

Winter 2021



**King's
Worcester**

Connect



The magazine for the Old Vigornians of The King's School, Worcester

Contents

2	A Letter from the Headmaster	16	Barnabas	23	Features on Teachers
3	Memories	17	King's Today	25	Where are they now?
4	OV Visits	18	OV Weddings	26	A Picture Paints a Thousand Words
8	Remembrance Day	20	OVs in the News		
9	Reunions and events	22	Archives		

A Letter from the Headmaster



As we see in the new year, it is with great pleasure that I introduce this latest edition of Connect Magazine to our Old Vigornian community.

I have talked a great deal this year with our pupils about the very special place that is King's and the role they, as Vigornians, play in making an impact upon the future of their School, their communities and indeed the world. Winston Churchill said, "We shape our buildings; thereafter they shape us." For 480 years, the beautiful surroundings of the Cathedral and School have shaped the young people who spend their days here, inspiring and empowering generations of kind, ambitious and well-rounded individuals who take their King's experiences with them throughout their lives, whatever path they choose to follow.

We have a vision at King's: to embrace our history and tradition whilst ensuring the young people in our care leave us armed with confidence and resilience as they enter an ever-changing world. We are committed to being a safe and inclusive institution and much work is being done by both the pupils and the staff body in regard to this, opening up discussions, promoting inclusion, equality and diversity across all that we do, and reviewing every aspect of our provision. I am proud of our School community as we collectively commit to this mission.

I can assure you all that your School is in good heart and health. We have had a super start to the new academic year, with much to reflect upon and celebrate. Coronavirus continues to have an impact upon our activities and I cannot stress enough my thanks to the staff and pupil body for their positivity, flexibility and resilience. Whilst

it has been wonderful to take steady steps towards a more 'normal' school life, there remain significant impacts and restrictions on activities and lessons. In true King's style, these hurdles have been approached with optimism and innovation, with the pupils at the heart of our responses.

There have been significant sporting successes to celebrate. Those who remember well the annual rugby fixture against The Royal Grammar School will be delighted to know that King's retained the Modus Cup this year with an emphatic 39-12 win. We've also seen our U16 netballers crowned District and then County Champions, alongside other wonderful achievements in the pool, on the river, the tracks and the fields.

Although outdoors on a rather chilly November evening, it was a joy to see the Open Mic Night in a live format again, with the audience wrapped up warm and armed with hot chocolate. The School Production of "We Will Rock You" took place in the John Moore Theatre with a reduced but hugely enthusiastic and delighted audience. The performers and all involved in the production should be heartily congratulated on what was a fantastic show.

Our GCSE artists enjoyed a very successful trip to St Ives, visiting museums and galleries and taking part in workshops. Our CCF contingent goes from strength to strength and it was a pleasure for me to hand out Passing Out certificates to last year's recruits and to see several promotions and awards for our current cadets.

I have been delighted to welcome many prospective families to Open Events and tours here at King's. It has been a pleasure to show so many people what a special place our School is and to showcase all we have to offer.

September saw the annual OV Reunion Weekend, my first of these events. It was a joy to meet the many OVs who returned. We have equally enjoyed seeing our newest OVs and five-year leavers for their reunions in the School Gardens. A very successful OV Professions meet in London exhibited perfectly the strength, diversity and benefits of the OV community; it is truly a network for life.

Many of you were devastated by the deaths of Hon OVs Pat Edwards and Marc Roberts. I know their families have been touched by the warmth and support of the OV community. We remember and thank both Pat and Marc for their tremendous service to King's. They will be greatly missed.

So many OVs have lent their support to our pupils. To all those who have offered motivation, inspiration and advice, I offer my immense gratitude.

Our commitment to providing a King's experience to any child who would benefit, regardless of social or economic background, remains a priority. To the many of you financially supporting life-changing bursaries at King's, I thank you. We still have a way to go to provide the forty free places as envisioned by Henry VIII, however it is with huge thanks to OV donors that each year we are offering more places to children who could not come to King's without bursarial support.

I wish you a happy and healthy 2022. Please know how welcome you are at King's any time. We would love to see you.

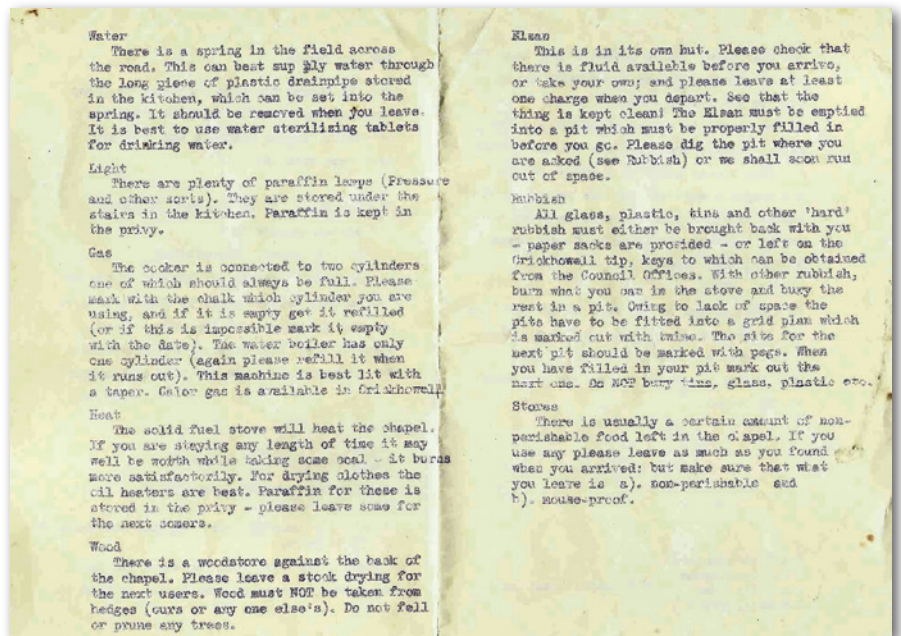
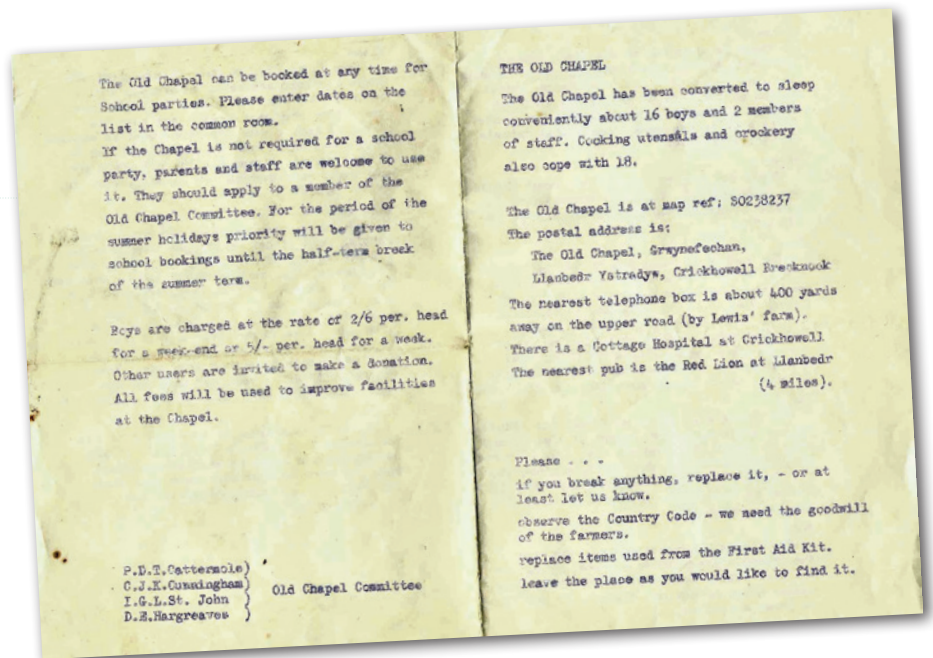
Gareth Doodes MA FRSA

Memories

Coincidentally, shortly before reading King's Connect Number 50 with its fascinating article about the history of the Old Chapel, I came across a box containing papers relating to my time at The King's School and amongst them was a set of rules for users of the chapel which dates from the late 1960s. I have scanned this and wondered whether it might bring back happy memories to other users of the chapel at the time.

Mention of the nearest telephone being away up the valley reminded me that, in those pre-mobile phone days, a couple of us decided to hike up to the phone box one dark evening to let our families know we hadn't fallen off a mountain or drowned in the stream. Unfortunately, although the telephone had reached part-way up the Grwyne Fechan valley, mains electricity hadn't and the phone box was in total darkness. As neither of us had remembered to bring a torch, this made dialling our home numbers impossible so we resorted to dialling 100 for the operator to request assistance. When the very polite Welsh lady asked why we couldn't dial for ourselves, we explained that it was too dark to see. The operator said, "Is there no light in there" and we explained there wasn't any light in the kiosk. The lady's response, in a very Welsh accent, was "I expect it's been vandalised". The thought of the local hooligans trekking several miles out of Crickhowell to smash the solitary light bulb in a remote telephone kiosk kept us chuckling for some time.

David Anscombe (W65-72)



Who remembers this Chess Club Cup? The plinth includes winners from 1904 to 1960. There are lots of exciting plans ahead for

the further development of chess at King's. Please get in touch with us for further information on how OVs can be involved.



OV Visits

A Catch-up with OV and Former Robert Harley Award Recipient

In June it was a real pleasure to welcome OV **Sam Walker (Ch 10-17)** back to King's Worcester.

Sam was just coming to the end of his third year at The University of Southampton, where he was studying for an integrated Masters in Marine Biology. Whilst last year has been tremendously tough for the students, given the difficulties of, and restrictions on attending lab tutorials in person, Sam was hugely positive and was thoroughly enjoying the course.

During his visit back to King's, Sam and Development Director, **Liz Elliott** visited

the Biology department, where Sam had spent many hours during his own time at the School. He was thrilled to meet his sixth form teacher of Biology, **Mrs Nicki Essenhigh (Co 84-86)** as well as Head of Biology, **Hon OV Dr Matt Parkin**. They were both very interested to hear about the research work that Sam has been doing in Southampton, looking into the impact of ecological light pollution on coral reefs.

We are always delighted to see OVs who have recently left King's back in School, and their teachers really enjoy the opportunity to find out what their former students are up to.



OV Marcus Ferrar Visit

On Friday 18th June it was an absolute pleasure to welcome OV **Marcus Ferrar (Cr 53-63)** back to King's.

During his time at King's, Marcus was Head of School and involved in Rowing, CCF and Football. Marcus took A Levels in French, German and Latin at King's before going to the University of London to study French and German.

Marcus is an author and communication consultant who spent over 30 years working for Reuters as both a Foreign Correspondent and in the Senior Management. Books Marcus has written have included *Slovenia 1945: Memories of Death and Survival after World War II*, *A Foot in Both Camps: a German Past for Better and for Worse*, *The Budapest House: a Life Re-discovered* and *The Fight For Freedom*.

Marcus was with us for the day to meet and speak with our German and History pupils, using his vast professional experience and interests.

Armed with information on the curriculum from Head of Modern Foreign Languages **Richard Ball (Hon OV)** and Head of History **Emmah Cameron**, Marcus gave three fascinating presentations over the course of his day with us.

The first, to our L6 Germanists, focussed on looking at East and West Germany and what has shaped the modern Germany of today. As the sole Western correspondent in East Germany before the fall of the Wall and as a correspondent based in Europe during the Cold War, Marcus was well equipped to give an overview of this for the pupils, who study the cultural life of Berlin and the German political system as a part of their A Level.

After coffee with Development Director **Liz Elliott**, Marcus moved into the John Moore Theatre. He spoke with the Upper Remove History pupils, giving his presentation '*Dresden: Reconciliation after Destruction*', a presentation for the Dresden Trust, of which Marcus is Chairman.

Marcus's final talk was to all the King's Germanists, where he spoke on modern Germany, giving historical context for their German studies looking at the development of the country from World War II to today. For this talk Marcus used a selection of photographs from 1945 to the present day, covering politics, economics, reunification and much more to illustrate the journey of Germany.

Marcus also enjoyed a tour of King's with **Liz Elliott**, including a trip up to Archives at the top of Edgar Tower. Marcus finished the day enjoying lunch with Headmaster **Gareth Doodles** and a selection of pupils, who were able to quiz him further on his interesting career and experiences, as well to share their own King's experiences.

A big thank you to Marcus for his time and for a day that we shall not forget.



Back to School for OV Ella Smith

The King's School Art Department was over the moon to welcome back OV **Ella Smith (CI 12-17)** in July. The reason? For Ella to gain some work experience in teaching before going to the University of Portsmouth in September to study for a PGCE in Further Education.

Ella's focus after leaving King's was very clear, going on to complete a Foundation Year in Art & Design at the Birmingham Metropolitan College. Her next step was a BA (Hons) in Fine Art at Bath Spa University, from which Ella graduated in 2021.

The week's work experience was mainly with L6 pupils, although Ella also had the opportunity to work with students in L4 and U4, to get the most experience as possible. Within the L6 lessons, Ella was able to talk

to the students about their work and ideas, and gain insight into the current A Level curriculum.

On why she chose to return to King's for her work experience, Ella explained, "I had a wonderful experience at King's as a student, which has led me to progress in my studies confidently due to enthusiastic and positive teaching. I wanted to give students that same positive experience within their educational journey.

"With my specialism being fine art, I wanted to gain experience within the art department as a prospective teacher. A particular lesson I have learned, having seen the work and effort put into the department from teachers and technicians, is how much dedication is required to be a successful

teacher. I hope to emulate what I have learnt within this short time in my own career."

It is always a delight to welcome OVs back to the King's Foundation Family, safe in the knowledge that the help and support it provides doesn't end with King's Day.



OV Key Skills Session with L6



It was an absolute pleasure for the School to welcome back OVs **Tim Summers (Br 87-92)**, **Will Kerton (Os 82-92)**, and **Drew Benvie (K 85-96)** to give L6 students the benefits of their experience in the latest Key Skills Session: *Making the Leap – Starting and Running Your Own Business*.

Setting up in the (socially distanced) John Moore Theatre, the trio took turns explaining how their very different routes after leaving school have led them all to be entrepreneurs and leaders in their own, very different, fields.

Tim worked in the City of London before moving to Bristol and becoming a partner in a traditional law firm. In 2010 he and a colleague applied their experience to the creation of an innovative law firm, Temple Bright.

Will Kerton's route from King's to entrepreneurship has taken a few twists and turns, including the Armed Forces and being the Three Counties' most in-demand

auctioneer from his time at Knight Frank. Will now runs Churchfields and Droitwich Salt with his wife, Gillian. Whilst managing the day-to-day running of an already very diversified business, along with the standard dairy farm work, Will and Gillian launched Droitwich Salt in 2017 – the only brine spring salt made in the UK.

A cutting client comment was what spurred Drew on to set up his own, multi-award-winning communications agency: Battenhall (guess where Drew lived when he went to King's?).

The L6 were kept enthralled by each of the speakers and were full of questions once they had finished their talks. Tim, Will and Drew each answered the many questions put to them, providing their own insights drawn from their personal experience, and from their different sectors.

Interestingly, when Tim asked the audience how many saw themselves as future entrepreneurs, only a few hands went up.

However, when asked how many students had parents who ran their own businesses, considerably more hands were raised. So the panel acknowledged the students were aware of the hard work but also the benefits of being your own boss!

Some interesting points of discussion included the importance of networking. Although the panel acknowledged how difficult it is, at first, to walk into a room not knowing anyone and starting conversations with strangers, it becomes second nature after a while and the social etiquette of networking events is far more forgiving than that of normal gatherings.

Will recommended the L6 audience use the OV network and speak to the Alumni Relations office to be put in contact with OVs in their area of interest and see if they can help, even if just for a conversation.

When asked about their key words of advice for those starting out in business, Will, Drew and Tim agreed the following are essential: Take every opportunity, as you never know where it can lead; have a business partner with complementary skills if possible (although Drew has managed without); have a good idea which solves a problem; be reliable; show interest in and help other people; work very hard, but (Will added!) remember to play hard too (as long as the work has been put in first!).

Our many thanks to Tim, Will and Drew for giving the L6 so much of their time and sharing their experiences. It was a fascinating afternoon, for which the L6 were very grateful.

OV Visits from across the Generations

As we drew towards the end of the summer term and the end of a very challenging year here at King's Worcester, it was such a pleasure to welcome back to King's two OVs from different eras: **Robert Spier (Ch/CI/S 45-55)** attended King's when it was a boys-only boarding school with around 350 pupils, whilst **Daniel Williams (CI 09-15)** came to King's when girls made up 50% of the pupil body and it had become a fully co-educational school, with two prep schools and some 1500 pupils.

Robert has been a keen and very generous supporter of King's bursaries in recent years. It was a real pleasure for Development Director, **Liz Elliott** to introduce Robert to Daniel, who had been able to complete his King's education due to bursarial support. On leaving King's, Daniel went to the University of Birmingham where he gained a first in his Masters degree, Physics

& Astrophysics, and then a distinction in a Further Masters in Applied Meteorology & Climatology. Daniel is now a funded Doctoral student at the University of Exeter, studying the General Circulation of Planetary Atmospheres, with specific focus on the climate of Titan.

After a really pleasant lunch, Robert met with King's Worcester Headmaster, **Gareth Doodes** and Trustee, Deputy Head Academic and teacher of Maths, Hon OV **Katie Beaver**.

Daniel was thrilled that two of his former teachers, Hon OVs **Dr Richard James** and **Ian Robinson** and his house master, **Josh Hand** (OV), were able to join



him for a quick catch up before afternoon lessons started.

We were delighted that both Robert and Daniel were able to join us before the end of term.

OV Rowing Reminiscing

With the sun shining and School finished for the year, it was a real pleasure for Development Director, **Liz Elliott** to show OV, **Julian Slater (S 70-76)** around a rather quiet school site. A visit to College Hall brought back memories of school assemblies and concerts, then a trip into School House prompted further nostalgia, with the School Library now in place of what was formerly the dining rooms. Julian recognised his former study on the ground floor of School House and where his bed would have been in the dormitory he occupied along with eighteen other boys, in what is now a Modern Foreign Languages classroom. The view from the former dormitory and across the River Severn over to the school playing fields brought back memories of cross country running. Julian's main sport whilst at King's Worcester, however, was rowing

and so he was particularly interested to see the stunning Michael Baker Boathouse and have a look at the School's wonderful collection of boats, which are regularly used by King's current pupils.

It also happened that Julian and Liz were able to chat with a current rower (who had been out on the river at 6am that day!) and hear about the super successes that the School is experiencing at the moment on the river.

A visit to The Keyes Building and The John Moore Theatre rounded off Julian's return to King's. He said of his visit, "I did enjoy seeing the School and all the progress it has made over the years. I know the School is still very well respected locally and I am proud to be an OV and a supporter."



OV Medic Talk



We are so very grateful to medical student and OV **Sarah Allen-Griffiths (CI 12-19)**, whom we welcomed back to School virtually to talk to those U6 who were in the process of applying for medical school themselves.

Sarah generously took some time out of her third year studies at the University of Liverpool to give U6 pupils advice, guidance and tools to help them achieve a stronger chance of a successful result from the long and arduous medical school application process.

As Sarah explained: "Medical applications are like the 100m hurdles: a lot of obstacles to get over in a relatively short time!"

The application process was broken down into the three main phases covering A Level grades, aptitude tests, and the medical

school interviews. Sarah went into detail for each, providing some great tips and techniques, as well as what to do if you don't quite get the results wanted, or needed, at each stage.

Many thanks to Sarah for her time and such fantastic advice; the U6 hugely appreciated the guidance, which took a lot of the fear and uncertainty out of the application process.

Danke schön to this OV

Our thanks go out to OV **Edd Peckston (K 10-17)** who kindly came back to King's to talk not only to the U6 Germanists, but also to the U6 Oxbridge entrants and even help with a Lower Remove lesson!

A linguist himself, Edd moved on from King's to join Brasenose College, [University of] Oxford, to study German. He is now in the midst of a law conversion course, as Edd noted, "a route many linguists take".

Edd spoke eloquently to **Rachel Rutter's** (Hon OV) U6 class about the benefits of studying a language – then as Rachel's next lesson was with the Lower Removes, Edd took the opportunity to relive his days as a Teaching Assistant in Germany.

After lunch, Edd joined the U6 pupils who are currently applying for language or dual



degrees with a language via Oxbridge. They were very grateful for Edd's time helping them get a better understanding of the Oxbridge process, including some useful interview techniques.

When asked about his day, Edd commented, "It was a pleasure to come back to school

and I thoroughly enjoyed speaking with the next generation of King's Germanists and linguists. It was great to see my 'old' teachers, **Richard Ball (Hon OV)** and Rachel Rutter, as well!"

Danke schön for your time, Edd!

OV Makes a Good Impression



OV **Rupert Monkhouse (Ch 05-12 and King's St Alban's)** had a two-step visit when he came back to King's recently; having joined forces with dentist and OV **Clive Marks (S 69-74)** for lunch with pupils and staff, Rupert then moved on to revisit his old prep school, King's St Alban's.

A practising dentist, Rupert generously gave his time to talk to Year 3 (7/8 year old) pupils to help them with their science projects on teeth and how to keep them healthy.

Head of Alumni Relations, **Sophie Borrillo-McLellan**, thoroughly enjoyed catching up with Rupert post 'lockdown 2', hearing about his experiences during this time and also about the profession once the industry opened up. It was also wonderful to hear about the success and growth of 'Impression Club Live', a series of dentistry-based videos and interviews that Rupert hosts on Instagram.

Many thanks, Rupert!

Rugby Lessons for OV Head of School

It was fantastic to see OV **James Smalley (Br 10-17)** at King's in September; James was Head of School in 2017.

Remarking on his visit, **Liz Elliott**, Development Director, said, "It is always a real pleasure to catch up with James and so we were delighted that he popped in to see us in the Alumni Relations Office, whilst he was back at King's assisting training with the 1st XV rugby team.

"It was great to hear what James has been up over the last year and it is evident that he continues to embrace life, despite the impact of COVID on all our lives.

"James is still very much involved with rugby at Loughborough University and so he was thoroughly enjoying being back at King's for the day, working with the 1st XV and **Jonny Mason** (Hon OV), Foundation Director of Sport."

James was also able to meet Headmaster, **Gareth Doodles** during his day visit to King's.



Remembrance Day

King's marked Remembrance Day on Thursday 11th November 2021.

The service in College Hall saw us joined by OV **Major Andrew Wright RA (Cr 92-03)**. At King's, Andy was an active member of the School community. He enjoyed Himalayan Club treks as well as playing rugby and being a member of the CCF. In his final year, he was made a Monitor. On leaving King's Andy went to Imperial College London, where he studied Aeronautical Engineering. He joined the British Army in 2008 and deployed to Helmand Province, Afghanistan in 2011, where he was in charge of the delivery of close air support and fire support for a group of 120 soldiers. He has since progressed through a number of roles and exercised from Canada to Australia. In 2020 he returned to Afghanistan, this time to Kabul, where he was in charge of training, advising and assisting Afghan Special Security Forces in the capital and surrounds. Andy is currently seconded to the Cabinet Office, where he is a Planning Team Lead in the Civil Contingencies Secretariat; his focus is on developing and assuring resilience plans across government departments with a particular focus on protests, borders and transport.

During the Remembrance service a wreath was laid on behalf of the current pupil body by Heads of School Josh and Charlotte



and another on behalf of former pupils of the School by OV **Adam Winter (CI 84-94)**, who is also the Head of Estates at King's. Andy Wright gave a thought-provoking and poignant address, focussing on individual stories of soldiers, especially talking about the importance of comradeship and friendship. He talked about various examples of bravery, men and women risking their life for their fellow soldiers, for their friends. Andy finished with words by 'Woodbine Willy'; "There are many kinds of sorrow in this world of Love and Hate, but there is no sterner sorrow than a soldier's for his mate."

Andy enjoyed coffee with Headmaster **Gareth Doodes**, Director of Development **Liz Elliott**, and Head of Alumni Relations, **Sophie Borrillo-**

McLellan. A tour of School followed and Andy was delighted to bump into former teacher **Richard Davis (Hon OV)** and also to see new facilities on site such as the Keyes building as well as a trip to the Annett Building (or 'new block' as Andy remembers it!), where he was based in Creighton House when he was at School.

The School CCF gave a very poignant rollcall of OV fallen on College Green to an invited group of OVs.

We look forward very much to a return to a more 'normal' Remembrance Day at King's in the future, however this was a hugely special occasion and we are grateful to everyone in the King's community for the part they played in marking the occasion with us.



Reunions and Events

New OV BBQ for the years of 2019, 2020 & 2021

On Thursday 2nd September 2021, we were absolutely delighted to hold the first full OV Reunion since lockdown in March 2020.

It was such a pleasure to see over 170 OVs from the years of 2019, 2020 and 2021 in the School Gardens for a BBQ and drinks. After such a long and tumultuous period, it was so much fun to see everyone together again

and to hear of the continued resilience, innovation and successes of our OVs, perfectly mirroring the attitudes exhibited by current pupils and staff here at King's Worcester.

It was wonderful to hear of how well everyone is doing in their places of work or in their studies, and to find that postponed

travel plans are now in the process of being rearranged.

OVs enjoyed seeing each other and their former teachers again as well as hearing a few words from Headmaster, Gareth Doodles.

Everyone enjoyed continuing the party in town afterwards.



Welcome New OVs

It was an absolute pleasure to welcome the year of 2021 into the OV community on 8th July. King's Day looked a little different, with no family present and the traditional hand shake with the Headmaster replaced by a fist-bump as they exited College Hall. However it remained a special day with lots

of thoughtful touches. Staff from King's lined the pathway on College Green, applauding the new OVs as they made their way to the School Gardens, which had been beautifully decorated by a committee of teachers, for a much enjoyed barbecue.

On 9th July we welcomed back OVs from the year of 2020 for their belated Leavers' Service in the Cathedral after their King's Day was cancelled in 2020 due to Coronavirus. It was so lovely to see the year of 2020 and to finally be able in person to celebrate their achievements here at King's.



OV Five Year Fun

We were thrilled on Saturday 11th September to welcome back the years of 2015 and 2016 for their Five Year Reunion. The year of 2015 of course had their reunion last year postponed due to Coronavirus.

With testing in place and the School Gardens fortunately bathed in lovely September sunshine, we welcomed back around 170 OVs and some parents too.

It was super to see so many smiling, happy faces and wonderful to hear stories of where the last five years have taken the OVs: on travels, into careers, exciting studies, awards, relationships and much more.

The Heads of School from each respective year, **Toby Thomas (W 08-15)** and **Kaushik Rai (Br 09-16)**, each spoke a few words to their year group and it was incredibly powerful to hear how the bonds, friendships and experiences from days at King's have continued, providing strength, warmth, support and opportunities within the OV network today.

Headmaster **Gareth Doodes** was also able to address the OVs, assuring them that their School is in both good health and heart.

Always the sign of a good reunion, the group stayed long after the intended end time with many continuing on into Worcester after for more fun!



Hanging out in Hong Kong

There is a wonderful 'ex-pat' OV community spread all over the world and it is fantastic to hear when OVs take advantage of geographical location to meet up. OV **Tor Lemon (née Crowe, Cr98-06)** thoughtfully contacted us, having met up with OV and former Head of School **Olivia Howard (CI 14-21 and King's Hawford)** and OV and former Deputy Head of School **Will Hunt (Ch 14-21 and King's St Alban's)**, as all three are currently residing in Hong Kong.

Tor, who lives in Hong Kong with her husband Tom and their baby daughter, Sophie, takes up the story: "My parents and Will's parents are good friends, so when we discovered that Will was coming out to Hong Kong for his Gap Year we got in touch before he arrived. We've met up a couple of times for a drink now and look forward to seeing both him and Olivia whilst they are here! The photo attached is taken in Tai

Kwun, the old prison in Central Hong Kong."

It was lovely to hear how Olivia and Will have been getting on since leaving King's in the summer, when they embarked on their journey to Hong Kong to work at Harrow International School for their Gap Year. They added, "We have just finished our first half term working at Harrow and it has been so much fun. We work in the boarding houses as an older brother and sister to the pupils and also assist with sports and co-curricular activities such as MUN, TEDx talks and the Harrovian Magazine. It's been fascinating to see how schools run and work from a staff point of view; I hadn't imagined how much admin had to go into planning just one assembly!

"Between work we have also done some amazing things, from climbing Tai Mo Shan and the Peak to camping in Sai Kung



National Park, eating traditional street food and bartering in markets.

"It was lovely to meet Tor. Chatting to OVs out here made Worcestershire and home seem so much closer and it's amazing to see and hear about everything alumni go on to after school."

OV Professions Meet-up

Thursday 14th October 2021 saw Development Director, **Liz Elliott**, and Head of Alumni Relations, **Sophie Borrillo-McLellan**, head to London to meet with our OV Professions Groups for the first time since before Lockdown One in 2020.

In a change to the usual format, where the groups meet independently, we brought together all four current groups, Finance, Law, Marketing, and Property, at The Long Acre pub in bustling Covent Garden.

The evening gave opportunity for OVs to network with others working in the same sector as well as to meet those from different areas but who share a King's experience. It was a pleasure to meet OVs at different stages of their careers, with those at the start of their career journeys and those more senior in their professions able to share experiences. The mix between sectors also gave rise to some really interesting conversations, as many of the OVs say they



find their career spans over more than one of the sectors.

Liz and Sophie were particularly impressed and inspired to hear how the OVs and their companies have adjusted and persevered during these uncertain times. There were so many examples of innovation, positivity and resilience.



Sophie added, "We were delighted over the course of the evening to be joined by around 35 OVs and great fun was had by all. Feedback afterwards was tremendously positive and we look forward to meeting with the OVs again and to expanding these professional groups in the future to include even more sectors."



118th Annual OV Reunion Weekend Celebrations

On the weekend of 18th September 2021 we thoroughly enjoyed welcoming back around 150 Old Vigornians for the 118th Annual OV Reunion Weekend.

We began the day with Bubbly Brunch, where we were joined by OVs and Hon OV former staff. The OV Committee met for their annual AGM and then followed tours

of School, where OVs were shown round School by an expert team of Monitors. Trips full of reminiscences into College Hall, Edgar Tower and old dormitories were combined with opportunities to admire some of the newer facilities on site including the Michael Baker Boathouse and the Keyes Building.

The evening saw College Hall transformed

for the black-tie OV Reunion Dinner, where friends could reunite and also connect with OVs from different eras. A lovely three-course meal was served and College Hall was buzzing with fun and laughter.

Boards on the stage showed photographs and newspaper excerpts from across the years and provided many a chuckle



on the night. The OVs were delighted to meet **Gareth Dodes**, Headmaster, in person and to hear him speak about the last year and King's today.

The Eucharist on Sunday morning saw OV **Rev'd Robert Gilbert (Os 85-92)** preach and Secretary of the OV Club **Nick Stephens (Br 77-84)** gave the reading.

Sophie Borrillo-McLellan, Head of Alumni Relations, commented, "After two postponements we were so delighted that the 'annual' OV weekend could finally happen and for everyone to have such a fantastic time reuniting and reminiscing!"



Service of Thanksgiving for Marc (Boggy) Roberts

Monday 8th October 2021 saw a tremendous turnout in Worcester Cathedral for a Service of Thanksgiving for the life of **Marc Roberts (Hon OV)**. During his 37 years at King's as Maths Teacher, Master of Rugby and Housemaster, Marc touched the lives of so many Old Vigornians. It was touching to see so many people there to pay tribute to Marc and to support his family, including Marc's widow **Julia (Hon OV)** and children Naomi and Joey.

The service was presided over by King's Rev'd **Mark Dorsett (Hon OV)**, with readings by **Andrew Underwood (S 77-88)** and **Nick Stephens (Br 77-84)**. Nick also led a private service for the family earlier in the day. The

address was given by **Peter Gwilliam (Hon OV)**, a great friend and former colleague of Marc's. Sadly, due to travel restrictions, Marc and Julia's son Joey was unable to travel back to the UK for the service, however he sent in some pre-recorded words of tribute and he also sang 'Bali Hai' from South Pacific, a musical Marc always enjoyed.

After the service, Julia invited everyone to the Diglis House Hotel. This gave opportunity for OVs, former parents and the wider King's family to meet together, remember fondly their time with Marc and celebrate the many ways in which he had a positive impact on their lives. As we are sure Marc would have wanted, some OVs were raising their glasses to Marc well into the evening.

It was a fitting farewell: a sad day to say goodbye to such a cherished member of the King's family, but full to the brim with appreciation, thanks and fond memories.



Meet up in Morocco

We love to hear from OVs so it was fantastic when OVs **Toby Moody (K 80-91)** and **Tim Bradshaw (Ch 84-94)** contacted us, having found themselves meeting up for the first time in 30 years, in Morocco!

Tim has recently started his push towards completing the Dakar Rally in 2023 by competing in the Rallye Du Maroc, one of the harder championship Rally Raids that lead up to the ultra-difficult Dakar, which will take place in Saudi Arabia. Getting on board his KTM, he and Vanessa Ruck set off to conquer 1100 miles of timed stages against the clock plus another 650 miles of road sections between each stage over the five days. It is unbelievably hard going as, against the clock, they are having to keep to a certain route, read the roadblock on the dash, not fall off, endure

boiling hot weather, and hit the way points all at the same time.

Coincidentally, OV Toby was working on the rally too, commentating on the daily TV highlights that were sent worldwide. Tim's mother Janice used to teach Toby Physics at King's so it really was a small world moment after 30 years to come full circle again with Tim; he has always had extreme sports and targets in the forefront of his mind after conquering the Matterhorn, Mont Blanc and so nearly getting to the top of Everest, were it not for the earthquake in 2014.

Toby himself is no stranger to the Dakar Rally, having provided the voice-over for the stunning daily footage from last year's event in January.



OV Rugby 7s Tournament

In July, 13 OVs from the 2019 contingent came together to enter an OV team into the North Dorset Rugby 7s Social Tournament, hosted by the North Dorset Rugby Club.

OV **Toby Platt (K 12-19)** talked us through the tournament: "The OV team put in some solid performances in the group stages. The highlight was the 24-12 win against Greywulfs.

"Much to our surprise we won our group and qualified for the Cup competition. The quarter final was an entertaining game. Despite taking the lead, though, we ultimately lost 22-17 to South Africa Wild Dogs."

After the tournament, the Club showed the Lions game before hosting a music festival, which went on until the early hours of Sunday morning.

Toby added, "Thanks to everybody who came to support us. It was a really enjoyable weekend and we look forward to going again next year!"

All the OVs involved were strong sportsmen while at School, so it's wonderful to see them continue to play beyond King's.

The OV rugby team, from left to right

Back row: George Patey (Os 12-19), Alfie Pritchard (S 10-17), Josh Moorhouse (Br 12-19), Ali Robb (K 12-19), Charles Clark (Ch 12-19), Tom Long (S 12-19), Ethan Summerwill (Br 12-19), Ed Burgoyne (Cl 12-19), Tom Judge (W 17-19) Front row: Joe Pritchard (Os 12-19), Toby Platt (K 12-19), Max Richardson (W 14-19), Ted Pickering (Br 12-19), Ollie Geach (W 17-19)



A Rowing Reunion, 60 Years On

It was with great pleasure and excitement in July that we welcomed back three OV's and King's oarsmen from 1961, all of whom were seated in the first ever King's Worcester boat competing at Henley Royal Regatta, in the Princess Elizabeth Cup.

It had been 60 years since **Tony Stevens (CI 53-61)**, **Martin Hook (CI 51-61)** and **Peter Jackson (Ca 56-62)** had last been together and Head of Alumni Relations, **Sophie Borrillo-McLellan**, was thrilled to meet with the three OV's at The Diglis on 1st July, right next to the Michael Baker Boathouse, for a drink and plenty of reminiscing. Between them, Tony, Martin and Peter had photographs and newspaper cuttings to share and Sophie enjoyed hearing all about their rowing days and time at King's.

The 1961 crew made newspaper headlines at the time as immediately after Henley they had to return to King's and sit their G.C.E A Level exams. In fact, when not training or racing, the boys were kept to a strict School time-table in their Henley accommodation.

In the Princess Elizabeth Cup, the King's crew made a strong start. They won their first draw



against Canford School and went on to beat Magdalen College School in their second. Their third race marked the end of the Henley journey, as they lost by a canvas to Nautical College Pangbourne. The final of the Cup saw Shrewsbury School race to victory against The King's School Canterbury.

As well as enjoying reuniting over a drink

and lunch at The Diglis, the OV's also took advantage of being back in Worcester again by visiting the School site.

We were absolutely delighted to welcome Tony, Martin and Peter back and hope very much that they may be able to join us at a Henley reunion next year.

Welcome Back to the Seventies!

Head of Alumni Relations, **Sophie Borrillo-McLellan**, thoroughly enjoyed meeting a few 1975/76 OV's on Saturday 11th September. Organised by **Duncan Spencer (H 65-75)**, the group enjoyed tours of School, with Sophie showing them some of the familiar sites (cue name spotting on the College Hall boards, reminiscences of the Boarding antics, Fives Courts and finding old Studies), as well as showing off new additions at King's, including the impressive Michael Baker Boathouse, The Keyes Building and the Library in School House. The OV's so enjoyed seeing each other and King's again. The McClatchey Climbing Wall in the Keyes Building was a real talking point, enhanced only by spotting the remaining footholds of the old climbing wall as the group toured around.

Joining Duncan and Sophie were: **Peter Homer (Cr 65-75)**, **Martyn Robinson (Ch 68-76)**, **Graham Cox (Br 68-76)**, **Robert Binney (H 70-76)**, **Tim Neilson, (Cr 66-75)** **Guy Sheppard (S 70-75)**, **Steve Price (S 73-74)**, **Nigel Burrows (S 68-75)**, **Dave Morris (W 68-74)**, **Sue Cooke (née Bomford) (Ca 73-75)**, **Sheila Nelson (née Popert) (Ch 73-76)** and **David Carter (Br 68-75)**. Headmaster **Gareth**



Doodles enjoyed saying a quick 'hello' before racing off to the pitches to watch King's pupils playing in a rugby match and the OV's were delighted to have opportunity to meet him.

After a tour of King's with Sophie, the group went off to the Cardinal's Hat to continue the reunion. Sophie is assured the fun continued with Duncan's review as follows: "In its aftermath, I can report that there were

only two instances of head lacerations with a possible alcohol connection and just one accidental initiation of a fire alarm in the small hours of Sunday morning (mistaken for a light switch!) and one destroyed smoke alarm (an anonymous OV who awoke to the sound of the fire alarm and thought it was his smoke alarm and couldn't understand why pressing the button more and more forcibly didn't stop the noise!). So, all in all, a fairly relaxed and civilised weekend."



Distinguished OVs, who have excelled in their chosen profession, are invited by the Headmaster to join The Barnabas Group and speak to the school in College Hall about their experiences, lessons learned and the encouragement they feel able to pass on as a result. Founded in 2008, the group is named after St Barnabas, the 'son of encouragement' (Acts of the Apostles Ch.4, v.36).

Barnabas Speaker: Franny Moyle



On the 11th October 2021 we enjoyed the first Barnabas Day of the School year with OV **Franny Moyle (Co 80-82)** as our latest speaker and member of the group. Twice a year we invite OVs who have excelled and made a particular impact in their chosen career path to join the Barnabas Group, to visit School, share experiences and offer motivation and inspiration.

Franny is a British television producer and author. On leaving King's, she studied Art History at St John's College, Cambridge. Franny is the former BBC Commissioner for Arts and Culture and is now a freelance executive producer and writer. Her books include *Constance: The Tragic and Scandalous Life of Mrs Oscar Wilde*, *Desperate Romantics: The Private Lives of the Pre-Raphaelites*, and *The Extraordinary Life and Momentous Times of J. M. W. Turner*. Her latest book *The King's Painter: The Life and Times of Hans Holbein* was recently serialised on Radio 4, read by Sir Simon Russell Beale.

Franny began the day making an address in College Hall, heard live by the current sixth form and watched in houses online by the rest of the School body. Franny talked passionately and eloquently about how her time at King's shaped her future life and especially stressed to the pupil body the

importance of self-belief and 'finding your star'. She also spoke about equality and the massive steps forward in female education and opportunities, speaking to the young men and women in College Hall, asking them to strive constantly to level up the playing field and expect equal rights in all they do.

During the day, Franny met with our U6 King's Art students. She thoroughly enjoyed being shown the Art School by Head of Art **Chris Haywood (Hon OV)**, watching the pupils work, offering feedback and hearing all about the aims for their final pieces. She also enjoyed meeting a Lower Remove English class, where the group had many questions to ask Franny including many about her time at the BBC and what her role as a Producer entailed. A trip to meet GCSE Art pupils opened up a really interesting conversation about how to critique art objectively and what Franny labelled the 'Curator's Checklist'. Franny was also able to talk about some of her favourite artists and the history behind certain movements and moments in time.

A visit to the library provided the icing on the cake for us all as Franny kindly signed some of her books for us.

The day also included a opportunity to

meet briefly with OV historian **Andrew Reekes (Ch 64-69)** who was in school on the same day, speaking to some of sixth form history pupils. Andrew is a big fan of Franny's books and the two had a huge amount to discuss. The day also included lunch with Headmaster **Gareth Doodes**, Heads of School, Josh and Charlotte, Head of Art Chris Haywood, Lucy a current U6 artist, and Sophie and Liz from the Development and Alumni Office. Lunch provided an opportunity to find out even more about Franny's fascinating career and for her to learn more about King's today.

On her visit to King's, Franny says, "Returning to King's I discovered a mix of the familiar and unfamiliar. The same exquisite setting in the grounds of the Cathedral and next to the river; the same feeling of tradition mixed with camaraderie, and that dedication to learning as well as to sport. But to see a fully mixed school was a wonderful change, as were the astonishing new facilities that the school benefits from. Climbing walls! Amazing performance spaces! A great library and art department. What a wonderful start this school offers to young people."

A huge thank you to Franny for giving her day so generously to us.

King's Today

Heads of School Announced for 2021-2022 Academic Year

We are delighted to announce that our Heads of School for the 2021/2022 Academic Year are Charlotte M and Josh R.



King's Business Students come Runners-up in the QuBEc Cup

The Economics and Business Department took six Upper Sixth students to the inaugural QuBEc Cup Competition at Queen's College Taunton.

Both King's teams did themselves proud. Our Economics team, Henry C, James P and Katie R, showed outstanding subject knowledge and finished as the highest



placed Economics team from the six teams participating, smashing their first round to win with 115 points!

The Business team consisting of George B, Hannah H and Gabby S went even further in the competition, ending up as runners-up, just pipped in a nail-biting final by the Business team from Dauntsey's.

Arts Award Triumphs for Resilient King's Pupils

Another year, another lockdown, but the Arts Award team of 2021 matched the resilience and creative problem-solving of the Class of 2020 and King's is delighted to celebrate another year of Arts Award success under the most trying of circumstances.

The finished online portfolios were shared with Trinity in July and our wonderful

results were confirmed in the first week of August. 20 Lower Years pupils achieved their Bronze certificates. An equally impressive 12 students in the Removes gained their Silver Arts Award and seven Lower Sixth students achieved the remarkable feat of gaining their Gold Arts Award qualification (which carries UCAS points), despite all the challenges thrown at them.

King's Swingers attend Jazz Workshop at Royal Birmingham Conservatoire

On Monday 8th November 2021, The King's Swingers visited Royal Birmingham Conservatoire for an inspirational day of jazz music coaching at a jazz workshop.

We were hosted by staff and students of the Jazz Department in a variety of sessions which culminated in an extraordinary concert in their stunning Bradshaw Hall.

Modern Biathlon Championships success for Two Lower Remove Pupils

During half term Ben G (LRCh) and Harry C (LRCh) competed in the 2021 British Schools' Modern Biathlon Championships held at the Sports Training Village at Bath University.

Ben G took part in the U14 Boys event, which included a 100m swim and a 1600m run. Ben achieved the fastest time in his age group for the swim with a time of 57.24 seconds. Next was his run, where he came 16th, meaning overall, once all the points were added up, Ben came 6th out of 28 in his age group.

Harry C competed in the U13 Boys event, achieving an amazing 3rd overall, with the event also consisting of a 100m swim and 1600m run. Harry also won the swim with a time of 57.89 seconds and completed the run in a time of 5:44.96 minutes.

The boys were then lucky enough to be presented with their certificates and

medal by two Olympic modern pentathlon athletes, Joe Choong and Kate French. Both Joe and Kate won gold medals at the Tokyo Olympics in Japan, and so this was a fantastic experience for both the boys!



Modus Cup Success

On the 17th November King's achieved a well-deserved 39-12 win against RGS in the Modus Cup in front of a packed Sixways Stadium.



King's Celebrates Top 10 West Midlands Independent School Ranking

The King's School, Worcester has been named in The Sunday Times Parent Power 2022 Schools Guide as one of the Top 10 independent secondary schools in the West Midlands.



OV Weddings



Hannah Motley (née Lucas) (**Cr 01-08**) and Tom Motley's wedding went ahead in July 2021, one year and one week after their original date and, despite the preceding months of COVID uncertainty and significant reduction of the guest list, it was a truly wonderful day full of happiness and laughter. Even the weather was glorious. Sadly, their photographer **OV Elspeth Hole (2001-2004)** had to isolate but Cat Stephens Photography stepped in to take some fantastic pictures, as you can see.

The **Rev Canon Dr Alwyn Pettersen (Hon OV** and former King's Worcester Governor) returned to Worcester to perform the marriage ceremony. Bridesmaids included **Holly Mitchell (Cl 01-08)** and **Alice Brunt (Hon OV)** with usher **William Lucas (W 04-09)**. Both Hannah and Tom are former choristers and practising musicians, so music and words were central to their day. Hannah's father, Adrian Lucas, Master of the Choristers and Organist 1996-2010, composed and dedicated an anthem based on a poem by Rabindranath Tagore for the occasion. Hannah's mother, **Joanna Lucas (Hon OV)**, made her wedding dress. Guests included a host of OVs, who came from far and wide to attend the service.



Ben Allsopp (S 07-12) married Ana Hernandez of California on the Hornblower Cruise Ship in the San Francisco Bay, on 24 July 2021. This was followed by a wedding reception the next day at Ana's family home in Manteca, California. They had been dating for over four years, having met in Syracuse, New York, and having studied for a year together in Florence, Italy, on their MA programme in Italian Renaissance Art History. Ana will be moving to Baltimore this August to begin her new job as the Assistant Director of Donor Relations at the Johns Hopkins University, the University where Ben is currently pursuing his Ph.D. in Art History.

A few of Ben's closest friends from King's School were hoping to fly out for the wedding, but sadly COVID travel restrictions wouldn't allow it and they were greatly missed.

Hannah Jeavons (S 07-14) and **Ed Rowley (Os 07-14)** married on the 14th August 2021 at Pauntley Court in Gloucestershire. Around 25 OV's came to the wedding. Four of the Bridesmaids were OV's, **Lottie Martyn-Smith (née Jeavons) (Ch 02-09)**, **Bethany Brass (née Jeavons) (W 04-11)**, **Connie Grant (S 07-14)** and

Corah Lewis (Ch 07-14). **Harry Hunt (K 07-14)**, **Miten Patel (Os 7-14)**, **Steve Walker (K 07-14)** and **Lucien Keegan (Os 07-14)** supported Ed as ushers. OV guests included **James Martyn-Smith (Cl 04-09)**, **Will Dovey (Cl 07-14)**, **Alex Parker (S 07-14)**, **Charlotte Collins (Ch 07-14)**, **Hannah Brotherhood (Ch 07-**

14), **Emma Jarvis (Ch 07-14)**, **Frances Taylor (Ch 07-14)**, **Chantal Smits (Br 12-14)**, **Olivia Hunt (née Deehan) (W 07-14)**, **Dylan Richardson (Os 09-14)**, **Lewis Richardson (Br 07-14)**, **Ben Doughty (Ch 07-14)** and **Hannah Trow (Old Hawfordian)**. Mother of the Bride **Abi Jeavons (Hon OV)** was also in attendance.



OVs in the News

OV Appointed QC

We were delighted to hear that **David (Dom) Tyack (Ca 84-85 /S 88-89)** has recently been appointed a QC or, as it's known, "taken Silk". David is based at No5 Barristers' Chambers in Birmingham and London, where he has been specialising in clinical negligence and personal injury for the last 17 years.

David was formally appointed on 15th March 2021, however, due to COVID, this was done without ceremony and by email. We were thrilled to hear that the traditional swearing in at Westminster and the Royal Courts of Justice was eventually able to take place on 1st November 2021.

Speaking of his appointment and the swearing in, David told us, "I am thrilled and honoured to take Silk and hope to live up to the appointment. I had a wonderful day to mark the occasion of my swearing in, which I was delighted to celebrate with

my wife Yuko, children Dylan and Yasmin, parents and many friends and colleagues. Unfortunately, my sister **Sarah (Co 84 – 86)** could not be there as she lives in the States but we did manage to celebrate with her a few weeks before."

A huge well done to David on this recognition.



OV Scholarship Success

Huge congratulations to OV **Pippa Wills (CI 13-20)**, who starts her second year at the University of Cambridge on a high, having won both a Prize and a Scholarship thanks to her incredible First Year examination results in her English degree.

Pippa has been awarded the Wright Prize, a new prize that recognises students who perform to a particularly high standard in examinations, for her First in the end of year exams – ranking in the top third of Firsts across the entire University.

In addition, Pippa has received the Alfred Hall Prior Scholarship in English; within the English cohort of 233 students, Pippa was ranked 16th and top in her College, St. John's. As well as a monetary value, the Scholarship means Pippa becomes a member of the Foundation of the St. John's College and, once officially admitted in the Scholar's Ceremony, Pippa will be allowed to walk on the grass in the Scholars' Garden!

Pippa has also been taking time away from her studies to revive the dormant English Society and writing poetry, some of which has been published in the St. John's Poetry Pamphlet.

Commenting on her awards, Pippa said, "I was surprised and of course overjoyed to



receive my Prize and Scholarship; it made a fantastic year at St John's even better. I am excited for another year of living and learning in this very special college, and all the academic opportunities which will present themselves! I am particularly looking forward to writing my dissertation, on Fruit Imagery in Victorian Poetry.

"I would like to thank my teachers at King's for encouraging me to apply for Cambridge, which I can safely say was the best decision I ever made!"

Many congratulations Pippa!

OV in Pole Position for the Future of Racing

OV **Tom Yates (W 99-06)** has unveiled the product of years of hard work: the first fully electric race car, designed, engineered and built in Britain: The McMurtry Spéirling.



A feat of engineering, the second-generation prototype was introduced to the public at the Goodwood Festival of Speed to unwavering critical acclaim. Rory Reid, of Autotrader and Top Gear fame, called the McMurtry a 'revolutionary bit of kit' and an 'incredible bit of machinery'.

Tom was previously at Mercedes in Formula 1, when he was approached by Sir David McMurtry to create a new business to develop the Spéirling, which has subsequently been in secret development for three years prior to the unveiling at Goodwood.

Tom is not alone on the project, joined by his team of engineers and development drivers, five-time Le Mans winner OV **Derek Bell MBE (S 56-58)** and 2015 British Hillclimb Champion Alex Summers (not an OV but we won't hold that against him!).

It was through the OV family that Tom and Derek connected, leading to this great team that has produced an electric track car capable of doing over 200mph and is simulated to do 0-186mph in under 9 seconds – especially if Derek is behind the wheel! Derek kindly chose to help the team on the basis of also being an OV and has been invaluable in the development of the car. The team are very grateful to have the support of one of motorsport's all-time greats!

Tom added, "I don't think I could be in this exciting position if it hadn't also been for **Eric Lummas' (Hon OV)** steadfast support when I was at King's Worcester. He was an incredibly strong influence at school, inspiring me and giving me the confidence to go forward. He really did give 110% in his help in DT and for my sometimes ambitious designs!"



Top OV Journalist

Our many congratulations to OV **Stella Din-Jacob (Co 85-86)** who has been recognised for her tireless work in journalism.

Stella has been named as one of the top 25 “Most Powerful Women in Journalism” in Nigeria, by WiJAfrica (Women in Journalism Africa). Currently Director of News at TVC Communications, Stella has moved up four places this year to be recognised as the second most powerful female journalist in Nigeria.

Commenting on Stella’s achievement, WiJAfrica said, “Jacob’s leadership as Director of News at TVC was feared to have suffered some serious setbacks after the station was looted and set ablaze by marauding crowds in the aftermath of the Lekki Tollgate shooting last year.

“However, she proved her detractors wrong by going back on air within 72 hours, using a makeshift studio and continuing reportage from the 36 states and the FCT. This singular feat saved hundreds of jobs in the news division and ensured that Nigerians continued to receive critical news and information during the tense period following the #endsars protests.”

Stella added, “I’m humbled to have been recognised by Women in Journalism Africa at a time when my organisation is picking up the pieces of the #endsars protests.”

OV Pedal Power

Fantastic to see OV **Hayley Simmonds (Cr 99-06)** continue to take the lead in road cycling. Most recently Hayley came first in the AeroCoach Road Bike Time Trial Championships, part of the Road Bike National Time Trial Series 2021. Not only did Hayley come in more than a minute faster than the second placed, but she was also only six seconds off setting a new road bike 10-mile record!

Hayley elaborated, “This was the first time I have entered a road bike time trial and I wasn’t sure what sort of time I was likely to

OV Caps

We were absolutely delighted to hear that OV **Jemima Moss (Ch 13-20 and King’s St Alban’s)** has been selected for the England Rugby U20s squad – and recently secured her first cap!

Talking about her selection, Jemima said, “Playing for England has always been my dream. To get chosen to trial for England U20s in August and then for both trials to take place at Malvern College, pretty much home ground for me, was incredibly exciting!”

“Our November camp involved playing South Africa whilst they were in England on tour for the Autumn Internationals. My England (U20s) Debut! I came on at half time and it was amazing. It is an incredible privilege putting on the England shirt and singing the national anthem for the first time (a capella!). We now look forward to preparing for our next fixtures: Scotland in March and France U20s home and away in March/April.”



Congratulations Jemima on an incredible achievement and we look forward to seeing your rugby career continue to go from strength to strength!

It was also fantastic to see OV **Cerys Preston (Cr 12-19)** captaining the U23 Hockey Wales team in July – and taking her team to a nail-biting draw against Ireland in the first of a series of three games as part of the Under 23 Four Nations Series.

On her Captaincy, Cerys commented, “It is a privilege to be offered captaincy for this Test Series and it was great to lead such a dedicated team of girls. Leadership is something that I had to work on through my times at King’s Worcester. I am grateful for those who believe in me so that I have had the confidence to take this responsibility on an international stage. I hope for many more of these experiences in the future and I am just glad to be out back playing hockey after it being disrupted by the pandemic!”



do as a result. The event was extremely well run and I enjoyed testing myself on a course where it was possible to be on the power almost all of the time. I wasn’t aware before I started what the record was for a 10 mile road bike TT, so to find out that I was only 6 seconds off breaking it has really motivated me to do more road bike events later in the season.”

An excellent documentary about Hayley’s switch from rowing to cycling has also been released on GCN+, called ‘Cycling Changed My Life’. You can also find it on YouTube.



We would like to congratulate Hayley on her hard work and continued success and look forward to watching more wins!

Archives

The Development of Rugby at King's

2021 marked the 150th anniversary of the foundation of the Rugby Union. This milestone coincides with the recent passing of the much-loved **Marc Roberts (KSW Staff 1975-2012)**, Master in Charge of Rugby at King's from 1979 to 1994; it is hoped that an article on the establishment of rugby at King's makes a fitting tribute.

150 years ago, King's was a much smaller school than it is today, and its sport and sporting facilities – or perhaps more accurately, the lack of them – were also very different. Mid-late nineteenth century King's did not have its own games pitch, or even a playground.

In his report to the School Inquiry Commission of 1869, Mr. Bryce recommended the acquiring from the Ecclesiastical Commissioners of the ground now covered by School House and Garden for masters' houses and a playground, but nothing came of this suggestion. Early in the 1860s the School had the occasional use of the cricket ground at the Arboretum, and also got some practice on the Pitchcroft when it was not put up for hay. Towards the end of the 1860s a field was secured on the further side of the river, near Diglis lock, but memoirs provided by **Albert Webb (KSW 1862-1867)**, highlight the field's unsuitability: "it was not prepared in any way, and as floods were more frequent than now it was constantly unfit for use." It had the further disadvantages of being rather remote, having no road leading to it, and there not being so much as a shed for shelter.

Nationally, the Football Association was formed in 1863 and the Rugby Union in 1871. Until these bodies had established their control every school developed its own version of the game. At King's in the 1860s, Albert Webb remembered,

"In football the rules were in a state of chaos & all that our School could do was to get the rules used by other Schools & select from them those methods which appealed to us. The result when we played another team who had different ideas may be imagined, especially as the Referee had yet to be born ... We played with a round ball & relied on "charging" more than anything else therefore the heavier men were most useful."

Albert Webb's memoirs of Football at King's in the 1860s

Under these circumstances it would have been surprising if sport had reached a high standard at King's, even had attendance been compulsory. It says a great deal for the enthusiasm of a few leaders that there were any games at all. There is a constant stream of girding in the early issues of the *Vigornian* against the slackness and poor attendance on the field and on the river.

By the 1870s, when the Association and the Union were firmly established and their respective codes in print, it was necessary for King's to enlist under one banner or the other. King's adoption of rugby was probably dictated by its being closer to the game already played, and in the 1870s Rugby seems to have flourished. The June 1888 issue of the *Vigornian* recalls,

"Nearly ten years ago, Worcester Cathedral Grammar School could turn out one of the finest Football teams in the Midlands, and occupied the seventh place in the list of English Public Schools in the Football Field. We find our fellows thrashing Leamington College and Magdalen College School, playing a good match against Birmingham Grammar School, and meeting, with varying success, some of the strongest teams in the neighbourhood. One of the most successful seasons the School ever went through was that of 1878-9"

The early 1880s saw a bad decline in King's skills on the rugby pitch, which the *Vigornian* lays down to slackness. There was evidently a temporary improvement later that decade as the *Vigornian* records King's playing such good rugby schools as Bromsgrove, K.E.S. Birmingham, and Leamington College.

The early 1890s, however, saw a decline in rugby across Worcestershire, and Bromsgrove remained one of the few schools playing rugby locally. As a result, the only rugby teams available were men's clubs, which **Mr. Bolland (KSW HM 1879-1896)** considered unsuitable opponents for his boys. It was mainly for this reason that in 1892 he suggested the change over to football. Naturally there



Worcester Cathedral King's School Rugby XV, 1929

was some opposition on the part of the older members of the School, especially those who were in the Rugby XV, but the Headmaster overcame this by causing the election by each form of a representative on a committee which he and the head boy tactfully addressed, and King's was gradually converted.

After playing football for two decades from 1892 to 1921, King's reverted to rugby. The reason for this was that the causes for the earlier change had been reversed. Pupil numbers had increased and were increasing, and most of King's opponents had made or were contemplating making a similar change. Hunt's Meadow, south of the County Ground, was the main pitch used by King's: it was of a perfect size and easily reached by the ferry boat.

Preliminary rugby training was given by the Headmaster, **Cuthbert Creighton (KSW HM 1919-1936)** and **F.B. Thomas (KSW Staff 1917-1954)** during the 1921 Easter Term, and with their assistance and that of most of the rest of the staff, the changeover was sufficiently advanced for the new game to be definitely established by the 1922 Christmas Term, when the first rugby matches were played. The first match – against Mr. Thomas' XV – was a salutary defeat, and King's lost twice to Hereford who had changed over at the same time; King's won, however, against the City 2nd XV and against Wolverley Grammar School, and it was generally agreed that the change had justified itself.

The first recorded rugby match between KSW and RGS was on 17 December 1941, a more recent date than may be expected from its prominence in the modern School Calendar. The result of this match was not recorded in the *Vigornian*, which might perhaps indicate that King's was defeated. The following year, however, KSW played RGS at home on 5 December 1942, and won 9-6.



New Acquisitions

It has been wonderful to receive a small number of new acquisitions for the School Archive, all sent in by post during the latter half of 2021.

- In July 2021, **Caroline Roslington (KSW Staff 1978-2011)** sent in a collection of material pertaining to King's during the 1990s, as well as a collection of OV and Hon OV memoirs. Thank you very much!
- In November 2021, **Stanley Allsopp (Ca 1946-1951)** donated a 1948 photograph of the Worcester Cathedral Choristers Cricket Team, which he took on his Brownie camera during the annual "Stayover" – wonderful!
- Also in November 2021, the School Archives received a photograph of School House taken in 1942, donated by Richard Cutler, son of **M.J. Cutler (S 1942-1946)**. Splendidly, this photograph filled a previously-existing gap in that collection; we now have a complete set of School House photographs for the years 1934-1954! Thank you ever so much indeed, Mr. Cutler.



As ever, the School Archives is very grateful for such donations of original material from Old Vigornians. Please keep them coming in!

Features on Teachers

H.A. Natan

Head of History and German Master, 1944-1967.



1/8660: The King's School Staff, 1958
H.A. Natan is seated on the front row, second from right

Alex Natan was born Heinz Alexander Nathan (with an "h") in Berlin on 1 February 1906 to a wealthy Jewish bourgeois family. A small, portly figure often out of breath, some found it hard to believe that Mr Natan was once a top German sprinter. In 1929 in the German city of Breslau, now Wroclaw in Poland, he and three other German athletes ran a 4x100m relay in a world record time of 40.8 seconds. Natan did not stay long to enjoy his fame. After Hitler came to power in 1933, Mr Natan – like many others escaping Nazi persecution – fled the country. H.A. Natan became a naturalised Briton and eventually became King's new History master in 1944.

In Britain, Mr Natan modified his name to make it more pronounceable in English. He nevertheless remained the Central European professor: cultivated, opinionated, cosmopolitan and eloquent. At King's, Mr Natan sympathised with the rebels a little more than perhaps the school's management would have liked: if a boy was contesting some decision, Mr Natan was quite likely to lend mischievous encouragement. He was a combative historian and a fertile, if turgid, writer of English. He concentrated for preference on European History and on current affairs. Gradually the History faculty by some alchemy fired and transformed a succession of King's School boys. Written in 1971, 'Retrospective Notes of King's School, Worcester' by **Ronald Kittermaster (HM 1942-1959)** described the school's full inspection in the mid-1950s,

"In the discussion that the Inspectors had with myself and the governors at the end of the week, they praised unreservedly the Modern Language Department, under H. Ferrar, the Mathematics Department, under Richard Knight, and the History Department, under H.A. Natan."

Outside the History and German classrooms, Mr Natan was a key figure in extracurricular provision at King's, especially through his expeditions to Switzerland. The first of these occurred in August 1947, when he took a party of a dozen senior pupils on a four-week tour to explore the country, combining sightseeing and education. A write-up of the trip in *The Vigornian* in December 1947 thanked Mr Natan for "the tireless energy he has devoted to the formidable task of organizing an expedition that was unanimously voted a complete success." During the 1948 Christmas holidays he organised a three-weeks' holiday in the little Swiss village of Sedrun. Further trips were organised in Switzerland and Austria during the 1950s.

Perhaps more enterprising still, just four years after the end of the Second World War Mr Natan organised and made the arrangements for an exchange trip between The King's School and Landheim Schondorf am-Ammersee of Upper Bavaria in Germany. This exchange lasted for four months during Autumn 1949, and was a formative experience for the three boys who took part. Their write-up in the December 1949 issue of *The Vigornian* concluded,

“Even if we have missed a term’s work (and rigger) at Worcester we have gained far more in general education and experience, and a broader outlook on life than in a year’s normal work, and last, but not least, we have learnt some of the German language as it is spoken!”

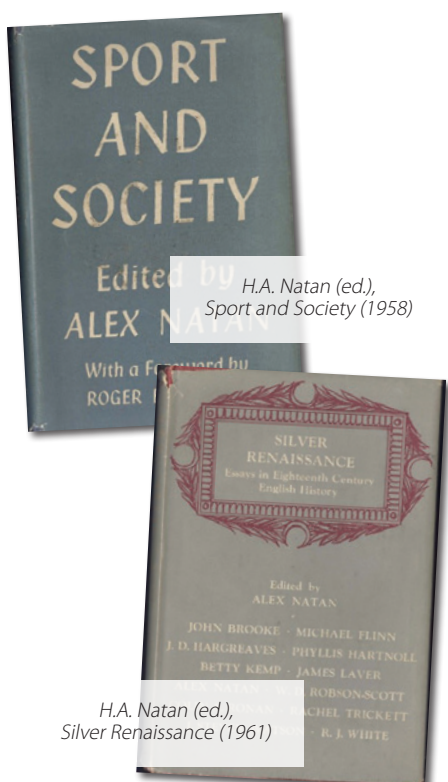
Mr Natan used his connections with the sporting world and mainland Europe to further effect at King’s. In July 1951, *The Vigornian* noted,

“It is well-known that the Germans won their relay races in their return to international athletics at Birmingham. They did, however, practise on the School field on the previous day; this afforded the School a good view of some excellent athletes, for which we must thank Mr. Natan, who acted as their interpreter.”

The School Notes section of the following issue (December 1951) recorded,

“For his successful efforts in re-establishing Anglo-German relations in sport, the German Amateur Athletic Association have bestowed on Mr. Natan their highest award of honour. At the same time the Senate of Berlin conferred upon him a special ‘plaque of honour’. All members of the school will, we feel sure, wish to join in congratulating Mr. Natan on this distinction.”

Mr Natan also wrote and produced several books of essays, including *Sport and Society* (1958), *Silver Renaissance: Essays in Eighteenth Century English History* (1961), and *Britain Today* (1965). In 1955 he was elected as a member of the P.E.N. Club.



Mr Natan retired from King’s in 1967 after 23 years as Head of the History Department. Second Master **H. Ferrar (KSW Staff 1946-1968)** wrote a moving retirement tribute to him in *The Vigornian*:

“Teaching nowadays is a highly organised business, and teachers tend to be judged by the assiduity and expertise with which they acquire and practise accepted techniques. Alex Natan had no technique, and although he was in one sense an outstanding expert, this did not come from professional training. A sworn enemy of many aspects of the British public school system, he would, I am sure, give these institutions credit for one very great virtue, the ability to tolerate and enjoy the brilliant eccentric. The King’s School profited enormously from the 23 years that Alex Natan spent on its staff, and the tolerance, which occasionally operated at extremely high

temperatures, was abundantly rewarded by the great stimulus he exerted on those he taught. The impressive and unflagging series of open and closed awards in History which was gestated in the Edgar Tower was remarkable enough in itself. It becomes even more so when one notes that it included some pupils who would not have achieved these heights in any other subject or in any other school.”

Mr Natan died at home in London on 14 January 1971; he is remembered with gratitude and affection by hundreds of OVs.

Mr Natan (and his passionate teaching style) has been described with affection by many OVs. There is not room in this magazine to include the very lengthy articles that have been sent to us, but we include snippets from all of them here.

Testimonies:

Graham Jackson (S 1946-1951):

I gained a place at New College, Oxford to read German and French, very much due to Alex Natan’s coaching of my German. He was a distinctive personality, and could convey his enthusiasms. He was unusual among the teachers at King’s, many of whom had just returned from war service. I thought he was a genuine academic intellectual, not always appreciated by his staff room colleagues!

Richard Westcott (Ch 1954-1964):

With an almost complete disregard of curriculum and A level grades – selected boys were put in for Oxford Scholarships, thus bypassing conventional entry criteria – he encouraged those of us who were favoured to sit round him, Oxbridge tutorial style, to reflect, challenge and argue – in a word, think – rather than just learn.

Sean Kearon (Ca 1964-1969):

I always knew that we were so lucky to have him as our school master; I was surprised that he did not choose to be a University don. His style of teaching was unique and refreshing. I never remember being taught in the traditional sense. He encouraged and thrived on argument.

David Westgate (CI 1947-1956):

For me, by far the most significant of Alex Natan’s plans was an exchange (Summer-Autumn 1954) between King’s and a secondary school just North of Frankfurt. Mine was not the only such experience; several boys, then or at other times, were given similar opportunities elsewhere in Germany. Alex Natan’s continuing contacts helped to facilitate these. Behind them all, however, lay his belief in the need, at that post-war period, for international understanding to be developed, and for it to be begun at a young age ... I can thus hardly thank Alex Natan enough for the benefits that have flowed over the years from his vision and his determination ... From my own adult viewpoint, I feel enduring gratitude for his role in my Sixth Form education and in helping to shape my subsequent view of the world.

David Phillips:

His introduction of some very uncouth and parochial schoolboys to the delights of German cuisine, German classical music and European culture... probably one of the very few school history teachers of his time able to inspire enthusiastic interest in the Seven Years War.

Paul Stevens (H 1952-1959):

When I shared that my dream was to see other countries but doubted my ability to earn sufficient to undertake this ... he coached me how to write enquiries for traineeships. Through this strategy, good behaviour and working hard he predicted I could merit an overseas transfer. And so, it came to pass. ... My subsequent life owes much to the caring nature and sensitivity of Mr. Natan who acted beyond his remit as a teacher and saw past the confused and unsettled adolescent I was at the time.

Our next Teacher Feature will be: **Arthur Aldridge [KSW Staff 1954-1980]**. If you have any memories of Mr. Aldridge that you would like to share, please do contact archives@ksw.org.uk

Beyond King's

Where are they now?

We love to hear news from around the world and each week we publish an 'OV of the Week', to help showcase the diversity of OV activity, to inspire and motivate current pupils and members of the King's family. If you would like to be our OV of the week please contact us on alumni@ksw.org.uk

Andrea Palk MBE (E 88-90)



Andrea joined King's in the Sixth Form, having previously been at St Mary's Convent, Worcester. While taking her A levels of Biology, Chemistry and Geography, Andrea

was also a very active member of the School, involved in both the Cross Country and Rowing squads.

Her love of rowing continued at Exeter University, where she read Geography and Biology. It is also where she became involved with the Exeter University Officer Training Corps, through which she took a Territorial Commission at the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst. This experience inspired a career in the military, specifically the Royal Air Force.

Andrea took some time after University to travel around India and then joined the RAF as a Training and Personnel Officer. She served for a total of 16 years, leaving with the rank of Wing Commander. Tours included Senior Personnel and Welfare Officer in Afghanistan, supporting British Forces, training of new recruits joining the RAF, Personal Staff Officer to an Air Rank Officer and post-graduate training at the Defence Academy, Shrivenham.

In 2003, Andrea was made a Member of the order of the British Empire for her work helping to organise the state funeral of Queen Elizabeth, the Queen Mother. She also represented the RAF in cross-country, triathlon, tennis and bobsleigh and travelled extensively.

After retiring from Regular RAF Service, Andrea developed a portfolio of adjudication jobs. She now sits as an independent panel member assessing applications to purchase properties affected by the construction of the High Speed 2 train line and the Heathrow runway expansion project. She is also the military specialist on appeal tribunal hearings for the War Pensions and Armed Forces Compensation Scheme for service personnel injured through Military Service. After re-joining the RAF as a Reserve Officer, Andrea took on a role as the Deciding Officer for Service Complaints, dealing with a wide range of issues from harassment and bullying to pay and conditions. This is in addition to her role as a Trustee at Wycliffe College on both the Welfare Committee and the Council of Trustees.

Jenny Steel (Br 96-98)



A multi-talented broadcast journalist, Jenny's journey to her current, and dream, job did not take a direct route.

Jenny was a very musical pupil at King's, putting her cello skills to good use in the School orchestra, along with being a medal-winning indoor rower. The time she spent at King's has left a lasting impression, especially the tack shop and English classes in Edgar Tower!

Jenny continued her education at Nottingham Trent University, with a BA in English Language and Linguistics. Straight after university, Jenny briefly worked in Recruitment, did a few seasons as a chalet host, and then moved to London, where she worked in Media Sales.

Having decided that sales was not where her heart lay, Jenny moved to New York to study and become a personal trainer and boxer, during which time she had five amateur bouts. Returning to the UK, Jenny enjoyed a brief period as a substitute teacher but decided to try something completely different and set out to sea to be a children's councillor on a cruise ship.

After leaving land for four years, Jenny settled on the Caribbean island of St Maarten, re-instigating her role as a school teacher and starting her career in radio with her own show.

Jenny's love for radio grew so much that she returned to the UK and her alma mater, Nottingham Trent University, to complete an MA in Broadcast Journalism and properly ignite her career in radio.

Better known by her professional name 'Shine Steel', Jenny's current job as a radio newsreader for Global Media (Heart and Capital Radio in Yorkshire) means she is, in her own words, "living my dream". Jenny is also a freelance voice artist, recording commercials, explainers, podcasts, automated voicemails and even cartoon and video game characters – so if you haven't heard Jenny's voice yet, you will undoubtedly hear it soon!

Giorgio Subiotto (Ca 80-85)



As we celebrated the 118th OV Reunion Weekend, it was the perfect opportunity to catch up with OVs who have not returned to King's for many years. Giorgio

Subiotto is one such OV whose international career has taken him far away from College Green but who was delighted to return and retrace his steps in School.

Currently a partner at offshore law firm – Ogier – and head of Ogier's global Latin American practice, Giorgio lives and works in the Cayman Islands.

While at King's, Giorgio was heavily involved in all aspects of School life: not only a School Monitor, he was also Head of a boarding house (Castle House), a member of the Boat Club and rowing squad, a violinist and played guitar, as well as playing rugby! Achieving high grades in his A Levels of French, German, Maths and Economics, Giorgio moved to London and then to Paris to complete a Joint Honours Law degree in English Law and French Law at the Universities of London, King's College and Paris I, Panthéon-Sorbonne. Not one to rest on his laurels, Giorgio then went on to complete his Master of Laws at the University of Michigan Law School, USA.

Giorgio began his legal career in London, with one of the major City firms, Linklaters, where his training included a stint in Linklaters' Paris office. After finishing his training, Giorgio was sent to work in Sao Paulo, Brazil, with one of the major law firms there, Pinheiro Neto – Advogados. From that point on, his centre of gravity shifted to the other side of the Atlantic, first to New York, where Giorgio worked with one of the major Wall Street firms, Sullivan & Cromwell, and then to the Cayman Islands, where Giorgio has settled since 2002.

Giorgio was fluent in English, French, German, Italian when he left King's. He added Spanish to that list, during a gap year spent in Spain (followed by an A Level in Spanish that he took in his second term of university), and then also Portuguese, during his stint in Sao Paulo. Languages have been essential in his career past and present.

A Picture Paints a Thousand Words



Boxing Team 1950's



1948 Cathedral Cricket Team (With thanks to **Stanley Allsop**)



L4 1992



King's U16 Netball Team 2015



Worcester Cathedral Ferry c1910-c1920



Eliot House at Cheltenham, 1990



Hostel-1994-1995



1951 Shooting Eight



EPQ candidates 2016



Girl Choristers 2014



OV Reunion Dinner Menu 1921



King's rowers 1963



Schools Science Competition winners 1991



First girl fourth formers 1991



Monitors with John Moore 1989-1990

Foundation Development & Alumni Relations

Please note our Privacy Notice can be found at: www.ksw.org.uk/alumni/about/alumni-development-privacy-notice/

The Development & Alumni Relations team love to keep OV's in touch with each other and School. We enjoy welcoming OV's back to King's, whether to a reunion, event or to tour School and meet pupils.

We are always delighted to hear from OV's so please do stay in touch. Email : alumni@ksw.org.uk Phone: **01905 721737**

Foundation Development and Alumni Team

Liz Elliott née North (Co 82-84)

Foundation Development Director



Liz oversees the Development & Alumni Relations Office and as an OV herself is incredibly well placed to do so. Liz especially focuses her attention on our *Open the Door to King's* bursary appeal and she is passionate about the impact of life-changing bursaries.

Contact: eelliott@ksw.org.uk

Sophie Borrillo-McLellan

Head of Alumni Relations



At King's Sophie is responsible for fostering and strengthening relationships with OV's and wider members of the school community. Sophie loves to plan OV reunions and events and she is very happy to hear from anyone who would like to arrange an event.

Contact: sborrillo-mclellan@ksw.org.uk

Amanda Sutcliffe

Development Assistant



Amanda enables the smooth and efficient running of the Development Office; managing the OV social media pages and weekly news, taking payments, and event bookings. Amanda is always very pleased to hear OV news.

Contact: asutcliffe@ksw.org.uk

Cath Williams

Database Assistant



Cath looks after the Development and Alumni Relations Office database making sure records are kept updated.

Contact: cwilliams@ksw.org.uk

Upcoming Events

For more information or to book on to an event please email alumni@ksw.org.uk or phone **01905 721737**
All our events may be subject to change.

**OV Professions
(Law, Marketing, Property & Finance)**
Thursday 17th March 2022: 6-8pm
London

Ten Year Reunion (Year of 2012)
Saturday 9th July 2022: 4-6pm
King's Worcester

OV Reunion Weekend
Saturday 17th September 2022
King's Worcester

London Drinks
Friday 13th May 2022: 7-9pm
The Bankside Gallery, London

40 Year Reunion (Year of 1982)
Saturday 13th August 2022
King's Worcester

Henley Regatta
July 2022

Five Year Reunion (Year of 2017)
Saturday 10th September 2022:
5.30-7.30pm
King's Worcester



Foundation Development and Alumni Relations Office

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