



King's
Worcester

Connect



Summer 2023

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

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A Letter from the Headmaster

The School continues in robust good health and you'll be delighted to hear that we have once again been ranked as one of the Top 10 independent secondary schools in the West Midlands in the latest Sunday Times Parent Power Schools Guide. This is due to the endeavour and commitment of all members of the Vigornian family in providing the very best all-round education; pupils, staff, parents and Old Vigornians all continue to play a vital part in our success.

We continue to be extremely grateful to the many OV's who provide careers advice and support for our current pupils preparing for the next stage in their journeys, especially at our Careers' Week Extravaganza. It has also been wonderful to see that members of the OV network continue to encourage each other, with those more experienced in a field helping younger OV's with their career direction; this has been further supported by the launch of *Network 1541*, a business networking community for the Vigornian family of OV's and current and former parents.

It has been a year of fantastic OV reunions, visits, successes and achievements, shared through the regular OV news; it was wonderful to be able finally to hold the OV Reunion Weekend and to welcome OV's from across the generations back to school. It was also very exciting to reignite our overseas reunions with my visit to Singapore and Sydney, more about which you can read later in the magazine.

After the launch of our strategic plan this year, we are looking forward to the first physical manifestation of this in the remodelling of School House to accommodate an augmented Sixth Form Centre at the centre of the campus. Our Sixth Form curriculum has also been significantly enhanced as part of the continued evolution of King's.

This is all part of the King's DNA, at the heart of the School's vision to be curious, caring and confident, and the mission to seek excellence in all we do and provide an outstanding preparation for life. That has certainly been reflected in the many conversations I have had with OV's over the year. Many mention the outstanding memories they have of sporting camps and overseas tours, DofE, CCF camps and music tours, and I'm delighted to report that all of these have continued to flourish this year, alongside significant sporting success.

We firmly believe that the wonderful opportunities offered in this rich programme should be available to as many as possible and I would like to offer heartfelt thanks to all those OV's who support King's and the bursary programme to provide for that. We thank all those OV's who give regularly or offer one-off donations; we also thank our major donors, including the Kildare Trust, both for their support with an enduring bursary but also for two new boats for the Boat Club. We have been informed of several legacies to King's that individuals have included in their wills this year, and I would like to extend my sincere thanks to all who choose to remember King's in this way. Without the wonderful generosity of all who give to King's in whatever way, we would not be able to continue to provide bursarial opportunities for pupils to attend our remarkable School.

We continue to be inspired in so many ways by the OV community as we prepare our current pupils for their lives beyond King's, and we thank you all for your support.

Gareth Doodes MA FRSA

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The reference in Connect 52 to the late **Arthur Aldridge**, DFC and Bar, reminded me of my time in the RAF Section of the King's CCF, during which I reached the heady heights of Flight Sergeant and Senior Cadet NCO, largely by default, due to the lack of any other suitable candidate.

Accompanied by Arthur, I attended Camp at RAF Coltishall in 1969, where the attached photo was taken in front of an English Electric Lightning which, at the time, provided the UK's primary defence against aerial attack.

I vividly remember the "exercises" that we were set there. These included attempting to get a group of cadets and an oil drum over a high concrete blast-pen wall, using ropes and (short) poles, during which I remember perching on a narrow lintel thirty feet above the ground, heaving on a rope as hard as I dared without pulling myself over the edge. We were also tasked with crossing a Norfolk dyke on home-made rafts, most of which fell apart during the crossing, depositing their



occupants into the freezing cold water. No safety ropes or life jackets in those days. The smell of wet wool still reminds me of this camp as it rained (a lot) and every evening there was fierce competition to get the best spots in the barrack boiler room so that our soaking serge battledress uniforms would be dry by the morning.

I believe Arthur finished his service career as an Acting Squadron Leader but, when he was first CO of the King's School CCF, he had reverted to his substantive rank of Flight Lieutenant. Shortly before I left the Section, his long dedication to the RAF was recognised and he was promoted back to Squadron Leader.

RAF Section outside visits were always characterised by the comparison between the immaculate, new-looking service dress that attired officers in charge of other school CCF parties, and the well-worn battledress worn by our leader. However, their bare tunic fronts and meagre rank markings provided a sharp contrast to the impressive row of medal ribbons, pilot's wings and three rings on his sleeve displayed by Squadron Leader Aldridge, which emphatically demonstrated his distinguished service career.

Dave Anscombe (W 65-72)



Like so many other OV's, many of my best memories revolve around the Old Chapel. I went many times while at King's St Alban's, but my most memorable trip took place in the Lower Remove. The weather was beautiful, and we enjoyed canoeing, walking and plenty of garden cricket. An attempt to cook some pasta somehow went horribly wrong, which now, looking back, seems almost impossible. I ended up doing lots of washing-up for the rest of Wulstan House, which I didn't mind; I had become very good at washing up when I had been made to do everyone else's after misbehaving on my last trip to the Old Chapel in Year Six! It really is an amazing place, and the memories I have of the Old Chapel are among the fondest I have. One tends to take these things for granted as a schoolboy, but the King's School is fortunate to have such a wonderful resource and I only wish it were used more.

Charles Pillman (W 15-22)



Phoebe, front and centre of this photo, was definitely a King's School dog. Her mother, Sophie, belonged to Nick Witherick, the School Caterer, and her father, Ben, was the cocker spaniel from the Diglis Hotel. Their liaison was witnessed, we were told, on the riverbank by the Lower Remove. She was a lovely, friendly, intelligent dog.

Phoebe achieved notoriety on the day when College Green was prepared for one of those huge school photographs,

sometime in the 1980s. She and I had popped out to watch, when she was "accosted" by a small terrier belonging to a member of staff right in front of the entire school on their benches. The cheers and laughter brought **John Moore (HM 83-98)** out of his study to see what was going on and I slunk back inside, knowing there was nothing I could do that wouldn't add to the hilarity. I'm sure everyone on the photograph had a smile on their face.

Jane Bridges (Hon OV)

OV Visits

It such a great treat when OVs return to King's for a visit: a wander around the familiar, yet subtly different surroundings bringing back a plethora of memories and emotions and the opportunity to retrace steps and reminisce about schooldays.

For the slightly younger OVs, it is wonderful to bump into a member of staff who is still teaching and have a chat. It is testament to the King's family that there are some teachers who have been at the school for over 25 years, including Hon OVs **Richard Davis, Tom Sharp, Simon Cuthbertson, Chris Haywood, Dr Mark Poole, Rev'd Dr Mark Dorsett, Gilly**, and OV **Nicki Essenhig (Co 84-86)**.

Depending on what is happening at school, tours usually take in the familiar surroundings of Edgar Tower, College Hall, old dormitories and classrooms, the Science Block and more, with a chance to see how the School is evolving with some of the newer facilities including the Keyes Building and the Michael Baker Boathouse.

For OV **Alan Hughes (Ch 63-73)**, who visited from his home near Thurso with his wife Sonya, a particular joy was seeing the Michael Baker Boathouse. Alan was a keen rower while at King's, although with some bittersweet memories, including being 'bumped' from the 1st VIII by one of his crewmates, albeit one who then became an Olympic medallist, so no hard feelings were harboured!

Alan also shared how the Fives Courts were not only used for ballgames; for a King's Fete, the Royal Porcelain Works had donated their damaged and broken ceramics, which were duly lined up in the Fives Courts for 'players' to smash in a twist on the traditional 'knock down the pins' carnival game.

Alan added, "I just wanted to say a very big thank you for taking the time to show Sonya and me around the School and for making our visit so enjoyable. It brought back so many memories for me whilst at the same time letting me see some of the impressive and imaginative changes that have been made since I was a pupil."



OV **Geraint 'Taff' Nicholas (Ca 76-81)** joined the Alumni team for a look around both King's and King's St Alban's. As was the norm when he was at school, Geraint boarded in King's St Alban's while he was in the Lower and Upper Fourth. He enjoyed looking around what is now the Prep School, rediscovering his old dorms, and chatting to many of the King's St Alban's teachers, including Headmaster **Richard Chapman (Hon OV)**, about how the School used to look. In particular, Geraint noticed how the swimming pool

had gained a roof, remembering how cold the pool used to be, even in the summer!

While so much had changed at King's, Geraint remarked on how places like College Hall and Castle House, now the Music School, still felt the same, and how even the smallest things, such as the view out onto College Green or the stage in what was the old Library, were so familiar from his time at the School.



OV **Rob Jansen (K 93-00)** visited 'big' King's having spent the morning giving assemblies to pupils in King's St Alban's as part of his role as Education Officer for Severn Trent Water. Speaking about his visit, Rob added, "My visit to King's St Alban's and the tour of the 'big' school was very enjoyable; it brought back lots of vivid memories. I would recommend any OVs to take this wonderful opportunity and relive those formative years."



For OV **Dick Bailey (CI 43-45)**, known as 'Bill' when at King's, it was a special visit, as it was the first time he had been able to bring his three daughters, Helena, Sophie and Torsie with him to share his trip down memory lane, and some wonderful stories of Chemistry experiments going awry, playing football in the Choir House courtyard, and the 'Dayboys' Dining Hall' in the quad.



OV **Roger Tringham's (Cr 51-60)** visit recalled memories of some interesting teaching techniques, including Dan McTurk, who would occasionally teach from outside the classroom, shouting instructions to the boys within through the window: not a technique Roger deployed during his own teaching career! The very top of Edgar Tower had been home to Roger's study, and climbing the steps brought back some great memories.



King's St Alban's featured prominently in OV **David Thomas's (S 56-66 and Old St Alban's)** life as his father, **Wilfrid Thomas (HM 55-75)** was the headmaster! Despite living on site, David still boarded when he moved across to the Senior School to immerse fully into life at King's. This was a lovely occasion for David to show his accompanying friends the Wilfrid Thomas Library: a bespoke extension in King's St Alban's, named in honour of David's family.

The DT block, also known as the Wolfson Building, was a focal point for OV **Lizzy Bennett's (Ch 08-10)** visit, a place where she would spend hours each day when she joined in the Sixth Form, often being the last student to leave the school site. The visit was made even more special by being able to spend some time with Hon OVs **Chris Wilson**, Head of DT, and **Julie Palmer**, who had both helped Lizzy with her A Levels. Lizzy's nostalgia was further fuelled in Choir House, where she found what had been her House Room. Although it is now an office, that did not detract from her great memories.



OV **Clive Marks (S 69-74)** presented Volume Two of *Marks Choral Collect: The Stories: fun, friends and fiascos* to the School along with a model of his Grammy Award, which now takes pride of place in the Music School!



Some OVs return to King's to share gifts generously with the School. **The Rev'd Canon John Wright (Cr 57-65)** donated a book to the Matthew Armstrong Library. The book, *Jeremy Dupertuis Bangs's Pilgrim Edward Winslow, New England's First International Diplomat* was given to John by his daughter, OV **Sarah Thomson (née Wright, E 90-92)**, who is currently living in the USA and knows how much John enjoys history. OVs will remember that Edward Winslow is part of the OV family, having been at King's from 1606-1611, as well as one of the first settlers in America and Governor of the Plymouth Colony.

John added, "Although the book can be quite hard going, it is also a fascinating read. I wanted to do something with it and not just leave it languishing on a bookshelf, and the King's Library seemed the most fitting place."

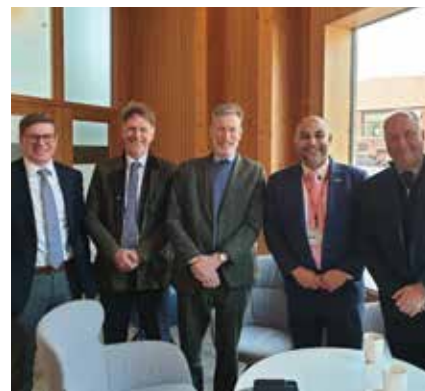
Whilst walking around the School, a particular highlight for John was the 'New Block', renamed the Annett Building in 2001 in honour of **David Annett (HM 59-79)**. John's house, Creighton, had been on the top floor and John commented how it felt exactly the same as when he was in school. He also recalled being taught Latin by David Annett, remembering the Headmaster saying that the class might not know more Latin by the end of the year, but would know enough for their exams, which John confirmed was completely accurate!



The current Upper Fourth Form under **Simon Cuthbertson's (Hon OV)** tutelage were so excited to meet OV **Abbas Kazerooni (Ch 91-96)**, who took time out of his short visit back to the UK to pop into King's. The pupils had been reading Abbas's second book, *The Boy with Two Lives*, which charts Abbas' life once he arrived in the UK, following a traumatic journey from war-torn Iran, and includes an account of his time at King's, both as a day boy and a boarder. The pupils had been entranced by the book, especially when connecting Abbas' words and descriptions of King's with the school they know today; they jumped at the opportunity to meet the author himself!

Whilst on his visit, Abbas also kindly signed copies of his book in the Matthew Armstrong Library, and sent some additional copies from his home in the USA. In addition to catching up with some teachers Abbas remembered from his time at King's, a further highlight for Abbas was to be joined by Hon OVs **Trudie Marskell** and **Nicky Wilson** (formerly Mrs Anstey), who popped in for coffee too.

Abbas' visit was topped off with some quality time with his good friend and newly appointed Director of Operations, OV **Adam Winter (CI 84-94)**, before heading to the railway station and thence back to London, travelling onwards from there home to California.



Careers support

We would like to extend our huge gratitude to the OVs who have given so willingly of their time, sharing words of wisdom and genuine advice to both current pupils and other OVs.

While much of the advice is via email to accommodate OVs who are not local and indeed fit their advice in around their own busy schedules, some OVs are able to return in person to support current pupils, who are 'matched' with OVs who have experience in certain industries or sectors. OVs support current pupils by sharing careers advice and letting the pupils benefit from the OVs' lives beyond King's. This support includes Gap Year Talks to the Lower Sixth, with thanks to OVs **Will Head (Ca 14-21)**, **Will Hunt (Ch 14-21)**, **Amelia Bladon**

(Cr 14-21) and **Izzy Dimmock (Ca 14-21)** who shared their own varying gap year experiences to give the Lower Sixth some inspiration for their plans. Others take the opportunity to tie in a visit to King's with some careers advice, including **Squadron Leader Rhianon Webb (nee Lloyd, Br 92-99)**, **Sophie Edgar-Andrews (S 03-08)**, and our Barnabas speakers.

Specialist careers require specialist advice, and we continue to be grateful to those OVs, such as **Hannah Shearburn (Os 09-16)** and **Emma Smalley (W 12-19)** for sharing advice about careers in Medicine, **Alex Wenyon (Cr 07-14)** for encouraging budding KSWBC rowers and coxes, **Alice Walters (Br 99-07)** for her art exhibition in the Art Block and for speaking with budding artists, and **Fred Cronin (Ch 11-18)** for speaking with the Sixth Form Germanists.

Over the course of Careers Week 2023, King's hosted a Careers Extravaganza for both King's School pupils and those from the wider Worcestershire community. Some highlights included **Tim Summers (Br 87-92)** talking about his career in law, **Claire Gott (Cl 97-06)** and **Lewis Bryer (Cl 78-87)** advising on how to excel in the world of engineering and **Drew Benvie (K 85-96)** and **Georgie Lewis (W 11-18)** from Drew's company Battenhall, talking about their career journeys and what lies ahead for the next generation. OVs **Steve Perera (Cr 86-93)**, **Kaushik Rai (Br 09-16)**, **Alice Martin (S 16-21)**, **Holly Wylde (Cr 15-22)**, and **Simon Mico (Os 85-96)** spoke to the huge range of pupils who visited College Hall during the Extravaganza.



Alex Wenyon and Jim Chalmers



Alice Walter and Chris Haywood



Emma Smalley



Gap Year Talks



Lizzy Bennett



Sophie Edgar-Andrews with Katie P



OVs at Careers Extravaganza

Reunions & Events



Year of 1982 Reunites

The Year of 1982 enjoyed an evening full of reminiscing, reuniting and laughter, celebrating 40 years since leaving King's, with time to remember absent friends and raise a glass for those who couldn't make the journey.

The evening began with tours around School, seeing some of the newer buildings on the site as well as School House, Edgar Tower and, of course, College Hall. The OVs had a great time, sharing memories of their time at School with the tour guides!

They were delighted to be joined by Hon OVs **Julia Roberts, Dr Gordon Leah, Tim Crow,** and **Tim Hickson**, who thoroughly enjoyed hearing about what had happened in the intervening 40 years.

The event was organised by OV **Tim Hall (Cr 72-82)** in conjunction with the King's Alumni Relations Co-ordinator, Amanda Sutcliffe. Tim was one of the OVs who had travelled a fair distance for the reunion from his home in Edinburgh, but the greatest commitment to the event was from OV **John Sear (Ch 72-82)**, who had journeyed from Australia to be there.

Tim said, "A wonderful time was had by all, and it was amazing how the years simply melted away. I was really touched by how welcoming and helpful the School was; it truly felt like being part of an extended family."



New OV BBQ

It was a pleasure to welcome back OVs from the years of 2020, 2021 and 2022 for a catch-up with their friends and former teachers. It was also wonderful to hear how well everyone is doing and their plans for their work and studies in the year ahead.

In true 'New OV BBQ' tradition, the OVs headed on into Worcester afterwards to continue their reunion celebrations!

School House Lunch Returns

Organised by OV **Tim Wadsworth (S 56-61)** in October the School House Lunch returned to the Oxford and Cambridge Club in London. Tim added, "After two cancelled years due to COVID-19, the School House Lunch was finally able to go ahead. We met once again in the very splendid surroundings of the Oxford and Cambridge Club on Pall Mall, kindly hosted by **George Beckmann (S 49-51)**, a member. Twenty-two '70ish' OVs, almost all School House, were able to attend, our most senior being 93!

"We were very glad that Rory McTurk was able to join us, and, on this occasion, we also welcomed Hannah Sparrey, from the King's Alumni Relations Office, and Georgina Mason, the School's Director of Finance. Memories were dredged up for a very respectable rendering of the School House Grace (in Latin) led by **David Murray (S 54-61)**, who also gave the toast to School House and **Dan McTurk (Hon OV)**. An excellent meal was had and friendships from over 50 years ago were renewed and cemented."



Remembrance Day 2022

It was an honour to welcome OV, **Squadron Leader Rhianon Webb (nee Lloyd, Br 92-99)** for Remembrance Day and to give the address during the Service of Remembrance in Worcester Cathedral with the whole School. We were also delighted to welcome representatives from the OV and Hon OV community, including both serving and retired members of the Armed Forces. Our OV Club President, **Julia Annable (née Simcock, Co 85-87)** laid a wreath on behalf of all OVs, and prayers were led by **Andrew Maund (Hon OV)**.

Following Rhianon's address, 15 members of the current CCF then each stood in turn in their various places around the Cathedral to commemorate the 15 members of our Vigornian Community who died in action in 1902 or 1942.

Modus Cup 2022

Many thanks to all those OVs who were pitch-side at Sixways Stadium to support our boys in blue for the Modus Cup 2022. It was a thrilling game, and congratulations go to RGS Worcester, who pushed through a win with final score of 20-17.



The 119th OV Reunion Dinner

The weekend of Saturday 4 March 2023 saw the rescheduled 119th OV Reunion Weekend 2022, with over 130 OVs and Hon OVs returning to the School for some wonderful reminiscing and re-connecting with school friends.

The weekend started with Bubbly Brunch, where it was marvellous to see so many Hon OV former staff returning to King's for a long overdue catch up. The OV Committee held their AGM, following which OVs and their families were treated to tours around School, hosted by an enthusiastic team of Monitors.

Saturday evening saw generations of OVs and Hon OVs donning their black-tie best for the OV Reunion Dinner in a resplendent College Hall. This year's Chappel Memorial Award winner, which recognises the oldest OV present who has not previously won, was OV **Dr Vaughan Nicholls (Br 57-66)**. It was lovely for Vaughan to have his grandson and his partner join him for the dinner and to see this recognition for Vaughan's support of the School.

The years of 1992, 1997 and 2002 were out in force celebrating their milestone anniversaries, taking great delight in seeing the 'Archives' boards full of memories from their time at King's. OV and Hon Secretary of the OV Committee, **Nick Stephens (Br 77-84)**, was the compère for the evening and we were

honoured to have the Very Rev'd Peter Atkinson, both a King's School Governor and the Dean of Worcester Cathedral, say the Grace before the delicious three-course dinner began.

Following the dinner, we were delighted that OV **Rachael Speirs (Co 90-92)** was the guest speaker representing the largest cohort of OVs present: the year of 1992. Rachael shared some heart-warming memories of her and her schoolfriends' time at School, and how proud she is to see King's continuing to go from strength to strength. Rachael concluded with a sentimental and very apt quotation, "We all take different paths in life, but no matter where we go, we take a little of each other everywhere."

Headmaster Gareth Doodes drew the speeches to a close with a warm welcome to all and a toast to the School.

The sign of a good night, OVs were reluctant to leave College Hall even after the bar had closed, but many retraced steps of earlier years with a trip into town.

The weekend was completed with the traditional Sunday Eucharist in Worcester Cathedral. It was wonderful to listen to OV **David Head (CI 52-58)** and Hon OV **Richard Chapman** representing the OV community with their readings during the service.



We all take different paths in life, but no matter where we go, we take a little of each other everywhere.

OV Rachael Speirs





OV Golf Day in Full Swing

The OV golfing community was delighted to see their Annual OV Golf Day return, with thanks to OV **James Bailey (Cr 84-93)** for organising the event.

James was joined by OVs **Stuart Preece (Ch 75-80)**, **Ian Smith (Cr 73-78)**, **Andy Townsend (H 74-78)**, **Gabriel Moores (Cl 87-95)**, **Tom Guest (S 90-97)**, **Paul Judge (W 83-93)**, **Nic Sproson (H 71-76)**, **Johnny Hung (Ch 89-94)**, **Leigh Stote (Cl 83-93)**, **Tim Whitehouse (K 86-94)**, **Gary Murphy (Cr 87-94)**, **Nick Firth (Ch 86-93)**, **Matt Richardson (Cl 86-93)** and **George Blakeway (H 76-86)**.

James kindly gave a précis of the day, "A great afternoon of golf was had at Ombersley Golf Club, catching up with old OV friends and making new. A bit of rain on the Front Nine failed to put a dampener on things, with predominantly sunshine on the Back Nine holes. The competition was fierce, but the overall winner was Paul Judge, with a very good round giving him 44 points. His team also won the Four-Ball (Gabriel Moores, Tom Guest, Paul Judge, Nic Sproson). Well done to all of them. We're already looking forward to 2023 event!"



The Friendliest of Football Fixtures

In January, the King's 1st and 2nd team footballers played their annual matches against two OV teams, who were more than happy to return to Slingpool Walk and participate in two great games, played in wonderful spirit.

The 1st OV team lost 6-1 to the current 1st



XI but the 2nd OV team won 3-1 against the King's 2nd XI. Despite the very different score lines, both were very close games, and every player really gave their all, with great support from organiser **Jon Sarriegui (Hon OV)**, and **Dr Mark Poole (Hon OV)**, who took on the coaching role for the OVs!

A big thank you goes to OV **Cameron Stanley-Blakey (S 10-17)**, who brought together the group of OVs. If there are any OVs who missed out on this occasion but would like to be involved in the future, please contact the alumni office!



OVs reuniting in Worcester

OV **Anna Hughes (née Wilson, Co 90-92)** kindly made contact to share the news of a wonderful 'mini' reunion, which took place in the shadow of the postponed 119th OV Annual Reunion Weekend.

Anna said, "As the OV Dinner was postponed and our hotels were all booked, some of us celebrated our 29th or 30th year since leaving King's by getting together in Worcester anyway. We ate, drank and were merry whilst walking around the outskirts of the School and Cathedral, marvelling both at what never changes and what also seemed very modern and new!"

"We were: **Robert Gilbert (Os 85-92)**, **Roger Bowles (Os 87-92)**, **Thomas Carslake (W 82-92)**, **Ralph Williams (W 85-92)**, **Zoe Glendinning (née McPherson, K 91-93)** and **Rebecca Lowans (née Healey, Co 91-92)**, who were in the year below us, and myself.

"We dined and raised a glass not only to the dear departed Queen Elizabeth but also to **Mr Bridges (Hon OV)**. Keith Bridges was a huge part of our life at King's.

"We had a wonderful time; we're all still firm friends and always will be with the blanket of King's keeping us warm."



King's School Carol Service

We had a magical evening of carols and readings in Worcester Cathedral, with a pre-Carol Service reception for some members of the King's Foundation family in College Hall.

'Oarsome' OV's

A great and hearty 'Thank You' to all the OV's who supported the incredible KSW Boat Club Charity Challenge in December, both in person and through donations. The target of rowing one million metres was smashed in just 17 hours having rowed non-stop through the night, raising thousands of pounds for the chosen charity, Mental Health UK.

The current KSW Boat Club was joined by **OV's Nemi Edwards (Br 13-20), Kate Emsley (CI 12-19), Faith Murray (K 13-20), Cat Lucas (Br 16-22), Matthew Daniels (Br 16-22), Emily Watkins (Ch 13-19), James Launder (Os 15-22), Tom Angell (Cr 16-21), Ned Meredith (S 14-22), Ben Thorpe (S 14-21) and Finn Watkins (Os 17-22)**, who all piled on the metres, supporting the Lower Remove to Upper Sixth rowers. A special thank you goes to retired King's Rowing Coach **Bill Needham (Hon OV)** who, despite now being in his 80s, was certainly a force to be reckoned with on the ergo! Also, **Jamie MacDonald (W 8-15)** who took a break from his RAF duties to pick up the baton and help give the overnight rowers a much-needed rest.



Five Year Reunion – Year of 2017

It was an absolute pleasure to welcome so many of the Year of 2017 back to school in February for their delayed Five Year Reunion. The Michael Baker Boathouse was buzzing with anticipation and excitement as the school friends caught up, some seeing each other for the first time in years.

The OV's were delighted to spend time with their 'old' teachers as well, sharing their news of the last five years, how their careers are blossoming in so many different

fields, and their plans for the future with Hon OV's **Katie Beever, Robin Booth, Jim Chalmers, Simon Cuthbertson, Rev'd Mark Dorsett, Elaine Friend, Chris Haywood, Richard James, Annabel Jeffery, Eric Lummas, Jonny Mason, Rosie Shearburn and Chris Wilson.**

Katie Beever formally welcomed everyone to the gathering, sharing her own memories of teaching so many of those present across the years, from Lower Fourth to Upper Sixth. Katie then handed over to OV and former Head of School **James Smalley (Br 10-17)** to say a few words.

James reminisced about their wonderful adventures together, including many school trips, challenges, and sports tours around the world. He noted, though, that while the trips, school plays and events had been amazing and memorable, it was the small things, which they took for granted at the time, that had shaped them: such things as chatting in House Rooms before school and break-times spent laughing with friends! He also toasted absent friends, including their Headmaster, the late Matthew Armstrong, whom they had all grown to admire and respect.



Ten-Year Reunion for the Years of 2012 and 2013

It was such a pleasure to welcome so many of the Years of 2012 and 2013 back to the School in March 2023 for their Ten-Year Reunions.

Headmaster **Gareth Doodes** formally welcomed everyone to the gathering. He explained that it was his third reunion in three continents in a week, having previously been at reunions in Singapore and Sydney, and it was always great to see how connected the OV community is. Both Heads of School for 2012 and 2013 were unable to attend the Worcester reunion: **Joe Fowles (CI 05-12)** enjoyed hearing how the school is faring at the Sydney reunion whilst **Ben Alexander (Ch 06-13)** is currently living in Canada. Gareth therefore handed over to OV's and former Deputy Heads of School **Jeannie Gibson (Ch 05-12)** and **Esther Roberts (S 08-13)** to say a few words.

Both said how wonderful it was to see all their friends together again and to get the chance to catch up with their favourite teachers who had joined them for the evening, some of whom they hadn't seen since their last day at school.

After the speeches, the 2012 and 2013 cohorts enjoyed drinks and canapés, making the most of their time back together.





Network 1541

The latest Network 1541 event took place in May: a Wine and Cheese Pairing Evening, delivered by OV **Lee-Anna Rennie (OS 93-03)** and sponsored by OV **Lewis Bryer (CI 78-87)** of Bryer Consulting.

We were so pleased to have so many OVs, parents and local businesses join us for a fun evening of wine, cheese, and networking.

Hannah Sparrey, King's Head of Alumni and Business Development, added, "Network 1541 was created to support the activities of the King's Foundation's business community and this event

was a great success, providing business inspiration and networking opportunities for those who attended."

Mess Night Delight

Thank you to Hon OV **Andrew Maund** for this lovely report of the 2023 King's School CCF Mess Dinner:

"Camouflage kit was swapped for Mess Dress, ball gowns or black-tie last Friday evening as 138 members of the King's School CCF gathered in all their finery for their annual Mess Dinner, held this year in the splendid surroundings of Grafton Manor in Bromsgrove.

"Included among the company were OVs of several generations, including **Lt Col Andrew Booton (K 80-89)**, as well as OVs who had left more recently and their guests.

"After welcome drinks and photographs in the grounds, everyone moved inside just before the rain for a splendid dinner, followed by the Loyal Toast, speeches, and the presentation of thank-you gifts and awards, including Leavers' Medals for the departing Upper Sixth cadets.

"The evening was masterminded by current Lower Sixth Cadet NCO Emilia D, who deserves our sincere thanks and congratulations upon all her efforts."



The OV Cricket Club's 75th Anniversary

On a picturesque Sunday afternoon in June at the King's School Cricket Pitches, the OV Cricket Club (OVCC) and supporters were out in force to celebrate 75 years since the club's inception.

OV **Richard Cook (Cr 88-93)** kindly shared a precis of the day and the match:

"On Sunday 4th June, the Old Vigornian Cricket Club celebrated its 75th anniversary with a fixture between the first KSW cricket side to tour Jersey, who did so in 1989, and the leavers of 1993. As the sides arrived at the Peter Iddon Pavilion, they were greeted with blazing sunshine and cloudless skies; memories came flooding back, with the help of a fabulous collection of photographs from school and OV cricket. The nostalgia transported all participants back to their heydays and everyone took the field feeling very much as they did in their later teenage years, although it quickly became clear to some that, whilst their brains were back in the late 80s and early 90s, their bodies were very much in the present.

"The 1993 side lost the toss and were asked to bat by Andrew Underwood, leading the Jersey Tourists. After a steady start against the testing opening attack of Rob Dow and Ben Jones, Richard Cook and Tim Whitehouse started to accelerate and took the score beyond 50. Having run out his partner, Richard Cook retired for a quick, if a little agricultural, 37, bringing Nick Firth to the crease. He accelerated the scoring

further as he dispatched the bowling to all parts of New Road, scoring a quickfire, unbeaten 59. Nick found willing partners in Matt Richardson and Nick Major, who took the score to 169 by the end of the allotted 20 overs.

"After a delightful lunch, the Jersey Tourists began their reply. Rob Dow and Robin Bishop rolled back the years with a fabulous opening partnership of 85. The growing crowd of OVs and Hon OVs, including former Headmaster, Tim Keyes (Hon OV), and current Headmaster, Gareth Doodles, were treated to some fantastic stroke play from Rob Dow before he was finally dismissed by Will Richardson for a well struck 80 (I don't have access to the scorebook but it was certainly 80ish!). After the quick dismissals of Richard Tomlinson and JJ Richardson, both deceived by the off-spin of Matt Richardson, Duncan Hughes was left to score the winning runs with three balls to spare.

"The afternoon culminated with Headmaster Gareth Doodles, OVCC Chairman **Phil Mackie (CI 73-83)**, and former OVCC Chairman, **Alec Mackie (CI 47-56)** sharing their memories of OV cricket and reminding all of the importance of the club to those within the King's community. The fact that they spoke on the steps of a building dedicated to a man who had been a key part in the cricketing lives of all those playing was not lost on either the players or the watching OVs. How Peter would have enjoyed the wonderful camaraderie of the whole delightful event!"



OV President's XI

Robert Dow (CI 84-89)
Robin Bishop (Ch 82-88, Old Hawfordian)
Philip O'Neill (W 82-91)
Richard Tomlinson (CI 83-90)
Duncan Hughes (Wicket Keeper) (Os 84-91)
J J Richardson (H 82-91)
John Malins (K 85-90)
Ben Jones (Br 82-89)
Charles Annable (CI 78-88)
Andrew Underwood (Captain) (S 77-87)
James Underwood (S 83-88)

Sunday XI

Tim Whitehouse (K 86-94)
Richard Cook (Cr 88-93)
Tom Guest (S 90-97)
Matt Richardson (CI 86-93)
Nicholas Firth (Ch 86-93)
Nick Major (S 92-02)
Paul Judge (Captain) (W 83-93)
Ben Grinnall (W 82-93)
George Kendall (Wicket Keeper) (W 83-93)
Adam Nicholls (Cr 88-93)
William Richardson



Opening the Door to King's

The School and all of our pupils are incredibly grateful for the different types of support generously given by OVs, parents and other members of the local community, in terms of volunteering, advice, time and financial donations.

King's has always welcomed pupils from the widest range of social backgrounds. We want to remain a school that any able and aspiring child can attend, regardless of financial circumstances, and to do this we rely on the generous support we receive from so many members of our Foundation community.

Our long-term ambition is to raise sufficient funds to secure the vision which inspired King Henry VIII in his re-founding of the School: forty free places at King's in perpetuity. Focussing on the key date of 1541, whether your donation is £15.41, £154.10 or £1,541, it will help to

make that vision a reality.

Giving on a regular basis is an affordable way of donating to the Bursary Fund. Regular gifts quickly add up and your contribution will join those of others to fund a bursary place. We also welcome single donations, and all gifts, no matter their size, are gratefully received into the Bursary Fund.

We realise that not everyone will be able to donate to the Bursary Fund in their lifetime. Legacy donations are a meaningful and enduring gift. All bequests, whatever their size, will help to provide access to King's for future generations.

OV John Foley (CI 64-74) shared his thoughts on donating to the bursary fund,

Why have I established a bursary fund? I believe the provision of an education in an excellent school such as King's is of huge benefit to the recipients, who are spared the worry of being able to pay. It is also of great benefit to the School, which is then stronger by being more inclusive as a result of well thought through selection processes, which include appropriate diversity considerations in order to reach the next generation of curious minds.

Ways to donate



Online – you can set up a regular donation or give a one-off gift by visiting www.ksw.org.uk/alumni/support-kings/donate/



By phone or email – if you would like to discuss your giving with us, please call the Alumni Team on **01905 721737** or email alumni@ksw.org.uk

£15.41

per month
from 94 people

£154.10

from 112 people

£1,541

from 11 people



OVs Overseas

We are excited that 2023 has seen the successful launch of the Overseas Old Vigornian Network (OOVN) with inaugural events in Singapore and Sydney.

There are members of the OV community on every continent, studying, working, or enjoying their retirement. We are keen to stay connected and plan to host reunions in different locations around the world, bringing the King's family to OVs and hopefully making the OV community more accessible for all its members, regardless of location.

OVs in Singapore



In March 2023, King's Headmaster, **Gareth Doodes**, welcomed OVs to the inaugural Overseas OV Reunion in the region.

Gareth explained, "It is important to bring all aspects of the King's community together and support strong, tangible links across the network. Although emails, publications and social media are important tools to support this connectivity, you can't beat face-to-face!"

While in Singapore, Gareth had a busy schedule meeting with OVs, which culminated in a dinner. The OV guests were a great representation of the OV community, ranging from the Years of 1987 to 2022: **Mark Beloeil-Smith (Ch 82-87)**, **Razmahwata 'Wata' Razalli (S 89-91)**, **Philippa Lucas (K 06-11)**, and **Saffa Shah (Cr 20-22)**.

Each OV was at different stages of their careers: Saffa enjoying her time at University, studying Medicine; Pippa in the hospitality industry adjusting to

the change in culture having moved to Singapore with her Singaporean husband, Karan; Wata experienced in his Engineering career who regularly gives advice to current King's pupils interested in a career in Engineering and Chemical Engineering; and Mark, visiting from Brunei, where he is Head of Geomatics for Shell.

Although each OV reflected a different era at King's, a common theme was the great experiences they had had at school and the close friendships made that have endured despite the years and geographical distances. Many wonderful memories of teachers were shared, who had prepared each of them so well for their future lives.

Gareth added, "It was a very special evening to meet with OVs who had known the School through its different evolutions and have the opportunity to share with them plans for the future and the School's vision, mission and value, which correlated well with their own time at King's."

Visiting Peter Watson

Following a great reunion in Singapore, Gareth travelled onwards to Australia. First port of call was Manly to meet with a particularly special OV, one who has been hoping for an OV event in Australia for over 60 years: **Peter Watson (S 38-41)**.

At 98 years old, we believe Peter is our oldest living OV, so Gareth was very pleased to have the opportunity to meet with him – a lovely juxtaposition as the School is getting ready to welcome the newest generation of OVs into the community in the summer.

Peter had been a boarder at King's and shared with Gareth how much he loved his time at school. This despite being there during a very tumultuous time when the School was evacuated to Criccieth during the war after the Government had planned to commandeer the school site. Peter's house, School, moved into the Caerwylan Hotel along with the Hostel boys, while Castle House went to the Pines Hotel. A slightly different school life ensued, until the return to Worcester and an unblemished school site in September 1940.

Ties with the School remain strong. Having made lifelong friends at King's, Peter had returned to the School for the Annual OV Reunion Weekend in 2006, where he was awarded the Chappel Memorial Award - given to the oldest OV present who has not previously won.

Following King's, Peter became an RAF Gunner, flying in Lancaster Bombers. He keenly remembers how his first crew went out while he was in hospital, and all perished. A lucky escape for Peter, of course, but tinged with the loss of his friends.

Peter moved to Adelaide in 1949 along with his first wife, moving to Sydney 18 years later after the tragic death of their second daughter. Sydney has remained his home ever since.

Back in the present, Peter introduced Gareth to the joys of 'Tim Tams' while they enjoyed coffee and a long chat. They both agreed they could have talked for hours, but Gareth needed to return to the city in time for OV dinner.

Gareth added, "It was an honour and a privilege to meet with Peter, who is a true gentleman. We only wished that there had been connections with OVs earlier, as this visit has helped Peter connect with an OV living just a few hundred yards from him!"



Following Gareth's visit, U6 student George C jumped at the opportunity for a video call with Peter, both of whom have a love of Maths.

Peter gladly shared his own experiences of King's with George, discussing the differences between 'then' and 'now'. The most distinct change is, of course, that from an all-boys boarding school in Peter's day to today's fully co-ed day school. Peter noted that the facilities are also marvellous compared with 50 years ago. He added, "The whole world has changed and fortunately there's so much more equality than when I was a child. More people are getting a much fairer go in the world now than they did then."

Peter's concluding advice to George and all King's students was,

Work as hard as you can and be kind to one another.



Sydney

At the first reunion for those local to Sydney, Gareth welcomed a wonderful mix from the OV community, from the 1960s to 2010s!

Two of the OVs present, **David Allen (Ch 80-80)** and **Andrew Erratt (S 80-80)** had only been at King's for two terms during the Sixth Form, which was thanks to an exchange scheme from Armidale School, NSW. Despite their short stints at King's, they both had very happy memories of their time and some great friends made and were delighted to be part of the OV Reunion.

It was great for OV and former Head of School **Joe Fowles (CI 05-12)** to be able to join the reunion in Sydney: he is in Australia on a sabbatical and due to this was missing his own 10 Year Reunion!

Showing how closely knit the OV family is, Gareth and the OVs were messaging OVs and Hon OVs back in the UK during the dinner, many of whom hadn't been in touch for years: a wonderful opportunity to rekindle friendships.

Gareth gave all present an update on the School, its vision, mission and values, which was followed by OV **Jamie Mackie (Os 75-85)**, who gave a lovely and heartfelt speech. In return, it was wonderful for Gareth to have this opportunity to connect with OVs from across the globe, noting how geography does not detract from the King's DNA, which runs through the OV family.

Gareth added, "It truly was a great evening, full of laughter, friendship and fantastic memories, and I felt privileged to be part of this overseas OV family."

"I found it particularly fascinating to learn about the incredibly varied career paths that had been taken by the 21 OVs present, from hospitality to utilities, the law and finance to health and fitness. This clearly demonstrates that a King's education really does set you up for life, wherever it may take you!"

Many of the OVs at the reunion were not aware there was such a great contingent of OVs local to them, but thanks to the dinner they are now connected and hope to regularly keep in touch.

It would be wonderful to have the support of Overseas OV Ambassadors, our 'OVs on the ground', to help make plans for future overseas reunions a reality. Our Overseas Ambassadors will act as a point of contact for anyone wishing to re-connect with OVs in their part of the world (in line with data protection protocols) and use their local knowledge to help and advise on potential locations and details for reunions. We are grateful to OVs on the East Coast of America and in Hong Kong, who are being instrumental in the next two Overseas Reunions already pencilled in for the coming months.

If you would like to nominate yourself or a friend to be an ambassador then please get in touch at alumni@ksw.org.uk and we can send you further information.

It's possible that we may not hold your current contact details, so please do let us know where you are living, and we can keep you updated on our exciting plans.

Barnabas

Distinguished OV's, 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: Dr Chris Lewis OBE

In October, we were honoured to welcome our first Barnabas Speaker of the new school year, OV **Dr Chris Lewis OBE (CI 86-95 and Old St Alban's)**.

Chris is currently Deputy Chief Scientific Adviser and Head of Expertise and Science Advice for the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) (previously the Department for International Development, DFID). He has been at the forefront of public health solutions across the globe and, in 2021, was awarded an OBE for Services to International Development.

While at King's, Chris was an active member of the school community, both as a Prefect for Chappel House and as a member of several teams and clubs including Athletics, Chess, Cross Country, DofE and the Himalayan Club. This was in addition to being a member of the School Orchestra and involved in many of the School's drama productions. It was a trip to Nepal with the Himalayan Club led by John Walton that gave Chris his first experience of lower income countries. The expedition really opened his eyes and inspired his journey towards working in international aid.

After securing A Levels in Chemistry, Biology and Maths, Chris went on to study medicine at the University of Southampton School of Medicine, continuing his studies to become a member of the Royal College of General Practitioners, specialising thereafter in Tropical Medicine, Humanitarian Aid and Public Health. His career began in the NHS as a General Practitioner, a role he continued alongside his international work for many years.

Most recently, Chris has been recognised for his work leading the scientific advice to inform the UK's international response to crises. His recent work has been on the conflict in Ukraine, but over the past couple of years he has led the science which underpinned the UK's global response to COVID-19. Chris previously led DFID Nigeria's health team from 2017-19, delivering health, nutrition, and water and



sanitation programmes across Northern Nigeria. In other jobs with DFID, he has been involved in a number of outbreaks, initiating the UK's response to the Ebola outbreak in Sierra Leone in 2014/15, resulting in the control of the outbreak.

Chris has also been involved in research and development with DFID, developing a new £1billion programme designed to develop, test and deliver a range of new products to tackle infectious diseases.

Prior to DFID, Chris led Save the Children's humanitarian health team from 2009 to 2012, responding to global crises. Prior to this, he spent four years living in South Sudan, working with Medair, Tearfund and the Ministry of Health on outbreak responses, TB and primary health care, budget and policy development and health coordination.

For Barnabas Day, Chris began by addressing the School at Morning Assembly in College Hall. The Sixth Form joined in person, with the remainder of the School watching from their Form Rooms via a live link. Chris spoke eloquently about failure, particularly about how those talking about their distinguished careers often gloss over the failures that helped get them where they were. Chris himself acknowledged there were many times he had not been successful in job applications, multiple exams he had failed, and stressed the importance in life of getting back up after failures knock you down. He shared how his time at King's had given him the

necessary confidence to speak with people from all walks of life, including those high in political office. Chris discussed his career, sharing that, apart from being a GP, all the jobs he has done are roles he had not heard of while at school, thereby

curiosity can play such an important role in career choice by not focusing solely on 'the known'

demonstrating how curiosity can play such an important role in career choice by not focusing solely on 'the known', and that a career is likely to be made up of many different chapters. Chris's talk received resounding applause from a captivated audience.

After the Assembly, Chris joined Head of Alumni and Business Development, Hannah Sparrey, for a walk around King's and King's St Alban's to see how both schools have evolved since his time.

In the Annett Building or, as many OV's know it, the 'New Block', Chris revisited his old House Room, which is currently a Maths classroom where **Graham Ward (Hon OV)** teaches. Graham and his class enjoyed speaking with Chris, who in turn shared with the class that he once performed a rendition of a *Take That* song during a Chappel House Christmas party in there!

Chris was very impressed with the Michael Baker Boathouse. Chris added that his sister, **Dr Elizabeth Lewis (CI 91-01 and Old St Alban's)** had been a keen rower whilst at School and would have relished such a great facility. There, **Emma McGinley (Director of Netball)** was teaching a PE class and stopped to

Barnabas Speaker: Lyn Westwood

We were delighted to welcome OV **Lyn Westwood (Co 87-89)**, Head of Engineering at Rolls-Royce Civil Nuclear, in the Spring term as the most recent member of the Barnabas Group.



talk to Chris. She said how inspirational his talk had been and how many of the pupils had commented similarly.

Having studied History GCSE with **Tom Sharp (Hon OV)**, whom he met during the day, Chris was keen to visit No. 12 College Green, where Head of History, **Emmah Ferguson (Hon OV)** was thrilled to welcome Chris into her classroom. She was incredibly interested to hear about his experiences with COBR Meetings during the Ebola and the COVID-19 pandemic. They also discussed previous teachers and housemasters; they both had very fond memories of **Stephan Le Marchand (Hon OV)**.

Chris then joined the Headmaster, **Gareth Doodes**, and Heads of School, Bobby R and Katie P, who presented him with the Barnabas Shield in recognition of his achievements and with the School's thanks for his time.

After morning break, Hannah took Chris across the road to King's St Alban's, where Headmaster **Richard Chapman (Hon OV)** joined them. Chris recalled playing marble run down the side of the playground where there used to be a long stretch of dirt.

Chris also bumped into School friend, **Adam Winter (CI 84-94)**, currently Director of Operations at King's, whose father, **Paul Winter**, had been Chris's Headmaster when he was at King's St Alban's: the close-knit King's family in action!

Thank you, Chris, for your time and such an insightful and thought-provoking assembly; we are incredibly grateful.

When Lyn left King's, she studied Chemical Engineering at the University of Birmingham. Following this she worked at Sellafield, as Safety Case Manager & Operations Support, working with a new-build project on a brownfield site, and then as Operations Support Manager. She then went on to work for the Office for Nuclear Regulation in Liverpool, becoming a specialist in radioactive waste, spent fuel and decommissioning.

Using this specialist knowledge, Lyn spent the following three years at Hitachi-Europe, becoming a Safety Case Advisor at Hitachi Nuclear Energy. In 2018, she joined Rolls-Royce, firstly as Safety & Licensing Specialist before moving to her current role.

During her Barnabas Day Assembly address in the John Moore Theatre, Lyn gave some incredible insights into her career experiences, including working in Japan. She shared how her time at King's had inspired the curiosity and confidence that are the mainstays of her career progression.

Following the assembly, Head of Alumni and Business Development, Hannah Sparrey joined Lyn on a walk around the School. As Lyn had not been back to the site in years, she was interested to see how King's has evolved since boarding ceased, remembering for instance how in her time it was strictly forbidden for girls to enter the boys' boarding houses, such as School and The Hostel. They even found the ground floor window in Hostel House through which Lyn used to talk to some of the male boarders she knew!



Taking her first steps into School House, Lyn met with Assistant Librarian **Marion Capell (Hon OV)** and Sixth Former George C in the Matthew Armstrong Library. George had found Lyn's assembly fascinating and was particularly keen to hear more about her time at Sellafield.

Morning Break gave the opportunity for Lyn to spend some time with Headmaster **Gareth Doodes** and Heads of School Katie P and Bobby R, and to be presented with the Barnabas Shield.

It was then wonderful for Lyn to retrace her steps back to the Science Block, where she had spent much of her time when at King's. Visiting Mr Pearson in Physics, his enthusiastic sixth form class had several questions for Lyn, with topics ranging from the nuclear industry to asking about her time working in Japan. In **Dr Poole's (Hon OV)** Chemistry class, Lyn refreshed her formulae knowledge, before heading onwards to DT. There Lyn was interested to have a tour of the building with DT Technician **Julie Palmer (Hon OV)** and see the projects on which the current King's pupils are working, before tackling some very thoughtful questions from **Mr Wilson's (Hon OV)** class.

Over lunch with Careers Lead, Claire Gent, Lyn was joined by a group of Lower and Upper Sixth prospective engineers, helping to advise them on a wide range of issues, including which universities are best for the different engineering specialisms, and calmly fielding a variety of in-depth questions about subjects such as nuclear fusion.

We are very grateful to Lyn for giving of her time so generously and helping us to celebrate STEM and Women in Science.



King's Today

Sixth Form Centre Redevelopment Project Begins

School House, home to the Matthew Armstrong Library, is being redeveloped to create a new Sixth Form Centre, Phase One of which is due to be completed by the end of August 2023. This includes the addition of a new café, lift access, reconfigured group and individual study spaces for students and additional Sixth Form washroom facilities.



A Round-up of King's Sporting and other Successes

The remarkable achievements of our pupils have continued apace. The U14 Netball Team qualified for the National Finals, our U15 Rugby Team are playing in the National Final of the Schools Plate, both our U12 and U13 Hockey teams qualified for Regional Finals and our First Team Footballers performed well in the National Cup. Last year both our U13 and U15 Girls cricketers reached the regional finals of the Lady Taverners Indoor Cup, and our U17 Boys reached the semi-final of the National Cup; our ESAA Track and Field Cup teams all reached regional finals.

In rowing, we secured a medal at the National Schools' Regatta, qualified a Boys' Quadruple Scull and a Boys' Eight at Henley Royal Regatta, and saw two Upper Sixth students representing Great Britain in the summer international events. Our swimmers continue to excel, with our U16 Boys' team winning bronze medals in both the ESSA Medley and Freestyle relays.

Our cricketers enjoyed a wonderful tour to India earlier this year and our musicians had a brilliant time in Paris at half-term in February. At the end of April, the CCF won the West Midlands Brigade Military Skills Competition and last year 130 pupils from Upper Remove to Upper Sixth completed the Expedition Section of their Duke of Edinburgh's Award; almost all have now completed the Award at Bronze, Silver, or Gold level.



Monitors and Heads of Houses for 2023-24 Academic Year

Congratulations to those Sixth Formers who have been appointed School Monitors and Heads of Houses for the 2023-2024 Academic Year!



King's Debaters at the Grand Finals

The King's Worcester Senior Debating Team of Becky Y, Liam R and George C have had an incredibly successful year, culminating in reaching the National Finals of the English-Speaking Union Mace Debating Competition, held in London. The Final was streamed live and fought out between King's and St Paul's Girls School, London. Although well-matched, the girls from St Paul's eventually triumphed. Despite the defeat, the King's team won many plaudits for their skills.



Kildare Trust Boat Naming Ceremony

In April, the School celebrated the naming of two new racing boats for the King's School Worcester Boat Club (KSWBC), a quad and an eight which had been generously donated by the Kildare Trust. The Kildare Trust was set up by philanthropists Jim and Phyllis Richards, Jim himself an OV who had been at King's in the 1920s, with the aim of giving children opportunities they might otherwise not have enjoyed. The Trust has already generously provided for two enduring bursaries at King's, so this was an opportunity for the School to thank further the Trustees for their extensive support.

Organ Scholarship Award

Congratulations to Alfred K, who has been awarded an Organ Scholarship at Somerville College, Oxford. Alfred continues the legacy of OVs such as **Nicholas (Ch 58-68)** and the late **Sir Stephen Cleobury (Ch 58-67)**, and, more recently, **Peter Holder (Br 01-08 and King's St Alban's)**, who is now the Sub-Organist at Westminster Abbey, having started playing the organ during his time at King's St Alban's.



The Trustees of the Kildare Trust, which include OV **Ian Smith (Cr 73-78)** and King's parent Geoff Probert, were joined by King's School Governors, Trustees of the King's School Worcester Development Trust, members of the King's Foundation Leadership Team, the Boat Club Coaching team, and Sixth Form Rowers, who were all honoured to be part of this memorable event.

The King's School is incredibly grateful to be given this opportunity to help Jim and Phyllis' relationship with the School endure, and to continue to honour and celebrate their generosity.

Independent School of the Year Awards

As the academic year draws to close, The King's Worcester Foundation is delighted to announce that all three of its schools have been shortlisted for a number of prestigious awards in this year's Independent School of the Year (ISOTY) Awards.

King's Hawford has been shortlisted for the Independent Pre-Prep School of the Year Award, whilst King's St Alban's receives a shortlisting for the award of Independent School of the Year for Student Well-being.

For the second year running, King's Worcester Senior School has been shortlisted for the title of Co-Educational School of the Year.

New Cinderella Sports Site for King's

King's has now taken control of the Cinderella Ground site, off Bransford Road, from Worcester City Council. This exciting new agreement means that pupils from across the King's Foundation have access to extended sports facilities all year round. In addition, as well as playing host to a variety of summer



holiday camps and tournaments, the grounds will also continue to be available for community use, with local schools and other groups enjoying opportunities for rugby, football and cricket.



Girls' Cricket at King's

History has been made this year, with King's fielding both a Girls' 1st XI and 2nd XI for the first time ever, with their first matches against Cheltenham Ladies' College. Foundation Director of Sport, **Jonny Mason (Hon OV)** elaborated, "It has been fantastic to see Girls' Cricket develop so well over the last few seasons at King's. To be in a position to field a strong first and second team was the culmination of much hard work and determination across the whole Foundation to develop the skills and offer the opportunities for Girls' Cricket and has enabled the Senior School to reach this pivotal moment."



Weddings

OV **Emmie Le Marchand (CI 03-10)** was married in Worcester Cathedral by **The Rev'd Dr Mark Dorsett (Hon OV)** and then enjoyed a reception at Elmbridge Farm, run by OV **Amy Simons (née Court) (CI 03-05)**. Emmie's husband is Ben Walker, who is an old boy of Shrewsbury School.

OVs in attendance were **Sophie Le Marchand (CI 96-07)**, **Harry (CI 03-10)** and **Kate Iddon (CI 98-05)**, **Lucy Spring (CI 03-10)**, **Louise Gwilliam (K 03-10)**, **Ilija Rasovic (03-10)**, **Sam Harris (S 08-10)**, and **Ben (Br 03-10)** and **Tom Fardon (S 03-10)**. Honorary OVs were Emmie's parents, **Stephan and Sarah Le Marchand**, **Russ and Sue Mason**, **Anita Iddon** and **Patricia Stevens**. Emmie added, "I hope I haven't forgotten anyone!"



Congratulations to Mr and Mrs Yelland! In September 2022 OVs **Nicola Wilkinson (K 03-08)** and **James Yelland (S 01-08 and Old St Alban's)** were married at Bredenbury Court Barns in Herefordshire. Nicola explains, "Our photographer captured a photo of everyone at our wedding who went to King's, so I thought I'd share with you! It's simply amazing how many of us have stayed so close even since leaving school." There were 21 OVs in attendance, from left to right in the photo:

Stuart Preece (Ch 75-80), **Tony Halford (CI 51-62)**, **Lucy Halls (née Clayton) (Os 01-08 and Old St Alban's)**, **Emily Malik (née McNally) (Br 01-08 and Old St Alban's)**, **Richard Winwood (Br 01-08 and Old St Alban's)**, **Sarah Porter (Br 01-08 and Old St Alban's)**, **Georgie Halford (CI 07-14 and Old Hawfordian)**, **James Yelland (S 01-08 and Old St Alban's)**, **Kit Smith (Br 01-08 and Old St Alban's)**, **Nicola Yelland (née Wilkinson) (K 03-08)**, **George Preece (Cr 06-013 and Old Hawfordian)**, **Tom Gwynne (K 01-08)**, **Oliver Jenkins (Br 01-08 and Old St**

Alban's), **Olivia Hussey (née Salmon) (Os 06-08)**, **Jack England (K 01-08 and Old St Alban's)**, **Lucy Hartley (née Senior) (K 01-08 and Old St Alban's)**, **Tom Byrne (K 01-08 and Old St Alban's)**, **James Riley (W 88-93)**, **Lawrence Szymanski (Cr 01-08)**, **Amy Proctor-Nicolls (Br 02-08)** and **Robin Middleburgh (CI 98-07)**. Unfortunately, OVs **Lizzie Gray (née Isaac) (Br 06-08)**, **Annie Young (née Duffy) (Br 01-08)** and **Lizzie Unwin (S 01-08 and Old St Alban's)** were unable to make the wedding and were greatly missed.



OV James Green (Br 05-12 and Old St Alban's) married Hannah Sears in August 2022 in Carmel Valley, California, a few hours south of where they now live in San Francisco. The picture from left to right is **John Adeney (W 05-12), Robert Battrum (W 05-12), Robert Bennett (W 05-12)**, Hannah, James, **Alex Wood (W 05-12)** and **Eliot Jones (Br 05-12)** - all class of 2012!



OV Olivia Salmon (Os 06-08) married Luke Hussey at the M shed in Bristol in May 2022 having met while working in the Houses of Parliament. OVs **Sarah Smith (née Porter, Br 01-08)** and **Eleanor Collins (née Salmon, S 04-06)** were bridesmaids.

OV guests joining Olivia and Luke's celebrations included **Annie Young (née Duffy, Br 01-08), Amy Procter-Nicholls (Br 02-08), Emily Malik (née McNally,**



Br 01-08 and Old St Alban's), Lizzie Gray (née Isaac, Br 06-08)), Kit Smith (Br 01-08 and Old St Alban's), Robin Middleburgh (CI 98-07), Nicky (K 03-08) and James Yelland (S 01-08 and Old St Alban's), Lizzie Unwin (S 97-08 and Old St Alban's), James Long (K 06-08), Lucy Halls (née Clayton, Os 01-08 and Old St Alban's), Lowri (née Brown, K 95-06 and Old St Alban's) and Tom Lea (K 95-04) and Sophie Codd (Cr 01-06).



It's a wonderful to hear from OV **Freya Hodgetts (CI 05-12)** who married Christopher in Worcester Cathedral in August 2021. A gloriously sunny day, full of celebration, they were joined by a host of OVs including Freya's

father, **Nick Hodgetts (Ca 74-79)** along with **Victoria Pastorelli (née Harriman, Os 05-12 and Old St Alban's), Charlie Sabin (K 06-13 and Old St Alban's), Becky Pritchard (W 11-13), Jess Sykes (CI 05-12), Tom Weston (Cr 99-04), Lauren**

Weaver (Ch 10-12), Martin Weston (Br 61-63), Harry Hodgetts (Br 07-13 and Old St Alban's), Lucy Fellows (K 10-12), Jon Fellows (Ca 76-80) and Steve Hemming (S 72-79).





Congratulations also to OVs **Sarah (née Ashton, CI 10-12)** and **John Sansome (CI 10-12)** who were married in September 2022. They were married in St. Michael's Church, Salwarpe, followed by a reception at Hawford Farm in Claines. OVs present were **Emma Ashton (K 11-15)**, **George Sansome (Br 11-13)**, **Hannah Raitt (née Sansome, Cr 08-10)**, **Charlie Dunn (Br 10-12)**, **Cath Ellis (W 05-12)**, **Olivia Harris (Cr 05-12 and Old Hawfordian)**, **Olivia Hyde (K 05-12)**, **Bethan Winter (Cr 10-12)**, **Lewis Giles (S 05-12 and Old St Alban's)** and **Alex Bradnick (S 10-12)** and **Ann Sansome (Hon OV)**.



OV Babies

Our many congratulations go to OV **Sophie Edgar-Andrews (S 03-08)** and husband Andrew on the arrival of their second daughter, Seren Rose. Seren is doing really well, and Rowan is very excited to be a big sister.



A very warm welcome to twins Alfie and Freddie Weaver, who arrived in the autumn to the delight of parents OV **Luke (S 98-03)** and Lizzie Weaver and big brother Charlie, who is enjoying life at King's Hawford.



Congratulations to OV **Claire Watson (nee Gott, CI 97-06)** and her husband James, who welcomed Louis in 2022. In December, Louis was christened in Worcester Cathedral by the **Rev'd Dr Dorsett (Hon OV)** followed by a celebration in College Hall, surrounded by friends and family, and Father Christmas! In addition to Louis' christening, Rev'd Dr Dorsett and Worcester Cathedral have been instrumental in other significant occasions in Claire and James's lives, helping to celebrate both their wedding in 2015 and the life of their first son, Jacobi, whose funeral was held in 2018.



Adélie Claire Daniele Humpage-Versavaud was born in 2022 to OV **Alex Humpage-Versavaud (S 94-03)** and Céline. She's utterly charming and full of smiles, and recently started nursery.



We have received wonderful news from OVs **Matt (S 86-95)** and **Joanna Jones (née Stubbs, S 94-99)** of the arrival of their daughter Felicity in 2022. Their other three children, Maddie, Henry, and Edward are delighted to welcome their baby sister into the family.



OVs in the News

Royal Connections

OV **Peter Holder (Br 01-08 and Old St Alban's)** is the Sub-Organist at Westminster Abbey, and his role includes being the principal organist for services, concerts and state occasions. For the Queen's funeral, in addition to playing for the service itself, he also performed two Elgar pieces to herald the Procession of Religious Representatives, as well as *Fantasia in C minor BWV 562* by Johann Sebastian Bach at the close of the service as the coffin was taken out of Westminster Abbey.

The Coronation of King Charles III was a spectacular occasion and a great celebration! It was made even more special for the King's family as many OVs were involved.

During the Coronation, Peter played throughout the service with both traditional and some new pieces that had been specially commissioned for the Coronation.

OV **Rebecca Hardwick (Br 00-07)** was also in Westminster Abbey, singing Bruckner's resounding *Ecce Sacerdos Magnus* with the Monteverdi Choir, under the baton of Sir John Eliot Gardiner.

Providing a comprehensive overview of the Coronation was OV **Cameron Walker (Os 08-15)**, who is the Royal Correspondent for GB News. Commenting on the occasion, Cameron said, "Covering the Coronation of King Charles III was a unique experience that will remain a highlight of my career. I spent most of my time in a white tent, directly opposite Buckingham Palace, for the duration of GB News' coverage. I provided hours of live commentary to hundreds of thousands of viewers, and occasionally anchored when the on-location presenters had a quick break."



"It was a privilege to observe the ceremonial processions travel past me, and the Royal Family waving from the balcony. Seeing the newly crowned King and Queen smiling back at the large crowd

is a moment I will remember forever. Despite the rain, everyone was in good spirits, and I felt like I was a part of history."

The day after the Coronation, OV **Andrew Furniss (W 94-04)** welcomed the King and Queen of Tonga to Methodist Central Hall, Westminster, where Andrew is the Assistant Director of Music.



OV is Sailor of the Year



OV **Ellie Driver (Os 13-20 and Old Hawfordian)** has been announced as Sailor of the Year 2022 in *Sailing Today's* British Yachting Awards.

Ellie learnt to sail at the age of seven and spent most of her weekends during her time at King's Hawford on the water, racing her Oppie, *Top Dog*. While at King's Worcester, Ellie continued to compete both nationally and internationally, representing Great Britain in the 420-dinghy class with OV **Rachael Cross (Os 17-19)**.

Having left King's in 2019, Ellie moved to Southampton University for her degree in Marine Engineering, where she started double-handed offshore racing on *Chilli Pepper*, a Sunfast 3300. The highlight of 2022 was completing the gruelling 2000m Round Britain & Ireland Race with her dad, Jim; they finished in sixth overall, more on which you can read here. Ellie is the youngest skipper to have completed the race, which took 15 days.

OV Mayor of Worcester



We are delighted for OV Cllr **Louis Stephen (Br 80-85)**, who has not only become Mayor of Worcester but is also the first Green Party member of Worcester City Council to be appointed to this esteemed role.

Speaking about his appointment, Louis said, "It's a great honour to be elected Mayor of Worcester, a position that dates back not decades but centuries. Thank you to everyone who has supported me."

"It's not lost on me that I will be the first Green Mayor of Worcester and I think one of the things that is fantastic is that we have de-politicised the role of Mayor and now take it in turns to allow each of the political groups to have the role."

"I think that is a great way to show that we are prepared to work together and a sign of our maturity and willingness to do cross-party work when we need to do so."

We're looking forward to seeing the Mayor, and his wife and Mayoress, OV **Katey Stephen (nee Bridges, Co 84-85)** out and about in Worcester, and of course back at King's!

OV's New Year Honour

We are delighted to learn that OV **John Stephen (CI 1960-67)** was made a Commander of the Royal Victorian Order (CVO) in the 2023 New Year Honours list.

The CVO is equivalent to the CBE and is awarded in recognition of personal service to the Monarch, in John's case latterly as a member of the Prince's Council, advising on property matters.



OV Charlie is President

OV **Charlie Mackintosh (Cr 16-20)** was elected President of the Oxford Union for the Hilary Term 2023 in a landslide victory. The Oxford Union is an internationally renowned and prestigious debating society, formed in 1823, and many will know the Union for its high profile and often controversial speaker events. Charlie kindly hosted some members of the King's Sixth Form on a visit to Oxford University in February.



OV Sophie wins Multiple Gold Medals in World Championship



OV **Sophie Carter (Br 11-18)** achieved multiple Gold Medals at the Inclusive Skating World Championships 2022, which coincided with the first ever World Ice Skating Day!

Award-Winning OV

Many congratulations to OV **Oliver Brooks (S 96-01)** who was part of the world premiere cast of the theatre production of *But I'm a Cheerleader*, which has won the Best Off-West End Production category in the 23rd Annual *WhatsOnStage* Awards.

Commenting on the award, Oliver said, "It was a genuine honour to be a part of such a ground-breaking production, and to win a *WhatsOnStage* award! *But I'm*

a Cheerleader is the first ever musical to have two gay women in the lead roles. The show celebrates queer people and, being gay myself, it was so wonderful to have the opportunity to celebrate my community!"



OV's Firm of the Year Award

Worcester-based Britannic Place Financial Management, founded by OV and chartered financial planner **Steve Perera (Cr 86-93)** was named the Micro Wealth Management Firm of the Year at the MoneyAge Awards 2022.



She's done it!

Many congratulations to OV **Lara Vafiadis (Os 06-08)**, who completed her solo row across the Atlantic in March, having spent 98 days at sea: an astounding and inspirational achievement, which was dedicated to her father Nick, who died from prostate cancer last year. Lara battled extreme seasickness, colossal waves, and repeated power losses throughout her time at sea, including having to repair a bilge-pump in the dark after a flying fish became wedged in it. By completing this challenge, Lara has raised over £52,000 for charities Prostate Cancer UK, Plan International UK and RA World and Our Only World.



Stella's Stellar Rise



Huge congratulations go to OV **Stella Din Jacob (Co 85-86)**, who has been recognised as the most powerful woman in Nigerian journalism by WIJAfrica (Women in Journalism Africa) for her work leading a team covering the Nigerian elections and her significant contributions to journalism over the last 30 years.

Stella is a seasoned journalist, news manager, and lawyer, with a multi-award-winning career spanning three decades, and is currently Director of News at TVC Communications.

Stella kindly shared her reaction to this recognition: "It is humbling and a call to action to lead by the power of my example. Congratulations to all women who made this list and the unsung professionals who have not relented in putting their best foot forward; together we will raise the bar and shatter every glass ceiling! I will continue to up the stakes and raise the bar by devoting my time in grooming consequential leaders and the next generation of broadcasters. For me, this ranking is another call to fire on all cylinders and dare to go where no one has ever been. Failure is not an option and impossible does not exist!"

OV Caitlin's Commission

Many congratulations to OV **Caitlin Sharpe (Ch 10-17)**, who has successfully completed the Officer Cadets' Commissioning Course at the Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst and joins the Royal Engineers. In addition, Caitlin had the honour of being part of the personal guard to His Majesty King Charles III, who was presiding over the 200th Sovereign's Parade.

Speaking about the occasion, Caitlin said, "Commissioning under King Charles was a great honour. Being selected as a stick orderly for the King's first parade as monarch was an extraordinary

opportunity and definitely one of the highlights from my time at Sandhurst. Joining the Armed Forces has been a dream of mine since I first joined the CCF at 13 and I was hugely proud finally to achieve this. Sandhurst was a challenge with many highs and lows. Other than the parade, my favourite moment was winning the log race in intermediate term. My platoon went from being the worst in juniors, coming last in most events, to winning the log race, and for us it was a huge achievement. The hardest moment was Ex *Allenby's Advance* in Brecon; the terrain, combined with severe sleep deprivation, made it one of the hardest things I had to do during the course. Nevertheless, I thoroughly enjoyed the commissioning course and all the challenges it presented.

"After Commissioning, I will be attending my Phase 2 training with the Royal Engineers at Chatham and Minley. The best part about this job is not knowing what the future holds and for me that is exciting!"

Caitlin was heavily involved with the CCF while at King's, so much so that for her GAP year she returned to School as a GAP Student Quartermaster for the CCF. Following this, Caitlin read Ancient History and Egyptology at Swansea University before signing up for the Army's Officer Commissioning Course.

After the Sovereign's Parade, the newly commissioned Officers enjoyed an evening of celebration, to which Caitlin was accompanied by OVs **Edd Peckston (K 10-17)** and **Shannon Asplen (Ch 10-17)**.



Rousing Rowers

The King's rowing community is an inspirational one, which continues to thrive beyond King's. We thoroughly enjoy hearing about OV rowing successes, and watching the wonderful rowing careers flourish. This includes OV **Alice Baker (K 14-22)** and her Eights crew who won a superb Silver Medal for Team GB in the World Rowing Championships in Italy and Alice and **Lucy Stratton (S 11-118)** racing at the Annual

Pac-12 Championships for their universities, Stanford and UCLA respectively.



Congratulations also go to OV **Luke Beever (S 15-22)**, who was selected for Cambridge's Reserve Crew, *Goldie*, racing in the annual Oxford v Cambridge Boat Race 2023, which then went on to beat Oxford's *Isis* crew by one length.



Winning Language for this OV

Congratulations go to OV **Anna Neville (née Prosser, Co 90-92)**, who scooped two awards at the Best Businesswomen Awards 2022.

The national awards recognise female entrepreneurs and business leaders making a real impact on their industry. Anna was awarded Silver in both the 'Best Business' and 'Best Businesswoman working with Children & Families' for her *Kidslingo* programme and franchise, which teaches Spanish and French to young children.

Commenting on this latest recognition, Anna said, "I am extremely proud of winning these two awards and being part of an event that celebrates the achievements of female entrepreneurs, bosses and employees in so many industries. Running your own business is a rollercoaster of an experience but there is truly never a dull moment. French lessons with Mr Rudge at King's seem a long time ago now but, via a career in marketing on the way, they have led me to a job that I absolutely love every single day."

Golden Day for OVs at Buckingham Palace

In May, one current Upper Sixth student and twenty OVs attended the first Gold DofE Award Ceremony to be hosted by his Royal Highness The Prince Edward, Duke of Edinburgh.

They were invited to collect their certificates in the sun at Buckingham Palace. After their extraordinary perseverance, creativity and resilience in completing their Gold DofE, they were rewarded with the opportunity to celebrate with their loved ones in these wonderful surroundings.

OVs **Thomas Long (S 12-19)**, **Phoebe Conyers (K 14-21 and Old Hawfordian)**, **Libby Evans (CI 14-21)**, **Abby Deller (K 12-19)**, **Natasha Beattie (W 13-20 and Old Hawfordian)**, **Edward Cosson (Br 14-21 and Old Hawfordian)**, **Anna Fryers (Ca 16-21)**, **Alex Ward (CI 13-20 and Old St Alban's)**, **Harry Sproule (Ch 15-22 and Old Hawfordian)**, **Faith Murray (K 13-20)**, **Eddie James (Cr 13-20)**, **Jonny Raggett (Ca 15-22 and Old Hawfordian)**, **Sophie Spencer (CI 15-22 and Old St Alban's)**, **Hazel Zurick-Ball (Ca 15-22 and Old St Alban's)**, **Felicity Quiney (Br 15-22)**, **Sarah Warburton (W 15-22)**, **George Jury (K 12-19)**, **Michael Burgess (S 12-19 and Old St Alban's)**, **Jonathan Stratton (CI 14-21 and Old Hawfordian)** and **Michael Nice (W 12-19 and Old Hawfordian)** all attended and thoroughly enjoyed the chance to see one another again, this time dressed up to the nines rather than in hiking boots, wicking shirts and walking trousers.

OV Thomas Long described the day, "It was a special way to celebrate such a prestigious award. I hugely enjoyed my DofE experience, and would like to thank all the staff who made it possible. It was fantastic to see OVs from across four years celebrating with their friends and family."



A History of School House



School House 2000



School House opened after King's governors secured the site of Castle Hill and the County Prison on which they could build and make gardens. The architect, Ewan Christian, began the building of School House in late 1886; upon its opening in 1888 it was capable of holding 30 boarders, the Headmaster's House, and a gymnasium on the top floor.

On 7 March 1884 the Dean of Worcester Cathedral, all the four Canons, and **W.E. Bolland (HM 1879-1896)** met and drew up specifications of a new School House for Ewan Christian, of Gloucester and London, the architect to the Ecclesiastical Commissioners. The building was to "provide for 30 Boarders, besides the Head Master's family and household, a Dining Room, Drawing Room, Study, School Library and Class Room combined, two other Class Rooms, a Laboratory and a Music Room, a Dining Hall for 45 boys, four Bed Rooms, two Dressing Rooms and two Nurseries and a small Sitting Room and Bed Room for the House Master in the Boys' quarter."

The original intention was to build both a Head Master's boarding house and a block of classrooms with a laboratory. The architect's first conception was extremely grandiose, and its cost would

have been far too great. Mr. Christian then produced a simplified modification; but even this proved more ambitious than practical; the classrooms, to Mr. Bolland's disappointment, had to be abandoned. (They would subsequently be built in 1899.)

The planning of School House, as revised in the light of Mr. Bolland's wider knowledge of the requirements, proved admirable. The arrangement in the dormitories of dressing cubicles at the head of each bed was adapted from a plan sent in by Dr. Thring of Uppingham, who had seen it in a girls' school. This was apparently the first use in a boys' school of a device that afterwards found many imitators.

In 1886 the King's School's Governors secured from the Ecclesiastical Commissioners a substantial part of Castle Hill in which to build, and as a result Mr. Christian began the building of School House in the late summer of that year. Mr. and Mrs. Bolland moved into School House at Christmas 1887 and their boarders joined them in their new comfort in January 1888.

For almost 60 years School House was run by the Headmaster, with another master as House Tutor. The King's School Headmasters, and thus Housemasters of

School House, during this time were:

William Ernest Bolland (HM 1879-1896)
William Houghton Chappel (HM 1896-1918)
Cuthbert Creighton (HM 1919-1936 and 1940-1941)
Longworth Allen Wilding (HM 1936-1939)
 and **Ronald Kittermaster (HM 1942-1959)**

This system was changed by Mr. Kittermaster (HM 1942-1959), who appointed **Dan McTurk (Staff 1946-1965)** as the first dedicated housemaster of School House in 1946, a position which he served for 16 years. Mr. McTurk taught English at King's for 19 years; he died unexpectedly in 1965, much loved. The McTurk Reading Room in the Matthew Armstrong Library in School House was named in his honour.

School House was, for just over a century, the largest boarding house at King's. However, during the late twentieth century the number of boarders decreased. As such, School House was a boys' boarding house until 1989, when it became a mixed boarding and day boys' house. Following the advent of co-education across King's in 1991, School House became a day house only, for both boys and girls. Boarding ceased completely at The King's School in 1999.

The History of College Hall

Where would you find an academic lecture taking place in the same space as a black-tie dinner, a lively drama performance and a school assembly? The answer is somewhere central to the life of the King's Foundation: College Hall. Whether the walls resound to the foot-tapping beat of the Parents' Association Ball, the exquisite performances of pupil musicians or the deafening silence of an A level examination, it is a place redolent with history but also at the very heart of school life today.

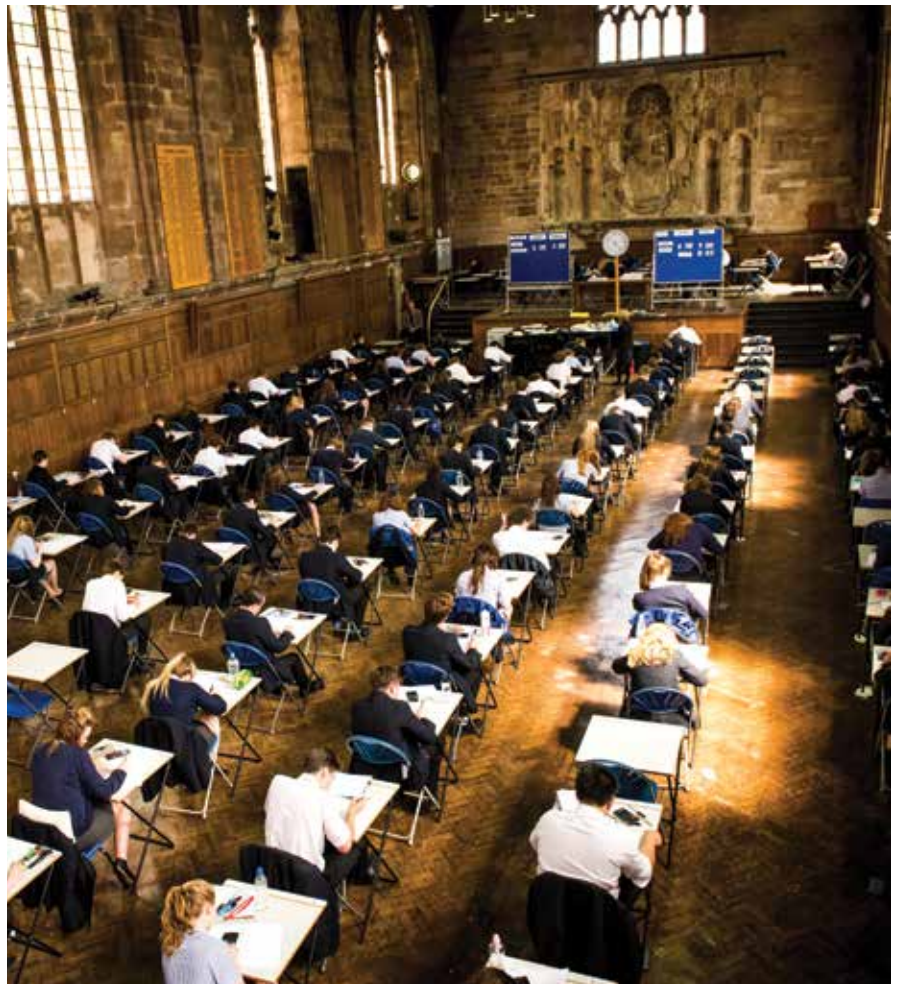
Situated on College Green on the Senior School campus, College Hall was largely built during 1076-1099 on the instructions of Wulstan, Bishop of Worcester (d.1095) as the monks' refectory, or dining room, and is the largest remaining monastic refectory in England after Westminster Hall.

Perhaps its most striking feature is the "Majestas" ("Christ in Majesty") at the east end, built in 1140. Christ, seated on his throne with one hand raised in blessing and the other holding a book, is surrounded by the Gospel writers Matthew (depicted as a Winged Man), Mark (Winged Lion), Luke (Winged Calf)

and John (Winged Eagle). The "Majestas" was defaced during the reign of King Edward VI (1547-1553); shortly afterwards the wall was rendered and the "Majestas" was plastered over. Its re-discovery was made in August 1872 when the stage was replaced: workmen removed the plaster using chisels, resulting in the feathered appearance of the sculpture today.

College Hall became the home of The King's School from 1561; for over 300 years it was King's only schoolroom. This proved challenging on occasions, as described by **Albert Webb (KSW 1862-1867):**

As all the classes were held in this one room & there were never less than four & generally five strong at the same time, the noise frequently became excessive, & to restore peace, the Head[master] was furnished with a wooden mallet with which he struck the table vigorously. This was effective for the moment but the hubbub soon arose again.



Beyond King's

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



Oliver Brooks
(S 96-01)

OV and actor **Oliver Brooks's (S 96-01)** love for theatre

started at a young age. A particularly memorable event during his time at school was his Drama Exchange trip to Worcester, Massachusetts.

To follow his dreams, Oliver chose Performing Arts, Theatre Studies, Stage Design and Fashion & Textiles for A Level, before joining the then Birmingham School of Acting, currently known as the Royal Birmingham Conservatoire. There he achieved a First in his BA Hons in Acting.

Oliver's career launched at The Swan Theatre, Worcester, as well as performing in many pantomimes and in *Shakespeare at The Commandery*.

Oliver has played Edna Turnblad in *Hairspray The Musical* for Royal Caribbean Productions and was also the first understudy and played Miss Trunchbull in the Royal Shakespeare Company's West End production of *Matilda The Musical*. He had great fun playing the revealing Scotsman in a *JACKPOTJOY* commercial, working alongside the legendary, and greatly missed, Dame Barbara Windsor.

During Lockdown, Oliver teamed up with fellow OV **Ben Humphrey (Cr 93-04)** to set up a series of live, online cabaret nights to bring the the West End and Broadway into people's living rooms. The proceeds from the ticket sales were donated to The Theatre Artists Fund.

Following the lifting of the COVID restrictions, Oliver joined the world premiere cast of *But I'm A Cheerleader* to critical acclaim. He then went straight into rehearsals for *Heathers the Musical Movie*, a filmed version of the stage show, as well as the West End stage production, and is currently in *Strictly Ballroom*.



Lizzy Bennett
(Ch 08-10)

OV **Lizzy Bennett (Ch 08-10)** has had a particularly interesting career path, which has led to

her new role at CVC Capital Partners.

After completing A Levels in Maths, Biology, Chemistry and Design & Technology at King's, Lizzy gained a First-Class Bachelor's degree in Psychology and Education from the University of Birmingham, and then completed the funded Postgraduate Teacher Status course at the University of Worcester. Lizzy started out as a teacher and Early Years Manager at the British School in Amsterdam for two years.

Lizzy then jumped into international management consultancy, working on projects based in Dubai and The Philippines. With an increasing interest in the finance industry and developing coding skills, Lizzy won a scholarship to return to the UK for a Master's in Investment Risk and Finance at the University of Westminster.

Alongside her studies, Lizzy also worked part-time as a contracted developer at Vanguard Asset Management. Following the completion of her Master's, she was hired onto Vanguard's London trading floor to work in the Risk Management Group, where she used her coding skills to save the company millions by designing a bespoke technological solution to identify potential global operational trading faults or errors.

Lizzy recently joined CVC Capital Partners, currently Europe's top Private Equity firm and one of the world's biggest that is still private. She is looking forward to building and implementing risk frameworks, developing technological solutions, and creating procedural efficiencies to advance Risk Management in PrivateEquity.

Lizzy also sits on the Employability Advisory Board of the University of Westminster and is similarly supporting current King's students who are interested in Finance as a career.



Jamie Davies (S & Os 80-85)

OV **Jamie Davies (S and Os 80-85)** still vividly remembers his

first day arriving at School House as a boarder at the King's School: there were tears when his parents left, but he soon settled in and enjoyed boarding-life. He recalls that there was never a dull moment, and he has fond memories of his Housemaster, the late **Marc "Boggy" Roberts (Hon OV)**.

Jamie secured A Levels in Maths, Physics and Chemistry, while also enjoying the co-curricular activities the School offered: CCF (marksman), photography and being an active member of the Boat Club. Although he didn't represent the School in sport, the foundations were laid during his school days and he admits to getting much better at rugby after he left. Following school, the University of Brighton called, where he read International Business & Marketing.

Since university, Jamie has led a varied career, travelling and working in Australia, Dubai, France and Italy, and has seen much of the world. He held several corporate roles while living in London for many years, although he is now based in the Cotswolds. In 2005, Jamie set up his own Political Party and was interviewed by Jeremy Paxman. He has also written a feature-film screenplay called *DARE* and is waiting for the call from Hollywood!

More recently, Jamie founded and currently runs StockPro Capital, which is a boutique finance house for global investors. However, Jamie admits his greatest achievements in life are his children, Florence and Henry, and being a dad is probably what he is best at.



Olivia Hussey (née Salmon, Os 06-08)

At King's, OV **Olivia Hussey (née Salmon, Os 06-08)** was a House Prefect and was heavily involved in sport, playing netball for the 2nd VII team as well as being a keen rounders player and skier. Following her A Levels of History, English Literature and Business Studies, Olivia went on to study History at the University of Nottingham. After graduating, Olivia worked at Teach First and Great Ormond Street, before settling at the Houses of Parliament in a variety of roles from 2014 to 2019.

Olivia left Parliament in 2019 to move to the Cabinet Office and a position in Cyber Security. This included working in information assurance and latterly a role in security culture, providing security advice to some high-profile public inquiries and helping the government prevent security leaks.

In 2021, Olivia moved from London to Bristol and currently works at HM Revenue & Customs (HMRC) in Cyber Security Policy.

Many longstanding friendships were forged while at school, and Olivia is still in regular contact with her King's friends, seeing most of the Year of 2008 at a series of weddings, including her own this year.



Toby Lamb (W 99-06)

It was studying Business Studies at King's for A Level that gave OV **Toby Lamb (W 99-06)** his interest in how companies work and the foundations for his career.

At school, Toby was a Monitor who was incredibly active in the school community, a participant in the Young Enterprise Scheme, a member of the Himalayan Club and completing his Duke of Edinburgh's Award. These experiences at King's similarly helped guide Toby's career choices.

After leaving King's, Toby studied Business Economics at Exeter University. From there, he launched his career in banking and strategy with Santander in London. While with Santander, Toby moved to the USA to live in Boston for a couple of years.

In 2015, Toby returned to London to join HSBC's Internal Consulting Team. He has been with HSBC ever since and is currently focusing on the bank's strategy for small business banking.



Lawrence Gill (Os 03-05)

OV **Lawrence Gill (Os 03-05)** joined King's in the Sixth Form to study English, Drama, History and Music for A Level and take advantage of many of the other opportunities King's offers, particularly Young Enterprise, Archives, and rowing. He felt that his time at King's encouraged an outward, resilient, and flexible outlook, which has helped him in his career, especially when projects didn't go to plan! After a gap year working with horses in New Zealand, Lawrence went to Cirencester Agricultural College and gained a degree in Rural Land Management.

Initially, Lawrence went to work with racehorses, but after a couple of years he joined the team at specialist Insurance company KBIS, where his equine knowledge, financial skills, and ability to talk to people were essential prerequisites of the job. He was headhunted by Howdens and enjoyed his time living in London on the Thames in a houseboat before returning to the Cotswolds five years ago, after being offered a job as director of KBIS. Lawrence was promoted to a new post as executive director within the company and took over the running of the company in December 2022.



Alexandra Phillips (CI 93-00)

OV **Alexandra Phillips (CI 93-00)** is the recently appointed Head of the Agriculture and Rural Affairs Department of Worcestershire law firm, mfg Solicitors, leading a 13-strong team.

Alex was boarder at King's, while her father finished his last posting with the Army. Moving to boarding school, in England, having lived the majority of her life in Germany and Cyprus was bit of a culture shock, but this was short-lived, thanks to the warm welcome she received from the School. Alex has particularly fond memories of Second

Master (at the time) **Tim Hickson (Hon OV)**, who championed and supported her initial progress at King's.

Although not naturally academic, Alex's teachers recognised her potential and King's taught her that, with a lot of hard work, determination and the right support, you can achieve anything to which you set your mind.

Alex joined the Boat Club as soon as she was able and made lifelong friends as a result. In her final year, she was appointed Deputy Head of Boats, to help represent and look after the girls' crews.

Following King's, Alex studied Geography and American Studies at Swansea University.

After graduation, Alex took time out to travel the world, work and consider her options before deciding to do the Graduate Diploma in Law (GDL) at the University of the West of England. Since then, Alex has never looked back and, after completing her Legal Practice Course, Alex joined mfg Solicitors in 2010 as a paralegal in its Family Department. By 2013, Alex had qualified into the Agriculture and Rural Affairs Department. One year later, she was named Young Solicitor of the Year by the Worcestershire Law Society, soon after which she was appointed as one of the youngest ever presidents of the Society. Alex became a senior associate in 2020, a partner one year later, progressing to her latest appointment as Head of Department in 2023.



Castle House, 1983



Charity Climbathon 2016



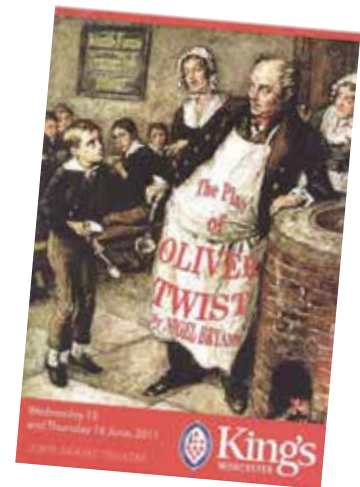
Senior Ski Trip 2003



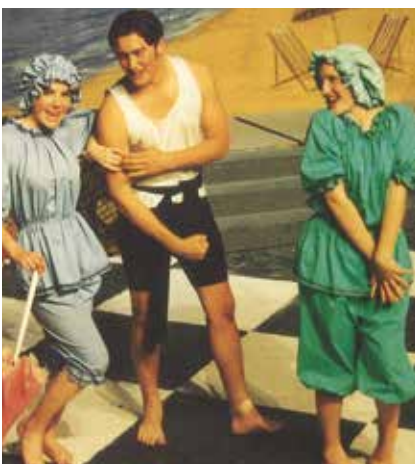
CCF 100 Years Stewart Davies, Alan Stacey,
John Reynolds, 2009



Leaver's Day 2019



Oliver Twist 2011



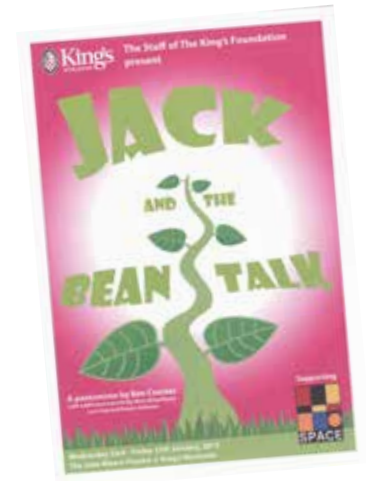
The Boyfriend, 1998



Girls Hockey Team, 2015



Young Enterprise 2008 Area finalists



Jack and the Beanstalk 2013



The flooded Watergate, April 2018



Gold DofE Presentation, 2012



Old Chapel



Three Choirs 1947



College Hall



Rugby Team, 1991

Upcoming Events

New OV BBQ

Tuesday 5 September 2023
The King's School, Worcester

We welcome the Years of 2021, 2022 and 2023 to a BBQ in the School Gardens as they start their journey as the newest members of the OV Community. Invitations are being emailed; please do remember to make sure the Alumni Office has your current email address, so you don't miss out.

OV Annual Reunion Weekend

Saturday 16 September 2023
The King's School, Worcester

This is always a wonderful evening of reuniting and reminiscing over a three-course, Black Tie dinner in College Hall for OVs from across the eras. This year it will be a particularly special occasion for those OVs celebrating milestone anniversaries, including the Years of 1973, 1983, 1993, 1998 and 2003.

In a slightly different format from recent years, the evening will begin with the OV Club Committee AGM at 6pm. Welcome drinks will be served in College Hall from 7pm and then we will take our seats for dinner.

On Sunday 17 September, there will be a Eucharist in Worcester Cathedral starting at 10.30am, at which all OVs are very welcome; there is no need to book for the service.

School House Lunch

Monday 2 October 2023
RAF Club, 128 Piccadilly

Our many thanks to OV **Tim Wadsworth (S 56-61)**, who is once again organising the School House Lunch. In a change to previous years, though, the 2023 School House Lunch will be held at the RAF Club, at 128 Piccadilly. For more details, please get in touch with the Alumni Office.

Five Year Reunion for the Year of 2018

Saturday 7 October 2023
The King's School, Worcester

We look forward to seeing the Leavers of 2018 along with their parents back at King's for an evening of reuniting and reminiscing! More details will follow in due course via email, so in the meantime pencil the evening in your diaries and please keep the Alumni Office up to date with your contact details.

Overseas Reunions: Princeton **14-15 October 2023**

We are excited to extend the range of the OV Overseas Reunions with a reunion dinner in Princeton, USA in October 2023, kindly hosted by OV **Michael Pimley (H 61-71)**. If you are currently in the US and have not yet heard from the Alumni team about this reunion, or may be able to visit for the occasion, please do get in touch!

OV London Drinks

Thursday 8 February 2024
Bankside Gallery, London

Banish the 'winter blues' with wonderful evening of socialising and networking with OVs from across the generations. We'll be in touch with more details closer to the time, but in the interim please pencil in your diary for an after work treat!

Overseas Reunions: Hong Kong

Thursday 14 March 2024
The Foreign Correspondents' Club

The first OV Overseas Reunion in 2024 will be held in Hong Kong, with thanks to OVs **Andrew and Antony Eden's** support; a great opportunity to catch up with OVs in the locality over drinks and dinner. If you are currently in the area, or regularly visit, and would like more details for this occasion, please do get in touch with the Alumni team and ensure we have your current contact details!

Ten Year Reunion for the Year of 2014

Saturday 23 March 2024
The King's School, Worcester

Tours of School, drinks and canapes await the Year of 2014 to celebrate ten years since leaving King's! Do save the date – and of course let the Alumni team know of any change in your contact details so you don't miss the invitation.

Spring Tea

Saturday 8 June 2024
The King's School, Worcester

A new addition to our events calendar: a Spring Tea! Join us back at King's for a catch-up over a lovely Afternoon Tea. We will be in touch with more details closer to the time.

OV Annual Spring BBQ

Saturday 8 June 2024
The King's School, Worcester

The first of what we hope will become an annual fixture in all OVs' diaries: the Spring BBQ. A relaxed get-together for all OVs! More details will follow in due course.

Please note that, although details are correct at the time of going to print, all events may be subject to change and more are regularly added to the calendar, so please do keep an eye on the Events Page of the website: www.ksw.org.uk/alumni/events/alumni-events/

Or via the QR Code:



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