



KING
EDWARD'S
SCHOOL
BATH

THE OE NETWORK
MAGAZINE

2023

OElink



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"I had a very enjoyable evening and it set me off thinking about music in my days at KES compared with present times."



Dudley Thomas
1955-1964

President's welcome

Welcome to the 2023 edition of the *OElink*!

In March I was fortunate to attend the Orchestral Gala Concert at The Guildhall, performed by the School's talented musicians in partnership with the city's resident orchestra, Bath Philharmonia. The programme was entitled *Journeys* and featured music by some of my favourite composers, including the School's resident composer, Mark Boden. A total of 38 KES musicians took part, supported by a smaller number of musicians from Bath Philharmonia. The standard throughout was extremely high; it would be very hard to pick out the best performance because everyone was excellent.

I had a very enjoyable evening and it set me off thinking about music in my days at KES compared with present times. Well, there wasn't quite as much happening in my day. In the Prep School Miss Gardner had a small collection of percussion instruments, including a triangle which I tapped only once. These sessions were not a regular occurrence! In 'Big School' there was a grand piano in the Geography room where, as first and second years, we had music appreciation classes taught by Mr Heyward to introduce us to classical music. It was here that I first heard Grieg's *Piano Concerto* and I remember the excitement of listening to Dukas' *The Sorcerer's Apprentice*. There was no opportunity to learn an instrument. Things improved a little when a school choir was started by Mr Maslin in the music hut. Unfortunately, I became persona non



grata after being found to be singing off key in the *Hallelujah Chorus*. Later on, in the Sixth Form, we did go across to Bristol for evening concerts at what was then known as The Colston Hall – now Bristol Beacon. Things picked up after I left in 1964 when Mr Lewis formed the first-ever school orchestra, with the support of my friend, the late Timothy Sylvester, and in 1967 Ian Phipps was appointed as the School's first music specialist.

Now things are totally different, and the pupils have a fantastic range of musical opportunities at KES. As well as having a composer in residence, the School has an accompanist and a performance coach in residence. A team of 16 specialist music staff teach over 400 individual instrumental and singing lessons each week. In the 1960s the total staff count for the entire School came to less than 16! Music is now a major feature at the annual Founder's Day Service, Carol Service and other School events, and the School's various ensembles and orchestras participate in numerous concerts and performances at KES and throughout the city. Music of all types is encouraged and taught. What a lively place KES has become!

My best wishes to you all for the year ahead, and my thanks to Claire Davies, the Committee and the School for all their help and support for our OE community.





Greg Taylor, Head of the Junior School, reflects on his 28 years at KES as he steps down from his role this summer after a long and distinguished career.

A fond farewell

It is with great fondness that I will remember my time at KES. The Junior School has certainly changed since I first joined in 1995 as a Games and Maths teacher. I am much older and less agile for a start!

I've been recalling the very early sports tours that we ran to Ireland, with pupils hosted by Irish families, the family ski trips and the parents-versus-staff sports matches. Processes and procedures have, of course, changed over the years and I suspect that many of the aforementioned trips and activities would not be available to the pupils today. As a day school we also ran an intensive activity programme pretty much every Saturday, with a variety of sports on offer, normally via inter-house competitions. As with the multitude of activities available to today's pupils, I hope that all the activities we ran then helped to mould past pupils into the adults they are now, and I hope they created many happy and lasting memories.

It was an unexpected joy to join KES when I did, as I thought being part of this community was out of my reach. It has been a real honour to have seen the School as my extended family. Teaching puts you in such a privileged position to engage with pupils and I have been so lucky to have taught so many wonderful children. I viewed my role as being like their parent throughout their time at the Junior School. I thank the thousands of pupils who have brightened each day for me and made work, and coming to work, so much fun (most of the time!) and I hope I have had a positive impact on their development and progress.

As Head, now, of a fantastic school, I also thank the parents along with the numerous members of staff I had the honour of working with, for their continued support and kind words. Together, we have enabled the pupils to thrive and to develop life-long skills and qualities – to become individuals with good values, manners and ethics. I hope that they have also enjoyed the amazing journey with me.

I don't quite know how I will feel in September. My advice to the pupils in Year 6 has always been: "Please leave having no regrets", and so I too depart with none! King Edward's Junior School is a remarkable institution, and I am proud to have been a part of its history for the last 28 years. I wish the School ongoing success, and I know it will continue to provide the best possible age-appropriate education for young children.



Outside the Junior School, September 2014

"I thank the thousands of pupils who have brightened each day for me and made work, and coming to work, so much fun (most of the time!) and I hope I have had a positive impact on their development and progress."



Sam Lascelles
1993-2000

Chairman's letter

I write this having recently returned from this term's meeting of the OE Committee in the Willett Hall on a lovely summer's evening. Our discussion reflected our areas of focus so I would like to use these to illustrate what your Committee gets up to!

Providing a range of social events to allow OEs to meet old friends and establish new connections

We received a report of recent events and reunions, including the Anniversary Reunion for OEs held in April. These annual events have proved a popular way for OEs to come back to the School and socialise with some of their peers, whilst also meeting other year groups doing the same thing. The interconnections reported between the peer groups who were celebrating their 10th, 20th, 30th, 40th and 50th anniversaries since leaving KES emphasise the wider community that is the OE family.

We then discussed plans for our flagship social event scheduled in early 2024. Such has been OEs' enthusiasm for Bath-based reunions that we are delighted to announce a special Bath weekend event on 8-9 March next year. We are looking forward to sharing more details with you in the Autumn Term.

Promoting the long and distinguished heritage of the School

The School's heritage is now a regular item on our agenda. Whilst we recognise that the School's energy and funds are, by necessity, prioritised to steer the good ship KES forward, we see the OE Committee's role as vital in ensuring that our heritage is secured, accessible and celebrated. In this regard a pleasing forward step is the commissioning of a scoping study of the School's archive material by a professional archivist, which will provide us with valuable information and recommendations to inform the next steps for onward management. As the School approaches its 475th anniversary we will make sure the Committee continues to promote this important aspect of its role.

Supporting the current school community

A now regular feature of our interaction with current pupils is the OE Activity Award, where we use OE funds to help support extracurricular clubs and societies. This year's awards were given to the Crafty Club, Basketball Club, Creative Writing Society and the KES Climbing Squad. The OE Committee

really enjoys reviewing the funding requests, which are all written by pupils themselves, and trusts this support reflects the wishes of our wider OE community, in that we are seen to promote life beyond the classroom by helping to provide enriching experiences and opportunities for future OEs.

We also spoke about KES Careers and would like to thank all the OEs who gave their time and insight to the KES Careers Programme this year. It is pleasing to see that the School is hungry to learn from OEs about their professional life and that OEs are being so generous with their offers of help. This can take multiple forms, from attending careers days and mock interviews to offering work experience placements to pupils or giving presentations about your career choice. Offering tours of your office can go down very well, especially if your office is on an aircraft carrier – see page 21 for this report!

We are also grateful to all the OEs who provide ongoing financial support for pupils and projects at KES, especially through contributions to the School's Bursary Fund.

I hope this provides some indication of the range of activities which the Committee gets involved in. As we plan our focus for the new school year, we would like to ensure we reflect the wider OE community. Historically we have met in person at the School four times a year over supper and drinks. During the pandemic, however, we met online and now we would like to offer a Microsoft Teams link so that our future meetings can be available in a hybrid manner. We hope this will allow those OEs who would like to be involved in our work, but are unable to be in Bath, to attend. Perhaps you have ideas on how we could do things differently or would like to represent your generation? Either way, we would love to hear from you at alumni@kesbath.com, with no commitment to attend every meeting thereafter. We are your OE Committee and this is everyone's alumni community, so do please get in touch.



Second Master, Mike Horrocks-Taylor with 2013 leavers at the Anniversary Reunion in April.

An exciting year for KES Careers

This year has been one of both consolidation and growth for Careers at King Edward's. I have been keen to learn from the successes of last year as well as introducing new events and concepts that increase the visibility and offering of Careers throughout the Senior School.

It is vital for careers to be considered from Year 7 onwards, with the younger pupils being asked to think of their passions and how they could translate into a successful and joyful career (using the Japanese notion of *ikigai*). This theme was picked up beautifully by one of our external speakers, Junior Saunders, who rounded off our Year 10 Careers Day. During his talk on post-16 choices, he showed the pupils how many transferable skills they learn on a day-to-day basis, both in school and through their hobbies. Who knew that gaming could be so useful!

I also wanted to focus on widening our pupils' knowledge of the variety of careers available to them. If you're interested in healthcare or medicine, being a doctor need not be the only route available to you, for example. To illustrate this, we welcomed a number of fascinating speakers throughout the year to tell us about a wide variety of careers, including police detective work, the media and entertainment industry and anti-tobacco work in public health.

To continue this theme, the Year 7 and Year 8 Careers Days each had an area of focus: careers in science for Year 7

and careers in business for Year 8. We were joined by Pulse CSI for the Year 7s, who spent the day learning different types of forensic science techniques and understanding how what they learn in their Science lessons can translate into future careers.

Similarly, our Year 8s were asked to prepare, in advance, an idea under the heading *Design a Product or Service that will Improve the Environmental Impact of KES*. On the day itself the Year 8s were given time to finish their ideas and practise their pitches, before hearing about entrepreneurship from Simon Crowfoot of Ecotricity and Sky Diamond. In the afternoon they presented their ideas to external entrepreneurs and business leaders, who had very kindly given up their afternoon to act as our judges.

Many of the Year 12s have benefited from taking part in the Careers Mentoring Programme, which allowed them access, in small groups, to top industry professionals. They were able to discuss the realities of the professions and ask detailed questions, practise interview skills and listen to a wealth of experience. The work experience programme was also extended significantly this year, with over 90 pupils in Years 11 and 12 enjoying a wide variety of placements at establishments including The European Space Agency, CSquared, Rcapital, Red Planet Pictures, Hoare Lea, Dynisma, Bristol City Football, MediaClash and many more.

Next year we will continue to raise the profile of Careers and help the pupils understand how vital it is that they gain transferable skills and a true insight into



their area of interest as early as possible. We will be adding a Year 9 Careers Day in Spring 2024 and an Ethical Careers Conference for many of our Year 12 and 13 pupils in November 2023. The Careers Fair will also be taking place on 25th April 2024 and we would love to hear from any OEs who would be interested in representing their career at this evening event.

I could not have completed this successful year for Careers without the help of the many parents, Old Edwardians, staff members and pupils who have given up their time to support our work. I am always looking for willing participants, so if you feel that you could be a speaker or a contributor at any of our Careers Days in the coming year please do get in touch via alumni@kesbath.com.

Julia Rees-Roberts
CAREERS EDUCATION CO-ORDINATOR

We are delighted to announce that the KES Careers Programme is a finalist in this year's Independent Schools of the Year Awards!

Our grateful thanks to all the OEs who are supporting the programme and contributing to its success.



Creating life-changing opportunities through philanthropy

I am delighted to have joined KES as the new Development Director and am looking forward to fostering the culture of philanthropy within the School, to create transformative opportunities for the young people in our community. I believe that all young people should be able to access a quality education which provides a platform for a fulfilling future. Philanthropy can play an integral role in achieving this and ensure that financial circumstances are never a barrier.

I have been working in philanthropy in higher education for over ten years. What excites me most about my move to KES is the prospect of seeing the positive gains that follow when a young person can access an exceptional education well before the higher education stage.

I joined KES because it understands the importance of having a diverse and vibrant community. And because Headmaster Martin Boden, the Board of Governors and staff believe it is essential to provide life-changing opportunities for children through our means-tested Bursary Programme, which is at the heart of KES's values.

As a school with philanthropy at its core, we have ambitious plans to build on this solid foundation in the coming



years. Our long-term vision is that any pupil offered a place at the Senior School can attend, regardless of their family's financial circumstances, with the School's Bursary Programme able to provide the financial support required to make this possible. One of our 2023 leavers, Martin, who has gone on to study Biochemistry at the University of Bristol, expressed the impact his bursary had on him during his time at KES:

"My experiences as a bursary award holder have shaped my life as it is. Without the top-quality support I have received from KES academically, pastorally and within sport, I don't know what I'd be doing! The award allowed me to not be held back by finances but instead to access a high-level education. I was able to make the most of my academic

“As a school with philanthropy at its core, we have ambitious plans to build on this solid foundation in the coming years.”

talent through the teaching offered at KES. After my degree, my ultimate goal is to study medicine, and train to become a doctor and give back to the world.”

My ambition is to foster the goodwill in our wider community through fundraising activities that will enable young people like Martin to thrive at KES and beyond, and help us create an exceptional learning environment at our School.

I have greatly enjoyed meeting OEs at alumni events this year and will be working closely with Claire Davies in my role to support the OE community, parents and supporters, and to help you to maintain a strong connection with the School and each other. I look forward to meeting many more of you in the coming months!

Alison Heyes
DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR

Wroughton Bursary Fund

The late former Headmaster Dr John Wroughton played a pivotal role in the history of King Edward's. He was "a true gentleman" and "a teacher who had time for all", as the tributes that have been sent to us by Old Edwardians reiterate. Always mindful of his own journey through school and university,

Dr Wroughton was passionate about providing others with life-changing opportunities and giving access to education for all. As such, he was committed to supporting our Bursary Programme even after he retired.

We have set up the Wroughton Bursary Fund in his memory, to award transformative bursaries to those young people whose financial circumstances would otherwise prevent them from attending the School.

Please join us in helping Dr John Wroughton's name and legacy live on for future generations.

To make a donation, please scan
Or visit
www.kesbath.com



Welcome to
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“Every day I use skills that I learnt during my teaching career, as well as core skills I learnt through all my years of studying Classics: problem-solving, attention to detail, the ability to argue a point of view and to translate complex technical concepts into something easy to understand.”

The benefits of a classical education

Connie Chapman 2005-2012 explains how she went from a degree in Classics to a career in tech.

I left KES in 2012 with a deeply instilled passion for learning but little to no idea what my future career might be. I went to read Classics at the University of Cambridge and enjoyed three years of academic rigour; I loved my subject and enjoyed the academic challenges that my degree presented but at the end of my time there, I was still in a quandary about what to do next. The most natural path was to become a Classics teacher.

I taught for a few years and loved the job. I loved being able to pass on my knowledge and enthusiasm for my subject; I loved that I could coach and play the sports I had enjoyed as a pupil; I loved the opportunity to mentor my pupils and help set them up for later life. I so enjoyed my own time at school as a pupil and so it was a privilege to go back as a teacher and view school life from the other angle. The experience only increased my appreciation for the role teachers play in shaping our lives.

However, after three years I was ready for a change. I wanted a new intellectual challenge and the opportunity to learn a new skill and so I began teaching myself to code and enrolled on one of the many available 'web development bootcamps'. These courses are designed for those without any previous technical knowledge and aim to teach, in a period of a few months, all the skills required to build a full web application from the ground up.

The bootcamp I selected, Le Wagon, took me to Copenhagen for the summer of 2018. That summer is perhaps best remembered for the glorious weather which lasted for months and for the football fever which swept the country as we convinced ourselves that this time football really was 'coming home'. Alas, by the end of the summer football had not come home; instead, returning to

I wanted a new intellectual challenge and the opportunity to learn a new skill and so I began teaching myself to code and enrolled on one of the many available 'web development bootcamps'.

“My colleagues include a theoretical linguist, a mediaeval historian, numerous mathematicians, physicists, computer scientists and a recently hired fellow classicist. Our diverse backgrounds allow us to approach problems from different angles and to come up with innovative solutions.”

the UK was the newest, and perhaps least likely, entrant into the software engineering job market.

People often ask how it was possible to learn enough in nine weeks to start a new career. Wasn't I competing with people who had degrees in this? Was I throwing aside years of Classical education and a successful teaching career to start afresh with minimal foundations, in a subject that I had not studied since Year 9 ICT? (Incidentally, I believe the only test I ever failed during my time at KES was an end of term ICT test – but that is a story for another day.)

These questions were valid. Yes, I would be applying for jobs that stipulated a preference for those with Computer Science degrees. Yes, I would be up against more experienced candidates. Yes, there are engineers out there who have been coding since the age of five and, no, my experience using the *Barbie: Magic Hair Styler* PC game at a similar age was not likely to give me the edge.



Despite this, there is still a need for people like me to enter the profession, due to the massive skills shortage our industry faces. A nine-week course made me useful enough to be hired. The barrier to entry to this career path is, in fact, a lot lower than it seems from the outside, and I wish all non-technical people looking for future careers in tech were aware of that.

There are a wide range of jobs and companies that you can work for as a software engineer – almost every business you can think of has a need for at least a website. There are lots of different areas and specialisms within software engineering, some requiring more technical background than others, but all teams can benefit from diverse points of view.

I was lucky enough to be hired into a company which champions diversity in its technical teams. I work for Darktrace, a cybersecurity company using machine learning to detect and interrupt ongoing cyber attacks. My colleagues include a theoretical linguist, a mediaeval historian, numerous mathematicians, physicists, computer scientists and a recently hired fellow classicist. Our diverse backgrounds allow us to approach problems from different angles and to come up with innovative solutions.

I began work at Darktrace four years ago and, in that time, have gone from building parts of the user interface as a software engineer to leading the team of engineers and designers who look after all visual aspects of our product. If anything, my slightly unusual route into tech has opened more doors for me than it has closed. Every day I use skills that I learnt during my teaching career, as well as core skills I learnt through all my years of studying Classics: problem-solving, attention to detail, the ability to argue a point of view and to translate complex technical concepts into something easy to understand.

Even though the job seemed daunting at first, pushing through that initial fear has given me the opportunity for an incredible career and I would encourage anyone else thinking about taking a similar leap to go for it; you may end up somewhere you least expect.

Proteins on the brain

Brian Austen 1956-1963, Emeritus Professor in Protein Science at St George's University of London, recalls his career journey – from chemistry 'experiments' at Broad Street through to his research concentrating on diagnosis and therapy in Alzheimer's Disease.



“ I was at Oxford in the '70s, during the explosion of knowledge in the Life Sciences and Molecular Biology.”

How did I get from the dusty Science lab on the third floor of Broad Street – where the main challenge was to escape via the fire escape down to the Rec and back, before the double period was up and the Colonel noticed – to running a lab researching Alzheimer's Disease (AD) at a prestigious medical school in south west London? An early interest in chemistry was sparked by the discovery that mixing iodine and ammonia produced a substance that, spread dry on blackboards, or under the Headmaster's chair, was spectacularly detonated by the friction of chalk, or a heavy weight. The delight was marred later when Bill Currie, always ahead of the game, told Form 4 that the Headmaster would like to see the boy who had been making nitrogen triiodide.

I was at Oxford in the '70s, during the explosion of knowledge in the Life Sciences and Molecular Biology. My research year was in the Pharmacology department, where I found that biologically active peptides such as oxytocin and endorphin could be synthesised by chemistry, and that these could be used in the design of therapeutics. From there I moved to a PhD in the Chem Path lab at St Mary's, Paddington. The lab, near where Fleming had discovered penicillin, could only be reached via a fire escape from a ward on the roof of the hospital. There I learnt the realities of medical research from characters like the elderly mortician, who poked his head around the lab door and asked if anyone wanted a pituitary for £20, and the post-doc Wendy, who announced she had been immersed for four years in men's urine, a convenient source of interesting glycoproteins.

After research post-docs at UCLA and at NIMR at Mill Hill, I landed a lectureship at St George's Medical School in Tooting. My first research interest was how proteins are targeted to the various organelles inside cells. I had a week on the wards as a patient, and the only literature I had with me was a paper from Dennis

Selkoe in Boston, who had evidence that Alzheimer's Disease (AD) is caused by the release of a small protein in the brain called beta-amyloid (A β). I reasoned that this was perhaps due to errors in its targeting inside brain cells. With the help of an exceptional PhD student, David Stephens (now Research Director at Bristol University), using chemistry invented by Bob Sheppard in Cambridge, we synthesised various forms of A β , made specific antibody reagents that enabled tracking A β in cells and the brain, and expressed some of the genes coding its precursor (APP) with mutations that had recently been found in inherited forms of AD. We discovered that only aggregated, not simple, forms of A β are toxic to brain cells (neurons), and that a cholesterol-rich particle known as ApoE4 presents a risk of AD by diverting APP into the wrong part of the cell.

Throughout my career it has been a privilege to work with project students at St George's. One of the advantages of the mobile phone is constant contact with research students. Most of the late calls were to report disasters in the lab, but occasionally, after a full day's lab work, one might receive a call expressing delight at seeing fluorescent cells down a confocal microscope (Figure 1). Collaborations are essential to research, and one of the most intriguing was with Ruth Empson at Royal Holloway, who was measuring memory processes by electrophysiology in her lab. We were able to observe the pronounced rearrangements of receptors that establish electrical memory circuits in the brain, and how these are disrupted by A β clumps. (In AD, the circuits are still there, but become inaccessible because of damage to a central part of the brain called the hippocampus.) We synthesised soluble peptides that bind A β as potential therapeutics and then found a way of attaching gadolinium, so that A β aggregates could be detected by MRI scans of the brain (Figure 2), allowing novel methods of early diagnosis.

We still rely on drugs such as galantamine (isolated from snowdrops), aricept and memantine, to help AD patients with symptoms, but not stopping disease progression. Increased physical activity during middle and late age, coupled with genomic risk testing, increased mental stimulation, good sleep patterns, a healthy diet, vitamin D supplements and avoidance of high rugby tackles, have been shown to be protective. The aim of producing a cure for AD by removing the amyloid plaque pathology in the brain, noted by Alois Alzheimer in 1906, can be regarded as having failed. Maybe we have concentrated too

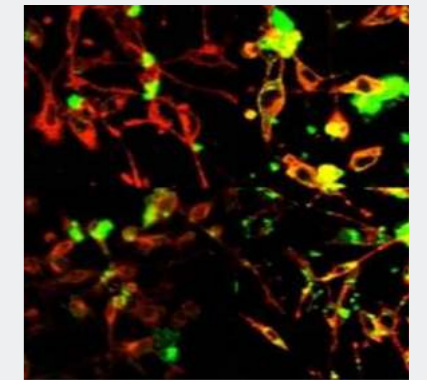


Figure 1. Fluorescent micrograph of brain inflammatory microglial cells (red) taking up A β coated with antibody (green), producing harmless peptides (yellow).

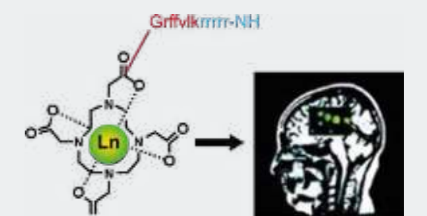


Figure 2. A synthesized MRI contrast reagent for diagnosis of Alzheimer's, containing a lanthanide (Ln) bonded to an A β -binding peptide (red) and a brain penetration peptide (blue).

much on the disease and neglected our understanding of normal brain function.

There is a huge amount of research taking place that one day will defeat this horrible disease. Recent reports of a phase 3 clinical trial on AD patients of lecanemab, a therapeutic antibody against A β , are positive, but side effects may prevent registration. With the availability of DIY CRISPR gene modification kits, maybe the cure is already growing unknown in someone's spare room in Beijing, or Bath. My research in AD was funded by charities such as the Alzheimer's Society (UK) and the Alzheimer's Association (USA), and we are indebted to the work they do.

For further reading, go to www.researchgate.net/profile/Brian-Austen/research





Sabbatical in Shangri-La

James Roberts-Wray, a long-serving member of the Junior School teaching staff, is a seasoned traveller to distant lands. He reports on his memorable trek in the former kingdom of Dolpo in Nepal last year.



“ There is something about the simplicity of walking and camping in a place of transcendental beauty that is wholly refreshing. After the classroom, the silence of the wilderness.”



Clockwise: Ploughing in Chharka; near Snowfields camp; Lake Phoksundo

We had only just finished putting up the tents when it was spotted. A pale shape moving at leisure amongst the rough grass and dwarf gorse above our camp. I thought it was a sheep. But there was something about the edge in people’s voices that told me this was not so.

I looked again, this time training my camcorder on the spot, perhaps 70 metres away. I saw the tail first, and then the rest of what was unquestionably a snow leopard. We watched transfixed for the next quarter of an hour as this rarest of creatures padded silently above our heads amongst the shale and scrub. From time to time it would stop and regard us calmly, though with what fire in its eyes, to use William Blake’s expression, I could not tell. After quarter of an hour of gradual climbing it disappeared behind the ridge line.

This was in May 2022, when by rights I should have been in Bath teaching Art and DT at the Junior School rather than leopard spotting in Nepal. But KES continues to offer members of staff a sabbatical term after ten years of service. I have been here rather longer, having started my KES career in 1989 under Bill Paterson in Broad Street, before the move to North Road and the new Junior School building in 1990. A lifetime ago, but teaching is a funny career, with every September offering a new start and a chance for reinvention, so the accumulation of years seems less apparent.

Those readers whom I have taught may remember I used to return from the holidays with tales (and assemblies) about travels in distant lands, almost all of them treks. There is something about the simplicity of walking and camping in a place of transcendental beauty that is

A horse pulled a metal-tipped wooden plough, which the ploughman manoeuvred whilst singing a Tibetan chant. This could have been 2022 or 1022.

wholly refreshing. After the classroom, the silence of the wilderness. I always draw and paint when I’m trekking, a habit I’ve had since 1991 when a boy in my class, Ian Hall, gave me a watercolour set as a thank you present.

Central Asia is my trekking ground of choice. My first trek was in Tajikistan, and I have since walked in Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan and even Afghanistan, where I walked the Wakhan Corridor, a region that Marco Polo once trod. That was the roughest of all my journeys, since when things have calmed down considerably; the birth of my son has changed priorities and possibilities.

Nevertheless, for my sabbatical trip Nepal was the obvious choice. It has the best trekking services in the world and, if you know where to look, a range of interesting choices beyond the well-trodden paths to Everest and Annapurna base camps. I wanted something challenging, remote and long; after all, there is no point having five months off work and then limiting yourself to a fortnight. I chose the former kingdom of Dolpo, to the west of the Annapurnas.

It is extremely inaccessible. No roads cross into inner Dolpo, and the only way in is on foot. Like some Shangri-La amongst the clouds, the ground never dips below 4,000 metres, and high passes guard the way in. We crossed one at 5,380 metres to enter and another at 5,515 metres to leave. The snow only melts on these high

passes in late April, making the area only reachable for around half the year. There are no cars. We saw motorcycles, but each has to be dismantled and carried over a high pass by mule. Dolpo is so remote that when Peter Matthiesen, author of *The Snow Leopard*, was here in the 1970s he found that not all the Nepalis he met regarded it as being part of Nepal.

Its isolation has preserved much of the Buddhist and agrarian way of life. I saw tiny pocket-handkerchief fields, levelled out of the mountain landscape, being hand ploughed. A horse pulled a metal-tipped wooden plough, which the ploughman manoeuvred whilst singing a Tibetan chant. This could have been 2022 or 1022.

Only one harvest a year is possible in the short growing season, so historically income has been supplemented by trade. I first learnt of Dolpo’s existence from Erik Valli’s film *Himalaya*, which follows a caravan of yaks transporting salt from the Tibetan plateau for sale further south. In the most memorable scene in the film, the caravan travels along the ‘Devil’s Path’, a precipitous trail above the extraordinary cobalt waters of Lake Phoksundo. We walked out along the very same trail, though without anyone falling in. This was the last point on the trek when I could pick up a mobile signal. For the rest of the trip the chatter stopped; my soundtrack was prayer flags in the wind, the bells on our ponies, and the morning sound of larks ascending.

After the classroom, the peace of the wilderness.

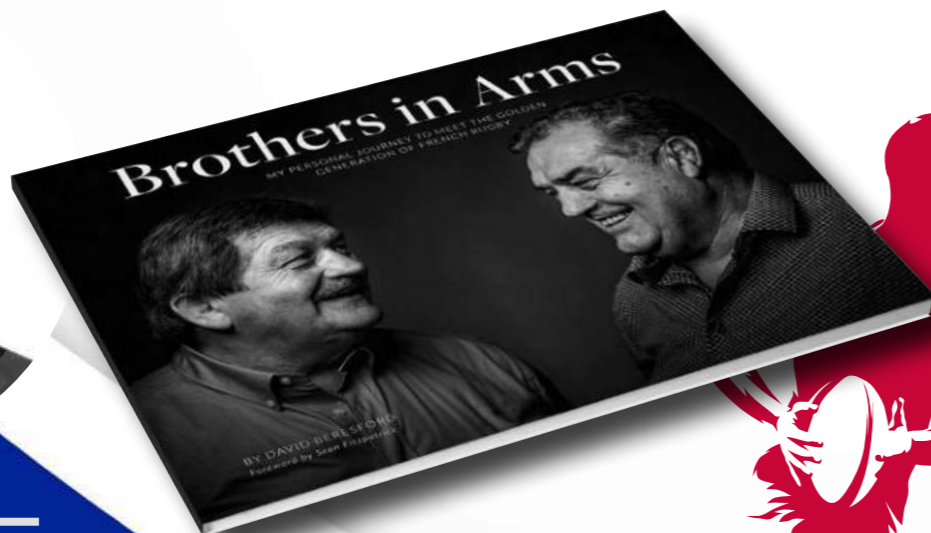
My video of the snow leopard can be seen at:





Vive le rugby, vive la France, vive l'amitié!

David Beresford 1978-1985 reflects on his love of France and rugby and how this led to him writing *Brothers in Arms*, a book about his personal journey to track down the golden generation of French rugby players from the 1980s, to discover their life adventure.



“You may have noticed an emerging theme – my love of France, rugby and wine – and you would be absolutely right!”



Left to right: Philippe Dintrans, David Beresford, Sean Fitzpatrick* and Pascal Ondarts outside Pascal's restaurant, Le Royalty in Biarritz.

*former All Black Captain who wrote the foreword for 'Brothers in Arms'.

KES was a huge part of my life. I may have been there for only a snapshot of my 56 years, but it left an indelible imprint. I had the good fortune of having some wonderful teachers who influenced much of what has followed. Lang Jones was a very important figure to my elder brother, Paul, and me. Our father died at a very young age and Lang helped us enormously across all aspects of school life – sport, discipline, pastoral care and having fun. I'll also always be very grateful to John Wroughton, Derek Kemp, Alan Attenborough, John Fletcher, Dave Holley, and to Roger and Carole Rowe, to name but a few.

So, what have I been doing in the last 38 years?

I went to Loughborough University in October 1986 to study French, Economics and Politics, while playing a lot of rugby. The standard of sport there was and is very high, but I managed to vice-captain the Freshers XV and played regularly for the 1st and 2nd XV. In between, I worked hard and received a First Class degree.

I had taken a gap year after leaving KES, which I spent in Avignon in Provence, France, teaching English to 11-18 year olds. This was a tremendous life-influencing experience. Besides teaching, I used to spend hours in Avignon and the surrounding villages playing rugby for Châteauneuf-du-Pape, running, chatting to the locals, wine-tasting, exploring French food and learning about myself, people and France. I also spent my third year at Loughborough (1988) in Bordeaux, teaching English and playing rugby for the Bordeaux Etudiants Club.

KES was a huge part of my life. I may have been there for only a snapshot of my 56 years, but it left an indelible imprint.



Left to right: Laurent Pardo, Francis Haget, Erik Bonneval and Dominique Erbani

Post-graduation, my first job was with a global management consulting business called Andersen Consulting (now Accenture) in their Paris office. I had the good fortune of working all over France – Paris, Caen, Albertville (our client was the Winter Olympics Organising Committee). I stayed there for five years, following which I ran a number of software, consulting and services companies. In 2015, I was part of the Executive team at Equiniti that floated the business on the London FTSE.

I am now a shareholder and Non-Exec Chairman of a restaurant (www.thelaundrybrixton.com) and wine business (www.specialistcellars.co.uk) in Brixton. We founded the restaurant in November 2019, so the timing was terrible as Covid hit in March 2020. But we are still here and trading strongly. I am also a shareholder and Non-Exec Chairman of a wine-importing business called Carte Blanche Wines (www.cart Blanchewines.com) that brings in wines mainly from France and Spain and sells to top restaurants.

You may have noticed an emerging theme – my love of France, rugby and wine – and you would be absolutely right!

A couple of years after we floated Equiniti, in 2017 I decided to take a few months off to write my dream book. It's called *Brothers in Arms*. Having lived in France for many years, I was in love with French rugby and the French national

side of the 1980s. The players were my boyhood idols and I had always wanted to play and live like them. (I vividly remember training in the school playground during my gap year in Avignon, pretending I was Blanco or Codorniou, my heart pounding and imagining the commentary as I scored in the corner.) And so, in October of that year I went to meet 33 iconic former players from the French rugby team and spent 18 months experiencing their generosity, capturing their spirit and building strong bonds of friendship.

While the book is about rugby players, it isn't really about rugby – it is a book that captures their 'aventure humaine,' as the French would say. It also includes many of my own memories and stories about living, playing and working in France. I released the book in September 2019 and have since appeared on many podcasts and on Radio 4's *Today* programme. It was shortlisted by *The Telegraph* for Rugby Book of the Year in 2020 but, unfortunately, I was runner-up to someone called Eddie Jones ...

As I pen this I am in France again, doing a tour of Stade Toulousain, Stade Rochelais and Montpellier. I will be publishing more articles on French rugby in the run-up to the 2023 Rugby World Cup in France. These will be published on *RugbyPass* and possibly some other media outlets too.

I like to think that Lang Jones would have enjoyed them!

Headmaster's view



Martin Boden

“ These days, we are quietly proud of being a ‘school for adventurous minds’, but it is clear that the environment at King Edward’s has long sought to engender curiosity, a love of learning and exploration and a desire to look outwards and make a positive mark on the world.”



GCSE results day 2023

The King Edward’s experiences of the contributors to this year’s *OELink* magazine span seven different decades and reflect journeys from Broad Street and North Road, across the Junior and Senior Schools, through science, technology, travel, the natural world, film making, sport, public service and more. It is a lovely collection of tales of adventure and challenge, of forging pathways and making the most of the opportunities that come our way. I am always fascinated by the variety of journeys that OEs undertake in their lives beyond the ‘school walls’ and always very grateful to them for sharing these with us in what is another thoroughly entertaining publication.

It is also always a delight to reflect on how the sparks for those journeys were first kindled at KES. These days, we are quietly proud of being a ‘school for adventurous minds’, but it is clear that the environment at King Edward’s has long sought to engender curiosity, a love of learning and exploration and a desire to look outwards and make a positive mark on the world. Of course, I am well aware that the range of opportunities and points of encouragement available to today’s Edwardians are wider and greater than ever, but it was a surprise even to me to read in Dudley’s reflections on his own ‘creative journey’ in his President’s welcome that nowadays we have as many specialist music teachers on our team as there were members of staff at the entire school in his day!

Times do indeed change, and the School is always keen to move on in ways that benefit both our own and the wider community. The environmental sustainability at the heart of Michael Hardisty’s article has also been a growing and important focus for us, and in the last 12 months we have been pleased to be able to install solar panels on the Rutherford Sports Hall roof (covering about a third of our North Road electricity usage), to acquire two new electric vehicles for our Estates fleet (with a third due to join soon) and to significantly expand our engagement with local and organic food producers as part of our increasingly delicious (and healthy) lunch and food offering. As I write, we are well underway with a complete refurbishment of the interior of said Sports Hall, which will see wonderful new teaching, meeting and viewing spaces, as well as a vast, multi-sectioned gym that I suspect will be the envy of schools up and down the country!



Members of the Sustainability Committee and Eco-warriors from the Junior School with the School’s new electric vehicles.



As Sam reflects in his Chairman’s letter, many of the wonderful opportunities that are on offer to our pupils today are generously supported both by individual OEs and by the Committee through their OE Activity Award. OEs also continue to give very important and much appreciated support to our Higher Education and Careers programmes, both through talks, presentations, interview practice and meet-ups and also, in some cases, through work placements and pathway advice. As our Careers Education Co-ordinator Julia Rees-Roberts reflects in this year’s magazine, the Careers offering at KES has gone from strength to strength, and we are thrilled to have been selected as a finalist in this year’s Independent Schools of the Year Awards for our Careers Education programme.

Fortunately, some things don’t seem to change too much at KES, and this

year’s superb public examination results confirm our standing as one of the highest performing schools in the South West. Indeed, despite the much heralded return to pre-pandemic grading levels, our results in almost every grade band of both A Levels and GCSEs were significantly higher than our historic averages prior to 2020, with the 84% 9-7 grades awarded in the latter being a record-breaking figure for the School.

I know that the marriage of academic success, engagement outside the classroom, and that wonderful motivating force of making the most of fantastic opportunities whilst keeping your feet nicely on the ground was an ongoing KES success story of which former Headmaster John Wroughton was very proud, and it is an honour for me to reflect elsewhere in this year’s *OELink* on the peerless contribution to King Edward’s and the lasting legacy of a unique and very special person. Whilst his death earlier this summer was a very sad moment for our community, the opportunity to celebrate both the man and the role that he played in the life of the School at his Thanksgiving Service in Bath Abbey on 16 October will undoubtedly also be a special occasion.

It remains for me to wish all OEs well, wherever you may be and whatever you are doing, to thank you for your ongoing support for our School, and to say that I hope to see as many of you as possible in the coming year, perhaps at one of the many social or reunion events that continue to be such an important and enjoyable fixture in the School calendar.

It is an honour for me to reflect elsewhere in this year’s *OELink* on the peerless contribution to King Edward’s and the lasting legacy of a unique and very special person.





“By endurance we conquer”

Natalie Hewit 2000-2002 is a self-shooting documentary director whose work has won an RTS Award and been nominated for a Grierson and a BAFTA, in addition to two nominations for ‘Best Documentary’ at the Broadcast Awards. She describes her passion for story-telling and working in remote and challenging environments, and her determination to overcome the inequity she encountered when building her career within the TV industry.



Clockwise: Endurance wreck © Falkland Maritime Heritage Trust; Natalie on location at Halley VI Research Station © Pete Bucktrout/British Antarctic Survey

In A Level Theatre Studies, I realised that I have a love for telling stories, because they help us to understand the world around us, both by making sense of our own experiences and exploring those of others.”

I landed my first job in TV in the autumn of 2011 on a BBC One popular science programme called *Bang Goes the Theory*. I couldn't believe my luck - I had wanted to work at the BBC since I was a young child and went on a tour of Television Centre, marvelling at its maze of studios, galleries and lights. Just a couple of months into my new job, I found myself in a remote town in frozen northern Norway, being spun around in a swimming pool whilst strapped into a helicopter simulator. We were due to board a chopper the next morning to fly out to an oil rig and I was told that this training could save my life if it got into difficulties. But that didn't bother me, I was buzzing to be on an adventure ... and, having never made a TV programme before, feeling completely out of my depth!

Little did I know that this was a feeling that would come and go many times during my career, as each new job would open the door to a world I hadn't experienced before - from interviewing NASA scientists to following search and rescue workers into a hurricane, or spending a year filming with the Metropolitan Police.

As I look back over my career so far, I see that much of what I've done is an extension of things I started exploring during my time at KES. In A Level Theatre Studies, I realised that I have a love for telling stories, because they help us to understand the world around us, both by making sense of our own experiences and

exploring those of others. Being part of many KES theatre productions with Sue Curtis, Jill Ross and Jack Robson taught me about the importance of teamwork and trusting those you work with to enable you to be as creative as possible.

My fascination with people, culture and the natural world made studying Geography at KES a wonderful experience. And I remember the freedom of expression, opinion and discussion which was always encouraged in our English Literature classes with Dr Kilroy. KES was a place where I got to explore and push boundaries in a supportive environment and it gave me a fantastic basis for what was to come.

Because, whilst being out of your depth is something that you get used to as a filmmaker, it's never quite comfortable, even though it has led me on many great adventures! There are, however, other parts of the job which I sometimes wish I didn't have to get used to, because the TV industry can be tough at times.

On that first job in Norway, once we'd landed on the oil rig and were setting up the filming gear, the cameraman started

I had wanted to work at the BBC since I was a young child and went on a tour of Television Centre, marvelling at its maze of studios, galleries and lights.

regaling us with tales from his previous shoot in the Arctic and the exploits of his all-male crew. During the story, he opined that “You shouldn't be allowed to film in the polar regions if you can't grow hair on your face”. In other words, “No Women Allowed”. I was stunned. This strange view bore no relation to all the capable women in my life. As a young and inexperienced researcher, I could only conclude that I had a lot to learn about the industry and I worried that perhaps being female might somehow be a problem here. In some ways, it was. Over the following years I saw my male counterparts advance much faster, being trusted more easily and quickly than their female colleagues, especially when it came to operating cameras and directing. It was hard to take but I persevered, teaching myself how to operate a camera and over-performing in my roles, in the hope of being trusted with a bit more responsibility each time.

Then, in 2015, I managed to land an interview with a recruiter for the BBC Documentary Unit. Over the previous years, I'd come to realise that my real passion was for making documentaries, and this meeting was the chance to land my dream job. I spent about half an hour explaining all the ways I had been up-skilling and preparing for this role over the last three years; it felt like it had been a long time coming. When I (eventually) stopped talking, the recruiter looked me straight in the eye and simply said, “You'll never work in documentaries”. Once again, I found myself lost for words. That day was particularly difficult, and



Endurance 22 expedition © Esther Horvath/Falklands Maritime Heritage Trust

Over the following years I saw my male counterparts advance much faster, being trusted more easily and quickly than their female colleagues, especially when it came to operating cameras and directing.”

I remember meeting up with an old friend in the BBC café afterwards, telling him that I was seriously considering quitting the industry. I was tired of the struggle, weary of having to prove myself over and over again, with little support or training in an industry that is almost entirely freelance and devoid of safety nets. My friend has always been a big cheerleader for me and he insisted that I shouldn't quit, that I could still find a way to make the films I was so passionate about. I admit that I didn't really believe him, but I decided to dig deep and keep going.

It was a good decision because just a year later I made my directorial debut with an observational documentary shot on location in Antarctica. In late 2016, I got a voicemail from an old boss of mine

saying: “Do you want to go to Antarctica on your own for three months to shoot a film for the BBC? By the way, I need an answer by lunchtime tomorrow.” Of course, I said yes, and a few months later I boarded the first of many planes which were to take me to Halley VI Research Station on the Brunt Ice Shelf to start filming. It was a completely life-changing experience, living at the end of the world, having very little communication with those back home and no teammates to collaborate with. I had to rely wholly on myself and my instincts to try to capture the essence of this tiny community on film. As a first-time director, I was constantly doubting my decisions and wondering if I was doing it all wrong. My bosses back in London were hugely supportive; the only directive they gave me was: “Make sure you come home safe and well.” At the time I wished they would just tell me exactly what to film, give me a clue – any clue – about what to do. But I now realise that it was the most liberating thing they could have said. Giving me the freedom to fail ultimately helped me to fly. Slowly but surely I started to discover my voice and learn how to use it in my work, and when the film was finally released it was nominated for an industry award for ‘Best Documentary’.

In the years following my trip to Halley, I was desperate to get back to Antarctica, having been totally captivated by the natural beauty and isolation of the white continent. In 2022 I finally got my chance, as the Head of the Media Team and Documentary Director for the *Endurance*

22 expedition. During the course of two months living on a polar research ship, I documented the 100-strong international team's efforts which led to the amazing discovery of the wreck of Sir Ernest Shackleton's lost ship over 3,000m below the frozen surface of the Weddell Sea. The film has since been acquired by National Geographic Documentary Films, and I have been joined on the team by two Oscar-winning co-directors, Jimmy Chin and Elizabeth Chai Vasarhelyi.

I like to think that my career so far is proof that you don't have to listen to people who tell you that you can't pursue your dreams. In fact, when those opinions are based on who you are or where you're from, I would say you almost certainly shouldn't listen to them! I have been really lucky to be able to follow my passions, but I have had to fight for them and I have seen how many women and people of colour in my industry have had to fight harder than their white male counterparts. And so, as I now find myself in the incredibly privileged position of working to tell the story of Sir Ernest Shackleton and his crew – of their perseverance and their incredible determination to never give up – I have developed a great affinity with his old family motto, “By endurance we conquer”.

Endurance (working title) is in production for National Geographic Documentary Films and is due to be released in 2024.



CCF visit to *HMS Queen Elizabeth* and *HMS Victory*

Of all the school trips I've been on, visiting both the largest-ever Royal Navy aircraft carrier and the veteran of the Battle of Trafalgar on the same day must surely be the most exciting!

In May the CCF was invited on board *HMS Queen Elizabeth*, the flagship of the Royal Navy and the largest British warship in history, by the kind permission of her Captain, OE Ian Feasey. On arriving at HMNB Portsmouth, we stopped beside a gigantic vessel which dwarfed the bus (and the base) and we were invited on board. We made our way through a maze of passageways, up and down ladders, and into the Junior Rates' Dining Room, where we had lunch. We then exchanged plaques with the ship – the CCF presented the ship with a KES CCF plaque and they presented us with one of theirs. This is a military tradition observed when different units visit each other. We were then taken on a guided tour of the aircraft carrier – visiting the bridge (where the ship is controlled from), the control tower (where the aircraft are directed from), the vast hangar for the aircraft and the immense flight deck, with the steep ramp at the end to help the aircraft get airborne with their heavy weapons loads. Throughout this, our guides provided a wealth of information and knowledge, which meant all the cadets learnt a lot during the day.

We were then taken just across the harbour to the oldest commissioned ship in the Royal Navy – *HMS Victory*, Nelson's flagship. We followed a path through the



half-lit decks, with the ship immaculately preserved to show just what it was like to live and fight at sea in Napoleonic times, from the captain's spacious cabin to the cramped lower decks, cluttered up with cannons and hammocks, and Nelson's cabin, where he and his captains planned the Battle of Trafalgar. To come from the newest class of ship in the Navy to the oldest was truly an eye-opening experience.

We are all extremely grateful to Captain Ian Feasey and the ship's company of *HMS Queen Elizabeth* for this unforgettable visit.

Sgt Owen Williams (Year 13)



The Contingent's visit to the Senior Service's flagship *HMS Queen Elizabeth* was a real treat for both staff and cadets from KES CCF.

We were warmly welcomed onboard and enjoyed the Navy's hospitality, with a good square meal in the galley followed by a very informative tour of the ship. We explored from top to bottom, taking in the bridge, the flight deck, hangar and wardroom, and learnt about how the ship operates. The day concluded with a visit to *HMS Victory*, where the cadets got a real grasp of the magnitude of change in naval power over the last 245 years.

We are most grateful to Commander Harris, who hosted us on the day and allowed us to exchange plaques, and to our tour guides. Our sincere thanks also go to OE Pat Douglas for facilitating the visit, and to the ship's Captain, OE Ian Feasey for granting us permission to board.

Capt Philip Jones

CONTINGENT COMMANDER
KES CCF

A life in the thin blue line



Nicky Brook 1979-1986 explains his decision to join the Metropolitan Police and follow an action-packed career.

I could tell you a hundred and one stories about my career in the Police, but you wouldn't believe half of them because they would seem far too fantastical, as if plucked from the pages of an action-adventure fiction novel. These anecdotes would be funny, exciting, sad, terrifying and horrific, but never boring. However, the truth is that a lot of what I did, and most police officers currently do, is a mundane routine of the same things over and over again. "The Devil," as they say, "is always in the detail", and that is never truer than in forensics and criminal investigations.

I joined KES in 1979, well before the movement of the Junior School from Broad Street to North Road. I wasn't very academic or sporty but loved music, art and outdoor pursuits, particularly anything that got the adrenaline going. I spent a large amount of my time climbing mountains on school trips, arranged for an Army Air Corps helicopter to land on the school playing fields when I was considering a career with them, and organised a parachuting course for the Sixth Form. Despite considering myself

an anti-establishment punk at the time, I dabbled with the idea of a career in the military, eventually deciding that I wanted to join the Police. To this day, I am still unable to explain why I became part of the 'system' I disliked, but possibly I had overindulged in too many episodes of *The Professionals* and *The Sweeney*, or maybe it was my strong moral compass and a desire to help those in need that outweighed my youthful rebelliousness.

I left KES in 1986 after my A Levels and the following year joined the Metropolitan Police. Forgoing promotion, I chose instead to pursue a career of action. I guess my adrenaline addiction was still very strong. I chose the most exciting, rewarding and interesting

I remained true to my original intentions, as being at the front line enabled me to repeatedly help and make a real difference to so many people's lives.

front-line postings, one after the other, only moving on when I felt I had become stale and needed a new challenge: Clubs & Vice, Territorial Support Group, covert surveillance, undercover work, counter-terrorism, RTPC motorcyclist, 'Tactical Pursuit and Containment' driving, family liaison to the bereaved, technical training instructor at the Police Driving School and 'road death investigation' as a Forensic Collision Investigator. (Who knew that Mr Cunliffe's friction and momentum physics lessons, and Mr Murphy's vector and simultaneous equation maths lessons would ever be needed in the real world?)

As I progressed through my Police career, my thirst for knowledge finally emerged (apologies to the late Dr Wroughton, who seemed a little frustrated with me) and I chose to complete an Open University degree part-time. After a lot of hard work, beaver away into the small hours in my downtime, I was finally awarded my BSc. Not the traditional way to obtain the qualification, but it worked for me.

I left the Police in 2017, having completed 30 years and after spending a few years 'decompressing', I went into



teaching and now find myself lecturing undergraduate and post-graduate Policing students and writing course material full-time at Brunel University, as a contractor with Babcock International.

During my career I experienced a huge variety of life's extremes, and perhaps many 'normal' lifetimes' worth. The Police offered me a smorgasbord of different careers within a career, and I picked a diverse and wide-ranging selection. I enjoyed it very much, and am grateful to have seen and done things that most people will never experience, and I would wholeheartedly recommend it, even to those more mature OEs. However, this career can take its toll on you in later life: mentally, the trauma can be difficult for some to manage and I would be lying if I told you I was unaffected (as I have lost a number of close friends); physically, my hearing was damaged from many years of covert work (wearing a hidden earpiece), not helped by being caught in the blast of an IRA improvised explosive device in the '90s, and I have picked up a fair few miscellaneous scars and broken bones.

I am very proud of my service. Despite never reaching the heady heights of seniority in the Police, I remained true to my original intentions, as being at the front line enabled me to repeatedly help and make a real difference to so many people's lives.



If there are readers who have ever contemplated a career in the Police, whether they are just finishing school, or university, or even those looking for a career change (there is no longer an upper age limit, and the Police value life experience and maturity highly), then please take a closer look. There are currently a number of different routes into Policing: a two-year traditional

To this day, I am still unable to explain why I became part of the 'system' I disliked, but possibly I had overindulged in too many episodes of *The Professionals* and *The Sweeney*, or maybe it was my strong moral compass and a desire to help those in need that outweighed my youthful rebelliousness."



entry, three-year degree, two-year post-graduate diploma (PC or detective) and there is even a direct entry 'counter-terrorism' route. All the courses are fully funded, and recruits are paid a salary as they study.

More than ever before, in what has been described by His Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services (HMICFRS) to be a "short window of opportunity", the Police need good, honest individuals with a strong moral compass to help restore its badly bruised image and carry out an extraordinary role. The vast majority of police officers are of the highest integrity, and you will find a camaraderie unlike any other in the ranks of 'the thin blue line'.



“ I’ve now worked in sustainability for over 15 years, specialising in carbon emissions management, and have found it fascinating as it looks at everyday activities – heating a house, travelling, building a bridge, generating electricity – through the lens of environmental impacts.”

Finding my green feet

Michael Hardisty 1976-1983 writes about how he changed direction and built a rewarding career in the field of environmental sustainability.

Earlier this year I returned to KES to meet up with my oldest friends – the KES leavers of 1983! I had left KES 40 years earlier with A Levels in Economics, Maths and Physics, and headed for the University of Birmingham to study Production Engineering. I’m now Head of Environmental Sustainability at EngineeringUK. It’s a great role, and I love the field of sustainability, but it took me a while to find a career that really suited me.

After university I stayed in engineering for five years, including a Master’s degree in the USA, then moved into IT, spending six years designing local area networks (LANs) and email systems at NatWest Bank. I enjoyed it but knew that IT wasn’t my calling, so joined PwC Consulting to get a broader experience of business. Several projects later, I remember being asked what areas of the business appealed to me next. SAP systems (huge IT behemoths)? Nope. Another e-procurement implementation? Nope. It was time for a career rethink.

I read career self-help books, such as *What Colour is My Parachute* and (much more useful to me) *The Pathfinder* by Nicholas Lore. Armed with the knowledge that I was a ‘Maestro’ (i.e. a specialist) and highly analytical, I zeroed in on a field that I thought would hold my interest: the environment. It’s an area I’d always been intrigued by, triggered, I think, by reading *Bury My Heart at Wounded Knee*, the story of the Native Americans, as a teenager. It made me realise how unsustainable the ‘western’ lifestyle was; climate change was also just being picked up by the media. After a short course in environmental management, to get something on my CV quickly, I dived into another MSc, this time in Climate Change & Sustainable Development, which meant three years of remote learning in my spare time. I was then working at IBM Consulting when I overheard a conversation about how Defra (our client) was looking for a project manager to oversee a new website to educate the public about climate change. I had a quick chat ... and was in!

I’ve now worked in sustainability for over 15 years, specialising in carbon emissions management, and have found it fascinating as it looks at everyday activities – heating a house, travelling, building a bridge, generating electricity – through the lens of environmental impacts.

I joined EngineeringUK in 2021 as their first Head of Environmental Sustainability. The national charity inspires young people to consider a career in engineering and technology (‘eng/tech’). My new role has four elements:



Understanding the future workforce

As the UK moves away from fossil fuels to increased electricity use, generated by renewables, we’ll need more electrical engineers, wind turbine designers, EV-charger installers, and so on. Most of our housing stock (around 27 million homes) will need to be retrofitted for energy efficiency over the next 25 years – around one million homes per year! This will create

hundreds of thousands of jobs, all with different skills needs. Last year we published a report summarising the latest jobs forecasts.



Understanding how to use sustainability to inspire young people into eng/tech

Many young people are engaged with environmental issues, especially climate change. But they tend to hear about the problems and their impacts; they hear far less about the solutions, the vast majority of which are based on new eng/tech – wind turbines, solar PV, alternatives to plastic, etc.

Many also, understandably, suffer from ‘eco-anxiety’. So, we need to make young people aware of the link between sustainability problems and eng/tech solutions and the associated jobs and careers. I recently held a webinar for our supporter organisations, to highlight this need.



Including sustainability in our materials and programmes

EngineeringUK offers free career materials to schools, all highlighting how eng/tech jobs can help address environmental problems. I’m also developing two new classroom activities to be delivered by teachers and Climate Ambassadors, based on the UK’s plans to get to Net Zero by 2050, and the associated

solutions, jobs and careers. We piloted both activities in a handful of schools this July, which was very exciting – we learned a lot too! You can find inspiring engineering case studies, activities and careers resources for young people on Neon at www.neonfutures.org.uk.



Reducing the environmental impact of EngineeringUK

I lead the work to reduce our own environmental impact here at EngineeringUK. We’ve agreed challenging carbon reduction targets (a 90% reduction in emissions by 2040) and are buying verified carbon removal offsets to ensure that we’re a properly Net Zero organisation from 2040 onwards.

If readers are interested in pursuing a career in environmental sustainability, I’d suggest they start by becoming an Affiliate Member of IEMA (the Institute of Environmental Management & Assessment) to get up to speed with the issues and the field

that particularly interests them, such as climate change, biodiversity loss or plastic waste. They might then look at getting a qualification in that area. It’s a fascinating sector which I’m sure will continue to flourish and offer people rewarding careers.

The wonderful world of wine

Paul Smith 1977-1988 shares his knowledge and enjoyment of the world of wine.



From the Ancient Greeks, who worshipped the mythological god of wine Dionysus, to the latest custodians of traditional old estates, such as Aubert de Villaine, co-owner of the *Domaine de la Romanée-Conti* in France, wine has long been celebrated as a restorative, and the world of wine is a vast and fascinating subject to explore.

Growing up, I learnt a lot about wine from my parents, who had excellent palates, and Sunday lunches were a great excuse for an informal wine-tasting, whatever my parents opened. I soon became familiar with different grape varieties, wine styles and regional flavours. My favourite region, then and now, is Champagne in France, and I particularly rate Pol Roger champagne.

It is estimated that 35 billion bottles of wine are produced around the world each year. Many nations make wine, but the major wine-producing countries are Italy, France, Spain and the USA. The industry is also seeing relative newcomers joining the modern market, such as Moldova, Romania, India and China.

France traditionally produces the world's greatest variety of wine, from the simple, delicate rosé wines of Provence, at £7-£10 per bottle, all the way to the top Burgundy wines of Romanée-Conti mentioned above. Depending on the vintage, these can sell for as much as £30,000 a bottle. Most people will know of the wine regions of Bordeaux, Burgundy, Loire and Rhone Valley and Champagne. Additionally, you have regions such as Cognac and Armagnac producing grapes to make brandy, with Sauternes and Barsac – two of the five wine regions in Bordeaux – making, in my view, some of the best dessert wines on the planet, from Sauvignon Blanc and Sémillon grapes.

In 2016 I joined the board of Sell My Wine, a wine-trading and brokerage business set up by Reece Clarke and Dan Haigh, who deal in global, top-end wines. They both had significant experience within the wine industry and the company is flourishing, with wine being bought and sold all around the world to many colourful characters.

One of the great pleasures of being with the company is the wonderful wine-tastings I am fortunate to attend. Bottles wrapped in foil are tasted blind, with just a sip taken to try and guess the wine and

“ My favourite region, then and now, is Champagne in France, and I particularly rate Pol Roger champagne.”



vintage. Some of the great sommeliers can identify a wine down to within a square metre of where it originates from. I, on the other hand, am content just to taste and enjoy, and I'm happy if I get the country or grape variety right!

There are so many books available to read about wine, but in my experience a good overall reference guide is *The Sotheby's Wine Encyclopedia* by Tom Stevenson. This was particularly useful to me as a novice, and it continues to provide a very valuable insight into different growing regions, grape varieties and styles of wine around the world. Happy reading and cheers everyone!



Welcome to my Haus

Katie Thomson 1999-2010 tells us how a love of travel and interior design has helped to shape her professional and personal life.



If you ever had to come looking for me at school, you'd be reliably informed that I'd be found in the Art department. I practically lived there, spurred on by the creative trio of art teaching staff, Mike Pell, Hope Blamire and Darren Willison.

Writing and design were the core of my KES career, fuelled by the dynamic and inspiring teaching staff of the Art and English departments. After finishing my A Levels in 2010, I went on to Warwick University, where I graduated in 2013 with First Class Honours in History of Art. From there it was straight into the publishing world, my interests in that field amplified by a hands-on role as a features editor.

Work gave me the chance to travel widely, eventually becoming the Publishing Editor of luxury lifestyle

magazine *Epicure* alongside the 28 local lifestyle magazines that I oversee at Minerva Publications. A love of travel has been a common thread in my life. Indeed, KES afforded me many opportunities to move my itchy feet, with trips to Barcelona, Santander, Marrakech and a tour of New Zealand. Also my degree was complemented by a term in Venice. (I did even manage to write some essays between the Aperol Spritzes!)

Back in 2017, after another visit to the inimitable city of Marrakech, I decided to launch my homewares business, Haus. Haus began as an online shop bringing together artisanal handicrafts from around the globe, a place where I could indulge my avidity for travel and design in one place. The name derives from my maternal heritage – my grandmother was German. Sadly, my own German career at school never really progressed beyond asking where I could take my batteries to be recycled (*Wo kann ich meine Batterien*

recyclen – now you know!) but the name struck a chord with me and the business was born.

The early steps involved importing from Morocco and India, growing to include Turkey, Mali, Thailand, Laos and Portugal. I traded online for a few years, yearning to have a bricks and mortar shop. However, as I wanted to continue my career in publishing, managing the two simultaneously seemed impossible. I stepped my sister, who offered to man a shop during the week, allowing me to continue to work in an industry I'm so passionate about, whilst also fulfilling a dream to see my collections come to life in a physical space.

I opened my first pop-up in Bath last November, with the intention of giving it a good go for three months. Here we are now nearly a year later, with a new, larger home at 3 Abbeygate Street and a growing collection of both internationally and locally sourced homewares and gifts. We've even grown to stock furniture, with Swyft sofas alongside our cushion displays.

You'll find me in there most Fridays and Saturdays, probably waxing lyrical about the origins of Hmong fabric and Mali mud cloth or just having a natter about earrings or kimonos. I can't tell you what a thrill it is to be able to help customers curate a beautiful home full of meaningful pieces, or even just to find that perfect gift for a loved one.



www.hauslife.co.uk
3 Abbeygate Street, Bath

To contribute news and photos for the next *OElink* or future *OE e-newsletters*, please email alumni@kesbath.com.

Martin Vine 1971

Retired from the Army as Brigadier (The Gloucestershire Regiment) and then worked as COO for an executive search network until 2012. He is now involved with regimental association matters and the Soldiers of Gloucestershire Museum. He has recently been assisting the artist and ex-England cricketer, Jack Russell, who is painting oil portraits of the last eight surviving Glosters from the Battle of Imjin River in Korea. The paintings will be exhibited at the Soldiers of Gloucestershire Museum in October 2023 to mark 70 years since the veterans returned home.

Geoff Bowles 1977 (left 1975)



Set up a dairy farm in Beckington with his wife Kim in 1982. Still run by the Bowles family, Ivy House Farm is now home to 120 Jersey cows and supplies organic milk products to customers all over the south of England, including to retailers such as Fortnum and Mason in London. KES became a happy customer last year and Geoff says: "We are delighted to have the opportunity to supply the School." KES Catering Manager Marcus Miller reports: "It is fantastic to be using locally produced and delicious organic fare from Ivy House Farm in the School's kitchen!"

Julian Bishop 1981

His first poetry collection, *We Saw It All Happen*, was published in January 2023. The book is a collection of poems about the climate emergency and is published by Fly on the Wall Press. At times dark and humorous, the poems ask whether bearing witness is sufficient given the scale of the emergency and draw on his long career as a television journalist. Reviewer Emma Lee remarked: "It's not a didactic, handwringing swansong that writes humanity off completely. Politicians are fair game, their reluctance to make real, lasting change explored through satire. Oil swaggers in and drifts out like Trump. Julian Bishop seeds hope. It's not too late (yet)."

A former runner-up in the Ginkgo Prize for Eco Poetry, Julian has won numerous other competition prizes and been widely published in poetry magazines. He still works as a journalist and media trainer and has had a lifelong interest in ecology.

For more information, visit www.julianbishoppoet.com.



Scott Harrison 1983

Is running residential circus courses, just 2km away from a sandy beach in Puglia in Italy, with accommodation and a camping area available. Visit www.the.sprockets.com to find out more about learning aerial skills and acrobalance.

Tim Rutherford (left Junior School in 1984)

Is a partner at the law firm Stone King in Bath, working in the charity and social enterprise team. He was honoured by the Catholic Church earlier this year when Pope Francis bestowed the honour of admitting him to the Pontifical Equestrian Order of Saint Sylvester Pope and Martyr as a knight, to thank him for his great service and commitment over the years to the Association of Provincial Bursars.

Ben Bond 1993



After studying History and Politics at the University of Southampton, he took a teaching qualification and taught History in secondary education, progressing to become a senior leader across a number of schools in Hampshire and Wiltshire. In 2013 he became a Headteacher and in 2021 was appointed as an Executive Principal for one of the UK's largest academy trusts, Oasis Community Learning. Despite the escalating challenges, he really enjoys working in education.

David Davies 1994

His poetry collection, *Sir David and the Green Card*, was published by Wipf and Stock in July 2023. From a dark beginning in cold British traffic to the seared highways of California, his poems recount a ten-year quest for permanence in the United States and the motley characters – real and imagined – he met along the way. He would like to thank all his friends who listened to his bad Sixth Form poetry without complaint all those years ago. For more information, visit www.wipfandstock.com.

Anna Clasper 2002

Is working as a freelance movement director and choreographer in theatre, with performances at Opera North, Brixton House and Brighton Dome in 2023. Visit www.annaalvarez.co.uk.

George Pell 2002

After working in London restaurants for over 15 years, he opened The Suffolk Sur-Mer, a seafront restaurant with rooms in Aldeburgh-on-Sea in Suffolk last summer. Restaurant critic Jay Rayner described his visit as "a sweet celebration, perfectly executed".

For more information, visit www.the-suffolk.co.uk.

Tom Bowles 2003

Runs the Hartley Farm Shop and Kitchen in Winsley. He and his team were extremely proud to be crowned the Best Farm Restaurant in the UK at the Farm Retail Association Awards in March this year. Tom says: "We were nominated alongside some hugely inspiring and well-known businesses and were very grateful to be finalists, so winning was a huge shock! We also got to meet one of our food heroes, Hugh Fearnley-Whittingstall, as he presented us with the award. All round it was a great night for our little family business."



James Sellick 2005

Visited all the year group classes at the Pre-Prep School in early March to read from his new books, *Storm Goliath* and *Saving Piku*, and to speak to the pupils about emotions and how to recognise and manage big feelings, both in themselves and others.

The books are the first in a new series that James has written, entitled *Dealing with Feeling*, and are published by New Frontier Publishing. As well as writing for children, James works as a Creative Director for Mother in London.



Alan Bowman 2010

Recently got engaged to his long-term girlfriend Emma and will be getting married next summer. He is currently based in Lausanne, Switzerland where he is developing technologies for carbon dioxide utilisation at EPFL.

Rob Goodman 2011

Is a Captain in the Royal Regiment of Artillery and was awarded an MBE in the Military Division of The Queen's Birthday Honours List in June 2022.

Cordelia Linacre-Brown and Henry Brown 2011

Got married in summer 2022. They first met at KES in 2009 and started dating before they left school. "Our wedding was in Bath – the city that we love – and was filled with Old Edwardians, including four of the bridesmaids and three of the groomsmen!" (Holly Abbott (née Penny) 2011, Cat Lamb 2011, Charlotte Linacre 2001, Lottie Brown 2017, Rory Lyddon 2011, Rory McKenna 2011 and Ben Lindsay 2011). They celebrated the birth of their first child, Oscar, in July 2023.

David Jones 2013

Is happy to announce the birth of his first son, Rory, born in early July at a whopping 10lbs. He's already tall – just like his dad!

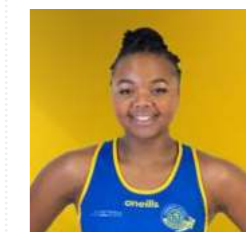


Trent Pieterse 2013

Is a Senior Associate at RBB Economics in London, a consultancy advising mainly on mergers and acquisitions among other areas of competition economics. After several years advising Google, he was invited on a year's secondment to Google's internal economics team, returning to RBB in March 2023. A keen musician since his time at KES, he continues to practise guitar most days (work permitting) and is enjoying a return to London's live music scene after the lockdown years.

Stevie Toddler 2013 (left 2011)

Is a double bass player, bass guitarist and a singer/songwriter based in Bristol. Her debut album *Such Big Ideas* was released in summer 2022.



Summer Artman 2015

Visited the Senior School in March to deliver a netball masterclass to

KES players, alongside a Q&A session involving multiple year groups. She currently plays in the Superleague for Team Bath Netball. Her international experience includes the Vitality Roses (four caps as of January 2023); England U21 – World Youth Cup and England U17 – Netball Europe.



The Tony Pike Cup

Sunday 11th June saw OEs Adrian Bird (1980) and Ian Pike (1986) bringing together teams to play a memorial cricket match for Ian's late brother, OE Tony Pike (1980).

Tony was tragically killed, aged 19, in a car accident when he was at university, and his great friends from KES, Adrian Bird and Colin June, set up the Tony Pike Cup in his name soon afterwards. The match was played annually for a number of years to raise funds for good causes

and to remember Tony. A series of recent coincidences led to Tony's younger brother, Ian, meeting up with Adrian and Colin to resurrect the match this year.

The weather was glorious and the teams, which included players from both Tony's and Ian's years at KES, were supported by players from a local club, The Offsiders, as well as Tony's youngest nephew, Harry, who all battled it out for the Cup. Adrian and Colin captained the two teams, which both included a mix of experienced

players and those who had not picked up a bat for years! Tony was very much at the forefront of the day, as old friends were brought together again on their old school pitch, decades after leaving the School. Colin's team won the match, with the trophy presented to the Pike family for safekeeping until the next match. The Pike family were extremely touched by the support shown by everyone and discussions are already taking place to arrange a rematch in 2024.



FORMER STAFF NEWS



Peter and Adwoa Winter

The School was delighted to welcome former Headmaster Peter Winter (1993-2002) and his wife Adwoa to

KES in April to meet up with current Headmaster Martin Boden and staff they had previously worked with.

Sue Bury and Lachmi Bose

Despite retiring in 2002 and 2001, former support staff Sue Bury and Lachmi Bose are still good friends and are pictured here enjoying a holiday in Malta.



In memoriam

NEIL HOWARD APPLETON

At KES 1972-1979 (class of 1981)
Passed away 12 September 2022, aged 59, after a short illness

MICHAEL CAMM BENNETT

At KES 1937-1948
Passed away 2 October 2022, aged 93
A full obituary can be viewed on the Royal Society for Chemistry website:
[Dr Michael Camm Bennett \(rsc.org\)](https://www.rsc.org)

BRIAN RAMSAY COBB

At KES 1962-1969
Passed away 25 March 2023, aged 72
Brian trained as a Geography teacher at Worcester College of Education, before starting a 33-year teaching career as Head of Geography at two South Warwickshire schools – Bidford on Avon High School and Alcester Academy. He enjoyed a good retirement, focusing on his love of sailing and gardening. He will be remembered by so many people for his kindness, generosity and loyalty.
Mike Woollacott

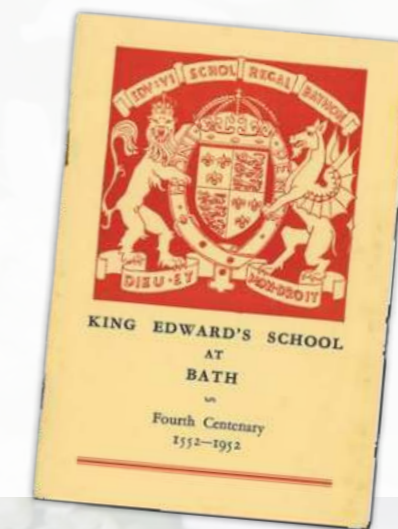
GRAHAM JOHN HEMBURY

At KES 1945-1951
Passed away 4 March 2020, aged 86
Graham won a scholarship to King Edward's where he showed a talent for art and maths. After leaving school, he joined Beresford Smith Architects to apprentice in architecture. He worked on various local buildings including Culverhay School and St Barnabas Church. He also attended the church, and it was there that he met and married Margaret. He completed his national service in Aden where he worked as an architectural draughtsman. On his return to the UK, he moved his family to Devon and worked in Exeter for Devon County Council to help rebuild and regenerate the city after the war. One kiosk he designed won him an award and gave Exeter an iconic stylish street shop. After working for a private architectural firm, he became self-employed and he and Margaret ran

a consultancy business from home. Their love of buildings and travel took them around the world, appreciating the architecture that the different countries had to offer. Graham supported local projects in his village and enjoyed many sports, his garden, holidays and spending time with his family, and a good glass of wine!



Following his death, his children discovered numerous paintings of Bath when clearing the house. Amongst these were original drawings and correspondence from Headmaster H M Porter, showing that Graham had drawn the School's Coat of Arms which was used to mark KES's fourth centenary in 1952 and was subsequently on the cover of the School's *Edwardian* magazine.
With thanks to his daughter, Judith Taylor



JOSEPH HOROVITZ

At KES Autumn Term 1939
Passed away 9 February 2022, aged 95

WILLIAM (BILL) MANNINGS

At KES 1942-1946
A KES Governor 1980-2012
Passed away 15 May 2023, aged 92

RICHARD PENN

At KES 1980-1991
Passed away in August 2022, aged 49

Former staff

ANDREW THOMAS

At KES 1978-1996
Passed away 5 August 2023, aged 89



Andrew was appointed caretaker to the Junior School in 1978, becoming Resources Manager when the School relocated to North Road. He will be remembered by many OEs and their parents for his nurturing pastoral care and the positive impact he made on so many lives.

His pride and passion for the KES mission, its pupils, staff and parents remained until his dying day.

Steve Thomas

DR JOHN WROUGHTON

At KES 1965-1993
Headmaster from 1982-1993
Passed away 16 May 2023, aged 88

In his near 30-year career at King Edward's, John Wroughton was first Head of History, then Second Master and latterly Headmaster of the school he loved and which he continued to support with great affection and loyalty right up to his death earlier this summer, aged 88.

The school from which John retired in 1993 was undoubtedly a very different school from the one that he joined in 1965, not just in its make-up (girls joined the Sixth Form for the first time in 1986, paving the way for full co-education just over a decade later) or size (numbers on roll more than doubled during the '60s and '70s and grew again by well over 10% during his time as Headmaster), but most importantly in its ethos and feel, a school increasingly renowned not just for its academic excellence but for the strength of its pastoral care, the breadth of its educational offering and, to use John's own words, "the warm and friendly atmosphere which exists within our community, a community built on trust and respect".

John was, first and foremost, a passionate, hugely enthusiastic, impressively knowledgeable and wonderfully effective Teacher of History, and many of the tributes to him from Old Edwardians that have poured into school in recent months have highlighted how he "brought History to life" with his "infectious enthusiasm and expertise".

A renowned local historian and writer, John's knowledge of, and insights into, his favourite period covering the English Civil War were matched only by the eagerness with which he donned helmet, breastplate and leather tunic as he led scores of pupils into a re-enacted Battle of Lansdown under the aegis of the Sealed Knot. Years after he had

left King Edward's, John's illuminating annual visits to the Pre-Prep and Junior Schools saw generations of younger pupils continue to be enthralled by his story telling, often illustrated by the odd pike or halberd or indeed any artefact that would help to recreate the aura of the time. John continued to research and write well into retirement, publishing over 20 books in his lifetime, along with many scholarly articles, as well as giving more than 350 lectures to over 100 historical societies. He was particularly and deservedly proud to be called upon by the BBC as an expert commentator for one of the programmes in its series, *Who Do You Think You Are?*

A passionate and talented sportsman, John set up the first ever KES ski trip (to Norway in 1967) and was also in charge of the School's athletics programme, where his ability to spot natural talent

and identify potential led to several pupils competing with great credit in the National Schools' Championships. Most successful of all was John's tenure as coach of the U15s' rugby team, whose 'golden period' saw a run of 34 victories out of 35 matches played (over three seasons), with more than 1,000 points scored to just 71 conceded. The recipe for success, according to John, was "to build up team spirit and bonding, to concentrate in joint measure on fitness and the learning of skills and, above all, to aim to win", all backed up by his oft-repeated mantra that "there is no joy in losing"!

As Second Master (from 1974) and later Headmaster (from 1982), John's approach was often innovative and transformative. He introduced an annual fundraising ball for parents, oversaw two major development campaigns and was a co-founder of



The second ski trip to Norway in 1968, with Ken Saunders on far left and John on far right.

John launched the end of year KES Activities Week in the early '80s, still much loved and eagerly anticipated by our pupils 40 years later.

what was to become the much-lauded KES Arts Festival. Already a pioneer of horizon-broadening trips and visits, including overseas sports tours, John launched the end of year KES Activities Week in the early '80s, still much loved and eagerly anticipated by our pupils 40 years later. He also developed partnerships and fundraising links with schools both local and further afield, including in Kenya and South Africa. Recognising that KES needed to grow and change in response to the modern demands of a much larger pupil and staff body, John guided the School through what was undoubtedly one of the most significant phases of development in its history, and a rapid expansion of facilities saw a new Sixth Form Centre, a new Art and Design Centre, new computer and language laboratories and the new Astroturf and Sports Hall that still grace the school grounds today, as well as the purpose-built Porter Library in the building that is now G Block. Along the way, he welcomed such luminaries to the School as the Princess Royal and Sebastian (now Lord) Coe, having previously as Second Master welcomed to KES the then Secretary of State for Education, Margaret Thatcher.

Perhaps the most significant developments of that time came with the aforementioned admission of girls into the Sixth Form and the relocation of the Junior School from Broad Street to its current North Road site into

what was – and remains – a superbly designed educational facility that was undoubtedly ahead of its time.

In retirement, John was a regular theatre- and concert-goer and enjoyed the freedom to indulge both his love of – and talent for – historical writing and his passion for travel, visiting Canada, Indonesia, New Zealand, China, Zanzibar, Mozambique, France, Portugal and Italy, amongst others. He was also a regular guest on the *Hebridean Princess* (whose Chief Pursar was an Old Edwardian and former pupil of John's, of course!), visiting the beautiful Western Isles of Scotland on no fewer than 12 occasions. Above all, John loved to spend time at his apartment in Tenerife, relaxing by walking along the coast or on the slopes of Mount Teide and making use of the peace and solitude to research and write his books.

John also continued to play an active and significant role in the life of King Edward's, both as a returning expert on the Civil War and other aspects of local history (my own son, now about to start his GCSEs, has very fond memories of Dr Wroughton's most entertaining visit!) and as a Governor of the School for four years (he was on the panel that appointed me as Headmaster!). In 2015 he returned to KES in an official capacity as our Founder's Day preacher in Bath Abbey, familiar territory to him after more than four decades as a Church of England Lay Reader. Perhaps most significantly, John introduced and sponsored a series of annual 'Wroughton Lectures', presented by, amongst others, several household names from the worlds of History, Science and the Arts, such as David Starkey, Michael Wood, Chris Rapley, OE, and Sir Christopher Frayling (twice). Still going strong 20 years after inception, this prestigious and ambitious lecture series has educated



Launching the School's fourth Development Appeal with Joan and Bill Gilligan in 1988.

and entertained in equal measure. More importantly, it was John's express wish that all proceeds from ticket sales should go to supporting the School's Bursary Programme, a cause very close to his heart and one which has benefited by more than £30,000 as a result of his generosity and altruism.

It should come as no surprise to anyone who knew John that he always placed great value on this area of School life; indeed, it is a great measure and reflection of his character that so much of his public life was dedicated to providing others with opportunities and then giving them the tools and encouragement to make the most of them. John's own journey – from very humble beginnings in the Midlands



The Princess Royal visited KES in 1988 to open the new Porter Library.

In memoriam

(his father owned a painting and decorating business in Derbyshire, but died when John was just three, leaving his mother to bring up him and his brother on her own), via Ashby-de-la-Zouch Grammar School and thence to Hertford College, Oxford to read Modern History – spoke to his great drive, ambition and meritocratic sense of wanting to grasp all the opportunities that came his way whilst also striving to be the best version of himself that he could be, a mantra that he would ardently pass on in later life to generations of Edwardians. John certainly felt that the pathway to fulfilling one's potential provided by King Edward's mirrored his own, and in his memoir – aptly entitled *The Little Boy From Swadlincote* – he wrote: "Although it was an independent day school, it

came out of the solid grammar school tradition, with a strong emphasis on free places and bursaries for able children from less affluent families."

The many glowing tributes from Old Edwardians that have been sent in to School since John's death highlight his passion for, and mastery of, his subject and the craft of teaching, his loyalty and dedication to King Edward's, his encouragement to all pupils to aim high in all they did and to enjoy the full breadth of educational opportunities that came their way and, perhaps most impressive of all, his ability to recall the name of every single child in the School and to know something of significance about each and every one of them, a most endearing trait. He is variously described in their reflections as "inspiring", "calm, intelligent and caring",

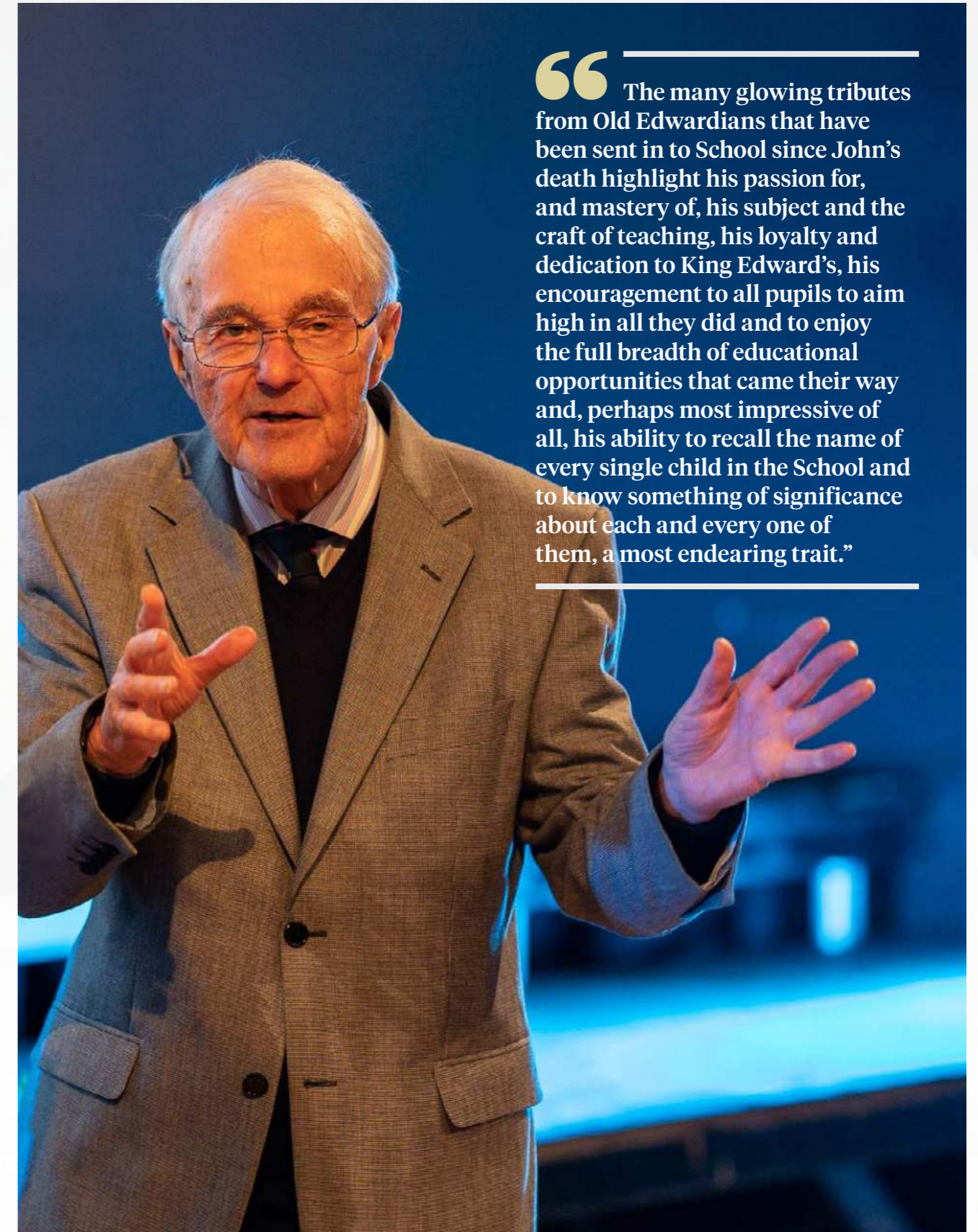


"kind-hearted and full of humour", "a teacher who had time for all" and someone who "always saw the best in everyone", "a true gentleman" and "a wonderful, quintessentially English Headmaster", to quote from just some of those tributes.

I know from my many coffee meetings, dinners and catch-ups with John over the years that he remained immensely proud both of his own time at King Edward's and of the School that it is today, not just in terms of its success and popularity, but more importantly in the ethos and values that he held to be his own. The "community built on trust and respect" that he considered to be of such vital importance is just one part of a remarkable legacy that continues to shape the lives of King Edward's pupils today. Dr John Wroughton was a brilliant and inspiring Headmaster and a unique and wonderful man, whose like we may never see again. He will be sorely missed but most fondly and gratefully remembered.

Martin Boden

As Second Master (from 1974) and later Headmaster (from 1982), John's approach was often innovative and transformative.



“ The many glowing tributes from Old Edwardians that have been sent in to School since John's death highlight his passion for, and mastery of, his subject and the craft of teaching, his loyalty and dedication to King Edward's, his encouragement to all pupils to aim high in all they did and to enjoy the full breadth of educational opportunities that came their way and, perhaps most impressive of all, his ability to recall the name of every single child in the School and to know something of significance about each and every one of them, a most endearing trait.”



Maintaining strong, mutually supportive links with King Edward's School.

Fostering an ongoing sense of community and heritage across the generations.

Stay in touch!

All OEs and former staff are warmly welcomed to the worldwide community of Old Edwardians when they leave King Edward's School.

Enjoy free life membership with great benefits:

- OE e-newsletters full of the latest OE and School news
- personal copy of the annual OELink magazine
- OE Talkabouts - video/audio content
- invitations to a varied calendar of OE and School events
- links to the OE network for social and career contacts
- opportunities to give back to the KES community with higher education and careers advice
- OE social media: follow, like and share the word!

   KESBathOEs

Visit www.kesbath.com/oe to find out how you can get involved with the OE community.

Apart from the OELink magazine which is sent by post (unless you confirm your preference for a digital copy), all OE e-newsletters, OE Talkabouts, bulletins and event invitations are sent by email.

Please update us with any changes to your contact details so we can continue to send you all the latest information and ensure you are on our future mailing lists.

Email alumni@kesbath.com or call **01225 464313 x 257**



ANNIVERSARY REUNION

10TH 20TH
30TH 40TH
50TH

**SATURDAY
20 APRIL 2024
11am-3pm**

**THE WESSEX BUILDING,
KING EDWARD'S SCHOOL**

11am Coffee and pastries

11.30am Group photos and tour of the School

1-3pm Informal buffet lunch with pay bar

Free entry Tickets will be issued on a first come, first served basis

**FOR THE CLASSES
OF 2014, 2004, 1994,
1984 AND 1974**

★ SAVE THE DATE ★

Invitations for this event will be sent in early 2024 to all the OEs in the above anniversary year groups for whom we have an email address.

To join the digital mailing list, please email alumni@kesbath.com