



King's Worcester Bulletin

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The King's School Fête on the first May bank holiday which raised more than £16,000 for local charities and school projects

For the first time in many years of penning this piece for the Bulletin, I do so as a foreign correspondent. Three teachers are preparing to accompany a group of King's Lower Sixth students to the European Parliament in Strasbourg where, together with fellow students from France and Germany with whom they have been working over the last few months, they will present a set of ten recommendations for a unified approach to education in Europe to MEPs from our three countries. I don't think that we shall change the world but the main benefit to us, as is so often the case, has been in the preparation rather than the outcome. Over the last two years, about forty King's pupils and twelve teachers have been involved in a partnership which has encouraged us all to see ourselves as citizens of Europe rather than of just one of the 27 member states. It is so much easier to do this when you are working on a common project with students and teachers in other European countries. You are obliged to look at the bigger picture. The European election which we held last term was an attempt to do this in a small way. We are planning now for a further project with five other countries in which we hope to involve a whole year group at King's. Watch this space.

At the end of this term, Donald Howell, the Chairman of the Governors at King's for the last 24 years, retires. He has actually been a governor since 1973 which was only about 12 years after he left the school as a pupil. As a governor has seen the school through some very big changes: going fully independent, taking in girls throughout the school, welcoming Hawford into the King's Foundation and bringing the boarding era to a satisfactory conclusion being some of the more important. The years in which he has been chairman have been characterised by clear decision making, prudent financial management and excellent communication with all parts of the King's community.

He has presided over, and been central to the implementation of a ten-year improvement plan which has transformed the school site. King's has been very fortunate indeed to have such a man overseeing and safeguarding its best interests. I hope that many of you will be able to be with us on King's Day (8th July) when we shall pay tribute to Donald's service to the school.

The King's Fête earlier this term was a most successful and enjoyable day. The pictures above give a flavour of it and you can read more about it inside this issue. I am very grateful for the practical help of so many parents and to the Parents Committee, led by Rob Richards, in particular. It was a huge feat of organisation which was managed with admirable good-humoured teamwork.

Public exams are nearly over for another academic year. Parents will be as relieved as their sons and daughters will be to have come through this particular ordeal, especially if you have had more than one child towards or at the top end of the school. It really is a bit of a treadmill. It should not be a matter of pride that our children are the most examined in Europe. This summer we will have the A* grade at A level for the first time. I do not even want to begin to think about that until mid-August! I wish you all a good summer.

Tim Keyes

Headmaster
The King's School, Worcester

A pick of recent events and achievements...

The summer programme of **residential trips** and **outward bound activities** at **King's Hawford** is now well underway. This is an extensive programme which involves all children from Year 2 to Year 6. Year 2 have visited the Old Chapel whilst Year 4 have been to Pembrokeshire. Year 5 have camped in Malvern and Year 6 are preparing for their trip to Carsington in the Peak District where they will be participating in a range of water-based activities.

The **swimming pool** has reopened following refurbishment and the construction of an enclosure, allowing the pool to be used all year round. This has been a major project and has involved the Parents' Association at King's Hawford in a number of fund-raising events which have in total contributed £50,000 towards the cost of the enclosure. The enclosure is a French design and was judged to be best from a number of options considered over the two year period of fund-raising and planning consent applications.

King's Hawford has recently been awarded **Healthy School status** in recognition of the school's work to provide healthy, well balanced meals, a Health Education Programme and a range of physical activities. It is the first independent school in Worcestershire to be awarded this status.

During the past month at **King's St. Alban's**, children in Year 6 have enjoyed a carousel of activity that has included a **Science Week**, an **Old Chapel Camp**, an **IT Week** and, finally, a **visit to Normandy**. In addition to the academic learning, this programme has enabled the children to learn much about living with other people and about working in teams on longer term projects.

This term Year 4 has enjoyed a **Farm Visit** to Roots of Rushwick; Year 3 has been studying **land use** in Eckington and Pershore; Year 5 planned a **monastic day** at Worcester Cathedral and the Pre-prep staged an **Around the World Day** during which the children spent time learning about other countries' cultures and traditions.

At the **Senior School**, the English Department took all of the Lower Remove (Year 9) to an evening performance of **Romeo and Juliet** at the RSC, Stratford. The production has been very favourably reviewed in the national press, and even if our pupils weren't as effusive in their praise, they certainly enjoyed the fire, the violence, the spectacular dancing, a very rude Mercutio and an engagingly modern and accessible pair of lovers.

The **Young Enterprise** year has come to a close with two of our companies doing particularly well: *Iconic* and *ReVert* reached the Hereford and Worcester Strategic Final at The Courtyard Theatre in Hereford where *ReVert* were Joint Runners Up for Best Company in the two counties and also took the environmental prize.

At the start of a busy term for the **Foundation Development Office**, OV (former pupil) Linda Crow (Co 88-90) returned to the school as the first female *Barnabas Group* speaker. She addressed the assembly in College Hall and met with pupils to talk about her work in the City and careers in banking and finance.

Almost 130 OVs and guests attended the **10th Annual London Dinner** held at the House of Lords. Guests enjoyed tours of both Houses which were being prepared for the new parliament, and then were welcomed to the dinner by our hostess and sponsor, Baroness Garden of Frogna, wife of the late Tim Garden (Cr 52-62).

A total of 168 Upper and Lower Fourth Form pupils (Years 7 and 8) took part in the **Junior Maths Challenge** in April. Again, the results were excellent, with David Hui scoring the highest mark in the school. David Hui and Toby Wells have been invited to participate in the Junior Olympiad in June. There were 19 Gold, 29 Silver and 33 Bronze Certificates awarded. Well done!

The **King's School Fête** took place on May Day and was opened by Worcester Warriors star, Miles Benjamin. The school grounds were packed with thousands of Bank Holiday visitors enjoying around 100

stalls, the majority manned by school pupils keen to raise funds for the Fête's chosen charities: *Maggs Day Centre*, *Noah's Ark Trust*, the *Worcester Breast Unit Appeal* and the *King's Foundation*. As usual the Giant Slide was a big attraction as was the Bungee Challenge, whilst the King's Hawford Maypole Dancing certainly drew the crowds. The weather was kind and there was a real buzz about the site, from the plethora of King's St. Alban's stalls in the gardens to the School House area filled with imaginative and well-run Fourth Form stalls. The Houses competed for business on College Green; the Boat Club and Himalayan Club were also involved in the day, along with a lively and impressive choir, *Voices Unlimited*, which included a good number of King's teachers. All in all, the Fête was a superb Foundation event which raised more than £16,000. The event's success is down to a huge amount of work by a lot of people and our thanks go to everyone who contributed from all three schools, particularly the King's School Parents' Committee which organised the event.

This year's **Engineering Education Scheme** involved four Lower Sixth students, Anthony Lock, Ben Engstrom, Josh Wickens and Stuart Whitehouse, working with *Monosol* (a company which manufactures water soluble films in Hartlebury) to solve an engineering problem. Their task was to design a modification to the way in which Aerosil, a very fine fumed silica powder, is automatically added during the mixing phase in the manufacture of water soluble films. They presented their ingenious solution at the EES celebration and assessment day held in Solihull.

Professional artist Louise Waugh delighted visitors with her exhibition of beautiful paintings. Her watercolour workshop was popular at the **Art Department's Family Day**, at which Katie Pruden, Artist-in-Residence, also welcomed people of all ages to her drop-in community project. The results will be exhibited at our **'Words Alive!'** festival.

The **School Concert** and **Keys Society Concert**, held shortly before the start of public exams, were most successful, highlighting the considerable talents of our Upper Sixth leavers. Especially notable was the full Choir's performance of Handel's four *Coronation Anthems*.

The May **Young Performers' Concert** provided a platform for many Lower Remove (Year 9) pupils to perform for the final time. A packed programme offered an eclectic mix of styles and was thoroughly enjoyed by a supportive audience.

All Fourth Form and Lower Remove pupils (Years 7 - 9) studying French watched the play *Le Bistrot de Dan*, a one-man show performed with great skill and versatility in a mixture of French and English, at the John Moore Theatre.

Individual and ambitious fine-art was presented by 70 pupils at the annual **GCSE Exhibition** in the Art School.

Members of the Upper Sixth enjoyed **Leavers' Day** by attending their last official day of teaching in a splendid variety of fancy dress costumes including two boxed Barbies, a blue chap from *Avatar* complete with yellow eyes, a host of superheroes, animals, pirates, parrots and assorted barbecue items. They were entertained by a comedian, a film tribute by members of staff and a nostalgic, photographic presentation from the Heads and Deputy Heads of School. After a quiz in the afternoon, the day ended with the traditional barbecue in the School Gardens attended by the leavers and many members of staff. The weather, as always, was kind and we hope that the sunny memories will sustain them through the exam period!

Ann Widdicombe spoke to an audience of about a hundred in the John Moore Theatre. Speaking in support of the *King's School Worcester Nepal Trust*, she talked about her life as a politician, a novelist and a television presenter before fielding questions. As you would expect, she was honest, forthright and highly amusing. We are very grateful to her for giving her time to our charity fundraising.

In a season of 'rebuilding', the First XI **Cricket** team has worked hard and there have been many fine individual performances, particularly captain Tom Bird's 90 at Solihull. Alastair Hunt has already scored two centuries for the Under 15 side and the Under 14, 13 and 12 XIs are progressing

Congratulations to...

- **Charles Clark, Max Davies, Tom Hale** and **George Hale** from King's Hawford who were the U9 winners at the Midlands' Schools track meeting held at Blue Coat School.
- **Anna Taylor** (*Victorian Medicine*) and **Cameron Stanley-Blakey** (*London Transport and the Congestion Zone*), joint winners of the Year 6 Public Speaking Competition at King's Hawford.
- **George Blinman-Wilson, Ruth Furber, Harry Guy, Sophie Mackay, Josie Cameron** and **Amalie Coleman** (Year 6) and **William Hodgetts** (Year 5), all from King's St. Alban's, who reached the finals of the National Primary Maths Challenge. William won a Bronze Award, placing him in the top 0.5% in the country!
- All those pupils at **King's St. Alban's** who have been working so hard at their *tables challenges* and received certificates earlier this term.
- **Peter Shepherd** and **Andrew Lovelock** (Upper Remove / Year 10) who were invited to participate in the Intermediate Olympiad stage of the Maths Challenge. They did very well indeed with Andrew being awarded a merit and Peter a distinction.
- **Charlie Titmuss** (U6) who won the Scott Cup for Tennis for the second consecutive year.
- All those pupils who have qualified for the County Athletics Championships: *Junior Boys* - **Harry Perry** (100m), **Martyn Bowles** (High Jump and Discus) and **Blair Innerarity** (Triple Jump); *Intermediate Boys* - **David Serafini** (100m and 200m), **Jack Dodd** (800m), **Thomas Stock** (1,500m) and **David Jubb** (3,000m); *Senior Boys* - **Sebastian Jamous** (100m and 200m), **Joseph Grisdale** (400m) and **Alexander Roberts** (800m); *Junior Girls* - **Frances Taylor** (Shot) and **Cleo England** (Discus); *Intermediate Girls* - **Lorna Phillips** (100m), **Isabelle Jamous** (200m), **Alice Wright** (1,500m and 3,000m) and **Elise Bue** (Shot and Discus); *Senior Girls* - **Elizabeth Bennett** (100m).



Photographs - clockwise from top-left:

- *Maypole dancers at the King's Hawford May Fête*
- *Newly refurbished and covered swimming pool at King's Hawford*
- *Year 6 children from King's St. Alban's enjoy a variety of activities*
- *The First XI Cricket Team on tour in Spain*
- *The EES team with Martin Osborne from Monosol*
- *Leavers' Day fancy dress*



well in their County Cup competitions.

The U13 **Mini Hockey** team performed admirably in the County rounds and qualified for the regional finals at Cannock. The girls played extremely well in the group stages and benefited enormously from the experience.

Poynder Tennis and weekly tennis squad sessions have had a very good rate of attendance this term. The U15s have enjoyed the most success with an 8-1 win over Dean Close, a 6-0 win over Hereford and a 7-2 win against Malvern St. James.

Many **Rounders** fixtures have been played with all sides participating in a local league. The U14s are unbeaten in both the league and Saturday fixtures; the U18, U13 and U12 sides have not lost a match to date.

The **Boat Club** has had a very productive regatta season thus far. Almost 100 rowers raced at the Shrewsbury Regatta, with a fantastic 15 crew wins, amassing 64 pewter tankards. Crews also excelled at the Worcester Regatta with numerous wins across the whole club. The National Schools' Regatta was held at Nottingham over the half term, with key performances from our Upper Remove (Year 10) girls and the most outstanding result from our Fifth Form (Year 11) girls, who won a bronze medal in the Junior 16 Quad Scull.

Canalside Commission

Teacher Kathy Turk reports on the mosaics project at King's Hawford

With the reconnection of the River Severn and the Droitwich canal, there has been some work done on the local history surrounding the canal. Once the project is complete, interviews with people who lived and worked on the waterway will be available through 'listening posts'. British Waterways wanted some mosaics to decorate these posts to enhance the canal's banks and asked King's Hawford to help.

The children in Year 5 were commissioned to make 17 mosaics showing responses to the canal and its banks. It was marvellous for the children to develop an understanding of what it means to work on a commission. First they had to go down and see part of the site where their work would be displayed. They took both macro and landscape photographs to record various views. It would have been ideal if they had been able to draw beside the canal, but as we unfortunately visited on a chilly damp day in November and the banks were unbelievably muddy, this proved a step too far.

In order to understand the sort of designs which are effective in a mosaic, the children studied the work of contemporary mosaicists. This

helped them to begin to realise how the placing of the tiles affects the flow of the design. In addition to this, they made mosaics using paper squares of the same size as the actual tesserae they would be using. They were only allowed to cut the paper in straight lines; if they needed a curved cut, this had to be produced by making several straight cuts, mimicking the way they would have to cut the tiles for their outdoor work. This developed a good basic understanding of the limits and charm of the medium. In pairs or small groups, they produced



Children at work on the mosaics and two of the finished panels

designs inspired by their site visit, rising brilliantly to the specific demands of the commission.

Having been taught how to cut the vitreous glass tiles safely, the children worked in teams to mark out, cut and glue each individual piece. Some designs required tiles to be cut several times to produce exactly the shape desired. There was excellent teamwork in the process, with tiles being passed back to the cutter until the exact shape had been produced.

The children really enjoyed the entire process of producing the commission. Their work will shortly be mounted along a 17 mile stretch of the Droitwich canal and we are looking forward to visiting the work once it is in place.

King's School Parents' Committee

Gazebos for hire

- Really easy to put up and take down
- Detachable sides
- Three available
- Hire charge £30 for the weekend per gazebo
- £50 refundable deposit



Please contact parents@ksw.org.uk to book or for more details

Dates for your diary

Please make a note of these dates for events in the Autumn Term:

Friday 8 October

Quiz Night

Friday 25 November

Parents' Committee Ball

King's Hawford Parents' Association

Annual Camp Out

Saturday 11 September 2010

This popular event, held in the school grounds, attracts over 200 parents, children and friends. A large camp fire, activities, music and sale of food and drinks all add to a great atmosphere for everyone to enjoy. Contact the school for more information.

WORDS ALIVE!

Tuesday 29 June – Friday 2 July

A festival to celebrate the spoken and written word

Details of workshops and evening activities with professional artists and performers aimed at all ages and abilities can be found in the Arts Programme and will be on the website.

We look forward to welcoming you and your family.

Please note:

The performance of **NOYE'S FLUDDE** scheduled for the final week of term has been postponed until the autumn.

The **Keys Society Concert** will now take place on **Tuesday 6 July at 7.30 pm.**



Jam Jars!

Clean jam jars (with lids if possible) and plastic containers are always needed and gratefully received by the Art Department.

Please leave them in the entrance of the Art School.

Thank you.