

2015



Insight

GAZETTE

The annual review of the school year for Old Edwardians

Issue 293



Inside...

Record IB results

James Woodroffe on the highs and lows of being a TV producer

Commemorating our war dead



KING EDWARD'S SCHOOL
BIRMINGHAM

AP100 Campaign update

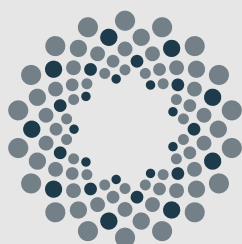
Thanks to a record-breaking telephone campaign and the Tolkien Match, £8.5 million has now been raised for the AP100 Campaign from over 1,400 donors.

The annual telephone campaign this year raised £380,000, making it the most successful telephone campaign ever run by a UK school. Almost 500 Old Edwardians and former parents kindly supported the AP100 Campaign during the two weeks of calling. This meant a staggering 77% of people we called pledged to make a donation – another UK record for a school by some way.

The record-breaking response was largely due to the recently launched Tolkien Match. The Tolkien Trust has kindly agreed to match gifts made before 1 December this year, up to a total value of £500,000 – effectively doubling the value of any donation. So far, thanks to your support, we have been able to access £200,000 of this matched funding. If you have not yet made a gift this year and would like to take advantage of the Match you can find more information and make a donation at: www.trust.kes.org.uk/tolkienmatch

We would like to thank everyone who has supported the AP100 Campaign so far, and especially The Tolkien Trust for their generosity. There are now 75 boys on Assisted Places funded by the Campaign and, with your support, we are confident we will reach our goal of funding 100 Assisted Places by next summer.

To find out more and support the AP100 Campaign, visit:
www.trust.kes.org.uk/ap100



AP100
Assisted Places Campaign



A message from..



..The Chief Master

'When with the ever-circling years, comes round the age of gold.' So sings the Christmas carol. Well, it's not quite like that down the main drive off Edgbaston Park Road, but the first days of September always bring to a schoolteacher the sense of the cycle of the seasons. And, even if many of us would argue that our own time at King Edward's was the Golden Age, we're not doing too badly these days, thank you.

The IB results are a real leap forward and we are now amongst the very best in the world – and 8th in The Telegraph league tables. At GCSE we have produced a third set of outstanding results in a row. The Under 13 cricket team reached the national finals for the first time ever and, in the last days of August, the Stuart Southall Pavilion was opened to go with the new astro pitch so that we now have probably the best hockey facility in the whole of Birmingham.

And very soon, 126 new boys will be coming down the drive to start the adventure all over again and to enjoy this wondrous place. And, of those boys, nearly a third will be on Assisted Places as we hurry towards our £10m AP100 Campaign target. Perhaps that matters most of all.

■ John Claughton (1975), Chief Master



..The Chairman

A lot has changed since I last wrote this piece.

Very many thanks to John Wheatley for steering the ship since 2011, and I am honoured to be asked to take the helm again for a while. Special praise should go to the engine room, however – Simon and his merry band – who provide so much for Old Edwardians and keep finding the lost.

The School has made a huge investment in the OEA and Development Office, with the result that more of us than ever before are in touch with each other and the School. This has

encouraged OEs to give very generously to Assisted Places and special new buildings – most recently the Southall Pavilion (which the OEA helped with) – these in turn enhance the institution we care so much about. Importantly, so will our successors.

This edition showcases why we care. Maths, Chemistry and Biology wins, and remarkable IB results – surely these are related. Sports round-ups galore are neatly balanced by performing arts with drama and music centred on the (still) breathtaking Ruddock Performing Arts Centre.

Then from the OEA community: the Careers Network and how it has made a difference already, and a TV producer who has lived a dream many of us harbour: to make TV programmes about cars!

There's one OE I'd like to mention whilst he's still here to read this. John Claughton has led the School into a different world that seemed brave and new. It is in tremendous shape now because his vision caught the imagination of many Old Edwardians and a special Common Room. I hope John has a tremendous last year to celebrate a terrific decade. Then we will welcome Dr Fenton, who thankfully (my spies from Dr Challoner's tell me) is just as mad about cricket.

■ James Martin (1979), Chairman of the OEA

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Front cover image:

The King Edward's School and the Great War exhibition in the Chapel.

Event review:

King Edward's School and the Great War exhibition



Duncan Raynor (1976) gives his account of the King Edward's School and the Great War exhibition in the School Chapel.

Call me a grumpy old beggar if you will – you wouldn't be the first – but I have to admit that even by the start of the autumn term 2014 I was already suffering from 'Great War fatigue'. It was everywhere. Anniversaries and commemorations were inescapable. And so my heart sank when KES seemed to be jumping on the WW1 bandwagon.

How wrong I was! The masterly exhibition in the Chapel cured me completely of WW1 weariness. What an inspired idea, to breathe new life into an under-used Chapel, which is also part of the New Street building and the School's War Memorial, and to use it in a very Edwardian way. For this is not just an exhibition of artefacts – though the artefacts are well selected and atmospheric. The Foundation Archivist, Alison Wheatley's dedicated research has thrown up and highlighted personal stories which are moving, and poignant, and show us that Edwardians a century ago were not so very different from how they are now.

Among many stories told are those of three Old Ed soldiers of the Royal Warwickshires – Private Sanders, Second Lieutenant Jacot, and Captain Ehrhardt – who found themselves embroiled in the same operation in April 1916. Ehrhardt and Sanders were wounded, and Jacot, who helped recover them to a dressing station, writing to

Mr Heath at KES, comments on how each of them was more concerned about the other's safety than their own. This strikes me as characteristically Edwardian – it was more important to them that they were friends from the same school than that they were divided by military rank and position. Old Eds often tend to stick together and find common ground, whatever their circumstances.

It seems appropriate to me too that the War Memorial has been restored and the names buffed up; and it is poignant that the plaques have now been joined by one in honour of Rakesh Chauhan, who in 2014 in Afghanistan paid the same ultimate price as many of those Old Eds of a century earlier. Edwardians are still honouring those values of service, and honour, and self-sacrifice; and despite my initial scepticism, I am humbled by the way King Edward's has managed to bridge the gap between past and present in this exhibition, and to do it in so appropriate a fashion. If you haven't seen it, grab the chance when you can!

Rev Duncan Raynor (1976)

The exhibition is open on the last Friday of every month. For more information and to book to attend, visit: www.kes.org.uk/great-war-exhibition

Forthcoming events

Tolkien Lecture Series, Tuesday 22 September 2015

The annual Tolkien Lecture will be given by Alfred Brendel, one of the greatest pianists of the last 50 years.

Sports Dinner, Saturday 10 October 2015

An ideal opportunity to reunite with former teammates over drinks and dinner.

AP100 Campaign presents: an evening in John Lewis, Tuesday 3 November 2015

A private drinks reception and opportunity to browse the new Birmingham John Lewis store which opens this autumn.

London Dinner, Monday 30 November 2015

The speaker at this annual black tie event will be Stephen Cooper (1976), author of *The Final Whistle: The Great War in Fifteen Players*.

Final Christmas Feast of the Living History Group, Wednesday 9 December 2015

All past and present members of the LHG are invited to the final Christmas Feast to celebrate 16 years of re-enactment at KES and KEHS.

Birmingham Festive Drinks, Wednesday 16 December 2015

An informal event for OEs to catch up over a free drink at Birmingham's Frankfurt Christmas Market.

For more information about all forthcoming events and to book tel: **0121 415 6050**, email: oldeds@kes.org.uk or visit: www.oldeds.kes.org.uk/events

The Insight interview:

James Woodroffe (1996)

James Woodroffe (1996) talks about getting started in television, an unusual train journey, and building a Mk1 Spitfire.

How did you get started in television?

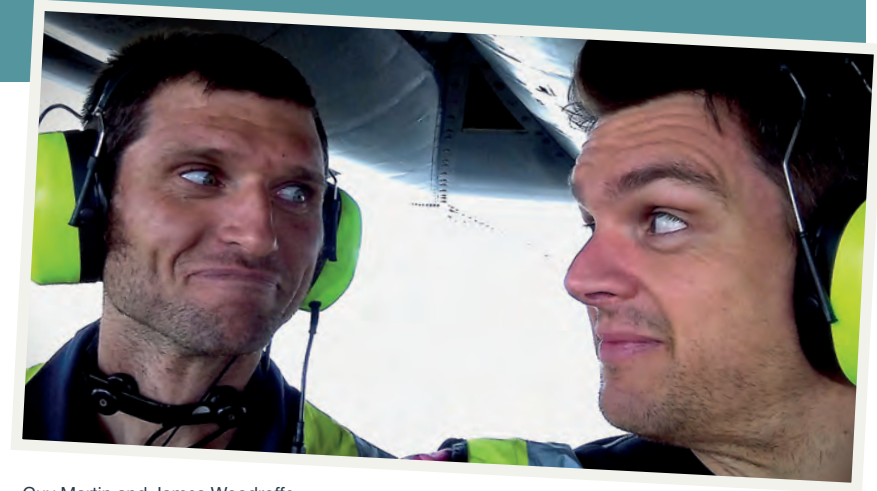
I was coming to the end of a banking degree at Birmingham University when I got derailed by an advert for new researchers at the end of an episode of *Top Gear*. I was offered six weeks' work experience and then they offered me a job, so I ditched the banking career and decided to do telly instead – it seemed more fun! I was at the BBC from 1998 until 2001 and haven't left television since.

What did you do next?

I worked for an independent production company and we made a cheekily-titled programme called *Fifth Gear*. I was the founding producer of *The Gadget Show*, which is still going strong. I did a couple of historical documentaries with Jeremy [Clarkson] and then the big thing that's really taken off has been the Guy Martin canon of work. I've worked with him on every one of his projects, helping deliver him from his career as a lorry mechanic into Channel 4's blue-eyed boy.

Where's the most unusual place your career has taken you?

The very worst place was the cheapest carriage on an Indian train. We were stuck at Old Delhi Station for 13 hours amongst rats, bigger rats and stray dogs with nowhere to hide on the platform. Then, thankfully, the train arrived but we soon realised that was going to be even more inhospitable, and we had to be on it for even longer. The guard, armed with his machine gun, warned us to chain all our equipment to the beds because thieves would be coming throughout the night. That focused the mind! Plus we were in open bunks next door to the toilet and the sink was full of human waste.



Guy Martin and James Woodroffe

What were you going to film and was it worth it?

We were going to one of India's oldest tea plantations which used to be owned by Brits during the time of the Raj, to see how mechanisation was affecting the industry. It was worth it because we were out of the oppressive heat, noise and squalor of urban India and were suddenly in paradise at the foothills of the Himalayas. There was an incredible blue sky and snow-topped mountains, and we also received a very nice cup of tea!

What's been your career highlight to date?

Seeing a Mk1 Spitfire return to the air having been rebuilt in exactly the same way as in war time was a great engineering feat – but it was also a machine that gave everyone a lump in their throat so it had an incredible emotional pull as well. Being able to blend those two things together into a programme that got pretty good critical acclaim was probably the thing I've been most fond of so far.

Were there any particular teachers who influenced you?

Julian Burns made English my favourite subject and I always felt he set us tasks which let us use a bit of flare. He once asked us to report the final death scene of *Sir Gawain and the Green Knight* in the style of a local television news report. Mr Burns said my effort was actually quite good and joked I should do it as a career. About six or seven years later I was.

I also remember in RE, Reverend Weaver said: "I know none of you believe in God, I know you all think that religion is pointless but it's important to just know about it so that when you're in a pub you can spend five minutes talking to someone about it. You'll be a more interesting person." And there's never a truer word! It really does help to try and know 1% of everything, so when you do meet an expert you can at least get the ball rolling.

What's next for you?

I'm doing another military hardware/history story about the Cold War, which is pinned on the restoration of a Vulcan bomber. Then I am going to do another travelogue thing in the Baltic States, which I can't reveal too much about, but it's to do with the Eastern Front and a part of World War II that not many people know about.

Have you got any advice for anyone trying to get into television?

You've got to be able to write brilliantly and tell a story brilliantly – by that I mean be able to identify the key elements and put them in the right order. Don't even think about getting into TV unless you can do that. And these days it's inexcusable to turn up to an interview for a job in TV without having some kind of link to your own video material. It doesn't have to look like a Ridley Scott movie, you just have to demonstrate that film-making is what you really want to do.

Careers Network: providing opportunities

Whether you're just starting on your career path or have a wealth of experience to offer, the OE Careers Network provides the opportunity to engage with OEs at all levels and to offer support to current pupils.

Making connections

I've always shied away from the Old School Tie syndrome. This is a trait, I think, of many KES pupils and shows our gritty 'independent school mentality'.

But, the more I live abroad in the UAE, India and Cuba...the more I realise I'm wrong! In fact, bonkers.

So, one evening, after experiencing a few disappointments with a number of accountants, I idly browsed the OE website to see if there was anyone who could help me.

I plumped for Peter Higgs (1964) and got in touch. I liked his friendly write up and we had a chat on the phone. About 1% of the conversation was about accountancy. Most of it centred on King Edward's and some of the characters who inhabited the place in the 1960s and 70s.

I soon found myself trundling up to Lichfield on the train and we went through my accounts and in a trice Peter sorted me out...and went on to submit my first set of figures to HMRC. It was a sort of triumph for me as now I can relax in the knowledge that Peter is looking after my financial affairs.

I find increasingly that Old Boys can be amazingly helpful. I think of my 'compadre' Paul Harvey in Havana....who, it turned out, studied at KES, Aston. We are bonded through school. It means nothing. It means everything.

We can help each other out as Peter Higgs is helping me.

Guy Perry (1979)



Giving a helping hand

Work experience in medicine can be hard to get. Hospitals are different places from the days when as a KES student I did a summer job as a hospital porter. A friendly eye surgeon took me under his wing and that was the end of my portering.

Nowadays it is paperwork, rules and regulations. Hospitals seem to actively discourage work experience. Yet you need it to pass your med school interview. So how exactly do we get new doctors if they aren't able to get over the first hurdle?

Thankfully for KES students there is a rich mix of Old Eds who are happy to help. Mind you, if they visit me that means a week spent in London. They are very welcome however, since I believe you should always try to give back what you take. School was very good to me back in the day.

Mike Dilkes (1980) MS FRCS (ORL-HNS),
FRCSEd, FRCS



Mike Dilkes, centre, with Jag Virk (2001), left, who works as a specialist registrar in surgery at Barts Health and Richard Newton (current pupil) on work experience.

Placement to permanent

Congratulations to Keir Stewart (2008) who, after making contact with Dr Raveem Ismail (2000) through the Careers Network, was offered an internship at Validus Group and has now been given a permanent role.

Ten ways you can get involved with the Careers Network:



1. **Give** a careers talk.
2. **Speak** at our annual Careers Day.
3. **Become** a careers mentor.
4. **Provide** a work placement or internship.
5. **Offer** start-up business advice to budding entrepreneurs.
6. **Join** our LinkedIn group.
7. **Browse** the OE Professional Directory.
8. **Attend** a professional networking event.
9. **Share** your university experience as a university mentor.
10. **Access** careers advice to help progress your own career.

To get involved and find out more, visit:

www.olders.kes.org.uk/careers

The Careers Network in numbers

679

OEs and parents have
signed up to offer
careers advice

463

OEs are members of
our LinkedIn Group

87

Current pupils and OEs
have benefitted from the
Careers Network so far

84

OEs have spoken at our
Careers Days over the
last five years

Commemorating our war dead

To complement the ‘King Edward’s School and the Great War’ exhibition, we will be commemorating in each edition of the *Insight Gazette* Old Edwardians who died in the same academic year a century ago.

Captain Edmund William Beech

22 May 1875-11 August 1914

1st North Midland Field Company, the Royal Engineers. Buried in Brandwood End Cemetery, Kings Heath.

Died of injuries incurred in an accident during mobilisation. Edmund may have been both the School’s and Birmingham’s first casualty of the Great War, not even making it out of the city.

Captain Thomas Strange Wickham

2 June 1878-25 August 1914

West African Frontier Force, Nigeria Regiment. Commemorated on the Zaria Memorial in Nigeria and the War Memorial in Bideford, Devon.

Captain Wickham was part of a British force carrying out a reconnaissance from Yola in Nigeria. The force had crossed the Anglo-German frontier and met with some resistance in its occupation of Tepe. He was shot by the orderly of a German officer he had taken prisoner.



Colour Sergeant John Mason

26 October 1875-22 September 1914

Royal Marine Light Infantry. Commemorated on the Chatham Naval Memorial.

Killed in action in the North Sea. John was aboard the HMS Cressy when the ship was struck by a torpedo from a U-boat. His body was never recovered for burial.

Lieutenant Langton Sacheverell Coke

25 January 1878-31 October 1914

Irish Guards. Commemorated on the Menin Gate.

Killed in action at Klein Zillebeke near Ypres.

Lance Corporal Charles Eric Wakefield Speller

12 August 1895-22 December 1914

12th Reserve Cavalry Regiment. Commemorated in the Faculty Hall of the Institute and Faculty of Actuaries and buried in Yardley Cemetery.

Died in hospital in Aldershot.

Lance Corporal Wilfred Samson Allkins

2 June 1890-4 March 1915

Royal Marine Light Infantry, Plymouth Battalion. Commemorated on Helles Memorial in Turkey.

Died in Gallipoli. Wilfred had two younger brothers at KES, one of whom also joined up; Arthur Allkins won the Military Cross and survived the war albeit after being severely wounded.

Second Lieutenant Charles Frederick Moore

5 April 1896-12 March 1915

3rd Worcestershire Regiment. Buried in Kemmel Chateau Cemetery in France.

Killed in the attack on Spanbroek Mill. Charles had been a Foundation Scholar, was captain of the 2nd XV and a Sergeant in the School’s Officer Training Corps. He had only left KES in 1914. Both of Charles’ brothers, Edward and Henry, were Old Edwardians and both served in and survived the war.

Sapper Arthur William Hamilton Adams

22 May 1879-22 March 1915

Canadian Engineers. Buried in the Merville Communal Cemetery in France.

Died of pneumonia in France in March 1915, having only joined up five months prior.

Private Francis Henry Richardson

11 December 1896-24 April 1915

Canadian Infantry, 7th Battalion. Commemorated on the Menin Gate.

Killed in a gas attack at Ypres. On leaving school in 1912 Francis had emigrated to Canada and in September 1914 he enlisted as a Private with the Canadian Infantry. Sadly, his body was never recovered.

Major Godfrey Barker

13 January 1883-29 April 1915

Royal Marine Light Infantry, Drake Battalion (Royal Naval Division). Commemorated on Helles Memorial in Turkey.

Killed at Gallipoli. Godfrey had two brothers who fought in and survived the war. Godfrey’s older brother William was injured three times and won a Distinguished Service Order in 1916 and their father was a Lieutenant Colonel.



Second Lieutenant George Frederick Cottrell

27 October 1892-11 May 1915

Royal Garrison Artillery, 108th Heavy Battery. Commemorated on the Great War Memorial at St Augustine’s Church, Edgbaston and buried in Railway Chateau Cemetery in Belgium.

Killed by shellfire at Ypres while keeping his men undercover. George’s brother, Harold, also served in the war and died in 1916.



Lieutenant Douglas Edward Gosling

18 June 1894-20 May 1915

Royal Engineers, 1st North Midland Field Company. Commemorated at St Mary’s Church, Moseley and buried in Dranouter Churchyard.

Died at Ypres whilst trying to save a buried officer.

Private Gordon Oliver Seers

21 April 1883-26 May 1915

London Regiment, Territorial Force, 23rd Battalion. Commemorated on Le Touret Memorial in France.

Died in Givenchy in France. Gordon was probably the brightest of the Old Edwardians lost that summer; he had studied directly under Headmaster Cary Gilson, was a composer and a gymnast, and worked at the Consular Service.

Able Seaman Lewis Henry Salaman

14 August 1882-19 June 1915

Hawke Battalion, Royal Naval Division. Commemorated on Helles Memorial in Turkey.

Killed by a grenade. Lewis was a Cambridge graduate, sportsman, debater and keen photographer.

Sapper Edwin Frederick Warth

12 August 1888-25 June 1915

1st Field Company, Royal Naval Division. Buried in Alexandria (Chatby) Military and War Memorial Cemetery.

Died a month after being wounded. He was a civil engineer with a First Class Honours degree from the University of Birmingham and a capable gymnast.

Lieutenant William Arthur Bayford Kirwan Ward

14 June 1888-2 August 1915

Royal Engineers, Signal Corps. Commemorated on Helles Memorial in Turkey.

Mortally wounded while on duty in the signal office at Cape Helles, he died the next day and was buried at sea. He was an electrical engineer who came top of his maths set.

Second Lieutenant Gavin Campbell Arbuthnot

7 February 1893-6 August 1915

North Staffordshire Regiment, 7th Battalion. Commemorated on Helles Memorial in Turkey.

Reported wounded then missing, presumed dead, aged 22. Arbuthnot was an able gymnast.

Private Gerald Edgecumbe Crichton

8 October 1886-7 August 1915

Australian Infantry, A.I.F. Commonwealth Expeditionary Force. Commemorated on the Lone Pine Australian and New Zealand Army Corps Memorial and, with his brother, on St Augustine’s Church Memorial, Edgbaston. Buried in Lone Pine Cemetery, Anzac.

We know very little except that he was killed on 7 August 1915.

Second Lieutenant James Norman Lancaster

19 February 1888-10 August 1915

Worcestershire Regiment, 9th Battalion. Commemorated on Helles Memorial in Turkey and on University of Birmingham War Memorial.

Killed during the assault on Chunuk Bair. Lancaster was a strong academic with a talent for languages who had gone on to manage the family camera and microscope manufacturing business.

Captain Alfred Percy Smith

27 August 1890-17 August 1915

Royal Army Medical Corps, 10th Division. Commemorated on Helles Memorial in Turkey.

Went missing on 17 August 1915 at Suvla Bay and his body was never recovered. He was a Foundation Scholar, member of the Officer Training Corps, a fine shot, an excellent high jumper and a medic.



Old Edwardians

News in brief

1930s

Philip Woods (1939)

In November 2014 I was somewhat surprised to receive a letter from the Russian Embassy stating that President Putin had signed a decree awarding the Ushakov Medal to the British Veterans of the Arctic convoys. The award ceremony took place at the County Hall, Worcester and the medal was presented to me by Alexander Kramarenko, Minister-Counsellor at the Russian Embassy. It was a memorable and enjoyable occasion. Some two years ago I was awarded the Arctic Star Medal by the Ministry of Defence on behalf of the British Government.



1950s

Andrew Macnab (1953)

I am now 80 and still go to the office every day (have to do something to save the Greek economy).

Oliver Thomson (1954)

I left KES early in 1954 to do national service in the Royal Navy and by the time I had finished my parents had returned to Scotland, so I hardly ever went back to Birmingham. Having gone to Cambridge with a classics scholarship I rashly changed to economics and history, then became a London advertising man before I too came back to Scotland. The next 40 years were a mixture of running advertising agencies, teaching and writing history books. Retired from day job 14 years ago but still lecturing part time to adult groups.

Martin Richards (1957)

I retired from full-time employment as Executive Chairman of The MVA Group, transport planning consultants in 2000, having been awarded an OBE in 1993 for services to transport planning. I have since been awarded a lifetime achievement award in 2008 and appointed an Honorary Transport Planning Professional in 2010.

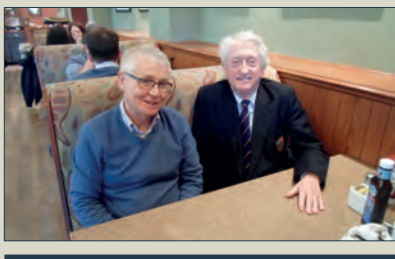
1960s

David Jones (1965)

After 45 years I have recently retired from paid employment with the University of Aberdeen, and am now Deputy Academic Registrar Emeritus. In my spare time I am in my 37th year as Secretary of the Aberdeenshire Cricket Association, and 21st as Lay Representative & Treasurer of St Margaret's Episcopal Church. More surprisingly, I have been accorded Honorary Life Membership of Judo Scotland, and have recently been awarded my 2nd Dan (strictly non-competitive since a minor stroke in 2009!) black belt grade of the British Judo Association.

Richard Green (1968)

I retired in March after 45 years in the Civil Engineering industry, 25 years of which with Mott MacDonald where I was a Divisional Director and latterly specialised in railway civil engineering projects. Life in retirement is no less busy as I volunteer at Birmingham St Mary's Hospice, as well as playing golf, treasurer of the OEGS, walking and spending time with the family, some of whom live in Vancouver. On a recent visit, to meet our new grandson, I met up with Nick Collins (1964) whose news item in the 2014 Gazette, and Simon Lerwill's efficient networking, prompted a very pleasant lunch.



Phil Drake (1969)

I am now retired after a career in teaching, latterly as Head of History at a Sixth Form College in Derby. Living in Sheffield as I have ever since going to University there in 1969. Still, as at KES, into railways, walking and music. Also in the same Sheffield suburb are Colin Roberts (1970) and Mike Smith (1976) who are both friends of mine.

1970s

Keith McLean (1970)

On 20 May 2015 I was elected Mayor of Milton Keynes. After leaving King Edward's I achieved an HND in Computer Studies before spending a few years working at Cadbury, prior to taking up a role at Granada Group Services. In 1983 I became Head of Information Technology at Granada Television, which I did for seven years. A change of direction to various sales roles covered the next 17 years and since 2007 I have been a project manager for Northgate HR, from which I am taking a year off to fulfil my Mayoral duties.



Tim Webb (1972)

I have spent 33 years in the NHS after graduating from Birmingham Medical School in 1977, and to date have clocked up 28 years as a Consultant in Adult Psychiatry, serving on numerous regional and national committees and as a Board level director of my NHS Trust for seven years. I have managed to have absolutely no influence whatsoever on mental health policy or practice but take pride in having been ignored at every level of the UK healthcare system.

Ian Yapp (1974)

After 18 years away from Australia, 11 spent in Hong Kong and a further seven in Dallas, I returned to my beloved Sydney with my husband, Tres. I have now worked in airline management for over 30 years. Tres and I resolved to return to Australia in 2014, where I am now working for Etihad Airways as Pricing Manager for Australia and New Zealand. Anyone in this neck of the woods looking for a beer, a cocktail or just some tourist tips, is welcome to make contact!

Malcolm Ogden (1978)

I have recently retired from Tesco after being with them for over 30 years working in the IT department. For a while I was part of Tesco's international team and lived for a few years in Prague as well as enjoying lengthy stays in Shanghai and Tokyo. Hertford isn't as exciting as those places but now I'm work-free I'm honing my guitar skills playing and singing in local pubs and folk clubs.

1980s

Phil Henrick (1987)

I stood in the General Election in May in the constituency of Solihull, coming third with 6,361 votes and improving our share by 9.4% on the 2010 result.

William Benfield (1988)

Currently living in Denver, Colorado, USA, and working in the Logistics/ Supply Chain Group for Rio Tinto Minerals. Married to Kimberly Benfield since 1992, with two children, Steven (20) and Nicola (18).

Andrew Thomson (1989)

After 20 years plucking the bays of battle in the Army and having had the extreme good fortune and privilege to command 5th Regiment, Royal Artillery, I left in November 2014 and have taken up a role in the Compliance and Operational Risk Control function at UBS.

1990s

Oliver Heslop (1990)

In June, Jamie Hope (1990) and I climbed Ben Nevis then cycled 40k then paddled rafts for charity. I was far quicker than Jamie because he is so out of shape! Kidding. In truth, he was waiting ahead for me politely at the rest stations. We raised £4,000 for our chosen charities.

Peter Eckley (1999)

I recently joined the Bank of England as a Senior Economist in Prudential Policy.

Asghar Ali (1997)

My latest role is Interest Rates Regulatory Reform SME at Goldman Sachs International, London.

2000s

Iain Moss (2001)

I have just completed a charity cycle ride, Ride2Recovery, across the Pyrenees with three other Old Eds (James Grigg, Peter Pears and Duncan Law), all of whom left the School in 2001. We rode 850km from Barcelona to Biarritz over six days in order to raise money for the spinal injury charity, Aspire, who supported a friend's little brother when he was left paralysed after an unprovoked stabbing in London back in 2008. The team of 44 riders raised over £140k for the charity.



Duncan Law (2001)

A friend and I had the rather lofty ambition of climbing Mount Everest, and in April after a number of years' preparation we made our way to Tibet to do so. Our principle aim was to fundraise for the families of Sherpa who had died during the avalanche of 2014, and to do this we planned to hold the world's highest formal dinner party, cooked by the 2 Michelin Star chef Sat Bains. Unfortunately it was not to be and on 25 April whilst climbing the North Col our expedition fell victim to the devastating earthquake which was to ravage the region and claim thousands of lives. Despite not being able to hold the world's highest formal dinner party we have broken our target for sponsorship having raised over £100,000 for Community Action Nepal.



Wikum Jayatunga (2006)

I'm a junior doctor and starting a new job as a Public Health Registrar in the London KSS Deanery.

2010s

Tom Edwards (2011)

The picture is of me (on the left) and Morgan Hirsch on graduation day at Cardiff University, sporting our Old Eds ties!



Rob Wigley (2012)

I left the School in 2012 and have recently graduated from Cardiff University. I have just returned from a month of travelling in South East Asia with university housemates. Upon my return I found out that I have been accepted into BRNC Dartmouth, the royal naval college as an officer to become a pilot beginning in September. This has been a long term ambition of mine which was fuelled by my time serving in the CCF at KES.

Tell us your news

Thanks to all OEs who have sent us their news. Unfortunately, we cannot print everything we receive but all OE news is published on the website below. There will be a full register of all births, marriages and deaths as well as some detailed obituaries in the next Gazette due out in March 2016.

Email: editor@kes.org.uk or visit: www.oldereds.kes.org.uk/your-news

Academic & school news



Boys who achieved 44 and 45 points in the 2015 IB Diploma

Record IB results

The fourth year of the International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma has produced record results for the School.

The maximum score of 45 points was gained by three boys, Oliver Bealby-Wright, Aleksandar Duvnjak and Harrison Shaylor, a score achieved by only 160 worldwide out of almost 142,000 that took the IB Diploma in 2015. A further six scored 44 points and another record was that 49% of the cohort attained scores of 40 points or above: 40 points is the equivalent of more than four A*s at A-level.

John Cloughton, Chief Master, said: "These are truly exceptional results, better than anything we might have hoped for. These results are a giant leap forward and will place us amongst the very best IB schools not only in this country, but also in the world. For the individual boys, it means that the vast majority of them have got their offers at the best universities and it was a pleasure to see so much delight when the results were announced."

Another year of excellent GCSE results

Out of a year group of 119, 22 boys achieved 10 A*s, a further 25 achieved 9 A*s and 72 boys achieved only A*s and As. Overall, the percentage of A* grades attained was 66% and 88% A*/A. This is the third exceptional year at GCSE with an average over the three years of close to 70% A* and 90% A*/A.



Dr Mark Fenton

Appointment of new Chief Master

Dr Mark Fenton has been announced as Chief Master of King Edward's School from September 2016.

Dr Fenton has been Headmaster of Dr Challoner's Grammar School, a leading state grammar school in Buckinghamshire since 2001. Educated at Brentwood School, Dr Fenton is a graduate from Peterhouse, Cambridge with First Class Honours in History and has since been awarded a PhD in Education Management.

On his appointment, Dr Mark Fenton said: "I am honoured to have been given the opportunity to lead King Edward's School at such an exciting moment in its illustrious history. Birmingham deserves a truly great school such as King Edward's and I am looking forward to working with the staff, boys and parents to build on the superb legacy which John Cloughton will leave behind."



The KES Team of (L-R) Harrison Green, Jeremy Ho, Vidy Reddy and Clement Chan

Perfect score wins Maths Challenge National Final

A team of four KES boys won the National Final of the Senior Team Maths Challenge with a perfect score.

Over 1,000 school teams took part in the national competition and 80 went through to the National Finals, which were held at the Royal Horticultural Halls in London on Tuesday, 3 February 2015.

The team of Harrison Green and Clement Chan in Sixths and Jeremy Ho and Vidy Reddy in Divs achieved a perfect score of 176 points to jointly win the competition with two other teams, from Harrow School and Hampton School, who also scored perfect scores.



Declan Bradley and Raunak Jain receiving their prizes

Young chemists triumph in national quiz

Two KES boys have won first and third prize in The Chemical Reaction Challenge.

The Chemical Reaction Challenge is a national quiz which tests pupils' chemistry knowledge in an online, multi-player format. Over 125 schools took part in this year's Challenge, hosted in partnership with the Royal Society of Chemistry during British Science Week in March 2015.

Boys at the School in Rems and UMs took part in the quiz, competing live against other pupils from across the country. UM pupil Declan Bradley was crowned overall champion and Raunak Jain, also in UMs, came third.

Both boys attended The Challenge awards ceremony at Burlington House in London on Wednesday 6 May. As well as receiving their medals, Declan was presented with an iPad Air and Raunak Jain an iPad mini.



The Biology Big Quiz winners

Winning comes naturally to young biologists

A team from King Edward's School has fought off competition from 50 teams from over 40 schools in and around Birmingham to win the Biology Big Quiz 2015.

The Biology Big Quiz, which took place on Wednesday, 25 March 2015, is run by the University of Birmingham as part of their Outreach programme. The Quiz, which aims to raise pupils' motivation and improve their grades, included questions on subjects ranging from microbes to light and over half were on topics that the boys have not yet studied.

The winning team of Fourths pupils: Dougie Dolleymore, David Callear, Dylan Johal and Vishal Aurora, fought off opposition from schools including King Edward VI Camp Hill Boys and King Edward VI Five Ways to be crowned the eventual winners. The School's second team just missed out on a podium position, coming fourth in the competition.

Sport



Pupil leaps to bronze in National Final

A Sixths pupil has won the bronze medal in the 110m hurdles event at the English Schools' Athletic Association (ESAA) 2015 Track and Field Championships.

Will Ritchie-Moulin came third in the Senior Boys 110m Hurdles Final held at Gateshead International Stadium on Saturday, 11 July 2015. Will qualified for the National Finals after being selected at the ESAA County Championships earlier in the year. He secured his podium position in Saturday's Final with a time of 14.63 seconds.

The annual ESAA National Championships is the fourth largest athletics event in the world, bringing together the best young athletes in England. Previous competitors at the Championships include gold medallists Jessica Ennis and Greg Rutherford.



Rugby report

The U16A XV had a good season, winning the North Midlands Plate Final at Bromsgrove Rugby Club. The U13 Sevens team enjoyed the opportunity to take part in the Rosslyn Park National Schools Sevens, the biggest rugby tournament in the world. 128 schools took part in the competition and the team made it through the Group stage to the final 31 but unfortunately lost the Knockout round.

Worcester Warriors launched the first of six Junior Academy Centres at King Edward's School in September 2014. The centre will allow Warriors to develop the best young rugby players in the region as they look to build a career in the game. Alex Bartley, Ben White, Aadil Ali, Emil Ali and Tom Corbett have all been selected for the Worcester Warriors Development Player Pathway groups. Alex Bartley has also been selected for the Warwickshire RFU U15 County Development Squad.

Finally, congratulations to Aadil Ali, Emil Ali and Tom Corbett on their selection in the Midlands U13 Independent School Lambs Rugby Squad.

1st XV Scorecard

P 16 W 5 L 10 D 1 F 229 A 308



Podium finish for judo athlete

Patrick Maughan in Fifths won the silver medal at the Independent Schools Judo Competition in the 65kg weight category.

Patrick beat a GB Squad member in the quarter-final and went on to win against the Scottish number one in the semi-final before losing in the final against the current GB title holder in the same category.



Cricket report

Following an unbeaten season last year, the U13 cricket team progressed this year to the final of the national competition for the Bunbury Cup. They played incredibly well in all their matches throughout the competition but unfortunately couldn't seal victory in the final.

The 1st XI had a very encouraging season finishing in credit with 8 wins, 7 losses and 2 draws. The highlight being an unbeaten run of six matches at the end of the season in cricket week, including a fine draw against a strong MCC team. Hugh Lilburn scored a hundred against Old Edwardians CC to finish his school career on a high.

Dave Collins, who has been the School's cricket professional since 1998, retired at the end of this academic year. Dave was instrumental in setting up the winter training programme and has worked tirelessly with all age groups from the Shells to the 1st XI. However, it is with the 1st XI that he has proved to be the 'legend' the boys refer to with great affection.

1st XI Scorecard

P 17 W 8 L 7 D 2



Water polo report

Water polo continues to flourish at King Edward's. The U18 team was placed 2nd in the ESSA National Finals and the U16 team was placed 3rd.

Congratulations to Matt Madden, Felix Abbot Black and George Davies who are all in the England Talent Squad 1999+.



Hockey report

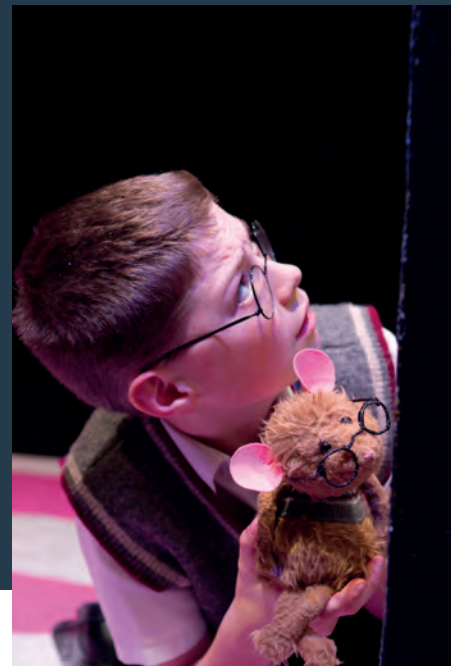
The U16 XI team has had a fantastic season becoming County Champions in January and qualifying for the National Finals held at the Olympic Legacy site in Stratford in April.

The U13 and U14 teams also did well to reach the Midland Hockey Finals but just missed out on qualifying for the National Finals. The 1st XI had a good season, winning all of their games bar one and retaining the Warwickshire League title for a third successive year.

1st XI Scorecard

P 18 W 17 L 1 D 0 F 92 A 27

Performing Arts



Concert for homeless project

Pupils in Choral Society and Senior Swing Band held a concert in aid of the South Birmingham Young Homeless Project in March 2015.

The concert raised £863 for the Longbridge-based charity which provides support and advice on housing, benefits, debt and health to young homeless people between the ages of 16 and 24. A further sizeable donation was made directly to the charity from an Old Edwardian.

Roberta Bassett, Project Administrator for the charity collected the funds raised from Martin Monks and Tom Jarvis, who had jointly organised the concert. Roberta said: "We're very grateful to the pupils and staff of the King Edward's schools for their support. These funds will help a lot of young service users that use the project in practical ways such as purchasing travel passes, emergency food parcels, replacement birth certificates and key deposits."

Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead

With exams finishing relatively early, the post-IB play is a way of keeping a totally random group of Sixth Formers off the streets.

The cast consists of anyone and everyone who feels like having a go, so contains a wide variety of theatrical experience, and with 10 days from start to finish, experience is useful.

This year's offering was Tom Stoppard's intellectual tour de force *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead*, which takes two minor characters from *Hamlet* and places them centre stage where they muse on the nature and meaning of life.

The cast stepped up to it magnificently, considering the vast majority had never appeared on a KES stage before. The post-IB play is always a pleasure to be a part of and this fine group of young men made this one another gem.

Cabaret

The early stages of Nazi Germany and jazzy musical kick-lines are perhaps an odd combination, but it was just this sort of situation that had to be dealt with in this year's senior production, *Cabaret*.

The musical tells the story of two couples, the young and fun-loving Sally Bowles and Cliff Bradshaw and the older Fräulein Schneider and Herr Schultz, set against the backdrop of the Kit Kat Club and its mysterious Emcee.

The balance had to be struck throughout the process of creating an entertaining musical, while retaining the knowledge that the characters were heading towards a horrific and moving ending. *Cabaret* was a lot more than three shows at the end of January 2015; it was a chance to be immersed in creativity and was one of the most unforgettable experiences for all involved.

The Witches

Roald Dahl's *The Witches* was delightfully transformed into an exciting junior production.

An enthusiastic cast and crew were expertly directed by Mrs Babb. The roles of Boy, Bruno, Grandma and the noteworthy Grand High Witch fleshed the performance's iconic tale. The crew put life into the visuals of the production with Miss Proops' intuitive puppets, Scenic Art's sweet bag stage design and Lighting's novelty of pyrotechnics and smoke effects.

Everyone involved worked incredibly hard to create another excellent junior production.

Summer Concert 2015

This year's Summer Concerts included performances by KES Choir, Wind Band, Training String Orchestra, Concert Band, Junior and Senior Swing Bands, Concert Orchestra and Symphony Orchestra.

Works performed included Faure's *Cantique de Jean Racine*, Arnold's *Four Scottish Dances*, *The Unanswered Question* by Charles Ives and John Adams' *The Chairman Dances*.

Performers' Platforms

New for this year, the Performers' Platforms provide another performance opportunity for advanced musicians in the School.

Held monthly on Tuesday evenings, the concerts have been varied, accomplished and enjoyable and have been popular with audiences and performers alike.



House Shout!

Gifford won this year's House Shout with a fabulous rendition of *Can't Hold Us* by Macklemore & Ryan Lewis. Watch the full performance on the OE Facebook page!

Extra-curricular

From being active in societies and fundraising to supporting outreach activities and taking advantage of a range of trips, there's always something that boys are involved in outside of their academic studies. Below is a snapshot of some of the activities boys have participated in during this academic year.

A group of 13 boys visited Berlin with Mr and Mrs Milton and Mrs Ostrowicz to discover more about the city and its history.



Boys enjoyed a visit to RAF Brize Norton to experience first-hand a busy RAF flying station and see what some of the jobs in the RAF entail.

Over £5,000 was raised for Birmingham Children's Hospital through boys sponsoring LED candles for 'Illumination Day'.



The Living History Group hurled fireballs at Bolsover and Carlisle Castles.



Boys in the newly formed Cookery Society received a lesson on baking from 2012 *Great British Bake Off* finalist, Brendan Lynch.



Fifths and Divs took part in an amazing Biodiversity Research Expedition to Ecuador and the Galapagos Islands.

As part of their IB Creativity, Action and Service project, boys on the South Africa hockey tour organised a day of sporting activities for children from the Baphumelele Orphanage.



UMs, Fourths and members of the CCF travelled to the battlefields of Belgium and Northern France and a service was held in remembrance of Old Edwardians who lost their lives in the war.



Fifths pupil, James Cleasby, made his first solo flight in a Cessna 150 at Coventry Aeroplane Club on his 16th birthday.



A group of boys, staff and parents cycled from Land's End to John O'Groats during the summer holidays.

Old Edwardians Merchandise

A range of gifts are available as a souvenir of your time at King Edward's. Visit the Old Edwardians shop at: www.olders.kes.org.uk/oe-shop to view the full range and order items, or contact the OEA office on tel: **0121 415 6050** to place your order. All prices listed include UK postage.



Christmas cards (set of 10)
£7



Golf umbrella
£25



Ties
£15 each



Cufflinks **£12.50**



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