



King's Colours

Summer 2009

The termly newsletter of the King's School in Macclesfield

Head's letter



I am pleased to report that the celebrations of 100 years at Fence Avenue continue apace and I am sure you will enjoy reading about the events – in particular, Ann

Widdecombe's tour de force at Founders' Day – in the pages of this newsletter.

It has also been a significant time in the history of the school for a very different reason. On 11 February, Her Majesty the Queen granted King's a supplemental Charter, in addition to the Royal Charter awarded on the refounding in 1552. This is part of the incorporation that I have previously mentioned which is designed to bring all our working practices up to date; it is another, rather significant, hurdle on that road successfully negotiated.

An impressive achievement occurred in this year's recruitment round, where the school increased its intake at 11+ by 9% in comparison to 2008. This is a remarkable statistic in the present economic climate where parents are making considerable sacrifices to ensure an outstanding education for their children. In the light of our recent extraordinary achievements – many, like those of George Drury and Sarah Gales, at a national level – I hope that you will agree that education at King's continues to be exceptional.

Stephen Coyne

TO CAP IT ALL

King's dazzling rugby season has been crowned by two great achievements.

The U15 team won through to the Vase Final of the Daily Mail Knock Out Cup and Year 11 pupil George Drury was awarded his first full England cap.

The U15 supporters showed their devotion by making a 5.00 a.m. start from Macclesfield. A mammoth convoy of coaches packed with staff, pupils and parents travelled to London to watch the King's team play on the hallowed turf at Twickenham. Although The Leys School from Cambridge proved unbeatable and worthy winners, it was a long and memorable day out at the magnificent stadium.



George Drury, meanwhile, secured his England cap in a game against France. He has previously played for the North of England and England 'A' Teams, where he put on such an impressive display that he was selected to play scrum half in the entente cordial match. (Being a serious rugby game, there was not much that was particularly cordial!) George's achievement and performance are something to be very proud of. As a special tribute, Keith Oliver, an England selector and former pupil, came to King's to present George with his cap in a ceremony on the front field at Cumberland Street.

Could there have been a more impressive end of season for rugby at King's? Let's see what the pupils on the way to New Zealand as part of the summer tour have to say about that...



Reach for the pen

Best-selling children's author Mark Robson spent a day at the Boys' and Girls' Divisions, giving pupils an insight into the craft and excitement of fiction writing. As an RAF pilot, Mark took up writing to dispel the boredom of being stationed in the Falkland Islands in poor weather. His first book, *The Forging of the Sword*, was followed by three more before he started his *Dragon Orb* series. The books have been translated into eleven languages and sell hundreds of thousands of copies worldwide.

Mark's aim is to show children, especially boys, that it is cool to read – and admits that being a former RAF pilot does help the image! He is pictured with pupils Nick Harrington, George Carter and Will Poysor.



Bio-olympian

Sixth Former Sarah Gales takes off for Tokyo next month. She is representing Great Britain in the 20th International Biology Olympiad, one of just four British students to be chosen after a fiercely rigorous selection process. Team GB will be tackling five hour-long theoretical and practical questions, competing against more than 100 countries worldwide in Tsukuba Science City.

Sarah, who holds an offer of a place at Jesus College, Cambridge, this autumn, came in the top five in the country in five of her GCSE subjects, and last year won a sought-after work placement scholarship at Bentley. Here she is pictured with Anthony, one of the snakes in the King's menagerie.



Podcast play

King's German students have turned playwright – and their lively radio drama is to be podcast on a flagship Anglo-German website.

The project was the inspiration of German exchange teacher Alexandra Ionescu (pictured with Rachel Bromley,

Hope Ward and Emma Eardley) and the students think it's a brilliant way to learn a language. Designed to poke fun at traditional stereotypes in both countries and featuring a chav, a princess and beer-swilling Porsche drivers, the play will be available on ukgermanconnection.org.



Chemistry first

It's an extraordinary achievement: Girls' Division pupil Rebecca Cann has been credited in The Royal Society of Chemistry's industry bible, *Chemical Communications*, for her part in a ground-breaking piece of research. Since 1841, the discoveries of chemists worldwide have been logged with the RSC, but Rebecca is one of the youngest scientists ever to achieve the honour.



She was credited by computational chemist Andrew Leach of AstraZeneca, after spending a week on a work experience placement at the Alderley research and development site. According to Andrew, Rebecca used quantum mechanics calculations to study a chemical reaction. 'These calculations showed that there is a link between this reaction and the mutagenicity of a particular type of compound called anilines. This means we can now predict if a new compound of this type is likely to show this hazardous property or not, and so can design safer pharmaceuticals.' He praised Rebecca as an outstanding and enthusiastic student and congratulated her on her superb achievement.

All abroad

The Easter holidays saw King's pupils scattered across the globe as the school carried on its usual tradition of providing exceptional extra-curricular activities for all ages. The classicists visited Rome and Sorrento, skiers went to France and Colorado and the hockey team toured South Africa. Meanwhile the historians were in St Petersburg, shown below enjoying a gala banquet during a visit to the Nikolaevsky Palace.



Challenging maths

King's mathematicians Tom Baston, Chris Hanak, Harry Hayward, Sean Malkin and Kathryn Reid, five of the school's fourteen gold award winners, have won through to the next qualifying round, aiming for a coveted place in the global Mathematics Challenge.



An epic farewell

This year's Dramatic Society production at Cumberland Street was Peter Shaffer's *The Royal Hunt of the Sun*. The epic nature of the piece made huge demands not only in terms of set, costumes and imaginative staging but also in terms of considerable technical accomplishment from a very large cast. Although the emphasis, as ever, was on strong teamwork and an ensemble approach, particular mention should be made of James Kay as Francisco Pizarro and Alexandra Smith as the doomed Inca monarch, Atahuallpa. The play was directed by Frank Walker as his final production for the society before his retirement.



Tate Macclesfield

Could these be the Turner Prize-winners of the future? Forty-six Year 2 pupils were given the exciting chance to work with sculptor Faith Bebbington. Faith (shown here with Kevin Fogelstrom and Shanice Donatien) is at the forefront of a new wave of British sculptors producing life-size figurative sculpture for outside installations. Working with cardboard, newspaper and tape, Faith demystified the process of sculpture for the children and helped them produce a giant mural of the human face.



Charity online

As well as studying for her A levels (she has an offer of a place to read Law at Oxford this autumn) Amy Wilson has raised £1,000 for Age Concern. One of the charity's youngest volunteers, she used her IT and entrepreneurial skills to launch the East Cheshire Age Concern eBay site and now spends every Wednesday afternoon managing it. Some of the unusual items sold online include a leather motorcycle suit and a 1950s children's typewriter.



No humbug

The old miser himself would have approved: two Scrooges for the price of one in the stunning Junior production of *Scrooge - The Musical*.

Francesca Rijks (pictured left) played Ebenezer in Act One and Olivia Watkins (right) took over the part for Act Two. Both girls gave outstanding performances but every child in Year Six had a role, whether acting, dancing, singing, moving props and scenery or creating ghostly effects. The audiences were enchanted.

Congratulations to:

Pupils

Charlotte Attenborough, Eilidh Cornish and Vicky Roberts, part of the GB team placed third in the World Cheerleading Championships in Florida.

Alice Bailey, Rory Heywood, Rebecca Hughes and Rowena Moores, all selected to swim for the North Midlands in the North West Inter Association Gala.

Beth Burrows, Becky Hughes and Sophia Sparrow who competed as a team in the National Schools Biathlon.

Nathan Jones, Jacob Percival and George Phelan, members of the Macclesfield RUFC U11 team who won the Worcester Warriors' Land Rover Premiership Cup.

Johny Marshall who was awarded a flying scholarship from the Air League and has been invited to Buckingham Palace to be presented with his award.

Dominic Sherratte who represented England at fly fishing.

Dmitri Whitmore who won a Silver Award and Robin Laughton who won a Bronze in the finals of the Primary Mathematics Challenge.

Junior cross country runners who won the Macclesfield Primary Schools' Championships, with George Phelan winning a gold medal and the U11 girls winning their section.

Junior netball 'A' team, winners of the Macclesfield Primary Schools' Tournament and semi-finalists in the AJIS Cup.

Senior Boys' Lego League team, runners-up at the National Finals of the First Lego League.

The Year 9 and 10 pupils who gained six gold, two silver and eight bronze awards in the National Biology Challenge.

Senior Boys' and Girls' teams who finished in third and fifth places respectively at the Royal Society of Chemistry's Chemquiz competition.

Senior Hockey Squad who came third in the U19 County Championships.

The Equestrian Squad teams who won second and third place trophies at the Schools' Show Jumping Challenge.

Former Pupils

Stephen English, who obtained a First Class Honours Degree in Electronic Engineering at Southampton University.

Staff

The many members of the King's support staff who ran in the Race for Life in June at Tatton Park.

Starting young

Infants at King's are getting some early training on the games field. Former England hockey star Vicky Jackson, now an award-winning coach, is running a ten-week programme in the Department. Working with children from the age of five upwards, she aims to encourage them to be more active, to take part in team sports and to learn a fundamental range of skills as early as possible.

Vicky is pictured with Joshua Howdle and Freya Snook.



Making a splash

Junior Division swimmers won the Macclesfield Primary Schools Swimming Gala and retained the Wooliscroft Shield. They secured first place in three of the six individual finals, as well as a clean sweep of relay victories. Girls' swimming captain Rowena Moores was also recently placed fifth in the swimming section of the National Schools' Biathlon Championships at Bath University and 17th overall in the country.

County champions

Brilliant defensive work helped King's U14 girls' hockey team take the county title. In a fine finish to a successful season, they did not concede a goal in four games, winning three and drawing one of their four round-robin fixtures. Their wins were against Birkenhead, the Heath and the Grange, while the fixture

against host King's Chester saw a hard-fought goalless draw.

Maddie Coutts, pictured with the Shield, has been picked for the Cheshire U15 side, and Rosie Christiansen, Lara Knowles and Holly Smith have all gained selection for the U14 team.



Days to remember



One hundred years of girls' education at Fence Avenue is certainly something to celebrate – and last term the school did so in style.

A series of special events was given an inspiring start by Ann Widdecombe MP, guest speaker at the Founders' Day services. She urged her young audiences to aim high: 'You have to teach girls there is no glass ceiling and that they can achieve anything they want to achieve with drive and dedication.'

The MP was generous with her time, talking to students and giving an interview for *The Pupils' Press*. The school was also delighted to welcome four former headmistresses and many former pupils of Macclesfield High School.

Hot on the heels of Founders' Day was the superb Masterchef Gala Dinner, held to raise money for a new bursary fund set up in honour of the centenary. Under the masterly guidance of chef Paul Smith from Chartwells, students cooked and served a magnificent meal to parents, governors and friends.

Three weeks later, over 240 'Old Girls' travelled from all over the country for a special Open Afternoon at Fence Avenue. Themed lessons were set up, including 'Science, Then and Now', an English class debating the role of women over the past century, a tour of the Empire in Geography, and an... Ironing lesson. Senior girls acted as guides on tours of the school and a fascinating exhibition and dvd gave glimpses of life there over the last century. The afternoon ended with a splendid tea.

One of the oldest 'Old Girls' to attend was Winifred Sokill, who brought with her the Sommerville Running Cup which she won in 1933 and 1934. All the 'Old Girls' have affectionate memories of their time at the school: the sense of freedom and fun when canoeing on the canal, the air raid shelters beyond the sports field and having to carry gas masks, being served school lunch by maids, the banning of pony tails – and many more. These have been written down for the school archives and are available to look at, a vivid compilation reflecting all aspects of education at Fence Avenue.





Retirements

'It is the end of an era,' said one former pupil when he heard that Frank Walker, Head of Drama, and Andrew Green, Director of Music, are both retiring this year. Indeed, they have made outstanding input into the artistic life of the school and will be sorely missed. Andrew's wife, Linda, who has fulfilled an invaluable role as Admissions Secretary, has also decided to retire.

Other staff leaving at the end of this term are Tom North, Head of House at Fence Avenue, and Verna Costello, Senior Subject Teacher for German. Both have made significant contributions to the life of the school. Jean Laidlaw, Librarian at Fence Avenue, left at Easter after masterminding the displays for the splendid '100 years at Fence Avenue' exhibition and the Foundation Librarian, Gill Parry, has now also decided it is time to retire. She has devoted twenty-five years to the books and archives at King's. We wish all these colleagues a long and happy retirement.

Geoff Shaw is standing down as Junior Principal after many years of dedicated and loyal service. He will be much missed as Principal but is not leaving as he will teach mathematics in the Girls' Division. King's is very much in Geoff's debt and we wish him every success in this new phase of his life at the school.

Scholarships

Congratulations to the following pupils who have been awarded scholarships for entry to the senior school in September:

Aiman Aslam (St John's CE Primary)
 Anna Callow (Greenbank)
 Matthew Harden (Marton & District CE Primary)
 Brendan Jacot (Hollinhey Primary)
 Robin Laughton (King's Juniors)
 Sarah Laughton (King's Juniors)
 Helen Lyons (King's Juniors)
 Samuel O'Brien (Adlington Primary)
 Oliver Plant (Dean Valley Community Primary)
 James Shering (Gawsworth Primary)
 Edward Thompson (Motttram St Andrew Primary)
 Dmitri Whitmore (King's Juniors)

Former Pupils' News

KSMFPA Dinners

The University Club was the setting for the Oxford Dinner on May Day. Twenty-five undergraduates and graduates joined the Head of Foundation, his Deputy and the Principal of the Sixth Form for a magnificent meal. The former pupils (from years 2000–2008) had a splendid time and Dr Coyne gave an informal talk on the current state of play at King's.

In London, over thirty former pupils joined the Head of Foundation and Director of Finance for a dinner at the RAF Club in May.

Anyone wishing to participate in these dinners next year should contact Tim Andrew (Oxbridge, 01625 260000) or Keith Aikin (London, 01227 456835). Both events will be in early May 2010.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

25 June	Infant Sports Day 12.00 pm
26 June	Junior School Walk and Talent Show Friends of King's Juniors & Infants Summer Fun Day 3.30 pm Sixth Form Leavers' Ball 6.30 pm Shrigley Hall
30 June	Years 7-9 Musical Soirée 7.15 pm Fence Avenue Hall
1 July	Infant Summer Concert 2.00 pm Fence Avenue Hall King's Sings Concert 7.15 pm Cumberland Street Hall
2 July	Junior Sports Day Year 7 Drama Evening Fence Avenue Hall
3 July	Quincentenary Bursary Fund Golf Day 12.00 pm Macclesfield Golf Club Girls' Division Sports Day 1.30 pm
7 July	Junior End of Year Celebration 1.30 pm Fence Avenue Hall Junior Summer Concert 7.15 pm Fence Avenue Hall
8 July	Term ends at lunchtime KSMFPA Cricket Match
20 August	AS & A Level Results Day
27 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