



KING EDWARD'S SCHOOL
BIRMINGHAM



OLD EDWARDIANS GAZETTE 2011

The Old Edwardians Association

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From the Chairman of the Governors of the Foundation



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The Editor
Old Edwardians' Gazette

26.05.2010

Seventy-five years ago, in December 1935, King Edward's School left the stately, if begrimed, Barry building in New Street and assembled the following January in temporary buildings, off the Bristol Road on the new Edgbaston site. I could not let this anniversary pass without scribbling a note to the Gazette.

The move in 1935 was prompted by a need to move to more spacious and appropriate accommodation for, as grand and imposing as the Barry building most certainly was, it did not provide sufficient suitable accommodation for the School's needs. As E T England, Chief Master, wrote at the time: "Barry's building is nowadays in the wrong place for a school, and is being put to uses for which it was never designed ...[S]ome of the classrooms are amongst the worst I have seen anywhere. The best are spacious and sunny, the worst are cramped and dark, some are hot and stuffy, others cold and draughty; most are noisy, all are dirty." Another reason was put forward for the move: "Serious as these drawbacks are, the risk of fire is more serious still. There is so much woodwork that fire would spread rapidly, and the staircases are so narrow that a jam would be all too easy if there was a serious outbreak of fire. The temporary buildings, in spite of their being entirely of wood, will be infinitely safer". Ironically, on 6 May 1936 a fire, which apparently started in a science room, gutted the single-storey temporary buildings.

Thankfully nobody was hurt in the fire and the story had a happy ending with the completion of the wonderful Holland Hobbiss buildings which the School now occupies.

Some seventy-five years on the accommodation of the School is about to benefit from the construction of a new Performing Arts Centre, which it will share with its sister school, thanks to the generosity of Mr Paul Ruddock OE and the support of the Foundation. It is important for the School that it should continue to develop its facilities to underline its position as one of the best institutions of learning in the country, and the Foundation Governors are delighted to help finance this project. Whilst the Foundation has not been left untouched by the current economic malaise, it is important that, by careful stewardship of funds, Governors are able to help the School realise its ambitious plans for the future.

I should also like to take this opportunity to express the hope that the new KES Trust Fund is successful in raising money principally to fund bursaries in order that more boys, no matter what their financial circumstances, can benefit from an education at King Edward's School. It is of vital importance that the School is accessible to the widest number of families in our City and its environs. I also wish to assure all Old Edwardians and friends of King Edward's School that the existence and, hopefully, success of this new Trust Fund will not diminish the Foundation's commitment to continue to support the School by the proper and prudent management of the funds at its disposal.

With all the very best wishes for the future of the School and Old Edwardians everywhere.


Michael J Price CBE, Chairman

From the President of the Association

At Speech Day in July, Gareth Davies, the Head of School, decided to humiliate me by telling everyone that I did nothing but quote obscure ancient Greeks. This was just before I humiliated myself by trying to lead Lee Child, alias Jim Grant and our Guest of Honour, out of Big School during, rather than after, the singing of Jerusalem. So, deflected slightly from Herodotus and Heraclitus by the assault of a scientist, I have decided to start with the beginning of T.S. Eliot's *'Burnt Norton'*, the first poem in his *'Four Quartets'* sequence.

*'Time present and time past
Are both perhaps present in time
future.'*

Of course, a school like this makes its future out of its great past and its breathless present and I do want to talk about past and present and future. In the last year we have been trying to reconnect more closely with the school's past. The most obvious element of that reconnection is the grand plan to stage, in early 2011, an exhibition in the Chapel to commemorate the demolition of New Street 75 years ago. That exhibition will include not only the relics of New Street – *'Sapientia'* is on the move – but also some recently discovered 3-D images of the great Barry Building and, the main attraction, a film of the New Street survivors talking of their experiences. We hope that this exhibition will not only entertain alumni and pupils and lovers of the work of Pugin and Barry but also increase awareness in Birmingham and beyond of the school's centrality in the city's history.

In the summer, the Chapel was the venue of another artistic event that stirred strong memories and great affection. Bruce Hurn, his wife and many of his pupils returned to see the reinstallation of his painting of the Crucifixion, restored through the great efforts of Chris Eckersley and the generosity of many.

However, this school does have some scientists, too, in addition to Gareth Davies, and we are trying to do our bit to celebrate that great tradition. Dr Daniel, who will be retiring as Head of Physics in July, is aiming to build a model of the DNA double helix to commemorate Maurice Wilkins (O.E.), who won the Nobel Prize for his work with Crick and Watson. And, at the dinner of the London Old Edwardians, Professor Ivan Roitt, Fellow of the Royal Society and a scientist of world renown, spoke of his time in the same year as our other Nobel Prize Winner, John Vane.

This past matters because it shows us what the school has achieved and thereby it can inspire and challenge us. Not that the boys of this school's present seem to need much inspiration. "Breathless" life certainly is. There has been much physical change in recent months: the Music School is a pile of rubble and the gyms aren't even that. There are portakabins along the whole of South Front and the Parade Ground is an extensive builders' compound. There has also been an equally seismic shift in the metaphysical landscape: A Levels have been abandoned and all of the Divisions are now taking the International Baccalaureate Diploma. It's a big step and, in terms of work, it's quite a step up, but we – not simply the royal we – believe that it will be more challenging, more interesting, more rewarding and more valuable – and even more fun – for our boys.

However, the achievements of a year in a school aren't really formed by buildings or curriculum. They are formed by what the boys do. One thing they do is pass exams: at A Level they broke the records (95.1% A*, A or B) and achieved 33.1% at the newly invented A*, beating even a local girls' school of a similar name. One thing they do is get in to university: 25 of them got into Oxford or Cambridge, the highest number for almost a decade.



However, they also do many other things: 5 boys are in the National Youth Orchestra, a remarkable number, one boy is captain of great Britain Under 18 water polo and two of them play for England Schools, the Under 18 water polo team are national champions, one boy is in the Warwickshire CCC Academy, rugby and hockey and cricket and athletics thrive, badminton and table tennis now have school teams, CCF and Duke of Edinburgh Award have never been bigger, the choirs and the orchestras and the bands have never been bigger or better. If you were a boy, you could have gone to Sulawesi or the Peak District, the Caribbean, Pompeii or Istanbul.

So if, according to Eliot, time present and time past are both, probably, in time future, what does that future look like? Well, in just over a year, the Paul and Jill Ruddock Performing Arts Centre will be completed. Then work will start on making some sense of the strange gathering of buildings that lurk beyond the Chapel. Above all, we have high hopes that the younger generations in the school, increasingly populated by boys on Assisted Places, funded by alumni, will be worthy heirs to the great tradition and the hectic present. These clever boys always have been and will be the life-blood of this school. They make the place what it is.

A few weeks ago, a very experienced educational consultant came to have a look round the school. She said that this was the most ordinary independent school she had ever been in. I took that as a compliment. This is a school full of extraordinary boys achieving extraordinary things in an ordinary, straightforward, down-to-earth way. That was so in the past, is so now and, I am sure, will be so in the future.

*John Claughton
Chief Master*

From the Chairman of the O.E.A.

This has been another year of change, or perhaps a better word is evolution. We now have a whole year to look back on during which the Association's affairs have been managed by Simon, Sue and Lucy in the Development and OEA Office - to whom I express my thanks alongside those of the Committee.

The website and the electronic communications and media have made it easier to let people know what is being organised, how to join in and thus to have more people attending. It is this getting together which is so pleasing because the sense of a private community spirit is a strong part of the Association's *raison d'être*.

The Biennial Dinner was the first in the Dining Hall for many years, and it was tremendous to have the School musicians with us in Big School during the drinks reception. With such talent on hand it seems daft not to have taken advantage before, so I expect this will become a feature going forward! Simon's e-survey afterwards drew a majority positive reaction; this is both reassuring and evidence of how we can now get opinions from all of you and thus make it easier to do things which will be popular. This is good stuff.

The London OEs Dinner was again busy, and a good number sent their regretful apologies. The more specific events are gaining traction too, so I await next year with interest.

The continuing close links with the School are another of our Association's objectives. The updates from John Claughton about the tremendous progress on, for example, the Performing Arts Centre and Assisted Places are all the more meaningful when we know the extent of alumni contributions. The Association's Committee were very pleased to be able to offer £250,000 from its resources as an endowment to the Assisted Places Fund, as a measure of our support for this endeavour and, we very much hope, to encourage others to make it even more of a success.

I hope you will all enjoy reading the pages that follow as much as me - thanks once again are due to Michael Parslew, Hill Shorter and all contributors.

James Martin
Chairman - OEA



From the Editor's Chair - or How It Came About

The animals were all gathered in a circle at the Enchanted Place at the top of the Hundred Acre Wood. In the middle of the circle lay a large sort of book. Rabbit and Owl were peering at it intently.

"Well," said Rabbit to Owl, "it won't do as it is, that's plain. What are we going to do instead?"

Everyone looked at Owl expectantly. Owl shuffled and then ruffled his feathers and looked sideways at Rabbit to see if he was really watching him. And he was.

"Hum, yes, that is a Very Good Question, Rabbit; Very Good Indeed."

"Well???" said Rabbit again.

The question marks hung in the air. The animals held their breath. Owl, feeling rather cornered, took a deep breath –

"We'll have to change things. Yes, Change Things," he said firmly. There was an uneasy silence. "A bit..." He ended rather lamely.

"Yes, but How?" said Rabbit.

Owl looked at Rabbit again and wondered if perhaps a myxomatosis, (whatever that might be), would come along and kidnap him. It would make life easier. He shuffled again and nodded slowly to gain some Thinking Time.

"How? Yes indeed, 'How' is what it is all about. I do so agree, Rabbit."

There was a collective sigh from the waiting animals and Owl felt a wave of relief. That was one tricky moment negotiated.

Rabbit glanced round and realised that everyone was looking at him, waiting to see what he would say, or perhaps

even Do. Rabbit knew a tight corner when he met one. He looked hard at Owl who pretended to be studying the funny whirly shapes in the bark of the oak tree.

"But that doesn't really tell us How. Not really. Does it?"

The gaze of all the animals turned on Owl who wished there could be a sudden thunder-storm or perhaps an invasion by mad woozles. Anything to stop this meeting which he now wished he hadn't called in the first place.

A silence fell. There was the sound of the wind rustling the autumn leaves in the Hundred Acre Wood and the distant murmur of the stream bumbling its way down the edge of the forest.

"Perhaps – " a small voice said. It was Pooh who had suddenly had one of those Amazing Ideas that only come once in, oh, at least a fortnight. Or more.

"Perhaps," he repeated and then added firmly, "perhaps we could turn it round and see if that looks any better."

Everyone, even Owl and Rabbit who had been busy glaring at each other, gazed at Pooh in astonishment and admiration. Pooh looked down his nose modestly. "It's just a thought," he added.

"It's worth a try," said Kanga.

So they tried.

And it looked much better and they all agreed that it would do and went off to see Christopher Robin who gave them a tea with squishy cream buns. And Pooh has a big dollop of honey extra – as a prize for being such an Astute and Helpful Bear

And that's how it came about...



Speech Day 2010

[Last year's occasion brought back to the School an O.E. whom quite a few people will remember and a much greater number will know by name and reputation. Under his pen name he has become the world's leading popular fiction writer; his latest book invariably becomes the immediate no.1 on the Bestsellers Lists around the world. He now lives in New York and came over specially for Speech Day. His address was hailed as one of the best of recent times, if not the best. For those who could not be present and those who were there, we print here the speech in its entirety.]

Speech given by the Guest of Honour, Lee Child (alias J.D. Grant O.E. 1973)

First let me thank your governors, your Chief Master and your staff for this very nostalgic opportunity. I first walked into this room 45 years ago, at the age of 10. I was one of the youngest people in the room back then, and now I'm sure I would be the oldest, except that, to avoid that particular distinction, I took the precaution of inviting a couple of guests I know for sure are older.

I stayed at this school through the Upper Sixth, then went to university, then worked for ITV – back when ITV was a network worth watching – and then I became a writer of commercial fiction. It's a very competitive field, such that my personal workload splits about 50-50 between writing books and promoting them.



Old boys together - Gareth Davies, Head Boy, the Chief Master and Lee Child (1973) outside the main doors at Speech Day. Lee Child, known to his former school friends as Jim Grant, was this year's speaker. He is author of the 35-million selling Jack Reacher series.

The promotion includes personal appearances at festivals and bookstore events, and on television and radio and lots of print journalism, which spans the range between serious feature and review coverage and shorter, more trivial sidebar stuff, like "Five minutes with..." Or "Five questions for..." And so on. I get asked when and where I was happiest – which, sadly, wasn't here – and what three things I would take to a desert island – I usually say three dogs – and what three things I would tell my teenage self. I have never taken that last question very seriously, because absent a reliable method of time travel, it's meaningless, and if there was a reliable method of time travel I would much rather visit the future than revisit the past.

But of course now it occurs to me this is as close as I'll ever come to addressing my teenage self, so I'm going to tell you three things you need to know, in the form of two warnings and a plea.

The first warning is this: Aston Villa will always break your heart. Are there any Villa fans here? Well, good luck, guys. Any Blues fans? Wow, who would have thought it? Birmingham City's entire fan base, all together in the same room at the same time.

The second warning is this: Your biggest problem in life will be your minority status. Nothing to do with ethnicity or religion, but a far more pernicious and frustrating minority – that of intelligent people required to live in a profoundly stupid world. Find a way of dealing with it, sooner rather than later, or your heads will explode.

The third thing is the plea – do not do what my generation did.

But before I tell you what my generation did, I need to explain who my generation was. We were a 20th-Century generation. As I said, we started here 45 years ago in 1965, which was just inside the second third of the century. It was a peculiar century. Like any other century it had a hundred years in it, but unlike other centuries it split fairly exactly into two halves.

The first half contained four gigantic catastrophes – the First World War, a global flu pandemic, the Great Depression, and the Second World War. Between them those four catastrophes brought untold suffering to perhaps a billion people and killed perhaps two hundred million of them in circumstances of abject misery and terror. It was almost certainly the worst half-century in all of human history.

Then things changed dramatically, and while things were far from perfect for many people in many places, for people like us in a place like this, the second half of the 20th Century became perhaps the best half-century in all of human history. In particular those of us who were born during a brief window of time in the early 1950s – my elder brother, who also went to this school, might represent the early edge of the window, and your Chief Master, Mr. Claughton, might represent the later edge, with me right in the middle – were probably the luckiest humans ever born.

I mean that quite seriously. You could write a prize essay about it, or a PhD dissertation. We were born in a stable, post-war European democracy. All major diseases had been conquered. There was a cradle-to-grave welfare state that worked very well. There was full employment for our parents. There was free education of a very high standard from the age of five all the way through to postgraduate studies. There was no danger of bombs dropping on

our houses, no knocks on the door in the middle of the night. Thanks to an otherwise unremarkable Prime Minister named Harold Wilson we were kept out of Vietnam.

That basket of benefits had never been seen before, and sadly it has eroded since. I believe as a matter of serious historiography that we were uniquely privileged.

And we sensed it. We gobbled up every advantage, and we enjoyed them all, and we blossomed in spectacular fashion. I remember walking in here 45 years ago with 99 other boys, and the air itself was crackling and buzzing with intelligence and potential. It was amazing. You think you're smart? Man, we would have eaten your lunch five days out of five. You guys sitting up front, ready to get your prizes? You'd have been way, way back in our day.

And we got better and better and smarter and smarter all the way through, and about 60 of us – not me, and I'll come back to that in a minute – went on to Oxford or Cambridge, about 50 of them on open scholarships or exhibitions.

And then we blew it.

For some reason, we chickened out and settled for mediocrity. We all got nothing jobs, boring and safe, of no account whatsoever.

Let me be clear about two things. A small handful of us, about three or four, did things of moderate interest, and again, let me be clear, I'm deeply honoured to be invited to give this speech but when your Chief Master considered which of my generation to invite, I should have been 64th or 65th on his list, not 4th or 5th or whatever I was. There should have been prime ministers and Nobel Prize winners and cancer curers and all kinds of world beaters ahead of me.

But there weren't, and that's my plea. Don't settle. Don't chicken out. If you want to study law, go for it, but don't then become a solicitor in Erdington, doing divorces and conveyancing. Go to Texas or Mississippi and abolish the death penalty, or go to Africa and write a constitution.

If you want to study medicine, knock yourself out. But don't then become a middle manager in the Health Service. Go defeat malaria or AIDS instead. If you study science, go to Antarctica and find a new mineral and patent a process and win the Nobel Prize and make yourself a fortune.

Of course I'm talking to the parents here, partly. I know how you feel. I had parents just like you. I was a parent just like you. When your son steps out on adult life, you hold your breath. And I'm asking you to hold your breath for maybe twenty years. I know that's tough. But the upside is that the man who comes home twenty years from now will be the best in the world at something. A giant in his field. Not a solicitor from Erdington who has spent twenty years doing divorces and conveyancing.

So when your son falters, it's your job to spur him on.

And conversely, from you boys' point of view, if your parents falter, it's your job to stand fast. Because it's payback time for you. We were smarter than you, no question. But you haven't blown it yet. You can still do the big things. Make sure you do, OK?

New Street Remembered

75 years ago, in December 1935, the boys of King Edward's left Barry's New Street building for the last time and in January 1936 they started to go to school in Edgbaston. To mark this historic anniversary the School is holding an exhibition in the Chapel, which was originally part of the Upper Corridor of New Street, throughout February. To mark this special occasion, we publish two items relating to the old School.

Then and Now: Some New Street Memories

[from the School Chronicle, Dec. 1946]

Experiments with Time are popular – at any rate in fiction. What would the present generation of Edwardians think of their schooldays if they were transported back some forty years – to an era when Barry's noble building gave the one touch of dignity to a New Street already becoming vulgarized, when buses were still drawn by horses, when suburban train services were plentiful and, contemporary jokes notwithstanding, efficient, and when nearly everybody in Birmingham went home to lunch.

The School's central position and the ease with which it could be reached from almost any direction made this mid-day exodus and return a simple matter – time-wasting no doubt, but not without compensations of which the boys and the staff, including the Head Master, were glad to take advantage. On the other hand, convenience of access was one reason, though not the chief, why the School drew its numbers from a much wider area than it does today. Boys came from Leamington, Kenilworth, Walsall, Kidderminster, Wolverhampton, and many places in the Black Country,

and there were large contingents from Sutton Coldfield and Solihull. Oddly enough, those who lived furthest away were generally the keenest on games.

Morning School started with Prayers at 9.5 and the order of prayers was invariable; there was neither hymn nor lesson. Boys late or excused prayers were summoned into Big School before the reading of notices, and at the end of these the Head Master sat at his desk under '*Sapientia*' and dealt with all who wished to see him. Sometimes the queue was a long one, and anybody who could not reach his classroom by 9.15 was given a "clock", a piece of paper stamped with the exact hour at which he left the Head Master's desk. There were three morning periods, each lasting an hour, with "break" from 11.15 to 11.30. Afternoon School on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays began at 2.30, afterwards changed to 2.45 to avoid an excessive number of "late excuses" for boys whose trains did not enable them to reach New Street by 2.30. The afternoon was divided into two periods, and at 4.50 came Evening Prayers – followed by an exit which regularly but unsuccessfully threatened to overwhelm the Prefects, stationed at the doors of Big School.

Big School was furnished with forms and with huge double-sided desks. Several class-rooms, too, had forms and long desks, scarcely less horrifying to the modern educationist's mind than a teaching technique which they made possible. The boys in some classes sat in the order in which they had found themselves at the end of their last period with the master concerned, and they moved up or down on their forms according to their success in answering the questions fired at them – in due course to be awarded marks corresponding to their new positions. A lucky fluke might

send the bottom boy up to the top just before the bell rang; but over a term the results worked out fairly enough. In the right hands – hands such as those of Acatos, a Greek whose amazing skill as a linguist and a teacher is unforgettable by his old pupils – this method was highly effective, especially with youngsters.

Many other aspects of the School and School life would seem strange, if not improper, to the standardized and regimented eye of today. One further instance must suffice. New Street contained an odd assortment of rooms – some (besides of course Big School itself) finely proportioned, others whose shape and size was as inconvenient as the staircases leading to them. A few had originally been attic bedrooms. Every room, however, had an individuality of its own and was the jealously guarded domain of its master, who kept its key and rarely allowed anyone in it unless he himself was present. There was, indeed, a rich idiosyncrasy in the old School, and a grace and spaciousness in its traditional ways, the passing of which one may regret without being uncompromisingly *laudator temporis acti*.

G.A.S.

[G.A.S. were the initials of Mr. Sheldon who was a boy at the School between 1907 and 1912 and returned in 1923 to be "personal assistant" to the Head Master, Cary Gilson. From 1929 he was Senior English Master until ill health forced him to retire in the spring of 1949. This article reflects his experiences as a pupil in the early years of the last century.]



KING EDWARD THE SIXTH'S SCHOOLS, NEW STREET, BIRMINGHAM.

From New Street to Edgbaston (via Repton)

In December 1935 King Edward's undertook the biggest change in its history and left New Street, the site where it had started in 1552. The school relocated to temporary wooden buildings whilst the new Edgbaston building was being built but, due to a fire breaking out in the temporary buildings and an evacuation to Repton at the start of the Second World War, it was not until September 1940 that it was finally able to move into its new home.

To find out what this period of change was like, I caught up with two Old Edwardians who were taught at the school during this time, Dr A J Gossage (1941) and Mr Henry (Harry) Hart (1941).

The Sir Charles Barry building in New Street was considered one of the great three buildings of Birmingham. Did you feel privileged to learn in such a building?

Gossage: I liked the building and was pleased to be there. 'Privilege' was not a part of my vocabulary at that stage, but I was proud to be educated where distinguished men had been before me. Afterwards I felt immensely privileged and I still do.

Hart: At 10 years old I was not well informed about architecture. I accepted the building as part of KES. That was what made me feel privileged, if anything did.

I have read that the building was cold and that there was smoke coming in from New Street Station. What was it like to learn in that kind of environment?

Gossage: I do not remember the cold, except when we had to change for gym. The smoke from the trains was obvious, but it was not a disadvantage. It was just a part of the environment. Some of the rooms were gloomy. One

of the Masters, elderly and a poor teacher, sometimes fell asleep at his desk in the first period after lunch. That was the best way to make the boys quiet.

What is your overriding memory of the New Street building?

Hart: The Masters had their own rooms, and pupils traipsed round long corridors to reach them. I remember the Reverend Sneath (the 'Bishop') in a sort of medieval cell right at the back of the building. He taught mathematics. Another character I remember is Captain ('Codger') Power who used an outsized gym shoe for chastisement and was in the habit of shooting sweets round his class with a collection of classical and medieval siege engine models. But the school was the people – not the building as such.

How did you feel when you heard the New Street building was being demolished?

Gossage: The demolition was an act of cultural vandalism (I should not have been able to express it like that at the time, but that was what I thought.) There was a feeling of regret on leaving New Street but one looked to the future.

The school moved to temporary buildings on South Fields, whilst the new Edgbaston building was being erected but in May 1936 they burnt down during the night. Can you remember how you and your school friends felt when you heard the news?

Gossage: Some thought that it was useful to have a few days extra 'holiday' but in general we were horrified. Some of us lost a few possessions left in desks overnight.

Hart: We were chiefly interested in speculating how the fire started and seeing what was left amongst the ashes.

After the fire, school was taught in the Great Hall at Birmingham University before returning to new temporary buildings. In 1939 the Second World War broke out and you were evacuated to Repton. What was the atmosphere like at school then? How did it feel to be leaving home?

Gossage: So long as we were still in Birmingham we held together well, with many good friends. At Repton things fell apart to some extent. A number of boys chose not to be evacuated. In other ways friendships were bound more closely since we lived nearer to each other. It seemed strange to leave home in these circumstances, but I was fortunate. I was billeted on a farm for a week or two and enjoyed helping the farmer. After the first term I went to a different billet in the home of one of the Repton masters. That in itself was a different kind of social education.

Hart: I felt that Birmingham University had gone to great lengths to make us welcome. So did Repton, both the village and the school. I was billeted in Woodville, a neighbourhood about six miles out, and I cycled in to school, back for lunch then the same to school and back for tea. With all the cycling we were very fit and the rugby XV was able to take on boarding schools such as Denstone on their own terms. We had a very successful season!



Harry Hart (1941) pictured left at this year's London Dinner.



KE Boys return home from Repton for Christmas.

It must have been difficult being uprooted so much. How did it affect your school work?

Gossage: Until the evacuation my school work was unaffected. At Repton I chose to be moved from the farm because it was impossible to concentrate on my studies in a room with a number of other people, who were playing card games and talking.

Hart: I did not think that my school work was affected, although when I went to Cambridge, Charles Blount, my History master, wrote about it to one of his pals, and I met with much sympathy.

When you moved into the new Edgbaston school in 1940 how did it compare to New Street?

Gossage: The new building lacked the aura of tradition and the imposing appearance of the Barry building. In any case, it was not completed and there was no proper Big School. Assemblies were held in what would eventually become the library.

Hart: It was obviously more modern and, in general terms, more convenient than New Street. Although I think the

move was right, it did separate KES from the centre of Birmingham.

Despite all the disruption, the school managed to preserve its national greatness. In the year of the fire, for example, it had a record year for Oxbridge and public exams. Do you feel that King Edward's offered you opportunities that you might not otherwise have had?

Gossage: The opportunities that the school provided were unique. No other school, except possibly one of the major public schools like Eton or Winchester, could have provided so much. It has been said that it took a number of years for it to recover its academic greatness after the war. But this overlooks the fact that my generation, with fewer applications than would have occurred under normal conditions, provided three Open Scholars at Oxford and all those who applied with Scholarships or Exhibitions at Cambridge.

What career did you go on to follow and what benefit was your time at school to your career?

Gossage: I still feel indebted to the school for the excellent start that it gave me for my academic career, continuing with an Open Scholarship at New College, Oxford. I eventually became Reader in Classics at King's College, London.

Hart: I went to Caius College, Cambridge for a year then into the Army in the Royal Artillery. Then I spent two more years at Cambridge before a career in the Inland Revenue, as H M Inspector of Taxes.

Looking back on your time at King Edward's, what is your fondest memory?

Gossage: The consciousness of having been welcomed and treated with respect and wonderfully well educated in a friendly environment in a truly great school.

Hart: My fondest memories are of my friends, who included Roy Kirby, Barry Kentish and John Coley. Also some of the Masters, especially Charles Blount.

Lucy Parrott

The King Edward's Assisted Places Appeal

During the summer holidays, King Edward's embarked on its first telephone fundraising campaign to raise money for the new Assisted Places Fund, which aims to increase accessibility to the school.

Thirteen current students and recent leavers were recruited to take part in the calling, which took place during July and August. The callers received training for two days from Simon Lerwill, the Development Director, in the Cartland Room (home of the old 'Cartland Club') to ensure they were familiar with how to make an effective telephone call. They were also taught how to use the IT software which enabled the callers to record all the details of the call and set up gifts over the telephone. The calling itself took place in the language lab opposite the Cartland Room, under the supervision of Simon and me.

During the course of three weeks, the students spoke to over 1,000 Old Edwardians to see if they would be willing to support the Fund. They also sought feedback on recent events and communications and spoke to old boys about their time at the school and their subsequent careers. To keep motivation levels high, the callers were supplied with chocolates and we organised various team games, including skittles, for the callers to play in between calls. We even had an American themed day when we called US-based Old Edwardians – the room was decorated with flags and all the callers wore red, white and blue!

By the time the calling had ended on the 8th of August, we were all exhausted but had much to celebrate.

Thanks to the overwhelming generosity of Old Edwardians, over £300,000 had been raised which was a record for a UK school and enough to meet our target of funding ten new Assisted Places for September 2011. To celebrate this achievement, Simon and I took the callers out for a meal at Pizza Express – a perfect ending to an exciting three weeks!

*Lucy Parrott,
(Development Officer)*

The school house which has raised the most money for the Assisted Places Fund so far (excluding donations over £10,000) is Heath, whilst the school year which has raised the most money is 1976. To see how much each school house and year have raised, or to find out more about the Assisted Places Fund, please visit the King Edward's School Birmingham Trust website at www.trust.kes.org.uk.

The Call room.



The Summer Telephone Campaign - A Caller's Perspective...

I was a beneficiary of the Assisted Places Scheme at KES. Since leaving in July, I have taken up a place at RADA to study stage management and technical theatre. The opportunities that were afforded to me at school, coupled with the advice and support offered by key teachers, have put me on this exciting career path. I strongly believe such opportunities should be available to other boys like me, which is why I decided to take part in the telephone calling.

Asking a complete stranger for money on the telephone was not something I was used to doing. However, the warmth and generosity of many of the Old Edwardians I spoke to put me at my ease and made my job an easy one. I saw the calling as a means of accepting gifts from people willing to donate; a way of reconnecting with those who have not been back to King Edward's since they left; and an opportunity to share stories about teachers and "other KES oddities" from times gone by. Overall, it was a thoroughly enjoyable, informative and entertaining experience.

I would like to give heartfelt thanks to all Old Edwardians who supported the campaign. As I understand it, we managed to fund another ten boys at the School from September who would otherwise be unable to afford to be there. I sincerely hope the success of the summer will inspire other O.Es to contribute to this cause.

George Hims (2010)



George Hims ready for action?

and - A Donor's Perspective

I knew all about the intentions for the Assisted Places Fund and was awaiting the telephone call when it came from George Hims. George handled the call very well and our conversation was friendly. We discussed his role in the campaign and its progress to date. He also successfully negotiated a slightly higher contribution than I had originally intended to make.

The decision to contribute was simple – I love the School and have benefited enormously from my free place which, given my parents' circumstances, was the only way I could have attended.

I did pay for a place for my son, (though he did have a 25% academic scholarship), but I think I am still "in credit". I was more than happy to play a small part in helping others to benefit as I did.

Malcolm Hunt (1970)

More Leisurely Lunches

*"As through the wild green hills of Wyre
The train ran, changing sky and
shire...."*

(A.E. Housman: A Shropshire Lad)

A welcome sun was breaking through the cloud as a dozen members of the "Class of '51", with their wives, gathered at Kidderminster Town Station for their spring outing: lunch in a specially chartered Observation Saloon on the Severn Valley Railway's line to Bridgnorth...

A few of our group were case-hardened railway enthusiasts who, in the 1950s, had inhaled deeply of the drifting smoke at the south end of old New Street Station's platform six; but most were simply looking for a ride with good company through some of the most attractive countryside in the Midlands.

That this was to be no routine railway journey was evident from the "oohs" and "aahs" of the ladies in the party as we all entered the saloon and they caught sight of the comfortable settees, upholstered with the Great Western Railway Company's best blue

and beige chintz. A splendid cold luncheon buffet was quickly unveiled and unobtrusive stewards hovered with bottles of wine as our train set off on its hour-long journey through Bewdley and by the banks of the Severn up to Bridgnorth. At our destination there was adequate time for a stroll to the Castle Gardens before rejoining our saloon for sweet and coffee during the return trip, while a vista of the line unfolded behind the observation window.

Many of our generation have a special affection for the countryside through which the line passes. In the 1940s and early 1950s foreign travel was almost unknown, other than by courtesy of His Majesty's armed forces, and even routine seaside holidays were then limited. But there was always the possibility of a brief escape from Birmingham into Worcestershire or Shropshire. Thus many of us had once been familiar with the journey by Severn-side, looking west into the depths of the Wyre Forest. Whilst slogging at our desks in Edgbaston we had discovered the literary associations with the district, notably Sabrina, Milton's nymph of the Severn, and the



Lunch is loaded while the group climb aboard.

poetry of A.E. Housman. Even the station names on the Severn Valley line and its erstwhile link to Tenbury Wells seem part of a musical litany of rural England: Neen Sollars, Hampton Loade – names which should have been set to music by Ralph Vaughan Williams or George Butterworth.

After three hours of delightful travel our odyssey by rail ended back in Kidderminster; but that was not to be the end of our day, as Peter Tyrer had arranged for a few of us to go on to Ledbury to meet Mrs. Veslemöy Lunt, widow of Canon R.G. Lunt.

She entertained us to tea, surrounded by memorabilia of her husband. These included a fine portrait of him from his early years and also his desk, the latter now crowned with an Apple Mac computer, which seemed somewhat at variance with the image we all recall. Despite her years, Mrs. Lunt is an active member of the local choir and she also gives lessons in Norwegian. She told us how she first met her husband when he was an officer with the British forces who liberated Norway in 1945. Her early years as a wife in England were not easy as she had to assume responsibility for the welfare of boys boarding at Liverpool College where her husband was the Headmaster. They moved to Birmingham in 1952 and remained there, first in a rambling old Edwardian house on the Bristol Road and latterly in the newly built Vince House, until Canon Lunt retired in 1974.



As summer gave way to autumn our group notched up two more lunches. The first was in September at the 'Pontefract Arms', hard by the Wallace Collection, in London. This was a convivial gentlemen's gathering where we exchanged school memories and forthright opinions on the shortcomings of the 21st century. We were delighted that Clive Cooper was able to join us on one of his occasional visits to this country from his home in the U.S.A.

The second autumn gathering took place on a wet November day, when Richard Mayou, (Professor and Fellow of Nuffield College), was the host of a lunch for eighteen of our group, plus wives, in the Fellows' Dining Room.

To some of our number, lunch in Oxford was an opportunity to revisit scenes familiar from undergraduate days half a century ago. Others were simply "tourists", half expecting to hear Anthony Blanche reciting *'The Waste Land'* through a megaphone or to see Inspector Morse issuing from some college doorway followed by a cadaver en route to the city mortuary.

Thanks to Richard Mayou we had an opportunity not available to the tourist parties who usually swarm the city streets. He took us to the top of the Nuffield Tower where we enjoyed extensive views over a rain-sodden Oxford. It has to be admitted that a wet November morning on Nuffield Tower possessed a character rather different from that of Holman Hunt's



Gathering for coffee in Nuffield College.



In Worcester College gardens.

'May Morning on Magdalen Tower', with its golden curled choirboys! Later, Peter Lee led us on a tour of the gardens of Worcester College. The rain had drifted away and mellow wintry sunshine lit up the autumn colours which were caught in their own reflection in the lake.

Once again the 'Class of '51' had enjoyed an excellent meal with good wine in glorious surroundings; but best of all we had revelled in the pleasure of good company. 2011 will see our Diamond Jubilee; the passage of 60 years since our first arrival at KES will call for another celebration. Plans are already being made.

Robert Darlaston (1959)

O.Es from the Class of '51 who attended functions during the year were:

Michael Barnsley, John Beard, Max Beran, Richard Berry, Richard Birch, Roger Bickerton, Rodney Cartwright, Clive Cooper, John Cowan, Alan Cowie, Robert Darlaston, Andrew Hornig, Peter Lee, Chris Lettington, Richard Mayou, Nick McCarty, Phil Pardoe, Brian Patterson, Geoffrey Purkis, Peter Rothwell, Richard Smith, Martin Swales, Peter Tyrer, Roger Wilkins, Colin Wood.

Miscellany - Town & Country

The School has built up a rich Archive of material, bringing to life the activities of past generations of Edwardians. Much of it is lodged in the Foundation Office vaults in the charge of the Foundation Archivist, Alison Wheatley; but some of it is to be found in the British Library, the Bodleian Library in Oxford, and the Cambridge University Library. In this edition of the 'Gazette', and for the future, it is intended to publish items of interest which have been unearthed for us by two honest and honourable researchers; in the 'Town' (the School) Ganymede, in the 'Country' (the several Libraries) Autolycus, that snapper up of unconsidered trifles!

From the Country: King Edward's School Chronicle Volume 5

**Oxford and Cambridge
Old Edwardians Club
Third Annual General Meeting
January 12th 1887
Rev. J. Hunter Smith responding to
the toast of the school:**

"The school was of course especially distinguished from the great public schools as being a day school. But a famous physician had attributed the rectitude of Scotch boys to the family life which preceded their college life, and such a School as theirs could combine the manly spirit of the great public schools with the graces and gifts of an English home, and they would not let themselves be overshadowed. Further, all religious denominations and all grades of society met together in the class-rooms, and thus was found one sure social rostrum when boys were trained together in that way. They did not rule their teaching by the demands of competitive examinations, but set before themselves a moral aim. Their great distinctive work was the culture of the middle classes, the cementing

of classes together and the teaching of those who had different religious convictions to agree to differ."

From the Town: A Piece of History

As the focus of this year's Gazette is the school's move from New Street and the intervening years before it settled into the new Edgbaston building, we have found two extracts from the School Chronicle during this period. The first is from December 1935, the year that the school left the Barry building in New Street. The second extract is from December 1940, three months after King Edward's moved into the new building in Edgbaston.

Editorial of the School Chronicle, December 1935:

"THIS CHRONICLE reflects alike the shortcomings and the interests of this disorderly term. We are sure that the special articles on the School make up for the deficiencies in the record side of the issue. One thought has been uppermost in our minds, that of moving the School. It is hardly the time now for bemoaning the fact; the Head Master has shown that it had to be. Necessity is a strong argument, if a poor consolation. Present Edwardians, we think, feel the wrench more than anyone else. Old Edwardians and friends of the School share our regret that such a fine building should be destroyed. But for us there is the unhappy sense of our home falling about our heads, as notice-boards are unscrewed and stones prophetically numbered.

However we have maligned the building in the past, we are now prepared to forswear;

"for so it falls out
That what we have we prize not to the worth
Whiles we enjoy it; but being lacked
and lost
Why then we rack the value; then we find
The virtue that possession would not show us
Whiles it was ours."*

* Shakespeare: *Much ado About Nothing*

Extract from the Editorial of the School Chronicle, December 1940:

"There were many who raised strong protests when the decision was reached to leave Charles Barry's building in New Street and to seek the comparative peace which Bristol Road could offer us. We trust that their misgivings were set at rest and their protests silenced when the School entered upon what we hope is to be a long period of peaceful progress in this great building of which both the School and the city can be justly proud. A year ago, in the CHRONICLE, the Head Master wrote these words: "We have a wonderful building rising to welcome us home...but it will remain dead bricks unless it is lit by the spirit of a great School." We appeal now to Old Edwardians of the present generation to keep the spirit of King Edward's glowing that it may be a beacon of inspiration to those who follow its light in future years. We hope our plea will not be in vain."



The first class to enter the new King Edward's, 1940.

Association News

The Annual General Meeting, held on 23rd June 2010

The meeting was held in the KEHS Music Room with James Martin in the Chair and the President also in attendance. Apologies for absence were received from Stephen Tallboys, Mark Roberts and Roger Parsons, our auditor. Jim Evans agreed to act as scribe for the occasion.

Chairman's Report

He reported that both Stephen Tallboys and Mark Roberts had indicated their wish to retire from the Committee due to pressure of work. Both had given great service to the Association during their terms in office.

The Chairman also wished to record a vote of thanks to David Brewer who had retired from the Committee during the past year. David had been replaced as Rugby Club Representative by Mike Allport who was welcomed aboard.

Simon Lerwill (Development Director) had agreed to take over the role of Secretary, replacing Stephen Tallboys.

Finances

It was confirmed that, following the changes to the Constitution of the OEA reported at the last AGM, the School had now taken over the running of several parts of the Association, which now appear to be far more energetic – and electronic! – than was previously the case. Several new social functions had been arranged which were well attended and the Gazette was still finding its way to a new style & presentation.

The OEA finances were in a healthy state and as a result the Committee had been able to pledge £250,000 towards the forthcoming Appeal on behalf of the new King Edward's School, Birmingham Trust, which the President would describe.

Accounts

Proposed by James Martin and seconded by David Corney, these were adopted unanimously.

President's Address

The Chief Master, John Cloughton, spoke about the forthcoming Trust which was being set up to make King Edward's available to all of the City's brightest boys, by offering more Assisted Places. To date, Alumni had contributed over £300,000 towards this venture. He also confirmed that the pledge made by the Association to the new Trust would in no way diminish contributions made by the Foundation, who would continue to provide funds to the School at their historic levels.

The biggest news from the School was that the work had started on the new Performing Arts Centre. This will stand on the sites previously occupied by the gymnasiums (built in 1936) and the Music School (built in 1967). Paul Ruddock (1976) had been a major sponsor of this project which had also been supported by a grant from the Foundation.

From September 2010 the International Baccalaureate Examination, (the IB), would replace 'A' levels at the School.

One of the tasks that had been ongoing since King Edward's had taken over some of the OEA administration had been to increase the number of alumni the Association can communicate with. It has been estimated that there are around 6,900 living Old Edwardians. The search for "Lost O.Es" has added 1,500 names to the list of those 'contactable', making a total of 3,600 with whom the Association is now in communication.

Several year group reunions took place at the School during the year which had been well attended. Over 400 O.Es attended these events including, remarkably, 81 from the decade 1940-50.

Finally those present were reminded that the Biennial Dinner was taking place in September and the President hoped everyone would be there.

Biennial Dinner

The 39th Old Edwardians Biennial Dinner took place at the school on Saturday 18th September. This year was particularly special as it marked the 250th anniversary of the first Old Edwardian dinner.

The event was a huge success. Over 160 Old Edwardians of varying ages attended, which is more than in recent years. Guests included a group of recent leavers who took part in the telephone calling over the summer and one of our oldest Old Edwardians, Ronald Naylor, who left the school in 1931. Former staff members Phil Lambie, John Emery, Carol Southworth and Pauline Asher also attended the dinner.

The guest speaker was Niels de Vos, Chief Executive of UK Athletics and Executive Board Member of the British Olympic Association, who left King Edward's in 1985. Speeches were also given by the Chief Master, James Martin (Chairman of the Old Edwardians Association) and James Cull, Head Boy.

A review of the Biennial Dinner by Sam Peat (2010)

Telephone callers, particularly the money requesting sort, are not the most popular people at the best of times. It was with some trepidation therefore that a group of this summer's leavers and I attended the Biennial Dinner on Saturday 18th September.

The dinner began with drinks and an excellent selection of canapés in the impressive surroundings of Big School as people from all manner of destinations (including two by tandem) arrived. If excellent conversation with one's contemporaries was not enough, we were also provided with fantastic entertainment by the swing band.

Eventually, however, as much as we were enjoying ourselves we had to move onto the dinner itself (being the purpose of the evening). The meal was quite excellent, leading the younger Old Edwardians attending to question just how school dinners had been as bad as they were. The meal consisted of a lovely smoked salmon mousse to start, followed by a braised shank of lamb with horseradish mash. To finish we were served a delicious Eton mess. As if that were not enough we were then provided with a splendid array of cheese and biscuits, as well as a glass of port.



David Harrison (1957) & Ronald Naylor (1931).



Alex McPherson, Rajiv Gogna, Lawrence Pardoe & Sam Peat, members of the telephone team.

To accompany our cheese and biscuits we enjoyed talks from Niels de Vos, Chief Executive of UK Athletics, James Cull, School Captain, and the Chief Master. Niels gave a fascinating account of the legacy for the Olympic Games which was appreciated by many. James gave his view of the school in its present day. Of course this was only yesterday for the telephone callers, but it was fascinating to see how much of what he said resonated with the more senior Old Eds in attendance. Finally, the Chief Master gave an impassioned case of the need for the Assisted Places Fund and expressed his gratitude for the generous support of the scheme so far.

The evening concluded, as does my article, back in Big School with yet more refreshments. But most importantly of all, with the school song which was sung with a gusto that would put the rendition of the song at the end of the school year to shame.

Thanks must go to Simon Lerwill, Sue Dickens, Lucy Parrott, the Old Edwardians Association and the dining hall staff for putting on such a wonderful evening for us!



Martin Palmer (1986) & Christian Hughes (1986).



Tim Austin (1961), Neville Tindale (1961), Jim Mason (1961), Rod Pinner (1960).

Association Events



1940 Reunion.

1940s and 1950s Reunions

In March we held reunions for Old Edwardians who left the school in 1940-44, 1945-49 and 1950-51. These events were a big success and attracted over 100 former pupils in their 70s and 80s, several of whom left in 1940, back to the school. The reunions started with tea and coffee in the staff room, followed by a school lunch in the dining hall. After waiting patiently for the group photos, the old boys listened to a talk by Foundation Archivist, Alison Wheatley, and saw some of the school's archive material. They were then led on a tour of the school by Development Director, Simon Lerwill, and former teachers Derek Benson and Stuart Birch. Finally everyone returned to the Chief Master's study to enjoy some well-earned tea and cake.

1980s and 1990s Reunions

Decade reunions for Old Edwardians who left the school in the 1980s and 1990s were held in January.

Both events were well attended - 73 Old Edwardians came to the 1980s reunion and were only slightly beaten by the 83 who attended the 1990s reunion.

The reunions started with tours of the school, including Big School, the chapel, the old gyms (which were demolished over the summer) and the library. The drinks reception that followed in the Gild Hall was a great opportunity for everyone to catch up with old friends and teachers. Everyone then moved through to dinner in the school's dining hall. Both events ended with rousing renditions of the school song and a speech from John Cloughton, who said that he hoped he could continue to make King Edward's as great in reality as it was in the minds of old boys. It was then time for everyone to head home or to the 'Gun Barrels', full of reawakened memories and renewed friendships.

Garon Anthony, Lee Bacchus, Matthew Dolman, Nick Varley, Martin Palmer at the 1986 Reunion.





Making the pews for the chapel.

Bruce Hurn Art Event

A special event dedicated to Bruce Hurn was held in the school chapel in June. Bruce Hurn taught art at King Edward's for almost 30 years between 1947 and 1973. During his time he produced a memorable altarpiece in the chapel entitled 'The Crucifixion'. Unfortunately, after Bruce left, the altarpiece was repainted and damaged as a result. In 2004, Chris Eckersley (1970), who was taught by Bruce, launched an appeal to Old Edwardians in order to raise funds to restore the altarpiece and this event marked its re-installation into the chapel.



Bruce Hurn with Peter Testar (1969) & Andrew Tobias (1978).



David Long (1964), Derek Walker (1970), & Neil Gilmore (1970), in the Chief Master's garden.



Bruce Hurn with his altarpiece.

Over 80 Old Edwardians, many of them donors to the restoration work, and guests came back to King Edward's to see the altarpiece itself at the special dedication service which was led by the school chaplain, Rev Duncan Raynor (1976). There were speeches of thanks from John Claughton (1975), Chris Eckersley (1970) and Bruce Hurn himself. After the service everyone headed to the Chief Master's garden for cream tea in the sunshine. It was the perfect end to a great day.

Association Sport

Old Edwardians Cricket Club – Report for the 2010 Season

The Old Ed's Cricket Club had a mixed season, but one which was memorable for two individual highlights.

John Nicholls took his two thousandth wicket for the Club in early September. He had hoped to reach 2010 in 2010 but he was finally denied this target by the bad weather during that month. Sadly, he has announced that he will be playing less in 2011. His long-standing commitment to the Club has been valued by everyone and his presence in the dressing room as well as on the field of play will be sorely missed.

Then, on the annual Club Tour of the West Country, Mike Hughes scored his 20,000th run for the Club. This capped years of highly consistent performance by a top-class batsman, who – it must be added – has achieved many of his best scores against our better opponents.

First XI

The first team won eight of its eighteen league games; only three matches were drawn. This meant the side finished 7th in their league, the same as the previous season.

Rashid was the leading batsman and scored the only league century of the season. He also topped the league averages for all clubs. Dan Christopher, a young O.E., was second in the batting averages and is improving with each season. Ex-skipper, Phil. Clarke, still makes runs and finished just ahead of his son, Luke, who is a Youth Team product. Rohin Maini, another young O.E., is also establishing himself as a batsman of note.



John Nicholls and Mike Hughes, record bowler and batsman.

John Nicholls bowled most overs, took most wickets and had the lowest average – though not by much.

Second XI

The side played 22 games, of which it won 6 and lost 10. They spent most of the season in the lower half of the league table before getting stronger towards the end of the summer as students became available to play. Three of the wins came in the last four games.

This was sufficient to get the side the position of 9th out of 12 in the league, thus avoiding any fears of relegation. Bowling is still the stronger element of the side with Azim playing a leading role.

Third XI

The third team retained their position in their league – an excellent performance. They were helped by several players from the School and young O.Es. Nathan Molnar is a very promising bowler and is improving with every season. This year he conceded only 2.8 runs per over. Rees Mughal bats and bowls with wonderful enthusiasm. His score of 62 in a run chase was a highlight and nearly gained us a victory – but not quite! Haroon Hamid returned to bat well late in the season.

Youth Cricket

This continues to be run by Mike Thornton and Matt Melia, who give their time so willingly by running nets every Thursday and taking the club matches. This year we had several

players from the School, including Rahul Karavadra, who scored 42 in his first game. Rahul played in the School U14 side earlier in the summer where he opened the bowling and batted in the top three!

Social Events

One hesitates to put the Annual Cricket Club Tour to the West Country in this category, but judging from the large number of ex-players who attend these games, it does have a large social content. Matches against Bath and Keynsham are long-standing fixtures and hugely enjoyable. At Warminster Mike Hughes achieved his cherished objective, (see above), and this added to the festivities.

In October we had Dennis Amiss as the guest speaker at the Cricket Dinner. This was held at Streetsbrook Road and proved a highly enjoyable evening.

In Conclusion

We must once again thank all those who work so hard to get things organised. Johnny Allen remains our groundsman and does sterling work throughout the season. The ground now has efficiently functioning drainage which allows many more matches to be played – and completed! The team Captains, even with mobile phones and e-mails, work tirelessly to get the sides out each week-end. Youth team practices, etc. all take time. And so it goes on.

Jim Evans

Old Edwardians Hockey

The Old Edwardians Hockey Club are on a quest to find forgotten talent. We currently play bi-annual matches against the school's 1st XI, and we are hoping to expand this fixture list further in the near future.

In the most recent match, in September, the Old Edwardians ran out 3-1 winners against a young King Edward's side, with Adrian Brindley scoring all three goals. This was the club's first victory over the school in many years.

If you play hockey and would like to get involved with the Old Edwardians Hockey Club then please contact club captain Ben Freer (ben.freer@orange.net) or the school's head of hockey Michael Johnson (mej@kes.org.uk). You can also look out for the 'Old Edwardians Hockey Club' group on Facebook, where you can find more contact details and information on upcoming events.

Team: Ben Freer (Capt.), Vivek Shah, Adam Lax, Matthew Poole, Joe Harrison, Gareth Davies, Adam Brindley, Matt Sedgwick, Dave Benhamou, Samir Patel, Vivek Balachander, Tom Manners.

Ben Freer, O.E. Hockey Captain.

Old Edwardians Golfing Society

The most important fixture in the annual calendar is the Halford Hewitt, a scratch foursomes knock-out competition, in early April. The outstanding performance of the year was winning our first round match against Brighton – the first time we've survived the first round for many years.

Our results show the usual mixed achievements but a feature of the year has been our Autumn meeting at Blackwell. This is a superb course and perhaps we should learn from the attendance of 30 golfers on the day.

There are opportunities to represent the OEGB in tournaments and matches and there is always space for more competitors at Spring and Autumn meetings. For further information contact Frank Scouse, President, 01295 780529; jscouse@onetel.net or Martin Wilkes, Secretary, 0121 666 6228 (work); MartinWilkes@Christine-Lee.co.uk

Results

April 1st: v School (Edgbaston)
Lost 3½ – 2½

April 8th-9th Halford Hewitt, Royal Cinque Ports/Royal St. George
Round 1: v Brighton Won 3½ – 1½
Round 2: v Merchiston Lost 1 – 4

May 7th Spring Meeting, Harborne
OE Trophy (best net) Duncan Glover
88 - 16 = 72

The Golfer (best gross) Tim Pickering
81

Best Stableford John Wilner 36 pts

May 8th Grafton Morrish, Olton
(Scratch Foursomes Stableford) OE
team unplaced

June 24th-25th Cyril Gray,
Worplesdon (Over 50s Foursomes
Match Play)
Round 1: v Edinburgh Academy Lost
½ - 2½
Plate Round 1: v Whitgift Lost ½ - 2½

June 30th MK Foster, Little Aston
(Handicap Foursomes Stableford) OE
team unplaced

July 22nd v Old Silhillians, Harborne
Lost ½ - 5½

August 16th v Old Veseyans, Moor Hall
Won 5 – 1

October 22nd Autumn Meeting,
Blackwell: Buckley Salver (best net)
Tim Pickering 73

Best Guest Nick Gainsford 35 pts



London Old Edwardians

A General Note:

Throughout this year there have been discussions between the London O.Es and the Development Office at the School as a result of which a number of decisions have been taken. Firstly, due to the ever-increasing number of events at the School during December, it has been proving too difficult for the Chief Master to attend our Annual Dinner in that month, and so it has been decided to move this Dinner to the last Monday in November, (this year the 29th November).

Also, because of the poor attendance at the AGMs over the past few years and the increasing cost of housing the event, it has been decided to hold the AGM on the same day as, and just prior to, the Annual Dinner.

Lastly, the Development Office at the School has taken over the bulk of our administration, which allows us to concentrate on arranging our events. Simon Lerwill, the Director of the Development Office, and Sue Dickens, who runs the OEA Office, are thanked for the smooth and efficient take-over. This year, for the first time, the London O.Es have been able to book and pay online for the Annual Dinner through the OEA web site.

Summer Outing 2010

This year's Summer Outing for Old Edwardians and their partners was a joint event with the Birmingham O.Es and the London members of the KEHS Old Girls Association.

We had arranged a guided tour of St. Paul's Cathedral, followed by a short guided walk in the St. Paul's area of London and an early evening meal at the 'Centre Page' pub. During our tour of the Cathedral we learnt the history of the site of St. Paul's, the building of the cathedral, the famous people buried and commemorated there as well as the various battles commemorated by plaque and tablet and banner.

Following the visit to the Cathedral, Lance Williams, our guide on the walk, shared some very interesting points as we followed him on a splendidly sunny afternoon. Inside the Cathedral grounds there was at one time a large hexagonal pulpit from which government information was announced. Attendance there was compulsory upon pain of death! We passed the Temple Bar, which marks the boundary between the two cities of London and Westminster, and walked to the top of Cheapside and on to the Goldsmiths' Hall. This is the London Assay Office where the process of hallmarking takes place.

From here we moved on to see the ruins of Wren's Christ Church, Greyfriars. It was extensively damaged in the Second World War and was not rebuilt. Instead, the ruins were made safe and the rest of the site was planted with roses which indicate the ground plan layout of the church. They are the church's "congregation" and look beautiful, waving in the summer breeze.

Our final reference point was the Old Bailey at Newgate. Today it houses the Central Criminal Court but in previous centuries it was the place of execution. Lance Williams explained to us the meaning of several "gallows phrases"; "Money for Old Rope," "Gone West", and "On the Wagon".* From Newgate we walked back towards St. Paul's and to the appointed tavern.

30 O.Es and partners came to St. Paul's and 25 stayed on to enjoy the walk and the evening meal. The weather was kind to us and, from the feedback, it was a day enjoyed by everyone.

[Readers wishing to know the meaning of the three phrases quoted may apply to the Editor who will be pleased to supply the answers.]



Tom Reynard, Jonathan Briscoe, Oliver Middleton, Simon Purkis & Richard Folsom (2002).



Professor Ivan Roitt (1945), the Guest Speaker.

The guest speaker this year was Professor Ivan Roitt, who left King Edward's in 1945 - the same year as the Nobel Prize winner, Sir John Vane. The Professor spoke about his time at school and his own impressive scientific career, which included the discovery of thyroglobulin autoantibodies in Hashimoto's thyroiditis which helped to develop the concept of a relationship between autoimmunity and human disease. He was followed by the Chief Master, John Cloughton (1975), and the School Captain, who updated those present on news from the School. After a rousing rendition of the school song, including the missing fourth 'New Street verse', the President, John White (1973), brought proceedings to a close. It was then time for everyone to either head out into the cold or head for the warmth of the bar.

Annual Dinner 2010

More than 50 Old Edwardians battled freezing weather and a tube strike to make it to the annual London Old Edwardians dinner at the RAF Club on 29th November. It was particularly pleasing that a good number of OEs who left in the last ten years were able to make it – there were ten present from 2002 and 2004. This year the event was preceded by the AGM, which helpfully was staged in the bar so that those attending did not have to move far for the drinks reception. After a few drinks the old boys headed upstairs to the dining room where they were treated to a fantastic dinner which included the old favourite of steak and kidney pudding.



Frank Thacker (1946) & Professor Michael Banton (1944).

In Conclusion

If you are not on the London Old Edwardians mailing list, and you wish to attend any of our functions, please contact either:

Sue Dickens at the KES Development and OEA Office:
e-mail [smd @kes.org.uk](mailto:smd@kes.org.uk)
Telephone: 0121 415 6050

or:
The Honorary Secretary to the London Old Edwardians
David Edmonds – details in the list of Officers of the OEA

School News



Round-up from the School Captain

The last year has seen the most dramatic changes at KES since it moved to its current location in Edgbaston. Not only has a sixth of the school been turned into a huge pile of rubble but also the sixth form curriculum has been turned on its head with the introduction of the International Baccalaureate Diploma. The IB provides a rounded education, which is well suited to the boys at KES even if it means extra homework. It also represents a new era for KES, with the old one drawing towards a successful close with 25 boys going to Oxford and Cambridge and 32.5% of A levels being A*s.

The story of successes continues with the excellent reviews for the senior production 'Hairspray' and the junior production 'Honk' both showcasing comedy and musical talent.

Drama aside, in sporting terms water polo continues to be a mainstay with the under 19 team seizing victory over Manchester Grammar School in a penalty shoot out in the final of the English Schools Competition. Sport in general has seen a lot more professional coaching promising good things for a wide range of sports in the future. The pinnacle of the cricket year was a tour to St Lucia and Barbados

and the rugby players are working towards their tour of Argentina next year.

It still remains though that the largest change at KES has been the demolition of the gyms, music block and language corridor to make way for the stunning new Performing Arts Centre. Construction work started over the winter half-term to make a suitable home for the excellent orchestras, choirs and drama groups.

In all it has been a busy and eventful year at KES and the coming year will bring new challenges and experiences.

James Cull



Going.



Going.

The Paul and Jill Ruddock Performing Arts Centre

Over the summer holidays the music school and gymnasium were demolished to make way for a new £10 million performing arts centre, which will occupy the area next to Big School. The demolition of both buildings began in July but not without a final goodbye from the school's Sixth Formers. In keeping with tradition, this year's leavers chose to mark their departure from King Edward's by decorating the front of the music school with cans of paint and graffiti!





Development Director's Report

At the Biennial Dinner this year I was lucky enough to sit next to Ronald Naylor, one of the oldest old boys. Ronald left the school in 1931, which means that he has been an Old Edwardian for 78 of his 96 years. He is one of only a handful of living old boys to have been taught entirely in the New Street buildings. In a year of great change for King Edward's, with the introduction of new syllabuses and the construction of new buildings, it seems a particularly relevant time to reflect on the largest change in the School's history – the move from New Street to Edgbaston. In December it will have been 75 years since the boys last walked out through Sir Charles Barry's doors and, as this Gazette drops through your door, a special exhibition, *New Street Remembered*, will be running in the School Chapel to commemorate this important historical moment. All Old Boys are welcome to visit it and we hope many will do so.

At Founder's Day, a month after the Dinner, I had the pleasure of introducing Clement Chan, a boy in the Upper Middles who had just received a mathematics prize, to Mrs. Shirin Panthaki, the donor who had funded it, in memory of her son, Furokh Panthaki, who left the school in 1976 and whose death was reported in the Gazette last year. Clement is an extremely bright boy, one of the brightest in his year, and he is also one of the 11 boys in the school on an Assisted Place funded by John Osborn (1962). The power of philanthropy to change lives was well demonstrated in this one event: Clement would not have been receiving this prize if it was not for the Panthaki family and he would not even have been at the school in the first place if it was not for donors like John Osborn.



Going.

The centre, which will be named the Paul and Jill Ruddock Performing Arts Centre, will provide a main auditorium with seating for over 400 and a stage big enough for an orchestra of 80, a drama studio that will seat 120 in various configurations, a large dance/performance space and teaching, rehearsal and practice rooms for the school's music department.

The building work is expected to be finished in early 2012.

Visit www.oldseds.kes.org.uk/pac to see photos of the building work as it progresses.



Gone.



This power of philanthropy was also in evidence during the telephone calling we undertook last summer when we launched our new Assisted Places Fund. Over £300,000 was raised – the most in this way by any school in this country – and, with the addition of some further gifts, it was enough to fund 10 new Assisted Places for boys starting this September (50% more places than we were able to offer last year). In all, Old Boys helped us to raise more than £1 million for Assisted Places last year. I think this generosity reflects both the great affection Old Edwardians have for their school and also their belief in ensuring future generations can have access to it. It is this same affection which ensures that, 78 years after leaving, old boys like Ronald Naylor are still returning to King Edward's. I hope that, in 2084, Clement Chan will still be coming back too.

Simon Lerwill

Staff News

The following members of staff left during the course of the last twelve months:

George Andronov (Deputy Chief Master), Glynis Cook (Economics), Martin Stead (P.E.), Stan Owen (Classics), John Cumberland (Head of Geography), John Evans (Physics), Jonathan Pitt (Geography), Kay Buxton (History), Trevor Collins (Head Porter & O.C. CCF)

Letters to the Editor



*King Edward's School Seven (winners of the Public Schools' Sevens 1956).
Back Row: David Lindley, Max Wilkins, John Pendry, Ken Rushton (Touch Judge & reserve),
David Soutter. Front Row: 'Nes' Davies, Roger Wilson, Gordon ('Pug') Kemp.*

From: R.K. Wilson (1956)

Dear Editor,

Firstly, let me say how much I have enjoyed making my way through the latest copies of the Gazette; many congratulations to all concerned with it. Secondly, I'm sorry I haven't been in touch before; there are various reasons, of which the main one is idleness!

I now have a son and associated family living just beyond Worcester, so I am able to reach KES with relative ease. This is why I came to a Dinner in Big School sometime last year, and then again to a reunion last October. I much enjoyed both events.

I spent three years on the staff at the School, from 1961 to 1964, before moving south to Christ's Hospital in Sussex. I stayed there for sixteen years, the last ten of them as the Housemaster of the senior boys'

boarding house, which happened to number Sir Barnes Wallis among its Old Boys. I ended my teaching career as Head of the Duke of Kent Prep. School, run by the RAF Benevolent Fund.

I remained very much in touch with rugby football. Not only did I captain the Edwardians before moving south but I also ran the rugby at Christ's Hospital. I enclose two photographs from my "Past Times"; one is of the side that won the Public School Sevens in 1956, the other is a picture of the first school side in which I ever played. (We lost to Hallfield 18-0!) I well remember I spent the first half at wing forward – the only time I ever played in the pack.

I also played cricket with the Kestrels and I recall one incident involving J.B. Guy and Tom Freeman. Bernard Guy dropped a catch in the slips, whereupon Tom burst out laughing. So Bernard put Tom in the slips as a punishment and Tom immediately took a "blinder". With which he remarked to Bernard, "Now that I've shown you how to do it, you can have a go!" Not many players put one over on JBG!

With best wishes,
Roger Wilson



*King Edward's School U13 Team:
Standing: Brian Sharpe, Ken Rushton, Peter Vernon, Alf Manders, Eric Saxon, Chris Pilling, Clive Harris, A.K. Hodges, Brian Smethurst. Sitting: Barry Pierce, Alan Harbour, Graham Willison, George Simpson, 'Nipper' Hawkins, Roger Wilson, ? Waterfall*

From: Ian Downing (1951)

Dear Editor,

I write to congratulate you on the recent issue of the OE Gazette. It is a very fine and interesting publication.

I was especially pleased to read his wife's description of Gavin Lyall. He and I polished the same school bench in Mr. Crow's Sixth Form class for those aspiring to read for a degree in English. Gavin spent the entire time drawing small cartoons of American soldiers, each wearing an outsize helmet, while I memorised Latin declensions in readiness for Responsions. Gavin went on to read English at Pembroke, Cambridge, whereas I escaped from the then tedious and irrelevant Oxford English course by changing to P.P.E. at Exeter College.

I enclose a photograph of a bunch of scoundrels known contemptuously in 1948 as 'The 5D Gang'. I can name the members as:

Back row: ? , ? , Berlin,
Ward, ? , Arnott, ? ,

Middle row: Hart, Arthur, Downing,
Lawrence, Yetman, Chaudoir, Swift,
McLean, Shewring, ? ,

Front row: Wheatley, Bantock, Foster,
Brewin, Mr. Craig, ? , Woodroffe,
? , Homer

Yours sincerely,
Ian Downing

*[If anyone can fill in the gaps (i.e. - ?),
please let the Editor know.]*



From: Bill Shrimpton (1957)

Dear Editor,

I turned 70 this year – and I'm pleased to report that I'm still playing rugby. Those O.E. contemporaries with whom I'm still in touch – Spike Stevens, Dave Soutter and Pug Kemp – think I'm nuts.

I played for the O.E. teams from 1957 to 1981, moving from the Exiles to the 1st XV and back again. I've been living in the United States for 28 years, mostly in San Diego, California. This city has a large British Commonwealth ex-patriate population and it is one of the centres of U.S. rugby. In 2005 a number of South African friends put together an over-40s team to compete in the World 'Golden Oldies' Tournament held in San Diego. It was great fun and as a result we decided to form a team to go on annual international tours. Since 2006 we have visited Argentina & Uruguay, France, Chile and Canada.

We play under the standard laws of rugby with a few critical modifications:

- unlimited substitutions – we typically have 20-25 players participating
- three 20 minute "halves"
- uncontested scrums
- coloured shorts for players over 60 – which means not being tackled to the ground (I've met quite a few colour-blind players in recent times!)

A few dire necessities have been added to my playing kit – a knee brace and, most importantly, plastic

goggles with prescription lenses. What a change – I can actually see the ball clearly for the first time. My old half-back partner, Dave Soutter, would have given a lot of money to purchase me a pair back in the old days!

Our team is called the KwaZulu Old Crocs. We have two former Natal captains and a number of others who represented provinces at various levels. Ages range from 40 to 70 and we are sponsored by 'Mr. Price', a South African retail chain that also sponsors the Natal Sharks.

Best wishes to all my former O.E. teammates.

Yours sincerely,
Bill Shrimpton

From: Stephen Cockle (1964)

Dear Editor,

Choral singing has been a big part of my life for much of the past 50 years – more so since I retired in 2002. My first public choral performance was as a treble at the age of 11 in Pergolesi's beautiful "*Stabat Mater*". At King Edward's I recall ambitious productions of two other Baroque masterpieces: Gluck's "*Alceste*" and Purcell's "*King Arthur*". Otherwise, at School and in successive college, university and city choirs, I absorbed a steady stream of oratorios and Roman masses by the celebrated composers of the 18th and 19th centuries – Bach, Handel, Haydn and Mozart. Occasionally there would be an excursion into grand works of the 20th century – Britten's "*War Requiem*" and Carl Orf's "*Carmina Burana*" come to mind.

Looking back on those experiences in the 1960s and 1970s, I regret such complete preoccupation with classical set pieces, glorious as they may be. At the time I presumed that if any other choral repertoire existed, it wasn't worthy of consideration by any self-respecting choir. So, when I eventually decided that an all-classical diet had become too indigestible, I dropped out of the choral scene for some years. (That this coincided with my emigration to Canada with a young family and a career to pursue was not entirely coincidental....)

Then one day I realized how much I missed choral singing. On a whim I attended a concert by my local community choir – and it was a revelation! It happened to be an Irish evening, and though some old chestnuts were served up, these were serious four-voice choral arrangements. I was immediately hooked and asked for an audition. Sixteen years on I still sing with the same choir, as well as

augmenting various other choirs in the Toronto area when the call goes out for extra voices. In the past three summers I have been privileged to take part in wonderful European tours with some of the best choral ensembles in southern Ontario. Be ready – Britain is on the cards for 2012.

As I review the current music scene at King Edward's, summarised on the School website, I am delighted to see how the range of opportunities has expanded since the 1960s. Haydn's "*Nelson Mass*" and Mozart's "*Requiem*" have indeed been on the calendar recently, just as in my day, but now there's also "*Hairspray*" and the "*House Shout*". I am certainly looking forward to attending a concert in the new Performing Arts Centre when it is completed and I am back in 'The Old Country' in 2012.

Yours sincerely,
Stephen Cockle

From: Simon Jarrett (1974)

Dear Editor,

I was one of your English 'A' level pupils and was surprised to see your name as editor of the Gazette when I got round to joining the Old Eds.

A very potted history – I'll try not to be boring.... Degree in English from Swansea University, two years teaching in a very remote part of Kenya on VSO and then I moved back to Britain and London where I have been ever since. I became a care worker with people with learning disabilities; that started me on a life-long career which I have always loved. I became quite senior in a London voluntary organisation then decided to set up on my own and have been self-employed for the last 14 years, helping local authorities to set up social enterprises and education schemes, developing services for people with autism and so on. Work has almost inevitably been very plentiful and this has enabled me to decide that next year I will make a radical change and return to study – I am planning to do a Ph.D on the social history of people with learning disabilities, something I have been studying in my own time to date.

I've lost touch with most of my contemporaries. I follow the fortunes of David Willetts, of course, and Mick Cleary – who, you probably know, is now an eminent rugby writer. John Milton went to Sao Paulo, married a Brazilian woman and never came back.

With best wishes,
Simon Jarrett



Back [standing]:- Spiers, Chapman, Mason, Macdonald, Reeve, Simpson
Centre [standing]:- Jack, Nicholson, Dawson-Edwards, Riddick, Cullen-Jones, Fawcett
Front [seated]:- Cooney, Adams, P.G.D. Robbins, Hemingway, Dyke

They are: the Evans House photograph showing Roger Dunt as Housemaster together with Bill Buttle and Jack Hodges; Shell C cricket team; UMR (R for Robbins) with Peter Robbins at the centre.

From: Eric Nicholson (1965)

Dear Editor,

I was a pupil at King Edward's from 1958 to 1965 prior to gaining a degree in chemistry and later migrating to Australia in 1972, where I was employed by BHP Steel in research for some 30 years, before retiring as chief chemist in 2002

I was pleased to learn of the changes to the structure of the Old Eds and to be able to register last year as one of the 'Lost Souls' from 1965. The Gazette is a publication which I look forward to receiving and which I enjoy reading.

The somewhat large distance between Birmingham and Wollongong has meant that, despite several return visits to the U.K., I have lost touch with all my former class-mates.

A recent viewing of my old photo albums stirred a few memories and I thought the attached photos might be of interest. I have added surnames (only ever used in those days!!!) to the class photos, with a little help from an old "Blue Book".

With kind regards,
Eric Nicholson



Back:- Knight, Nicholson, Binns, Thomas, Styles
Centre:- Booth, Chapman, Phillips, Duffield, Spiers
Front:- Weightman, Simpson



From: D. Hadley (1951)

Dear Editor,

Recent editions of the Gazette have stirred a few thoughts and memories.

Looking at the photograph of the Prefects of 1930, what a year that must have been! Included are two future teachers at KES: Victor Biggs, who with his charming wife organised Easter holiday trips to the Continent immediately after the ban on travelling abroad had been lifted after the War; and Norman Craig, who taught mathematics to C1 with great clarity, immediately after his return from being a prisoner-of-war in a frightful Japanese camp. R.A. Lyttleton became the most distinguished British theoretical astrophysicist of the post-war period. Alan Nunn-May was another physicist, but with a notorious reputation, being the first British nuclear physicist to be convicted of passing secret information to the Soviet Union. J. Enoch Powell, Greek scholar and politician is still well-known for the single over-dramatic speech that effectively destroyed his career. And was B.C. Harvey the person I remember being connected with the administration of O.E. rugby in the fifties?

Of course, Gavin Lyall was a contemporary of mine. In 1948 the School produced possibly its first Christmas card, a drawing of the exterior of Big School viewed from the main drive. It was signed G.T. Lyall.

Yours sincerely,
D. Hadley

From: Roger Wilkins (1959)

Dear Editor,

Near the end of last year I opened a website – powered by a photo-gallery site called phanfare – on which I intend to install digital albums from my personal photographic archive. One of the early additions to the site is a collection of photographs about KES and its people in the late 1950s. The title of the collection is 'King Edward's School: A Memoir 1957-59' and the photographs can be viewed at www.rogerwilkins.phanfare.com. There are two versions of the collection, one with more names and captions than the other.

I have taken advice to make no photograph on the website downloadable – but if any O.E. would like a copy of an image from the KES collection I would be happy to e-mail it, and from that a print could be made. For the foreseeable future I anticipate the KES collection will be a permanent component of the site.

Yours ever
Roger Wilkins

From: E.L.B. Saxon (1955)

Dear Editor,

It is 55 years since we last spoke and I've been meaning to write to you since the arrival of the new format of the O.E. Gazette in Spring 2008 but I must confess that I am not the best correspondent. The arrival this week of your latest piece of work in the shape of the 2010 edition has prompted me to do what I should have done two years ago.

There are many names and photographs of O.Es whom I remember but I would like to know the significance of the picture on page 39 – it has many familiar faces but no explanation.

I am in fairly regular contact with John (JDL) Adams and Alan (AC) Smith and we enjoy the odd wager on sporting fixtures between the countries of our adoption. I haven't seen John for many years but was fortunate to see 'AC' at the England v South Africa Test at Edgbaston in 2008, where I was the guest of Philip Gough. We (South Africa) won the series that day! AC hasn't changed at all. Unfortunately the School was closed for the holidays but I always make a visit there when in the U.K.. I was sorry to miss my old friend, Derek Benson, who is usually around to bring me up to date.

Lastly, I was delighted to read about Jim Grant aka Lee Child. A number of my friends out here and I have read his books and can't wait for the next one to come out.

Keep up the good work.

Kindest regards,
Eric Saxon

Notes & News

The sad demise of **Arthur Muffet (1926)** – see Obituaries, means that **The Reverend Christopher Evans (1928)** can now claim to be the oldest living O.E. at the goodly age of 101. He says his moment of fame at school came when he was beaten for coming bottom in Latin. Bottom for bottom, perhaps?

(If any O.E. wishes to challenge Christopher's claim to be the "Father of the Association" they should please contact the Editor.)

Colin Fisher (1936) and **Harold G Barton (1938)** both wish to inform us that they were in Bomber Command through the Second World War. As Sir Arthur Harris put it, "Theirs was the courage of the small hours." We thank you both for all you did.
[The same applies to Gerry South; see his obituary following - Ed]

Frank D Thacker (1946) is carrying the flag of High Toryism in Enfield, though, as he puts it, he has "some dubiety about Cameron Conservatism!"

Keith Symes (1947) is busy walking long distance footpaths and swimming three times a week. Which is what happens when one is a retired Director of P.E.

John L. Gardner (1948) wishes to reveal that the late G.F.B. Laughland (1950), who was a distinguished member of Her Majesty's Judiciary, played Ophelia in the School production of 'Hamlet'. He was sworn to secrecy during Laughland's lifetime.
(Some O.Es will remember the very fine performance by GFB as Joan the Maid in Bernard Shaw's 'St. Joan' in 1949 – Ed.)

Albert Westwood (1950) has had such a busy academic, research and intellectual life that space here is not enough to summarise his activities. Readers are invited to visit the O.E. web-site to view what he has been up to. He even found time to get married.

Graham J. Tayar (1951) former Chairman & President of the London O.E.A., writes poetry, travels between his house in London and a pied-à-terre in Port Isaac, Cornwall and is the founder of and piano player in his own New Orleans Jazz Band – 'The Crouch End All-Stars'. He also supports Aston Villa!

William G. Hetherington (1952) is active in the Peace Pledge Union, and would like to know of any O.Es. who are "active as conscientious objectors"! Clearly one of Life's Men of Mystery..

Michael Antcliff (1953) is reported to be playing badminton "for local U13A"; the reality is probably that he represents the University of the Third Age. He is also working on the RSPB reserve at Sandy in Bedfordshire.

Michael Counsell (1954) continues to write an annual book of sermons with the title, 'The Canterbury Preacher's Companion'. He also wrote a new edition of 'Every Pilgrim's Guide to Oberammergau' in 2008. It is now out of print.

Michael J. Honeybone (1957) has moved into the Cathedral Close, Norwich, where he completes a powerful O.E. triumvirate with **David Lowe (1974)**, the Master of the Music and **David Dunnnett (1979)** the Cathedral Organist.

Conrad Cork (1958) has produced a definitive book on jazz harmony entitled 'The New Guide to Harmony with LEGO bricks'. He is now spending "his remaining days" on his allotment somewhere in Leicester.

David W. Chalmers (1959) on the other hand has written the definitive book on 'The Design of Ships' Structures". He is also Chairman of the Bradford-on-Avon branch of the RNLI !

Andrew J. Turner (1960) is a member of the Severn Valley Railway and the Prayer Book Societies.

Neville Tindale (1961) is resident in Singapore and, as he puts it, "has won a few snooker and pool tournaments."

Sidney F. Pilley (1961) has retired after an academic career in Ophthalmology at Moorfields, the University of Sheffield and the University of British Columbia. At the age of 49 he qualified in law and entered the Coroners' Service of British Columbia, finishing up as Chief Coroner. He was also a Surgeon Lt. Commander in the Royal Naval Reserve. Now he makes wine.

D.S. Filkin (1961) produced the TV series 'Stephen Hawking's Universe' and wrote the accompanying book.

Peter J. Knowles is writing a history of Fives at King Edward's – and Worldwide.

Jeremy Key-Pugh (1964) plays croquet, and is currently a churchwarden and Reader at Bath Abbey and "serves on (too) many councils and committees to do with the Diocese of Bath & Wells." (His quote)

Jon E. Bladon (1965) indulges in golf, walking, morris dancing, gardening, ballroom dancing and watching sport on TV. He occasionally finds time to sleep and eat.

Raymond J. Charlton (1965) has trekked or walked in Nepal, India, Pakistan, Tanzania (Kilimanjaro 2005), Patagonia, Canada, Greece, Tasmania and New Zealand . No mention of the Malverns, however.

Steve Shaw (1965) moved to Skye in 2008 and has a two bed holiday cottage which he rents out . All O.Es. welcome!

Steven R. James (1968) enjoys choral singing, cycling downhill with the wind behind him, writing annual pantomimes, setting quizzes, watching sport and travelling to countries where one doesn't need injections and can drink the water.

Graeme F. Cull (1969) is brief and to the point: "Long-term Villa supporter. Race Horse Owner."

George L. Grettom (1969) tells us: "There's a bit about me in 'Who's Who' (not much because I'm a rather reclusive person.)"

Avijit Moona Mitra (1971) is now the Head of Classics at King's School, Rochester, where he is also the Housemaster of St. Margaret's boarding house ("about two dozen mostly senior girl boarders") and the Chaplain to King's Preparatory School.

Malcolm Spencer (1971) has produced a detailed critique & review of the recent, well received book by David Willetts MP (1974), 'The Pinch'. It is available on the O.E. web-site at www.olders.kes.org.uk/the-pinch

Neil Burton (1972) motorcycling (??)

Christopher J.S. Hodges (1972) has been elected to the Erasmus Chair of the Fundamentals of Private Law at Erasmus University in the Netherlands. He recently had published 'The Costs & Funding of Civil Litigation' which he had edited.

Howard Williamson (1972) was appointed CBE in 2002 for services to young people. He is now Professor of European Youth Policy at the University of Glamorgan

Charles Spicer (1973) is a member of the highly successful group, 'The Melstock Band', which specialises in music of the 19th century and especially of Thomas Hardy's time, playing authentic period instruments. They recently appeared at the Swan Theatre in Worcester.

Paul J. Smith (1974) is Director of the British Council in Afghanistan and Cultural Counsellor at the British Embassy in Kabul. A man for whom there has to be huge admiration.

Michael J ('Mick') Cleary (1974) is the rugby union correspondent for The Daily Telegraph. He was recently voted "one of the top 20 most influential people in the sport" in a poll conducted among delegates to the Rugby Expo 2010 and representatives of the professional and grassroots branches of the game. He was named Rugby Journalist of the Year in 2008.

'Jane Fae' Ozimek (1975) writes: "As far as announcements go – any precedent to mine? I am gradually getting feedback from old contacts, some of whom are rather surprised by my decision to "change" gender... well, some more surprised than others. One or two suggested they weren't surprised at all." *[The question is, are we meant to offer sympathy or congratulations at this news? On balance we think the latter is preferable – much more positive. - Ed.]*

Stuart Southall (1977) (Pictured left) climbed Mount Kilimanjaro, the highest mountain in Africa (19,340 ft), last July to raise money for Kids Company. His heroic mountaineering effort raised almost £35,000 for the charity which provides support to vulnerable inner-city children across London. An amazing achievement, both physically and financially.



Jonathan S. Taplin (1978) worked for 20 years in the brewing industry in Birmingham, then moved to China in 2004. He is currently teaching English in Shenzhen University and occasionally playing in a rock & roll band.

Giles G. Smith (1980) "Living just outside Auckland, New Zealand, with my wife, 2 girls (7 & 9), a dog and a pet sheep." So there you have it all.

Richard D. Mason (1984) has been working on the Strategic Defence & Security Review in Whitehall but, at the end of this year, will take command of Royal Air Force Benson in Oxfordshire. He will be commander for the Chinook, Merlin and Puma Force. As he puts it, he "expects to be quite busy."

Lee Bacchus (1986) lives in deepest Cornwall and is the headmaster of two (!) schools. He spends two and a half days in each. The potential for confusion is prodigious.

J.D. Grierson (1987) won a tennis blue at Cambridge in 1989, 1990, 1991 and 1992. However he is prouder of having founded a waste recycling & green energy company, Sterecycle, which is now flourishing.

Darren J Scott (1989) is a freelance composer for film, TV, theatre and video games. He runs a successful record label, 'HS Recordings' that specialises in ambient and film music and has also directed or produced many professional theatre shows that have toured the UK and Europe.

James M. Donovan (1989) studied zoology at Leeds University, graduated in 1992 and then joined the Army. He was commissioned from Sandhurst in 1994, passed the Army Pilot's Course in 1998 and transferred to the Army Air Corps in 2001. He has seen service in Bosnia, Kosovo and Iraq flying Lynx helicopters. Having obtained a



Masters Degree in Aerospace Systems at Cranwell he has recently moved to the Aircraft Test & Evaluation Centre at Boscombe Down.

Oliver S. Bishop (1991) is still playing rugby at Richmond R.F.C. He invites any School 1st XV players "looking for a junior national side in London" to contact him.

Nick Hockley (1993) is working on the London Organising Committee of the Olympic Games and Paralympic Games in the role of Head of Commercial Negotiations. Despite the pressures of work he also found time to get married "Down Under" (see Announcements)

James Harman-Sherwood (1995) spent four winters skiing and acting as a ski guide in Val d'Isère before moving back to Birmingham in 2005. Did a Post-Graduate Diploma in Real Estate, qualified as a chartered surveyor and now works in King's Norton for "the largest property developer in Europe. It's big but it ain't no Val d'Isère!"

Benjamin R. Jones (1996) has a career many people would give their eye-teeth for. Having completed a foundation degree in wine commerce at the IPC in Bordeaux, he is now working at Maison Descaves – "an old and respected negociant specialising in

Bordeaux classified growth!!" (Some people have all the luck!)

Richard Flynn (1998) is now the captain of the Old Blues Rugby Club (est.1873), one of the oldest rugby clubs in the country. It is the 'home' of the old boys of Christ's Hospital, a charitable school which was established under the same charter as, and has very close connections with, KES.

Alastair M. Natkiel (1999) has just finished a national tour of 'Laughter in the Rain' – the latest smash hit musical from Bill Kenwright. The show is soon to transfer to the West End,

Ben Davies (2000) (Pictured above) completed the UK IRONMAN race on 1st August last in 14 hrs 44mins; the time limit was 15 hrs. The details of his efforts are too harrowing to print but they involved swimming 2.5 miles (2hrs), cycling 112 miles (8hrs), running 26 miles (4.5 hrs). The organisers generously allowed 14 minutes changing time. There must be easier ways to earn or raise money, mustn't there? But he thanks everyone who contributed towards the £4K raised for Cancer Research U.K. – "Fantastic!"

Oliver J Scanlan (2001) recently completed two years VSO in Bangladesh and is now studying for a Masters degree at the University of Amsterdam.

Simon F. Harding (2003) recently started his own Fireworks Display company, 'Sirotechnics'. There is a temptation to say that it is going with a bang but decorum shall prevail. His web-site is www.sirotechnics.co.uk and he is always looking for crew members with strong nerves. He adds "10% extra free fireworks for all Old Eds" – which can't be bad..

Tim Kiely (2009) (*Pictured below*) staged Brian Friel's 'Translations' at the O'Reilly Theatre in Oxford in May, along with two other former Edwardians, **Mark Heath (2009)**, Producer, and **Tom Gammage (2009)**, Designer. The production got a full 5* from the Oxford Theatre Review and the last night was a sell out. Tom is studying English at St. John's College, Mark is a Modern Linguist at Magdalen and Tom is reading Engineering at St. John's.

Bradley Garmston (2010) left KES this summer to play football for West Bromwich Albion and the Republic of Ireland. He has a two year scholarship with his club and has won six international caps for Ireland.



Short and sweet: the ability of Jackson, left, to control time and space, as he did against Australia in 1958.

And finally...

In the wake of Ashton's try against Australia last December (when he ran 95 yards to score), it is good to see that commentators have recalled the try against the same opposition in 1958 by Peter Jackson O.E. It is now recognised as one of the best three or four tries ever created and scored by an individual.

As Gerald Davies, (himself a fine wing threequarter) wrote in 'The Times' "Peter Jackson's great try is an outstanding example of the enviable gifts of mastery of quick time and the control of scarce space. He did not possess track and field speed but he did not need to. He was possessed instead of a subtle flair, the perception of creating time for himself and, crucially, a sidestep so deceptive he could stealthily elude Interpol. He had little time to think as he moved this way/and that, dodging and feinting, leaving players defenceless in his wake. This was the try that made me, as a child, wonder at the exhilaration that rugby can arouse."

(Editors note: Note in the background, in support, Peter Robbins, then of Oxford University, who later came to teach at King Edward's)

The O.E. Register

- Births, Marriages & Deaths

Births:

We are pleased to announce the following births:

Alan Evers (1981) & Julianne, a son,
Lee Johnson

Jeremy Fagan (1994), a daughter,
Lucy Phillippa

Marriages:

We congratulate the following on their marriage:

James Bucknall (2000) to Sue Green –
August 2010 in Chipping Camden

Nicholas Hockley (1993) to
Lauren Sandler – October 2010 in
Sydney, Australia

Deaths:

We announce with regret the deaths of the following Old Edwardians:

Maurice F Howard (1930)
Sidney S. Jacobs (1931)
James M. Parrish (1934)
Alan M. Duncan (1938)
Bernard Hurst Davies (1938)
Gilbert R. Ireland (1938)
D.W. Moore (1939)
W.J. Knights (1939)
Gerald John (Gerry) South, Gp/Capt.
DSO, DFC (1939)
Howard M. Balance (1940)
Trevor E. Entwistle (1940)
A. Clive Williams, TD (1940)
H.E. Bingham (1943)
John H. Poole (1944)
Robert Heron, CVO (1946)
David J. Bendall (1947)
R. Julian Roberts (1948)
L. Bryan C. Lewis (1951)
John D. Renton (1953)
John L. Beeby (1955)
John L. Sessions (1959)
M.O. Storer (1961)
Peter A. Oldershaw (1969)
John A. Fuller (1978)
Robert S. Priddey (1993)
Stuart J. Nicholls (Staff: 1961-64)
Malcolm A. Kerrell (Staff: 1965-69)
Ronald D.J. Robertson (Staff: 1950-59)
Keith Luke McGawley (Staff: d.n.k.)

Obituaries

Arthur C. Muffett (1926) 1907-2009

Born in 1907, Arthur lived adjacent to the university and clearly remembered, at the age of 8, seeing wounded soldiers from the ANZACS being billeted in the university buildings that had been turned into an emergency military hospital. His mother was a regular visitor to the troops and frequently invited them to her house for tea and a game of billiards. It was as a result of this experience that military history became an abiding passion for Arthur.

He joined KES in 1922 at the age of 15; his entry to the School was delayed because he lacked the standard of Latin necessary for entry. He always claimed that he possessed "no academic distinction" but the record shows that, in his last year, he came top of his form in English & Latin (then treated as a combined subject). He stayed on to play rugby and gained his school colours in 1926. The School Chronicle for 1927, in a retrospect of the previous season, described him as "an enthusiastic forward and steady worker, who did much to improve the play of the pack. He pushes hard in the scrum and is prominent in the loose. A good tackler."



The cartoon which appeared in the Hereford Times 19th July 2007.



The OE's RFC photo, 1932-33 season (A Muffett back row 3rd from right - his brother M M Muffett is next to him, 4th from right).

After he left school he went to work for the Royal Insurance Company as a junior clerk at £40 per annum. He worked for several similar insurance companies during his career until he retired in 1973. Working in Birmingham he was able to play rugby regularly for the Old Edwardians and was a stalwart of the First XV, at a time when their opponents included Cardiff, Coventry, Bath and Sale. Later, as family life and age intervened, he played for the 'Extras' and 'Exiles' until, as he put it, he was "too old to keep up with the action".

In 1943 he married Joan Edwards, who was herself an accomplished cricketer. They had two children, Duncan, who eventually moved to California, and Sarah. His devotion to the School and the OEA was firm and reliable; for ten years he edited the OE 'Gazette' and was a regular attendee at the AGM, and the annual dinners. Even after retirement he continued to come to Birmingham for the Biennial Dinners until he was 95 and felt unable to "keep up the pace".

Upon his retirement he and his wife moved out of Birmingham and settled in Kingland in Herefordshire. Once there he threw himself into a wide range of activities. He was a member of the Leominster Probus, an Honorary Member of the Weobley Historical Society and a keen golfer; he played his first game of golf at Gay Hill, Worcester in 1925 and his last at

Ludlow Golf Course in 2005, at the age of 98.

After his wife died, he moved in 1983 to Dilwyn and there he continued to be active in the community, playing a leading role in the local British Legion. Eventually as age took its toll he moved into sheltered accommodation but that did not stop his involvement in the life of the village. On his hundredth birthday the village presented him with an inscribed bench which was placed on the village green. He continued to attend the local church until a few months before his death.

He was a loyal, devoted member of the OEA and held a deep affection for the School. As a past editor of the 'Gazette' he always looked forward to receiving it and continued to involve himself in it with a steady stream of articles and letters. Deservedly for a man who had given so much to school, Association and community, he died peacefully, in hospital in Hereford after a short illness, at the grand age of 101.

Raymond W. Plenderleith 1917-2008

Ray Plenderleith was a leading Midlands business figure who helped lead Cadburys into the computer age.

Of Scottish descent but born in Birmingham, where he lived all his life, he was raised in Bourneville and attended KES in the 1930s when it was still located in the city centre in New Street. After leaving school he played for several years for the Old Edwardians.

On leaving school he joined Cadburys for whom he worked throughout his professional life. He was a Certified Accountant and was appointed to lead the company into the new field of computer technology. He ended his career as an experienced and respected member of the firm's senior management. On retirement he established his own consultancy accounting business, handling the accounts of numerous small businesses from an office in the heart of the Jewellery Quarter. He was also active in the Rotary and in his local Masonic Lodge.

He was a dedicated family man; he was married for 62 years to Louise, who predeceased him in 2002, and they had two sons, Ian and Neil, who survive him.

(Editor's note: The above obituary should have appeared in the edition of December 2008. We offer our apologies for the oversight.)

Maurice Howard (1930): 1911-2010

Maurice Howard was born in 1911 in London where his father was a Methodist minister who went on to become principal of Handsworth College in Birmingham and President of the Methodist Conference. He was educated at King Edward's and in 1928 went up to Christ's College, Cambridge to read classics.

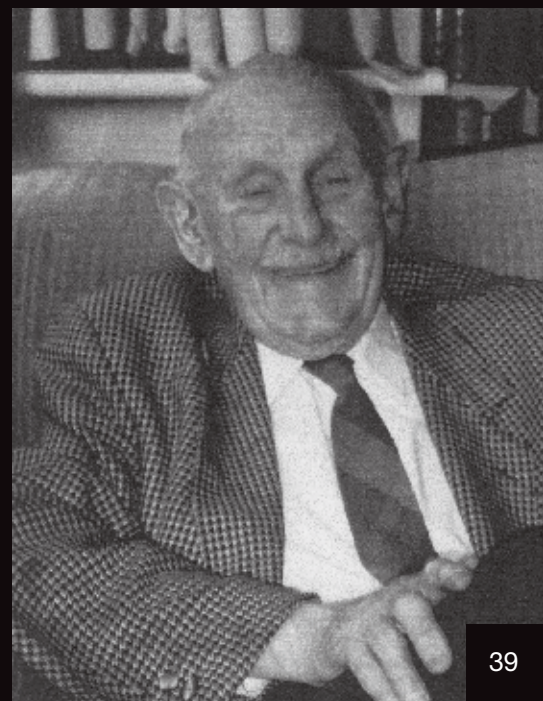
After graduating he went into teaching as his profession, first doing his teaching practice at Worksop College. From there he went on to the Leys School in Cambridge, which marked the start of a lifelong commitment to the school. In 1938 he met and married Margery Bird, a graduate of Girton, and they settled into a house in Grantchester Meadows, Cambridge, where he stayed for the rest of his life.

When the Second World War broke out Maurice volunteered for the Royal Signals: he became head of a listening unit that eventually travelled through France and Belgium, monitoring enemy communications and sending the result back to Bletchley Park for decoding. He was mentioned in dispatches twice and received the MBE for his war service. During the war, his first daughter and then son were born and later there followed another son and another daughter.

After hostilities ceased Maurice returned to the Leys and continued to teach classics although the popularity of this subject soon declined. During the 1960s there was increased concern about helping pupils to think about their careers and he became the first careers master the school had had. Later he became deputy headmaster and stood in as head when W.G. Humphrey resigned.

On his own retirement he became the bursar of St. Faith's School and, retiring from that post, he helped the careers advisory body, CRAC, to publish guides for pupils.

Throughout this time he pursued his various hobbies of amateur archaeology, coin and stamp collecting and scouting; he became a commissioner in the scouting movement. When his wife, Margery, died in 1994 Maurice continued with much of his charitable and voluntary work; but, after 70 years in the house he and his wife had lived in since their marriage, incapacity forced him to move to a nursing home where he celebrated his 99th birthday in April 2010 and where he died from old age in early September.



Maurice Howard.

Group Captain Gerry South DSO, DFC (1939): 1922-2010

Gerald (Gerry) South was born in 1922 and, after King Edward's, he went into the RAF in 1940. He gained his wings in 1941 and went to a navigation training school; but early in 1943 was posted to 405 Squadron, a Canadian Halifax unit. This became the first RCAF bomber squadron to be selected for the newly formed Pathfinders, with which South spent the rest of his frontline war.

In November 1943 he was wounded when his aircraft was hit during a raid on Hanover but he was able to bring the Halifax and its crew safely home to base. For this he was awarded the DFC. After two months in hospital he was back on operations flying Lancasters with 7 Squadron. On the night of 24-25 February, 1944, his squadron was part of a force of 734 aircraft that attacked the ball-bearing factories at Schweinfurt. It was not an easy target and both the RAF and the USAF suffered frightful losses to flak and enemy night fighters while attempting it. For his leadership in Pathfinder operations South was awarded the DSO in October 1944. After finishing his third tour of operations he was posted to Transport Command, involved in supplying forces in the Far East Theatre.

Postwar he served at Advanced Air Headquarters in Kuala Lumpur and then, between 1955 and 1957 he commanded 115 (Canberra) squadron. During this time his squadron supported the military operation at Suez. His final appointment was in 1969 as Group Captain Administration at HQ Near East Air Force, based in Cyprus.

He is survived by his wife, Sheila, whom he married in 1948 and by a daughter. Their son died in an accident in 1979.

(taken from the Times obituary)

Richard Julian Roberts (1948): 1930-2010

Julian Roberts was born in 1930. At King Edward's he received a thorough grounding in the Classics and went up to Magdalen College, Oxford where, in his first year, he switched from Classics to English. An interest in contemporary British poetry, and in collecting it, was to last throughout his life, but his flair for languages proved invaluable in his subsequent career.

This began early in the 1950s in Lambeth Palace Library, where his work involved cataloguing books. He discovered manuscript poems of a follower of George Herbert, the clergyman Cardell Goodman and published them in a limited edition in 1958. In that same year he was appointed assistant keeper at the British Museum, where he remained for the next 16 years, becoming deputy superintendent of the Round Reading Room and responsible for the selection and cataloguing of early English books.

In 1974 Roberts returned to Oxford as the Bodleian's Keeper of Printed Books. Once there he was elected Fellow of Wolfson College, where he served as the College's second-in-command, its Vicegerent and to which he remained warmly attached. During this time he became, jointly with Sir Frank Francis, secretary of the Bibliographical Society, a post which he held for over 20 years; his connection with the Society, including its presidency (1986-88), lasted for the rest of his life. The premature death of John Joliffe, Bodley's Librarian, meant that he became Acting Librarian and then Deputy Librarian, a post he held until his retirement in 1997. His interest and enthusiastic support ensured the acquisition of the Opie Collection of Children's Literature.

After his retirement he continued to give conference papers, write reviews, publish articles and, despite his impaired mobility in later years, to participate in the London meetings of the Bibliographical Society. Roberts will be remembered not just for contribution to the development of two national libraries, the British and the Bodleian, but for his erudition, his enthusiasm and his intellectual generosity to others.

He and his wife Anne lived in the Oxfordshire village of Tackley where, over the years, they developed a beautiful and extensive garden. His wife, whom he married in 1957, survives him as do his son and daughter.

(taken from the Times obituary)

Richard Julian Roberts.





King Edward's School 1st XI (1944). Back Row: G.N. Hackett, R. Heron, Lawrence, K.P. Tynan, Makin, P.J. Richardson. Front Row: A.J. Lippitt, J.C. Dark, J.H. Poole (Capt.), G.A. Pell, P.O. Kendrick.

John H. Poole (1944)

John Poole was one of the School's outstanding sportsmen and personalities. He was Vice-Captain of the School (1943-44), Captain of Rugby, Cricket and Athletics (also 1943-44) and winner of the Bache Memorial Cup in 1944.

Peter Rawll and Tony Corley were contemporaries of his and sent in their recollections of him at School and after:

Peter Rawll wrote:

"I was a year or two younger than John and that age gap can be reflected as a distinct social difference; but I have happy memories of him as an extrovert, hyperactive on the rugby field and elsewhere, whom I looked up to with his positive involvement across the broad spectrum of activities that made KES such a great experience. I have a warm glow of happy reminiscence of a good bloke and fun to have around."

Tony Corley, who lives in Paris, sent a message via his son, Simon:
"He was extremely popular at School. An outstanding sportsman and no mean academic. Captain of Rugby, Athletics and Cricket, in 1943 he led us to victory over Bromsgrove to regain the Siviter-Smith Cup for the first time since the early thirties, 6-0. (He kicked a penalty and I scored a try.)

After coming down from Oxford, he was for many seasons a regular in the O.E. 1st XV. Even now it seems unbelievable that he failed to get a North Midlands cap while I, a lesser player, clocked up a fair number. Big, fast, a clever runner with a devastating tackle, he was a formidable wing threequarter who could perform just as effectively in the centre or as full back.

With his delightful wife, Ena, he was well liked in O.E. circles. I never heard him speak ill of anyone and his unassuming modesty and generous nature made him liked by everyone. I last saw him over fifty years ago but I have always retained a high esteem for a splendid sportsman in every sense of the word. His red hair and broad smile will always rest in my memory."

[Editor's note: The photograph of the cricket XI for 1944 is interesting because, as well as showing John Poole as captain, it also includes Ken Tynan (back row, third from the right; critic & enfant terrible of the English Theatre in the 1960s) and Robert Heron (back row, second from left) whose obituary immediately follows.]

Robert Heron CVO, MA (1946): 1927-2009

Bob Heron was born in Scotland in October 1927. His family moved to Birmingham during the 1930s and Bob won a scholarship to KES from Saltley Grammar School. He was an outstanding sportsman and gained his School Colours for Athletics and Rugby, and in 1946 was awarded the Bache Memorial Cup. He was the drum-major of the JTC and claimed fame when marching into the School by hurling his mace over the arch at the entrance and catching it on the other side.

On leaving school Bob went into the RAF after which he read for his MA at St. Catherine's College, Cambridge, where he played rugger for his college, the University and London Scottish. After taking his degree he decided upon school-mastering as a career and his first appointment was at Strathallan School. From there he went to Christ's College, Brecon as a housemaster and finally he became the Headmaster of King James I School on the Isle of Wight.

He left the academic life to become Head of Educational Broadcasting with ATV and this was followed by a period as a director of Electronic Video Recording, which was then a completely new concept. Finally he became Director of the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme and on retirement was appointed Commander of the Royal Victorian Order.

In 1953 he married Pat, (ex-KEHS) and they had 3 children and 5 grandchildren. Bob died on the 21st of November last year.



Bryan Lewis.

L.B.C. Lewis (1951)

On 27th January 2010 at Paul Parish Church, Cornwall, a large gathering of family, friends, professional colleagues and O.Es attended the funeral of Bryan Lewis.

Bryan practised dentistry both in Birmingham and his beloved Cornwall, but was also highly qualified in many aspects of medicine. A man of great charm with many academic interests, he was always a splendid raconteur with the ability to tell wonderful stories against himself. He kept in touch with his old friends from School, cricket and rugby and made it his business to meet other O.Es living in Cornwall.

Notwithstanding that he had a Welsh father and an Italian mother, Bryan was essentially an Englishman in his outlook and there is no doubt that his association with the School and its activities was a great influence on his life.

Until the onset of a dreadful illness, Bryan was in splendid health and trained with his marathon-running daughter and was repairing his boat to pursue his great love of sailing.

One can only admire the devotion of his wife, Colleen, and the family that allowed him to remain at home until the very end of his life.

John D. Renton (1953) 1935-2010

John Delgaty Renton died at his home in Cambridge in August 2010. He was at King Edward's from September 1947 to July 1953, starting in the Removes and finishing as a member of the Maths VI. After National Service in the RAF he went to Birmingham University, graduating in 1958 with a BSc in Civil Engineering with first class honours. From 1958 to 1961 he was a research student at Fitzwilliam College, Cambridge and completed his Ph.D in 1961. Following this, he spent two years at St. John's College, Cambridge as a Research Fellow before moving to Oxford in 1963 as a Demonstrator in the Department of Engineering Science. In 1966 he was appointed a Lecturer in that department and Tutorial Fellow at St. Catherine's College, the position he would hold until his retirement, and became MA by decree and DPhil by incorporation. As a Lecturer and College Fellow he taught a large number of students, many of whom went on to gain distinction in various fields of engineering and one, Rowan Atkinson, who achieved fame and fortune in a very different profession.

He was the author of a number of books and many journal articles. He was much involved in the pre-construction design work for the Sydney Opera House, contributing the computer programme which enabled the design team to calculate the stresses and strains of the innovative shell-like structures that characterise the building.

John was a man of wide interests and became very closely involved with the restoration of the murals in the Oxford Union. They had been painted by Edward Burne-Jones (another OE), William Morris, Dante Gabriel Rossetti and others but poor preparation of the walls plus smoke from the fire had caused the murals to deteriorate to the point that they were thought to have been lost. After a visit to the Union, John thought that infra-red photography might reveal something and, with the aid of the Photography Department of the Clarendon Laboratory, some good results were achieved which enabled the murals to be cleaned, restored and much better lit.

John never married but is survived by his sister, Jill, her husband Douglas and a large family of cousins, of whom I am one. He was a generous host when I visited Oxford, whether at high table in St. Catherine's or at his cottage at Grassington. As a fellow academic I could understand the occasional academic eccentricity, notably the 1928 Rolls Royce which he owned in the 1960s. He used to offset its high petrol consumption by keeping a Vespa scooter in the back and this he would take out and use on short journeys. Though his cousins understood little of his work, we were tremendously proud of his achievements. In the words of Pat Fox, another cousin, "we were all in awe of his genius".

Peter Handford (1965)

Peter Alan Oldershaw (1969) 1952-2010

Peter Oldershaw was born over the family butcher's shop in Blackheath in 1952. He attended Haden Hill Preparatory School in Cradley Heath before coming to King Edward's in 1963. After university he joined the Apricot computer firm and worked his way up the company to become a member of the main executive board in his early thirties. He also led a project team at Sandersons and was responsible for the projects that saw them relisted on the Stock Exchange.

His interests were several and his enthusiasm unbounded. Both manifested themselves in his love of mountaineering. He first climbed Snowdon in 1959 at the age of seven and his last ascent was in 2008, when already in the grip of the Motor Neurone disease that killed him. Scouting, skiing, golf and driving fast cars were also among his hobbies. Only a year before he died he was given, as a Christmas present from his children, the chance to drive a Ferrari round the Grand Prix course at Silverstone – which he did with accuracy, élan and very fast.

As Jonathan Oldershaw, his nephew, said at his funeral on the 1st March last year, "He was a man of contrasts; a family man, successful business man, a friend and a fighter. He was determined, sharp-witted, fine humoured. He was sometimes dour, sometimes a little crazy, with a keen sense of adventure and a deep sense of welcoming."

(Editor's note: The above is taken from the much longer eulogy that Jonathan Oldershaw delivered at Peter's funeral on the 1st March, 2010. If anyone wishes for a copy of the full text, they should contact the editor at the addresses given at the front of the 'Gazette')

Professor John L. Beeby (1955) 1937-2009

John Beeby was an outstanding mathematician at school; a Foundation and King Edward's Scholar, he also won a State Scholarship and gained an Open Scholarship to Clare College Cambridge from the Maths Upper VI. At Cambridge he graduated with a first class degree and stayed on to gain a PhD in solid state physics.

From Cambridge he went on to Manchester University as an ICI research fellow and then, from 1963 to 1965 he worked as a research associate at the University of Illinois under the renowned Professor John Bardeen, twice Nobel Prize winner for Physics.

He returned to England to join the UK Atomic Energy Research Establishment at Harwell, first as a senior scientific officer and later as principal s.o. He remained there for seven years, working on the electronic structure of surfaces, until in 1972 he was appointed to the Chair of Theoretical Physics at the University of Leicester. He was the Head of the Physics and Astronomy Department from 1976 to 1982, Dean of Physical Science from 1990 and Pro Vice-Chancellor of the University from 1997 to 2001. He retired from the University in 2002.

He was very much involved in the work of the Institute of Physics, winning their Glazebrook Medal and Prize in 1995. He was a member of the Institute Council from 1995 to 1998 and became its honorary secretary in 2003. He continued to publish papers on his subject, surface science, in his retirement and visited the Physics Department at Leicester for two days per week until his death.



Professor John L. Beeby

In his spare time he was a keen gardener, chairman of the parish council of his home village, Theddingworth, and an avid supporter of Leicester Tigers rugby team. He is survived by his wife, Ginny, and their sons Ian, Christopher and Martin and six grandchildren.

(extrapolated from the obituary in the magazine of the Institute of Physics)

Dennis Hadley (1951) writes:

John played an energetic game of rugby in his youth. During vacations from Cambridge he enjoyed playing in the OE Exiles, and during my period as skipper it was a relief to know that he was a reliable team member who had no ambition to be plucked away at the last moment to fill a vacancy in the second XV.

After I left Birmingham in the late fifties it was to be thirty years before I again encountered John, when he came to Reading University to deliver a lecture. He was no longer the very youthful, fair-haired person that I remembered but an eminent member of the Scientific Establishment.



Commander His Honour Judge John Sessions.

Commander His Honour Judge John Sessions (1959) 1941-2010

His Honour John Sessions was a gifted naval officer and the last Judge Advocate of the Fleet.

He was born into a Quaker family in Cardiff in January 1941, the son of a civil engineer; he was educated at Westbourne House, Penarth and King Edward's School, Birmingham.

He first sailed with his father when a small boy and was later to become a member of numerous sailing clubs, crewing regularly at Cowes. In 1980 he was mate in the Dartmouth sail training yacht 'Wyvern' when she won a Gold Medal in the Tall Ships race from Lowestoft to Oslo.

He joined Dartmouth in 1959 where he became a cadet captain and passed out second in a strong year of 90 midshipmen. His first ship was the obsolescent netlayer 'Protector' which, as the Falklands Islands' guardship, spent much time alongside in the fleshpots of South America. Next he served in the destroyer 'Agincourt', followed by shore appointments on the staff of the Commander-in-Chief Home Fleet, and as Flag Lieutenant to the Flag Officer Medway.

Sessions found time to spend six months in Italy to qualify as an interpreter. He boarded in the palatial quarters of a local aristocrat where he fell in love with the daughter of the house, marrying her in 1967 in the chapel of a palazzo overlooking Florence.

He was then sent to study Law under the Navy's scheme for those who, in addition to their duties as regular naval officers, would also serve as lawyers and judge advocates at courts martial. He was called to the bar of the Middle Temple in 1972.

After becoming a barrister his career alternated between legal and naval appointments. He was supply officer of the frigate 'Leopard' and later one of the carefully selected staff officers of Britannia Royal Naval College, Dartmouth. When it eventually became clear that he must decide between his sick wife and his naval career, he unhesitatingly chose the former and, in 1981, resigned his commission to practise law in London.

Sessions excelled in general common law, and was appointed Recorder in 1989 and Circuit Judge in 1992. He held several important Board and Council posts between 1996 and 2008. In 1995 he became the 29th and last holder of the office of Judge Advocate of the Fleet, an appointment created in 1663 for a civilian judge to oversee the court-martial process in the Royal Navy. This office was formally abolished in December 2008 and he retired soon afterwards.

John's first wife, Contessina Patrizia Corinna Sanniniatelli died in 2006; in 2006 he married Averil Harrison who survives him, together with his son and two daughters from the first marriage.

(taken from the obituary in the Daily Telegraph)

Robert Stephen Priddey (1993) 1976-2010

Robert Priddey died on the 20th February last year after a short illness; he was 34. After KES he went up to University College, Oxford to read physics, where he got a first class degree. Thereafter he studied for a PhD at Cambridge and on research at Imperial College, London. For a while he worked at the Institute of Astronomy at Cambridge but from 2004 he was a University Research Fellow at the University of Hertfordshire, working in the field of observational cosmology, with especial reference to the use of luminous astrophysical phenomena.

A contemporary of his at University College wrote the following for their College magazine:

"Student life is full of contradictions. At the time when we are most free to follow our imaginations, our physical lives are often at their most basic and chaotic.

One of the abiding images I have of Robert is of him talking excitedly of our cosmic origins, the fact that our bodily elements were fashioned in the stars. What made this visually arresting was that at the time he was sitting crouched on the floor of our narrow corridor, eating soup straight from the saucepan with a wooden spoon.

Physics for Robert was never simply a course of academic study; it was a mission, a quest. His passions lay at the place where Physics meets Philosophy. The point was to puzzle out the mysteries of our existence. As an academic he made several trips to Hawaii to work with the giant telescope there. But again the point wasn't simply to observe and correlate, it was part of an existential quest for understanding.

Robert's wide-ranging enthusiasms included a great love of music; he was both a good singer and also a quirky composer. At the University of Hertfordshire, Robert wrote, produced, acted in and composed the music for an educational film called 'The Starry Messenger'. It was an exuberant sci-fi romp involving time-travel, Galileo and Newton – with some Dr. Who-style humour thrown in.

He was a shy and quiet man with big ideas. In his gentle humanity and his inter-disciplinary enthusiasm he embodied much of what was best about Oxford.

Dan Wiucksman



Michael Owen Storer.

Michael Owen Storer (1961) 1942-2010

At school Mike Storer was a human dynamo, full of good humoured enthusiasm and nervous energy. He was a voracious reader, and I recall his being asked in class how many books he read and admitting to reading about nine per week.

From KES he went to Imperial College to read aeronautical & mechanical engineering and a promising career beckoned. Then, in 1966 at the age of 23 disaster struck. While driving down the M1 for an interview in London, he suddenly "went like jelly" due to a nervous breakdown; he had to stop the car and call for assistance. He made a partial recovery and was able to obtain employment for a time but it was slow progress, and it was soon clear that he would never be the force he had once been.

An accomplished jazz musician on clarinet and saxophone, he became a regular member of the West Midlands jazz scene. In 1978 he left Birmingham to settle in the countryside near Malvern, where he began to write, paint, compose and record music. He lived the remaining 30 years of his life alone in his hillside cottage "writing, painting and making music – a very self-disciplined and demanding life." He died from cancer on February 8th 2010 in Ledbury and his ashes are buried beside those of his parents in Little Malvern Priory.

Alan Gracie (1961)



Ronald D. J. Robertson

Ronald D. J. Robertson (Staff: 1950-59)

Those who remember Ronnie Robertson, who taught Modern Languages at KES from 1950 to 1959, will be saddened to learn of his death in the Kent and Canterbury Hospital on 24th October after a major stroke. He was 89.

Ronnie and I arrived at KES together at the beginning of the autumn term in 1950. If not exactly bright-eyed and bushy-tailed, we, along with three other "new boys" who arrived with us – Messrs. Hodges, Cadenhead and Lutyens – were up and rarin' to go, to get at 'em, in fact. Ronnie and John Hodges were slightly older than the rest of us, having spent a considerable time in the army. From the start of his military service, Ronnie served in the Indian Army, having been born in Rangoon and brought up as a small boy in India. Alone among us new arrivals he had some experience as a teacher, having spent a short time teaching at Eton.

For most of his time at KES Ronnie was, as far as I can remember, form master of UMB. And, of course, as

one whose army career was not far behind him, he found himself an officer in the CCF. In addition to teaching French and German he was a house tutor in Gifford or Levett, I can't remember which. (No doubt eager O.Es will be able to straighten me out with severe letters to the Editor.) Ronnie was keenly involved with house rugby and cricket and also turned out regularly for the Kestrels, the Common Room cricket team, not a bad side when at full strength. He used, quite unwittingly, to draw exasperated mutterings from skipper, J.B. Guy, by his tendency to roam about rather too freely in the field and so could well be ten yards or so out of position at extra cover when the ball came that way.

After nine years at KES Ronnie left to teach at Iringa in Tanganyika (now Tanzania) and there spent what were possibly the happiest years of his life. He returned to England to teach at The Duke of York's Royal Military School at Dover. There he settled and was a very civilising influence in what has been described as 'a bracingly military environment'.

Some of the words that spring to mind when one thinks of Ronnie have already been used in this piece – modesty, diffidence, unemphatic, civilised and this last needs to be stressed. He did not always agree with or approve of what was going on around him but he was not one to make a loud noise about it. He did not, I think, have much (or perhaps any) sympathy with flamboyant or over-demonstrative behaviour. He had been a contemporary at Oxford of Kenneth Tynan (O.E. 1946) whom he recalled as being "absolutely ghastly". Ronnie was the opposite of any brilliant or magnetic attention-seeker. A good teacher, a civilised man and a very good friend is, perhaps, a better thing to be and Ronnie certainly was all those.

Tony Trott

Malcolm Anthony Kerrell (Staff: 1965-69)

Malcolm Kerrell was educated at Dulwich College and Emmanuel College, Cambridge where he gained a double first class degree in Theology and Semitic Languages. From 1960 to 1963 he did postgraduate studies at Exeter College, Oxford while he trained for ordination at Wycliffe Hall. From 1963 to 1965 he was assistant curate at St. Augustine's Church, Edgbaston; then, from 1965 to 1969 he was Chaplain and Head of Religious Studies at King Edward's.

Thereafter he was the Deputy Secretary of the Church of England Board of Education and worked at the Churches' Television and Radio Centre in Bushey. In 1978 he changed career completely and went into the world of business, working as HR Director for companies such as Nicholas Laboratories and W.G. Grace Ltd. In 1996 he set up his own consultancy company, 'Wildfire', and worked on his own until he retired to Paignton in 2003. He was twice married – his first wife died – and had a son and a granddaughter.

Forthcoming OE Events

How to book

Old Edwardians will be invited to events by mail or email. If you would like to book a place or find out more about any of the events listed here please contact Sue Dickens, OEA Administrator, at oldeds@kes.org.uk or on 0121 415 6050. Further information and online booking can be found on our website at www.oldeds.kes.org.uk/events.

New Street Remembered

December 2010 marked 75 years since the school moved from its original site in New Street. To commemorate the move, we are putting on a special exhibition of archive material including a unique 3D film.

Dates: Tuesdays, Thursdays and Sundays during February

Location: The Chapel, King Edward's School

Cost: Free

Senior Production

Every year the senior students at KES and KEHS put on a joint dramatic production, which this year is 'Les Misérables.' We offer Old Edwardians a limited number of tickets and a drinks reception before the show. Please note that, unfortunately, the event this year is sold out.

Dates: Wednesday 2nd – Saturday 5th February

Location: King Edward's School

Cost: £8 (£4 concessions) – please note this event is sold out.

Oxford lecture and drinks

A lecture given by John Hawthorne (1983), Waynflete Professor of Metaphysical Philosophy at Oxford University, followed by a drinks reception.

Date: Friday 4th March

Location: Merton College, Oxford University

Cost: £12 (£6 for students)

Golden Anniversary Reunion

A reunion lunch for Old Edwardians who left in 1961. The day will also include a visit to the archive, tour of the school and tea.

Date: Wednesday 23rd March

Location: King Edward's School

Cost: Free

Donor Reception

A special drinks reception for donors who supported the Assisted Places Fund in 2010. Donors will receive a free ticket to the Summer Concert following the reception.

Date: Tuesday 10th May

Location: Symphony Hall

Cost: Free

KES Summer Concert

Joint annual concert with KEHS.

Date: Tuesday 10th May

Location: Symphony Hall

Cost: £8 (£4 concessions)

London Pub Night

An informal event for Old Edwardians living in London to catch up over a pint.

Date: Thursday 9th June

Location: The George Pub, The Strand

Cost: Free – includes complimentary drink!

OEA AGM

All Old Edwardians are welcome to attend the AGM and enjoy a buffet lunch.

Date: Thursday 23rd June

Location: King Edward's School

Cost: Free

Former Staff Lunch

An annual lunch for ex-staff and partners.

Date: Thursday 30th June

Location: King Edward's School

Cost: Free

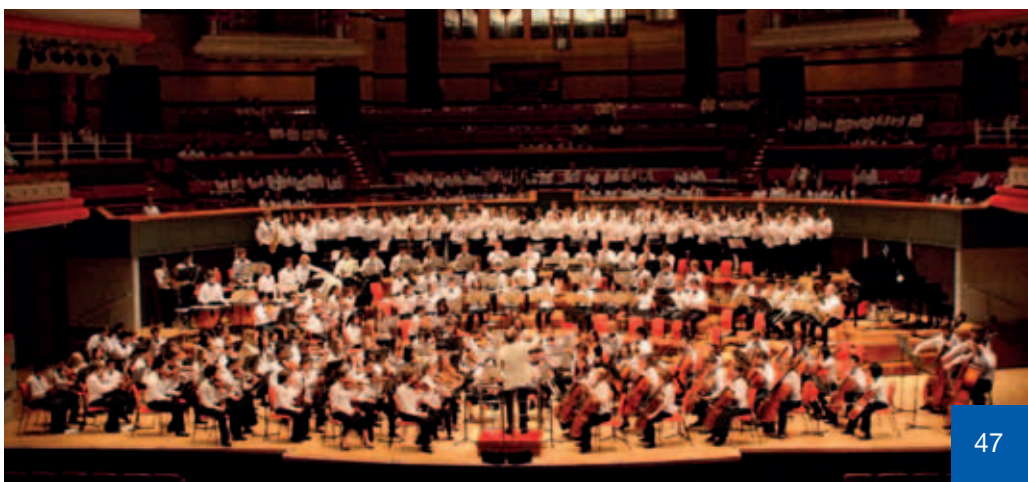
School lunchtime recitals

Throughout the course of the school year, King Edward's will be running several lunchtime recitals on Thursdays. For further information, please visit www.oldeds.kes.org.uk/lunchrecitals.

School sports fixtures

Old Edwardians are welcome to attend any of the school's sports fixtures throughout the year. For further information, please visit www.oldeds.kes.org.uk/sportsfixtures.

The school's annual summer concert in Symphony Hall.



Old Edwardians Merchandise

A variety of new OEA merchandise is now available to Old Edwardians.

Please order your item(s) by visiting the Old Edwardians website at www.oldeds.kes.org.uk/oe-shop or sending a cheque (payable to the "Old Edwardians Association") to Sue Dickens, OEA Administrator, Development & OEA Office, King Edward's School, Edgbaston Park Road, Birmingham, B15 2UA.



Bow tie (ready-tied) £10

A standard design ready-tied silk bow tie.



Cufflinks £10

A pair of enamelled cufflinks featuring the school crest in a smart presentation box.



Postcards £4

A selection of eight archive and current images of school life.



Bow tie (self-tied) £10

A standard design self-tied silk bow tie.



Ties £25 each

Alternative silk tie (left) and standard silk tie (right).



Golf umbrella £25

An eight panelled golf umbrella featuring the school crest on alternate panels.



Pen set £15

One ballpoint pen and one fibre tip pen in a presentation box.

Pin badge £3

An enamelled pin badge featuring the school crest.



Heraldic shield £20

A wall-mountable school crest in a presentation box.



Whisky tumbler £10

A glass whisky tumbler featuring the school crest in a presentation box.

Please note all prices include postage except for umbrellas and tumblers being sent to a non-UK address. Please add the £5 postage charge to any order which includes these items when placing your order

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