



KING EDWARD'S SCHOOL  
BIRMINGHAM

# OLD EDWARDIANS

GAZETTE 2021

## *In this issue...*

### *The importance of art*

Sir Paul Ruddock on the importance of museums to society

### *KES Diversity Forum*

Anne Ostrowicz writes about the development of the school's Diversity Forum

### *Trainspotting, adventures and athletics*

Former Teacher of Physics, Duncan Dewar, reminisces







Sir Paul Ruddock (1976) on the importance of museums to society

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# Welcome

As this academic year draws to a close, I have found myself reflecting on the resilience, perseverance and ingenuity that has been displayed by our school community.

Our pupils and staff moved almost seamlessly to online learning, overcoming the challenges and capitalising on the opportunities that it provided. One such opportunity was evident in the diversity of speakers boys invited to give lectures or participate in events. No longer constrained by distance and time zone in this virtual world, they have welcomed speakers live from the US, Singapore and Spain on topics spanning philosophy, politics and fake news amongst many others. I do hope that you have been able to access some of these talks and events through the OE website.

Old Edwardians have remained a constant and highly valued support to the school. They have been generous in their time, welcoming the opportunity to engage with pupils, whether that be through sharing their expertise at one of our speaker events or providing career advice. I would also like to thank all who continue to support the Assisted Places Fund; the need is as great as ever and we will be redoubling our efforts to ensure the school remains accessible to bright boys from ordinary backgrounds in the coming months. In that respect, I would like to pay tribute to Stephen Campbell (1978), who died last year. As well as serving as a governor and Chairman of the Independent Schools Governing Body, Stephen was the first Chairman of The King Edward's School Birmingham Trust and his support and guidance was invaluable in the development of the school's fundraising and the completion of the AP100 Campaign. Our thoughts are with his family and we remember all those who have lost so much during this period.

Perhaps what best exemplifies the resilience, perseverance and ingenuity shown by our community was encapsulated in last year's **KESPIRIT**. The myriad of ways in which Old Edwardians, pupils, staff and parents of both King Edward's School and King Edward VI High School for Girls supported the national effort was evident for all to see in this publication.

As we move forward into hopefully brighter times ahead, I look forward to the possibility of meeting more of you in person when social activities can safely resume. In the meantime, I hope you enjoy this edition of the OE Gazette and wish you and your families the very best for the summer.

*Katy Ricks*

■ Dr Katy Ricks  
Chief Master and President of the OEA

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



## A brief word from:

## The Chairman



It's two years since the last edition; not a surprise given all that has happened since early last year: our thoughts are with all those for whom a brighter horizon is yet to, or cannot, appear.

We saw remarkable resourcefulness and care from the school immediately the scale of the pandemic was clear. The speed with which online activity appeared for the boys was marvellous; then October's **KESPIRIT** idea sprang from the Editor of the Gazette's imagination and rapidly grew from a pamphlet to a proper journal simply because so many people wanted to take active part in our community. Says it all, really.

We had last year's OEA AGM as a closed affair as we worked out what the lockdown rules actually meant. A year on we are gathering, even if virtually. Perhaps better, for fun and friendship, there are virtual events going on all the time – there are 18 online events and 16 podcasts on the OE website ([www.oldseds.kes.org.uk](http://www.oldseds.kes.org.uk)) from this strange 20-21 period.

Thanks once again to the Development team for making these things happen for us, and may I unashamedly single out Sue Dickens for what is now 12 unstinting years of herding us around like cats. This part of our shared world would not be the same without you.

In this edition there seems to be even more variety than usual. I don't need to summarise – I just recommend you read and enjoy, and hope to see you – for real – in November at the Biennial Dinner.

■ James Martin (1979)  
Chairman of the OEA

# Letters to the Editor

## Heal the Heart mission

Dear Editor,

The combination of hearing first-hand the sad story of a farmer, whose wife succumbed to heart failure as they could not afford mitral surgery, an impromptu dinner with the Mardan Medical Complex (MMC) Hospital Director and a visit by my Consultant-trainer, Hunaid Vohra (Bristol), to Mardan in North-West Pakistan, presented both the need and the chemistry for a charitable mission.

In February 2020, the Heal the Heart team left for the first of three humanitarian missions to set up the first Heart Institute in Mardan. The objective of this mission was to perform the first ever cardiac operations on below poverty-line patients in Mardan. On the first day both stress levels and morale were high. After a 'stitch by stitch' dry run, the months of preparation culminated in the first ever successful coronary artery bypass graft (CABG) case in Mardan. Over the next four days a further four cases were performed free of cost. It only struck us what 'below poverty-line' really meant when the patients attended without shoes. As the MMC started to feel like a Heart Institute, the media broadcast the success and the hospital was inundated with visitors and calls from more patients.

Flaws in the local post-operative ICU care were exposed but thanks to our two intensive care nurses, these were identified and



managed expeditiously. To enhance our next mission, we have agreed with the MMC executive to focus on developing the ICU. We hope through our recommendations, the appointment of two surgeons and development of scrub, perfusion and ICU team, the goal to establish a Heart Institute providing state-of-the-art cardiac surgical practice free at point of delivery will be realised soon.

Every member of our group expressed their desire to return for this highly rewarding humanitarian cause. The high standard of UK cardiac surgical expertise is a welcome transferable asset to developing countries. Those interested should get involved as a short commitment can hugely impact the patients but also oneself in keeping with the philosophy of the 17<sup>th</sup> century Peshawar poet, Abdur Rahman Mohmand, that 'Humanity is all one body'.

*Ishtiaq Rahman (1994)*

## Fond memories tinged with sorrow

Dear Editor,

I found the 2019 *Gazette* full of interest, tinged with more sorrow than usual when reading of those who are no longer with us. The 1950s' obituaries brought back many memories of what is surely now a bygone age. Maurice Shock was my first head of school; Tony Homer a great friend of my brother, who also started at Five Ways; Pug Kemp was a stalwart of OE rugby, for whom I was a regular member when in Birmingham, and before injury curtailed me in my tracks; and I seem to recall that as Captain of Fives I might have introduced Keith Manders to the game.

It now seems quite incredible that I and several of those who became close friends for life, spent three years in the Upper VI<sup>th</sup>. We started so young that many of us were in the Lower VI<sup>th</sup> before we were 15. I suspect that we were too immature to cope with Higher School Certificate, and later A-levels, I was privileged to enjoy my years in the senior school, during which games, and particularly rugby and Fives, took precedence over the academic side. My motivation was negligible as I was expected to go into the family retail business in Ladywood, for which qualifications were not needed. In my final year we were physically quite mature and lost only to Bromsgrove 0-3 (grrr) and Cardiff High by a very low score, a one-off fixture probably arranged by our Welsh coach Tom Parry.

I fancied myself as a historian, and at the start of my third year at the top I entered the room of Charles Blount. "Ah! Wainwright; have you come back to play rugby." I picked up my bag and went to the geography room, where Bill Whalley said "Hello Jim; do come in." And so I became a geographer, and was pleased to be able to renew contact with Bill in his failing years. I even got to Cambridge, possibly because Tom Howarth wrote in a testimonial that I had played for the North Midlands. I had, but only the schoolboys, but I am pretty sure that the admissions tutor at Selwyn thought I had played for the big



boys. I did not let him down. I gained my 'blue' in my last year, the first OE for quite a long time, I believe. And my degree was very respectable.

And that one 'blue' opened almost every door I knocked upon when I left the retail business and entered teaching. My first position was in Brighton, which I loved, but after four years there my ambition prompted me to apply to Glenalmond College, Perthshire. I was appointed, and it was the beginning of a relationship with the school which still exists. I went from Assistant Master to Warden (Headmaster) during my 30 years there. Eleven of my grandchildren have been pupils, which says much for what my own children gained from their formative years in the heart of Perthshire. I became heavily involved in rugby and at various times coached future

Scottish players and some captains, but never my own son Rob, who also managed to be a British Lion.

Only two of my close friends from KES are still with us. Geoff Green, head of school 1991-2, and George Taplin, mentioned in the 2019 *Gazette*. Funny thing is that all three of us were schoolmasters. The journey from Perthshire to Birmingham is now too much for me, and it is some years since I attended the Biennial Dinner. But I still retain fond memories of my years at KES, and I remember there was a lump in my throat as I sat on the upper deck of the tram in July 1951 as it trundled me up the Bristol Road away from my childhood.

*Jim Wainwright (1951)*



## The impact of a great teacher



Dear Editor,

Around the anniversary of the sad passing of my economics teacher, Jack Cook, we wanted to share with readers a magical and uplifting discovery out here at the University of California, Davis. It's where I teach design, and as a teacher, I often wonder whether teaching has an impact. It seems it does.

At the final meeting with my PhD student, Mayee Wong, I signed off on the title page of her wonderful dissertation and said, "This is a moment to celebrate not only because the dissertation is finished, but because it's so good. Everything you handed in was carefully thought through, carefully footnoted, carefully written. This is not typical. It made supervision a pleasure." Mayee replies, "It's actually how I was trained at school in Singapore, by British teachers, in fact." And that prompts me to tell her that I've concluded that of all the brilliant teachers and colleagues I've had since leaving King Edward's, it was at KE that I first learned to think, write, and – long term – to teach. "King Edward's," muses Mayee. "That was where one of my teachers taught." "Really?!" I ask. "What area?" "Not yours. Economics." "But what was the name?" "Jack Cook." "Jack Cook, my sixth form teacher for two years?"

Mayee looked unsure whether her soon-to-be former supervisor was having a last joke. We now understand that Jack moved to Singapore soon after I left KE, where he

taught another generation of students like Mayee in Victoria Junior College. Subsequently working together in yet another part of the world, Mayee and I have been simpatico in our appreciation of a certain mode of critical thinking and writing, never aware until now of a shared tributary. I only wish we'd realised a little sooner and that we could have told Jack. Looking at Jack's obituary page in Singapore, it is filled with a loving appreciation of his devotion to teaching, though Mayee also recalls the caustic wit with which he got the job done and which I remember so clearly. Mayee nailed it: "He taught us like we were adults – economics was philosophy and politics, but with numbers." (And graphs. The endless reel of acetate and marker pen axes and equations on the overhead projector, phased out by the time Mayee hit her A-levels.)

I was not a gifted economist – Jack, reading out my respectable grade in the subject at A-level, added in front of the class, "No idea how you got that, Sadler," underscoring my own surprise. One possible reason? I understood Jack's real-world examples, and I remain convinced, even teaching the wonders of great buildings, it mostly all comes down to the economy. And so another generation of students will be introduced to the possibility of understanding what we might otherwise take for granted. Then write it up, and footnote it, with care.

*Simon Sadler (1986)*

## Remembered with affection

Dear Editor,

We are five OE's navigating our mid-seventies in different places around the globe, regularly exchanging our reminiscences about the old school. One of our great friends, Bill Lane, died in 1978 in New York when he would have been in his early 30s. We remember him with much affection. He was full of fun, never took life too seriously and, like all of us then, was not always compliant with the school rules, which was a risky business as the Chief Master was the implacable Reverend Lunt.

It would have been Bill's 75<sup>th</sup> birthday on 29 November 2020 and this letter shows that he has never been forgotten by any of us and what an excellent fellow he was.

*Nick Collins, Clive Port, Peter Harborne, Chris Morgan and David Crigman (all 1963/4)*

## Healthy old age

Dear Editor,

Whilst reading about OE Ronald Naylor celebrating his 107<sup>th</sup> birthday, I was reminded of the time, teaching biology at KE, when I was discussing with an A-level group factors which contributed to healthy old age.

I happened to mention that my great-aunt was the oldest person in Britain at the time, still alive at 113 (Annie Scott, 1883-1996). The boys looked impressed, then a rather dismayed voice said, "So you might live that long?"

*Jenny Matthews (Staff: 1988-2006)*

## Nostalgia



Dear Editor,

We all know nostalgia "ain't what it used to be" but a couple of items on recent *Gazettes* have stirred memories. First the US Ambassador's gift of a plaque commemorating the occupation of the temporary buildings by a corps of WACS in 1944, which I had begun to believe had only ever been seen by me, from VB form room on the lower corridor. Secondly John Croydon's memoirs of farm camps throughout the war years.

So I wondered how many other very Old Eds remembered the OE balls, which were held in Big School, after its completion by Hobbiss's merry men in the late 40s, until Canon Lunt stopped them in the 60s, in the mistaken belief that another week's schooling for the boys was more important than one night of fun for the old boys; mistaken I think because you will be a boy for six to eight years but an old boy for the rest of your life, and the school never knows when it might need us!

The balls used to be held in the dark and dismal first few days of January and were organised by a group of the denizens of 67a New Street. They were the high point of the winter season for me, John Wells, our wives, including KEHS Old Edwardian Audrey Thacker née Barton, and a bunch of our friends. While there was dancing and dining in the hall to excellent live bands, there was a



range of bars available, from beer to champagne and oysters, to suit all tastes and pockets scattered in classrooms throughout the upper corridor. Since most of the attendees were young ex-service men and women they knew how to party! Heigh ho.

Who now also remembers that the night of the eve of the varsity match was the London OE Dinner, which ensured a goodly turnout from Birmingham to reinforce the locals. I guess that couldn't work now.

As far as this pandemic is concerned I wish that we could let the boys know that the loss of time at school is not necessarily the end of the world and failure to get to university does not make it impossible for them to have a successful career, harder, but not impossible.

I left in 1946 when the government were, quite rightly, putting all the demobilised

troops through university and only open exhibitioners got there from school without staying on another year. Since I was destined to be an engineer, I went onto the shop-floor and pursued my academic qualifications by three nights a week at Birmingham's excellent Central Technical school. Which I saw through its progress to the University of Aston in Birmingham, and mine to Chartered Engineer. Oh, and by the way National Service in REME. So it's not too difficult; if I could do it any Edwardian can.

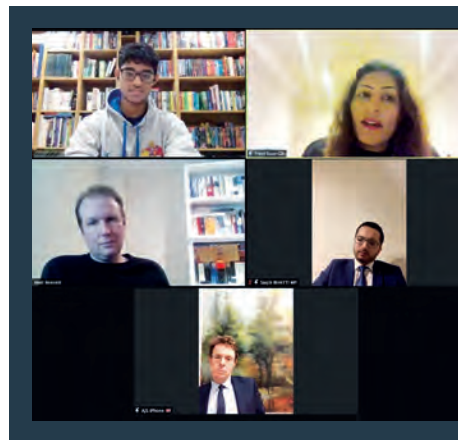
*Frank Thacker (1946)*

To share your memories of King Edward's or respond to any stories in this *Gazette*, email: [editor@kes.org.uk](mailto:editor@kes.org.uk)



# A year of virtual events

We're disappointed we haven't been able to invite Old Edwardians to in-person events this year and are really looking forward to welcoming you back to school when restrictions allow. In the meantime, take a look at a selection of virtual events that we have held during this period, many of which organised by current pupils. To watch any of the below events, visit: [www.olders.kes.org.uk/events](http://www.olders.kes.org.uk/events)




**Political Awareness Week**

Led by current pupils, Political Awareness Week featured an array of guest speakers including West Midlands Mayor Andy Street (1981), MP Saqib Bhatti (2003) and former Director of Counter-Terrorism at the Home Office, Robert Whalley (1965). Talks were on topics including race, identity, gender and sexuality in politics and there was also a virtual 'Question Time' like debate.



**Plato's Critique of 'Scientific' Politics**

**Professor Jacob Howland**  
McFarlin Professor of Philosophy at the University of Tulsa, Jacob Howland, is a distinguished classical scholar and political philosopher, who has published a number of books and essays on the thoughts of Plato.



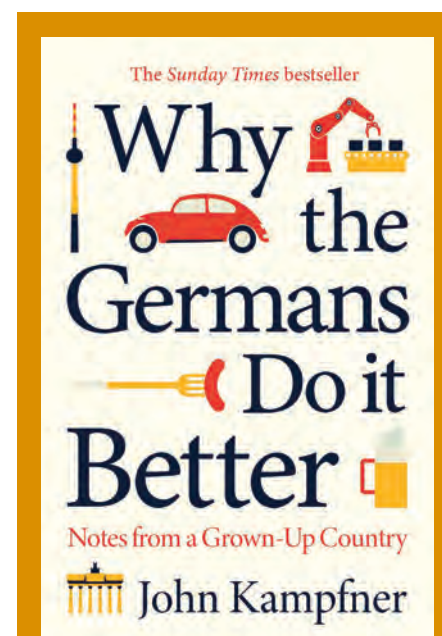
**TEDxKES**

From fake news to the future of space exploration and technology, speakers including David Ault (2000), Richard Benwell (2001), Lokesh Jain (2017) and Alok Kumar (2015) discussed a range of topics at the student-organised TEDxKES event.



**Fake News and US Politics**

**Professor Scott Lucas**  
Professor Scott Lucas is a leading scholar and expert in the fields of American Studies, Political Science and the New Media.



**Why the Germans Do it Better**

**John Kampfner**  
Journalist and broadcaster John Kampfner provided an insight into his recent book *Why the Germans Do it Better: Notes from a Grown-Up Country*, which charts the journey that Germany has taken since 1945, focusing on political institutions, the economy, culture, society and identity.



## US Covid-19 Response Strategy

**Professor Alex Tabarrok**  
Professor of Economics at George Mason University and co-founder of the online Marginal Revolution University, Alex Tabarrok shared a detailed insight into his role in developing the US Covid-19 response strategy.



## The US Elections: What Just Happened and Implications for the Future

**Professor Erik Goldstein**  
Professor of International Relations and History at the Pardee School of Global Studies, Boston University, Erik Goldstein, provided an incisive analysis on the aftermath of the US presidential election.



## Justice Towards Enemies: Practice and Historical Precedents

**Professor Michel Paradis**  
Professor Michel Paradis is a Lecturer at Columbia Law School and also serves as a senior attorney for the US Department of Defense, a role in which he is regularly appointed to represent detainees held at Guantanamo Bay.



## Holocaust Survivor

**Joanna Millan BEM**  
Holocaust survivor, Joanna Millan, told her extraordinary story of survival: being orphaned in Theresienstadt, growing up in England with a new identity, and her subsequent journey to piece together her own identity and her family's history.



## Musical performances

Our musicians haven't been able to perform to a live audience this year, but they have created numerous online concerts including The Miss Margaret Davis Memorial Recital and the Spring Concert.



## The Reacher Guy

**Dr Heather Martin**  
Author of Lee Child's (1973) biography *The Reacher Guy* and long-time Reacher fan, Heather Martin, talked about Lee's life experiences and how his time at King Edward's, and in Birmingham, shaped his books.



## Living an Ethical Life

**Professor Peter Singer**  
Regarded as the world's most influential living philosopher, Peter Singer is Professor of Bioethics at Princeton University. He discussed topics including how to pick an ethical career, non-human animal rights and becoming a vegan, and ethics of the lockdown.



## The Dawning of the Asian Century

**Professor Chris Ogden (1995)**  
Professor Chris Ogden is a leading scholar and expert specialising in China, India and Asia's rise to worldwide importance, and the study of great power politics.

Keep an eye on the OE website at: [www.olders.kes.org.uk/events](http://www.olders.kes.org.uk/events) for when restrictions allow us to host in-person events again!



# School *news*

## West Midlands Independent Secondary School of the Decade



King Edward's School was awarded The Sunday Times West Midlands Independent Secondary School of the Decade on Sunday, 29 November 2020.

The school took the top spot in the West Midlands in recognition of its commitment to accessibility through fundraising for bursaries and delivery of outreach activities, and its outstanding academic performance in the International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma.

Dr Katy Ricks, Chief Master, said: "I am delighted that King Edward's has won this most prestigious award. It is testament to the endeavour of the entire school community, past and present, that the school has achieved everything it has over the last decade.

"It was a great privilege to take on the role of Chief Master in 2019 and to be leading King

Edward's into the next decade as we seek to consolidate the success of this distinguished school for future generations. There is perhaps no more important time to be investing in our young people, preparing them for the challenges that they will face."

Alastair McCall, editor of Parent Power, said: "KES stands head and shoulders above all other independent schools in the West Midlands when considering its achievements over the past decade."

Looking forward, the school has great ambitions to increase its accessibility further through fundraising for Assisted Places. A free online learning platform is being developed for primary schools to help raise aspirations, and the intellectual life of the school will be further strengthened through incorporating elements of the IB in the curriculum lower down the school.

## Students step up to run food bank



Students at King Edward's School have stepped up to take on the running of a food bank for the Selly Oak area.

Originally started by students at the University of Birmingham, the Selly Oak Covid-19 Response food bank had been supporting dozens of families in south Birmingham since the first lockdown. In September 2020, funds were running low and the university students no longer had an operational base, and so a group of 12 Sixth Form students at King Edward's took the project on.

Since the beginning of October, students at the school have been supporting up to 40 families per week. Items are donated by pupils, parents and staff at the school, and a JustGiving page raises funds to buy additional supplies. The students then spend Friday afternoons packing the food parcels before giving them to volunteer drivers who drop them off at the relevant addresses.

To donate to the food bank, visit: [www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/selloakfoodbank](https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/selloakfoodbank)

## Pupils lead virtual initiatives to inspire peers



Pupils at King Edward's School have organised and led their own virtual events to inspire their peers and raise political awareness.

After being inspired by watching TED talks in their lessons, a group of 30 boys organised their own TEDx event which took place on Saturday, 28 November 2020. Titled "The Future of Everything", the TEDxYouth@KES event featured an array of guest speakers from the school community including a current Upper Middle, a parent and a number of Old Edwardians who delivered talks on a wide range of topics including the future of poetry, astrophysics and female empowerment.

A group of eight boys in Divisions organised a Political Awareness Week, which took place from Monday 22 to Friday 26 February 2021. Speakers included West Midlands Mayor, Andy Street (1981), Labour MP for Edgbaston and Shadow Secretary of State for International Development, Preet Kaur Gill, and former Director of Counter-Terrorism at the Home Office, Robert Whalley (1965). Talks were on topics including race, identity, gender and sexuality in politics and a virtual 'Question Time' like debate included MPs Saqib Bhatti (2003) and Preet Gill, Andy Street and Councillor Matt Bennett.

## School Captain: reflections on KES

From setting foot in the KES building wearing an oversized blazer, to writing this article under the dark wood trusses of the KES library, the past seven years of KES life has flown past all too quickly. Not long ago I was a Shell exploring the corridors with a map too big to hold; little did I know that seven years later I would have the honour of writing my reflections as the School Captain.

I suppose my experience as School Captain over the past academic year has differed greatly from my predecessors. After a few months of online learning followed by a stay-at-home summer holiday, we returned in September to a campus with a new one-way corridor system, hand sanitising units affixed to the walls and bottles of antiviral spray at the front of each classroom. On top of that, social interactions were restricted to within year group 'bubbles'. One term in and we were back to online distance learning at the beginning of 2021, re-emerging in late March with face masks and Covid test kits in our armoury. Unlike School Captains before me, my weekly Big School notices and various speeches were confined to Zoom and, much to my dismay, I haven't been able to attend all the events that would usually populate the school year.

Yet despite this, the role of School Captain, to represent the student body and to uphold the spirit of the school, has remained the same. I believe the KES spirit is what makes KES truly unique, and such spirit has kept us going through these tough times. To our collective merit, we have managed to keep a semblance of normality despite all the changes and uncertainties this year. Thus, I am proud to report that all is well on the school front. Wonderful things are happening all the time in our community – from charitable deeds to online society events, from personal achievements to school wide successes such as winning the West Midlands Independent Secondary School of the Decade award. The pandemic has not dampened our spirits. If anything, it has made us more determined and driven than ever.

Looking back, perhaps what we all cherish about our time at KES, is not just the wealth



of academic knowledge that we accumulate, but the people we meet and experiences we share. Whether it is climbing up Helvellyn on Removes Expeditions week or competing in the heat of a debate, the KES spirit permeates throughout all our actions. This spirit is contagious, as many Old Edwardians may agree, yet difficult to describe. I suppose it is a shared belief in equal opportunity, hardworking and 'to carry on when the knocks are hardest.' It is in such a mindset that we embrace the world with confidence and determination and trust there really is no limit to what we Edwardians, old and new, can achieve in our lives.

As for myself, I have changed a lot over my time at KES. The days of smooth sailing and achievements are greatly cherished, yet it was the difficulties and hardships that have moulded my character for the better. Being a KES pupil as well as the School Captain has imbued me with a sense of purpose and responsibility, which, combined with the love of knowledge and independent thinking nurtured at KES, has prepared me for my life beyond the school gates. In a few months' time, I will become an Old Edwardian myself. But before I take off my beloved uniform, I would like to thank the entire KES community who, over the seven years guided me, challenged me, and supported me to make me who I am now. It has been an incredible honour.

Jimmy Yuan



# An insight into KES Diversity Forum



Anne Ostrowicz, Diversity Forum Chair and Teacher of Religious Studies and Philosophy, writes about the development of the school's Diversity Forum, the range of activities and events taking place, and what it aims to achieve.

I have been teaching at King Edward's School for 30 years, and never has the school been more diverse. Pupils have roots in countries all over the world – including Ethiopia and Eritrea, the part of the world where I was born and grew up – and the ever-increasing

number of pupils on Assisted Places, brings in socio-economic diversity, too. Can you imagine the wonderful discussions this diversity produces in lessons in my subject: religion and philosophy? Sometimes I am overwhelmed and humbled by the richness and beauty of all that has been shared by the boys, which so often weaves into a wonderful, positive, harmonious symphony of thoughts and ideas as we consider significant existential questions of meaning, value and what it is to be human.

KES Diversity Forum was started a year ago by Chief Master Dr Katy Ricks when the BLM movement gained strength in the aftermath of the death of George Floyd, and the very strong feeling held by pupils, OEs and staff that as a school we wanted and needed to do something more than we were already doing.

A 'Big School' by then School Captain Emil Ali (2020), pupil Louiseged Belayhun (2020), and Arinze Okemuo (2019), powerfully fuelled the discussion including addressing pupil treatment of one another. The Diversity Forum comprises 13 members of staff from across a wide range of subjects. Pupils attend to talk with us on various subjects and we hope soon to add pupil members. Broadly speaking we are looking at the curriculum, pastoral care, co-curricular, the school environment, and its interface with the local community. Recently we have widened our remit to sexuality and gender.

Big School assemblies have been a key platform for engagement on diversity issues including recent talks by teachers Chris Johnson, Ed Milton and Ron Turford. Sixth Louis Bowker – who has represented KES

this last year at the King Edward VI Foundation Pupil Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Committee – spoke on the work of that group, including locating unconscious-bias training for staff, and linking subject teachers across the schools for the discussion and sharing of teaching materials. Louis will go to Oxford next term to study geography. Part of his Oxbridge preparation, with head of department Jonathan Smith, was to read and discuss academic literature highlighting the inadequacy of existing school geography in national examination syllabuses (e.g. Africa is invariably presented only by its problems).

The pupil heads of Agora have been active in organising talks and discussions related to diversity. We have already welcomed Professor Meena Dhandu, an expert on curriculum development, and Rev Dr Vincent Jambawo, who spoke about growing up in the former Rhodesia. In the autumn, Dr Shalini Sinha will speak on beliefs and rituals around death in Eastern religions, and Professor Anthony Reddie – who spoke at Culture Society two years ago – will speak on contested notions of belonging in Britain based on issues of race and class. Another returnee is former freedom-fighter South African Letlapa Mphahlele, now a politician and founder of the Lyndi Fourie Foundation, which works for peaceful reconciliation between communities in conflict. One pupil described his previous visit as: "The stand-out lesson of GCSE RS!" Culture Society will be welcoming Birmingham City University's Kehinde Andrews, Professor of Black Studies, and opera singer and BBC broadcaster Peter Brathwaite will speak about the Rediscovering Black Portraiture project. KES also looks forward to receiving the brilliant geneticist, Adam Rutherford, who will be speaking on the genetics of race.

In recent months we have seen the birth of Sikh Society, Hindu Society and African-Caribbean Society. We also celebrated a hugely successful and moving inter-faith evening focused on food, to which families, OEs and members of the community were invited.

Despite my own upbringing in Ethiopia, it was Dr Nathaniel Adam Tobias Goleman\* (1999), who, speaking at Agora in 2016, deeply challenged me about both the content and

perspectives of what we were teaching here at KES, setting me on a major study journey, deeply fruitful and inspiring for myself, and I hope for my pupils, too. Addressing curriculum content is of primary concern and we are about to launch a curriculum review, a significant aspect of which will look at both content and perspectives of what we teach in all subjects. Whilst many staff have already been working in this area, there is a great urgency to this.

The History Department has been trialling new content and perspectives with Lower School, including Andrew Petrie drawing on David Olusoga's wonderful research on Black History in Britain and Ed Milton focusing on the Empire and India with UMs. Paul Golightly has already been looking with Shells at Birmingham's involvement with the slave trade and Carolyn Bayley has written a new scheme of work on the American Civil Rights Movement for UMs.

Whilst Gemma Babb, Head of English, was showing me around the contents of 'The English Book Cupboard', she divulged that she has an MA in Caribbean Literature and Creole Poetics! I left with a whole set of a gem of a book to lend to pupils: *Facing the Lion* by Kenyan Joseph Lekuton.


On several occasions, Beccy Leaver, Head of PSHE, has with incredible efficiency, produced materials for form teachers to facilitate immediate responses to diversity issues in the news headlines. She also organised June PSHE drop-down days for all years (except Sixths) where diversity issues were a key part of the agenda. A new Divisions PSHE club started in April, the first topic of which, chosen by the pupils, was: 'What gender means in a single sex school.' A course on gender was also offered to the Sixths as one of the many activities they could do in the summer term.

When it comes to the school environment, food is something most of us hold close to our hearts! Louise Williams, who holds the keys to the Kingdom of Food, is full of ideas to increase the celebration of festivals represented at the school, both through food and decorations. Hence we enjoyed Diwali celebrations in the autumn term and Eid celebrations in May. If you happened to visit the school library this last year you would

have been greeted with some fantastic displays of books focused on diversity, and several book lists created by our librarian Kirsty Burns, with contributions from various staff including the inimitable Ed Milton.

Moving on to the school's interface with Birmingham, for a while now we have been mulling over the idea of KES hosting a festival that would reflect and promote the wonderful diversity of Birmingham. Any suggestions?!

To conclude, the vision of KES, promoted by its Diversity Forum, is to be the global school we wanted to become when we joined the IB. We do this not simply by encouraging a truly diverse pupil intake, but by drawing more fully into our community the richness and breadth of experience, culture, tradition, language, religion and philosophy which our pupils bring with them, and by teaching a subject content and perspective that is global.

Of course we can all join in with this vital endeavour by expanding our own perspectives: listening with open hearts and minds; reading widely; and offering our friendship and the hospitality of our homes to one another. We embrace the value of diversity in the plant, insect and animal kingdoms, but can easily forget in our day-to-day living that that same life-enriching value holds also in human relationships. In religion and philosophy, Shells have a lesson when they address each other with a range of greetings including "Namaste", "As-salamu alaykum", "Shalom", and the wonderful South African (looking the person in the eye) "Ndibona" which literally means, "I see you!" but in spirit means: "I see you, a person like me, worthy of respect." 

\*Nathaniel strikes through his surname for the following reason: "My fourth and final name was imposed on me by Michael Collman, in an act of attempted ownership; my three former names were bestowed on me by my mother, in an act of love."

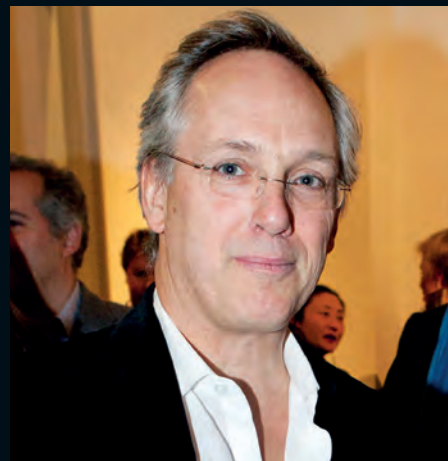
We are keen to hear from any member of the school community who has suggestions for initiatives that could support a successful diversity education. If you would like to get involved, email: [equality@kes.org.uk](mailto:equality@kes.org.uk)



# The importance of art



The Sutton Hoo belt-buckle. Gold, hollow with cast ornament. Early Anglo-Saxon, early 7<sup>th</sup> century. Found in the Sutton Hoo Ship-burial Mound: 1, Suffolk, England. © The Trustees of the British Museum



Sir Paul Ruddock (1976), co-founder of Landsdowne Partners and patron to the arts, talks about where his love of art began, his philanthropic giving and involvement with museums, and the importance of museums to society.

## When did your love of art begin?

In the 60s and 70s, entertainment options were limited in England. At weekends my parents would take us to museums and National Trust houses and, whereas a lot of children didn't like that, I loved it. We would also go to London once a year, when I would visit the Victoria and Albert Museum (V&A) and the British Museum – two places that triggered my love of the medieval.

My parents were not collectors – I don't think they had any particular interest in art themselves – but it was that exposure that drew me to the arts and from an early age I was a compulsive collector. I remember being up in the Orkney Islands on holiday when eight years old and using a year's pocket money to buy a little boat made out of bone. I was always a collector, even when I had no money.

## What drew you to collecting medieval art?

I've always liked medieval art, partly because around Europe, and particularly within the UK, one of the few things that survive are the great medieval churches and houses. In 1988

I was on holiday in Sicily and every day I walked by an antique store that had a 13<sup>th</sup>/14<sup>th</sup> century marble lion in the window. It was quite a lot of money for me at the time but I ended up buying it. I realised that in those days I could buy good works of medieval art for not much more than a degree show art student's painting. So, it was partly that I loved the material and also because it was quite affordable at the time.

## What prompted your philanthropy to the arts?

A lot of museums had become dusty and uninspiring by the mid-90s, despite having amazing objects, and I felt there were certain things that needed to be done. Lighting and showcasing had become so much more sophisticated – you just had to look in Topshop's window to see that – yet museum exhibits were stuck in these dull old cases. So, in the mid-90s I called up the V&A, which I'd always loved, and said "Look, I'd like to help you." To which they responded, "What do you mean?" Development didn't really exist in the 90s. I started off by giving about £10,000 and it built from there.



My wife and I gave some money to the British Galleries project at the V&A in 1999 then, as my business started to become successful, around 2001 I offered to kick-start the renovation of the Medieval Galleries with a fairly significant pledge. This was the first big gift I had made and it was fantastic when the suite of 13 renovated Medieval and Renaissance Galleries opened in 2009. We then supported the renovation of the Cast Courts Gallery with Trajan's Column at the V&A and the Medieval Europe and Sutton Hoo galleries at the British Museum. This is what had excited me as a boy and my goal was to educate and inspire people in the way that I had been inspired by these collections.

## Talking of Sutton Hoo, have you seen *The Dig*?

Not only have I seen it but I did a YouTube where I interviewed the writer John Preston, who is an old friend, and Sue Brunning, the curator of the Sutton Hoo gallery. John is the nephew of Peggy Piggott, played by Lily James in the film. It was in August 1939 on the eve of the Second World War that Basil Brown started his digging but he wasn't credited with the find originally, which was a terrible example of class snobbery as he was viewed as just a self-educated, jobbing excavator.

## Do you still think a class divide exists?

Far less than when I started working. If you think about artists historically, they were often outsiders, but it was the establishment that bought art. Britain was very reactionary in terms of art, even artists like Picasso were considered undesirable right through to the 60s. I credit Nick Serota with transforming Britain's art

scene with projects like the Turner Prize.

Some of those Turner Prize artists, like Antony Gormley, were products of the Oxbridge world but then you had others like Grayson Perry, Damien Hirst and Tracey Emin who were outsiders and really helped shape British art in the late 20<sup>th</sup> century. By the 80s Britain was known widely in the contemporary art world and I think the class structure in terms of art became almost irrelevant in the UK.

## Have you seen accessibility to museums change?

When I first became a trustee of the V&A in 2002, we were getting about a million visitors a year. Now, the V&A (pre-Covid) gets about four million visitors a year and a lot of that increase was to do with the renovation of many of the galleries, making them more accessible as well as having exhibitions that excited people. It's also how the show is put on. The Scythians exhibition at the British Museum educated us about the amazing nomadic tribes that ranged from China



The Sutton Hoo Purse-Lid. Gold, cloisonné garnet and millefiori glass. Early Anglo-Saxon, early 7<sup>th</sup> century. Found in the Sutton Hoo Ship-burial Mound: 1, Suffolk, England. © The Trustees of the British Museum



Installation of the Sutton Hoo helmet in the Sir Paul and Lady Ruddock Gallery of Sutton Hoo and Europe AD 300-1100 at the British Museum. © The Trustees of the British Museum

through to the Black Sea from around the 7<sup>th</sup> century to 2<sup>nd</sup> century BCE and who produced the most amazing gold artefacts. Most people knew nothing about them and this show not only educated but also really excited visitors.

## What does your role on the board of museums involve?

Boards of national museums are complicated. I was on the board of the V&A for 13 years and chairman for eight, I've been on the British Museum board for four years, on the Metropolitan Museum board for 11 years and I was on the Courtauld board. First and foremost the role of trustees is to safeguard the collections, ensuring that the fabric of the building is well looked after, that the visitor experience is good, that there's enough curatorial expertise, etc. At the British



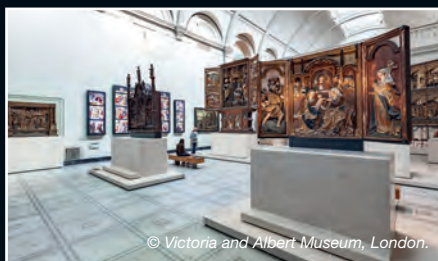


© Victoria and Albert Museum, London.

**“It’s very easy to erase history, it’s much harder to recreate it.”**

Museum we’re at the early stages of a massive renovation including building a new £80 million research and storage centre near Reading. During my time at the V&A we undertook a renovation of almost two thirds of the museum.

Secondly, you give advice. On the acquisitions side, my expertise is obviously medieval, so I’m in a position to, not know more than curators, but support them in acquisitions if I think it’s appropriate – same at the Met. Then fundraising is important. Not all trustees can do that, but raising funds from philanthropists, corporations, foundations and from government was a key part of my role as chair and trustee. Then there’s a lot of what I call ticking boxes: making sure the policies are good, that when we authorise loans the objects are in a good state of conservation and are going to a secure place. Essentially overseeing that the management has done what needs to be done. People



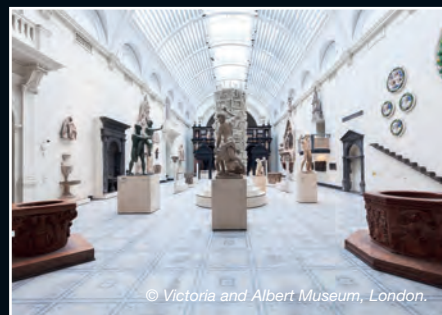
© Victoria and Albert Museum, London.

think being a trustee is just sitting on a board and listening but there is a huge amount of time and expertise required.

Finally, we are reviewing how our collections relate to the current world and looking more closely at the history of their acquisition and where appropriate being much more transparent about this history.

#### What has been the impact of the pandemic?

The national museums have been getting support from government but are still losing money and having to eat into reserves. Having said that, I think the national institutions will be fine, it may be tough for a few years but when tourism picks back up we’ve got amazing collections and people will go to exhibitions. In the performing arts it’s been brutal, particularly the independent performing arts sector. For independent theatres and small regional museums that



© Victoria and Albert Museum, London.



© Victoria and Albert Museum, London.

don’t have access to big philanthropists and have maybe been cut back by local authorities more severely, I do worry whether they’ll survive this.

#### Why is it so important that museums survive?

Firstly, they are a repository of the creativity of humankind since the earliest dates. At the British Museum, you can see axe flints from half a million years ago and figurative art from 20,000 years ago. Whether you are looking at Egyptian art, Syrian, Greek, Asian or African, what you realise is artists then were just as, if not more talented than artists today. Secondly, I think they’re inspirational and also show the interaction of cultures. One of the things I love about Sutton Hoo and our gallery in the British Museum is that the ship burial had Anglo-Saxon jewellery, Byzantine plates from Constantinople, dirhams from the Arabic world, Lapis Lazuli from Afghanistan, garnets from Ceylon (modern day Sri Lanka), and items from Scandinavia. It shows the interconnectivity that the world has always had and I think that’s really important.

Think of the damage caused to our collective history when we go through periods of iconoclasm; there’s so little art that survived in Britain pre-1540 apart from our churches because it was all destroyed by Henry VIII and Oliver Cromwell. There is almost nothing that survives pre-1066, apart from archaeological findings, because the Normans destroyed everything Anglo-Saxon. It’s very easy to erase history, it’s much harder to recreate it. I think that’s why it is important, particularly in times like this, that we continue to value the amazing collections within our museums. [O](#)

## Reminiscences of a former Physics Master:

# Duncan Dewar

Duncan Dewar, who taught physics and maths from 1974 to 2019, talks about trainspotting trips, adventures in the CCF, and his love of athletics.

### From engineering to teaching

My dad was keen for me to do engineering and I got sponsorship from a big firm called Automotive Products that paid for me to work for them for a year, go to university and then go back to them, and I hated it. About halfway through the year I went to see my brother and now sister-in-law. She was a teacher and talking to her I thought I would probably enjoy doing that. Before my final year at university, I did a placement at a school in Bristol. After two days of watching lessons, the science teacher was taken ill and they asked me to help out. I thought it was fantastic because rather than just sitting there I’d been put in charge. You couldn’t do it nowadays of course. I spent three or four weeks there and really enjoyed it.

### Starting at King Edward’s

I was doing some teaching practice in a private school in Warminster and saw an advert for a physics teacher at King Edward’s in Birmingham. At the time I was going out with a girl who lived in Meriden, so Birmingham caught my eye. I turned up for the interview and I was so lucky, they were looking for somebody to teach maths and physics at A-level and they said, “You can do this can’t you? You’re an engineer.” Some kids I would see for 12 periods a week for A-level physics and mechanics – they must have been sick of the sight of me. I ended up teaching maths to Rems and Shells and kept that up when I became Head of Lower School in 1987. I got to know a lot of the boys that way.







### Having a word

Some teachers were into all the latest stuff about pastoral care, but I'm afraid I used to do lots of things by the seat of my pants. I'd take kids to one side and have a word, and I used to find that worked quite well most of the time. I always used to say to the boys, if you're polite to each other and polite to members of staff, you'll get on fine here. I never saw myself as an expert on pastoral care, I just tried to make the boys feel that they knew the standards that were expected of them. One Old Edwardian referred to me as 'the iron fist in a velvet glove' – I thought that was really nice.

### Change and continuity

There's a lot more care about the pastoral side of things than there was when I started. It was sink or swim when kids started back in the early 70s and I think the pastoral care system has got a lot, lot better. Some things haven't changed. The humour, I've loved that. The repartee between boys and staff – jokey but respectful. The inability to do a top button up or wear a tie properly. I was very proud one Speech Day, when Tom Claughton was head boy, and he said about my ability to

spot an undone button at 500 paces. I thought, yep, that's me – I really did laugh at that.

### Trainspotting

I left two kids behind on the station at Grantham once. We went there to see a particular class of locomotive you could only see on the east coast main line. None of them stopped in Grantham and we had about two minutes between one coming through and our train leaving. So I said, "Stand here, get the engine number and then run when our train comes in." Ten minutes later, "Where's so and so?" Oh, no...! Luckily one of the kids, I'm sure he was head boy at the time, was with me. I gave him the tickets and told him to take them to Derby where we were going to trainspot for an hour, and if I didn't meet them there to take them back home. I got off at the first stop I could, and there was a bloke washing his car. I said, "Excuse me, can you tell me when the next bus to Grantham is?" He told me there weren't any buses. My face must have fallen and he asked me what the problem was. He was a teacher and said, "Don't worry mate, get in the car." When I got on the platform, these two kids hadn't even realised we'd gone. So we all got back to



Derby and nobody knew about it! I didn't have to fill in an accident form for that one.

### Serving the CCF

A Colonel once asked me what it was like being in the CCF. I said, "Well it's a bit like being married, you have tremendous highs and tremendous lows."

I spent most of my first CCF camp avoiding cadets because I didn't know what was going on. On the last day, I was looking after Connolly Section and they were abseiling off

the white cliffs of Dover. I was sitting in the sun thinking this is fantastic, we're going home tomorrow, it's all over, when this sergeant said to me, "I suppose you'll want to abseil won't you sir?" Well, I'm terrified of heights... "Yes Sergeant." I started lowering myself back, got almost to horizontal position and the top of the cliff crumbled. My boots were at the top and I'm hanging upside down. With the coolness that's expected of a British army officer, I said "What shall I do now Sergeant?" He leans over, looks down and says, "Well sir, if I were you I'd bloody well get back up here."

Some of the experiences I had with the CCF were phenomenal. We were invited to Germany by the Royal Regiment of Fusiliers, after Derek Benson sweet talked the Colonel, and they made us so welcome. We went to Minden and met the first battalion, all Geordies and hard as nails, so different to our cadets but our cadets thought they were fantastic. They took us on a platoon attack exercise. We were all kitted up and each section was put into an armoured personnel carrier (APC). Of course we came under fire and everyone baled out. In the debrief the Fusilier Sergeant told our senior cadet that he liked the way he'd planned the exercise. Our cadet asked the Sergeant if he would have done it the same way. "Oh no lad, no," he said. "If you remember son, in the briefing I said it was a known Russian gunman with a machine gun. I would have stayed in my f\*\*\*ing APC and run the f\*\*\*er over." The language was a bit fruity. I remember Derek saying to the kids on the coach on the way back, "Remember, when you get home, it's not the army. So when your mum asks you if you've had a good time, don't say, 'Yeah mum, it was f\*\*\*ing marvellous'."

### Setting Standards

I was a cross country runner at school, it was the only sport I was any good at, and I just liked helping out with athletics. After a couple of years I started running the high jump, which I loved as there was a real bit of drama about it. We had some fantastic times and there were some amazing kids. There was a lad called Edwards, a very good high jumper, whose dad came up to me at his last Sports Day and said "Mr Dewar, you were the first member of staff I saw when I brought him down here for the Admissions Ceremony and you're going to be the last." I thought that was a really nice thing to say.

For years I ran the Athletics Standards, which I always loved. I modified Standards so that



even the least athletic kid could get some points for his House. The fact that kids could get something, that's what I was pleased with. I was down Eastern Road one Thursday, raking the pit out and I did my back in. I'm lying in the sand curled up in the foetal position, desperate not to move and this kid comes up to me and says, "Sir, can you sign my Standards card?" Like it was the most natural thing that I would be lying in the sand. I suppose he thought we're all mad, teachers, there's nothing strange going on here.

### Never intentionally victorious

I have been an unlucky charm for Vardy. I was allocated Vardy in my first year and they had just won the Cock House for six or seven years on the trot. Since I've been there, they've never won it. I always took the view with Vardy, that we were never intentionally victorious, to misquote John Lewis. I used to say, I didn't mind whether we won or lost, as

long as we all turned up and did our best. That's all I wanted from them. I keep meaning to go to Lapworth, where Vardy is buried, so I can pay my respects to him and put some blue flowers on his grave as Vardy gave me an enormous amount of pleasure.

### Final thoughts

King Edward's was the first job I applied for. I travelled up from Bath for the interview and the following Saturday I came back to Birmingham to see someone I'd been to university with. This guy's dad was Chief Inspector of Science in schools in Birmingham and he asked me how my interview went. I said, "Well actually they've offered me the job but I don't know whether to take it or not." He said, "If I were you I'd take it." Now if my dad had said that I would have done the exact opposite, but I thought well this bloke knows schools, so I took it. I lost contact with this guy but met him again 20 years later. His dad had died by then, but I told him I owed his dad an enormous debt because by his chance comment I ended up at what was the right school for me.

I can remember walking down the drive on the very first morning thinking well I'll probably survive a couple of years... maths was never my strong point. It's been a symbiotic relationship – I got a lot out of it and I hope I put a lot into it as well. King Edward's was my life for 45 years and I'm just so grateful. I have been very, very lucky. 🟡



# Economics

16.2 In this edition we put the spotlight on Old Edwardians

4 working in the field of economics. Peter Eckley (1999),

24 Wrik Ghosh (2011) and Graham Stock (1985) write

38.2 about their different career paths in economics.

## Data and analytics



I arrived at KES with a fascination for how the world works, and a strong appetite for learning. KES did a fantastic job of encouraging and nurturing this, while giving me a rounded education. After KES and four years of undergrad studies in physics, I had

acquired two of the most important tools for the rest of my life: how to think in a structured way about the world, and how to learn!

Following involvement in some technology start-ups during undergrad, I dreamt of becoming an entrepreneur, but I figured I should learn a bit about business first. So I started my career in a smallish management consultancy.

Consultancy took me all over the world, and exposed me to many new vistas. I came to see society as a subject of study just as fascinating as physics – if not more so. As I applied European “best practice” to other countries’ telecoms regulations, I found myself wanting to understand the deeper economic theory. So I took up a Masters in Economics. In the course of my studies I became fascinated with how financial markets work (and when they don’t). I also met my now wife, Bethany.

I joined the Bank of England as a Senior Economist, but thanks to my consultancy

background and heavy use of data analytics in my research, I was soon drawn into work on the Bank’s emerging data strategy. This was not such a hot topic as it is now, and had been delegated several rungs down the ladder. It was my entrée into people management. Leaving research behind, I began the steep learning curve of leadership, which I’m still very much on, grappling hooks and all. (Around the same time we had twin boys, now four years old – a whole other kind of learning curve!) I now lead the Bank’s data and analytics strategy and transformation programme. Translated into more exciting terms means that (among other things) my team helps to stabilise the global financial system.

For all the zig and zag in my career path, the unifying thread is that fascination and love of learning that KES nurtured in me through my teenage years.

*Peter Eckley (1999)*

## Health



Working in health economics has provided me with the chance to apply economics in a practical way. I had always enjoyed discussions in economics classes at KES about how theories could be applied to policy, and the real-world applications drew me in the most. After KES I studied economics and management at Oxford – I

learnt about the different specialties within economics and was particularly intrigued by health economics – optimal resource allocation in healthcare can go a long way to saving lives.

I pursued a Masters in Health Economics from the London School of Economics, which showed me the myriad ways economics can be applied to healthcare, including international health policy, measurement of health system performance, and understanding pharmaceutical economics. During my Masters I had a placement at the Department of Health, where I investigated optimal waiting times for procedures provided by the NHS.

Following this, I took a job as a Health Economist at Costello Medical – a medical consulting company. This involved supporting the healthcare industry, particularly through building models to investigate cost-effectiveness and the budget impact of new treatments, in collaboration with clinical experts who would help to explain what the different benefits would be. These models would be used to support decisions by governments on funding for treatments. After two years working in Cambridge, I spent nearly three years in Singapore – governments around the world are increasingly using health economics to guide

their decisions and this was a great way to learn more about health systems in the Asia-Pacific region.

My current role on the Global Vaccine Markets team at the Clinton Health Access Initiative involves ensuring markets for vaccines function effectively, to improve access to vaccines in low- and middle-income countries. I will be based in India and will work closely with Indian vaccine suppliers, as well as global health partners such as the WHO, Gavi, and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.

I have really enjoyed the varied world of health economics – there are several different areas even within this niche of economics, and the ability to apply what I have learnt to something of such relevance is rewarding. KES taught me to always push myself and think harder, as well as exploring what is out there, and I feel that health economics has been a great way to channel this.

*Wrik Ghosh (2011)*

## Emerging markets



I am an economist today thanks to an inspirational KES economics teacher back in 1983. I specialise in emerging markets and particularly Latin America thanks to his equally enthusiastic colleague teaching

Spanish. With no clear career plan, I decided to study my two favourite subjects at university and chose Sheffield from the few places that offered joint honours.

That intro implies an upward trajectory as smooth as a supply curve in an A-level exam paper. Instead, I dropped undergraduate economics within a year. It felt like we had already covered all the material in the Sixth Form, and I was enjoying the literature and politics of Hispanic Studies much more. That passion drew me to Latin America after graduation, to teach English at a university in Colombia.

The next few years were not much more coherent but formed the building blocks of a career. On returning to the UK I dabbled in management consultancy in London (on a KES friend’s introduction), and saved enough for a Master’s in Development Economics at Manchester. That in turn equipped me to apply for the Overseas Development Institute’s Fellowship Scheme, which sent me to work for two years as a government economist for Papua New Guinea. Pro tip: having an exotic location on your CV gets you more job interviews from intrigued recruiters than you might deserve.

So a decade after flying the KES nest, I was a fully-fledged economist who spoke

fluent Spanish. There are lots of those in Latin America and Spain, but not so many in the UK, and I was hired by the Economist Intelligence Unit to join their team covering the former. I have essentially had the same basic job description ever since, albeit for half that time for a US investment bank in New York and London, and then in asset management. For a few years I covered emerging Europe, and then Sub-Saharan Africa, and my work travel has also taken me to China, India and Indonesia. Recently, I have been focusing also on Environment, Social and Governance issues.

For me, that variety has been key. Other economists will have enjoyed (or not) completely different careers, but I am certainly glad that it was one of my A-level choices and that KES got me off on the right foot.

*Graham Stock (1985)*



## Births

### Bhavesh Patel (2002)

Birth of second daughter, Devi Jay, on 20 April 2021.



### Richard Brookes (1994)

Birth of first daughter, Lucy, in June 2020.

## Marriages

### Qasim Shah (2000)

Married Karina Pajo in October 2019.

## 1950s

### David Edwards (1955)

After leaving school, I enjoyed my two years National Service in the Navy where I obtained a Rank of Midshipman. After training I was sent out to serve on a Minesweeper in Malta and spent most of my time patrolling around Cyprus, preventing the influx of arms to General Grivas and Archbishop Makarios. I also took part in the attempted recapture of the Suez Canal. I was promoted to Sub Lieutenant RNVR after I left on reaching the age of 21. I then worked for Joseph Lucas where I studied to obtain qualifications in engineering but was introduced to computers in 1965 and started work in programming and systems, which I continued working in at other companies. In 1979, I emigrated to Australia with my wife and three children where we settled near Melbourne.

# Old Edwardians News in brief

I am now retired. My wife and two other partners have died leaving me on my own but my three children, two stepchildren, seven grandchildren and two great-grandchildren all live quite close by. Always keen on sailing and the sea, I have enjoyed racing small dinghies and larger yachts. I am a member of three yacht clubs and until recently owned a small ketch for nearly 30 years. I still keep fairly fit and swim and square dance weekly.

### Ian Turner (1956)

I have written two further short articles on the Italian architect and glass designer Alessandro Pianon. The first was published in *Glass Matters*, the magazine of the Glass Society, issue 10 in January 2021, and the second has been accepted for publication in the next issue. In March 2021, my research paper on the ceramic artists and potters named Dean working in the Potteries at the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century was published in the *Northern Ceramic Society Journal Volume 37*, and two further articles on early 20<sup>th</sup> century ceramics have been accepted for publication in the next edition of the Society's Newsletter.

## 1960s

### Michael Ponsford (1961)

About a year ago my book was published. It is a commentary in German on the biblical book of First Samuel, which relates the story of the first Old Testament kings of Israel, Saul and David. While doing my second degrees in theology at the London School of Theology, I wrote my MA thesis on the story of David and Saul. Later the editors of an Old Testament commentary series in German asked me to expand it into a full length book, which has now finally been published. For about 40 years I have been involved with the German Deaf Christian Fellowship. Via interpreters into sign language, I have spoken at Bible retreats and training weekends for deaf preachers. At present I am contributing articles on Bible subjects for their website.

### Steve Thompson (1961)

Following a BSc and PhD in agricultural science from Reading University, I worked for 26 years in Canada, finishing as Director General of Research in their Department of Agriculture, then Professor of Sustainable Development in New Brunswick. I moved to New Zealand in 1997 to run their science funding agency, then the Royal Society of New Zealand, before retiring in 2007 – but returning for a further 10 years as science officer with the British High Commission in Wellington.

### Stephen Cockle (1964)

Choral singing has been an important part of my life for many years, but the past year has presented community choirs with difficult choices. So, last summer I took the plunge and joined a start-up chamber choir, the Toronto Mozart Choir, which had the lofty goal of presenting whole classical works as YouTube videos. After three sessions that have included Beethoven's Mass in C and Mozart's Requiem, we have still never met in the real world. A technical wizard had the task of assembling everyone's efforts into something that looked good and sounded like a choir. I would argue that the backroom techie is actually the most important member of the team! My regular Toronto community choir has followed suit with a series of short pieces, while several other community and church choirs where I have contacts were glad of an extra bass voice. Almost a year later, I find myself the veteran of over 50 individual recordings without ever having left the safety of my home.



### Sergio Maresca (né Tew, 1964)

After international careers in education and business for over 50 years, I turned 75 this year and am busier than ever and really living my life in crescendo! I emigrated to Australia in 1976, and we have so far been relatively lucky to avoid the extreme lockdowns of the rest of the world. Every week, I visit hospices for the dying and go into prisons to talk with hard core long-term inmates. I also go into schools and spend time with highly dysfunctional teenagers and help them to turn their lives around and inspire them to become rebels with a more positive purpose! I am also working on writing my eighth book. The theme is on how to grow “bolder” not just “older”, and how to overcome the cancers of social isolation and loneliness. Our 23-year-old daughter, Isabella, has just graduated with double degrees of BA (majoring in Italian) and BEd (Hons) from Monash University in Melbourne and has gone straight into teaching, which she is absolutely passionate about. My wife Jan is a Churchill Fellow and Executive Principal of one of the largest schools in Australia.

I have absolutely wonderful memories of my time at KES, especially in the 1<sup>st</sup> XV. I would love to hear from any of my old school mates and can be reached through [www.maresca.com.au](http://www.maresca.com.au)



### Paul Thomson (1967)

Once a week, three now retired masters and two scholars of the 60s all meet up for a walk in the countryside with the aim of exercise and the opportunity to put right the woes of the world. This all started back in 2009 when George Worthington and Phil Lambie retired from the school. Brian Tomlinson, who had taught French and German, joined up with them and as the years went by David Dallaway (1966) and myself joined as we retired. This illustrious quintet are usually joined by George's

neighbour Colin and by David's wife Lynn. The final walker, with undoubtedly the greatest energy, is David's hound Zoltan, a Hungarian Vizsla aptly named after one of his Baggies' favourites.

George uses his considerable knowledge of West Midlands' hostels in preparing the walks of usually six miles in local countryside. 10am walk off from the inn carpark to which we return later on for lunch. A wide variety of topics are discussed including the fortunes of the various football clubs supported. George and Phil follow Everton and Southampton

respectively, David has been a season ticket holder at the Albion since leaving university. I am a longstanding Villain whilst the long-suffering Colin supports the Blues. However, he is redeemed by being a member of Warwickshire CCC.



### Richard Green (1968)

I have mentored and developed the annual Birmingham St Mary's Hospice Treecycling campaign since its inception – collecting used Christmas trees in return for a donation to our funds. In previous years corporate and community volunteers worked together to collect trees but this year the Covid restrictions and lockdown changed everything – amongst other changes, all volunteers in a vehicle had to be from the same family or work 'bubble' which inevitably led to the loss of many of our usual volunteers.

However, Treecycling is our single biggest fundraising campaign, and having lost so many of our traditional events as a result of Covid restrictions, the show had to go on! I am delighted to report that the OE network rose to the challenge in many ways. OEA Committee member and Golfing Society stalwart Jeremy Clifford (1989) has been part of the collection team for years, whilst Vice-Captain of the Golfing Society, David Meisel (2004), recruited and organised friends (including a few OEs), wives and partners so that between them they collected nearly 500 trees – 10% of the total collection.

The trees are taken to temporary drop off sites for processing into biomass fuel. The main site is at Edgbaston Stadium, an arrangement I initially initiated via Andrew Burn (1970), but this year, to reduce travelling and volunteer contact, we were delighted to use the car park at Streetsbrook Road to chip the trees into skips provided by Armac via Rob Dudley (2010). This was a huge success and I was so grateful for the help of James Martin (1979) Chairman of the OEA, and Paul Thomson (1967) in establishing this arrangement, and particularly to the Old Edwardians Sports Club for their amazing support – the welcome I received from Paul Virgo, Jeff Coles and his team could not have been more friendly and accommodating. A rota of Edwardian RFC members supervised the entrance and helped with unloading and chipping, and then cleared up the site – all totally unexpected but a huge help to the operations.

The numbers were amazing – the campaign raised over £105k towards the care of patients with life limiting illnesses, and their families, in Birmingham and Sandwell. We collected around 5,000 trees with 90 vehicles and almost 200 volunteers were involved over the weekend.

Pictured: Simon Foster, David Meisel (2004) and Jess Goosman, PJ Tierney (2004), Callum Wing and Issy Middleton, Simon Chase (2004), Ed Peel, Dan Shilvock (2002) and Gabby Shilvock.





## 1970s

**Avijit (Munna) Mitra (1971)**

I have been in Medway for the past 13 years. I retired as the Priest at All Saints' Church in Hempstead, South Gillingham, and moved to Taunton in Somerset on 25 May with my wife, Nicola, who also retires after being Chaplain at Maidstone Hospital since 2008. We will continue to be active in ministry, but on a less formal basis than during the last 35 years.

**Simon Browner (1973)**

After leaving KES, I somehow completed a law degree in Birmingham (where I met my future wife Anne) and then Law Society Professional exams in Guildford. After a training contract, I went further along the Bristol Road (literally to Bristol) and started life as a qualified solicitor, working there for many years in dispute resolution, and travelling extensively throughout the UK. After marrying Anne (also by then a solicitor) in 1981, we went even further down the A38 in 1987, and have lived and worked as solicitors in Devon ever since. We're both still practicing in a firm where the oldest member is 78 – I have no intention of retiring until someone says I'm no longer capable, which of course could be anytime!

Crossroads of my life? Being offered a job with the Genesis road crew for their 1980 European tour, whilst in the middle of my training contract – a tricky decision, but on balance I think the law has probably offered a more secure long term.

Married 40 years this September, with a daughter Felicity working as a marine scientist for a Danish renewable energy business, and a nerdy son Adam in IT – but also an accomplished bass player who has played in a Pink Floyd tribute band. A few London Marathons along the way, still playing squash and tennis, and enjoying live music (pre-Covid), and historic motor sport in a 1968 Sunbeam Imp Sport. I return to Birmingham whenever possible, hopefully back to KES one of these days.

**Phil Alldridge (1974)**

I was named a Lockheed Martin (LM) Fellow in January.

**Paul Smith (1974)**

I am currently Director of the British Council in Germany and Head Northwest Europe.

**Stuart Southall (1976)**

In 2020, I was the lead sponsor of the exhibition "Scene through Wood" at the Ashmolean Museum, to celebrate the centenary of the Society of Wood Engravers, and of "The Seasons: Art of the Unfolding Year" held at the St Barbe Museum and Art Gallery. I have also been appointed Chairman of Walton Heath Golf Club, which will host the AIG Women's Open in 2023.

**Michael Thouless (1977)**

I was awarded an honorary doctorate by the Technical University of Denmark in a virtual ceremony in April.

**Nick Brown (1978)**

After a career spent mostly in IT in the Netherlands and France, between 2010 and 2013 I found myself moving to HR, getting a Master's degree in psychology, and taking voluntary redundancy from a job at an international organisation. Since then I have completed a PhD in health psychology and moved to Mallorca. I now spend most of my active time investigating scientific fraud. I have been married to Sian for 33 years and we have two grown-up children, one living in Essex and the other on the French/Swiss border. I have insulated myself from Brexit courtesy of two Irish grandparents, thanks to whom I am now an Irish citizen.

**Mark Arends (1979)**

As Professor of Pathology and Head of Pathology for University of Edinburgh Medical School, I have been elected to be the next President of the Pathological Society of Great Britain and Ireland, starting in July 2021.

**Guy Perry (1979)**

I'm starting research for a documentary/book on the career of our greatest athlete, England wing Peter Jackson, a British and Irish Lion on the 1959 New Zealand tour. His fellow England international, wing forward Peter Robbins, a French and Latin teacher at KES at the time, was also picked on the same tour. Any help, any distant memories, on these heroes is very welcome: [gp@greenwichvillagepr.com](mailto:gp@greenwichvillagepr.com)



## 1980s

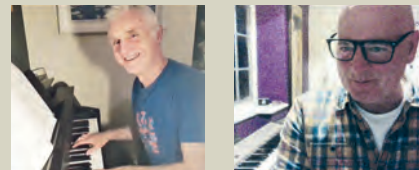
**Richard Taylor (1981)**

In May I retired from a 35 year career in financial services. I started out as an investment analyst at CIN Nominees who managed the National Coal Boards' Miners and Staff Pension schemes and am leaving the US Investment Bank Jefferies as their EMEA Head of Equity Research for the last decade. Starting out I just didn't want to be bored at work, being somewhat scarred by memories of being stuck in double maths lessons on sunny days in June! And I quite liked maths. The career on both the "buy-side" as an institutional investor and on the "sell-side" as a stockbroker in both sales and research roles has certainly never been dull. If you enjoy keeping up with the news, thinking on your feet, learning research disciplines, and debating ideas about the future I can thoroughly recommend getting involved in the stock market somehow. I am still in touch with a KES crew on Facebook and Guy Haslam, in particular, has been wonderful in arranging for us to meet up now and again in London and sometimes Birmingham.

**Martin Cooper (1982)**

"It's a long way to Tipperary..." We sang this after many a 1<sup>st</sup> XV match with Joe Thompson (1983) at the piano and the rest of us at full throttle. Joe and I first met on the South Field – I was on the wing and he was a second row. Fast forward more years than I care to think about and Joe's a highly successful professional Jazz pianist and I'm a consultant stroke physician working in Mansfield and living near Bakewell. Being in the Peak District is ideal for my love of rock climbing (any other Old Eds that way inclined?) but all that ground to a halt during lockdown. Luckily Joe came to the rescue and took me on as one of his online piano pupils and so we now

Zoom weekly, mixing catching up with some hard graft "tinkling the ivories."

**Malcolm Crawford (1983)**

In the *Chronicle* of 1981, Duncan Dewar gave a delightful report of a CCF trip to Germany but perhaps dissembled somewhat about one particular aspect in referring to "Corporal Wilson's limitless variations in the use of basic Anglo-Saxon." Social mores have changed in the four decades since and I think the time has now come for a more candid recounting. Mr Dewar highlighted the day we (the lads) "got [our] hands on an armoured personnel carrier." If I remember correctly, we were distributed amongst three transports and trundled in convoy across the German plains. The first of a couple of arresting moments occurred when we ground suddenly to a halt and those of us in the rearmost carrier were treated to the sight of smoke billowing out of one ahead – followed swiftly by the occupants. After a few minutes it became apparent that there wouldn't be an explosion and we approached the stricken vehicle. As we gathered around it, Corporal Wilson – a rather colourful Geordie – disconsolately kicked its tracks and in a distinctively detailed distillation of the dilemma announced, "Oh, fook, the fooking fooker's fooked." As Mr Dewar anticipated, it has indeed remained a golden memory.

**Paul Trafford (1987)**

I have written a short book, *Buddhism and Computing: How to Flourish in the Age of Algorithms*, recently published by Mud Pie Books. I have dedicated the book to the memory of David Yau (1985), who lost his life in a tragic road accident when he was only 22 years old. David was in my year, but, after sitting for O-levels, he left KES to study for A-levels at Matthew Boulton College. He went on to Manchester University to start a degree in dentistry, before switching to maths and computing. He was run over by a bus in January 1991, whilst in his final year. Three Old Edwardians attended his funeral in Quinton: Andrew Killeen, Karl Pillage and

myself. David was a friendly soul, easy to get on with. He had an inquisitive mind and liked to live life to the full – that's how I got dragged round an 18-hole course as my introduction to golf!

**Paddy Howarth (1989)**

As a result of lockdown in the church community it has been really hard to find new ways to keep connected with our communities. One initiative we are very proud of is focusing on little treats. Across our local area we have been delivering fudge. We pack it ourselves. The feedback has been really positive and I like to think that my time at King Edward's pushed me towards helping in this way.

## 1990s

**Oliver Heslop (1990)**

I now have a 16-year-old who is sitting her quasi GCSEs; Covid era versions. I have had my own tax advisory business since 2012 and we just set up our new website: [expatriatetax.london](http://expatriatetax.london) We serve hundreds of Brits living abroad. I live 100 yards from Theresa May in RG5 but we don't have coffee mornings. I'm interested to hear from anyone except Joydeep Mittra (...whom I speak with anyway).

**Christopher Hitchins (1991)**

I've recently taken on the role of Managing Partner of the London office of the law firm Katten Muchin Rosenman LLP. We've also just bought a puppy as a new addition to the family to join my wife and our three daughters, but the two events are unconnected (I think!). My daughters and I, plus the dog, had the pleasure of watching James West (1991) notch up 88 not out on Kew Green in May, for the cricket club he plays for, the Captain Scott Invitational XI!

**Simon Thomas (1991)**

Success after just over a decade of effort studying for two six-hour written exams and two oral exams mixed around helping to bring up our three lovely children here in France! The Director of Anglophone Studies at the engineering school INSA had said that it was impossible for an anglophone to pass and I've done it! In 2020, I was placed in the top 100 of the maths "agrégation" competitive exam for teachers. A significant promotion, especially working in my second language! Hopefully this will permit me sometime in the future to be able to fulfil my ambition of teaching maths in English (full-time instead of just on Wednesday afternoons in the INSA International Bachelor aerospace engineering programme) in higher education here in Lyon. Incredible to think that I first came to this city on a French exchange with KES! Gave up French at the end of Fourths and now speak it fluently (and full-time at work in an 11-15 secondary school in a disadvantaged area).

**Matt Perry (1993)**

I've decided to hang up my timpani sticks, leave the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra (where I've been for over 15 years) and move into teaching. The pandemic meant my work dried up literally overnight and I had plenty of time whilst home-schooling to reassess where my priorities should lie. Although over 20 years as a professional musician was fantastic in many ways, it was taking me away from the family too

## Can you help us find any 'lost boys'?

We have lost touch with a number of Old Edwardians. If you are in touch with someone who doesn't receive communications from us but would like to, please ask them to send us their details via email at: [oldeds@kes.org.uk](mailto:oldeds@kes.org.uk) or complete our contact form at: [www.trust.kes.org.uk/stay-in-touch](http://www.trust.kes.org.uk/stay-in-touch)



often and for too long. So I started a PGCE with the University of Bedfordshire last September and took up a music teaching job at Sandy Secondary School at the end of June.

#### Richard Brookes (1994)

In September 2021, I shall become Head of QEGS Wakefield.

#### Matthew Price (1994)

I thought the readership might be interested to hear about an art-themed novel by a small group of Old Eds – most of us class of 1994 – written and edited in our leisure time over a period of several years. Titled *The Eleven Associates of Alma-Marceau*, it was published through my publishing house Anomie Publishing and launched at Hatchards, Piccadilly, just days before the lockdown began last spring. It was great to see a number of other Old Eds in attendance. A hardback book printed and bound in Verona, it is a Paris- and Birmingham-set adventure that poses what we hope are some intriguing questions about painting and perception in the digital era. Calling ourselves The Old School Writers Circle, we enjoyed the experience so much we can't promise that there won't be a sequel – in a few years' time!



#### Rishi Das-Gupta (1995)

I have recently moved jobs within the NHS to take up a role leading the Health Innovation Network as Chief Exec since March 2021. As an Academic Health Science Network (AHSN), we focus on supporting the spread of innovations to improve healthcare across South London and beyond.

#### Kai Wing Shiu (1996)

I have recently gone permie for JCURV, a small but perfectly formed management consultancy specialising in enterprise agility transformation. The firm is based in London and I am based near to KES. I for one am hoping that some of the remote

working trend of late sticks. My third in a trio of young ladies was born last year and is a delight, helping me to forget my age. Since returning from Asia I have slowly been reuniting with old school friends (Teena T, Giles HS, Mythilli V, Graham B) and am looking forward to catching up with more!



#### Angus Henderson (1997)

Our one-shot feature film *Boiling Point* starring Stephen Graham and Jason Flemyng will be in cinemas and on demand later this year with global releasing deals in place, look for my name and my production company logo for 'Alpine Films' in the opening credits.

## 2000s

#### Bhavesh Patel (2002)

In February 2020, I was at a conference in Mexico where I met Jonathan Conder (1979) and we realised we were both alumni working in similar fields but have never come across each other before! We took the opportunity to reminisce about days at KES and how despite being 20 years apart there was still overlap of teachers and a camaraderie created just from being at the same school. We also had a short rendition of the school song much to the embarrassment of others around us.



#### Ali-Asghar Abedi (2004)

I've started a weekly newsletter – Funny Business: [aliasghar.substack.com](http://aliasghar.substack.com) – that satirises the biggest stories in business news and interviews a CEO. Would love for some OEs to read/subscribe/share.

## 2010s

#### George Hims (2010)

Following an interesting few years working as a Stage Manager at the Royal Shakespeare Company (until Coronavirus brought our international tour to a swift conclusion) I have subsequently been making and delivering concrete garden ornaments for the past year. In an even stranger turn of events, I will now be training as a Student Paramedic with West Midlands Ambulance Service – and am very excited to be moving back to Birmingham!

#### Sam Newton (2010)

I'm an actor and will be appearing in a new play at the Hampstead Theatre 30 July-11 Sep. Details: [www.hampsteadtheatre.com/whats-on/2021/big-big-sky](http://www.hampsteadtheatre.com/whats-on/2021/big-big-sky)



## Tell us your news

Thanks to all OEs who have sent us their news. Unfortunately, we cannot publish everything we receive but please continue to keep us posted! Email: [editor@kes.org.uk](mailto:editor@kes.org.uk) or visit: [www.oldereds.kes.org.uk/yournews](http://www.oldereds.kes.org.uk/yournews)

## Deaths

We regret to report the deaths of the following Old Edwardians from January 2019 to December 2020:

<b>John F Lloyd (1937)</b>	<b>Colin A Graham (1968)</b>
<b>Alan S Blower (1940)</b>	<b>Richard J Clarke (1970)</b>
<b>Derek F Perkins (1940)</b>	<b>Duncan G Cumming (1970)</b>
<b>Henry C Hart (1941)</b>	<b>Paul A Glover (1972)</b>
<b>Bruce H Burgess (1942)</b>	<b>Martin Baugh (1975)</b>
<b>Robert L Edwards (1942)</b>	<b>Stephen G Campbell (1978)</b>
<b>George A Pitt (1942)</b>	<b>Andrew G Purchase (1979)</b>
<b>Peter R Langham (1943)</b>	<b>Bhaskar K Dandona (1991)</b>
<b>Edward W Parkes (1943)</b>	<b>Robert J Cotterill (1999)</b>
<b>Gordon C Britton (1944)</b>	<b>David A Taylor (2000)</b>
<b>Hugh M Johnson (1946)</b>	<b>Derek H Benson (1953; Staff: 1962-1995)</b>
<b>Derek R Phillips (1946)</b>	<b>John B Hurn (Staff: 1947-1973)</b>
<b>David J Sells (1946)</b>	<b>Graham C Underhill (Staff: 1975-1990)</b>
<b>Jeffrey M Dolphin (1947)</b>	
<b>John R Lambourn (1947)</b>	
<b>Anthony J Lippitt (1947)</b>	
<b>Barry A Beacham (1948)</b>	
<b>John Roylance (1948)</b>	
<b>Michael E Abrams (1949)</b>	
<b>Richard B Booth (1949)</b>	
<b>Robert F Griffiths (1949)</b>	
<b>John W Jarrams (1949)</b>	
<b>Bruce W Tanner (1949)</b>	
<b>Laurence L Watson (1949)</b>	
<b>Frank S Wilkinson (1949)</b>	
<b>Trevor R Almond (1951)</b>	
<b>Hugh G Brierley (1951)</b>	
<b>Alfred J K Dore (1951)</b>	
<b>Michael Bird (1952)</b>	
<b>Frank B Revill (1952)</b>	
<b>Brian Cleaver (1953)</b>	
<b>Louis M James (1953)</b>	
<b>Andrew B Macnab (1953)</b>	
<b>John M Skinner (1953)</b>	
<b>Phillip J Riley (1954)</b>	
<b>John R Smethurst (1954)</b>	
<b>Cliff G Tayar (1954)</b>	
<b>David W Budd (1955)</b>	
<b>David M Witherow (1955)</b>	
<b>David G Todd (1956)</b>	
<b>David Arthur (1957)</b>	
<b>Neil E Sambrooks (1957)</b>	
<b>Ralph G Birch (1958)</b>	
<b>John A Fletcher (1958)</b>	
<b>Roger J Guy (1958)</b>	
<b>Andrew N Stubbs (1958)</b>	
<b>David J Crathorn (1959)</b>	
<b>Paul B Mathews (1959)</b>	
<b>John G Geater (1962)</b>	
<b>David H Twiss (1962)</b>	
<b>Robert Hanson (1967)</b>	
<b>Alan F Drury (1968)</b>	

#### John Lloyd (1937) 1920-2019

John Lloyd died shortly before his 99<sup>th</sup> birthday. Born in 1920, he went to King Edward's when it was still based in New Street, and he was part of the cohort that moved to the new site in Edgbaston in the 1930s.



He followed his father, Lewis, and other members of his family, and was followed three years later by his brother Michael, who went on to become Bailiff of the Foundation. More recent family at King Edward's has included his nephews Andrew and Nicholas, and his granddaughter Jessica who attended KEHS.

Born in Handsworth, the family moved to Harborne in the late 1920s where they became involved in many clubs and societies. John was membership secretary of Harborne Tennis Club, where he gave a playing test to a prospective member Jan Modlin, approved her application and went on to marry her in 1954. The couple settled in Kings Norton. He was also a long-term member of Harborne Hockey Club, becoming its President, which was a great honour to him. At the same time, he was also heavily involved in the Midlands Counties Hockey Association, and again became its President after many years of team selection.

After school, John became an apprentice to an Aston-based engineering firm following which he joined the family manufacturing business, MA Lloyd and Sons. This was a general presswork business specialising in office equipment, including many recognisable items such as deed boxes and date cases, which appeared on the walls of most high street banks and post offices. He also made clutch plates and sun visor frames for Ford. During World War II, the business made high precision chain links for Spitfires, which were made at nearby Castle Bromwich. He sold the business and retired at the age of 72.

Latterly, John was a frequent visitor to the summer Alps and Italy, and was a keen supporter of the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra, regularly attending their concerts. Although not a musician himself, he grew up with music as a background and had regularly attended Sunday afternoon concerts at Birmingham Town Hall organised by his grandmother, a regular singer at the venue.

*Simon Lloyd*



Alan Blower (1940)  
1924-2020

Alan left King Edward’s in 1942 and went into the RAF. He trained as a radar and wireless operator. He was on the boats in the Thames and then went out to India and Burma and ended up in Singapore. He returned home in 1947.

He applied to universities and began a London University degree in chemistry in 1950. In 1953 he became a lecturer at Aston University and was there until he retired in 1986. During his last 10 years there he took on a pastoral role for Gosta Green Campus and was a father figure to many overseas students.

*Olwyn Blower*

Henry Corbett Hart (1941)  
1923-2019

Henry won a scholarship to King Edward’s. There he excelled at rugby, swimming and athletics, made lifelong friends and gained an exhibition to Gonville & Caius College, Cambridge.

He took part in the D-Day landings in Normandy in June 1944 and served in the Royal Artillery in France, Belgium and Germany.

When the war ended he returned to Cambridge and after completing his history degree he joined the Inland Revenue (now HMRC). He enjoyed a successful career in the Midlands and in London, qualified as a Chartered Accountant, and was a committed Christian.

He had many interests and supported local and national organisations throughout his life, including the Old Edwardians. He was married for 60 years and died peacefully at home aged 95.

*Mrs Diana Hart*

David Sells (1946)  
1928-2020



David Sells was one of the most informed and erudite BBC foreign correspondents of his generation. His BBC career spanned 40 years, 26 of them for Newsnight. David was in it from the beginning, sending sparsely written, incisive films from the Middle East and North Africa and across Europe. His special interest was Poland, where he had started with the Reuters news agency in the mid-1950s and where, for Newsnight, he soon discovered the precursors of the Solidarity movement.

George Carey, the producer who created Newsnight and launched it in 1980, said: “David stood out as someone who wrote brilliantly and understood the world; he had wisdom and a dry sense of humour. He epitomised the reporter who would say more than the usual ‘on the one hand, on the other...’ He applied judgment, not an opinion.”

Born in Birmingham, David was the son of James Sells, a businessman, and his wife, Anne (née Hills). Following King Edward’s School and National Service in the Royal Navy, David studied modern languages at Lincoln College, Oxford.

In the early 50s he joined Reuters, his first posting Rome, where he convinced a contessa-like landlady that he was a more suitable candidate for an apartment near the Spanish Steps than was Orson Welles. He went on to Warsaw (he learned Polish), Bonn and Brussels, then in 1966 was recruited as a BBC reporter, serving radio and TV.

In 1971, David was posted as TV Middle East correspondent to Beirut. In 1976 he returned to London and after an unsettled spell in BBC News joined Newsnight as an overseas adventurer. To wherever dispatched, David was always immaculate in suit and tie or safari jacket, anything but conventional with his pointed writing and penetrating eye. His television reporting philosophy might best be described as “show, not tell”.

In the late 80s and early 90s he was one of the team of presenters at Radio 4’s The World Tonight, though a nervous radio management found some of his asides a little too sharp and from 1992 to 2006 David concentrated on Newsnight.

He is survived by his sons, Adrian and Christopher, from his marriage to Pauline, which ended in divorce, and a granddaughter, Georgina.

*Obituary drawn from The Guardian*

Robert Frederick Griffiths (1948)  
1931-2020

Bob was born in Stourbridge and educated at Chigwell House Preparatory School in Edgbaston. He won a Foundation Scholarship to King Edward’s in 1944.

Bob sought a career as a Chartered Accountant and was articled in 1949 to a Birmingham firm of Chartered Accountants, Carter and Co. He was admitted as a member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in 1954. From 1954-56, Bob was commissioned into the Royal Regiment of Artillery for his National Service, returning to Carter and Co in 1956. He then joined the Edgbaston-based firm Clement Keys & Son as a partner, where he spent the whole of his working life, along with a number of other Old Edwardians, retiring in 1991.

He was an active member of the Birmingham and West Midlands Society of Chartered Accountants. He was elected to the Council of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales in 1969 and served on the Institute Council for six years.

As a general practice partner in a leading medium-sized Birmingham practice, Bob was hugely well respected by the business community. He took up a number of voluntary positions and assignments in the Harborne and Edgbaston community.

Apart from his professional commitments Bob always had a full and varied social life. Sport had a high priority both as a player and as an administrator. He played rugby for the Old Edwardians FC from 1949 to 1959 and was Secretary and Chairman of the Old Edwardians Sports Club Limited. He was also a very active member of the Old Edwardians Golf Society and served as Treasurer and Secretary.

He was a very keen tennis and squash player at the Edgbaston Priory Club and played golf at Edgbaston Golf Club for over 40 years where he also took on the role as Treasurer for a time.

Bob very much fitted the description “a scholar and a gentleman”. He will be missed by many but, more importantly, he will be remembered. Bob is survived by his second wife Dorothy and his son Nigel.

*Roger Parsons (1968)*



John Roylance (1948)  
1930-2019

Dr John Roylance was born in 1930, growing up in Stechford, Birmingham before starting at KES in 1941. He was always very proud of the school and it was during this time that his passion for science flourished. After KES he crossed Edgbaston Park Road to pursue his interest at the University of Birmingham, completing a degree and beginning a PhD in Chemistry.



John was a lifelong member of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) and, in 1956, alternative service saw him travel on the SS Uganda to a Friends Service Council project in Kenya. He spent much of the next three years in Kaimosi, where he was involved in building a tuberculosis ward and settlement attached to the town’s hospital. When the building project was complete, John stayed on to help out in the hospital and it was this time in Africa that convinced him that, actually, he no longer wanted to do science in test tubes, he wanted to do science with humans. He decided he wanted to be a doctor. That meant one thing – home and back to the University of Birmingham for another degree.

In 1968, he graduated from Birmingham with a Degree in Medicine. Over the following decade he progressed through positions at hospitals across the West Midlands including Walsall Hospital, the General Hospital, the Accident Hospital, Dudley Road Hospital, the Maternity Hospital and Coventry Hospital. Following his appointment as a Consultant Anaesthetist, he then spent the majority of his career at East Birmingham Hospital (latterly known as Heartlands Hospital).

Upon retirement in 1997 he indulged in his many hobbies and interests, joining numerous historical, arts and archaeological societies. John even returned to the University of Birmingham to study part-time courses. He also developed a keen interest in another science, geology, and learnt to speak Welsh – Wales being a favourite holiday destination.

John married pharmacist and fellow Quaker Gill in 1965, and they raised three sons together in Bournville. Having outlived his wife, he enjoyed good health until a fairly minor stroke robbed him of some mobility about five years ago. After his mobility further deteriorated he moved to Moundsley Hall Care Village for the final year of his life.

John passed away on 6 February 2019 at Queen Elizabeth Hospital Birmingham and a Memorial Service was held for him at Bull Street Meeting House in Birmingham on 4 May 2019. The many attendees recalled his wisdom, how hard working he was and how supportive he was to his family, friends and colleagues, along with his wickedly dry sense of humour. He was a quiet man, devoted to his family and his faith.

*David, Michael and Andrew Roylance*



Bruce Winton Tanner (1949)  
1931-2020



the coast was clear and then resume. He duly passed the exam and was awarded a Foundation Scholarship, which put him in a year ahead of his age group.

Bruce took to school life and he joined the school's Debating Society and Young Conservatives, mainly because of its famed social activities. Through the Young Conservatives he jumped at the chance to visit Germany around 1947 and saw first-hand the highly impoverished part of the Ruhr. He witnessed some grim scenes of undernourishment, poverty and bombed out houses.

His education was interrupted at aged 18 when he was called up for National Service. He was eventually posted as a 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant to Vienna in 1950. In Vienna he particularly enjoyed visiting the opera. He also learnt to ski as part of army training, which came in useful later when working in the travel industry.

On demob, he continued with his education, firstly at the University of Birmingham studying Russian, Spanish and Economics, then moving to St Catherine's, Oxford. He supplemented his income doing holiday work for Transglobe as a courier on coach tours around Holland, Germany and France, gaining valuable experience.

He spent 27 years in the travel business, and was at the forefront of the package holiday industry in the 60s, in his capacity as Chief Executive and Chairman of Horizon Holiday/ Horizon Travel, based in Five Ways. Horizon, by 1976, had become the third largest tour operator in the UK and by 1981 Horizon's summer season carried 300,000 passengers, with Spain the number one destination. Horizon had its own airline, Orion Airways, formed in 1978.

He still found time to carry out civic duties as a Justice of the Peace, Director of Birmingham Hippodrome Theatre Trust and in retirement Non-Executive Director of Birmingham Cable. He had the honour of becoming the High Sheriff of the West Midlands County in 1991 and had much involvement in local charities such as The Stonehouse Gang, St Basils for homeless youngsters and Birmingham Rathbone. He took on Chairmanship of Birmingham Civic Society for 11 years and Chairman of Aston Audit Committee for six years. For his work at Aston

Bruce passed away after a long and fulfilled life, aged 89 years. Bruce was born and bred in Birmingham and lived there all his life.

As a child, Bruce lived in Harborne, one of five siblings. Aged 11, he sat the entrance exam for King Edward's School. As he nervously leafed through the entrance paper, the air raid siren went off and the boys had to take cover in the basement until

University he was awarded an Honorary Doctorate in recognition of his services.

Alma (his wife) and Bruce enjoyed holidaying abroad and were able to make several trips to visit their two daughters in New Zealand until Alzheimer's took hold. Family holidays in Abergynolwyn and Aberdovey were a favourite, where their hobby of hill-walking could be undertaken.

Bruce had a reputation for being firm but fair, and was always highly regarded and respected by his employees at Horizon and the many other organisations he was involved with. He was a very charitable and generous person and will be sorely missed by Alma, daughters Jane, Ruth and Jude and his seven grandchildren.

*The family of Bruce Tanner*

Laurence Watson (1949)  
1931-2019

The Reverend Laurence Watson was born in Beeston, Nottingham, moving to Birmingham in 1934.

Following his time at King Edward's, he completed his National Service in the Royal Air Force and then went up to Keble College, Oxford, reading for an MA in Modern History. He left Oxford and went to Ely Theological College to begin his ministry, which included St Alphege in Solihull, Digswell Parish Church in Hertfordshire, St Stephen's in Smethwick and Holy Cross on Billesley Common.

Of particular note at Holy Cross was his work for unity and evangelism between churches in Billesley; his focus on education and involvement as chair of governors for a number of local schools; and pastoral care across a number of local organisations.

Following retirement, Laurence lived in Stratford-upon-Avon where he died on 23 January 2019. He is survived by Jenny, to whom he was married for 56 years, and his daughter Elizabeth, son Stephen and grandchildren, Andrew, Isobel, Adam and Oliver.

*Liz Berragan*

Frank Sidney Wilkinson (1949)  
1933-2019



Frank was born in Hall Green, where he was raised with his brother Robert. He was the second son of Frank and Maude Wilkinson, (née Tarry).

At the age of just 10, whilst at Colebank School, he took and passed the entrance examination for King Edward's School and due to his good results was placed with the second year boys. He settled down very well, however, and the main areas where he shone were English and arts, winning prizes for both and also becoming captain of the shooting eight.

After Frank gained his Articles as a Quantity Surveyor he worked on large prestige contracts like the Royal Palace of Baghdad, the head post office in Baghdad, and many post-war commercial and industrial projects in the Britain still rebuilding itself. He later spent two years working in Cyprus as Private Quantity Surveyor to the Air Ministry (AM), in charge of maintenance of all AM establishments on the island. A time in his career he enjoyed tremendously. On returning to the UK, he became a member of 'The Builders Club' and initially took up office working for L C Wakeman & Partners in Edgbaston before setting up his own business.

Frank married his first wife Olive (née Quelch) in 1958. Unfortunately, this marriage didn't last and they divorced a few years later. They had two daughters, Helene and Jilly, and Frank was left to raise his daughters alone until 1969 when he met who was to become his second wife, Christiane (née Descroix). They completed the family with a third daughter Rebecca.

In the early 1970s Frank started an art gallery, supplies and picture framing business in Evesham, a decade of time in which he truly felt blessed. Here he met wonderful, creative people, painters, poets and musicians, many becoming lifelong family friends. Frank also enjoyed mentoring budding artists.

In the 1980s, the family moved to Bedfordshire where he pursued other engaging career opportunities, some of those that interested him most included being the negotiator for British Industry in discussions on European Standards and working on such projects as the Channel Tunnel, the Thames Barrier and Coventry Cathedral. It was also during this time that he became a governor for Queensbury High School.

In 2003, Frank and Christiane retired, buying a French farmhouse in the Burgundy region where Christiane was born and raised. Frank was able to immerse himself fully in the French rural life he loved, giving time to his writing, growing vegetables in his garden, tending his own vines and bestowing patronage on the local vineyards. They were able to enjoy 16 fabulous years there, sharing their time between the two countries, as they kept a 'Pied a Terre' in the UK.

Frank was a free spirit who always believed that life should be lived to the full and that ambitions should be attempted, whatever they might be, and that the definition of success was in simply being happy and being yourself. He was a kind and protective father, he was witty and charming and often the life and soul at parties. He was an assertive, erudite conversationalist and a very generous human being. He was a true gentleman.

His sudden death on 15 January 2019 from a major stroke was a terrible shock for everyone who knew him and he is greatly missed by his wife, three daughters, family and friends.

*Christiane Wilkinson and Jilly Bromage*



Trevor Redvers Almond (1951)  
1933-2019

Trevor died peacefully on Sunday 7 April aged 85. Born in Edgbaston on 9 May 1933, he was the only child of the late Walter Almond and his wife Louise. He was educated at Stechford Road Primary School, Edgbaston before entering King Edward’s School in 1944.



The ethos and academic standards had a lasting impact on Trevor’s subsequent life. This was shown in his impeccable manners and speech and his love of the visual arts, notably sculpture, painting and architecture. His love of music was also important to him and he was a frequent concertgoer to hear the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra. Trevor was also very proud of Birmingham as a city of culture and as a place to live and work in.

In 1951-53, Trevor did his National Service, serving in the Intelligence Corps. After that, he worked with a partner in recruitment. In the 1980s, Trevor moved with his widowed mother to North Lincolnshire and moved to Bardney in Lincolnshire in 2003. My wife Margaret and I first met Trevor in 2007 and we became firm friends and spent many happy times with him at family events. We also shared with him and our friends his love of music and stories of life in Birmingham and at King Edward’s.

Unmarried, my wife and I looked after Trevor’s affairs during the last five years as old age and Alzheimer’s disease took its toll. It was a pleasure to have known Trevor, and we and our friends remember him with much affection.

*Alan and Margaret Richardson*

Clifford George Tayar (1954)  
1937-2019

Cliff attended King Edward’s on a scholarship. Whilst there in 1954 he became joint school boy chess champion of Great Britain. His love of chess led him to draw in a game against Mikhail Botvinnik, a Russian grandmaster, in 1962.

On leaving school he was articled under the auspices of a relative Harry Gompertz and ended as a Fellow Chartered Accountant (FCA). He worked in computers at several well know companies including Dunlop and Cadbury’s. Finally at Birmingham City Council he advised and helped small and medium sized businesses.

In later life, the game of bridge took over from chess. For the last 29 years Cliff battled with three bouts of cancer, and 20 years with a tracheostomy, but it did not stop him from playing for the Staffordshire Bridge League which he loved. He was married to Pam for 54 years and they had two lovely daughters.

*Mrs Pam Tayar*

David J Crathorn (1959)  
1941-2019

David joined KES in 1954 in the Upper Middles and at this time he expressed an interest in going into the church. He did not take a great interest in sport beyond what was compulsory at the time and soon became involved in the Railway & Model Engineering Society where he took a major role in building the Society’s OO gauge railway layouts first in the temporary buildings and then, when we were evicted from these prior to their demolition, in the extreme eastern end of the main building in the room next to the stair well.

Later in his school career, with the burgeoning of the railway restoration movement in the late 50s, he was involved with restoration work on the Talylyn Railway that had become a heritage railway in 1951. On leaving KES he joined British Railways (BR) eventually rising to the post of Station Master. He then transferred to BR head office at Euston where, among other jobs, he was responsible for the closing down of BR’s road delivery service.

In retirement he maintained contact with the railways through various groups of ex BR employees and through its pensions organisation and now took an interest in the Welshpool & Llanfair Light Railway. He developed dementia a few years ago and this steadily caused his deterioration up to his death.

*Chris Gardiner (1959)*

Paul Brian Mathews (1959)  
1940-2019

Following a short period of illness my brother passed away on 10 May in hospital in Costa Rica, aged 79.

From school he had a brief spell at the Bank of England, but found the work very monotonous and went abroad to work initially in Geneva. This was followed by Caritas work in Senegal, (wells and window frames). Back to banking in Geneva, where he married and had three children before discovering Central America. He had been resident in Costa Rica for over 20 years, married there, and played soccer until quite recently for his local club. What his father (O.M.M.) and younger brother (P.R.M.M.) thought of this is unknown!

He had good memories and memorabilia from school. I think especially from playing full-back for the 1<sup>st</sup> XV and getting his hands on the Siviter Smith Cup.

*J.D.M. (David) Mathews (1954)*

David Holland Twiss (1962)  
1943-2020



Dr David Twiss followed in his uncles’ footsteps when he entered KES in 1954. Whilst at school his interest in science and all things electronic led him to join Stage Crew. This gave unprecedented access to otherwise off-limits areas of the school: standing atop a 30ft ladder and crawling along the catwalk at the apex of Big School to fix stage lights and sound equipment long before health and safety was even thought about. He joined the CCF and relished retelling tales of his rattling off several thousand rounds of surplus ammunition when the army changed gauge from imperial to metric. It transpired that the munitions were all tracer rounds, each one a miniature firework, to check one’s aim.

After KES he went to Sheffield University for a combined honours degree in physics and chemistry and following that, to the University of Birmingham for his MSc in Radiobiology and finally PhD in Medical Physics. He married Margaret in 1969, when she was a therapy radiographer at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital. Their two sons followed him to KES. In 1975 he was appointed Head of Medical Physics at The Royal Hospital, Wolverhampton, later moving to New Cross when the old hospital was demolished. After retiring as Director of Medical

Physics and Clinical Engineering he returned part-time for three years as Radiation Safety Advisor, which he really enjoyed; no staffing, no finance, no meetings. As he said, “Just being a physicist.”

David trained for Lay Readership in the Church of England, serving as Reader at St Stephen’s Church, Selly Park in Birmingham for almost 38 years until shortly before his death. After final retirement in 2006 he enjoyed cycling and water colouring. In his spare time he sat as Lay Assessor on three University of Birmingham committees, supported his community as Neighbourhood Watch Coordinator and led a team responsible for the reordering of St Stephen’s. He asked that his funeral service would be a sad celebration and it was. Sad because he is no longer with us but a celebration in that he is now with our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. Because of current Covid restrictions it is planned to hold a service of celebration of his life later in the year at St Stephen’s.

*Margaret Twiss*



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Paul Alan Glover (1972)  
1954-2020

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Paul was born the second of three brothers. His father Roy was a former head boy at King Edward's Five Ways. He started at KES in 1965, two years after his elder brother David. He was seen as bright and sat his "O" levels before his 15<sup>th</sup> birthday but recently, in his own words he wrote "I was immature and struggled considerably in the lower sixth form. I was seen as lazy, unfocused and overly preoccupied with sport."

Indeed it was his sporting prowess and achievements for which he will be remembered by his contemporaries. He was a dashing blond centre three-quarter in the school 1<sup>st</sup> XV, a quarter miler on the track and a talented freestyle swimmer. He played at wing for Greater Birmingham U19, scoring a try on his debut. He represented the school at all age groups up to the senior teams in rugby, athletics, swimming and water polo with considerable success, particularly the latter two senior teams which enjoyed several seasons unbeaten. If there had been a school soccer team he would have been in it too. For his house, Gifford, he gained prodigious numbers of Athletic and Swimming Standards and played in every team. He was one of the very few boys who could regularly beat one minute for both running a quarter mile and swimming 100 yards. He was a popular team player whatever the sport and was always one of the first names on the team sheet.

He repeated the lower sixth year and subsequently gained a place at Hull University to study law. He found that he had no interest in law, was unable to switch courses and left after two years. Happily, however, it was at Hull that he met Alison. They married in 1979. He took time to settle upon a career, but successfully applied to join the Civil Service and started at the Department of Health and Social Security in Northfield in 1979. Subsequently he spent 30 years in a variety of roles, managing and training before retiring and then taking on roles at Citizens Advice, West Midlands Police, National Census and Guide Dogs for the Blind.

He became a life member of the OEA upon leaving school and played rugby for the Old Eds 1<sup>st</sup> XV for over 10 years. He was instrumental in maintaining an unusually large group of sporting OEs in regular contact, despite most having left the immediate area with several located overseas. He arranged reunions, frequent New Year's Eve and birthday celebrations and group holidays. People came together and have remained firm friends and have stayed well connected since leaving school, very largely through his efforts. Three friends, Glen Bishop, Tim Wenman and Chris Springall all contributed to this obituary.

Paul was a very kind, witty and engaging family man with a wonderful sense of humour and a fantastic memory. He loved West Bromwich Albion and was a season ticket holder there for many years. He regularly played soccer for the Wanderers FC, once scoring four goals in a game. In his early 30s, injuries, particularly to his knees, forced him to retire from both rugby and soccer. He also enjoyed golf and had a hole in one at the 13<sup>th</sup> hole at Blackwell Golf Club.



His retirement was sadly much shorter than he deserved after so many years of service to others. His sporting injuries eventually led to a hip replacement followed by a knee replacement but then tragically 18 months ago he was diagnosed with bladder cancer. He underwent extensive surgery, chemotherapy, local radiotherapy and immunotherapy but eventually died peacefully at home with his family. He is survived by Alison, his two daughters and three grandchildren.

*David Roy Glover (1970)*

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Stephen Gordon Campbell (1978)  
1960-2020

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Stephen Campbell was born in Birmingham, the eldest of four children, into a close-knit family that boasted many Old Edwardians. He, his father, uncle, brother and later his two sons attended King Edward's, while his mother, two sisters and daughter all went to KEHS.

His parents, Frances and Gordon, were both GPs and Gordon became the school doctor. Gordon was an outstanding Eton Fives player, both as a boy and as an adult, forming a formidable partnership with Tony Hughes and winning the national championships eight times between 1958 and 1975. Stephen inherited his father's great sporting talent and during his schooldays sport usually took precedence over his academic ambitions. He shone on the rugby pitch, playing for the 1<sup>st</sup> XV from the age of 15, and he also held the school high jump record. It is no surprise that Stephen is in the middle of an iconic picture of his contemporaries larking about in front of the school.

He read law at Liverpool University where he met Rose, a fellow-lawyer and his future wife. He played rugby for the university and chaired the student Law Society before doing his pupillage at the prestigious Birmingham Chambers Number 2 Fountain Court. There he became a formidable prosecutor, and went on to specialise in personal injury and clinical negligence work. In 2005 he moved to Number 5 Fountain Court, building a huge practice including cases involving catastrophic injuries. He was revered for his heartfelt commitment and care of his clients and forensic legal skills. His humour was always to the fore and was deployed in court with devastating consequences.

Stephen sat part-time as a Recorder of Birmingham then as Assistant Coroner, his calm, thoughtful approach and insistence on giving families their say proving effective even in highly sensitive cases. In 2009, he deftly negotiated the minefield of the racially-charged inquest into the death in police custody of Mikey Powell, a man who had been restrained during a psychotic episode six years earlier. The jury returned a damning narrative verdict, finding that the method of restraint resulted in Powell's death from positional asphyxia.

Stephen retained his passion for sport, despite his attritional working hours, his quiet, charming manner concealing a strong streak of competitiveness. Not enjoying losing to his wife and her friends in hard-fought tennis games, he took lessons at 6am each morning at

Edgbaston Priory Club and was soon giving them a run for their money. He also loved skiing and insisted on leading his reluctant companions down terrifying black runs on Alpine holidays. A devoted family man and passionate Birmingham City supporter, his warmth and decency made him hugely popular and he was at the heart of Edgbaston life, thanks to his network of close friendships.

Immensely proud of his deep connection to the school, Stephen served as a governor of the Foundation and of the Independent Schools Governing Body for 15 years between 2000 and 2015. He was Bailiff of the Foundation in 2008 and, most importantly, Chairman of the Independent Schools Governing Body from 2004 to 2008.

The 15 years of Stephen's tenure were of great significance to the future direction of the independent schools and the Foundation and Stephen was vital in that: he brought to every meeting – and he will have attended hundreds during his time – not only a deep understanding of the Foundation, but also clarity of thought and the capacity to win the trust of everyone by his calm and gentle style.

In the early years of the 21<sup>st</sup> century, there were considerable tensions within the Foundation as the independent schools coped with the end of government financial support of free places and the grammar schools grew in size and success. The situation was exacerbated by political pressure for the Foundation to take on an academy in east Birmingham and, more controversially, to provide £2 million as an endowment. The Foundation governors were deeply divided on the issue and Stephen played an important role in mediating the decision to take on KE Sheldon Heath Academy which has led to the Foundation taking on a further four schools since then.

As Chairman, Stephen bears much of the responsibility for appointing John Cloughton (1975) to take over from Roger Dancey in 2006 and, having done so, he was vital in supporting and steering through both the Foundation and the Independent Schools Governing Body the key decisions of John's leadership: the Foundation's financial support of the project which created the Ruddock Performing Arts Centre, made possible by the massive generosity of Sir Paul and Lady Ruddock; the introduction of the International Baccalaureate Diploma for all boys in the Sixth Form, with the ambition of providing a broader and richer education for the boys; and, above all, the creation of the AP100 Campaign, which has made the school accessible to many more bright boys from ordinary backgrounds. Of course, this was very close to Stephen's heart from his own experience of King Edward's in the 1970s and he was the perfect person to be the first Chairman of The King Edward's School Birmingham Trust, which oversaw the funds donated by the remarkably generous alumni. Stephen remained closely involved until the cruel onset of frontotemporal dementia. He is survived by his wife Rose, his parents and his three children, James, Tom and Susie.

*John Cloughton (1975)*

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Stephen's family are raising funds for Addenbrooke's Charitable Trust to support research into frontotemporal dementia via:  
[www.justgiving.com/fundraising/remembering-stephen-campbell](http://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/remembering-stephen-campbell)

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Derek H Benson (1953; Staff: 1962-1995)  
1934-2019



Born in Brighton, Derek was the much longed for only child of Harold and Marian. Harold's job as a fundraiser for a missionary society meant that they had moved around quite often. Wanting to be settled in one place for Derek's schooling, the family moved back to Birmingham in 1937. Their house backed on to Weoley Hill cricket ground, where Derek would later meet his wife Cynthia.

When Derek first crossed the threshold of King Edward's School in September 1947 it began a virtually unbroken association with the school. As a pupil, Derek won all the glittering prizes in quite an exemplary generation of boys. Away from academia, he rose to the highest ranks of the CCF and developed into a free-scoring wing three-quarter in the 1<sup>st</sup> XV, but cricket was always his first love. He played for the 1<sup>st</sup> XI from 1950 and captained the team in 1953. In 1952, Derek was appointed School Captain and having won a place at Trinity Hall, Cambridge, he left King Edward's in 1953 to fulfil his National Service with the Royal Artillery and the Airborne Division.

Derek took up his place to study natural sciences at Cambridge in 1955, although by his own admission there wasn't much studying done: he spent his time playing rugby, cricket, partying and making the trip to and from Birmingham to see Cynthia. In 1958, he began his teaching career at Bishop's Stortford College and in 1960, Derek and Cynthia were married. In 1962, Derek returned to King Edward's to teach chemistry, a position in which he remained until his retirement in 1995. Even then his association with the school continued, taking on the role of Registrar in charge of 11+ admissions and then looking after OE liaison activities.

While at King Edward's, three children came along: Richard, Clare and Hilary. Richard shared Derek's passion for cricket from an early age and it was a matter of considerable pride to him that when Richard followed in his footsteps to King Edward's, they were the first father and son to have captained the 1<sup>st</sup> XI cricket team, albeit separated by 28 years.

Derek was a schoolmaster of rare distinction, a teacher who was always prepared to involve himself in the life of the school, doing so with abundant enthusiasm and commitment. For 22 seasons he was Master in charge of cricket and the steady stream of outstanding cricketers passing from the school into university and club cricket during this period provided eloquent testimony to his coaching and inspirational skills. His own playing career was largely confined to Harborne where

he captained the Sunday side and served at times as both Secretary and Chairman of the Club.

If cricket took pride of place in Derek's lexicon of life, his contribution to the school's CCF did not lag far behind. He joined the Army Section in 1962 before earning his rings as a naval officer. In 1979, he took over from Bill Traynor as Commanding Officer. Under his command the CCF entered a period of considerable expansion with increased numbers enrolling in the Middle School and the reappearance of an Air Force section and shooting teams. Visiting officers and dignitaries were continually impressed by the high standards of turn out and drill and equally gratified by the cordiality of their welcome.

Derek was a man of enormous charm and could easily have been an outstanding diplomat. Perhaps his finest act of diplomacy took place on a summer camp. One afternoon, all the cadets and almost all the junior officers tackled the assault course – crossing rivers and crawling through pipes half filled with water – emerging very wet and muddy. However, one junior officer (who later became Deputy Chief Master) declined to take part. The senior cadets, all sixth formers who technically had left the school, rushed him, picked him up and threw him in the river. Unfortunately, the camp commandant, a full colonel, saw this and was outraged at the disrespect shown to someone holding the Queen's commission. It looked like there could be dire repercussions for KES CCF. Derek asked the colonel if he could speak with him. Later that day the colonel announced to the officers of every contingent on the camp: "In future, any junior officer not going over the assault course will be thrown in the river by his senior cadets." Only Derek could have pulled that off.

Derek threw himself enthusiastically into a range of activities. He was a purveyor of the trombone, performer in Gilbert and Sullivan and school choirs, Housemaster of Evans, Chairman of the Common Room, school representative for the Old Edwardians, examiner for a myriad of examination boards and a blood donor on 184 occasions. Derek went about all his businesses with cheerfulness, boyish enthusiasm and good humour.

When Cynthia was diagnosed with cancer at the tragically young age of 58, Derek nursed her admirably through her illness and subsequent death two years later. He once said how fortunate he counted himself to have spent 45 years with Cynthia and how he then felt doubly blessed when his relationship with Elaine, a friend from Astwood Bank Amateur Operatic Society, developed into something deeper.

Derek and Elaine were married in 1997 and his family extended to include her children, Barry and Jane. Over the following 22 years, Derek and Elaine enjoyed numerous cruises and overseas trips. They moved to Redditch in 2010, just before Derek's dementia was beginning to surface. Elaine was amazing in her care of Derek, keeping him going in the busy life they had created for themselves. Eventually, it became apparent that his increasing needs could only be met in a specialist care home and he spent his last three years at Regent's Court in Bromsgrove.

John Bruce Hurn (Staff: 1947-1973)  
1926-2020



Like many OEs I was deeply saddened to hear of the death at age 94 of Bruce Hurn, Head of Art at KES 1947-73.

John Bruce Hurn, always known as 'Bruce', was born in Spalding, Lincolnshire, but as a child his family moved to Kings Heath, Birmingham. He attended the historic 'National School' in Moseley where his teacher Miss Drew soon recognised his talent in art, and was maybe the first to insist that this is where his future must lie. He went on to KEGS Camp Hill and then to Birmingham School of Art. Teaching – second only to painting – then became Bruce's great passion, and he soon found himself running classes at Bournville, Moseley, and Nuneaton Schools of Art. This busy schedule was interrupted when, in less than a year, Bruce's abilities were recognised by Charles Morris, then head of KES. Morris saw in Bruce a dynamic successor to his current art master who was soon to retire and so, at the age of only 21, Bruce was appointed Head of Art at KES, a post he held for 26 years.

At King Edward's Bruce became an inspirational teacher who encouraged potential artists and non-artists alike to find a place in their lives for the visual arts. His knowledge of the fine and applied arts was comprehensive and his practical enthusiasm never ebbed. I believe his success was due largely to two factors. Firstly, he placed art and design firmly within an intellectual context that made it a serious part of the curriculum. In this he was encouraged and supported by the arrival in 1952 of Canon Lunt as Chief Master. Bruce introduced art homework, created an up-to-date art library with specialist magazines and periodicals, and organised regular lectures and exhibitions which anyone could attend. And secondly, he brought an infectious 'can-do' attitude to the art department which led to an atmosphere of busy creativity and industry. Deadlines were expected to be met, and all manner of extra activities were encouraged: Friday afternoon art; designs for the school Christmas card or the set for the school play; posters for school societies; furniture for the Chapel (art was seen as essential, useful – not just an add-on); visits to the Barber Institute; trips further afield; summer schools (an idea put forward by Bruce's American-born wife June) – art spread out into all areas of life. Everyone, staff included, was welcome in the Art Room to try their hand.

By the 1970s Bruce's reputation was such that he was being recommended for 'the Inspectorate' to which in 1973 he applied, was



appointed, and duly became an HM Inspector of Schools. This meant relocating to Kent. Bruce's speciality of course was art and design education, and over the next 13 years the job took him to schools all around England and as far afield as the Channel Islands. In all this he thrived; his second career simply gave him a bigger canvas to work on.

By 2001 when I met up with him again, Bruce, now retired, was as busy as ever. Chairing committees, voluntary work, travel, exhibitions, family, and of course his own painting filled his days. After a gap of 30 years he and I found we had many shared interests and I became a regular visitor at Hawk's Wing, June and Bruce's home in Chislehurst. Bruce's energy and enthusiasm continued into old age. When he was well into his 80s, he and I made a trip to his beloved Romney Marsh. Armed with the relevant volume of 'Pevsner' we visited, in one strenuous day, seven of the 14 remarkable and remote Marsh churches. On the way back I said "We'll have to do the other seven sometime." "Yes," said Bruce, "let's go tomorrow!" And so we did.

Bruce Hurn was a one-off, unique, irreplaceable. His teaching and influence at KES was what enabled me and many others to go on to lives and careers in art or design or architecture. And many of those who pursued other professions owe to him their introduction to the appreciation of art.

In our last phone call just a week before he died our conversation flowed across a typically eclectic mix of topics: Delft tiles, David Bomberg's paintings of Ronda, the American election, Abstract Expressionism (what's the best book on Cy Twombly?), the Paolozzi sculpture outside Euston Station (what has happened to it?), the architectural model of Barry's KES (what has happened to that?), William Gear and the RBSA, Mirga Gražinytė-Tyla and the CBSO at Birmingham's Symphony Hall (when is she doing Mahler again?), the recorded birdsong in Rautavaara's Cantus Arcticus. And so it went on; our frequent chats were engaging, fun, challenging, illuminating, something I looked forward to. Every day I see or read something and still find myself thinking: "I must tell Bruce about this"...

Bruce died peacefully on the 8 November 2020. He is survived by June, his wife of 66 years, and by their four children, eight grandchildren, and one great-grandson.

*Chris Eckersley (1970)*



Graham Collingwood Underhill (Staff: 1965-1990)  
1930-2020

Graham was educated at Rugby and Emmanuel College, Cambridge, where the seeds were sown for his stoic precision of the English language and his ability to maintain high values and standards in every activity he undertook. After National Service, where he spent most of his time in the intelligence corps in Vienna, he then went on to follow his father as a signalman for seven years, attaining the rank of Lieutenant.

Following a brief spell at Joseph Lucas, he was in the summer of 1965 appointed by Canon Lunt as a Languages Master at King Edward’s School, teaching French, Spanish and German. Graham went on to spend the next 30 years there, latterly as Admissions Registrar a position he carried out in his customary precise way.

Graham was an exemplary schoolmaster. By his careful and thorough teaching of French, German and Spanish, by his insistence on industry and application from his pupils, by his demands for neat, careful and thorough work, by requiring courtesy and good manners, Graham inculcated in generations of Shell U and other forms and sets, the values people have come to expect from KES pupils. Graham’s pupils were always thoroughly taught and well prepared, so that they did well at GCSE and A-level.

For a long time Graham was the senior Shell Form Master, where, amongst other things, he arranged assemblies, the promotion of Shell boys to the Remove and the Shells’ expedition each autumn (often to the Industrial Revolution sites at the Ironbridge Gorge).

When Bill Ramsay retired, Graham was appointed public examinations officer, a crucial and time-consuming job, involving strict attention to detail. Graham oversaw the significant change from O-Level to GCSE, with all the bureaucracy that entailed.

Graham’s work rate must have been one of the highest in the school. Generally carrying not one, but two briefcases full of books to mark, Graham was keen to get to class in good time and to make the most of a preparation period. He was a perceptive contributor to Common Room debate, capable of delivering a withering (but never malicious) riposte, particularly where a matter of propriety was in question.

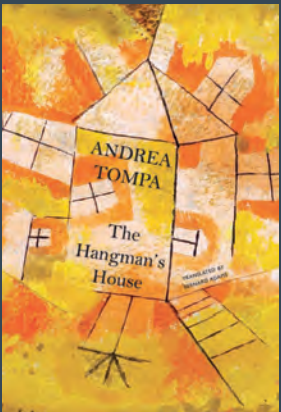
Graham travelled extensively, including taking 12 school parties to France, often with his colleague and friend, John Hodges. He was an inveterate gallery-goer, very knowledgeable about engravings and prints of all kinds, and lent items from his collection to the school on occasions. Graham also made a major contribution to the architecture of the school. He saw the possibilities of using what were rather underused Scout rooms over the gym as audio-visual rooms and was involved in overseeing their conversion. He made a lasting impression on the school buildings by supervising the construction of the Maurice Porter Room and the conversion of the old changing rooms into five new classrooms, the Undercroft.



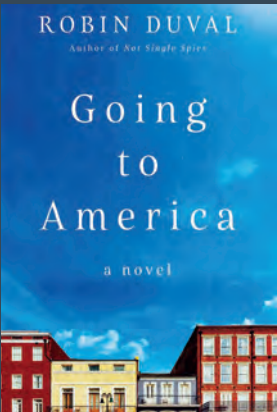
Graham worshipped at the Church of St Anne, Moseley, where he served twice as Churchwarden, first at the young age of 29, helping to sustain the fabric. The good order of the building today is a testimony to his perseverance.

Graham was a true, quintessential gentleman: loyal, dependable, methodical, patient, courteous and kind, and will be dearly missed.

Old Edwardian publications



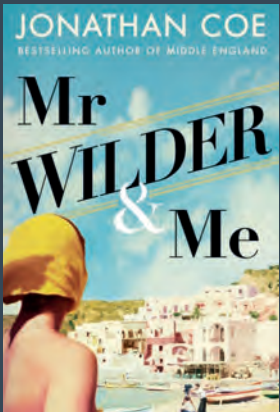
**Bernard Adams (1954)**  
A translation of The Hangman’s House by Andrea Tompa  
Publisher: Seagull Books London Ltd



**Robin Duval (1960)**  
Going to America  
Publisher: Book Guild Publishing Ltd



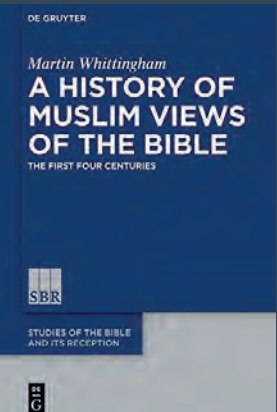
**Jim Grant (1973) aka Lee Child**  
Co-author of The Sentinel  
Publisher: Transworld Publishers



**Jonathan Coe (1979)**  
Mr Wilder and Me  
Publisher: Viking



**Peter G Knight (1979)**  
Glacier: Nature and Culture  
Publisher: Reaktion Books



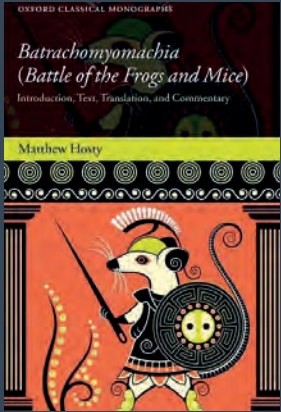
**Martin Whittingham (1983) (previously Martin Pugh)**  
A History of Muslim Views of the Bible  
Publisher: De Gruyter



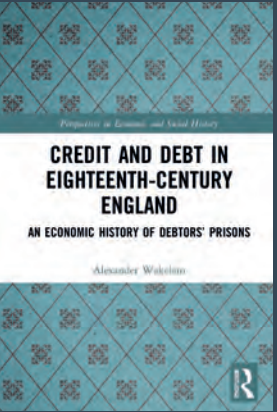
**Matt Killeen (1991)**  
Orphan, Monster, Spy  
Publisher: Usborne Publishing



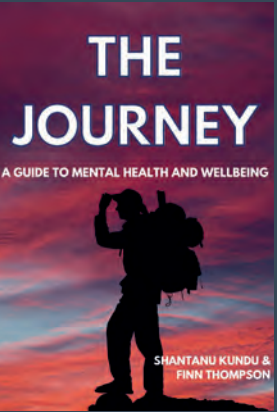
**Ed Rigby (1995) writing as Ed Church**  
Probably Dead: A Detective Brook Deelman Mystery  
Publisher: Double Time Books



**Matthew Hosty (2005)**  
Batrachomyomachia (Battle of the Frogs and Mice)  
Publisher: Oxford University Press



**Alexander Wakelam (2011)**  
Credit and Debt in Eighteenth-Century England: An Economic History of Debtors’ Prisons  
Publisher: Routledge



**Shantanu Kundu (2018)**  
Co-author of The Journey: A Guide to Mental Health and Wellbeing  
Publisher: BFC Publications





KING EDWARD'S SCHOOL  
BIRMINGHAM

Development & OEA Office, King Edward's School, Edgbaston Park Road, Birmingham B15 2UA

Tel: **0121 415 6050** Email: **oldeds@kes.org.uk**

 **@oldedskes**  **/oldedwardians**

**[www.oldeds.kes.org.uk](http://www.oldeds.kes.org.uk)**