

# King's *Speech*

THE KING'S SCHOOL IN MACCLESFIELD FORMER PUPILS' MAGAZINE

## Sound of success for Emily

BRIT Award-winning indie band The Last Dinner Party, featuring former pupil Emily Roberts, is taking the world & music industry by storm



## Embryo of a great career

Pioneer of IVF treatment Professor Alison Campbell

## Hero's last post

How a mystery box gave valuable insight into WWI

Editor's Welcome

**W**ELCOME to this edition of *King's Speech* – and a pretty packed one it is! 2023/4 seems to have been a particularly lively year for both the School and the Association in lots of ways, and we hope this comes through in these pages. One thing is quite clear. The School continues to thrive in its new location, and whatever reservations some former pupils may have had about the move from its two town centre sites before the event, very few, if any, these days express anything other than how impressed they are with the new environment. Not that this stops regrets about the part-housing developments, part-building sites that are currently in place on Cumberland St, Westminster Rd and Fence Ave!

What never ceases to strike me as I encounter information about the doings of former pupils is the remarkable variety of activities and achievements demonstrated, and we always try to reflect this in this publication. Thus, our front cover this edition relates to pop music, two of the features detail high-achieving women in the UK private sector, another is a sports journalist, another a Canada-based centenarian, and two others involve action and reminiscences covering both world wars. In this context, however, I make no excuses in mentioning again former pupil



Guy Ryder. We featured Guy in 2020, when he was Director General of the ILO. However, he has now moved on. I have recently asked several people 'who would you name as the single most influential person currently alive?' Various answers have come up quite often – for example, Putin, Trump, Taylor Swift (!), Xi Jinping all had mentions. But high on the list, too, was António Guterres, the current Secretary-General of the United Nations. Where does Guy come in? Remarkably, he is now Under-Secretary General (Policy) in Guterres' Executive Office. What a statement such an appointment makes about Guy's status and qualities on the international stage.

On a slightly more mundane level, but no less sincerely, I have my usual – but no less genuine – series of thanks to express. The team that puts this magazine together has Caroline Johnson as its main anchor, with Dave Barratt, another member of the editorial team, Debbie Dawson and Gill Mullarkey, in particular, also absolutely central in the production and distribution of the finished product. Thanks to them all. Finally, and as usual, this is an invitation to readers to make contact with us to express any views or thoughts you may have, or indeed any news items that you think might be of interest to former pupils. All contributions welcome!

Ian Wilson, Editor

IN THIS Issue...

Editor's Welcome	2
From the Helm	3
From the Chair	4
Your News / Sport News	4-5
Speakers' Corner	6
Congratulations	7
Hannah Gibson, Ocado CEO	8-9
From the Archive	10-11
True BRIT Emily Roberts	12-13
An Unfortunate Incident	14-15
Alison Campbell, IVF Pioneer	16-17
Kenneth's 100 Years	18-19
John's Sporting Life	20-21
Gala Dinner 2023	22-23
From the Archive	24-25
School News	26-27
Our Generous Donors	28-29
Obituaries	30-31
Events Round-up	32



*King's Speech* is produced by King's Director of External Relations Caroline Johnson, Editor Ian Wilson, Editorial Team Member David Barratt, Development & Engagement Manager Debbie Dawson and Designer Gill Mullarkey. We'd love your feedback or contributions for the next issue. Please contact: former.pupils@kingsmac.co.uk

**COVER PHOTOGRAPH:** Emily Roberts performing with The Last Dinner Party ©Ben Houdijk/Shutterstock.

**GOING GREEN:** *King's Speech* is now mailed using compostable polywrap and can be accessed digitally on King's Connect.

From the Helm

**T**HE task of writing this piece for *King's Speech* remains an absolute privilege given the amount of good news and success the school has once again enjoyed over the last 12 months. Last summer saw us celebrate an excellent set of external exam results at both A level and GCSE. At A level, a remarkable 17% of all grades were at grade A\* and 48% of all grades were A\* or A. That's almost half of all A levels taken were an A or above. And a third of Year 13 pupils gained grades of 3 A's or better. Notably, 7 pupils gained 3 A\* grades in their A level subjects. Over three quarters of our Upper Sixth Formers joined their first-choice university.

At GCSE level, the progress is even more stark. We gained 64% of all results at grades 9-7. A third of all pupils had 9 subjects with grades of 7 and above. Not only an improvement on last year, but this represents our best performance on this same measure for the last 9 years. We moved up from 7th to 4th in the *Sunday Times* ranking of independent schools in the Northwest on the back of these results, ahead of many schools that would traditionally expect to be ahead of us.

Our progress outside the classroom is equally as impressive, both in terms of our participation and our success. As demonstrated by the 122 pupils that took up the Duke of Edinburgh's Bronze Award last year, with a further 59 starting Silver and 30 having signed up for Gold. To put this in context, this represents about 1,976 hours of volunteering, 12,000 hours of physical activity and over 700 nights spent under canvas.

Our 'golden age' of sport continues. The 1st VII netball team finished the season as County Champions,



During the last academic year, we had no fewer than seven pupils who were selected to represent their country in sports that included netball, swimming, tennis and rugby. A phenomenal achievement.

Charitable fundraising has been a constant feature at King's for many years, and I'm sure former pupils will

having a win ratio of 82% across the season. The U13 netball team (pictured above) was also crowned county champions, and reached the semi-finals of the national Independent Schools' Cup, while the U14s had a fantastic result, coming fourth in the National Netball Finals. In rugby, the 1st XV were County Champions – again – while the U14s became National Champions in the Cup competition. During the same weekend, King's pupils excelled in the 2024 National Schools Trampoline Finals, with four teams taking first place, becoming National Team Champions and a further five teams taking Silver medals.

The U15 cricket team were runners up in their national competition, reaching the final in a competition of 1,300 schools. Both Girls U14 hockey and Boys' U14 hockey teams reached their respective National Finals tournament, finishing 5th and 4th respectively.

recall raising money with various activities in years gone by. Last year, the school raised an amazing £60,000 for a variety of local charities. Building the significance of community within the school as these fundraising activities do bring the entire school together.

King's remains an exciting place to learn and work. The energy that drives our collective endeavour comes from our aims of aspiration, hard work and achievement. We gain strength from our shared effort. This combined strength is at the heart of the character of a community which values good fellowship and co-operation. An attribute of the school that has endured for generations and one, I hope, that is recognised by former pupils.

Jason Slack  
Head of Foundation

## From the Chair

**W**E look back on 2023 with a great deal of pride and achievement. The first Gala Dinner since 2019 was held in the Jackson Hall and was a sell-out spectacular evening attended by over 140 former pupils, staff and friends spanning decades of the rich heritage King's Macclesfield offers. We are planning to hold this event on a bi-annual basis and hope that those who joined us and those that missed out can now start planning their attendance at our 2025 event!



We have to say a huge thank you to all the King's staff that supported the FPA Committee including the catering team, the estates team and our very own music man Simon Leah. A special thank you to both Debbie Dawson and Petrona Clayton who were instrumental in making the dinner such a success, in addition to former pupil Katie Jordan for the fantastic table decorations.

It is always sad to say farewell to members of the Committee who have been a part of the FPA for a number of years, when the time has come to pursue other initiatives or commitments; we would like to thank every one of them for all their help over the years.

The modernisation of the FPA continues as does its inclusivity and interaction with former and current pupils, staff and teachers alike and we hope that this year we finalise some of these important elements. It does remain a privilege to Chair the FPA Committee and I will do my utmost to fulfil our pledges to everyone and very much look forward to hosting many events this year and seeing many of you at those.

*Amber*

**Amber Owens, FPA Chair**

## YOUR NEWS



### A Midsummer Night's Dream come true!

Former teacher Michael Patey-Ford performed alongside acting legend Jeremy Irons in a Devon village production. Michael, who was King's Head of Information Resources from 1991 to 2016, had been cajoled by his wife Dr Gillian Banner, also a former King's English teacher, to sign up to perform in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*.

What Michael didn't realise was that he would be acting opposite one of his all-time heroes, the globally recognised Oscar, Emmy and Tony Awards winner. Michael explained: "I am glad Gillian forced me into taking a part in what became one of the most amazing and enjoyable experiences of my life."

"We played for four nights with one matinee performance to a sell-out audience of 170 people each show, in a perambulatory production; the audience followed us to five different locations around the breathtakingly beautiful grounds of Mothecombe House.

"But what was more extraordinary was spending so much time rehearsing, then performing, with Jeremy Irons. He was very modest and never acted like a star; he was a joy to work with and get to know."

### Keith takes a bow after 65 years as conductor



Former pupil **Keith Yearsley (1950)**, aged 91, and formerly a well-known primary school headteacher in the town, has been conductor of the highly-respected Macclesfield-based Oriana choir for more than 65 years, a remarkable feat of stamina, as well as a reflection of his equally notable ability as a musician. Keith was made MBE in 2008 'for services to the community'. His retirement as conductor – though it is as certain as anything can be that Keith will be there in full support of 'his' choir whilst he is living and breathing! – was marked by a celebratory concert, held at the Macclesfield Methodist Church in March 2024.

## SPORTS NEWS *Round Up*



**Reece Grady (2023)** competed at the British Swimming Championships, which was also the World Championship Qualifier in 2023. Reece qualified for the men's 400m senior final and finished 6th overall with a PB. Following this success, Reece made the British Team for the European

Junior Championships in Belgrade and also went to Trinidad and Tobago to compete in the Junior Commonwealth Games with the England Team, one of only six junior male swimmers selected across the whole of England. He won a Gold medal in the 400 Individual Medley and a Silver medal in both the 400m and 1500m Free. After completing his A Levels in 2023, Reece headed to Arizona State University to study Aerospace Engineering and to swim under Head Coach Bob Bowman, who coached Michael Phelps. His swim squad now includes Léon Marchand, 400m Individual Medley world record holder.

In September 2023, **Jonny Ratcliffe (2010)** swam the English Channel in 10 hours 41 minutes. Jonny – a Campaign Director for Great British Chefs – was a serious swimmer whilst at King's, representing Cheshire, and then later swimming for St Andrews university. Preparation for the challenging Channel swim included both being part of a three-man Channel relay, and a 15k race across Torbay in Devon.

Jonny completed the swim, which traversed some of the world's busiest shipping lanes, despite numerous jellyfish stings. "I always knew the swim would be an enormous physical challenge, but nothing could have prepared me for the mental battle of overcoming two hours of sea sickness and vomiting, but I'm delighted to have persevered and completed the challenge," said Jonny, who swam in aid of Stonewall.

To support him, go to his JustGiving page at: <http://bitly.ws/S7dt>



The heat was certainly on during the annual former pupils' golf event for the Frank Moore Trophy in 2023 – temperatures topped 30°C at Macclesfield Golf Club. **Rob Oehlcke (1988)**, a finance, IT and property professional, won the trophy named in honour of the former English teacher, with a stunning score of 42 points. "It was a glorious afternoon, and a genuine honour to win," said Rob. **Paul Manning (1982)**, finance manager at East Cheshire Council, won the consolation Geoff Dakin salver, with a front-nine score of 22, which included two birdies. Rob and Paul afterwards paid tribute to Ian Wilson, the competition organiser: "He was a great teacher and cricket coach – and now a great friend."

• Pictured are former pupils who played, including fellow-golfer Katie Jordan, who presented the prizes to Rob and Paul.

## IN Brief...



**Sam Danson (2022)** was selected for his first international athletics competition in 2023. He competed for England in the Welsh U20 international in long jump and won the competition with a PB of 7.22m.

Following the previous successes of **Cam Redpath (2015)** in the 2021 and 2022 Scottish RU squads for the Guinness Six Nations Championship, he also made the 33 selected for the 2023 World Cup in France. He played in two pool games, before Scotland slightly unluckily lost out to Ireland. Then, he also made the squad in the 2024 Six Nations.

**Lyndsay Lomax (2001)** was selected to play netball for Switzerland at the Europe Netball Open Challenge in Cardiff in May 2023. All of the games were live streamed on YouTube on the Netball Europe channel. Lyndsay commented: "Undoubtedly my love for netball and sport in general started at King's with the fantastic teachers I had".



### New rugby scoreboard

A fantastic new scoreboard was funded and presented to the school by the Former Pupils' Association Secretary, Tristan Wood. The scoreboard arrived just in time for the first match of the season against Lancaster Royal Grammar School.

## SPEAKERS' CORNER



We welcomed several former pupils back to school to speak to current pupils during our Speakers' Club.

It was fantastic to welcome **Dr Jonathan Aitken (2000)** back to school when he gave young King's engineers a glimpse of tomorrow's world of robotics and AI. Jonathan gained a first class degree with distinction in his Masters of Engineering from The University of York and is now a Senior academic at The University of Sheffield. Jonathan has worked at the forefront of both academia and industry, providing bespoke solutions to some of the industrial world's most complicated problems while passing on his expertise to the next generation at Sheffield University, one of Britain's centres of excellence for engineering.



**Lyndsay Lomax (2001)** talked to young netballers about her experiences of playing netball internationally for Switzerland, and it was really interesting to hear about Lyndsay's typical training days and sessions. It was fantastic that some of our pupils also got to compete against Lyndsay in the Former Pupils' Sports Day that took place the following day.

At the end of September, we enjoyed welcoming former pupil **Steve Grace (1993)** from the BBC to talk to pupils about careers within the BBC and his route from King's pupil to Head of Audience Planning. It was a great talk with lots of super questions from pupils.



**Dieter Hill (1993)** came back to school in December to talk about Hockey and elite sport. Dieter is the England Hockey Junior Talent Development Manager and oversees the England U16 and U18 programmes as well as leading on the Diploma in Sporting Excellence Programme. Pupils had the opportunity to learn all about the England Hockey pathway, resilience and setbacks in sport and what makes the difference in amateur and professional sport. We look forward to welcoming Dieter back for some mentoring sessions and supporting our King's Elite Athlete Pathway.

**Speakers' Club** invites former pupils in to talk to current pupils – please get in touch if you would like to support: [development@kingsmac.co.uk](mailto:development@kingsmac.co.uk)



## Kate's Royal honour

**Kate Phillips (1988)** was one of the first girls to be admitted to Sixth Form in 1986 and has very fond memories of her time at the school. She was awarded the British Empire Medal in Her Majesty the Queen's final Birthday Honours List in June 2022 and was presented with her medal by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Shropshire at a local Investiture ceremony. She was also honoured to attend His Majesty the King's first Royal Garden Party in May. In previous years, her charity work has been recognised by the Prime Minister with a Point of Light Award in 2016 and Community Pride Award in 2019.

Kate founded Christmas Smile, a Shropshire charity now in its 11th year that provides a Santa bag of gifts to local children and families encountering financial or emotional difficulties, and to elderly residents who find themselves alone and who would benefit from a Smile at Christmas time.

"In 2013 I volunteered at a local food bank and it was eye-opening to see how many families were struggling to feed their children. I started to think, if they can't afford necessities, how can they afford to buy Christmas presents? So, that year I asked work colleagues for gift donations and that's how Christmas Smile was born."

The charity employs hundreds of volunteers each year and for Christmas 2022 gave out over 10,500 gifts to 2,100 local families and elderly residents. For more information, go to: [www.christmassmile.org.uk](http://www.christmassmile.org.uk)

## CONGRATULATIONS TO...

Congratulations to former pupils **Kate Hawker (2014)** and **Max Hayward (2014)** on the launch of their new adventure sports business, **Adventuro**. To find out more visit: <https://adventuro.com/>

**Damian Dodgson (1988)** featured in the funeral service of Bobby Charlton in November 2023 at Manchester Cathedral. He is the managing director of Hodgson's Funeral Services, of Knutsford, and led the service procession. Damian left King's in 1988, and later joined the funeral company founded by his grandfather in 1994.

**Guy Ryder (1974)** was featured in *King's Speech* in 2020, when he was Director General of the International Labour Organisation, based in Geneva. Having retired from that position, and looking forward to a more relaxed life, he received a call out of the blue from António Guterres, Secretary General of the United Nations, and since October 2022, Guy has been Under Secretary General for Policy at the UN. Guy's elder brother, **Julian (1971)**, also recently retired after 40 years as a well-known writer and TV commentator on motor bike racing.

**Andy Reeve (Staff, 2003 – 2009)** was appointed Head of Alton School, Hampshire, from September 2023.

**Adam Murray (2019)** was awarded a 1st class degree of Master of Engineering and Bachelor of Engineering from the University of Leeds.

**Simon Burgess (1977)** leads a team at Bristol University, where he is Professor of Economics, specialising in research into UK educational inequalities. Their

## Louis cooks up prestigious culinary award

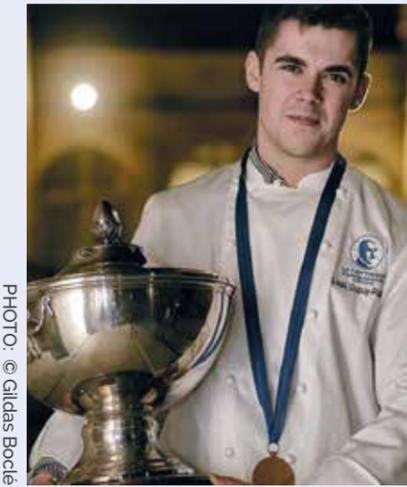


PHOTO: © Gildas Boole

Former pupil **Louis Dupuy-Roudel**, has won the 56th edition of the prestigious Taittinger Culinary Prize in Paris. The competition took place at Le Cordon Bleu Paris institute on Tuesday 30 January.

Originally from Lyon (France), Louis, 26, is currently working at the Persona restaurant in Stockholm and was representing Sweden in the prestigious competition.

The judging panel was led by three Michelin-starred chef Eric Fréchon.

latest findings published last year, revealed that despite a change in school admissions rules nearly ten years ago to allow admission on grounds of family disadvantage rather than mere geographical proximity – and providing significant financial incentives for this – few local authorities had responded.

**Ellie Watkins (2020)** graduated with a BA (hons) first class in Digital Animation from University of Hertfordshire. Ellie is currently undertaking freelance work and applying for permanent positions, ideally production co-ordinator roles.

**Adam Humphreys (2020)** is currently working for Exxon Mobil at their chemical plant in Scotland, as part of his placement year for his Masters in Chemical Engineering, which he is studying at Leeds University. He will graduate in 2025.

**Jamie Shuttleworth (2020)** achieved top results in his exams at the University of Manchester for two years running after starting his Engineering degree in September 2021. While there, he also set up a

society to do coding in the finance sector, funded by the university. Jamie won an internship at The Bank of New York, after beating 400 applicants, and hopes to follow a career in finance. Jamie has carried on playing hockey and plays for the men's 2nd team at Wilmslow.

**Tom Barker (2020)** received a 2:1 in Business Management (BSc) from Bristol University. He graduated in July and is now taking a few months off to travel around Australia, New Zealand and Asia.

**Hannah Robinson (2020)** went to the University of Manchester to study English Literature after King's. Hannah graduated in July 2023 with a 2:1 and is now working at Trowers & Hamlin LLP as a legal assistant, working full time whilst studying to complete her masters in Law.

**Max Ridings (2018)** left King's and joined Ernst Young as an Accountancy apprentice. He has now qualified as an accountant and is currently working on secondment in Sydney, Australia with the firm.

# Captain of Industry

IN PROFILE

The *King's Speech* team has been researching the careers of former School Captains, and while there have been many varied pathways, leadership roles feature very strongly. One super example is **Hannah Gibson**, CEO of online supermarket and retailer Ocado, since September 2022.

**H**ANNAH Gibson (née Roberts) (2002) enjoyed a lively and distinguished time at King's. An easy choice for School Captain in 2001/2, which of course meant she was the primary representative of the pupils during the 2002 quincentenary celebrations, she was a genuine 'all-rounder'. Not only did she leave with top grades in A Level Double Maths, French and Psychology, she was also heavily involved in Duke of Edinburgh Award outdoor activities, orienteering and hockey – 'one of a back four who formed an almost impenetrable line of defense for the 1st XI in 2001/2', said coach Mrs Di Barker.

Queens' College, Cambridge recognised her talent, and after a gap year, which she would recommend to anyone – during which she did some teaching in Kenya and some very enjoyable travelling – she emerged from Cambridge with a degree in Economics and Politics in 2006.

“I have lots of very positive memories of my time at King's”, said Hannah. “And I still have close friends from my school days who I see regularly – some in London, and others when I come back to Cheshire visiting parents. It's lovely now to see our kids playing happily together too! “Most prominent to me now of my King's days were all the opportunities to get involved in activities. I loved team sports – I was a keen hockey player, especially – and also a range of outdoor activities, from DofE to orienteering”, Hannah reminisced. “But I particularly recall Mrs Harrison making Maths enjoyable! I think working well in a team, and resilience, have been really important as my career has progressed, and I am sure my school extra-curricular activities helped hugely in developing these qualities.”

Hannah's early work experiences included a holiday placement with Proctor & Gamble, and then, after Cambridge, she went into the high-pressure environment of consultancy for a few years. This involves working across a variety of industries, but Hannah had always been attracted by retail. “I find it fascinating understanding and helping customers,” she explains. One of her consultancy tasks – working on business development opportunities at Waitrose –

## Ocado

reinforced her enthusiasm for retail, so after a couple of exciting years on a completely different track – the Policy Unit at 10 Downing Street, advising on small business, growth and technology – Hannah joined online supermarket Ocado in 2012. Hannah began running Ocado's website and app for a few years, followed by time setting up a new business within Ocado launching groceries on demand, and then in technology focused on Ocado's unique warehousing solutions. She became CEO of the whole company Ocado Retail in September 2022.

### So what advice would this captain of industry give students about to leave King's for the outside world?

“Go out and seek new opportunities; a broad and wide experience will help you move around in your career,” advises Hannah.

“Don't worry about landing the perfect role or job; I've always found one opportunity leads to the next – but you can't always see where it's going to take you in advance!

“Most importantly, find something you enjoy, are passionate about and want to work hard at – everything else will flow from there!”

”

“Working well in a team, and resilience, have been really important as my career has progressed – I am sure my school extra-curricular activities helped hugely in developing these qualities.”

From the Archive

# A hero's Last Post



**O**n a summer's day in Bollington during Covid-19 lockdown, a large cardboard box arrived unannounced upon the doorstep of the local Discovery Centre – it was delivered by post, but had no return address, no message, no clues from where it came, just an old, dusty box with something clearly inside.

The box was opened: it was filled to the brim with what seemed to be letters, documents and various artefacts all connected to one man. His name was Geoffrey Hillier Swindells, Lieutenant Colonel Geoffrey Hillier Swindells to be precise – a local man as it turned out and a true military legend from the past and a former King's pupil – the box contained his belongings and his life story.

Born in 1874 he was educated at Macclesfield Grammar School, now King's, and then afterwards at the famous Roman Catholic public school, Stonyhurst College. After college he returned home to Clough Bank where his family resided and joined the firm of George Swindells and Sons Limited which was founded by his grandfather, the late George Swindells of Pott Hall, Pott Shrigley and then under the management

A mystery, old dusty box delivered unannounced during Covid-19 lockdown has proved a fascinating insight into the life of a former King's pupil and World War One hero **Geoffrey Hillier Swindells (1888)**.

of his father Mr George Cawley Swindells. Geoffrey soon became the manager of both the large mills owned and built by the company, Adelphi and Clarence Mills and they prospered greatly under his control. It was a very important job within the community and Geoffrey was well respected and liked by all. Outside of work, he was very active in community affairs and attended St. Gregory's Church where he was the organist, joined the Urban District Council and played at Bollington Cricket Club.

In 1908, Geoffrey married Sybil Maitland-Addison, but they never had children. After six years together, the war came in 1914 and Geoffrey joined up and left home. He had previously joined the Volunteer Rifles in 1892 and this, together with his managerial skills, were soon recognised and he quickly rose through the ranks to Major, ultimately to become the Commanding Officer of the

4th Battalion Cheshire Regiment as Lieutenant Colonel – as such he was the highest ranking officer recognised by the Kerridge War Memorial.

Geoffrey first saw action in the Balkans and was heavily involved in the Gallipoli Campaign and became injured at Suvia Bay in 1915. Quick to recover and re-establish his duties, he also served in the Palestine advance.

Tragically after all this, Geoffrey was killed in action close to the end of the war on 1st August 1918 at the battle of Grand-Rozoy. Great tributes were made in his name particularly by the Macclesfield Courier and the Herald where he was considered to be 'one of Bollington's finest sons.' His medals included the 1914/15 Star, British War Medal and Victory Medal. He was buried at Raperie British Cemetery, Villemontoire, France. During his time in the war, Geoffrey wrote many letters, created

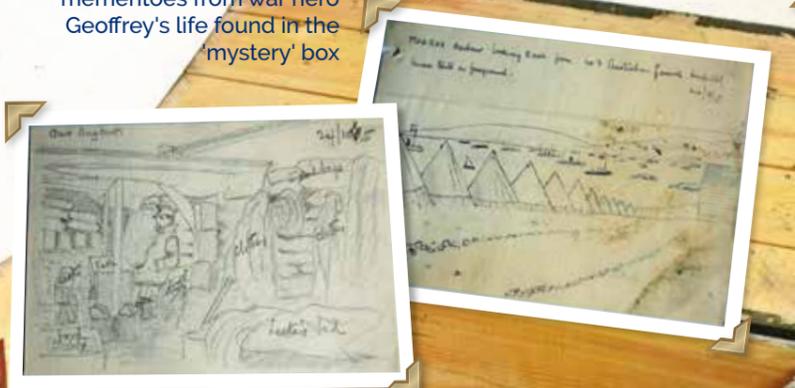


A selection of fascinating mementoes from war hero Geoffrey's life found in the 'mystery' box

many drawings and recorded copious notes in his diaries, all of which were included in the box. Alongside these were his personal chattels, photographs of his comrades, telegrams about his wounding and later his death, letters to his wife and even his pencil. There was even a Churchill signed document where he was mentioned in Despatches.

After the wars, Geoffrey was commemorated at The King's School as one of the brave former pupils that lost their life serving their Country and his name is featured on the brass plaque in the school's Jackson Hall.

Thanks to the anonymous donor, after over 100 years Geoffrey, or his memory at least, came back home to his beloved Kerridge and his name will hopefully forever live on as a true local hero.



IN PROFILE

PHOTOS: Nora Nishevcic

# Emily's True BRIT



## What do you remember about your days at King's?

I really enjoyed my time at King's, I left after GCSEs in 2014 so ten years ago now! I have lots of happy memories; I was always doing something after school, whether it be jazz band, hockey or choir. My best memories are of extra-curricular activities, including choir trips with Mrs Beesley, and performing in school music competitions. One of my favourite memories was when I was about 10, playing a mash-up of Postman Pat with my friend Francesca, including a rock song that we wrote, in Mr Shaw's office! We did a partial costume change when it got to the rock section of the song and a little dance. It'd be very funny if you had some footage of that! I also remember being in Junior School productions, such as Robin Hood and Scrooge. I think I was Tiny Tim in Scrooge and sang a song.

## Did your passion for music begin at King's?

Yes definitely, Francesca who I mentioned earlier, had guitar lessons with a teacher called David Lilley. I heard them having a guitar lesson and just knew it was the kind of lesson I would love – they were learning pop songs and she was writing her own songs with him. I also learned the flute at King's with Mrs Browne and really enjoyed it – and still play the flute with the band. King's was always incredibly supportive of my guitar lessons and let me perform during assemblies and competitions.

## What did you do after King's?

I went to Chetham's School of Music, then did a jazz guitar degree at The Guildhall



RISING STAR: Emily performing with The Last Dinner Party (left), and in the King's 2006 production, *Hoodwinked*

Hot from Paris, we were lucky enough to interview **Emily Roberts (2014)**, lead guitarist of music's hottest new talent, indie rock band, The Last Dinner Party – winners of this year's prestigious Rising Star BRIT Award. With a debut number 1 album, *Prelude to Ecstasy*, BBC Radio 1 Sound of Music Award, and their recent BRIT Award win, the band has garnered critical acclaim and a growing legion of fans around the world. Having supported The Rolling Stones in Hyde Park during their early days and with a love of live performances including Glastonbury, if you haven't already heard of the band, you soon will!

School of Music and Drama, which was great. Unfortunately, I missed doing my final live performance due to Covid and it was tricky finding work when I graduated because the music industry completely shut down during the pandemic. I always wanted to be a session guitarist or guitarist in a band. I played as Brian May in a Queen tribute band and for Six the Musical at the Vaudeville Theatre – one of the first theatres to open again in the West End.

## You play lead guitar, the mandolin, flute and sing with The Last Dinner Party, do you have a favourite instrument?

Definitely the electric guitar. It has been my number one instrument since I was nine. The guitar has always been there for me in my life, during good and bad times, and I guess it's my way of escaping – it always makes me feel good and I know I'm achieving something when playing the guitar.

## In terms of all of the incredible achievements so far, which is the standout for you?

All of it is amazing, but the BRIT Award is incredibly special – everyone knows what the BRITs are; your grandma, aunt, everyone!

It was a great experience and the significance of a BRIT Award is huge, it's unbelievable and quite surreal.

## What was it like supporting The Rolling Stones in your early days of the band?

We apparently got the gig because our agent submitted a list of bands to The Rolling Stones who then had a listen and picked the one they wanted to open for them. They must have thought we were a good match as we opened for them on the main stage, BST Hyde Park, which is probably still the biggest gig that we've ever done.

## Are there any specific artists or bands that you'd like to collaborate with in the future?

Everyone in the band is different, so the five of us might pick different people, but if it was up to me, I'd say Raye, she was amazing at the BRITs and that would be a cool collaboration. Or perhaps St. Vincent or the Nova Twins – for me there would need to be rock and guitar vibes. I really like listening to bands from the 70s and 80s – I love Led Zeppelin, Queen and Fleetwood Mac to name a few; music my parents introduced me to.

## Do you have any advice for aspiring musicians who are just starting on their musical journey?

I'd say follow the people who you're most drawn to and inspire you the most, especially teachers or friends. People who you look up to or people who are really amazing at their instrument and ask them for advice. When I was at school, there was a guy in the year above called Darragh and I used to go to his house all the time, we'd share CDs and play guitar together and just talk about music. People like that can really help and inspire you. Staying true to who you are and what you like is so important.

## When you were at King's, did you ever think that your love of music and talent would lead to where you are now?

I had dreams but I really didn't think it would happen, you can't really plan for something like this and it's often to do with being in the right place at the right time, but also making sure you work really hard. There weren't so many girls playing guitar or rock instruments during my school days so if I can inspire someone in that way, that would be really amazing.

# An Unfortunate Incident

Festive 1950s fun when the boys met the girls!

**A**FTER World War Two, relations between the Girls' High School and The King's School were far from friendly; the two schools kept themselves well apart, although there was some overlap at Governor level. When Mr TT Shaw was appointed headmaster at King's, one of his targets was to improve relationships to the benefit of staff and students.

When I joined King's in 1950, although pupils were a bit wary of each other, relations were friendly; boys and girls met and mixed every day as we travelled to school by bus or train. We dispersed when we reached Macclesfield, the girls heading up hill past the gas works to Fence Avenue. As we became teenagers and our interest in each other grew in intensity, relationships were formed and both I and my friend Rob Sutton began dating girls from the High School.

Miss Walker became Head of the High School and, in 1957 in a sign of the changing times, the High School announced they would host a Christmas ball. We received this news with some excitement. Miss Walker made it clear, however, that staff would be in attendance to make

**By Andrew Walker (1959)**

sure there was no misbehaviour; a dance band would provide the music for ballroom standards, waltzes, and quicksteps, with a selection of traditional dances – Gay Gordons, Military Two Step, etc – thrown in. Jiving or rock and roll, the new craze, would not be encouraged.

Rob Sutton and I bought tickets. We were keen rock and rollers, so we



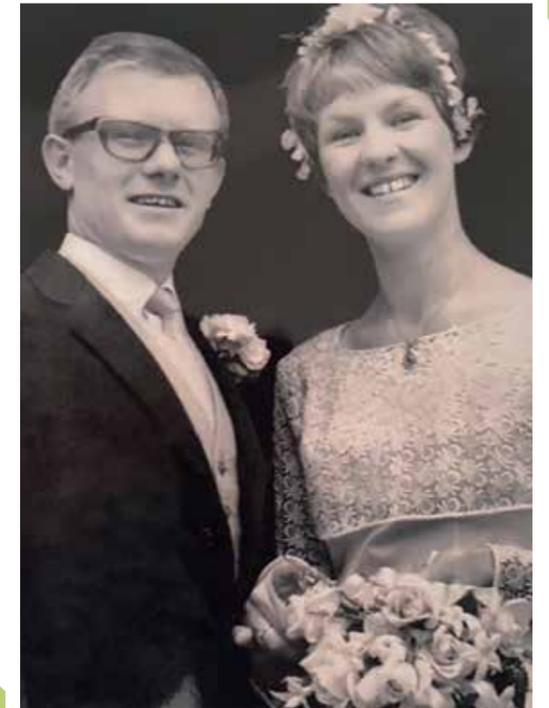
thought if there was to be no rock and roll maybe there was another way we could enliven the occasion. We came up with a plan for a small diversion and, the day before the dance, we slipped out of school with a holdall of toilet rolls, string and other bits and pieces. We made our way up to Fence Avenue and, hoping we

weren't noticed, hid the holdall in some bushes in the park opposite the High School. The following night Rob and I came to the ball with our High School girlfriends, everyone smartly dressed. The current rage for girls was the beehive hairdo and the sack dress had made a come-back. The boys were in suits and ties. There was a good atmosphere, the music was up to scratch, and everyone seemed to be having a great time but our holdall still lay hidden outside; were we going to go through with our plan? Yes, we decided we were, and during the refreshments break, we slipped out and retrieved the holdall from the bushes. We then enjoyed an insane ten minutes wrapping toilet paper and string around the cars in the staff car park, through door handles, around bumper bars and over roofs creating a kind of cocoon of cars.

Back in the school hall, the dancing resumed and we carried on as if nothing had happened. However, a short while later the music stopped; there was a roll on the drums and Miss Walker made her way to the front of the stage. Suddenly there was a hush. Arms folded, she looked over us with a stern eye and announced: "There has been an unfortunate



**WONDERFUL WEDDINGS!**  
Andrew and Patricia Walker,  
pictured left. Rob and Gill  
Sutton, pictured below



incident. Someone has been into the staff car park and damaged some cars belonging to staff." She continued in solemn tone, laying it on a bit thick. We of course knew nothing had been damaged but somehow things weren't quite working out as we'd imagined. Still admitting nothing, we joined the group sent out to clear up but once outside we discovered to our dismay a hard frost had set in and the locks of some car doors and the string we'd tied was now hard frozen. We did the best we could but clearly some drivers were going to have to find another way home. Back indoors, the dance carried on and eventually we all broke up and went home.

The following Monday, I was sitting in class when a small boy came in and handed a piece of paper to Mr Haresign our French teacher. He read it and looked up. "Walker, you're to go and see the Head – now". I got up with a sinking feeling and my heart beating a little faster. I left the class, crossed the yard and entered the corridor leading to Mr Shaw's office. Rob Sutton was already sitting there when I arrived. We knocked and after a

moment's delay TT Shaw's familiar voice barked "Come in". We entered and stood next to his desk, feeling very sheepish. He looked up at us from his writing and pushed back his chair. "You stupid arses!" he said angrily. TT was not one to mince words. "I've spent years trying to improve relations between our school and the High School and now in one stupid, thoughtless act you've gone and ruined it all. You will go up to the High School this lunchtime and apologise to Miss Walker in person. Now get out!" We left, thanking our lucky stars that we hadn't been expelled or at the least received a caning.

We made our way up the High School and apologised to Miss Walker who received our apologies in a dignified but not hostile manner. She admitted that fortunately for us no damage, but a lot of inconvenience had been caused; we had been extremely silly and spoiled the evening with our thoughtless action. Yes, we realised it had been thoughtless, we apologised profusely again and left, feeling slightly relieved. But the matter was still not quite closed. The following day Gillian Scott, Rob's

girlfriend, and partner at the ball, was called to see Miss Walker. "I was absolutely terrified", she said. "Miss Walker was a very strict Head of the old sort. She asked me if I thought Rob Sutton was a suitable partner and would it not be better to finish that liaison now? Well of course I took no notice."

We reported back to TT and after a stern warning we were told that the matter would be dropped. Had we ruined everything? Possibly not, but our action showed that the road to normalising relations between our schools was not going to be straightforward. As it turned out progress did continue under Miss Walker and Mr Shaw and shared activities began in areas like athletics and music and, soon after Rob and I had left school, girls playing parts in drama productions at King's was becoming the norm.

And what of the two of us? Rob Sutton went to Loughborough to study Civil Engineering and Andrew Walker went to Leicester University to study Languages. Rob Sutton married Gillian Scott and I married another High School girl, Patricia Miles. Almost sixty years later both couples are still together!

# The Embryo of a great career



When **Prof. Alison Campbell** became one of the first cohorts of girls to join King's Sixth Form in the late 1980s, that pioneering spirit stood her in good stead for a career in the trailblazing field of embryology and IVF. She is now Chief Scientific Officer for Care Fertility, a company she set up with friends from university and now has 20 clinics across Europe and the USA.

**A**LMOST by definition, girls who first came to King's Sixth Form in the late-1980s – the first few years after it became possible – had something of a pioneering spirit about them. Many went on to have significant achievements, including renowned embryologist **Prof. Alison Campbell, née Hunter**, who joined King's Sixth Form in 1987 from Henbury High School.

After studying Biology, Chemistry and History at A Level, Alison went on to read Biological Sciences at Leicester University in 1989.

"I chose the course at Leicester specifically because, unlike others, it had modules on reproduction, genetics and fertility, and I had already decided reproduction and embryology were my main areas of interest," Alison explained. "I had always been fascinated by the breeding habits of my tropical fish and bred canaries as a youngster!"

Alison was also inspired by a talk given by a former King's pupil **Steve Troup (1981)** about his 'exciting role as an embryologist'.

"After my first degree, I was fortunate to get a part-time role as a trainee embryologist at an IVF clinic affiliated to Nottingham University, as well as completing what was at the time the world's first Masters degree there in Assisted Reproduction Technology," adds Alison, who was soon promoted to become the clinic's Director of Embryology Services.

"I really enjoyed the MSc course and was inspired by tales and teachings of some of IVF's early pioneers."

Alison's next step a few years after her MSc, was a very bold one – which turned out to be highly successful. Alison, and a few friends from the university clinic, left to form Care Fertility, where she has remained ever since. Initially, with just a single IVF lab, Care Fertility now has a network of 20, in Ireland,

Spain and the USA as well as in the UK. For many years its Director of Embryology, Alison is now Chief Scientific Officer. Her passion for her work shines through: "The deeper my understanding of an embryologist's role, the more determined I became to work in the field of assisted reproduction. Infertility is a huge problem, affecting 1 in 6. What drives me most is the desire to continuously improve the IVF process so we can help as many patients as possible have the families they long for."

“

*Infertility is a huge problem, affecting 1 in 6. What drives me most is the desire to continuously improve the IVF process so we can help as many patients as possible have the families they long for.*

”

Alison also managed to fit in being awarded a PhD by the University of Kent, and completed Royal College of Pathologists exams, to become a Consultant in Reproductive Science. Then in 2023, Alison was appointed honorary Professor of Biosciences at Kent University.

Alison is utterly committed to what she described as 'continuous improvement', which has continued to apply within Care Fertility. An MSc course has been established as a joint venture between Care Fertility and John Moores University, run

at their newly-built training facility and lab within the company's Manchester IVF clinic. They also recently introduced AI to give more reliability and accuracy to the process of embryo imaging and assessment and selection; with the latter implemented across all Care Fertility labs, and the project scooped a hat-trick of national awards during 2023.

Asked if her time at King's generated any lessons beneficial in her career, Alison had no hesitation in stressing her decision to take A Level History – all those agonising Sunday afternoons writing extensive history essays stood her in good stead for her career, and writing patient summaries, scientific communications, reports and business cases. She is also now a reviewer and assistant editor for two scientific journals, has edited two textbooks and written a section of the well-known medical textbook *Gray's Anatomy*.

She also cites 'adaptability' as a valuable lesson from her King's days – an invaluable skill in her chosen field which faces rapid and virtually continuous change. "I was no longer near the top of the class when I went to King's, and, as well as the culture shock of moving into what had been an all-boys environment, I had to adapt in a big way – something I'm sure helped me later on", says Alison.

We asked Alison if she has any advice for today's 18-year-olds: "You are in work a long time, so study what you love, gain as much knowledge and experience as you can, tackle obstacles, be ambitious – and don't be afraid to ask for help," she advises.

"Utilise your strengths – but understand that what you enjoy tends to become your strength anyway. Don't worry if you don't know what career you want – keep looking for inspiration, as you never know where it might come from!"

# 100 years of Kenneth!



IN CONVERSATION

Back in August, we celebrated the 100th Birthday of **Kenneth Brookfield (1941)**, believed to be our oldest living alumni! Kenneth lives in Vancouver and was really happy to receive our gifts and an extra special Happy Birthday recording by our Infant & Junior pupils. We asked him some questions about the last 100 years and his time at King's.



ABOVE: Kenneth during his King's school days and (left) toasting his centenary year. FAR LEFT: Kenneth's graduation from the University of Manchester when he received his Mechanical Engineering degree

**You were brought up in Marple, what do you remember about it?**

The village in Marple that I grew up in was Hawk Green on the Goyt Canal. One of my early memories is of making boats out of reeds and sailing them on the canal. We used to bicycle around the village and career down the hill at top speed. One time I miscalculated and ended up in a bramble patch as the bike didn't have brakes. My grandfather was a farrier and would shoe horses in a stable near the Village Green. My father worked for British Rail. The primary school I attended was All Saints C. of E. Primary School. As I was a good student, I was encouraged to sit the entrance exam for King's School, and I came in 6th.

**You joined King's in 1935; tell us about your school days?**

I used to take the train every day from Rose Hill Marple Station to Macclesfield which took over an hour each way. There are several pictures of me in my school hat

and blazer as I was very proud to wear them. I was very fortunate to be a good student who was allowed to continue with my studies when the Second World War broke out in 1939. Many others joined the war effort, but the top students were allowed to continue. During the war, I entered the University of Manchester to study mechanical engineering. My favourite memory is playing cricket on the cricket pitch in front of the old school. I was Captain of the House team and was a bowler. I can't remember many of my teachers these days, but later in life, I was in contact with Tony Arnold who had taught Geography at the school. He lived in London at that time with his wife Margaret.

**What was your favourite subject at school and why?**

I won the prize for French and still speak some French to this day. I also enjoyed taking Latin. It was however, the maths and sciences that provided me with the groundwork to study engineering.

**How are you celebrating your 100th Birthday?**

I am having a lunch on my birthday at my daughter Alison's house with my children, grandchildren, great-grandson and a few friends. Sadly, at my age, many of my friends are no longer with us.

**What is the secret to your good health?**

I have had a very happy life with my dear wife Hannah who looked after me so well. We met at the end of the Second World War when I was working designing jet engines for Rolls Royce. We had a wonderful time together for 62 years until her passing in 2008. I also have had a fulfilling career as a chartered engineer and taught management in my private consultancy business here in Canada.

**What, if anything, do you miss about the UK?**

We settled in Canada and embraced the life here in

Vancouver. We did not return to England for 14 years. My parents emigrated with us and my brother was already living here so all my immediate family was here. One of my passions is italic handwriting and I am known by many as Ken the Pen. I missed the calligraphic community in England when we arrived. It was some years before a calligraphy society was founded here and I still belong to the Society of Italic Handwriting in England.

**What three things are most important in life?**

Love well, don't stress and eat chocolate!

**What has been your favourite decade and why?**

Each decade in life is special and each day is to be cherished. There were wonderful times at King's School, university and as I became established in my career as an engineer. I enjoyed meeting my wife Hannah and raising a family. My wife and I were able to

travel together in the 1990s and 2000s once we retired, taking trips to England, Jersey, Norway and across Canada. These times together were very memorable.

**In the last 100 years, we have seen so many fantastic inventions, which is your favourite?**

I love classical music, so my favourite inventions have been all the ones that allowed me to enjoy music from vinyl records to 8-track tapes, cassettes, and CDs. My favourite composer is Mozart. I decided to leave computer technology to the next generations, but I do enjoy seeing videos of my great grandson who lives in the Yukon. I do not have a computer. So much business is done online these days so my daughter handles that for me.

**What are the most important lessons you've learned in your life?**

One of the most important lessons that I have learned is

to pursue that which makes you happy. If you listen to your intuition, you'll make the right decisions for yourself. I made a bold decision to emigrate to Canada in 1965 and have had no regrets. Another life lesson is to treat everyone with respect and you will receive respect in return. One of the phrases I use is "We are all God's children" which goes to the heart of recognizing everyone as an equal.

**We are so thankful for your donations to the school over the years, including all of the books you donated to the library. What motivates you to give back to King's?**

I am very grateful for the education I received at King's as it opened doors into an engineering career and prepared me to succeed. I have always loved books and magazines and continue to read for entertainment.

IN PROFILE

# John's Sporting life

**John Brewin (1994)**, is one of a distinguished line of former King's pupils earning a living as a highly-respected sports journalist. After cutting his journalistic teeth on local papers, he moved into his 'obsession since childhood' – football – landing jobs with national newspapers, radio stations and more recently, podcasts.

**J**OHN left King's in 1994 for Sheffield University, after A levels in Business, English and History, to read for a degree in Social and Political Sciences. Then, after a while working casually and taking a Print Journalism post-grad Diploma, he learned the 'nuts and bolts' – shorthand, media law, public affairs – of local journalism on work experience around Yorkshire. Though John greatly mourns the serious decline in local journalism that has occurred in recent decades, he managed to move into specialising in his obsession since childhood, football – he recalls 'seriously collecting football stickers when in Mrs. Houghton's class in the Junior School!'

"I first did a bit of freelancing and work experience at the Press Association and even at the BBC, before actually landing a 'proper job' with ESPN," he explains. "They had bought a soccer website in 1999, and I joined in 2000, becoming editor of its SoccerNet until

2013. At that stage, I got redirected into writing, and was lucky enough to cover World Cups, Euros, Champions League finals, etc. However, as sadly happens rather a lot in the industry, a sweep of redundancies saw me going freelance in 2018."

John has been freelance ever since, working for several nationals, radio stations and podcasts, but mostly for *The Guardian*, variously on the production staff, writing articles for the paper and website, covering matches, as well as appearing on the *Football Weekly* podcast.

Had he always wanted to be a football journalist we asked John.

"No – I first had in mind being a music journalist, but my form teacher at the time, Dr. Lain, said there was no money in that!" recalls John.

When asked about school influences on his career, John first referenced 'the late Baz Edwards', as being the first to recognise that non-fiction was by far his reading of choice, as well as mentioning other inspiring English teachers – Gill Taylor, Mike McNulty,

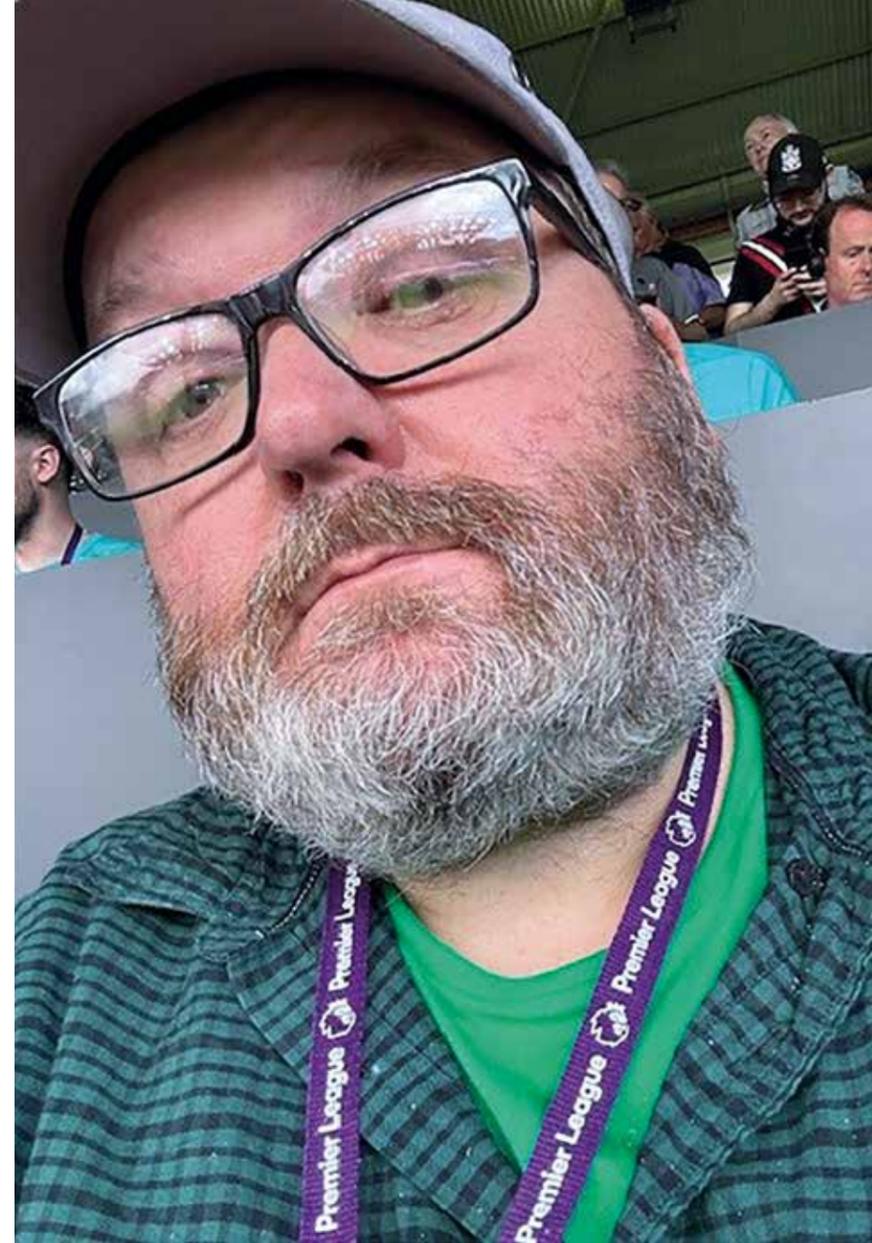
who 'taught literature so very well', and Reg Davenport, for example, as well as drama man Frank Walker.

"I had always been a facts man – Tony Browne's Christmas quizzes always got me interested!" said John.

"There could be no better preparation for trying to take down a nine-minute José Mourinho rant than Pete Murray's relentless History lessons! He and Keith Aikin in the Sixth Form taught me how to take notes at speed, and to translate facts into sentences and arguments. There is much in common between writing an exam essay and completing a match report under severe time pressure.

"I should also add that Joey Jordan's superb lesson when he deciphered and simplified for us the complex event that was the UK's ending its involvement with the ERM in 1992 is still memorable."

"I know the school has a significant sporting legacy, but I think it rather undersells how it is also supportive of the more creative, less sporty types. We were allowed and encouraged



“*There could be no better preparation for trying to take down a nine-minute José Mourinho rant than Pete Murray's relentless History lessons! He and Keith Aikin in Sixth Form taught me how to take notes at speed – and to translate facts into sentences and arguments.*”

to express ourselves and embrace the arts. I have lots of school friends in film, art, drama, photography and music, who all began their journeys at King's."

John still keeps in touch with a lot of former King's schoolmates, and has had much support too from fellow former pupil **Ollie Holt (1984)**, who he describes as 'a great sports columnist' (Ollie was featured in *King's Speech 2018* and visited school in 2023). Asked about advice he would give aspiring school-leaving journalists now, John mentioned first that his own slightly meandering early path shows you certainly don't have to choose too early! "Reading lots and lots – books, newspapers, magazines – is the best single advice if you are going to be able to write well, in my opinion. Learning a language is a head start, too – but also having an

area of specialism, where you have a real passion. And don't be afraid to make the phone calls to try to get yourself where you want to be; it won't happen if you just keep waiting!"

What about the long-term decline of journalism? John agreed that newspapers, sadly, are on the way out, but he feels people are coming back round to the concept of 'paying for content'. Working out the audience you are trying to reach, and then monetising the content, is key long-term, he says.

"Most of my career so far has been online, in fact," he adds. "Journalism isn't all phone-hacking and making up football transfer stories. People mistaking social media for journalism is also a bugbear. But there will always be a need for true journalism to hold a mirror up to society."

# Our GALA Dinner 2023

Generations of former pupils from around the world descended on the new King's School campus for our first ever Former Pupils Gala Dinner to be held at the new site ... and what a night it turned out to be!

The school hosted a fantastic evening in November as generations of former King's pupils shared happy memories at the Alumni Gala Dinner. Guests flew in from California, Maryland and Italy for the event with attendees aged between 18 and 81!

Richard Garner, 79, who left in 1963, said: "Our school was wonderful, but this is something else altogether. I hope today's pupils appreciate everything they have here."

Jussi-Peter Hill who left last summer to go up to Durham University, said: "I wanted to come back to say thank you. Not only did I have a great time here, but it enabled me to earn a place at a top university."

Mark O'Connor, who left in 1980, added: "The open space and the stunning facilities are amazing." While parent Emma Hannah added: "Our children absolutely love it here, especially the swimming pool. There are some amazing facilities both inside and outside the classroom."

King's award winning catering team put on a fabulous three course meal, while brilliant concert violinist and former pupil Laura Embrey (2015) entertained the revellers with her virtuoso musicianship.

There was a family feel to the event, with Sky Sports presenter Di Stewart, whose nephew attends King's, compèring the evening and sharing a table with her sisters, and former pupil and Sale Sharks rugby player Tommy Taylor providing the after-dinner talk. Tommy, who earned an England cap in 2016, comes from a long line of King's pupils, with his grandfather, father, brother and uncles all having attended the school. His father and brother Jack were both at the dinner along with one of Tommy's former school rugby coaches John Percival.

A great evening was had by all and we look forward to the next Gala Dinner in 2025!

1. Nick Reynolds, Oscar Davies, Ollie Watson, Niya Alias, Oliver Lewer-Sotiriou and Jussi-Peter Hill.



2. Tessa Whiskard, Darren Stockwell, Kathryn Phillips, Andrew Makepeace, Kate Phillips, James Neill, Fadi Kabbani and Chris Labrey.

3. Guy Hubble, Michaela Lawton, Julian Jones and John Hughes.

4. Jemima and Katie Jordan.

5. Nathan Lowe, Amir Ahmed, Aysha and Rob Hawcutt.

6. Jon Butler, Jenny Bull and John Brewin.



7. Chris Shingles, Richard Barough and Rick Garner.

8. Sky Sports presenter Di Stewart with partner, siblings Laura & Amy Stewart and FPA Chair Amber Owens.

9. Laura Embrey.



## From the Archive

Find out more about former King's pupil, **George Kenneth Embleton (1922)**, as written by one of his former pupils at The Royal Latin School.

# Diary of a war



OPPOSITE PAGE: George's war diary and, top, Stafford Cripps (far right) and Winston Churchill in his 'naval' cap (second left) on board HMS Victorious

THIS PAGE; TOP LEFT: George in B gun control HMS Victorious

TOP RIGHT: The Arctic Convoys

LEFT: George with wife Edna off to a Royal Garden Party

RIGHT: Dressed up for a school production

I recognised the small, cramped handwriting in the leather diary the moment I opened it. The diary recorded the thoughts, fears, and experiences of a young Naval officer in WW2. I was more used to seeing the handwriting on my school reports for the diarist had been my Headmaster at the Royal Latin School which I attended between 1963–70. I had become used to his acerbic comments such as "John must remember that it takes more than a happy smile to succeed in life" and "John must work hard at all subjects, not just those he enjoys."

The author of the diary was **George Kenneth Embleton (1932)**, a proud Macclesfield boy, who had attended The King's School from 1925–1932, before going on to Sydney Sussex College, Cambridge to read English and History. From Cambridge, he went into teaching and took a post as an English teacher at Brewood Grammar school before the war

By **John Hounslow**

interrupted his academic career. Following basic sea training at HMS Raleigh, George was selected for officer training at HMS King Alfred and, subsequently he trained as a High-Altitude Control Officer (HACO) responsible for co-ordination and control of anti-aircraft fire on warships. His first posting was HMS Victorious, an aircraft carrier, and part of the fleet escorting merchant ships sailing to Murmansk and Archangel. These convoys carried vital war supplies to Russia who were engaged in a titanic struggle with the Nazis. The voyages from Loch Ewe, north to Iceland and on around Bear Island, North Cape then eastwards until eventually turning due South to take the precious Merchant vessels into the Russian ports became part of Naval folklore and were known as 'The Arctic Convoys'. The whole route was covered by Luftwaffe bombers flying out of Norwegian

airfields, potential attack from surface raiders and the constant threat of U-boat attack. George completed six return trips on what Winston Churchill described as "the worst journey in the world".

Later HMS Victorious was diverted to escort a convoy through the Mediterranean to resupply Malta, which was under constant attack from Axis Forces. The mission was named Operation Pedestal and, whilst warmer than the Arctic Oceans he had previously braved, George found it equally dangerous. The convoy was under attack from both German and Italian aircraft and the ship's company had the horrific experience of watching one of their fellow aircraft carriers, HMS Eagle being sunk by German torpedoes. She sank in less than 8 minutes with the loss of nearly 200 sailors.

HMS Victorious then sailed for the Pacific to assist the US Navy which was recovering from the surprise Japanese attack on Pearl

Harbour. On her return to home waters, George was transferred to a battleship, HMS King George V. The ship brought Winston Churchill back to the UK from Gibraltar and, after what George coyly describes as an "excellent wardroom dinner", the Prime Minister treated the junior officers to his thoughts on the war and how he saw it progressing now the USA was fully involved. All faithfully recorded by George in his diary.

His next posting was in HMS Scylla which was Admiral Vian's flagship for the Eastern Task Force during the D-Day landings. Twelve days after the Allied soldiers went ashore, HMS Scylla hit a mine and, seriously damaged, was towed back to Chatham. Following inspection, she was written-off as being uneconomical to repair and George found himself back in an aircraft carrier again, HMS Indefatigable. The Carrier sailed from Scapa Flow as part of a Royal Naval attempt to

sink the Tirpitz. The giant German battleship was anchored in a Norwegian Fjord and the plan was to fly off the British carriers and sink the ship with Fleet Air Arm torpedo bombers. The attacks were unsuccessful and Tirpitz remained in Norwegian waters as a potent threat before being finally sunk by RAF bombers, later in the war.

HMS Indefatigable was then sent out to the East to become part of the British Pacific Fleet which was operating with the US Navy in the final stages of the war against Japan. In an amazing coincidence, another young officer serving in the British Pacific Fleet as a pilot was **Donald Twemlow (1939)**, who was also a King's School old boy. Not only was he a fellow alumnus, the Twemlow and Embleton family were old friends. George and Donald enjoyed several dinners together whilst in Sydney Harbour, no doubt reminiscing about days spent at King's. At the end of the war, HMS

Indefatigable was anchored in Tokyo Bay as the Imperial Japanese authorities went on board the USS Missouri to sign the surrender documents.

Sadly Donald, having survived the war, was killed in 1947 in a flying accident whilst still serving with the Royal Navy. George returned to his first love, teaching. After a spell as Head of English at Hulme Grammar School he successfully applied for the post of Headmaster at The Royal Latin Grammar School in Buckingham which was where I came into his orbit.

I feel fortunate to have known him, for he never forgot his experiences in both the Royal Navy and the School which gave him his first great chance in life. He always supported the Grammar School concept, believing it gave the best chance to children from under-privileged backgrounds and he changed many students lives for the better.

SCHOOLNEWS



## Guys and Dolls musical's a big hit

The Senior School production of *Guys and Dolls* was a fabulous celebration of the very best of 20th Century musical theatre. Eye catching, ear tingling, slick and superb, Damon Runyon's New York yarns won riotous standing ovations.

Audience numbers tipped 1,000 over the three-night run of this gloriously kitsch caper with two love affairs at the centre: one between Nathan Detroit and Miss Adelaide that has been on a knife edge for 14 years; the other a last-minute trip for Sky Masterson and Sally Army Captain Sarah Brown that becomes a date with destiny.

Year 13 Seb Fitzgerald made a wonderful, wisecracking wide boy. Spouting a superb, quick-fire Bronx drawl, Seb lit up the stage – the only problem being how could he possibly have left Phoebe Harrison's Miss Adelaide on tenterhooks for 14 years. Gloriously feminine and infectiously funny, Phoebe played his put-upon sweetheart with immense style and wit, the pair butting up against each other with faultless timing.

The other relationship builds like a tornado, the charismatic baritone Jake O'Donnell, more than doing justice to the role made famous by Marlon

Brando. Jake governed the stage, melting hearts with his conversion from greedy gambler to God-fearing role model. Ava Bygrave played his heart's desire Sarah Brown. From frosty to beautifully boozy heroine, Ava was graceful but tough, refined but ever ready to rough it to save her souls in the Big Apple's ghettos. Raph Sherry was simply brilliant as the iconic fixer Nicely Nicely Johnson, and he formed a tight almost telepathic double act with the wilful and whacky William Gandy as Benny

Southstreet. Caoimhe Durkin could have come straight off the New York track as Harry Horse, while Beth Davies as Lieutenant Brannigan grew suitably frustrated as she could never quite catch up with the capers.

It was King's new Head of Drama Chloe Deva's first major show, producing a series of multi-coloured tableaux to fix the eye and drilling her cast to make the very most of a wonderful song list, *Luck Be a Lady* and *Sit Down You're Rocking the Boat* maximising the talents of the full cast.

## Gender Inequality Day for pupils

norms and stereotypes, and create positive change towards gender equality and inclusive communities. Pupils were also lucky to hear from a number of former pupils – including **Anna Beesley (2010)**, **Elena Boden (2017)**, **Tori Blackwell (2018)** and **Maddie Coutts (2013)** – who attended the workshops in person, with two alumni joining virtually – **Kate Hawker (2014)** from Cape Town and **Reesha Sodha (2005)** from Washington DC – which added a global perspective.

The emphasis on discussing peer and social pressures faced by pupils is crucial, as it helps them

understand challenges their peers may be going through and fosters empathy. Such initiatives contribute to building a school community that is not only academically focused, but also socially aware and responsible.

Helen Broadley, Principal of the Senior Division, commented: "It was a great day of learning which enabled all who took part to gain a deeper understanding of the impact of stereotypes on them and others, an opportunity to discuss peer and social pressures faced and an understanding of the impact that behaviours and attitudes can have on others."



Pupils in Year 9 and Year 11 took part in a Gender Inequality Day to help equip them with the skills to challenge gender stereotyping and sexism, today and in the future.

The School was delighted to be joined by Beyond Equality, an organisation which works with men and boys to disrupt harmful social

# King's ranked in top 5 NW schools

Earlier this year, King's recorded its highest ever position in the influential *Sunday Times* Parent Power 2024 Guide, coming fourth from all the independent secondary schools across the North West.

King's jumped up from seventh after bucking the national trend in last summer's GCSE and A Levels. At GCSE, 43% of all grades were at A\* up from 40% the previous year. At A Level, a third of students achieved at least three As, despite higher grade boundaries post-Covid. Head, Jason Slack, said: "There is so much more to a school than any league table position, but nonetheless this is a



very pleasing outcome. We have very strong teaching with very well qualified and experienced teachers making sure the children learn what they need to know. More than that, we continually emphasise the broader skills, enabling children to take responsibility for their own learning. "We were the first

school nationwide to gain the Learning Quality Framework's Gold Standard which underlines using creative and innovative methods of teaching to make sure children better understand and remember knowledge.

"It's not just about giving the children facts and expecting them to absorb that knowledge but enabling them to discover and explore knowledge for themselves by prompting and guiding them."

"We aim to ensure that whatever sparks and motivates a child's interest is fed inside and outside the classroom. It's a complete package because we know happy children make good learners."

SPORTSNEWS

## U14 Rugby squad are National Champions!



Having beaten Prince Henry's Grammar School Otley in the quarter final and then Northampton Grammar in the semi-final, the boys in blue knew they needed one final push for glory. Speaking before the game, skipper and fly-half Hayden Oliver said: "We've done nothing until we win the final and we'll be playing hard from the first whistle." He was true to his word, as he led an early and devastating onslaught which saw them take a 14-0 lead in the first six minutes.

The Bristolians did not know what had hit them with Oliver jinking left and right to dance under the posts before classy scrum-half, Alfie Tinkler, pounced from close range. Power house titan Number 8 Harry Ashbrook then scored the first of a glorious hat-trick bull dozing over the line to leave King's 19-0 up at half time. King's extended that lead after the break and went on to celebrate their first major national trophy win since 1948.

Just three days later, it was time for the U14 girls to play in their national final. The England Netball National Schools Competition is the largest and longest running tournament in

English Netball, with around 1,500 schools taking part each year. King's U14 squad (pictured below) emerged victorious in the county and regional levels – winning the Cheshire County Cup for the third successive year – and earned their spot to represent the North West in the national final at Oundle School. Coach Mel Stephens said: "The path to the final was paved with unwavering determination, showcased brilliantly by the players." The team finished fourth overall – a fantastic achievement.

Last year, *School Sports' Magazine* placed King's in the UK's top 25 sporting schools. Over the same weekend, 45 King's pupils competed in the National Trampoline Finals, with four teams winning the title of national champions.



# Our Generous Donors

More than 500 years ago, King's founder Sir John Percyvale gifted a chantry school in his hometown of Macclesfield. The school was established shortly after Sir John's death through his legacy, in 1502, and the school has been underpinned by philanthropy ever since. King's own Percyvale Society was formed to recognise those who pledge to support us by leaving a legacy in their wills. Two members explain what motivates them...



**David Hutt (1958)**

One Saturday morning in 1948, an apprehensive small boy set off with his father from the lanes of Marple to Macclesfield. We came to a building called the King's School where I was to take my first ever exam. We were told there would be a break when we could go to the tuck shop – A tuck shop! I had read about tuck shops, but never been to one. Rationing was still on, so choice was limited. Just Marmite sandwiches at 1d, 2d or 3d; a sandwich never tasted so good! A few days later a letter arrived with the news that I had a place in Junior School. So began ten happy years. Three years later came the 11 plus, which you had to pass to get into Senior School. Every boy who did so was awarded a free place. Senior School was very different. You felt somehow quite grown up.

Encouraged by two schoolmasters, Dickie Haresign and WS 'Slogger' Logan, I discovered a talent for Modern Languages. They both inspired me with what has been a lifelong love of French and German literature, language and culture. I studied Modern Languages at university and worked abroad in the vacations to improve my French and German, and both were useful assets throughout my later business career. In my twenties, I spent several years behind the Iron Curtain, before going on to Harvard Business School, then into general management. I met my wife in Australia during a wonderful time in the 1970s. We then came back to Wiltshire where we had three daughters and now three granddaughters, too. Foreign languages have always played a large part in my life and it all started at King's. The teaching I

received helped widen my horizons enormously. I recently came to see the new school, so light and airy, filled with the chatter of eager young girls and boys, and came away with a light heart, marvelling that this huge project, conceived and realised by a generation of governors, headmasters, staff, parents and fundraisers was complete. The very first fundraiser – Sir John Percyvale – was a very rich man. And what he did more than five hundred years ago, was an act of great benefaction. I doubt he ever imagined his first little grammar school, would become this magnificent school surrounded by acres of playing fields. I am so glad to be a member of the Percyvale Society and will leave a legacy to the School. Why don't you, join as well?



**William Hancock (1945)**

In 1938 at the age of 11, I was awarded a Cheshire County Scholarship to attend King's, which included my tuition fees, rail fares and books! After taking the Cambridge School Certificate, then Headmaster TT Shaw, persuaded my parents to allow me to stay at King's for a further two years to take the Northern Universities Higher School Certificate. I attained good results in all these exams. During my time at King's, I was awarded rugby colours at 14, and

was a member of the Magnificent Seven (I am now the sole survivor), playing under Roy Forster's captaincy. I was Thorneycroft House captain, a school prefect, fives captain, a member of the school shooting eight, and led the school orchestra as I played violin. These successes were brought about because of the excellent tuition and friendliness of the staff. I was not a well-off pupil financially and I owe a great deal to King's. After leaving King's, I became a senior lecturer in Structural and Civil Engineering at the College of

Building Stoke-on-Trent and took Diplomas in violin teaching and playing. My retirement has been enhanced due to my background at King's School, including playing violin in chamber music, attending concerts and the occasional former pupil social event. So I asked myself "What could I do to repay King's for all it has done for me?" The answer was clear. To leave a legacy in my will to help pupils like I was. I implore Former Pupils to do the same as a thank you for all you have received.

The King's School and me...why I regularly give to support the **School's Bursary Fund**.



**John Barber (1966)**

All my relatives on both sides of the family were farmers. My paternal grandfather owned Pye Greave Farm in Langley and it was always my father's plan that we would move to our own farm. But my grandfather had other ideas – he wanted succession for Pye Greave and, inevitably, my dad ended up working alongside him and delivering the village's milk. By some miracle, I scraped through my 11+. The narrowness of my Langley County Primary School's curriculum was no preparation for Grammar School. My parents had left school at 14, and I was the first person in our family to attend, so I had little idea what to expect.

That first day at King's was a terrifying experience. The entire school of about a thousand boys was lined up in class order in the open air quad. We were kept there until someone owned up to having broken a branch on a tree: the reluctant culprit eventually cracked and he was from our year. We were then marched to our classrooms – mine (being the bottom form) wasn't even on the campus but in a separate building at Beech Lane. My poor primary education in Maths meant I struggled to keep up and I would end up getting the lowest level of pass at O Level. I also dropped Sciences as soon as I was allowed, but managed the remaining subjects, albeit often to an indifferent standard.

I cannot believe how lucky I was to attend King's and have the opportunities it brought me. One particular teacher, gave me the chance to fulfil my potential. Despite not really having evident qualification for being put into the

Modern stream, my then form teacher, Mr Nick Wrigley, must have seen something in me and I am forever grateful to Mr Wrigley. It was wonderful a few years ago to write to him and tell him what a difference he made to my life by believing in me.

"Modern" life was the turning point for me. My teachers throughout my O Level years were good, but in Sixth Form they were all exceptional. I also benefited from being able to follow my interests and strengths. I was allowed to take Latin O level from scratch in case I needed it for university entrance. The A level teachers encouraged us to look at the subjects in a mature and reflective way which enthused us. They treated us as adults. Modern life also meant growing my hair long, inspired by The Beatles and Stones – necessitating much checking round corners in case Headmaster, Mr Shaw, would send me to get it cut.

Another person who believed in me was my Grandma – for every term's report during my entire seven years at King's she gave me a 10 shilling note. This countered my parents' dismay and alarm at my occasionally bolshy behaviour.

My mother's expression in response to this attitude was "He's fallen off the King's School Wall". My feeling is that if I did fall from that wall, then I fell into grace, via university and a fulfilling career, because I was lucky enough to go to King's.

**SUPPORTING KING'S**

## How can you support?

There are many ways in which former pupils can support King's, whether through event attendance, participating in one of our speakers' clubs, mentoring current pupils and simply keeping your details up to date, we really have a great community.

Some alumni choose to financially support us too, this can be in the form of donating to capital appeals, purchasing items such as books for the school and donating to the school in the form of one-off payments, setting up a regular donation, or even pledging a legacy gift.

Our donors play a crucial role in enabling us to provide bursary funding to those pupils who require financial assistance, and the consistent kindness of our donors ensures stability and predictability in the bursary funding we are able to offer. All contributions make a significant impact for pupils and the generosity of our donors demonstrates a commitment to making a difference and often wanting to 'pay it forward' so others can experience the inspirational teaching and opportunities that they once had. Over the coming months, the Development Office will be doing some research within our community and launching some new initiatives to help support the long-term philanthropic vision of the school so do keep your eyes peeled.

In the meantime, if you would be interested to find out more about options available or would like an informal chat about giving to the school, please call **Debbie Dawson** on **01625 412329** or email **debbie.dawson@kingsmac.co.uk**.

FOND FAREWELL

OBITUARIES

**John Astbury (1963)** died in August, 2023, aged 77.

**Barry Edwards (Staff 1970–2005)**, died in March 2023, aged 77. He had been a stalwart member of the English department for 35 years, teaching throughout the age range, and hugely respected, in particular by generations of pupils for his classroom ability to make the subject come alive. He also contributed to King's more widely, with early responsibilities for the subject in the lower school, including the 11<sup>+</sup> entrance exam. And his involvement in extra-curricular activities was widespread and committed. Many theatre trips to take pupils to see plays supported his classroom teaching, but 2nd XV rugby, skiing trips, badminton, DofE expeditions and sailing were also much the stronger at King's for Barry's involvement and he continued to support both DofE and sailing well beyond his 2005 retirement. In summary, a proper committed, old-fashioned schoolmaster.

(• A personal tribute by Barry's English department colleague Reg Davenport is on the King's Connect website.)

**Stanley Dennington Pratt (1943)** died in October 2023, aged 98. He grew up within the David Lewis Centre – his father was engineer there – and, after King's, where Head TT Shaw recommended a career in medicine to him, he qualified in 1948 in Medicine at Manchester



University. After two years national service as an army anaesthetist based in Gibraltar, he returned to a career as a doctor locally. He was a highly respected GP in Chelford for many years, as well as a consultant anaesthetist in various Manchester hospitals. At school, he had been a Fives player (courts behind the Physics Block,

Sadly, we are unable to include all tributes to friends we said farewell to this past year, but if you would like to read the full obituary list, please visit: [www.connect.kingsmac.co.uk/news](http://www.connect.kingsmac.co.uk/news)



later the bike sheds!), but his main interest outside medicine throughout his adult life was as a very keen gardener.

**Alan Hanson (1959)** died in March 2024, aged 81. At King's, Alan had been a considerable sportsman – first in the Junior School, and later as 1st XV fly-half as well as a 2nd XI cricketer and 100m record holder – and he continued this interest for the rest of his life. After taking a degree in Geography at Liverpool University, he began his working life with Joseph Lucas engineering in Birmingham, but soon moved back to the area to work in the family packaging business, where he stayed until he retired. Manchester RUFC was another major part of his life. He was a player for many years, and later a significant administrator at the club – indeed, in due course he was honoured to be Club President. Alan was also a very active supporter of King's former pupil functions, not to mention of Manchester City FC. (Much of this information came from his son Anton (1989), also a stalwart 1st XV player, and long-established member of staff at Stockport GS.)

**Chris Lewis (1979)**, who we featured in 2021 after he suffered catastrophic spinal injuries when on a mountain rescue mission in the Lake District, died in September 2023, aged 62. After months in intensive care, Chris had been able to return home, but sadly contracted pneumonia and died. A valued member of the Patterdale Mountain Rescue Team, Chris sustained his injuries trying to rescue two men who were, at the time, in breach of lockdown regulations.



**John Nutter (Staff, 1966–71)** died in 2023, in Sheffield, where he had moved to live in retirement. With a degree in English from Cambridge (Queens' College) behind him, followed by an Education Diploma from Bristol University, John taught English at King's for five years, before moving to Appleton GS near Warrington – later Appleton High School – where he spent the remainder of his teaching career.

**Bill Rushbrooke (1967)** died in August 2023, aged 74. After King's, and A Levels in Languages and History, he first worked for Shell in London, but then retrained, via a BEd in Business Studies and Education, then an MSc in Management Studies. For the next 25 years, Bill was a principal lecturer and senior academic tutor in the School of Business and Social Sciences at what is now the University of Roehampton, London. Together with a colleague, Bill also set up the Centre for the Study of Voluntary and Community Action at the university, and then on retirement they established a successful consultancy. Bill also published a management book, and contributed articles in *The Banker* magazine. His own voluntary activities were many, including with the lecturers' trade union NATFHE and the Voluntary Action History Society. Once retired, his volunteering grew even further, particularly in his local community. A keen rugby player at King's, outdoor activities also featured in adult life as Bill's main activity, not to mention various crafts and Fulham FC! (Bill's father **Jack** was Head of Maths and later Senior Master at King's until he retired in 1978, after 32 years service. And older brother **Nick (1965)** was also at King's, going to Imperial College, London to take a degree in Civil Engineering, and then spending his working life in the water industry in the north-west, up to management and board level.



A basketball great

**Jim Bennison MBE (1951)** died in April, 2023, aged 92. Jim attended King's 1942–51, and then, after two years' national service, went to Loughborough College to take a teaching qualification. After a short time in Dukinfield, he moved to Brinnington Secondary Modern School in Stockport, where he taught Art for the rest of his career.

At King's, Jim was a notable sportsman – 1st XI cricket, and colours for 1st XV rugby 1948–51, including as captain in 1950/51. He carried on his sporting interests for the rest of his life, though most notably in basketball. In fact, he was awarded the MBE for services to the sport in 2003.

He was instrumental in founding what began as Brinnington Lapwings in 1963, as an offshoot from a responsibility he had as head of the evening school at Brinnington, and headed its huge development into Stockport Basketball Club, a club with a local, and later national, reputation – they won the women's National Basketball Cup in 2021/22, for example, as well as many other local and national cups and awards.

The club also boasts several England caps, including the captain at the 2012 London Olympics. When Jim



died, tributes poured in from all over the world of basketball :



*"His words of wisdom and advice have influenced many players and coaches, his passion for the game was infectious yet he was such a gentle and kind man"*

(His club's spokesman)

*"A kinder, more generous person you could not wish to meet – except of course when you were coaching against his side!"*

(NW region spokesman)

*"One of the true guardians of our sport."*

(National level spokesman)



(Jim's granddaughter, **Charlotte Cramp**, also attended King's, leaving in 2018.)

After 'retirement' in 2001, Nick then took on a wide variety of significant voluntary roles, including consultant to the Manchester Commonwealth Games, Chairs of the Merseyside Prince's Trust and of the St Helens Chamber of Commerce and JP).

**Nick Walker (1974)** died in October 2023, aged 67. A keen scout as a youngster, Nick's main extra-curricular interest at King's was cricket – though he also enjoyed the camaraderie of 3rd XV rugby in the winter in the sixth form; a rangy seam bowler, he took 22 wickets at just 17.6 for the 1st XI in 1974, and indeed carried on playing well into adulthood, in particular for Monton CC. After King's, he gained a teaching qualification at Padgate College, Warrington, though never became a teacher, choosing instead to go into sports centre management, then

moving onto procurement. Initially working in the nuclear industry, he later became a self-employed consultant, working in the rail industry and for local authorities. (Nick's elder brother, **Martin**, also attended King's, leaving in 1972 – when he was 1st XI cricket captain.)

**Norman Walker (1958)** died in July, 2023, aged 83. He was a long-time supporter of the school's Hardship Fund.

**Michael Wright (1973)** died suddenly in November, 2022, aged 68. He was Principal double bass player with the Scottish Chamber Orchestra and for many years, Principal too with the BBC National Orchestra of Wales. Michael travelled widely during his musical career, including Europe, Russia, US, Canada and Japan. He left King's as 1973 Music Prize winner, as

well as with an excellent set of A Level results, and a Grade 8 with Distinction in Associated Board Music exams, in the double bass. We were notified of Michael's passing by his father, **Richard (1946)**, also a King's former pupil.



• We also recently heard of the death of **Roger Minshull (1954)** and **Timothy Selfe (1962)**. For more details, plus more extensive obituaries on some of the above, please visit King's Connect.

# EVENTS ROUND-UP



## Alan McInnes Golf Day

The ladies' team led by **Katie Jordan (1999)** won the annual Alan McInnes Bursary Fund Golf Day. The event was the best-attended yet, raising the most ever for the School's Bursary Fund.

The golf event honours former teacher Alan McInnes, and this year 19 teams of former pupils, parents and staff competed on a sun-soaked day at Prestbury Golf Course. The event raises funds to enable local children whose parents would not normally be able to afford the fees, to attend King's. The event raised almost £9,000 for the Bursary Fund. Nicola Moores said: "My father came

to King's and his family simply would not have been able to afford fees. He knew only too well that his love of cricket and rugby was nurtured in that environment and that he may not have gone on to have the career he loved so much. That's why supporting the Bursary Fund was so important to him."

## Former Pupils' Sports Day & Cricket

Former pupils were welcomed back to School last September to play against current pupils in hockey and netball matches. It was a great day and the event finished with a hog roast and drinks. Former pupils were victorious in both games. Also taking place that month was the Former pupils' select XI cricket, who played a School team in a high-scoring thriller. Former pupils needed six to level the scores off the match's final ball of the match, and Nick Barker, former pupil and current member of staff, almost got the job done, but his shot fell just short of the boundary and the School side ended up winners by two runs. To take part in the next Former Pupils' Sports Day or put a team together for a match, please email [development@kingsmac.co.uk](mailto:development@kingsmac.co.uk)

## Drinks in the City

October saw the first 'Drinks in the City' event since 2019. The event took place at The Charterhouse London courtesy of former pupil **Peter Aiers, OBE (1992)**, Master and Chief Executive of The Charterhouse and we thank him for welcoming us to such a beautiful venue. The Charterhouse is a former Carthusian monastery, between Barbican and Smithfield Market. Since the 16th century, the site has served as a private mansion, a boys' school and an almshouse, which it remains to this day.



## Rugby World Cup Debrief

In November, King's hosted an insightful Rugby World Cup 2023 debrief with England players George Ford, Manu Tuilagi, Tom Curry and Bevan Rodd. The event was part of the Will Cliff 'Cliffy 9' Testimonial year which supported three charities The Joshua Tree, Restart Rugby and The Sale Sharks Foundation.



## Macclesfield Select 15 v King's Old Boys Rugby

Our annual charity rugby match was a great success at Macclesfield Rugby Club at Christmas, raising over

£1,000. Thank you to Macclesfield Rugby Club for hosting, FPA Secretary Tristan Wood and King's Sport staff for organising and to main sponsors CSG Automotive. The match was won by King's, 27-5, it was fantastic to see a great crowd and a full clubhouse.



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## STAY IN TOUCH!

Hundreds of former pupils use the school website, Facebook page and King's Connect to keep up to date. These contain events, former pupils news and details of how to get involved and support the school. Please see: [www.kingsmac.co.uk](http://www.kingsmac.co.uk)



Keep connected with our online King's alumni network, **King's Connect**. Scan QR code or visit:

[www.connect.kingsmac.co.uk](http://www.connect.kingsmac.co.uk)



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## DIARY DATES 2024

**Thursday 9 May**  
*Alumni Golf Day | Knutsford Golf Club*

**Thursday 6 June**  
*Alan McInnes Bursary Golf Day*

**Wednesday 12 June**  
*Summer Alumni Lunch*

**Thursday 27 June**  
*Alumni Cricket | King's campus*

**Tuesday 2 July**  
*Alumni Golf Day | Bramhall Golf Club*

**Wednesday 3 July**  
*Summer Soirée &  
Class of 2023 frisbee reunion*

**Friday 13 September**  
*Alumni Golf Day | Macc Golf Club*

**Thursday 28 November**  
*Drinks in the City London*

**Wednesday 11 December**  
*Christmas Alumni Lunch*