Hospice and proceeds will go to this good cause again this year. Tickets are £8 and are available from Vin Thomas on 01625 425776.

KSMFPA Hockey Tournament

On Sunday 13 April over 35 old boys gathered at the school astroturf for the first FPA hockey tournament. It was a great opportunity to meet up with old team-mates and it is hoped that we can build on this year's turnout. If anyone is interested in participating next year, please contact: james.westcott@dunelm.org.uk

Dates for your diary

11 June	Year 12 Tutors, Higher Education Advisers & Parents Evening 6.00 pm Cumberland Street Main Block
13 June	Year 6 Visit to Alton Towers
17 June	Junior Sports Day
17-19 June	Year 7, 8, 9 Internal Examinations
18 June	Year 11 Ball
19 June	Junior School Walk Creative Subjects GCSE Exhibition 7.00 pm Fence Avenue
20 June	No School for Pupils
24 June	Cricket v MCC 11.30 am Cumberland Street
25 June	Boys' New Pupils' Welcome Evening
26 June	Infant Summer Concert Girls' New Pupils' Welcome Evening
27 June	Sixth Form Leavers' Ball Friends of King's Summer Ball 7.30 pm Hunting Lodge, Adlington Hall
28 June	KSMFPA Jazz Evening, Mart Rodger Manchester Jazz 7.00 pm Cumberland Street
30 June	Infant Sports Day
1 July	Junior School New Pupils' Welcome Afternoon
2 July	Year 5 Junior Workshop Day
3 July	Junior Prize Presentations 2.00 pm Fence Avenue Hall Junior Summer Concert 7.15 pm Fence Avenue Hall
4 July	Term ends at lunchtime Cricket v Old Boys XI 1.30 pm Cumberland Street Old, Old Boys v Very Old, Old Boys 10.30 am Cumberland Street Old Boys Cricket Buffet Lunch 12.30 pm Cricket Pavilion, Cumberland Street
9 July	KSMFPA Former Pupils' Inter-School Golf Competition 1.00 pm Bramhall Golf Club
14 August	AS & A2 Results Day
21 August	GCSE Results Day

Admissions

For information about admissions to all Divisions, please contact the Admissions Office on 01625 260000 or email: mail@kingsmac.co.uk