



KING EDWARD'S SCHOOL
BIRMINGHAM

Insight Gazette

The annual review of the school year for Old Eds

Old Edwardians Gazette issue number: 286

Summer 2012



Inside: Switch to IB produces top marks
The Queen's Golden OEs
OEs involved in the Olympics

FORTHCOMING OE EVENTS



London OE Dinner 2011

London OE Dinner

The speaker at the 2012 London Dinner will be Chris Evans (1986), Executive Head of News for The Daily Telegraph.

Date: Monday, 26 November 2012

Time: 6.30pm

Location: RAF Club, Piccadilly, London

Cost: £50 (£25 for OEs who left after 2002)



Ruddock Performing Arts Centre

The Inaugural Tolkien Lecture

This will be the first in a series of academic lectures given by eminent speakers. The inaugural lecture will be given by writer Jonathan Coe (1979).

Date: Thursday, 1 November 2012

Time: 6pm

Location: Ruddock Performing Arts Centre, King Edward's School

Cost: £5



OEs at the 2010 Biennial Dinner

Biennial Dinner

Concert and drinks reception in the Ruddock Performing Arts Centre followed by a black tie dinner in Big School.

Date: Saturday, 6 October 2012

Time: 5-11pm

Location: King Edward's School

Cost: £50



Nick Hockley (1993)

Olympics talk

Nick Hockley (1993), Head of Commercial Negotiations for the Olympic Games, will give a talk on 'The Significance of Sponsorship in Delivering the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games'.

Date: Thursday, 27 September 2012.

Time: 5.30pm

Location: Ruddock Performing Arts Centre, King Edward's School

Cost: Free

Events in 2013

More information about the following events will soon be available on the website and in the next edition of the Old Edwardians Gazette:

- Senior Production of West Side Story, January 2013
- KES in the City (networking event), February 2013
- Oxford lecture and drinks, March 2013
- Donor reception, May 2013
- KES in the City London, May 2013

BOOKING INFORMATION

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



Festive Drinks 2011

Birmingham Festive Drinks

An informal event for OEs to catch up over a free glass of Glühwein at the German Market.

Date: Friday, 14 December 2012

Time: 6-9pm

Location: The German Market, Victoria Square

Cost: Free



Message from the Chairman, John Wheatley

It's now been just over a year since I was asked to become Chairman and in that time I have seen some fantastic developments. The new Performing Arts Centre must surely be one of the finest facilities enjoyed by any school in the country.

This along with the new Modern Languages facility will go a long way to returning the school to where it should be. Of course both buildings have only been made possible by the generosity of Sir Paul and Jill Ruddock and Andrew Brode, as well as the matched funding from the Foundation.

I have enjoyed a number of superb concerts and performances in the last year but the most memorable event was probably when we were being shown around the performing arts centre after the Old Ed's AGM and saw an organ lesson in progress. The Chief, with no prior warning, asked a 12 year old to give a brief recital and I can only say that it was pure magic, all of the visiting OE's were absolutely spellbound.

The decision to move away from A-levels to the International Baccalaureate has proved to be an inspired one and it has seen KES return to the very highest level of academic achievement.



Message from the Chief Master, John Cloughton

It might reasonably be said that 2012 has not been without incident and this Insight Gazette will tell of great deeds, both home and away. It will sing of the introduction of IB and the first results, one of the more nerve-wracking moments of my life, and of the opening of the Ruddock Performing Arts Centre, a truly historic moment for the school. But it will also tell of

the involvement of Old Edwardians in the great events of 2012, the Olympics and the Royal Jubilee.

And after all that has been done, you might have thought that it would be time for a mid-summer doze for the place. No such luck. Within the school, more portacabins have been craned onto South Front, the demolition of the old Chemistry labs has been completed and soon the building of the new Modern Languages Department, the new science laboratories and the new Sixth Form Centre will begin.

Even the boys seem to holiday with the school. Two groups of boys have been with Messrs Lampard and Porter to Guyana. Another group of boys and parents has followed Mr Phillips by bike from Land's End to John O'Groats. Even as I write there are boys walking in the Alps with Mr Ostrowicz and Mr Connor, dwelling in a Viking Camp in Denmark with Mr Davies and cycling in the Netherlands with Mr Boardman. It seems we never close or stop. And soon it will be September again and the game that never stopped will begin again.

Thank you for your views

Thank you to all those who gave their time to complete the OE Communication Survey. We received almost 300 responses and the results will be used to help shape the future of our communications.

Winner of the Biennial Dinner prize draw was David Ault (2000).

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EVENT REVIEW

A Midsummer Night's Dream... or nightmare

On Friday, 29th June a group of former actors and crew from both KES and KEHS met with a certain amount of apprehension in the new Ruddock Performing Arts Centre. For some it was the first time they had returned to school since leaving in 1955.

After being introduced to each other under the capable direction of the Drama Department and given a condensed script of *A Midsummer Night's Dream* the OEs were left to 'get on with it!' After a worrying minute of silence one brave voice spoke up, jobs were then divided between cast and crew and the ideas started to roll.

The Saturday was a busy day for all with the clock ticking towards the performance time. The set was assembled, lighting designed, costumes picked and the actors, well, mostly didn't learn their lines. The audience began to arrive late afternoon and were greeted by a drinks reception before moving into the auditorium with the participants to watch an emotive video made by the Weaver brothers depicting the Drama Department's memories of their time at the schools. All then gathered together for a hog roast and archive exhibition of previous drama productions before the play began.

The version of *A Midsummer Night's Dream* that was produced was not one that you would recognise from the stage of the RSC! A few characters improvised Shakespeare in cockney, effectively making the story up, the fairies were fluorescent 90's ravers, and the mechanicals were brilliantly bad. Both audience and participants thoroughly enjoyed the performance, which had many comedy highlights, and it rounded off what had been a fantastic weekend for all involved.



Bottom with Titania and the fairies

The Insight Interview: Mr Hudson (Ben McIlldowie, 1997)

Ben McIlldowie in the auditorium of the Performing Arts Centre



When did you know that you wanted to be involved with music?

There's a picture of me in a nappy playing the piano at about three and when I was nine I used to lust after the drums. I think a lot of my passion for music was installed at KES and a big part of my passion for performing was doing the musicals and junior plays. I was also in a band at school and used to hold gigs in the CCF portacabins at break! I wish I'd had the confidence to get stuck in earlier. I'm not saying I would have left school at 16 but I might have had a year out.

How did you get to where you are?

When's the point when you got there? I still feel as hungry as I ever have. It's really difficult to pinpoint when things started to go well, often you can do something that doesn't work but it makes you stronger. When I got on that plane to go to Hawaii to work on Jay-Z's album I should have been terrified but I wasn't because all the stuff that I had done to get there made me stronger and I knew I deserved it.

However, in 2005 I was having dinner with old friends from KES who were big supporters of me as a musician. I was about 25, on the dole, doing my thing and for them to turn round to me and go 'Ben are you going to get a proper job?' made me think 'OK I need to do something'. I went from doing what I now realise was the minimum to 100%. Anything that came into my head that wasn't going to get me killed or put in jail, I did it.

So I turned everything up to 11. I've got a stylist friend and wanted to put a look together that was really English but hip-hop at the same time so we went for country gent top half and the bottom half was hip-hop with the baggiest jeans and fattest

trainers we could find. I went to hip-hop nights dressed like that and people didn't forget me. Some said I looked like a farmer but they didn't forget me and I gave them my demo CD.

I started a monthly club night with my band. The first night there were 80 people, six months later there were 400 people and a Radio 1 truck outside recording the show, and stuff just started to happen. It took my best friend from King Edward's to say 'are you going to get a real job Ben, because we're a little bit embarrassed about you being on the dole at 25' for me to get myself together and six months later I was signing a record deal.

What advice would you give to anyone trying to get into the music industry?

'A winner never quits and a quitter never wins.' This phrase can apply whether you're doing medicine at Cambridge or sport or music, just don't give up. If you give up you're guaranteed not to do it, but you decide. It's the journey of trying to do something that's the best bit, whether you have that top 10 record, or that Hollywood movie or you get that 1st from Oxford, it is the pursuing of it that's the best bit.

What do you think of the new Performing Arts Centre?

This is amazing, this centre. We had a great music school and a great drama department back in the day but this is like that on steroids. The computer room - if we'd had that, I don't think I would have left and gone to any lessons, I would have had to be dragged out of there. This has taken me back, it's amazing.



Christian Hughes (1986) talking to boys about being a Vet

The OE Careers Network

This new service provides opportunities for OEs across a range of professions to network together and also to provide careers advice and opportunities to other OEs and current students.

There are a number of ways you can get involved:

- Offer careers advice
- Access careers advice
- Search the OE professional directory
- Search the OE business profiles
- Attend the annual 'KES in the City' networking event.

For more information visit:
www.oldereds.kes.org.uk/careers

Rod Marston and John Sibson in Perth



Old Eds meet on the other side of the world

Two different groups of Old Eds who left King Edward's in the 1960s have recently got in touch with the OEA to let us know about their reunions in Australia.

John Sibson and Rod Marston, who left KES in 1961, had not seen each other for over 45 years when they met in Perth recently. They were in PMG Sixth together and shared an interest in Geology, an A-level they both studied under the tuition of Mr 'Joe' Bennett, who was also in charge of the naval section of the CCF.

After KES, Rod studied Geology at Sheffield and John studied Mining at Newcastle and last saw each other at Rod's wedding during his time at Sheffield. After completing their doctorates and working in industry in the UK, Rod worked in Africa before settling in Australia and John worked in Canada. On a visit to Australia, John 'googled' Rod's name to see if he was still located there and on finding him arranged to meet and so they enjoyed an evening of reminiscing.

Roger Barlow (1968) also recently arranged a reunion in Australia with two friends from KES, Jeremy Cape (1969) and David Jeffcoat (1968). Both Roger and Jeremy live in New South Wales and the friends, who all played rugby together in the KES 1st XV in the late 1960s, met up when David was visiting Roger from Oxford.



L-R, Jeremy Cape, Roger Barlow and David Jeffcoat in New South Wales



Nick Plotnek ready to set off on his journey

The journey of the 'Idiots Abroad'

Nick Plotnek (1975) is currently travelling one-third of the way across the globe to Mongolia, to raise money for charity.

The Mongol Rally, which began in 2004, is said to be one of the world's last great adventures. The object is to drive 10,000 miles through 19 countries in a totally unsuitable vehicle, travelling through five mountains ranges, three deserts and some of the remotest places on earth. Starting in the UK and finishing in Ulaan Baatar, the capital of Mongolia, the journey will take Nick and his 'Idiots Abroad' team mate, Kevin Strickland, seven weeks to complete.

Nick, who will be riding a 125cc Yamaha on his journey to raise money for Birmingham Children's Hospital, said: "My aim is to raise £14,000 for the Children's Hospital Heart Unit in memory of my son, Robert, who sadly died there nine years ago. It's the Queen's Jubilee year and as Robert was lucky enough to meet her when she opened the hospital in 1998, I thought it would be a great idea to do something positive in his memory."

To find out more about Nick's journey, visit:
www.idiotsabroad.co.uk



Bill Oddie reading old school reports

The One Show with Bill Oddie

Bill Oddie (1960) took a trip down memory lane when he returned to King Edward's School in a feature for *The One Show* in January 2012.

Bill talked about how he enjoyed his time at school and how many of the interests which later became his career started at KES including his first experience of performing and bird watching at Edgbaston Reservoir.

The feature can be viewed on the Old Eds website:
www.oldeds.kes.org.uk/oe-news



Sam Meredith and Harry Joseph

Passed out from Sandhurst

Congratulations to three OEs who passed out from Sandhurst in April 2012. Harry Joseph (2005) commissioned as a Second Lieutenant (2Lt) into the Royal Corps of Signals, Sam Meredith (2008) as a 2Lt into the Adjutant General's Corps (RMP), and Chris Guest (2003) into the 9th/12th Royal Lancers.

1950s

Martin J Davison (1950)

Full time professional artist since 2001, except when finding time to be a jazz musician. I have a yearly one-man art exhibition in Richmond upon Thames and help run the Richmond Art Society.

Graham Andrews (Archie) (1958)

Received Queen's Commendation for Valuable Service in the air. Pilot for the last 58 years, mostly as a test pilot. Retired from main consultancy work with FlyBe but still continue to do some work with Short Bros. Still do some light aircraft flying.

Ian Brown (1959)

Spent most of my professional life building TV Broadcasting Facilities. Retired (nearly!), moved from Bath out to Frome in Somerset.

J.D.Y. Peel (1959)

I received an honorary degree of Doctor of Letters from the University of Birmingham in July 2012 for eminence and distinguished achievements "in the fields of social anthropology and African studies".

Michael Stuart Green (1959)

Major one-man exhibition of recent paintings and original prints at the Tore Gallery, Inverness.

1960s

Michael Phipps (1962)

Retired from Senior Civil Service in 2004, but keep busy with many voluntary activities including church, serving as Trustee of five charities (chairman of two), school governor, going to opera and concerts, mountain walking in Lake District and Scotland, foreign travel.

Tell us your news

Thanks to all OEs that have sent us their news. Unfortunately, we cannot publish everything we receive but please continue to keep us posted!

Email: editor@kes.org.uk or visit: www.oldseds.kes.org.uk/yournews

Chris Osborn (1963)

I have now retired as an entertainments and commercial lighting engineer but am busier than ever as a clerk to several local school governing bodies and the secretary to the Birmingham Methodist District property committee. I have been trying to complete my model of a Tamar lifeboat and am determined to finish it this year, weather permitting!

David Jeffcoat (1968)

I went on a memorable trekking holiday in Nepal, a tough physical challenge during which we saw some amazing sights and met some fascinating local people.

1970s

Nicholas Cooke (1973)

After 4 years as Recorder of Cardiff (the senior criminal judge permanently based in south east Wales) I have been transferred to the Central Criminal Court (the Old Bailey) in London. Best wishes to all who remember me.

Paul J Smith (1974)

I am no longer working in Afghanistan but am Director of the British Council in the USA and Cultural Counsellor at the British Embassy in Washington DC.

Matthew Cooke (1977)

Appointed as National Clinical Director for Urgent and Emergency Care at Department of Health in 2010. Also Professor of Emergency Medicine at University of Warwick.

Russell Harkin (1978)

Following redundancy I retrained as a secondary ICT teacher and have now been teaching for four years. This year I started teaching maths as my main subject, which might be a surprise to anyone who remembers me from school.

1980s

Harry Longman (1980)

Founded Patient Access with GPs from around the country, pioneers of an innovation in allowing patients much improved access to their own doctor: www.patient-access.org.uk

Hari Deshpande (1984)

Winner inaugural David Fischer teaching award Yale Cancer Center, Yale University in November 2011.

Andrew P MacGeoch (1984)

Married with 3 children. A trustee of the Home of Loving Faithfulness - a Christian home for severely handicapped. Trained as a solicitor in London and Singapore....then on to HK where I have been since 1993!

1990s

Andrew P Mulligan (1990)

I am currently Staff Director at the National Theatre working with Polly Findlay on Antigone by Sophocles.

Clement Hubert (1997)

Having graduated as a Doctor in summer 2010 (MBChB), my second year of Foundation Training will soon be complete. Next year I aim to work as a Clinical Fellow in Accident and Emergency, and will be applying for the General Practice Specialist Training Programme for August 2013

Mustafa Jaffar (1997)

I will be getting married - to a lovely lady by the name of Amna Sarwar - on the 26th of August 2012.

2000s

Vikram Banerjee (2002)

Joined the Footdown consultancy team in September after six years as a professional cricketer for Gloucestershire County Cricket Club and England Lions.

Charlie Cruickshanks (2004)

13th March - baby Leo Benjamin Cruickshanks was born.

Paul Pritchett (2007)

Engaged to Florence Woodward on 30th August 2011 in Venice Italy - whom I met in Birmingham in 2004 whilst in the 4ths. To be married on 20th July 2013.

Obituaries

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

Rev Professor Christopher Evans (1928)
John B Austin (1934)
J R Moore (1936)
Alan H Sharrott (1938)
Walter J Walkden (1940)
Dr Walter Frank Royston Pover OBE (1943)
Donald A Hobbs (1947)
Don W Rogers (1947)
John Kenneth Bean (1951)
Vivian Bingham (1951)
Roger P Jarvis (1953)
Alan W. Donaldson (1955)
Clive White (1969)
David E Bartlett (1972)

A full list of Old Edwardians who have died in 2012, including some detailed obituaries, will be in the next OE Gazette.

OLYMPIC INVOLVEMENT



Niels de Vos (1985)

Heading up UK Athletics

Niels de Vos (1985) is the Chief Executive of UK Athletics (UKA), a non-executive director of the British Olympic Association and sits on the European Athletics Development Committee.

Niels has been the Chief Executive of UKA since 2007, leading the development of the sport and driving the creation and implementation of a UK-wide strategy that will take athletics to London 2012 and beyond.

During his time at KES, Niels became Athletics Captain and identifies Stuart 'Basher' Birch as inspiring his love of athletics. On his career to date, Niels said: "I have been lucky to have worked on major national projects (the Millennium Dome, 2002 Commonwealth Games) and latterly elite sport (professional rugby, football and now athletics) during which time I have been involved in some incredible moments and worked with some inspirational people.

"Until the Olympics my professional highlight was transforming Sale Sharks from bankrupt also-rans to Guinness Premiership Champions in 2006. The personal highlight was probably being in the Bird's Nest Stadium to see Usain Bolt destroy the World and Olympic 100m record in 2008.

"Now, to have had the chance to lead athletics into a home Games was the most amazing privilege. Being in the Olympic Stadium for 'Super Saturday' was truly magical - the day Britain fell back in love with track and field athletics."

Funding the Olympics

Nick Hockley (1993) is a chartered accountant and corporate financier, and has been working on the London Organising Committee of the Olympic and Paralympic Games (LOCOG) for over five years.

As the Head of Commercial Negotiations for the 2012 Olympic Games he has focused on selling and delivering high-profile sponsorship deals to fund the London 2012 Games.

On the challenges associated with the role, the performance of Team GB, and what next, Nick said: "The financial crisis presented a real challenge for fundraising, although sponsors and suppliers recognised this was a unique opportunity to showcase their capability to the world, so we still met our targets. The biggest challenge in delivery has been recruiting and integrating a team that has grown from 80 people in 2006 to over 200,000, working across 100 different physical locations.

"Team GB's record-breaking performance was incredible and set the tone for the whole Games. Early signs are that it has prompted an upsurge in young people taking part in sport, which was one of the main ambitions of the London bid.

"After the end of the Paralympic Games, I will be moving to Australia to work on the 2015 ICC Cricket World Cup. My wife is Australian and looking forward to being closer to her family. As General Manager – Commercial, I'll be responsible for the tournament revenues, including ticketing, hospitality, sponsorship and merchandising."

Nick will be delivering a talk on 'The Significance of Sponsorship in Delivering the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games' on Thursday, 27 September 2012 which Old Edwardians are invited to attend.



Nick Hockley (1993)



Bringing culture to the Games

Tony Hall (1965) - Lord Hall of Birkenhead - is Chief Executive of the Royal Opera House and Chair of the Cultural Olympiad Board.

In July 2009, he was asked by the Government and Mayor of London to set up and chair a board to direct the Cultural Olympiad and also joined the Board of the London Organising Committee for the Olympic Games.

The Cultural Olympiad is a national celebration of culture as part of the London 2012 Olympic Games and Paralympic Games. The aim is to harness the power of the Games to inspire creativity across all forms of culture, especially amongst young people, give everyone in the country a chance to be part of the Games and leave a lasting legacy well beyond 2012.

More than 12,000 performances and events are taking place across the country with more than 25,000 artists appearing in 900 venues in 204 centres.

On the Cultural Olympiad, Lord Hall said: "By the time it's over, the London 2012 Festival will have been the biggest showcase ever for what this country is brilliant at - arts and culture. And it will also have introduced many people to the arts for the first time - 80% of those who went to the World Shakespeare Festival at the Globe Theatre for example had never been there before."

Tony Hall is also Deputy Chairman of Channel 4 Television and sits on the board of The British Council and the Paul Hamlyn Foundation. He will be the guest speaker at the Biennial Dinner on Saturday, 6 October 2012 which Old Edwardians can book to attend.



Dancers from extreme action dance troupe, Streb, performing on the spokes of the London Eye as part of the London 2012 Festival

THE QUEEN'S GOLDEN OES

The school captain, Roger Wilson, presents the Queen with a copy of T.W. Hutton's 'History of King Edward's School'



Queen's visit to King Edward's

A royal visit had been planned to mark the school's quatercentenary year but the death of the king meant that this had to be postponed to 1955. The visit was scheduled for November so as soon as the autumn term began the school, in conjunction with KEHS, embarked on a rehearsal programme which seemed to rival that for the Normandy landings.

In spite of this there was, on the Great Day, a very slight hitch in the proceedings in Big School which led the present writer to the following epigram:

*Our gracious queen was here today,
Dropped in as she was passing;
Her call was so informal that
She caught us still rehearsing.*

It was, nevertheless, a great day for the school and, of course, not without its lighter moments. At one point the Queen was complimenting a boy on a beautiful wood carving that he had made and asked what wood he had used. 'It's yew, ma'am', he answered, only to realise immediately the possible pun and to turn appropriately crimson. The Queen made a graceful reply which made it clear that she knew what he meant and enabled him to retire in good order.

A moment fraught with disastrous potential occurred when Her Majesty left. The police had decided that she should leave by the back way which necessitated her car passing a large heap of coke. As this was a considerable eyesore it was decreed that it should be hidden by swarms of loyal boys standing on and in front of it, in the charge of two masters in full academics leading the cheers. The trouble was, however, that a ten-foot-high coke heap offers no stable footing and there was much sliding and slithering. It was only by the mercy of God that boys and masters did not find themselves in a tangled heap in front of the royal car as it approached.

Taken from 'No Place for Fop or Idler' by Anthony Trott (Teacher of English at KES, 1950 to 1989)



The Queen with Ronald Lunt, Chief Master, views a model of the Queen's Beast made by Roger Harper (1957)

John Haslam



One day a Princess, the next a Queen

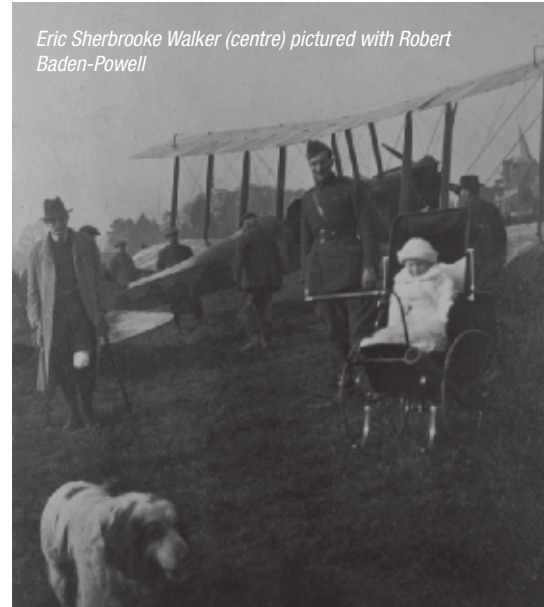
On 6 February 1952, Princess Elizabeth became Queen whilst visiting the spectacular Treetops Hotel in Kenya, owned by Eric Sherbrooke Walker (1905).

Walker left King Edward's for Oxford and, after deciding against a career as a missionary, took a role leading the fledgling Scouts movement, alongside founder Lord Robert Baden-Powell. However it was in 1932 Walker and his wife, Lady Elizabeth Mary Feilding – whom he raised money to marry rum running in prohibition era America – embarked on their most famous project, the Outspan and Treetops Hotel.

On 5 February 1952, Treetops Hotel hosted its most noble guest, as the then Princess Elizabeth arrived with Prince Phillip to enjoy a relaxing night watching wildlife during their busy tour of Kenya. In the early hours of the morning King George VI, ill with lung cancer, passed away whilst the Princess slept. Colonel Jim Corbett, a famous hunter and conservationist who was resident hunter escort at the time, said: "For the first time in the history of the world, a young girl climbed into a tree one day a Princess and... she climbed down from the tree next day a Queen."

It was not until the Queen left the hotel to continue her tour that she learnt of her accession, but it was Treetops Hotel which boasted the beginnings of her remarkable years in the throne. Eric Sherbrooke Walker – former rumrunner, scout leader, Old Edwardian – had no small part in perhaps the most intimate moment in the Queen's reign.

Eric Sherbrooke Walker (centre) pictured with Robert Baden-Powell



Honoured as a Chaplain to the Queen

John Haslam (1950) received the honour of being a Chaplain to the Queen from 1989 to 2002.

The Royal College of Chaplains, which John was invited to join, dates back to the 1400's and comprises 36 Chaplains. Historically the College of Chaplains was an important part of the Royal Household and would accompany the monarch wherever they went, including assembling to say mass before a battle.

The role of Chaplain is now an honorary one which involves giving an annual Sunday sermon at the Chapel Royal in St James's Palace, invitation to a garden party at Buckingham Palace each year, and wearing the royal scarlet cassock on formal occasions. The College of Chaplains encompasses as many different aspects of the clergy as possible and John was invited as a self-supporting priest on recommendation of the Bishop of Birmingham.

John's career was built as a lawyer and latterly Chairman of Employment Tribunals, which he found combined well with his ministry as one role informed the other. On his role as a Chaplain, John says: "I very much appreciated the honour and it was an extremely enjoyable part of what I did for 13 years."



Photo of Michael Evans in court dress, hung in Birmingham Crown Court

Appointed as High Sheriff

Michael Evans (1952) was appointed to the ceremonial position of High Sheriff of the West Midlands for 2003-4.

The High Sheriff has the duty to protect and assist in upholding the dignity and wellbeing of Her Majesty's judges and to act as the Queen's representative in all matters relating to the

law in the county. He ranks as the most senior person in the county after the Lord Lieutenant.

Though the duties of High Sheriffs have changed over the years, the post remains the oldest secular office in the land, dating back over 1,000 years. Today, the High Sheriff is still expected to be ready to attend to the needs of judges when they are in the county.

The position is awarded to those who have significantly contributed to the county's community. Michael started his career as a chartered accountant before moving into stockbroking and becoming a divisional director of Brewin Dolphin. He joined St John Ambulance in 1982 and held the positions of West Midlands County Director, County Treasurer and for nearly 10 years Chairman of the Council. In 2008 he was appointed a national trustee and director of St John Ambulance.

Most recently, Michael has been awarded an OBE in the Queen's Birthday Honours for his 30 years voluntary service to St John Ambulance. On his position of High Sheriff and recent OBE, Michael said: "It was an honour and a privilege to serve Her Majesty as her High Sheriff and to be awarded the OBE for my voluntary work."

ACADEMIC AND SCHOOL NEWS



L-R, Andrew Macarthur, Jimi Oluwole and Ravin Jain

Switch to IB produces top marks

The first Sixth Form pupils at King Edward's School to take the International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma have achieved outstanding results.

The maximum score of 45 points was gained by three boys Ravin Jain, Andrew Macarthur and Jimi Oluwole, a score achieved by only 109 students worldwide out of 119,000 that took the IB Diploma in 2012. A further seven boys dropped only one mark to achieve 44 points, and one third of the

cohort attained scores of 40 points or above, higher than the equivalent of four A*s at A-level. An average score of 36.7 was achieved against a global average of 29.8.

John Claughton, the Chief Master, said: "These are truly remarkable results at the first time of asking. This has been the biggest change in curriculum at the school in a century and we are delighted that so many boys have done so well at the first attempt. This says a great deal for the talent and effort of the pupils, but also the care and

professionalism of the teachers who have had to teach everything anew. The IB Diploma has great breadth, rigour and challenge and is a wonderful preparation for university and beyond. These results immediately make us one of the best IB schools in the world."

The IB Diploma comprises six subjects within which pupils must study English, Mathematics, a science, a language and a humanities subject. Pupils also complete an extended essay on any subject, study Theory of Knowledge and undertake a range of extra-curricular activity and community service. For more details about the International Baccalaureate Diploma, visit: www.ibo.org.uk



Boys with their results



Monty Williams receiving his Arkwright Scholarship

Prestigious scholarships awarded

In October 2011, four boys received Arkwright Scholarships for outstanding work in Design and Technology.

Nick Bleasdale, Tom Hodson, David Scott and Monty Williams were chosen following a rigorous selection process comprising an application, aptitude paper and panel interview, during which the boys presented their GCSE project work and discussed their commitment to design, engineering and technology.

Only 298 Arkwright Scholarships were awarded in Britain last year. The boys will receive £300 per year to assist with the purchase of materials and books during their post-16 studies and carry the status of 'Arkwright Scholar' into university.

Excellent GCSE results in 2012

Out of a year group of 115, 21 boys achieved 10 A*s and a further 13 boys obtained 9 A*s. 96% of entries resulted in A*-B grades, 84% A*-A, and 57% A*. In the traditional subjects of Maths and English, 70% of candidates achieved an A* and in the rigorous science subjects 60% achieved an A*.

IGCSEs are now taken for the majority of subjects, believing it to be more rigorous than GCSE and a better preparation for the International Baccalaureate Diploma.

Andrew Macarthur and Vishal Patil



Top mathematicians take part in a number of challenges

Two of the top mathematicians in recent years have enjoyed success in a number of challenges in their final year at King Edward's.

Vishal Patil had a phenomenal end to his mathematics career at King Edward's, achieving a remarkable 60/60 in Round 1 of the British Maths Olympiad, before finishing 4th in Round 2. He was subsequently invited to represent the UK as part of the National team in the Romanian Masters of Mathematics Competition. Vishal will read Maths at Trinity College, Cambridge after achieving the maximum of two grade 'S's in his STEP papers.

Vishal teamed up with Andrew Macarthur, who will read Maths at Merton College, Oxford, to finish second in the National Cipher Challenge, achieving a perfect score but beaten on time in the final round. The team were awarded £800 at a prize-giving event at Bletchley Park.

Oxbridge places 2012

Out of 20 offers received from Oxford and Cambridge 18 boys will be beginning their studies in September 2012.

Impression of the new Modern Languages Department



A time for developments

In the last academic year, the biggest new development since King Edward's moved to its present site has been completed and the next phase of building has begun.

The Ruddock Performing Arts Centre opened in April 2012 with two special concerts featuring the School's Symphony Orchestra and Choral Society playing Rimsky-Korsakov's *Scheherazade* and Orff's *Carmina Burana*. Michael Gove officially opened the £11m building, which has been partly funded by a substantial donation from Sir Paul Ruddock (1976), comprising a 400-seater auditorium, 120-seater drama studio, dance and rehearsal rooms, and state-of-the-art music facilities.

Work has already begun on the next development of a new Modern Languages Department, extension and renewal of the science laboratories and a new Sixth Form Centre. The £5m project, which will be completed in 2013, has been half-funded by a donation from Andrew Brode (1959).

Ruddock Performing Arts Centre



Water polo success

In the winter term the U13 team travelled to Bolton for the President's Trophy. After a nervy start King Edward's eased past Kings Grantham and then Cheltenham Club to reach the final against Bolton. The final score of 5-3 meant victory for King Edward's who could lift the trophy with pride.

The U16 team stormed through the ESSA Water Polo tournament, boasting wins against Eton (5-1), Bedford Modern (3-1) and the hosts Cheltenham (11-0). They reached the final only to be beaten by Manchester (6-5) although they gave a good account of themselves and can hold their heads up high.

Congratulations to George Sadler, Mason Gain, Matt Madden and Herbie Harris who represented the West Midlands Region in the ASA Inter Regional Water Polo Championships.



Rugby report

Over 200 inter school fixtures have been played, with only 28 cancelled due to adverse weather.

The 1st XV finished with an impressive playing record and reached the quarter final of the Daily Mail Vase, losing to Wirral Grammar School (0-19). Their best performances included wins over Trent College (17-16), Malvern College (20-17), Adams GS (24-18) and Shrewsbury (50-6).

The under 16 XV reached and lost the semi-final of the North Midlands Vase. The U15 XV won the Greater Birmingham Cup, with the U14 A XV

coming runners-up. Congratulations to Will Goldup, Max Dixon, Alex Hardy, Scott Gellan, Oliver Brown, Alex Cheswick, and Finn Coral on selection for their respective Greater Birmingham squads and to Nick Eccleston on his selection for Staffordshire.

The 2011 tour took KES rugby to Argentina and Brazil, and 2013 will see over 40 current Fourths and Fifts experiencing China and Malaysia.

1st XV Scorecard:

P	W	D	L	F	A
26	16	0	10	556	376

Cricket report

An interrupted season, as rain meant more than 50 competitive cricket fixtures were called off and much of House Cricket had to be played inside.

This year's 1st XI games numbered just 12 and amongst these fixtures they faced the tough opposition of Malvern and Shrewsbury. The captain Nathan Roberts was the only player to reach a century and James Claughton was commended as 'Player of the Year' for his consistent bowling.

A highlight for the U12A Cricket Team was a two hour training session with England internationals, Jonathon Trott and Ian Bell.

Congratulations to: Adam Hussain (U12), Tarush Gupta (U13), Hamza Ajaib (U13), Saahir Mubarik (U15) and George Galla (U16) for selection to play for their respective counties.

1st XI Scorecard:

P	W	D	L
12	5	0	7



Stuart Birch, PE Department from 1970 to 2012

You first taught at King Edward's in 1970, what was KES like then as a school and particularly for sport?

King Edward's was very academic, probably the most academic school in the country at the time and consisted of a group of boys who have gone on to great things. In terms of sport, we were very, very good but in a much narrower range, basically rugby and cricket. Athletics took place in the second half of the spring term and was regarded as a secondary sport. Gradually things changed with the coming of the sports hall and building of the swimming pool, and we became better at a range of sports.

What inspired you to go into teaching?

I was inspired by the PE teacher, John Rowlands, at my own grammar school, Coleshill Grammar School that was. He was a tremendous and inspirational character. I was also inspired by KES, I didn't know such a school existed with such highly motivated pupils. I can't imagine a better place to teach at.

You must have had many highlights during your time at KES. Are there any particular standout moments?

Derek Everest asked me to get athletics and basketball going, and I moved heaven and earth to get those sports to the highest level possible. One standout moment is when the first basketball

players were selected to play in the England U17s in 1982, Richard Chrimes and Chris Grimley. Since then we produced another five England school players.

Another fantastic moment was winning the England Schools Basketball U19 Championship in 1986, when we beat St Columba's College 72-70 in the last minute of the final. In 2000, we won every single school athletics match at every age group, including beating Eton, that meant a lot to me. Finally, I felt inordinately proud of my own son (1998) going to the University of Cambridge.

Have you got any interesting tales from your time teaching at KES?

I used to run the U13 'D'XV Rugby and remember a parent telling me that her son was so proud to be representing KES that he had gone to bed in his rugby shirt. I was so proud! I truly believe sport is for everybody.

I also taught 36 years of Shell English. I don't think the boys learnt a great deal but we had a hell of a good time!

What are your plans for retirement?

To keep fit, keep refereeing KES rugby and helping with athletics. I have an on-going passion with motor cars. I have a Porsche and Lotus at the moment which eventually I'll sell and buy



Stuart Birch - image by Ben Fernando (2012)

something else. I also enjoy photography as my father was a professional photographer and taught me a lot.

Is there anything else you would like to add?

I have enjoyed every single minute of teaching at KES. You get a tremendous response from the vast number of pupils and colleagues. The Development Office reckon I've found about 500 lost OEs, one of whom is now sponsoring a boy right through his time at KES, and I've enjoyed that too as it's been something totally different.



KES U13 Hockey Team

F. Geelan, H. Gwynne, A. Bradley, R. Newton, R. Elphinstone, W. Kilgallon
M. Johnson (Coach), T. Gupta, C. Hundle (V Capt), D. Miller (Capt), H. Easlea, M. Edwards (Manager)

Hockey report

Not only was it a successful year on the pitch for KES Hockey, but the 1st XI embarked on a popular tour of South Africa, playing games against local schools and enjoying the surroundings.

The 1st XI had a spectacular season, remaining unbeaten in full length fixtures. They finished as Warwickshire Champions, beating Rugby School 4-2 in the final.

Three teams reached the regional finals with the U18 and U14 teams both losing at the semi-final stages. The U13s reached the National Finals for the first time, losing in the semi-final to the eventual winners, Queen's College Taunton and finished 6th overall.

This was a remarkable season all round for KES Hockey, in which they played some of the best teams in the country. Each team can be thoroughly proud of their efforts.

1st XI Scorecard:

P	W	D	L	F	A
27	21	3	3	78	19



Cast of *Into the Woods* enjoying the applause

Into the Woods

Eagerly awaited, *Into the Woods* by Sondheim was a massive challenge for our troupe of performers but they handled it magnificently.

The play is a complex fairy tale incorporating dark twists requiring the upmost effort from the cast. Luke Doswell stunned the audience with his pure voice and Dom Spencer-Jolly offered poignancy in his role as a father desperate to right some wrongs. However it was Tom Lilburn and Tom Anderson, both veterans of KES drama, who stole the show and had the crowd in hysterics with their comedic performances.

Miss Proops' evocative set complimented the play perfectly and the backstage workers must be congratulated on an admirable job. The music, ran by Mr Evans, was laudable and the band did well to rise to the challenge of a Sondheim musical. But the hardest worker was Mrs Herbert, the director, who approached the musical with great enthusiasm, pulling out every trick she could to make the production successful. Thanks go to the whole of the team for effort and enthusiasm.

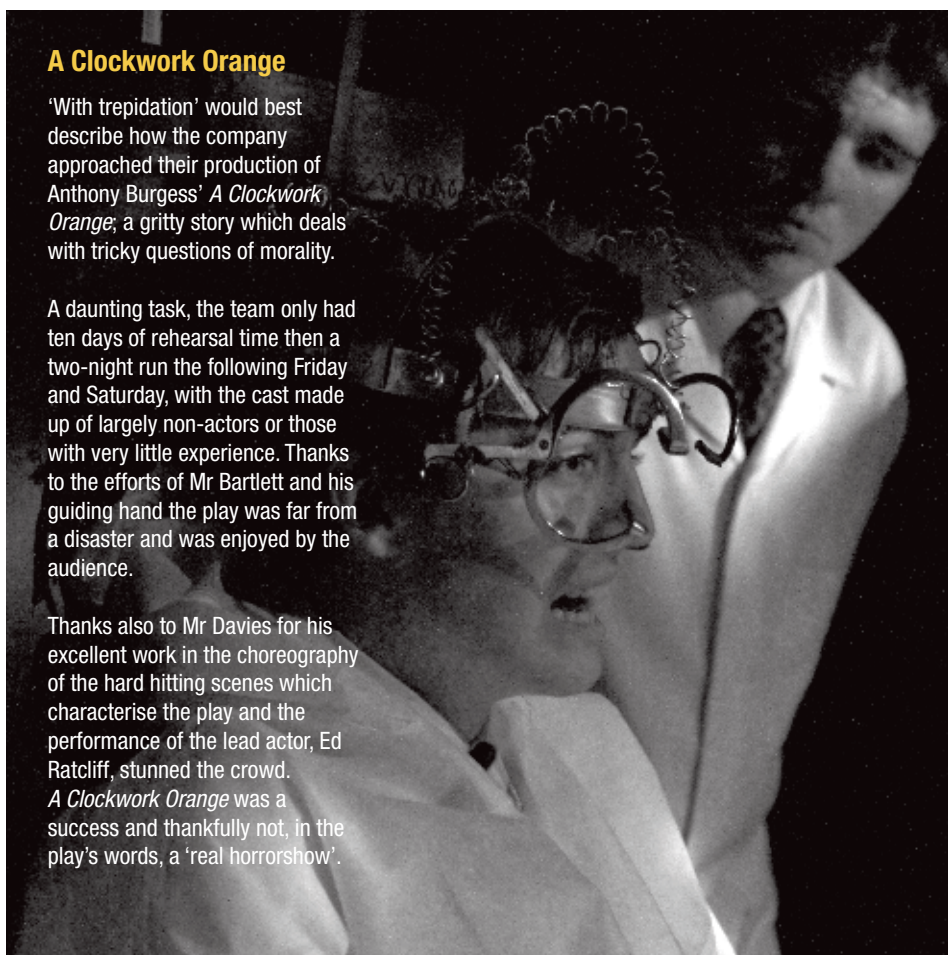
Into the Woods was a fantastic show, and certainly one to remember!

A Clockwork Orange

'With trepidation' would best describe how the company approached their production of Anthony Burgess' *A Clockwork Orange*; a gritty story which deals with tricky questions of morality.

A daunting task, the team only had ten days of rehearsal time then a two-night run the following Friday and Saturday, with the cast made up of largely non-actors or those with very little experience. Thanks to the efforts of Mr Bartlett and his guiding hand the play was far from a disaster and was enjoyed by the audience.

Thanks also to Mr Davies for his excellent work in the choreography of the hard hitting scenes which characterise the play and the performance of the lead actor, Ed Ratcliff, stunned the crowd. *A Clockwork Orange* was a success and thankfully not, in the play's words, a 'real horrorshow'.





The Choral Society performing *Carmina Burana*

Performing Arts Centre Opening Concerts

After weeks of expectation, the Performing Arts Centre Opening Concerts lived up to all hopes.

The first piece was the Choral Society's rendition of Carl Orff's magnificent choral work, *Carmina Burana*. Once described by historian Richard J. Evans as 'brutal' and of 'crude tonality', the performance was well received, leaving the audience eager for more. The soloists Alice Halstead (KEHS), Tom Lilburn and Robert Gardiner (1999) demonstrated the extraordinary musical talent this school has to offer.

Rimsky-Korsakov's evocative *Scheherazade* presented a challenging yet thoroughly rewarding piece for the Symphony Orchestra. To hear such complex and beautiful music from an orchestra compiled nearly entirely of secondary school pupils is a special experience. Roberto Ruisi – the newly appointed leader of the National Youth Orchestra – played a huge part which he approached with superb musicality.

As the piece drew what had been a very energetic and exciting concert to a close, the performers were greeted with rapturous applause in appreciation of a highly memorable and special concert.

House Shout

This year's House Shout was as raucous as ever. The audience were thoroughly entertained to songs such as Levett's rousing performance of Steps' 5, 6, 7, 8, Heath's interesting version of Stacey's Mom and Jeune's cover of the Arctic Monkey's classic *When the Sun Goes Down*. As ever, it was a musical and visual treat for the audience and entertained staff and students alike. It was a tight affair but Evans came out on top, performing Mumford and Sons' *Little Lion Man*, with frontman Dan Turner giving a cool and collected performance. House Shout raised an impressive £500 towards Cot Fund.



Robbie, James and Adam with John Ludlow (1949)

National Youth Orchestra

King Edward's currently has the highest number of pupils in the National Youth Orchestra (NYO) for a non-specialist music school in the country. Robert Ruisi (violin), James Kuo (violin) and Adam Phillips (oboe) are in this year's orchestra and have the opportunity to play under the world's best conductors in fantastic concert halls.

Roberto has been appointed leader of the orchestra, a huge feat, saying it was "beyond anything he could have expected". The NYO comprises members up to the age of 19, making it all the more impressive for 16-year-old Roberto. Interestingly, it was an Old Edwardian, John Ludlow (1949) who held this position in 1948 in the first year of the NYO and met with the boys earlier in the year. The NYO performed at the Royal Albert Hall in the BBC Proms this summer.

EXTRA-CURRICULAR



Over 35 RAF cadets travelled to Expeditions Weekend not by coach but by Puma helicopter! Thanks to Gp Cpt Richard Mason (1984) for hosting and organising the weekend



More than 750 staff and pupils came together to smash the world record for the number of people playing conkers simultaneously



23 students travelled to Guyana, with the assistance of Jaguar Land Rover, to take part in an environmental research programme

This year boys have enjoyed a broad range of extra-curricular activities, ranging from Lego to conkers!



Living History visited Chepstow Castle experiencing medieval life first hand as well as a fortnight at the Danish Middle Ages Centre



Six UMs reached the regional finals in the First Lego League, a challenge which involved building their own, working robot



Boys from IVs to Divisions travelled to Oxford to listen to an engaging talk by Romano Prodi, the former Italian President, entitled 'Christianity and Globalisation'



L-R, Lt Col Andy Thomson, Major Trevor Collins, Colonel Oliver Lee and Major Jim Donovan

Major Trevor Collins hangs up his uniform

The CCF Annual General Inspection in May 2012 marked the last for Major Trevor Collins, who after a remarkable 22 years in the army, and slightly more years guiding and mentoring cadets, is hanging up his uniform.

Among his ex-cadets is the distinguished Colonel Oliver Lee OBE (1991) of the Royal Marines, Lt Col Andy Thomson (1989) and Major Jim Donovan (1989), all of whom played an active part in the reviewing at the AGI, welcoming the opportunity to be reunited with Major Trevor Collins.

Both Col Lee and Sqn Ldr Raynor paid tribute to Trevor's years of unstinting service to his cadets and the support he offered to the teacher-officers of the CCF. Trevor was presented with a brass Officer of the Watch telescope in recognition of his



Presentation to Trevor Collins by Duncan Raynor

talent for keeping an eagle eye on everything that goes on. Generations of KES Cadets owe much to Major Trevor Collins' enthusiasm, good humour and determination to give cadets the best possible experience during their time in the CCF.

Cot Fund

Cot Fund had a successful year raising a massive £22,000 and breaking last year's record of £18,000. Boys organised a sponsored run to the North Pole, using South Field, raising over £8000 for Birmingham Children's Hospital, and as ever there were non-uniform days, cake sales, a readathon and more.

Old Edwardians merchandise

As a souvenir of your time at King Edward's a range of gifts are available, a selection of which are below. Visit the Old Edwardians shop at: www.oldereds.kes.org.uk/oe-shop to view the full range and order items or contact the OEA office on tel: 0121 415 6050 to place your order.

Please note that all prices listed here include postage.



Cufflinks £10

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

Ties £15 each

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



Pin badge £3

An enamelled pin badge featuring the school crest.



Bow ties £10

Standard design ready-tied and self-tied silk bow ties.



Postcards £4

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

FROM THE ARCHIVES



David Ganderton set up by the scouts!

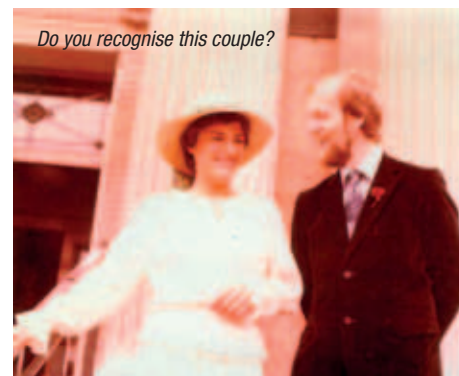
Away with the Scouts

Ever since I scanned through the OE Gazette 2012 and came upon the piercing gaze of “The Gand” on page 22 I have been searching for, and found, a photograph of him taken at the end of his (and my) first year at KES during which he taught History to my form, Shell B.

David Ganderton accompanied Park Vale Scout Troop (the Scout Leader was John Hamlin, with ASL's Bob Edwards and Alan Parker) on its 1965 Summer Camp at Taynuilt, not far from Oban. Perhaps the following incident swayed him away from the Scouts.

In addition to the usual scout camp activities, the whole troop was taken on a boat trip to Staffa and Iona. The photograph is of DBG asleep on the boat having been set up by some young scouts to make believe he was in a drunken stupor. However, the ruse was never going to succeed as someone forgot to remove the drinking straw from the bottle. I say asleep but I seem to remember he was far from being asleep and was a “good sport” in allowing us to continue with the escapade.

Alan Homer (1971)



Do you recognise this couple?

Do you recognise this couple?

This photo was found by the Foundation Archivist in a copy of the Gazette from December 1953. We would like to return the photo to its owner, so if you recognise the couple please contact the OEA office on tel: **0121 415 6050** or email: **oldeds@kes.org.uk**



The gothic Pugin table on display at the Barber Institute

Table talk

The Chief Master's gothic octagonal table, currently on display at the Barber Institute as part of the wider Birmingham Pugin Trail, has been a hit with visitors. Enthusiasts from across the country have travelled to Birmingham for the rare opportunity to see an example of Pugin's early secular work. The table was originally due to be returned to the CM's study at the end of June but, by popular demand, will remain on display at the Barber Institute until the end of September.

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