

King's Colours

Spring 2004

The Termly Newsletter of the King's School in Macclesfield

Head's letter

Welcome to this edition of *King's Colours* after what was supposed to be a relaxing 2003. Following the great celebrations of 2002, staff and pupils might have thought that they were in for a quiet year but the success of the Foundation Choir put a stop to all that. Once again, the school has had a full and exciting year and we wonder what 2004 will have in store.



One of the other major events of 2003 was the ISI Inspection, which covered the Senior and Junior Divisions in two separate reports. Details are opposite but all at the school are very pleased and proud of the main findings. It was good to be recognised for what goes on in the classroom but also for what happens outside. This is a major part of life at King's and we are happy that the inspectors saw the value of this aspect of the school.

Whilst basking in the warm glow of praise, we are not in any way complacent and the inspectors gave us much to think about. We will be implementing their suggestions during 2004, as we strive to produce an even better education for our pupils.

Another pleasing aspect of 2003 was the success of the Quincentenary Bursary Fund. We now have seven pupils in the Sixth Form who would not be at King's but for the generosity of our donors and we continue to be grateful to all who support this splendid scheme.

May I wish you a happy, successful 2004.

Stephen Coyne

Thumbs up from inspectors

In a massive boost to morale at King's, the ISI Inspectors who visited in October gave the school generous praise for so many aspects of its work. It was particularly pleasing that the quality of relationships and mutual respect were singled out as being outstanding attributes for both pupils and staff. In both reports, the students were complimented for their sensible and mature behaviour. The quality of teaching was considered to be outstanding in the Junior report, with music described in the same terms in the Seniors. Activities outside the classroom merited special praise; sport, in particular, received many plaudits. The school's links with the local community, including raising funds for charity, also had a special mention.

However, it is never all good news with inspections and

there were suggestions for improvement in both reports. Fortunately, these were mainly of a technical nature. Senior Division inspectors were concerned about the nature of the development plan and the monitoring of systems to challenge even further our more able students. The Junior Division inspectors felt that improvements could be made to the timetable and that the roles of senior managers needed defining more clearly. We have accepted the recommendations and are busily working on our response at the moment.

Overall, the whole experience has been very positive in that the inspectors praised what the school did well and gave us some food for thought, and further action, for the future.



Oxbridge-bound

Eight pupils in this year's Upper Sixth Form have been offered places at Oxford or Cambridge Universities. With competition becoming more intense each year, it is a pleasure to see our best pupils being given national recognition.

The successful students are:

Rachel Elkin (English & Education, Homerton College, Cambridge), Elizabeth Harrison (Medicine, Magdalene College, Cambridge), Robert Hart (Philosophy & Modern Languages, New College, Oxford), David Illingworth (English, Worcester College, Oxford), Rebecca Lea (Modern Languages & Choral Scholarship, Queen's College, Oxford), Sarah Potter (Natural Sciences, Homerton College, Cambridge), Nicola Roper (Biological Sciences, Magdalen College, Oxford), Natalia Rukazenkova (Natural Sciences, St Catharine's, Cambridge).



Canteen cuisine

You can tuck into a meal at King's with a clear conscience: it's delicious and healthy. Catering manager Marley Kyrantonis has been working hard to ban full fat milk, saturated fats, deep fat frying and sugary squash, replacing them with fresh fruit and vegetables, low fat spreads and oven baking. Marley comments: 'The children enjoy fresh fruit and vegetables if they are prepared imaginatively. It does not need to break the budget either; healthy eating is actually more economical.'

As a result of their initiative, King's caterers have won the Macclesfield Borough Council's Gold Standard Award - one of just 25 out of 1500 in the borough to do so. The award promotes low fat, low sugar and low salt alternatives to traditional canteen fare.



King's pupil John Wilson is pictured with catering assistant Pam Bounds, enjoying a fresh fruit cocktail.

King's beats Beagle in Mars mission

After eight weeks of preparation, students representing King's competed in 'Mission to Mars', the regional finals of the International First Lego League Challenge 2003, held at AstraZeneca's Mulberry Sports Centre in November. They came home bearing the trophy for Best Robot Design.

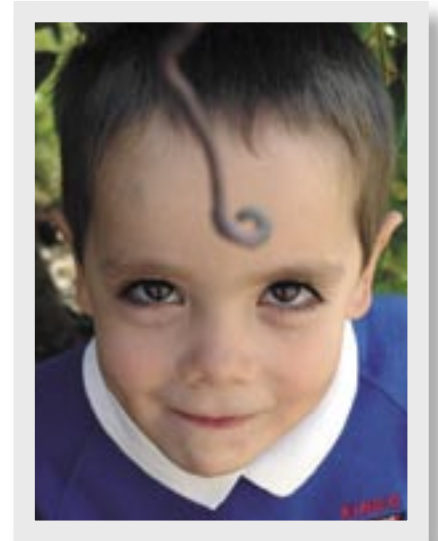
The ten-strong team was selected from boys and girls in Years 7-11. The brief was to build a robot from Lego and programme it, using Lego software and PCX control units, to complete various

tasks. These included clearing debris from a solar panel, rescuing a stranded lunar buggy, assembling habitation modules and launching probes. The team also had to give two presentations to the judges - a technical exposition of their robot and its development and the results of a research assignment on the topic of Mars.

Pictured with the robot are two members of the team, Jess Quinlan and Sacha Diamond.

New-look worms

Worms are all set for an image makeover at Fence Avenue. Instead of shuddering at the sight of them, King's Infants are learning to view them as a real environmental asset. The major shift in attitude comes as a result of a new wormery, presented by Cheshire County Council's Environmental Department. Now the school's food waste can be recycled to produce superb compost. All that's required, apart from the scraps, is a plastic dustbin and tap, sand or gravel, some small pieces of wood and some bedding - and, of course, 400 tiger worms.



Infant and junior naturalists at King's have already been enjoying studying wildlife in the Ginkgo meadow which was opened last year. Teacher Anne Eardley sees the wormery as 'another element in King's Infants' initiative to make the youngest members of our community more aware of our environment and how every living thing has a purpose.'



Christmas concert with Sir Cliff

It was a grand finale to a triumphant reign as BBC *Songs of Praise* School Choir of the Year. Filmed at the Bridgewater Hall, King's Foundation Choir shared the billing with veteran pop idol Sir Cliff Richard.



specials that saw King's perform for millions of viewers. Also on the programme were former boy soprano Aled Jones, who paid a visit to King's earlier in the year, pop producer Peter Waterman with his latest protégé Lauren Waterhouse, and the St Michael's Singers from Coventry.

Foundation Choir leader Jo Beesley said their year as national champions had 'brought an avalanche of opportunities. It's been very exciting and very hard work. Alongside the further development of our music, it has been fascinating to work alongside the broadcasters and see how they piece together their programmes from all the footage they take.'



It may have come to an end but, according to Jo, there is a silver lining: 'I must say, it will be lovely not to have to sing all those hymns and actually sing something else for once.'

Farewell

It is with regret that we say goodbye to Mrs Pennie Aspinwall who is leaving King's to take up a post as Head of Cheadle Hulme Junior School. She has been a great asset to the school for the last eleven years and an inspiration to the pupils. Her colleagues, as well as the children, will sadly miss her.

Mrs Caroline Hulme-McKibbin is taking over the reins in the short term and we wish her every success with her new duties.

The road to Morocco

Definitely not your usual school trip. Accommodation was in tents, toilet facilities were *au naturel*, hair was washed in a flowing river and food eaten under the stars. Evenings were spent singing and dancing around the campfire with guides and muleteers (although following a 1000 year-old Arabic love song with 'Twinkle Twinkle Little Star' perhaps did not give the best view of English culture).

The travellers were fourteen King's girls from Years 9-12, using their October half term to explore the remote Jebel Sarharo region between the Atlas Mountains and the vast Sahara desert.

The main part of the trip involved trekking over 45 miles in 3½ days, across flat plains containing huge sandstone stacks and over 7000 ft passes. Getting to the start meant a twelve-hour minibus ride through the mighty Atlas Mountains, around hairpin bends and past washed-away river bridges.

Highlights of a fantastic mix of adventure and culture included climbing a 500-ft sandstone pillar, riding camels across the desert and sleeping in an oasis under the stars. The trip gave the students an opportunity to discover hidden talents and strengths, as well as a feel for adventure travelling.



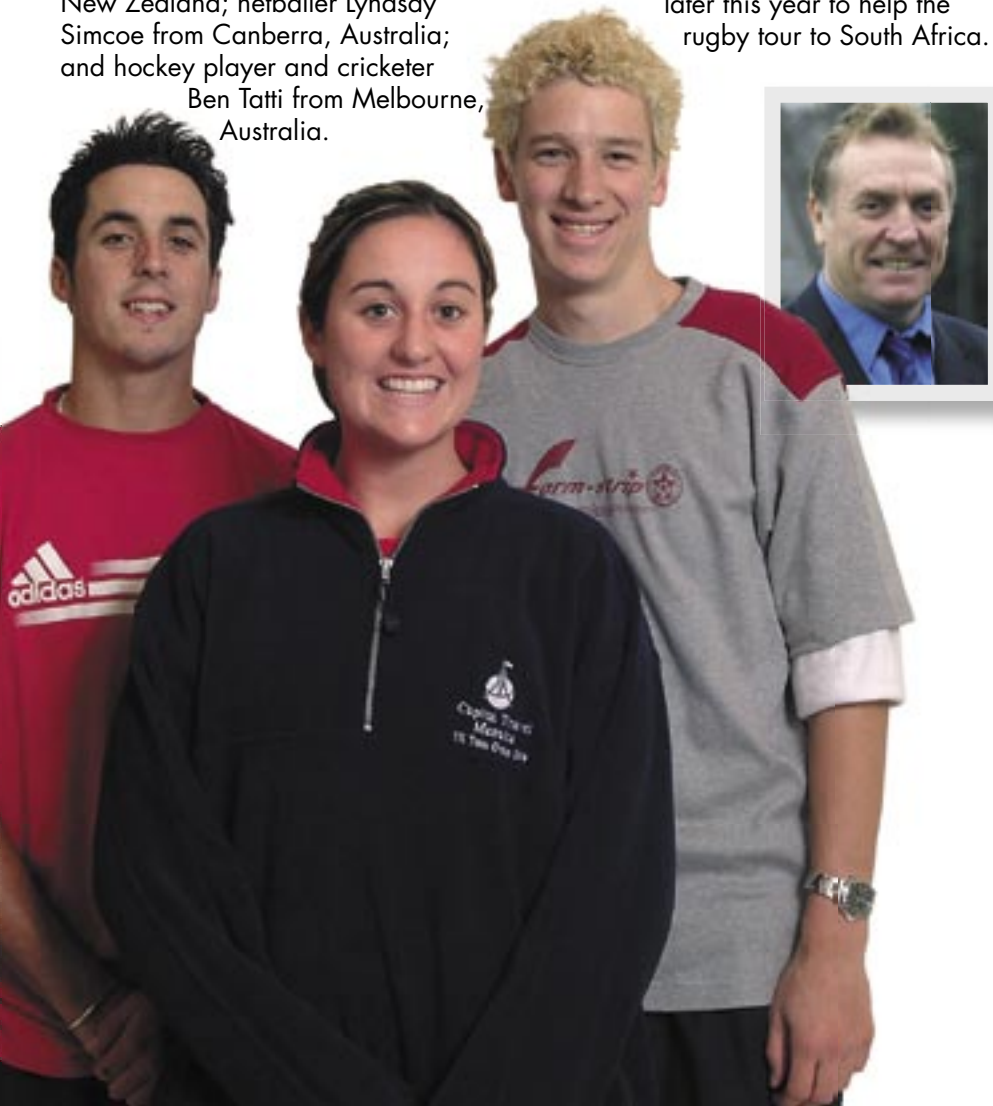


County rugby selections

Selected to play for Cheshire this season are, from the front, U16 scrum half David Williams, U16 flanker Gary Fairbrother, U18 winger Andre Umebuani, U18 full back Richard Chadwick and David Jones U16 fly half. Also selected was U16 hooker Kyle Ridgeway.

Students from Down Under

This year, for the first time, King's has recruited three Gap students to supplement the sports coaching staff. Pictured below, they are: rugby player and cricketer Michael Newell from Christchurch, New Zealand; netballer Lyndsay Simcoe from Canberra, Australia; and hockey player and cricketer Ben Tatti from Melbourne, Australia.



World Cup

Surely anyone who has the remotest connection with the England World Cup heroes is making the most of it at the moment? King's is no exception: the feeling here is that Martin Johnson and the boys would have been unable to show their true worth without the enlightened commentary of former pupil, Steve Smith, who talked us through the nerve tingling match. Steve launched the very successful Quincentenary Bursary Appeal two years ago. He is also speaking at the Sportsman's Dinner later this year to help the rugby tour to South Africa.

Congratulations to

Elliot Banks who has been selected for the North of England Youth Sailing Development Squad.

Edward Beesley for his Distinction at Grade 7 (piano) and **Sam Lea** for his Merit at Grade 7 (oboe) in Associated Board music examinations.

Craig Burness and **Robert Moxon** for winning the U17 100m Freestyle and Open titles at the Macclesfield Swimming Gala.

Libby Cooper who won a Crest Science Award for her study of how residual water flow can create havoc in building developments.

Jeremy Done, Alex Haynes and Khalid Sawas who played for the Cheshire U16 Hockey team. Khalid was awarded Divisional Colours for representing Cheshire and the North West. Khalid and **Lyam Hollis** also played for the U15 team.

Michael Howe and **Adam Burgess** for organising a pop competition and raising £224 for MacMillan Cancer Care.

David Jervis who was awarded the Performer's Certificate from Trinity College of Music with Distinction for the part he played in a Diploma Recital.

Ali Potter and **Jack Townley** who performed trumpet solos with distinction in the Remembrance Day services.

David Kennerley (clarinet) and **Austin Senda** (cello) for playing at the Bridgewater Hall as members of the Halle Youth Orchestra.

The U11 Football team who reached the final of the Community Cup competition.

The U12 Boys' Cross Country team for winning the Macclesfield Championships.

The U14 Boys' Hockey team who achieved their first ever win this term.

The Young Enterprise team who won the prize for the most professional trade stall at a trade fair in the Market Place at Wilmslow.

The Year 10 and 11 girls who raised £336.85 for Macmillan Cancer Relief by providing a bag-packing service at Sainsbury's

Mrs Barker, Mrs Bingham, Mrs Buckley, all members of staff, who won the adult trophy at the Midland Schools Biathlon Championships.

Art at King's

UNDER NEW MANAGEMENT

It's all change in the Art Department and a really exciting time to be studying Art at King's. Debbie Inman now heads the youngest department in the school and has been joined by Rachel Richards, from Parris Wood, and Zoe Hall, from Manchester Grammar. All three are practising artists in their own right and offer teaching that is at the forefront of contemporary Art education.



As a result, the department is buzzing with new ideas and there are opportunities for students to experiment in a whole range of areas, including textiles, sculpture and printmaking. Art clubs have mushroomed, the Art rooms are in use virtually every lunchtime and computers create constantly updated galleries of current work. To meet this explosion of interest and activity, the facilities at Cumberland Street are being modernised and upgraded.

Input into King's drama productions will be great this year, with students deeply involved in production of the set for *The Rivals*. Outside school, a wide range of trips has been organised, including a visit to the Clothes Show in Birmingham, and plans are afoot to team up with the Classics Department for a cultural tour of Italy next year.

As for exhibitions, there will, of course, be the usual very successful public shows of GCSE and Sixth Form work, with the Boys' Division taking part this year as well, but King's students have already won considerable recognition in the wider world. In October, six of them had work selected for an exhibition at the Portico Gallery in Manchester. There Chris Weight was awarded a top prize for his photographs *Images of War*, Katie Grundy was awarded a Judges Special Commendation and Tom Brown's beautifully detailed landscape painting so impressed visitors that it sold within days of the exhibition's opening. Tom is also scheduled to have a solo exhibition at Bollington Arts Centre from 26 March to 18 April, a remarkable feat for a 16 year-old. He is currently working on a number of commissions. Also taking place in March is an exhibition at The Lowry in Manchester, sponsored by *Living Edge Magazine*. Three King's students will be exhibiting and selected works will be profiled in the magazine's February issue.

A heady start, then, to a new era in the Art Department. If success breeds success, the future looks good.





Former Pupils' Association

Rugby day

Just before Christmas there was a great turn-out of former pupils for an afternoon of rugby matches at Macclesfield Rugby Club organised by James Keep. It was great to see more lady players this year. The matches were followed by the traditional post-match supper.

Young Former Pupils' Christmas party

On 22 December over 100 ex pupils enjoyed a Christmas party and disco at the Dean Water Hotel, together with a number of Sixth Form staff. The event, organised by James Westcott and Thom Petty, was a great success and planning has already started for next year.

Joint dinner dance with the Macclesfield High School Former Pupils

On 31 January there was the first dinner dance to be held jointly by the two associations. Over 90 former pupils and their partners enjoyed an excellent dinner at the Adlington Hall hunting lodge.

Forthcoming events

Oxbridge dinner on Friday 20 February at Clare College, Cambridge. Contact: Ian Wilson at school

Former Pupils hockey on Saturday 4 April at the Derby playing fields. Contact: James Westcott tel: 07900 953998 or email: kingshockey7s@yahoo.co.uk

London dinner on Friday 14 May at the RAF club, Piccadilly. Contact: Bruce Shadak tel: 01795 476140

Special guest presents TT Shaw awards

The special guest at this year's Former Pupils' Association Annual Dinner was Mrs Penelope Shaw, wife of the legendary King's headmaster TT Shaw, who is still remembered with immense affection by many former pupils. Mrs Shaw recalls that, although TT eventually enjoyed his retirement in 1966 after 33 years in charge, 'for many years he was thoroughly miserable just being away from the old place.'

Each year the KSMFPA makes two awards to pupils who have made a significant contribution to school life. This year Mrs Shaw presented prizes to Johnny Lee and Reesha Sodha, both from Year 12. They are pictured with Mrs Shaw and last year's recipients, Sarah Potter and Robbie Unterhalter.

Dates for your diary

16-20 February	Half-term holiday
23-27 February	Year 10 Work Experience
27 February	Masterclass & Piano Recital, Richard Meyrick Afternoon & 7.30 pm, Cumberland Street Hall
1st March	Tylecote Memorial Lecture, Benedict Allan 7.30 pm Cumberland Street Hall
2nd March	Year 8 Language/Creative Options 7.30 pm Main Block Cumberland Street
4th March	Year 10 Drama Evening 7.00 pm Fence Avenue Hall
4-13 March	Memmingen German Exchange Students at King's
5th March	Big Band Charity Concert 7.30 pm Cumberland Street Hall
10-12 March	<i>Fiddler on the Roof</i> 7.15 pm Fence Avenue Hall
11-20 March	La Rochelle French Exchange Students at King's
18 March	Spring Concert 7.30 pm Cumberland Street Hall
22 March	Macclesfield Music Festival 7.15 pm Leisure Centre
23-27 March	<i>The Rivals</i> 7.30 pm Cumberland Street Hall
26 March	Friends of King's Promises Auction 7.30 pm Fence Avenue Hall
26-27 March	Big Band, Wigan Youth Jazz Festival
30 March	Infant Easter Talent Show
30 March-9 April	German Exchange to Memmingen
31 March	Senior Divisions' Founders' Day Services, United Reformed Church Junior School Easter Service 11.00 am, St Paul's Term ends at lunchtime

Admissions

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