

King's Speech



Whale of a Tale

Exclusive interview with actor
Robert Longden

Mean Streets of Bogota

Former School Captain Kate Hawker
combats gang culture

King of Calm

The spider at the centre of WW2

Editor's Welcome

IN THIS ISSUE

WELCOME to the sixth edition of *King's Speech*. It is packed with the usual range of material – in fact, our problem has been very much what we have had to leave out because of pressure of space. In addition to updates on the School's 2020 plans, the realisation of which is now getting closer, there is the standard mix of lengthier features on some former pupils, and some shorter factual news items. We also try to give a flavour of what is currently going on within the school, but the usual caveat applies – much more information on this is available on the school's website and in the publication *King's Illustria*.

This year sadly saw the deaths of a number of major figures from the school's past and these are covered in the Obituaries section. In particular, former Headmaster Adrian Silcock and John Clowes, to whom both the school and the FPA owes a huge debt of gratitude for the many voluntary contributions that he made. Two other former members of staff have also died – Ron Wilson and Simon Skeens – and this resulted in some research being done (and thanks are due to the late Dickie Haresign for much of it) into ages of surviving former staff. It not being the gentlemanly thing to do to discuss the ages of ladies, I shall merely say that Joan Jenion, who many will remember fondly from

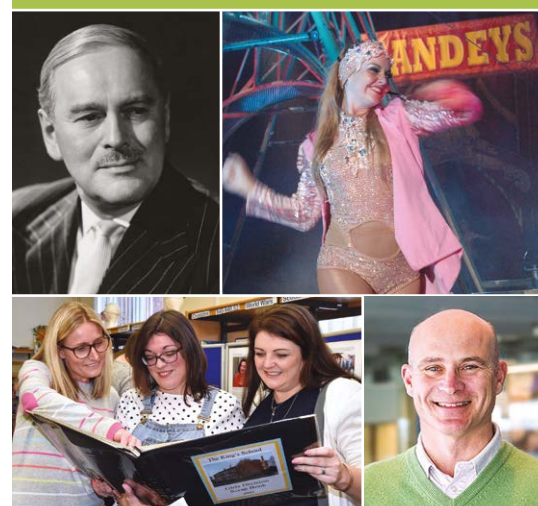
her days teaching 1D in the Junior School, is the most elderly surviving former member of staff, and she was born a few months before Ramsay MacDonald formed a National Government!

A strong focus of *King's Speech* is to feature former pupils who have been successful in a range of different occupations – academics, sports journalists, business people, are some recent examples. It has been a great privilege to be able to make contact with the former pupils involved in the process of generating these features, and to learn about their post-school activities. Inevitably, the conversations have to be heavily summarised to fit within the constraints of the magazine, but it is remarkable – and indeed very heartening – how positive have been their memories of King's, but also how remarkably modest have been the sometimes extremely successful people involved. Suffice to say that the same was true for those featuring this year.

Finally, I should repeat my sincere thanks to the three people who have been major contributors to the production of this publication – Caroline Johnson, Lauren Tidey and Gill Mullarkey. Again, without their efforts, it simply would not appear.

Ian Wilson
Editor

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King's Speech is produced by King's Director of External Relations Caroline Johnson, Editor Ian Wilson, Development & Alumni Officer Lauren Tidey and Designer Gill Mullarkey. We'd love your feedback or contributions for the next issue. Please contact: formerpupils@kingsmac.co.uk

GOING GREEN:

King's Speech is now mailed using compostable polywrap

COVER IMAGE:

Actor Robert Longden by Harvey Cooper

From the Helm



AN interest in books and films set in schools is perhaps an occupational hazard for a school teacher. One such film is the *Guinea Pig*, a Boulting brothers' classic released in 1948 and starring a very young Richard Attenborough.

The drama plays out in Saintbury, an exclusive boarding school where Attenborough has been sent on a scholarship. The main protagonists are Attenborough's conservative Housemaster, unused to dealing with boys from Attenborough's background, and his progressive house tutor, who sees the school needs to change in the aftermath of the Second World War.

The film's denouement comes at a Governors' meeting, called to resolve the issue of how to spend the considerable sum raised by the school's alumni to honour the fallen. The conservatives want a memorial, but the progressives win out as Attenborough's housemaster has a change of heart and speaks in favour of a living legacy to the dead: a scholarship scheme to help those like Attenborough attend Saintbury.

Our school has, of course, recently faced a similar dilemma as we prepare to relocate. How do we balance respect for our past with the more immediate interests of future generations?

As part of our 2020 move, we will be able to take some elements of our history with us. The School's war memorial plaques, which have graced the main building, will take pride of place in our new hall. The memorial gates at Cumberland Street may have to remain in-situ, but our intention is to commission a replica for the new campus.

More difficult is the cricket pavilion. The building was erected thanks to the subscriptions of Former Pupils after the Great War. Crucially for me, the Old Boys of the time wanted to give to our pupils a memorial that would be of practical value, something they could use.

For this reason, whilst not everyone will agree, I believe that we do most honour to the schools' war dead by dedicating a new up-to-date pavilion on our new site.

As I write this, we are preparing for our Founders' Day tomorrow, our annual chance to rededicate ourselves to the vision of Sir John Percyvale in establishing our school. Each generation in its turn has added to this vision and as we approach the dawning of a new era for King's, I hope that you will wish to continue to play your part.

Dr Simon Hyde
Headmaster

“How do we balance respect for our past with the more immediate interests of future generations?”

From the Chair

WITH the imminent relocation of the school to the new site, I wonder how this will ultimately affect the mindset of all the former pupils. After all, we will be former pupils of a former school building, but our raison d'être based upon a shared history, with memories of a bygone era, will remain. So it will be fascinating to see how our relationship with our school will evolve as it moves into a new era. Hopefully with great fondness, acceptance and expectation.

This monumental change has come about by a very determined effort by Dr Simon Hyde – the speed and scale of his achievement suggests to me that he ought to have been running the country's Brexit campaign, as unlike Theresa May, he has managed to get us to leave with a deal, within the deadline and without any votes, amendments or indeed any extensions – a quite remarkable result.

Another remarkable result was the record attendance at the recent Alumni Gala Dinner, which was a sell-out success and was again

held in the school hall, albeit for the last time. Although there was an element of sadness with this, it was fitting for 200 of us to have had the chance to be there for a fabulous celebration of our community.

Looking ahead, I strongly encourage any of you who are interested in playing a part in the Former Pupils' future to step forward and become a member of the committee. We very much welcome new ideas, new inspiration and new faces, so please write to us at the school if you want to get involved.

Lastly, my thanks go to my fellow committee members for supporting me and also to Lauren Tidey for her help with the Association and especially the Gala Dinner, to Caroline Johnson for her great support and to Ian Wilson for his contribution to this wonderful magazine production.

David Barratt
FPA Chairman

Green credentials

Two former pupils have featured in the news fairly recently due to their links with sustainable energy and the Danish Oil and Natural Gas company (DONG). First, former Chairman and CEO **Brent Cheshire** (1975) was made CBE in the Queen's 2018 Birthday Honours List. He had retired in 2017, and his honours citation was 'for services to the renewable energy sector'. Secondly, programme director for the Walney Extension offshore wind farm is **Andrew Cotterell** (1981); the project, off the coast at Barrow-in-Furness, is the world's biggest, and gaining a huge reputation worldwide for its innovative aspects.

Royal Navy appoints new Fleet Commander

Former pupil **Jerry Kyd** (1985) was appointed as the new Fleet Commander of the Royal Navy on 5 March, with a ceremony on board HMS Queen Elizabeth in Portsmouth. Promoted to Vice Admiral Kyd (VAdm), he takes up the role from outgoing Fleet Commander Vice Admiral Ben Key.

The ceremony took place on HMS Queen Elizabeth, one of the Royal Navy's two new aircraft carriers, which VAdm Kyd recently led through her maiden F-35 fighter jet trials.

VAdm Kyd said: "It is a great honour to take command of the fleet on board HMS Queen Elizabeth, having been privileged enough to lead her through her first sea and flight trials."

VAdm Kyd joined the Royal Navy in 1985 as a Seaman Officer. He was deployed on operations in the Gulf, Kosovo, Northern Ireland, the Caribbean, Baltic, Indian Ocean and wider Atlantic. Commands at various ranks have included the Type 23 frigate HMS Monmouth, strike carriers HMS Ark Royal and HMS Illustrious, and most recently HMS Queen Elizabeth.



Rugby update

News of the successes in English rugby union of **Tommy Taylor** (2010) have featured in past editions, and he has continued to play for the VWasps in the Premiership competition, although has suffered considerably from injury during the past year. **Tom Hudson** (2011) has also been a regular in the Premiership during the 2018/19 season, for Gloucester. Hudson's career path so far is fascinating.

Having been picked up after school by Leicester academy, he suffered deep-seated groin problems such that, in 2015, it seemed his career was over before it had properly begun. He went out to coach Kuala Lumpur Tigers, where a chance meeting led to six months of 'unintrusive electromagnetic acupuncture', administered daily by a local 'Master Chai'. The result was a miraculous recovery, and a successful trial with Gloucester, where Tom has proved a revelation. It is good to see members of the school's slightly younger generation also having significant successes in the sport: **Cameron Redpath** (2015) played for England U20s recently against Scotland, and remarkably **Teddy Leatherbarrow** (2015) played on the opposite side!



Send your updates to
formerpupils@kingsmac.co.uk



Guy Emmett (1997) has been appointed as Head of Scarborough College. Guy was a superb cricket and hockey player at King's, whilst also achieving very sound results academically.

He left in 1997 to go to Durham University, and since then has pursued a career as a teacher. His first posting was as a History teacher at Rossall School and he then moved to the famous Millfield in Somerset, where he enhanced further his reputation as a fine all-round teacher both in and out of the classroom. He then returned to Rossall as both Head of History and a Housemaster – and the link with King's was maintained as the two schools meet regularly on both hockey and cricket fields.

In 2014, Guy moved to West Yorkshire, as Deputy Head at Ackworth School, and has now moved to take up the very prestigious position as Head of Scarborough College.

Ian Wilson says: "From knowing Guy since his three years in the 1st XI, though, there has never been a more enthusiastic or committed school cricketer, or one whose successes after school at both club and indeed at representative level have been more deserved. I have no doubt that he will not be able to resist the temptation, even with his heavy head-magisterial responsibilities, of a few overs of left-arm seam in the cricket nets!"

JUST BRIEFLY...

Sophie Macfadyen

(2010) was awarded Stage Manager of the Year in 2018 by the Stage Management Association. After graduating from Reading with a 2.1 in Classics, Sophie gained a place at LAMDA on the two year Stage Management and Technical Theatre programme winning a scholarship in her second year. Now living in London she has worked on many productions including the Secret Cinema's production of *Romeo & Juliet* and the West End production of *The Inheritance* at the Noël Coward Theatre. Her first taste of stage management was working on King's productions of *The Resistible Rise of Arturo Ui* and *The Government Inspector*.

Harry Morgan (2009) has been shortlisted for the highly prestigious LOEWE Foundation Craft Prize 2019 for his breath-taking sculptural works in glass and concrete. The competition recognises artists and craftspeople from all over the world and finalists are selected for their



important contributions to the development of contemporary craft. Harry is one of 29 finalists chosen by a panel of experts from over 2,500 submissions worldwide. One of only 7 selected from the UK, he is also the youngest to be recognised at the age of 29. Harry graduated from Edinburgh College of Art in 2014. His work is known for its unusual marrying of materials and experimental approach to traditional process. The work shortlisted for the LOEWE Prize references the brutality of architecture and the craft of Venetian glass-making, with a dense mass of concrete on top of a block of individual glass laments. His work will be exhibited in Tokyo from 26 June – 22 July 2019, when the winner of the 50,000 euros prize will be selected.

Olivia Howick (2009) is the inaugural recipient of the Royal College of Art (RCA) Haberdashers' Textile Scholarship. The Haberdashers' Company became the first livery company to support a full post-



graduate scholarship at the Royal College of Art, renowned for bringing together the greatest concentration of postgraduate art and design talent globally. Olivia was awarded the scholarship in acknowledgment of her excellence on her MA course in Textiles at the RCA. After King's, Olivia completed a BA at London College of Fashion where she studied Fashion Design Technology: Surface Textiles. She then worked on a freelance basis for designers and with students, before training as a secondary Design & Technology teacher at Goldsmiths, University of London, teaching Textiles in an inner city London school before applying for the Masters in Textiles at the RCA.

Martin Stevens (1981) was awarded an Officer of the Most Excellent Order of British Empire (OBE) in the Queen's New Year's Honours for his services to people with multiple sclerosis (MS). Martin was diagnosed with MS in 1995 and has been supporting people with the condition and other disabilities for more than two decades. He is currently a trustee at the MSIF, a global network of MS organisations, and is also Chair of the Board of Trustees at charity Disability Rights UK.



Acclaimed musician and former pupil **Christian Blackshaw** (1965) was also recognised in the Queen's New Year's Honours List. The classical pianist was awarded an MBE 'for services to classical music'. Christian, who lives in Cheshire, is celebrated

for the incomparable musicianship of his performances, which combine tremendous emotional depth with great understanding.

After King's, Christian attended the Royal Northern College in Manchester and the Royal Academy in London. He was also the first ever British pianist to study at the Leningrad Conservatoire.



YOUR NEWS

SPEAKERS' CORNER



Stephen inspires sixth formers with his journey to help others

Psychotherapist Stephen Hadfield (1978) returned to his former school to talk to A Level students who study Psychology. His session looked at the techniques involved in cognitive behavioural therapy, mindfulness, the humanist approach and when best to deploy each.

Stephen has enjoyed a colourful life, leaving King's in 1978 to play football for Italian giant Bari, but returning to train as a psychiatric nurse. He then changed tack to study Law, ultimately working in Lincoln's Inn in London, before specialising in medical negligence and personal injury cases back in Macclesfield.

A life-threatening heart attack 10 years ago inspired him to train as a counsellor, now working both for corporate and private clients on a group therapy and one-to-one basis, specialising in helping soldiers returning from war zones.

He advised students to take stock of themselves, quoting the philosopher emperor Marcus Aurelius, who said 'Above all know thyself' and that 'the unexamined life is not worth living'. Stephen also took the students through some of the tragic cases he had encountered and helped over the last decade.

Dominique shares how she engineered a career in luxury car market

Bentley Motors Programme Manager Dominique Roberts (2013) told aspiring female engineers at her former school about her rapid rise within the luxury car market.

Dominique, who is still only 23, has worked for Porsche, Lamborghini, Force India F1 Team and Bentley, all while completing her first-class Engineering degree and award-winning thesis.

Speaking to pupils, Dominique said: "I did not start off my academic journey as the smartest in the classroom, far from it, but I had passion, drive and now – as a woman in engineering – I bring something different to the table."

After working as a Race Engineer for Hartech Racing Porsche Club Team, she went to Lamborghini Racing UK in Global 24 hour GT Racing as Principal Race and Data Engineer. Then Dominique moved to work for F1 with Force India, and all this time she was at the Central University of Lancashire, gaining a first-class

Engineering degree. In her final year, she acted as Managing Director for their four-car racing programme.

She took a year out of her studies on an Industrial Placement where she was a Project Engineer on Bentley's Hybrid Electric Vehicle programme, which saw her return to university but now sponsored by Bentley to complete her thesis.

Her study "The redefinition of luxury through the use of renewable energy in electric vehicles" won The Institute of Mechanical Engineering's Global Award for Services to Engineering Progress in 2017.

Now working as Bentley's Programme Manager for Product Development Transformation, Dominique's key advice to young people is: "Know what you're passionate about. Keep an open mind and take every opportunity you can. Finally and most importantly, don't just aspire to be something, aspire to do something."



April's 'Wild' & sustainable vision

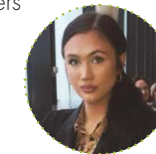
Former pupil and health food entrepreneur April Wild, née Greaves returned to King's to tell students of her vegetarian vision. Only six months earlier, April set up Wild & Wild, with her husband Chris Wild in Congleton. Turnover at the three-storey vegan café has exceeded all expectations and April is now opening another unit in Manchester.

April, who left King's to study Psychology at Manchester University before working as a project manager in advertising, and then as a yoga and mindfulness coach, told the girls: "There is nothing like us in the North and we dream of creating more outlets across Cheshire. Wild & Wild is 100% sustainable. We use zero plastic, all compostable takeaway items and zero of our waste goes to landfill. We also have an eco-shop selling a wide range of reusable products such as bamboo toothbrushes, keep cups and such like."

Kris Stutchbury (Staff 1994-2004) had a letter published in *The Guardian* in January 2018. Kris was always a lady of strongly-held opinions, and she wrote to defend her subject Chemistry from an accusation that it was 'awkward and lumpy, with endless facts to memorise.' She did it very elegantly, too, as one would expect. Her final sentence, though, would not have endeared her to staff on the other floor of the Percyvale block: 'Biology is better described as having endless facts to memorise' (!)

CONGRATULATIONS TO...

Ellamae Blackaby (2014), who has just gained her Masters in Law. She is LLB from the University of Manchester and now MLB from Chester.



Gracie Butler (2015), who gained the top score at Leeds University in International Business and a First class honours degree.

Harriet Burrows (2014), who graduated from Newcastle University with a First Class BA (Hons) Business Management. Harriet also came top of her year and won the Academic Prize.

Richard Buxton (1995) whose Cheshire Cheese Company had a fantastic day at the 2018 Cheshire Show, winning two golds, one silver and one bronze medal. The highlight was probably the gold award for their 'El Gringo', described as a 'Chilli Lime and Tequila' cheese.

Jack Campbell (2018), who has obtained his Silver LAMDA Medal with a Merit and has now joined the Royal College of Music in London.

Adam Garnett (2017), who achieved his Black Belt in Tae Kwon Do in July 2018.

Rob Gittins (1996), who completed the gruelling 250-mile eight-day Cape Wrath Ultra last June, finishing in the first 30 of the 110 competitors. Rob said: 'After the final-day leg to the lighthouse at Cape Wrath, my legs only just managed to carry me to some much-needed hydration at the nearby bar!'

Lewis Haigh (2015), who has graduated from St Mary's University with a First in his BA (Hons) Tourism Management degree. He has moved straight into a job in central London with a corporate events management firm.

Harry Meadows (2016), who was successful in obtaining a place at St Andrews University in 2016 to study

Arabic and Spanish. As part of his course, he attended the University of Rabat in Morocco from September to December 2018 to continue concentrated Arabic studies.

Tom Meadows (2014), who graduated in 2017 with a 2.1 in Linguistics from Downing College Cambridge. He then completed a Masters and graduated in November 2018 with a Distinction and has been offered a place at Cambridge University to do a PhD next year. In the meantime, he is assisting in a research project at the University of Siena in Italy with two of the world's leading linguistic professors.

Ruairidh Nichols (2014), who graduated from St Andrews with 2.1 MA in Ancient History and Latin. He has now taken up a position as junior press secretary with the Home Office.



Seb Perez (2015), who had a successful end to 2018 in his fledgling career as a motor racing driver. It was his debut year driving for Amigos Team Parker Racing and he secured the Porsche Carrera Cup GB ProAm title in the season finale at Brands Hatch in September.

Katie Robertson (2014), who achieved a First Class degree in English from the University of Leeds.

Victoria Tann (2015), who graduated with a First Class honours degree in English Literature from Durham University and goes on to join Oxford University to do a Masters in Victorian Literature.

Alex Thomson (2018), who was part of the England cricket squad line-up at Edgbaston in August.

Ben Winrow (2015), who graduated from Birmingham University with a First in Economics and is now working in consultancy with Ernst & Young.

EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW

Robert Longden is a British director, composer and film, stage and television actor whose career has spanned four decades. He is most well-known for taking over the role of Riff Raff from Richard O'Brien in 1974 in *The Rocky Horror Show*, plus numerous TV and film roles and later, with Hereward Kaye, writing the West End musical *Moby Dick!* which continues to play globally. Robert currently lives in Eastbourne, where we managed to catch-up with him to reflect on his school days and career...

Whale of a tale...

I left King's in 1968, but remained involved with the drama and music department, painting scenery for the production of Gounoud's *Faust* which was the first occasion King's invited a female to sing the lead. After King's, I won a scholarship to the Royal Central School of Speech and Drama, London. I spent three years learning how to wear my emotions on my sleeve so that when the cameras turned, the director would have something to record. I won the John Gielgud Award for comedy.

My career started out in hot pursuit of 30 weeks full-time employment to qualify for my union Equity card. I had a major stroke of good fortune when, after a stint at the RSC Stratford, I then returned to London to play Riff Raff in the original stage show of *The Rocky Horror Show*. We never learnt anything about rock singing, or indeed tap, at Central so I auditioned by singing 'Prithee Pretty Maiden' from Ruddigore, which I learnt at school. In fact, I learnt a great deal from the Gilbert and Sullivan Operas staged at King's. Mr Chaffey was an excellent music champion and Mr Wilson, as our lovely drama tutor, was our young-at-heart encourager. He sent us on the Peter Dornford May Cheshire County Drama Course to learn fencing, prop making, improvising, period costume, etc. I went three times and came back and taught the juniors at King's.

Appearing in Rocky meant I was able to collect my blue Equity card and I could appear in TV and films. Normally, a musical theatre actor becomes trapped in musicals as that's all there is on their CVs, with no obvious experience of acting in front of a camera, which is a put off for casting directors. I made sure I had a varied CV and did many commercials, filmed dramas: *Dickens of London*, *Why Didn't they ask Evans*, *The Beiderbecke Trilogy* and shows like *The Gentle Touch* and *Danger UXB* (recently repeated on Talking Pictures on Freeview channel 81.) I was now a TV star and a useful catch for musicals because of that. I would now have poster billing. I appeared in the original productions of *Chicago*, playing Mr Cellophone, *Windy City*, *Gulliver's*

Travels and sang and tap danced through 'The sun has got his hat on' in *Me and My Girl* alongside cast members Robert Lindsay, Emma Thompson, Frank Thornton, Richard Caldico, Susannah Fellows, Ursula Smith and Denise Hirst. I last appeared in a musical in the national tour of *Salad Days* as comic lead and had the legendary writer of it, Julian Slade, visit me in my dressing room before he passed.

The last TV show I appeared in was 'Casualty' playing opposite Maureen

group The Troggs. However, the grand producer Sir Cameron Mackintosh preferred the anarchic, comedy version with songs by Hereward Kaye and myself, and gave me a lot of money to stage it in the Old Fire station in Bristol prior to the West End.

My proudest moment has to be directing my own musical in the West End, opening at the Piccadilly Theatre with an opening night party featuring a casino, a swimming pool filled with synchronised swimmers, a school band and a fish

The Front Page. Playing opposite Dennis Waterman, I played a mad, cop killer, who escapes from prison.

Although I do not play an instrument, I have written countless songs and shows. I am currently writing a movie musical in the style of *The Greatest Showman*, which uses pop songs in the score. King's was a highly enjoyable experience for me and doing the Gilbert and Sullivan operas taught me about diction, Sullivan taught me about catchy melodies, performing in Verdi's 'Requiem'



Lipman and 'Doctors' in which I played a man obsessed with alien life forms.

"As a child, I always put on some kind of show. My mum and dad worked and I was a latchkey kid who spent a lot of time amusing myself or others and that must have been the source of my enjoyment of theatre.

I staged a water pageant version of *Moby Dick* at Camden Lock in London, which I then developed into a one-act musical comedy involving schoolgirls attending a drama festival Venice! This generated a newspaper review "I prefer the songs in this show to those in CATS." That review got us into hot water! I went on to develop *Moby Dick* as a full-length musical with Ronnie Bond of the pop

supper to beat all fish suppers. Cameron Mackintosh said: "When I first put on Robert Longden's irrepressible version of 'Moby Dick! The Musical' 25 years ago, London had virtually no Off West End theatre and the outrageous joy of shows like 'The Producers' and 'The Book of Mormon' were decades away. An unlikely alliance between Melville's great novel and the immortal St. Trinian's girls, 'Moby Dick! The Musical' is truly a whale of a tale. I'm really delighted Andrew Wright saw the show as a student in Oxford and has taken up his harpoon to bring Moby roaring back to the New Union Theatre with a wonderful cast of school 'girls' to holler 'Thar She Blows!!'"

My favourite performance has to be that of Earl Williams in the musical version of

at Chester Cathedral introduced me to choral awesomeness. Staging a giant blockbuster like Gounoud's *Faust* on King's little stage taught me you can do anything if you rise to the occasion. I learnt from playing rugby how to push onwards despite opposition, obstacles and mud.

I would have dearly loved to have been at King's when the girls joined the student body, but in my day, boys played girls in all productions. I'd love to build Macclesfield its own playhouse opposite the Railway station, so if there are any patrons of the arts out there, do get in touch. Sending love and affection to all my old school friends: say hello on my Facebook page.

IN PROFILE...

Economics and Business are two of the most popular A Levels at King's. As degree subjects, they are also incredibly popular and punch above their weight in terms of generating the highest graduate salaries. Here, we meet up with four former pupils who have each studied these subjects and reflect on their careers.

Minding your Business



GUY LAURENCE



GUY LONGWORTH

Guy is a British businessman, who is currently the Chief Executive of Premier League football club Chelsea. He has previously served as Chief Executive of Vodafone UK, and most recently President and CEO of Rogers Communications.

He left King's in 1980 and took a Business Studies degree at what is now Teesside University. He began his career in marketing before moving on to become CEO of several different companies, in fields as disparate as a music label, two breweries, a cinema chain, a Hollywood studio, a pay-TV company, an internet start-up and a mobile operator. Guy said: "Find what interests you, then look for opportunities in that field – not the other way round – as the necessary commitment is so much more likely if you do."

Guy, whilst generally working within organisations rather than as an individual entrepreneur, emphasised that hard work is absolutely vital, "There is no shortcut; successful careers require hard work." He also suggested that current students starting careers in business "Don't assume you know the future – I used to be CEO of Vodafone, but when I began my career, mobile phones didn't exist!"

Guy left King's in 1985, after repeating his A Levels, and went to UMIST to undertake a Management Sciences degree. Like many people in their final year at university, Guy didn't know what he wanted to do when he graduated. He applied to a number of big companies that offer training programmes, and says he was "very fortunate" to land a role at Procter & Gamble in the sales department. He describes his four years at P&G as an "amazing foundation" and despite spending all his time on the sales side, it was here that he decided marketing was his true calling. After a break for travelling, Guy went into marketing, firstly with Kraft Foods and then Kellogg's as Chief Marketing Officer. In 2006, after a three-year stint at vegetarian food business Quorn, Longworth moved to California. In 2011, he became Senior Vice-President Marketing for Sony PlayStation, and led the global marketing launch of PS4.

Guy said: "The world is a competitive place, and you need to spend time figuring out what you are good at – and then go for it. There are so many opportunities out there for young talented people who are prepared to work hard, be humble, and willing to learn."

Both he and Guy Laurence stressed the lessons learned from being given responsibility whilst in the Sixth Form at King's as captain of hockey, and stage manager for drama productions, respectively. The other aspect of their school days that both Guys mentioned was that their school time had generated their closest lifetime friendships. Not a bad way to demonstrate that school is not just about getting academic qualifications.



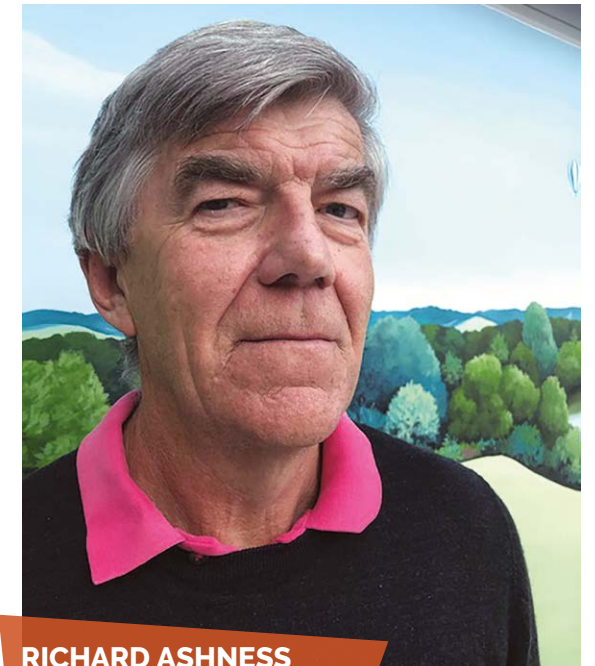
PROF SIMON BURGESS

Simon left King's for Christ's College Cambridge, where he read Economics in 1979 and he then moved to the 'other place', Oxford, where he added DPhil(Oxon) to the initial MA(Cantab). Since 1998, he has been a fully-fledged Professor of Economics in the very prestigious Economics Department at Bristol University, having spent time too as a visiting professor at Dartmouth College, New Hampshire and at LSE, as well as in a range of other academic posts during the 40 years since he left King's. His areas of specialism have ranged from Labour Economics in general, to more recently the Economics of Poverty and the Economics of Education.

His current interests lie in education, including the importance of teachers, pupils, market structure, incentives and choice. His latest study is on attitudes to education among native and immigrant pupils in England (2018). He also undertook an interesting study in 2016 on the effect of Michelle Obama on inspiring mostly non-white pupils in an all-girls school in London. More details can be found on his website (simonburgesseconomics.co.uk), where his previous research on unemployment, poverty and public services can also be found.

Essentially, Simon's work uses academically flawless methods to address areas of great current concern. He was quoted in a Guardian letter from a London headteacher in March 2018, to the effect that his research 'showed definitively that the difference between schools in pupil progress between the ages of 11 and 16 is entirely accounted for, and has been for at least the past decade, by their ethnic composition'. Further recent soundbites that relate to papers he has published include 'the grammar school system has helped to widen the gap between rich and poor in English society', and 'it's time to end the myth that having a 2:2 degree makes for a second-rate teacher'.

Although Simon admitted that his King's school days held lots of memories, they were not generally scholarly ones, though of course his decisions to take Economics and Maths at A Level had obviously been crucial for his later career path. Asked if he had any advice to offer to those just embarking on their post-school life, after first very modestly doubting his right to do so, Simon said: "Take opportunities when they arise, even if it means taking a chance; and now and again to go flat out to complete a personal project to the absolute best of your ability, even accepting that this is not likely to be possible in every undertaking, given that compromises inevitably often have to be made."



RICHARD ASHNESS

Richard has carved out a very successful career in business since he left King's in 1971 to study Economics at Nottingham University. He was offered the opportunity to begin a career as an academic, but chose not to follow that route and instead joined a management training scheme before completing an MBA at Insead.

After early efforts at business start-ups mostly in the food industry, with some successful and others less so, he got backing from 3i to buy and run lots of different businesses. Richard worked at Brake Bros for a period, as managing director, and went on to buy the cake business Memory Lane in 1997, which later became Finsbury Food.

Referred to as a food-industry entrepreneur, Richard said: "It has been very hard work, frequently close to failure, but eventually successful – but it was the control of one's own destiny that I have really loved most in being an entrepreneur." The willingness to take risks, to back an idea, and to seek and then take opportunities when they arise are characteristics that Richard identified as being crucial.

Since 2001, Richard's main interest is with Jardox, supplying 200 food manufacturers, including many household names with culinary pastes and seasoning blends. He aims to create an employee ownership trust at Jardox when he retires. He added: "I believe in business as a force for good, generating the income for everyone that enables society to fund other desirable things. There is a lot of luck involved in success – but you have to be there putting yourself about, in areas that interest you, in order to have a chance of getting lucky."

Richard did very well academically at King's, with top A Level grades, but added: "A few people have genius – most of us have to work really hard to succeed." Interestingly, he did refer to his education in enabling him to have the ability to organise thoughts, and to identify the important bits, inspired by Ron Clark's history teaching in particular.

IN PROFILE...



Kate's life on Mean Streets

FORMER King's School Captain **Kate Hawker** (2014) returned to King's to talk to current pupils about her work to empower young girls to turn their backs on gang culture on the streets of Bogota.

Straight A*/A student Kate is currently completing the final year of her degree in Modern Languages and Cultures at Durham University. For her year abroad, she travelled to the Colombian capital, volunteering on Comic Relief funded project 'I Define Me' helping girls and young women aged 11–28 to escape the dangers of drugs and violence associated with gang culture.

The 'I Define Me' project is working to empower 220 girls, of whom 68% are at high risk of becoming involved in gangs and 32% are already part of gangs, with the associated risks of life

on the streets, drug misuse, violence and drug trafficking. The project aims to give girls other choices, so that they can walk away from gang culture. Kate explained: "I was working in Ciudad Bolivar, which is essentially 'a mega slum' on the periphery of Bogota. We worked with women who describe themselves as 'mujeres guerreras' (women warriors) to provide calm, non-judgemental counselling and a range of activities so they could have a choice between hanging out on the streets or coming to an English lesson, a football club or a dance class.

"By giving them choice and allowing the girls to feel like they were in control of their own destiny, rather than being defined by their family's connections with a particular gang, we were enabling them to turn their backs on gangs and move on to better lives."

Bravely operating in full view of the gangs who dominate the community, Kate was part of the refuge team which gained the local community's trust, in part through an understanding they were not working with police or authorities. Kate worked six days a week, commuting two hours there and back before she moved into the heart of the city.

Kate's experiences on the other side of the world have changed her forever. "I left with a sense of wanting to do more," she said. "The girls I had been working with in Bogota were exactly the same as the girls in England, except for the location of their birth and the context into which they were born. I felt frustrated that where these girls had been born had dictated what their lives would hold."

Kate, who is on course for a first-class degree, has been accepted on the Government's Teach First Project and will begin her career teaching Modern



Foreign Languages in the East End of London in September 2019. Before that, however, she hopes to return to Ciudad Bolivar in May and to raise money for the project to continue after the Comic Relief funding comes to an end in August. She asked the girls at King's to be part of a fundraising campaign to continue the ground-breaking work being done in Ciudad Bolivar.

She added: "The 'I Define Me' project is linked with similar female empowerment projects working with girls in gangs in South Africa, London, Manchester and in other countries around the world. There is real transformation being achieved in these cities and it would be brilliant to carry on the excellent work which has been started by the Comic Relief funding." Kate is pictured with pupils at King's and also with 'women warriors' of Bogota on the football pitch.

Dream job with her family's fourth generation circus, now the largest touring show in Europe

High-flying Hayley...



HAYLEY GANDEY left King's in 2001 at the end of Year 11 and went onto Staffordshire University where she studied tourism and business management. Younger sister Coral (2004) who also attended King's is now living in London after marrying her husband in 2017.

Hayley is the fourth generation of Gandy's Circus, now the largest touring circus show in Europe. Based in Congleton, Gandy's now has a portfolio of other shows such as The Chinese State Circus, Lady Boys of Bangkok and Circo Cuba Libre and employs around 400 people.

Last year, for the first time in 33 years, Gandy's Circus returned to its hometown of Macclesfield. The three-day billing involved circus acts from aerial trapeze artists to acrobats, fire breathers to 'superstars of the wheel of death'. Hayley's main act in the show is aerial work. Just one show takes two and a half days to assemble, 12 hours dismantle, 46 articulated lorries and 30 vans. Despite this, Hayley found time to chat to the editorial team from *King's Speech* ahead of the opening night:

"I enjoyed my time at King's and remember fondly Mr North the maths teacher, Mr Bachelor my old form tutor and RE teacher and the Principal of the Girls' Division at the time, Mrs Buckley. I particularly enjoyed languages and really liked German.

I loved growing up with the Circus and would often help out at weekends and in school holidays. My friends from school would come down to help and watch the shows at the weekends when in the area.

I knew from a fairly young age that I never wanted a 'normal' 9-5 desk job. However, it was only after giving birth to my son that I decided to remain part of the circus full-time. Working 7 days a week for weeks on end can be incredibly tiring and is more of a lifestyle than a job. I miss my friends and family when we're on the road, however all of the children go with their parents and are educated by their touring teacher and nanny. One of the best things about being on the road with the children is that they learn to speak many languages from other members of the circus, they all get together after a show and cook food from their native countries, so culturally it is a great experience.

The show changes each year, sometimes I will do laser shows, aerial work or the costume change act. My father still has the final say on what content goes into the show."



From the Archive

Tracing the history of our iconic Memorial Gates at Cumberland Street...



Gatekeeper of memories

WITH the move to a new campus next year, there has been much discussion as to what will happen to the Memorial Gates at Cumberland Street. It is the desire of the local council and many local residents that the gates remain in-situ, as an important feature of the town, but it is also the School's intention to commission a replica for the new campus.

Many readers will be aware that the current gates are not the original entrance gates to the school: these (pictured above left) were melted down to help with the war effort. In 1949, the current 'Gateway of Remembrance' was installed, having been designed by Siggins Engineering of Salford. Below is an extract from 'A History of the Old Boys' Association of the King's School in Macclesfield 1935 to 1985' by G P Siggins:

"In 1946 the Former Pupils' Association took the first towards undertaking the most ambitious project in its history, when it was decided to issue an appeal to old boys to raise £1,000 to provide new wrought-iron gates at the School's Cumberland Street entrance, as a war memorial to old boys who lost their lives in the recent conflict, and a plaque on which would be shown the names of the fallen. The Association launched the appeal with a contribution of

£500 from its own funds. In the inflationary times in which we now live, the raising of £1,000 may appear to have been a comparatively easy task, but in view of the financial climate which prevailed in the country after the end of the war, it represented a magnificent achievement by the Association, which reflected enormous credit on those concerned.

A War Memorial Sub-Committee consisting of the following was set up: Messrs. H.B. Godwin, N. Holden, H. Bennett, J. Radfirth, J.F. May and G.S. Hine. The Sub-Committee devoted much of its time and effort in considering many designs submitted for the wrought-iron gates. It was important to ensure that the gates would harmonize and blend with the existing buildings and background. It must be remembered that for some years after the end of the war, building materials of all kinds were in very short supply and could only be obtained on licence which was not easy to obtain irrespective of the purpose for which it was required. An application for a licence for 35cwt of steel for the gates was submitted to the appropriate authority and eventually granted. When the sum required for the war memorial venture was reached the subscription list was closed and the plaque in the Entrance Hall to the School was unveiled by Captain Nicholson, V.C.

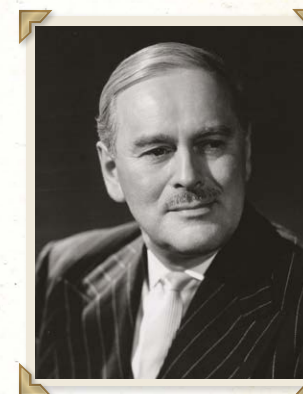
A report on the unveiling and dedication of the war memorial gates appeared in the local press in 1949 and is quoted:

"The war memorial gates at the Cumberland Street entrance to the school were unveiled earlier in the afternoon by Lord Derby. Mr. Godwin, in asking Lord Derby to perform the unveiling ceremony, said that the old gates had been taken away to make munitions of war, but he hoped that the new gates would stand as pillars of peace. The gates were erected in memory of the Old Boys of the School who gave their lives in the 1939-45 war, and a large number of past pupils and relatives and friends gathered to watch the ceremony.

"For the unveiling, the gates were covered with the Union Jack. The Ven. F.J. Okell, Archdeacon of Macclesfield, dedicated the gates and Lord Derby opened them with a golden key and passed through. The gates were erected from subscriptions given by about 600 old boys, relatives of the fallen and friends of the School. They bear the dates 1939-45 and the words 'Gateway of Remembrance'. The School crest is on one section of the gate and the arms of the founder, Sir John Percyvale, on the other. The other part of the war memorial is a plaque inside the School bearing the names of the fallen."

Celebrating the King of Calm

Former pupil **Eric Jones** (1923) has been recognised posthumously as 'a figure of equal importance to Alan Turing' according to *The Observer*. In an article published on Sunday 7 April 2019, Vanessa Thorpe writes:



Sir Eric Jones

“Recently declassified documents show that Eric Jones, the son of a Macclesfield textile manufacturer, and who worked in secret at Bletchley Park in the 1940s, was the man responsible for interpreting and prioritising all the covert intelligence that came into Britain from Nazi-occupied Europe and from spies working near the frontline.

They also show that his decision to force Britain's rival military forces to work together may well have won the war and it certainly laid the groundwork for success on D-day.

According to David Kenyon, research historian at Bletchley Park, Eric Jones can now at last be unmasked as "the spider in the centre of the information web". He says: "It has become apparent from my research that Jones's skill at putting together all the information coming in was crucial," Kenyon told the *Observer* ahead of the opening of a new exhibition 'D-day: Interception, Intelligence, Invasion' at Bletchley Park. The exhibition will highlight for the first time a man known to his admiring circle of secret operatives as the "king of calm".

Without Jones's vital interpretation and cataloguing system, the vast amounts of intercepted and decoded enemy intelligence available once Alan Turing and his team had cracked the German Enigma code would still have counted for nothing.

Peronel Craddock, head of collections and exhibitions at Bletchley Park, said: "We really can say that Jones, by leading his team inside Hut 3, was at least equally important to Turing in this part of the story."

D-day documents that have now been examined for the first time in 75 years show the extraordinarily detailed briefings the invading forces had been given, including the level of resistance they were likely to meet, the

“Without Jones's vital interpretation and cataloguing system, the vast amounts of intercepted and decoded enemy intelligence available once Alan Turing and his team had cracked the German Enigma code would still have counted for nothing.”

location of land mines and the height of fences. Kenyon added: "We can now see the level of efficiency Hut 3 developed. It had to handle a huge organisational problem once there were thousands of messages coming in. After all, there is no point just breaking codes; you have to store them and then find them when you need them. On their own, the Enigma messages were just meaningless 250-word bulletins."

Jones, who attended King's until 1923, is thought to have learned how to handle people well during time he spent working at his father's silk factory in Manchester, before he joined the RAF reserves and was seconded to the intelligence branch of the Air Ministry. Jones was sent to Bletchley Park in early 1942 at the age of 35 because it was in crisis. Rivalries between the allied forces' espionage divisions were threatening the whole intelligence effort.

"Jones was sent in to investigate and wrote a report recognising there needed to be a multi-services approach. It is a report that won the war in many ways," said Kenyon. "They asked him to stay on to implement his findings and then from around October they started to gear up for an invasion."

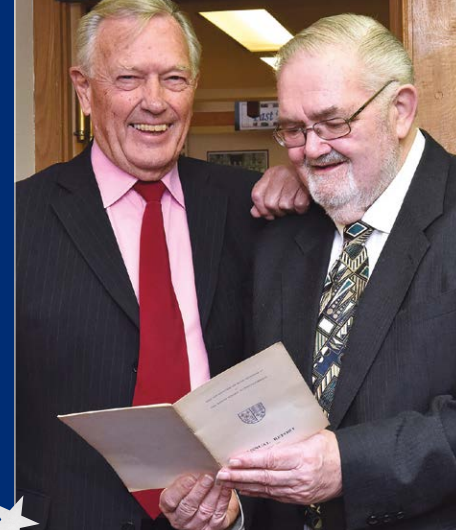
Jones later went on to become the first head of the government's listening station at Cheltenham, GCHQ.

• The exhibition 'D-day: Interception, Intelligence, Invasion' opened on 11 April at Bletchley Park.

Article: Courtesy of Guardian News & Media Ltd.

Photograph: NPG

Alumni GALA Dinner 2019



In March, around 170 former pupils enjoyed the annual Gala Dinner and a trip down memory lane as they visited their former haunts.

In what was the final Alumni Gala Dinner at Cumberland Street before the school moves to its new £60m campus in Prestbury, there was a record turnout from those that wanted to look around their former classrooms, as well as browse through the archives ahead of a fabulous three-course meal.

President of the Former Pupils' Association Barry Jones said: "I came here from 1944 to 1951 and it set me up for life, allowing me to pursue a life-long career in accountancy, which I loved. My son also came here and we both have great affection for King's. I know the current and future pupils will form as

great an association for their new school as we did for this place."

Chair of the Former Pupils' Association David Barratt said: "We now have over 4,500 members and numbers are growing all the time. Tonight's event is a wonderful celebration of the school and its extended community. As well as being a pupil, I sent my three children here and for me King's turns out rounded individuals. Confident, but not over confident, with something to give and some get up and go. Like me, my kids, who are now in their twenties, all have formed life-long friends from their days at school and they are all great people."

Many attendees had travelled from across the country for the event, with one, David Fox, coming from California. David even brought over a bottle of whiskey made to commemorate King's

quincenary to share with his former classmates!

Former rugby player and athlete John Hughes added: "Looking back, the commitment of the staff was extraordinary. In my year we got to the finals of the English Schools' Athletics Cup and the staff had to train us and then ferry us all over the country, which I thought little of at the time, but now really appreciate."

The event raised £4,000 for the school's Bursary Fund, which provides assistance with fees for local children. The event was sponsored by VINCI Construction and supported by the Porsche Centre in Wilmslow. Former Head of the Sixth Form Tim Andrews said: "Of all the schools I worked in around the country, what really sets King's apart is the incredible warmth former pupils maintain for this school."



GIRLS' REUNION

Celebrating 25 YEARS of King's Girls' Division



THE School had a fantastic turnout in November to celebrate 25 years since King's Girls' Division opened its doors. Around 300 former girls and staff took a trip down memory lane as they visited their old classrooms and poured through old photos, videos and yearbooks over a glass of prosecco and afternoon tea. Every year group from 1998 through to 2016 were well represented, with many bringing their own children along for the afternoon.

Sophie Usher (2008), who studied Linguistics at Leeds and now works in publishing, said: "I devoured every

book I could in the fiction library and it's great to see a few of those tomes still on the shelves."

Former Principal Liz Spence, who was in charge from 2001 to 2011, said: "I will always remember the warmth and generosity of the pupils and the special atmosphere in the place, but I am delighted King's will be moving to its new home for 2020. We have to move with the times and new memories will be created there."

Science teacher Dr Anne Cohen said: "I was lucky enough to take a number of year groups through from start to finish and all of them bar none were

absolutely lovely." Solicitor Hepsy Arnold, who left in 2008 to study Law at Newcastle, said: "I remember the talent shows and how the teachers let their hair down, I can still see Mr Patey-Ford, doing his impression of the lead singer of the Prodigy on stage in my mind's eye right now!"

Samantha Cook, who came with her beautiful four-week-old baby Lily, said: "I remember my friends and all the fun times we had and, yes, I'd love Lily to come to King's."

WRITERS' BLOCK

Several former pupils have put pen to paper and appeared in print. Here we look at recent publications both by, and about, our alumni.



Michael Ford

Michael (1998) is a recently-published crime author, whose first book '*Hold My Hand*' was on supermarket shelves in 2018. A hard-hitting psychological thriller that accurately traced contemporary police procedures, it was Michael's first adult book, having previously written children's literature.

Michael, who went to Oxford University to read English and Classics, has just had his second book '*Keep Her Close*' published in February.

Michael returned to King's last year to speak to Sixth Form students studying English Literature and paid tribute to his former teachers Michael Houghton, Head of Classics, and former English teachers Barry Edwards and Tim Andrew, saying: "They very much influenced and inspired me and pushed me in the direction I have followed and were wonderful teachers."

Alan Hoe (1958), a very active member of the Former Pupils' Association, has recently been in touch with information about two other books by former pupils.

Mortie Freeman

The first is a fascinating account of the Foremans, who developed plastics manufacturing firms in Hamilton, New Zealand, 1940–1995.

J D Morton 'Mortie' Foreman was a pupil at King's 1911–1919, and emigrated in 1925. In later life, his memories of King's were focused on his 10km journey to school, including a 20-minute ride on a steam train, a curriculum largely concentrating on the 3Rs, though with Latin and Divinity too, and extra-curricular activities; football, cricket, fives rugby and acting.

John Butler

The other book mentioned by Alan is '*The Red Dean*', by **John Butler** (2011). In the mid-20th century, few people in Britain divided opinion more than **Hewlett Johnson**, the book's subject, and he is undoubtedly one of King's most famous alumni. Born in 1874, Hewlett attended King's, then Owens College, Manchester, where he read Civil Engineering, but he soon developed his Christian Marxist views, became ordained in 1904, and eventually became Dean of first Manchester and then Canterbury Cathedrals. He died aged 92 in 1966. Hewlett Johnson was renowned, both nationally and internationally, and his belief that 'the principles of communism were virtually indistinguishable from Christian teaching about the Kingdom of God

on earth', very strongly expressed and reinforcing his role as a global campaigner for peace during the Cold War years, resulted in him being adored by some as a Christian visionary, or hated by others as a mouthpiece of Soviet propaganda. An excellent read!

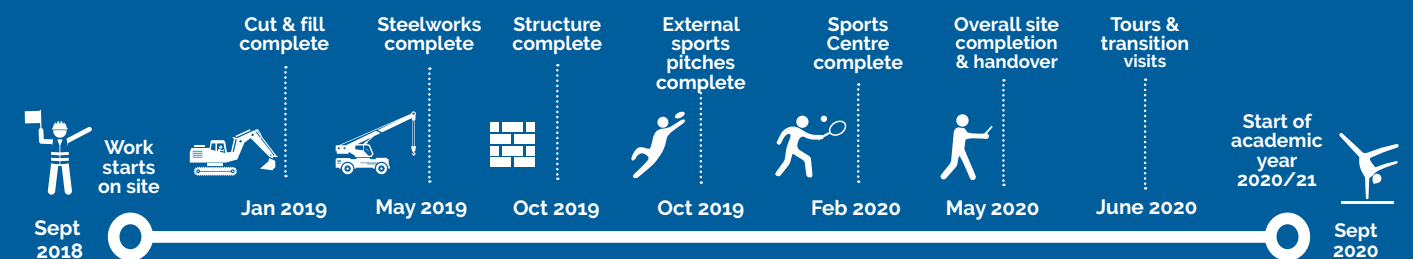
David Cliffe

A fascinating book was published last year: '*The Street Names of Macclesfield*', by former pupil **David Cliffe** (1964). The book is the result of 30 years of research. In it, David gives details of around 300 roads, each attempting to identify the earliest evidence of its existence, how its name may have changed over the years, and what significance the road name may have had.

David has written a number of books in the past, but never previously one about Macclesfield.



NEW SCHOOL UPDATE



2020 Vision: Dawn of a new era

The new King's School buildings are rising out of the ground: the build phase is half-way through and the erection of the steel frames will be complete in May 2019. When finished in summer 2020, the transformative £60-million development will provide outstanding learning and sporting facilities on a large, single campus on the edge of Prestbury.

With a rural setting, the 80-acre site will provide purpose-designed facilities for all pupils aged 3 to 18, including a spacious main academic building and a dedicated sports centre with swimming pool, six-court sports hall and indoor cricket centre.

Dr Hyde, Headmaster, says: "The staff, pupils and Governors are very excited not just about the new facilities, but also about the possibilities that are brought about by having all of our pupils and resources together on a single site." Having all of the school's divisions co-located will help pupils to manage transitions between the learning stages, enabling them to have positive experiences within their new environment prior to moving and helping them move through the school with confidence.

Dr Hyde adds: "There is no doubt that education has changed significantly within the last 30 years. It is almost unrecognisable from the style of education delivered 100 years ago as viewers of BBC 2's *Back in Time for School* will testify. Yet, in the last decade, only around 100

new schools have been built in the UK. The privilege of being able to design a school from scratch provides an enormous opportunity to think from first principles about how modern education works and how to deliver the right environment for learning."



As well as a greater focus on flexible, shared spaces and areas designed to promote pupils' sense of wellbeing, the new campus will provide greater opportunities for outdoor learning. Whilst King's Infant department has long used the Ginkgo meadow and outdoor classrooms for learning, the new campus will help pupils of all ages to access the outdoor environment as a place both to enhance wellbeing and provide learner-led opportunities across the curriculum.

Antonia Berry of St Columba's School in Glasgow has written recently in the

Times Educational Supplement about the 'immeasurable effect' of her school's new building on the concentration, behaviour and learning of young people. She explains how, in the independent sector, "the maintenance of school buildings – many of them listed – can be an anchor around the board of governors' neck, a black hole into which money is sunk with few visible benefits to pupils." She says for those schools that do commit to making a vision a reality, the reward for pupils and teachers can be immeasurable. Ms Berry's verdict is one of "improved focus" as almost every pupil who was asked commented on the space and light and the impact this has had on their concentration.

Learning facilities on the new King's campus will include a recital hall for concerts, a music recording studio, music tech suite, two drama studios, an art exhibition gallery, a lecture theatre, 15 science laboratories and a central library, plus many other classrooms. Naming and dedication rights are being offered to alumni and former staff, and we are very grateful to those individuals and organisations that have already chosen to support the school in this way. We look forward to inviting our alumni to visit the new campus in 2020.

• For all the latest updates see:
www.kingsmac.co.uk/new-campus

SCHOOL NEWS

King's in final for **Goldsmith's Community Award**

King's pupils have qualified for the national final of the 'Goldsmith's Community Award' in June, recognising their charity, voluntary and environmental work.

They qualified for the national final following a rigorous regional contest at which teams from seven schools all discussed their contribution to the community. Each member of the team spoke about how they had championed key causes throughout this year. Pupil Jemima Jordan spoke about how the

school had raised £6,700 for the 'Hand on Heart' appeal to place defibrillators in all Macclesfield primary schools. Rory McCabe outlined his 100km running challenge last year which raised £2,000 for Headway and his plans this year to raise £15,000 for the Young Minds Trust.

Rebecca Foster talked about the school's eco initiatives, Olivia Holder outlined the school's annual Fashion Show which has raised over £50,000 for The Christie, Sarah Abrahamse talked about

the school's support for East Cheshire Hospice and Kieran Cullen recounted aspects of his voluntary work with dementia patients with Age UK and Macclesfield Hospital.

The Goldsmiths' judging panel stated: "We were impressed with the students' understanding of what they had learned from their community engagement activities and how these activities had changed their views on the world around them."

Students' double bill of **drama**

Students have staged two plays in recent months, with a largely female cast from Years 8–10 performing Willy Russell's bitter sweet classic 'Blood Brothers' and Sixth Form students tackling the jet-black psychological comedy 'DNA' by revered modern master Dennis Kelly.

Drama teacher Mrs Thompson said: "Willy Russell is a giant of the British stage and a master of tragicomedy. The cast loved the subtle mix of Liverpool wit, wisdom and world-weariness he brings to all his work."

Sixth Form actors tackled a dark play that follows a group of teenagers as they try to cover up what they think has been a murder among their group. Head of Drama, Donald



Forbes, said: "It is a fascinating study of how young people will defend themselves and avoid reality. It is very sparse and psychologically menacing, but not without its moments of black humour. It gave our young actors some powerful dialogue and action to work with."

Top performing **school** for fifth year running

Department for Education performance tables published at the start of the year show King's to be the top performing school in East Cheshire at both GCSE and A Level for the fifth consecutive year.

In addition, looking at the key 'Value Added' ranking, demonstrating how much progress pupils make, King's was ranked in the top 15% of all schools nationwide.

Headmaster Dr Hyde said: "Whilst it's good to celebrate our students' exam results, we must never forget that education is about more than just grades."

"Our students are also excelling in a range of musical, creative, sporting and extra-curricular activities and will be well-equipped with the skills required for life after school."

SPORTS NEWS

RUGBY



Lambs unbeaten at Rosslyn Park

King's Year 8 rugby squad put in a brilliant set of winning performances to remain unbeaten at the world-renowned Rosslyn Park National Sevens Tournament. The under-13 side won all five of their group matches.

Coach Matt Thorp said, "It is an immense achievement to take on and beat five of the best school sides in the UK, drawn from 133 school challengers from around the world." King's beat Welsh Ysgol Gyfun Plasmawr 25–10 before out-gunning Norwich 40–0. They then

beat Chislehurst followed by Sidcup Grammar School 20–15. The Crypt School from the rugby heartlands of Gloucestershire were next up with a 30–20 win for King's, followed by another convincing outing against Westbourne House School from Chichester with a 35–0 win.

Just one week after the competition, the U13 squad went on tour to Cardiff to play matches at the famous Cardiff Arms Park Stadium and train at the University of South Wales' indoor 3G pitch.

Prestigious **Stonyhurst Sevens** triumph

King's triumphed in one of the country's top sevens tournaments with a display of incisive, attacking rugby. Each year, 20 top schools from all over the country travel to the Stonyhurst Sevens, but it was local rivals Manchester Grammar School that King's beat 26–17 in the finals.

In the earlier rounds, King's U16 squad had beaten Bolton Grammar School, St Mary's Crosby and Lancaster Grammar School

in the group stages before putting Kirkby Lonsdale to the sword 46–0 in the quarters and holding off The London Oratory with a solid 21–14 win the semi-final.

In a nail-biting final, first tries from scrum half Alex Davies and power-packed forward Cyrus Kerfoot saw King's take a narrow lead, but the win was sealed in the dying moments when flying winger Sam Worthington brushed past the opposition to score from the half-way

line. King's U18s also had a good tournament, but were stopped at the semi-finals by The London Oratory team, regarded as one of the best school rugby sides in the capital.



HOCKEY



Fantastic five make regional squad



A fantastic five King's girls have all been selected for the England Hockey Elite Performance Centre Development programme.

Three girls Lottie Dennet, Izzy Moores and Flossie Blackwell have made the grade at U17 level, even though they are all still only 15, while Scarlett

Brough and Lara Tabachnik, who are both 14, have been selected at U15 level. The girls were first selected for the local Junior Development Centre, then the county Junior Academy Centre and are now at regional level in one of 17 regional centres of excellence, aiming for selection for the North of England and then onto the England squads.

The girls are part of two very strong King's teams: the U14 team going to the North of England Finals and the U15s through to the county finals at under-16 level.

TRAMPOLINING

Stars shine at **National Championships**

Recognised as having one of the best trampoline squads nationwide, King's produced a set of stunning results in the National Schools' Championships. The power-packed Senior boys' team of Harry Pinches, Harry Collett and Harry Wallace competing in the Year 10 to 14 Elite event won the coveted gold medals, while there were a remarkable five second places, one third and one fourth place in the team events, with the superb Vicky Theaker placing third individually. In honour of their performances, The King's School was selected for a national recognition

award for the most pupils to qualify into the National Finals and for having 50 competitors qualify for the North of Britain Zonals in Northern Ireland earlier in the season.



FOND FAREWELL

FORMER STAFF

Simon Skeens

Simon died in April 2018 aged 75. Simon came to King's in 1978 as Head of German. He gained a degree in German at Reading University and then worked for two years as a technical translator with Siemens in Munich, before beginning his teaching career. He taught in Bury and, for a year, Bavaria before coming to King's. He made a very significant contribution in developing the German Department within the school and stayed for 22 years, retiring in 2000. Both his children, Sonja (1990) and Bjorn (1993), attended the school.

Ron Wilson

Ron died aged 85, in January 2019. Ron had been a pupil at King's up to 1951, and then, after University at Manchester and two years of National Service in the army, returned to King's on the staff in 1959. He was initially employed as a language teacher, but soon expanded the range of subjects he taught, primarily to the younger secondary-age boys. He was a fully-committed schoolmaster, in every respect, taking his pastoral responsibilities seriously, always generating a marvellous rapport with generations of King's pupils – his quirky humour is invariably the characteristic they comment upon. Ron took on managerial responsibility, first as Head of Lower School and then in 1986 as Head of the Junior School as well, from where he retired in 1993.

Several generations of King's boys have many happy memories of him, both in the classroom and as a leader. Ron was also very active, and highly respected, as a cricket coach, in particular for many years running the Under 14s. Respect for his coaching was based on his own abilities as a sportsman. In cricket, he played for the Maxonians and Wilmslow CC; he was a loyal member of Alderley Edge Golf Club for many years; and as a footballer, he reached semi-professional standard. Ron was also a lifelong supporter of Manchester City, an affiliation shared by his son Bobby, who was himself a pupil at the school.

**Adrian Silcock**

Adrian, the school's Headmaster from 1987 until 2000, died in November 2018, aged 78. He and his wife Jenny moved to Ledbury in Herefordshire after he retired from King's, and there was a very strong Macclesfield presence at the funeral service. A lifelong Quaker, he was educated at Leighton Park School, and after taking a degree in Modern Languages at Jesus College Oxford, most of Adrian's teaching career was spent in Shropshire, at Edinburgh Academy and at KES Southampton, where he was Head of the Modern Languages Department.



When he came to King's, he had a hard act to follow in Alan Cooper, and sensibly chose to adopt his own distinctive style of management, much more consultative and collegiate. In Keith Aikin's words, 'his management style was thoughtful, intelligent, compassionate and consensual'. The fact that in 1987 King's was essentially a boys grammar school with a junior department on one site, and when he left 13 years later was a thriving two-site four-division mixed all-ages establishment suggests that it worked quite well too!

He never allowed organisational change to get in the way of his strongly-held belief that the role of the school was to provide an all-round education for the pupils, and that it was not only in the classroom that they were educated. He was insistent that there was much to be gained from

extra-curricular involvement, of whatever form, and no Head could possibly have given greater support to the pupils in their endeavours outside the classroom, whether it was through his invariable presence on each night of a school play, at every musical performance, or on the touchline in all weathers.

Adrian was also a strong supporter of the Former Pupils' Association – once he had got over the shock of the first cohort of sixth form girls voting to be members of an 'Old Boys Association'! After he and Jenny had moved to Herefordshire, Adrian continued to be involved in education as a governor. In Robin Craig's words at the funeral, 'he was a genuinely good man who lived his life by his principles.'

FORMER PUPILS

John Adie

John (1947) died in January 2018. His daughter, Sue, recalls him speaking fondly of his days at the school, including of his experiences as Captain of the Under 12 cricket XI!

Brian Bell

Brian died in December 2018, aged 84. He left school around 1950. Brian, universally known as 'Dinger', was managing director of A M Bell (Properties) Ltd and A M Bell (Transport) Ltd, of Sutton. He always said that the two major formative experiences of his life, apart from family, were his time at King's and his National Service in the Marines.

Brian did not necessarily blossom too much academically – 'the lack of academic ability passed genetically down the male line' was the family quote at Brian's funeral – but he always said it crucially gave him both lifetime friends and a love for sport, which also lasted throughout his life.

His main sporting love was rugby union – he was a member of Macclesfield RUFC for 68 years, though fives, swimming and cycling were other favoured activities.

He was a founder-member of the King's School Wheelers Club. In retirement, Dinger became an avid letter-writer, local and national press being the recipient of hordes of well-argued notes of complaint or criticism.

(John) Peter Broomhead

Peter died in July 2018, aged 86 years. Peter left King's in 1950 and went on to run a quality car sales business locally. He was a lifelong supporter of the school, as a Governor from 2003–2008, a frequent attendee of the annual dinners and a regular giver to the School's bursary fund. The school is exceedingly grateful for his significant contributions over the years.

John Clowes

John died in January 2019, aged 88. John ran the family printing firm, based near Waters Green, for many years after he left King's in 1948, and was a huge friend and supporter of both the school and the Former Pupils' Association. John's firm printed the school's annual report and other literature for many years, and he was a significant financial contributor to the school, in particular via his contributions to the purchase of a superb new organ in 1990 and its conversion to digital ten years later. He was also heavily involved in the decision to produce a magazine aimed at former pupils, printing its first, very primitive edition in 1982. He later graduated to a role as co-editor as well as printer, right up until the change to the current King's Speech in 2014. The Association owes him a genuine debt of gratitude.

Peter Higginbotham

Peter died in January 2018, aged 86. He left school around 1948, and was very well known in the town, in particular as the former owner/manager of the Majestic cinema.

Roger Wilson

Roger (1955) died in May 2018. After he left school he went into banking and also spent some time lecturing at what was then Manchester Polytechnic. He had a great interest in vintage cars.

SUPPORTING KING'S

BURSARIES

A King's Bursary or Scholarship can be life-changing. Proud King's pupil **DYLAN ELDERSHAW** explains how much it has meant to him and his family...

*Dear Alumni,*

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank all involved with the Bursary Fund. The fund has given me the most amazing chance to attend and study at King's and I understand how lucky I am to get the best education I could hope for. The school is a fantastic place to learn and grow, allowing me to explore my favourite subjects fully with no limitations. The teachers, staff and my friends fuel my enthusiasm and encourage me to go above and beyond. They are understanding and inspiring and this is helping me to rise to my potential and work harder than I ever have before.

I love music and am lucky to have a very supportive family, who have encouraged me from an early age to find my talent and pursue it with all my heart. I chose the violin and found that I loved playing and learning music, in particular performing as a soloist and as part of a group. Being at King's means I have endless opportunities to perform and grow as a musician, not just the classics, but a broader range of genres. I attended a state secondary school for a short time before some very kind people recommended me to King's; the difference it made to me was huge. Previously, I felt restricted, but at King's, I feel I have endless possibilities with no restrictions to work on my favourite subject and the chance to make my dreams come true.

I also am lucky enough to have my piano lessons at King's with Mrs Beesley: there are no words to describe how much I enjoy these lessons and I feel I am going from strength to strength. One year and half on, I am hoping to take my Grade 3.

I aspire to be a music producer, but I would also love to become a teacher as I very much enjoy helping others to learn and understand. I have discovered that I am good at Latin and wholly love the subject, I would never have had the chance to explore this topic had I not come to King's. My mum says that I should always have a back-up plan and not to put all my eggs in one basket! I have found that my knack for languages fulfils this.

I find being at King's a very positive place to learn, full of encouragement. It's an early start and late finish as I live in Buxton and must get the bus to Macclesfield, but I don't mind one bit because of how much I enjoy school.

I feel blessed and extremely thankful that there is a Bursary Fund available that has made this possible for me. My parents could never afford to send me to King's, so I thank all involved from the bottom of my heart and I certainly hope that I can do the same for another in the future.

Dylan Eldershaw, Year 8

WAYS YOU CAN HELP

- Make a one-off donation
- Set up a small, regular gift through a standing order
- Consider leaving the gift of a legacy through your Will

PLEASE CONTACT:
formerpupils@kingsmac.co.uk

EVENTS ROUNDUP



Bursary Fund Golf Day

Former King's pupils remembered one of their very best in the first King's School Bursary Golf Day to be played after the passing of long time organiser Alan McInnes. The hugely competitive tournament, played at Macclesfield Golf

Club, was won by father and son Martin and James Allmand Smith, Richard Bianchi and Robert Thorneycroft. Alan, a former title-winning Wigan rugby league coach, was remembered by his son-in-law Steve Moores at the event. "Alan grew up on the Weston estate and wouldn't have had the chance to go to King's if it had been fee paying, so raising funds for bursaries was very important to him."

Howard Worth Golf Shield

The 2018 Howard Worth Shield, competed for by teams representing former pupils of King's and Stockport GS, was held at Knutsford Golf Club in early September. The best six Stableford scores of the 7 Maxonians present just won out, 214 to 197, with nine Stopfordians representing their old school in an excellent day's golf, played in the true spirit of these things!

Drinks in the City

The annual London Drinks in the City event was held at Brown's Courtrooms in Covent Garden in October. It was great to catch up with some of



our London based alumni and former staff, as well as those down in the capital for the day. The inaugural Manchester Drinks in the City, held at Manchester Bar and Grill in June, was also well attended.



Charity rugby match

King's former pupils won in the annual charity fixture against Macclesfield Rugby Club. The winning score was 33.17 with Tom Fairclough scoring 4 tries in a performance reminiscent of his days at King's when he played for the side with the longest ever unbeaten run! The oldest alumni playing was Tristan Wood (1996) and the youngest were Owen Jones and Tom Blackwell at 19. Between the two sides there were 24 old boys playing – a fantastic turn out and great occasion.



Netball tournament

Last September, 40 former pupils and 17 current Senior girls participated in the inaugural Alumni Netball Tournament. Eight rounds of competitive netball were played and overall winners were the current Senior first VI, who had to use all their



expertise to overcome some tricky opponents. Runners-up were the year group that left King's in 2010, who played some brilliant netball (Yasmine Lavassani, Anna Beasley, Victoria French, Emily Gilmour and Victoria Mobbs).

Alumni Cricket match

The Old Boys' team went into bat first on a scorching June day in the annual fixture against the First XI. The Old Boys notched up a good win, recording 200. Andy Bones scored a good 69, but it was the Hodgson boys with 5 wickets between them did the damage and resulted in the school finishing 12 short.



Send your updates to
formerpupils@kingsmac.co.uk

STAY IN TOUCH!

Hundreds of our former pupils now use the school website and Facebook page to stay connected. There is a dedicated Former Pupils' area on the website, containing dates of forthcoming events, former pupils news, plus details of how to get involved and support the school. Please see: www.kingsmac.co.uk

Facebook & Twitter



facebook.com/kingsinmaccfp



You can follow us on Twitter at [@kingsmac](https://twitter.com/kingsmac)



And also on [Linkedin](https://www.linkedin.com/company/kingsmac)

DIARY DATES

Frank Moore Golf Trophy

Friday 31 May
Macclesfield Golf Club
(contact Ian Wilson & Mark Harbord)

Drinks in the City – Manchester

Thursday 13 June, 6–9pm,
The Hilton, Manchester

Former Pupils' Cricket Match

Friday 28 June, 11am
Front Field, Cumberland Street

Alan McInnes Bursary Fund Golf Day

Friday 5 July
Macclesfield Golf Club
Beat the Pro – Former Pupil Jae Bowers (2012)

Howard Worth Shield

Thursday 5 September
Knutsford Golf Club (contact Alan Hoe:
alanmhoe41@gmail.com)

Drinks in the City – London

Thursday 17 October, 6–9pm
Browns Courtrooms, Covent Garden,

For more information on all events, please
contact Lauren.Tidey@kingsmac.co.uk