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Issue 52



**King's
Worcester**

Connect

The magazine for the Old Vigornians of The King's School, Worcester

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A Letter from the Headmaster



As you read this, the wonderful surroundings of our School are once again filled with frenetic activity, with a new academic year now fully underway.

Not that the campus was quiet during the long, hot days of the summer holiday, with many building and development projects completed in good time for the School's return at the beginning of September. Last year was once again one of constant endeavour and magnificent achievement, particularly for our Upper Sixth and Fifth Form, whose first experience of public exams met with remarkable success; I am delighted to be able to report that our School is in good shape and great heart.

Throughout last academic year, school life steadily returned to normal. Exams as you would recognise them were taken in College Hall, the first public exams ever taken by many of our U6. Once again, that wonderful space, such an important part of our heritage and tradition, echoed to the scratching of pen nibs (and occasionally heads) and the ringing tread of the invigilators' feet.

Music and the Arts continued to flourish; the Chamber Choirs of King's Worcester, King's Gloucester and Hereford Cathedral School joined forces to sing Choral Evensong in Worcester Cathedral, and we enjoyed many concerts, including those named after that most renowned of OVs, Stephen Cleobury. The Gold Arts Award brought together many aspects of the Performing Arts and the release of our single *Shchedryk*, raising essential funds for Ukraine, met with huge success.

In sport we commemorated the tenth anniversary of the opening of the Michael Baker Boathouse, saw two of our U6 represent Great Britain in rowing, and celebrated the completion of our own triple-crown triumph over the 'old enemy', with victories in the Football Challenge Cup and the Superball to add to the Modus trophy.

The CCF met with several successes in Brigade competitions for the Army Section and Regional and National Air Squadron competitions for the RAF. They also enjoyed their first Mess Night since 2019, held in the splendid surroundings of Puckrup Hall near Tewkesbury and graced with a message from Her Majesty.

Pupils continue to be involved in myriad other activities from Chess to the Model United Nations, Scuba-diving to Digital Media, Raspberry Pi to Fencing. Action, adventure, creativity, culture, enterprise, inquiry and service are the watch words of our co-curriculum, making this generation of Vigornians into well-rounded, capable and outward looking individuals, like all those who have come before.

We saw new innovations too; the first guest speaker in the Headmaster's Lecture Series was Lord Williams, the former Archbishop of Canterbury, who gave a lecture on 'War, Peace and Faith' in College Hall to pupils, parents and staff from across the King's Foundation. This was followed by H-J Colston-Inge, Director of *Engage with China*, whose lecture was entitled 'China Matters'. Recordings of both are available on the School website. This term we look forward to welcoming award-winning broadcaster, novelist and journalist Gavin Esler for our third lecture.

The academic year drew to a close with King's Day; our U6 were able to reflect upon their school careers with those closest to them, as our School community joined to acknowledge and celebrate their successes. We invited the U6 with their parents and guests to join us in the Cathedral for the Service and lunch in the School Gardens. We were delighted that the L6 students attended the Service too, as recognition of the part they play in shaping the life of the Sixth Form. During the afternoon, everyone enjoyed an exhibition in the Archives and the cricket matches against the OVs, and took time to cheer on our exceptional rowers in the KSW Boat Club Regatta.

OVs are an essential part of our Vigornian community and I would like to continue to express sincere thanks to all those OVs who offer their time as mentors to our pupils. We are most grateful for your huge generosity, taking the time to speak with individuals and groups, particularly in offering careers advice in specific areas of the world of work. It was a delight to join OVs, young and young at heart, in the Bankside Gallery for the postponed OV London Drinks, taking place for the first time in three years.

While the day to day life of the school is as busy as ever, you are all most welcome to visit at any time, now that the restrictions have been lifted; please do get in touch before your visit if you possibly can so that we can ensure someone is available to host you, opening doors to those dimly remembered classrooms and common rooms of your past and allowing you to marvel at the changes we continue to make.

My thanks again to the whole OV community for your continued support for the School and I look forward to meeting many more of you in the months and years to come.

Gareth Doodes MA FRSA

Memories



OV **David Mocatta (Ca 43-45)** walked into The King's School, Worcester, on his own in May 1943 aged fourteen. It was an unusual month in the academic year to be joining and

he's never been able to explain the reason; because it was wartime routines were not normal. His prep school on the South Coast had been evacuated to Twynning in Gloucestershire and he was not to go home for two years. His parents had not made a preliminary visit to King's and neither of them ever went there; his father was away

on war service and his mother was caring for her own mother and his younger brother.

David's mother put him on a train at Paddington and he alighted at Worcester Shrub Hill; few people were about so he made his way towards the Cathedral because he knew the school was 'in that direction'. At Edgar Tower, a charming older boy asked if he could help and told him what to do. David recalls that he had a slight French accent. He later learned his surname, Guimbeau, who soon left the school, joined the Free French Army, and was killed in France; his name is on the Memorial Board in the College Hall. In a twist of fate, David met H Guimbeau's father and younger brother years later after a yacht race in La Rochelle.



The House Master, **Mr Arthur Bentley**, was ex-army and fierce. Researching him during his own retirement, David discovered that during the Great War this man had twice been awarded the Military Cross.

After School Certificate, at the end of the September term in what would have been his A Level year, David reached 'call up' age and he had to leave School and was conscripted into the Army in January 1946.



I have two real memories of being away at Old Chapel, both as part of the Lower Removes' Bright House Camp. I went as a Lower Remove in 2013, and then again as a Head of House in 2018. They were both so much fun, involving playing in the stream, running around in the forest playing games like 'Capture the Flag'. But, I think the real difference between them was when it came to the food. When I was in LR, I had to cook my own pasta outside on the floor, and many people ended up spilling all sorts onto the slabs! But as a Head of House, I received 5-star treatment, which included **Mr Haywood (Hon OV)** bringing us cups of tea to our tent in the morning! Being part of Bright House was a real highlight of my time at King's, and for me our camps away at the Old Chapel were times where the House really came together and had so much fun.

Sophie Carter (Br 11-18)

In the last edition of Connect we asked OVs for their memories of the School Chess Cup and were delighted when one of the winners of the cup, OV **Malcolm Day (Ch 49-58)** got in touch. We say 'winner', but Malcolm actually won the cup more than once, having been a member of the first King's Chess team for some years playing against RGS in March 1954 with "Bertie" Ballance the master in charge.

Later that year King's joined the Worcestershire School League, in which Malcolm was a regular team player, with visits to KES B'ham, Evesham, Bromsgrove, Hartlebury, Hanley Castle, Sacred Heart and Kidderminster, although Malcolm remembers the toughest opponents of their day were local: the Blind College and RGS. Home games were played in the school Reading Room, and there were also annual Inter-House matches, plus students versus the staff.

He still has a move by move record of all his match games, including those for Worcestershire U18 and adult teams played at the Digbeth Institute, B'ham (sometimes with as many as 100 county players a side!), and also the Worcestershire U18 individual championship which he won in March 1957, although he doesn't recall that this got a mention in the Vigornian. He still plays chess for his local club – but not nearly as well!

Malcolm had a "bad" foot which prevented him doing much sport, so playing chess at King's and representing the school for four years really gave him a sense of achievement and a much needed boost to his self confidence. Thank you, Malcolm, for sharing this memory.



Giant chess set at King's St Alban's donated by Rob McClatchey (H 78-83)

OV Visits

OV's Virtual Visit

It was wonderful to welcome OV and former Head of School **Joe Fowles (CI 05-12 and King's St Alban's)** 'back' to King's to speak with some Lower Sixth Economics students.

Joe is currently taking a sabbatical from his role as Engagement Manager in the Public Sector and Policy team for global management consultancy firm Oliver Wyman to join the University of Sydney for a two-year Masters of Public Policy degree.

Joe joined some Lower Sixth in **Adrian Batchelor's** Economics lesson remotely as a guest speaker to talk about three themes to watch in macroeconomics. He discussed the impact of inflation, currently at its highest level for over a decade; government debt at record levels, and what this might mean for future spending; and asset prices, with a focus on cryptocurrency and other digital assets.



The L6 students were fully engaged and asked some great questions, ranging from wanting to know more about cryptocurrency and how different economies and governments around the world are reacting to it to seeking Joe's advice for applying to Oxford, and whether he still used the knowledge learned during A Levels.

Joe added, "I find that I'm still using the principles learned during A Levels, including the structured thinking taught by economics, every day."

An important message Joe gave to the students was to take textbook information and apply it to the real world to get a better and more in-depth understanding, explaining that, "economics isn't divorced from politics!"

A Tour from France

OV **Tim Fawbert (K 79-86)** is currently living in France but was in the UK to see family, so took the opportunity to come back to King's for a brief visit, seen here with tour guide and former Head of Alumni Relations, **Sophie Borrillo-McLellan (Hon OV)**.

Walking around the School site, Tim was very impressed by the more recent additions of the Michael Baker Boathouse and the Keyes Building, especially the climbing wall, and was very happy to see the John Moore Theatre, which had just started its build when he left King's.



OVs' Visit to School over Half Term

It was a delight for the then Development Director, **Liz Elliott (Co 82-84)**, to show two OVs from the 1980s around King's on a bright morning in the Spring half term. Due to the COVID restrictions, it had been difficult to give tours of school and invite OVs onto the school site, however a quiet half term meant that we were able to welcome back **Kate Phillips (née North, Co '81-83)** and **Alison Watson Jones (Co 81-83)**. They thoroughly enjoyed going into College Hall, which brought back many memories of School Assemblies and performing in *The Boyfriend*, and then onto what was The School Library at the top of Edgar Tower.

There followed a peep into the Biology Building, where the smell of the labs was enough to spark a few memories for Kate and Alison, both of whom studied Biology under **Bob Allum (Hon OV)** and **Margaret Nott (Hon OV)**. Then a visit to the current Chappel Memorial Room (previously Lower

Sixth Common Room), where Kate vividly remembered the first time she caught sight of her future husband, **Rick Phillips (Cr 76-83)**.

As Alison was a rower during her time at King's, she was thrilled to see the wonderful Michael Baker Boathouse and the impressive array of boats that are used by current King's pupils. The tour finished in The Keyes Building, where both OVs were impressed with the latest addition to the facilities available for the pupils.

After her visit back to School, Alison shared with us, "It was so lovely to see the familiar places and the new additions and upgrades. The new Boat House is amazing." And Kate, who previously arranged a very successful reunion of their year group of 1983, said, "King's is a very special place for us; we so enjoyed our time here and it's great to see King's looking so good. Our tour around school brought back lots of fun memories."



From Canada to King's

On 3 May 2022, OV **Peter Haynes (Cr 58-62 and King's St Alban's)**, along with his wife Linda, crossed the threshold back into King's for the first time since Peter had completed his A Levels in 1962.

Currently living in Montreal, Peter was in the UK visiting family and wanted to take the opportunity to return to School.

While at King's, Peter's main love was the Science block, where he studied Physics and Chemistry A Level, spending most of his days in the labs. He thoroughly enjoyed re-tracing his steps and although the labs had been updated since his time, the views were mostly unchanged, and memories came flooding back.

Both Peter and Linda were impressed by the Keyes Building and the Michael Baker Boathouse and enjoyed seeing how the School has been evolving over the years.

He was, however, delighted to see that College Hall was exactly as he recalled it and had some wonderful memories of time spent there for assemblies and music

practice (with the impressive acoustics!).

Peter then returned to Choir House, where he had boarded. Peter did admit it was a bit strange to see his old prep room and common room now as classrooms, but this didn't detract from the joy of being back.

After the tour, Peter said, "I had thought that just being in the playground area, looking at the old Science building, and wandering around the grounds would be enough to satisfy my curiosity (or is it nostalgia?) But both Linda and I found it very interesting and instructive to see how well the school seemed to be dealing with modern education, and it was a real pleasure to chat with the Chemistry and Physics teachers."



OV's Inspirational Teaching

We were so pleased to see OV **Isobel Unwin (K 16-18)** back at King's in May 2022 in the Religion and Philosophy department on a teaching placement.

Isobel is in the midst of a two-year placement at Castle View Academy in Portsmouth as part of the Teach First Graduate Scheme. Teach First's aim is to source prospective teachers from top universities to work with schools in deprived areas and give the pupils access to a level of speciality that they might not otherwise receive. In Isobel's case, her subject is RE, having completed a degree in Theology and Religion at Durham University.

Isobel's return to King's is part of her training, to have the opportunity to spend time in an OfStEd Outstanding rated school for both a comparison and different context to the more disadvantaged school at which the graduate is teaching. This helps to give the graduate teacher a more rounded view of educational establishments, should they not have previously experienced it.

In addition to teaching at Castle View Academy, Isobel has also set up and runs a drama club, having noticed there was no real provision in the curriculum. This was also inspired by her time at King's and she thoroughly enjoyed catching up with Head of Drama, **Shara Parry (Hon OV)**.

Explaining what it has been like to be back at King's, Isobel said, "It has been really nice to be back, seeing how similar it is. I loved the RP when I was at School and know that I would never have thought of doing it at degree level if I hadn't done it at King's for A level.

"King's is very much about inspiring the wonder of learning, and not just about ticking the curriculum boxes. Being back has given me some great ideas to incorporate into my own lessons and help give my kids a more rounded approach to learning, as I do find it a struggle getting my kids to engage.

"What's more, I've also been able to sit in a couple of lessons with my siblings, which has been great fun!"

Isobel has been supported by **Dr Ronan McLaverty-Head (Hon OV)** in her teaching at King's, continuing to inspire her as he did during A Levels.



Visit from OV Author

We are very grateful for OV **Michael Sykes' (H 42-52)** return to School on 28 April 2022 for a brief visit.

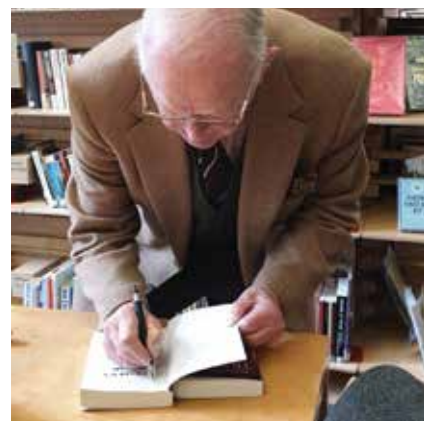
Three years ago, Michael had very generously promised some copies of his book, *Trader's Road*, to the School library. For obvious reasons, this was the first opportunity Michael had had to make the journey to Worcester and fulfil his promise.

Trader's Road is the fictional story of one man's journey through life, across continents, with some wonderful and unexpected twists and turns.

When asked if King's was mentioned in his story, Michael said coyly, "All authors draw on their own life experiences!"

Michael very kindly signed both of his books and had some great memories of his time at School to share with the School Librarian, **Annabel Jeffery**, and Alumni Relations Co-ordinator, **Amanda Sutcliffe**. These included incredibly detailed recollections of teachers and Housemasters, including **Dan McTurk**, who taught Michael fly-fishing on College Green.

Although only a short visit, Michael also had opportunity to speak with Headmaster **Gareth Doodes**, who was similarly delighted to hear some of Michael's reminiscences of his own time at King's.



OV Back for Biology Lessons

On Monday 16 May 2022 we welcomed OV **Kevin Mannion (CI 67-77)** back to King's.

With Alumni Relations Co-ordinator, **Amanda Sutcliffe** by his side, Kevin enjoyed a full tour of the School, although College Hall was closed to visitors due to exams. As Kevin re-traced his steps from his own time at School, and enjoyed seeing the new buildings too, he took the opportunity to speak with staff in the different blocks, gleaning a greater understanding of King's today. This included **Dr Mark Poole (Hon OV)**, who was practicing revision techniques with his Lower Sixth Chemistry set; **Chris Wilson (Hon OV)** encouraging his Lower Remove DT class to learn from their mistakes and the Upper Sixth artists and **Christopher Haywood (Hon OV)** in the Art department, which Kevin had not seen before.

When at School, Kevin's house, Chappel, had been in the 'New Block': the Annett Building. This is now home to the Maths department, and Kevin had a lovely chat with Maths teacher **Graham Ward (Hon OV)**, whose classroom is where Kevin's common room had been.

Head of Geography, **Simon Cuthbertson (Hon OV)**, spent some time with Kevin discussing how the School has evolved

whilst retaining the important King's values and family-feel that both current pupils and OVs cherish.

Music had played an important part in Kevin's time at School, so he was delighted to have the opportunity to see the Music School, in Castle House, and have a few moments with Assistant Director of Music, **Christopher Allsop (Hon OV)**.

The penultimate stop of the tour was the Biology Block. A retired Biology teacher, Kevin was thrilled to join **Nicki Essenhigh's (Co 84-86)** Upper Sixth Biology class. Nicki was reviewing topics and preparing her Upper Sixth group for study leave later that week. Kevin spent some time with the students, talking about their future plans, and was also very impressed with their Biology knowledge.

The most special part of the visit, though, was the King's Archives, with archivist **Harriet Patrick (Hon OV)**. Not only had Harriet found some photos of Kevin's time at School but also some reports for Kevin's late father, **Anthony Mannion (CI 41-48)**. This really was a step back in time for Kevin and very poignant to have such an insight into his father's time at School.

While in Worcester, Kevin took the opportunity to catch up with other OV friends, and also spend some time with his brother, OV **Jeremy Mannion (CI 71-81)**.

Talking about his time back at King's, Kevin said, "Thanks so much for the brilliant visit; I thought that the staff and students were really friendly. Really enjoyed myself and my thanks also to Harriet; I was very moved by my Dad's stuff."



Overdue Return for this OV

It was an absolute delight for Alumni Relations Co-ordinator, Amanda Sutcliffe, to show OV **Brandon Chin (Ch 84-89)** around School.

Brandon had been at King's with his brother, OV **Nicholas Chin (Ch 84-89)**, followed shortly after by their sister, OV and Queen's Scholar, **Michelle Chin (Co 90-92)**. While at School, Brandon and Nicholas made a formidable pair on the Badminton Courts, even taking the County title. However, as none of the Chins had returned to King's since leaving, the return visit was long overdue.



Brandon currently lives in Atlanta, USA, and was on a short trip back to the UK to catch up with friends, taking time out to come back to King's. It was wonderful that Brandon brought his wife, Sister-in-Law, and friend to join him on the tour of his old alma mater.

It is always wonderful to show OVs around School but we do ask you contact us in advance via alumni@ksw.org.uk so we can ensure someone is available to accompany you.



Reunions and Events

OV London Drinks 2022

It was so wonderful finally to hold the much-anticipated OV London Drinks, on Friday 13 May 2022. The Bankside Gallery once again played host for the event, providing superb surroundings for this very special occasion.

OVs in attendance were from across the generations, giving such a great opportunity

to share stories, reminisce about their time at King's, and of course make new friends. While there were many 'well known' faces joining the party, a few were new to London Drinks and have already signed up to the next one.

Headmaster **Gareth Doodes** welcomed the OVs, many of whom he was meeting for

the first time since taking up the post, gave an insightful update on what's currently happening at School as well as plans for the future, and introduced the new Chair of the Development Trust, OV **Nick Clark (H 88-90)**.

You can see the full photo album from the evening in the Events Gallery on our website.



CCF Mess Night Returns

This year, the annual CCF Mess Night was celebrated at Puckrup Hall near Tewkesbury. With restrictions prohibiting the dinner from taking place for the last two years, cadets and officers were eager to attend, with the majority being current pupils ranging from Lower Remove through to Upper Sixth as well as several Old Vigornians in attendance, including **Malcolm Joyner (Cr 44-52)**, **Will Chapman (Ca 14-21)**, **Olly Flanagan (Br 14-21)**, **Ed Robins (W 14-21)**, **Ben Webb (Br 14-21)**, **Eszther Horvath (Ca 14-21)**, **Ellie Edwards (Ca 14-21)** and **John Booth-Scrimshaw (Br 13-20)** to name a few!

For many Lower Removes, this was their first time attending a mess dinner and they

were introduced to formal attire and mess etiquette, as well as plenty of entertainment from the speeches and mess games.

The event started with drinks and photographs in the hotel gardens, followed by a three-course meal and the traditional loyal toast to Her Majesty, and concluding with mess games. There were several speeches made throughout the evening, from both current pupils and officers, which reflected how hard the cadets had worked this year through challenging circumstances. The contingent had written to Her Majesty to send their loyal greetings for her Platinum Jubilee, and her reply was read out to the assembled company.

As always, the Mess Night provided the opportunity for the RAF and Army sections and the officers to come together and bond as a contingent, encouraging camaraderie and building lifelong relationships and friendships.

All photographs from the event were taken by OV **Beth Raybould (née Martyn-Smith, CI 00-05)** and can be viewed and purchased from BMS Photography.



Supporting the 7s

Sunday 6th March 2022 saw the return of the Rugby Sevens season with the King's Worcester 1st VII competing in the highly prestigious North of England Sevens Tournament. The team went on to win the prestigious Boodle & Dunthorne Salver Cup, despite being plagued by injury. It was fantastic to have support from OVs **Jack Cope (W 15-20)** and **Charlie Francis (K 13-20 and King's St Alban's)**, themselves both previous King's 1st VII and 1st XV players.

Jack said, "It was a pleasure to watch the boys play and even better to come away with some silverware.

"**Jonny Mason (Hon OV)** and **Simon Greenall** had clearly drilled the boys brilliantly; having everyone on the same page and knowing their roles really played into the boys' favour. It was also brilliant to see Alex T and Josh R still performing at the top level, players who Charlie and myself have played with before and know well."

Charlie added, "It was great to watch the 1st team play and to see Jonny and Simon, up in our new home of Liverpool. The North of England 7s tournament in which they competed was our last ever tournament for King's as our 7s season was cut short due to COVID, so it brought back good memories.

"It was especially good to see boys such as Josh R and Alex T, who played for the 1st

team when we were in the Upper Sixth.

"Jack and I recently played for Liverpool 1st team rugby in the Christie cup, involving the Universities of Liverpool, Manchester and Leeds, in a squad which also included OV **Owen Preston (Cr 14-21 and King's Hawford)** for Leeds. Unfortunately we didn't get a photo but was great to play against a former team mate and OV."



The Cleobury Concert

Every term, the King's Music Department holds a Cleobury Concert. The concerts have been named in honour of **Nicholas Cleobury (Ch 58-68)** and his late brother, **Sir Stephen Cleobury (Ch 58-67)**.

At the Concert, held in March 2022, we were delighted to be able to welcome Nicholas back to School to be a key part of the event.

Simon Taranczuk (Hon OV), Director of Music at King's, said, "This latest Cleobury Concert presented a large programme, featuring many talented pupils across multiple year groups, to great acclaim from the audience of family, staff, and friends. We were also honoured that Nicholas could join us, and the pupils greatly benefitted from his many words of support and encouragement offered in rehearsals."

Nicholas himself is a very talented and expert international conductor, having worked extensively both in the UK and abroad (he worked in Brisbane for a few years, conducting many contemporary Australian works here). In the UK, his experience with orchestras is extensive: he has conducted all the BBC Orchestras, the Bournemouth Symphony, the Britten Sinfonia (Founder Laureate) the City of Birmingham Symphony, the City of London Sinfonia, the English Chamber Orchestra, the English String Orchestra, the Guildford Philharmonic, the Halle Orchestra, the London Mozart Players, the London Philharmonic, the London Symphony, the Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment, the Orchestra of the Swan (Associate Director), the Northern Sinfonia, the Oxford Philomusica, the Philharmonia,



the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic, the Royal Philharmonic, the Royal Scottish National Orchestra, the RTE Symphony Orchestra, Dublin, the Scottish Chamber Orchestra, the SouthBank Sinfonia and the Ulster Orchestra. He was Founder Artistic Director in 1992 of the Britten Sinfonia and has conducted orchestras and at Opera houses (notably Zurich) across the world as well as a wealth of choirs and choruses, including the BBC Singers, City of Birmingham Symphony Chorus and Glyndebourne Festival Chorus.

Nicholas added, "It was a pleasure to be back in College Hall and be able to meet and hear so many present day King's musicians. Music at King's seems to be in "rude good health" and brilliantly overcoming the restrictions of COVID. Bravi."

He continued, "From a BBC website: 'Music brings people together – improves your health and well-being – your confidence and resilience – is a creative outlet and is fun!'"

"King's gave Stephen and me a wonderful start and is doing so for so many pupils today."

OV Cricket Club Plans for a 75th Anniversary Celebration

The Old Vigornians Cricket Club (OVCC) is planning to celebrate its 75th anniversary in May 2023 and a first planning meeting has been held; current Club Chairman, **Phil Mackie (CI 73-84)** chatted with former Development Director, **Liz Elliott (Co 82-84)**, former Head of Alumni Relations, **Sophie Borrillo-McLellan (Hon OV)** and former King's Archivist, **Harriet Patrick (Hon OV)** about the plans.

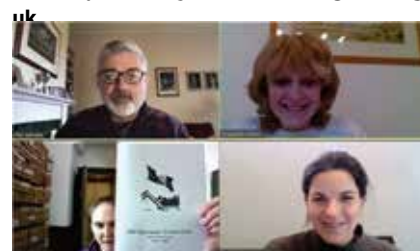
The first match played by the Old Vigornians as part of the newly-formed OVCC was in June 1948 and Phil would be interested to hear from any individuals who played as part of that very first season, as well as any OVs who have played as part of the OVCC over the years (which now amounts to several hundred players), and anyone else with a connection to the club. Phil has spent hundreds of hours poring over the OVCC archives, with the aim of re-connecting with OV cricketers from the last 75 years, as well as enjoying some interesting stories from

the many games which have been played in Worcestershire and beyond.

As a part of the 75th anniversary celebrations, it is proposed that there will be a week of cricket matches, an anniversary get-together and a published history of the OVCC, which Phil is currently researching. Harriet very kindly agreed to look through the King's archives and pass on related information for the history book. Should you have any relevant information which could form a part of this important history of King's OV cricket, please do feel free to get in touch with the Alumni Relations team at King's, who can pass this on to Phil; he is particularly keen to find missing scorebooks from the '80s and '90s, as well as old photos.

Please keep an eye out for more information on this exciting event for the OVCC, a club that has been incredibly active and popular over the years, with the current OVCC

comprising players from the years of 1984 to 2022. All OV cricketers will be warmly welcomed to join the celebrations in Spring 2023. To register your interest, please let us know by emailing us on alumni@ksw.org.uk.





Distinguished OVs, who have excelled in their chosen professions, are invited by the Headmaster to join The Barnabas Group and speak to the school in College Hall about their experiences, lessons learned and the encouragement they feel able to pass on as a result. Founded in 2008, the group is named after St Barnabas, the 'son of encouragement' (Acts of the Apostles Ch.4, v.36).

Barnabas Speaker: Jabba Riaz



On 21 March 2022, we were delighted to welcome OV **Jabba Riaz (Br 91-96)** back to School as our newest Barnabas Speaker.

Inspired by St Barnabas, 'son of encouragement', our Barnabas speakers are distinguished, inspirational OVs who are invited to join our 'Barnabas Group' and return to speak in College Hall to share their experiences and life lessons with pupils.

At King's, Jabba was an active member of the School community. He enjoyed playing for the 1st Cricket and Football teams, took part in Young Enterprise and won a prize for his part in the community service scheme.

Jabba went on to the University of Leicester, where he secured his Bachelor of Business Administration. Since then, he has undertaken a variety of roles in planning and

management. At Worcester City Council Jabba was elected Cabinet member for Safer and Stronger Communities. He was appointed Mayor of Worcester in 2018 and is currently Vice-Chair of the Council Income Generation Committee.

Jabba's professional career sees him in charge of the logistics and distribution for Cyroservice, a national supplier of liquid Argon, Nitrogen, Oxygen and Carbon Dioxide.

The Barnabas Day began with Jabba giving an inspirational and exceptional address to the Sixth Form in College Hall, and to the rest of the School via video link. 'Love not Hate' was the guiding principle of Jabba's message to the pupils. Now a Governor of King's, Jabba spoke most movingly of the initial difficulties of isolation that he faced at King's in the early 1990s. He found his success through sport and his co-curricular passions, supported particularly by the School Chaplain at that time, Rev'd Jonathan Charles, and watched the School develop in mutual respect, tolerance and love. He closed his inspiring address by reminding us all that we each have the power to stand up against discrimination and inequality of all kinds and the duty to call such things out, refusing to accept such injustice wherever we find it, to resounding applause from all present.

Having addressed the School, Jabba was thrilled to spend the morning joining Sixth Formers enjoying a range of lessons: Business Studies, Religion and Philosophy, and Politics, all subjects very close to Jabba's heart. Jabba also enjoyed coffee with Headmaster **Gareth Doodes** and Heads of School, Josh R and Charlotte M, which was a time to reflect on the day.

Jabba's visit was rounded off with a wonderful lunch joined by Head of Sixth Form **Josh Hand**, himself an OV, Head of Key Skills, **Catrina Rees**, Director of Finance and Business Development, **Georgina Mason**, and the Heads of School, as well as some Politics students keen to speak with Jabba.

Talking about his day, Jabba said, "It was an honour to be invited as the Barnabas Day speaker by the School to talk about my experiences with racism whilst growing up; tolerance, respect, and acceptance were a key part of my King's education and lessons that I have used in my role as Mayor and beyond to bring unity and harmony within the city! I leave the School with my message of love not hate, a message that is universal in condemnation of hate and prejudice and a message especially relevant today."

Thank you for giving your time so generously, Jabba, and your thoughtful words.



King's Today



The Football Challenge Cup Returns

In February 2022 we saw the long-awaited return of the football Challenge Cup against RGS Worcester at Sixways Stadium. It was

an exciting and tense game, with both teams giving their all and so evenly matched the result was a 2-2 draw!



The Chamber Choir's Ukraine Charity Single

Senior School musicians released their own charity single to raise funds for those in need in Ukraine. The single, performed by The King's Worcester Chamber Choir, is the Ukraine song called *Shchedryk* written in 1916 by Ukrainian composer Mykola Leontovych. It is available for download across major streaming platforms including iTunes, Amazon, Apple Music and Spotify. All proceeds from the downloads will be passed directly to the Disasters Emergency Committee (DEC) Ukraine fundraising efforts.

You can also support the King's Ukrainian Fund here: www.ksw.org.uk/alumni/support-kings/ukrainian-fund/

A Decade of Rowing in Style

April 2022 marked the 10th Anniversary of our award-winning Michael Baker Boathouse with some great celebrations. As one of Worcester's most iconic buildings, it has played host to hundreds of passionate rowers, numerous fundraising events and many special occasions for the King's Community. The boathouse was built in 2012 thanks to the generosity of OV **Michael Baker (Ch 48-55)** and continues to inspire each new generation of King's rowers, including student Alice B and Luke B who have been selected to join the U19 GB Rowing Squads.

Competing at the Bath International Schools' MUN

At the Bath International Schools' Model United Nations 2022, the King's School Worcester Model United Nations were Highly Commended in the Conference overall. In addition, the King's Chinese Delegation were Highly Commended overall, and pupil Liam R achieved Best Delegate in the Economic Committee, Benedict B was Highly Commended in the Political Committee and Izzy P received a Commended for her amendment in Health Committee.



Monitors and Heads of Houses for 2022-23 Academic Year

Headmaster, Gareth Doodes, has appointed the new School Monitors and Heads of

Houses for the 2022-2023 academic year. Congratulations to them all!



The King's Speech attends Shine Media Awards 2022

For the second year in a row, King's has been recognised by the Shine School Media Awards. Sponsored by the Stationers' Company, Shine is a national competition celebrating the best talent in student media. The awards aim to recognise and reward pupils with a diversity of talent from secondary schools across the UK as they work on the writing, editing, design and fund-raising for a school newspaper, magazine, podcast or website.



Accompanied by **Dr McLaverty-Head (Hon OV)** and Mr Pearson, pupils represented the School radio station, *The King's Voice*, and the Lower Sixth Key Skills blog, *The King's Speech*. *The King's Voice* won a Rising Star Award, recognising "great potential."

King's Reclaims the Superball



King's Senior School netballers celebrated two victorious wins in the return of the Superball netball game against RGS at Worcester Arena in March 2022, after a two-year hiatus during COVID. The Second VII stormed home with a 36-22 win, with the 1st VII facing a tougher match but their determination secured the 38-37 win with only 12 seconds left on the clock.

Music Exam Successes

Thirteen pupils from the Senior School recently passed their Associated Board of The Royal Schools of Music (ABRSM) exams, being presented with their certificates by the Headmaster, **Gareth Doodes**, on College Green. This is in addition to the ten pupils

who also recently passed their Trinity and London College of Music exams. Exams were taken on a range of instruments including violin, 'cello, piano, trumpet, trombone, singing and organ.



Magical Mary Poppins

In June 2022 it was wonderful to once again open the John Moore Theatre doors to a packed house for the Lower Years' production. This year it was *Mary Poppins Jr*, which was a truly magical production with exceptional individual and ensemble performances, expertly supported by their Fourth Form crew.



OV Weddings



Keira Lapsley-Hughes (née Lapsley, W 97-02) and Daniel Hughes eloped to the stunning Aphrodite Gardens in Cyprus for their nuptials. They were joined by their children, Bridesmaid Felicity Ray Lapsley-

Hughes, and Best Man Lorcan William Lapsley-Hughes. A very private, family affair, it was the perfect day. It also turns out that marrying in Cyprus was divine intervention: after teaching at Droitwich High (Head of

Drama) for 13 years, Keira was successful in her application to be English Language and Literature teacher at Foley's School in Limassol and the family moves there in the summer.





OV **Major Oliver Cox RHA (Ch 02-09)** was lucky enough to marry Miss Victoria Wright on 21 August 2021 at St. Leonard's Church, Bewdley. A wonderful day, they were joined by OVs **Adrian Freeman (W 85-95), Gordon Cox (Cr 56-63), John Cox (W 57-64),**

Thomas Cox (Cr 97-07), Ashley Pain (W 02-09), Andrew Hewit (Ch 02-09), Richard Brockway (W 68-77), Charlotte Martyn-Smith (Ch 02-09), Frazer Price (S 04-09) and James Martyn-Smith (CI 04-09).



Dan Loader (Ch 03-10) married Katie Styler on 31 July 2021. They had a superb day, with stunning weather, surrounded by friends and family for the ceremony at St John The Baptist Church, Feckenham, and afterwards at their reception at Avoncroft in Stoke

Heath. OV guests included **Jon Males (Ch 03-10), Josh Scholes (S 03-10), Charlie Titmuss (Ch 03-10), Quentin Elmhirst (Cr 03-10), Tom Bennett (Ch 03-10), Alice Tomkinson (Ch 03-10), Becky Marshall (Cr 07-10) and Lizzy Bennett (Ch 08-10).**



On 25 June 2022, **Chantal Smits (Br 12-14)** married Ryan Jennings in the glorious environs of Stanbrook Abbey. They were joined by Maid of Honour OV **Phoebe Parker (W 07-14)**, Males of Honour OVs **Dylan Pinches (CI 09-14)** and **Andy McClymont (W**

07-14) and their bridesmaid party included OVs **Charlotte Collins (Ch 07-14)**, **Hannah Brotherwood (Ch 07-14)**, **Hannah Rowley (née Jeavons, S 07-14)**, **Frances Taylor (Ch 07-14)**, **Connie Grant (S 07-14)**, **Emma Jarvis (Ch 07-14)**, **Corah Lewis (Ch 07-14)**.



Mary Cox (CI 01-06) married Ben Riddle in Worcester Cathedral on 2nd June 2022, after postponing their wedding for a year due to COVID. Their reception was at Deer Park Hall in Eckington. Mary left King's to pursue a career in Musical Theatre. She met Ben at Guildford School of Acting in 2011.

Mary says: "It was such an honour to be able to get married in Worcester Cathedral. It felt extremely special. We had the best day and feel extremely lucky to have been able to have had the wedding we had planned, with all our family and friends. It was worth the wait!"



OVs in the News

OV Stuns in Latest Role



OV **Penny Ashmore's (CI 14-16)** first professional acting job has been met with a wonderful response from audiences and in particular from her co-star, and well-

known actress, Jodie Comer.

Penny played Jodie's body double in season four of the acclaimed TV series *Killing Eve*.

In an interview with BBC America regarding the show, Jodie Comer said, "One thing I will say is that I was working with an incredible actress called Penny Ashmore.

"We would work together through those scenes and when I was *Villanelle* and we would come to a scene and block it out.

"I would block out both characters to understand how I wanted to play them physically because it was so technical.

"We couldn't be too close and every placement had to be very specific.

"She was amazing."

In response, Penny told us, "As a first filming role, I couldn't have asked for a more exciting

setting – it was so surreal to step behind the scenes on one of my favourite shows and work with actors I admire so greatly. Every day on set I learnt something I didn't know before and I had the best time getting to know the cast and crew. I just felt super lucky to be a part of that group of people!"

In addition to her acting career, Penny is also a very talented singer, and will be taking part in the prestigious Glyndebourne Academy this year.



OV's OBE

Many congratulations to OV **Dr Chris Lewis (CI 86-95)**, who has formally received his OBE from His Royal Highness The Prince of Wales at a ceremony in Buckingham Palace.

Chris was awarded his OBE in 2021 for services to International Development but, for obvious reasons, this was the first opportunity the presentation of the award could take place.

We are also delighted that Chris will be joining us in the Autumn Term 2022 as our next Barnabas Speaker.



Rowing for Gold

Former King's Head of Boats (2013/14) OV **Alex Wenyon (Cr 07-14)** and former KSWBC coach **Giedre Rakauskaite** won a spectacular gold at the Gavirate International Para Regatta in May 2022, as part of the PR3 Mixed Coxed 4+ representing GB. Racing against the Australians, French, Germans and Italians, their winning race on the Lake of Varese also set a new world's best time.

Commenting on the win, Alex said, "It was a fantastic weekend at Gavirate for the whole Para squad. We were so excited to get racing; for some it was their first race since the Paralympic Games last year.

"With a fresh-look team we picked up five gold medals, two silvers and a bronze: a great start for the next Paralympic cycle. I wish the team the best of luck at the first World Cup of the season in Belgrade next weekend!"

OV is a Super Lawyer



Congratulations are very much in order for OV lawyer and author **Abbas Kazerooni (Ch 91-96)** who, for the ninth year in a row, has been selected as a SuperLawyer.

Abbas is founding partner of the law firm Kazerooni Law Group, based in California, USA, specialising in personal injury, consumer rights and class actions. Abbas is also an adjunct professor of law, so when he's not in court, he can be found at the California Western School of Law, teaching consumer law. This follows a successful writing career, with two books to his name, which chart Abbas' dramatic and difficult journey from Tehran to England during the Iran-Iraq war, in *On Two Feet and Wings*, and his life once he had arrived in England, in *The Boy with Two Lives*.

SuperLawyers is a division of Thompson Reuters and the rankings are achieved through both peer nomination and Thompson Reuter's research department for results in certain areas of law. To be a 'normal' Superlawyer means you are in the top 2% of lawyers in your specialty area but of course to be Top 50 or Top 100 has even more significance. This is especially so in California, as it is by far the most densely populated legal demographic in the US and possibly the world.

Speaking about this recognition, Abbas said, "This means a lot to me because my peers, who know the industry most, are selecting me. This is the ninth year in a row that I have been selected as SuperLawyer and the second in the Top 50 and Top 100 categories."

King's Head of Rowing, **Jim Chalmers (Hon OV)**, added, "Congratulations on this fantastic performance, Alex. What a star!"

Alex has firmly established herself as an incredible cox, as her call up to Team GB demonstrates, building on her time at King's, where she was a very keen and active member of the Boat Club and the 1st VIII.



International Women & Girls in Science Day 2022

On Friday 11 February 2022, we celebrated International Women and Girls in Science. Although King's has always had a strong belief in encouraging the scientist in all of us, irrespective of gender, there is still an important conversation to be had for women in the sciences once they leave school.

We asked female OV's currently studying and working in the sciences to help us celebrate their achievements, their inspirations, and, in turn, to help to inspire our future female scientists:

CC (Cr 98-03)



"I am a medical officer in the Royal Air Force, specialising in Aviation and Space Medicine, and have recently returned from three years with the US Air

Force working in the Air Force Research Lab. There I was conducting research into human performance using the latest Helmet Mounted Displays used in aircraft.

"At school I always loved the sciences because they helped explain the fascinating world around us. I took Maths, Physics, and Chemistry at A Level, as well as Astronomy GCSE as an after-school class. Such a solid science and maths background prepared

me well for medical school and for pursuing my passion for flying.

"While I was the only girl taking A Level Maths and Chemistry in my year and one of only two for Physics, I have found the STEM field to be welcoming and inclusive for women and I would highly recommend it to anyone! If you find wonder in the world and have a sense of curiosity, then I would certainly encourage you to look into the STEM subjects. Simply put, they are cool!

"A positive role model for me at King's was **Mrs Essenhigh (Co 84-86)**. She was a staff member in the CCF (I was a member of the RAF section) and demonstrated to me that the military was most certainly a place for women! She always supported me and my ambitions!"

Emma Smalley (W 12-19)



"My interest in medicine was first sparked during Biology lessons at King's. As a young student, it made such an impact to have a female role

model encouraging a passion for science. For me, **Mrs Beard's (Hon OV)** enthusiasm and support was particularly inspiring throughout my A-levels.

"I'm proud to now be a student doctor on placement in hospital and am able to combine my interest in science with the personal side of medicine!"

Amber Morgan (W 02-09)



"I am currently a Pharmacokineticist. Pharmacokinetics is a branch of pharmacology dedicated to studying the fate of drugs (medicines)

administered to living organisms. My job in particular is to analyse and interpret the data collected from human clinical trials to answer the questions such as: What dose should I take? Can I take this with food? How often do I need to take this? Can I take this with my other medication? My colleagues and I help to bring new medicines to market to help treat a variety of diseases and disorders.

"At King's I was always interested in science, in particular Biology and Chemistry, with thanks to **Mrs Essenhigh (Co 84-86)** and the late **Mrs Battrum (Hon OV)**, as well as Maths and Languages helping to give me a rounded perspective. I knew I wanted to go into a job in science but I wasn't sure which

direction to take. I've always loved animals so I studied BSc Zoology at Aberystwyth University to give myself a good basis in science, with a focus on animal and human biology. During my degree I developed an interest in Neuroscience, so I studied further for a Masters in Neuroscience at Nottingham Trent University, which also gave me a good insight into the topic of Pharmacology.

"I got into pharmacokinetics when I completed my Masters and applied for a position at my company. After a brief stint in the clinical laboratory, I saw a position come up as a Trainee Pharmacokineticist and went for it. I strongly believe it is worth keeping your eyes open for opportunities in all areas of science and follow your heart when something comes up that piques your interest. I certainly hadn't heard of Pharmacokinetics when I was younger and exploring options, but there are so many jobs out there that you don't gain exposure to until you come across them. I love my job and I'd certainly not be here today if I hadn't been open to something new and gone for it!"

Alice Evans

(S 11-18 and King's St Alban's)



"I have always loved Biology and was so lucky to have brilliant female role models like **Dr Brown (Hon OV)** to look up to at School. I'm now studying for a PhD

in Oncology, looking at developing a new therapeutic tool to help choose treatments for patients with pancreatic cancer.

"I have always been so grateful for the kindness of other women in my field and hope that I am able to contribute to science being a supportive environment for women in the future."

OVs Tackling the Tough Mudder

On Saturday 2nd April 2022, an intrepid group of OV's took part in a Tough Mudder challenge in London, led by **Kate Iddon (CI 98-05)** and **Jo Dawes (née Hallett, Os 94-05)**. They were inspired to tackle the challenge in memory of their fathers, **Peter Iddon (Hon OV)** and Rod Hallett and to raise money for St Richard's Hospice, from which both had received excellent care.

For those who have not yet come across a Tough Mudder, it is essentially an obstacle course full of physically and mentally demanding obstacles for teams to face, with a lot of mud thrown in for good measure. For example: giant ice baths, where participants are fully submerged; three-storey high net climb and descend; a 'mud mile', with deep

trenches and higher hills and many more challenges that require the team to work together to help each other complete.

Speaking to us after the event, Kate said, "We had a fantastic day and have been overwhelmed by the support shown through our fundraising page. Jo and I were really touched by so many sponsoring in memory of our fathers and we are delighted to have raised so much money for St Richard's Hospice. We are definitely feeling the burn and are bruised and battered to show for it!"

Jo added, "Don't be fooled by the lack of mud in the photo; one of the final obstacles was a dip in an ice bath, so any traces of muddiness were washed off!"



This photo was taken at the finish line, pictured in the photo, L-R:

Emma Hayfield (W 98-05), Lauren Wood (Cr 97-05), Hannah Kimber (K 03-05), Kate Iddon (CI 98-05), Jo Dawes (née Hallett, Os 94-05), Katie Mackichan (née Humpage, W 98-05), Sophie Olah (née Nelson, S 04-06), Sophie Eckersley (CI 03-05)

OV Helen is a Lockdown Education Hero

Congratulations to OV **Helen Harding (née Lee, Ch 94-01)**, who recently won the 'Lockdown Hero' category in the Worcestershire Education Awards 2022.

Helen runs *Discover History* with her husband Paul, who is a 2nd Lieutenant in King's Worcester CCF and runs the School's Young Archaeologist Club, which started in September last year.

Discover History was founded in 2003 to bring History to life for people of all ages and abilities. This includes costumed performance work for organisations such as English Heritage, talks and guided tours for groups such as the Women's Institute, and delivering fun and interactive history workshops and immersive history days to schools. Care

Home reminiscence sessions, media work, training and consulting for the heritage and tourism industry are also offered.

However, the COVID-19 Pandemic changed the way they worked in 2020. Helen explained, "We knew the importance of adapting and moving to a virtual world. We already had a YouTube Channel, so we promised one video every day and this is something we succeeded in doing from day one of the Lockdown. Our aim was not just to keep the Discover History name going but to help those having to stay home to access our shared heritage."

The daily videos helped pupils with homework and teachers deliver lessons online, with some teachers commissioning bespoke videos for their topic of study.

Pupils could also meet a historical character such as Florence Nightingale and William Wilberforce and ask them questions! The Lockdown Videos were additionally used by Museums and groups who could no longer open their doors or meet in village halls.

Helen was nominated and won the Lockdown Hero Award for their use of YouTube. Helen added, "It was great to be nominated but a fantastic surprise to win!"

Discover History has won several awards in the past including the Worcestershire Education Awards in numerous categories, the Suffragette Spirit Award in 2018 run by Amnesty International and they were finalists in the Mayor's Best of Worcester Award in 2020.

New Chair of the King's School Worcester Development Trust

Following the resignation of OV **Andrew Reekes (Ch 64-69)** from Chair of the King's School Worcester Development Trust after many years of exceptional service, we are delighted to announce the new Chair has been elected. **Nick Clark (H 88-90)** was appointed following a unanimous vote by the Board of Trustees.

Nick is an active member of the King's community, through his work as a Trustee, but also as an OV and a King's parent.

The King's School Worcester Development Trust builds up long-term charitable support for the School and ensures that the wishes of those who give to the School are properly upheld, making sure pupils who come to King's benefit from the generosity of those who donate. This includes:

Opportunity for all through the provision of means-tested bursaries to enable pupils from all backgrounds to attend King's regardless of their financial circumstances.

Sustainable, progressive development through the investment in high-quality facilities.

Speaking of his appointment, Nick said, "I am honoured to be elected as Chairman of the Board of Trustees at The King's School, Worcester.

"With a team of highly experienced trustees, I look forward to working closely with the School and Governors to deliver our growth targets to open doors to opportunities for young pupils."



Outstanding Award for this OV

OV **Jackie Stevenson (Co 85-86)** has received the Special Award for Outstanding Contribution to Marketing at the Global Women in Marketing Awards 2021.

The awards recognise women making a difference and 'building back better' in the marketing industries across the world.

Ade Onilude, Founder and CEO of Women in Marketing said, "This year's winners demonstrate the very best of our industry. We continue to be inspired by these women who transform marketing even at a time when women's roles in the workplace and home were challenged globally."

Jackie is hugely successful in her industry and is currently Global CEO of The Brooklyn Brothers, a creative agency that she founded in London with three partners in 2008. She was also President of an organisation called Women in Advertising & Communications Leadership (WACL) for 2020-21. WACL brings together 250 of the UK's most powerful women in Marketing, Advertising, Communications and the Creative Industries.

Its purpose is to accelerate Gender Equality across the UK sector and inspire the next generation of women to enter the industry and become future leaders.

Commenting specifically on Jackie's award, the judges said, "A pioneer in the truest sense of the word and a true champion of the industry, she revolutionised WACL, turning it into a credible campaigning organisation with the #flexiblefirst campaign providing a framework of fairness and equality to the industry. She successfully lobbied the UK government to reinstate gender pay gap reporting. Brooklyn Brothers Night School is making tangible impacts and inroads into diversifying the industry's talent pool."

Speaking about her award, Jackie added, "To be recognised with all these amazing women is truly a dream, but now to be a part of a network of leaders making real differences in their companies and industries around the world is incredibly powerful. There's so much more we can achieve when we all work together."



A Fond Farewell

On 1 April 2022, we bade a very fond farewell to some familiar faces in our Foundation Development and Alumni Relations Team: Development Director, **Liz Elliott**, Head of Alumni Relations, **Sophie Borrillo-McLellan**, and Database Administrator, **Cath Williams**.

Please join us in extending our thanks to them for all their hard work and commitment over the last few years; we wish them the very best of luck in their future careers.

Liz told us, "I have thoroughly enjoyed the last five years at King's; coming back to work at 'my old school' was a real treat and it has been an absolute pleasure to work in such an inspiring atmosphere here at King's and to meet so many OVs throughout my time here. When I first joined the School, I noticed the overwhelming friendliness of everyone who works and studies here and I mentioned in my first Development Trust Report that 'the pupils thrive in an environment where they are encouraged to think creatively and to challenge their own perceptions of what they believe they are capable of achieving. The teachers here at King's really do care about the well-being of their pupils.'"

"Throughout my time working here, I have been privileged to witness the kindness of the King's family – both here in School amongst the teaching and support staff

and also amongst the wider King's family of OVs and former staff and parents. The generosity to the Bursary Campaign has been incredible and I would like to personally thank all those individuals who have given in support of this critical and important programme. Your money really does make a difference to the lives of young people who come to King's from disadvantaged or challenging backgrounds. Thank you.

"I have also been blessed to work alongside a wonderfully warm, enthusiastic and talented team, whose commitment, enthusiasm and sense of humour I will miss so much.

"King's is a very special place and those who form part of its family can know that there is always a place for them here in the heart of Worcester."

Sophie added, "It has been a huge privilege to have this role for the last five years. The greatest pleasure of course has been meeting and working with the wonderful King's Worcester community: OVs, Hon OVs, staff, pupils and parents. I am so proud of what we have achieved in this time and immensely grateful for the support and generosity given to the Development and Alumni Relations Office and to the School. From philanthropic gifts supporting life-changing bursaries at King's to careers advice and mentorship, so many have given

back in so many ways for which I am truly thankful. I wish everyone all the best and look forward very much to keeping in touch with King's as I move on to exciting new adventures."

Cath responded, "Thank you so much for the opportunity of working with such wonderful people over the years. I wish everyone well."

Going forward, there will be some changes within the Foundation Development and Alumni Relations team, the details of which we shall share with you soon. We are pleased to say that Amanda Sutcliffe, who is the current Development Assistant, will become the Alumni Relations Co-ordinator. Amanda has great passion for what she does and will continue to support and look after our OV community.



Archives

A History of Music at King's

Aside from choristers and the Choir School, Music first took off at The King's School under Headmaster **Revd W.E. Bolland (HM 1879-1896)**. During Bolland's first year, a Musical Society was formed at King's. This was in the hands of the Cathedral's Precentor, Revd E. Vine Hall, who had charge of the School music for many years. The absence of such an institution earlier in King's history is attributed by the *Vigornian* to the lack of artificial light in College Hall (meaning it couldn't be used after dark); and this was rectified by the installation of gas in autumn 1879. The clumsy iron chandeliers then put in, with their myriads of jets of naked flame, remained the only form of lighting in College Hall until the installation of electricity there in 1922; and the first recorded School Concert on 17 December 1879 fittingly inaugurated their long life.

Furthermore, it is to Bolland that we owe the words, and to Vine Hall the music, of the School Song, *Floreat Schola Vigorniensis*, which was sung for the first time on Speech Day 1884. Vine Hall's musical setting was eventually lost, though the lyrics were subsequently set to a new tune.

Vine Hall retired as Precentor and School Music Master in 1890. Dr Herbert Wareing, organist of King's Norton Church, subsequently took charge of the School music for six years. Wareing was a musician and composer of some distinction; several of his cantatas and part-songs were sung for the first time at the School concerts.

In 1896 **Revd W.H. Chappel (HM 1896-1918)** appointed **George Smith** OV, a Cathedral lay clerk, as Wareing's successor. Smith's appointment was very much on a part-time basis: in 1910 the Masters for Music, French and Drawing taught a combined total of ten hours per week at the School. Nonetheless, the energetic Smith achieved much at King's: besides the School Choir, he established and directed a Glee Club, providing light music for school concerts. The School Orchestra, which had lapsed, was revived as a joint undertaking between pupils and Old Vigornians, first performing in June 1903 under the direction of Rev. Charles Powell, the Minor Canon in charge of the Voluntary Choir. The Orchestra was small, comprising just three first violins, two second violins, a cello, an oboe, and piano. Indeed, *The Vigornian* of June 1903 thanked "Mr Elgar, who lent a piano for the occasion".

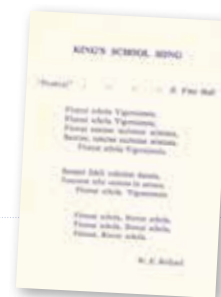
The School's orchestral capabilities were evidently assisted, at least by the mid-1910s, by a series of peripatetic music teachers at King's. By Winter 1916 Smith's Music department included Mr E. Prince, a Lay Clerk of Worcester Cathedral who taught cello and violin; Miss Groves and Mr Fielder, whose specialisms are not recorded; and Mr Benoni Brewer, who taught violin. By Summer 1917 Brewer had been succeeded as the School's violin teacher by Mrs Winifred Hill. Despite small numbers and few timetabled hours, aspiring musicians achieved much at King's under Smith. His pupils secured three choral scholarships and an organ scholarship at Cambridge between 1913 and 1915; of these, **Sam Strong (Ca 1906-1914)**, baritone, later returned to King's as Geography Master and Housemaster of Castle House.

Music gained further prominence at King's through the establishment of the Officers' Training Corps (OTC), which began its official career at King's in 1909; and, more particularly, through the OTC Band. The OTC Band made its debut on that year's Speech Day; the November 1909 issue of *The Vigornian* reported that the Band "has been frequently heard of late by more or less sympathetic listeners – we thank them for their kind forbearance"! Moreover, on 15 March 1917 the Corps provided the drummers for the performance in the Cathedral of Sir Edward Elgar's setting of Binyon's *For the Fallen*. During the years of the First World War the annual Christmas Concert gave way to entertainments of a lighter character, sometimes including dramatic efforts, for which admission was charged,

and considerable contributions were made to various relief funds and war charities.

After WWI, newly-arrived Headmaster **Revd Cuthbert Creighton (HM 1919-1936 and 1940-1941)** sought to expand the School's performing arts. In 1921 the Musical Society merged into an Entertainment Society which also encompassed drama; and Edgar Day, the Cathedral's Assistant Organist, took charge of music. The strength of the School Choir and the ambition of Day's choral repertoire are illustrated by the Brahms Requiem performed in April 1929 – with piano accompaniment, as the School Orchestra had once again lapsed. The Orchestra re-formed during the 1929 Winter Term, directed by Mrs Winifred Hill, the School's violin teacher since 1917; Mrs Hill left King's in 1932. October 1925 saw the début of a jazz quartet led by School Secretary, lay clerk and bandleader H.E. Nicholls. Throughout the 1920s Nicholls and three masters (Messrs Edgar Day, A.D. Franklin and G.K. Tattersall) provided light relief in school concerts as a humorous quartet.

On the arrival of **Ronald Kittermaster (HM 1942-1959)** and his wife Meriel, Mrs Kittermaster expanded the tradition of music appreciation at King's, continuing the gramophone concerts as a Sunday evening Music Society, and organising celebrity concerts in College Hall. The Kittermasters moved from School House into 14 College Green in 1946, releasing the top floor of their house for music practice. Upon the merger with the Choir School in 1943, King's gained a cohort of musically gifted boys with



The Vigornian, June 1910: Worcester Cathedral King's School OTC Band on College Green

New Accessions

In February, Raymond Franklin (CI 1943-1949) donated a collection of material pertaining to Michael Craze (H 1919-1923).

Also in February, Robert Harley (W 1964-1971) sent in three Wulstan House

photographs, and a large collection of KSW documents from his time at King's.

In April, Geraint Nicholas (Ca 1976-1981) donated numerous Castle House, Rugby and St. Alban's photographs.

As ever, the School Archives is very grateful for such donations of original material from Old Vigornians. Please keep them coming in!

an extremely strong musical grounding. Kittermaster appointed King's first Director of Music in 1951: Reginald West, previously Organist and Master of the Choristers at St Patrick's Cathedral, Armagh. Edgar Day remained Assistant Organist, retiring after fifty years in 1962. His successor, Christopher Robinson, taught music part-time at King's; on Robinson's promotion to Organist the following year, Harry Bramma was appointed to both assistant posts. King's benefitted greatly from the partnership of Messrs Robinson and Bramma, not least in gaining a generation of choristers who developed into outstanding musicians. Bramma succeeded West as Director of Music in 1964, with West remaining on the music department staff until 1969. In 1965 the three Fishermen's Cottages on Severn Street were converted into the department's first fully-fledged Music School, with a large classroom and seven practice rooms, an instrument store-room and a record library.

During the late 1960s King's saw a significant increase in the number of boys learning the organ; Bramma and **David Annett (HM 1959-1979)**, himself an amateur organist, began campaigning and fundraising for an organ to be installed in the gallery of College Hall for use as a tuition instrument, for concerts, and accompaniment during assemblies. The two-manual instrument, with pipework salvaged from Shrub Hill's defunct Holy Trinity Church, and its magnificent oak case which originally stood in a convent chapel in London, was installed by Nicholson & Co. and completed in June 1969; the inaugural recital of King's new organ was given on 26 September 1969 by Dr.

Francis Jackson, Organist of York Minster. It attracted many visitors before the end of the year; the most well-known and unexpected of these was future Prime Minister Edward Heath, who came to College Hall in Three Choirs' week and caused considerable interest by sitting down at the console and improvising for a full half-hour.

Music opportunities continued to expand at King's during the 1970s, with popular music also finding a voice. The Undercroft of College Hall, fitted by the School Works Group as a Sixth Form social club, opened in 1971; equipped with a stereo unit, the club hosted monthly dances. College Hall hosted its first rock concert in 1976, featuring the band *Fine*. For *Fine* keyboardist **Geoffrey Webber (Ch 1972-1977)**, this represented a departure from the norm: an organist and choirmaster, and, since 1989, Director of Music at Gonville & Caius College, Cambridge, Webber's academic work focused on the music of the seventeenth century. Meanwhile, the Keys Society was established in Autumn Term 1973 and gave its first concert in February 1974. The society's patron Ivor Keys, Professor of Music at Birmingham University and a school governor, delivered a lecture-recital in November 1974, and another in 1983 for the Society's fiftieth concert.

Bramma left King's in 1976 to become Organist at Southwark Cathedral; he was succeeded as Director of Music – now a full-time role – by Malcolm Drummond. A year later the Music School moved into larger premises in the basement of

School House. King's choral tradition was already impressive; now Drummond and **Andrew Milne (HM 1979-1983)**, himself an accomplished cellist and jazz trombonist, sought to foster an orchestral tradition to match, and improvements in the number and calibre of instrumentalists enabled the establishment of ensembles for strings and woodwind. **Adrian Partington (S 1966-1976)** took charge of the Wind Band from 1981; and Robin Thurlby was appointed Head of Strings in 1980. The new Chamber Orchestra and the Cathedral Choir embarked on a joint tour of Belgium in 1982, the Music Department's first overseas tour.

David Brookshaw was appointed Director of Music in 1989, with Mr Drummond remaining on the staff until 1993. Music tours became a regular calendar fixture at King's under Mr Brookshaw; and under his genial leadership School Music provision continued to expand. This was greatly aided by others in the growing Music department including the first woodwind specialist on the King's staff, Vanessa Gunter, appointed in 1993; and Graham Gunter became new Head of Strings upon Mr Thurlby's retirement in 2004. Meanwhile, with the School House basement earmarked for the new School Library, the Music School relocated to Castle House (entirely refitted after the termination of boarding), and was opened in July in 2003 by **Stephen Cleobury (Ch 1958-1967)**. Mr Brookshaw retired from King's after 23 years and was succeeded by the current Director of Music, Simon Taranczuk.

Visits from OV's

In May the archives welcomed **Brandon Chin (Ch 1984-1989)**, who visited the School Archive during his visit to King's, and viewed house photographs and *Vigornian* articles regarding himself and his siblings.

Also in May **Kevin Mannion (CI 1967-1977)** visited King's and the School Archive, where we were able to show him St Alban's and Chappel House photographs, a music concert programme, *Vigornian* articles regarding his time at school, and school reports belonging to his father, **A.K. Mannion (CI 1941-1948)**.



Edward Heath on the organ in College Hall, 1969, with Harry Bramma looking on

Features on Teachers

A H Aldridge

Modern Foreign Languages Master,
Founder of KSW CCF RAF Section, Rugby Coach, 1954-1980.

Arthur Aldridge was born on 23 August 1920 in Italy; aged five, he and his parents moved to the French-speaking part of Switzerland. When he was nine the Aldridge family moved again, this time to Kent; Arthur Aldridge attended St Lawrence College, Ramsgate.

Arthur Aldridge's love for languages took him on an exchange trip to Germany in 1938: he stayed in Frankfurt with Herr and Frau Külenthal, who were Jewish. In his biography co-written by **Mark Ryan (CI 1973-1980)**, *The Last Torpedo Flyers*, Mr Aldridge recalled his stay in Nazi Germany:

You couldn't stay in Germany even for a few weeks without becoming caught up in the rising tension. We had to go to a parade in honour of a local Nazi while I was there; we had no choice. During the parade, everyone had to give the Hitler salute ... I didn't want to. I'd have liked to refuse on principle, based on what I'd seen and heard about the Nazis so far. In fact, I was going to refuse, but then something inside told me that I had to do it, like it or not. I had two German Jews with me, after all, and it would have been irresponsible not to salute. I couldn't risk bringing unwanted attention to my hosts on a selfish point of principle. Some snitch could have spotted my refusal and told any number of Nazi party members mingling with the crowd. So I gave the Nazi salute, and I don't regret it as such but I remembered how wrong it felt to be forced to behave in a way I didn't want to behave.

Despite all the difficulties, the trip to Germany did nothing to dampen his passion for foreign languages: Arthur Aldridge performed well enough in his school exams to win a place at Oxford University to study French and German, going up to St Edmund Hall in October 1939, just weeks after the outbreak of war.

Towards the end of his first year as an undergraduate Aldridge decided to enlist, and in May 1940 he went to the local recruiting office in Oxford. He had no desire to join the army; instead he told the recruiting office that he'd always wanted to fly aeroplanes – which was untrue – and they agreed to have him. He was called up on 1 July 1940, and so was able to finish his

first year of studies in Oxford. In August 1941 he joined 217 Squadron, operating Beaufort torpedo bombers out of St Eval, Cornwall. His section was mobilised on 9 December to attack a convoy of Axis warships off the Hook of Holland; with sea levels too shallow for the use of torpedoes the attack had to be made using 500lb bombs, at very close quarters and in the face of intense anti-aircraft fire. Aldridge's approach was so close, ensuring the success of the attack, that part of one wing of his aircraft was sheared off by the ship's mast rigging. The U-Boat supply to Madrid was sunk, and Aldridge managed to fly the badly damaged Beaufort back to Kent and land safely. He was awarded a DFC, the citation reading: "He showed great courage, combined with rare skill and judgement." Of the operation and citation Aldridge later recalled, "The squadron had to have an overview and regarded casualties as an inevitable price for 'success'. All I can say is that on the evening of 9 December, I didn't feel like being congratulated."

In June 1942 the squadron was sent to Malta, to attack enemy vessels in the Mediterranean. On 15 June eight Beauforts set off to attack an Italian fleet posing a serious threat to merchant shipping supplying the island. Being the first of the Beauforts to arrive at the position of the Italian fleet, Aldridge decided to attack immediately and a torpedo was launched from 800 yards, which damaged the cruiser Trento severely. The ship was then attacked by a British submarine, and sank. Only days later the Beauforts were in the air again on a similar mission, this time attacking closely defended Axis merchant ships carrying armaments to Rommel's army in North Africa. The Reichenfels was hit and put out of commission, but in the attack the Beaufort had been hit and badly damaged by anti-aircraft fire, injuring two of the crew, including the pilot. In spite of the damage to the aircraft, and wounds to himself, Aldridge flew his aircraft to the aid of a fellow Beaufort under attack from an enemy fighter, and the fighter broke away, allowing both Beauforts to limp back to Malta. Arthur Aldridge was awarded a Bar to his DFC. The citation reads:

Flying Officer Aldridge has attacked shipping on several occasions and in

spite of heavy fire, he has achieved great success. During three attacks in June, in the Mediterranean, he hit an Italian warship, which later sank, and disabled another. On the last occasion Flying Officer Aldridge defied an extremely heavy barrage of shells.

Aldridge was philosophical about his awards, saying:

I'd won the DFC and Bar by the age of twenty-one. I'm sure I wasn't the youngest to do that, but it was still quite an early age when you look back at it. Would I have been able to do the things I did had I been older? I can't answer that question. Some people say you get more afraid as you get older. The war came when I was young, and since I wasn't destined to be involved in another, it's not something I can confirm or deny. As far as my crew and I were concerned, we'd just been getting on with the job.

The Squadron eventually moved on to Ceylon, but Aldridge was rested from front line action for a time, returning to 217 Squadron as a flight commander in April 1944. He retired from the RAF at the end of the war, was repatriated towards the end of summer 1945, and was demobbed just in time to resume his second year at Oxford in the 1946 autumn term.

After qualifying as a teacher, Mr Aldridge taught French and German in Glasgow before coming to King's as a Modern Foreign Languages master in 1954, where he was to remain for 26 years. Though his exploits during the war might indicate otherwise, Mr Aldridge was a quiet and introspective man, with an interest in both music and Renaissance art. At times he found it difficult to control the exuberance of younger pupils; but at Sixth Form level, when students were more prepared to exercise a degree of self-control, he excelled as a teacher.

Mr Aldridge was, however, the driving force behind setting up an RAF Section in the CCF at King's at the beginning of the 1959 Summer Term, which he commanded. The Section had its first flying experience at the RAF Station Gaydon on 3 July 1959;



17/8296: KSW CCF RAF Cadets at RAF Upwood, 1961
Aldridge is in the centre of the seated row



1/8660: KSW Staff, July 1958
Aldridge is on the far right of the back row

his RAF Section had a flourishing decade with an enviably high level of examination successes. In 1969 he assumed command of the whole cadet force at King's. At Easter 1970 Mr Aldridge and four of the section went on a camp to RAF Wilderwath in Germany; the training programme included initiative exercises such as bridge building, raft construction and map reading in the Eiffel district. Mr Aldridge devoted an enormous amount of his spare time to the Section; he retired from the CCF in 1976, having run the RAF Section for 17 years and being Contingent Commander of King's CCF for seven years.

In 1980 Mr Aldridge retired from King's, having dedicated 26 years to the School. His tribute in *The Vigornian* noted, "A gentle and scholarly figure, Arthur will not be forgotten." Of his decision to become a teacher, Mr Aldridge had recalled:

The more I thought about it, the more it made sense. Teaching foreign languages couldn't do any harm to anyone. Who knows, it might even do a bit of good. Helping people from different countries to have a good chat and a good time before they fell out and decided to kill each other...

that seemed like a reasonable way forward... To teach people to communicate better, that will help prevent a few wars. I hope I've done my bit, having taught French and German to British children for more than thirty years.

*He continued to live in Malvern with his wife Beryl, whom he had met at Oxford and married in 1948. The couple had a daughter and two sons, **Geoffrey (CI 1959-1969)**, and **Mark (CI 1967-1977)**. Mr Aldridge died on 20 December 2015, aged 95.*

Testimonies:

I was taught French by Mr Aldridge at "O" level during my last two years of school. Mr Aldridge must have recognised my apparent ability to be proficient at languages and under his tutorship I became very good at both written, reading and oral French – I actually enjoyed his lessons! However as he was a new teacher at King's unfortunately some members of my form were very disrespectful to him which caused Mr Aldridge some consternation, causing him to not maintain discipline in his class. Many years later while serving in Oxfam in Malvern I met his son who bore an uncanny likeness to his father. I told him how Mr Aldridge was one of my favourite teachers and how he had encouraged me to excel at French. He also told me that when Arthur Aldridge first came to King's he could not believe his good fortune in getting a teaching position at such a prestigious school with its splendid location and grounds.

David Head (CI 1950-1959)

Whether as a stropky member of the CCF air force section, a reluctant school cross-country runner or an irreverent student of Balzac's 'Old Goriot' I have always regretted my failure to appreciate Arthur Aldridge's infinite modesty and patience with some very tiresome fifth-formers on the cusp of early 1960's rebellion.

David Phillips (S 1952-1961)

Mr Aldridge taught me French at O Level, and like nearly all of us in his classes found it difficult to believe – although we knew it to be true because he had been awarded the DFC (twice) – this mild mannered, easy on discipline, man was actually a true war hero.

Mike Page (Cr 1960-1965).

On Saturday mornings, the Combined Cadet Force loomed large. The masters, many highly decorated from their service in WWII, would try to educate us in matters military. I was about as enthusiastic for army manoeuvres as I was for cross country runs. It was therefore a blessed relief when Arthur Aldridge formed a new Royal Air Force section for the CCF. As a founder member, I was in a privileged position. We would do trips on field days in a variety of now historic aircraft. I undertook a gliding course with solo flight.

Tim Garden (Cr 1952-1962)

Later Air Marshal The Lord Garden

Beyond King's: Where are they now?

We love to hear news from around the world and we regularly feature an OV in *Beyond King's*, previously known as *OV of the Week*. *Beyond King's* helps showcase the diversity of OV activity, to inspire and motivate current pupils and members of the King's Family. If you would like to be featured, please contact us via alumni@ksw.org.uk

Rachael Speirs (née Draper, Co 90-92)



OV **Rachael Speirs (née Draper, Co 90-92)** is currently Deputy Head Pastoral at Solihull School and part of the Senior Leadership Team, a role she has held since

2020. This includes the pastoral care for c. 1,100 pupils aged 11-18 and line-managing the Assistant Head in charge of Safeguarding and Pupil Welfare, as well as the school's Anti-Discrimination Lead, who leads on DEI (Diversity, Equity and Inclusion). This is in addition to managing the Heads of Section for the Lower School, Middle School and Sixth Form, presenting assemblies on contemporary issues and running the Whole School Council.

Rachael's inspiration for education can be pinpointed to her time at King's, where she studied English Literature, Music and Religious Studies for A Level. Her teachers, **Peter Diamond (Hon OV)**, **Stephan Le Marchand (Hon OV)**, and **Richard Davis (Hon OV)** taught with such passion that Rachael has tried to emulate in her career as a teacher.

Studies aside, Rachael represented the School both on the sports field, in the Hockey Team, and also on the stage, playing Blousey Brown in the School production of 'Bugsy Malone' which remains a highlight of her Sixth Form life.

Indeed, Rachael's passion for Drama and Music has remained with her and she still plays her flugel horn and sings in the Chapel Choir at her current school. Musical connections with King's did not end when Rachael left, as she returned for the School's 450th Anniversary celebrations at the Albert Hall, playing the oboe, when she also met the Queen.

Following on from King's, Rachael moved to Nottingham to study a BA in English and Sociology at Nottingham Trent University. This was shortly followed by her PGCE at Keele University, thereby igniting her career in education.

Rachael began her working life as a teacher at Tudor Grange, Solihull, where she taught English. Her passion for teaching saw her quickly promoted to Second in Department; her commitment to the pupils naturally led Rachael down the pastoral route and she was duly appointed Head of Year.

Moving to Saint Martin's School in Solihull, Rachael continued to teach English but was recognised for her dedication to education and progressed through the ranks: from Assistant Head with responsibility for Sixth Form, then Acting Deputy Head, Deputy Head to Acting Head.

Saint Martin's then merged with Solihull School in September 2020, when Rachael was appointed Deputy Head Pastoral. In this position, Rachael feels it is important as a female leader to be a role model and to pass on some of her experience over the last 25 years in the profession, so she is also a mentor to aspiring female leaders.

Rachael continues to keep very connected with King's, not least by being married to another OV, **Matthew Speirs (H 86-91)**, but also through School reunions and social media. She remains close to many of the friends made at King's.

Rachael's time at King's taught her to grasp opportunities with both hands, work hard and be ambitious – all traits she has tried to follow in adult life.

Harrison Smith (Cr 03-05)



OV **Dr Harrison Gallantree-Smith (Cr 03-05)** transferred to King's for the Sixth Form and joined both his sister Poppy Gallantree-Smith (03-05) and his father,

Chris Gallantree-Smith (Hon OV), or Mr G-S as he was affectionately known.

Harrison was a very active member of the Sixth Form, involved in numerous activities including the Choir, Archives, Young Enterprise, Squash and Music, but still made time for his A Levels of History, Chemistry and Biology. His one regret remains not representing the School at Cricket.

It was during his time at King's that Harrison realised his passion was in Chemistry, especially learning about new compounds and materials and how they improve people's lives, with thanks to **Dr Mark Poole (Hon OV)**

for his support and encouragement. This led Harrison to read Chemistry at University College London (UCL), where he soon recognised that his talents were in making and synthesizing new chemicals.

After gaining his MSc in Organic Chemistry at UCL, fuelled with a desire for travelling, Harrison took a research position in Canada as an industrial synthesis chemist, which was a great learning experience. However, having realised that he needed to progress his career further, Harrison then applied for a PhD in organic synthesis at the Norwegian University of Life Sciences (NMBU). With his love of the outdoors and the lure of a more relaxed way of living, Norway was the perfect choice for him.

Harrison's PhD focussed on the synthesis of complex molecules from nature and fatty acids from fish, which culminated with a publication in a top scientific journal. During his PhD, though, Harrison became interested

in the field of renewable and sustainable raw materials, especially after seeing first-hand the damage climate change has done to Norway.

As such, after successfully completing his PhD, Harrison shifted away from organic synthesis and took up a new position as an industrial researcher at a bio-refinery in Norway. This position allows him to find eco-friendly alternatives for oil-based chemicals. Along with lab-work and working with industrial partners, Harrison has also managed to write and film digital content for his company to convey these eco-friendly alternatives to a wider audience.

Outside work, Harrison is a keen guitarist, squash player and golfer, and would like to pick up tennis. Being in Norway for over ten years now, he has picked up the skiing and ice-skating bug and will often go off into the forest or mountains to enjoy the snow. Harrison is also semi-fluent in Norwegian or "Norsk" as they call it there.

Phil Mackie (CI 73-84)



Phil Mackie (CI 73-84) followed in the footsteps of his father, **Alec Mackie (CI 47-56)** when he arrived at King's, and a further generation of Mackies have also been King's

pupils, with his three daughters also attending the School.

Phil is the BBC's Midlands correspondent; he has worked for the corporation since 1992 when he was a trainee reporter. In 1998 he was appointed as Radio 5Live's West of England reporter, moving to the West Midlands in 2004. In 2009 he added network TV duties and since 2018 has been

the network's correspondent covering the whole of the Midlands.

During his career, Phil has reported from more than 20 different countries, including being in Kabul 2001, covering the Tsunami in Sri Lanka in 2004, the elections in Iraq in 2005, the Arab Spring in Egypt in 2011, and in refugee camps in Jordan and Lebanon.

Whilst at King's, Phil was selected for the School at Hockey and Cricket, playing for the 1st XI, as well as the undefeated Under 14s of 1980. He also performed in Edward Kemp's play *The Iron & the Oak* in Sixth Form. Phil's A-levels were English, History and Economics. Following King's, Phil studied History at University of Kent, after which he

travelled for a year and then, on his return to the UK, began his journalistic journey, initially at BBC Hereford & Worcester.

In terms of advice to any budding journalists, Phil says, "Be enthusiastic, be nice to people, don't say no to anything at the beginning, always say yes, and be willing to learn and to try things out."

Phil manages to balance his demanding BBC career with a 43-year stint playing for Worcester's Old Vigornians Cricket Club (OVCC), as a right-arm seamer, middle order batsman, and also often as captain. He is the current Chair of the OVCC and is looking forward to organising the Club's 75th anniversary in Spring 2023.

Dr David Bryer (Cr 54-58, H 58-62, and King's St Alban's)



Humanitarian and OV **Dr David Bryer (Cr 54-58, H 58-62, and King's St Alban's)** found his time at King's to be instrumental in guiding the direction his career would take.

A Senior King's Scholar studying Greek, Latin and History for A Levels, David was also Head of House in his final year at school, as well as the Company Sergeant Major of the CCF. In the little spare time he had, David enjoyed rowing and cross-country running.

Worcester College, Oxford was where David pursued his interest in Middle Eastern Studies, graduating in Arabic, Turkish and Middle Eastern history. There followed a PGCE at Manchester University, after which David returned to Oxford to complete a DPhil on the Druze, a Middle Eastern religious group.

Through the 1960s and early 70s, David's career encompassed teaching, working for

the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO), and he was also an assistant keeper at the Ashmolean Museum in Oxford for a period.

In 1975, David joined Oxfam, working in a variety of jobs, starting as the representative in Lebanon soon after the Civil War commenced. Staying with Oxfam, David was subsequently Africa Director (1981-4), Overseas Programme Director (1984-1991) and progressed to be UK Director (1992-2001).

David later moved to Geneva (2001-2003), where he was a Senior Advisor at the Henry Dunant Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue, working on conflict resolution. In 2003, he was appointed to the impressive position as Chair of Oxfam International.

David has been on the Board of a number of voluntary organisations including Save the Children, WWF, Oxfam America and VSO. Additionally, David has been Chair of Home-Start International and a member of the Court of Oxford Brookes University. We also cannot forget to note that David was a member of

a number of UN panels and committees, including the Secretary General's High Level Panel on financing for development.

In 1996, David was awarded a CMG (Companion of the Order of St. Michael and St. George) in the New Years Honours List for his work. David is also a member of the King's School Barnabas Group, having returned to School in 2009 to speak with, and inspire, King's pupils.

Not one to settle into retirement, David is now Lay Canon and Member of Chapter of Worcester Cathedral, and also on the Cathedral's finance committee.

David credits his King's housemaster, Richard Knight, for building the confidence of a then 'shy kid' and opening up ideas that indirectly led him to his lifelong interest in the Middle East, Islam and the Druze. His love for music also stems from his time at King's, where his study-buddy, the late **John Langdon (H 52-61)**, along with time spent with the late Hon OV **Peter Barnett**, and in the Cathedral, combined to inspire David.

Georgia Mackie (W 08-15)



Georgia Mackie (W 08-15) followed in the footsteps of her father, **Philip Mackie (CI 73-84)** and grandfather, **Alec Mackie (CI 47-56)** when she arrived at King's. Georgia

threw herself into life at King's, getting involved with both the Music department through singing and clarinet lessons and by representing King's on the sports fields in hockey, netball and rounders. At A level, Georgia studied Maths, Biology and Latin and, on leaving King's, she had a gap year

and then headed up to Newcastle University, where she studied Classics.

Georgia's first job took her to London, where she worked for two years as a sole Parliamentary Assistant working directly for an MP, in the House of Commons; this meant working through a general election, Brexit and the pandemic. She was responsible for managing all correspondence, handling constituent casework, communicating with high level Government officials and Ministers and she was actively involved with international organisations with a particular focus on girls' education.

Georgia has more recently moved into Business Consultancy, where she is an associate consultant. Here she has begun to carve out a career focussed on sustainability, having worked with the RSPCA to help them reduce their environmental impact and shape their sustainability vision, and more recently with the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, researching energy efficiency calculations.

Georgia's time at King's prepared her for life after school by providing a solid foundation to her learning, giving her the confidence to hold her own in unfamiliar situations.

A Picture Paints a Thousand Words



Oklahoma Programme 2006



Captains of Boats Reunion 2012



First Girls to join the Lower Fourth, as they left the Upper Sixth in 1998



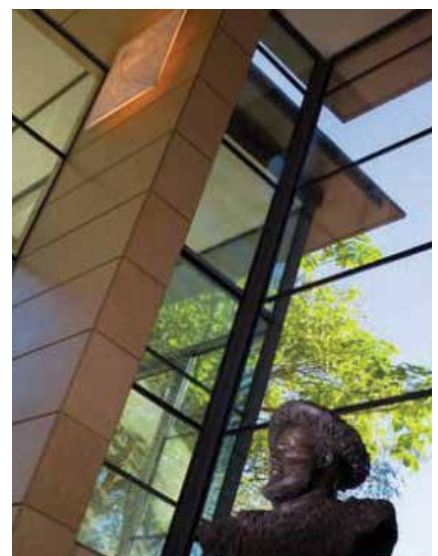
Castle House 1981



Alan Stacey warming up for a musical performance in 1980s



King's Herald Team 1990



Henry VIII in School House



Hockey Team 1964



Winnie the Pooh after the dress rehearsal 1978



Castle House 1981



Sixth Form Archives Club 2008



Upper Remove 1979



King's Fete 1968



Tim Keyes and John Moore at the renaming of the theatre in 2002



King's Hockey Team 1992

Upcoming Events

Please note all our events may be subject to change.

For more information or to book on to an event please email alumni@ksw.org.uk or phone **01905 721737**

School House Lunch

Monday 10 October 2022

Oxford and Cambridge Club, Pall Mall

For School House OVs in their 70s and 80s. Please get in touch for more information.

OV Golf Day

Friday 7 October 2022

Ombersley Golf Club

Great news: the OV Golf & Carvery event is being revived for 2022! If you are interested in playing or have a question about the event, please do get in touch.



We are very excited to be refreshing our OV Events Calendar for the coming year, from reunions to networking opportunities, so please do keep an eye on the Events page on the website (www.ksw.org.uk/alumni/events/events/). We will also email OVs with news of events, so please do get in touch with us at alumni@ksw.org.uk if you need to update your contact details. Please also remember you can update your Communications Preferences at any time, via the website: www.ksw.org.uk/alumni/about/communication-preferences/ or just get in touch!

Please do check out our website and follow us online:



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King's Foundation Open Events

King's Foundation Open Events include a full tour of the classrooms and facilities, an introduction from the Headmaster and the opportunity to speak with staff and pupils about life at King's in 2022.

For more information or to book an Open Day or a Private Tour, please visit ksw.org.uk/ShapedByKings

Autumn Open Mornings

Sixth Form Saturday 19th November 2022

King's St Alban's Prep Saturday 1st October 2022

King's Hawford Prep Saturday 8th October 2022



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