



KING EDWARD'S SCHOOL
BIRMINGHAM

OLD EDWARDIANS

GAZETTE 2023

In this issue...

Dr Johnny Drain

- his journey to producing
the world's first cocoa-
free chocolate

Fond Farewells

- we say goodbye to some
long-serving, much loved
teaching staff

Spotlight on 'The Arts'

- three Old Edwardians who
highlight the breadth and
depth of this industry



Photo credit: J Drain

Dr Johnny Drain on his remarkable career so far as
a Scientist, Food Designer and Master of Microbes

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Artwork on front cover by Abdullah Sheraz (2024)

Abdullah's beautiful watercolour and ink study of an eye blends many different colours and emotions and stands as a visual response to the themes of memory and childhood. If you look carefully, you can see a teddy bear and a dice in the reflection of the eye which are items associated with childhood.



Welcome

It has been wonderful meeting and connecting with the Old Edwardian community at many events held this year, including our London Dinner at the RAF Club, and our Diamond and Golden reunion. The support of Old Edwardians is invaluable to the school community. You consistently give time to connect with students in multiple ways, whether it be through speaking engagements and career advice to subject workshops, sports coaching, attending concerts and productions. Your dedication to the school and our students is truly appreciated.

I am delighted to report that a rare stained-glass window of St Margaret of Antioch by pre-Raphaelite artist Sir Edward Burne-Jones (1852) has been generously donated to the school by Sir Paul Ruddock (1976) and Stuart Southall (1976). We are immensely grateful to Sir Paul and Stuart for their generosity and commitment to the school. This artwork will serve as a valuable interdisciplinary resource for our students, providing a unique opportunity to explore the intersection of history, literature and the visual arts.

This edition highlights the impressive achievements of three Old Edwardians who have established successful careers in the arts. Their inspiring stories demonstrate the breadth and depth of opportunities available to our students, and I hope they will inspire current and future pupils to pursue their passions and aspirations with confidence and determination.

Looking ahead to the future, you'll hopefully be aware that we are embarking on an exciting programme of activity across KES, KEHS and the King Edward VI Foundation to undertake a Masterplan for our shared 50-acre Edgbaston campus. This ambitious initiative, with sustainability and accessibility at its heart, is taking a long-term holistic view of how our campus could develop in the coming years. It will identify potential areas to repurpose or refurbish any new facilities which would be beneficial, and, crucially, a sequence for development. I am confident that this project will be of great benefit to our pupils, staff and wider community for many years to come, and I look forward to sharing more as plans take shape. More information about the project is available on page 7.

I would like to extend my warmest wishes to all Old Edwardians and their families. Your continued support, enthusiasm, and dedication to our school community are greatly appreciated.

■ Dr Katy Ricks
Chief Master and President of the OEA

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The views or opinions expressed in the *Gazette* are solely those of the individual authors and do not necessarily represent those of the School.

A brief word from:

The Chairman



Another year, another Gazette, but this is different from the last few because Covid's grip on the world seems less restraining. Thank goodness.

We have had one of the best attended London Dinners for years featuring inspired recollections from Oliver Lee OBE; a Diamond and Golden Anniversary reunion of 20 OEs from each of KES and KEHS (perhaps sparking memories of liaisons many years ago!), and a welcome return from Jonathan Coe who has managed to bring our world to such a wide audience with his novels.

I shall continue to say this – without the OEA and Development Office we wouldn't have all this, so very many thanks to the whole team. Sadly, I mark the loss of Sue Dickens in the OEA team last autumn and more recently Jim Evans, who has been involved on the Committee and particularly with Old Eds cricket at The Memorial Ground on Streetsbrook Road for longer, literally, than I can remember. Sadly, but with huge affection.

In the coming months more will become clear about the Masterplan to examine the use of our 50 green acres on the Bristol Road. Exciting times. Which makes me think: your Committee has been in post for decades and recent new blood has been very much welcomed – but we could do with more, so please get in touch with the team if this appeals. It is good to be involved, especially right now.

■ James Martin (1979)
Chairman of the OEA

If you would like to join the OEA Committee please email:
oldeds@kes.org.uk

Updated clubhouse



The Memorial Ground comprises about 13 acres situated in Solihull and is the home to both the Edwardian Football Club Limited (Rugby Union) and the Old Edwardians Cricket Club. The Ground is managed on behalf of the Association by the Old Edwardians Sports Club which ensures that the two rugby pitches and the cricket pitch are well maintained and that the clubhouse is kept updated and welcoming to players and social members alike.

The Rugby Club runs two teams and plays in the RFU Counties 1 Midlands West (North) League. Having been promoted the previous season, the Club has just finished another successful season by finishing in third place. New players are always welcome, and throughout the season regular lunches are held which are always well attended.

The Cricket Club runs two teams each playing in the Warwickshire Cricket League. In June of each season, the Club plays the School at Eastern Road and this year marks its 75th Anniversary with a lunch at the Club on Saturday, 29 July 2023. New players are always welcome here too!

We love seeing Old Edwardians of all vintages at the Club, whether as players or as social members, seeking to enjoy the facilities and meet up with 'old' and new friends.

The Club can be contacted on **0121 744 6831** or on www.edsrugby.com / www.oldedwardians.play-cricket.com.

Treecycling campaign



To The Edwardians Rugby Club, The Old Edwardians Sports Club and The Old Edwardians Association:

We want to extend a huge, heartfelt thanks to everyone at Streetsbrook Road for their support for our Treecycling Campaign. Each year, we are overwhelmed by amazing supporters like you, who continue to go above and beyond for our charity.

The success of Treecycling relies completely on volunteers. This year, a tree-mendous team of around 250 people helped to make Treecycling happen – from distributing leaflets, to putting together routes, to collecting and chipping the trees (in the rain and the cold!). We are extremely grateful that you were a vital part of that team, by allowing us to use your excellent facilities at Streetsbrook Road and assisting with the chipping operations – thank you!

We are delighted to announce that this year we collected over 5,600 trees and raised a record-breaking £127,000!

On behalf of all patients, families and hospice teams at Birmingham St Mary's and John Taylor Hospices, thank you for your gifts of time, effort, dedication and hard work. This incredible amount raised means we can ensure individuals living with life limiting illness in our community receive the absolute best care, wherever and whenever it is needed. Thank you once again for supporting The Hospice Charity Partnership. Please pass on our thanks to everyone who was involved!

Richard Green (1968)
Voluntary Fundraising Consultant

In September 2023, we will be recognising the 50th Anniversary of the death of J R R Tolkien (1911).

This will also be documented in next year's *Gazette*.

Events and talks

Annual Old Edwardians' London Dinner

held on Monday, 13 March 2023 at the RAF Club, Piccadilly, London.

We were delighted to be able to welcome guests back after a three-year break owing to the Covid pandemic.

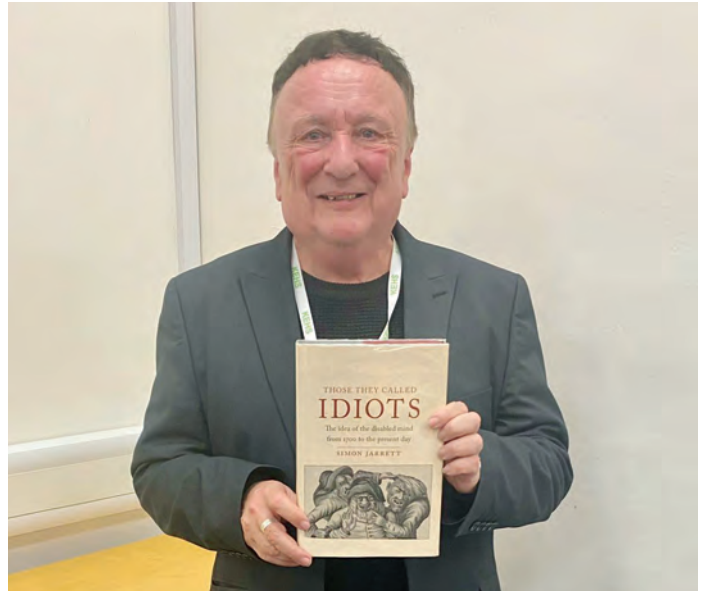


After initially meeting in the Churchill bar to catch up with old friends and classmates, guests were welcomed by the Chief Master, Dr Katy Ricks, in the Sovereigns Room, who thanked everyone for coming. Dr Ricks shared her excitement for the upcoming Masterplan and gave a brief update on its progress. Dr Ricks thanked Keith Phillips for his service to the school over the past 35 years and noted that the OEs would be seeing more of him now that his new part-time role involved alumni relations.

School Captain, Aurelio Lencioni, then gave OEs an update on some of the recent school successes both academically and outside of the classroom and noted how school has changed over the years. A highlight being the fact that the swimming pool now has a roof!

Aurelio handed over to our guest speaker, Oliver Lee (1991) OBE. Oliver and his family have deep roots with King Edward's. He is one of six siblings who attended King Edward's, and before them, their father and two uncles also attended. Oliver talked of his sister, Flora, who has been a member of staff at King Edward's since 2011 and how they all look fondly on their time at their respective schools. Oliver went on to speak about his time in the Royal Marines - where he held a number of significant front-line leadership roles. During his time in the Royal Marines, Oliver won the sword of honour and was also promoted to full Colonel (the youngest to do so since World War II). Oliver attributed much of his success to how King Edward's influenced and inspired him to want to be a good leader, to lead a team in the right way, and to set examples that he would expect of others. He touched on the challenges he faced when leaving the Marines to enter the corporate world, and how he overcame them. First, becoming CEO at The Challenge and more recently, Chief Executive of Places Leisure, a 6000 plus people, non-dividend company, which aims to create active communities and healthy people. Oliver highlighted how important his education and time at King Edward's had been to him and his career, how King Edward's had made him the person he is today and how extremely grateful to the school he is for that.

The formalities ended with everyone joining in to sing the school song.



Simon Jarrett (1974)

Author of 'Those They called Idiots: the idea of the disabled mind from 1700 to the present day'

On Wednesday, 15 March 2023, students from KEHS and KES were invited to hear Simon Jarrett deliver a talk on his book, *Those They Called Idiots: the idea of the disabled mind from 1700 to the present day*.

Simon began by explaining the complexities surrounding the language used to describe people we currently refer to as 'intellectually disabled', and how this ever-changing terminology is in itself revealing of the evolving perception of these people throughout history. He took the students through the changing treatment and position of people with learning disabilities across the centuries, from the broad acceptance of those deemed 'idiots' in eighteenth century England, through the 'Great Incarceration' of thousands in specially built asylums in the nineteenth century, and finally to the care currently given to people in our communities. Using paintings, cartoons and photographs, Simon illustrated how the view that neurodiversity can be identified through visible physical difference has remained persistent throughout history.

Concluding his talk, Simon gave examples of both the improvements made for people with learning disabilities following the (relatively recent) closure of mental asylums, and the challenges still posed to them in our modern society. He reminded the students that historical perceptions of neurodiverse people still have a profound effect on their current treatment – which is why learning about the past is so vital to making progress now. Thank you, Simon, for bringing to light the history of those still often marginalised from society.

Keep an eye on your inbox for details of in-person events as they are announced, or visit:
www.olds.kes.org.uk/events



Diamond and Golden Anniversary Reunion

Our Diamond and Golden Anniversary Reunion was held on Saturday, 18 March 2023 to which 40 OEs attended, 20 from KES and 20 from KEHS. This was a joint event across both King Edward's School and King Edward VI High School for Girls.

Several events were arranged, starting initially with separate talks – the KES one by Keith Phillips, Masterplan Coordinator and Alumni Relations, and for KEHS from Kirsty von Malaisé, Principal; a joint talk from KES Former Head of History, Paul Golightly who touched on the history of both schools and the changing face of the city, highlighting how it has changed since the 60's and 70's and an update on the Masterplan and the future of both KES and KEHS from

Kirsty, who also read out an extract from a pupil who was looking into the future from 1983 which significantly marked this occasion.

Both groups were given time to peruse some archive material in the library, kindly set up by the Foundation Archivist, Charlotte Gallant, and all enjoyed the very tasty lunch provided by the Dining Hall staff.

In the afternoon, prefects from both schools kindly hosted tours of KES and KEHS for the respective groups. This was a great opportunity for OEs to reminisce on their school days, visit some of their old haunts and also to see how their schools have changed since they were students there!



Jonathon Coe (1979) 'From Birmingham to Hollywood: Billy Wilder & The Bournville Connection'

On Thursday, 9 February 2023, bestselling author Jonathon Coe (1979) returned to KES for a conversation with Professor Philip Horne, Department of English, University College London at the Ruddock Performing Arts Centre.

Discussing Jonathan's two most recent novels - Mr Wilder and Me (2021) and Bournville (2022) - and the link between the two, the event was an enthralling insight into the life of multi-Academy-Award-winning film-maker Billy Wilder (The Lost Weekend, The Apartment, Sunset Boulevard) and 75 years of social change in Britain, as told through the story of a family living in the Birmingham Suburb of Bournville, a few miles from where Jonathan was born.

School *news*

KE2052 Masterplan: looking to the future



Work to deliver a Masterplan for the Edgbaston campus began in April. Here, we bring you an update on the project that is looking ahead to how our wonderful site might evolve over the coming decades.

Immediately after the Easter break, the Chief Master, Dr Katy Ricks, and KEHS Principal, Kirsty von Malaisé, communicated to the staff, parents, pupils and Old Eds of both schools that an architecture practice had been appointed to deliver a Masterplan for the Edgbaston campus.

Following a competitive tendering process, Tim Ronalds Architects was chosen to deliver the project, titled KE2052. As expert master-planners with experience of working with 20 schools over the last two decades, the firm was a unanimous choice of the Governors' Masterplan Steering Group which includes a number of Governors and senior staff from KES/KEHS and the King Edward VI Foundation, and is chaired by Ian Metcalfe (1976) OBE, a member of the Independent Schools Governing Body. This steering group will guide the process throughout.

Tim Ronalds and Kate Biro of Tim Ronalds Architects are leading the project, which is seeking to unify and renew the 50-acre campus so that it truly meets the needs of both schools and the Foundation as a whole. They were frequent visitors to the site over the summer term, seeking to understand our

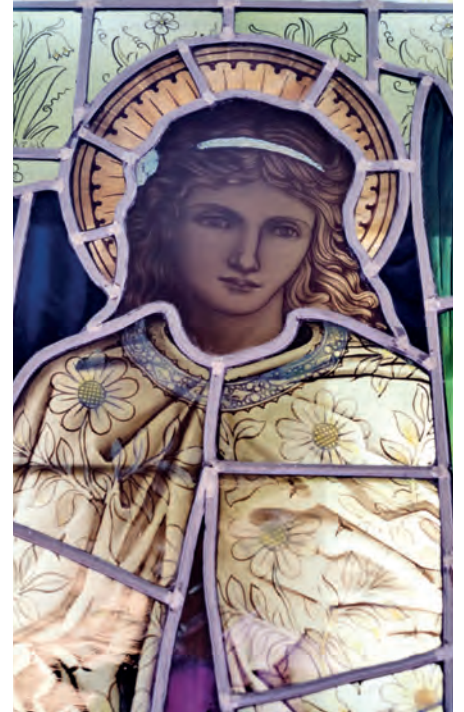
needs, our site and existing buildings. They met with many groups of school staff and students, also spending time at the Foundation Office, including the Resources Centre, and visiting other schools within the Foundation to get to know the wider organisation, which has a bold mission to make Birmingham the best place to be educated in the UK.

A Masterplan takes a long-term holistic view of how a site could develop in the coming years, identifying potential areas to repurpose or refurbish and any new facilities which would be beneficial. Crucially, it also proposes a sequence for development. In short, it looks at what is needed, where it should go and in what order. Sustainability and accessibility will be at the heart of our project, both in reviews of the current and future usage of existing facilities and in any new builds that are proposed.

Following the consultation period, Tim Ronalds Architects, working with sustainability engineers Max Fordham, will explore options for the campus, then develop a preferred option and, finally, present the Masterplan. It is envisaged that this work will take until the end of 2023.

The initial Masterplanning process is being funded through generous donations from Old Edwardians, for whose support we are most grateful.

Gift to KES of rare stained-glass window



The school is now in possession of a rare stained-glass window of St Margaret of Antioch by Pre-Raphaelite and Arts and Crafts luminary, Sir Edward Burne-Jones (1852). This stunning piece of artwork has been kindly donated by Sir Paul Ruddock (1976) and Stuart Southall (1976).

The vast majority of Burne-Jones' stained-glass windows remain in their original buildings, so this is an extremely exciting and rare opportunity for us to now own this piece. A suitable home within the KES grounds is now being sought in order to showcase its beauty and history.

Sir Edward Burne-Jones attended KES on a free place - a shining example of what can be achieved when excellence and access go hand-in-hand.

KES Cricket - Top 100!!



In November last year King Edward's School, Birmingham was named one of the UK's top 100 senior schools for cricket by the world's best-selling cricket magazine, *The Cricketer*. This fantastic achievement recognises the exceptional coaching programme and outstanding facilities on offer at KES.

King Edward's inclusion in the prestigious 2023 Schools Guide was finalised after an exhaustive selection process that saw a huge number of schools vying for a place in the top 100 senior schools. All entries were judged against an extensive set of criteria, which included a compelling commitment to cricket in the curriculum, facilities, fixture programmes and coaching.

Lawson Roll, KES Head of Cricket, said: "The KES community has really come together to ensure a strong and successful cricket programme. This includes support from management, catering, ground staff, finance, porters, transport, the primary schools' participation team and more. Only then is it possible to run 116 school matches in a term, play in Regional Championships, win two age group Country Championships, plus promote cricket to hundreds of children in inner city Birmingham."

Cricket is the major summer sport at King Edward's, with 11 teams from the 1st XI down to U12C level. The school's facilities include an excellent 1st XI cricket ground, three junior pitches, a four-lane all-weather net complex, top quality grass nets alongside the 1st XI

pitch, plus a three-lane astroturf set of nets. The sports hall also provides four lanes of nets which are much used throughout the winter, during the school's extensive winter coaching programme. KES has a full-time cricket coach who works with the boys throughout the year and also makes use of county players for additional coaching.

A large number of KES boys represent their counties at age-group level, and the school's facilities are used by Warwickshire County Cricket Club for age-group matches and we have also staged an England Blind Team Test Match.

Notable cricketers to have attended KES include Bryan Lobb (1949) (Somerset), Ossie Wheatley (1953) (Warwickshire and Glamorgan), Alan Smith (1955) (Warwickshire and England), John Claughton (Warwickshire) who was Chief Master of King Edward's from 2006-2016, Anurag Singh (1994) (Warwickshire, Worcestershire and Nottinghamshire), Mark Wagh (1995) (Warwickshire and Nottinghamshire) and Vikram Banerjee (2002) (Gloucestershire).

Nathan Round, KES Cricket Coach, who also co-ordinates KES's primary school cricket participation programme, said: "As well as supporting our own pupils and teams to achieve their potential on and off the field, it is hugely fulfilling to work with primary school children from across Birmingham, welcoming them to use our facilities and to try cricket, often for the first time."

In Memory of the Passing of Her Majesty The Queen



On Friday, 16 September 2022, the KES Combined Cadet Force raised the Union Flag, reverted it to half mast, and kept a minute of silence in respectful memory of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, who passed away on Thursday, 8 September 2022.

KES Shells' student meets King Charles III and Queen Camilla!



Just before the Coronation on 6 May 2023, Ashar from Shells had the incredible opportunity to visit the host venue of this year's Eurovision Song Contest in Liverpool. The purpose of the visit? To meet with none other than their Majesties The King and The Queen, who were there to receive their prestigious Gold Blue Peter badges. It was an unforgettable experience for Ashar and an exciting honour to be in the presence of royalty.

Ashar (12) has six of his own Blue Peter badges, including silver for making a difference in his community and for his volunteering work with St John Ambulance. He appeared on the show alongside two other lucky fans, who spoke with The King and The Queen Consort at length about what they did to acquire their impressive collection of badges.

Leaving School Captain's Reflections



I didn't really know what to expect as I started out in my final year as School Captain. I knew I'd be announcing notices in Big School every week, along with helping out at the occasional Open Day, but beyond that, the tasks ahead of me were mostly a mystery.

The first of these duties was speaking at Founder's Day. Admittedly, when I started out in the role, I was relatively inexperienced at

public speaking, so the thought of addressing students, parents and teachers at Founder's Day, within the first few weeks of my tenure, was a rather terrifying prospect. The subsequent positive response gave me a much-needed confidence boost, and since then I've seen a massive improvement in my public speaking skills - to the point where I now thoroughly enjoy giving weekly announcements in Big School. Though, as my

predecessor correctly pointed out, the nerves never do seem to go away! As well as Big Schools, some of my favourite moments this year as School Captain have come from being stopped in the corridor by boys (especially in the younger years) to have quick conversations, with one boy even asking me for advice on how he and his friends could smuggle a pizza delivery into the school without being spotted!

The most rewarding tasks for me were those involving Old Edwardians. I loved giving tours at both the Biennial Dinner and the Diamond and Golden Reunion, and hearing about how the school has changed. I've heard that the School Captain used to have his own office... maybe this could be reintroduced in the school's newly commissioned "Masterplan"? Of course, I couldn't write this article without mentioning the "London Dinner" - one of the highlights of the year for a School Captain. After I provided a quick overview of school life, we heard from Oliver Lee (1991) OBE, who has been a personal source of inspiration for me over the last few months.

Despite all the great opportunities I've had in the role, this year hasn't been without its challenges. Persuading a cohort of busy prefects to fulfil their dining hall duties was much trickier than I had anticipated, and I think the less said about the yearbook, the better! On a personal level, balancing the IB's demanding workload against School Captain duties (as well as attempting to keep up with all of my extra-curricular activities) wasn't easy, requiring organisation, dedication, and most importantly, prioritisation.

The last seven years at King Edward's have flown past. I owe a big thank you to my teachers, friends and family for their support, without whom, this incredible year would have been nigh on impossible. It's a sad thought knowing that soon I'll have left this all behind, but, I leave with fond memories whilst looking forward to what lies ahead. This final year has been - without question - my favourite year at King Edward's.

Aurelio Lencioni

Master of Microbes

Dr Johnny Drain (2001):
Scientist, Food Designer,
Master of Microbes – his
remarkable journey to
producing the world's first
cocoa-free chocolate.

Johnny's prominent memories of KES revolve around the wealth of resources and facilities there, which he credits with helping to nurture his curiosity and lifelong passion for learning. He is still in touch with a number of KES Old Eds and not just those in his own year group.

While at one point he considered leaving the school after his GCSEs to attend Birmingham Catering College (now UCB) to train to become a chef, he stayed on to do A Levels in Maths, Further Maths, Chemistry, and Fine Art. An unconventional combination but one that hinted at his unique and eclectic career path since. During his seven years at KES, he particularly enjoyed studying art, relishing the creative freedom afforded by the art block, which was physically distinct from the rest of the school. After KES, he did a Fine Art Foundation Year at Bournville, intending to study Fine Art at university before being diverted to sciences.

Photo credit: Caitlin Isola



Photo credit: Food Story Media Ltd



Photo credit: Stephen Kei



Photo credit: drive-link

While a chemistry undergraduate at Bristol he attended a lecture by chef, Heston Blumenthal, which opened his mind to the possibility of combining his loves for science and food. As Johnny pointed out, his love for eating was established long before he had any idea of the science that underpinned his food or he had any desire to ask questions about it.

After a detour of working for two years in finance, Johnny ultimately completed his PhD in Materials Science at The University of Oxford before forging a career in food that allowed him to cook, research and create for some of the world's best restaurants. At this point he reconnected with Ryan Chetiyawardana (2002), now a globally lauded mixologist and bar owner. The two Old Eds have since collaborated on several projects, notably launching a fermentation lab at Ryan's 'Cub' restaurant in London.



Photo credit: J Drain

When Johnny was at KES, he was very keen on pursuing a career as an artist or designer, interests that returned in recent years as he began documenting many of his food creations and became known for the aesthetics and design processes of his work. That he has given lectures at art and design institutions around the world—the V&A and an art gallery in Bangkok being particular standouts—would, he hopes, make his art teacher Bradley Spencer proud.

As Johnny now works with chocolate (read on!), he fondly recalls purchasing Cadbury Twirls from the vending machine in the Dining Hall. During busy periods, the bustling sounds and kitchen clatter provided a lively backdrop. However, when the Hall was less crowded, it took on a chapel-like ambiance, he recalls, and wonders if he was to walk into it today he'd find it a smaller, less impressive space.

Talking of the Dining Hall reminded him that some of his favourite canteen offerings at KES were the potato balls and the mac and cheese! Perhaps not the best nutritionally but certainly delicious!! He feels that education around food and cooking is very important and that Home Economics classes, learning how to cook, for children aged 5 to 18 should be more widely taught. With the 30-year Masterplan being created for the entire Edgbaston campus (i.e. KES, KEHS and the Foundation Office) in mind, Johnny highlighted the importance of qualifying and quantifying food waste if we are to make more sustainable food elements for the school as a way to minimise food waste and optimise resource usage.

Johnny has done a lot of work on upcycling waste food with Ryan in his restaurant 'Cub' and with zero-waste chef, Douglas McMaster, in his London restaurant, 'Silo'. An example of this involved using fermentation and the power of microbes, Johnny's specialism, to turn vegetable and meat trimmings into flavour-rich analogues of soy sauce that the kitchen team could use to craft more delicious dishes.

About six years ago, perhaps informed by his Fine Art Foundation Year next to the Cadbury factory in Bournville or his vending machine visits at KES, he began to wonder if chocolate could be made without cocoa beans! The reason why? Two thirds of the world's cocoa is mass-produced in West Africa in ways that involve 1.5 million child slaves, drives massive deforestation and biodiversity loss, and produces more greenhouse gas emissions, per kilo, than products like chicken, eggs and cheese. A sweet treat like a bar of mass-produced chocolate is actually very bad for the planet and many of its people. In 2021, he therefore set up WNN Food Labs with his business partner, Ahum Pak, who's background in consultancy and finance complimented Johnny's multi-faceted career. In 2022 they became the first company in the world to sell cocoa-free chocolate and have been featured on the BBC, CNN and the FT.

Johnny's career to date has been pretty broad and idiosyncratic, from lecturing in design and creativity at UAL and consulting for Michelin-starred restaurants across the world, to becoming an entrepreneur. He feels that being curious and continually asking questions (of yourself and others) has been very helpful in his pursuit of where he is today: 'Why does this work? How does it work? Why do we do things this way?'. Moreover, being innovative – having really new ideas – has been aided by him learning broadly and dipping into other fields like music and IT to gather reference points and then to connect 'the dots'. Studying at KES helped him nurture these skills. From learning the importance of observation and routes, to creativity in his art studies, to thinking about the world (including food) as matter in chemistry, KES encouraged him to be ambitious, creative and unconventional.

Fond Farewells



1

Keith Phillips

Member of staff from
1984-85 and from
1988-2023

Keith was appointed twice by Chief Master Martin Rogers: once in 1984 then again in 1988 – much to the delight of the Director of PE and Games, Derek Everest, who had requested a sportsman. Keith never looked back; beginning a career that would be defined by its impact and its longevity. During his time here, Keith has been a French teacher, rugby coach, cricket coach, House Master (Levett), Third Master, Second Master, Deputy Chief Master and Chief Master, with responsibilities as varied as pupil discipline, pastoral care, staff, safeguarding, administration, cover and the running of the school.

Keith's quality of teaching was much admired and appreciated by his many students over the years. His enthusiasm, love of the French language, and his ongoing encouragement were all highly valued as was his ability to 'command respect without fear'.

1993 was perhaps one of the most special of all the milestones in Keith's career - his U15 rugby team winning the Daily Mail cup at Twickenham. This was a national competition, meaning that this squad was the very best for their age group in this country. That his U15

team made the semi-final of the same competition the following year made it a remarkable couple of seasons for Coach Keith.

Keith's passion for cycling inspired numerous trips abroad with staff and pupils, and many Lands End to John O'Groats' tours. The impact of the opportunities and happy memories that Keith has given both boys and staff, on the field or roads or in the sports hall will endure. And there are plenty of keen cyclists in the new generation too, as the number of 'new to cycling' bikes built in Keith's office will attest.

Keith was appointed to his first SLT role - Third Master - by Chief Master Hugh Wright in 1996. Keith has worked in the SLTs of six Chief Masters - possibly an all-time-record. He was well known for his care for the staff, with his well known humour, humility and 'happy to be here' attitude. He put the boys at the centre of any decision; his dedication to them and what is best for them is an example we should all live by.

Keith stepped into the vacant Chief Master's role in 2018/19. His qualities and strengths, honed over 30 years as a School Master and some 20 years on SLT, coupled with his deep love and devotion to this school, steadied the whole school community; galvanising the staff, delighting the pupils and comforting the parents.



2

Keith's 'Chief Masterly' year was a one-off and, in many ways, could only really have been achieved so successfully by a one-off – Keith Phillips.

Just a few of the many memories for Keith from KES Old Eds:

Andy Perryer (2002) 'His name will be preserved in KES folklore, like many before him, as a great leader: personable, engaging and dedicated. His retirement from teaching can come with the knowledge that his influence was profound to thousands of boys that passed through the school'

Oliver Heslop (1990) 'Mr Phillips gave me my first (and only) detention at KES... I utterly deserved it, it was for talking too much, and the announcement of the detention shut me right up. Despite this incident, I always thought Keith was one of the finest, most



decent teachers, who taught me some great French at school, and I followed it to almost degree level.'

Dr Geraint Lee (1994) 'I think I was a member of the rabble that was Keith Phillips' first form at King Edward's in 1989. Keith and Nicole were an integral part of the teaching group (with Neil Gutteridge and Derek Everest) that took us on a trip-of-a-lifetime around the world playing rugby in Singapore, Australia, New Zealand, Fiji and a brief stop off in LA. We will be forever grateful.

It may surprise him that my favourite and most abiding memories are from my French lessons. His wistful dreams of Annecy and the Alps set this a future destination for a Francophile 13-year-old and I have now returned many times.'

Simon Walsh (1992) 'One of the most memorable teachers from my time at KES (1992) - whether his excellent French lessons, covering literature from Molière and films from Luc Besson, his AO French for Business classes, or his peerless leadership on the rugby field.

Certainly one of those 'old teachers' that will remain imprinted.

My son, Max, is now at the school, and while he has not had the pleasure of being taught by Keith, it has been wonderful to hand over the generational baton to him, knowing that the likes of Keith are still around and making the school what it remains to this day.'

Dr Tariq Hussain (2003) 'He was my form teacher in the Fifties. He was inspirational and

supportive - turning a few bullies into neutral classmates. His love of cycling was infectious as was his appreciation of French rap and cinema. Most of all he treated us with respect, which I hope he felt was reciprocated.'

Hugh Wright, Former Chief Master 'his was an appointment I was especially pleased to make - and do not forget his running of the staff cricket team. Eventually he had to drop me as old age and senility set in but it was always fun!'

Jeremy Clifford (1989) 'In my last year at KES, Keith became my rugby master and with his guidance, tactical skill and sense of humour, we were able to produce an extremely successful 2nd XV. The team was made up of some younger players and a motley crew of "challenging older characters". We were unbeatable in our home fixtures and played well in away fixtures and we almost behaved impeccably throughout the entire season. I look fondly back at that season and it was clear that all the players were playing for Keith, as he has that wonderful ability of effortlessly making you aspire to become a better person, let alone a sportsman, and that is a gift that I certainly tried to use in my adult life.

I thank him for being a crucial factor in not only me finishing school but also becoming a decent individual.'

1. School concert.
2. Staff fancy dress party.
3. Class of 2011 Reunion.



Simon Tinley Thoughts on leaving after 31 years at KES

Simon 'massively' enjoyed all his years at KES and that includes his seven years as a student – Class of 1982! While he considered many careers including playing sport professionally, being a sports journalist, etc, he 'stumbled' into teaching and he has loved it ever since. He joined KES in 1992 and 31 years later is finally leaving!

Having students that want to learn as most KES students do, has been a pleasure, and the banter in the classroom, with students you have come to know well, makes it fun too! He did point out that students need to have a good work/life balance eg. smashing a tennis ball around a court for an hour or so can release lots of pent-up stress! He also said that while all the students are very talented, they shouldn't take it for granted and still need to work hard. "Don't leave it too late to realise that you could have done better."

Simon has loved working with his amazing colleagues and the way in which they all still learn from each other. He felt that teaching has taught him to

be more patient and to listen more. One can never stand still but must gradually keep improving eg. looking back on the previous school year and the lessons taught, and what changes and improvements can be made for the following year. Whilst a lesson will never be perfect, never stop striving for that.

Beside being a Maths teacher, Simon had many roles over the years including being House Master of Evans for 25 years from 1997 – 2022. He also ran the school tennis team for 15 years, also until 2022. The school teams reached the national schools' quarter finals on 10 occasions during his tenure, and one of his proudest moments was reaching the national schools' final with the U15 team in 2021.

Another role which Simon enjoyed was being the school timetabler for 12 years. He felt that being a good level chess player definitely helped in this role! He had played it to a very high level until he started university, but has very recently taken it up again, at a local chess club, with his son.

Simon is looking forward to playing more tennis when he retires, and hopefully bringing his level of golf up to that same standard too! A distant and maybe forlorn hope is to see Birmingham City back in the Premiership.



Ed Milton Thoughts on leaving after 33 years at KES

Ed worked in a bank for the first three years of his career and heartily hated it. He then surrendered to his passion for history and did the obvious thing, embarking upon the noble virtue of teaching with his PGCE at Durham, followed by three years at the Judd School in Kent. He joined KES in September 1990, where he has spent the remaining 33 years of his working life. Ed has loved teaching History all these years, spending far too many lessons on Hitler and Germany, marvelling at the Renaissance and even branching out into Mughal India in recent times. He hopes that his classroom has been both scholarly and entertaining, with plenty of laughter and only the occasional angry rant. What better way to spend a life imparting knowledge and insight to such a receptive, funny, intelligent and brilliant audience?

Ed will miss all the glory and grandeur of Room 160, but he feels honoured and humbled to be part of the history of such a great and famous school as KES. And, he will miss the grown-ups, too. It has been a joy to work with so many talented and exceptional people, who have been above all, kind, supportive and caring of each other. He comments that friends have become family.

Beyond the classroom, Ed was Head of Middle School from 2000 to 2017. He looks back on those years with great fondness, and hopes that he made a useful and worthwhile contribution to the lives of those boys who were navigating the difficult waters of Years 10 and 11. During that time many pastoral systems were put in place by John Cloughton, and Ed enjoyed playing his part in that process.

In the 1990s Ed was the impresario behind the Junior Productions, directing, producing and even writing. Who can forget such memorable masterpieces as "The Power of Magic"?! There was no wonderful facility like the Ruddock Performing Arts Centre back then, when everything was homemade and humble. But such was the charm and magic. He coached the U14 A rugby team during those years, and ran the School Quiz Team from the 1990s through to 2010. The team won the national competition (the school equivalent of 'University Challenge') four times and were regularly in the National Finals! Ed was also House Master of Heath from 1993 – 2000 (they won the Cock House in his final year!). He enjoyed running "The Graphic



Universe" club' for many years – a specialist society for those interested in Science Fiction, Comics and genre TV, and which ran until it was superseded by the internet

Ed was on the organising committee for, and hosted the KES 450th Anniversary Summer Ball in 2002. As part of those celebrations, Ed helped to produce a sketch review show called: 'Never Mind the Cheers or Hooting"', for which he wrote and starred in a James Bond parody. Surely the highlight of any man's career. Ed will be remembered by all for hosting the annual 'House Shout' for the last 10 years and he performed his last one in April 2023. In addition to introducing the songs, he revealed sensational and surreal secrets about members of staff and indulged in a bit of light satire.

On thinking about his imminent retirement, Ed said he would not be using his alarm clock ever again (!), he would like to write a book or indeed finish the one he started during the pandemic, and to travel to India, New Zealand, the USA and Canada just for starters! He has half an idea to deliver lectures on cruise liners, to do a podcast or even to become an extra in film or TV. And to get his channel on the Youtube unbanned. As ever, time is the fire...



Martin Monks

Thoughts on leaving after 28 years at KES

Martin has very mixed emotions about leaving KES after 28 years and is feeling slightly terrified at the prospect!

He came into teaching quite by accident as he had a gap year to fill and decided to do a PGCE, and loved it! This meant he could fulfil his passion for music by teaching that subject! He initially joined the Music Department at KES as the 'No 2' and took on the Director of Music role two years later when Peter Bridle took early retirement. He carried out this role for eighteen years (1997-2015) then passed that role to a new incumbent, carried on teaching music, and took on a Head of Year role. Firstly, with the Removes in 2016 and then with the Shells from 2017 until now – the current Lower Sixth being his first Shells' year.

The changes Martin has seen, both in KES and the education sector as a whole, is the growth of the business side of a school's daily life. Also, in KES particularly, the change from A Levels to the IB.

When Martin was asked for any particular memories during his tenure at KES, he immediately said the planning and building

of the Ruddock Performing Arts Centre and then performing 'Carmina Burana' for the opening concerts with the massed choirs and orchestras of both KES and KEHS. Also at that time, the opening dramatic performance in the RPAC – the Senior Production of 'West Side Story'.

On that note, his proudest moments of his career were producing 'Little Shop of Horrors' twice, with Hannah Proops; the first time being in 2006 and then in January 2023; his work with the Choral Society, and moving from the Director of Music role into a more pastoral role as a Head of Year.

As Martin contemplates retirement, he wanted to convey apologies to the students for the times he was a bit 'grumpy'. He always had your best interests at heart and wanted you to achieve the highest possible standards. He always found the students very good company, particularly when they were on school trips – whether these were musical ones or outdoor activities. Most of all, he will miss the colleagues and students he has got to know so well, and found the kindness and maturity of the students (boys and girls) outstanding, and, of course, the amazing atmosphere at KES, on a daily basis. Many former pupils have become his close friends and he is now godfather to one of his first A Level students' children.



While not rushing into a busy timetable too quickly, Martin's initial retirement plans are for travelling, gardening - growing chillies in particular - cycling, possibly re-joining the CBSO chorus and maybe some charity work.



Jon Porter

Thoughts on leaving after 30 years at KES

Jon would like to thank Hugh Wright for appointing him, and later John Claughton for giving his son his opportunity at KES.

In the 'early days', there was no bursar or administration team other than the CM's secretary, Lesley Horton, and Jon also remembers David Buttress, a very helpful senior member of the LT, whom he addressed as 'Billy' early on, not realising this was in fact his nickname (!). He did not bat an eyelid and Jon continued to believe his name was Billy for quite some time after!

Jon felt he could not have chosen a more relevant, dynamic and interesting subject than Biology and enjoyed trying to keep pace with the latest advances. He had so many exceptional students over the years. The Biology Field Courses continued to be an immense opportunity for the largely city-based and orientated students. He also enjoyed the ESS teaching which he felt should be compulsory for all students.

Throughout his tenure he was involved in encouraging interest in Natural History at the school - an area where the school has considerable renown. Besides regular weekly activities this involved organising a 'Bioblitz' featuring Brett Westwood (1978), sponsorship of bird geolocation projects (Sooty Tern on Ascension Island run by Jim Reynolds at

University of Birmingham and more recently for Forest Owls run by Dave Oleyar for Hawkwatch International and Earthwatch). There were several recurring wildlife trips around the UK and longer scientific wildlife expeditions further afield, usually with Operation Wallacea and always with Stan Lampard, and then with David Corns, to Madagascar (twice), Ecuador, and Guyana. Jon feels these were the 'jewel in the crown', especially for a now IB school.

Jon has always been involved in school sport. To begin with, and particularly, cricket and rugby. He ran the U15 rugby for the best part of 25 years, and under RWJ's leadership was invited on senior tours to Chile and Argentina, South Africa, Dubai, Singapore and Australia, New Zealand and Fiji, China and Malaysia, Japan, and Brazil, where he mainly looked after the second development squad. The boys played matches against age-grade international sides in Swaziland, Brazil and China (where his son was man-of-the-match). KES must have won the Greater Birmingham Cup an embarrassing number of times during this period. Although this was the tip of the iceberg in terms of talented and enthusiastic players Jon feels there must be a list of England International schoolboys somewhere which includes those who have gone on to play professionally.

Jon took over the leadership of Prince Lee House in 2001 when his first Captain was Ranjan Chopra (2002). After finishing second twice, with Chris Keogh (2004) and Rob Hill



(2005) at the helm, they finally won the first Cock House Trophy since 1976 (and second ever) with Ci Yao's year (2007-08) and then repeated the feat with James Shirley (2010) and Matt Poole (2010), then Will Chesner (2010) and last year (2021-22) with Varun Gupta. Jon feels that the list of House Captains and Prince Lee Legends is truly a roll-call of the great and good, and the alumni for the House continue to be awesome.

Most of all Jon wanted to thank the Biology lab technicians for their support, but also wanted to acknowledge all the staff and colleagues who have supported and encouraged and who have shared this time at the school with him, including those now departed.

He already misses the Kestrels' staff cricket team (which has not operated for a number of years now).



left in 1997, Bolton had the biggest Russian department of any school in the country.

David loved teaching at Bolton but felt the need to be closer to family. After turning down a few offers (they didn't compare with Bolton), he finally applied for and was offered the post of Head of Modern Languages at KES. It was immediately apparent, at the interview stage, that he was visiting an extraordinary school filled with remarkable people, so he accepted the post. Also, the Headmaster of Bolton School at the time, Alan Wright, who had taught Chemistry at KES early in his career, said "If you turn this one down, I will never write you another reference"!

David has held the role of Head of Modern Languages at KES since 1997. Early on, it became clear that Russian wasn't taking off at KES, but other opportunities opened up when the school agreed to him training as a Spanish teacher from 2004-2006. During that time, he took intensive courses during holidays in language schools in Barcelona, Salamanca and Madrid, successfully completing the exams which would enable him to teach Spanish back at KES. Trips and exchanges for the boys followed, some to his old haunts on the Spanish mainland and, most recently, a thriving school exchange with an IB school on the island of Mallorca. Language teaching and foreign travel go hand in hand. For David, foreign travel is the key to discovering the confidence and enthusiasm needed to make a success of language study.

Another of David's enthusiasms, has been photography. His images can be found wherever the school publicises its activities: on the website, in *The Chronicle* and *The Spokesman*, on *Twitter* and *Facebook*, and even on the school walls!

One of the most significant changes during David's tenure at KES was the move from A Levels to the International Baccalaureate. He felt it completely revitalised the teaching of languages at KES, and they are now core subjects at the heart of the curriculum. As a result, the school, has developed a more international outlook.

KES is a very special place to work because of the people: the conversations, the exchange of ideas, the fun, the sheer enjoyment of being in the building and the enormous privilege of working in one of the best schools in the UK.



David Ash

Thoughts on leaving after 26 years at KES

After being with KES for 26 years, David said that the school had become almost a second family to him – both staff and students. He feels very strange about walking away after such an irreplaceable experience, having spent more than half of his career here!

His love of teaching started when he used to help his mother, a primary teacher and music specialist, with her musical productions. Later, while studying French and Russian in the Sixth Form, he taught English to French school children in the

holidays; during his gap year, he worked at a boarding school in northern France as the "assistant anglais"; during the 3rd year of his degree in French and Russian at Queens' College, Cambridge, he spent a year in Paris, and taught English at the prestigious Lycée Pasteur and loved it all. By now, it was clear he wanted to teach, so he stayed on in Cambridge to take the PGCE.

There were only three schools in the UK offering teaching posts for French and Russian when he completed his PGCE. David applied for and was interviewed for all three and chose to start his career at Bolton School Boys' Division, where he taught for 13 years from 1984. He was the Head of the Russian department for five of these. By the time he



Looking Ahead

Next summer, Chief Master Dr Katy Ricks, will retire after 39 years in education, 22 of which have been as a head. In a historic move, the Independent Schools' Governing Body (ISGB) is fusing the roles of Chief Master of KES & Principal of KEHS, appointing Mrs Kirsty von Malaisé to be Chief Master & Principal of both schools from September 2024.

One of the longest-serving HMC head teachers, Dr Ricks has decided to retire at the end of the next academic year. Dr Ricks spent three years teaching at KES in her early career, returning in 2019 to become the first woman to hold the post of KES Chief Master since the school's founding in 1552.

Lucy Williams, Chair of ISGB, said: "We are indebted to Katy for her strategic leadership. She has instilled a forward-thinking approach to ensure that KES remains a leader and innovator in all the key facets of the King Edward's experience: an approach to academic study based on curiosity and the pursuit of discovery, a broad and impactful co-curriculum, pastoral education that empowers students to live balanced lives with meaning and purpose, accessibility and inclusivity."

Dr Ricks has led discussions on how the Edgbaston campus can meet the needs of students and staff of KES, KEHS and the wider King Edward VI Foundation both now and in the years to come; work that is being brought to life by the Masterplan Project. She

has also reinvigorated the Chief Master's parallel role of Headmaster of the Foundation, being a passionate champion of the Foundation's mission to make Birmingham the best place to be educated in the UK. Dr Ricks has put collaboration between all 13 of the Foundation's schools and the city they serve at the heart of this mission.

September 2024 will be the first time in the schools' histories – KES founded 471 years ago and KEHS 140 years ago – that a fused headship role has existed. The future of the schools will see a further harmonisation of pupil and staff experience which has begun this year under the existing integrated leadership team, which brings together senior leaders from each school and some who work across both schools, building on the

schools' core strengths to offer the best education, within and beyond the curriculum. There are no plans to merge the schools into a single institution.

Lucy Williams said: "KES and KEHS are two of the country's leading independent schools, and the fact that they exist within one Foundation and on the same campus makes their position all the more unique. There has been a tremendous move towards collaboration in recent years, led by Katy and Kirsty, who together have sought to unlock the many benefits that this offers to students and staff, while also recognising that KES and KEHS are two schools with established identities. We are looking ahead to a shared strategy for KES and KEHS, and there are a number of bold and strategically important projects underway that will contribute to this, including the masterplan, conversations around how we can drive forward our commitment to accessibility, and the development of the schools' role in the wider Foundation. Given this strategic context, Governors agreed that the time was right to formalise collaboration through the appointment of a single Chief Master & Principal for both schools."

Mrs von Malaisé joined KEHS as Principal in 2020, having been Head of Norwich High School, Deputy Head of Putney High School and at an earlier point, holding a number of positions in co-educational state schools in London. She was educated at The Purcell School, where she is now a Governor, and then won a scholarship to attend music conservatoire, followed by Christ's College, Cambridge, where she read English. A BBC Young Musician of the Year prizewinner, she has lately returned to this interest to complete a Master's degree in Music. Her other interests include a variety of outdoor pursuits. Kirsty's education since the age of seven was enabled by a full bursary,



and she is committed to providing the best opportunities for bright students regardless of their financial background.

She said: "I am thrilled to be appointed to the historic new position of Chief Master & Principal of two of the leading schools in the UK, as well as Headmaster of the Foundation. I look forward to working with staff, parents, pupils, alumni and supporters, to continue the schools' long-standing traditions of intellectual and co-curricular excellence, and to build on the great strengths of these wonderful schools. The proposition to move forward together as one, under one leader and an integrated leadership team, will enable us to forge a dynamic, ambitious and inclusive model, which reflects what education in a modern Birmingham, a modern UK and a modern world needs to be."

Over the coming year, there will be many opportunities for alumni and the whole King Edward's community to thank Dr Ricks for her service and to meet Mrs von Malaisé. If you have any questions, please email us at news@kes.org.uk.



Claughton Scholarships



The 2022/2023 academic year saw the first full set of Claughton Scholars, with one in every year group. The Claughton Scholarship was launched to mark the impact that John Claughton had on the school during his time as Chief Master (2006-2016).

The Scholarship is awarded to the Assisted Place pupil who excels in the admissions process each year.

We are grateful to the over 320 Old Edwardians, parents and friends of the school have now supported this means-tested scholarship, showing their gratitude and honouring John's commitment to both academia and social mobility. You too can make your gift at trust.kes.org.uk/give

The Arts

In this edition, we are putting the spotlight on three Old Eds, Nick Holland (1964), Ben McIldowie (1997) and Sam Newton (2010) with careers in 'The Arts', demonstrating the breadth and depth of opportunities available in this sector.

Product Designer, Design Consulting, Design Education, Ceramic tableware designer



My working life has been spent designing products for manufacture, from medical equipment to bone china mugs. I am very lucky as it is something I love doing and seem to be quite good at too. When people ask me - what is Product Design or Industrial Design - I explain it is similar to what an architect does in relation to a building, but with products. A mix of art with engineering.

My entire working life in design is a direct result of being at KES and in particular through the encouragement and enthusiasm of my Art teacher, Bruce Hurn. Four weeks before the end of my final term I was browsing in the small careers section of a classroom

and came across a brochure that changed my life completely. It was about the Industrial Design (Engineering) course at the Royal College of Art. Without Bruce's help, and also his persuading my parents that the RCA was a sound career choice, it would not have happened. The course was excellent and our year group of twelve learned about design, technology, materials, manufacturing and methodology in a practical way. Aside from the course, the experience of mixing with talented young artists and designers from diverse backgrounds was itself inspirational. As President of our Student Union I once had the privilege to sit between Queen Elizabeth and Prince Phillip for the celebration dinner with famous figures from the art world in the year that the RCA received its Royal Charter.

After MA graduation with a distinction and the RCA Silver Medal I spent a year travelling and working in the USA before coming home and starting work. Half of my career I have worked full-time in companies, managing the design function and leading design teams. After an enjoyable period with a hydraulic construction equipment manufacturer, I gravitated to simpler products for the home and the ceramic tableware industry. The other half of my career was running my own product design consultancy, at one stage with a team of 14 designers and winning many design awards. Based in Cardiff we had a good

mix of clients in the UK including: Amstrad, Mitsubishi, Twyfords, Corning, John Lewis, Habitat, Hozelock, Plasplugs, and quite a few in mainland Europe.

I have always taken an active interest in Design Education, running live projects and tutorials with students and giving many design seminars and lectures. I was also the external examiner for many design courses in England and became a visiting Professor at Staffordshire University. For a time I served as a non-executive director of the Design Business Association and also on the government Polytechnics and Colleges Funding Council. These activities were always most rewarding.

My last full-time job was as Design Director for the famous Portuguese porcelain and crystal manufacturer Vista Alegre, which I did happily for 13 years. I left at age 65 and now work from my home in Porto designing mainly tableware and kitchen products for leading manufacturers in Europe, USA and Asia.

Now age 77, I do all the creative work myself, thoroughly enjoy it all, and am still winning design awards. I consider myself very fortunate and will continue working just as long as people want my designs.

*www.nickhollanddesign.com
Nick Holland (1964)*

Actor



Photo credit: Brinkhoff/Mögenburg

You've got one life, you might as well live it. Everyone pursuing a career in the arts does so knowing you're taking a big old swing that might not pay off. However, the joys, the highs, the connection, the community, the

alive-ness that this career can bring make it so tantalising and so worth it.

My acting career to date has taken me on a world tour performing as Christopher Boone

in *'The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time'*, the chance to reprise the role on the West End, to originate roles in devised and literary theatre, working with industry luminaries: Frantic Assembly and Tom Wells, and to the small screen in BBC staples: *'Casualty'* and *'Doctors'*, as well as quirky sitcom *'Newark, Newark'*.

Yes, it's hard, yes there is the inevitability of rejection and quiet patches - but it is also so much fun. It pushes you to be innovative, resourceful and a lifelong learner. I'm consistently striving towards adding more strings to the bow, whether that be audiobook narration and voice acting, circus and movement skills or drama facilitation.

It's a life of variety and evolution and it's a life I love.

Sam Newton (2010)

Musician, Singer, Songwriter.



Photo credit: Nabil Elderkin

Having a plan is a nice idea. But I've only ever had principles. When I left KES I promised myself I would never get a real job. A 9-5 shirt and tie. Three years reading English Literature at Oxford was a respectable form of procrastination while I figured out what I wanted to do. I started writing songs while at St Anne's and formed a band in the long holidays. During my leaver's interview the Dean asked me what my plans were. As I had none I flippantly said "I'm going to be a rock'n'roll star". She dismissed this idea and

ushered me out of her study. As I reached the door she hedged her bets and added "If you do make it, you will remember the college?"

Some people take their gap year after university. I took two. The band installed themselves in a barn in sleepy Suffolk. It was a valuable time to decompress after so much academia. Nonetheless London was calling. I arrived in Camden with one change of clothes, an acoustic guitar and a dream. I played open mic nights and formed a couple of bands.

Two more years passed by, living on the dole or pulling pints and struggling to get noticed by the industry. At the age of 25, friends and family started suggesting that I get a real job. This terrified me so I took stock and decided to work harder. I went from doing an average of 4 hours of music a day to working all the time (probably 10-12 hours a day). This is one of the most important lessons of my life. I had been arrogantly expecting the music industry to knock on my door. It was time to act; to be un-ignorable.

I started a weekly club night in Shoreditch called Let's Get Lost. I went out every night to be on the scene. I was always promoting myself, my music, my club night which had live acts and DJs. My band "Mr Hudson & The Library" which includes Robin French (1997), would play as often as possible. I spent my days recording, writing and making

beats. Lots of time went into promotion and networking. I would wander Soho handing out flyers, hanging out in record shops, giving CDs to anyone in show-business and all the time dressed conspicuously. This was 2005. We had to exist IRL. All we had digitally was an email mailing list and Myspace! Six months after I changed my mindset and went into 'Beast Mode', I had deals offered from major and independent record companies. A few months later I had a publishing deal.

None of the stranger-than-fiction opportunities since could have been planned for. The idea of working with Kanye West, Jay Z, Kid Cudi, Drake, John Legend, Future, Miley Cyrus, Frank Ocean, Duran Duran, Nile Rodgers, Mark Ronson, Idris Elba, DJ Snake, Amy Winehouse, Dizzee Rascal, Calvin Harris, Sting and The Police, Travis Barker, Giggs, Skepta, FKA Twigs, The 1975 etc seems like pure fantasy to a boy from Handsworth Wood who sat on the bus to KES for two hours a day, listening to cassettes on his Walkman. These things happened more because of my principles than any planning. This is going to sound boring but I try to be punctual, polite and prepared. I work hard but I make sure there's a twist. In creativity, safe is dangerous. Throw it down the stairs: better wrong than boring.

Ben McIlldowie (1997)

Archive *matters*



The 6888

Central Postal Directory Battalion



In the run up to the release of star-studded Netflix film *Six Triple Eight*, Foundation Archivist Charlotte Gallant looks at the 6888th Battalion's enduring links with KES.

In October 1939, King Edward's School's temporary buildings, which had been erected on South Field during the construction of the new school, and the surrounding playing fields were requisitioned by the War Office, being used by the British and US armies for the duration of the Second World War.

The 6888 (Six Triple Eight), as the Battalion was known, was the only all-female multi-ethnic unit, made up of predominantly African-American women, to be deployed overseas during the war. It consisted of 855 women

under the command of Major Charity Adams – the highest-ranking black woman in the US Army during the war.

The Battalion was sent to Birmingham in February 1945 to sort and redirect a huge backlog of mail for US service personnel stationed in Europe, which was reported to be damaging morale. In fact, the motto of the 6888 was "No mail, low morale", and with a war to win, the generals needed this backlog of letters to be redirected urgently.

When Adams and Campbell first arrived, they selected rooms for offices, separated the battalions into companies, made sure that beds were available for the unit and that the mess hall was sufficiently stocked with food

and utensils. Plumbing and electrical work was organised and telephone lines installed – along with numerous other logistical and administrative tasks, including decorating the Battalion's dining hall with welcoming signs, just in time for its arrival.

Members of the Battalion have recalled their warm reception in Birmingham, with locals being described as curious, friendly, warm and hospitable.

However, many of the women described the working conditions as poor, exacerbated by the conditions associated with the war. The building showed signs of bombing and there were holes in the ceiling which the women had to patch themselves. Lighting was very



Photographs courtesy of National Archives, Washington DC.

poor (windows were blacked out – many women suffered from eye strain), space was limited so mail clerks had to work on eight-hour rotating shifts and it was very cold, so ski trousers and field jackets were worn.

Myrtle Rhoden remembers: “The first night I took a shower... I was so tired that the fact that we had no shower curtains or anything still hadn’t registered with me until much later. It was cold and we took our showers as quickly as we could and went to bed. I remember that in the following days I bathed by my bed and out of my helmet most of the time.” Moore, B.L. (1996) *To Serve My Country, To Serve My Race*. New York: NYU Press, p112.

The Battalion accomplished the incredible task of sorting and despatching more than

17 million items of mail in just three months – half the time it was scheduled to take. Working three shifts per day, they processed approximately 65,000 pieces of mail per shift. In May 1945, the 6888 was assigned to Rouen.

The temporary buildings in which the Battalion had been based at King Edward’s were later converted into classrooms and finally demolished in Spring 1958.

Four years ago, KES welcomed the then US Ambassador Woody Johnson, who presented the school with a blue plaque that is now displayed by the Sports Centre gates on Bristol Road, and which features on the route of guided tours organised by Black Heritage Walks.

The 6888 battalion travelled to Europe in three waves:

1. Major Charity Adams, the Battalion’s Commander, and her colleague Captain Abbie Noel Campbell, the Battalion’s Executive Officer, flew to Europe at the end of January 1945, landing in Scotland before heading to London.
2. Shortly afterwards, on 3 February 1945, the first contingent of the 6888 sailed on board the *Île de France*, from New York to Glasgow, encountering German U-boats on the way. Accompanied by an armed convoy of ships, the Battalion arrived in Glasgow on 11 February, being met by bagpipe music.
3. Fifty days later, the second contingent arrived aboard the *Queen Elizabeth*. This time there was no welcoming committee; the women had to wait until they arrived in Birmingham for that.



We were honoured to host relatives of The 6888 Central Postal Directory Battalion at King Edward’s School on Friday, 23 June. The battalion was the only predominately African-American WAC unit of World War II, and their service was essential to the war effort.

The day began with a presentation by Helen Murdoch on the work of American

and British women’s organisations during the war. We then took the group to the original site of the temporary buildings where the battalion was stationed, and recreated a moment from history when Major Charity Adams inspected the troops. It was a moving experience for everyone involved.

Memorabilia appeal

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

Old Edwardians News in brief

1950s

Richard Birch (1958)

My wife, Julie, and I recently celebrated our Golden Wedding and live a pretty full social and family life here in the Chilterns. We are both still active in the local Wildlife Trust, BBOWT, and were given a long service award at the last AGM.

We keep in contact with a number of Old Ed friends from the fifties, thanks in part to Robert Darlaston's enjoyable annual lunch for 'The Class of 58', and informal contact between events with John Beard, Roger Bickerton, Rodney Cartwright, Alan Cowie and Dick Green (all 1958).



Rodney Cartwright (1958)

Sixty five years ago as a member of the Biology Upper Sixth, I undertook a project, under the watchful eye of masters Chris Dodds and "Buggy" Ballance, that was to be interwoven into my professional life culminating into me receiving an award from the Worshipful Company of Plumbers. The project was to examine water for the presence of certain bacteria following the methods in the 3rd edition of Report 71 of the Ministry of Health entitled "The Bacteriological Examination of Water Supplies".

I studied at Birmingham Medical School, and eventually became a Consultant Medical Microbiologist in the Public Health Laboratory Service. One of my fields of interest was water born disease and its prevention. I was appointed a member of the government working group that was responsible for revising and keeping up to date a report that I knew well - Report 71!

In 1998, I became a Liveryman of the Worshipful Company of Plumbers, one of the older Livery Companies in the City of London, tracing its history back to 1365 and was elected as Master of the Company in 2008.

In January, the Court of the Worshipful Company of Plumbers resolved that "In recognition of his outstanding contribution to the high-quality plumbing and sanitation throughout the industry to safeguard public health, Past Master Professor Rodney Cartwright is awarded the Worshipful Company of Plumbers highest award, the St Michael Medallion" which was presented to me by Past Lord Mayor of the City of London, Alderman Sir Andrew Palmer, at the 2023 Annual Banquet of the Livery Company.



1960s

Sergio Carlo Maresca (née Tew) (1964)

Going to KES was one of the greatest privileges of my life.

Since I emigrated to Australia in 1976. I have had a fantastic international career in business and education for many years, during which I have also run seven, 42 1/2 kilometre international marathons, (and I am not built like a runner, which my friends from the 1963-64, 1st XV will remember!).

I have also written seven books on business and personal development, and enjoy a wonderful family life.

Like many of us though, I have had to overcome many hurdles. My parents split up when I was still at KES and it was only my passion for sport and for rugby that saved me from "going completely off the rails".

The then Chief Master, The Reverend Ronald Lunt, in 1964, introduced us to the then, and still, controversial "Honest To God" by John A T Robinson. That book changed my life, for the better!!

My website. *Amicitia Vita Est!*

www.maresca.com.au should anyone wish to contact me.



Frank Booth (1965)

When after 20+ years in academic surgery I took a scientific development position at one of the world's leading pharmaceutical companies I thought that would be my last change of job and my last move. Since then, I've worked in half a dozen different companies from the giant to the tiny. Currently - at the age of 75 I have four "hats". My primary paying job is as Chief Medical Officer for a small Biotech company working on agents to help control haemorrhage. But I'm also advising a couple of other small companies working to bring treatments to critically ill patients. Additionally, I'm the medical monitor for a large (1000 patient) trial of two types of platelets when used in complex heart surgery. I'm also having a great time doing it with no immediate plans to retire. Having

dragged my wife all over the United States for the sake of my career, I now find myself living 12 doors down the street from my 93 year-old mother-in-law. Her biggest complaint is that the pandemic caused a cutback of her ten-pin bowling league to only once a week! I suppose you could say she's an inspiration for me.



Graham Hooper (1967)

My latest book called 'Proving Ground-40 Reflections on Growing faith at work' was published by Christian Focus in UK in July 2022 and has been well received by leading lay people in Australia, UK and USA.

<https://www.christianfocus.com/products/3036/proving-ground/endorsements>

I am a Company Director, and former Senior Executive with a global infrastructure company. I've lived for extended periods in six countries and worked in some twenty more. Now based in Australia I serve as a Non-Executive Director on the Boards of two major infrastructure companies in Australia. I'm the author of several books aimed at relating Christian faith to daily life.

I should add, I was at KES 1960-67 and my wife and I recently celebrated our golden wedding anniversary with a wonderful trip to the Cook Islands!



Robin Wood (1967)

We live in the small village of Scarborough on the Atlantic Coast, south of Cape

Town bordering the Cape Point Nature Reserve. I still manage to avoid retirement and continue my research on airborne transmission of tuberculosis. I do have some household academic competition as my wife, Professor L-G Bekker was recognised as the number one published female researcher in South Africa in 2022. Our youngest son, Oliver, spent the long Christmas vacation with us working as a divemaster in Simons Town and has recently returned to his studies of Marine Biology at Brisbane University, Australia.



Stephen Drinkwater MBE (1968)

Congratulations to Steve Drinkwater who was awarded an MBE in the late Queen's Birthday Honours List for services to young people via the Duke of Edinburgh's Award as a DoE volunteer and assessor.

Before 1989, Pembrokeshire participation in the scheme was scarce, but now, several hundred young people take part every year.

Thanks to his efforts as an expedition leader, trainer, supervisor and assessor, 7,467 DoE have been attained by young people in Pembrokeshire between 1990 and 2021.

Mr Drinkwater said he was 'absolutely delighted' at the news of his honour. His lifelong love of outdoor activities began with his keen involvement in the Scout movement before he qualified as a teacher. He joined the Pembrokeshire DoE team when he came to the county in 1989 to join the Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority as its Education Officer.



1970s

Bob Ryder (1970)

2022 was exactly 100 years since the first injection of insulin into a human. On behalf of the Association of British Clinical Diabetologists (ABCD), I organised a two-day symposium at the Royal College of Physicians in July 2022 to celebrate this with a dinner at which Theresa May, who has type 1 diabetes herself, proposed the toast to Banting, Best, Collip, MacCleod and Marjorie (the dog) who were the heroes of the discovery of insulin.

We published a supplement of the British Journal of Diabetes with the papers from this meeting, covering the whole 100 years up until the great breakthroughs of recent years. This is the supplement:

**Vol. 22 No. Supplement 1 (2022):
December 2022 Supplement 1 | British Journal of Diabetes (bjd-abcd.com)**



Christopher Hodges OBE (1972)

I retired from Oxford as Professor of Justice Systems in 2021, having been awarded an OBE for services to business and law.

Since then, I have an unplanned new career chairing committees. One is the

Regulatory Horizons Council, which provides independent advice to Government on the regulation of new and innovative science and technologies. It is fascinating to learn about exciting areas, ranging from nuclear fusion and drones to bioengineering and AI in medical devices.

Another responsibility is the Advisory Board of one of the Government compensation schemes for the sub-post-masters and mistresses who were victims of the Horizon IT system scandal. We aim to ensure fair and speedy payments to a group of people who have been treated scandalously.

I am similarly supporting developments in various ombudsmen systems and the justice system. A third committee comprises judges, ombudsmen and others who are aiming to work more closely in resolving disputes in private property and social housing. My latest book was on *Outcome Based Cooperation*, and I am now engaged in supporting the spread of the model in various business and regulatory sectors, and communities around the world. It's time to go back to basics about how people work together, and think big – the answers are all out there!



Stephen Bird (1973) MBE

Stephen, who recently retired as Head of Heritage Services in Bath and Company Secretary of the Roman Baths Foundation, has been made an Honorary Freeman of the City of Bath by the city's Mayor and Charter Trustees.

Stephen received his MBE in the 2018 Queen's Birthday Honours for services to museums, heritage and tourism.



Ian Metcalfe (1976) OBE

Ian was appointed an Officer of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire (OBE) in the 2023 New Year's Honours list, for his services to Sport.

Ian's contributions to sport include more than 20 years on the Committee at Warwickshire County Cricket Club and 14 years as the University of Cambridge's representative at the Rugby Football Union (RFU). The latter included nine years on the RFU Board, and a position on the Board of ER 2015, the organising committee for the 2015 Rugby World Cup, hosted in England. Most recently he served as chair of Commonwealth Games England, as a director on both the Organising Committee Board and the Strategic Board of the Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games and as Birmingham's representative on the Commonwealth Games Federation Executive Board.

As Chair of Commonwealth Games England, Ian oversaw the Gold Coast 2018 and Birmingham 2022 Games cycles, and when Durban withdrew as 2022 host, he was central to the bidding process which saw England selected as a host nation, and Birmingham as the host city.

Having gone on from KES to Cambridge, Ian came home to Birmingham to qualify as a solicitor, and play rugby for Moseley! Whilst at school, under the tutelage of Derek Everest, Ian played full back for the XV, and played for the England U19 XV in their 1977 Grand Slam season. Ian went on to win two Blues at Cambridge, before going on to play for England U23s, England B and touring New Zealand with England in 1985. He played over 200 times for Moseley, seven seasons for the North Midlands County XV, as well as turning out four times for international invitation side, the Barbarians.



1990s

Nick Harris (1991)

After twenty years working as a director behind the camera in TV production, I decided on a career change eight years ago and moved in front and became an actor. Here's what I've been up to!

Most recently, I have filmed the role of Chaplain Clemens in Tyler Perry's new movie 'Six Triple Eight' which stars Kerry Washington, Susan Sarandon and Oprah Winfrey. It tells the story of the 6888th Central Postal Battalion - the all black battalion of the Women's Army Corp who were based at King Edward's in World War 2 - tasked with clearing the backlog of mail that hadn't been delivered to US soldiers.

We didn't actually film at KES - we used a stunt double building just outside St Albans! The movie will be released later this year.

There is now a blue plaque honouring these ladies on the KES school gates just outside the Andrew Brode Sports Centre.



Sanjay Verma (1991)

Sanjay Verma is a Consultant Ear, Nose and Throat surgeon in Leeds. After leaving KES in 1991, Sanjay studied medicine at St John's College, Cambridge. Following junior doctor training in Cambridgeshire he undertook Fellowship training in skull base surgery in Toronto, Canada, before returning to a Consultant post in Leeds. His busy practise includes management and treatment of general ear, nose and throat problems in adults and children. However, in his specialist practise he works with neurosurgical colleagues to manage and treat acoustic neuroma, a rare tumour of the inner ear. Surgery to remove this tumour is arduous and highly specialised. Sanjay has been Clinical Lead for acoustic neuroma service in Leeds since 2018, and his team's work has been recognised by his NHS Trust with a "Time to Shine" award for improving quality and safety. This work has

also recently featured in Episode 4 of the BBC2 television series "Saving Lives in Leeds", available on BBC iPlayer.



Hesham Abdalla (1994)

As an Old Edwardian from class of 94 working in Oxford, I thought I'd reached the pinnacle of my NHS career. Then I recorded a TEDx talk about my lows and highs as a consultant paediatrician and how this compelled me to co-found a unique skills exchange platform.

I subsequently sought some mentoring from a business savvy Old Edwardian who has confirmed my hunch that this need not be limited to healthcare in the UK. I'm now excited about where this company is heading as we are about to launch a crowd fund and go global!

If anyone is interested in knowing more or wants to contribute in any way, they can email me at hesham.abdalla@ouh.nhs.uk.

Here's the TEDx link: <https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=9FL1E6KZ4Ak>



Matthew Wheeldon (1999)

Slightly delayed announcement because of lockdown: To Matthew and Anna, a daughter, Antigone Maude Janet Semler Wheeldon (in 2020) and another daughter, Perdita Margot Julia Semler Wheeldon, January 2023.

Living in a village farmhouse in extremely rural Northants and still trying to get some use out my Moseley season ticket when I can!



2000s

Mohit Mandiratta (2003)

It is great to see life returning to "normality" after a truly unprecedented period through the pandemic. As a GP, the demands we face every single day, seem higher than ever before.

As well as my GP work, I work for the local Clinical Commissioning Group/Integrated Care Board and also as a Governor for Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust. I have worked with the West Midlands Combined Authority as a Clinical Lead on the 'Thrive into Work' Programme, which supports those with chronic physical and mental health problems back into sustainable employment. This received national recognition, with visits from another Old Ed, Mayor Andy Street (1981), as well as the Secretary of State, Mel Stride MP.

Recently, I have been working with the communications and engagement team at

NHS Black Country ICB/NHS Midlands to help promote health messaging in a variety of languages for our population. I have participated regularly in work with the media, including being a regular GP on BBC Breakfast. I am also part of the 'Rebuild General Practice' campaign advocating for improved safety, recruitment, retention and investment in General Practice, and have attended Westminster and spoken to MPs about current challenges in Primary Care and potential solutions.

I was invited to Buckingham Palace for the Royal Garden Party in May 2022 for the work I have done, and I finally got married after multiple delays due to the pandemic!



Alex Martin (2004)

There was a Crooked Man... and he went to King Edward's School.

Following School, Alex read Philosophy & Theology at Oxford University, moved to London and had a successful career in Marketing & Communications, working with some of the world's biggest brands and businesses. Now he's taking on the exciting task of running his own business, together with his husband, Oli. Introducing The Crooked House in Lavenham - a magical, 600 year-old house, which inspired the world-famous poem, 'There was a Crooked Man'. Recently described by Country Life as 'one of the world's most photographed homes', Alex and Oli's sell-out events and experiences attract visitors from across

the world, all seeking to explore the fascinating history of The Crooked House and the theatrical world that 'the Crooked Men' have created there. Find out more at crookedhouselavenham.com and follow them on Instagram @crookedhouselavenham.



band and I were lucky enough to support. I'll be following this up with more releases this year.

I also contribute to Graywave amongst other things, a project masterminded by the endlessly talented Jess Webberley, for which we have recently completed a UK tour, earning Radio One play and major Spotify editorial placements etc.

I enjoy almost every aspect of creating music and I'm very lucky to be involved in song writing, production and performance in the way I am.

Photo by Holly Taylor (insta @filmbyhol)



2010s

Oliver Beardmore (2016)

After releasing my debut solo EP 'Not Sinking, Yet Floating' in 2022, I've just released the lead single from my forthcoming EP titled 'Nothing's Like It Was Before'.

Tapping into all things shoegaze on this track, following on where the last EP left off, I took particular inspiration from Ride, Slowdive and Swim School with whom the

Tell us your news

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

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

Former staff

Stuart Birch, Former KES staff member: 1970-71 and 1973-2012

On Thursday, 23 March 2023, three generations of the Birch family completed The Routh, an annual Uppingham School Inter-House 5 mile cross-country run with 900+ competitors!

My son, James Birch (1998), Uppingham Housemaster; my grandson, Elias Birch, Uppingham 4th form (equivalent KES UM) and myself.

A wonderful day was had by all!



Can you help us find any KES 'Old Boys'?

We have lost touch with a number of Old Edwardians. If you are in touch with someone who doesn't receive communications from us but would like to, please ask them to send us their details via email at: olds@kes.org.uk or complete our contact form at:

www.trust.kes.org.uk/stay-in-touch

Gerald Grant (1946)



King Edward's School was the most important institution throughout the long life of Gerald Grant. He was forever grateful for the unexpected opportunities that it gave him and he was its most fervent supporter right up until his passing, due to the complications brought on by heart failure, on 20 November 2022. If an autopsy had been required, it would have found the letters KES engraved on his heart.

Gerald grew up in the two-up two-down terraced streets of Nechells near Aston, with little awareness of the world beyond his particularly poor working-class neighbourhood and few expectations of anything different. However, during the war he was evacuated to the Leicestershire village of Worthington where a proactive teacher spotted his potential and entered him for the 11-plus exam. Gerald not only passed but achieved a scholarship and so attended King Edward VI School, Aston transferring after a year to KES, Edgbaston. He was proud to claim that he was the first boy from Nechells to attend the school.

Gerald did well academically winning a national award for his matriculation exam results for history. He was told that he was likely to win a place at Oxford to read history but he lacked the financial means to support himself at university and so, eager to forge his way in the world, he embarked on a varied self-made career, driven by his sense of adventure and his ability to get along with anyone.

His ventures were many and varied. In the early 1950s Gerald tried his luck in New York, delivering hand-tailored suits to the rich and famous. On his return, he got married to Diana

and immediately whisked his bride off to live in Germany where he had a job selling cars to American airmen stationed there. Later his work involved travel and long times away in places such as Beirut and Vietnam.

Gerald was a wonderful father – enthusiastic, generous and always encouraging. Now living within walking distance of the school, he was able to send his son, Gavin (1983) to KES and his daughter, Kristina to KEHS (1978); and as both schools were now fee-paying, he was prepared to make the considerable financial sacrifice to do so. He was not far from the happy stomping-ground of his childhood but by now he was in a different world and he put much of this life-changing experience down to the school.

With a deep sense of gratitude, he maintained this connection with the school throughout his life and was a regular at Old Eds' dinners and other events. Both he and his son Gavin were delighted to go 'back to school' for a day in June 2019 to attend maths, science and history classes together. Fittingly perhaps, his final 'public' event was the formal dinner in the school dining room held in May 2022.

All who knew him would recognise the same quintessential character – warm, generous, spirited; single-minded, impatient, sometimes stubborn; but above all adventurous, gregarious and great fun. Gerald is survived by his wife Diana; his two children and five grandchildren. He was deeply loved and he will be deeply missed.

Gavin Grant (1983), (son)

Deaths

Please see below a list of those Old Edwardians who have sadly passed away since October 2021 – May 2023:

Douglas Bull (1939)
Philip Scrivens (1940)
Brian Bailey (1943)
Alan Jacombs (1946)
Anthony Smith (1946)
Frank Thacker (1946)
John Watson (1946)
John Croydon (1947)
Gerald Grant (1947)
Keith Symes (1947)
John Ludlow (1949)
Gordon Woodroffe (1949)
Victor Alan Blunt (1950)
Edwin Watson (1950)
Ian Hunt (1951)
Ian Thompson (1951)
Alexander Ramez Vernon (1951)
John Finlay Walls (1951)
John Waterstreet (1953)
Brian Coleman (1954)
Michael Hodgetts (1954)
Peter Sibley (1955)
Neil McGowan (1957)
Frank Scouse (1957)
Richard Paul Holland (1958)
J Richard Stagg (1958)
Tony Green (1960)
Brian Shaw (1960)
Jim Evans (1961)
Keith Percy (1961)
John Binns (1965)
Peter Osborne (1965)
William Riddick (1966)
Richard Roper-Hall (1966)
David Wells (1970)
Michael Cockerham (1972)
Richard Prvulovich (1983)
Tony Evans (1989)
Matthew Davis (2004)
Simon Stacey – Former Staff (1996 – 2022)
Sue Dickens – Former Staff (2009 – 2022)
Gill Hudson – Former Staff (1997 - 2019)

Rear Admiral John Croydon (1947)



John Croydon was born in Harborne and was educated at King Edward's School during the war. His memories from school years remained strong and very positive - regularly regaling his family of his happy life there. In 1947, when he was set to read Engineering at University of Birmingham, he was persuaded by the School's careers master to consider a cadetship in the new Electrical Branch of the

Royal Navy. He spent a "gap year" as a Special Entry Cadet including a voyage to Barbados – his first time ever out of England!

More happy memories of his education followed when he won a place at Selwyn College, Cambridge to read Engineering as a Naval Midshipman. He met his wife, Brenda, at Cambridge and married in 1953.

He had a distinguished career – specialising in Weapons and Electrical Systems – rising to the rank of Rear Admiral. This included a memorable time seconded to the US Navy in the late 60's to help with the development of Polaris submarine missile systems. He retired in 1984 and became an active member of Dorset society.

In 1985 he was appointed a Justice of the Peace and sat on the Weymouth Bench. He also served as a Governor of Milton Abbey School until 2001. Between 1986 and 1993 John was County Commissioner of Scouts for Dorset, getting actively involved with the young members at camps and jamborees. In 1991 he was appointed as a Deputy Lieutenant of Dorset and represented the Queen in this role a number of times.

He also got involved with prison work, as a member of HMP The Verne Board of Visitors and then Chair of the first Board on the prison ship HMP Weare. John worked with the Trimar Hospice from 1983 and, latterly, on the Board of the combined Joseph Weld / Trimar / CCD hospice group (now "Weldmar").

He was an active member of Weymouth Sailing Club since 1978 until his health forced him to stop sailing his beloved Squib keelboat around 10 years ago. He served on the WSC Committee and became a Trustee. He also was Chairman of the South Dorset Branch of the Sail Training Association for a while and completed many voyages as a watch leader. He was very proud of being qualified to sail a "square rigger".

His wife, Brenda, was an English teacher and transferred her skills on retirement to The Samaritans and prison work. She predeceased John in 2015, aged 85. They were both active members of St Andrews Parish, Preston.

He leaves three children, Jenny, Greg and Lesley, along with seven grandchildren and six great grandchildren.

Greg Croydon (son)

Keith Symes (1947)



I write this tribute to my father, Keith Symes, formerly both a pupil and master at KES, Birmingham. Keith was one of three family Old Edwardians and was predeceased by his wife, Brenda (née Round) and his sister Pat Cox (née Symes), both educated at KEHS for Girls.

Although born in Wales the family settled in Birmingham where in 1939 Keith was evacuated to Warwick with King Edward's Grammar School for Boys, Camp Hill. There he passed the entrance exam for King Edward's School, Bristol Road, where he continued his education, being deeply touched by its ethos and appreciating the academic focus and extra-curricular and sports activities.

In 1947 Keith was called up for National Service to The Royal Warwickshire Regiment, and on leaving in 1949 Keith went to Loughborough College to study PE and Physical Science, gaining a First Class Honours Diploma and a Teaching Certificate. In 1952 he was invited to join the faculty of KEGS, Five Ways as HOD PE, by the then HM, Tom Burgess, who had taught Keith at KES. Alongside teaching he played rugby with the Old Eds.

In 1957 Keith got married to Brenda, and he was invited to become Lecturer of PE and Biology at Leeds College of Education in the same year. In 1958 they were enticed back to Birmingham as Keith was offered a job in his old school, KES, as Director of PE. Later that year the first of their five children was born. While teaching he also continued studying, gaining a BA in Social Studies from the Open University in 1971 and in a sabbatical year from KES an Advance Diploma in Education from the University of Birmingham.

Although very happy at KES, in 1973 Keith was offered promotion at Peter Symonds School, Winchester, as Director of Activities, where he and Brenda also ran a Boarding House for boys. He was integral to the transformation of Peter Symonds School into a Sixth Form College, now one of the best in the country. There Keith set up and ran a very successful D of E Award Scheme. When Keith retired there in 1989, he spent a very happy and fulfilling five years employed as Administrator at a thriving Church in Winchester.

Retirement allowed Keith and Brenda to express their Christian faith through actively volunteering in their community. They valued time with their family, and were committed Grandparents and Great Grandparents. Keith spent many hours on his allotment claiming that food never tasted better than when 'freshly plucked from the living earth'. A keen swimmer he always challenged himself to swim further and faster. He and Brenda enjoyed walking and completed the 290 mile Macmillan Way in 1998. Keith eventually became the main Carer for Brenda as her health deteriorated until her death in 2020, a role he said it was a privilege to fulfil. Keith remained fit, strong and independent until 2022 and died after a short illness, aged 93.

Elizabeth Symes (daughter)

Alexander Ramez Vernon (1951)



Ramez El-Halawani was born on 29 April 1933 in Montego Bay, Jamaica, where he spent most of his childhood. His parents met as postgraduate medical students at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine. His father had recently graduated in Germany and his mother was following in the family tradition.

Kindergarten in a Franciscan School to learn Latin and drills in Anatomy from an early age did little to persuade him of the merit of furthering the family's medical legacy. He preferred instead to go through his grandfather's library, reading the entire collection of Charles Dickens at a very young age. His love of literature continued throughout his life, with conversations occasionally interspersed with beautiful renditions of Latin and Middle English verse as well as poetry and songs in English, French and German.

Following his time at Munro College Jamaica, Ramez continued his education in England including at Epsom College, King Edward's School (KES), Birmingham and Leeds University. Ramez left England on his first visit to Egypt in December 1957. There his Egyptian father and his stepfamily welcomed him. In time he learnt Arabic and stayed. His command of English and facility in the use of words meant that he immediately found a job as editor and broadcaster for Cairo Radio and was quickly put on TV, reading the English Language news. His work soon included print journalism, with him becoming the Editor-in-Chief of *The Egyptian Gazette*.

In 1980, by now a Director General at Cairo Radio, Ramez and his wife and colleague, Rasha, were seconded to the Sultanate of Oman TV as editors and broadcasters of the news in English. Ramez grew very fond of the country during his 15 year stay. After a short stint at *Gulf News* in Dubai, he retired in 2002.

Ramez is remembered by many, from cultures which sometimes appear at odds, for his great wit, unique sense of humour and his ability to take difficult situations in his stride. His observations, often humorous at first glance, pointed at deeper meanings on second reading.

Ramez passed away peacefully January 2022. He is survived by his wife Rasha Ali Hassan, his sons Taimur and Tamir and his grandchildren Tamara and Omar.

May he rest in peace.

Omar El-Halawani, Grandson

Ian D Thompson (1951)



Ian was born and grew up in Handsworth, Birmingham. Educated at King Edward's School, he graduated from Birmingham University Medical School in 1956. Ian studied Ophthalmology and Paediatrics as House surgeon at Dudley Road Hospital, becoming Anaesthetics Registrar in 1961, then qualifying in Sheffield in 1962. Here Ian worked with Prof. Andrew Thornton in the Cardiothoracic Unit participating in studies in blood loss during surgery.

In 1963 he became Senior Registrar to the Coventry Group, Midland Centre for Neurosurgery, Smethwick, and at South Warwickshire Hospital Cardiothoracic Unit Group, the only Regional Cardiothoracic Surgical Unit at that time. He was a founding member of the Regional Anaesthetic Advisory Committee 1974-1978 and Chairman of Coventry Division of Anaesthetics 1978-1980. He pursued the programme to open ITU facilities starting with the 'register of need' and established the presence of ODA's in maternity operating theatres – a revelation in 1979 and a proud political success. In 1981 he helped establish The Chase Hospital and his last post was the Fertility Clinic at Walsgrave Hospital till 1999.

Ian married Janet Reid, a Dudley Road Staff Nurse in 1961 with whom he had three children, five grandchildren and one great grandchild. Janet died young so his interests in Music, Bell Ringing, Motor Engineering, Classic cars, Scale modelling, stamp, silver collecting and renovating old Meccano burgeoned. He was a highly proficient bellringer, having learnt at Handsworth, and was tower captain at All Saints Allesley, for 34 years. Elected in 1968, Ian was a proud member of Ancient Society of College Youths. In total, Ian rang 17 peals for the Society, a total 439 tower bell peals and 358 handbell peals.

As his mobility and health declined, he bore the disadvantages of old age well before passing away peacefully. Ian was kindhearted, loved his family and friends and had voracity for life.

Fiona Macnab (daughter)

Ian Hunt (1951)



Ian was born in Birmingham in November 1932 and lived in Acocks Green. He passed his 11+ with distinction and won a scholarship to King Edward's, Edgbaston, where he spent the rest of his school career, gaining O and A level exam passes with excellent grades, and becoming fluent in both French and Spanish. He was a keen rugby player and an active member of the school cadet force. He also enjoyed being on the stage in school plays.

On leaving school he was immediately signed up for his national service and joined the RAF where he undertook specialist training in air traffic control spending most of his two years at RAF Shawbury in Shropshire. He was offered a career in the RAF as a Flying Officer after finishing his National Service, but decided to go into industry instead.

He joined Wellman Incandescent in Birmingham 1963 in their Export Sales and Marketing Department, and was eventually transferred to their London Office. Later on he took the position of Export Sales Manager for Houseman & Thompson, a water treatment company in Burnham travelling extensively in Europe, the Middle East, Canada and North and South America, using his language skills. In the 1980's he took up the position of Export Sales Manager for a company in the Tarmac Group, and again travelled extensively.

In 1984 he joined Fulmer Research as a Consultant but when the company got into financial difficulties and finally went into liquidation, he decided to take on the marketing of two of their products and ran his own business from home for 25 years.

He was first married in 1960 and had two children, Simon who was born in 1962 and Sue in 1963. He was separated in 1969 and met Christine in 1971 whom he married in 1978 and eventually moved to Farthinghoe, Northants in 1983 where he lived until his passing at home in November 2021. He was suffering from Parkinsons, but was known for his amazing memory and sense of humour right up to the end. He is greatly missed by the whole family, his two children and four grandchildren.

Christine Hunt (wife)

James Wainwright (1951)



Jim was born in 1932, the second son of Jack and Doris (née van Hagen). He went to King Edward's School Birmingham, where he became a school prefect, and a member of the 1st XV. The summer Jim left school, he was able to go on a British Schools' Exploring Society expedition to Iceland. That experience engendered a love of travel and adventure that lasted all his active life.

After Selwyn College, Cambridge, where he was awarded a Rugby Blue, he started teaching at Brighton College in 1958, and married Jean Palmer-Lewis the same year. His subject was Geography. Though a very junior assistant master, he was given the role of Housemaster for a year.

In 1962 he became Head of Geography at Trinity College, Glenalmond, the start of a thirty-year career at the school. After a year's exchange with Trinity College School in Ontario, he became Housemaster of the Cairnies, one of the six boarding houses. This was a very busy time, with his five young children and sixty boys to look after. Jim started a house orchestra in which he played the trombone, staged a musical, and led an expedition to walk the length of Corsica. Under his leadership, the House flourished, winning many sporting competitions.

Following his retirement from the house after fifteen years, he and Jean spent a sabbatical term at the Tyndale Biscoe Mission school in Srinagar, and Jim organised a walking and climbing party to Kashmir for Glenalmond staff and boys. On his return, he then became Sub-Warden of Glenalmond.

After his long career in teaching, Jim and Jean had just been accepted for Voluntary Service Overseas, when he was asked to become Warden (Headmaster) of Glenalmond College after the sudden resignation of his predecessor. He accepted the challenge at once, and for the next four terms, apart from running the school, the priorities were to increase the numbers, and restore the confidence of staff, old boys and parents. Visits were made around Scotland and to Singapore, Hong Kong and Kenya, and day pupils were taken as well as boarders. The school was in a much better place for his successor.

After his Wardenship, Jim and Jean joined the staff of Permbroke House School in Kenya. They took the opportunity to explore the country to the full and another activity was cycling, which they enjoyed well into their seventies. They cycled across the United States in 1996, but it was while on a cycling tour of Cuba in 2011 that Jean tragically died after an accident.

Jim was very sociable and he used his prodigious memory of people and places to encourage and promote others, whether friends, colleagues or pupils. Many are grateful for the advice Jim gave them.

Jim said his greatest good fortune came from his fifty-three year marriage to Jean and the 'resultant marvellous family' (his words) – five children, Holly, Sasha, Alison, Robert and Joanna, and fourteen grandchildren.

David Willington (friend and ex-colleague)

Michael Hodgetts (1954)

Michael William Hodgetts was born in Birmingham on March 29 1936, and grew up serving at the altar of Erdington Abbey, run by the Redemptorist order of St Alphonsus Liguori. It instilled in him a devout sense of faith, and after King Edward's School and Worcester College, Oxford, where he read Classics, he tested his vocation to the priesthood at the Venerable English College at Rome. Sensing later that he was being called to a different path, he withdrew and returned to the West Midlands to take up teaching, and to marry.

Hodgetts spent many years as head of religious education at St Thomas More School in Willenhall, between Wolverhampton and Walsall, but his intellect and talents also found an outlet in the wider Church. In the 1970s and 1980s he served on the International Commission on English in the Liturgy, which in the wake of the Second Vatican Council was tasked with producing an Anglophone translation of the liturgy for the use of English-speaking Catholics across the globe. The present authorised text of the great Good Friday hymn, *Crux Fidelis*, is his work.

Hodgetts's knowledge of philosophy and literature – combined with a mischievous sense of humour – meant that he was equally as capable of composing comic verse and quoting from authorities as diverse as Plato, Bacon, Descartes and Winnie the Pooh. After retiring from teaching in 1989 he joined the faculty at the Maryvale Institute, a further- and higher-education establishment, now part of the Archdiocese of Birmingham, which specialises in helping Catholics to develop their understanding of faith through part-time courses.

Hodgetts taught history, philosophy and theology to undergraduates there and served as examinations secretary. He was a long-standing chairman of the Midland Catholic History Society as well as editor of its journal, *Midland Catholic History*. On the world stage, he edited *Recusant History* (now *British Catholic History*), the journal of the Catholic Record Society (CRS).

Hodgetts and the CRS, which promotes the post-Reformation history of Catholicism in the British Isles, were a natural fit. He sat on its governing council, becoming its chairman and latterly a vice-president. His knowledge of its labyrinthine constitutional processes was unsurpassed, and long after his chairmanship it was not unknown for his wisdom to be sought in the course of an AGM, nor for an honorary secretary to annotate some apparently intractable complication of procedure with "AH" – "Ask Hodgetts".

Hodgetts was a genial oracle on priest-holes, the sleight of architecture by which recusant Catholic families sought to shelter, not always successfully, the itinerant clergymen whose sacraments kept their faith alive in the persecution that followed the formal excommunication of Elizabeth I by Pope Pius V in 1570.

In houses up and down the country, Hodgetts found, analysed and recorded spaces that had remained deliberately obscure for centuries. His *Secret Hiding Places* (1989) set in train dozens of books and



learned articles that elucidated the grim difficulties faced by England's persecuted Catholics in the early days of the Penal Laws. The last – the second volume of his magisterial study into the Catholic community at Little Malvern over several centuries – is with the publishers.

Hodgetts's particular devotion was to Harvington Hall in Worcestershire. One of the most significant recusant-gentry houses in the country, it was given to the Archdiocese of Birmingham in 1923 as something of a white elephant after generations of neglect. A long-term programme of renovation was instituted, and in 1984 Archbishop Maurice Couve de Murville appointed Hodgetts to its management committee. He later became general director and vice-chair of its trustees, overseeing major projects.

By the time the renovating was over he had demonstrated that the house had originally been twice its present size. He simultaneously sat on the Birmingham archdiocesan historical commission, and in 1990 Pope John Paul II made him a Knight of St Gregory the Great.

Modest and self-effacing, with his gentle Brummie tones, swept-back hair and bottle-top glasses, Hodgetts was also an accomplished musician. For years he was choirmaster at his local parish church, St Nicholas's, Boldmere, in Sutton Coldfield, as well as a member and occasional director of the Newman Singers, named after the great and latest saint of the archdiocese to whose service and history Hodgetts was devoted.

Michael Hodgetts is survived by his wife Barbara, whom he married in 1969, and their four children. Paul, Anne, Elizabeth and Rachel. Michael's brother and son were also both KES Old Eds. Tony (1956) and Paul (1988).

Paul Hodgetts (1988), (son)

Frank Scouse (1957)



Frank Scouse, who died in May 2022, was just one of those guys you couldn't fail to like. He worked to live, and his successful business career provided the means to enjoy his love of sport and travel. It was that love of sport, particularly golf, which fostered his years of dedicated support to the Old Edwardians Golfing Society - as well as captaining the team in the annual Cyril Gray tournament for longer than anyone can remember, and regularly supporting the Halford Hewitt team. He was President of the OECS from 2006 to 2014, and rarely missed a society event, often driving miles to be there.

He didn't regard the President's role as a figurehead – he gave 100% involvement, both as a player in matches and as a supporter at the Hewitt, where he would walk miles on the dunes at Sandwich or Deal keeping track of the team's progress.

Hewitt weeks with Frank were always fun, as his encyclopaedic knowledge of sport, the post-match analyses of long forgotten golfing encounters, and his recollections of school life in the 1950s led to many entertaining evenings. The Cyril Gray at Worplesdon was no different – apart from the age of the participants! The OECS has had its fair share of characters – Frank was definitely one of them

As well as an ability to always get tickets for Wimbledon, regular visits to watch Warwickshire at Edgbaston, very active membership of Tadmarton Heath Golf Club, and playing regular tennis and bridge, Frank loved to travel and, whenever you met him, he always seemed to have just come back from a holiday with his wife Jean, so had stories to tell, and a glowing sun tan.

Sadly, he suffered cruelly with Alzheimer's for the last few years but bore his frustration as the gentleman he was. A lovely man, great company and a life well lived. Thanks for the memories and our best wishes to Jean and their family.

Richard Green (1968)

Richard Paul Holland (1958)



Richard Paul Holland was born on 10 June 1939 in Birmingham. Early in the war, his mother evacuated him and his elder brother to the safety of north Wales in her care. This proved to be a shrewd decision as, while there, they received a phone call from one of their Birmingham neighbours advising them not to return as

a bomb had fallen nearby, blowing out all the windows in their (luckily unoccupied) house. Nevertheless, they relocated to Cheltenham after a couple of years to join Paul's father who was working there for the Air Ministry. Their stint in Snowdonia began an association with that area which has continued with Paul's family until today.

After the war, the family moved to Edgbaston and from here Paul (who chose to use his middle name as he disliked the nickname 'Dickie' which he acquired) attended King Edward's School. He greatly enjoyed his time there, and was known as a sprinter as well as representing the school at rugby. Among his A Levels, he studied French and Spanish and greatly enjoyed using these languages in France and Spain and further afield throughout his life. He studied at the London School of Economics, lodging in Hammersmith with a widow.

After qualifying as a chartered surveyor, he returned to Birmingham and gained experience in the family business which was in property and auctioneering. His next job was secured by good fortune when the employer advertised for the position in the wrong newspaper, which otherwise Paul wouldn't have seen; but thereafter he often said that he learned more in the two years of this job than in any other experience in his working life and it launched him into a lifelong career in commercial and industrial property development and investment and entrepreneurialism.

Paul settled in the North West, marrying in 1969 and bringing up a family of four children in Cheshire (one of whom was to be taught Greek at school in the 1980s by John Cloughton, later Chief Master of King Edward's from 2006-2016). Always entrepreneurial and on the lookout for interesting opportunities, one of Paul's memorable adventures involved a trip to Bhutan in order to buy a pair of classic Rolls Royce cars, owned respectively by the King and Queen, whom he met; the latter had decided she no longer liked the cars.

In 1990, domestic and financial pressures (not least as a Lloyd's underwriter) were in part contributory factors to his divorce and he moved from Cheshire to Suffolk. Here he remarried, but divorced again after a decade, and then found happiness for the last 18 years or so with Cindy, living a quieter life with fewer pressures and enjoying participating in the local church, holidaying in Madeira and Central America, walking and writing occasional poetry. He was a proud Old Boy of King Edward's and will be much missed by Cindy, his four children and seven grandchildren and many friends.

Toby Wright (son)

James Morton Hunt Parke (1959)



Jim was born in Handsworth Wood, the youngest of three, and came to KES at thirteen from Handsworth Wood Prep. After leaving KES he read Geography and History Combined Honours at University of Birmingham, where he met his wife, Angela. After completing his PGCE at Cambridge University Department of Education he taught at King Edward's Camp Hill and then taught PGCE Geography students at Cardinal Newman College in Bartley Green. In 1975 Jim moved into education administration, becoming Deputy Area Education Officer for East Hertfordshire, then Education Officer for Milton Keynes, and finishing as Senior Education Officer (Development) for Buckinghamshire.

Jim liked to be involved and active in local affairs and he served as Churchwarden for St. Mary's, Thornborough, single-handedly maintaining the churchyard for the twenty years he and Angela lived there. After retiring from Buckinghamshire LEA in 1999 Jim and Angela moved to Oxford, where Jim began a very fruitful engagement with recreational walking. He joined the Oxford Fieldpaths Society, and then the Oxfordshire branch of the Ramblers, eventually becoming Chair of both those organizations. In particular Jim was deeply involved in improving access to the local countryside, and he set up a Parish Path Wardens' Network to operate in each Oxfordshire parish, and also the Vale Path Volunteers; both groups dedicated to maintaining and improving rights of way throughout the county. He was fully engaged with all of these organizations into his early eighties and left them in a flourishing state. He fully believed in the KES exhortation: 'to die of service, not of rust'.

Jim and Angela had two children: Christopher and Emma; four grandchildren: Jennifer, Sam, Gregory and Zoe, and a great-granddaughter, Elodie. Jim died on Christmas Day 2022 after a battle with cancer.

Chris Parke (son)

Tony 'Ken' Green (1961)

Tony Green was an academic, specialising in English literature, folk life studies and drama and theatre arts, who enjoyed a distinguished career mostly based in and around Leeds, where he lived from the late 1960s.

At King Edward's, from 1954 to 1961, he was invariably known as Ken, having been given the nickname while in the Shells because at that time Birmingham City had an accomplished left back named Ken Green; the nickname was somewhat ironic as 'Ken' was primarily an Aston Villa supporter.

He was the only son of Ted and Bett Green, who lived in the southwest Birmingham suburb of Quinton. He attended the local primary school and, at the age of 11, he won a scholarship to KES, where he was in Evans House.



An excellent linguist as well as shining academically in all the arts' subjects, Tony also enjoyed – and was very capable in – a range of sports, particularly rugby and cricket. Football was also a shared passion of a group of us who, in our late teens, formed a team named The Wanderers (because we were of no fixed abode), playing in the hard world of Birmingham Sunday morning parks football in the Coronation League.

In 1961, Tony won a scholarship to Wadham College, Oxford, to study English under the distinguished Warden, Sir Maurice Bowra, and spent much of his first term developing his guitar and singing skills in Oxford's pubs and clubs enveloped in clouds of cigarette smoke and awash with real ale!

After graduating in 1964, Tony spent a year as a Research Assistant in the School of English at University College London. He then took up a lecturing post at Leeds University at the Institute of Dialect and Folk Life Studies, where he met his wife-to-be Josie, subsequently marrying her in 1967. Shortly after their wedding he secured a lecturing appointment, again in English and Folklore, at Memorial University in St John's, Newfoundland. They were there for only a year, but in that year their only child, daughter Danny, was born. The family returned to Leeds in 1968.

Tony then took up a post as a lecturer at Leeds University in the School of English, where he was attached to the Workshop Theatre, teaching drama and theatre arts to postgrad students. He moved on from there to Bretton Hall College in the 80s, where he taught Theatre Studies in the Faculty of Performing Arts. Among his students were the talented team behind the BBC's surreal comedy *The League of Gentlemen*. He remained at Bretton, which became part of the University of Leeds in 2001, before he took retirement in 2007.

Tony was extremely well informed on any topic under the sun and he could have argued the hind legs off the proverbial donkey. He always had that compassion, that understanding of the other person's point of view even when he disagreed with it radically. There was always that twinkle in his eye, his infectious guffawing laugh and a huge generosity of spirit.

One example of that generosity was when he and Josie, having made many friends in Croatia during 40 years of holidaying there, at the time of the Balkan Wars in the 1990s devoted themselves to getting students, fleeing the fighting, into UK universities and finding funding for them. In this endeavour, they worked closely with the School of Slavonic and East European Studies (now part of UCL).

Tony died on 16 December, 2022, after a long illness. He is survived by Josie, Danny and his grandson Taidgh. His funeral in Leeds, in January this year, was attended by a large number of his former academic colleagues and a handful of his school day friends.

Tim Austin (1961)

Keith Percy (1961)



Keith had a glittering academic career, taking a BA and MA in History from Cambridge, a PGCE from Nottingham, then an MA by research at Nottingham with his topic being 'The development of state aided evening schools for adults 1870 to 1902', another degree - a BSc in sociology by part time study at the University of London, and a PhD through publications at the University of Lancaster.

Keith came to Lancaster as Senior Research Officer in the Department of Educational Research in 1968, and in 1974 he took up the post of tutor for extra mural studies which defined his subsequent long career at the University.

He began by opening up some University lecture series to members of the general public, with a programme of taught courses for mature students. By the 1980s he had established a successful summer programme, and then developed an Open Studies programme which employed several full-time staff tutors working in arts, humanities, science and technology. The Department of Continuing Education opened in 1992 with Keith as its Head of Department – and he became Professor two years later in recognition of his contribution to this area of work.

Keith had been the first in his family to go on to higher education which explains the passion behind his lifelong work to make education accessible to all, and his drive to widening participation which enabled the University to build a strong portfolio of work with students from under-represented and disadvantaged backgrounds. Keith's legacy continues, with Lancaster University now an award-winning champion for social mobility and widening participation initiatives.

One of Keith's particular interests was education for older adults and in 2004 he set up the Senior Learners' Programme to encourage older people to begin or continue a learning journey in later life. This led to hundreds of older people learning new skills and researching.

Keith was a founding member of the Association for Education and Ageing (AEA), acting as a co-editor of its journal *Education and Ageing* and later becoming Editor-in-Chief of its successor, 'The International Journal of Education and Ageing'.

Keith's Assistant Directors, Dr Diane Okey and Lucy Lloyd spoke very highly of their 'boss'. "He was entrepreneurial and committed, with an impressive memory for vast amounts of information. He was an inspirational leader and a supportive manager who always looked for what people could do, rather than what they could not. Keith was erudite and witty; meetings with him were usually peppered with a smattering of Latin and the odd military metaphor. He was a rare and exceptional person and it was a privilege to work with him for so many years."

The Book of Condolence set up by the University has many more comments from Keith's former colleagues – he is remembered as an excellent manager and Head of Department with razor sharp intellect and an ability to inspire and motivate his colleagues.

Fiona Frank, Former Colleague (from her eulogy at Keith's funeral)

Jim Evans (1961)



Jim Evans, one of the most popular and successful of the 1961 group of school leavers, was a chemical engineer who enjoyed a long career in the food manufacturing industry as well as being a passionate cricketer who maintained close links with King Edward's and the Old Edwardians Association right up to his death in April this year.

James Garth Evans, always known simply as Jim, was born in Birmingham on 23 October 1942, the son of Clifford (Taff) and Joyce Evans. Taff, a survivor of the First World War, worked for the Inland Revenue but died when Jim was still a young boy and it fell to Joyce to bring up Jim and his sister, Jill, in Moseley. He went to Hallfield Prep School in Edgbaston until the age of 13, when he joined King Edward's School.

As a member of 'Heath' he developed his multi-faceted sporting talents, playing for the school at all age levels in cricket and also becoming an ever-reliable scrum half right up to the first XV. An Aston Villa fan, he also

loved football and was a founder member of the KES All Stars and then a regular member of The Wanderers XI, a bunch of KES renegades who played Sunday morning parks football on the mudheaps of suburban Birmingham in the Coronation League (see also Tony Green obit).

After school, Jim went on to read Chemical Engineering at Birmingham University from 1961 to 1964. At this time he began to develop a lifelong passion for the guitar and with his new girlfriend, Lyndon, frequented the folk clubs of Digbeth, especially the Jug O' Punch. After graduating, he landed his first job at Courtaulds in Coventry, where he stayed for three years before moving back to Edgbaston. Jim and Lyndon married in 1968 and had two children – Tony, who died tragically only three weeks after his father (see Tony Evans obit), and daughter Anna.

Jim's main career was spent working for Cadbury's and Premier Brands. Early on he was in the Foods Division Research & Development Department within Cadbury Typhoo and in the late 1960s began work developing the world-famous Smash instant potato brand. In the later 1980s, after a management buyout, the Foods Division became Premier Brands, and Jim was appointed technical manager for Premier Brands Beverages at Knighton, Shropshire, where he helped to develop the factory.

At the start of the new millennium Jim re-joined the mother ship Cadbury's as a consultant to the Overseas Division, providing technical assistance to the units in Africa and Asia, finally retiring in 2007.

In retirement he became a coach for the young cricketers at KES, supporting them to many trophies over the years. He also became very involved with the Old Edwardians Association, fostering links between alumni and the school he loved.

Jim was a great traveller, joining a group of old school friends on four adventures travelling through Latin America from the late 1980s through to 2007. As well as his many interests Jim adored his family and was deeply proud that his sister Jill married the Warwickshire and England cricketing superstar Dennis Amiss.

Jim Evans was always the voice of calm common-sense, of sensible judgement, a hugely practical man, always fair and modest, a truly loyal friend, hard-working and conscientious, renowned for his beaming broad grin. He was simply good at everything he did in life, a perfect gentleman.

A service of thanksgiving for Jim's life, attended by more than 200, was held at Edgbaston Old Church on 4 May. He leaves a gaping hole in the lives of many of us.

Tim Austin (1961)

Tony Evans (1989)



It is with great sadness that we learned of the death of our friend, Tony Evans, on 1 May 2023 after his valiant fight with cancer finally ended.

We first met Tony more than 40 years ago and we have stayed in touch and met up regularly ever since.

At school, Tony was always bright, kind and modest, with a great sense of fun, all attributes which he retained throughout his life. He combined strong academics

with other interests at school, especially sport – Tony played all sport with enormous enthusiasm and with respect for the game and opposition, being particularly talented at cricket and hockey – but also the Scouts and Sea Scouts. Between us, we have vague memories of Tony dancing his way to the finals of a Scouts dancing competition in the Shells, reminders of his sporting achievements (the 1989 edition of the Chronicle noted the 2nd XI's "woeful inconsistency" and form that nosedived during the season but recorded that "on a more positive note, however, Tony Evans' century at RGS Worcester was the season's most impressive batting performance") and fond memories of time spent outside school (whether watching Aston Villa, in the pub or celebrating together in various cities around Europe and further afield).

After KES, Tony read Engineering at Wadham College, Oxford. He then worked in engineering, first with IMI and then with Rolls Royce in Derby and Bristol.

Tony leaves behind a beloved son, Josh, from his marriage to Gemma who sadly passed away in 2016. He was fortunate to meet Anouk, herself a widow, and they married in 2021, bringing her three daughters together with Josh and creating a new and united family.

We are all extremely grateful to have been able to spend time with Tony shortly before his death and we take comfort in the knowledge that he was able to spend the last few months of his life at home, surrounded by his family and their love. We all admired Tony's incredible strength and spirit as he fought an ultimately losing battle against his illness. Whilst he may not have been able to conquer fate, he continued to smile in the face of death until the very end.

Farewell, Tony. We will miss, but not forget, you.

*Andy Harrop (1989), Jason Coates (1989), Barney Hassell (1989)
Paddy Howarth (1989), and Adam Kendall (1990)*

John Binns (1965)



John who left KES in 1965, passed away in December 2022, having been diagnosed six years previously with pulmonary fibrosis. The fact that the prognosis following such a diagnosis is a life expectancy of three to five years, says a great deal about John's spirited character.

John and I started at KES together in Shell C and quickly became friends. The friendship was enhanced when we discovered that we lived within walking distance of each other, in the Birmingham suburb of Northfield. This meant that, as well as seeing each other at school, we also spent a lot of our leisure time together, quickly becoming acquainted with each other's homes and families. Later, towards the end of our school life, the proximity of our homes allowed us to start our drinking careers in the same pub, The Great Stone Inn, which was happily situated midway between our houses. We were joined in this pursuit by another school friend who lived in the same road as John, namely Roger Felton

After leaving KES John gained a degree in mining engineering from Newcastle University, along with a taste for Newcastle Brown Ale. He started working for a Canadian company, Geoterrex, and began travelling the world as a geophysicist. Sadly, because of his working overseas, we did not see each other so often from that time on, although we always kept in touch. One happy occasion that we did get together

came many years after we had left school. My wife Irene and I spent a weekend together at the home of Roger Felton and his wife Judith, along with John, his wife Sandra and their four-year-old daughter Philippa. They were an unusual family because John had always cultivated his English accent, as he said that foreigners, Americans especially, found it 'cute'! Sandra had been brought up in South Africa, and retained the appropriate accent, and their cute, blond, little daughter had a broad Canadian accent!

John was a fearless adventurer and never stopped being interested in the world around him. He had a strong passion for the environment, which led him to go back to school and work hard to make changes in his field of mining. He also loved sailing and cycling and was an avid mountaineer in his younger years. In later years John settled down in Vancouver, where he passed away after a spell in hospital. Even though he had to slow down as his pulmonary fibrosis progressed, he maintained a cheerful attitude and tried to stay as active as he could.

John will be remembered and missed by his wife, daughter and son in law, much beloved granddaughters and anyone who called him a friend.

Mick Cooney (1966)

Peter William Osborne (1965)



Peter Osborne was born on 10 August 1947 at home in Nuneaton. His Father, John, was a College Lecturer in Physical Education in Birmingham and his mother, Anne, a primary school teacher. Peter had an older sister and brother, Margaret and John. The family moved to Birmingham in 1952.

After early schooling at Thornton Road Primary and Saltley Grammar, Peter passed the 13+ entrance examination for KES in 1960. He studied at KES until 1965, leaving after completing A Levels.

During his years at King Edward's, he excelled at sport. His father, a fine sportsman himself, taught Peter to bowl fast, swinging the ball both ways and in 1963, at the age of 15, he was awarded his Cricket Colours and was a team regular thereafter. His father also taught Peter how to throw the Javelin and he threw for the school from 1963 to 1965. Setting new school records in this event from 1963 onwards, he became Warwickshire and Midland Counties under 19 Javelin Champion in 1965, in which year he set a new school record with his longest throw of 54 metres; a record that remained unsurpassed within KES for 15 years.

Post school, he chose the apprenticeship route to pursue his chosen life of Engineering, Innovation and Business. Joining Charles Winn, the Birmingham Valve Manufacturer, on leaving school, he made an early impression and in the following year he was sponsored to undertake a Batchelor Degree in Behavioural Science at Aston University.

Within months of graduating, Peter had started his own business and for more than four decades, as Managing Director of Ettington-based Special EFX, Peter steered the business he started in his 20s to global success, first as the personalised gift and promotional merchandise firm 'Troika' and for the past 20 years as award design and manufacturer Special EFX. Their unique 'ergo flask' scooped the British Design Award in 1988.

Years before 'Green' became the buzzword, Peter recognised early the need for alternative and sustainable energy sources and was instrumental in the start-up, development and success of another Ettington-based company, Futureenergy, working in the Renewable Technology Sector.

As well as a brilliant engineer, Peter was a talented entrepreneur, a musician and a brilliant raconteur. Cultured, intelligent and always great company, above all he was kind. His inimitable personality inspired enormous loyalty from his employees, many of whom worked with him for decades.

Peter, who died in April 2023, is survived by his wife of 40 years, Melanie, his children Holly, William, Amber and Tara, and grandchildren Ben, Livvy and Jasper.

John Osborne (1961), (brother)

Richard Roper-Hall (1966)



Richard was born on October 23, 1947 to Michael and Sheila, the second of four children, including his sisters, Gillian and Alison, and brother, Peter. He enjoyed a liberating and thorough education at KES Birmingham, where he was in the naval section of the CCF, before going on to study dentistry at the London Hospital, after which he began

to build a career as a hospital-based dental surgeon. Richard met Paula Bevan and they married in June 1974 - a happy marriage that resulted in two children, Matthew and Charlotte. Sadly, his diagnosis of Parkinson's disease meant Richard had to quit his senior role at Kingston Hospital early, though in birthdays he still made it to the three-quarters of a century mark. He died as a result of Parkinson's on February 28, 2023.

Richard was lucky: from his father, Michael – a brilliant consultant eye surgeon and superb sailor - he inherited precise organising skills, exuding a calmness in everything he did, and an equal love of sailing. From his mother, Sheila, he enjoyed an innate social dexterity. From his siblings, he learned the parry and thrust of family jests and jibes, developing a mischievous sense of humour in the process, while always being a calming influence.

Richard loved motoring, even wearing string-backed kid gloves to be sure-handed on the steering wheel. Valve-bouncing our way to Fairbourne in "Lobelite", the beloved Morris Minor; thrashing up the very new M6 in a Triumph Herald to the Lake District for a so-called retreat. Later, it was the Reliant Scimitar that held Richard's motoring attention.

But, as you may be sensing, sailing was a first love. It brought out the very best of his organising and skippering skills. On the water he was a master, whether it was an Enterprise at the Midland Reservoir, or a GP14 at Barnt Green; a mini sail off the Fairbourne sands, or meeting the challenges of the Swellies in the Menai Strait in a 36-footer, Richard was completely at ease, in control and a zone of calm that beneficially affected those around him who were less experienced. Richard introduced a group of us to early season sailing on the Norfolk Broads and working with him to coax 6-8 knots out of a trundling Cresta class yacht in a very stiff breeze across Barton Broad was exhilarating fun.

Richard listened and participated. His observations were always considered, but his sense of humour was elegantly precise. Picture the scene: we are in class at KES and it's an end of Summer term quiz. First question from the form master: "Who is the patron saint of England?" With not a moment's delay up shot Richard's hand and he calmly said: "Simon Templar, sir."

That was Richard to a tee – loving father, experienced professional and a great friend with a sparkling sense of humour, deeply missed by all who knew him.

Matthew Davies (1966)

William Stephen Alfred Riddick (1966)



William Stephen Alfred Riddick, universally known as Bill, was born in Birmingham. He was an only child and he attended Cockshut Hill Junior School before passing for Camp Hill and after two years there he transferred to KES in 1960. Although not a scholar by nature he was a popular boy who enjoyed sport. He was a solid but mobile prop who played rugby for every school year team and was a pivotal

member of the first team for a number of years. He also enjoyed racket sports and was a fine oarsman for the School Rowing Club.

After KES Bill entered the world of insurance with the Royal for a while and then the Crown Estate Duty Office in London (now HMRC). However, after a few years he resolved to pursue legal studies, entering Birmingham University in 1971 and securing his LLB in 1974.

Following graduation, Bill spent the next 15 years at CEGB (now Powergen) specialising in environmental law, leaving upon privatisation to serve his Articles and become a solicitor. But the profession was never his metier and Bill's career took a completely different tack when he bought a market garden on the banks of the River Avon in Evesham. His principal customer was Chinese and Bill provided her with a regular supply of Chinese vegetables. However, the business did not produce the requisite income and, thereafter, Bill did a number of stints as a courier, traffic surveyor, as well as mentoring disadvantaged children.

Outside work Bill's main interests were sporting. He continued with his love of rugby after KES and had success with the Old Edwardians, playing some first team rugby and captaining the seconds for a season, until a neck injury forced him to retire in his late twenties. He acted as Press Officer for the rugby club for a couple of seasons and was a regular supporter of all the rugby and cricket sides at Streetsbrook Road. All sports interested him but possibly cycling most of all. From an early age all aspects of the sport fascinated him and in his youth he was a very keen cyclist. In later life he was an inveterate collector of bikes and maintained his interest all his life. As well as being extremely well read, he had an encyclopaedic knowledge of British History, and was in great demand as a member of quiz teams.

In later life Bill was dogged by illness but always retained his innate optimism. And though he was virtually confined to his flat for the last few years of his life there was a considerable gathering at his funeral to pay tribute to one of life's nice guys. RIP Bill.

Peter Macdonald (1965) and V Mark Phillips (1965)

Michael George Cockerham (1972)



Michael was born in Leeds on 29 September 1954 to Bob and Barbara Cockerham – our Mum is still going strong at 100. The 29th is Michaelmas Day, hence his name, and his birth-right as a Yorkshireman was something he valued very much, often returning to the county on holiday. The family settled in Solihull and Michael passed the entrance exam to KES, being admitted in 1964.

He went on to study modern languages but his musical talents were swiftly recognised and nurtured by Roy Massey, the Director of Music. Michael sang in numerous school and other choirs, graduated to the organ from the piano, and clearly having too much time on his hands, also took up playing the oboe, which he sometimes practised on the famous 'special' bus to and from Acocks Green.

He acquired an ARCM – Associateship of the Royal College of Music in the organ, and an LRAM – Licentiate of the Royal Academy of Music in the oboe, while still at KES, and was then awarded a Choral Scholarship to King's College, Cambridge, which pretty much surprised us all. Not that he wasn't talented, as clearly he was, but he'd never had any formal singing coaching, and had gone off to the voice trials at Cambridge with a 'let's see what happens' attitude. He spent the first half of 1972 at the Royal School of Church Music, managing to pass the elusive ARCO examination – Associateship of the Royal College of Organists, before going up to King's that September.

He thoroughly enjoyed his three years there, and was inspired by Philip Ledger, the director of the choir and Michael's tutor. He went on tour with the choir several times, not least to Boston, Massachusetts in 1976 for the bicentennial of the Tea Party. After graduation he enrolled on a PGCE in Oxford, finding time to sing with *The Sixteen*, *The Clerkes of Oxenford*, and the *Tallis Scholars* – all of them superb vocal ensembles. Thereafter he started his first job at Monkton Combe School, near Bath, in September 1977, and following his marriage to Jane (Eyers) in 1983, was promoted to Director of Music at Monkton. After a few moves he settled as Director of Music at the Royal High School, Bath, which was an absolutely fabulous role for him, teaching O and A Level Music, giving individual tuition on various instruments, playing sax in a jazz band, training choirs, and of course being responsible for big end-of-term productions such as *The Magic Flute*, *Grease*, and Oh! *What a Lovely War*.

In 2009 he retired, but went on to examine for Trinity College of Music in London. He revelled in the job and travelled widely, not least to India: he loved the madness and furious pace of the country, and the people, and their many kindnesses to him, despite so many of them having so little. And all this he did at the same time as working as the Director for the Wells Cathedral Voluntary Choir.

Tragically Michael had to resign in December 2019 when he developed cancer, and he died on 27 August 2022, just a few weeks short of his 68th birthday. He leaves Jane, and two daughters, Nicola, a doctor, and Jo, an approved mental health professional.

Paul Cockerham (1975), (brother)

Simon Stacey, Former Staff (1996 - 2022)



Simon Stacey's untimely death at the age of 55 constitutes, above all, the loss to his family of a dearly loved father and husband. Whilst in hospital, Simon, in turn, drew great comfort from 'the joy of my family' and spoke movingly of the love and pride he felt for Gregory (2010) and Philippa (KEHS 2013), his children, and Carmel, his wife. Faith, campaigning on moral issues, reading and discussion drew him and Carmel together. In raising their children, Simon ensured that the Stacey home was one of intellectual stimulation and brought them up to appreciate and practise what he and Carmel both valued: conversation – informed, critical, and broad.

Simon was born in Caerphilly, and his main passion was football. He grew up supporting Leeds United, and freely admitted that football would probably have remained his primary interest had not something occurred to change all that. When he was 15, a family friend gave him a copy of J.R.R. Tolkien's *The Lord of the Rings*. Both the book and its author became subjects of the utmost fascination. The most obvious consequence for Simon was his eventual conversion to Roman Catholicism, Tolkien's own faith. Simon's faith would ultimately give him the strength he needed once he fell terminally ill.

Simon's study of Tolkien occupied him for much of his life. He accrued an extensive Tolkien library at home. He wrote a paper titled 'Tolkien's Tone' on the 40th anniversary of the author's death. He investigated the connections between King Edward's School and The Oratory School, Oxfordshire, where Tolkien's sons were educated and where Simon taught for five years.

Simon was a demanding teacher. He rewarded scholarship and perfectionism because he was a scholar and a perfectionist. He insisted upon close attention to detail, a quality that he brought to everything he did. He set his classes exacting homework and marked it painstakingly. All of this made Simon a superb teacher and the results of the classes he taught were always excellent. He treated the boys like adults, encouraged their opinions, built their confidence and raised their ambitions.

A supportive and kindly form tutor, he spent hours on his boys' welfare and wrote them superb UCAS references. He was an efficient and knowledgeable Head of Oxbridge Admissions, steering vast numbers of boys towards success, guiding them in college choice, providing past papers and mock interviews for them, and collating anecdotal evidence from their interviews with which to support future cohorts. He retained an astonishingly vast knowledge of Old Edwardians' applications, courses, destinations and careers, because he cared about what happened to the boys post-KES. The outpouring of sadness from the community of pupils past and present at the news of his death showed just how highly and affectionately Simon was regarded, and the impact he had on so many lives.

Under Simon's guidance, KES debaters excelled and won both the Mace, and the Cambridge Union (three times running), and were finalists at Oxford and Durham. Simon, sporting a fedora and Jesus College tie, often with his family in tow, became a recognisable character on the debating circuit.

Simon cherished KES as a place where both boys and staff can flourish according to their character and talents. He valued the school's past and its legacy and was a guardian of what he saw as King Edward's values, especially scholarship. Even in hospital, he would recommend KES to consultants who had children of school age. Not only was Simon unfailingly courteous and kind, he was, in the words of one of his colleagues, 'one of the most principled men I ever met'.

His loss to his family and friends, to the staff and pupils of King Edward's School, past and present, and to the community of Tolkien study, is immense. Simon – Mr Stacey - is hugely missed.

Julian Burns (KES colleague)

Sue Dickens, Former Staff (2009 – 2022)



Sue passed away peacefully in her sleep, last November, after a long and courageous battle against ill health.

After leaving school, Sue worked for Barclays Bank in Moseley, where she grew up, and then spent several years working in the charitable sector before starting to work as the Old Edwardians Association Administrator at KES on 5 January 2009.

Sue felt an immediate affinity to the school since her father, John (Colin) Smith attended KES from September 1940 to July 1947.

Sue dearly loved KES and held many of the staff and students both past and present in high regard.

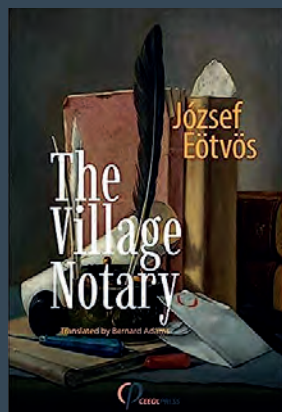
She was the longest-standing member of the Development team, running the Events Programme from 2009. In later years, Sue also helped fundraise for Assisted Places at KES. She hated missing time at work due to her illness and was determined to continue work for KES right to the end.

Sue leaves her husband and two children.

May she rest in peace.

Mark Dickens (husband)

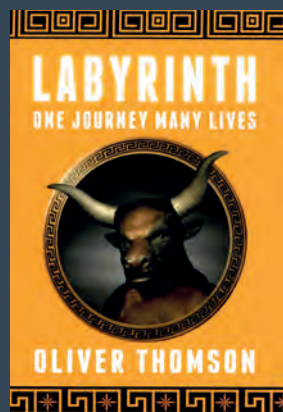
Old Edwardian publications



Bernard Adams (1954) – Translator

The Village Notary by Jozsef Eotvos

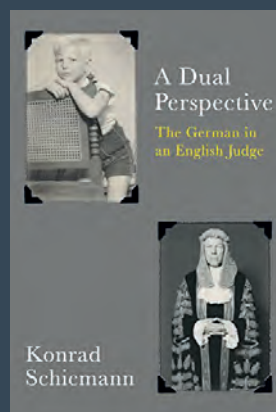
Publisher: Ceeol Press



Oliver Thomson (1954)

Labyrinth – One Journey Many Lives

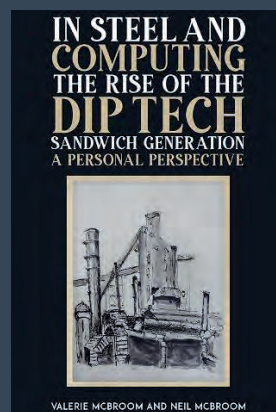
Publisher: Sparsile Books



Konrad Schiemann (1955)

A Dual Perspective: The German in an English Judge

Publisher: Whitefox Publishing



Neil McBroom (1958)

In Steel and Computing – The Rise of the Dip Tech

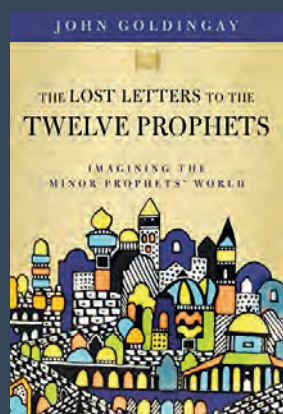
Publisher: Austin Macauley



Richard Butler (1961)

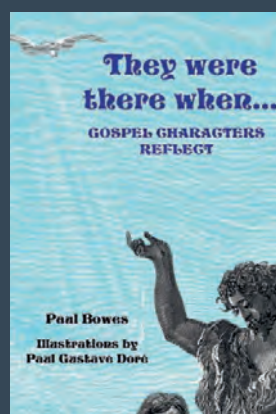
Are we there yet?
Travelling more responsibly
with your children'

Publisher: Bookbaby



John Goldingay (1961)

The Lost Letters to the
Twelve Prophets'
Zondervan (USA)



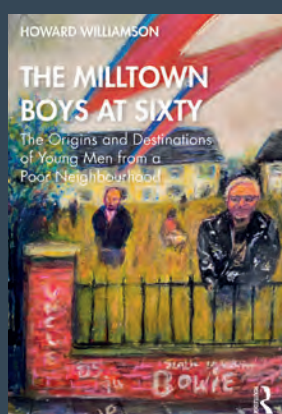
Paul Bowes (1965)

They were there when...
(Gospel characters reflect)
Publisher: Book Castle Publishing



Peter Handford (1965)

Limitation of Actions
Publisher: Thomson Reuters



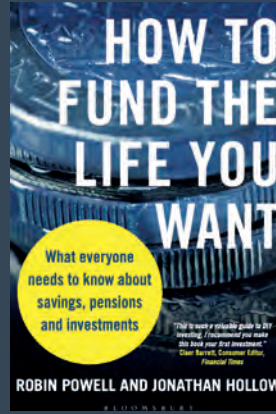
Howard Williamson (1972)

The Milltown Boys at 60
Publisher: Routledge



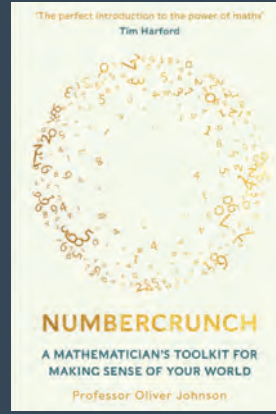
Dave Haslam (1980)

Adventure
Everywhere: Pablo
Picasso's Paris Nightlife
Publisher: Confingo Publishing



Jonathan Hollow (1985)

How To Fund The Life You
Want: what everyone wants
to know about pensions,
savings and investments
Publisher: Bloomsbury



Oliver Johnson (1992)

Numbercrunch – A
Mathematician's Toolkit for
Making Sense of Your World
Heligo Books

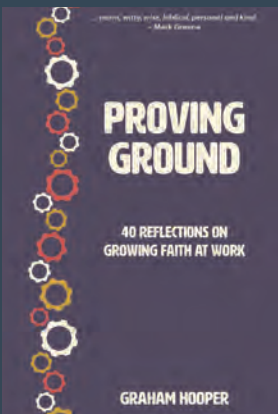
The Newest KES Old Eds



Peter Udell (1958)

Three Score Years...
But Then?

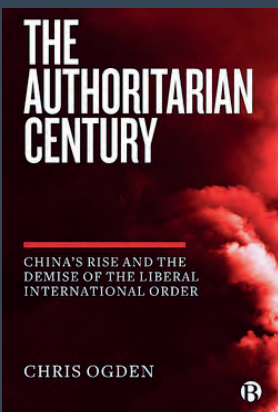
Publisher: Amazon



Graham Hooper (1967)

Proving Ground-40
Reflections on Growing
faith at work

Publisher: Christian Focus



Chris Ogden (1995)

The Authoritarian Century:
China's Rise and the
Demise of the Liberal
International Order

Publisher: Bristol University Press



On Wednesday, 21 June, our 2023 Leavers pulled on their blazers for perhaps the last time and returned to school to return their textbooks, pick up a copy of the highly anticipated yearbook, and to not only mark the end of their time at school, but to give us the opportunity to welcome them as our newest Old Edwardians.

Gathered in the Ruddock Performing Arts Centre, Chief Master Dr Katy Ricks, thanked them for their contributions to school life over the past seven years and reassured them that no matter what happens on results day, they would all go on to do great things.

Our guest speaker was Darren Sharma (1990), CEO of his company Frontline Analysts. He encouraged the boys to understand that they were moving onto a new phase of life with new and unfamiliar rules. They would need to recognise and embrace those new situations if they are to realise their dreams. Darren talked to the boys about 'playing the game' and much like the school song suggests, some games will be hard to win and some might be of no interest, but looking ahead to life post KES, whatever games they choose to play, they should be played with

focus and a mind free of illusion. It is important to understand when they are entering a new game, to embrace it, and play it as well as they have played their school lives. The games need to be played with an understanding that they will need to spend time outside their comfort zone in order to succeed. This was to confirm to the boys that it can be done, and they can achieve it.

To finish the formal proceedings, Deputy Head Mr Coverdale, echoed the words of the Chief Master and Darren, explaining "there are different moments in life such as results day, finishing university, and getting a job, but it is the journey to those points which makes you who you are, and the journey will be the moments you will remember."

With the formal proceedings finished, Mrs Higgins played a slide show of pictures from their seven years at school followed by the school song. The boys received their leavers' bags and thus became Old Edwardians. The afternoon concluded with a BBQ and drinks, signing of year books and saying their farewells to teachers and friends.

Dates for your diaries - 2024!

Diamond & Golden Reunion – Saturday, 24 February

OE London Dinner – Tuesday, 12 March

Year Groups Reunion (Classes of 1984, 1994, 2004, 2014) - Saturday, 8 June



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