



KING  
EDWARD'S  
SCHOOL  
BATH

THE OE NETWORK  
MAGAZINE

2024

# Oelink

20th  
edition

TIM BOWLES  
**WILD TIMES**

NEWS | FEATURES | CONNECTIONS | EVENTS



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- \* Book tickets for OE events
- \* Contribute news/articles for the *OElink* and *OE e-newsletters*
- \* Join the OE Committee – new members are always welcome!
- \* Offer careers help to the School and other OEs
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- \* Pledge a legacy to the School and join the Blake Odgers Society

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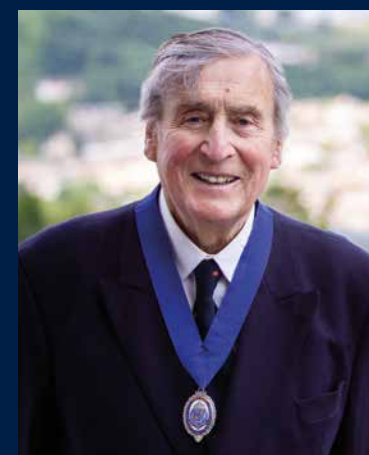
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**“It has been an honour to serve as President since 2018 but, after six years, I think it is time to move on and make way for a younger person.”**



Dudley Thomas  
1955-1964

# President's welcome

## Welcome to the 2024 edition of the *OElink*!

It is also farewell from me as I am standing down as President. It has been an honour to serve as President since 2018 but, after six years, I think it is time to move on and make way for a younger person.

Six years, and what wonderful years they have been for the School and for me as serving President. During this time, I have greatly enjoyed attending school plays, concerts, receptions and Founder's Day Services in Bath Abbey. On the OE front, we have enjoyed numerous reunions and events, with an outstanding London Dinner in early 2020, hosted by OE The Rt Hon John Glen MP at the Houses of Parliament.

Nothing at the School has stood still during this time. It has continued to grow in size, with the pupil population increasing by nearly 6% since 2018. The site has also seen changes, with new developments alongside improvements and renovations to existing teaching and learning facilities. Highlights include the Rose Theatre opening in 2019, a new creative media suite in 2022 and a multi-sectioned gym earlier this year. However, that is not all. Work is in progress to build a new teaching block which will incorporate 14 classrooms, pastoral spaces and offices, to be completed by autumn 2025.



**“I welcome the incoming President, Michael Pell, who will be known to many of you. He was the School's Head of Art and Photography until he retired in 2020, after 25 years at KES.”**



Founder's Day Service in Bath Abbey,  
July 2024

During my time as President, we set up an OE Heritage Committee to look at how the School's archives could best be secured and managed. This has been a time-consuming but very worthwhile project, and it is wonderful to see the work come to fruition this term with the appointment of archivist Suzanne Keyte. As it progresses, this work will benefit both the School and the OE community. The Committee has also continued to award the annual OE Activity Award to different school clubs and societies (of which there are now many) and it has been rewarding to see the positive impact of this support.

I welcome the incoming President, Michael Pell, who will be known to many of you. He was the School's Head of Art and Photography until he retired in 2020, after 25 years at KES. He has been involved with the OE Committee as OE liaison since 2010 and has been actively involved in promoting the Association both whilst on the staff and in his retirement. When attending receptions and events, I have noticed that OEs of a certain age make a beeline for Michael. This speaks volumes about the respect that OEs have for him. Michael, I wish you well, and I am confident that the Association will flourish in your hands.

Finally, I would like to express my thanks to Claire Davies who has worked so hard, not only to keep the OEs going, but also to bring about changes to improve the Association.

I just about remember some of the words of the old school song: "Old time is on our tracks, boys, and seas will soon divide", so, wherever you are, I wish you all good health and peace for 2025 and onwards.



**“I knew that the archive collection of one of the oldest schools in the country would be fascinating, and it has not disappointed so far!”**



## Introducing the School's new archivist

**My name is Suzanne Keyte, and I was delighted and honoured to join KES this September as the School's archivist. I knew that the archive collection of one of the oldest schools in the country would be fascinating, and it has not disappointed so far!**

It is always a privilege to work with original and unique historical records. Having studied History at the University of Warwick, and then qualified as an archivist, I have worked in some major heritage institutions in my career, including the Houses of Parliament, the Women's Library, Tate Britain and, most recently, as the Archivist at the Royal Albert Hall.

The KES archive collection includes letters, minute books, admission registers, photographs, pictures, books, over 100 years of *The Edwardian* magazine and much, much more. We also have the original charter, signed by Edward VI, which currently resides in the Bath Record Office.

It is my responsibility to ensure that the collective history of the School is preserved and looked after. I am now cataloguing

the collection to identify any objects for conservation and to make the archives accessible to the wider school community – the pupils, the staff, the parents and to Old Edwardians.

One of the most thrilling things about being an archivist is opening boxes, not knowing what they contain, and discovering the stories that lie within. It is fascinating to see how the School (and education) has changed over the years. Looking at some old school reports dating back to the 1940s, it was enough for a teacher to comment “this boy is a hooligan” with no further explanation! It is also exciting to see how the range of subjects, sports and co-curricular activities offered at KES has evolved and expanded over the years.

I am keen to involve the pupils in bringing to life some of the fascinating stories that are in the KES archives. Archives are never boring, and there is lots of repackaging, cataloguing and research that needs to be done. Fantastic experience for those pupils thinking of studying History at university or interested in a career in heritage!

One of my most exciting discoveries so far has been the story of Old Edwardian

**One of my most exciting discoveries so far has been the story of Old Edwardian Geoffrey Fyson (1911), who became a well-known WW1 poet.**

Geoffrey Fyson (1911), who became a well-known WW1 poet. *The Edwardian* magazine obviously spotted his potential as he had several poems published as a school boy, but his most brilliant and poignant poetry came after WW1 where his younger brother George was killed and Geoffrey himself was gassed and injured in the trenches.

As we approach the School's 475th Anniversary in 2027, it is important that the School can both appreciate and utilise these unique archives and the benefits they can bring to the School.



**Sam Lascelles**  
1993-2000

## Chairman's letter

**Welcome to the 20th edition of the *OElink*!**

Ensuring that there is a range of different social events available to OEs each year is an important part of our work. I am pleased to report on a very varied programme. Our regular social events continued, with the Anniversary Reunion this year seeing OEs return from 1974, 1984, 1994, 2004 and 2014. As usual, those who attended greatly enjoyed catching up with OEs from their peer group as well as mixing with OEs from different eras. Another standing event is our Summer Reunion, which focuses on OEs from the 1950s, 1960s and 1970s. These events allow OEs to come back to the School to revisit old haunts and see the increasingly modernised school site.

Beyond the School we have also branched out to other venues. In March we hosted a night at the Holburne Museum, where 40 OEs and guests met for drinks and a private viewing of the Gwen John exhibition. In May we enjoyed a London drinks reception at the delightful Marylebone town house of OE Jonathan Glanz (1978), with drinks kindly sponsored by OE Mark Humphries (1980). And very much a first for the OEs has been our first overseas event, with a small group of OEs living in North America meeting for dinner in New York, kindly sponsored by a former parent.

Away from socialising, we are thankful to those OEs who have attended a range of events to support the School's careers activities. Notable highlights have been 30 OEs attending a speed advice event for Year 13, to provide pupils with valuable advice and insights about their own experience of HE, gap years and employment; OEs attending the Careers Convention (and the additional Green Careers and Ethics Convention); and OEs providing work experience placements and mentoring about career areas such as law and finance.

Protecting the School's heritage has been an important area of focus for the OE Committee in recent years. In 2023 we part-funded a scoping report of the KES archives and I am pleased to say that as a result the School has appointed an archivist for this academic year, with Suzanne Keyte starting the role this September. This role is also part-funded by the OEs. Suzanne introduces herself on page 4 and we look forward to sharing more of her archives work in a future *OElink*.

Each year, the OE Committee uses some of its funds to provide an OE Activity Award to school clubs or societies. This is a fun way for us to make a positive impact on school life and raise awareness of the OEs. This year we supported the Textiles Club to purchase faux fur (to learn new sewing stitches for working with new material to create faux fur hats) and the Model United Nations to purchase event equipment, such as country placards and table flags, so that they can host their own conference and expand the programme to more year groups.

Throughout this successful year I have been thankful for the efforts of the OE Committee and the School. I am pleased that we have welcomed new Committee members Alex Small, Chris Guest and John Rutter (former staff). An example of committed service to all of us is Geoff Hughes, who stepped down this year after over 50 years on the OE Committee (see separate article for more!)

Finally, on behalf of all the OE community I would like to thank Claire Davies for her tireless support, without which we wouldn't have been able to achieve so much of the above.

**“As usual, those who attended greatly enjoyed catching up with OEs from their peer group as well as mixing with OEs from different eras.”**



Anniversary Reunion, April 2024





# The impact of your support

It has been incredible to see so much support from our OE community in my busy first year as Development Director at KES. Thank you to all of you who have donated, volunteered or shared your stories during the last year.

The range of support I have seen has been vast and varied. From funding bursaries or donating to transform our school environment, hosting OE events, volunteering help and expertise for the School's Careers programme, through to contributing content for this magazine and OE social media channels, your support has been truly remarkable.

## Wroughton Bursary Fund

Donations to the Wroughton Bursary Fund, named after former Headmaster Dr John Wroughton, have provided five fully funded bursaries to pupils in the Senior School during the last academic year. Pupils like Amber, a talented netball player, who joined KES in the Sixth Form:



Amber

**The KES bursary programme provides amazing opportunities to pupils who otherwise would never have had them. As a result, young pupils like me who want to make the most out of their talents and passions can do so."**

Driven by our values of looking forwards and outwards, our ambition is that the KES bursary programme will be able to provide the necessary support so that any pupil offered a place can attend, regardless of their family's financial circumstances.

If you would like to support the Wroughton Bursary Fund, please scan the QR code or visit **Support Us | King Edward's School, Bath (kesbath.com)**



**"Thank you and to our very gracious hosts last night for a really fun evening – I walked into the room knowing no-one, and left feeling part of a community."**

OE (1988), after attending London drinks reception in May 2024

## Your feedback on the OE programme and interest in supporting the School

Thank you to all of you who completed our email survey this summer. Your feedback will help us to shape our communications, events and activities over the next few years. Highlights include:

- Over **200** of you are interested in giving your time and expertise to help with careers advice.
- Nearly all of you would be keen to attend a reunion for your year group and **175** would like to attend an event to celebrate the School's 475th anniversary in 2027, with over **100** of you keen to attend OE dinners and networking events.
- **318** of you read OE comms including the *OELink* magazine, OE e-newsletters and event invitations and judge the frequency of communication to be 'just right'.
- **263** of you are still in touch with KES friends.
- Over half of you who responded said that you would consider donating to fundraising initiatives at KES, including means-tested bursaries, teaching and learning facilities, sports, performing arts and music, partnership and outreach projects and co-curricular activities.

If you would like to join the mailing list to receive OE news and event invitations, please send your preferred email address to [alumni@kesbath.com](mailto:alumni@kesbath.com) so we can keep you updated.

If you would like to find out more about supporting KES, please contact me at [development@kesbath.com](mailto:development@kesbath.com).

**Alison Heyes**

DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR



London drinks reception, May 2024

## 2023-24 IN NUMBERS

**70** donors to the Wroughton Bursary Fund



**40** OEs took part in our careers programme for pupils



**350** OEs told us what they think of our OE programme and interest in supporting the School



**11** OEs on the OE Committee



**215** OEs attended events in Bath, London and New York



**35** OEs shared articles or stories for the *OELink* magazine



**3** OEs hosted events



## The year ahead for KES Careers

The School's Careers department has another exciting year ahead, with the introduction of one-to-one Careers Advice meetings for Year 11 and a new Mentoring Evening Event for Year 12 in spring 2025. Our aim is to continue to educate and enlighten our pupils in as broad a range of careers as possible, with the younger years having already learnt about Toxicology as one of our featured career areas this term!

We are pleased to be welcoming new speakers this term, such as Glenn Smith from Fued AI, who will be joining us to speak about his careers in Finance, Fintech and now AI, as well as returning speakers including OE Seb Valentine (2000), who will be discussing the Psychology of Crisis Management.

We are also introducing a comprehensive new Careers resource to our pupils this year – Unifrog. This platform will enable all our pupils to keep a record of their involvement with the Careers programme, job interests and developing skills as they progress from Year 7 through to Year 13. It will also be an invaluable bank of information allowing pupils to research courses, apprenticeships, employability skills and learn about different jobs and careers.

Finally, we are already looking forward to our Work Experience Week in 2025, which is taking place from Monday 30 June to Friday 4 July. We have eager Year 12 pupils already indicating areas of interest and I am meeting with them to discuss finding volunteering opportunities, work experience placements and online courses.

If any OEs feel able to offer a work experience placement to a Year 12 pupil, please do get in touch at [alumni@kesbath.com](mailto:alumni@kesbath.com)

**Julia Rees-Roberts**

CAREERS EDUCATION CO-ORDINATOR



# Bath to Battersea

## My career from KES to Oncology

**Rose Cleary (née Hall) 2007-2014** joined KES as a Bursary Award holder. Now working as an Oncology Registrar, she describes how the skills and interests she developed through her education have undoubtedly shaped her life for the better.



“It’s often said that our school days are the best days of our lives. While this may be the case, I believe school prepares us for the best days of our lives.”

I started Year 7 at KES in 2007, enjoying my time there until finishing Sixth Form in 2014. I started my medical degree that autumn at St George’s Hospital Medical School in London.

I spent a lot of time in the Art room at KES as I loved painting and enjoyed the guidance of Mrs Blamire, who encouraged my art and even gave me an introduction to pottery ‘throwing’! I transferred these skills to the St George’s Art Committee, where I curated art installations for hospital spaces. Many of these were created by inmates of HMP Wandsworth, which led me to deliver science-related talks in the prison.

In between finishing university and starting my first rotation as a Junior Doctor, I shadowed pre-hospital doctors in the Queensland Ambulance Service and the Royal Flying Doctor Service in Australia. Trudging through the bush to remote areas, carrying heavy ambulance bags of equipment, brought back (relatively fond!) memories of my Duke of Edinburgh Gold expedition on the Brecon Beacons. The map-reading skills came in handy when trying to work out the route on the long drive back to Brisbane, where signal for use of a sat nav could not always be relied upon.

My foundation years (the first two years as a qualified doctor) were eye-opening, challenging and rewarding. Halfway through my first foundation year, the Covid pandemic hit the world. I was working in a district general hospital and I could never have imagined the situations we found ourselves in, and the impossible decisions we were forced to make. These experiences built both character and resilience, and a depth of experience that might have taken years to acquire otherwise.

**My role is part clinical and part academic, undertaking a PhD in the genetics of prostate cancer, with special focus on early diagnosis.**

I was a member of KES chess club while I was in the Lower School. Foolishly, I ignored Mr Turner’s advice and left this behind after GCSEs – until the pandemic, when I was working shifts on the Intensive Care Unit. The shift pattern, along with life in lockdown, lent itself to this familiar, reassuring hobby regaining its appeal. I am now a member of a chess club in London, and I play socially as well as occasional tournaments, including in Paris against Le Cercle de l’Union Interalliée.

Throughout my time at KES I sang in the school choir, which was a great experience and equipped me with the skill to read music and discover a huge appreciation for the choral tradition. I have nurtured this appreciation, and it has led me to attend some wonderful performances in equally inspiring venues. In many ways it contributed to me discovering my faith as well as an interest in ecclesiastical architecture. The latter may have started on Mr Turner’s RS trips! I’m convinced that while we may shape buildings, in the end they shape us, which should give us inspiration to preserve beautiful buildings and build more of them.

After completing my foundation years, I married Richard and we moved to Battersea, London. We have a Cavalier King Charles Spaniel called Rupert, who accompanies us loyally around Battersea Park each day and brings us a lot of joy.



“As part of my research, I undertake community engagement to spread awareness about prostate cancer risk and symptoms, as well as performing genetic testing in those at increased risk of cancer.”

After foundation I started a job as a Senior House Officer in Oncology at The Royal Marsden Hospital, Chelsea. Three years on, I work there as an Oncology Registrar specialising in prostate cancer. My role is part clinical and part academic, undertaking a PhD in the genetics of prostate cancer, with special focus on early diagnosis. As part of my research, I undertake community engagement to spread awareness about prostate cancer risk and symptoms, as well as performing genetic testing in those at increased risk of cancer.

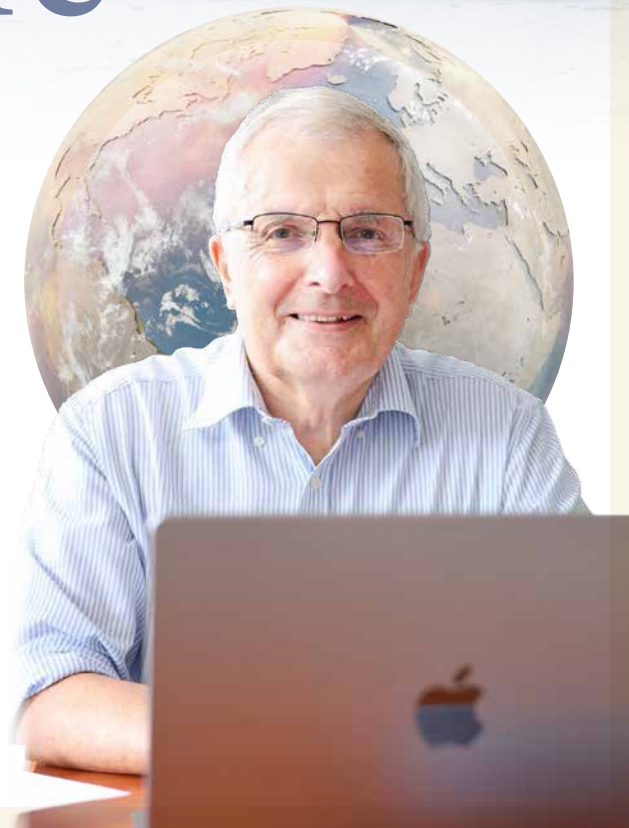
I was fortunate to have some excellent form tutors at KES, Mr Laney and Ms Davies in particular. Securing a place at medical school is always challenging, and I remain grateful to Mr Thomas and Mr Newman for their advice and guidance, especially in helping me find the work experience essential to a medicine application.

It’s often said that our school days are the best days of our lives. While this may be the case, I believe school prepares us for the best days of our lives. It is a blessing to have a positive and enjoyable school experience, and I will always be grateful to KES for awarding me that. I was on the Bursary scheme, which is a wonderful opportunity, and the education I received because of this has undoubtedly shaped my life for the better.



# Revealing the big picture

**Professor Chris Rapley CBE MAE (1955-1966)** discusses his experience of using multi-disciplinary and inter-disciplinary approaches in his scientific career, and the value these bring to both research and understanding. He is Professor of Climate Science at University College London and holds additional roles such as Chair of the European Science Foundation's European Space Sciences Committee. His previous posts include Directorships of the International Geosphere-Biosphere Programme, British Antarctic Survey and the Science Museum.



IPY Planning Committee at HQ of International Council of Science, Paris.

**W**hen I was little, I discovered that I was good at jigsaw puzzles. I recall the satisfaction of seeing the image gradually emerge as the pieces were assembled. It's not a talent I mention on my CV. But it has turned out to be very helpful in my career.

A problem with science today is that its domain is so vast that no-one can be expert in all fields. A common quip is that the career path of a researcher is "to learn more and more about less and less until they know everything about nothing". Joking aside, the silo-ing of knowledge and expertise, and the tendency not to link the parts, is a widespread problem in the modern world, and not just in science.

The US space agency NASA addressed the matter years ago by introducing the concept of the T-shaped employee. This is an individual who combines expert specialist skills with a broad overview and generalist capabilities. Their 'helicopter view' allows them to apply their talents to greatest effect, and to create meaningful knowledge rather than isolated facts. When studying complex systems, such as the Earth's climate system, this also allows the discovery of 'emergent behaviours' not derivable from the individual parts.

My first practical experience of the research advantage of multi-disciplinary awareness was as a PhD student at UCL's Mullard Space Science Laboratory. My task was to determine the origin of the cosmic soft X-ray glow that had been discovered using sounding rockets to loft instruments above the atmosphere. Familiarity with features of the optical sky learned at the Oxford University Observatory during my undergraduate physics studies, and of the radio sky acquired from an MSc course at Jodrell Bank, allowed me to devise a sounding rocket experiment. Following a successful flight (flown from Woomera, Australia), the combination of the radio, optical and X-ray data revealed the source to be Galactic.

Some years later I led an international initiative – the International Geosphere-Biosphere Programme (IGBP) – which provided a community-agreed research plan for thousands of scientists from 75 nations to investigate the Earth's biogeochemical cycles. To make progress, we had to overcome academic disciplinary boundaries (between physicists, chemists, biologists, ecologists, mathematicians, etc) as well as national, institutional, language and cultural barriers. The aim was to establish a framework guiding the investigation of multiple individual scientific 'jigsaw pieces', and then to assemble the fragments so that the 'big picture' emerged. The IGBP was itself 'nested' within a high-level arrangement of the World Climate Research Programme (studying the physical aspects of the

**Joking aside, the silo-ing of knowledge and expertise, and the tendency not to link the parts, is a widespread problem in the modern world, and not just in science.**

climate system) and International Human Dimensions Programme (studying the role and response of humans within the Earth system). The success of the programme generated new and important insights into how the planet functions.

Later, as Chair of the Planning Committee for the International Polar Year 2007-2008, I applied the same principles, ending up with an integrated programme of observations, research and analysis carried out by an estimated 50,000 researchers from more than 60 countries. It was the largest, most comprehensive campaign ever mounted to explore and characterise the Earth's Polar Regions, including 228 international projects, of which 171 were scientific, the remainder addressing education and outreach. Since then, interdisciplinary synthesis has been a hallmark of the research programme that I led at British Antarctic Survey, and of the galleries (especially the 'atmosphere' climate science gallery) that were installed when I was Director of the Science Museum.

More recently I have been working with colleagues from the field of neuroscience and psychology to understand better why the world is not responding to the climate and environmental crises at the scale and pace that the science shows is necessary. As an experimentalist, I have been rather taken aback to find how little I had previously understood of the behaviours – strengths and shortcomings – of my primary observing instrument – my Mk1 palaeolithic brain! As a 'Child of the Enlightenment' I had presumed that reasoned thinking – followed by rational action – would be the automatic response to overwhelming evidence. But my 'mind science' colleagues were amused at such naivety.

Daniel Kahneman, the Nobel prize-winning economist, and expert on human behaviour, described our mind as "a machine for jumping to conclusions" and noted that "thinking to humans is as swimming to cats – we can do it, but prefer not to". In practice we filter information according to our predilections, and behave in ways that are all too often against our best interests. As social beings we are strongly influenced by our peers. The use of story-telling and example offer powerful ways to overcome psychological and institutional barriers to create the 'agency to act'. These are insights and skills not commonly taught to natural scientists, who have much to learn from the world of social and behavioural research.

The upshot is that I find myself still discovering and assembling new and unexpected jigsaw pieces – and being astonished and inspired by the pictures that emerge!



Presenting on climate action at the 2023 European Space Agency, Living Planet Symposium in the old German Parliament Chamber, Bonn.

© European Space Sciences Committee (and main image).



## Longest-serving member of the OE Committee retires

**Geoff Hughes 1942-1949** joined the OE Committee in the 1970s and has been involved for over 50 years. He retired from the Committee earlier this year at the age of 90, making him the longest-serving Committee member since the Old Edwardians' Association was set up in 1906.



Left to right: Ed Weeks, Jimmy Evans, Geoff Hughes and Peter Good at the Summer Reunion in 2018.

The OE Committee are immensely grateful for Geoff's unwavering support, energy and cheerful enthusiasm over the years and for all his efforts in helping to keep his generation of OEs connected with each other and the School. They are delighted that Geoff has accepted the position of Honorary Vice President of the Association and wish him all the very best for his 'second retirement'.



Form V in 1949, with Geoff on far right

**“ Geoff remembers his time at KES with great affection but says that the School during the war in the 1940s and after was “a different world” when compared with the KES of today.”**

**As well as holding numerous roles, including those of Chairman, President and Treasurer, during the last five decades, Geoff is best known for setting up the famous 'Forties Brigade Reunions'.**

The first reunion was held in 1992, with Geoff wishing to mark 50 years since he started at the Junior School, which back then was sited in the residence of a former Headmaster in Belmont. Geoff invited his former classmates and the classes above and below, as well as any surviving members of staff.

The reunion was so well attended that it became an annual event, and Margaret Gardner from the Junior School and Ewart Willett, Bill Burden and Bill Currie from the Senior School were regular attendees in the early years. The events later expanded into full day trips, with cruises on the river or the Kennet and Avon Canal, a visit to the American Museum, and talks by a variety of guest speakers. Over 30 years later, these much-loved reunions are still going strong and still held at North Road, having become the 'Summer Reunion' for all OEs who left KES from Geoff's era up to the 1970s.

Geoff remembers his time at KES with great affection but says that the School during the war in the 1940s and after was “a different world” when compared with the KES of today. Back then there were

only about 226 pupils on the school roll, including around 65 in the Junior School. There was no school catering until 1947 so, prior to this change, pupils would need to go home for lunch. Geoff's favourite subject was History, taught by the Headmaster Mr Porter. Geoff suffers from a rare form of muscular dystrophy, so was excused from sports lessons. As an alternative to sport, he and a few others were asked to make their way to different historic sites around Bath. They would be met by Mr Porter, who was a keen walker, and he would give them a short historical lecture. Geoff had a bike, so he generally cycled to these talks. He would also cycle to school most days, depending on the weather!

Geoff completed his School Certificate in 1949, and his ambition on leaving the School was to sell exotic cars, but he was required instead to join the family wholesale fruit business in Swindon. He discovered he had a talent for sales and enjoyed learning about the fruit trade with its seasonal changes as well as the new varieties which were arriving from all over the world. He managed to increase the company turnover until the late 1970s when his customer base was eroded by the inexorable rise of supermarkets. For the next two decades before retirement, he diversified into road haulage, starting with the delivery of greenhouse kits to garden centres.

## Good times together with Groupia!

**Simon Denning 1978-1986** writes about how being a best man back in the early 2000s led to him setting up Groupia, a specialist group travel platform offering activity breaks and adventure weekends around the world.



**I loved my time at KES, from Broad Street in shorts and cap in the '70s to North Road in the '80s. Just writing that, I can't believe it was last century!**

We were the last intake with Mr Holbeche as Headmaster before John Wroughton took over. I can still remember Mr H putting the wind up us in the Physics lab, with his no-nonsense introduction to life in the Senior School. I also remember hard work, fair teachers, lots of trips, lots of laughs and plenty of sport, especially cricket. It really was a great time, and I have so many happy memories. For an occasional party trick, I can still recite the 1P class register from 1981!

From school, I studied IT at university but went in the opposite direction after that to build a career in hospitality and travel. This has involved long spells working in Australia, but I've recently returned to Bath, which has always been a massive part of my life.

After a busy period in London earning my stripes, in 2002 I set up what was to become Groupia, a specialist group travel platform. This followed on from working in a corporate events company and being a best man for the first time, where I had to organise a stag weekend for a couple of

dozen lively blokes. Group organisation for partying groups in the 2000s was not only exciting but also a steep learning curve, with much changing rapidly, from legislation and insurance to communication and consumerism.

Originally Groupia was all about celebratory weekends and, with central Europe opening up to travel, it was great fun – from organising a training experience with fighter jets and ice karting in Lithuania to weapons training in Prague, whitewater rafting in Slovenia and beerfests plus sport all over. Closer to home there was horse racing in Ireland and any number of activities in the UK, from trampoline cave adventures through to life drawing. Over 22 years and 750,000 clients later, the company now has several divisions that include pre-wedding events, private groups and corporate clients, and we recently launched a new division: GroupiaGolf.

While my own golf game certainly needs some work, golf trips are a great fit for us as a company, with our in-house expertise, eagerness, and events and logistics experience. We're already working with most courses in the UK and much of Europe, and what we haven't yet signed under agreement we can usually expedite on demand. At the time of writing, the golf division has just completed its biggest private group booking so far.

**From school, I studied IT at university but went in the opposite direction after that to build a career in hospitality and travel.**

We are excited about GroupiaGolf and looking forward to our first full year in 2025. To celebrate this year's launch, we would like to invite any OE organisers to benefit from £50 off when booking a group weekend with us. Simply quote “OEs”.

Visit [Groupiagolf.com](https://Groupiagolf.com) for more information, and to see the full range of activities and adventures we offer, visit [Groupia.com](https://Groupia.com)

**Groupia**  
GOLF

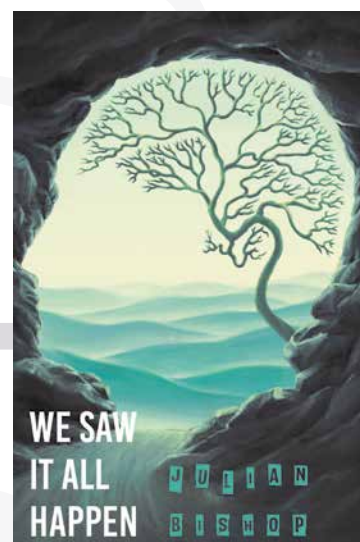


# Writing the Climate Crisis

**Julian Bishop 1970-1981** reflects on his career in journalism, and how his concern to highlight the climate crisis led to his first poetry collection, *We Saw It All Happen*.



“For me, the attack on our natural world is similar to a form of warfare but one that often isn’t on our TV screens, unless you discount Sir David Attenborough’s increasingly outspoken *Planet* series.”



**I** was one of the lucky ones who already knew what career I wanted to pursue, even when I was at school, and that was journalism. Quite what form of journalism I hadn’t decided, but newspapers were in pole position. I did A Levels in English, French and History, followed by Oxbridge Entrance to read English, which meant lessons with then Headmaster Brian Holbeche in his study. I remember he used to send out ostensibly light-hearted postcards reminding of assignment deadlines, which had the desired effect.

After an obligatory stint editing the Cambridge student newspaper *Stop Press*, I applied to the Thomson Organisation, which owned lots of regional newspapers, and landed a position as cub reporter on the *South Wales Echo*. Back then, I thought words could change the world. And to an extent they did. I’d write a piece about a family with a damp flat and, as if by magic, the landlord would fix it, shamed by a lead story.

Later I was made the BBC’s first environment reporter in Wales, at a time when climate change was barely on the news agenda. I seem to remember the position was created due to a series of terrible floods in North and West Wales. And because they were “great pictures”, I often had the top story in bulletins. When the weather was ok, I used to cover any old rural issue. Once I had to report on a new pesto factory opening in Powys. Well I guess it was green.

After a few years of this, I joined ITN’s *News at Ten* in London, where I switched to more of a production role, eventually being in charge of deciding the running order of news stories. I frequently elevated environmental stories, only to have them knocked down to the lower reaches of the running order. Those were the days of climate change rather than climate crisis but, even now, I’ve noticed that most TV news only leads on it when there are “great pictures” – the terrible US wildfires come to mind.

And here’s the problem – war and famine are huge human catastrophes with an immediacy that the climate crisis arguably lacks, except when it manifests itself (increasingly) in fire or flood. Most of the time it’s literally a slow burn.

Which is where my idea for my book of poems *We Saw It All Happen* came in. Is it enough to bear witness to such events or do we have a greater responsibility than that? For me, the attack on our natural world is similar to a form of warfare but one that often isn’t on our TV screens, unless you discount Sir David Attenborough’s increasingly outspoken *Planet* series.

Like the BBC’s approach to making absorbing TV, I too wanted to create something engaging to read but one that also made a forceful point. I reached back to some of the now hugely out of fashion Augustan poets of the 18th century for inspiration, for example, Alexander Pope and Jonathan Swift. Generally thought of as satirists, they were also masters of poetic form, another approach I wanted to adopt. So, my book contains many sonnets, a specular, a sestina, a Golden Shovel and riffs on other forms. I learnt about many of these during a year-long poetry course at City Lit in London, an adult education centre just off Covent Garden.

I wanted a central section of the book to deal with current affairs, only seen through a poetic eye. I divided the poems into Starters, Mains and Afters, not least because after trying to order the poems I noticed food was a pervasive presence. (Weird, because I’m skinny – probably years of luncheon meat and salad in the Multi-Purpose Hall (MPH) at KES...)

I sent a selection off to a pamphlet competition run by a small press in Manchester called Fly on the Wall, which caught my eye as one of the few publishers to claim “everything we do is with the environment in mind” and actually mean it. To my surprise, Isabelle Kenyon, who runs the press, asked if I’d like to go ahead with a full collection straight away. Of course, the answer was yes.

Now I’m working on a follow-up collection which takes an entirely different tack – the poems look at the life, works and my response to the work of the Italian painter Caravaggio. If there is a shared

**I was one of the lucky ones who already knew what career I wanted to pursue, even when I was at school, and that was journalism.**

trope between climate change and the self-destructive Caravaggio, it might be the sense of impending calamity that underlies both.

It’s a long way from studying *King Lear* with Bill Currie but the seeds were sown in those lessons. Did you know that Caravaggio committed the killing that was his undoing in the same year that Shakespeare wrote *Macbeth*? Yes, it’s the subject of a poem and yes, I’d love to ask Bill if he knew that!

## Five Degrees

Take one – another atoll gone, droughts, faster rate of ice melt. Sweltering taxis. A few mortuaries fail to cope in The Pyrenees. Chin up, it’s not too late.

Two degrees – forget the Med. Instead, investigate Aberystwyth for a tan. Gozo is a no-go. You can sail across London in a skiff! Now the planet’s heart-rate

skips a beat. Three degrees is when the floodgates open. Holland (and the coral) gone. A large-scale exodus from Africa. Geo-engineers arrive too late.

Work hard for a degree at Oxford-by-the-Sea, wait for a Balliol boat. Bail out – Cambridge is a folktale. At four, methane leaks from the sea floor, the rate

accelerates. Mangrove swamps, sapodillas recreate the tropics in Paris. Bananas on a boulevard; so shale had an upside after all! Take the fifth – way too late

to keep the lid on oceanic gas explosions so great Hiroshima is but a flicker. Then the final coffin nail: supercharged fireballs banging into cities at a rate of knots. The lid lowers by degrees. Sorry: too late.

Julian Bishop



# Headmaster's view

“I know that OEs of all generations have made, and continue to make, a valuable impact on the world and on others around them, and I hope that this year's *OELink* offers some uplifting insights into how King Edward's has played its part in helping to shape some of those fascinating journeys beyond Broad Street or North Road.”

Martin Boden



The yet to be named new academic and pastoral building, to be located on the site of the old Porter Library and due for completion by autumn next year, will finally enable all academic departments to have their own dedicated base and suite of classrooms and offices and is the tenth and largest major capital project at North Road in the last 16 years, reflecting the adage that, in today's ever-changing educational landscape, 'standing still' is rarely an option.



Architect's impression of the new academic and pastoral building.

It is a pleasure, as always, to see reflected in our wonderful *OELink* magazine such a wide range of fascinating experiences and memories from both KES alumni and also former and current staff.

Many of those colleagues have heard me say over the years – with my tongue only slightly in cheek – that “nobody ever really leaves King Edward's”, and it is telling that the reminiscences of Catherine Bruton, Mike Horrocks-Taylor and Jon Griffin collectively cover 70 years of loyal and dedicated service to the School. Alongside that very impressive span stands Geoff Hughes' remarkable half century of tireless commitment to the Old Edwardians' Committee and more than eight decades of association with the School, so perhaps there is some truth to my oft-repeated saying after all! Elsewhere, it is lovely to hear from a wonderfully interesting group of OEs whose connection with KES reaches from the 1950s through to the 2010s; all of them have forged fascinating and worthwhile pathways since moving on from North Road, and I am very grateful to them and indeed to everyone who has contributed to this year's publication.



The KES Saxophone Ensemble performing for patients, staff and visitors as part of the School's partnership with the Royal United Hospital.

Preserving a lasting connection with the School and celebrating its long heritage have always been at the heart of the OE Committee's work and purpose, and so, as Chairman Sam Lascelles highlights in his letter, it has been a genuine delight to welcome Suzanne Keyte as our School Archivist, a role that she has taken on with great skill and enthusiasm and which is already bearing very interesting fruit. Amongst much valuable work done already, she has unearthed a previously 'lost' oil portrait of my predecessor as Headmaster, Crispin Rowe, and has also brought to light some very moving and poetic reflections on both world wars from Old Edwardians which formed the focus of my Remembrance Day assembly earlier this term. I am fascinated to see what else her ongoing work will reveal as the academic year progresses.

As outgoing OE President Dudley Thomas mentions in his welcome, the past year has seen continued investment in the School's site and facilities, with the impressively upgraded and newly equipped gym and sports hall already making a tremendous impact among pupils and staff alike. The yet to be named new academic and pastoral building, to be located on the site of the old Porter Library and due for completion by autumn next year, will finally enable all academic departments to have their own dedicated base and suite of classrooms and offices and is the tenth and largest major capital project at North Road in the last 16 years, reflecting the adage that, in today's ever-changing educational landscape, 'standing still' is rarely an option. We are certainly excited about what will be a very important new architectural addition and are also looking forward to the day when we can finally remove all the portacabins from the site!

Whilst lovely buildings and facilities are always welcome, at heart schools are all about people and, in particular, the impact that they have on the generations of pupils who pass through them and on the wider communities of which they are often a significant part. With that thought firmly in mind, we were delighted to publish recently KES' first-ever *Impact Report*, a reflection on the impact over the last academic year that KES made on many fronts on our own and also the wider community, both in and around Bath and further afield. Primarily this was focused on KES pupils, but the report also highlights the good work that we believe KES does in supporting a wide range of children and also adults outside our walls. There are certainly some impressive headlines and much to be proud of, including:

- Nearly 700 local pupils involved in KES-run workshops, lessons and activities.
- 20 colleagues involved in outreach and partnership work.
- 12 primary school partnerships developed.
- 15 days of free facility use donated to the Bath community.
- 45 community organisations helped.
- Over £22,500 raised for charities by pupils and staff.
- Nearly 160 pupils at the Senior School supported through means-tested bursaries to the value of around £1.3 million.

The *KES Impact Report* also very positively reflects the School's recently reframed Purpose and Values and is available to read on our website.



Selection of *Edwardian* magazines from the KES archive collection.



I know that OEs of all generations have made, and continue to make, a valuable impact on the world and on others around them, and I hope that this year's *OELink* offers some uplifting insights into how King Edward's has played its part in helping to shape some of those fascinating journeys beyond Broad Street or North Road. I am very grateful, as always, for all the support that you continue to give to the School on so many fronts and send my best wishes to you and your families, wherever you may be – please do keep in touch!

Finally, a huge thank you from me on behalf of KES to Geoff and to Dudley for their unstinting service on the OEs' Committee, always given in true Old Edwardian spirit and always very much appreciated.



# Wild times

**Tim Bowles 1999-2004** explains how campfires and cold-water dipping have helped to restore his sense of self. He now helps others to reconnect with nature through experiences at his off-grid camps, Campwell Farm and Campwell Woods, and supports men's mental health with an expanding cold-water initiative.

**“We now host a great range of events, including wellness retreats, celebrations, school days, community sauna sessions and corporate team days and stays.”**



**A**s a boy I had an unhealthy obsession with making campfires on our family farm in Winsley. Staring into those flickering flames and feeling that warm glow on my face is a memory I cherish. Those moments were best enjoyed with my dad, Steve Bowles (1971) and cousin, Tom Bowles (2003). The Bowles family has farmed in Winsley for five generations, diversifying over the years to face the challenges of modern agriculture. Next door, Tom now runs Hartley Farm Shop and Kitchen, whilst at Church Farm we have holiday cottages, an indoor pool, a barn gym, a sheep-herding enterprise and my off-grid glamping and community sauna business, Campwell.

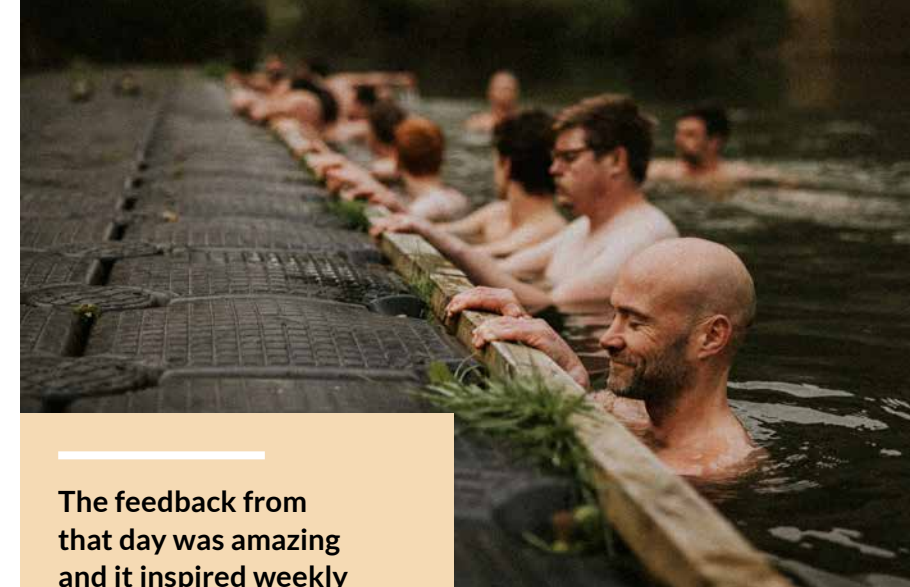
Growing up on the farm was a privilege and allowed me to enjoy playing freely outside. Chasing down escapee sheep became a regular activity, and no doubt contributed to my natural affinity with rugby. When I started at King Edward's in 1999, the Bathampton playing fields became a place where I felt most confident and energised, battling with great friends against rival schools. In contrast, the Art block with Mr Pell and Mr Willison was where I found peace, creativity and flow. Back then I struggled to imagine a career; playing professional rugby was the dream until many injuries slowed me up. A conversation with Mr Fletcher in the Sixth Form Centre about next steps led me to the University of Newcastle, where I studied Marketing and Management and met my future wife, Jojo.

After graduating I was advised that a more conventional, indoor office life was what I should aim for. I learned a lot through

**The feedback from that day was amazing and it inspired weekly gatherings that are now known as 'IceBreakers', where a community of men dip in open cold water together, with rituals of breathwork and movement to warm up.**

working in London's advertising scene for M&C Saatchi and then as a wine merchant in Hong Kong. Although I was successful and the work was really interesting, I eventually felt disconnected from my true self. This resulted in our return home to the UK to be with family and friends and get back to the farm.

In 2013 I created 'The Farm Camp', an off-grid glamping site focused on simple living and connecting with nature. Campfires became central, of course, leading us to host Campwell wellbeing retreats in 2016. These retreats emphasised a digital detox, group fire cooking and open conversation around the fire, enabling me to feel myself once more. In 2019 we rebranded to 'Campwell Farm' and launched our second site, Campwell Woods, which is located to the north east of Bath near Marshfield. Visiting guests have told us that they feel a sense of calmness and connection that feels so precious in our busy modern lives. We now host a great range of events, including wellness retreats, celebrations, school days, community sauna sessions and corporate team days and stays. A recent highlight was hosting the Patagonia European Tools conference on the farm last summer, where we provided 80 guests with an unforgettable experience, featuring food from the fire, forest bathing, shanty singers, workshops, and a silent disco. It was magical.



Over the last five years I've also been supporting men's mental health. The tragic loss of a rugby friend in Hong Kong in 2015, along with several others I knew, highlighted the silent suffering men face. With my own battles with anxiety, it prompted me to do some inner work myself, and then consider how I could support others. My friend Arron and I organised a men-only wellbeing day in October 2020, offering tools and inspiration for a more balanced life. It included breathwork, talking circles and a bracing cold-water dip in the River Avon. The feedback from that day was amazing and it inspired weekly gatherings that are now known as 'IceBreakers', where a community of men dip in open cold water together, with rituals of breathwork and movement to warm up. We now have over 170 members in Bath alone. We also host weekends at Campwell Farm where we do the inner work together. One past guest, now a great friend, is OE Joel Lawton (1997). He was so inspired that he now leads a new chapter in Brighton, which already has over 90 members. This year we also launched chapters in Bristol and London. Our dips with these men (and our sauna meet-ups) have become a brilliant, fun and healthy alternative to the pub. Our vision is to establish this initiative nationwide, supporting all men in feeling truly alive again.

Life currently feels exciting, wild and action-packed. Jojo and I have two young children who bring us great joy, full diaries and rarely a dull moment. The future is unknown, but if I stay true to myself, it will involve sharing plenty of campfires, saunas and cold water.

For more information visit:  
[campwell.co.uk](http://campwell.co.uk) and [icebreakers.uk](http://icebreakers.uk)



# Success on the Suffolk coast

After working in London restaurants for over 15 years, **George Pell 1995-2002** moved to the Suffolk coast in 2020 to open a pandemic pop-up selling seafood. Four years on, and following an extensive restoration project, his venue, The Suffolk, has been named 'East Hotel of England' in *The Times Top 100 Hotels in the UK*.



**G**eorge was working as the managing director of L'Escargot, London's oldest French restaurant, when, in 2020, he had the opportunity to set up a summer outpost of the Soho-based institution in Aldeburgh-on-Sea in Suffolk. The town, and nearby area, has become a creative hub in recent years, attracting growing numbers of artists, writers, musicians, filmmakers, designers and, importantly, food lovers. The summer pop-up, based in a 17th century former coaching inn on the town's High Street, proved to be a resounding success!

At a time when the hospitality industry at large was struggling with ongoing Covid restrictions, this success led George to think about staying in Aldeburgh to establish a permanent restaurant with a real sense of place and live a different life beside the sea.

To create a sense of place was terribly important and I wanted the rooms to reflect the gentle beauty of the local area.

"I immediately fell in love with the region after arriving in Aldeburgh, and soon discovered that Suffolk had some of the finest produce in the country, a cornucopia of delights. The best cheese and butter from Fen Farm (famed for their Baron Bigod cheese), delicious oysters from nearby Butley Creek, and the best meat from local butcher Gerard at Salter & King."

George decided to set up on his own, with a restaurant that would celebrate local ingredients with elegant but simple cooking. He secured the support of several local investors, bought the 17th century building and got started on a meticulous renovation project. The year-long restoration, which included adding six bedrooms and an outdoor roof terrace, was led by Suffolk architect Charles Curry-Hyde and a local interior designer, Kate Fulford, who managed the kitting out of the bedrooms. All of these are noise-proofed and designed using a colour palette of soft greys, greens, browns and blues to reflect the marshes and the sea.

"To create a sense of place was terribly important and I wanted the rooms to reflect the gentle beauty of the local area. We took inspiration from the colours and tones of the surrounding landscapes, to make the rooms a calming escape. We also wanted to include a few bits of fun, so

every room has access to a little pantry on the first floor supplied with local cheeses, charcuterie and pickles, and also some awesome cocktails which guests can take back to enjoy in their room."

The Suffolk opened in the midwinter of 2022 and has received glowing reviews from numerous national newspapers and magazines, with restaurant critic Jay Rayner in *The Observer* describing the food as "a sweet celebration, perfectly executed". In February this year, *The Times* not only listed The Suffolk in their *Top 100 Hotels in the UK*, but they also named it 'East Hotel of England'.

Guests will find steaks and snails on the menu, but seafood is very much the house speciality. George has forged close relationships with local suppliers and producers, including Dean Fryer whose boat lands fish 200 yards away. Even closer to home, The Suffolk's menu card was designed by George's brother Matt and the walls feature coast-themed paintings by George's grandfather Robert Pell. Visiting OEs might also recognise the art created by his father, KES' former Head of Art and Photography, Michael Pell!

For more information, visit: [the-suffolk.co.uk](https://the-suffolk.co.uk)



"I immediately fell in love with the region after arriving in Aldeburgh, and soon discovered that Suffolk had some of the finest produce in the country, a cornucopia of delights."

Photos © Rebecca Dickson



# Choosing a creative career

Ten years after leaving KES, **Katie Kohn 2007-2014** reflects on her decision to pursue a creative career and why she still asks herself: "Well, what now?"

**"I put all my efforts into gathering production work experience in both theatre and TV, applying for every graduate TV internship out there."**



**I**t feels like it was only yesterday that, aged 18, I was letting go of my Leavers' Day balloon on the grassy hillside at KES. I distinctly remember looking up at the sky, watching the balloons drifting away and thinking: "Well, what now?" If I'm honest, this question has been a constant throughout my career.

It's been a decade since I stepped into the world of adulthood, and it's certainly been a journey. I left KES thinking that acting would be my chosen career path – that was certainly the plan at the time – although, in a moment of madness, I once thought I might become a lawyer. After six months as a gap-year intern teaching Drama and Sport at KES, followed by the best four months of travelling, I spent three years studying Drama at Queen Mary University in London. It was there that I learned invaluable life lessons and met some of my favourite people in the world – and I'm going to marry one of them in 2026!

In the third year of my Drama degree I was eager to get my career started, since I'd always been told the creative industries were very hard to get into. At this stage, I decided that acting wasn't the plan, but becoming a documentarian was. I put all my efforts into gathering production work experience in both theatre and TV, applying for every graduate TV internship out there. With no graduate placement lined up, I spent the next two years as a runner and researcher on various reality TV shows, including *Big Brother's Bit on the Side* with Rylan Clark and Suzuki's *All Star Driving School* on E4, jumping from short contract to short contract, making teas and coffees for talent and producers, and often being the first in and the last out. The work wasn't glamorous, but it was a necessary first step onto the TV career ladder.

*Left:* In Paris for the 2024 Olympics; with one of the gold medals won by the British women's quadruple sculls team.

It was during one of these running jobs that I tripped and fell into the digital content world of the LADbible Group. I began in branded content before being trained to produce and direct celebrity junket videos. Quite a leap from the days of being told by a producer that he could always tell if a coffee spoon had stirred a tea. This was certainly one of the more exciting phases of my career. I was flown to LA by Disney to film Kristen Bell for a *Frozen 2* press junket, to The Ritz in Paris by Sony to direct Will Smith and Martin Lawrence in *Bad Boys for Life*, and to New York by Netflix to work with Noah Centineo and Lana Condor. These were brief shoots capturing around ten to 20 minutes of footage which, working with an editor, I then condensed into a short-form video.

Then the pandemic happened, and life as we knew it changed. Funnily enough, celebrities didn't want to keep playing games virtually. During the second pandemic lockdown I became very interested in a new app that felt like having your Drama friends in your pocket. It was called TikTok.

**In addition to my day job, I've recently set up my own passion-project TikTok account called @therecoveringgirlboss. On this account I talk about burnout, mental health and the importance of seeking joy outside your career and truly getting to know yourself.**

I decided to apply for a couple of roles: for the first one, I heard nothing, but for the second, I managed to get it. I joined the UK & Ireland TikTok Content Team as an Editorial Manager. My original remit was looking after 'TikTok for Good' and D&I (diversity and inclusion) content. After about a year I took on Entertainment editorial content, advising branded partners, creators and celebrities on all things quality content on TikTok.

After two or so years at the company, it was time to leave the corporate world and set up my own content consultancy business, justkohntent. At justkohntent, I advise



Helping to produce a live stream for Comic Relief and TikTok in March 2024.

businesses, public figures and creators on how to succeed on TikTok and in the video landscape of social media. Based on the unique needs of the client, I can craft bespoke editorial strategies, teach workshops, offer one-to-one coaching and consultancy, and ultimately direct their content. I've worked with A-listers to help promote their new releases, as well as directing content for institutions like Team GB at the Paris 2024 Olympics and attending the Hay Festival with the BBC @bbcbookworm account, capturing content with Clive Myrie, Ruby Wax and David Nicholls. I also write a weekly newsletter all about TikTok trends on my LinkedIn, which now has 1.1K subscribers. So, if you'd like to sign up, please find me on there.

In addition to my day job, I've recently set up my own passion-project TikTok account called @therecoveringgirlboss. On this account I talk about burnout, mental health and the importance of seeking joy outside your career and truly getting to know yourself. So far, the account has seen 5.1 million views and received some heartfelt comments from total strangers. A few times, I've found myself swimming in self-doubt and imposter syndrome, despite advancing in my career. I'm now continually tapping into the wide-eyed energy of my younger self, who let go of her balloon without a fixed plan, and ask myself each and every day: "Well, what now?"

You can find me at:  
Website [www.justkohntent.com](http://www.justkohntent.com)  
LinkedIn **Katie Kohn**  
TikTok **@therecoveringgirlboss**



# Driven by love of language

## From Bath to Bavaria

**Tim Howe 1977-1982** tells how his love of French and German in the Sixth Form led to a career teaching English as a foreign language – and how it drove him to write a book.



Photo © Zeit Verlag

**I** joined King Edward's in 1977, the same year that punks and monarchists clashed head on when the Queen visited Bath to mark her Silver Jubilee year. I remember watching spiky-haired remonstrators in Abbey Churchyard being shooed away by police officers and wondering what Her Majesty thought of all that.

Entering the School in Year 9 as I did, I quickly saw that my new classmates had already established tight-knit friendship groups and that I was very much the outsider. I found it hard to make friends and recall some bullying in corridors and on the playground. Things improved considerably though when I reached the Sixth Form. This was mostly thanks to my two favourite teachers: Mark Lawson for German and Ros Smith for French.

Like so many 18-year-olds, I had little notion of what I wanted to do as a career. It wasn't until my university 'year abroad',

at a school in Schleswig-Holstein, that I entertained the idea of taking up teaching. By the end of my stint there as English Language Assistant, I was convinced teaching was the career for me.

After gaining a PGCE from Keele University, I taught German and French for two years in a, shall we say, 'challenging' comprehensive school in Kent. Did it influence my decision to try my luck abroad instead? You bet. My next teaching experience was at a private school on the banks of Lake Geneva. I loved the experience but found my income didn't quite tally with my outgoings. (Living so close to the ski slopes, I had quickly become hooked on skiing.) So, I took a much better-paid job in Mecklenburg-Vorpommern, in the former East Germany, where I helped retrain Russian teachers to teach English. Then, following a Translating and Interpreting degree from the University of Bath, I was recruited as a staff translator for truck manufacturer MAN in Munich.

Like so many 18-year-olds, I had little notion of what I wanted to do as a career. It wasn't until my university 'year abroad', at a school in Schleswig-Holstein, that I entertained the idea of taking up teaching.

However, after five years hunched over a computer all day, I decided this was no longer the life I wanted to lead. Lost in translation, literally, translators tend to be rather private people and I missed the interaction of teaching.

Since then, I've combined freelancing for various universities with short-term contracts at secondary schools around Bavaria. This year, subbing for a French and English teacher on maternity leave, I'm at a private girls' school in the grounds of a lovely castle in Munich.

Having lived in Germany for just over 25 years, I often catch myself thinking like a German. And yet, I can't help feeling there's still so much to learn – not only about this country and its people, but also my own language and culture.

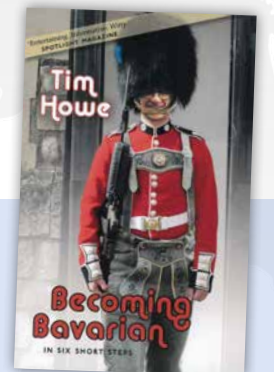
Teaching here has opened many doors for me and I would recommend it to anyone who loves travelling and discovering new cultures. While I took the long route into the profession, via a four-year university degree plus a one-year PGCE, there are much easier ways. Just a 120-hour ESL (English as a Second Language) course, for example, can get you work in a language school. And, thanks to the abundance of short-term contracts, there's plenty of opportunity to take time out and try other career options too – such as translating.

Funnily enough, it wasn't until the pandemic that I finally found enough time to pursue another sideline. Since moving to Munich in 2005, I'd been blogging about teaching and living in Germany as seen through British eyes. In between relentless zoom calls and lots of walking the dog, I began weaving all those posts together. If you read *Becoming Bavarian*, you'll find my story actually starts

**“ Having lived in Germany for just over 25 years, I often catch myself thinking like a German. And yet, I can't help feeling there's still so much to learn – not only about this country and its people, but also my own language and culture.”**

in the Sixth Form at King Edward's. Tucked away in a library cubicle during what was supposedly 'private study', I was busy writing lengthy letters to dozens of German girls who'd answered my pen pal request to a youth magazine called *Bravo*.

Clearly, my mind was not always on my studies at KES. And, from a social perspective, I believe I would have fared much better in a co-ed environment, such as the School has today. All the same, King Edward's gave me something priceless and very special – it triggered my love of learning languages which, 45 years on, is stronger than ever. So, Mr Lawson and Ms Smith, if you're reading this, thank you!



*Becoming Bavarian*, self-published in 2021, is available on Amazon.

If you remember Tim and would like to tap into his teaching and translating experiences, or simply share memories of those bygone school days, feel free to contact him at: [knowhowe@live.de](mailto:knowhowe@live.de)





# On time, every time: the class of 1998

**Will Baxter 1993-1998** reports on an enjoyable weekend spent with fellow 1998 leavers walking in the Malvern Hills.



A collection of 1998 leavers, led by former KES Combined Cadet Force (CCF) Company Sergeant Major (CSM), Will Driver, meet up every autumn to try to relive their youth by staying in a hotel and going on a walking weekend. Kind of like a stag do, but without the awkwardness of not knowing half the people.

This year's walk was the first I'd been invited along to, and I thoroughly enjoyed it, mainly because I was surrounded by straightforward people who actually managed to get to the breakfast table at 9am. There was no drama, no kids or WAGS in sight; it was a most pleasant experience. One that this married father of two rarely enjoys!

Of the dozen in the WhatsApp group this year, eight of us had set off from diverse parts of the UK and converged on the small market town of Malvern in Worcestershire. On Friday night we had a few beers and then, as Saturday morning came, we set off to do the Malvern Hills walk from end to end, south to north, via eight peaks.

All of us, apart from one who deserves his own story, who we'll come to shortly, were completely over-prepared, carrying our 50-litre rucksacks with extra coats, jackets and a week's food. The journey started easily enough from the southern point, with a gentle climb up the first hill, at which point most of us had already realised our mistake and stripped off to T-shirts.



The man who never broke a sweat all day, and who later conceded that his Apple iPhone verified that 28,300-step activity wasn't enough to count as an exercise, is Tim Pigott, who, unlike the rest of us, has won a 100-mile endurance race. A border collie of a person if ever I met one, who survived a major trauma in his early twenties and was told he'd never walk again, let alone run.

The walk continued apace, with many a conversation about our varied lives: as a surgeon (Andy Phillips), a PR consultant (Ben Clifton), a Navy pilot (James Fraser), a Reader in Astrostatistics (Jonathan Pritchard), an Associate Professor in Study of Religion (Justin Jones), a financial planner (Will Driver), a physiotherapist, university lecturer, coach and athlete (Tim Pigott) and myself, a designer and illustrator.



**Top image:** Will Baxter on far left.  
**Bottom right:** Will Driver on far left.

Walk over, we more than made up for the calories we'd burnt and ate out at the Anupam Indian restaurant. We spoke of our walk with as much self-congratulation as if we'd just completed a successful ascent of Everest. (Maybe that will be next year's challenge.)

So there we have it: getting together 26 years on from when we were classmates, with those of us who were also in the CCF, still liking nothing better than getting out in the field on special operations!



## Mike Horrocks-Taylor Second Master

During this period my role and portfolio of leadership and management responsibilities was wide-ranging, varied and dynamic, including (in no particular order): pastoral care, safeguarding, whole school development and management planning, compliance and preparations for ISI inspections, deputising for the Headmaster, Governing Board committee meetings, whole school and co-curricular staff appointments, marketing, ICT, premises master planning, performance management and HR, formal complaints, pupil discipline, senior prefects, KES Travel plan, school liaison for KES Parents, Bath Suzhou Educational Partnership and KES Sixth Form Chinese student initiatives, and, of course, forecasting snow!

In parallel, I thoroughly enjoyed teaching Geography and, in my earlier days at KES, coaching/refereeing rugby, and supporting the wider co-curricular programme, including Ten Tors. More recently it was a real privilege to step out of the shadows in summer 2023 to be Acting Head during Martin Boden's sabbatical, followed by a term of being Acting Head of the Junior School prior to the arrival of Sean Price.

In 2019-2020 I was teaching my A Level Geography set the Disease Dilemmas module, and we were tracking a developing live case study in Wuhan. Little did we

realise at that time how significant the impact would be on us all and the School in particular. I spent the next year chairing the KES COVID Steering Group during what was certainly the most challenging period of my own career.

My first impression of KES driving up North Road for my interview in November 2004 was that some of its buildings had seen better days, but what drew me to KES was the ethos of the School. This very much chimed with my own experiences and understanding of what was needed to help pupils benefit from an excellent all-round education, and the potential for me to help enhance this. Whilst the last 19 years have seen significant changes at the School (including new buildings and enhanced facilities), it has succeeded in retaining its core DNA, restated in the recently revised School's Purpose and Values. KES remains a very special place, and a strong community, and one which I am very proud to have been part of.

I am also delighted that two members of my family are OEs, and I look forward to continuing to meet up with OEs, from whatever era, and sharing in their camaraderie, good humour and reminiscences of their time at KES. I certainly have many memories to draw on from my time at the School!

**KES remains a very special place, and a strong community, and one which I am very proud to have been part of."**



With 1974 leavers at this year's Anniversary Reunion in April.



## Catherine Bruton

### English and Drama

How to sum up 15 years teaching at KES? Well, I've had the immense privilege to work in two incredible departments with so many utterly inspirational colleagues. I've also been fortunate enough to see my own two children through the Senior School, watching touchline triumphs, clapping at Prizegiving and witnessing tearful joy on results days. I've trudged through many a Duke of Edinburgh expedition, watched pupils scooping up trophies at the Mid Somerset Festival and MUN, and even once reached the dizzy heights of the results table at Sports Day!

But what have been my highlights? Well, the highlight of every single week was going to Creative Writing Society, the club I set up and which attracts pupils from Year 7 to Year 13, a space where we plotted, planned, scribbled, chatted about the joys and frustrations of writing, where we ate biscuits and shared work. And where I knew I had to up my game as a writer – because most of the young members were better than me!

That's why I also started up the annual *KES Anthology*, to celebrate the huge writerly and artistic talent within our KES community. I am thrilled that it will continue after I am gone to give a platform and voice to our young writers.

Working with the Drama department has also been the most colossal privilege. I make no secret of my belief that the KES directorial team are every bit as talented as any you will find within the professional stage. This combined with the glorious energy and enthusiasm, albeit also with the occasionally terrifyingly lastminute.com approach, of some KES pupils, means I have been blown away by every production I have been part of.



Of course, I have to mention the iconic production that was *Pop! The Musical*. Book by yours truly, music and lyrics by the one and only KES maestro Mark Boden, in collaboration with an incredible team of KES pupils. Being part of that unforgettable production ranks amongst my happiest memories at KES. Actually, my happiest memories as a writer. What doesn't kill you makes you stronger!

But the best of times, for me, were always in the classroom. From keen bean Year 7s in the Drama studio to 'too cool for school' Year 9s in the old Q15 'dungeon', from grade-hungry and ambitious Year 11s to the intellectual powerhouses who have

stretched and challenged me in Years 12 and 13, I have loved teaching you, one and all. Yes, even those of you who handed your homework in late, or copied each other's tests, or rocked back on your chairs and doodled while Mrs B was jabbering on about some book or another. You have opened my eyes, expanded my horizons and made me ask questions. Indeed, your energy, your hopes and dreams, your concerns and worries, your voices have all fed into the stories I have told. Books I have written for you, and because of you. KES pupils, you never failed to inspire me and for that I will always be grateful! And I shall miss you all.

## Bird Boy named as 'Children's Book of the Week' by *The Sunday Times*

As well as teaching English and Drama for over 25 years, Catherine is a multi-award-winning author of children's fiction, including *No Ballet Shoes in Syria*, *Another Twist in the Tale* and *Following Frankenstein*, in addition to the much-loved *Somersault* and *Dreams* series, written using the pseudonym Cate Shearwater.

During her years 'at the chalk face', Catherine has seen first-hand the impact that stories can have on young people: opening their eyes, expanding their horizons and making them ask big questions and switching on lightbulbs in their heads. Her books tackle some of the big issues faced by young people today – immigration, mental health and the climate crisis – in ways that are heart-breaking, often hilarious, but invariably hopeful.

Her latest title, *Bird Boy*, was published in May and named as 'Children's Book of the Week' in *The Sunday Times*. It tells the story of 11-year-old Will, who goes to stay with his uncle in the Lake District after the tragic death of his mother. Here he finds a way to grow and heal through making an unbreakable bond with an injured bird.

"*Bird Boy* is very much my response to the spike in mental health issues that we are seeing amongst young people," Catherine explains. "Stories can give children a vocabulary to articulate and frame complex emotions that they're going through."

Catherine describes the book as *Goodnight Mister Tom* meets *A Kestrel for a Knave*. "It's a book about healing through nature, and learning to take flight again. Through his relationship with Whitetip the osprey, Will is able to heal too."

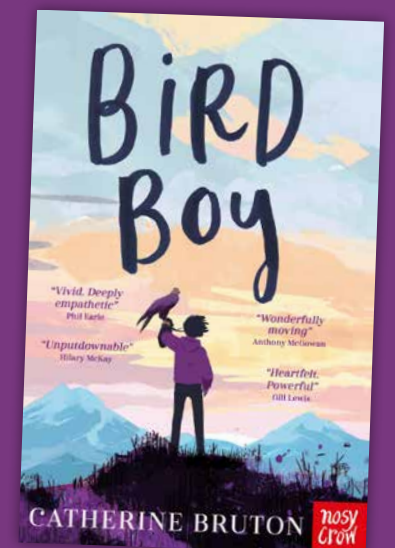
One of the advisers Catherine spoke to when researching the novel was Naomi Johns, who runs the Bird of Prey Project near Bath in Newton St Loe. In the process, they also discovered an unexpected OE connection as Naomi's father, Christopher Johns is a 1974 leaver!



"The work Naomi and the Bird of Prey Project are doing is inspirational," says Catherine. "Watching how they rehabilitate injured and mistreated birds, helping them to take flight and find their wings again, just blew me away. Naomi was utterly invaluable in helping me research the story. Everyone should go and see the amazing work they are doing up there."

A fundraising event to celebrate the launch of *Bird Boy* and to raise funds for the Bird of Prey Project and the Wiltshire Wildlife Trust was held in the Porter Library at KES in June. Pupils baked bird biscuits, and representatives, including Naomi, ran stalls and spoke to guests from the KES community about their work. The event was also supported by the book's publisher, Nosy Crow and Bath bookshop, Mr B's Emporium, who donated book sale profits to the charities.

"Bird Boy is very much my response to the spike in mental health issues that we are seeing amongst young people," Catherine explains. "Stories can give children a vocabulary to articulate and frame complex emotions that they're going through."





## STAFF FAREWELLS

### Jon Griffin Specialist Brass music teacher



**“It has been a wonderful experience, and it has been a great feeling to get up in the morning to go to work doing a job that you love, with excellent colleagues and fantastic pupils.”**



When I started at KES in April 1988, I did not think for one minute that it would be a journey that would last 36 years. The time has gone so quickly. Back then, below the Sixth Form, it was boys only and you taught the junior pupils at Broad Street and the seniors at North Road.

The Junior School at Broad Street was a fascinating place, steeped in history. I remember looking at the wall in the playground and seeing the names of past pupils who had done military service and taken part in battles from WW1 and WW2, the Crimea and even Waterloo.

I have seen so many changes at KES, including the building of the new Junior School at North Road and the arrival of girls when the School became fully co-educational in 1997, the opening of the original Porter Library in the early 1990s, along with the Rutherford Sports Hall, the astro, and all the new facilities built in more recent years – the School really has developed and changed so much.

I remember going to the old Accounts office back in the late '80s, which was managed by a lovely man called Peter Falla. There were no computers back then and everything was kept in filing boxes. How did we manage? But it worked!

I've seen five Heads at the Senior School: John Wroughton, Peter Winter, Caroline Thompson, Crispin Rowe and Martin Boden. The most important thing to me, though, has been my relationship with the pupils over my time at King Edward's. Some of the pupils I have taught, and who left many years ago, now have their own children at the School and that does make you feel somewhat mature. I would like to think that they enjoyed their Brass lessons, had fun, and enjoyed making good music.

So, to conclude, I would like to thank the School for having me. It has been a wonderful experience, and it has been a great feeling to get up in the morning to go to work doing a job that you love, with excellent colleagues and fantastic pupils. Thank you all.

## Comedy collaboration



Sue Curtis



Jon Monie



Jess Curtis

A laugh-out-loud new comedy by former staff Sue Curtis, in collaboration with Jon Monie (1990), was one of the highlights of the Bath Comedy Festival in April. Performed in the magnificent original Theatre Royal, *Slapstick!* took its audience into the chaos of Regency theatre using a mixture of mime, melodrama, song, puppetry and illusions to tell the extraordinary story of the famous pantomime clown, Joseph Grimaldi. Jon played the lead role of Grimaldi, with set and costumes designed by Jess Curtis (1989).

# OEnews



To contribute news and photos for the next OELink or future OE e-newsletters, please email [alumni@kesbath.com](mailto:alumni@kesbath.com).

### 1970s

#### Nigel Anstey, David Reynolds and Mike Warne 1974

Met up at this year's Anniversary Reunion to celebrate 50 years since they left KES. They are pictured under the School's Honours Board, which commemorates their entrance to the University of Oxford. They also feature in the image taken in 1974, along with successful Oxbridge candidates from the year above, John Isherwood, Chris Shaw, Chris Perrett and Adrian James.



#### Clive Payne 1979

Studied in London and worked as a construction engineer (commercial and contracts) in London and the South East until 1989. He spent most of his career working abroad in Sri Lanka, Dubai, Malaysia, Indonesia, Cyprus, Egypt, Singapore and the Philippines, before retiring back to the UK in 2023. He is married with two sons and a daughter. Seen here working at the Toshka New Valley Project at Lake Nasser, Egypt in 2002.

### 1980s

#### KES alumni conquer Belfast 2024 cycle challenge

Five proud OEs completed the gruelling and exhilarating Belfast 2024 cycle ride in May this year. The three-day event took them on a 230-mile journey from Belfast to Portrush, then Portrush to Omagh, and finally from Omagh back to Belfast. Along the way, they tackled the stunning but challenging terrain of the Causeway Coast, Torr Head and the Sperrins.

The riders, Tom Willis (1983), Mark Pestrige, Jon Brooks, Nigel Adams and George Willis (all 1986 leavers), displayed exceptional camaraderie, endurance and a great sense of fun throughout the event and celebrated their accomplishment with well-deserved pints of Guinness at the Botanic Inn, Belfast.

The event was organised by 2Boats Events, a company founded by George Willis with the vision of creating sporting events that "reflect the same values of determination, teamwork and enjoyment that are a hallmark of a King Edward's education". He says that the team's impressive feat was "a testament to the enduring spirit and resilience fostered during their time at KES".

For those interested in joining future events or learning more about the exciting challenges organised by the company, visit [2boatsevents.co.uk](https://2boatsevents.co.uk). George comments: "Whether you are an avid cyclist, skier or sailor, or looking for a new adventure, there's something for everyone!"



Left to right: Nigel Adams, Mark Pestrige, Tom Willis, Jon Brooks and George Willis.

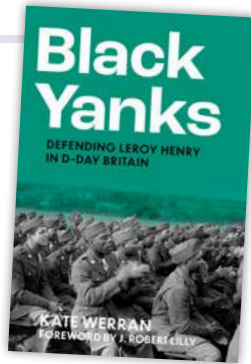




1990s

**Kate Werran**  
1990

Her latest book, *Black Yanks: Defending Leroy Henry in D-Day Britain*, was published by The History Press, alongside this year's 80th anniversary of D-Day. It tells the remarkable true story of how Leroy Henry, an African American soldier from Missouri, was sentenced to death in D-Day Britain and the extraordinary campaign that set him free.



2000s

**Natalie Hewit** 2002

As Head of the Media Team and Documentary Director for the *Endurance* 22 expedition, she documented the 100-strong international team's efforts which led to the amazing discovery of the wreck of Sir Ernest Shackleton's lost ship over 3,000m below the frozen surface of the Weddell Sea in Antarctica. The film was acquired by National Geographic Documentary Films and Natalie was joined by two Oscar-winning co-directors, Elizabeth Chai Vasarhelyi and Jimmy Chin. The film *Endurance* threads together the inspiring stories of Shackleton's expedition over a century ago, together with that of the modern-day explorers setting out to find his sunken ship – both bound by their shared grit and determination. *Endurance* premiered at the London Film Festival 2024 on 12 October and will be streaming on Disney+ from 2 November.



**Tom Keys-Toyer** 1991

Is embarking on a 630-mile run this November in memory of his middle son, Sam, who was tragically lost in 2020, aged just 17, and to raise funds for mental health support and awareness in boys and young men. Tom has set a target of £25,000 to be raised through his challenge for Boys in Mind, a Bath-based charity, who work to challenge the stigma around mental health in boys and young men. The challenge will see Tom run approximately 26 miles a day, six days a week for four weeks along the South West Coastal Path. If you would like to support Tom's efforts, donations can be made at: <https://app.goodhub.com/swcp>



Tom's Target  
£25,000



**Jonny Wharton** 2002

Has been composing music for theatre production for around the last ten years and one of his recent projects, *King Arthur* by Le Navet Bete, brought its national tour to the Bristol Old Vic this summer. An irreverent and raucous comedy, it re-imagines the legends of King Arthur as the result of a drunken deal struck by three hapless squires. He says: "I had great fun writing music ranging from jazz-funk to neo-classical, bro-step EDM to medieval folk, and prog-rock to Queen pastiche."

**Toby Gwazdacz** 2004



Is Commercial Director for Boomtown Festival. One of the UK's largest independent music and theatrical festivals, Boomtown is held annually on the Matterley Estate near Winchester. This year's event in August was a sell-out and featured a line-up of over 500 artists, from international superstars through to grassroots talents, who performed across 27 main stages and 80 interactive street venues, bringing with them sounds from over 80 musical genres.

2010s

**Sarah Glew** 2012

Is a Clinical Psychologist and Lecturer. In January 2024, she guest-edited an edition of the British Psychological Society's magazine, *The Psychologist*, around the theme of neurodivergence. The magazine is delivered to 50,000 psychologists nationwide, and this special edition is available to download free of charge at **Neurodivergence - Change, complexity and challenge | BPS**.

The edition sought to address the rapid change happening in the field of neurodiversity, with emphasis on education, clinical practice and research, and a core focus was co-production with experts by experience and neurodivergent artists. Sarah's specialism in neurodivergence and autism began at KES, when she undertook weekly 'community service' at the Margaret Coates Centre for autistic children in Bath, shaping her whole career so far.



2010s

**Max Lury** 2014

Won this year's prestigious Galley Beggar Press Short Story Prize with *Santa Fe*.

**Matthew Simonds** 2014

Visited KES in September to share his wealth of hockey experience and expertise with pupils. He ran masterclasses with a focus on defensive outletting skills, working with various age groups from Year 8 up to Sixth Form. He was 1st XI Hockey Captain at KES and went on to play in the BUCS Premier National League when studying at the University of Birmingham, as well as joining the Men's Premier Division GB Development Squad.



Matthew Simonds with Year 9 pupils

2020s

**Justin Davies** 2021

Joined the Transition Programme at Welsh Athletics earlier this year and has had his strongest season yet running 800m. Highlights include a silver medal at BUCS Indoors (representing the University of Bath), a bronze medal at the British Indoor Championships and debuting on the international stage with races in Italy and Poland. In August, he ran a new personal best of 1:45.37 at the BMC Gold Standard Race in Watford, a time that makes him 2nd all-time fastest for Wales at 800m and ranks him joint 10th in the UK for 800m this year.



© Graham Smith Photos

**Daisy Collett** 2022

Visited KES in January to run a series of netball shooting and attacking masterclasses for pupils. A student at Warwick University, she is a member of the Netball Super League Development Squad, Severn Stars, and Premier Romans Club in the National Premier League.



**Bella Lowton** 2023

Was selected for the Wales U21 EuroHockey Squad this year and the team will be playing in the 2025 Junior World Cup and have also secured a coveted spot to play in the 2026 European A Division Championships.



**Charlie McGuire** 2023

Is an undergraduate at the University of Cambridge and his play, *Vignettes from an Inkblot Archipelago* was performed at the Corpus Playroom in Cambridge earlier this year.



# In memoriam

## DOUGLAS HAMILTON CHRISTOPHER BALL

At KES 1962-1966

Passed away 8 May 2024, aged 76,  
after a battle with cancer



Doug joined KES in September 1962. He quickly made friends and became an active participant in the School's sports teams, principally rugby and cricket. He had an accident in 1964 when an excavator ran over his foot while he was working in his father's printing factory in the summer holiday. He was extremely lucky not to lose his foot, which was saved by a very skilful surgeon at St Martin's Hospital. He returned to school after Christmas and left the next summer to join Midland Bank, working in many local branches.

In the early 1970s his father bought a wholesale stationery business in Midsomer Norton and asked Doug to join him, together with his brother Steve. He joined his local Round Table Association, serving as Chairman in 1986-7, before moving to the 41 Club where he was a Treasurer for many years, a banker to the last.

In 1979, through the Round Table connection with Ladies Circle he met Jane and they married in 1982. He became a very good and enthusiastic stepfather to her two daughters. His

stepdaughters later emigrated to Hong Kong and New Zealand respectively and he and Jane loved travelling to visit them and their grandchildren.

The family business closed in 1993, and Doug started his own packaging business which he ran for many years. He loved sport and held a season ticket at the Recreation Ground, supporting Bath Rugby at most home games for many years. He was an enthusiastic skittler and played bowls and boules, also enjoying the social side of all these sports. He was an excellent cook and he and Jane loved entertaining their friends to dinner. A charitable man, he was always willing to help anyone in need. He was a great friend and companion. We shall all miss him.

Mike Weaver

## JEREMY MARK BIRD

At KES 1971-1978

Passed away 18 June 2023, aged 63

## BARRIE JAMES CASTLE

At KES 1950-1961

Passed away 6 April 2024, aged 81

Barrie attended KES from the Prep School through to Senior School and received an all-round education. He was an active member of the CCF and enjoyed playing rugby and hockey for the school teams. After leaving KES, he studied Social Sciences and Personnel Management at Cardiff University, and then joined ICI where he spent his entire professional career. He married Maureen and they had a daughter, Gemma. Barrie volunteered as a mentor for Young Enterprise at Bath High School and coached the Avon and Somerset Under-14 Badminton team. He maintained links with KES and several of his contemporaries, which included visiting their retired former teacher, Miss Gardner and her sister to take tea, and more recently attending the OE Dinner at the Houses of Parliament in 2020. He and Maureen moved to Devon when he retired, and he worked on many charitable projects

with Rotary. One of these was to set up a local museum, a project endorsed by King Charles when he was Prince of Wales, and Barrie and other members of the team were subsequently received at Clarence House.

Dr Maureen Castle

## JONATHAN CHAPPLE

At KES 1975-1986

Passed away 25 July 2024, aged 55

## ROBERT (BOB) COLES

At KES 1947-1952

Passed away 6 December 2023,  
aged 87, after a short illness



Robert was born in London in 1936, moving to Bath just before the outbreak of WW2. The family lived in Peasedown St John, where Robert attended the local primary school. He obtained a place at King Edward's on passing his 11+ examination.

On leaving KES, Robert joined the Royal Navy. He served for 24 years, leaving in 1976 as Chief Control Electrical Artificer, and then worked as a civilian instructor at the Naval Gunnery School, HMS Cambridge in Wembury, Plymouth, until fully retiring in 1996. He was proud of his years at KES, a time his family know he

enjoyed, and always spoke highly of the support he received from his teachers. His interest in rugby and hockey continued into his working life, where he represented the Navy in matches abroad.

He will be lovingly remembered by his wife of 63 years, Delys, his brother, sister-in-law, nephew and niece.

Roger Coles

## THOMAS DAMIAN CROSS

At KES 1974-1985

Passed away 4 March 2024, aged 56

## MARCUS HEYES

At KES 1981-1988

Passed away 18 October 2023, aged 53

## BRUCE HULLAND

At KES 1984-1995

Passed away 5 March 2023, aged 45

## SIMON LOWE

At KES 1974-1981

Passed away 10 July 2024, aged 60

## STEPHEN MADDEN

At KES 1962-1969 (class of 1973)

Passed away 22 July 2024, aged 69

Steve left King Edward's in 1969, moving with his family to Australia. He lived in Canberra for about 15 years before moving to Sydney and then to Coolumb Beach in Queensland. He worked in the television industry as a cameraman and editor and was involved with making music videos (including one for Elton John) and advertising. Drawing on the technical skills developed in TV, he became an IT consultant. In his later years he suffered from chronic lymphocytic leukemia and was very unwell. He is survived by his wife Johanna, his mother Joan and his elder brother John, also an OE.

John Madden

## GARETH JAMES MILLS

At KES 1967-1978

Passed away 8 January 2024,  
aged 64

## ANTHONY (TONY) KEITH MITCHARD

At KES 1946-1952 (class of 1953)

A KES Governor 2002-2005

Passed away 12 August 2024,  
aged 89

## BARRIE HUGH MORRIS

At KES 1964-1973

Passed away 5 June 2024, aged 69

## SIMON PALSER

At KES 1968-1979

Passed away 20 October 2024,  
aged 63, after a short illness



## TOM PATTON (STAFFORD- SMITH)

At KES 2004-2009 (class of 2011)

Passed away January 2024, aged 30

## RUPERT RHYMES

At KES 1948-1959

Passed away 12 September 2023,  
aged 83

## PETER MICHAEL SLOCOMBE

At KES 1948-1958

Passed away 19 September 2024,  
aged 84, following a heart attack

## ISABELLE (IZZY) OLGA JANE THOMAS (NÉE LAWRENCE)

At KES 2001-2003

Head Prefect 2002-2003

Passed away 29 January 2024,  
aged 39



## CHARLIE WALDRON

At KES 1999-2010

Passed away 3 January 2024,  
aged 31

## Former staff

### PAUL STORY

At KES 1971-1998

Passed away 16 December  
2023

Paul taught Physics, then  
ICT, becoming Director of  
Information Technology in  
1991.



# Leaving a legacy

## THE GIFT OF A LIFETIME



Supporting King Edward's School, Bath with a gift in your Will can have a life-changing impact on generations of young people for years to come, whilst also recognising the influences that helped shape your life. All legacy gifts are valuable to us, no matter the size; even 1% of your estate can make a huge difference.

*Thank you*

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## \* SAVE THE DATE \*



## ANNIVERSARY REUNION

For the classes of 1915, 1925, 1935, 1945, 1955, 1965, 1975, 1985 and 1995

**Saturday 26 April 2025**  
**11am-3pm at KES**

## SUMMER REUNION

For OEs who left KES in the  
1950s, 1960s and 1970s

**Saturday 14 June 2025**  
**11am-3pm at KES**



The Wessex Building, KES • Free entry • Tickets issued on first come, first served basis

Further details will be sent in early 2025 to all OEs in the relevant year groups.

To join the digital mailing list, please email [alumni@kesbath.com](mailto:alumni@kesbath.com)