



KING EDWARD'S SCHOOL  
BIRMINGHAM

# OLD EDWARDIANS

GAZETTE 2018

## *In this issue...*

### *Tolkien's (almost) universal appeal*

Leading academic scholar  
Tom Shippey explains

### *End of a glittering Old Edwardian era*

Stephen Alabaster reflects  
on the history of Alabaster  
& Wilson fine jewellers

### *Making a difference*

Three Old Edwardians  
contributing to the work of a  
local hospice





News

A word from the Chairman	04
Letters to the Editor	04
Events: a year in pictures	06
Forthcoming OE events	07
School news	08

Features

Tolkien's (almost) universal appeal	10
The end of a glittering Old Edwardian era	12

Careers focus

Community care	14
----------------	----

Archives

Archive matters	16
-----------------	----

Old Edwardians

Old Edwardians news in brief	18
Obituaries	21
Old Edwardian publications	30



# Welcome

One of the most rewarding aspects of my job as Chief Master is engaging with the Old Edwardian community and it is a particular pleasure, when it proves possible, to share that experience with the boys we have the privilege of educating today.

In October, we welcomed James Quincey (1983) on a flying visit from Atlanta where he has recently been installed as the CEO of Coca-Cola. This generated a real buzz around the School as James spoke to a packed Ruddock Hall; he was even pursued through the corridors by boys keen to ask him questions (as well as get their Coke cans signed!). Later this term we will be welcoming back former School Captain Peter Williams (1992), the founder of Jack Wills, who I am certain will hold the attention of his teenage audience at Speech Day just as keenly.

As I sit at my desk today, I have in front of me yet another full page obituary of an eminent Old Edwardian from *The Times*. Sir John Grimley Evans (1955) was a leading expert on the ageing process and became well known for declaring Augusto Pinochet, the former Chilean dictator, unfit to stand trial in 2000. One of his studies even suggested that “the wilful and cantankerous” along with the “thoroughly obstreperous” are likely to live longer.

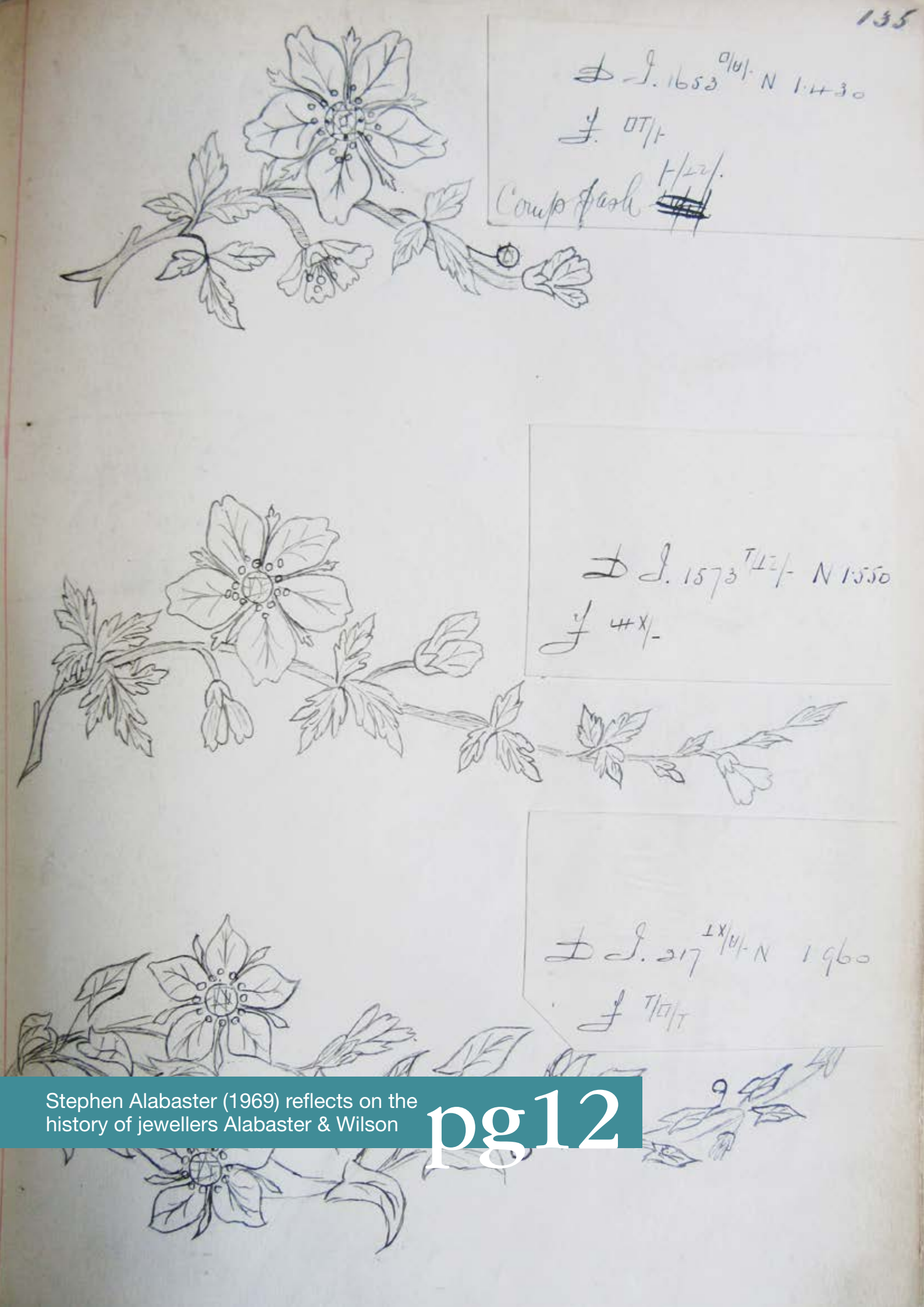
The purpose of King Edward’s is to inspire the boys of Birmingham and the region to achieve great things, and as these Old Edwardians remind us, their careers can and often really do change the world. As our new strapline neatly puts it: *Inspiring locally, influencing globally*.

Mark Fenton

■ Dr Mark Fenton  
Chief Master and President of the OEA

Stephen Alabaster (1969) reflects on the history of jewellers Alabaster & Wilson

pg12





## A brief word from:

## The Chairman



Another *Gazette* and another contents page that you would struggle to predict.

'Tolkien' is a theme at KES. The Tolkien Trust has provided sponsorship of boys on Assisted Places and a marvellous matched funding gift in 2015, and has raised our profile through the eminent speakers that have given Tolkien Lectures. This variety hints at Tolkien's near universal appeal, as does the staggering success of the films. I read Tolkien for the first time under my desk-lid during prep at the age of 12 whilst away at Cotton College, risking detention, but I couldn't stop. I haven't read Tom Shippey's article yet, but I understand the premise.

We also have a different art form. The Jewellery Quarter is part of Birmingham's commercial heritage, and many of us have celebrated our milestones with help from their master craftsmen and women.

Three different perspectives on another Birmingham institution, St Mary's Hospice, show our community contributing to the wider one. Then we have John Walford: a sober reflection that our own filmmakers, the Weaver brothers, are bringing to life with help from the OEA and a small group of contributors, so that the moment is not missed at this time of the Great War's centenary.

Many, many thanks to the Development & OEA Office, without whom you wouldn't be reading this nor attending any of the array of events and rendezvous. Do make the most of it all.

■ James Martin (1979)  
Chairman of the OEA

# Letters to the Editor

## A lifetime in engineering

Dear Editor,

I was interested to read the accounts of Old Edwardians who had become engineers, as I, too, spent all my working life as an engineer in the aviation industry.

Having taken my A-levels in maths, physics and chemistry, I went on to do a physics degree at Bristol University. At the time, I did not consider a degree in engineering and I wasn't particularly interested in aircraft. As graduation approached, the University arranged for employers to visit and interview potential employees. The interviews I wanted were either early or late in the term, so the University suggested I could fill in the gap by applying for an interview with Smiths' Aviation Division. I agreed, although the job that really interested me was in the semiconductor industry. Having passed the first interview for the semiconductor job, I was invited to a second, and then third. I duly travelled to their factory in the south-east of England, only to be told that they had given me the wrong date, and would have to arrange another interview. But before I was given a new date I had my second interview at Smiths, and when Smiths offered me a job, I accepted.

When I joined, Smiths were busy developing the automatic landing system for the Trident airliner, to enable the aircraft to land in poor visibility. The prototypes were complete, but still had to undergo flight trials. After refining the system, we then had to prove that it was safe. With thousands of discrete components and many thousands of soldered joints, there was a lot that could go wrong. So the system was triplicated, with disagreement between channels rejecting the channel out of step.

The system incorporated monitors to ensure that channels neither went dead nor ran away. To perform an autoland, the system had to be operating in triplex as the aircraft approached the airfield. Using reliability data based on operations in clear weather, we were eventually able to show that the risk of catastrophe was negligible, and the system was certified for use in thick fog. I was very pleased to have played a part in its success, even if mine was only a minor one.

The electronics scene was now changing fast. Integrated circuits began to take the place of dozens of components, improving reliability and reducing cost. Digital computers reduced in size, and could be made small enough for aircraft use. To further my career, I needed to keep up with the new technology, so it was back to the classroom to learn about it.

After progressing through a number of different projects, in 1990 I was put in charge of the development of an Electrical Load Management System (ELMS) for the Boeing 777 airliner. Traditionally, power selection and switching had been handled mechanically, but the ELMS was designed to handle all this automatically under computer control. The system was duly supplied to Boeing, and in 1998 Smiths received the Queen's Award for Industry for the project, and the programme manager and myself went to Buckingham Palace to receive the award.

I retired in 2001, with no regrets that circumstances had resulted in my spending my working life as an engineer.

Michael Barnsley, MBE, BSc, MIET (1959)

To share your memories of King Edward's or respond to any stories in this *Gazette*, email: [editor@kes.org.uk](mailto:editor@kes.org.uk)

## The ramblers' champion



Credit: Alun Jones

*D'Arcy Dalton pointing at a notice a householder has put up by a driveway, which, contrary to what the householder would like to think, is a public right of way and also open to all traffic.*

Dear Editor,

I write with information of Wytton Perowne d'Arcy Dalton, who was a pupil at King Edward's School. D'Arcy Dalton left King Edward's in 1913 to take up a place at Lincoln College, Oxford. He joined the OU Officers' Training Corps and in 1915 was commissioned as 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant in the 6<sup>th</sup> Cyclist Battalion of the Norfolk Regiment, eventually serving on the Western Front until he was invalided out of the Army in 1918. After the First World War, he completed his degree studies at Oxford and became a member of teaching staff.

In 1926 he became the Honorary Assistant Secretary of the newly formed Oxford Footpaths, Bridleways and Commons

Preservation Society (now Oxford Fieldpaths Society). His association with the OFS remained for some 55 years as Secretary, Chairman and President.

In recognition of his great services to the protection of the Public Rights of Way in the county the OFS submitted a request that a Blue Plaque should be placed on the wall of d'Arcy Dalton's house in Great Milton where he lived from 1961 to 1981. I had the pleasure of unveiling the plaque at the ceremony which took place on 18 August 2017.

I wonder how many other Old Edwardians have been commemorated with Blue Plaques elsewhere in the country?

Jim Parke (1959)

## Forestry Camp

Thank you to Bernard Checketts (1942) for supplying this image of the 1940 Forestry Camp at Kington to be digitised for the Foundation Archive, following our plea in the 2017 *Gazette* for photographs of wartime farm camps.



## A close shave?

Dear Editor,

On looking through the Donor Report, I was amused to see pupils with full beards. It brought back a memory of my time at KES. When I was in the Sixth Form, I was black-haired, and hence black-chinned. I always shaved very carefully each morning before setting off for school, as my beard grew quite well and very dark.

One afternoon, towards the end of the school day, I was accosted by a prefect in the corridor. "Tottle", he said, "Gentlemen of the school are not allowed to have beards or moustaches, apart from the Head of School – he may have a beard if he so wishes. It's in the school rules." Clearly this rule, if it ever existed, has now, necessarily and rightly, gone to the great rule-book in the sky.

Tony Tottle (1960)



# Events: a year in pictures

## 1 Careers Day, January 2017

Old Edwardians in careers ranging from pathology to sports commentary talked to boys in the Fifts about their careers.

## 2 Tolkien Lecture, February 2017

Lord Robert Winston spoke to a packed Ruddock Hall about the importance of being scientifically literate.

## 3 Golden and Diamond Anniversary Reunion, March 2017

Old Edwardians from the classes of 1957 and 1967 enjoyed coffee in the Common Room, lunch in the Dining Hall and a walk around the School.

## 4 Medics Careers Evening, May 2017

Old Edwardians and parents involved in the medical profession shared their experiences with pupils from KES and KEHS.

## 5 Jazz Evening, June 2017

Joe Thompson (1983), musical director and resident pianist at The Ivy, London, and Robert Rickenberg joined the Senior Swing Band for a day of workshops and performances, culminating in a concert in the Ruddock Hall.

## 6 Year Group Reunion, June 2017

Old Edwardians from the classes of 1977, 1987, 1997 and 2007 caught up with former classmates and teachers over drinks and dinner.

## 7 Sixth Form Leavers' Day, June 2017

Three Old Edwardians, and the President of the Guild of Students at the University of Birmingham, gave the class of 2017 university and careers advice, prior to a barbecue.

## 8 Farewell to Eastern Road athletics track, July 2017

A number of Old Edwardians returned to Eastern Road to say farewell to its track and field facilities, under the watchful eye of Mr Turner. Henry Glossop (2013), Alex Gissen (2017) and Chris Duncan (2009) served as team captains and threw Eastern Road's final shot, hammer and javelin.



## 9 Thresholds exhibition, July 2017

Old Edwardians and staff enjoyed a private viewing of the Thresholds exhibition at Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery: a virtual reality recreation of one of the earliest exhibitions of photography, which William Henry Fox Talbot presented to the public at King Edward's School in 1839.

## 10 Assisted Places Fund receptions, September and October 2017

Events to relaunch the School's renewed drive for accessibility took place in London, Birmingham and New York, hosted by Lord Willetts (1974), Andy Street (1981) and Jim Grant (1972), aka Lee Child, respectively.

## 11 Where can languages take you? November 2017

Old Edwardians and parents who either studied a foreign language or have a language-related career shared their experience with current pupils, including a first with an Old Edwardian participating via video.

## 12 London Dinner, November 2017

At this annual event, the School's Head of History, Paul Golightly, spoke on the centenary of Passchendaele and how the School will commemorate the Armistice of 1918.



## Forthcoming OE events

Get together with friends and classmates, visit the School and rekindle childhood memories or simply join us for a drink. To find out more about any of our events visit: [www.oldereds.kes.org.uk/events](http://www.oldereds.kes.org.uk/events) or tel: **0121 415 6050**.

Event invitations are usually sent by email – update your details at: [www.oldereds.kes.org.uk/mykes](http://www.oldereds.kes.org.uk/mykes) to make sure you don't miss out.

## Old Edwardians AGM, Thursday 7 June 2018

All Old Edwardians are invited to attend the AGM and enjoy a sandwich lunch.

## Year Group Reunion: 1978, 1988, 1998 and 2008, Saturday 16 June 2018

Visit the School and catch up with former classmates over drinks and dinner.

## KES Decennial, Saturday 7 July 2018

Old Edwardians who have left school within the last 10 years are invited to meet up with friends from both KES and KEHS over afternoon tea and drinks.

## Biennial Dinner, Saturday 29 September 2018

The guest speaker at this special black-tie dinner will be Tom Shippey (1960), who will talk about *Tolkien's (almost) universal appeal*.



# School *news*

## Rowing challenge raises £12,000 for the NSPCC



Boys, parents and staff at King Edward's have raised over £12,000 for the NSPCC by rowing the distance equivalent to crossing the Atlantic Ocean.

The 24-hour rowing challenge, which took place on Friday 9 and Saturday 10 February 2018, involved over 200 pupils, parents and staff in the attempt to complete the 3,000km journey. Working in teams on ten indoor rowing machines, stints of the journey were rowed in relay with each participant aiming to

complete between 20 and 100km in total. Several boys braved the entire 24 hours, and the challenge was completed with almost two hours to go.

Head of Sport Science and organiser of the event, George Browning, said: "This was a great challenge for everyone involved but one that we were all motivated to complete."

"Many pupils had never rowed before and we are delighted that they decided to seek a new

challenge and to try something new. Over the course of the 24 hours, several pupils rowed in excess of 42,195m – the equivalent of a full marathon – which is quite some undertaking and a remarkable achievement."

The School's initial aim was to raise £5,000 for the NSPCC, the leading children's charity fighting to end child abuse in the UK. In total over £12,000 was raised for the charity, more than doubling the original target, with one Shell pupil individually raising over £1,000.

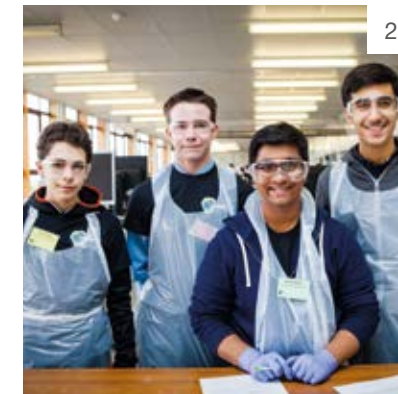
## KES named in Top 100 Cricket Schools

King Edward's School has been selected as one of the Top 100 Cricket Schools in the UK for 2018 by The Cricketer magazine.

The criteria for inclusion are: quality of indoor and outdoor facilities, number of teams participating and quality of fixtures and results, coaching provision, and the record of old boys going on to play professional cricket.



## Round-up from the School Captain



1. Adham Mofteh, School Captain.

2. The team at the National Final of the Royal Society of Chemistry's Top of the Bench competition.

3. *Much Ado About Nothing*, Senior Production 2017.

4. The chess team wins the National Plate of the National Schools Chess Championship.

5. The U16 badminton team.

Perhaps the most difficult aspect of writing a 'round-up' of a year at King Edward's is that you have to showcase the sheer breadth of rich, exciting activities that we enjoy in as little as 500 words. Nonetheless, looking at the highlights should demonstrate just how dynamic a school like King Edward's really is.

KES has more than stood out academically by way of various regional and national competition finals. Our Maths Challenge team continued its winning streak by placing in the National Final of the Senior Team Maths Challenge, after achieving a perfect score in the regional stage of the competition. A team of three boys conquered the Regional Final of the National Public Speaking Competition before progressing to the National Final held at Cambridge University. Our four-man chemistry team progressed to the UK final of the Top of the Bench competition and for the third year running we won the Biology Big Quiz at the University of Birmingham.

King Edward's has, of course, continued its tradition of sporting superiority. At the Birmingham School Games, our U16 indoor rowing team made sure to leave their mark

upon their debut as they came away with three medals. The U14 and U16 badminton teams qualified for the regional stage of the Center Parcs National Schools Badminton Championships, where the U16 team was awarded a bronze medal. Despite being knocked out in the regional stage of the competition, our chess team bounced back and qualified for a place in the National Final, after being invited to a repechage event at Eton College.

As with each and every year, the Junior and Senior Productions were the highlights of the school calendar. *A Christmas Carol*, the first Junior Production to be staged in the Ruddock Hall, and *Much Ado About Nothing*, a lovers' tale set in the idyllic Italian town of Messina, did not fall short of our golden standards for theatre.

Academically, we continue to excel. In his first year at the School's helm, Dr Mark Fenton has enjoyed outstanding GCSE results, with a record-breaking 90% A\*/A and 34 boys achieving 10 A's. Similar success was enjoyed in IB results: 54% of the cohort attained scores of 40 or above, while the

average score was just below at 39.1. Three boys joined the 45-point club, marking them amongst the most intelligent students in the world.

Despite the recent school inspection proving to be a stressful time for all teachers, King Edward's pulled through unscathed, receiving the highest possible rating of 'excellent' in all areas by the Independent Schools Inspectorate. It is certain that Dr Fenton must feel extremely proud to lead a school so rich and diverse, and has comfortably filled the boots of his predecessor John Claughton, a Chief Master who inspired so many and drove the School to fame through his transition to the IB.

This mere 'round-up' only scratches the surface of the range of activities that go on in a typical year at KES, but already it reflects the depth and breadth of what goes on below. May King Edward's continue to offer such unique opportunities to every boy that graces its halls.

*Adham Mofteh*



# Tolkien's

## (almost) universal appeal

Professor Tom Shippey (1960), who is widely considered one of the world's leading academic scholars on the works of JRR Tolkien, explains some of the reasons for Tolkien's worldwide popularity.

The most unexpected thing about Tolkien's *The Lord of the Rings* was its worldwide popularity. No-one knows how many languages it has been translated into, but it must include almost all European ones, including some of the minority languages. I have *Lord of the Rings* in Icelandic – Tolkien would have liked its Icelandic title, *Hringadróttins saga*, *drottin* being an old word for “leader of a warband” – as well as *De Hobbit* in West Frisian.

Translating, however, even into closely similar languages, brought up a problem caused by Tolkien's way of working. *Lord of the Rings* is stuffed with place-names and personal names, and all those connected with hobbits are determinedly English. They are making a point about history, and about roots, and Tolkien thought this was not just ornamental. The hobbits' homeland of “the Shire” is divided into “Farthings”, which means “quarters”. But *quartier* is a French word, and Tolkien wanted to bring back the English one, and also draw an analogy with the three “Ridings” of Yorkshire, a word derived from Old Norse *thrithjungar*, thirds. Other place-names in the Shire either exist in real-life England, or have close parallels, and that's because names always used to mean something, though we may have forgotten it. The river Shirebourn is so called because it's the bourn, or boundary, of the Shire, and there is a river Skyreburn in southern Scotland, which once meant the same thing. Ditto Shire-names like Frogmorton, Rushock, Michel Delving, etc.

Rendering this into other languages was next to impossible, and attempts by Dutch and Swedish translators to do so made Tolkien “very angry indeed”. What that showed,

“He was, for many millions, the most influential writer of his century.”

though, was that Tolkien had no idea his works were ever going to be translated. He was quite literally an “insular” writer, and one could even say he was a “parochial” one. England to him was the West Midlands, and the medieval authors who interested him included Layamon, from Arley Regis; the unknown author of the *Ancrene Wisse*, who came almost certainly from Leominster; and Langland, now located by dialect at Hanley Castle south of Malvern. Bilbo Baggins, I suspect, got his name from Bagginswood, which many of us will recognise. The Shire is a kind of idealised Worcestershire, Tolkien's home county (before they changed the boundary in 1911).

So what gave him his appeal in Holland, or Iceland, and especially in America? Even more surprising was Tolkien's appeal across political as well as national boundaries. Among the hippies, back in the 1960s when the Tolkien cult took off, a copy of *Lord of the Rings* was standard issue, along with the love-beads and embroidered jeans. One commentator said he couldn't understand it. The kids were all rebelling against their parents and proclaiming free love. But their Bible was full of obvious father-figures like Gandalf and Treebeard and Theoden

King, and it hadn't got so much as a twitch of eroticism.


On the other side, meanwhile, another commentator pointed out that Tolkien's popularity showed “strong popular dissent” from cultural orthodoxy and moral relativism. It was a deeply conservative work, written by a monarchist who was also a devout Catholic, and the century's major proponent of belief in heroic values. In the “culture wars” of the later 20<sup>th</sup> century, Tolkien was claimed by both sides. And both sides were right.

The one dissenting group was literary critics, who couldn't stand him, and still can't. They were committed to an ideology of “modernism”, and the popular liking for medievalism, in Tolkien and now of course in *Game of Thrones* (George RR Martin wrote, very generously, “We are all still following in Bilbo's footsteps”) – well, that just wasn't in the script! There was a “Great Tradition” of the English novel, people like Henry James and EM Forster, and there was no place in it for writers who produced characters with continuing popular appeal (Sherlock Holmes, Dracula, Long John Silver, etc.).

What maybe connects Tolkien's appeal to hippies as well as reactionaries, and the horror he aroused among the critics, is the strong feeling he projects that things have gone wrong with the modern world. If you look back at his life (1892-1973), you might think he had a point. Genocide, concentration camps, the atom bomb... He wasn't the only one. Kurt Vonnegut, another hippy icon, survived the fire-bombing of Dresden as a PoW only because he was underground in an abattoir, from which came his novel *Slaughterhouse-Five*. But hippies and their fathers could at least agree on things going wrong, even if they had different views on solutions to the problem.

Finally, Tolkien had another gift which he shares with the “New Romancers” of his

youth, writers like Conan Doyle, Rider Haggard of *King Solomon's Mines*, HG Wells, etc., which is, he could tell a story: not a quality admired or even recognised among the critics. (To quote EM Forster of the “Great Tradition”, “yes, oh dear, yes, a novel tells a story”. But in his case, not much of one.)

Tolkien wasn't an ideological writer, and he didn't mean to be a universal one, but he wasn't just writing a ripping yarn either. He had a philosophy, he built it into his stories, and his readers absorbed it, as readers do. What they made of it, though, was up to them. He was, for many millions, the most influential writer of his century. 



## Professor Tom Shippey

Professor Tom Shippey has published more than 100 articles, mostly in the fields of Old and Middle English language and literature, and has a long-standing interest in modern fantasy and science fiction. He is a regular reviewer for *The Wall Street Journal* on both medieval and modern topics, and also writes for *The Times Literary Supplement* and the *London Review of Books*, among other journals. His books include *The Road to Middle-earth: How J.R.R. Tolkien Created a New Mythology*; *Beowulf: The Critical Heritage* (with Andreas Haarder); and *J.R.R. Tolkien: Author of the Century*. His most recent book, *Laughing Shall I Die: Lives and Deaths of the Great Vikings*, was published by Reaktion Books in April 2018.

Tom will be speaking further about Tolkien's (almost) universal appeal at the Biennial Dinner on Saturday, 29 September 2018. You can find out more and book to attend at:

[www.oldereds.ks.org.uk/events](http://www.oldereds.ks.org.uk/events)



# The end of a glittering Old Edwardian era

As Alabaster & Wilson, manufacturers of fine jewellery, closes its doors, Stephen Alabaster (1969) reflects on the history of the family business that has been run by four generations of Old Edwardians.

It was with mixed emotions that I announced my retirement at the end of 2017 and, with it, the closure of Alabaster & Wilson, the company founded by my great-grandfather Arthur Alabaster in 1887.

For 130 years we had manufactured jewellery to the highest standards of design and craftsmanship, and the business had provided a living for six Old Edwardians over four generations: Arthur himself, his two eldest sons, my grandfather (Arthur) Stanley and (Frederic) Clifford, Stanley's sons Deryck and Peter (my father), and then, finally, me – not to mention support for the nine offspring who had been educated at the King Edward's Schools but chosen different professions.

Arthur was born in London in 1856. Following the death of his mother in 1866, his father Edward remarried and a few years later moved his family to Birmingham where Arthur was to finish his schooling at KES. Towards the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, it is estimated that nearly 10% of the working population of the town (not yet a city) was employed in the jewellery, silversmithing and allied trades based in the Jewellery Quarter, so it was natural that Arthur should look in that direction to seek his fortune.

Nothing is known of his early years of work, but we know that, in his late twenties, he was employed at W & G Myers in Northampton Street, a company that had recently been bought by Joshua Cartwright, an established



1

manufacturing jeweller in the Quarter. Arthur was 31 when he and Cartwright decided to go into partnership and they were joined later in the year by their friend Thomas Wilson.

Alabaster & Wilson traded as 'Jewellers Factors and Manufacturing Jewellers' from 109 Vyse Street and prospered, such that, three years later, they were able to commission the building of their state-of-the-art factory on vacant land in nearby Legge Lane. The premises were designed with offices and warehousing on the ground floor and workshops on the upper floor, where the best light was provided through windows and skylights; less than 10 years later a three-storey extension was added.



2

Wilson died in 1903 and the partnership with Cartwright was dissolved, as had been agreed, in 1905. By this time, Stanley and Clifford had left KES and joined their father in the business.

Arthur and his wife Catherine saw all five of their sons depart to fight in various fields during the First World War but only four would return: Stanley with the rank of Major, decorated MC and Croce di Guerra, but Clifford had died in 1916 as a result of head wounds sustained in Hébuterne. Somewhat surprisingly, sales figures, which included some 'war work', continued to rise throughout the war, and continued to be steady throughout the 1920s. The effect of the Depression in the 1930s however is clearly evident. To add to that, Stanley's wife died in 1933 and his father the following year; it must have been very hard to keep the business alive during that period.

World War Two was also to influence the future of the business. After Arthur's death, Stanley was left to run the company alone; his two sons Deryck (b. 1918) and my father Peter (b. 1922) were also at KES and had other ideas for themselves: Deryck took a job with Royal Insurance and Peter planned to go



3

“I was always destined to enter the family business and so joined my father, uncle and elder siblings in 1975.”


to university and to teach history. However, Peter missed his final year when the School was evacuated to Repton, staying instead to help his father for a while before joining the RAF. Probably more distressing still for him, was that he was due to follow his great friend Tom Freeman as school captain of cricket in 1940; he never forgave Hitler for that! The two brothers survived the war, though Deryck was seriously injured and lucky to be able to return to normal life, and both were persuaded to work with Stanley after being demobbed.

What might I have become if my father had been a teacher? Who knows?! I read French at Manchester University, completed a PGCE and went on to teach French in Sale where I also coached a couple of the school rugby and cricket teams. However, I was always destined to enter the family business and so joined my father, uncle and elder siblings in 1975.

For the next 40 plus years, after a short spell of training 'at the bench', study of gemmology, and learning about management, I spent much of my time travelling around the British Isles and overseas selling jewellery to our retail customers amongst whom I made many good friends. For 23 years I was also one of the nine elected Trade Guardians of Birmingham Assay Office and, in my earlier years, served on several committees of the British Jewellers' Association as my grandfather had done.

Over the decades we produced jewellery of every type, from tiaras to gold charms and regalia for Livery Companies and other institutions. Our beautifully illustrated pattern books clearly reflect the changes in styles from Victorian through art nouveau and art deco to 1950s and current fashions, always wearable and always well made. Our design capacity meant we were in regular demand to produce specially commissioned pieces and we were proud to be asked to produce a good number of pieces for presentation to members of the British, and other, Royal Families. The most recent of these pieces was a diamond set racehorse brooch, the jockey enamelled in the Queen's colours, for presentation to Her Majesty on her 90<sup>th</sup> birthday.

The decision to close the company, rather than sell it, ensured the integrity of the name would be kept intact, and we could be confident that the Alabaster family had been responsible for the production of every piece bearing the A & W mark. The factory is one of only two Grade II\* listed buildings in the Jewellery Quarter, so the sale of that carried additional responsibilities, as did the preservation of the archive of pattern books, and manufacturing and sales records of every item made for stock and sale to the retail jewellery trade. Then there were tools, dies, master models, Victorian furnishings and office equipment to dispose of – hard drives too, of course! It's been an exhausting few months and a few surprises have turned up in the process, though no hidden store of gold or diamonds unfortunately.

My retirement won't be total, as I hope to spend some time in further research into the firm's history and to source and deal in vintage pieces of A & W jewellery, and I'm sure I'll still receive the occasional special commission! 



4

1. Stanley Alabaster's wedding in 1912, with Clifford as his best man.

2. A 1950s aquamarine and diamond brooch.

3. Brooch presented to the Queen on her 90<sup>th</sup> birthday.

4. Stephen Alabaster.



# Community care

In this edition, we put the spotlight on Old Edwardians who are making a difference to the community through their contributions to the work of a local hospice. Niels de Vos (1985), Richard Green (1968) and Tina Swani (KEHS 1976) write about what led them to their very different roles at Birmingham St Mary's Hospice.

## The volunteer



When I was nearing retirement from global engineering firm Mott MacDonald, I knew I wanted to continue to use my energy and business expertise to help others. Seven years at KES had set me off on a fulfilling career but I wasn't ready to stop just yet! So when an opportunity came up to help Birmingham St Mary's – a hospice that had previously cared for my mother and supported our family – I seized it.

My role at the hospice is incredibly varied. One day I will be involved in fundraising projects and the next I will be looking at and developing volunteer engagement. One of my key roles is to lead our annual 'Treecycling' campaign, a volunteer-led initiative that recycles unwanted Christmas trees in exchange for a donation. I have mentored and been a part of the campaign since its inception and I'm proud to say that it grows every year. This January, the campaign was its biggest yet, raising an impressive £50,000 for the hospice.

The extra-curricular activities I enjoyed at KES provided great opportunities to learn essential teamwork and organisational skills. So I felt a great sense of pride when an event I helped organise with the fundraising team, the 'Enchanted Midsummer Walk', was held at KES in 2015. Big School was a magnificent setting for the Zumba warm up and medal presentation to the 300 participants in fancy dress, although I couldn't help wonder what the former Chief Masters looking down from the walls would have made of it all!

Before I began volunteering at the hospice, I had no idea about the extent of care and support it offers across our communities – nor how many volunteer roles there are here – so I am still learning and discovering. As our services continue to evolve, there is a volunteer role for everyone, from care and administration, to counselling and project leads.

I've found that volunteering is a great way to bridge career gaps, offer work experience or, like me, help provide an enriching retirement that keeps you busy. It might seem like an unusual progression from a civil engineer to hospice volunteer but it's been a stimulating and thoroughly absorbing move. A change is as good as a rest, and the excitement of responding to new challenges, so well instilled at KES, has been great fun.

*Richard Green (1968)*

## The Chair



My time at King Edward's School gave me many friendships, experiences and motivations that have fuelled my adult life.

Sport played a huge role whilst I was at the School and in particular, athletics. I must have been one of very few boys who would actively look forward to Stuart 'Basher' Birch's weekly Bristol Road runs at the end of PE lessons. So to be offered the chance to return to Birmingham 10 years ago as Chief Executive of UK Athletics was the opportunity of a lifetime – and one that has remained an incredible privilege every day since.

With my own children growing up in Birmingham – two of whom have been through the King Edward's Foundation – I can see that our city's unique sense of community remains as strong now as it was then. It's something other cities struggle to match and something Brummies should be much prouder of. I hope the arrival of the Commonwealth Games in 2022 will turbocharge our own recognition of what is great about our city and introduce others to it too.

Last summer, I was asked if I would put myself forward to be the new Chair at Birmingham St Mary's. I was attracted to the role for two simple reasons. Firstly, the hospice's ethos of being at the heart of a

caring community mirrored my own personal philosophy. Secondly, I know several families who have relied on Birmingham St Mary's during the difficult time of losing a loved one. Without exception, the praise that each family lavished on the hospice was unqualified – it is clearly a beacon of excellence and humanity in our city.

My role as Chair at Birmingham St Mary's is to lead the Board of Trustees – which includes a number of Old Eds I'm pleased to say – in ensuring the charity can continue to provide the very best end of life care both now and in the future. Our mission is straightforward – to make sure that every family in Birmingham and Sandwell, irrespective of race, faith, or financial resource, can receive care and support at the end of their lives.

It is always humbling when people comment on how generous I am to give up my time for the hospice but for me, it's the very least I can do! The real heroes there are the fantastic team members and volunteers – they are the ones who make the care and support that families receive so superb.

*Niels de Vos (1985)*

## The Chief Executive



Both my family and King Edward VI High School for Girls (KEHS) have played a huge part in shaping my career. My family has a strong affinity to Birmingham and Sandwell – my father's parents emigrated here from the Punjab and were influential in creating the Sikh Gurdwara in Smethwick – so I'm incredibly passionate about our local community. Similarly, from my first day at KEHS, I remember that making a contribution and achieving potential were

both an important part of the School's ethos, two approaches I have continued to use throughout my career.

I've worked in a number of different sectors, including reproductive health, prosthetic limb services, the British Red Cross and since 2001, Chief Executive at Birmingham St Mary's. Hospice care is absolutely vital and yet, one of our biggest challenges is helping people understand what we do. I have found that these words, from someone who has experienced hospice care, describe it best: "I thought a hospice was a place where you go to die but instead, it is a place that has given me my life back. I am now able to live with my illness and not simply exist with it."

Demand for hospice care is growing as more of us are living longer and with a greater mix of conditions. For many, longevity is something to celebrate but across our communities, a growing number of people are living and dying alone. They are not getting the support they need at the right time for them. Most people prefer to be supported at home, yet more experience the end of life in a hospital.

To address this challenge, we launched our four-year strategy, 'Hospice Care for All', to redesign and raise the profile of our services. As we are a teaching hospice – with

a dedicated research centre – we are also able to educate other health and social care professionals. We work in partnership with them to extend the reach of hospice care, to ensure more people have a better experience of living, leading up to and at the end of life.

KEHS taught me that contributing is an important value to uphold, so I'm proud to have a career that contributes and gives back to our fantastic community.

*Tina Swani (1976)*

BIRMINGHAM  
ST MARY'S  
your hospice

On Sunday, 2 September 2018 Birmingham St Mary's will be returning to KES with an open air theatre production of *Sense and Sensibility*. To find out more, email: [events@birminghamhospice.org.uk](mailto:events@birminghamhospice.org.uk) For further information on the work of Birmingham St Mary's, visit: [www.birminghamhospice.org.uk](http://www.birminghamhospice.org.uk)



# Archive *matters*

## John Osborn Walford: a forgotten hero



There are the names of 245 Old Edwardians on the bronze memorial plaques in the school chapel, but not all of those who lost their lives due to the horrors of the First World War are listed. Captain John Osborn Walford is one of those missing men, whose name does not appear on any war memorial, yet he made the ultimate sacrifice. The reason being, Captain Walford, who had volunteered to fight at the age of 45 and had led his troops through the war's bloodiest battles, committed suicide on 21 February 1922.

Walford began his military career in 1899, commissioned as a 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant in the 1<sup>st</sup> Volunteer Battalion, Royal Warwickshire Regiment and was promoted to Lieutenant in 1900. It is not clear when he resigned his commission but we know he spent many years on the Gold Coast (now Ghana). Walford returned to join up at the outbreak of war in 1914 and was appointed Captain and Company Commander of the 2<sup>nd</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> Battalion of the Worcestershire Regiment.

The Battalion did not cross to France until May 1916, shortly before the Battle of the Somme. Once there, Walford was involved in most of the major actions between June 1916 at Fromelles and the Third Battle of Ypres in August 1917 – better known as Passchendaele – where the appalling conditions led to Walford contracting trench foot.

After recovering, Walford was transferred to the 1<sup>st</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> Battalion and posted to northern Italy before returning to France in September 1918. From 5 October to 4 November, Walford (known affectionately as the 'Old Gent' by officers half his age) was in almost constant action,

leading C Company, and won the Military Cross (MC) twice. The first act for which he was awarded the MC took place on 18 October when the Company attempted to capture Bazuel. Walford found a horse and undertook a personal reconnaissance in heavy mist, leading the assault with Lewis machine-guns being fired from the hip. In all, the Battalion captured 79 prisoners, 24 horses, eight artillery pieces and five machine guns.

In what proved to be the last decisive action of the war, on 4 November the 1<sup>st</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> Battalion were tasked with crossing the Sambre Canal and capturing the town of Landrecies. Walford organised the crossing on rafts made of petrol tins, pulling the rafts across with ropes whilst under heavy gun fire. Walford was shot and injured, and subsequently awarded his second MC. A mile downstream poet Wilfred Owen was killed in the same battle.

Walford was sent back to England for treatment. When he returned in January 1919 he was part of the Army of Occupation based in Cologne, but it was clear that he was unwell and was sent home under escort for his own protection. He spent time in a London shell-shock hospital and was discharged as medically unfit from the Army. At the time of his death, Walford was living in Feckenham, Worcestershire and was a candidate for the forthcoming county elections. The evening prior to his suicide, he had addressed a well-attended political meeting and appeared to be in good spirits. However, on Tuesday 21 February 1922, Walford was found lying dead in the orchard on his brother-in-law's estate, having shot himself with his service revolver.

It is clear from the inquest that Walford suffered from what we would now call post-traumatic stress disorder. Despite his service, Walford is not named on any war memorial, but he is buried in Hanbury churchyard where his headstone now makes his Great War service clear.

There is much more to tell of Captain Walford's story and we will be producing a film about him as part of the final stage of our centenary commemorations, to bring to light what has, until recently, been hidden history since suicide carried so much social stigma nearly 100 years ago.

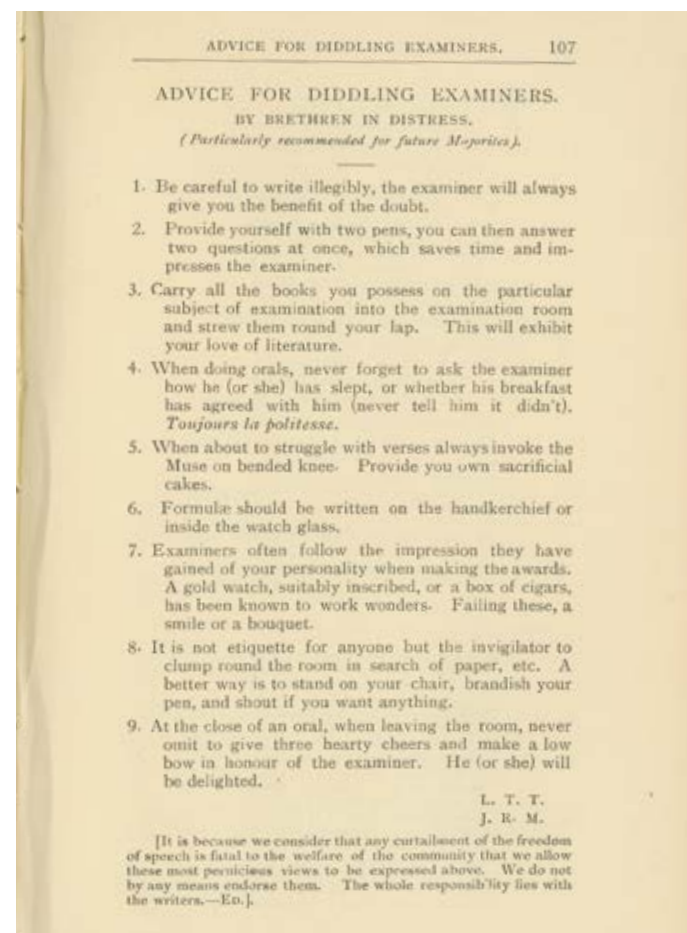


Dunstall Court, where Walford took his own life

Copyright: The Tolkien Trust



Geoffrey Bache Smith



Chronicle, July 1918

## Memorabilia appeal

If you have any memorabilia from your time at school that you would be happy to part with, we would be delighted if you would consider donating it to the Foundation Archive. Please contact Alison Wheatley, Foundation Archivist, in advance of sending your memorabilia, on tel: **0121 415 6151** or email: **aw@kes.org.uk**

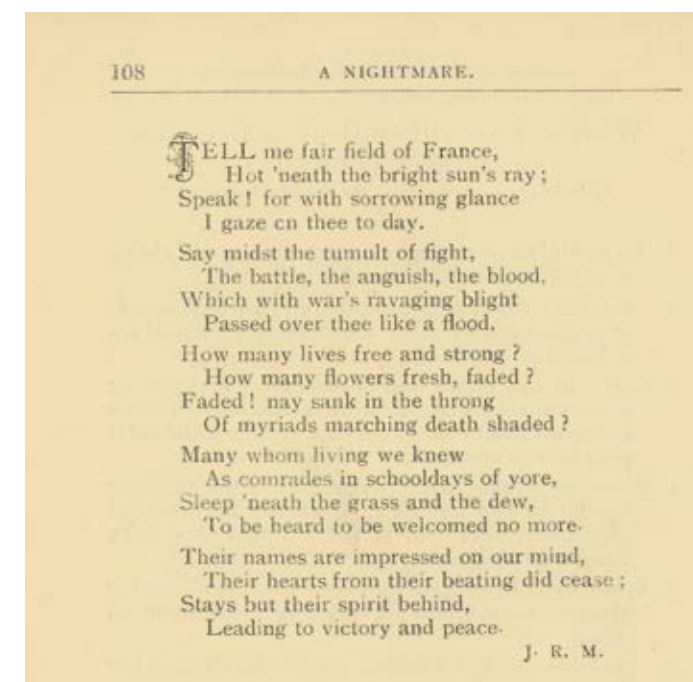
## An insight into the Chronicles of 1918

It was decided in 1918 that, for the duration of the war, only one edition of *Chronicle* would be printed each term to save paper, time and money, much to the dismay of the editors who were forced to curtail their editorials.

A more significant change was the introduction of a new timetable to allow more time for extra-curricular activities, which had been “a matter of great interest to the boys and also, we are told, to their parents.” The abolition of afternoon school enabled more time for agricultural work to support the war effort and participation in the Officer Training Corps, a group well over 200-strong.

Continuing the theme of recent editions, schoolboy humour and references to the ongoing conflict were printed side by side. In the March 1918 edition, the Debating Society reported unusual levels of vehemence in its discourse, which the editor put down to “the storm clouds which are driving over us all.” A further observation was that it seemed “the war has destroyed the literary taste of the young”, conveniently explaining poor attendance at Literary Society meetings.

However, a Literary Society lecture entitled *Some soldier poets of the present war* had been very positively received. The lecture concluded with a selection of poems written by Geoffrey Bache Smith, an Old Edwardian who lost his life in France in 1916, which “made us feel proud at the thought that our school can still produce men worthy of its old traditions.”



Chronicle, July 1918



## Births

### Hasnain Ramji (2004)

Birth of daughter, Sumayah, on 2 July 2017.



### Lewis Chatterley (2005)

Birth of son, Arlo, on 4 August 2017.



## Can you help us find any 'lost boys'?

We have lost touch with a number of Old Edwardians. You can help us by searching for 'lost boys' from your year group. Visit: [www.my.kes.org.uk/lost](http://www.my.kes.org.uk/lost) and type in your year group to see who we are missing.

If you know a lost OE who is happy to be contacted by us, email: [oldeds@kes.org.uk](mailto:oldeds@kes.org.uk) or tel: 0121 415 6050.

# Old Edwardians News in brief

## 1940s

### Peter Peters (1946)

I am about to celebrate my 90<sup>th</sup> birthday with family, which will include four children, seven grandchildren and six great-grandchildren. In preparation for this I got to muse (as you do) and recalled with some clarity that as the threat of war subsided in 1944 I was moved from The King's School in Macclesfield to join Lower Science Sixth at KES. Two happy years included being Corporal i/c 13 platoon in the JTC and learning to ride a motorcycle, wonderful physics with Mr W (Henry) Hall, illuminating chemistry with a wartime locum master brought out of retirement, coaxing in Scientific German by Mr Deutschkron, awe at the main roof beam of Great Hall, my pal and guide JAT Forrest. Where did all this get me? A very good Higher School Cert and an interesting career in explosives, building science and structural and civil engineering. If anyone remembers me, an email would be nice.

Email: [oldeds@kes.org.uk](mailto:oldeds@kes.org.uk) and we will forward your email to Peter.

## 1950s

### Philip Martin (1951)

After a lifetime working in Birmingham, first in the printing trade and then for various food machinery manufacturers owned by Electrolux, I have reached the age of 85. I am now helping some of my friends to speak Spanish, the language I first started to learn at KES under Victor Biggs all those years ago and which led me on to study languages at Birmingham University, at a time when the Language Department (along with Law) was at Edmund Street. Anyone remember those days? I am still happily in touch with my old KES friend Mike Antcliff, and I very much enjoy reading the *Old Edwardians Gazette*.



### Bernard Adams (1954)

Some will know that I've been living in Hungary for the past 11 years, making a second career translating Hungarian literature. I've just learnt that the Füst Milán Foundation has made me a second translation award – the first was in 2009. The aim of the Foundation is "the promotion of awareness of Hungarian poetry and prose literature in the nations of Europe and beyond by translation at a high artistic level into other languages". The award is made in consideration both of the translator's oeuvre to date and of work currently in progress – in my case, the latter is a retranslation of József Eötvös's *The Village Notary*. Awaiting publication in 2018 is the autobiography of Prince Ferenc II of Transylvania, *Confessio peccatoris*.

### David Page (1958)

My main news is that, having attained my 78<sup>th</sup> birthday, I have now retired from my position as a Project Manager with Howden UK Ltd. There have been regular travels within Europe, as well as to the USA and to China/Hong Kong; I shall be happy not to be hanging about at airports, nor shall I miss the one hour plus each way of commuting when I wasn't on my travels. We have two daughters, one (with two young sons) lives two doors away and the other lives in Sydney, so we shall have a problem dividing our time equally! Now my time is more my own I hope to be able to travel down from central Scotland to attend the occasional OE function.

### Michael Stuart Green (1959)

This past year has seen the publication of my book *75 Sketchings*, a compilation

of 25 of my etchings, 25 sketches and 25 verbal sketches each of which consists of exactly 75 words. Its raison d'être? Celebration of my 75<sup>th</sup> birthday. A limited edition publication, just 100 copies were printed. All are signed by the author and retail at £15. Only a few now remain and can be obtained direct from the publishers (An Clò Beag Glas, Corrack, Lochcarron, IV54 8YB). KES is referenced!



## 1960s

### John Eden (1961)

Does the top corridor at King Edward's still have skylights with inspiring and improving Latin inscriptions? Certainly, we were inspired to make deliberately inaccurate – but feasible – translations. For example, *fiat iustitia ruat coelum* had obvious appeal for motoring fans, while *ars longa vita brevis* had endless vulgar possibilities. But the most memorable rendering was of *aquilae columbas non generant*, by John Porter (1961) who came up with 'Columbus couldn't pass water'. Pictured is my stained glass tribute to John's wit. I've retained the Latin, though. Incidentally, John and Gill Porter celebrate their golden wedding anniversary this year, so *gratulor quinquaginta aurei annis*. Is there room for another skylight?



### Paul Quinton (1963)

My wife and I became dual British/Dutch citizens last year to avoid any Brexit complications. The photo shows the Lady Mayor welcoming us into Dutch citizenship.



### Nick Collins (1964)

I have recently heard that I am featured in *Migrants of the British Diaspora Since the 1960s* published by Manchester University and authored by a Professor of History in Australia, James Hammerton.

### Sergio Maresca (aka Tew 1964)

I became a father for the first time very late in life. My wife, Jan, and I lost our beautiful son Oskar at 21 months of age from a very severe neurological disease. The genetic counsellors told us to never try again to have children. We did!! And our second child is a beautiful and very healthy and independent 20-year-old daughter Isabella, who is now reading for double honours Education and Arts degrees at Monash University in Melbourne. Jan and I live and are based in Brisbane, Australia. I have been fortunate to have travelled and worked all over the world. After completing an LLB (Hons) at Birmingham University in 1967, I lived and worked in Barcelona, and then emigrated to Australia in 1976. After careers in business and education, I joined the international business motivational speaking circuit where I enjoyed great success. My website is: [www.maresca.com.au](http://www.maresca.com.au) and gives you a summary of my career to date. I remember KES with great affection and gratitude and look forward to returning there to speak to the current students and Old Edwardians.

### John Barnfield (1965)

Nick Collins (1964) and I met in London after 53 years. That is London, Ontario, Canada equidistant from Guelph and Sarnia where Nick and I, respectively, live. We met over a prearranged lunch. It turns

out that although we have had very different careers, me a scientist and Nick an academic, we both set up a charity in 1986! And we are both involved, with our wives, in overseas development: me in Haiti and Nick in Guatemala. So KES taught us well and also taught us to use our skill sets over and above our professional careers to make the world a better place.

### Graham Rand (1965)

I am very active following my "retirement", including chairing the Operational Research Society's Diamond Anniversary Conference, to be held at Lancaster University from 11 to 13 September 2018. Visit: [www.theorsociety.com/OR60](http://www.theorsociety.com/OR60)

### Philip Marcus (1967)

I received my LLB from University College London in 1971 and after qualifying as a solicitor practised in North London. I moved to Israel in 1978, where I requalified and opened my own practice in Jerusalem. I was appointed a Judge in 1995, and sat in the Jerusalem Family Court until my retirement in 2012. During this time, I received an LLM degree from Haifa University. Since then I have been researching, writing and lecturing on Family Law, especially Child Law and the law relating to elders and people with disabilities, and also Professional Ethics.

## 1970s

### Martin Robinson (1970)

I am now 66 years old and I retired on 1 May 2017. I should be going hiking in the Alps with my two sons this summer, my two sons being 34 and 37 years old. If I stay in good health, then I hope to return to Nepal to do the Kanchenjunga trek in March/April 2019.

### Richard Harris (1971)

I have a couple of books to report: *What's in a Name?* published in the autumn of 2017 and *The Suburban Land Question: A Global Survey* in March 2018, in both cases by the University of Toronto Press. My other news is that of becoming a grandfather for the first time, a year ago. I reckon that is more significant than any number of books.



## 1970s

**Scott Newton (1974)**

I retired in 2016 and am now Emeritus Professor of History in the School of History, Archaeology and Religion at Cardiff University. My latest book, *The Reinvention of Britain 1960-2016: A Political and Economic History* has just been published by Routledge.

**Charlie Abrahams (1975)**

I am fortunate enough to be part of the England Loch Style Fly-Fishing Team for the Home International on Lough Mask, Ireland in May this year. This will be my third cap, having been part of the team that won Gold in 2016. Qualification was achieved via the National Final of 122 anglers at Rutland Water, last September – the picture shows me with a 7lbs 3oz brown trout that was the highlight of my catch in that event.

**Andrew Hudson (1976)**

In the autumn, I published not one but two books. The first is a combination of travel writing and history, *This Ancient Road: London to Holyhead: A Journey Through Time*, about the road to Holyhead, partly the Roman Watling Street, partly the modern A5, but for many centuries a road that ploughed right through the centre of Birmingham, along today's Coventry Road and Digbeth and out through Soho towards Wolverhampton. There are plenty of references to the city. The second was co-authored with my wife, Judith Simpson, and is called *Wisdom and Wit*. It comprises articles we wrote for the local parish magazine here in London. All proceeds to local charities.

## 1980s

**Mark Thomas (1985)**

In 2017 I started a new job as Director of Credit Risk at the World Bank.

**Philip Clifford (1986)**

I was recently made a Queen's Counsel.



## 1990s

**Julian Roberts (1993)**

I am now scientific area leader at the European Chemicals Agency in Helsinki. I am also delighted that the whole family have been granted Finnish citizenship.

**Kai Wing Shiu (1996)**

After 12 years in Shanghai and Singapore I have returned to the UK, and am settled in Birmingham with my wife Elaine and two young girls.



## 2000s

**David Ault (2000)**

I've just finished my second US tour with the NoSleep Podcast, which in numbers equates to driving over 9,500 miles through 26 states, and performing in 20 shows to over 4,000 audience members, including 1,000 in the last three shows.

The NoSleep podcast is a horror fiction podcast that originated from the NoSleep subreddit, and became a podcast almost seven years ago produced by David Cummings. Last year I was honoured to be on the first tour across the USA, performing 16 live shows, then another one-off special in Toronto in October. This year, we went to bigger venues across the states, from Washington to Los Angeles to New York, ending with a sold-out performance in Atlanta's City Winery.

The podcast puts out an hour of free content every week, voiced by professional voiceover artists, scored by an award-winning composer. There is a season pass which more than doubles the content, and with the podcast now in its tenth season there are more than 400 hours of premium narration and audiodrama to download and listen to. The live shows added to this by bringing actors from across the world to perform live old-time-style radio drama in front of live audiences, including guest appearances from the other local narrators and other podcasts, including the White Vault and Darkest Night.



## Tell us your news

Thanks to all OEs who have sent us their news. Unfortunately, we cannot publish everything we receive but please continue to keep us posted! Email: [editor@kes.org.uk](mailto:editor@kes.org.uk) or visit: [www.oldereds.kes.org.uk/yournews](http://www.oldereds.kes.org.uk/yournews)

## Rupert Crowdy (1928)

1910-2017



Brigadier Rupert Crowdy was born at Amersham on 12 March 1910 and was educated at King Edward's before enlisting in the Royal Northumberland Fusiliers. He won a scholarship to Sandhurst, where he gained a Blue for shooting and was a whipper-in for the beagles.

In 1932 he embarked for Bombay and joined 3<sup>rd</sup>/17<sup>th</sup> Dogra Regiment, Indian Army, stationed at Shagai Fort in the North West region, near the notorious Khyber Pass. In 1936, he was attached to 10<sup>th</sup>/17<sup>th</sup> Dogra Regiment as adjutant. After a spell of leave, he was flying to Calcutta from Baghdad when the Horsa biplane developed a fault and crash-landed in the Trucial Oman Desert. Fortunately, there were no casualties and they were spotted by an RAF search and rescue plane before local, and perhaps unfriendly, tribesmen found them.

In 1941 Rupert moved to HQ 1<sup>st</sup> Burma Division at Toungoo, Burma, as DAA & QMG. He received a Mention in Despatches for his services in organising air drops of vital supplies to the Allied forces. After Independence in 1947, he transferred to the British Army and joined the Royal Army Service Corps.

Rupert played a notable part in the logistical support for the Berlin Airlift. In June 1948, Soviet forces blockaded road, rail and inland waterway access to the Western-controlled sectors of Berlin. Access to the city by the Western Allies was restricted to three air corridors, each 20 miles wide. Short of going to war, the Soviets could not prevent flights being made along these routes. Rupert had considerable experience in logistical planning and was posted to RAF Gatow on the western edge of the city and, subsequently, to RAF Fassberg, 60 miles south of Hamburg. He organised the loading of aircraft which flew 2,000 tons of coal every day into Berlin. When it became clear that the combination of RAF Dakotas and four train loads a day could not supply enough coal for the power stations to keep the city going, he asked for the support of the US Air Force. In the course of the following six months, Douglas C-54 Skymasters flew 30,000 sorties with 250,000 tons of coal. Crews from the Canadian, Australian, New Zealand and South African air forces also played a major supporting role. The blockade was lifted in May 1949. Rupert was appointed OBE for his outstanding contribution to the success of the operation.

In June 1953, while he was OC No 1 Training Battalion RASC, he commanded a marching contingent of 300 all ranks at the Coronation of the Queen. A posting to Egypt was followed by a spell at the MoD and then promotion to brigadier on his appointment as Director RASC at HQ BAOR. He was invited to become ADC to the Queen and retired from the Army in 1963.

He established Lechlade Vintners, bottling his own wine and making enough money to pay for his shooting and fishing. A car enthusiast, in 1956 he won the Northern Army Group Car Rally. Over the years he drove a Bentley Vanden Plas, a Jensen Interceptor and an MGB GT V8. He also enjoyed sailing and owned several Westerly yachts and motor launches. In a well-equipped workshop, he turned out model steam engines, boats and aeroplanes, all finished to a high standard. Settled at Bampton, Oxfordshire, he was a chairman of the local Branch of the Royal British Legion.

Rupert married Norah Gwynne Jones in 1939, who predeceased him, as did a son, and he is survived by their three daughters.

Obituary drawn from *The Daily Telegraph*

## Deaths

We regret to report the deaths of the following Old Edwardians:

**Rupert Crowdy (1928)**  
**Anthony Lucas (1936)**  
**Kenneth H Smith (1936)**  
**Mike D Dauncey (1937)**  
**Donald E Arrand (1939)**  
**Edward L Lloyd-Hughes (1940)**  
**Geoffrey Tootill (1940)**  
**Robert F Glyn-Jones (1941)**  
**Michael G FitzGerald (1942)**  
**John H Bayliss (1943)**  
**Charles A Parker (1944)**  
**Derek H Cracknell (1945)**  
**Malcolm G Spencer (1947)**  
**John G Harrison (1948)**  
**Peter O Lewis (1948)**  
**Robert W Chitham (1950)**  
**Martin J Davison (1950)**  
**George H Grundy (1951)**  
**David B Colley (1952)**  
**Terence A Wood (1953)**  
**David W Inman (1954)**  
**Christopher R Tickell (1954)**  
**Gordon E Phillips (1957)**  
**Maxwell R Payne (1958)**  
**Christopher N Roper (1973)**  
**Darren A Edwards (1979)**  
**Rainer F Evers (1981)**  
**Malcolm N Blythe (1983)**  
**Trevor Green (Staff: 1962-64)**  
**Anthony J Trott (Staff: 1950-87)**  
**Chris Walker (Staff: 1998-2016)**

The School has also recently learnt of the death of Bill Traynor, who taught physics at King Edward's from 1946 until he retired in 1982. A full obituary will appear in the next edition of the *Gazette*.



Anthony Lucas (1936)  
1918-2017



Tony Lucas was born in Devonport, the third child of John Lucas, a clergyman, and Marjorie (née Beer), a virtuoso violinist. After his father’s appointment as a Canon of Birmingham Cathedral, Tony was educated at King Edward’s School.

After leaving school, Tony joined ICI and enlisted in the TA, in the 69<sup>th</sup> Royal Warwickshire Regiment, Royal Artillery. By June 1939 he had been commissioned but, to his dismay, made Intelligence Officer for the 4<sup>th</sup> Anti-Aircraft Division in Chester. Discovering that his duties included drawing up drafts for overseas service, he inserted his own name and was drafted to Singapore.

Arriving in September 1940 to command Indian troops, Tony and his fellow TA officers were entrusted with antiquated WWI 3-inch naval guns. Military intelligence insisted that the Japanese would invade from the south, couldn’t see in the dark, and would never land during the monsoon. Tony was close to Malaya’s north-east coast when the Japanese landed during the monsoon on the night of 8 December 1941. For the rest of his life he revered the infantrymen who, outnumbered and lacking air support, resisted the invasion.

On 15 February 1942, Tony was one of 80,000 Allied troops to surrender, but made an immediate gesture of defiance. Held in a tented encampment lacking perimeter defences, Tony made his way back to where he had left a Buick given to him by a former acting Attorney General of Singapore, drove to a mangrove swamp, set the Buick alight and steered it into the water. A Japanese patrol fired at the abandoned car, but Tony returned to the tented camp undetected.

Later, at Changi prison, for the only time throughout the war, the Japanese passed on a handful of Red Cross parcels. Tony’s share was a tin of tomatoes. From the seed of a solitary tomato, Tony managed to grow a plant. For the next three years he transplanted it from camp to camp, to supplement the daily ration of a cupful of degraded rice.

In September 1942, Tony was one of 17,000 PoWs corralled into Selarang barracks – built for 800 – with all water supplies, barring one tap, disconnected, to compel them to sign a pledge not to escape. After the first deaths from dysentery, Colonel Holmes, the senior British officer, ordered the PoWs to comply. Thereafter, Tony was transported by rail to Thailand, locked into an airless steel-roofed truck for five days. Tony thought he would die; several did. There, he was tasked with hacking out the 258-mile Burma-Thailand railway line. Waking at 4.30am, after a three-mile march through the jungle to the area the Australians named “Hellfire Pass”, the men would work in pairs, alternately swinging a 7lb hammer and holding a 3ft iron bar. They never returned before 10.30pm.

Tony suffered dysentery, malaria and jungle ulcers; his weight dropped from 11-stone to six. On his 21<sup>st</sup> bout of malaria, an Allied doctor gave him a massive dose of Paludrine. Thereafter he remained free from the disease, but contracted cholera whilst helping carry corpses out for burning. Death invariably followed within 12 hours, but he was again cured, this time with an injection of saline solution.

Towards war’s end, Tony antagonised the ‘Undertaker’, a guard who had already bludgeoned two PoWs to death with an iron bar. Felled by the Undertaker’s first blows – with belt and fist – which dislodged three of his teeth, Tony then saw him reach for his iron bar. But a PoW interpreter intervened, with miraculous success.

On VJ Day, Lucas joined other PoWs in repeatedly singing the National Anthem, tears streaming down their cheeks. After repatriation, he monitored the war-crimes trials, noting with satisfaction the Undertaker’s hanging. But he concluded that it had been Japan’s military, not its people, who had perverted their country. Working for an associate company of ICI, he was in Japan as early as 1960. When his Japanese business partner remarked that he had an astonishing understanding of the Japanese character, he said that he had “learned from experience”, but elaborated no further.

A man of immense courtesy and integrity, Tony Lucas was sustained by his Christian faith when his only son drowned, aged 29, saving the life of another. His wife, Margaret (née Calver), whom he married in 1948, died in 2015. Their three daughters survive him.

*Obituary drawn from The Daily Telegraph*

Kenneth Howard Avery Smith (1936)  
1918-2017



Ken Smith left King Edward’s School in New Street in 1936 and joined the family firm, EH Smith Builders Merchants, where he went on to work for 80 years. He took charge of EH Smith in 1959, following the death of his father, Howard, who had founded the business in 1922.

During Howard and Ken’s leadership in the 1940s and 50s, the company developed its skills and experience in sourcing and selling bricks. This

specialism endures today and EH Smith supplied the bricks for the Ruddock Performing Arts Centre, which opened at King Edward’s in 2012.

In the second half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century the firm became very active in civil engineering and, in particular, the development of some of the UK’s largest motorways including the M6 and the M1. EH Smith, which still employs several members of the extended Smith family, is now a £130m turnover firm with 15 trading locations across the Midlands and South East.

Under Ken’s leadership, EH Smith also became a supporter of many charitable and community activities around the business’ many branches. The EH Smith Charitable Trust exists with the single aim of helping people in need, donating 10% of the firm’s annual profits to good causes, including supplying materials and employee time to community renovation projects. EH Smith is also well known in Birmingham for helping people through residential accommodation. Ken was instrumental in purchasing and managing 50 flats in Acocks Green, assisting people in the local community with affordable rents, a commitment that continues today.

As an active lifetime member of the Christadelphian Church in Acocks Green, Ken was committed to caring for people in need. In 1976 he bought a 43-seater coach and for 40 years conducted weekly excursions for elderly people living in residential care homes. He continued doing this into his early nineties, when the vast majority of his passengers were younger than he was! Despite his years Ken never

thought of himself as old. Until the end, Ken was treasurer, active committee member, trustee and supporter for a number of Christadelphian charities, including Christadelphian Care Homes, which runs 10 homes across the UK ensuring that people are properly cared for in their later years.

Although a keen fell walker, traveller and classic car enthusiast, Ken was very focused on the family business, and he declined to retire even through ill-health. His classic Aston Martin Lagonda could be seen in the firm’s Solihull head office car park most days of the week and he was a well-respected and loved figure among the firm’s 450 employees, personally delivering the Christmas payslips to every single one of them. The staff always commented on how he was calm and determined, and exuded a quiet air of authority.

Chief Executive of EH Smith, John Parker, said: “Ken was a remarkable and much loved figurehead, who defined EH Smith’s first century in business. I know I speak for every member of our staff, as well as our family, when I say how much he will be missed.

“One of Ken’s greatest triumphs, and his most important legacy, was his determination to secure the long term future of EH Smith through its people – both by engaging many of the third and fourth generations of the Smith family in the business, including myself, and by encouraging a positive, supportive business culture in which every employee could thrive.”

Ken’s wife Connie died in 1988 and they had no children. He is survived by his nieces Jenny and Hazel, his nephew Michael, and their families.

*Geoff Purkis (1958)*

Ken featured in the film produced for the New Street Remembered exhibition, which took place in 2011 to mark 75 years since the School left the Charles Barry building. The film can be viewed at: [www.oldereds.kes.org.uk/ns-film](http://www.oldereds.kes.org.uk/ns-film)



---

**Michael Donald Keen Dauncey (1937)**  
1920-2017

---

Brigadier Mike Dauncey received the Distinguished Service Order for his bravery at the Battle of Arnhem and was recommended for the Victoria Cross.

On Sunday, 17 September 1944, the first day of Operation Market Garden, Mike was the second pilot of a Horsa glider carrying a firecontrol group from 1<sup>st</sup> Air Landing Light Regiment. They landed safely just beyond Oosterbeek, three miles west of Arnhem, the final river crossing of Field Marshal Montgomery's "airborne carpet" to the Ruhr. The Allied plan was to gain crossings over a series of westward-flowing rivers, which would allow them to turn eastwards into Germany's industrial heartland and end the war by Christmas 1944.

After his glider had landed, Mike gathered together other men separated from their battalions to man a sector of the Oosterbeek perimeter, as the infantry battalions headed eastwards to capture the Arnhem bridge. By Thursday 21 September, the Oosterbeek perimeter was under pressure. Deciding that offensive action was the best means of holding off the enemy, Mike led two paratroopers on a flanking move to deal with a group of Germans in a house 40 yards beyond the perimeter. He flung in a grenade, rushed the house and took eight prisoners.

On Sunday 24 September, when the situation was becoming critical, Mike was hit in the left eye by a metal splinter from a drainpipe after a sniper spotted him. Although blind in his left eye, he set out the next morning with an airborne soldier to ambush German tanks. After their anti-tank grenade fell short, he and his lone companion held off an infantry assault with light machine-gun fire until Mike was shot in the thigh. As he was being lowered into a slit trench, he was wounded by a stick grenade that broke his jaw. As the battle ended, Mike was evacuated to a German hospital in Utrecht, where he met a wounded officer of the Black Watch. The two British soldiers escaped out of the hospital window at night and knocked on a door chosen at random. The pair were hidden by a Dutch family until February 1945, when they were fit enough to find their way to Allied lines and were sent back to England.

After recovering from his wounds – although he was permanently blinded in his left eye – he served in the Cheshire Regiment from 1946 to 1947 in Greece. He was later selected to command 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion The Cheshire Regiment, in Germany, and in 1963 took it for a tour of duty with the UN in Cyprus. He was also commandant of the Jungle Warfare School in Malaysia and his final serving appointment was as defence attaché to the British embassy in Madrid.

Upon retirement, he worked briefly for a housing association and then an insurance company. He did much charity work and continued as colonel of the Cheshire Regiment. In 1945 Mike married Marjorie Neep, whom he had met at a tennis club in Birmingham. They had a son, John, and two daughters, Gill and Joy.

*Obituary drawn from The Times*

---

---

**Donald Ernest Arrand (1939)**  
1922-2017

---

Donald Ernest Arrand was born in Newark, England and moved to Birmingham in 1927. On leaving school, he joined the war effort and was seconded to the Rocket Research Station in Wales because of his ability to speak and understand German for translation work, and remained there for five years.

Following the war, Donald spent two years at a building research station before flying with his father to find work in Durban, South Africa in 1947. Not able to find work in Durban, they bought a car and went to Salisbury (now Harare) in Rhodesia (now Zimbabwe). By correspondence, Donald did a valuation surveying course and obtained his BSc. He then joined the valuation department of the Local Government and Housing. He was a member of the Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors and became an associate, a fellow, and later chairman of the Rhodesian branch for several years.

Donald met an attractive nurse, whom he married in 1953, and together they had three sons: Kenneth, Malcolm and Graham. In the late 1960s he enrolled on a correspondence LLB law programme and after four years of hard study was awarded his degree.

In 1976, Donald returned to England to work as a senior valuation officer in Birmingham and at the end of the year bought a house in Northfield, in which he lived for 41 years. He was a keen gardener and could often be found pottering around the garden. Donald and his wife joined the rambling club and both loved their rambles across the countryside, making numerous friends and having many memorable occasions with the group. They also enjoyed touring Europe and year by year planned trips abroad, sometimes taking two trips a year.

Donald was part of the Conservative Association and helped on the committee for many years. He was also very keen on family history and the family all benefited from his painstaking research and have copies of descendants back to the 1700s. Donald enjoyed reading history and because of his Latin background often read it in the original Latin version. He discovered that many translations from the Latin were incorrect, painting a different picture of history, and set about to correct some of the mistakes, writing many books and leaflets on the subject.

I will remember my father as a generous, intelligent and kind man, and he will be held in high repute by me and my brothers.

*Ken Arrand*

---



---

**Edward L Lloyd-Hughes (1940)**  
1924-2017

---



Born in Smethwick, Edward was educated at Chigwell House Preparatory School in Edgbaston before King Edward's and in 1940 was admitted to the Birmingham School of Architecture. In 1942, he enlisted in the Royal Navy and was posted to Combined Operations. There he rose from Midshipman to Lieutenant RNVR and later had command of an Infantry Landing Ship. He saw action in the Mediterranean, Normandy (D Day), Burma (Arakan Campaign), Dutch East Indies and was present at the surrender of Singapore by the Japanese.

Released from the Royal Navy in 1946, he returned to his studies, qualifying as an architect in 1948. The same year, Edward married Naomi June Stokes, who had served as a scientist in the Royal Naval Scientific Service during the war, and they subsequently had a daughter

and a son (deceased). Continuing his studies, Edward took a postgraduate course at the Royal Academy School of Architecture, where he won the Royal Academy Grand Prix in Architecture, and in 1951 he qualified as a Chartered Town Planner.

After qualifying he worked for the Architects Department of the London County Council, one of the leading architectural offices in the country, where he worked on designs for the Royal Festival Hall and some large-scale housing developments. Awards continued with the coveted Pugin Studentship and Silver Medal in 1953, and the RIBA Hunt Bursary in 1954, the latter taking Edward and his wife to Holland to study post-war reconstruction. Returning to Birmingham in 1954, he became a Partner with Alan Young and Partners of Dudley. In 1959, he acquired half an acre of land in Edgbaston on which to build a family home. From 1960 to 1965, he taught part-time at the Birmingham School of Planning and lectured on modern architecture for the University of Birmingham. He held various offices in the Birmingham and Five Counties Architectural Association and was elected Vice-President in 1966. He was elected a Fellow of the Royal Institute of British Architects in 1969, and a Fellow of the Royal Town Planning Institute in 1982.

Edward served on numerous committees and groups including: being a lay member of the National Health Service Medical Disciplinary Tribunal from 1987 to 2000, becoming a member of the Diocesan Advisory Committee in 1989 and vice-chairman from 2006 to 2010, and Secretary, then Chairman, of the Old Edwardian Fell Walkers Association from 1974 to 2000. He joined the Birmingham Old Edwardian Lodge in 1961, where he remained continuously in office since becoming a Steward in 1963, and was Master in 1975 and 1994.

Time was found in earlier years at weekends and holidays to hill climb in Wales and Scotland and, to a lesser extent, in Austria and Italy. Later, a shared yacht, based originally at Levington on the River Cherwell, enabled sailing to the continent to be undertaken and subsequently at Inverkip on the Firth of Clyde from where the Scottish west coast and outer isles could be explored.

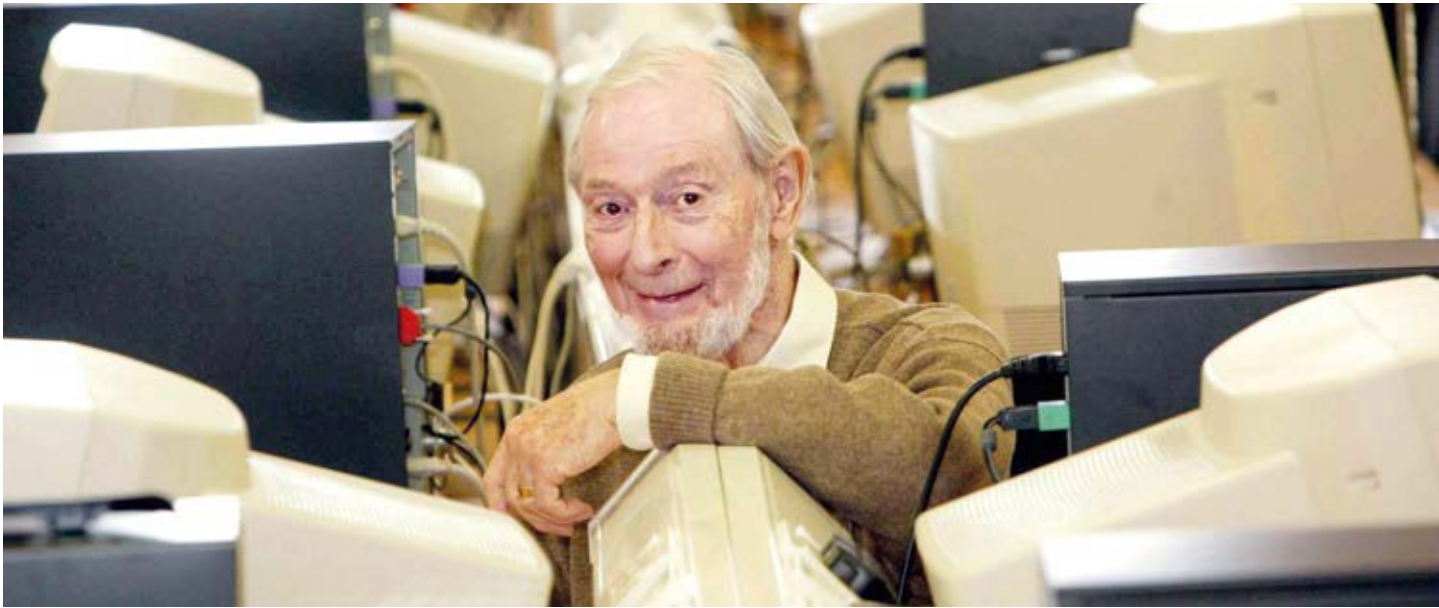
On his wife's death in 1989, he took over the land she owned on the Wiltshire/Somerset border and the house they had created there. In each succeeding year he added to the house or garden that had become his abiding interest and hobby, spending as much time there as his other interests allowed. The ownership then passed to his daughter Harriet, the fourth generation to inherit the land.

In 1990, he married Audrey Udal but unfortunately it did not last and in 2000 they were divorced. In 2001, Nellie Evans and he became partners. They had met before, but a visit to Canada trekking the Bruce Trail with other ramblers convinced them that it would be a good arrangement. Edward is survived by Nellie and his daughter, Harriet.

---



Geoffrey Tootill (1940)  
1922-2017



Geoffrey grew up in Birmingham, where his father was Midlands manager for the Co-operative Press. At school he excelled in sciences and he won a scholarship to Christ’s College, Cambridge to read mathematics in 1940.

Following Britain’s entry into the Second World War, the normal three-year degree programme had been compressed into two years. Studies were intense and it was at this point he realised that his vocation did not lie in mathematics but rather engineering. After graduation he was directed to work of national importance, initially as a mathematician in operations research, but after a few weeks managed to switch to an engineering role at the Telecommunications Research Establishment (TRE). Outside work duties, he joined the TRE’s Flying Rockets Concert Party, where he met Pamela Watson, a laboratory technician, whom he married in 1947.

After the war, Frederic Calland Williams, who had also worked at TRE, was appointed to the chair of electro-technics at Manchester University. Computers were in the air but designing a suitable memory technology was an outstanding technical challenge. Williams brought in his former assistant at TRE, Tom Kilburn, and Geoff to work on a computer memory project.

In order to test the memory when it was constructed, Kilburn and Geoff designed an elementary computer, officially known as the Small-Scale Experimental Machine, but better known as “Baby”. The computer could store just 32 instructions or numbers using a single cathode ray tube. The machine first worked in June 1948, taking 52 minutes to find the highest factor of 2<sup>18</sup>, involving about 3.5m arithmetic operations. This

was the world’s first electronic stored-program computer and is one of the scientific breakthroughs that define the modern era.

In 1949, Geoff transferred to Ferranti, the Manchester-based electrical engineering company, to specify a full-scale computer based on the Manchester University ideas. The first Ferranti Mark I, the world’s first commercially available computer, was delivered to the university in 1951.

Dissatisfied with his salary at Ferranti, Geoff took up a senior lectureship at the Military College of Science. The college offered no opportunity for research, so in the mid-1950s he leapt at the offer of a research position from Stuart Hollingdale, head of the mathematics division at the Royal Aircraft Establishment. He and Hollingdale collaborated on *Electronic Computers* (1965), a book for the layperson that filled a vacuum of information about computers, and sold remarkably well.

From 1963 to 1969, Geoff was seconded to the European Space Research Organisation, where he established a network of computerised ground stations. Returning from this high point in his career, he was assigned a bureaucratic role that he detested. Relief came in 1973 when he transferred to the National Physical Laboratory to work on the European Informatics Network. This was an experimental computer network that established technologies now used in the internet.

Geoff’s wife Pamela died in 1979 and he married Joyce Turnbull in 1981. He retired in 1982 but remained active in computing and academic pursuits. He is survived by Joyce, three sons from his first marriage, Peter, Colin and Steven, and two grandchildren, Mia and Duncan.

*Obituary drawn from The Guardian*

Martin Jefcoate Davison (1950)  
1931-2017

Martin Davison grew up beside Lickey Woods in Barnt Green. His father, Geoffrey Davison, had attended King Edward’s in the early 1900s while his grandfather, Dr Charles Davison, was Head of Maths and Deputy Head of the School when he retired in 1922.

Martin was a Foundation Scholar and left with an open scholarship in physics to New College, Oxford. He was also a clarinettist and while at school formed a jazz band, which was the first one to play jazz in the music room. He was also a great friend of Gavin Lyall.

Once at Oxford he changed to read philosophy, politics and economics, and also filled his time with being in the University Jazz Band and studying drawing part-time at the Ruskin Schools. Indeed, his self-description for the Old Edwardians website was as ‘artist, graphic designer and jazz musician’.

During the 1960s Martin worked in advertising and PR, gaining a thorough grounding in graphic design, layout and typography. In 1970 he was appointed head of corporate PR for the Courtauld’s Group. He resigned from that role in 1972 to set up Bokonon Productions in Mortlake, a design-and-invention studio/workshop dealing in graphic design, architectural model-making, toy design, toy and game prototype-production and games inventing. More than 20 of his original games inventions have been marketed internationally, the best known being Rubik’s Magic Strategy Game, which sold well over half a million worldwide. During these years he continued painting, wood carving and modelling in plaster, clay and resins.

Martin was a full-time painter and musician from the early 1990s and a long-standing member of the Society of Graphic Fine Art. He was active in his local art societies in Twickenham and Richmond, being the press and publicity officer for the latter. In Spring 2017, he held a highly successful one-man show at the Stables Gallery in Twickenham.

He was also a member of the Musicians’ Union for nearly 30 years. For many years his band, Brenda’s Boyfriends, played in the Mortlake area. He was a member of the London Old Edwardians and in 2004 formed a jazz quartet for a one-night only performance at the annual London Dinner.

A mark of Martin’s longstanding principles is that most of his estate is going to charity, with specific donations to two of his favourite charities, Paintings in Hospitals, and Musicians for Peace and Disarmament, and the large residue of the estate to Princess Alice Hospice, Esher.

*Sheila Swarbrick (niece)*

David Bryan Hall Colley (1952)  
1934-2017

Major General Bryan Colley was born on 5 June 1934 in Rowley Regis. After King Edward’s he went to Sandhurst, and in 1954 was commissioned into the Royal Army Service Corps, serving in BAOR and Belgium before being posted to the Gurkha ASC in Hong Kong. This was at a time of attempts by immigrants from mainland China to enter the Crown Colony, and typhoon Wanda, which caused widespread death and destruction together with water shortages and rationing.

He commanded 31 Regiment Royal Corps of Transport (RCT) in Hong Kong from 1971 to 1974. The unit consisted of Gurkha and Chinese transport squadrons, a maritime troop and the British Army’s only remaining pack transport troop. During an exercise, one of the Gurkha squadrons was acting as enemy to a British battalion, deploying across the hills with a section of mules, some of which had white coats. When the visiting Commander British Forces complained that the mules could not be tactically concealed, Bryan had the animals dyed brown. There was no more criticism.

A staff appointment at HQ BAOR and HQ 1<sup>st</sup> (British) Corps was followed by command of the Logistic Support Group and 27 Regiment RCT. These units formed part of the UK Mobile Force assigned with reinforcing Northern European Command operating in Jutland/Schleswig-Holstein.

In October 1980 Bryan moved to the Ministry of Defence on his appointment as Colonel AQ (Operations & Plans). There he was heavily involved in organising strategic logistic support to land forces in the campaign to retake the Falkland Islands and in formulating plans to support the garrison after the war. During the Falklands campaign, he slept on a camp bed in the MoD and rarely managed to get home.

In 1983, he returned to HQ 1<sup>st</sup> (British) Corps as Commander Transport and Commander Bielefeld Garrison. Promoted Major General in 1986, he became Director General Transport and Movements, the professional head of the RCT. He was appointed MBE in 1968, OBE in 1977, CBE in 1982 and CB in 1988.

In retirement, he settled in Ascot. He was Colonel Commandant RCT from 1988 to 1993, Colonel Commandant of the RLC from 1993 to 2000, and from 1988 to 1997 he was the Director-General of the British Road Haulage Association.

In 1957 Bryan married Marie Thérèse (Terry) Préfontaine, in Belgium. She survives him with their daughter, Michele, and their son, John.

*Obituary drawn from The Daily Telegraph*



Malcolm Ninian Blythe (1983)  
1964-2017

Malcolm Blythe was born in Solihull where he was raised with his brother, Hugh (1977) and sister Susan.

Malcolm started at KES in 1976. He was a distinctive and sometimes intimidating figure: clever, cool and worldly beyond his years. He combined high intellect with a love of music, film and other elements of popular culture.

When he left KES in 1983, it was to read philosophy under Ted Honderich at University College London. The capital became his adopted city and a constant source of pleasure, particularly Bloomsbury and Islington, his neighbourhoods of choice.

Having gained his bachelor’s degree, he worked briefly at Nomura, an investment bank. It was an experience that Malcolm disliked intensely, and after a year he left to pursue his interest in film. Malcolm soon found himself at work making ads and industrial films at the creative agency Imagination, before going on to form his own creative company.

In 1991 Malcolm met the love of his life, Daire O’Herlihy, and in 1993 they were married. Malcolm was a devoted husband and father to their daughters Aisling (born 1999) and Lyra (2002). Daire, Aisling and Lyra were the centre of his life, and when he was facing death it was because of them that he looked back with satisfaction on where life had taken him. Even as bowel cancer spread to his liver in the last three years of his life, he became a proud and attentive house dad.

He used to laugh at the phrase “a lifelong love of learning” but he exemplified it. He promoted early choral music concerts in central London; helped produce an oral history of the London Canal Museum; and achieved his Blue Badge tour guide certificate weeks before he died.

After being advised in September that the disease was entering its final phase Malcolm still expected to live on into 2018. He died in St John’s Hospice on 28 October, surrounded by his loving family.

Joe Gallivan (1983), Michael Kavanagh (1983) and Boaz Moselle (1983)

Anthony John Trott (Staff: 1950-1987)  
1926-2017



Tony Trott, who died on 17 February in his 91<sup>st</sup> year, taught English at KES from 1950 to 1987, and was the School’s Head of English from 1952 until his retirement. Old Edwardians lucky enough to have benefited from Tony’s teaching will have plenty of stories about him. Here is one of mine.

We were studying Auden for O-level Literature: “*Lay your sleeping head, my love...*” it was. One of the class had unearthed the fact that Auden was gay, and noticed that the poem contains no gendered pronouns. For Fourth Year boys in 1970, this was pretty explosive stuff. “Are we studying a homosexual love poem, sir?” came the question, and we waited for Tony to cope with the hot potato he had just been tossed. He thought about it, and after a moment delivered judgement: “Well, this is how it is. Some chaps fall in love with girls; and some chaps fall in love with other chaps. *(pauses, blinks, smiles gently)* And that’s really all there is to say about it.” The lesson moved on: I still think that, of all the things I recall teachers saying to roomfuls of boys during my time at KES, this was the wisest, the most humane and the most useful.

Tony was a good English teacher of the Old School. He knew his literature and his language inside-out, and in lessons he would talk articulately, amusingly and with evident enthusiasm about them. He was keen that the Department should teach recently-published work as well as acknowledged classics, to make the point that literature, like history, had not come to an end. He marked written work with respect,

sensitivity and optimism, looking not just for the mistakes but for the writer who just might be curled up in each unpromising chrysalis. He wrote good advice on most pieces of work: encouraging, shrewd, often bracing, never patronising. He treated his pupils as writers: some of us very bad ones, but engaged in the same raiding of the inarticulate which lay behind his own poetry, and not to be talked down to. Jonathan Coe and Jim Grant have both spoken up for Tony as providing them with crucial inspiration for their careers as writers, and I’m sure that they are not alone.

And like all KES teachers who end up fondly remembered, he was active outside the classroom, umpiring cricket in a uniquely sceptical and hard-to-impress style for one thing. More Old Edwardians are likely to remember his extraordinary career as a director of somewhere north of two dozen School Plays, including (in *Murder in the Cathedral*) what I believe was the first production in which KEHS girls were invited to take part. Some of his choices were ambitious to a degree scarcely credible these days (Jonson “Humours” plays, anyone?), but Trott productions were cherished by cast members for his ability not only to elucidate the most demanding texts but to make the whole process great fun.

Yet much of the above, *mutatis mutandis*, could be said of quite a few of those members of the KES Common Room who have stayed long enough and put down deep enough roots to become part of the unfolding legend of the School. What makes Tony stand out, even in exalted company, is the man himself. He was his own best lesson: or, to put it another way, we loved him, respected him and will miss him because of his character and his values. He was a wonderful model for young minds: acute yet modest and always interested in what we had to say; humane and kind without concealing a robust contempt for humbug and intellectual dishonesty; he was often jovial, but he would not let you get away with sloppy thinking or disingenuous expression, because clarity and authenticity were too important to let go of.

Tony was, typically, forgiving and encouraging: yet his final *Chronicle* report on the Shakespeare Society, published in the 1987 edition, reads (in full) “As a result of the invertebrate apathy of the sixth form, absolutely nothing took place this year.” The man who acted the part of The Player in a Staff Production of *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead* with a beady-eyed loucheness that was both hilarious and frightening also ended his history of the School with a warning that “commitment to the worth of what is immaterial and unquantifiable...as essential to fully human living” will be the final test of the value of King Edward’s in the years ahead. Yes, it was fun to be taught by Tony, and his pupils learned a lot, and he was hardly ever frightening; but he left us in no doubt that success in English was not just a matter of a few exam grades, but was intimately linked to success as a human being. And that was worth making an effort for.

Tom Hosty (1973)

Chris Walker (Staff: 1998-2016)  
1948-2017

I first met Chris in 1976 when I started teaching at Smethwick Hall Boys High School. He was known as Mr System amongst the boys because he had a particular way of organising his classes. Each lesson, his boys would line up quietly outside, hang their coats up and put on an apron, take a stool, place the front two legs on the chalk semi-circle he had drawn on the floor, and then sit and wait for further instructions in silence. He also always wore his overall with three different coloured pens in the top pocket and, in the early days at least, a metric and an imperial six-inch ruler; I am happy to say that lived on forever but he did go fully metric in the end!



Chris was delighted when he bought his Morgan and this happily provided the next link in the chain that brought him to King Edward’s. He didn’t much care for the Four Wheel Morgan lot (too stuck up!) so used to go to the Three Wheeler meetings instead and amongst them was the parent of one of my sixth formers. Coincidentally, the youngest member of my department had decided to take a job in Hong Kong and the day after I learnt (from that sixth former) that Chris had taken early retirement at 50. An immediate phone call followed and Chris came to have a look around King Edward’s.

He settled in straight away and I knew I could depend on him to do the job properly. Chris was great in the classroom but also great with his form and at lunchtime he was often in his form room with a few of his lads working away. On Friday afternoons he attracted a small group of quite recalcitrant boys but they all worked quietly, soldering up resources for Chris or making something for themselves. He had a brilliant reputation amongst the boys and I know that he influenced the career choices of a number of them, encouraging them into a career in engineering.

Chris loved talking and made a point of getting to know all the new staff at school. He always had a glint in his eye and a smile on his face and you could guarantee having a laugh with him whatever the circumstances.

Chris became ill in 2015 but his major concern was for Lynn and his daughters Victoria and Rachel. I can’t remember how many times he referred to them as ‘golden’ and he said he didn’t know how they managed to put up with him, but I know how grateful he was for all that was done for him.

Chris was my oldest and best mate. He leaves a great legacy and we will all miss him dreadfully.

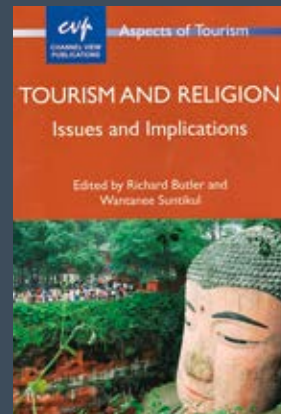
Colin Howard



# Old Edwardian publications



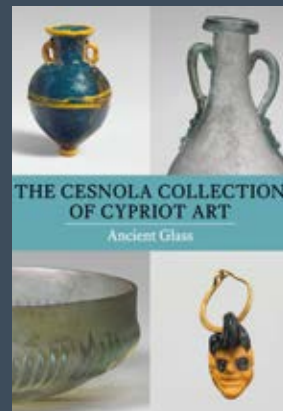
**Bernard Adams (1954)**  
A translation of The Healing Power of the Will by Katalin Eszterhai  
Publisher: Alexandra Book House Ltd



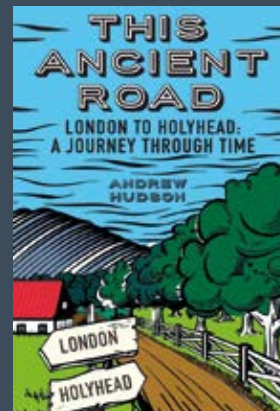
**Richard Butler (1961)**  
Co-author of Tourism and Religion: Issues and Implications  
Publisher: Channel View Publications



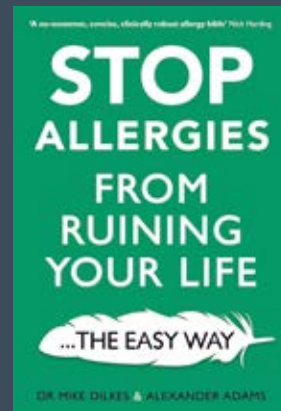
**Jim Grant (1973) aka Lee Child**  
The Midnight Line  
Publisher: Bantam Press



**Christopher Lightfoot (1973)**  
The Cesnola Collection of Cypriot Art: Ancient Glass  
Publisher: The Metropolitan Museum of Art



**Andrew Hudson (1976)**  
The Ancient Road: London to Holyhead: A Journey Through Time  
Publisher: RedDoor Publishing Ltd



**Mike Dilkes (1980)**  
Co-author of Stop Allergies from Ruining your Life:... The Easy Way  
Publisher: Orion Spring



**Dave Haslam (1980)**  
Sonic Youth Slept On My Floor: Music, Manchester, and More: A Memoir  
Publisher: Constable



**Matt Killeen (1991)**  
Orphan Monster Spy  
Publisher: Usborne Publishing Ltd



**Ben Banyard (1994)**  
We Are All Lucky  
Publisher: Indigo Dreams Publishing



**David Hingley (1996)**  
Traitor  
Publisher: Allison & Busby



**Andy Owen (1996)**  
All Soldiers Run Away: Alano's War: The Story of a British Deserter  
Publisher: Lammi Publishing Inc

# Keeping you connected

King Edward's School is a vibrant community made richer by the insight, generosity and contribution of Old Edwardians and their families, and other friends of the School.

Remaining in regular contact with as many Old Edwardians as possible is very important to us, but so is your privacy, and so we have updated our Privacy Statement to ensure that we are fully compliant with forthcoming changes in data protection legislation. The full statement, which outlines how your data is held, processed, and for what purpose, is available at: [www.trust.kes.org.uk/privacy-statement](http://www.trust.kes.org.uk/privacy-statement)

Should you have any questions about the changes, contact Lindsey Mephram, Development Director, at: [lm@kes.org.uk](mailto:lm@kes.org.uk)

## 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.oldereds.kes.org.uk/oe-shop](http://www.oldereds.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.



Ties  
**£15 each**



Cufflinks  
**£12.50**



Golf umbrella  
**£25**



Bow tie **£10**  
(Ready-tied version also available – £10)





KING EDWARD'S SCHOOL  
BIRMINGHAM

Development & OEA Office, King Edward's School, Edgbaston Park Road, Birmingham B15 2UA

Tel: 0121 415 6050 Email: [oldeds@kes.org.uk](mailto:oldeds@kes.org.uk)

 [@oldedskes](https://twitter.com/oldedskes)  [/oldedwardians](https://facebook.com/oldedwardians)

[www.oldeds.kes.org.uk](http://www.oldeds.kes.org.uk)