

King's Colours

Spring 2003

The Termly Newsletter of the King's School in Macclesfield

Head's letter

Welcome to this edition of King's Colours as the school takes a deep breath and pauses to consider what an exciting year we had in 2002. One assumed that nothing could top the Royal Visit in the summer. However, last term was eventful enough to have been a major milestone in the life of any school.



In October, I attended two ceremonies that were very special. The first was at Buckingham Palace, where Her Majesty the Queen and other members of the Royal Family held a reception to thank those who had contributed to the Jubilee celebrations. I was honoured to represent the school at this event but very conscious of the fact that the Royal Visit itself had been a great team effort by all at King's.

Also in October, I had the pleasure of receiving the Freedom of the Borough at Macclesfield Town Hall on behalf of the pupils, staff and parents of King's. It was a splendid evening and the school was doubly honoured in receiving the award at the same time as Sir Nicholas Winterton and Councillor Margaret Duddy, two people whose contribution to Macclesfield has been enormous. It is rewarding to know that our contribution to local life is recognised in this way.

The other major event of the term was the concert at the Bridgewater Hall. You will read more of this in these pages but it was a wonderful celebration of so much that is good at King's. I am also reliably informed, by many who attended, that it was a super day out!

May I wish you a happy, successful (and slightly quieter) 2003.

Stephen Coyne

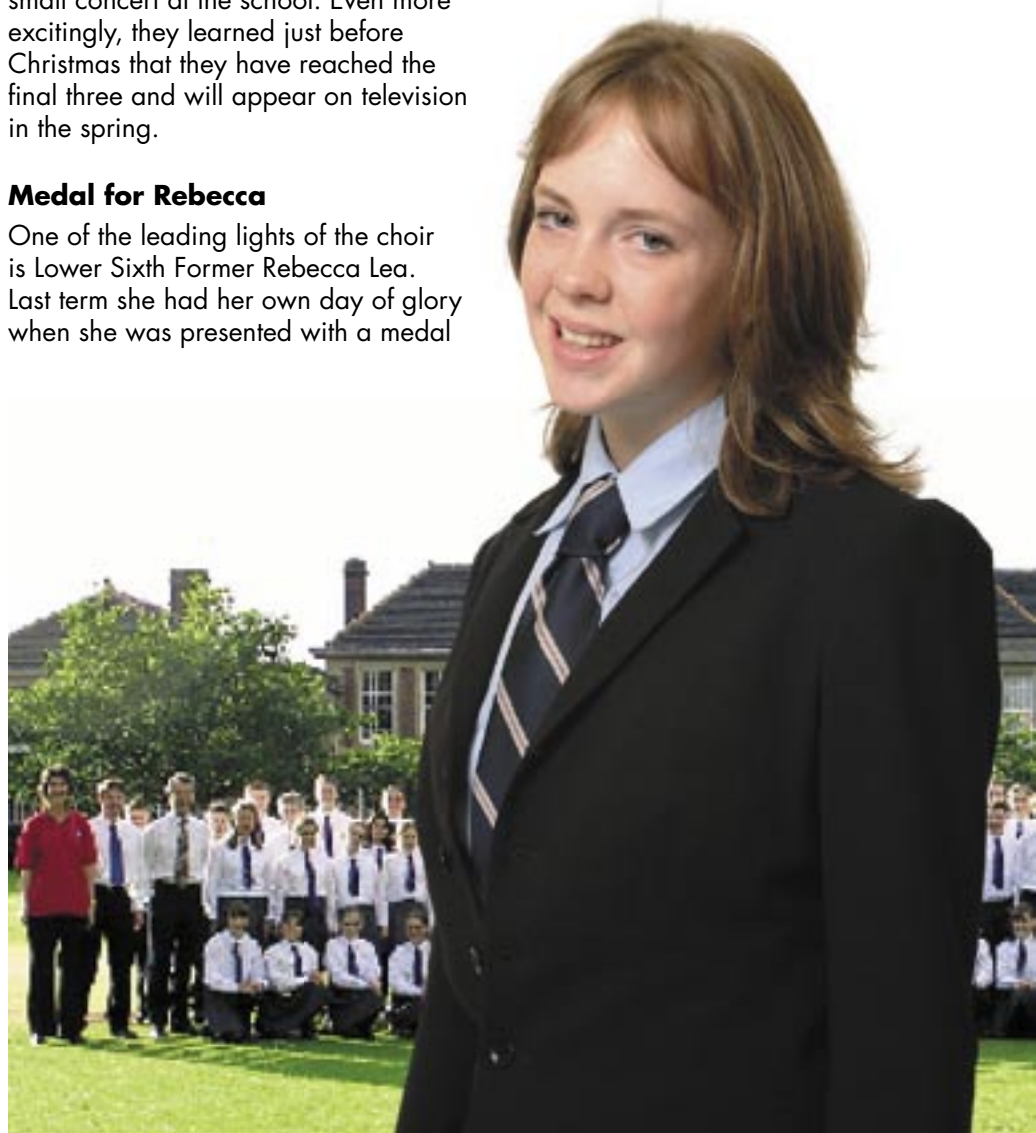
HITTING THE HIGH NOTES King's Foundation Choir reach BBC finals

Things keep getting better and better for the Foundation Choir. Their performance during the Royal Visit showed that they are a class act. This was confirmed at a Jubilee Concert for Macclesfield schools and at the magnificent Bridgewater Hall concert last term. Now they have reached the finals of a BBC competition and are rated among the three best young choirs in the country. After being selected as one of the finalists in The Songs of Praise Choir of the Year Competition, they were filmed by the BBC in a small concert at the school. Even more excitingly, they learned just before Christmas that they have reached the final three and will appear on television in the spring.

Medal for Rebecca

One of the leading lights of the choir is Lower Sixth Former Rebecca Lea. Last term she had her own day of glory when she was presented with a medal

and a certificate for her performance in her GCSE Music examination. Rebecca passed nine GCSEs, with eight A* and one A grade, and her mark in Music was the best out of 16,000 entries in the entire country. (The award is for the top mark in the whole Music group of syllabuses and not just for the one examination.) Rebecca spends some of her spare time composing and wrote the music for one of the choir's favourite pieces, *Out of Your Sleep*.



Showcase

October's Art Exhibition at King's was the last of 24 under the inspired direction of Peter Seddon and he ended his curatorship with a flourish. For this Quincentenary exhibition, a testimonial to his belief in art education and his passion for his subject, he showcased the work of past pupils who have forged successful careers for themselves. It would be difficult to find any area of art which was not represented. There were traditional paintings and Hollywood film sets by Jonathan McInstry, fashion and textiles by Tom Pike and Nina Thompson, video installations by Jonathan Biddulph and even an interactive computer programme by Peter Jones.

Also on show were works by some of the highly talented staff at King's. Peter Seddon himself showed ceramic pieces, demonstrating why he has been such an inspiration to pupils in his time at King's. Debbie Inman, Robin Hidden, Michael Patey-Ford, Stephen Coyne, Hazel Hunter and Tony Browne displayed a range of textile, painting, illustration and photographic works.

A highlight of the show was work by current students inspired by a recent visit to Florence, Venice and Lake Garda. They produced works in paint, embroidery, clay, glass, wire and digital media, which were displayed alongside a collection of poems written on the visit. The students were delighted to be able to exhibit in such a high calibre exhibition and their work stood up formidably alongside the professionals. With talent like this, pupils at King's will surely continue to make a strong impact on the world of art.



Sir Alex's master class

Who better to advise King's footballers than the manager of Manchester United? Sir Alex Ferguson visited the school in November and met the girls and juniors who play on the school football teams. In an entertaining question and answer session he revealed the secret of success:

'Be good at what you do. Don't be a part-timer. Always try and be as good as you can at whatever you do... If you want to be a top player you must practise, practise and practise.'

His words obviously helped inspire the Girls' Division teams. The Under 13 football team qualified for the finals of the Coca Cola Cup; the 5-a-side Year 7 team won their next tournament, taking them through to the Midlands Area Finals in January.

Off to Oxbridge

Six Upper Sixth Formers have been offered places at Oxford or Cambridge. With competition becoming more intense and talk of students from independent schools receiving unfair treatment, it is good to see some of our best pupils being given national recognition.

The successful students are: Emma Bentley (German & Linguistics, Jesus College, Oxford), Amy Broom (Engineering, Magdalene, Cambridge), Emma Gilroy (Natural Sciences, Christ's, Cambridge), Damien Ming (Medicine, Trinity, Oxford), Douglas Thomson (English, Trinity, Oxford), Abigail Bradbrook (Education & Geography, Homerton, Cambridge).

Imitating Einstein

For a historian, author Nick Arnold gives a very good impression of a scientist. In fact, during his day at King's he did a number of very good impressions of famous scientists who had suffered for their knowledge, including Einstein and Newton. In an action-packed day, he also signed hundreds of books across all three senior Divisions, gave two lectures, took Sixth Formers out for a pizza and entertained staff with his stories on all areas of science. Meeting Nick Arnold in the flesh leaves you feeling exactly the way reading one of his books does – filled with enthusiasm and new knowledge about science and in possession of a whole set of new gory and disgusting facts.



Charities for the Quincentenary

Catwalk for Christies

For weeks the Sixth Form Centre reverberated to the sounds of 'Tainted Love' and 'James Dean' as boys and girls practised their routines tirelessly. Yes – Fashion Show time again, the climax of the Sixth Formers' Autumn charity fund-raising. This year, models and dancers were choreographed and organised by Philippa Harrison, Sky Lennox-Kerr, Kate Owens and Gemma Lane. Staff, too, endeavoured to learn complex routines. Then, the chance to try on weird and wonderful creations. Russell and Faye Kellar, Annie, The Birdcage Boutique and Acapulco Joe all did us proud once again. Shimmering sequins and snappy suits vied with velvet coats, foxy corsets and designer jeans for pride of place on the catwalk. The night flashed by in a blur of fun and excitement, raising £1660 for Christies against Cancer.

Running for it

Five hundred boys and girls ran 500-metre laps in the

Quincentenary Sponsored Run, after training for six weeks in PE and Games lessons. £6200 was raised – a tremendous achievement for the Year 7, 8 and 9 pupils who took part. The money was split three ways between the Special Needs requirements of the Park Lane School (presentation pictured below), the Fallibroome Medical Support Room Appeal and No 3 School in Brasov, Romania.

Spelling, shopping, shhh-ing...

A sponsored spell in the Junior Division raised over £3,400 for the NSPCC, while a sponsored silence, a Christmas Shop and a Post Office in Years 4, 5 and 6 raised a further £600 for the National Autistic Society.

... and swimming

Twenty-eight pupils raised over £800 for the Macclesfield and District Lions Sponsored Swimathon, supporting Children in Need and local charities.



Congratulations to

Daniel Cotterill and **Nick Ramsden** who won through to the final round of the Primary Maths Challenge

Samuel Rodman, winner of the Royal Visit photograph competition

Rachel Croft, Charlotte Green, Emily Middleton, Rose Richardson and Rebecca Sugden for winning the Writer of the Term competition

Charles Gilman who represented King's at the AJIS Chess Championships in Manchester and who regularly competes for Cheshire

Anna Beesley, Laura Boyd and Allie Potter (all Year 6) who reached Grade 5 in their AB Music exams

The U11 six-a-side football team for winning the Railtrack Cup competition

Lucy Horton for receiving Athletics colours

Kate Massey and Kay Doncom who played in the Cheshire U15 hockey squad

Elliott Purdom who was Cheshire U13 Batsman of the Year

Khalid Sawas and Jeremy Done who took part in the Cheshire U16 hockey match against Yorkshire

Aundré Umebuani who took part in the Cheshire U16 rugby match against Yorkshire

Jon Wild who represented England at the Commonwealth Games

Sue Hadfield for her great contribution to the Christmas charity Lifeshare appeal

Jared Clay for graduating with 1st class honours in Accountancy & Business Information from Manchester University

Peter Moores who was promoted to Director of Cricket at Sussex CCC

Dave Gee for winning the O45 section of the Sale Harriers Christmas 5 Mile Road Race



East meets West

Tea ceremonies and classical dance, origami and calligraphy – Junior Division pupils had a real opportunity to taste Japanese culture when they welcomed a group of visitors from Nagano. The visitors were led by Esther Williams, a graduate in Japanese Studies and sister of physics teacher Nick Williams, and they proved to be delightful teachers. The children greatly enjoyed dressing up in kimonos and taking part in the various workshops. A slide show on a Japanese village, with its details of everyday life in rural Japan, really caught their imagination.

Party time

Balloons, tinsel and Christmas decorations adorned the French Room in the Junior School. Tables were groaning with party food created by Year 10 girls. In the wings, King's very own Father Christmas was waiting. All was ready to welcome 18 pupils and their teachers from Park Lane Special School to a special Christmas party. The children danced and played the time away, together with the girls, who had been helping at the school at lunch times during the Autumn term.



Holly's silver blades

Holly Williams, who is only six years old, has won the silver medal in the North-West Under 8 Championships held at Altrincham ice rink. Sadly, she fears that she will have nowhere to train when the rink closes next Spring. She said: 'I love ice skating, I love the way the cold wind blows in your face when you perform a jump.'

Holly only started skating 18 months ago, after her parents had taken her to an ice spectacular in Blackpool.

Making waves

Results were the best ever for King's Junior boys at the AJIS swimming gala for top independent schools in the North West. Pride of place went to captain Daniel Cotterill (pictured right), who won the backstroke final (though he does not even consider this his best event!) There was also a silver medal for Sam Barratt (U10 Butterfly) and bronzes for Christopher Smith (U10 IM), Seb Sheratte (U11 IM) and the U10 medley relay team (Sam Barratt, Jake Knowles, Christopher Smith and Harry Thompson).



County rugby selection

Four talented King's rugby players will be joining the Cheshire Under 15 team in the forthcoming inter-county tournament. Pictured below, from the left, they are: Dennis Green, Ben Griffiths, David Williams and James Wallace.



KING'S PLAYS THE BRIDGEWATER

QUINCENTENARY GALA CONCERT

It was a truly fitting climax to 500 years of music-making at King's – an unforgettable evening for the performers and their audience. After many hours of preparation, 450 pupils of all ages had the electrifying experience of performing in a packed Bridgewater Hall.

There were musical delights from a wide variety of bands, ensembles, orchestral and choral groups (pictured in rehearsal below), reflecting the rich diversity and excellence of music-making throughout the King's Foundation. A wonderful performance of *Captain Noah and*

his Floating Zoo by Infants and Juniors provided a colourful end to the first half of the evening.

Support behind the scenes from numerous staff members was overwhelming. In what was a remarkable day for everyone in so many ways, each performer will no doubt have his or her own special memories. But 450 children performing to such a high standard and with such enjoyment and enthusiasm is itself cause for great celebration.





We shall remember them

In a very moving service led by the Reverend Robin Craig and Canon Roy Barker, the newly refurbished war memorial at Cumberland Street was rededicated. The ceremony, part of the Quincentenary, was timed to coincide with 11.00 am on 11th November. It was organised by David Hill and Alan Batchelor and many pupils and relatives of the fallen from the two great wars were there, as well as a representative from The Friends of War Memorials. The school is much indebted to Mr Falder who generously contributed to the cost of renovation.

Dates for your diary

17-21 February	Half Term Holiday
21 February	KSMFPA Annual Oxbridge Dinner, Oxford
24-28 February	Year 10 Work Experience
6-13 March	French Exchange Students at King's
11-15 March	<i>A Midsummer Night's Dream</i> 7.30 pm Cumberland Street Hall
24 March-4 April	Memmingen pupils in Macclesfield
26-28 March	Junior Division play, <i>Honk</i> 7.15 pm Fence Avenue Hall
28 March	King's Big Band Concert 7.30 pm Daneside Theatre
31 March	Macclesfield Music Festival 7.00 pm Macclesfield Leisure Centre
1 April	Musical Soirée 7.30 pm Cumberland Street Hall
2 April	Year 10 Girls Drama Evening 7.00 pm F9
3-8 April	Scottish Winter Mountaineering Expedition
5-11 April	Year 12 Geology Field Trip
9 April	Senior Divisions Founders' Day Service St Michael's Church Junior School Easter Service St Paul's Church Term ends at lunchtime
9-17 April	German Exchange to Memmingen
13-20 April	Ski Trip to Pra Loup, France
20-26 April	French Château A/AS Study Week

Admissions

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

Former Pupils' Association

Life membership for Mrs Shaw

Mrs Penelope Shaw (widow of the former Headmaster TT Shaw) has accepted an honorary life membership of the Association, an honour which is long overdue. We hope she will continue to grace us with her presence and present the TT Shaw Awards at the Annual Dinner in October.

Former Pupils elect new Chair

Jonathan Spencer-Pickup has taken the office of Chairman of the Association, with Alan McInnes now acting as President. Jim Pickup will continue to act as the Governor representative of the Association. James Westcott, who has just finished his degree course at Durham University, has also joined the committee and will co-ordinate the activities of the younger members of the Association.

