



The **OLD KIMBOLTONIAN** 2024



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# WELCOME FROM WILL CHUTER



I am writing this from a hotel room in Hong Kong, where Sam Venn (our Development Director) and I are for four days to meet OKs and current and prospective parents. It is exciting to be here, and in some ways is a reflection of what I have learnt about Kimbolton since I started as I Headmaster in September 2023. Whoever I have talked to since then, it is impossible to avoid the sense that this is a special community, both in and beyond Kimbolton, joined by a love of the school and what it stands for. And so it has proved in Hong Kong, where we have had a wonderful time, renewing old connections and making new ones, sharing stories of Kimbolton past and present, and reminding anyone who will listen of what a brilliant school it is. My family and I have felt fortunate to be given such a warm welcome by that community from the day that we moved into the Headmaster's House. Staff, parents, pupils, governors, OKs (sometimes with a foot in all four camps!) have

embraced us and made us feel part of the family. This, of course, makes the job of running a large and complex organisation so much more enjoyable. I have loved my first term and a half in charge. The pupils have been remarkably tolerant of me, even allowing me to get their names wrong with disappointing frequency, be a Norwich City supporter, or bore them whenever I can with my profound insights on life. There have already been so many highlights. I have been grilled for the Kimboltonian, told off by the Headmaster in a third former's charity video, inspired by expert teachers on the Battlefields Trip, stunned by pupil performances in Phantom of the Opera, impressed by the skill and tenacity of our sports teams, sponged gleefully by CCF cadets, moved by an outstanding Remembrance Day parade, encouraged by parental support, cheered by the everyday dedication of staff in all parts of the school, and thrilled daily by my surroundings in and out of the Castle. Kimbolton does have it all, and I see my chief task as helping that community to fully realise its potential. My work in the next six months is to develop a set of strategic priorities with Governors to achieve that and begin to deliver them. There are considerable challenges in the current macro-economic climate, not least the likelihood of a Labour government imposing VAT on independent schools in the next 18 months. A recent parent survey indicated significant financial concern about this, as we might expect. Therefore, much of the work already done has been to strengthen the business side of the school to ensure that we are as resilient as possible to future challenges like this. Diversifying our income streams through Kimbolton School Enterprises and the development of a culture of philanthropic giving among OKs and other stakeholders are crucial to its success. So is the recent appointment of a Director of Marketing and Communications to ensure that our profile enables the strongest pupil recruitment possible. Which brings us back to our purpose here in Hong Kong!

However, at the core of it all is that we must do the very best we can by the pupils at Kimbolton and have a single-minded commitment to a modern education of the highest quality. The strength of this special community of ours means that we have every opportunity to do this and to be optimistic about the future, even in turbulent times.



## DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT - SAM VENN



I joined Kimbolton last August as the school's first Development Director. My role is to encourage donations to the school, and, over time, to grow a philanthropic income stream for the school.

When I first visited Kimbolton, I was immediately struck by several things about the school. Firstly, the location, but more importantly, the people. Location is important (and our countryside location is stunning), but location and buildings are not as important as the people who make up the school. It is the people, the staff, the students, who make the school what it is today. I have also been struck by the school's varied history; its journeys through being single-sex to being coeducational, from being a mainly boarding school to being a mainly day school, and from being a block-grant school to being the independent school that we now are.

At Kimbolton I'm working closely with the Headmaster and the Bursar, and also with Alumni Officer Vicky Wakefield and Events Co-ordinator Sue Watson. I'm also delighted to be able to work with the OKA President Sarah Gill and the OKA Committee, as well as with the KSPA, who have over many years held a number of high-profile events that have raised money for the school.

So, how do I see the challenges for Kimbolton in 2024? Our school is well-managed and our finances are currently in good shape. However we must not be complacent, and it is only prudent to want to future-proof our school. Most prominent on the horizon is the threatened addition of VAT on independent school fees by a putative Labour Government, a scenario we are stress-testing now. But we are in any case in need of funds to improve our bursary provision, and to improve our estate and our facilities. The school has in the past raised significant sums of money for specific projects; whether that be to fund a change of status, or to erect new classrooms, or to build the current swimming pool. What we are now moving to is a more steady and continuous style of fundraising, which aligns with donors over the long-term for the betterment of the school.

Bursary provision is especially important. Some of our pupils are only able to access Kimbolton's transformative education through a bursary, and we are committed to ensuring that this continues: it's the right thing to do. If this inspires you to think about whether you can support the next generation of students as they study at Kimbolton, please consider supporting our bursary fund.

Before I joined Kimbolton I spent two decades working in fundraising in Colleges of the University of Cambridge, where we raised money for students, for teaching, buildings, sport, and research. Outside of work I'm married to Caroline (who teaches at a school in Cambridgeshire) and we have two sons who are 4 and 1. I'm also a trustee of the Farmland Museum, which is located at Denny Abbey between Ely and Cambridge.

You may have noticed that this magazine has a donation form enclosed with it. Please, if you feel able, consider supporting the school. It does not need to be a vast commitment: small donations quickly add up. For example, if 1,000 OKs each gave £7.50/month, that would, with Gift Aid, fund five full bursary places at the school each year. There are other ways you can help the school as well: you can consider adding the school to your Will, and you can also donate gifts of shares/property to the school, which can in some circumstances attract significant tax savings. You can also help the school in other ways, for example by offering careers advice to pupils, or by advising in specific areas.

Details of how you can donate can be found on the donation form, or at [www.kimbolton.cambs.sch.uk/supporters](http://www.kimbolton.cambs.sch.uk/supporters). Thank you!

# WELCOME FROM THE PRESIDENT

Reflecting on the last year for the OKA, the one word that comes continuously to my mind was change. There have been some big changes in the school's landscape and it's a very exciting time to be part of the association.

The school said goodbye to Jonathan Belbin after 21 years as Headmaster, both Jonathan and Heather have always been great supporters of all OKA activity and raised three fantastic and active OKs in Natalie, Danni and James. We all thank Jonathan for his endless support as Vice-Chairman of the committee and wish him and Heather a wonderful retirement – we hope the BBQ and Lamp gifted by the OKA have come in handy already.

The school therefore welcomed Will Chuter as the new Headmaster at the start of the September term. Will has already been involved in OKA meetings and attended many events. as a passionate 'Old Cranbrookian', Will is keen to see the association thrive and grow.

The association would like to extend their thanks to the warmth Will, Hannah and their family have already shown us and look forward to the future.

The start of the September term also marked the start of a new role at the school, with Sam Venn joining as the Development Director. Sam brings many years of development experience to the table and we look forward to working with him as an association.

We were also sadly informed of the deaths of Dr David Donaldson and his wife Marion, many OKs have spoken to me about their warm memories whilst at Kimbolton in the 'Donaldson' era. The OKA have marked this by planting two memorial trees on the Duchess Walk, a route used regularly used to return to the Headmasters House. The Association was also sadly informed of the death of Richard Wells, Prep School Headmaster from 2003 to 2015. Richard was my Headmaster whilst at the Prep and I will always remember the warmth and kindness he showed us all. The thoughts of the association are with his wife Sue and children Katie(OK06) and Jonathan (OK10).

We have run some fantastic events this year, the Summer Reunion day and ball were a great success, thank you to all those OKs who played sport and attended the day. November also saw the London Dinner go ahead for the first time in a few year, the event was attended by both Sam and the Headmaster, who enjoyed meeting OKs from a range of years.

We look forward to seeing as many of you at this years OK day, Saturday 29th June. The day will run as usually, with the ball in the evening, I know we current have groups from 5, 10 and 15 years attending. The events calendar for the 24-25 year is currently being agreed and we have a number of exciting new ideas in there, so keep your eyes peeled.

It has also been a fantastic year of sport for the association, the OKs Men's football team continues to thrive and find further success. We will be looking to the association for team sponsorship next season, so if anyone is interested please get in touch with Vicky for more information. The Golf club has also had a wonderful year and we look forward to seeing the club grow further – they are keen to have more female OKs playing, so please do reach out if you are interested.

We managed to play all sports fixtures so far, which was a wonderful achievement – please do get involved and play. We are always in need of players, so please reach out to captains listed later in the magazine or Vicky.

Looking forward to the next year, Sarah





# From the Editor

It is remarkable how quickly a year has passed since finalising the 2023 edition of the OK magazine. Amidst the bustling activities within the office, encompassing the coordination of regular events, engaging with alumni, and managing sports teams, we consistently looking to improve communications to enhance the progress we have achieved with the development of the OKA. The success of our events and the publication hinges significantly on your engagement and contributions. If you have not visited the School or attended an OKA event recently, we encourage you to consider participating in one of our reunion gatherings this year. These occasions offer a fantastic opportunity to reconnect with old school friends.

If you need any help in getting in contact with friends, or if you would like to get a group together for a reunion, then please do not hesitate to reach out to the OKA Office.

Thank you to everyone who has contributed to the magazine with articles and updates. We warmly welcome news from OKs and value your input in your magazine.

## The Committee & Representatives of the Old Kimboltonians' Association

President: Sarah Gill (OK'12)  
Vice President: Will Chuter (Headmaster)  
Secretary: Victoria Wakefield (OK'95)  
Treasurer: Helen Hopperton (OK'85)

John Hitchin (OK71)  
Simon Page (OK82)  
James Hodges (OK11)  
Abi Hooton (OK15)  
James Hopperton (OK94)  
Jonathan Hunter (OK80)  
John Mayes (OK51)  
Bill Skinner (Former staff)  
Andrew Bamford (Former staff)  
George Farrer (OK18)  
Nick Berry (OK04)  
Rob Knell (Former Staff)  
Minnie Jackson (OK18)  
Cameron Lane-Ley (OK10)  
Danni Kenmir (OK12)  
George Beverly (OK08)  
Joshua Spink (OK07)  
Thomas Campbell (OK14)  
Michael Capps (OK65)  
Joanna Doyle (OK84)  
Charlotte Goodson (OK88)  
Alaster Gray (OK73)

We are always delighted to have OKs visit, so please give us a ring if you are in the area!  
01480 862223

Due to current Safeguarding regulations you are no longer able to freely wander around the school grounds during school hours, even if it is your old school! Please let us know in advance if you are planning a visit and we will arrange for you to be shown around.

The OK News is now available online - if you are happy not to receive a hard copy in the post and read the publication online, please email [alumni@kimbolton.cambs.sch.uk](mailto:alumni@kimbolton.cambs.sch.uk)



**Your Data...** The OKA needs to process personal data about its former pupils and former staff as part of its everyday operations and is legally obliged to process such data in accordance with the Data Protection Act 1998 ("the DPA"). We take seriously the responsibility of handling personal data and comply with the requirements of Kimbolton School's Data Protection Policy. Your data will be used by the OKA and Kimbolton School only, however, from time to time your name and contact details may be passed to an individual member of the OKA for the purposes of organising a specific OK reunion, event or sports team. If you do not want your information to be passed on for this purpose, please advise Vicky

Wakefield in writing



KIMBOLTON SCHOOL

# OPEN MORNINGS

Friday 24 May, 9.30am  
Prep School, ages 4-11

Saturday 21 September, 9.30am  
Senior & Sixth Form, ages 11-18



THE  
GOOD  
SCHOOLS  
GUIDE



# End of an Era

## Jonathan Belbin, Headmaster, 2002 - 2023

*Jonathan Belbin retired in July 2023 after 21 years as Headmaster. He gave a remarkable interview during his last year to Kimboltonian feature writer Harry Stewart Dilley (OK 2023) – too long to reprint here, but available (and highly recommended) via this link <https://www.kimbolton.cambs.sch.uk/jbinterview>.*

*For this magazine, we are marking JB's retirement by printing extracts from speeches made last summer: by Jonathan Gray (OK89 and Chair of Governors since 2021), by JB's Deputy Head Mark Eddon (staff 2004-2022), and by former Head of History and Head of Sixth Form Andrew Bamford (staff 1984-2021).*

*Jonathan Gray:*

2023 sees, for just the fifth time in 110 years, the retirement of a Kimbolton School Headmaster. When Roger Peel retired in 2002, the Upper Sixth cohort that left with him will – from this September – start celebrating their 40th birthdays. Some of us are old enough to remember David Donaldson's retirement in 1987 (I hasten to add I was at school here at the time). There are even a few here who recall the end of Cyril Lewis' 26-year Headship half a century ago in 1973, and it is now 75 years since the close of William Ingram's remarkable 34 year 'reign'.

Today, I would like to pay tribute to Mr Belbin.

It is no exaggeration that the Kimbolton he passes on is profoundly different from that he inherited 21 years ago. It's larger: the school was under 800 in 2002 – it is now 1070 pupils. Those building projects I mentioned earlier came about through his vision and confidence in the school.

We have a much stronger focus on pastoral care – creating Heads of Years and investing in the tutorial system. He successfully reviewed the timetable – and will be forever thanked for ending Saturday morning academic lessons, yet sports participation has never been stronger.



Mr Belbin's trusty bike has made sure that he personally saw almost all the teams in action. Digital learning per se, hadn't been invented in 2002. He was an early adopter of iPads and as technology moves on we are now preparing a refreshed strategy.

Over 21 years, being the Head of an HMC school has evolved enormously. Regulation has significantly increased. Safeguarding has rightly taken a dominant role. Education, like so much of life, has become more complex. The expectations of parents have grown ever higher. He correctly saw the need to build out the Senior Leadership Team to cover new roles and responsibilities to meet these demands.



During his tenure Kimbolton School entered a truly digital world. None of the social media platforms that any of us use today existed in 2002. Our access to knowledge, views and opinions – often via the ubiquitous mobile phone - has increased exponentially. It is a powerful force – for good and ill.

Through all this, Mr Belbin’s experienced, calm and steady hand has been on the tiller, steering Kimbolton decisively forward – guided by his vocation and passion: what is best for the pupils; ensuring that your time with us is above all, happy. The very personal nature of his contribution to every pupil’s school report could only have worked with real presence and genuine interest.

The HM/Chairman relationship is one of the most important in the School. Thank you, Jonathan, for a great working relationship – never a cross word, and even the challenges served only to make us work better as a team. I know that my predecessors, Charles Paull and Richard Brown, felt the same.

We cannot go further without referring to Mrs Belbin – “Mrs B” to generations of Prep children. She has served the school, as teacher, mother, volunteer and in formal HM’s wife duties. Being a Head can be a lonely place and I know that she has been a tremendous personal support to Jonathan. My experience of Heather is that in addition to her kind and caring nature she has a wonderful gift of putting things – and people – into appropriate perspective.

It was very tempting to wrap up a Kimbolton School painting and throw in a Governors paperweight, but no formal gifts are being presented today. Instead, Governors, Staff and OK’s will be expressing their thanks later in the term.

As I invite him for the 21st and final time to address the School, will you join me if you can in standing together as a whole Kimbolton family to express our thanks, gratitude and very best wishes for the future to our Headmaster, Jonathan Belbin.

*From the Chair of Governors’ speech, Speech Day 2023*

*Mark Eddon:*

Jonathan has undoubtedly overseen a period of significant progress in the rich history of Kimbolton School: the increasing numbers by 40% at the Senior school, or building the original QKB building with the WBLT or the new Astro pitches; taking on the huge project of replacing the Spinney with the QKB2, the rollout of iPads, the masterminding of the getting rid of Saturday Lessons; increasing the sport and activities on offer, starting the Master Classes, managing Covid19, and so on.

He has without doubt continued to secure the future of the school, very much honouring the school motto ‘Let the hope of our forefathers endure’ – ‘Spes Durat Avorum’.

But I’d like to finish with a final comment about the man. We all as teachers/staff here at Kimbolton know that we carry a huge responsibility and enjoy a huge privilege in influencing young people – in their academic studies of course, but far more importantly we help nurture their individual character – who they are, how they view others and what they stand on – readying them to go forward into a challenging adult life.

At this time however, our culture around us sees each of us too often reduced to a number on various databases, too often intolerant of one another and too often influenced by leadership with a shallowness seemingly borne out of a desire for popularity and power.

Jonathan the man, has never faltered in his single-minded driving of Kimbolton School forward, being intentionally strategic, always with great integrity and often requiring great courage, and through it all, never wavering in his belief of valuing and supporting each individual.

And it is this clear valuing and supporting of the individual which is at the heart of our great family that is Kimbolton School - that will be the legacy of Jonathan’s tenure.

*From Common Room farewell speech, July 2023*

*Andrew Bamford:*

Having worked very happily for 15 years with Roger Peel, I approached the Autumn Term of 2002 with a degree of foreboding. For the first time I was going to be faced with a Headmaster from my generation- indeed one a bit younger than me. The omens were not good. The rumour was that he was teetotal so obviously that was going to be a great change. All that all we had to go on was a rather grainy photo in the cricket pavilion with Jonathan sporting a moustache well before Movember became that cool. Perhaps he was part of a Village People tribute act. What's more he was a history teacher. The headmaster was going to be in my department. Would I be a victim of lebensraum, having felt quite confident that a former chemist would keep his distance from my domain?

However, first impressions were very positive. Jonathan had clearly done his homework. Not only did he know everyone's face and facts about them, two years before the launch of Facebook, but he got Kimbolton and its values- not to preserve 2002 in aspic but to evolve, grow and develop the school from the strong position to which he was bequeathed. This enabled Jonathan to move the school forward with buildings, new curriculum developments and new ideas befitting a 21st educational institution as well as the whole Belbin family throwing themselves into all aspects of school life. He has done this by calm and clear judgement in sharp contrast to the national education political scene where he has seen off 15 secretaries of state for education starting with Estelle Morris.



With Roger Peel in 2002

Instead of trying to dominate history department, he fulfilled an important role in it, always teaching a third form class where every child was well versed on the First World War and Jonathan's tie collection by the end of the academic year. He did have one potential lack of judgement when we were naming classrooms in the Orangery after it was refurbished. Based on an erroneous rumour that the German Ambassador in the 1930s had visited Kimbolton, he proposed that Room 2 become the 'von Ribbentrop' room, whilst another member of the department suggested 'Nora Butler'. I settled for 'Gladstone'.

As a member of the history department, he also participated in a number of school trips, that is when he managed to remember to bring the right passport. I do recall the slightly furrowed brow as he showed me the passport photo of Heather. This was not going to satisfy the gendarmes, and I was also less than confident about his claim that he would have got away with it had it been James's passport. I know he has a look of Peter Pan, but that seemed incredible!

Jonathan went on many of our history trips to Russia all of them eventful. Mr Eddon had to make the ultimate SLT bonding exercise by lending Jonathan a spare pair of Y fronts when the headmaster's luggage had gone to Lisbon. Jonathan was refused entry to a nightclub in the basement of the less than salubrious downtown Moscow hotel where we were staying because he was wearing slippers. He also had to sleep in the corridor on the Moscow-St Petersburg overnight express because my snoring in the compartment was so loud.



Speech Day 2023

It is not an easy job being a Head. A real balancing act trying to keep many potential irreconcilables in harmony. Parents with high expectations based on a precious little evidence, helicopter parents, the trenchant views of “experts” based on the fact that they once attended a school in the 1980s. Financial expectations of the staff and the purse strings of the Bursar, all set against a largely hostile outside environment to the independent sector. Jonathan has never written pupils off, and I know he shared with me when I was Head of Sixth Form the delight in less gifted academic students gaining decent of A level results and the way in which Kimbolton was prepared to give every individual a chance rather than relying on pure statistical data for league table purposes. Not that we didn’t do well in the League Tables.

He is interested in education in its widest sense and his leadership has helped to ensure that generations of Kimboltonians have left not only with excellent paper qualifications but with a wide cultural, social, and intellectual hinterland as well as an ability to work in a team.

It hasn’t all been plain sailing. What Harold Macmillan once called “events, dear boy, events” have produced challenges, from safeguarding to COVID. Jonathan’s unruffled approach has been instrumental in the school coming through all these challenges. He never made a drama out of a crisis. I am sure that Heather has helped him through these testing times, but he’s never not appeared clear, logical, and considered his views. I’m sure that he might have been paddling underneath like a swan or more perhaps more likely pedalling hard, but his serene approach has made the parental body, governors and staff have confidence and self-belief. Of course, he’s had a good team round him with Mark Eddon and Chris Bates there to help sustain initiatives and wise counsel.

I know he will miss delivering his assemblies and the school won’t be the same without the cultural input of events from Charente Maritime. He does sometimes re-use his material and I’ve heard quite a lot about the Cumbrian farmer over the years who meets an ex-headmaster who asks how his son is doing many years having left the school. The wise old farmer replies it is too soon to make a judgement but in Jonathan’s case this is not true.

As was said of Christopher Wren, if you want to see his legacy look around you.

*From a speech at JB’s Farewell Dinner in the Castle*



The White Hall Portrait

# Welcome to the Class of 2023



Trying to summarise my Kimbolton experience into around 200 words seems an impossible task. The rich variety of experiences the school afforded me from learning how to make a Christmas cake, to flying a plane with CCF and maybe some academics in the middle is part of the reason it was special. However, what has stuck with me the most is the people, they truly are the essence of what makes the school unique.

One of the most important lessons I learnt while at school was not one directly taught but instead witnessed and felt. From teachers who are willing to give up their time and put so much effort in, inside and outside the classroom, to the support staff that go above and beyond in running the school.

My friends and I often discuss how seeing their incredible work ethic and passion created the atmosphere we all cherished in school. How it inspired us throughout our time at school to push ourselves into new things and get everything we could out of school, even if that did mean everyone had to witness our questionable singing during our Kimbolton presents ABBA mash-up. This valuable demonstration of how to make the most out of everything is something none of us will forget.

Claudia Robinson *Head Girl 2022-2023*

During my time at Kimbolton, I was afforded incredible opportunities that shaped my character and enriched my educational journey. Serving as the Head Boy bestowed upon me a sense of responsibility and leadership that extended beyond the academic realm. Additionally, being the football captain not only allowed me to showcase my athletic abilities but also taught me valuable lessons in teamwork and perseverance. Engaging in extracurricular activities, such as debating, broadened my intellectual horizons and honed my communication skills. These diverse experiences not only complemented my academic pursuits but also provided a holistic education that extended beyond textbooks. Moreover, the friendships forged during my years at Kimbolton are truly invaluable. These connections transcended the confines of the school environment, becoming enduring bonds that have enriched my life. Kimbolton became not just a place of learning, but a community where I developed lifelong friendships, fostering a sense of belonging and shared growth that continues to shape my journey beyond the school gates.

Tadi Nyajeka *Head Boy 2022-2023*

## Books for Africa founder Tom Warth (OK52) talks about his success at becoming the largest exporter of books to Africa.

*When Tom started his non-profit Charity in 1988 he never believed that 35 years later the organisation would have organised the delivery of over 60 million books to every African country.*

*Books For Africa was founded upon a mission: to end the book famine in Africa. BFA collects, sorts, and ships books, computers, tablets, and library enhancement materials to every country in Africa. In collaboration with worldwide donors, publishers, and African partners, BFA provide the tools of empowerment to children and students across Africa. Their vision is an Africa rich in readers- in classrooms, during leisure time in libraries, and throughout university and prosperous careers. They supply varied, relevant books in English, French, and national languages, computers and tablets with digital content, specialty post-secondary materials, and supplies to create vibrant learning spaces.*

*BFA remains the largest shipper of donated text and library books to the African continent, shipping over 59 million books to all 55 countries on the African continent since 1988. In fiscal year 2023 alone, BFA shipped approximately 4,029,000 books, valued at over \$32.6 million, to 32 African countries, the most books ever shipped by BFA in a single year. Approximately 800,000 digital books were also shipped on 116 computers and 150 tablets. Over \$2.6 million was raised to ship these books to partners across Africa.*



*On a visit to the UK in 2023, Thomas is pictured in front of the dormitory where he slept in the mid 1940s. Thomas's father, the late Ewart Arthur Warth attended in the early Ingram days in the 1910s, and also boarded in the same dormitory.*

Tom tells his story:

I was born before the second World War in East Anglia and grew up there. I went to an assortment of boarding schools including Kimbolton, often moving due to ill health which is the reason I missed the postwar conscription. My first job was in the real estate department of George Wimpey and Co and in this sales job I was stationed at various sites around England.

In 1959 an ex 8th Air Force crew member my father had befriended during the War came to visit and offered to sponsor me on a visitor visa to come the United States. Always up for adventure and new sights I sailed over to New York in the Autumn of 1960. I worked in a variety of jobs from drug store clerk to road construction flagman and found time to hitchhike to New Orleans for the Mardi Gras in 1961. After a circumnavigation of the States in a VW Beetle I returned to the UK in Autumn 1961.

Getting married in 1962, my wife and I decided that the "Land of Opportunity" was across the Pond. Settling in the state of Minnesota we both obtained employment as clerks at The Prudential Company. My ambition in life had always been to be my own boss.

I am a lifelong automobile hobbyist and in about 1967, against the advice of friends and my father (who remembered the depression) I left the The Prudential Company and started a small mail order car book business out of my house. With the growing hobby this proved to be good timing and the business grew beyond my wildest dreams. We started buying specialist titles from small publishers in the US and Europe and became a wholesaler. We built an office and warehouse in nearby Wisconsin and started publishing.

With what turned out to be fortunate timing I sold the business in 1988 to The San Francisco Chronicle. I was 52 but had no plans as to what to do the rest of my life, however I squeezed in more adventures, walking across Wisconsin and Minnesota, climbing Kilimanjaro, going by train from London to Peking, and buying and flying a small helicopter, to mention but a few.

A round-the-World trip in 1988 to see my son in Australia and visit Africa for the first time triggered the accomplishment of which I am certainly the proudest. Arriving in Uganda to visit an acquaintance who lived in Jinja (the source of the Nile) was far from the life I was used to. Boy soldiers were still checking us riders on the matatus. My friend showed me the Jinja Library, a building which had a librarian, card files, tables with students sitting around them, and bookcases. BUT there were no books except a few tattered spineless volumes supplied by the British Council perhaps 30 years before!

Returning home, I had an idea. I had spent over 25 years in the book business and knew local booksellers, librarians and publishers. I told them of the shortage in Jinja and assembled a group to send a few bulk bags to the Uganda Library System and specifically the Jinja Library. Although we did not realize it at the time that was the birth of BOOKS FOR AFRICA.

When people learned what we were doing, they donated increasing numbers of books and some cash to send them. Realising we could not continue with bulk bags, we learnt that the only economical way to send books was in shipping containers. We now just use 40-foot containers, each holding about 22,000 books.



One of our friends lent us office space and we assembled shipments nearby. I had the fortune to meet a person who was interested in Africa and about to join the Peace Corps. Instead he became our first executive director and was instrumental in developing our organization. During this early time I got involved with other book sending organizations such as the Sabre Foundation and The International Book Bank and for a time served on the board of the Canadian organization CODE.

We developed connections with various book distributing organizations in Africa and I visited often during the '90s. It became clear to me that well-meaning tourists saw the need for books, came home, collected a heap of material and shipped it over without regard for appropriateness. We realized we had to do better, and have always sorted the material we obtain. This has been possible with the help of thousands of volunteers in St Paul and Atlanta. Without these volunteers it would not be practical to do what we do.

We have now become the organization for entities to come to, from the US Government, African universities, churches, education departments, other NGOs and individuals in need of educational material. These partners can choose the type of material needed as inbound books are sorted onto subject specific pallets. In recent years we have developed a partnership with the largest law book publisher in the world and include pallets of new law and human rights titles for African law libraries in our shipments. These include new books from British legal publisher Sweet & Maxwell.



Donated used books are the largest component of our shipments but over time we have built relationships with publishers who supply us with new material. However with modern technology and print-on-demand techniques, this source is shrinking. We will never satisfy the African need for material by sending surplus donated books so we are increasingly commissioning books through our own publishing arm, with digital material supplied as appropriate. Where we create material it is tailored to the specific needs of the receiving country, often in dual languages. Partners of Books for Africa include USAID, the UN, OPEC, US Embassies in Africa, the US Department of Defence, Rotary International, and Thomson Reuters. Approximately 50% of revenue comes from container sponsors such as those noted above. The other 50% is unrestricted cash donations to underwrite activities.

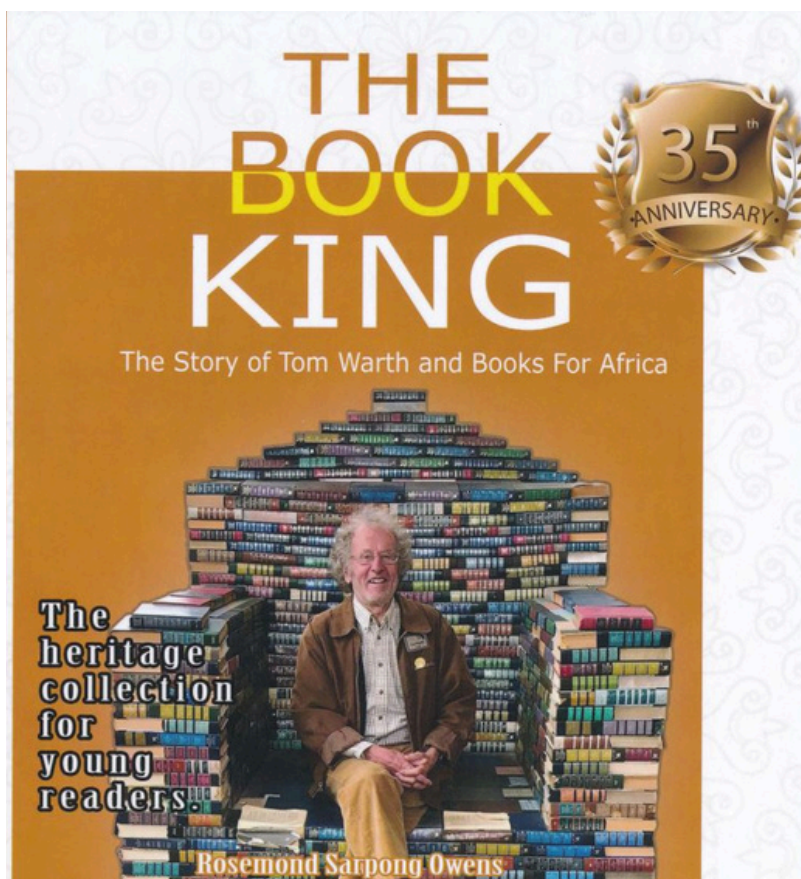
As we've grown we have had the support of the African diaspora, the African diplomatic corps in Washington DC and the African Union. The late UN Secretary General Kofi Annan and his wife were longtime supporters.



This year is our 35th anniversary and we expect to have an African leader at our celebratory fundraising event as our keynote speaker. We are now shipping donated material direct from both the UK and France to the African continent and we also have programmes specifically directed at girls' education.

The world has many problems and some of them are growing. With more education future generations stand a good chance of solving these problems. Books are one of the most cost-effective means of increasing literacy and thus educating the World.

As you can imagine I am proud of what Books for Africa has achieved and indirectly it is due to the seeds planted at Kimbolton.



*This book about Tom and Books For Africa was published in the US in 2023*

# OKA Sponsorship

The OKA were delighted to continue to support OKs in 2023. George Farrer (OK18) and Catherine Fussell (OK12) share their experiences of the London Marathon.

## George:

On the 23rd of April 2023, St. George's Day no less, I had the incredible opportunity to run the London Marathon, and it was an experience I will certainly never forget.

I had been running seriously for around two and a half years, and had done a few half marathons, prior to deciding to run the marathon, something perhaps I would never had thought was possible whilst at School.

However, I was running for a charity close to my family's heart, Bliss (Baby Life Support Systems), who work towards ensuring that every premature or sick baby in the UK has the best chance of survival and quality of life. Additionally, Bliss provides support for parents during these challenging times. With their vision in mind, I was inspired to fundraise for this worthy cause.

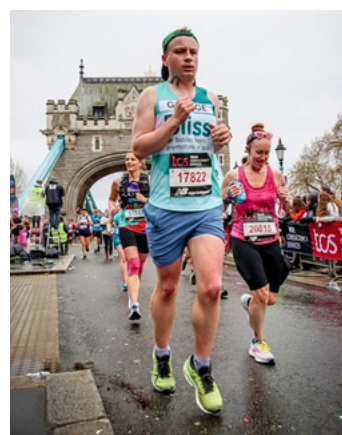
Some of London's most iconic sights, such as the Cutty Sark in Greenwich, Tower Bridge, timely located at the halfway mark, and the Embankment, packed with crowds from miles 22-25 provided a quite different way to sight see London! I don't think there was a single point along the 26.2 mile course that was silent, with tens of thousands of people lining the streets. The crowds definitely helped me to push through the pain and not stop! Having my Mum and close friend, Aiden Ward (both OKs), on the sidelines to support me was incredibly motivating, along with the continual supply of jelly babies!

The training, the early mornings, and the perseverance felt like it was all worth it as I turned the corner at Buckingham Palace and crossed the finish line down the Mall, fueled by the cheers and support of the spectators. My official time for the marathon was 4 hours 41 minutes, a result that I am proud of my 2023 London Marathon journey was an adventure filled with personal achievements, community support, and a deep connection to a meaningful cause.



I am grateful for the opportunity to have been a part of this remarkable event and to have made a difference in the lives of premature and sick babies through my fundraising efforts. Despite, not feeling like it when trudging through the last couple of miles, I think I may have to give London another go yet!

I am grateful to report that, with the help of my incredible supporters, I was able to raise over £3,200, surpassing my initial fundraising target of £2,500. I would like to extend my deepest gratitude to the OKA for their kind and generous sponsorship, which played a significant role in helping me achieve my fundraising goal.

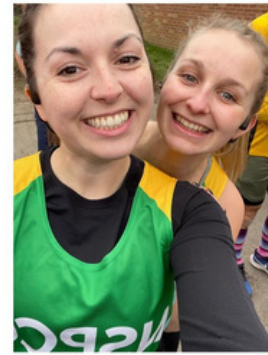




### **Catherine:**

Running the marathon has always been an ambition of mine but I have often found excuses and reasons to not do it. Last year my sister (Louise) and I agreed we would run the London Marathon whatever the outcome of the ballot. Whilst I did not get a place, Louise did. I didn't want to let my sister down, so we agreed we would both run for a charity. Being a teacher at Kimbolton Prep, I wanted to run for a charity which I knew would benefit children and offer support to children who need it most.

Choosing the NSPCC was an easy decision, and I was pleased as well as relieved that we were both accepted to run on behalf of them. Now that we both had a charity and a place the training began. Initial excitement boosted our enthusiasm to multiple runs a week and early morning Sunday long runs were an exciting event in the calendar. As the weeks progressed and illness and injuries crept and the initial excitement was overtaken by the realisation of what a huge challenge we had taken on. Staying motivated during the training was vital and knowing that we were raising money for such an important charity kept us running each week. We were very grateful for the generous donation from the OKA sponsorship. A day that will not be forgotten any time soon was having the entire of Kimbolton Prep School wearing an item of green to represent the NSPCC and the entire school walked a mile.



As a school, we managed to complete 12 ½ marathons!

On the day of the marathon Louise and I ran our own races and took in the incredible atmosphere of the supporters, performances, and other marathoners. Having run for just over four and half hours, seeing Buckingham Palace and knowing that I was nearly finished was an incredible feeling. Crossing the finish line, collecting a medal, and knowing that the challenge had been achieved was an immense feeling. It was also amazing to know that we have raised over £3,600 for the NSPCC and the amount is still rising.



Don't forget...if you are looking for sponsorship / financial support for a project similar to any of those above, you too are welcome to apply for support...

The aim of the OKA funding is to support OKs and current pupils in their pursuit of an exceptional venture which meets certain criteria, including:

- significantly helping others / charity work
- raising money for a worthy cause
- pursuit of a significant personal achievement.

Unfortunately the fund is not available for the extension of educational studies.

Further details can be found on our website: [www.oks.co.uk/Lending Support](http://www.oks.co.uk/Lending%20Support), or please contact the OKA Office:

01480 862223 / [alumni@kimboltonschool.com](mailto:alumni@kimboltonschool.com)

# CCF News

On Sunday 12 November, under cloudy skies, the pavements of Kimbolton High Street swelled as Wing Commander Dunn the Contingent Commander of Kimbolton School's Combined Cadet Force led the Remembrance Parade. The OKA Contingent joined forces with The Royal British Legion branch in the Act of Remembrance. The three CCF sections consisting of the Royal Navy, including cadets from St Peters School in Huntingdon, the Army and the Royal Air Force did a superb job on the day, with upwards of 350 cadets marching and observing the traditional Act of Remembrance at the War Memorial. The School also welcomed representatives from the local Guides, Scouts, Beavers and Cup troops, who joined us in marching and laying poppy wreaths at the War Memorial before attending a service of Remembrance at St Andrew's Church.



OKs at the Castle on Remembrance Day 2023:  
Tim Jones (OK72), Joseph Simons (OK16), George Farrer (OK18), Barney Sykes (OK22), Milton Southern (OK22), Bayley Anderson (OK20), James Wilkins (OK18), Tom Campbell (OK14), Georgie Spence-Jones (OK14)

If anyone wishes to come and march alongside the RBL on Remembrance Sunday, then please contact the office for more details:  
[alumni@kimboltonschool.com](mailto:alumni@kimboltonschool.com)

## OKs receive their Gold Duke of Edinburgh Award at Buckingham Palace



The event saw the Duke of Edinburgh congratulate attendees on their extraordinary perseverance, creativity and resilience in completing activities across five sections – Physical, Skills, Volunteering, a five-day Residential and a four-day Expedition.

Well done all of you!

Left to Right: Abbie King (OK22), James Anderson (OK21), Charlotte King(OK21), Sam Barrett(OK21) Josie Philips (OK21), Joe Stokes (OK21), Milly Butt (OK21)

# OKA Scholarship Trust Fund

The Old Kimboltonians' Association Scholarship Trust Fund was set up in 1995 as a charitable trust. Its purpose is to establish and maintain awards to students of Kimbolton School who, due to specific circumstances, would not be able to further their education at Kimbolton without the support of a bursary award.

## How is the Fund Managed?

The Trust Fund is managed by a group of Trustees comprised of Old Kimboltonians and ex-staff.

Each year the Trustees agree on the level of financial support to be awarded for the following academic year.

All donations are added to the fund capital and only the interest earned by the capital investment can be spent, so the award is very much based on the performance of the investment.



## Who receives the award?

The award is made to two sixth former students each year - one in the Lower Sixth and one in the Upper Sixth. The recipients are selected independently by the Headmaster.

Confidentiality is maintained throughout and names are withheld from the Trustees. The Trustees are, however, advised of the performance of the students.

*" Arriving at Kimbolton School in the 3rd form I found the pace of life tough at first. As I became more confident, a huge thanks to the staff, I found myself immersed in a myriad of activities, CCF, sailing and D of E to name a few.*

*Once engrossed in this activities, the school became my way of life. The Old Kimboltonians' scholarship enabled me to stay through sixth form and continue these activities and gain some good quality 'A' level results.*

*I was successful in gaining a place at University where I continue to show the values of what I believe is a good Kimboltonian.*

*I thoroughly enjoyed my time at Kimbolton and am most grateful for the help I received."*

*(2010/11 recipient)*

## It's all about opportunity

### How can donations be made?

It's easy...

- ☆ make a one-off payment
- ☆ set up a monthly standing order
- ☆ set up a legacy to the Trust Fund

[www.oks.co.uk/LendingSupport](http://www.oks.co.uk/LendingSupport)  
[alumni@kimboltonschool.com](mailto:alumni@kimboltonschool.com)  
01480 862223

Please remember that a donation of any size will assist in making it possible for a pupil to continue their education at Kimbolton.



# OKA Online Digital Archives

Since its formal establishment in 1600, the School boasts an illustrious history, with the OKA housing a vast collection of archival material, mainly focusing on school life since the early 1900s.

The Online Digital Archives platform brings various facets of this history to life. It's not just a repository for old, dusty documents but a vibrant showcase of our traditions and heritage, revealing the origins of Kimbolton as we know it today.

Excitingly, we are continuing to develop the digitisation process of the archives, making it accessible to a broader audience online. With 100's of items already available, the materials are organised in folders with descriptive titles.



2023 saw a huge body of work to upload the entire back catalogue of School Kimboltonian Publications; almost every magazine published from 1914 to 2010 is now available on the platform, this features over 7000 pages of archives. In 2024 we will be looking to complete this project with the more recent 2010-2024 Kimboltonians being added to the platform.

So don't delay... search up your name today!

**You can find the Digital Archives by going to  
[www.kimbolton.cambs.sch.uk/oka-archives](http://www.kimbolton.cambs.sch.uk/oka-archives)**

The OKA oversees the archives, and aims to continually scan historical content and add more documents and photos to enrich this remarkable online resource. If you possess something that could enhance our living history, please reach out to us at

[alumni@kimboltonschool.com](mailto:alumni@kimboltonschool.com)

We trust that you will discover a wealth of information in this digital archive and get much joy from exploring the Schools' historical journey.

There are various ways to navigate through the Digital Archives pages:

**Browse through Folders**

Home Browse Search Advanced Search Other

Drama The Kimboltonian

Back

Photos Programmes

Back

Drama Drama Drama Drama

Back

Photos

**Perform a key word search**

Home Browse Search All Advanced Search Other Links

Search

Geoff Coles

Exact Phrase  All Words

Kimboltonian	THE MONTAGU PLAYERS: UNDER MILK	1993	
Kimboltonian	Mr Geoff Coles receives a cheque on behalf of the Macmillan Nurses "Mile of Pennies" Appeal	1997	

...om is so important to the people who come.

Lizzy Wood and Alison Pearce

Left: Mr Geoff Coles receives a cheque on behalf of the Macmillan Nurses "Mile of Pennies" Appeal after a fund-raising effort at the school in June.

**Use the Advanced Search**

This feature enables you to search by

- Bodytext
- Category
- Year
- Subcategory

Advanced Search

Select Archives:

Search All Search All X

Year Equals 1964

Ephemera	1964 H.M.S. Pinetree	1964 Preparatory Cricket XI
Photographs		1964 Preparatory Rounders Team
Kimboltonian	The Kimboltonian Magazine, Spring 1964	196400 - Issue

Kimbolton School Prep Dept. Rounders



# Old Kimboltonians' Reunion Day



Saturday 29th June 2024

11am to 5pm

Sports Fixtures v's School Teams

Castle Tour with Andrew Bamford

Access to the Heritage Room & OKA Memorabilia

Bar & BBQ

All OKs Welcome



[www.oks.co.uk](http://www.oks.co.uk)

## Sports Fixtures

Matches against School teams will be played throughout the day; the match timings are as follows: (Timings subject to change)

0930 Canoeing - St Neots

1100 Mixed Tennis - Castle Courts

1130 Rounders - Heath Field

1130 1st XI Cricket - Castle Pitch

1200 Year Group Football Tournament - The Mall

1300 2nd XI Cricket - Welstead Pitch (Prep School)

1300 Sailing - Grafham Water

# Old Kimboltonians' Summer Ball

Saturday 29th June 2024

7.30pm



[www.oks.co.uk](http://www.oks.co.uk)

or contact the Alumni Office  
[alumni@kimboltonschool.com](mailto:alumni@kimboltonschool.com)  
for more information

1930pm - Drinks reception followed by dinner, music, dancing & fireworks  
1230am - Carriages

Tickets: £75 (£5 discount for OKs who have left in the last 5 years)

Tickets Available through TicketSource: Please scan the code and following on screen instructions to book your ticket/s



Email the office if you need any more details or information:

[alumni@kimboltonschool.com](mailto:alumni@kimboltonschool.com)

# Merchandise

Once an OK, always an OK



## Cufflinks

Each pair comes in its own presentation box and is available in either a **chain-link** or **T-bar** fitting

Chain-link @ £30.00 per pair

T-bar @ £25.00 per pair



## Ties

A choice of silk neckties or bow-ties (ready tied) in the OKA stripe or with our crest on a black background.

Striped bow tie @ £25.00

Striped necktie @ £18.00

Crested necktie @ £15.00



**Socks** @ £5.00

**Scarf** @ £12.50



**Bobble Hat** @ £15

**Umbrella** @ £20.00

\*\*\*NEW\*\*\*



**Gauchito Belts** @ £45.00

Available in Small, Medium & Large

Please contact the Office for more details or visit the website <https://www.kimbolton.cambs.sch.uk/oka-merchandise> to place an order.



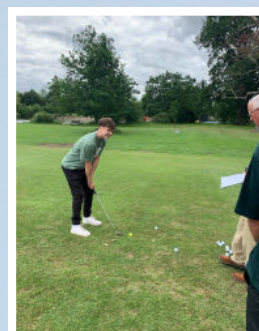
# 2023 Summer Reunion

In 2023, we had the pleasure of hosting more than 125 OKs at The Summer Reunion, our main annual event that celebrates the alumni of Kimbolton School. It was a warm and sunny day, perfect for enjoying the beautiful grounds and facilities of the school. We were thrilled to see OKs from different generations coming back to reconnect with their old classmates, participate in various sports activities, and share their memories of their time at Kimbolton. The Summer Reunion is a wonderful opportunity for OKs to maintain their ties with the school and each other, and we look forward to seeing you at this years Reunion.

**The 2024 OKs Day is going to be held on Saturday 29th June, BBQ, Beer tent, delicious afternoon tea served in the Saloon, a merchandise stall, a host of memorabilia to look at as well as a bouncy castle to keep the little ones entertained. are all on offer for returning OKs, their friends and families.**

On the sporting front, we will be putting out Mens and mixed cricket, mixed tennis, ladies rounders, year group football teams. We will also be competing in the annual canoeing and sailing races.

If you are interested in seeing your old School and meeting any old school friends, take the plunge and come along! If you are not currently in touch with any OKs, Vicky Wakefield will be pleased to help track down people you would like to meet up with.



# Summer Cricket Events 2023

In what was to round off a fantastic summer of Cricket, the Headmaster's XI took on the PCA England Legends XI. this is a team of ex-professional cricketers, some of them Test players, raised by school cricket coach Alex Tudor.

The Legends batted first scoring an impressive 169 for 5. The HM XI were only able to make 144 runs so the Legends won by 25 runs.

## Headmaster's XI

Josh Smith (OK18)  
Robert Craze (OK12)  
Sam Evans (wk)  
Marcus Watkinson (OK15)  
Charlie Gingell (OK13)  
Dan Robinson (OK22)  
Oliver Greenhow (OK21)  
Harrison Peak (OK17)  
Ben Rowbotham (OK22)  
Henry Leigh-Smith (OK22)  
James Belbin (OK14)  
Jonathan Belbin



## PCA Legends

Ali Brown  
Owais Shah  
Mal Loye  
Usman Afzaal  
Mark Stoneman  
Alex Tudor  
Chris Read  
Adam Hollioake  
Stuart Meaker  
Saj Mahmood  
John Emburey



## A select OK team took on The Kestrels (Staff cricket team) in a thrilling match on OKs weekend



This annual event is always fun, with the Staff taking a battering and losing the match convincingly to a stronger 'younger OK side!'

The 2024 Match will take place on the 1st XI Cricket Pitch on Friday 28th June.

In 2024, the 1994 Leavers will also be celebrating their 30 year reunion by holding an event on the Friday evening during the cricket match, this will include a BBQ, Bar and Music.

# Castle Cricket Festival Reunion Lunch

The OKA in joint collaboration with Peter Aylott (OK83) put on a Cricket lunch for past Festival winning players and coaches. Everyone enjoyed a lovely lunch prepared by Peter and Sallie Aylott in the grandeur of the Saloon, before heading out to watch the start of the 2023 School Cricket Festival. Much fun was had by this group of Cricketing Alumni spanning the 1960s, 1970s, 1980s and 1990s.



James Hopperton (OK94), Andrew Ramply (OK88), Richard Ramply (OK90)  
Dom Ford (OK94), Mike Latham (coach), Charles Mear (OK93)



Richard Johnson (OK84 ) & Roy  
Butler (former Staff)

# The London Dinner

The 2023 OKs London Dinner was a relatively small affair, but having said that, the OKs spent an enjoyable evening socialising and reminiscing over dinner and drinks at The Army & Navy Club. Thanks must go to Nick Berry (OK04) for organising a memorable evening for the group. If you missed out this year, please join us in 2025!

Once the date and venue has been agreed, details will be published on our website and on social media, so keep an eye open for the information!



Back row: Mike Ford (OK72), John Hunt (OK71), John Purser (OK70), Will Chuter (Headmaster), Mark Fenchelle (OK80), John Hitchin (OK71), Charles Appleby (OK70), Sam Venn (Director of Development)  
Front Row: Gary Hutchings (OK72), Cameron Lane-Ley (OK10), Steve Kingan (OK72), Robert Kirker (OK64), Anthony Hall (OK55)

# OK Lodge



On Friday evenings, lodge members and guests gather at the Saloon for socializing and pre-ordering drinks and wine. The Lodge can accommodate up to 120 people in the chapel, impressing visitors. A typical Old Kimboltonians Lodge, where Freemasons gather. The director of ceremonies ensures everyone is seated by 5.40pm, and members don their masonic dress. VIP visitors join the Master for the procession. The Provincial Grand Master oversees multiple lodges in the area. The meeting follows a formal agenda including minutes review and ceremonies. The essence of Freemasonry lies in the three degrees of initiation, teaching moral responsibilities and charity. The Old Kimboltonians donate to the Headmaster's Scholarship fund. Lodge meetings involve ceremonial activities, discussions on charitable donations, and social gatherings.

If you are interested in getting involved with The Lodge Association then please contact the Secretary, Martin Wilson: 07702480644, martinwilson55@gmail.com

The evening includes a formal closing, hymns, the National Anthem, and a dinner with structured seating arrangements. The dinner involves toasts, grace, wine, and a raffle for charity, followed by responses and amusement with the raffle draw. The dinner is formal yet fun with humor, especially when the director of ceremonies errs. The Tyler gives the Toast to Absent Brethren. The Old Kimboltonians' Lodge meets at Kimbolton Castle since September 1952 with gratitude to Kimbolton School. Thanks are extended to Sue Watson and the Catering Department for their support.



John Mayes receiving his Certificate for 50 years of service to the Old Kimboltonians Lodge

# An unlikely protégé of Peter Smout

The seeds of Richard Brown's (OK62) later life writing career were set on the day that he left Kimbolton School. Peter Smout, then head of English, who had taught him for three years up to "O" Level came up and said, "Now Brown I know your plans are University and then farming, but what you should really do, is to sit down and write a book". At the time the possibility of becoming an author seemed completely fantastical and he thought it was a leg pull. Now, sixty odd years later, he has in print three successful novels penned since his partial retirement from farming and a fourth one to be published next year.

On leaving school in 1962 Richard spent a year on a farm at Toddington during the very cold winter 62/63 and has used the experience as the back drop for his next novel. From 1963 to 1966 he studied at Wye College, University of London gaining a BSc in Agriculture and during that time he won a Travelling Scholarship to the University of Copenhagen. Having farmed for 12 years he was then awarded a Nuffield Scholarship to study Vegetable Seed Production on the West Coast of the USA and Canada. From 1989 to 1996 he was employed as a consultant on agricultural projects in Argentina, Thailand and Ethiopia. At the same time he served on The Board of Visitors of Gaynes Hall Borstal, HMP Bedford and HMP Littlehey. He was a governor of Kimbolton School from 1984 to 2008 and Chairman from 2000 to 2007. He lists his personal interests as collecting works of art, historical research archaeology, countryside issues and spending time with his grandchildren. His sons David, Michael and James are all OKs.

Richard writes his novels longhand under his full name Thomas Richard Brown. Despite professing to have no literary qualifications, he has now written four novels, various short stories and other autobiographical works. Three of the novels have been published and received good reviews. The first and longest of these, "Mary Knighton" is set in and around the Northants/Bedfordshire/Huntingdonshire borders from the last years of the 19th century to the mid -1920s.



It is billed as a story of "Cruelty, Drama and Courage" and is the tale of a young girl's tumultuous life and how she copes with and overcomes great misfortune.

The second book "Thisbe" (an ideal children's book) tells of a small boy's pet rabbit, a gift from a severely disabled villager, that turns out to have magical powers. The third book, "A Knock on the Door", is a cautionary tale in which the author's inside knowledge of prisons suggests the plot line for a dark and tragic ending to the story. While all the books are fictional, they are based on the author's knowledge of the local area and the characters who lived and worked in this setting. The books are available on Amazon.

Pure chance brought us together in 2022 for nearly the first time in over 60 year and engendered my interest in his writing. At 80 he shows little signs of slowing down, no doubt he will continue writing and his readers can look forward to further engrossing novels. Richard's one enduring regret is that Peter Smout did not live long enough to read any of his books.

Richard Wilding, (OK58)

# The Peter Smout Essay Competition

On Peter Smout's retirement in 1989, his friend, colleague and successor as Head of English John Stratford wrote in the Kimboltonian, opening:

*Just outside the Common Room is a small annexe containing telephones, noticeboards, pigeon-holes, scissors, sellotape and all the crucial paraphernalia of schools. Four doors open into this cramped area through which, during any working day, pass most members of staff and all the castle's draughts. Here, throughout his nonteaching time, Peter Smout sat philosophically working at the jigsaw of the exam timetable, answering the telephone, penning green-ink notices and listening — listening to the anxieties, the rages and the triumphs of his colleagues. When we first moved in, he christened the room 'the nerve centre', and so it became, with an extra sense he had not intended, because by placing himself so strategically he could discreetly keep his finger on the pulse of the school.*

He continued:

*Peter Smout joined the Kimbolton staff in September 1954, planning, like so many others, to move on after a short stay. Despite his many other responsibilities, he has always been first and foremost a classroom teacher, associating strongly with each group he's taught, and having the true schoolmaster's instinctive feel for the lame dogs and the black sheep. How many times have staff meetings been noisily unanimous in condemnation of some idle and hapless fifth former, only to be punctuated by his muttered comment: 'Good at English'? With a mixture of genuine sympathy and withering irony if extreme measures were required, he was able to coax and squeeze results out of the most unpromising material.....*

Coax and squeeze out results from his pupils Peter certainly did. One of his many hundreds of pupils, Richard Brown (OK62), has a post-retirement life as a published author (see previous page), and another, Richard Piggin (OK 60) has in recent years generously funded an annual essay prize in Peter's name.



The competition is open to all Senior School pupils. They are given the summer holidays to engage with a topical issue, complete research, construct an argument and come to a reasoned conclusion. Entries are assessed by the Academic Deputy Head for the engagement with a breadth and depth of research, their fluency and structure and critical engagement and strength of conclusion.

The winning essay is awarded a prize of £200, with four highly commended prizes in the Senior and Junior Categories winning £50 each.

In 2023, the year of the coronation of King Charles III, the topic given was: *All groups require an uncontroversial totem around which to rally. How far and in what ways do you think King Charles can unify and multicultural peoples within the United Kingdom and around the Commonwealth?*

You can read the winning essay, by Alastair in Year 12, by following this link.

<https://www.kimbolton.cambs.sch.uk/petersmout2023>

The full text of John Stratford's tribute to Peter is in the November 1989 Kimboltonian, available in the Digital Archives section of the OKA website.

# BEYOND THE CLASSROOM



KSTEM Week 2023



RAF Cadets Through to National Finals



Top performance from the Prep Peleton



England call up for Dan



Award for Student Entrepreneurs



Swimming Success



Helping others at Harvest Festival



Top 10 CC RAF Section in the UK





RAF Bronze Leadership awards



Gold Awards for 6th Form Mathematicians



Winning Kayaking Team



Prep School Pupils celebrate Language & Culture



Caring Pupils lend a hand



Fantastic results at the English school Cross-country Cup National Final



A Flourishing Schools partnership

Visit  
[www.kimbolton.cambs.sch.uk](http://www.kimbolton.cambs.sch.uk)  
for more School news

# OK Memories:

## Ian Knapp (OK65)

*At the 2023 Summer Reunion OKA Committee Member Nick Berry (OK04) met Ian Knapp (OK65) and talked to him about his experiences of Kimbolton in the 1960s. Ian has lived and worked in America since leaving school and has recently made a generous donation to the OKA.*

### **Q: What memories have stuck with you from school?**

Well I've been so far away, seven years after school I was in America working in management consultancy. I went out for a period of 6 months and never came back! However, whenever something came up to remind me of Kimbolton it always brought back such warm memories. I had a fabulous time at school, I loved my classes, the teachers, my mates.

I was always good at sport, my dad was an international rugby player and a county squash champion. If you are a boarder at an all boys school and it gets to 3:30 and the day boys have gone home what do you? Because my father played international rugby, I went to Cyril Lewis and asked if we could play rugby and he said yes. We only played against the other Houses and it was quite unfair because at the time I was the only guy who knew anything about rugby!

I also remember all the characters at the school like Mr Smout who taught us English and ran Stonely Hall with his wife. You had this group of teachers from the science side, Watson, Pierce and Burton. It didn't matter how good you were, when they talked you paid attention.

### **Q: Did you have any favourite teachers?**

Mr Watson came to teach chemistry and also took over from Mr Coles teaching Soccer. I was Captain of Soccer so got quite close to him as I did to Mr Kiffin. You might not think it to look at me now but I was a big kid and a sprinter. Many of the athletics team who went on to success in athletics after leaving. When we played other schools at sport we never lost.



Ian Knapp pictured on the right sharing a beer with fellow David Drage (OK66)

The school was also strong academically as so many from my year went on to have successful careers. The Headmaster at the time was quite strict and made sure we learnt the right things.

### **Q: After you moved to America, did you carry on with the sport you played at school?**

Yes, I carried on playing rugby and soccer. I had a trial for the Cosmos which was an early attempt to bring soccer to the US. They were owned by Warner Brothers and at that time they were encouraging ageing stars to play. They would bring teams from overseas to play them. I played for rugby teams in New York. We won the Manhattan Sevens when I was there. After that I moved to Washington and having broken my leg and had a baby daughter I didn't play again.

### **Q: Having been away from Kimbolton for so long, your impression of the school now?**

Seeing all of the sport going on brings back so many memories. I'm really impressed with the sports facilities that exist now. In my day playing cricket we didn't have screens or anything like that. We did build a somewhat ramshackle wooden pavilion but nothing like the one that's there now.

I've been amazed to see all of the pictures and memorabilia today and understand that it's only a small part of the archive. The grounds and courtyard look wonderful and again brings back a lot of memories.

### **Q: If there was one thing that you could pass on to current pupils what would that be?**

I would say don't sell yourself short if you're having a great time. I think I worried too much about my academics in school but the experiences I had at Kimbolton equipped me to go out into the world, as it did for so many people I knew.

## Barrie Dunn (OK64)



*Barrie retired in 2010, after a long career with the European Space Agency He is now an Honorary Professor in Engineering at the University of Portsmouth. He continues to provide consultancy to two major space companies.*

Many marvellous memories are evoked when I read the annual OK Magazine. They often cover the period when I attended Kimbolton, from 1957 as a Day boy, boarding from 1960 when my parents were posted abroad, until I left for university in 1964.

My first year saw the Original 1957 version of the Pageant of Kimbolton depicting the history of the Castle and of the school. It involved almost everyone in the school and was performed on three warm evenings during July, idyllically staged before the castle's Great Portico. I was one of the Yeomen of the Guard – my colourful costume was hand made by my mother and included the folding and sewing of an amazing, but frustratingly difficult-to-make white ruff. My Beefeater pike remained a treasured possession until some years ago when woodworm in its long staff rendered it suitable for the Spring clear-out.

The event was written and organised by schoolmasters and their wives, under the Pageant Master Philip Burkett. The nine scenes portrayed numerous historical events from the time of Katherine of Aragon in 1534-6 to the school moving into the Castle in 1950. The final Scene IX accounted for the ghosts that haunt the Castle – these are true, I have witnessed them nocturnally, floating up the Main Staircase and within the Great Hall

My fellow dayboy, my good friend John Calver (OK63) recounted in OKA 2019 our group of four, who cycled to school from Brampton through what is now the reservoir bed of Grafham Water. School days were always very active from early rising, the 10-mile bike ride to and from Kimbolton via the steep incline of Hood-Cree Hill..

When there were no lessons, two full sized snooker tables in one of the dungeon rooms ensured we were able to take on the likes of John Pulman or Alex Higgins! Apart from football and cricket, sport lessons included shinty and



lacrosse training – both ensuring a flow of boys towards the 'San' each holding a bruised head, black eye, or something more damaging. As an Air Cadet in the CCF I was awarded a return flight to Singapore. I returned from that trip with a wonderful, duty-free camera and became an avid photographer.

In 1961, as Chairman of the school's Photographic Club, our members canvassed successfully to convert one of the danker dungeon rooms, previously boarded up and "out of bounds", into the club darkroom. The new darkroom was equipped and funded by our film-developing and printing services. Making it light-proof was a simple task! We were also commissioned to document 'events' which were sure to fund additional gear, film, developer and sodium thiosulphate.

My best scoop has, I believe, never been made public until today. Although the 'parking' of Sports Master Bill Stringer's car overnight in the White Hall was a legend of that decade, there were no images to substantiate the story. Had the memories of students surrounding the car during Morning Assembly been based on an illusion? Now, beyond the risk of expulsion, I can reveal the cunning, perpetrators' backs following their careful launch of Bill's car up the Portico steps. Another shot (*above*) highlights the White Hall scene one hour before Morning Assembly and arrival of the Head, masters, prefects and schoolboys. Later that morning, involving a reverse process, Bill's car was returned via the Portico and completely undamaged, to ground level.

Oh my, that could have been re-enacted as Scene X of a revised and updated Pageant!

## Emily Davidson-Smith talks about her role as Mental Health Lead at Kimbolton



As the Mental Health Lead I have been working alongside the pastoral staff and safeguarding team to ensure we have a robust support system in place for the all of our students at Kimbolton. I am actively working with staff, students and parents to help ensure that each child gets the support they need both in and out of school.

Mental Health is something which can be misunderstood. We all have mental health and it impacts every aspect of our life including our relationships and ability to handle the stresses of life. At Kimbolton, we are working hard to ensure our young people feel heard and safe where strategies and support signposting can be given to any student who needs it. We are aiming to embed mental health into all areas of school life including PSHE, tutor time and the wider curriculum.

'Mental Health Matters' at Kimbolton is a programme aimed at encouraging all students to be able to reach out to mentors, tutors, Housemasters/mistress (Hms), the Mental Health Lead or a staff member in the Wellbeing Team for support. All staff receive training throughout the year in Twilight sessions or whole-school INSET with practical strategies to try in the classroom. We run Mental Health Workshops each week to give strategies on anxiety, exam stress and self-care.



We have specifically trained L6th Wellbeing Mentors who all go through rigorous training and then paired up with a younger student. The mentors provide 1:1 support for those in need and offer a friendly face to help them navigate school and home life. Students leading in this area also benefit from the scheme as volunteering and helping others is a great way to improve your own self-esteem.

The new Wellbeing Team established in January 2024, are dedicated staff who have received training to help support the wonderful work of tutors and Hms. All of our staff care immensely about our students and we want each individual to thrive and have support strategies for life after Kimbolton.

The aim by the end of the year is to have a mental health survey for all students so we can identify students who may be under the radar and then propose intervention to prevent any issues down the line. We are also looking to build a Wellbeing Centre so students have a safety hub to go to when in need as well as the Health Centre... so watch this space.

We are always looking to improve our mental health provision so if you have any connections or ideas, please feel to reach out to me. You can email Emily Davidson Smith (Mental Health Lead) at [ecw@kimboltonschool.com](mailto:ecw@kimboltonschool.com) or [wellbeingteam@kimboltonschool.com](mailto:wellbeingteam@kimboltonschool.com).

# Departing Staff

## Rob Knell 1994-2023

Rob, REK, Monsieur Knell, Directeur des Activites, Chef du Department Francais, arrived at Kimbolton in 1994. How to describe this multifarious polymath and honour the tremendous impact he has had on Kimbolton life over the years? Rob has been a man of many activities and facets but in each of these areas has never given less than 100%-he is totally dedicated to Kimbolton and its ethos, generous in both time and spirit.

Rob has all the hallmarks of a successful language teacher- precision and attention to detail He is a real logophile who believes that structure and order matters in language. But he's not just a theoretician of language, he wants to use it to inform his students, and explain about why studying languages matters and how they open doors to distinctive cultures and literature- not just to France itself but across the Francophone world with particular emphasis on North Africa. In the classroom, with the Sixth Form in particular, he has been an excellent teacher, with expertise and passion. His wide cultural range has been seen by the production of French plays and innumerable visits to France, enabling students to visit functionaries in the Hotel Matignon, the residence of the French Prime Minister and touring the Assemblée National in both its locations in Paris and Versailles.

Rob ventured beyond France as well, embracing the full range of Kimbolton trips and expeditions – sports and cultural tours to China, Australia, Malaysia/Singapore, ski trips, Argentina, and Ghana three times. Six continents covered, no less. Rob embarked on these with characteristic élan and organisational detail, taking Kimbolton literally to the world, leading from the front.

Rob has been a leader in many fields at Kimbolton, especially the pastoral side. He started as a house tutor of Balyes. He was totally dedicated to his tutees, and it was no surprise that he soon graduated to become Head of Kim House, succeeding Chris Bates in 1999.



Fifteen years in boarding was an epic stint and helped shape the boarding community. Many, many Kim House lads made it through and benefited from his supportive, enthusiastic, can-do approach. After Kim House it was natural that Rob would join a revamped SLT as Director of Activities bringing sage analysis, sharp organisation, and power of persuasion.

Beyond his subject, the classroom and management, Rob somehow found time to run football teams including a great stint as 1st XI coach. He built links with Rushden and Diamonds, and run the Great North Run. He performed in rock bands, music groups, Christian Union and chapel activities, including a performance as Pharaoh in Jesus Christ Superstar. Always ready to take part, encourage others, organise, and lead, Rob is a great colleague to work with and testament to the school DNA - breadth, participation and positivity.

The whole Knell family have been Kimboltonians to their core with Ali teaching at the prep and Sam, Oli and Nat all attending the school: for a brief period we had Mr Knell Junior in the History Department as a graduate teacher. For Rob, Kimbolton became truly part of his family. Jonathan Belbin was spot on at Speech Day when he summed up Rob in two words- he cares. He cares about French, the school, and the community as a whole. He wears his heart on his sleeve: that's what you want from characters who are committed and passionate about their work and environment. For Rob, Kimbolton was a vocation not a job.

Andrew Bamford and Chris Bates

## Oliver Hall 2006-2023

Oliver Hall was a long-serving teacher of French and Spanish who also served as Head of Ingrams. In both these roles he was methodical and committed, combining innovative methods and an eye for detail with an empathetic attitude towards his pupils. However, his first love was the CCF, serving as Head of the RAF section to which he gave huge amounts of time and enthusiasm. He oversaw the Kimbolton Flight which won the national RAF Squadron Trophy on numerous occasions. Oliver was always very generous with his time and was frequently seen running round the campus and cross-country route. A regular participant in House Cross Country, he was frequently in the first three to finish, and enjoyed overtaking the Headmaster.

In contrast to many of his colleagues, Oliver rather enjoyed online learning and adapted well to the Covid-inspired virtual school. After 17 years at the school, the last few of them living in Castle Gardens, he leaves with his dog, Daisy, for pastures news and future challenges with the CCF.



Thomas Wigington (Physics)  
Has joined Stephen Perse in  
Cambridge



Sarah Rowden  
(Biology)



Ludo Lotz, left  
Kimbolton after 4  
years as the French  
Assistant.



Graduates Will Hartley and  
Amelia Strath. Will has  
moved to Oakham School  
and Amelia to Stowe School

## School Chef Thelma celebrates 40 years service



In 2024, Thelma our lovely Chef at Kimbolton, who is known to generations of OKs, celebrated an impressive 40 years of service to the School.

Thelma began her career at Kimbolton School in 1983 as Catering Assistant when the Headmaster at the time was Dr David Donaldson.

Current Headmaster Will Chuter and Bursar and Clerk to the Governors, Jenny Agnew were delighted to make a well-deserved presentation to Thelma.

Congratulations Thelma for such an impressive achievement.

# OK Sport

## OK Football

### Football Captains

George Wilson (OK13)  
george.a.wilson@icloud.com

Manager

Jonathan Hunter (OK80)  
jonathan.hunter142@gmail.com



On the 10th December The OK's had their annual fixtures v the School XI's both first and second teams It's always a great opportunity for OKs to come and meet up with old friends and enjoy a few pints in the pub after the game. In what can only be described as horrendous conditions, the games went ahead from the shelter of umbrellas!

The 1st XI suffered a 6-2 defeat at the hands of a very good school side, the 2nd XI had a great 3-0 win.

### Arthurian League News: report by Jonathan Hunter

Having gained consecutive promotions from Division 5, the OKs have found a good level of football in Division 2 of the Arthurian league. The team played 18 league matches and 6 cup matches. Losing 3-1 in the first round of The Arthur Dunn Cup away to Old Etonians in a game was much closer to winning than the score line suggests.

In the Junior League Cup, the team had a good cup run and reached the Final at Merchant Taylor's v our old Nemesis Old Alleynians 2's (Dulwich College). Having previously lost to them in two finals, we were determined not to go the same way. After a very positive start, where we dominated the game and took an early lead through Harry Darnell, early in the second half OA equalised through a fine shot from outside of the box. With just a few minutes to go Spencer Taylor was brought down by the keeper when clear through on goal. Sadly no penalty and nothing from the free kick on the edge of the box. In injury time we were given the ultimate blow as Alleynians scored with a back post header from a corner which was the last action of the match!

So a case of what might have been, but a very good season all round where over 40 OK's have represented the team. We play are home matches at Herts Uni and there is plenty of travel around London to Tonbridge or Sevenoaks in the South, Brentwood, Chigwell and Forest in the East but most teams play in West London.



Bottom row - Tom Hopperton, Tom Biddle, Dan Tonkin, Josh Eddon, Jacob Shortland, Adam Goodyer  
Top row - Isaac Clarke, Josh Smith, Harry Darnell, James Belbin, Max Adams, Harrison Kemp, Rory Fenton, Jon Hunter



Bottom row - Ross McAdam, Ben Burton, Jeff Pang, Jack Findlay, Sina Kordany, Romil Kanani, Braden Stevens  
Top row - Matt Ellerbeck, Nat Knell, Joe Spira, Ollie Harper Smith, Donald McGarva

It's been a bit of a changing of the guard within the squad with some of the older players with family commitments and age just catching up a bit. Allan Owen, James Dunmore and Rory Fenton who will have played over 200 matches between them have or are in the process of hanging up their boots. George Wilson who has been leading the side so brilliantly has had a number of games break at the beginning of the season with a much deserved travelling sabbatical. He is back now and still so vital to our team. Tom Biddle has been ever present and travelling every Saturday from Maidenhead is mirrored by his coverage of the pitch in midfield and has been our driving force. Recently married Josh Eddon as Vice-Captain now living in Cambridge is the fourth member of the Senior Management Team including myself which keeps the club moving forward and very grateful we are to the work put in getting sides out, washing kit, organising pitches and teas.

We have had a good start to this season and are in second promotion spot and stand a good chance if we can keep this current winning run going, defeating Lancing College 5-0 and Old Aldenhamians 8-1 have been the highlight, Josh Smith is our currently our top goal scorer.

# OK Hockey

## Mens Hockey



OKs 2nd XI

Back Row: Oscar Mulligan (OK22), James Hopperton (OK94), Ben Hopperton (OK23), Ben Szczepanski (OK19), Alex Rice (OK22), Alex Bryden (OK17), Sam May (OK22), Jamie Edwards (OK22)  
Front Row: Harrison Kemp (OK22), Henry Leigh-Smith (OK22), Arran de Souza-Butterworth (OK15), Ben Rowbotham (OK22), Jack Mash (OK23)

### Hockey Captains

Mens Captain

Tom Hopperton (OK22)  
tom.hopperton1@icloud.com



Ladies Captain

Natalie Gaunt (OK16)  
natalie1.gaunt@googlemail.com



OKs 1st XI

Back row L-R: Aran de Souza-Butterworth (OK15), Oli Greenhow (OK21), Adam Barrett-Drylie (OK17), Alec Bryden (OK17), Harrison Peak (OK22), Josh Bache-Haley (OK18), Ross Basser (OK17), Spencer Taylor (OK22)  
Front Row: Ed Willan (OK20), Ben Szczepanski (OK19), Ben Rowbotham (OK22), Harrison Kemp (OK22), Sam May (OK22), Henry Leigh-Smith (OK22)

At the twilight of the 2023 Spring season, the Men's Hockey matches unfolded. The 1st XI clashed with The School in a riveting 2-2 standoff, showcasing some skillful play and artful maneuvers from both sides. Unfortunately, the OKs faced challenges fielding two complete teams, so some 1st XI players stepped in to assist the 2nd XI field as well. This amalgamation of talent proved formidable against The School's 2nd XI, granting the OKs a triumphant victory.



## Ladies Hockey

The 2023 Ladies Hockey match was played on the 10th September. 12 OKs supported, the fixture with players ranging from 1988 to 2023. The school started well and put pressure on the OK defence from the off. Vicky Wakefield (OK95) kept goal for the OKs' and made a flurry of saves in the first half to keep the OKs in the game. Mid way through the first half The School took the lead after a break from the forward line, that left a one to one with the keeper. The second half started with a strong attack from The OKs, but the forwards were unable to put the ball in the back of the net. The end-to-end play continued through out the 2nd half with the school adding 2 more goals from well worked penalty corners. It was the 1st win for The School since 2016 with the score ending 3-0.



It is the first time the OKs game has seen a trio of sisters play in the match. Rosie (OK21) and Ellie (OK23) played for the OKs whilst younger sister Georgie played for the winning school team. Maybe in 2024 we will see the trio represent the OKs!



# OK Cricket

The OKA express profound gratitude to Charlie Gingell, who gracefully retires after a decade at the helm as the 1st XI Captain. His legacy shaping the team's journey. Harrison Peak (OK11) now inherits the mantle, a familiar face in the realm of OK 1st XI, having graced the field in prior years. In 2023, the OKs triumphed over The School by a margin of 92 runs, with the OKs amassing 166 runs whilst The School 1st XI could only score 64 all out.

## Cricket Captains

1st XI

Harrison Peak (OK17)  
h.w.b.peak@btinternet.com

2nd XI

James Moore (OK11)  
jamesmoore6@gmail.com



### kimbolton School 1stXI vs Old Kimboltonians 1st XI

Old Kimboltonians 1st XI INNINGS														
Venue:		Toss won by: Old Kimboltonians 1st XI					Sat 01-Jul-2023							
BATSMAN	RUNS	HOW OUT		R	B	M	0s	1s	2s	3s	4s	6s	SS	SR
1 Charlie Gingell	42	c Will Blatch	b Rhys Hicks	60	30	150	64	16	4	9			31%	64.5
2 Oliver Greenhow	2	b Dan Tonkin		2	7	8	6	1					14%	28.6
3 Marcus Watkinson	1	c Joe Spira	b Will Blatch	1	6	10	5	1					17%	16.7
4 Tom Hopperton	20	c Sam Evans	b Lino Mosca	20	36	49	28	2	3				22%	55.6
5 Harrison Peak	43	c Sam Evans	b Dan Tonkin	43	106	145	77	23	3	2	1		27%	40.6
6 Jake Baynes	2	b Rhys Hicks		2	10	11	8	2					20%	20.0
7 Josh Eddon	7	c Dan Tonkin	b Rhys Hicks	7	14	12	10	3			1		29%	50.0
8 Will Tatman	1	c Joe Spira	b Dan Tonkin	1	6	8	5	1					17%	16.7
9 W Briggs	9	lbw	b Joe Spira	9	28	30	22	5			1		21%	32.1
10 Henry Leigh Smith	4	b Will Blatch		4	5	7	4				1		20%	80.0
11 Charlie Evans	0	not out		0	5	2	5						0.0	



Marcus Watkinson, Jake Baynes, Will Tatman, Josh Eddon, Charlie Gingell, Will Briggs, Oli Greenhow, Harrison Peak, Henry Leigh Smith, Charlie Evans (back), Tom Hopperton (front) with Jonathan Belbin presenting the winning team on OKs day.

BOWLER	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	O	M	R	W	WD	NB	ECON
Henry Leigh Smith	1	4	1	4	6											5	1	15	2			3.00
Charlie Evans	2		1													4	1	9		4	2	2.25
Tom Hopperton	2	4	3	8	1											5		18	5			3.60
Oliver Greenhow			2	1												4	2	5		2		1.25
W Briggs	4	5	8													3		19		1	1	6.33
Harrison Peak	1	3	1													2.3	1	3	3			1.29

The 2nd match unfolded with the OKs 2nds taking to the crease first, crafting a formidable tally of 177-4, led by the gallant innings of Joseph Taylor (OK15) who retired unbeaten at 50. Supporting melodies resonated from the willows of James Johnson (OK11), Freddie Valletta (OK12), and Tom Davies (OK12). As the OKs stood sentinel over their mark, the battleground witnessed a symphony of skillful bowling by Peter Ames (OK11), stalling the advance. Despite valiant displays from the school's batters, the scales tipped swiftly as wickets cascaded. Will Ford (OK11) claimed two wickets, while James Moore (OK11) seized another, shackling the foe to 124-4 after 25 overs. Thus, a resounding victory by 43 runs was etched in the stars for the OKs, and they were presented with the John Purser Cup.



# OK Rounders

## Rounders Captains

Charlotte Dibble (OK18)  
charlottedibble@live.com

Jennie Baxendale (OK18)  
jennie.b300@gmail.com



2024 sees an end of an era for OK Rounders, Charlotte Ralph (OK06) has stepped down after 18 years at the helm. Charlotte has handed over the Rounders Captaincy to some young blood. Jennie Baxendale (OK18) and Charlotte Dibble (OK18).

The Committee would like to thank Charlotte for all of her time spent in organising the Rounders over the past 18 years, and we hope to see you at OKs Day for many years to come!

In the 2023 Rounders against the school, victory graced the OKs after a fierce battle. Jennie and Charlotte, the valiant keepers of the Rounders flame, strive to uphold its legacy. While Rounders has long adorned the girls' summer sports tapestry, whispers of change hint at a rising tide favoring cricket. Yet, the winds of transformation may take years to sway the OKs Ladies fixtures. Thus, for now, the Rounders fixture stands resolute as a cherished cornerstone in the OK Calendar.

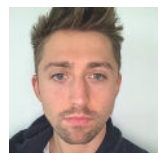
From Left to Right Catherine Hunter (OK13), Charlotte Dibble (OK18), Jennie Baxendale (OK18), Madison Peters (OK21), Lauren Elliott (OK21), Sarah Gill (OK12), Darcey Lancaster-Adlam (OK21), Iggy Jones (OK20), Danni Kenmir (OK12).



# OK Mixed Tennis

## Mixed Tennis Captain

James Hodges (OK11)  
jameshodges93@ymail.com



A spectacle unfolded on OKs Day, as four valiant mixed pairs stepped onto the court to challenge a formidable school squad. The school team showcased their excellent games play and triumphed in the end.

The OKs pairs were:

Milly Butts (OK21) & Ewan Murdoch (OK21)  
Holly Fraser (OK19) & Harriet Wilson (OK19)  
Pippa Lowe (OK18) & Amelia Hayden (OK18)  
Lloyd Harper (OK21) & Adam Jessup

We really look forward to growing the Mixed Tennis team over the coming years, so please contact James if you could like to get involved.

## Clay Shooting

# OK Clay Shooting

Oliver Wicks

[oliverpcwicks@gmail.com](mailto:oliverpcwicks@gmail.com)

The OK's shot against the School in a return match in April 2023 and were narrowly victorious beating the School team by 7 points. Angus Brown (OK17) showed great form and was once again the overall High Gun doing very well to edge in front of Mark Chapman (OK96). The event was once again hosted at Sporting Targets Riseley and our thanks go to Andrew Clifton and his team for laying on a great course. The conditions were wet and blustery but all enjoyed the shoot and performed with determination and skill in a good humoured and very competitive shoot.



OK's		School		Res:	
Angus Brown	35	Lance King	28	Christian Farmer	15
Mark Chapman	34	Alex Merchant	26	Hugo Payne	20
Ollie Scot Petrie	27	Henno Craig	23	James Beers	12
Ollie Wicks	26	Will Easton	23		47
Josh Lee	16	Louis Wster Brawn	22		
Jago Brockway	13	Ben Lawless	22		
	151		144		

## OK's v School Clay Shooting Competition January 14th 2024

The OK team shot against the School on a wonderfully crisp, bright and sunny winters morning at Sporting Targets, Riseley. The OK team shot very well to narrowly beat the School with an excellent 204 against 175. Oliver Wicks (OK07) shot wonderfully well with a score of 44 ex 50 to claim the High Gun title, beating the ever-consistent Mark Chapman (OK96) by one point. The School high gun was, once again, Lance King with 34 and runner up Tom Foster with 33. Big thanks go to Harriet Sykes (OK21) for, very bravely and, sportingly stepping in at the last minute to represent the OK's.

Thanks again go to Andrew Clifton and Sporting Targets, Riseley for hosting the competition and to the staff for setting up a great course. A great time was had by all and event was much enjoyed. There will be a summer shoot on the morning of OK's day, and hopefully the OK's will field two teams so anyone interested in shooting do please contact Oliver Wicks - [oliverpcwicks@gmail.com](mailto:oliverpcwicks@gmail.com)



# OK Netball

## Netball Captains

Lucia Mosca (OK23)

luciaimosca@icloud.com

Daisy Coulson-Bascombe (OK23)

daisyhermionecb@icloud.com

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The 2023 OK and School Team

The 2023 games was played at the end of March 2023, it was a close game upto the final 1/4 were The School turned on the power and were convincing winners.

The OK Committee would like to thank Danni Kenmir (Belbin)(OK12) for captaining the OKs Netball team for the last 10 years, Danni has handed the role to Lucia and Daisy both 2023 leavers.



The 2024 OK Team

Rebecca Eales (OK23), Lucia Mosca (OK23), Daisy Coulson-Bascombe (OK23), Maisy Langley (OK23), Katherine Watson (OK20), Mary Holyoak (OK14), Connie Gellatly (OK16), Alice Brodie (OK09), Beccy Cox (OK09), Sarah Dawkins (OK09)

The OK's had a brilliant turn out for the 2024 game and every one of the players turned up on the Sunday morning with energy and enthusiasm. This continued throughout the whole match with every player putting in 100% effort. The game started out with lively netball from both sides, this culminated in an early lead for the OKs, thanks to the brilliant shooting from the ladies. As the match went on the team jelled well together, encouraging and supporting each other which put The School under pressure. Going into half time both teams were neck and neck but unfortunately tired legs governed most of the second half, which led to The School slightly gaining the upper hand. The occasion had a very healthy competitive spirit which both sides thoroughly enjoyed.

Report from Daisy Coulson-Bascombe (OK23)

# OK Golf

## Golf Captains

Jim Harrison (OK71)  
jharrison53@btinternet.com

Tom Harrison (OK68)  
tombroughtonharrison@gmail.com

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The OKA Golf Society are delighted to invite you to the next OK Golf Day at St Ives Golf Club.



Ploughman's lunch at 12 midday.

Tee's booked from 1.00 pm so the last match should finish around 4.30 pm.

The cost will be £55 per person to cover green fee and ploughman's lunch (£15 for St Ives GC members).

Please sign up for the day, it will be a lot of fun with prizes up for grabs!!

If you are not already a member then don't worry as membership is free. You can join up when you register by emailing Tom or Jim. (emails above)

## **Spring and Autumn Meetings 2023**

The OKGS held its spring meeting at St Neots Golf Club in May where a field of 14 OKs competed for the John Wills Cup. Charles Robinson (1976) was the winner with 32 stableford points and Joe Harrison (1970) was second with 31 points.

The Autumn meeting in September was held at Brampton Park Golf Club (now owned by Old Kimboltonian, Richard Beadles). Joe Harrison won the Presidents Cup with 41 points, followed by John Flack (1960) on 40 points. The Colin Robinson Cup for the best combined score at both meetings was won by Joe Harrison with 72 points.

## **Grafton Morrish Former Pupils Scratch Foursomes 2023**

In May 2023 the OK's scratch foursomes team played in the East Midlands Regional Qualifying tournament at the Gogs Golf Club in Cambridge. Representing the OKGS were Alan Davie (OK02), Viren Joshi (OK99), Rob Miller (OK05), Rob Pickard (OK01), Ben Burton (OK02) and Matt Blake (OK03). With a combined total of 86 points, the best qualifying score by the OKs in the history of the competition, the team qualified for the finals held at Hunstanton and Brancaster Golf Clubs on the Norfolk coast in October. At the finals they were beaten in the first round at Brancaster by Kings, Canterbury by two matches to one.

The OKs have now had successive appearances in the finals and congratulations go to Al Davie and his team. Thanks also to the OKA for their continued support and for funding the smart new team kit.

### **Other News**

Jim Harrison celebrated becoming the new OK Golf Secretary this year by winning the East Anglian Open Foursomes at Hunstanton with his partner.

Scratch team captain Alan Davie has had another strong year in competition culminating in winning the Mid-Age Amateur Open at Walton Heath in July.

At the OKs Reunion Day in July, Jim Harrison presented Charles Robinson with a specially made OKs driver head cover in recognition of his 21 years of service as Secretary to the OKs Golf Society.

We hope to arrange a friendly match with a staff/pupil team in April 2024.

### **Calling all OK Golfers**

If you are interested in playing in any of the OKGS events (see below) please contact me on [tombroughtonharrison@gmail.com](mailto:tombroughtonharrison@gmail.com) or on my mobile phone number 07860960795.

If you would like to host an OKGS event at your club let us know.

### **Dates for 2024**

Friday 10th May 2024: OKGS Spring Meeting (John Wills Cup) at St. Ives (Huntingdon) Golf Club

Sunday 12th May 2024: Grafton Morrish Scratch Foursomes East Midlands Qualifier at The Gogs Golf Club, Cambridge

Friday 27th September to Sunday 29th September 2024 (Practice day, Thursday 26th September): Finals of Grafton Morrish Scratch Foursomes at Hunstanton Golf Club and Brancaster Golf Club

Friday 20th September 2023: OKGS Autumn Meeting (President's Cup and Colin Robinson Trophy), venue TBC.

# OK Sailing

Alaster Gray (OK73)  
alasterlesleygray@hotmail.com



Alaster Gray writes, 'I have been asked several times to produce a Roll of honour of OK's who have achieved significant sailing results at National, European, World and Olympic level. As you can see below, OK sailors have an impressive success rate that we should be proud of. The concern to me is that I can only include the results I know of.'

I would love to hear from any of you who should be on the list. This includes keel boat racing, Cowes Week, Atlantic crossings etc. My intention is that once the Roll of Honour is established we can update it and publish it from time to time. I apologise to those I have missed out, this project is a work in progress. I look forward to hearing from you'.

OKA Sailing Roll of Honour		
Late 60's	Farrands Brothers	Snipe National Champions
1976	Chris Osborne	Soling 2nd Olympic Selection Trials
1979	Chris Osborne	Soling Dutch National Champions
1979	Alaster Gray	Express National Champions
1980	Chris Osborne	Soling Olympic Selection Trials Winners
1980	Chris Osborne	Soling National Champions
1986	Mark Darling	Fireball National Champions
1991	Mark Darling	505 National Champions
1992	Mark Darling	505 European Champions
1995	Peter Saxton	Laser Apprentice Masters 4th
1995	Peter Saxton	Laser Masters 2nd
2003	Ben & Tim Saxton	RS FEVA National Champions
2004	Ben Saxton	Optimist National Champion
2004	Mark & Jacob Aldridge	Dart 15 Two Up National Champions
2004	Ben & Tim Saxton	Optimist Inter Club Team European Champions
2004	Ben & Tim Saxton	Team Racing National Champions
2006	Ben & Tim Saxton	Team Racing Australian Youth Olympic Festival
2008	Mark Darling	Flying Fifteen National Champion
2011	Mark Aldridge	Dart 15 Inland Champion
2011	Mark Aldridge	Dart 15 Nationals 3rd
2011	Jacob Aldridge	Dart 15 Youth National Champion
2012	Ben Saxton	RS 200 National Champion
2012	Ben Saxton	Endeavour Trophy Champion (UK Dinghy)
2012	Jacob Aldridge	Dart 15 Youth National Champion
2012	Ben Saxton	470 European Championships 2nd
2014	Tim Saxton	RS800 European Champion
2014	Tim Saxton	Wilson Trophy Team Racing Champion
2015	Tim Saxton	RS800 National Champion
2015	Ben Saxton	Nacra 17 European Champion
2015	Ben Saxton	Merlin Rocket National Champion
2015	Ben Saxton	Endeavour Trophy Champion (UK Dinghy)
2015	Tim Saxton	Team Racing National Champion
2016	Ben Saxton	Nacra 17 Team GB Olympic Team Rio 9th
2016	Ben Saxton	Endeavour Trophy Champion (UK Dinghy)
2016	Ben Saxton	Nacra 17 European Champion
2016	Tim Saxton	Team Racing National Champion
2017	Ben Saxton	J70 National Champion
2017	Ben Saxton	Endeavour Trophy Champion (UK Dinghy)
2017	Ben Saxton	Nacra 17 World Champion
2017	Mark Darling	RS Elite National Champion
2017	Tim Saxton	Wilson Trophy Team Racing Champion
2018	Ben Saxton	Endeavour Trophy. Dinghy Champion
2019	Ben Saxton	Nacra 17 Olympic Test Event 3rd
2019	Ben Saxton	Endeavour Trophy Champion (Uk Dinghy)
2019	Ben Saxton	Nacra 17 European Champion
2021	Mark Aldridge	Dart 15 National Champion
2021	Mark Aldridge	Dart 15 50 Plus National Champion
2022	Ben Saxton	Etchelles 22 National Champion
2022	Ben Saxton	Etchelles 22 European Champion
2022	Ben Saxton	Etchelles 22 World Championships 3rd
2023	Mark Aldridge	Dart 15 National Championships 3rd
2023	Mark Aldridge	Dart 15 50 Plus National Champion
2023	Ben Saxton	J70 World Champions



The annual OK sailing match against the school took place as usual on OK's day.

We all met at the school boats at 1.30pm, sorted out the teams, and ran five short races.

It was a huge challenge to get an OK team together this year. This was partly due to a date clash with the annual round the Isle of Wight yacht race, and the lack of younger OK's coming forward. If it wasn't for Anna Aldridge, Grafham Water sailing club's administrator (mother of OK's Abby and Jacob, wife of OK Mark) we would have been short of a team.

Not only did Anna help out with race management on one of the boats but she hastily arranged for a stand in coxswain to relieve Reece Webb (OK19), who is currently working at the club. Thank you Anna for supporting the OK's so well.

The teams for 2023 were Ben Goakes (OK95) and Reece Webb (OK19), David Papworth (OK79) and James Green (OK73) and Mark Aldridge (OK84) and Alaster Gray (OK73).

Jon Sweet from the school had arranged for three 6th formers to sail with three year 1 crews. It was wonderful to see the young sailors thoroughly enjoy themselves. I am always impressed by the quality of sailing from the school, this year in quite breezy conditions, and this gave us tight racing in the school's Fireflies.

Ben Goakes and Reece Webb ruled supreme by winning every race. This took the pressure off the other teams with David Papworth and James Green coming in mostly second with Mark Aldridge and Alaster Gray finishing between second and fourth, when not capsizing! It was good that John Sweet sailed the last race, coming a close third.

A huge thanks to Anna for race management, Abby for rescue and photographs, and of course to Jon Sweet for laying on and running the event.

A few of us went up to the school to watch the last few overs of the cricket and to say goodbye to the headmaster, and of course to have a beer!

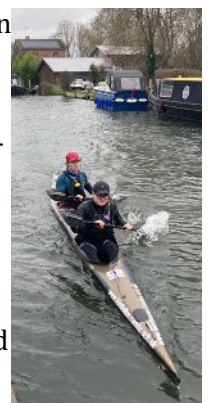
## OK Canoeing

On OKs Day 2023, The School and OK teams embraced the tranquility in a display of strength and unity, steering their canoes through the currents in a spirited "power paddle". Amidst the rhythmic strokes, joy overflowed, painting the day with hues of camaraderie. The OK teams navigated the waters with both the K1 and K2 canoes, engaging in a fierce competition against a strong School side, however victory graced the oars of the OK team amidst the choppy waters.

### OKs take part in The Waterside Series Marathon

Harry Smith (OK23) and Matthew Jardine (OK22) returned to the Waterside Series marathon kayaking race as OKs this season. Harry and Mathew were both in Kimbolton canoe team, coached by Jon Sweet, but are a new pairing in a K2 kayak and have not paddled together in competition before, so Waterside is an important prep competition for the 125 mile Devizes-Westminster race. Two of the four series races are now behind them, a good result in the first proved their potential; the second, with higher, faster water and a much more wobbly boat (think riding a bike for the first time without stabilisers) proved more challenging, but confidence remains high for the next race and the main event over Easter.

Thank you to the School and Jon Sweet for supporting Harry and Matthew which has enabled them to compete in the races.





# NEWS OF OKS

## News and announcements from OKs around the world..

**Martin Swatland (OK55)** Joined RAF Regiment national service, which has now left to work in the food retail sector.

**David Mellor (OK59)** Spent working life teaching in Staffordshire, he retired in 1995. He has spent a lot of time involved with Burton Albion Football Club and have in past held position of Football Secretary and Chairman. David's present position is one of the founder Trustees of the Burton Albion Community Trust which provides services for the people of East Staffordshire

**John Calver (OK63)** has been in touch with an update - John Writes; I left the school in 1963, went to Sandhurst in January 1964 and was commissioned into the Royal Artillery in December 1965. While at Kim, I was in the CCF. In those days we had a shooting team and we fired bolt-action Short Lee-Enfield rifles with Parker-Hale sights in the summer and our matches culminated in the annual schools' shoot at Bisley. Attached is a picture I found of me at Bisley standing behind the Iveagh Trophy, an award I received for winning the 500 yards competition with 13 bulls. I believe this was the summer of 1961, and I was the CSM, a position I held for 2-plus years.



*John also received the MBE from Queen Elizabeth in November, 1991, for his services to education and training in the USA. He was the British Army Exchange Officer at the US Headquarters of the Training and Doctrine Command from September 1988 to September 1990 at Fort Monroe, Virginia.*

**John Yates (OK67)** left Kimbolton in 1967 and went to College in Essex where he qualified as a teacher. He taught in Cambridge then went on VSO and taught in Papua New Guinea. John spent the rest of his teaching career teaching in primary schools in the West Midlands, and he is now retired and living in South Wales

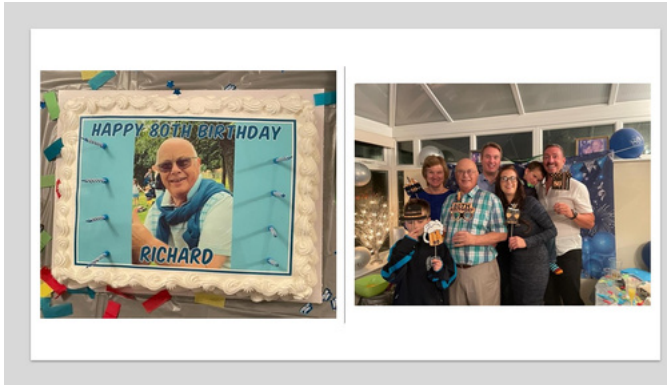
**Ian (Frank) Howe (OK69)** announced that he and his wife Pascale are happy and proud to announce the birth of our seventh grandchild (the 7th boy) to our fourth child Siobhàn in La Roche sur Yon (Vendée) on the 4th May 2023.

**Marcus Roberts (OK71)** briefly majored in Music and afterwards went to Sussex University to study composition. Marcus now runs a piano business in Oxford called Roberts Pianos.

**Peter Fielding (OK71)** played in the Final and won the over 60's 1st XI Cricket County Championship for Surrey against Hertfordshire. Herts made 227 for 8 in 45 overs where Peter took a wicket. In reply Surrey scored 231 for 2 in 37.1 overs. In September they were presented to the crowd in front of the Pavilion with Alec Stewart the current head coach at the Oval. In October Peter toured Menorca with Surrey Seniors where he captained Surrey to victory.



**Richard Sanders (OK63)** celebrated his 80th Birthday on the 30th September 2023, the party organised by his wife and daughter was a complete surprise to Richard. Most of Richards friends live locally but he was very surprised to see his sister and brother in law arrive from Jersey and his brother who lives near Lincoln.



**Paul Scull (OK71)** Paul studied at the Northampton School of Art, The Fine Art at Maidstone College of Art, Slade School of Fine Art and completed a research degree at the University of Wales, Cardiff. He has exhibited this works at Museum of Modern Art, Oxford; Arts Council Gallery, Belfast; Ikon Gallery, Birmingham; Royal Academy of Arts, London; Pittville Gallery, University of Gloucestershire; etc. His works have are also held in a number of permanent collections including Ashmolean Museum; Bibliotheca Alexandrian, Egypt; OxigenFoundation, Hungary. [paulscull.uk](http://paulscull.uk)

**Andrew Granger (OK75)** has now retired after 45 years in Lloyds Bank

**Jonathan Hurley (OK86)** After 30 years in industry with Ciba-Geigy, Premier Foods, Nokia and Volvo Construction Equipment, Jonathan became a Management Systems Tutor at the British Standards Institution. Jonathan is now a self-employed consultant, living in Cambridgeshire with his wife (Sophie), four children, two dogs and a cat.

**David Burton (OK86)** after just under 26 years serving as a Police Officer with Cambridgeshire Constabulary, David retired at the end of July 2023, to take up a 2nd career with the Prison Service as an OSG at HMP Littlehey, Perry.

**Steve Ferris (OK76)** retired from teaching in January. Steve mentioned that he has over 26,000 finished paintings He published 'The Cub-Hunting Season' in 1994. No-one bought it, but it did get into the RA Summer Show, but fell off its backboard. Steve regularly helps organise exhibitions north of the Cambridge and runs a regular life drawing class every Tuesday and Steve would love to welcome any OKs to his classes - beginners welcome! Please contact Steve on [ferrispictures@gmail.com](mailto:ferrispictures@gmail.com)



A selection of Kimbolton paintings by Steve

**Georgie Wheeler nee Latham (OK97)** recently qualified as a therapist and am now working in private practice as well as teaching drama part time. Georgie would love to hear from anyone who was at Kimbolton. Georgie is married to the HM of Monkton School, and coaches Hockey and Cricket as well as teaching Drama. Georgie has 3 children who all attend Monkton School.



**Andrew Riddell (OK06)** went onto University to study Pharmacy. His previous places of employment have included Addenbookes, Stoke Mandeville, St Georges and Queen Alexandra hospitals He is currently with Boots in Sawtry, Cambridgeshire. In 2023, Andrew was named one of the faces of the company to celebrate World Pharmacists Day.



**Alex Cull (O8)** got married on 1st October 2022 to Anthony Harris at Holmewood Hall. Their wedding was attended by Alex’s sister Amy Smith (Cull, OK02) as maid of honor, her brother Ashton Cull (OK05) as Master of ceremonies and groomsmen. Jennifer Blakeman (Coates, OK08) and Laura Anderson (Miller, OK08) as bridesmaids. Plus Asha Aggarwal (OK08), Lauren Sandison (Hayes, OK08), and Allie Attwood (Hook, OK08) attended as guests.

**Lawson Dolby (OK14)** married Isabel Barker on 8th August 2023. The wedding was attended by the following OKs’ (all OK14), Lawson Dolby - Groom, Tom Campbell - Best Man, Andrew Hall - Usher, Rory Beet, Georgie Spence-Jones, Annabel Marr, Charlie Ibbotson, Alex Sergeant, Harry Wilkinson and Izzy Martin. Also Barney Brown (OK95), Sam Brown (OK97), Harvey Brown (OK14), Sarah Baker (OK99) & Andrew Dolby (OK90).



**Josh Eddon (OK15)** married Rosie Saunders (OK14) on the 12th August 2023

**Clarice Harper-Smith (OK16)** is a Trainee Solicitor at Sharpe Pritchard Solicitors & Parliamentary Agents. She work in Clerkenwell, London. Clarice has completed a Bsc in PPE with a 2:1 from York, a commendation level Graduate Diploma in Law and she also achieved a distinction in the Legal Practice Course.

**Daisy Willan (OK18)** graduated from the University of Liverpool with a Bachelor of Science honours (BSc Hons) in Bioveterinary Science with a Class Two Division One Degree (2.1).

**Alastair Hamilton (OK20)** Since leaving Kimbolton in 2020, Alastair went to Bournemouth University and graduated with a First Class Honours in Media Production (2020-2023). He has since started full time work as a camera operator/videographer and editor at Kingsgate Church, in their media team (September 2023-present).

Have we  
included  
**YOUR** news?

If not, it’s probably because we didn’t know about it!  
Please don’t miss out next time - send in your news as it happens to:  
[alumni@kimboltonschool.co.uk](mailto:alumni@kimboltonschool.co.uk)

# Old Kimboltonian journalist Sarah Dawkins prepares for the 2024 Paris Olympics



Sarah Dawkins (OK09) is currently working as a senior journalist at BBC Sport. She covers all the twists and turns in the world of sports news - anything from serious stories like concussion in sport or abuse in gymnastics, to big interviews with sports stars such as Harry Kane. Sarah is a regular reporter at major international sporting events such as Football and Cricket World Cups, Wimbledon and the Olympics & Paralympics.

Sarah at the 2022 Men's World Cup in Qatar

Sarah joined the BBC in 2022 after eight years at Sky which is where she started my career in journalism.

Sarah explains, "I worked in general news for four years before specialising in sport - something that is a passion for me in my personal life as well as my professional.

Balancing my work with National League hockey and training for marathons can be tricky but there are also times where it all comes together, like this summer when I will be cycling from BBC Sport's base in Manchester to Paris as part of the BBC's Olympic coverage. Once in Paris, I will be following Team GB across lots of different sports (hopefully they will win lots of medals!) and any major news stories."



At the Tokyo Olympics with Adam Peaty



## Rob embarks on a journey to Paris in 2024

We are delighted to announce that Rob Knell has been appointed as the team leader for the media/press center, overseeing international journalists. Throughout the Games, he will be conducting his duties in both French and English.

In the summer of 2023, after 29 years at Kimbolton, Rob retired from teaching. Having previously worked as a translator, he has launched his translation services business working across both sporting and business domains, interpreting for French football players and at academic conferences (French to English and English to French).

# Obituaries

**We have been informed of the deaths of the following OKs:**

**Mr Yarnold (OK38)** from Wansford, died in 2022

**Arthur March (OK42)** died on the 11th December 2023; Tribute to follow in 2025 Magazine

**Philip H. Tucker (OK43)** died in January 2024, aged 97

**Hugh Barnes (OK46)** died January 8th 2021

**Anthony Hitchcock (OK54)** died in 2021

**Edward (Frank) Kiddle (OK71 )** died in June 2023

**Chris Sardeson (OK56)** died March 11th 2023

**Professor Vernon Trafford (OK56)** died in September 2023

**Richard Edgeller (OK72)** attended Kimbolton as a boarder and a day boy in the 1960s/70s died on the 25 October 2023 after a long illness. His sister Hilary said that he held Kimbolton School in high regard and was proud of his association with the school

## **Elizabeth Claire Kneeshaw (nee Stokes) (OK95)**

died on 22nd March 2023, aged 45. Claire grew up in Stonely with her mum Margaret and dad Ian and twin younger sisters Helen and Mary and attended Kimbolton School from 1988 to 1995. Claire was a ray of sunshine - she was interested in everyone and brought joy and care to all those around her. She loved music and was very busy at school singing in the choir and playing the double bass and also percussion, tenor recorder and even handbells. She conducted Dawson's choir and won House Music. She enjoyed doing stage management for school plays, even wallpapering the sets.

Claire was always a big part of our school community. She loved adventure and had lots of fun on Christian Union Camps enjoying activities from potholing to grass sledging and performing comic sketches. She had a cheeky sense of humour. She had some amazing experiences at Kimbolton such as visiting New Jersey on the American Exchange, playing the maracas at Chequers with the school swing band, and taking part in the Nijmegen March. She also had a big heart for those less fortunate than her and raised money for charity by sleeping rough for a night, and jumping on a little trampette for another night and doing lots of carol singing. She valued friendship above everything and was fiercely loyal.

She was very creative in DT and had a passion for English Language and Literature. After a gap year working locally,



she went on to study English and Linguistics at Trevelyan College, Durham University.

Claire was always calm and collected. Her university friends report that “while the rest of us were trying to figure out who we were, Claire never changed from the thoughtful and kind person she was and for that, we all appreciated and loved her” and that “she was our mother away from home, but had an infectious laugh and naughty sense of humour that would have you in stitches”. In some ways, she was an old soul and yet she had a fantastic energy. She valued friendships and connections and wore her heart on her sleeve.

Claire worked in sales for Astra Zeneca Pharmaceuticals for ten years and then Cook Pharmaceuticals. Claire married Peter Firth in Kimbolton Church a few years after finishing university. They later divorced amicably and stayed friends well after. She married Richard Kneeshaw in 2015 and they lived together in Stafford. Claire had many passions and enjoyed taking on challenges and meeting new people. She loved running and completed a marathon raising funds for charity, inspiring many of her friends to try the same. She was most recently working as a carer, bringing joy and comfort to all her clients. Claire was hooked on Formula 1 and was a lifelong McLaren supporter, going to Silverstone every year. She met many friends through this and looked forward to catching up with them every summer. She also loved gardening and animals, doting on her cat Polly and dog Suki. She had health problems for many years and yet didn't share their gravity with friends so her death was a shock to many.

### David Roy Wilkie (OK59)

died on the 8th March 2023, aged 82. David was born in the village of Yelling – then in Huntingdonshire, on 10th July, 1940, but the family later moved to Papworth Everard, where David's father, a tall, wiry, bee-keeping Scotsman, was appointed Transport manager for Papworth Industries.

In 1948, David entered Kimbolton Preparatory Department as a boarder under the watchful eye of the master-in charge, Bill Jones. He stayed at Kimbolton for the next 11 years, doing well academically and enjoying sports – even cross-country running! David developed an interest in aeroplanes as a result of his school holiday cycling trips with a friend to watch planes at a local RAF airfield and, as an RAF cadet, he was able to fly, first gliders, then two-seater, single-engined De Havilland Chipmunks. In the third-year VIth, he sat the entrance examination for St Peter's Hall, Oxford (which achieved full college status in 1961). Success in the examination saw him reading for a degree in geography – and being presented with his oars after becoming a successful college rower.

Outside the time devoted to academic study, he worked for Sindall, building an extension to Papworth Hospital which was to house the operating theatres in one of the country's first successful heart transplant took place.

During his university years, David's aeronautical interests were leading him to a possible career in the Royal Air Force, but, following advice from the Kimbolton School Chaplain, Jim Chalice, he was persuaded to take up teaching, and thus, after graduation, he was appointed to teach geography at Mitcham Grammar School in South-

Claire lost her Mum, Margaret, at the end of 2022 and she was devastated by this. Claire died suddenly in Stoke Hospital, Stafford after being admitted the previous day. At her funeral, her husband Richard handed her university friends four photo albums that Claire had carefully documented of her years at Durham. Every photo was carefully labelled with the event and the names of those in the photo. This combination of care and attention typified everything that was wonderful about Claire. She quietly cared about people more than we ever knew.

Claire had a tremendous capacity to love. She was incredibly kind and would rush to help any friend in need. She touched many people's lives and she is dearly missed by her friends and family

Tribute by Chrissy Gower nee Limentini (OK95) & Katy Anderson (OK95)

West London. However, David found teaching in London to be both stressful and demanding and certainly different from the school life that he had known at Kimbolton. He thus decided on a radical change in location and applied for a post at Rannoch School in Highland



Perthshire, Scotland, where the smog and bustle of London was replaced by wide-open spaces, snow covered hills and pure, crystal-clear air on the shores of Loch Rannoch.

Teaching too was more agreeable as the students were more attentive, and even thanked him for their lessons!

However, one problem had to be addressed. Virginia (Ginnie), the future Mrs Wilkie was still in London, initially necessitating lengthy journeys. They were married by the end of the year: problem solved.

David possessed what a minister called 'a genuine faith which allowed him to take life in his stride and which gave him the ability to be in full control of every situation'. Outside school, he became heavily involved in Bridge of Gaur church, operating as its treasurer and one of its elders. Inside school, he was promoted to housemaster, head of geography and head of careers. He also sang bass in the school choir whilst, domestically, he and Ginnie also had the added responsibility of bringing up two sons. After retiring in 2000, he continued with his singing, joining three choirs, and he was able to spend more time in his beloved garden, but he also moved into a very different sphere of activity, that of radio D-J! For 20 years, he became a co-presenter of a religiously themed Sunday morning magazine programme, called Heart and Soul, for Heartland FM.

If his colleague was, for any reason, unavailable, Ginnie would stand in to give a combined performance described by their sons as the 'Richard and Judy of local radio'. During the night of 6th/7th March, 2023, David suffered a severe stroke and was admitted to Ninewells Hospital in Dundee. On the 8th, he suffered a second stroke and died later that day. Although David had left Kimbolton School before I joined the staff in 1962, I knew him since we were the same age and were brought up in the same village.

Our fathers both worked for the same charity. However, after we had left the village, I lost contact with him for over 50 years. I am grateful to Ginnie Wilkie for providing me with details of his life during that time. At his funeral, his son, Alistair, concluded the eulogy with the following words: 'David will be remembered as a gentleman and a kind and considerate man who influenced countless students. He was a man of letters - and of song'.

Tribute by Ian J. Burton (Staff, 1962-2000)

## Norman Alan Rich (OK39)

died on 3rd December 2023, aged 101. Before coming to Kimbolton, Norman attended Wyggeston Boys' school in Leicester, where he met Richard "Dickie" Attenborough. They remained friends for some years, with Norman going to see "The Mousetrap" as Dickie's guest, staying with Dickie and his wife Sheila, who were both in the original cast. Norman's comment on the experience years later was "Dickie was miscast"! Norman's best friends at Kimbolton were Sid Bennett and Laurie Fisher. He stayed in touch with them for many years and visited Sid in Switzerland, where Sid was being treated for tuberculosis, much to Sid's surprise! After leaving Kimbolton, Norman joined the Royal Ordnance Corps, serving in Algeria, Italy and finally Austria during the Second World War.

He celebrated his 21st birthday with egg and chips in Algiers. He described Algeria as a beautiful country and liked Algiers. Like so many, Norman was reticent when it came to discussing his wartime service. When pressed, he said he "had a good war", but that he was once nearly killed by a falling bust of Marshal Pétain! It was during the war that he met and became friends with Spike Milligan, performing in amateur dramatics with him. They stayed in touch for many years and Norman last met up with him in London in the 1980s. When asked by his niece why he was not mentioned in any of the six volumes of Spike's war memoirs, he responded that he was in volume five - "I'm in the photograph on page 111. I'm the one dressed as the vicar". After the war, Norman returned to his home town of Leicester and it was in the neighbouring village of Birstall that he met Barbara Grove, through mutual friends. They married in 1949 and daughter Jackie was born in 1962. Norman and Barbara were married for sixty years, although Barbara's failing health meant they did not celebrate the occasion. She died in 2010. The majority of Norman's working life was spent at Hurst's office supplies, where he was a director. He was usually out and about, visiting customers and did not enjoy being in the office. Norman was keen on cinema and had a sideline as a projectionist for film nights in local

Photo taken shortly before Norman started at Kimbolton. His younger brother Mick is seated on their mother's lap.



hotels and university halls. He also loved music, enjoying singing in harmony with his wife (although she usually got the words wrong) and working as a hospital radio DJ at Leicester General Hospital, where he was chairman of the hospital radio charity.

Norman and Barbara loved dogs and had pet chihuahuas for many years. A keen sportsman, he supported Leicester City FC and was the only footballer in a family of rugby players. He and his wife played squash and enjoyed body-board surfing in Polzeath and later in Woolacombe on family holidays with their daughter. Probably his finest sporting moment came at Kimbolton, when during a game of cricket, he caught out visiting celebrity Jack Hobbs! Norman loved his time at Kimbolton, describing it as the "best time of my life". He kept up with other Old Kimboltonians, continuing to meet with Brian Marlow and John Petcher when he was in his nineties. In 2022, Norman celebrated his 100th birthday, receiving his telegram from the Queen. He is survived by his daughter Jackie, his niece and nephew and two great-nephews and his much loved whippet, Reuben. His younger brother Mick, also an Old Kimboltonian, died in 2018.



Photo taken the day after his 100th birthday. His Niece Judith to his left and daughter Jackie to his right.

Tribute by Judith Rich

## Charles Richard Vallee (OK74)

died on the 3rd November 2023. Charles was a third culture person before such a term existed. He was born in Antigua, and lived in Trinidad until he was 5 years old. His father was half French, and his mother, father and stepfather all served in the Second World War. He always said he was raised by the children of Victorians. He eventually became a United States citizen, worked in the United Arab Emirates, and died in Shenzhen, China. He made his own choices, not wanting to be constrained by his accent or other people's expectations. He loved a huge variety of music including the Grateful Dead, Neil Young, the Beatles, Frank Zappa, Mahler, and Bach.

Charles read history at Peterhouse, Cambridge, matriculating in 1975. After working in IT and HR in London, he completed a PGCE at Homerton College to be nearer to his sons, Samuel and Oliver, in Bury St Edmunds. He also wanted to be able to express his caring nature by becoming a teacher, always believing that strict gender roles were limiting for all.

He taught primary school in Stowmarket, marrying Jennifer Kerns in 1995, having two daughters, Grace and Nicole. He moved to the US in 2004 and taught in charter schools in Detroit where his background was little understood – he was often mistaken for an Australian which amused him very much. He never lost his love of Victoria sponge and Marmite toast.

In 2011, due to the financial crisis, he moved to Al Ain in the UAE to work for the Abu Dhabi Education Council, teaching high school English in the Arabian desert to Emirati boys. It was an experience that produced endless stories of camel races, Land Rovers speeding across the sand, trips to Dubai to buy brass items at Yemeni market stalls, and being called Mr Charles.

## Theo William Hipwell Gibbs (OK68)

died on the 28th November 2023, aged 73. He was born in St Albans on the 25th May 1950 to Frank and Elizabeth Gibbs. For the first nine years of his life, Theo lived at 24 Ridgemont Road, St Albans. While in St Albans, Theo attended nursery school and then Dernford House Preparatory School. Theo joined Aldwickbury School, Harpenden in 1958, and then in September 1959, the family relocated to Thurleigh in Bedfordshire so that they could be closer to Elizabeth's parents. For the first nine months, the family lived in a caravan on the front lawn while a local builder and Theo's father Hugh renovated the farmhouse. Theo had fond memories of his childhood at Cross-End, wildlife spotting including hares boxing in the garden, and living alongside the growing Shetland Sheepdog dynasty. At the same time as the move to Cross End, Theo and his brother joined Kimbolton School as boarders, which at the time was in Huntingdonshire.

He found it all interesting and amusing and made great friends there. His love of wool rugs, Masala chai, Indian scarves, frankincense, and oud were cultivated there. He made trips to India, Oman, Jordan, Egypt, riding elephants, seeing the monsoon make the land green in Salalah, freezing overnight in a cave in Wadi Rum, drinking tea and eating falafel in Cairo.



Afterwards, he taught high school writing and English in China for six years from 2016, to Chinese students, again making close relationships with his colleagues, as was his habit. He enjoyed the temples of Japan, the markets of Kashgar, drinking tea in Sri Lanka. He loved a trip to Marks & Spencer in Hong Kong and taking photos of ridiculously translated English signs.

He died in Shenzhen after a short time with cancer, just learning joyously of another grandchild on the way (to make a total of three, including Maddie and Millie). He is survived by Jennifer, his wife of 30 years, his kids Sam, Oliver, Grace and Nicole, and his sister Alison, along with many friends around the world.

He was someone who knew so much but never imposed his opinions on others. He had courage and faced cancer "without making a fuss" which was one of his standard phrases. He lived a life of integrity, believing in the education of his children, responsibility without expecting thanks, and the life of the mind. He is very greatly missed.

Tribute by Jennifer Kerns

During his time there, 1959 – 1968, Theo was a house prefect and he met best friend Stuart Goode, who later became godfather to Stuart's son William.

Theo always maintained strong links with Kimbolton and was a committee member of the Old Kimboltonians Association, he was a treasured colleague and committee member of the OKA, always witty, astute, charismatic and his attention to detail was second to none.

In 2016, the day after his retirement, Theo was presented with the Skelton Cup at the Parish Council AGM, by Mrs Jean Skelton for his contribution to the Sharnbrook Community.





In his earlier years Theo also enjoyed sailing at reunion events with his brother Robin. Theo developed a deep interest in family and local history, particularly Stoke Mills, the flour mill run by the Hipwell family which was managed until 1965 by his Grandfather Frank and latterly his Uncle Bill until its closure in 1969. Over the years he collected vast amounts of historical documents and gave lectures on the history of the Mill. Workwise, Theo qualified as a member of the National Association of Estate Agents and embarked upon a property career, joining Sampson & Co in 1968 then moving on to spend 22 years with Peacocks in Bedford as a Senior Sales Negotiator. Theo completed several residential estate agency courses between 1973 and 1976 and was a member of the Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors. He later spent 6 years working as a proofreader for 'K International': a translations company, and latterly, 8 years delivering wine around Bedfordshire and nearby counties for Majestic Wines. He retired at the age of 66 in 2016 which undoubtedly freed up much needed time for his local commitments. Theo was a member of the Young Farmers Club in the 70s going on to become the president of the St Neots branch of the YFC until 2002. During this time, he attended a rally with the YFC in Wales as well as a trip to the Galapagos islands. In 1972 he went to the Munich Olympics – 40 years later he was also at the London 2012 Olympics enjoying watching Charlotte Dujardin on Valegro win gold for Britain in the dressage. 1979 was a big year for Theo. He completed the purchase of the 18th Century Stonely Cottage on Park Lane and moved to Sharnbrook in the new year of 1980. In 1979, Stoke Mills became the home to the Sharnbrook Mill Theatre Trust, opening with the musical Salad Days. This was four years in the making since the start of the 'Mill Theatre Project' in 1975 which 'transformed a redundant historic watermill into a thriving community theatre'. Theo became active with the Mill Theatre in the 80s and ultimately became a trustee. Theo was also a very active member of the Sharnbrook community, participating in a variety of committees and joining the Parish Council in 2019.

## David John Henderson - Former Staff

died on the 28th March 2023. David taught physics at Kimbolton School from September 1968 to March 1976. He developed a real interest in physics and took pleasure in making his lessons as interesting as possible for his students. He was a brass bandsman and keen musician, teaching brass students and conducting the Wind Band which played at CCF parades, concerts and village fetes.

Theo was quite the intrepid traveller in his time, visiting 5 continents, rendezvousing with remote relatives and friends whenever possible. Destinations included Yugoslavia, Iceland, the US & Canada, Ecuador, Hong Kong, Egypt, Russia and South Africa. Theo was dedicated to his parents, from whom he gained his strong sense of community and service supporting them through periods of failing health until the deaths of Frank (Hugh) in 2001 and Elizabeth in 2007.



Theo pictured in his prefects suit - seated 5th from the right - front row.

Theo loved writing, this is one of his poems about a photo taken from horseback, looking from between the horse's ears: *'These 4 horseshoes will take you where you choose. And with our luck, find fantastic views, lose any blues, life de-confuse; returning you feeling refreshed, blessed by my zest! 'Ears' to the next time...'*

Theo enjoyed the outdoors, wildlife and nature and this is where we picture him now: "de-confused", refreshed and blessed. Theo loved his Country, Village & Community, Friends and Family and worked tirelessly, to ensure that all events, agendas, newsletters, shows and fayres were delivered on time and planned meticulously. He was kind, gentle, reliable if sometimes a bit late, and always wanted to help and be a part of whatever needed doing. The motto of the British Legion is 'Service not Self', and we think this best describes Theos attitude and approach to life. Rest in Peace Theo.

Tribute by Hermoine Caplin (Theo's niece) and Revd Paolo from Sharnbrook Church.

He was Assistant Master with Geoff Coles at Kim House and enjoyed that thoroughly. He took part in CCF camps in Yorkshire which were great fun. He was very interested in the history of the battlefields of the First World War and he and Rodney Woods managed to persuade the school to allow them to take a group of history students to visit the battlefields and cemeteries in Northern France.





After Kimbolton, he taught at schools in Ampthill, Brussels, Blackpool and Sussex. He kept up his involvement in school music with wind bands, brass groups, instrumental tuition and concerts as well

Sadly, most of these activities were adversely affected by a diagnosis of MS and he had to retire early in 1996. He lived near Horsham with his family then moved to a more suitable home in Worthing in 2007. Although his health and mobility became increasingly difficult for him, he was always pleased to see friends and family and enjoy a glass or two. He became very ill at the beginning of 2023 and died peacefully at home with his family beside him.

as conducting and playing in amateur brass bands. David was a very energetic and lively person with many other interests including photography, gardening and butterflies – a passion encouraged by Peter Smout.

Tribute by Jean Henderson

## Richard Wells, Head of Prep 2003-2015

died on the 17th January 2024, aged 66. Richard's sudden death from a heart attack near his home in Oundle came as a huge shock, not only because he was a mere 66 years old but also because a better example of health and fitness would be hard to imagine. Sport was a key part of his life, both professionally through 36 years as a PE teacher and for leisure: he played and coached football, ran a marathon as well as countless school cross country courses, and in retirement he took up triathlon and iron man challenges. He was playing golf and cycling just a few days before he died.



Richard's twelve years as Head of Kimbolton Prep School were the culmination of a highly successful teaching career. A grammar school boy from Morley in Yorkshire, he studied for a BEd at Hull University and then for a further PE Diploma from Carnegie College in Leeds. He had an offer to go to Cranwell to train as a PT Instructor in the RAF, but chose instead to start a teaching career at Brentwood in 1979.

Running a junior boarding house as well as teaching and coaching teams made for a full-on existence and after five years (during which son Jonathan was born in 1991), he was well qualified to be appointed Deputy Head of Laxton Junior School in Oundle.

Seven years into his first job, teaching PE and running sports teams six days a week, the chance came to be Head of PE and Richard relished the leadership challenge, especially as a big new Sports Hall had just opened. He showed his potential for forward thinking by negotiating with local sports entrepreneur Barry Hearn to fund Sixth Form sports scholarships, while making the most of the school's attraction to West Ham footballers including Trevor Brooking and Frank Lampard Senior, whose son Frank Jr (later of Chelsea and England) was Richard's captain - of cross country. Stuart Robson (West Ham and Arsenal) and Scotland rugby cap Eric Peters also featured during Richard's time at Brentwood.

His responsibilities at Laxton meant less teaching time, but he still had a half-timetable and ran sports teams, as well as leading as many as six different groups of pupils round the cross-country course as part of his day's work. Richard had a successful working relationship with the Head, a family home in the town and his children at the school. Many in his position would have thought "Why move?" but Richard's energy, leadership skills and capacity for clear thinking led him to look for one more challenge, which came just fifteen miles away (no need to move home) in Kimbolton

Married to Sue (also from Morley Grammar School) and with daughter Katie born in 1987, Richard's next post was at Read School near Drax in Yorkshire, a boarding school mainly for Forces children.

Living away from Kimbolton had its advantages: Sue could keep her job at the building society in Oundle and Richard could have a decent drive twice a day. This was just before the age of the constantly-pinging phone, so driving (and he loved his cars) gave him the chance to switch off at the end of the day. Katie finished her GCSEs at Oundle before coming to Kimbolton in the Sixth Form, while Jonathan joined in the First Form at the same time as his dad.

Richard left a physical impact upon the Prep and its administration during his tenure, which saw the development and expansion of the class structure, increased pupil numbers, and improvement in Year 6 classrooms, the Hunter Hall, and changing and dining hall facilities. He also introduced Kim Club at the start and end of each school day.

His true legacy, however, lies in less material aspects. His passion for education and ensuring every pupil is valued as an individual and given the opportunity to shine, typified his educational ethos. He genuinely put children first, and his hard work and vision placed him at the heartbeat of the Prep during his Headship. He epitomised a child-centred approach, fighting for what he believed in and always championing the underdog. The message from past parents is always the same: they talk of their love - not fondness - but love for the man. 'He gave our child a chance when no one else would', is a frequent quote. The more people battled against a child, or he sensed an injustice, the harder he fought for them.

Richard didn't do 'fads' and very much wanted children to be allowed and enabled to be children. One Speech Day, speaking of the ridiculousness that health and safety had become, he parodied the lengths schools need to go through, to allow pupils to play conkers: he brought a young pupil on stage and adorned him with gloves, helmet and safety goggles. Speech Days were never about him: he had a knack for getting the message across and usually found pupils to be the best forum to do so.

The well-being of the pupils was always at the forefront of his thinking: it was under his stewardship that the annual 'lads v dads' football and cricket fixtures came to an end, following one match where 6' 5" dads were hitting cricket balls like tracer bullets. Richard knew that the event had run its course.

Richard's retirement at 58 took some people by surprise, but after 36 years of teaching including 12 as a Head, having time for himself and his family seemed a brighter prospect than developing a new five-year plan. He kept his educational interests up as a mentor for the Independent Association of Prep Schools, and as a school governor, and was delighted when Katie took up teaching, in Lincolnshire then Malaysia, and even more delighted when she married another teacher, Matt, from South Africa. They run a boarding house at the Oxford International College in Brighton, and have a young son, Andre. Jonathan has made his mark working for a series of housing developers, and is now a Land Director for Bellway Homes. He lives in Elton with his partner Lucy, who gave birth to their daughter Penelope just three weeks after Richard died.

Richard and Sue were great travellers, from camping trips to Cornwall in the early days to motor-homing round New Zealand in retirement – with trips to Malaysia, Sri Lanka, USA and elsewhere, and others planned.

Two final things about sport. As a student at Carnegie, Richard and another young athlete took part in a series of metabolic tests, featuring a lot of wires, gauges and complex cycling equipment, measuring heart rate, blood pressure etc.

The technology couldn't measure how fit he was, with Richard's outcome off the scale in most tests, but it did record that his figures were higher than those of his fellow-tester, who was called Sebastian Coe and won Olympic gold at 1500m two years later.

And Leeds United. Richard decided to watch the 1978 Cup Final (Ipswich v Arsenal) with a group of friends. Most in the room were boys, but there was a girl sitting near him. She'd been to the same school, but maybe because she was a year younger, they barely knew each other. Both were watching intently and after a while Richard turned and said: "I've never met a girl who understood the offside rule". Sue explained that she spent every other Saturday with her dad watching Leeds at Elland Road, and they were married for 43 years. Richard's Leeds scarf was wound poignantly around the lectern at his funeral in Oundle church.

Richard was a true educationalist, but more importantly, a fine gentleman and friend. The response to the tragic news of his death from past pupils, parents and colleagues, and the attendance of so many of them at his funeral, demonstrated how much he was respected and loved.

Obituary by Bill Skinner and Oliver Stokes



## Dates for your diary

Old Kimboltonians' Association Sports & Social Events 2024

[www.oks.co.uk](http://www.oks.co.uk)



Tuesday 14 May 2024  
School Careers Fair - Castle Staterooms

Monday 3 June 2024 - Geoff Coles Room, QKB - 7pm  
OK Committee Meeting

Friday 28 June 2024  
OK Cricket XI vs The Kestrals (Staff Team) & 30 Year (94) Leavers BBQ and Music  
1st XI Cricket Pitch Pavilion

Saturday 29 June 2024  
OK Summer Reunion - School Grounds  
OK Summer Ball - Castle State Rooms

Sunday 8 September 2024  
Ladies Hockey: OKs v School 1st XI - Duchess Astro Pitch

Monday 16 September 2024 - Geoff Coles Room, QKB - 7pm  
OK Committee Meeting

November  
London Event - Venue and Date to follow

Monday 18 November 2024 - Geoff Coles Room, QKB - 7pm  
OKA AGM - all OKs are welcome to attend.

Sunday 8 December 2024  
Heath Pitch, School Grounds  
Football: OKs vs School 1st XI & 2nd XI

Sunday 5 January 2025  
Ladies Netball: OKs v School 1st VII - Roger Peel Sports Centre

January 2025 - Date TBC - Geoff Coles Room, QKB - 7pm  
OK Committee Meeting

Sunday 23 March 2025  
Mens 1st & 2nd Hockey: OKs vs School - Duchess Astro Pitch  
Mixed Hockey: OKs vs Parents Team - Duchess Astro Pitch

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