

Connect



KSW Old Vigornians

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Letter from the Acting Head

May I open by welcoming you to the 2025 edition of your OV magazine, *Connect*, covering the activity and news within the OV community from the past academic year, both locally and internationally. On a personal note, I would also like to share my gratitude for the support and encouragement extended to me by the OV community since my appointment as Acting Head.

I am delighted to report that King's continues to flourish, and our outstanding academic, co-curricular, and pastoral programmes ensure that interest in our offering remains high. We have achieved considerable external recognition from The Sunday Times' Parent Power Schools Guide, recognised us as one of the Top Ten Independent Secondary Schools in the West Midlands, the Independent School Awards, where we reached the final in the Co-educational Independent School category, and the Independent Schools Inspectorate (ISI), which found us to be compliant with all required standards in our inspection earlier this year.

As readers will know, independent schools are facing a myriad of challenges. However, King's has demonstrated remarkable resilience and adaptability, as always, and through prudent financial management and the generosity of our supporters, we have maintained a stable financial footing, and this stability has allowed us to continue offering a comprehensive and enriching curriculum, whilst also ensuring that we are prepared for any further unforeseen challenges that may arise.

I am truly appreciative of the generosity and support of our OV community, who dedicate their time and expertise at events such as our Careers Extravaganza, as well as visiting the School and offering personalised support to our sixth form pupils as they transition into the professional world of work. It has been wonderful to meet so many of the Vigornian community at events and to hear your memories of King's.

My gratitude also to the OVs who contribute financially to the bursary programme, ensuring that we can continue to foster an inclusive and supportive educational environment for all our pupils, helping them to achieve their fullest potential and making a lasting impact on our community.

Looking ahead, we are filled with optimism and determination and our commitment to providing an exceptional education experience for all remains resolute. The continued support of the OV community is an essential part of this commitment, for which you have my thanks.

Dr Alison Oliver, Acting Head

**Front cover credit: Streamz Solutions LTD
and OV Oscar Roswall-Stanley (W15-17),
which you can find on the new OV Hoodie
available in the Vigornian Hub shop**

Memories



40th Anniversary of the most notable King's 1st XV

This year marks the 40th anniversary of what is regarded as the most successful Rugby season in the School's history. The 1984-85 1st XV team remained undefeated throughout the season, scoring 89 tries while conceding only nine! The season culminated in the King's vs RGS match in December 1984, as it ended up being the final game of the season. King's triumphed in this well-attended match held at the King's pitches. The full report of the season, written by the late **Marc (Boggy) Roberts (Hon OV)** is in the 1985 Vigornian Magazine, page 18, which you can find via The Vigornian Hub.



Remember to keep up to date with the latest OV podcast on *Vigornian Voices*! The most recent conversations include OV **David Head (Cl 52-60** and Old St Alban's) with his son, **Dr Ronan McLaverty-Head (Hon OV)** and OV **Drew Benvie (K 85 - 96)** with Acting Head, **Dr Alison Oliver (Hon OV)**. You can listen to them all on [Mixcloud.com](https://mixcloud.com), simply search for *Vigornian Voices*!



Sergeant Major Barratt, Irish Guards - A Poem

Paddy to his friends,
Sarge to us tender young cadets.
Who did first live in awe of him
But then as years progressed, he was an anchor to our lives
Of which we then were not aware.
In track suit black he did the gym command
And leather horse was vaulted to his orders.
On parade he did us keep in line,
Where we were khaki dressed
With blanched webbing and our brasses shiny.
We hard did try with spit and polish to work those wretched Boots
The toecaps darkly bright with many hours of polishing.
"Sar'nt Major Barratt if you please!"
Our Officer in Command would say,
"Sor" would be the sharp and loud reply as booted feet did shake the ground
With Pace Stick horizontal and fingers sharp at forty five degrees.
"Rifle Inspection "
"Sor" and then "Platoooooooooon, Shun". "Port Arms"
And we did show our Lee Enfield rifles from the Great War
In hope that we had barrels shiny
With the Pull Through and Four by Two with which we laboured
In the Armoury beside the Fives Courts.
His voice was loud and did the buildings shake;
"Anyone who cannot hear me raise his hand"
He was amusing too and he did know it.
In Civvies; Blazer blue, sharp creased trousers and shining shoes was he attired,
To show us boys how we should dress but we were not aware
At then our unkempt age.
Our thanks to Sergeant Major Barratt, Irish Guards;
With much affection we do remember him.

OV Roger Mortimer (Ch 55-58)

OV Visits

The Alumni Office thoroughly enjoys welcoming OVs back to King's for a walk around their "old stamping ground"! If you would like to come back to King's, you are very welcome indeed. Please get in touch with the Alumni Office in advance via alumni@ksw.org.uk to make the arrangements.



OV **Mark Loveday (S 91-01)** hadn't returned to the School since leaving but had some wonderful memories of his time at King's. Speaking about his visit, Mark said, "It was lovely to see King's again; I can't believe it's been 23 years, it only felt like yesterday since I was there! It was great to see Josh Hand, and also Mr Sharp. It was really lovely to catch up with Mr Cuthbertson; he really inspired me when I was at King's and started my love of Geography."

"It was great to see some of the projects you read about in *The Vigornian* and *Connect* in real life: The Keyes Building is very impressive, and I really like the new Art School! Alongside new developments, it was great to see so much of King's had remained unchanged, although suitably updated for the modern day; School House brought back so many memories, although it felt very odd not seeing Mr Bain sitting in his office or hearing the bellowing tones coming from Mr Thompson's classroom!"

Many OVs make a long journey to come back to King's for a visit and re-trace their steps; however, in July we were fortunate to welcome back two OVs who had both made the journey all the way from Australia!



OV **Mike Coley (Ch 57-64 and Old St Alban's)** emigrated to Australia shortly after finishing his time at King's. Despite the distance, Mike has kept in touch with both King's and his school friends, returning to King's a handful of times over the years for reunions and events, and joining the inaugural OV Overseas Reunion in Sydney in 2023. For Mike, 2024 was particularly special as it marked the 60th anniversary of leaving both School and the UK, which definitely called for a return to his alma mater.



Another attendee at the OV Overseas Reunion in Sydney, and similarly a former member of Choir House, was OV **John Sear (Ch 72-82 and Old St Alban's)**. John had emigrated to Australia during his career but regularly returns to the UK to visit family. On this occasion, he was joined by his partner, Kristen, for a walk around the school.



For OV **Kaizen Matsumoto's (H 88-97)** visit, he was toured around by King's Director of Operations, OV **Adam Winter (Cl 84-94)**, as Kaizen had been in the same year as Adam's brother, **Ben Winter (Ch 87-97)**. Adam and Kaizen thoroughly enjoyed regaling Kaizen's niece and nephew with their memories of King's in the '90s!

Richard Sayce (79-88) visited with his family, having left King's at the end of Upper Fourth, with some vivid memories of his time boarding at St Alban's with Headmasters Henry Searle and **Paul Winter (Hon OV)**. Richard had a great time showing his family where his dormitory had been and describing life as a boarder.

OV **Harry Perry (K 07-14)** came back to School in October, having left King's in the Lower Sixth to emigrate to Canada with his family. Harry was back in the UK for a brief visit with his partner Maddison. During their walk around the site, Harry was delighted to catch up with many of his former teachers, including **Jenny Hewitt (Hon OV)**, **Chris Haywood (Hon OV)**, **Julie Palmer (Hon OV)**, **Alan Deichan (Hon OV)**, **Richard Davis (Hon OV)**, **Nicki Essenhigh (Co 84-86)**, **Richard Ball (Hon OV)** and **Gilly (Hon OV)**.





It was a delight to welcome three great friends from the 1970s, OVs **Steve Gwilliam (Br 70-76)**, **Mark Foley (Cl 67-77)** and **Peter Burnham (Ch/W 72-77)** back to King's in November. The Year of 1977 is a particularly close-knit one, with this trio still regularly seeing each other and others from their cohort. However, they hadn't returned to their former school for many years – Steve not since the 1980s – so a visit was long past due!



In October, OV **Anthony Cross (Os 90-96)** was browsing a house clearance shop near his home in Hampshire and was surprised to come across a King's whole school photo from 1952 – an unexpected find when there were no other King's memorabilia! Anthony purchased the framed photo and got in touch with the Alumni Office to generously offer to donate it to the School Archives. Due to the size and fragility of the photo, this meant Royal Mail was not an option, so Anthony arranged a visit – his first proper return to King's since leaving in 1996.

It was wonderful to see OV **Eric Mair (75-77)**, who returned to King's for a visit having left in 1977 in Upper Fourth, when his family relocated back to Scotland. Eric was visiting Worcester during his travels in England having recently retired from his GP practice in Edinburgh. Eric had enjoyed his brief time at King's and kindly brought in some memorabilia from when he was at the school. This included some photos for the King's School Archives, but also some personal items, including letters, to share with the Alumni Office.



We enjoyed welcoming OV **Ian Rogers (S 75-82)** back to King's at the start of the year, especially as Ian was only back in the UK for a very brief period from his home in the US, where he has lived for over 20 years. When Ian left the School in 1982, King's still had four boarding houses, some day pupils, and only a handful of girls, all of whom were in the Sixth Form. You can imagine how different the School looked to Ian when he started walking around the site just as a break began, with pupils pouring out of classrooms and an equal number of girls and boys!



OV **Tim Richardson (Ch/Ca 40-49)** recently relocated to Worcester city centre and took the opportunity to revisit King's not having returned to the school site for many years. His visit coincided with the run-up to the 80th anniversary of VE Day, which Tim remembered with great clarity, along with the year of Scarlet Fever, coal miners' strike and the great flood: 1947. Some of Tim's antics at King's, though, are not for publication!



After being cast in the lead role of Ren in *Footloose* last year (ironically both his first and last King's show), OV **Elijah Broadbent (Br 17-24)** realised his heart belonged on a theatrical stage. He has spent the last year honing his skills on a foundation course at SOTE (School of Theatre Excellence) in Birmingham and has just won a much-coveted place at Drama School and starts at Italia Conti on their Acting: Musical Theatre degree course in September. He popped into King's to see the Drama Department and catch up with Music teachers and fill them in on his journey. West End here we come!



OV **Dr Mohan Gondhalekar (Cl 98-05)** popped back to King's ahead of his imminent move to Australia with his family, to take up a Permanent Consultant Psychiatrist position in the Gold Coast. Walking around the site, Mohan met several of his former teachers still at King's, including **Dr Mark Poole (Hon OV)**, **Chris Haywood (Hon OV)**, **Richard Davis (Hon OV)** and had a great time reminiscing with **Dr Matthew Parkin (Hon OV)**, whom Mohan attributes to his studying medicine.



Careers Support

We hugely appreciate the support OVs give to current pupils, which is invaluable and a great strength of the King's family. This support can take many different forms, from conversations via email, to "Teams" calls, to in-person visits.



In June, OVs **Dr Harry Guy (Ch 10-17 and Old St Alban's)** and **Becky Ye (S 16-23)** supported the Lower Sixth's "Higher Education Day". Harry, who is currently based in the Paediatric Unit of the Worcestershire Royal Hospital, spoke with budding medics, sharing his experiences and advice on what it is truly like to become a doctor, the career paths on offer, and life in the NHS. Becky dashed back to King's having finished her end of year exams at Oxford only the day before, to speak with aspiring Oxbridge candidates about the application process, interviews, and life at Oxford.



Also in June, OVs **Harry Flockhart (Ca 13-20 and Old St Alban's)**, **Rafay Siddiqui (Os 16-23 and Old St Alban's)** and **Amy Ranasinghe (K 16-23)** joined the Lower Sixth in the John Moore Theatre to share their Gap Year experiences, inspirations, and advice for those considering taking a Gap Year of their own. OV and former Head of School, **Olivia Howard (Cl 14-21 and Old Hawfordian)**, was unable to join in person but kindly prepared a video for the students.



Hot on the heels of her Five Year Reunion, writer, director and actor, OV **Hollie Avery (S 12-19)** stayed locally to return to King's to help judge the House Drama Competition, which had been resurrected after a hiatus. In a break from judging, Hollie spent some time with L6 pupils Bella C and Esther G who were seeking advice and guidance on their Drama A-level devising piece, as well as potential future career opportunities.



We were very grateful to OVs **Lizzy Haldar (née Bennett, Ch 08-10)**, **Harry Flockhart (Ca 13-20)**, **Luke Weaver (S 98-03)** and **Becky Ye (S 16-23)** who generously gave their time to speak with pupils about A-levels, universities, and careers at the opening of the Weston Sixth Form Centre in November, sharing their own personal journeys and experiences to help guide the pupils as they themselves are on the cusp of making their own key life choices.



Rory W, a talented Upper Fourth Music Scholar and chorister, had an organ masterclass with distinguished OV **Peter Holder (Br 01-08 and Old St Alban's)**, Organist at Christ Church Cathedral, Oxford. Peter formerly served as Sub-Organist at Westminster Abbey and famously played at both the Queen's Funeral and the King's Coronation. Peter's expert guidance has left a lasting impact on Rory, who returned to King's assemblies with renewed insight and artistry.

In November, OVs **George Campbell-Ferguson (Cr 17-24)**, **George Howard (SI7-24)**, **Jack Wharton (S 20-22)** and **Lola Morgan (W 18-24)** 'jumped' onto Teams for an early morning call. Together, they joined **Dr Ronan McLaverty-Head (Hon OV)** and the then King's Oxbridge candidates. The OVs thoughtfully shared their own, successful, Oxbridge interview experiences and gave some top tips for the hopeful candidates!



OV **Marcus Ferrar (Cr 53-63 and Old St Alban's)** very kindly journeyed from his Oxfordshire home to speak with the King's Sixth Form Germanists in preparation for their visit to Germany. Drawing on his own personal experiences of life in East Berlin, and the collapse of The Berlin Wall, as well as his extensive knowledge of the Dresden Bombings – Marcus is chair of the Dresden Trust. A remarkable insight into a world almost unimaginable for today's students.



We were very fortunate to welcome OV **Oscar Marcus Boyle (Os 08-15)** back to the King's Art School in January to share his inspirational work in a joint exhibition with Tereza Horáček, whose mother, **Claire Horáček (Hon OV)** had taught Art at King's – a prime example of the King's family in action!



King's Career Extravaganza 2025

We had an incredible couple of days at the King's Careers Extravaganza in March, which is now in its third year and continuing to go from strength to strength.

From careers in STEM, to Business and Creative Industries, College Hall was filled with invaluable insights and advice. Over 400 pupils from King's and schools across Worcestershire attended across the two events. A massive thank you to all the OVs, King's parents, and friends of the School, who

generously donated their time to support the inquisitive young minds investigating their own potential future careers.

A special "Thank you" to the amazing OVs **James Smalley (Br 10-17)**, a Mechanical Engineer for Mercedes AMG High Performance Powertrains, and **Cameron Walker (Os 08-15)**, Royal Correspondent for GB News and Broadcast Journalist, for their inspiring keynote speeches.

This year's event was our best attended yet, and we couldn't have done it without your support!

OVs supporting the 2025 Careers Extravaganza:

James Bailey (Cr 84-93), **Drew Benvie (K 85-96)**, **Sarah Fardon (Os 01-08)**, **Claire Gott (Cl97-06)**, **Amelia Martyn-Smith (Br 08-15)**, **Henry Martyn-Smith (S 10-17)**, **Rebecca Maund (Co 86-88)**, **Simon Mico (Os 85-96)**, **Amy Mushing (Ca 12-19)**, **Luke Mushing (K 13-20)**, **Steve Perera (Cr 86-93)**, **Barney Sears (Ch 10-15)**, **Jack Sims (Cr 04-11)**, **James Smalley (Br 10-17)**, **Rachel Smithson (Co 88-89)**, **Richard Tomlinson (Cl 83-90)**, **Cameron Walker (Os 08-15)** and **Alice Williams-Allden (W 97-02)**.



Reunions & Events

King's Day 2024

On Thursday 4 July 2024, we celebrated King's Day. In the end of term ceremony in Worcester Cathedral, the U6 were joined by their families, pupils, and teachers, along with the Lord-Lieutenant of Worcestershire, Mrs Grant, and the Bishop of Worcester, the Rt Revd Dr John Inge.



The afternoon's events included an outstanding A-level Art exhibition in the Sir Terry Frost Art Gallery, the annual 1st and 2nd Cricket teams vs OVs on the playing fields, and the KSW Boat Club Regatta on the River Severn. It was fantastic to see so many OVs return to King's to join in the events, to show their support and welcome the newest generation of OVs into their ranks.



Henley Royal Regatta 2024

The Alumni Team along with King's Head of Rowing, **Jim Chalmers (Hon OV)**, Boatman **Will Bird (Hon OV)**, Lead Rowing Coach **Robin Booth (Hon OV)** and Rowing Assistant Darcy Simon, hugely enjoyed welcoming so many OVs and their friends to the King's Worcester gazebo at this year's Henley Royal Regatta. It is always such a joy to meet with OVs from across the eras whose love for the sport they had found at King's is still going strong!



Mallorcan Meet-up

It was wonderful to hear from OV **Ben Alexander (Ch 06-13 and Old St Alban's)**, who kindly shared the details of a recent impromptu OV reunion in Mallorca.

Ben explained, "The meet up was a coincidence as we found out about being on the island at the same time due to Instagram. Some of us hadn't seen each other since leaving School so it was a great chance to catch up on lots of big life changes and reminisce about times at school over a

"muy bien" BBQ thanks to Hannah Brotherwood and Connie Grant."

In the photo, from left-right: **Connie Grant (S 07-14 and Old Hawfordian)**, **Corah Owen (née Lewis, Ch 07-14 and Old Hawfordian)**, **Emma Jarvis (Ch 07-14)**, **Ben Alexander (Ch 06-13 and Old St Alban's)**, **Chantal Jennings (née Smits, Br 12-14)**, **Hannah Brotherwood (Ch 07-14 and Old Hawfordian)**, and **Frances Taylor (Ch 07-14 and Old St Alban's)**.





121st Annual OV Dinner

On Saturday 14 September 2024, we were delighted to open the doors to College Hall and welcome OVs from across the generations, and the world, to the 121st Annual OV Dinner.

This year's Chappel Memorial Award Winner, which recognises the oldest OV present for their longstanding support of the School (who has not previously won), was OV **Alec Mackie (Cl 47-56)**. Alec was accompanied by Acting Head, **Dr Alison Oliver (Hon OV)**, as he signed the Chappel Award book.

There was a fantastic turnout from the years of 1989, 1994, and 2004, with a special mention for the 1979 and 1964 cohorts, all of whom were celebrating milestone anniversaries.

The compère for the evening was Hon Secretary of the OV Club, OV **Nick Stephens (Br 77-84)**. We were honoured to have OV, **The Rev'd Martin Loveless (Cr 54-64)** offer the Grace before the delicious three-course dinner began. Following the Dinner, all those gathered toasted The King, before OV **Ed Bolton (K 79-89)** took to the lectern, representing the largest year group attending. Ed's speech drew cheers from the attending year groups as they received their namechecks; he then continued his speech by drawing on his, and his friends', own experiences of King's and life beyond. Ed concluded his speech before handing over to Alison, with a toast to the "Health and prosperity of the

School", joined by all gathered.

On behalf of the School, Alison thanked Ed for his speech and welcomed all present. Sharing an update on the good health of the school, Alison also wished Kittermaster and Oswald Houses a "Happy Birthday" as they marked 40 years since inception, and encouraged OVs to keep in touch with the School.

The weekend was completed with the traditional Sunday Eucharist in Worcester Cathedral, where OV **David Head (Cl 52-60)** and **Dr Alison Oliver (Hon OV)** represented the OV community during the service.



KSW v OVs Football Matches



This year, the OVs took on the King's 1st XI on two occasions. The first match was held in September, where the OV squad of 20 recent leavers demonstrated some good attacking play, but the KSW team took control of the game in the second half, running out 3-1 winners. **Dr Mark Poole (Hon OV)** said, "The match was played in a fabulous spirit and

refereed superbly throughout by **Mr. Sarriegui (Hon OV).**"

In January, the return game took place at the County FA Headquarters. As King's Sports Coach, Andy Holliday noted, "The OVs fielded a very youthful squad, looking to gain revenge for a heavy defeat at the start of the school year." In a high-scoring

game, the OVs were deservedly triumphant in their 8-4 win, in a very entertaining match.

If any OVs are interested in getting involved in football matches back at King's, please do get in touch with the Alumni Office (alumni@ksw.org.uk).

New OV BBQ 2024

On Tuesday 3 September 2024, we had the great pleasure of welcoming our newest OVs from the years of 2022, 2023 and 2024 back to King's for their New OV BBQ. The heavy rain earlier in the day had cleared away to allow for plenty of opportunities to catch-

up in the Mulberry Marquee and Quad and enjoy the fantastic BBQ and the bar. The OVs enjoyed seeing their school friends and some of their former teachers again, as well as hearing a few words from Acting Head, **Dr Alison Oliver (Hon OV).**



Network 1541 Business Panel Debate



September's Network 1541 event comprised a business panel debate, with industry leaders and experts delving into the impact of the Labour government on economic policies and regulatory changes and, crucially, the evolving landscape of employment law.

The panel was chaired by OV **John Foley (Cl 64-74)**, accompanied by King's parent Hannah Edwards, managing director at Eva Capital; OV **Nick Clark (H 88-90)**, group COO at eEnergyPLC and group non-executive director at CED Electrical Group; and Jonathan Gain, chief investment officer and CEO at Stellar Asset Management Ltd. Many thanks to the panellists and guests for their invaluable contributions.



We Will Remember Them: Remembrance Day 2024

On Monday 11 November 2024, the whole school gathered with OVs, Hon OVs, Governors and Trustees, in Worcester Cathedral to commemorate The Fallen in a moving and poignant Service of Remembrance. OV **Alec Mackie (Cl 47-56)** and President of the OV Club, **James Smalley (Br 10-17)** laid a wreath on behalf of the Old Vigornian Community, joined by Heads of School Eric D and Amelia V who laid a wreath on behalf of the School. The wreaths had been marched into the Cathedral by the King's CCF Colour Guard. Prayers were led by the **Rev'd Dr Dorsett (Hon OV)**, who also gave a moving and thoughtful address. Following the service, the Acting Head, **Dr Alison Oliver (Hon OV)** welcomed the guests of the School to a Reception in Hostel House. The guests included OVs and Hon OVs from across the generations including OVs currently serving and retired from the Armed Forces.

Fantastic Five Year Reunion



On Saturday 5 October it was wonderful to welcome so many of the Year of 2019, and their parents, back to King's for their Five Year Reunion.

The OVs were joined for drinks and canapés by some of their former teachers, including Hon OVs **Katie Beever, Simon Cuthbertson, Gilly, Chris Haywood, Dr Richard James, Stephan and Sarah Le Marchand, Andrew Maund, Claire Neville, Dr Mark Poole**, and **Chris Wilson**, all happily reminiscing about their schooldays and what they have achieved in the five years since leaving.

Acting Head, **Dr Alison Oliver (Hon OV)**, welcomed the former pupils and their parents/guardians back to King's, before handing over to OV and former Head of School, **Sam Martyn-Smith (Cl 12-19 and Old Hawfordian)**.

Sam added his welcome to Alison's, saying a few words to his fellow OVs recognising the achievements made over the past five years and reminiscing about their time at King's. As the Reunion came to an end the evening did not, as the OVs and Hon OVs carried the reuniting on into Worcester, with the aim of at least starting, if not necessarily completing, the "Nine Dots"!

OV Golf Day 2024

Many thanks indeed to OV **James Bailey (Cr 84-93)** who once again organised a fantastic Golf Day at Ombersley Golf Club in November. James was joined by OVs **Colin Cole (H 67-77 and Old St Alban's), Andrew Rankin (H 95-97)**, and **Nic Sproson (H 71-76)** in his group, with **Paul Judge (W 83-93), Tom Guest (S 90-97), Nick Firth (Ch 86-93), George Blakeway (H 76-86 and Old St Alban's), Tim Whitehouse (K 86-94)**, and **Russ Mason (Hon OV)**, who were grouped in two three balls. The outright winner was Nick Firth and Andrew

School House Lunch 2024

Our many thanks to OV **Dr Tim Wadsworth (S 56-61)**, who not only organises the annual School House Lunch but has also provided the following précis of the reunion:

"The lunch was held again this year at the RAF Club, Piccadilly, on 30 September 2024 and was kindly hosted, as last year, by **David Murray (S 45-61)**. We were a group of 10, a little smaller than usual, and a little more elderly than usual - we were all 80ish rather than 70ish.



"The lunch has never been exclusively School House and we have always welcomed other Houses and staff members: this year we had two from Creighton House and two Hon OVs, **Rory McTurk** and former Bursar, **Galen Bartholomew**, all regulars at the lunch. We enjoyed an excellent meal and, as ever, it was a great pleasure to meet again friends from over 60 years ago and of course we remembered Dan McTurk."

They were joined by OVs **Derek Bell (S 56-58), Mike Dudley (Cl 51-59), Malcolm Joyner (Cr 44-52), Martin Lorenz (S 45-50), Mike Page (Cr 60-65)** and **Andrew Wallbank (S 52-59)**.



KSWBC Charity Challenge 2024 Done!



Many thanks to all the OVs who supported the KSWBC for the 2024 Charity Challenge, this occasion comprising not only rowing one million metres on the ergos but also cycling 700,000 metres on the static bikes! The hard work put in by all meant the previously fastest time of 16 hours and 55 minutes was left in the dust, with a new fastest record of 16 hours and 39 minutes! The nominated charity was the Worcestershire Breast



Unit Haven for which the event raised over £7,000. In January, the KSWBC welcomed WBUH Patient Support Manager and former parent, Jacquie Clements, and her daughter, OV and former King's Gap Rowing Coach, **Ellie Clements (Cr 05-12 and Old St Alban's)** to officially present the donation, with a fantastically large cheque!

Christmas Coffee & Cake

After a few years' hiatus, it was a pleasure to welcome some retired staff back once again to King's for Christmas Coffee and Cake in December. Gathering in the Head's Reception, friends and former colleagues reconnected, reminiscing about their years at King's, sharing updates on their lives post-retirement, and catching up on life at School today, while enjoying some delicious mince pies and festive cakes.



King's Carol Service

It was a joy to celebrate the festive season with the King's Carol Service in Worcester Cathedral on 4 December. Pupils, staff, parents and guardians, Governors, OVs and Hon OVs came together to enjoy the magical service, led by **Rev'd Dr Mark Dorsett (Hon OV)**, followed by mulled wine and mince pies in College Hall.

OV Reunion in Broadway



OV **David Horobin (W 61-69)** is currently based in the US and made the most of his visit to the UK by bringing together some of his King's cohort for a long overdue catch-up! He kindly shared this great photo from the reunion held in Broadway, Worcestershire. In the photo, we have from L-R: **Barney Burnham (Ch 59-69)**, **Dave Malcolmson (Cl 57-68 and Old St Alban's)**, **John Stephen (Cl 60-67)**, **Bill Dailey (Ca 64-68)**, **Andrew Reekes (Ch 64-69)**, **Peter Garland (Ch 63-68)**, **Bill Bridgens (Ch 61-68)**, **Paul Smith (J 64-69 and Old St Alban's)**, **Derek Wolfendale (W 58-68)**, **Pete Ross (W 62-69)**, **Richard Apps (Ch 61-68)**, **Nigel Garland (Ch 61-66)**, **Dave Horobin (W 61-69)** and his sons, Andrew and Christopher.

Ten Year reunion for the Year of 2015



On Saturday 22 March 2025, it was a huge pleasure to welcome the Year of 2015 back to King's to celebrate their Ten Year Reunion! Starting with tours of the School, the 2015 cohort were accompanied by current Heads of School **Amelia V** and **Eric D**, along with several Upper Sixth Monitors. The OVs reconvened in the Mulberry Marquee with their school friends, joined by some of their former teachers, including Hon OVs **Katie Beever**, **Simon Cuthbertson**, **Gilly**, **Chris Haywood**, **Alison Hines**, **Dr Richard James**, **Stephan and Sarah Le Marchand**, **Russ Mason**, **Julie Palmer**, **Ian Robinson**, and **Donna Salkeld**.



Hon OV **Katie Beever** formally welcomed the Year of 2015 back to King's, before handing over to OV and former Head of School, **Dr Tobias Thomas (W 08-15)**, who shared some wonderful words with his schoolfriends, shocking some into the realisation they had been out of school for longer than they had been in! As the evening at King's drew to a close, the Year of 2015 were having such a great time, they had to be gently encouraged by **Gilly (Hon OV)** to head into town and continue to make the most of their time back together!

OV London Drinks 2025

The most recent OV London Drinks took place on Thursday 6 February at a new venue, the private Villiers Room at the Theodore Bullfrog just off The Strand. It was a fantastic evening, filled with stories and cherished

memories, as well as some useful networking across the generations. Our many thanks to all the OVs who attended and made it such a memorable evening, including King's School Governor and OV **Andrew**

Underwood (S 77-87), who said a few words of welcome – and especially those who carried the party on long after the event had officially finished!



Nuremberg Concert



Five OVs caught up after the concert at the Meistersinger Halle in Nuremberg in March 2025 given by the Nuremberg Symphony Orchestra at which OVs Stephen and Jonathan Darlington performed, the first time they have done so in public, Stephen playing the organ, Jonathan conducting. Left to right **Sir Stephen Tomlinson (H 63-70)**, **Peter Hewitt (Ch 60-69)**, **Dr Stephen Darlington (Cl 60-70)**, **Jonathan Darlington (H 64-74)**, and **Barney Burnham (Ch 59-69)**.

Musical Reunion with Harry Bramma



There was an excellent lunch in Chislehurst in early May, when six of **Harry Bramma's (Hon OV)** King's Worcester pupils met up with him at his home before repairing to a hostelry for copious anecdotes about famous musicians Harry knew in the past, the King's School and Cathedral in the 1960s, the Three Choirs Festival, and so on. From left to right: **Nicholas Cleobury (CH 58-68)**, **Peter Hewitt (Ch 60-69)**, **Dr Chris Tolley (S 61-69)**, **Andrew Millington (Cr 68-70)**, **Andrew Reekes (Ch 64-69)**, **Dr Stephen Darlington (Cl 60-70 and Old St Alban's)** and **Harry Bramma (Hon OV)**.

Bob Hinds Boat Naming

Many OVs will remember the late **Bob Hinds (Hon OV)**, former King's Boatman and Rowing Coach, as well as from his times in the DT department and CCF! In May, the King's School Worcester Boat Club unveiled its newest boat, named in Bob's honour in a special ceremony held at the school. To mark the occasion, Bob's family joined current staff and students to officially name the boat, before watching pupils from the Upper Remove take it out on the water.



CCF Mess Night 2025

A change of venue from 2024, saw Contingent Commander KSW CCF Lt Col Stuart Ellen host the 2025 CCF Mess Night at the Diglis Hotel, just next to the School. He was joined by the current CCF contingent, Hon OVs and OVs, for a celebration of the unit's achievements over the year, a thank you to all the staff, and a fond farewell to the Upper Sixth cadets.

1541 Society Lunch



We were honoured to welcome members of the 1541 Society to the Michael Baker Boathouse in May for a delicious three-course lunch prepared by the School's caterers, Thomas Franks.

The 1541 Society encompasses all elements of the King's Community, comprising OVs, Hon OVs, current and former parents, and friends of the School. It recognises those individuals who have supported The King's School Worcester Development Trust in a major way, whether through an extraordinary gift, legacy pledge, or by donating their time to forward the work of the trust.

Our thanks, as ever, to all of those who support The King's School Worcester Development Trust.

Spring Tea 2025

A sumptuous Afternoon Tea in the Mulberry Marquee on a slightly damp spring afternoon was the perfect backdrop for some of our retired staff and OVs to catch up and reconnect with each other and current staff. A lovely occasion that is becoming a firm fixture in the annual events' calendar!



A Hostel House Golf Reunion



Colin Cole (H 67-77 and Old St Alban's), John Fardon (H 65-75 and Old St Alban's) (not pictured), Nic Sproson (H 71- 76), Garry Henry (H 72-77), Nick Fairlie (H 72-77).

Seventies Reunion Going Strong



Peter Burnham (Ch and W 72-77), Stephen Gwilliam (Br 70-76), Mark Foley (Cl 67-77) and Gareth Hall (Br 67-77).



OVs Dr Peter Raderecht (S 44-50) and Graham Jackson (S 46-51) enjoying life during one of their regular lunches, wishing all OVs and the School good health and success!

OVs Overseas

OVs Overseas: California Reunion 2024

On a glorious October weekend, OV **Abbas Kazerooni (Ch 91-96)** generously hosted OVs from across the States and the UK in his home town of Newport Beach, California.

The group first met on Friday 11 October, when some enjoyed kayaking in the bay, before meeting up for dinner, joined by Acting Head, **Dr Alison Oliver (Hon OV)**.

The main event was held on the Saturday evening, when Abbas hosted his guests at his stunning home, with themed cocktails and a sumptuous meal. Alison commented, "Overall, it was a humbling and joyous occasion, in fact a privilege to get together with those for whom King's holds great significance. I can't thank Abbas enough for his generosity and thoughtfulness in hosting this reunion, and for his continued support for the School."

Abbas added, "It was an absolute privilege and honour to host the KSW US Reunion in Newport Beach, California. I really enjoyed hosting old friends and making new connections with one huge common connecting theme - King's School Worcester. It is always amazing how we can connect with people from different generations with that common thread. I feel like a real bond is forming between the US OVs and it is



a beautiful thing to be a part of and watch develop.

Essi Sadeghi (Cr 88-95), along with Dave and Jon's partners.

"We all had an amazing time and I cannot wait for the reunion on the East Coast next year."

Abbas and Alison were joined by **OVs Rupert Bader (Os 82-89)**, who had also helped with the weekend's co-ordination, **Jonathan Essex (Cr 80-89)**, **Isabella Green (K 17-24)**, **Dr David Longstaff (H 92-97)**, **Kate Mythen (née Ogden, Co 81-83)**, and



While visiting Oman, **Phil Mackie (Cl 73-83)**, met up with his old friend OV **Rob Millner (Cr 78-83)** who lives there, and bumped into another OV, **Dan Anthony (Cr 78-88)**!



Vigornian Veritas



Did you ever pull off a prank that almost got you caught? Or perhaps you did get caught and faced the consequences? Maybe someone else took the fall for your antics, and you've been wanting to apologise ever since! Vigornian Veritas is your chance to share those funny moments and mischievous memories with us for this new feature. Whether it's a tale of sneaking out of class, a harmless prank gone wrong, or a moment of unexpected hilarity, we want to hear it all!

Here are our inaugural Vigornian Veritas tales!

Mr Sheppard



"Be sure thy sins shall find thee out", Scripture assures us....

One day in the 1966/67 school year, when we were all still using fountain pens as a matter of course, I and the other denizens of Upper 4 B were being taught French by dear old Mr. Sheppard. We were all writing away while Mr. Sheppard paced up and down between the rows of desks. As he passed my desk I was seized by a moment of weakness and shook my pen at the back of his retreating head, sending a short and surprisingly neat line of ink spots up his neck. He of course turned round and there I was, still shaking said pen and calling damnation down upon it for "clogging up". With a mixture of amusement and shame I have to report that Mr. Sheppard bought the story and there were no further consequences. I didn't even dislike French - on the contrary I went on to study it (and German, which I have to admit was my preference between the two) at A-level and then at Cambridge.

I promise to donate a fiver to the next appropriate charity appeal I receive in due contrition.

OV Julian Thake (Cr 65-72)

Very fond memories of hopping over the wall behind the shooting range to the Fountain Inn for a pint or two and trying not to get caught!

It was nightttime sometime in 1955. Five boarders furtively traversed the streets of Worcester. Their objective? The Alice Otley School for Girls. Achieving access to the grounds, the five, by means of pebbles, woke several girls. Soon dormitory windows were full of grinning, giggling, chattering young ladies, some of whom threw down their knickers. Up the school mast these 'unmentionables' were hoisted.

The girls' cheers alerted others and three of the five were apprehended. Two escaped detection, nervously returning to their College Green boarding houses carrying as a trophy a pair of knickers.

Following dawn the school acted, parents summoned, some having to drive a long way. Like wildfire, news of the escapade spread throughout King's, an atmosphere of dread prevailed, then it was leaked that the three were to be expelled.

Late afternoon as the parents drove their recalcitrant sons in convoy from Headmaster Mr. Kittermaster's house towards Edgar Tower, the road was lined with students forming an impromptu Guard of Honour. The expelled had maintained the Code of Silence by not divulging the names of those undetected.

As the Code must be maintained, I will not admit at age 83 my participation so will remain ANONYMOUS!



Ronald Kittermaster
(HM 1942-1959)



COLLEGE GREEN

(CI962 - L42) Recalling with mixed remorse and amusement when our entire class assailed "Cauliflower" (Mr Caulfield) upon entering the classroom with simultaneous launched volleys of ink-soaked missiles dispatched from 32 precisely aimed vertical rulers, wedged in lift up desktops and followed with 32 beatings by form-master Donald Anderton.

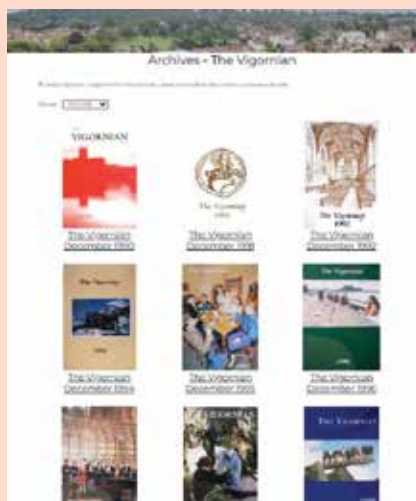
Send in your anonymous confessions of no more than 100-150 words to alumni@ksw.org.uk to be part of this fun and nostalgic journey down memory lane. If you'd like to be especially brave and waive anonymity to include a photo, please do send it too!

Your Vigornian Hub!



Many OVs are now regularly using the Vigornian Hub – a secure online platform for the OV community – to find out about and book OV events and reunions, update their profile, find and re-connect with old school friends, and see photos from past events.

Since its launch, the Vigornian Hub has grown substantially, and OVs can now not only read archive copies of the school magazine, *The Vigornian*, dating back to 1880, and view their old House photos, but also shop for their favourite piece(s) of OV merchandise in the Vigornian Shop!



The merchandise on offer includes the more traditional items, such as ties and bespoke socks in the OV colours, as well as some newer options including the *new* OV silk tie design, and also our newly launched, exclusive, Old Vigornian sweatshirt, designed and printed by OVs **Oscar Roswall-Stanley (W 15-17), Archie Connor (Os 10-17) and Jimmy Graham (Os 10-17 and Old St Alban's)**. Those with keen eyes will recognise the sweatshirt design from this edition's front cover – and here expertly modelled by OV **Georgie Ormandy (Ch 06-13 and Old St Alban's)**, who also happens to be a King's Geography teacher and the current House Tutor of Oswald House!



Please note that all profits from the Vigornian Hub Shop go to The King's School Worcester Development Trust Bursary Campaign.

Over the coming months, we will be building the Hub further to include a careers and mentoring opportunities section. The aim is to provide an accessible platform to 'match' those OVs seeking support in their careers with those kindly offering that support, expanding on the already well-established professional OV network. It will also provide a place for OVs to post job and work experience opportunities.



If you have not yet logged into the Hub, please contact the Alumni Office to obtain your personal login details. Please note that booking an event or making a purchase from the shop does not require logging in, although you will need to provide your email address (and postal address for the shop) to complete the transaction.



A final request: if you have any House photos, or copies of *The Vigornian*, which are not currently on the Hub, please do share with the Alumni team so we can add them to the Archives!



Barnabas

Distinguished OV's who have excelled in their chosen professions are invited by the Head 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). The full articles on our Barnabas Speakers and their visits can be found at

www.ksw.org.uk/alumni/clubs-and-groups/the-barnabas-group/

Barnabas Speaker: Drew Benvie

On Tuesday 11 March 2025 it was a great pleasure for King's to welcome OV **Drew Benvie (K 85-96)** back to School and into The Barnabas Group.

Drew is the founder and CEO of global social media agency *Battenhall*, which is based in London and has offices in New York, Los Angeles, Asia, and across the UK. *Battenhall* delivers social media, advertising, marketing and PR for global brands, and the company has been named 30 times as its industry's agency of the year. Drew has himself been named the industry's top CEO by Campaign Magazine, The Sabres and by the PRCA. Outside of work, Drew launched a non-profit organisation in 2023 called *Raise* (Responsible Actions in Social for Everyone), which campaigns to make social media safer.

At King's, Drew was head of Kittermaster and was a monitor. He played rugby for the 1st XV, captained the athletics team, and was one of the first school basketball team members.

On Barnabas Day, Drew was introduced to the whole School in Worcester Cathedral by Acting Head, **Dr Alison Oliver (Hon OV)**. Taking his place at the lectern, Drew shared his experiences of King's to a rapt audience (including his own children), engaging them with his memories of sport, lessons and teachers. His life beyond King's was similarly interesting: the change of university degree reassuring those in the Sixth Form that you do not have to set your life in stone at the age of 18, and Drew's encouragement to seize every opportunity, especially outside academic life, helped give all the pupils inspiration for their own futures.



Drew's career trajectory was filled with spotting opportunities and trends, taking leaps of faith, and surrounding himself with inspiring people. This formula meant Drew led the social media evolution, literally writing the Wikipedia page, and continues to be at the forefront of social media and AI, while expanding his award-winning business reach across the globe.

Drew then had the opportunity to revisit College Hall, where he had spent many hours in Assembly as a pupil, and watched many concerts as a parent. A quick trip to No.12 gave Drew the chance to catch up with his former History teacher, **Tom Sharp (Hon OV)**, as well as current Head of History, Wayne McGarvey.

Returning to Hostel House, Drew met with Heads of School Amelia V and Eric D, who presented him with the Barnabas Shield in recognition of his support for the School, his achievements, and to welcome Drew formally as a member of The Barnabas Group.

Then it was straight over to Choir House (aka the English Block) to meet with Head of English, Rebecca Dyke, and the Fifth Formers who will be studying English A-level. Their discussions around AI and creativity gave much food for thought.

The Lower Sixth Computer Science A-level students in Head of Computing, **Duncan Branchett's (Hon OV)** class were very keen to have some time with Drew. While AI was similarly a core topic of their conversations, in particular the ethical challenges it poses, so was the use of coding and how essential technical skills are in the world of work, irrespective of the sector/industry.

Some time was put aside for Drew to meet with L6 student Pranav M, who is focusing on AI for his EPQ (Extended Project Qualification), before Drew joined **Dr Ronan McLaverty-Head (Hon OV)** and his A-level RP class for an in-depth discussion around AI and ethics.

Over lunch, Drew joined Sixth Formers in the Weston Sixth Form Centre, School House, and spoke with each of the students about their university and career aspirations; in return, the students asked Drew about his business, how it works, and his own experiences. A thoroughly enjoyable time.

The School is incredibly grateful for Drew for giving so much time to speak with so many pupils, sharing his knowledge and wisdom for their benefit, and inspiring so many. A truly memorable Barnabas Day.

King's Today

King's Worcester has again been shortlisted in the Co-Educational School of the Year Award, in this year's Independent School of the Year (ISOTY) Awards, having been finalists in the last two years. King's Hawford was also shortlisted for Prep School of the Year, again for the second year running.

BATTENHALL SPORTS COMPLEX



The School has successfully acquired a prime plot of land in Battenhall, Worcester, that will greatly enhance its sports facilities and expand its available playing fields. Keep an eye out for further developments and details!



In November, King's proudly unveiled the new Weston Sixth Form Centre in School House, marking a significant milestone in the history of King's Worcester. During the opening ceremony, we were delighted to recognise OV **John Weston (S 62-69)**, after whom the Centre is named in recognition of his significant contributions to the School and the King's Worcester Development Trust Bursary Fund. Representing him on the day was John's friend, Trustee, donor, and OV **John Foley (Cl 64-74 and Old St Alban's)**, who joined Acting Head, **Dr Alison Oliver (Hon OV)**, to officially unveil the centre's plaque in front of pupils, parents, staff and OVs.



In the 'Derby' fixtures against RGS Worcester, all the King's teams consistently showed resilience, determination and great sportsmanship. The King's 1st Hockey team won the Severn Shield, making them the first outright winner after two years of shared titles, with a final scoreline of 2-1. The Modus Cup held at Sixways Stadium saw the King's 1st XV retain the cup with a resounding 29-19 win. In the Challenge Cup, the King's 1st XI played hard but were defeated 4-0 by the opposition. The 1st team Netballers set the bar high in March's Superball, forcing RGS to work tirelessly for all four quarters, with a narrow loss: 26-22.

The U14 Hockey team made King's sporting history by becoming the first hockey team to reach, and subsequently win, the Tier I Plate National Finals of the Schools Championship, run by England

Hockey, in March. In Rugby 7s, the King's 1st VII delivered some outstanding performances over their two days at the Rosslyn Park National Schools Sevens tournament, reaching the School's first National Rugby Sevens final in 36 years.

It will be unsurprising to learn that this year, King's was named in the top 4% of sporting schools in the country and is the only school in Worcester to feature in the Top 200, with only one other school in Worcestershire included on the list. The recognition follows King's inclusion in the Top 10 national ranking for academic performance for the fourth consecutive year. The School was also named one of the Top Ten Independent Secondary Schools in the West Midlands by the Sunday Times' *Parent Power 2025 Schools Guide*.



Please join us in welcoming the new Head of King's School Worcester, and of the King's Foundation of Schools, Ben Charles, who takes up his post in September 2025 from the King's School Rochester.

Weddings



Having first met in Bright House 2010 and become friends through many a Keyes Concert, **Maddy Shaw Roberts (Br 05-12)** and **Edoardo Toso (Br 10-12)** were married on 6th July 2024 in the beautiful alpine village of Chamois, Italy. Guests included several OV's: Best Man, **Matt Whallett (S 10-12)**, Bridesmaid **Livi Wilkinson (Br 05-12)**, and Groomsman **Amedeo Toso (CL 12-14)**. Also in attendance were **Katie Baum (Br 05-12 and Old St Alban's)**, **Izzie Amos (Cr 07-12)**, **Becky Lane (Os 05-12)**, **Lara Bienkowska (Br 10-12)**, **Rory Johnson (Br 03-09)** and **George Neville (Cr 03-10)**.

Many congratulations to OV **Dr Corah Lewis (Ch 07-14 and Old St Alban's)**, who tied the knot with George Owen in Worcester Cathedral in September 2024. Corah added, "We had an incredible day attended by a number of OV's! One of the pictures on the Cathedral steps is all OV's. It was wonderful to have **Mr Gunter (Hon OV)** playing me down the aisle in a string quartet, and to have a few of my King's St Alban's teachers in attendance!"



OV picture left to right - **Edward Rowley (Os 07-14 and Old St Alban's)**, **Hannah Rowley (née Jeavons, S 07-14 and Old Hawfordian)**, **Olivia Hunt (née Deehan, W 07-14)**, **Harry Hunt (K 07-14)**, **Chantal Jennings (née Smits, Br 12-14)**, **Frances Walker (née Taylor, Ch 07-14 and Old St Alban's)**, **George Owen**, **Corah Owen (née Lewis, Ch 07-14 and Old St Alban's)**, **Emma Jarvis (Ch 07-14)**, **Grace Hawthorne (née Bradley, Br 07-13)**, **Connie Grant (S 07-14 and Old Hawfordian)**, **Maid of Honour Charlotte Collins (Ch 07-14 and Old St Alban's)**, **Hannah Brotherwood (Ch 07-14 and Old Hawfordian)**, and **Hayden Lewis (Ch 10-17 and Old St Alban's)**.



Congratulations also to OV **Ollie Wall (W 11-13)** who married Molly in June 2024 at Birtsmorton Court in the Church of St Thomas of Canterbury with St Peter and St Paul, with the wonderful backdrop of The Malverns!



OVs in the News

OV's Olivier Award



Massive congratulations to OV **Allan Clayton MBE (H 91-99)** for winning a well-deserved Olivier Award! The award, Outstanding Achievement in Opera, had a strong field, where Allan was up against finalists Aigul Akhmetshina for her performance in *Carmen* at the Royal Opera House, and Jung Young-Doo for his direction of *Lear* at the Barbican Theatre

Allan, represented by Mark Anthony Turnage, received his award for Outstanding Achievement in Opera for *Festen*, presented by world-renowned Welsh bass-baritone Sir Bryn Terfel.

OV Victorious in Oxford v. Cambridge Boat Race

OV **Luke Beever (S 15-22 and Old Hawfordian)** is to be congratulated after his crew secured a thrilling win in the iconic Oxford v Cambridge Boat Race in April 2025. The Cambridge crew dominated the race, winning by more than 16 seconds, and an incredible 5.5 lengths. The victory gives Cambridge their third successive win and a sixth in seven contests.

The victory is all the more impressive for Luke, who was the youngest



rower in both boats and one of only two undergraduates taking part in the race. He had previously represented Cambridge University Boat Club in their winning reserve crew, *Goldie*, in 2023 and 2024.



OVs' Royal Recognition



We were delighted to learn that OV-owned and run *Brockway Carpets* has been granted the Royal Warrant of Appointment as Carpet Manufacturer to His Majesty King Charles III. The Royal Warrant is as a mark of recognition to people or companies who have regularly supplied goods or services to the Royal Household for at least five years.

OV **Charles Annable (Cl 78-88 and Old St Alban's)** is Chairman of Brockway Carpets, which has been in his family since the company began in 1964, and is supported by Managing Director, OV **Derek Evans (Cr 78-86 and Old Hawfordian)**.

OV High Sheriff



Many congratulations to OV **Ilan Smith (Cr 73-78 and Old Hawfordian)** for his well-deserved appointment as High Sheriff of Worcestershire this month. Ilan explains further, "I was appointed as High Sheriff of Worcestershire at a ceremony on Thursday 3rd April at The Shirehall in Worcester attended by the Lord-Lieutenant, Her Ladyship Mrs Justice Tipples, President of the Midlands Bench, the Bishop, members of the Judiciary, various distinguished guests and members of my family."

There have been High Sheriffs for at least 1,000 years and it is the oldest secular institution after the Monarchy. We know that Ilan will be an excellent High Sheriff and look forward to hearing more about his activities.

OV's Excellent Education Award

In April 2025, *Discover History* won the 'Community Involvement' category of the Worcestershire Education Awards 2025. OV **Helen Harding (née Lee, Ch 94-01)** and her husband Paul Harding, who is the School Staff Instructor for King's CCF, have both run *Discover History* since 2003.

Discover History began with the aim of bringing history to life for people of all ages and abilities. "Receiving this award confirms that what we do has a positive effect on people of all ages. From teaching nursery school children how our ancestors played with toys, to residents in care homes looking at the Coronation of our late Queen Elizabeth II," Helen explained.



OV's Radioactive Rhinos



OV **Professor James Larkin's (S 74-81)** multi-faceted rhino anti-poaching programme,

The Rhisotope Project, based in South Africa, is now fully up and running with over 20 animals in the Rhino Orphanage in the Waterberg region involved. James is the Director of the Radiation and Health Physics Unit (Research & Innovation) for the University of Witwatersrand. Together with his international team of scientists and conservationists, they aim to incorporate small quantities of radioactive material into the horns of the at-risk African Rhinos to both devalue the horns to poachers and make any that are taken much more easily detectable as the contraband is moved across international borders.

OV Rose's Olympic Marathon



OV Rose Harvey - photo credit Reuters

Congratulations to OV **Rose Harvey (K 03-10)** who, despite a stress fracture of her femur, completed her first Olympic Marathon at the Paris Games 2024. While some of the other athletes did not complete the course, Rose powered through to come in 78th in a time of 2:51:03 in 24oC heat. Rose added, "This was far from the Olympics I dreamed of, but still an experience of a lifetime." Rose went on to become the second Brit and 9th overall across the finish line in the TCS London Marathon 2025!

Worcester City Runs



Congratulations to all the OVs, Hon OVs and staff who took part in September's Worcester City Runs 10k and Half Marathon, including **Rachel Rutter (Hon OV)** who completed her second Half Marathon, and OV and Governor **Tim Brock (Cr 77-87)**, who ran the 10k, who added, "I think I have run it every year for the last 5 years. I love it, quite nostalgic!"

OV Alice's Gold



Huge congratulations to OV **Alice Baker (K 14-22 and Old St Alban's)**, who secured an impressive Gold for Team GB Rowing at the 2024 World



Rowing Senior, Under 23 and Under 19 Championships in St Catharines, Canada, which took place at the end of August 2024. Following her race, Alice, who is currently studying at Stanford University on a Rowing Scholarship, kindly returned to King's to meet with the King's School Worcester Boat Club senior rowers (Fifth Form - Upper Sixth) during one of their Games sessions, to share some of her top tips. More recently, Alice and her Stanford University crew mates were crowned National Champions at the NCAA Women's Rowing Championship 2025!

OVs' Love for Languages



It is a very exciting time for OVs **Ed Wilson (Cr 05-09)** and **Sam Geuter (W 04-09)** who have been in touch to share their news. Ed and Sam, while living and working in different countries, have collaborated to produce a new language app, *Linguini*. The app focuses on teaching Spanish and takes a new approach to learning for their target audience of linguists who are 17+ years old.

OV George's University Challenge



It was so exciting to see OV **George Capell (Br 16-23)** make his TV debut on University Challenge, with his St Andrews University team!

OV David's Diocesan Decoration



Congratulations to OV **Dr David K Smith (Br 58-67)**, who was one of only fifteen recipients of the Diocese of Exeter St Boniface Awards in 2024. The St Boniface Awards honour laypeople who go above and beyond to serve the churches, church schools, and their communities in the Diocese of Exeter.

OV Appointed High Commissioner

Many congratulations to OV **Paul Turner (W 77-82)**, who has been appointed British High Commissioner to the Solomon Islands. This appointment is the culmination of a career that has spanned the UK Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO), the World Bank and several other international organisations. Paul took up his new post in January 2025.

Amazing Authors



Lower Sixth students with Ranga's book

Thank you to OV **Ranga Chand (S 58-64)**, who kindly donated a copy of his latest book, *the Fall of the Dollar Empire*, for the benefit of current Economics and Business Studies students. Ranga's book hit

the shelves this year, along with Hon OV power couple, the Le Marchands, who also published their latest novels, with Stephan's book *An Untimely Frost* and Sarah's first *Hold Fast!*

OV bags a Baggies Contract



Fantastic news from OV **Noah DuPont (Cr 19-24)**, who signed his first professional football contract with West Bromwich Albion (aka "The Baggies") this month. Noah moved from King's after completing his GCSEs to join the West Bromwich Albion Academy, a move that has proved absolutely the right one for what is set to be a stellar football career.

Gold DoF

Congratulations to all the OVs who successfully achieved their Gold DoF this year! An incredible achievement and one made extra special by the opportunity to celebrate at Buckingham Palace, as **Luke Culwick (Os 19-24)** and **Samuel Rutter (Cr 17-24 and Old Hawfordian)** did!

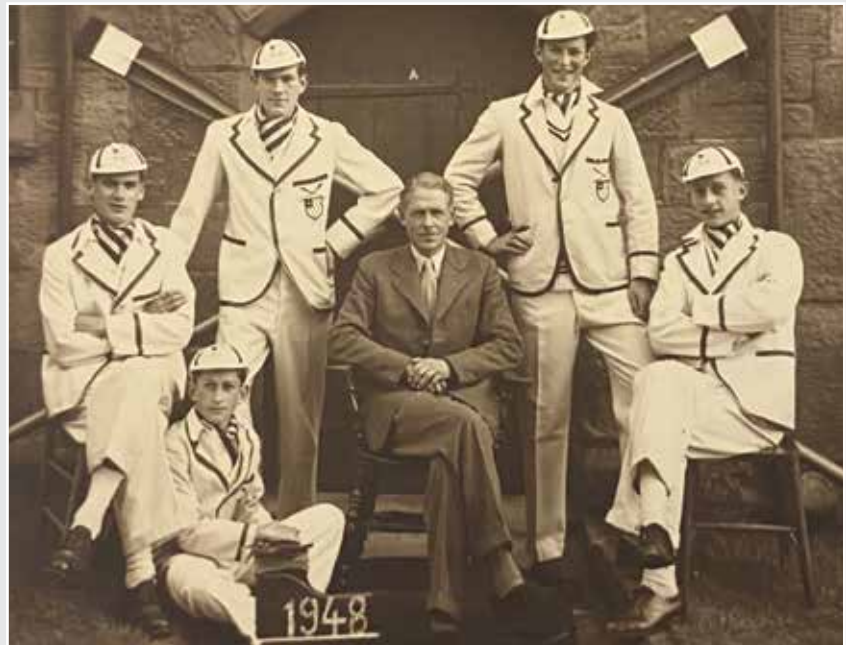


Thank yous



Thank you so much to all those who donate to the King's School Worcester Development Trust. The Trust builds up long-term charitable support for the School, primarily through bursary provision. It ensures that the wishes of those who give to the School are properly upheld and that the pupils who come to King's benefit from the generosity of those who donate.

Bursaries play a transformative role by offering the educational foundation and co-curricular opportunities to thrive not only at King's but also in future endeavours. These bursaries have far-reaching benefits, fostering inclusion and diversity within the classroom and promoting social mobility. They also attract outstanding individuals who contribute to the overall excellence and enrichment of our Vigornian community



Our many thanks to OV, the late **Ray Franklin (Cl 43-49)** for kindly remembering the King's School Worcester Development Trust in his Will. Our thanks also to Ray's widow, Joy, and his family, for facilitating Ray's wishes, and for Joy's continued support for the School.

Our many thanks also to OV, the late **Peter Prestage (S 41-49)**, who similarly kindly remembered The King's School Worcester Development Trust in his Will. The photo shows Peter in his heyday at King's, looking resplendent in his rowing blazer, cravat, and cap, sitting on the chair with their cox next to him!

These generous legacy gifts will have an enduring impact on the King's bursary programme, helping the King's School Worcester Development Trust continue to fund places for talented pupils, for which we are very grateful.

King's Christmas Baubles for Bursaries 2024

Thank you so much to everyone who spruced up their Christmas tree with a King's Christmas bauble! All profits from the sale of the Christmas Baubles, along with all merchandise from the Vigornian Hub Shop, go to the King's School Worcester Development Trust Bursary campaign, and this latest festive season you raised over £1,000!



If you too are considering leaving a legacy to the King's School Worcester Development Trust in your Will, there is no need to inform the School of your gift, but if you do, it gives us the opportunity to say "thank you" and properly recognise your generosity for a gift that will only take a few minutes to give, but which will live on for generations. *Please do seek professional advice when making, or updating, your Will.*

Every donation to the Bursary Fund makes a difference: whether it's a purchase from the Vigornian Hub shop, a one-time donation, a monthly donation, or even a contribution of your time and expertise, every act of giving matters. Thank you.



Please scan the QR code to find out more.

Archives

From the Vigornian Vaults

We are very grateful for the most recent additions to *From the Vigornian Vaults*, where we look at the personal perspectives of King's through the generations. You can read the full articles in the Archives section of the School website here: <https://www.ksw.org.uk/alumni/archives/from-the-vigornian-vaults/>

OV **Andrew Reekes (Ch 64-69)** takes us back to Speech Day in 1969 and his memories of the time.



Connect from 20 years ago inspired a piece called *Swan Song for The Tuck Shop*, where the Archives team led by **Caroline Roslington (Hon OV)** delved into the history of the much beloved Tuck Shop, which closed in July 2000.



OV **Tim Lucas (S 72-79)** kindly shared his memories of rowing with the King's School Worcester Boat Club (KSWBC), including the first year with his J14 in a "clinker VIII" with some very old needle blades.

If you have a personal perspective you would like to share for the Vigornian Vaults, please do contact the Alumni Office.

Happy 40th Birthday to Kittermaster and Oswald



In September 1984, two new "day boy" houses were formed: Kittermaster, named after Ronald Kittermaster (HM 1942-1959), and Oswald, for St Oswald. Both Houses welcomed "day girls" as they joined the School in 1991.

We have some wonderful photos in the Archives and we have also

received some fantastic ones from former Kittermaster Housemaster **Richard Davis (Hon OV)**, too many to share here. If you have any photos or memories of your time in either Oswald or Kittermaster that you would like to share, please get in touch with the Alumni Office via alumni@ksw.org.uk as we'd love to hear from you!

A Picture Paint a Thousand Words



A-Level Art 1994-1995



Boat Club First VIII at Henley 1975



Boat Club 1st IV 1955



College House bedroom 1980s



Rugby Tour to Australia 2000



College House concert quartet 1985



L6 Christmas Jumper in a Marquee Dec 2020



King's Day 1995



Cricket XI 1970



King's Herald Newspaper Winners 1990



Domesday 2000 group



Phantom Teabag 1990

Skeleton in the Undercroft 1970 and Oedipus the King 1990



Hockey 2010

Joint Services Camp Gibraltar 1980



U6 Leavers 2020

Rugby practice 1980



National Schools Regatta 2000

Dates for your Diary

For more details and to book for all OV reunions and events, just keep an eye on your Vigornian Hub! Invitations for events are sent via email, so do ensure we have your email.

New OV BBQ

Tuesday 2 September 2025

**The Mulberry Marquee and the Quad,
4.30pm - 6.30pm**

Welcoming our newest members of the OV community back to King's with a BBQ for the Years of 2023, 2024 and 2025 and their former teachers.

OV Club AGM

Monday 8 September 2025

Online meeting

If you are interested in attending the AGM for the OV Club, please contact the Alumni Office for details.

The 122nd Annual OV Dinner

Saturday 13 September 2025

College Hall, Welcome Drinks from 7pm

The annual OV black tie dinner is a wonderful opportunity to celebrate a special milestone anniversary in style with your OV friends, or simply to enjoy a sumptuous dinner in memorable College Hall – open to all OVs and Hon OVs from across the generations.

OVs in Edinburgh

Saturday 20 September 2025

Edinburgh City Centre

Any OV able to be in Edinburgh the evening of Saturday 20 September is very welcome to join an informal get-together. The first drink is on King's! Location is still tbc, so please contact the Alumni Office for updates.

Five Year Reunion for the Year of 2020

Saturday 4 October 2025

The Mulberry Marquee, 5-7pm

Free to attend but booking is essential for OVs and their parents/guardians for their return to King's for an evening of reuniting and reminiscing.

OV Golf Day 2025

Although exact date is tbc, please contact the Alumni Office asap if you are potentially interested in taking part!

School House and 70s Lunch

Tuesday 14 October 2025

**The Bank House Hotel, Bransford,
from 12pm**

For those OVs who keep the late Dan McTurk in their memories, whether from School House or as their former teacher; all are welcome.

London Drinks

Thursday 5 February 2026

The Theodore Bullfrog, 7-9pm

Save the Date!

Ten Year Reunion for the Year of 2016

Saturday 12 March 2026

The Mulberry Marquee, 5-7pm

Please do save the date for your Ten Year Reunion – more details will be on the Vigornian Hub soon, and email invitations sent directly to you closer to the time.

All our events may be subject to change.



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