

# King's Colours

Summer 2007

The termly newsletter of the King's School in Macclesfield

## Head's letter

Once again, it is a delight to write to you about life at King's, where we are celebrating the Infant Department's first ten years. This term also represents an important milestone in cricket (see opposite) and the new Sixth Form Centre should be completed by the start of the summer holidays. I am pleased to report that the Governing Body has decided to name it the Bromley-Davenport Building, in honour of our recently-retired Chairman of Governors. Mr Bromley-Davenport himself has agreed to open the centre next term. I hope that as many people as possible will come to that event.

We have just completed another admissions round at King's and, again, we seem to be very popular. In fact, numbers are expected to rise to a new record, despite demographic trends. There has also been yet another royal visit, so life never gets dull.

Stephen Coyne



## New England coach caps 150 years

What a birthday present! As the school celebrates a century and a half of cricket at Cumberland Street, the news is that former pupil Peter Moores has been appointed Manager and Coach to the England team (see back page). Peter learned his skills on the front field at King's, one of the most attractive cricket grounds in the country. Former Principal of Sixth Form and cricket coach, Ian Wilson, has sent us an account of its 150-year history:

'One suspects that things were rather different in 1857. There would not have been organised games between teams of schoolboys each representing their own school, for example. Nor would there have been eleven players per side elegantly bedecked in white, supervised by two umpires wearing white coats. That is simply not how it was done 150 years ago. Instead, there would have been combined sides, made up of some boys, some teachers and some ancillary staff, playing in their ordinary clothes,

with round-arm bowling, four balls to the over. Indeed, the practice of masters playing alongside boys for the school was one which lasted for many years, well into the 20th century.

The real heroes of front field cricket, though, have been the groundsmen who have devoted themselves to the upkeep of what has always been regarded as a high quality cricket wicket. In 1857, there were no such things as mowers, and the grass would have been controlled by the school's sheep! More recently, perhaps the most famous method of pitch preparation was via cricket master Ben Davies: heavy roller detention duty. Now, of course, the vital importance of the groundsmen is even reflected in the fact that the current one, Steve Moores, is also the school's master i/c cricket. Let us hope that continued devotion makes possible another 150 years!'



Brothers Peter and Steve Moores in the 1980 1st XI







## Star autographs

When former Coronation Street star Richard Fleeshman arrived at the Girls' Division, it caused quite a stir. Nearly 200 fans queued to pay for an autograph, raising over £280 for the charity 'When You Wish Upon A Star'. The surprise visit was organised by India Sleem (pictured with fellow organiser Beth James) whose family has known Richard for many years.



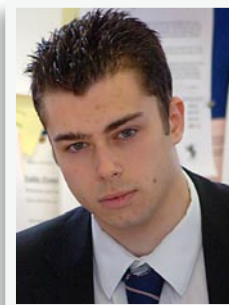
## Hot topics for debate

Quick-thinking, articulate and informed – King's students demonstrated their ready grasp of political and global issues when they won the regional heats of the European Youth Parliament Debating Competition. Their challenge was to come up with an on-the-spot argument opposing a transcontinental fossil-fuel pipeline and proposing a co-ordinated European nuclear energy campaign. Their success means they will compete in the national competition at Durham this September. The winners will take part in an international debate during Liverpool's City of Culture celebrations next year.

Pictured standing from left to right are: Helen Thornley, Alex Quinn, Emily Middleton and Julia Phillips. Sitting are Harry Phillips and Joshua Wood. Priya Sodha and Charlotte Turner were also in the team.

## Masterchef

King's Infants had a mouthwatering introduction to Mediterranean cuisine when top Italian chef Enzo Mauro gave a master class in simple, imaginative, healthy cooking at Fence Avenue. He emphasised the importance of using fresh, natural ingredients and his lesson in the art of making fresh pasta and colouring it with tomatoes, spinach and squid ink proved a huge success.



## Software supremo

Sixth Former Simon Withington was selected from thousands of entries to compete against the top 15 young software designers for a chance to represent the UK at the Informatics Olympiad in Croatia in August.

Simon had to design and test new software for a series of applications to gain his place in one of the most prominent computer science competitions in the world.



## King's artists at The Lowry

Gemma Lord, Grace Hudson and Shamas Bedi recently represented the school at a prestigious art exhibition at The Lowry organised by *Living Edge* magazine. This was a showcase for some of the best student work from independent schools in the North West.

The arch in Gemma's painting (above) is one that she passes every day on her walk home.

Nano-legoTeams from schools across the region pitted their engineering and intellectual skills against each other at the First Lego League's North-West contest. The mysteries of nanotechnology were unravelled by King's Design & Technology students, whose presentation on how rapidly evolving nanotechnology could help cure cancer proved the overall winner. As well as presentations, the teams had to build and operate lego robots through a series of motor skills tests. In the King's team were Oliver McCloskey and David Ormrod-Morley (pictured), Alex Smith, Elliott Sime, Lydia Rex, Sarah Regan, Joe Mearman, Patrick Lavelle, Tim Hill and Joe Bibbey.





## If the coat fits...

Year 6, supported by the Year 5 choir, presented three outstanding performances of *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat* in March. The commitment of the young performers was impressive and the children received a well-deserved standing ovation on the final night. Ruairidh Nichols gave a mature performance in the leading role and special mention should also be made of Amelia Woodruff's accurate and hilarious impersonation of Elvis in the role of Pharaoh. All the children sang, acted and danced with energy and enthusiasm during the evening's entertainment. One of the children's favourite songs in the show was 'Go, go, go, Joseph' and they certainly did!



## Strings, soirées and songs from the shows

The String Orchestra enjoyed another wonderful weekend at Trigonos (North Wales) in March. The end of term also saw two splendid musical soirées, when GCSE and A level musicians recorded their recitals in front of a select but enthusiastic audience. These were some of the best performances we are likely to hear from pupils. The term ended, as usual, with the Founders' Day services in St Michael's, when the BFC did the school proud with some outstanding singing.

Twelve pupils from Years 11, 12 and 13 presented an evening of well-known songs from the shows on Friday 20 March. Featured musicals

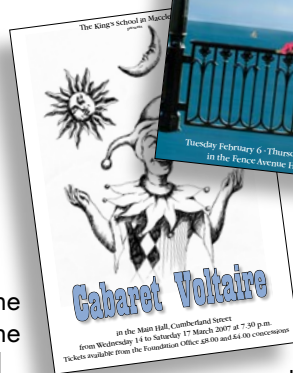
included *Chicago*, *Guys and Dolls*, *Les Miserables* and *Grease*. The cast performed staged solos and duets and also fully choreographed dance numbers to the delight of the audience. It was an opportunity for the audience to enjoy the high level of singing and performance that these talented students have achieved.



## Oh, what a lovely term of drama!

### Cabaret Voltaire

In an ambitious double bill entitled *Cabaret Voltaire*, the Dramatic Society presented original adaptations of *Zadig* and *Candide* in March. Using physical theatre techniques, the cast of some fifty actors maintained a cracking pace in a show sparkling with Voltaire's intelligent wit and biting satire. Leo Thompson, who was to have played the role of *Zadig*, sadly had to undergo surgery and the part was taken over at short notice by James Siddall. James rose magnificently to the challenge and, despite only three weeks of rehearsal, gave a polished and assured performance. Happily, Leo recovered sufficiently to be able to play the cameo role of the Hermit. The role of *Candide* was played Stuart Gresham, while the rest of the cast was drawn from every year in the Boys' Division and Sixth Form. Aaron Ayling, Tom Bamford, Lydia Byrne, Dominic Hall, Mathieu Jackson, Katy Koyich and Leo Thompson gave their farewell performances as members of the Dramatic Society while Matthew Rigg and Rob Winstanley supervised the lighting and stage management for the last time. They will all be greatly missed.



### Oh What a Lovely War!

In February, the Girls' Division presented a sensational production of Joan Littlewood's *Oh What A Lovely War!*

We were transported back to the early 20th century in a dramatised version of events in the First World War. With a sharp script and humorous tone, the play kept the audience enraptured throughout.

Naomi Gibson and Naomi Gildert guided the audience through history as the MCs. Alex Smith was a bullish General Sir Douglas Haig—a contrast to the empathy of the Nurse, played by Victoria French. It must be said, all the cast played their parts with great flair and enthusiasm.

Overall, this year's production was a fantastic and moving event, thanks to the tireless efforts of director Catherine Thompson ably assisted by Gordon Mounsey. Next year's show is looked forward to with great anticipation.

Alex Smith



## Royal visit

King's had its fourth royal visit in five years when Her Royal Highness the Countess of Wessex came to Cheshire recently to visit Macclesfield town hall and to view restoration work in the Victorian Garden at Tatton Park. On her arrival by helicopter at Cumberland Street, she was met by a welcoming committee which included the Head of Foundation, the Captain of School, and the School Officers.

### Congratulations to:

#### Pupils:

**Matthew Falder**, who gained a gold award, **Matthew Shribman**, a silver award and **Charlotte Green**, a bronze award in the National Biology Olympiad

**Simon Anderson, Verity Cross, Fiona Sneddon & Emily Nesbitt**, members of the Year 12 team who competed in the Paperclip Physics Regional Grand Final at Daresbury

**The Junior Cross Country Team** who won three out of four categories in the Macclesfield Primary Schools' competition to win the cup

**The U18 Girls Rugby 'A' Team**, who won their group at the National Schools Sevens Competition at Rosslyn Park

**Liam Hadfield** who won a gold award and **Edward Nathan**, who won a bronze award in the national finals of the Primary Maths Challenge

**The U16 Girls' Hockey Team** who won the County Championship

**Sam Dawson**, who finished in first place in the intermediate section of the Cheshire Hike held between 31 March and 1 April

**King's Big Band**, who gave a charity concert at St Andrew's Church, Cheadle Hulme and raised £1250 in aid of Stockport Prostate Cancer Fund

**Year 5 pupils**, who performed in the Macclesfield and Bollington Primary Music Festival at the Leisure Centre

#### Former Pupils:

**Edward Barker** who has been elected President of St Andrew's University Athletics Union

**Simon James**, a former pupil and Junior School teacher, who has been appointed Head of Rossall Junior School

#### Staff:

John Fitzgerald and Louise Watkins on the birth of their son, Sebastian

## Striking gold

A gold-medal backstroke performance from Ellen Barratt and a clutch of silver medals from Justine Blake, Ciaran McLaughlin and Alix Davies (freestyle) and the girls' relay team (Alix Davies, Ellen Barratt, Justine Blake and Eve Worthington) helped the Junior Division to win the Macclesfield Primary Schools' Swimming Gala. Pictured are captains Ellen Barratt and Oscar Kenny.



## When the going gets tough...

King's orienteers had their best ever results in the recent National Schools' Championships. Girls' Division U16 entrants Hannah Hills, Jenny Campbell and Sarah Bailey navigated tough terrain on a gruelling five mile course through Wyre Forest to take the silver medal. Overall, King's finished seventh out of over 100 competing schools. Pictured are Hannah (left) and Jenny, who are both Cheshire County runners.

## ...the tough get going

Pitted against Arctic conditions on the Cairngorm plateau, King's sixth formers spent a comfortable night in renovated snowholes as part of a two-day traverse of the Scottish mountain range. Such unique trips have been part of the outdoor programme for over ten years, visiting all the major mountains around Scotland.



## King's Colts play for Cheshire

In a consistently good U15 rugby side which has lost only three games this season, five players are emerging as particular stars. Pictured from left to right are: Tom Waters, Tom Taylor, Freddie Thorneycroft, Nick Bianco and Seb Sheratte. The five will provide the backbone of the county side.





# FROM STRENGTH TO STRENGTH

New beginnings are always exciting – and King's Infants has more than fulfilled its early promise. The Department opened in September 1997 with four classes (one for each year from ages 3–7) and the places were rapidly filled. There was never a shred of doubt that King's parents wanted an Infant Division: demand led rapidly to further expansion and there are now seven classes, all full.

Pioneering staff Rachel Cookson and Liz Welsh look back fondly to the February day ten years ago when they were appointed – even though the buildings were still only at the planning stage. After lengthy discussions, meticulous planning and many meetings to order equipment, furniture and resources, the school opened its doors in September. Liz remembers the thrill of the occasion, tempered by sadness at the death the week before of the Princess of Wales. A Princess Diana Award was set up in her memory and is still presented today.

The pupils, too, have fond recollections, which they were invited to share at the recent Founders' Day service. The memories varied widely – trips, concerts, rearing chicks, celebration assemblies, and so on – but the common thread was how happy the children were in their time in the Infants.

Rachel has watched her original class ('They are now 14 and 15 and some are taller than me!') grow up to be friendly and gifted – proof that being part of King's caring and purposeful community brings out the very best in children.

Pictured here are Year 8 pupils Elizabeth Marshall, Oliver Stockwin, and Josh Berry with Sophie Mason (sitting) who is in Year 9. The inset picture shows them as they were in 1998.



# England post for former pupil



Many congratulations to former pupil Peter Moores who has just been appointed Manager and Coach of the England cricket team. Peter, who is the younger brother of King's 1st XI coach, Steve, paid tribute to his grounding here in a special message sent after the announcement of his new post. 'My enthusiasm for the game was nurtured on the front field at King's with staff like Ian Wilson, Mark Har-

bord and all the other teachers.' According to Ian Wilson, Peter's special talent and direction were apparent early on: 'It wasn't just his cricketing ability but his sheer enthusiasm and immense love of the game that persuaded us to counsel him to take up the offer of a place on the MCC ground staff rather than a place at Durham university.'

## Sale Shark signing

Former King's flank forward Frankie Barker is all set to sign professional terms with Sale RUFC. Andy Rice, a former Saracens scrum-half and Frankie's coach at King's, says that Frankie is a natural athlete and natural ball player who could develop into an outstanding talent.



## Former Pupils' Association

### Tribute to Dickie

In memory of A S (Dickie) Haresign, the man who probably knew most about the history of cricket at the school, the Former Pupils' Association plans to install an honours board in the pavilion, recording all pre-1972 players who scored centuries or took seven or more wickets.

#### DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

11 May	KSMFPA London Group Dinner RAF Club, Piccadilly, London
25 May	KSMFPA Golf, Frank Moore Trophy & Geoff Dakin Salver 1.00 pm Macclesfield Golf Club
22 June	Sportspersons' Dinner 7.00 pm Tytherington Club
6 July	KSMFPA Cricket: 150th Anniversary 10.00 am Cumberland Street Cricket v Old Boys 2.00 pm
11 July	KSMFPA Golf, Inter-Schools Competition 1.00 pm Bramhall Golf Club

## Scholarships

We are pleased to announce the following scholarships for pupils entering the senior school in September:

George Carter	Pownall Green Primary School
Katie Cornish	King's Juniors
Alex Dyson	High Lane Primary School
Hattie McCance	King's Juniors
Thomas Mort	King's Juniors
Isaac Reaney	King's Juniors
Coralie Robson	Worth Primary School
Richard Southern	Lower Park Primary School
Laura Venables	Nether Alderley Primary School
Maxwell Wynn Davies	Lady Barn House School

#### DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

18 May	Girls' Sports Awards Presentation Evening 7.00 pm Fence Avenue
24 May	Year 13 Leavers' Morning Derby Fields
6 June	Infants' Sports Day 12.00 pm
15 June	No school for Pupils Teaching Staff Marking Day
22 June	Friends of King's Summer Ball 7.30 pm Hunting Lodge, Adlington Hall
26 June	Cricket v MCC 11.30 am Cumberland Street King's Sings Concert 7.30 pm Methodist Church
28 June	Junior Sports Day
29 June	Junior School Walk am Junior School Talent Show pm FOK Juniors/Infants Summer Event Infant Summer Concert 1.30 pm Fence Avenue Hall Girls' Division Sports Day 1.30 pm Fence Avenue Sixth Form Leavers' Ball 6.30 pm Shrigley Hall
1 July	Year 6 Leavers' Party
5 July	Junior End of Year Celebration Fence Avenue Hall Junior Summer Concert 7.15 pm Fence Avenue Hall
6 July	Term ends at lunchtime
16 August	AS & A2 Results Day
23 August	GCSE Results Day

### Admissions

For information about admissions to all Divisions, please contact the Admissions Office on 01625 260000 or email: [mail@kingsmac.co.uk](mailto:mail@kingsmac.co.uk)