



OK NEWS 2021

The magazine of the Old Kimboltonians' Association



Spring 2021

FROM THE EDITOR...

Welcome to a slimlined edition of the *OK News*!

First and foremost we hope that you have all kept well over the last 12 months. Hopefully we will soon be firmly on our way out of the Covid-19 restrictions and looking forward to a brighter summer.

The OKA Office was not open during the the School closure in January and February, therefore the publication of this edition of the OK News is slightly later than usual and, for the first time ever, we have not produced a printed version. This is a one-off, purely dictated by time restraints - we hope to be back on track next year.

Inevitably the pandemic forced the cancellation of all our social events and (most of) our sports fixtures in 2020 and into 2021, therefore our content is slightly different this year. We have taken a look at finding out how the pandemic affected the School and OK community, but without wishing to make the publication too coronavirus centred have also had a look back through the archives.

Another sign of the impact of the lockdowns is the much reduced news from individual OKs - we hope that in 2022 we will have a bumper-sized edition with lots of news! Please help by sending in any news that you may have to the OKA Office.

Wishing you all lots of good health!

Helen

Helen Hopperton

Submission of articles:

We welcome articles for inclusion in future issues. Please bear in mind that it is not always possible to include all contributions and we reserve the right to revise articles as necessary. The copy deadline for the next edition is 15th December 2021. All copy and photographs should be sent to alumni@kimbolton.cambs.sch.uk, or posted to the OKA Office at the school address. *Please note that the views of contributors are their own and not necessarily those of the OKA or Kimbolton School.*

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Old Kimboltonians' Association

Old Kimboltonians' Association group

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old_kimboltonians



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Castle and Rainbow by Mark Bennett

FROM THE HEADMASTER

A warm welcome to the first ever fully online version of the *OK News*, at the conclusion of surely the most discombobulating twelve months in the School's history. In common with every school in the land, Kimbolton sent pupils home on March 20th, 2020. For the next five and a half months, Kimbolton School became a 'virtual' entity, rather than a physical one. Week after week of wonderful cricketing weather was unconsummated as the School stood silent, tumbleweed blowing across the West Lawn. Whilst signs of life could be detected at the Prep School, where children of key workers were fed and supervised whilst undertaking their online lessons, the Castle provided a bucolic backdrop to the red kites who became ever more daring in the breathless hush.

The Autumn Term began with high hopes. Initial 'bubbling' would, we hoped, melt away later in the term, opening up opportunities beyond the classroom. Sadly, Covid-19 has proved no respecter of plans and, by November, we were slowly tightening the grip on what once passed as 'normal' school life. The restrictions were not without merit as you could count our number of positive cases on one hand...and still have spare digits. January to March saw another lockdown; Summer re-written but without the sunshine. Online lessons now had a far more interactive flavour with the poor teacher having to stare at a screen through the day (not necessarily what was envisaged on that teacher training course many moons ago).

As I write this, with pupils back in school for the previous two weeks (wearing their masks in and out of the classroom), I certainly don't intend making predictions as to the future. However, everyone is in reasonably good spirits – so pleased to be back. The school remains full to overflowing for this coming September. From an academic perspective, pupils are about where we would have expected them to be on their courses sans pandemic – although a lot of practical/creative work has simply not been possible without specialist, in-school equipment.

The real loss has been with all those enrichment activities which undoubtedly form a key part of the fabric of your Kimbolton memories. No drama productions, hardly any music (how do you put together an orchestra when year groups cannot mix?), virtually no fixtures against other schools, no trips, tours, CCF camps, no 6th Form Ball, and so on and so on.

You only get one go at education and the sands of time stop for no-one.

Yet optimism abounds, as it always does in Spring. I fervently hope that the OK Weekend 2021 will not go the way of the 2020 version and I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible on that first Saturday in July, sun shining and not a mask to be seen.

Yours sincerely

Jonathan Belbin Headmaster



FROM THE OKA PRESIDENT

Writing an update for the OK Association at the end of what has been a quite unique year was always going to be short. From an association point of view, very little occurred. The London Dinner, Summer Reunion and Summer Ball were both cancelled, committee meetings were held (virtually) but we had little progress to discuss and our usual publication was not able to be produced due to resource constraints.

That said, I think at times like these, being kept up to speed on what is happening outside of our immediate circle is more important than ever, and therefore we have decided to produce a slimmed down and online version of the OKA Magazine. Being able to share stories, updates, successes and also challenges is important for the OK's and I am glad we are able to do that this year.

Looking forward, we are hoping to be able to bring our events back online, including the summer reunion, ball and sporting events, but as always this will be subject to change depending on the guidance from the government and school.

It does seem like there is light at the end of the tunnel and before long we will be able to be back, surrounded by our family and friends, and as an association we will continue to support our members and offer opportunities to meet, some of those we perhaps have not seen for some time.

James Brown (OK 94)



The Committee & Representatives of the Old Kimboltonians' Association

OKA Committee...

President:	James Brown (94)	Treasurer:	Position Vacant
Vice President:	Jonathan Belbin (Headmaster)	Secretary:	Helen Hopperton (Alumni Officer, 85)
Andrew Bamford (Staff)	Josh Doonan (13)	Alaster Gray (73)	John Mayes (51)
Danni Belbin (12)	Joanna Doyle (84)	John Hitchin (71)	Claire Murphy (90)
George Beverly (08)	Hattie Gellatly (13)	James Hodges (11)	Joshua Spink (07)
James Brown (94)	Theo Gibbs (68)	Abi Hooton (15)	Bill Skinner (Former Staff)
Thomas Campbell (14)	Sarah Gill (12)	James Hopperton (94)	Fiona Whiteman (85)
Michael Capps (65)	Charlotte Goodson (88)	Jonathan Hunter (80)	

Roger Watson (Former Staff) decided to step down from the OKA Committee last year after many years service. Thank you Roger for all that you have done for the Association.

OKA Sports Managers...

The OKs below organise the teams for the various matches against the School teams; if you are interested in playing in any of the sports please help by getting in touch with the relevant manager (dates of the matches are on the OK website) - it makes their life a lot easier!

CRICKET - 1st XI	Charlie Gingell	07972 071154	gingell.charles@gmail.com
CRICKET - 2nd XI	James Moore		jamesmoore6@gmail.com
FOOTBALL	George Wilson	07411 101363	george.a.wilson@icloud.com
GOLF	Charles Robinson	01480 860581	cjr@robinsonkimbolton.co.uk
HOCKEY (Men's)	Alec Bryden		alec.bryden@ntlworld.com
HOCKEY (Ladies)	Natalie Gaunt		natalie1.gaunt@googlemail.com
NETBALL	Danni Belbin		danni.belbin2120@gmail.com
ROUNDERS	Charlotte Ralph	07969 882797	cl.ralph@live.co.uk
SAILING	Alaster Gray	01480 461141	alasterlesleygray@hotmail.com
TENNIS (Men's)	James Hodges	07715286475	jameshodges93@ymail.com
TENNIS (Ladies)	Helen Hopperton	01480 862223	alumni@kimbolton.cambs.sch.uk

Are you interested in getting involved with the OKA?

We are always looking for enthusiastic OKs to join the OKA Committee and help drive the association forward and organise events & reunions... for more information on what this involves please contact

Helen Hopperton, Alumni Officer:

alumni@kimbolton.cambs.sch.uk / 01480 862223

School NEWS

For obvious reasons news from the School is a bit different this year... staff and pupils have been just as busy, perhaps even more so, but in a different way and with different demands.

Everyone had a brief introduction to virtual school at the onset of the first lockdown and school closures a week or so before the start of the 2020 Easter holidays. The fact that Kimbolton is a Digital School where iPads are an established feature of pupil learning helped enormously with the transition from learning in the classroom to both teachers and pupils following a school timetable at home. It wasn't without it's hiccoughs (the Government's pledge for every home to have fast, reliable broadband still has a way to go!) but it did provide every pupil with a continuity in their education. By the time the second closure came around in January 2021, everyone was well versed in teaching and studying from home.

We've answered a few questions below on how Kimbolton operated during this time on pages 12 and 13, but beforehand look at some school news below.

STUDENTS ACHIEVE GOLD CREST AWARDS

Three Upper Sixth students were awarded Gold CREST awards from the British Science Association in 2020.

Alice, Aryaki and Thomas all successfully submitted their Extended Project Qualification (EPQ) research to the national accreditation scheme, which recognises outstanding student-led work in the STEM subjects.

The trio completed their EPQ projects alongside their A level studies and explored topics that addressed real world STEM problems.

NATIONAL YOUTH THEATRE PLACE

Mia, a Fourth Form pupil, won a place on a National Youth Theatre summer course last year. She beat hundreds of aspiring young actors in UK auditions to be accepted into the world-leading organisation.

Due to the travel and social-distancing restrictions, Mia had to complete her studies online, working with inspirational directors and guest tutors.

KIMBOLTON DANCERS TO REPRESENT ENGLAND

Two talented Senior School dancer have been selected to represent England at the Dance World Cup 2021.

Sixth Former Cordelia will be taking part as a soloist while Third Former Emma is part of a modern dance squad from Bedford. The competition is due to take place in Spain in early July.

FIFTH FORMER SELECTED FOR BRITISH EVENTING PONY DEVELOPMENT SQUAD

Fifth Form pupil Anna is just one of 17 pony and rider combinations chosen to follow a training and competition programme designed to produce a team to represent Great Britain at the European Championships in Poland in August. The schedule also supports riders as they work towards the National Pony Championships in 2021.

DTE TEAM SUCCESS IN NATIONAL FINALS

'Nova Racing' - a team of six Sixth Formers were overall runners-up (Development Class) in the 'F1 in Schools' National Finals 2020.

The team qualified for the event after winning the East Anglia Regional Finals back in January 2020 (the third year in a row Kimbolton have won the regional stage). As well as overall runners-up they also scooped the award for Best Engineering Car and were nominated for the Portfolio Award.

IMPRESSIVE SENIOR DEBATING

Kimbolton's debaters won a place in the 2020 National Final of the European Youth Parliament.

The team gave speeches and were involved in debates on a range of issues from how to engage young people from across the EU in politics, the war in Yemen, climate change and the growth in support for far right extremist groups.

This success was followed in November when eleven pupils took part in Oxford global's fifth annual Model United Nations conference with around 700 other students, based in 43 different countries.

The pupils debated online in committees of about 80 students, with Third Former Caitlin receiving a superb top 3 position in her committee on the Environment, while Lower Sixth Former Emily, representing China, won her Health committee against 73 others.

ARKWRIGHT ENGINEERING SCHOLARSHIP

Lower Sixth student, Alex, has been awarded a sought-after Arkwright Engineering Scholarship which identifies him as one of the UK's future leaders in engineering and related areas of design.

Alex went through a rigorous selection process that assesses academic, practical and leadership skills in STEM. He completed an online application, a two-hour aptitude exam and a university-based interview.

MATHS PUPILS SUCCESSES

Two teams of Sixth Formers put in a strong performance at the international NABOJ online competition. One team came 3rd in the UK and 156th internationally, out of 363 schools, while the other team finished 18th in the UK.

Also, 66 pupils won certificates in the UK Mathematics Trust 2021 Intermediate Mathematical Challenge. The Third to Fifth Form pupils achieved an impressive 4 Gold, 25 Silver and 37 Bronze awards between them. Eight of the pupils all qualified for the next rounds of the competition.

KIMBOLTON FEATURE IN TOP SCHOOLS GUIDES

The School was delighted to be featured in the The Good School's Guide 'UK Best Boarding Schools 2020' and to being named as one of the Top 100 cricketing schools in the UK, in *The Cricketer* magazine's respected Schools Guide 2021.

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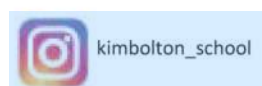
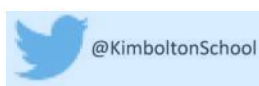
PREP SCHOOLBUILDING DEVELOPMENT

As we went to print with the *2020 OK News* the Prep School were just starting to enjoy the use of their brand new entrance.

Not only does it look great, but the timing of this new addition couldn't have been better - the extra space helped enormously towards compliance with social distancing.



Keep up to date with all school news and activities by following them on social media:



STAFF ROOM NEWS



2020 saw the departure of two long-standing names on the staff list in the Senior School. Sadly they were forced to have a virtual farewell - such a shame for each of them to head of into retirement without a celebration.

CLARE BENNETT

Clare joined Kimbolton as Miss Auger in 1986 and held many key roles over her 34 years at the school, as Head of Food & Nutrition, and as housemistress of (successively) Gibbards,



White House (girl boarders) and finally Ingrams. She ran countless culinary classes for all ages and abilities, and led pupils on an annual holiday *gastronomique* by minibus to northern France.

Her energies also were seen on the tennis court, with the American Exchange and, for a while, in the RAF section. She met her husband Mark at Kimbolton and now joins him in retirement.

Clare was a much-loved and trusted figure amongst both staff and pupils throughout her years at Kimbolton, and a source of wisdom on food, school life and much else besides. She will be greatly missed in the classroom and cycling around the school campus.

ANNE HADFIELD

Anne retired in July after 20 years service at Kimbolton.

When she joined the School (as Mrs Hughes) she worked alongside Frank Burns in the Spanish Department, but for



many years Anne also contributed to the French Department. Described by her colleagues as “a brilliant linguist... nothing short of professional: pupils always at the forefront of her mind, planning, and efforts”, Anne will be missed by staff and pupils alike.

Her long-awaited retirement will undoubtedly give Anne more time to spend on some of her greatest passions, namely horticulture, painting and pickling (apparently she is a great purveyor of chutneys, pickles, jams etc.) and following the performance of Manchester City Football Club!



SALLY EDDON

The Prep School also saw the departure of a long-standing member of staff Sally Eddon. Sally made her mark as Head of Music at the Prep; parents were always in awe of her ability to calmly bring the voices and instruments of young pupils together, especially during the Christmas Carol Service and the termly concerts. Her enthusiasm for music definitely rubbed off on the pupils as over 65% of Upper Prep pupils currently receive weekly lessons and many learn a second or even a third instrument.

Three other names that OKs know well will disappear from the Staff List this year; the Bursar, **Edward Valletta**, retires at the end of the Spring Term, and both **Andrew Bamford** and **Chris Bates** have taken the decision to start their retirement in the summer.



Kimbolton School

OPEN MORNINGS 2021

Prep School – Friday 7 May and Friday 8 October

Senior School – Saturday 2 October

BOOK NOW: kimbolton.cambs.sch.uk/visit



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KIMBOLTON DURING THE PANDEMIC



How was Kimbolton able to continue teaching?

In anticipation of the school closure during the first lockdown, the Senior Management Team worked on producing comprehensive guidelines for the operation of "virtual Kimbolton".

Pupils registered with their Tutors every day, signed onto their online courses using a dedicated app and were able to follow curriculum content and courses, hand in work for marking and feedback. Microsoft Teams was also used for many lessons.

What did the pupils in Year 11 do instead of revising for and sitting their GCSEs?

All Year 11 pupils engaged in the Kimbolton HeadStart programme - a series of pre-A level courses based around reading, research and mini-projects that were designed to provide a grounding in A-level studies and techniques, without encroaching on the exam syllabuses.

As well as enabling the pupils to continue with meaningful education, it gave them and insight into the A-levels they had chosen to study and helped confirm their choices.

Did the school campus close completely during the lockdowns?

No - it was necessary for some support staff to be on-site as well as those staff supervising and supporting the keyworker and vulnerable children who were allowed to go to school.

In the first lockdown, the Prep School became a dedicated area for these children and remained open throughout the Easter holidays until the lockdown conditions were eased. Staff volunteered to work on a rota basis throughout the holidays so the School were able to support the key workers.

Were pupils allowed back onsite before September?

Once lockdown conditions were eased in the Summer Term pupils in the Lower Prep were allowed back to school, in line with Government guidelines.

Towards the end of the term, Year 10 and Year 12 (i.e. those



year groups taking GCSE and A Level exams in 2021) were able to go into school. However with only a % of each year allowed in at any one time, the need to maintain year group bubbles and limited days available before the end of term, each pupil only attended for one day for limited time with each subject teacher.

The social distancing was carefully managed and every pupil and member of staff on site on those days were temperature checked as they arrived.

During the third lockdown, only the children of key workers were allowed onsite.

How different has school been since pupils went back in September?

The school has succeeded in maintaining as much normality as possible, however while there has been little change to the academic lessons and timetable, the steps introduced to safeguard the safety of both staff and pupils have meant that the extra curricular activities, usually held at lunchtime and after school, have not been able to take place.

Sport is restricted to the timetabled PE / Games lessons and training on Saturday mornings, and all social activities cancelled - no concerts or plays, Sixth Form socials or Christmas Services. The constant use of hand sanitiser has become the norm and face coverings are worn *all* the time by everyone on site.

With year groups having to stay in their own bubbles, break times are closely supervised and kept to a minimum. To enable each bubble to dine separately, the lunch "hour" has been extended significantly from 1130 to 1415, and the timetable has been adjusted to fit around this. The bubbling has also meant that School and House assemblies have not been able to take place.

There are rules for parents too as they are requested not to get out of their vehicles during drop off and pick up time!

Have any of the usual calendar events taken place?

Sadly, very few. The usual House matches were played in the Autumn Term, but the House Cross-Country was a smaller race than usual with just a few selected pupils taking part, and the route was adapted to avoid any running out of the school



Key Worker children enjoying activities at School during the first lockdown

KIMBOLTON PPE DONATED TO KEY WORKERS

At the onset of the first lockdown the DTE Department, led by Kevin Spencer, set to work to support healthcare workers by making face visors and donating them to the NHS.

As well as producing shields and adapting the design to the available materials, Kevin shared it with other schools.

The production line, which included his DTE colleague, Ceri Stokes, his son Adam (OK 12) and some current pupils, continued until they finally ran out of materials.

Some were given to the local GP surgeries and others ended up further afield. The Eye Department at Addenbrookes Hospital were grateful to receive a batch which enabled them to continue with close quarter eye examinations and procedures.



campus.

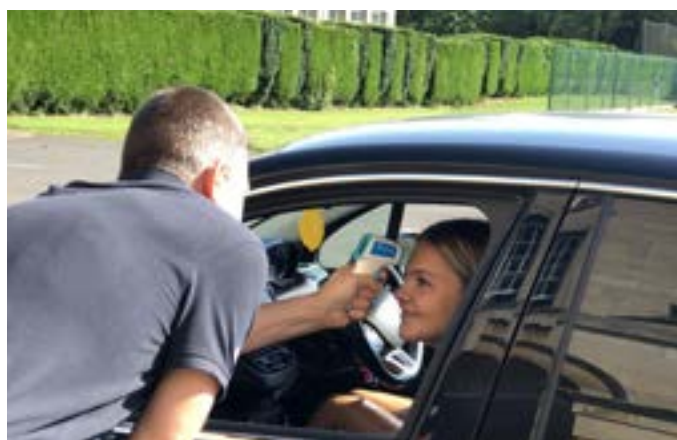
The School Open Day was a virtual event and Founders Day was marked with a short online service (which can be viewed on the School website in the News section).

Even Parents Evenings have been held online through SchoolCloud which enables video calls between teachers and parents.

Have there been any positive Covid cases at Kimbolton?

The School has been very fortunate that in the 13-week Autumn Term

very few pupils tested positive. Strict sanitising procedures, careful monitoring of seating plans etc. and maintaining the year group bubbles meant that just a small percentage of the pupils have had to self-isolate due to these cases. When school re-opened in March a mammoth operation was completed in the first week to carry out lateral flow tests on over 1000 pupils and staff. Not one test was positive.



Arrival at school for the pupils in Years 10 and 12 in the Summer Term was carefully controlled - everyone on site (including all admin staff) were temperature checked and a strict drop-off / pick-up procedure was adopted.



Welcome to the Old Kimboltonians' Association...

Sadly the end of school for the 2020 sixth form leavers wasn't how it was meant to be and they didn't have the opportunity to celebrate at a Sixth Form Ball like so many OKs have done in the past. We wholeheartedly welcome them to the OKA and hope to see them all back in Kimbolton and an OK event very soon.

Find out their university / career choices below (all details are correct to the best of our knowledge).



The 2020 Upper Sixth (taken when they started the Lower Sixth).

Student	Destination	Course
Bayley Anderson	Apprenticeship	Agricultural Engineering
Barnaby Anthony	De Montfort	Cyber Security
Owen Baker	Gap Year	
Arabella Banfield	UEA	Law
Isobel Banfield	Surrey	Veterinary Science
Alex Berry	De Montfort	Business & Marketing
Dylan Bhungar	Gap Year	
Emma Blakey	Lancaster	Spanish Studies & English Literature
Alicia Blem-Filby	Exeter	Biological Sciences
Eddie Brand	Nottingham Trent	Politics & International Relations
Mark Brand	Nottingham Trent	Sport & Exercise Science
Emma Butt	Loughborough	Geography
Joseph Cann	Lancaster	Business Management
Norris Chan	York	Actuarial Science
Christina Chen	Leeds	Fashion Marketing
Toby Clark	Keele	Chemistry

Student	Destination	Course
Connor Costa	Southampton	Mechanical Engineering
Charlie Crow	Nottingham Trent	Sport Science & Management
Harry Darnell	Reading	Accounting & Business (PWC 'Flying Start')
Lorne Dryer	Exeter	Politics & International Relations
Taylor Elsbury	Gap Year	
Charlie Evans	Nottingham	Aerospace Engineering
Harriet Fenton-Lake	Nottingham Trent	Psychology with Sociology
Andrew Finch	Surrey	Music
Callum Fox	Manchester Metropolitan	Sports Business Management
Alice Gardner	Bangor	Marine Biology
Honor Giles	Nottingham	History
Amber Griffith	UEA	Law
Zack Grint	Nottingham Trent	Law with Business
Alastair Hamilton	Bournemouth	Media Production
Isabel Harding	UEA	History
Lloyd Harper	Keele	Human Geography & Politics
Ciane Hilborn	Oxford Brookes	Japanese Studies
Lucy Hoy	UCL	Natural Science
Felix Hughes	Hertfordshire	3D Games Art & Design
Thomas Hurrell	Durham	Engineering
Alice Jenkins	Bristol	Medicine
Phemie Jennings	Leeds Beckett	Events Management
George Jessop	Leeds	Liberal Arts
Hanyue Jiang		
Scarlet Johnson	Nottingham Trent	Psychology with Criminology
Isabella Jones	Newcastle	Geography
Millie Jones	Leeds	Environment & Business
Natasha Karl	Gap Year	
Abigail Kerr	York	Environment, Economics & Ecology
Nima Kordany	Sheffield Hallam	International Business
Henry Langley	Loughborough	Financial Mathematics
Alex Li	Newcastle	Music
Xinglue Liu	Birmingham	Chemistry
Francesca Mauro	Exeter	Law
Laura McCartie	Birmingham	Law
Findlay McMurray	Oxford Brookes	Business & Management
Gabriel Mocanas	Nottingham	Accountancy
Joseph Moerman	Southampton	Aeronautics & Aeronautical Engineering
Thomas Morgan	Leicester	Human Geography
Eilisha North	Lincoln	Biomedical Science

Student	Destination	Course
Olivia Nwosu	Leicester	Medicine
Chloe O'Donnell	York St John	Primary Education
Luke Patterson-Tarling	Writtle	Veterinary Physiotherapy
Arin Pekdemir	Sheffield	Engineering
Vivienne Percival	Leeds Art	Animation
Nadia Pigott	Nottingham Trent	Marketing
Oscar Port	Loughborough	Sport & Exercise Science
Lucy Price	Durham (2021)	Geography
Oscar Proietti	Lancaster	History & Politics
Autumn Raw	Gap Year	
Oliver Robertson	Nottingham Trent	Business
Sophie Rouwenhorst	Apprenticeship - Ernst & Young	
Sophia Saint	Sheffield	Business Management
Amelia Saunders	Kent	Italian & Management
Conovan Shea-Hodges	Nottingham Trent (2021)	Computer Science (Games Tech)
Matthew Smith	Sheffield	Engineering
Rosie Smith	Nottingham Trent	Fashion Marketing & Branding
Thomas Smith	Nottingham	Chemistry
Aryaki Soni	Sheffield	Medicine
Max Thomas	Durham	Geography
Tabitha Tajeiro	Winchester	Musical Theatre
Laurence Turvey	Bristol	Mathematics
Sophie Underwood	Newcastle	Geography
Katherine Watson	Essex	English & French Law
Ed Willan	Liverpool	Zoology
Daisy Williams	Cardiff (2021)	Social Science

Top OK destinations over the last 5 years:

1. Nottingham Trent
2. Leeds
3. Durham
4. Newcastle
5. Nottingham



Updating your record with the OKA

The last few editions of the OK News have reminded you that you can access and amend your own record by means of a username and password and logging into the Member's area on the OK website.

If you haven't yet got your login details, please email alumni@kimbolton.cambs.sch.uk.

A simpler way of doing this (for you rather than for us!) is to complete the online form accessed by clicking 'OK Update Form' in the OKA Membership area of the website.

The screenshot shows the OKA website interface. On the left, there is a navigation menu with various categories. The 'OK Update Form' link is highlighted in the 'Membership' section. A purple circle with the text 'PLEASE CLICK HERE' and an arrow points to this link. The main content area displays 'Old Kimboltonians' with a description of the association and several photographs of school events and sports teams.

We don't mind which way you opt for, all we ask is that you do keep the OKA updated when your contact details change!

Don't forget that you can also use the **Members' Area** to look up your old school friends and their profiles (if they have given their permission!), update your own details and tell us what you are doing these days.

THE OK NEWS

The only hard-copy communication the OKA send out now is the annual *OK News* magazine.

With increasing costs to us - and the environment - we are trying to reduce the number of magazines printed and posted, and encourage OKs to receive an electronic copy.

If you would be happy to receive an electronic copy in the future, please email us at:

alumni@kimbolton.cambs.sch.uk

ARE YOU RECEIVING EMAILS FROM THE OKA?

From time to time we do email *OK Updates* and other relevant communications to all members of the OKA but we have noticed on the email platform we use that some emails are not being opened.

If you have given us your email address, but haven't been receiving any of our communications by email, please do get in touch so we can check we have your correct details.

If you know that we do have your correct details, then please check your spam folder and ensure that the OKA is on your whitelist.

Thank you!

OKA Archives

It seems that a few of you used the time during the lockdowns to review your photo albums and in doing so came across some old school photos. Here's a few that were sent into us...

Tom Flintham (OK 63) sent in a family photo, taken in the garden of Manor House, Dean around 1880. Two boys in the photo are wearing what appears to be Kimbolton School uniform - the uniform looks the same as that worn by pupils in one of the earliest school photos taken circa 1890 when Reverend Edward Ulyat was Headmaster.

The family pictured is that of Tom's maternal great grandfather and the boys in the uniform are, from left to right, Edward (Tom's great uncle) and Alfred (his grandfather). Tom has found out that the 1881 census lists Edward as a farmer's son aged 15 and Alfred as a scholar aged 13. He suspects that after leaving Kimbolton they both went to do farm work.

When Tom started at Kimbolton his mother gave a book to Headmaster Cyril Lewis that was a prize originally awarded to Edward. Sadly the whereabouts of the book is not known now.



OKA ARCHIVES



Don't forget that you can browse through lots of old school photos, Kimboltonian magazines and other documents on the OK digital archives on our website.

OKs have unlimited access, but **will need a password** to log in to the resource - contact the OKA Office to obtain your login details.



Mike Wort (OK 71) put together a collection of photos from around 1970. They were all taken by Mike and developed (and printed) in the school darkroom. He has lots more and is happy to share them - if you'd like digital copies, please let the OKA Office know and we'll put you in touch with Mike.



Remembering OKs lost at war

The annual Remembrance Sunday Parade was another victim of the pandemic, however the School still marked Armistice Day. Pupils and staff gathered on the Prep playing fields and around the Castle's West Lawn in socially distanced year groups for the Last Post, Act of Remembrance and two minute silence at 11 am on the 11 November.



The boarders marked Remembrance Sunday with a poignant display at White House.

In the *2020 OK News* we made reference to two OKs who were awarded the George Cross for their actions during WW2. Simon Sanders (OK 66) has done some research into Raymond Lewin (OK 33) and Dennis Copperwheat (OK 29)...

A number of years ago in a previous issue of the OK Magazine the late Headmaster, C H Lewis had written about the two OK's awarded the George Cross during the Second World War. Here is an outline of their stories of courage. Interestingly both awards were made for acts of bravery on the George Cross Island of Malta.

Sgt. RAYMOND MATTHEW LEWIN RAF.

Raymond Lewin attended Kimbolton School from 1927 to 1933. A pre-war private pilot, he was a joint owner with his brother, of a light aircraft based at Sywell. Pre-war he had been a member of his local ATC Squadron and joined the RAFVR.

On the 3rd of November 1940, while serving on Malta with 148 Squadron, Sgt. Lewin was captain of a Wellington aircraft taking off on a raid when it lost height and crashed into a hillside, bursting into flames.

Having observed 3 of his crew escape, he then crawled under the blazing wing to rescue his co-pilot despite suffering a broken kneecap and severe contusions to his face and legs. Dragging him 40 yards to safety in a hole, Lewin then covered him with his own body as the bombload exploded.

His award of the George Cross was gazetted on the 11th of May 1941.

Sadly, almost a year after his bravery, on the 21st November 1941, the now Pilot Officer Lewin was killed when the aircraft he was flying in crashed attempting to land at RAF Oakington.

Raymond is buried in his home town Kettering, in the CWGC Plot, London Road Cemetery, Row OO, grave No. 9.



Lewin as a Pilot Officer

Lt. DENNIS ARTHUR COPPERWHEAT RN.

Dennis Copperwheat attended Kimbolton School having won a scholarship and was described by the then headmaster William Ingram as “a good boy and a good sportsman”. He left school aged 15 to join the Royal Navy in 1930 and in October of 1939 he was commissioned as a Lieutenant. He was in HMS Penelope as a Torpedo and Explosives Specialist while she was based at Malta.

On 22nd of March 1942 during a heavy air raid targeting Valetta Harbour, Lt. Copperwheat was ordered to lead a team of sailors to board a Norwegian merchantman the Talabot carrying a cargo of ammunition including bombs. She had been hit approaching Valetta and was on fire inside the harbour. His instructions were to scuttle Talabot and prevent a devastating explosion which would render the harbour useless.



The deck cargo of ammunition had caught fire and was exploding so they had to use a crane to lay the charges alongside the ship as it was impossible to enter the holds of Talabot. In addition, the scuttling charges could not be connected to the detonator as the connecting cables were too short. Ordering his team to shelter, Copperwheat then moved to reconnect the cables which promptly set off the charges. He was as a consequence, was subjected to the full force of the explosion which blew him off his feet.

The operation was a success and subsequently much of the cargo was recovered. His award of the George Cross was gazetted on the 17th of November 1942. It was the first to be awarded to a Royal Naval Officer. Dennis continued to serve in the Royal Navy

rising to the rank of Lieutenant Commander and retiring in 1957. Dennis Copperwheat passed away on the 8th of September 1992 and is buried in Weekley Parish Churchyard, Kettering (see gravestone above).

Altogether three George Crosses were awarded for bravery during the Siege of Malta in The Second World War. One of course to the People of the Island of Malta, and the other two went to Old Kimboltonians. “Lest we forget!”

S.R.Sanders OK 66.



Copperwheat as Lt Cmdr

Old Kimboltonians' Association Military Network

For many years former member of staff, Roger Watson, has kept the OKA updated with the toing and froing of OKs in the Armed Forces. His contact has been extremely valuable but now that he has stepped down from his involvement with the OKA Committee we will miss that useful link.

The OKA are therefore keen to build on the information we already have and are seeking to develop the network of OKs who have served in the United Kingdom Armed Forces. We are grateful to Cameron Lane-Ley (OK 10) who has volunteered to help co-ordinate this.

The aim is to provide a pool of individuals who are willing to share their experience with current students and staff and develop a mentoring and social network through our shared history of military service and Kimbolton School.

If you are a serving or retired member of the Regular or Reserve United Kingdom Armed Forces and are interested in helping to build this network then please contact:

Cameron Lane-Ley (OK 10) via cjlaneley@gmail.com or the OKA Office.



OKA Scholarship Trust Fund

For over fifteen years the OKA Scholarship Trust Fund has enabled two pupils each year to continue their education at Kimbolton throughout the Sixth Form. Due to certain circumstances, such as redundancy or the sad loss of a parent, the payment of full school fees for the recipients' families was unachievable without the additional financial support.

The widespread impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on the financial situation of many families has highlighted the value of the Trust Fund even further. The Trustees are pleased to have been able to maintain the current award of £6,000 per annum, despite the continuing lack of opportunities for risk free investment, and know that the award is greatly appreciated by both the deserving pupils and the School.

Donations can be added to the fund capital to generate income over future years; under the terms of the fund the capital cannot be spent, so your contribution will assist pupils in the future. Alternatively, donations can be added to the sum available to allocate to the next award, in which case it will be used straight away.

If you would like to find out more and help ensure the continuity of this support and made a donation, please do get in touch:

www.oks.co.uk/LendingSupport

alumni@kimbolton.cambs.sch.uk

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.



Reuniting OKs

During the first lockdown many of you will have found yourselves with extra time - time to do those things at home that you just haven't got around to doing before and to try out new hobbies and skills, but also time to reflect on things and perhaps wonder what happened to a friend from school who you have not had contact with for some time. Recognising this, and to give some support to OKs who were isolating alone, the OKA instigated a 'Find an OK' initiative offering to track down and reunite long lost school friends.

We received a good number of requests from you to keep us busy and were immediately able to put a few OKs back in touch with each other. Some OKs who weren't already in contact with the OKA were tracked down and others proved more difficult to find, in fact we are still looking for them!

Read about a few of the OKs we reunited below and find out who are we still trying to trace...

Alan Raffie & Bill Downing (both OK 72)

Alan got in touch from his home in Vancouver, Canada, as he was interested in getting in touch with William (Bill) Downing. Bill was one of Alan's best friends during their time together at Kimbolton; they met up a few times in London after they left school where Bill had started a career in acting.

Their contact dwindled and they both lost touch with each other. Fortunately Bill was a member of the OKA so we were able to re-connect them straight away, so after nearly 50 years the friends have been reunited. Alan's plan is to visit Bill on his next trip to the UK!

Ian Burton (Former Staff) & David Wilkie (OK 58)

Ian has spent a lot of his retirement researching and writing about the history of the village of Papworth, where he grew up. He asked the OKA to put him in touch with David Wilkie (OK 59) who lived in Papworth at the same time.

David is a member of the OKA so we were able to arrange for the exchange of contact details straight away.

Simon Adlam & David Godding (both OK 60)

David lived in Croxton and used to catch the United Counties bus from St Neots to school each morning; Simon boarded the same bus at Hail Weston. He now lives the other side of St Neots and found himself wondering what happened to David, so decided to put the OK 'Find a Friend' system to the test!

This connection wasn't so simple as David wasn't a member of the OKA and the last time he visited Kimbolton was in the early 1980s when he brought his son to have a look around the School. Nevertheless we did a bit of detective work and found contact details for a David Godding that matched our profile - thank you to Companies House and a local Rotary Club newsletter!

A couple of emails later and not only were Simon & David back in touch with each other again, but the OKA also had another OK to add to their current membership list!

We have made several other connections, however have yet to receive feedback on the 'reunions' from those involved. As well as this, time has been spent tracking down some OKs who have lost contact with the OKA. For the 'Find an OK' initiative we are currently looking to get in contact with the following OKs - if you know of their whereabouts and can help the OKA put them in touch with their school friends, please get in touch:

John Roxburgh (OK 46)

Peter Green (OK 61)

Robert Peel (OK 63)

Robin Willows (OK 64) - may be in Australia?

John (Doug) Field (OK 66)

Geoffrey Dunne (OK 67) - may be in the USA?

Peter Connor (OK 69)

Frances Murphy (OK 71)

Kami Zanganeh (OK 77)

Michael Widmer (OK 80)

We recognise that it could be distressing to see the name of someone you know who is deceased within this list. If you are aware of any such circumstances, please let us know.

OKA Sponsorship

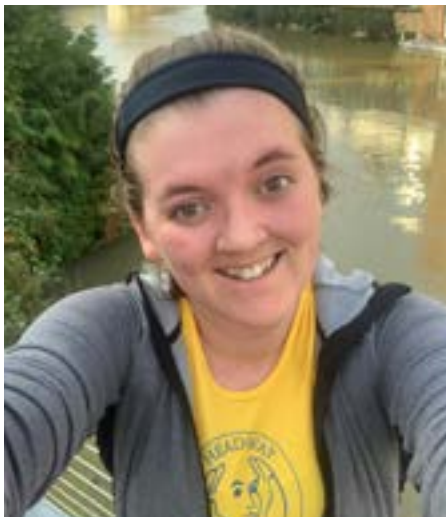
Last year the OKs the OKA sponsored Amy Gordon (OK 13) and Olivia Turon (OK 08) who were running the London Marathon and the Marathon des Sables respectively. Sadly both events were cancelled due to the pandemic, but with a positive attitude both OKs have re-scheduled to take part in the events this year. We caught up with them to find out how their training had been disrupted and how they found the determination to keep going...

Training for a marathon after brain surgery

AMY GORDON (OK 13)

If someone asked you what you were doing on the evening of 31st December 2018, would you be able to tell them? A lot has happened in the world since then, so you could easily be forgiven for not being able to remember. For me, that evening sticks out in my memory as clear as day. As the clock struck midnight and fireworks filled the sky above my Oxford flat, I was curled up on my bathroom floor showing the first signs of the illness that would soon come very close to killing me.

The month that followed changed my life forever. My next clear memory is waking up in a recovery ward at Addenbrookes hospital 23 days later. For months, an asymptomatic ear infection had been causing an abscess to grow on my



brain, and I'd undergone emergency neurosurgery that undoubtedly saved my life.

Whilst at first glance, it looks like I've come out of my ordeal unscathed, the truth is that life after coming so close to death's door is incredibly difficult. As a result of my illness, I will have to wear a hearing aid for the rest of my life, and will probably always have cognitive issues. At the age of twenty-three, a long-term prognosis like that was almost impossible to get my head around.

That's why I got in touch with Headway Oxfordshire - my local branch of the national charity Headway, who support survivors of brain injury across the UK. Within days of my first email to them, I had an influx of support from the Headway team. Since then, they have worked tirelessly to make my life easier amid the enormity of growing accustomed to life with a disability.

I thank my lucky stars every day that I don't need a high level of support from Headway. Still, many service users rely on the services they provide for physical and emotional support. That's why I decided to run the 2020 London Marathon to raise vital funds for the charity. I'm sure anyone reading this who remembers my lack of sporting prowess at school will be surprised that I've chosen to run a marathon. I couldn't possibly count the number of excuses I used to try (and fail) to get out of running the annual school cross country race every October. Add a brain injury to my sporting inability, and you get a recipe for disaster!

Unsurprisingly, I found my first six months of training incredibly challenging. I wasn't a good runner before my surgery, and the endless list of cognitive issues I now have makes



it so much more difficult. I persevered through the winter though and managed to complete a half marathon to celebrate my 25th Birthday at the beginning of March. Then, the pandemic hit. On the 22nd March, I was added to the shielding list, and my training came to an abrupt halt. Of all the difficulties I foresaw in completing the challenge, having to complete the 26 miles on a cross-trainer in my parents back garden had never crossed my mind!

Whilst having to put aside something I'd worked so hard for wasn't ideal, it means I've got longer to fundraise. As I write this, I've raised a total of £4,500, which I hope to build on before the postponed date of the 3rd October 2021. The OKA has contributed £250 of my current total, and I'm incredibly thankful to them for that.

Training is underway already, and now that I'm a year further on from neurosurgery I'm hoping it will be a lot easier. If you'd like to know more about my journey so far or keep up to date with my training in the lead up to October, please do take a look at my blog [26 Miles from Brain Injury](http://www.26miles.co.uk) (www.26miles.co.uk) where there's also a link to my fundraising page.

Just a bit more than a marathon...

OLIVIA TURON (OK 08)

I must have been 10 years old when I first learnt about the Marathon des Sables (MdS). A segment on Blue Peter explained that it had been dubbed “the toughest footrace on Earth”: a 250km race across the Sahara desert. Every year, over the course of 7 days, 1000 participants run through dunes, sand and 45 degree heat by day, carrying their food and survival essentials for the week on their backs. At night, they sleep under the stars. Chronic blisters, heatstroke, dehydration, getting lost, and being bitten by scorpions and snakes mean that up to a quarter of the runners each year do not cross the finish line. But for those who do, it’s a life-changing week of physical exertion, magical landscapes, and camaraderie with runners from around the world - as well as fund-raising for Moroccan local education and sporting charities. All of it captured my 10 year-old imagination.

20 years later, in April 2019, I signed up to participate in the 2020 MdS. I’d run a marathon by then, and a few half marathons, but I didn’t really feel like a ‘runner’. Definitely not one who could run the equivalent of 7 marathons (2 of which are run consecutively, so 85km in one day) back-to-back in the desert. But there was still something about the race that intrigued me, and it felt like as good a time as any to scratch this MdS itch.

I knew it was going to be a big undertaking, both physically and mentally. I enlisted various people to help me along the way: a running coach, nutritionist, running kit experts, podiatrist, massage therapist, even a sports hypnotherapist at one point - and

countless friends and family members who were primed to be simultaneously bored stiff by one-sided running conversations, and worried about me getting lost in the desert, for a full twelve months.

No number of experts or patient loved ones absolves you from the physical training itself, though. I slowly built up from running 10km a week, to 80km, 90km, and then 100km. Hill sprints, sand running, a lot of squats and hilly marathons with weighted backpacks were all part of the weekly schedule. Much of it was gruelling: I was living in Denmark at the time, and running mostly solo through the rain, wind and cold of the Scandinavian winter was bleak, to say the least. But there were great moments, too: taking part in local races on remote Danish islands, getting slightly lost in forests on clear autumnal days, and running through hills with wild ponies for company. And, of course, knowing that every kilometre was taking me closer to the desert, was the biggest motivation of them all.

By March 2020, I was 11 months in, and



had 1 month to go. I’d completed my final long run before the race, and had clocked up over 2500km - almost the width of the United States. I started my heat acclimation, where I prepared my body for the heat of the desert by sitting in a sauna for an hour every day. Sounds nice and relaxing, but this part was more unpleasant than any run session I ever did!

I packed my backpack, with all my lightweight dehydrated food and mandatory survival items for the week, and discarded luxury items (e.g. a spare pair of socks) until it weighed below

8kg, the load I knew I could comfortably carry. I started visualising the finish line. My boyfriend collected motivational voice messages on a tiny ipod shuffle from my friends and family, for me to listen to when times would inevitably get tough in the desert. My head, kit and legs were ready!

And then, with two weeks to go, Coronavirus struck, borders closed, lockdown happened, and the race was postponed. To have trained for so long and so hard, and for it to be within reaching distance, was a really tough pill to swallow. Against the backdrop of a global pandemic, though, a postponed race seemed like a very small sacrifice to make. So I unpacked my bag, rested for a month, and then tied up my laces to start training again for the rescheduled date in September. In August, Coronavirus still at large, the race was postponed again, until April 2021 - exactly a year after I’d intended to run it.

At the moment (December 2020), no one knows whether the race will go ahead as planned in April. I’m back

training in the cold and the wind as if it’s going to, and keeping all my chilblained fingers and blistered toes crossed until then. If it happens, you’ll hear about my experiences in a later OKA issue. And if it doesn’t, well, I’ve got to do something with these two years and 5500km of training, so I’m sure another adventure will beckon.

A big thank you to the OKA for generously funding part of my race preparations. This article is dedicated to the Kimbolton School athletics track, around which I ran many times (much, much faster than I’ll run across the Sahara) in the early 2000s and which has become my main motivation tool for when I invariably hit ‘the wall’ in my long runs. When I’m convinced I can go no further, visualising those grassy 400m around the football pitch never fails to see me through.

Research about the effect of trust

REBECCA HEATH (OK 16)

I joined Kimbolton in 2014 in the Lower 6th and studied Economics, Mathematics, Further Mathematics and Physics. Kimbolton allowed my love of economics and maths to flourish and I went on to study Economics at the University of Cambridge (King's College).

During my studies I developed a particular interest in microeconomic theory, experimental economics and empirical microeconomics. After graduating in 2019 my next step was to study for the MPhil in Economic Research at Cambridge (Churchill College).

My dissertation investigated the effect of ancestry on trust and trustworthiness and to complete this it was necessary to carry out online experiments. The sponsorship received from the OKA, together with funding from Churchill College, was used to finance these online experiments.

Generalised trust has been found

to increase GDP growth rates and education indices, and to improve the rule of law. The study of ancestry has been used to assess the role of genetic and socialisation factors relative to experiential factors. There are three explanations of trust: experiential, genetic and socialisation. The latter predicts that trust is passed on through interactions with family and friends, such as observing parents, locking doors or lending personal possessions to friends. Ancestry refers to the line of descent, which is measured by the country of birth parents, grandparents and more distant relatives. If ancestry has a significant effect after controlling for life experiences and country of residence, it provides evidence for the genetic and socialisation explanation of trust.

My study tested whether ancestry effects are robust to measuring trust using the Trust Game. This is a decision-making experiment designed by Berg, Duckhau, and McCabe (1995). Participants are randomly divided into trustors and trustees, and both groups are endowed with a \$10 show-up fee. Each trustor can send any integer amount of this \$10 fee to an anonymous trustee. The amount sent is tripled before reaching the trustee. The trustee can then send back any quantity of this tripled amount. The



trustor benefits financially from trusting only if the trustee is trustworthy and returns more than the amount sent. The proportion sent is measured as trust. The proportion returned is measured as trustworthiness.

I administered the Trust Game online using Qualtrics and data was collected on 248 subjects in July and August 2020.

This gave me valuable experience in designing and running experiments, which I will use for my PhD in Economics. I plan to do this before going on to an academic career in microeconomics. In the UK only 15.5% of economics professors are women according to the Royal Economic Society (RES). I am keen to bring further representation to economics and be a role model to younger girls.

LOOKING FOR Sponsorship?

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@kimbolton.cambs.sch.uk

Wearing the Association Colours

OKA MERCHANDISE



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

Visit the Merchandise section of the OKA website at

www.oks.co.uk

OKA Accounts - Year Ending 31 August 2020

Despite the level of expenditure resulting in a small deficit for the year ending August 2020, the OKA balance sheet remains healthy.

As all OKA events are non-profit making, their cancellation in 2020 had no impact on the bottom line figures. The Association's income (through membership fees, sale of merchandise, donations and bank interest received) was slightly above that of the previous financial year, however the continuing costs associated with running the Association and the increase in postage costs and level of donations made to the OK Scholarship Trust Fund and to the sponsorship of OKs, led to a deficit of £3340 for the year. All expenditure is focussed on moving the Association forward and the OKA Committee are grateful that funds continue to enable this.

The Committee would like to take this opportunity to thank Krista Alves, Deputy Bursar, for her guidance and support in maintaining the OKA Accounts.

If you would like further details, or to view a full copy of the accounts, please get in touch with the OKA Office.

OKA Balance Sheet as at 31st August 2020

2020		2019
£61,165	Current Net Assets	£65,190
<i>Represented by:</i>		
£ 6,628	Bank Current Account	£10,365
£ 2,696	Market Harborough Building Society	£ 2,669
£17,372	Nationwide 1	£17,305
£30,296	Nationwide 2	£30,000
£ 4,178	OK Merchandise Value	£ 4,850

**PETER
CHANDLER** – CCA Ltd
www.peterchandler.co.uk

Chartered
Certified
Accountants

A big thank you to Peter Chandler - CCA Ltd of St Neots who voluntarily audited the OKA accounts in 2020.

The OK Lodge of Freemasons (Lodge No 7204)

By John Hitchin, OK 71 (Lodge Secretary)

The Old Kimboltonians Lodge has had an 'interesting' 2020 but, as with everyone else, there has been cause for optimism.

This time last year I was able to report on seven very happy and successful Old Kimboltonians Lodge Meetings attended in total by some 400 Lodge members and their guests. Our social occasions all assist with the charitable giving that Freemasonry is known for, and I reported that our donations included £3,300 to the OK Trust Fund, and bursaries to an Old Kimbolton at the Guildhall School of Music to assist her with her studies and to the daughter of a member of School non-teaching staff who had so tragically lost her father at the young age of 51 to help her during her time at University.

This year's report, unsurprisingly, is slightly reduced! In 2020 the Old Kimboltonians Lodge only met twice, once in February at St James' Piccadilly and once locally in St Ives for a socially distanced meeting with only 5 members present in line with Government guidelines. Under Grand Lodge rules we were not permitted to hold a formal dinner but 3 of those who attended the meeting did enjoy a private dinner at the Wheatsheaf, Perry which was extremely pleasant. I imagine the other diners wondered what was going on when the three members turned up in DJs wearing Old Kimboltonian ties!

We were fortunate that our annual February Lunch went ahead as planned (at that time there was no real worry about 'this strange flu thing') and we were thrilled to have the Prep School Headmaster, Phil Foley, and his wife Caroline, attend as guests of honour. Just over 100 members, guests and friends attended and, with many people having connections with the School, it was a truly Kimbolton School occasion. Phil responded to a toast to the School and expressed his delight with the occasion and especially thanked the Lodge for its continuing support of the School.

Sadly the lunch ended up being our only sizeable event of 2020. The August Summer Dinner and Winter Ball planned for November had to be cancelled, along with our meetings in March, May and September.

However, the good news is that despite being a few thousand pounds short on our usual income from the proceeds, collections and raffles from our social occasions, the OK Lodge has met in full all of its committed charitable giving including the two bursaries of £250 as mentioned above and an uplifted donation to the OK Trust Fund of £3,600. We're delighted that, in total, the OK Lodge has been able to make charitable donations in 2020 exceeding £7,000. In these difficult times Charity is more important than ever.

These continuing donations were only made possible by an extremely generous response to appeals to the Lodge's 65 members who have given in total in excess of £4,000 over and



OK Lodge 2020 Meeting at St James'

above their normal regular donations.

I would stress at this point that neither Freemasonry in general nor the Old Kimboltonians Lodge in particular are Charities but both are very much 'charitable'. Freemasonry is about much more than supporting worthy causes.

If you are interested in finding out more or, indeed, joining the OK Lodge, please don't hesitate to get in touch. We currently have four OKs waiting to join (with another two 'possibles'), and we'd really like to add to that list. Our members are aged between 19 and 80, so please don't be put off if you think that membership is limited to OKs of a certain era!

Our social events are open to all, so if you would like to find out more about what we have planned for 2021 (Covid restrictions permitting), please get in touch with myself (contact details below) and I will be delighted to give you further details and add you to the 'invite list'.

OK LODGE CONTACT DETAILS

Secretary John Hitchin



07702 597670



johnhitchin@btinternet.com



www.oklodge.org



Old Kimboltonians' Lodge

The Pandemic OK Stories

As Covid-19 crept up on us early in 2020 and lockdown was imposed, news of how this was affecting some OKs started to trickle through to the OKA. We spotted a couple of familiar names in the news and heard about OKs adapting their businesses to support key workers and taking the opportunity to set up a new businesses and do things that they'd always wanted to do, but had not had time to do before.

It prompted the OKA to find out more and ask OKs how their life had been affected by the pandemic and what they'd been up to during the lockdowns - read the news of OKs and stories we received below...

OKs we spotted in the News...

Nicole Rouwenhorst (OK 14) was spotted on the front page of the BBC business website in June talking to the nation about her experience of starting a new job when working remotely.

Nicole joined a marketing company in Manchester just as lockdown started and she had to get to know her new work colleagues online. It turns out the experience wasn't as daunting as she thought it would be and it was perhaps easier getting to know people by video call in their natural home environment.



Many of us watched the daily Government Briefings during the first lockdown and in April we heard Gen Sir Nick Carter, Chief of the Defence Staff, set out how members of the Armed Forces were helping in the fight against coronavirus including in logistics, testing and battling misinformation.

He made specific mention of **Major Eb Mukhtar (OK 96)** who had been brought in from his day job as a logistics expert for Google's transport network across Europe, North Africa and the Middle East, to work with the military.

Eb had designed an e-portal in conjunction with the online auction site, Ebay, and a supply chain to get PPE to where it was needed.

For his involvement Eb was awarded an MBE in the Queen's Birthday Honours list (*see below*).



QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY HONOURS LIST 2020

We were delighted to see the names of two OKs on the Queen's Birthday Honours list in October in recognition of their contribution during the Covid-19 pandemic.

Acting Major **Eb Mukhtar (OK 96)**, Corps of Royal Engineers, Army Reserve was awarded an MBE for his involvement in creating a vital e-portal for delivery of PPE to the NHS during the early stages of the pandemic

Marcus Jones (OK 03) was awarded a BEM for his services to transport after spearheading a number of initiatives to keep passengers and staff safe while ensuring the DLR services kept running.

Congratulations to both of them!

OKs on the front line...

Stephan Abdallah (OK 12)

Stephan studied Biology at Queen Mary, University of London. He is now in his final year of Medicine at Keele University.

I was beginning to prepare for my final written medical exams when we got plunged into lockdown in March. After 7 long years of continuous study, I was selfishly very concerned about how I would be able to demonstrate that I had the skills necessary to graduate as a doctor if placement and assessment couldn't proceed as normal.

I was lucky to be able to find a job at Northampton General Hospital, where I was able to get experience performing lots of the tasks normally undertaken by junior doctors, but with strict supervision. It was a real eye opener to see the hospital almost full with one type of patient; virtually everyone on the wards I was dispatched to had COVID.

As a medical student, we are often shielded from many of the harsher aspects of the job. It's not often that patients we come into contact with die, so I found witnessing deaths most days very difficult, but I made friends with medical students from all around the Midlands and feel proud I was able to do my bit.

As much as I understand how the lockdown prevented the hospitals becoming overwhelmed, I also fear that there will be unintended consequences of lockdown for people's health, as less urgent NHS services moved online or ground to a halt.

I am now back in University completing my assistantship year, I was able to sit my finals in a socially distanced exam hall, and I hope to graduate in July providing there are no more interruptions. The experience I gained at Northampton will help me so much when I start working properly and the money I earned is helping me through my final year. Overall I am grateful for the opportunity, but I'm looking forward to the day when I can go for a pint with my school friends without having to worry about distancing. I also feel greatly for the OKs of 2020 who will not be getting the full University experience.



Stephen Fu (OK 07)

Stephen graduated from the University of Liverpool before completing his GP training in the North West. He is currently a General Practitioner, Specialty Doctor in Palliative Medicine and Honorary Clinical Lecturer in Liverpool.

As a palliative care doctor in a hospice, I have seen the effects of COVID-19 first hand, from caring for those dying from the virus to those who are struggling with their delayed diagnosis of cancer as a result of lockdown.



I have always found working in palliative care a challenging and rewarding vocation. The complications brought about by COVID-19 have made it much harder, whilst affirming my wish to deliver good patient care. One of the most rewarding new roles has been born from

necessity - having to not only be the doctor but also family to dying patients who can't have visitors.

In my other life as a GP, both my colleagues and I have been working hard to care for the most vulnerable in society. This is a new experience for all of us, from consulting remotely by telephone or video calls to seeing patients face to face with full PPE. I never thought that I would be teaching my elderly patients on how to use their smartphones!

These changes all seemed to have happened overnight with little chance for planning. We didn't get things right straight away but I am proud of how well we have managed to continue supporting our patients.

There is an assumption by some people that GPs aren't seeing patients during the pandemic. This is not true. Please remember that your GP practice remains opened and seek help promptly!

I have had to reconcile my own anxieties and fears relating to COVID-19 with a desire to do my part working as an NHS doctor. 2020 has been a real challenge but I am glad to be able to keep doing my part.

Georgie Spence-Jones (OK 14)

Georgie Spence-Jones studied farm management for a year after leaving Kimbolton but decided to change to another career that she would find more challenging. She credits her mum for suggesting becoming a paramedic, as she loves talking to people: "I hate to admit it, but my mum was on the money – again!" she says. After achieving a first degree in Paramedic Science, she is now studying for an MSc in Trauma Science at Queen Mary, University of London, as well as working on the front line.

I'm based out of St Ives ambulance station with my crewmate Steve who is a senior Emergency Medical Technician. Steve has been frontline for 17 years and his experience is invaluable and keeps me on the straight and narrow! We attend all calls as a double crew but can request further assistance in events like cardiac arrests and peri-arrest patients. I can also work on my own on a Rapid Response Vehicle (RRV) where I will be sent generally to the highest priority calls on my own.



Georgie, pictured on the left, at work with a colleague

We work anywhere in the eastern counties. Primarily we serve people across Norfolk, Suffolk, Cambridgeshire, Hertfordshire, Bedfordshire and Essex. I was in Hertfordshire one night recently as we had a job that took us to Addenbrookes and from there we got a job further south towards Stevenage. Generally the primary hospitals we feed into are Hinchingbrooke, Peterborough City Hospital, Bedford South Wing A&E, Addenbrookes, Kings Lynn and the West Suffolk.

We also do transfers to specialist units for patients who need specialist care. Broomfield, London Hospitals, Great Ormond Street, Birmingham and Leicester are just a few.

I work with critical care teams (Magpas/East Anglian air ambulance etc) as part of multi-disciplinary teams at major incidents/traumatic injuries/medical emergencies requiring advanced pre-hospital care. I work on a road ambulance currently and volunteer

helping run the Pre-Hospital Emergency Medicine courses for the critical care teams. As a result I was fortunate (prior to Covid) to be able to spend a few shifts with Magpas on both the RRV and the helicopter.

As far as the 2020 pandemic is concerned, it's been one extraordinary year! After completing my undergraduate degree in February, I was ready for some celebratory drinks and graduation parties before the frontline duties began.

Well, it didn't happen!

Immediately after leaving university I was sent to undertake my blue light response course. All was going swimmingly until myself and a few others on the course contracted Covid-19. Anyway, after a few weeks of sleep, fluids, paracetamol and isolation, fortunately we were all fit for frontline duties and completed the remainder of our blue light training.

Expecting to arrive at work and start operational duties as I had trained to do, I was greeted by a bombardment of new protocols and personal protective instructions. Whilst these were implemented for staff protection in the unknown realms of COVID-19, there were some teething problems. Trying to drive at night on blue lights, or attend to sick patients whilst the steam on your glasses was almost completely impairing your vision was somewhat challenging.

There has been a lot of extra pressure recently and call numbers have fluctuated. Whilst some days we have received smaller call volumes, the proportion of patients who are critically ill appears to have increased. Patients have been not calling us for longer as they are conscious of the extra pressures on the NHS and as a result have become significantly more unwell. Ambulance staff generally prefer patients that are not significantly unwell - so please call us earlier!

It's not all doom and gloom though. The lockdown restrictions have provided me with a lot more time to work on my MSc and less time in the pub. The support for community, hospital and emergency healthcare staff has been amazing, and I think it has fuelled the continued hard work and spirits of those key workers. The inter-profession support and teamwork has been inspiring with hospitals and pre-hospital care clinicians and the public all adapting to the challenging and forever changing situation.

Fingers crossed, the efforts to limit the spread and effect of Covid-19 will enable 2021 to be a very different year and we can all go back to the pub!

Other OKs' experiences during the pandemic...

Faced with no work, Oli Knell (OK 13) took the plunge and set up his own business.

I have worked in the catering/hospitality industry for the last few years and before the pandemic struck I was Head Chef at a restaurant in Clapham.

At the start of the first lockdown in March I found myself without a job as the restaurant was forced to shut, but I put my skills to good use and volunteered to work with a charity providing cooked meals to the vulnerable and needy in London. I even featured in the BBC Politics Show one Sunday in May that highlighted how some businesses and charities had adapted during the lockdown to help people.

The whole experience prompted me to consider what I could do next and during the summer I spent time planning to set up my own catering business. In September I launched *Noughts & Croquettes* - a street food business serving the most delicious croquettes in London.



Despite the ever-changing restrictions imposed throughout 2020 plus a second and third lockdown, I have been able to keep the business going.

Deliveries were even extended to specific areas outside London in November, and I have also ventured into fine-dining deliveries. Even Gordon Ramsey has taken an interest and follows *noughtsandcroquettes* on Instagram!

If you live in & around London, please take a look at our Facebook page - it would be great to be able to deliver to some OKs!



www.facebook.com/NoughtsandCroquettes

www.noughtsandcroquettes.com

Lucinda Sinclair (OK 08) joined other amazing fashion designers, costume makers and crafters in making scrubs for the NHS during lockdown one.

She gave her time to receive pre-cut scrubs made from donated fabric and sew them together in her home studio, while continuing to run her online fashion business - Church of Sanctus.



Alan Raffie (OK 72) got in touch from his home in Vancouver at the start of the pandemic. He was self-quarantining but making the most of the time (and quite enjoying it!) by learning spanish and doing lost of reading.

He's pictured here making good use of his OK scarf!



2020 - The year I chose for a Sabbatical... Andy Simons (OK 82)

In May 2019 I had a plan. I'd been a UK Hospital Consultant for 20 years, I had a successful Private Practice but I thought it was a good time to have a sabbatical, a break, go and do something different, to have an adventure with my wife and young children (yes I'm a 56-year-old man with a 11 and 8yr boys). So both my wife and I took sabbaticals from our NHS work in Chichester, sent a car and belongings by container ship, rented our house out and on 8th January 2020 left the United Kingdom on take up posts as Consultants in Auckland, New Zealand.

Oh we had such plans. We were going to be earning NZ\$ so we could spend them on travelling round the South Pacific. We had the whole year planned; of a trip to Sydney, Australia, a RV trip around the South Island of NZ, birthday in the Cook Islands, a week in Hobart, a week in Cairns (Australia) and skiing in NZ. My elder daughters (27,21,19) were coming to visit and travel too. After a year in NZ we would travel back slowly through southeast Asia.

My kids were put into a local primary school in Auckland, my in-laws came to visit. And then Covid hit. Thereafter my sabbatical, my year of travel adventure for both my family for for my family careered into a big hole. My in-laws who were who came out to visit us in early February got trapped here for three months. New Zealand very rapidly, despite very small number of cases, went into hard lock down. However both my wife and I continued to work on the front line. Our kids, who had just started school in Auckland and were just starting to make friends were home schooled via Zoom and Google. My in-laws decided to sit it out here initially but soon wanted to return but found no flights home to France (well that's what they told me!).

But, as many of you know, Covid really didn't hit New Zealand. New Zealand highly aggressive closedown of borders trying to prevent the infection by an very strict early lockdown meant that when England / Europe /the rest of the World having tens of thousands

of new cases per day and hundreds of deaths we were having a handful. I felt guilty. I had left my UK department as the senior clinician, I'd deserted them when all hell let loose in UK – in fact in retrospect, Chichester didn't have a bad time of it with none of my colleagues get the disease. With lockdown came cancellation of my holiday plans Each one folded. New Zealand locked down, borders closed. We couldn't go anywhere. As a consequence of Covid, my UK house rental fell through but my London based working daughter



fortunately took refuge in my house for 3 months. We only started renting in July – a huge cost we had not planned for.

Long before the UK had a second wave, NZ had Four community cases. These cases occurred in South Auckland

So here we are ... we have not achieved any of the dreams or aims of that sabbatical

(which incidentally is where I'm working). South Auckland is the very poor area of Auckland. It may surprise many of you to know that although New Zealand is a wealthy country it has areas of strict poverty which is

mainly by immigration from the Pacific Islanders specifically. They work for minimum wage and have huge (8+) families living in very small housing. When the four cases hit in South Auckland there was a rapid closedown of Auckland itself. The Government fear that the virus in this community could rip through and kill (this population is also the most unhealthy – obesity / diabetes etc, NZ also has one of the highest Child poverty problems within the developed world) drove this. They had to protect. So Auckland went on to a high level of lockdown and in what can only be reminiscent of a police state all the roads leading into and out of Auckland were guarded by police. You needed an official document to travel out or in Auckland. We were essentially trapped in Auckland but then again not a bad place to be trapped! Once again my wife and I continued to work but this time my boys attended school as we were 'essential workers' and the in-laws had left by this point. We had a 5 week 2nd lockdown.

So here we are almost here almost 11 months of my sabbatical we have not achieved any of the dreams or aims of that sabbatical. So, as a consequence of Covid I've now had to ask my UK employers to extend my sabbatical, which they are rather reluctantly willing to do for another six months. It's difficult to know what will happen over the next six months but what I do know is that I fell in love with a country that essentially I have been stuck in. Being forced to only holiday in New Zealand means that you really do learn and see that country for what it is. You see it in the absence of tourists (I really hope that everyone in Great Britain being forced to have staycations also realises the beauty on their doorstep that perhaps they have ignored.

So here I am now working in New Zealand, earning an incredibly good salary, my stress levels are phenomenally lower than if I was in the United Kingdom. My job satisfaction is higher. My work-life balance has corrected itself. My boys are very exceptionally happy out here (mainly because they see New Zealand schools

as rather easy – to be honest the laid-back attitude of education over here is at times quite breathtaking education.

So I am now stuck with what do I do next? I haven't achieve my aims of of a dream sabbatical. I'm living in potentially the safest country in the world from Covid and I want to stay longer. I'm going have to apply for an extended Visa to be able to work here but the one thing is for sure this that my NZ employers of very keen for me to stay as long as possible. I'm 56, I know I have to work for at least another 10+ years (essentially to pay for my younger children) and I'm not sure whether I could I continue to do that by staying in the United Kingdom. Living out here in New Zealand where my work- life balance is completely different has

made me reflect on my priorities. The negatives; well I live in New Zealand which is in the middle Pacific in the middle of nowhere and the times can be quite lonely compare to the rest the world. If global travel returns then it is only 24 hours away from Europe so that's not bad. But at the moment with no international flights of any note coming out / in Zealand when does feel rather stranded. Other negatives; I have three older daughters all in London and obviously at some point I might become a grandparent (not yet) so again that is pull home. So even if I stayed here for 10 years until I finally retire, I will still have the opportunity return and perhaps at sometime in the future I would love to spend six months a year in England and six months a year

in New Zealand probably working on a Locum basis.

When you have a great family idea, a great adventure to go away somewhere - none of us expected what happened this year it's been a disastrous year for everybody, however, I've managed to achieve more from New Zealand that I anticipated I would do because I had plans to do other things. I now can move onto the next step of my stay and perhaps if any 'bubbles' open I can start investigating outside NZ after all, but ultimately why do you need to leave New Zealand? There is so much to do here. I have a decision to make over the next 9 months – do I stay longer or do I return? Until I know what the world looks like in 6 months' time I can't make that decision.

John Purser (OK 69) face some health and work challenges

This has been a most interesting and life changing six months for me since covid-19 hit the UK. Being in the aviation business with British Airways for my last 34 years plus, it has had an interesting twist to my life.

At the end of March, a colleague and myself were going to Las Vegas the weekend end that Trump decided to close the door. What a good decision we had made two days before to cancel our trip!

The first week of April arrived and I was starting furlough; at the same time I saw a consultant and was diagnosed with Prostrate Cancer! From then till end of May I was in and out of hospitals having various scans, biopsies and tests. As the time went on, I came off furlough and was working from home till the beginning of July when I was put back on furlough. This actually worked out well as I had an operation (HIFU) for my prostrate at the end of June.

While this was happening, there was a lot going on in British Airways; the news was that 12000 jobs were to go! British Airways were grounding aircraft and placing them at Heathrow, Bournemouth, Cardiff and in France. Business had slowed to a trickle, so I felt it was time I made the decision to take Voluntary Redundancy, once I was able to put my medical condition in a good place (although I still needed to have tests to see if all was captured during the operation on my Prostrate).

So, at the end of August I left British Airways with around 800 other engineering colleagues and moved into retirement. Over the years British Airways had given me great and interesting opportunities. I was a member of their film extra crew back in the late 80's and early 90's. If you had been flying to the States around that time you would have seen me and my daughter showing you how to fill in the Green card before landing in the States on the overhead screens. Also training films on the use of plastic handcuffs in flight! Before all the terrorist attacks and 9-11, I was able to sometimes sit on the flight deck and watch what went on at the front end!

Being able to use flights fuelled my hobby of dance and I flew several times to Bulgaria, Prague as well as Edinburgh to pursue this pastime. Sadly, with covid-19 I am not sure when I will be able to get back on the dance floor!

Sports wise, it enabled me to play cricket in Malta and Canada over many years. The Canadian trips were to Edmonton. We would fly out on the Thursday play Saturday and Sunday and fly back on the Monday! I was also able to take part in athletics running at Crystal Palace, London and the Merdeka Stadium in Kuala Lumpur.

I have also kept busy over the last few years helping and assisting in kitting out the 2010 Winter Olympic team, and then a Games Maker in the London 2012 Olympics and Paralympics at Eton Dorney. I can add being a Pack member for the 2015 Rugby World cup on to that!

So, as one will appreciate, with Covid-19 and the associated restrictions, it has been a struggle for a while in putting my feet up as well as putting my health in order.



Painting the Silver Lining - Samantha Peace (OK 03)

It was Mrs Newby, a teacher at my primary school that opened my heart to art. We did a project on Vincent Van Gogh, we painted some sunflowers, she told me I had a gift for it – and that was it! The groundwork for my future had been done. In hindsight, I'm pretty certain I was never really 'gifted' at art, but to feel like I was, was all that I needed. Art was an important part of my time at Kimbolton, and I spent many hours in the art block with Mr Priest and Mr Bennet those many years ago. It wasn't an effort for me, it was never homework, and it was never a lesson – I enjoyed it so much and it was just a chance to be me. Which sounds a little gushy, but it was true.

I made sure that the degree I chose to study was creatively driven – I studied marketing with a heavy focus on creative advertising. I got a proper grown up job in an ad agency when I left, and I haven't stopped for a breath since. As a mum of two young girls and working now as a busy headhunter in the industry, working long days away from home was my harsh reality pre pandemic. Looking back, I'd long since fallen out of love with my day job.

I often reflected that you should seriously love your job to make the sacrifice of missing so much precious family time feel worthwhile. And as the months on the treadmill at work turned into years, and my babies turned into actual little people, I found myself repeatedly yearning for more time at home, better work life balance, and something more fulfilling than the crazy buzz of city life - a life, which, for financial reasons was seeming increasingly inescapable. The bizarre thing was that I'd always yearned to become a painter but scolded myself for dreaming. Who really gets to turn a childhood dream into a real life grown up job?

And then the pandemic spread across the globe and the advertising industry was one of many that took an incredible hit. Literally overnight, clients slammed the brakes on all our work. At first I think I went into a sort of slow state of shock. I may never get my job back. How will we afford the mortgage? Surely I can't look after my children full time? That was never the plan! And home-school the dyslexic one who's 8 going on 18? With a toddler in tow? No thanks. So I drank too much, shouted a lot and cried whenever I got 2 minutes to sit down.



But something happened. Amongst the darkness and the uncertainty, I realised that this was an opportunity not to be missed. Every so often one of my friends would commission me to do a painting for them but now I had the chance to really make something of this and make my passion my work and in doing so obtain the release I'd been yearning for.

For the first time I found myself properly living in the here and now. I painted in the morning when not a sound could be heard; lockdown peace was eerily beautiful. I would paint for 2 hours before someone asked me to make them breakfast, or wipe their bum! When I became confident enough to play with the home-schooling timetable we all did art together, every day, in the garden. The endless bike rides, meadow picnics and walks along the river only fed my mind with new

inspiration. My family life romantically entwined with my work, I experimented with techniques that I finally had the time and the clarity of mind to do so and produced endless pieces of work.

During the last few months I've moved my hobby up a gear to proper artist territory and making a (sort of) living, and it is the best thing that could have happened. If I lose my job due to the pandemic - I have this. If I don't lose my job, I still have this. I've

rediscovered what makes me truly happy to my core and reaffirmed my belief that every cloud truly has a silver lining, it's just up to us to find it.

So please do check out my art and get in touch if you're interested in adding a little bit of happiness to your walls. 10% of each purchase will be donated to Mind, a charity which will be much in need and one that I wholly support. We must protect our mental health. In the meantime, perhaps think about reigniting your own passion – that's how I've protected mine.

To see Samantha's art please head to: www.instagram.com/samanthapeaceart



Neil Lanham (OK 56) also re-discovered his love of painting

Neil joined Kimbolton in 1947 and won prizes at The Children's Royal Academy - unbeknown to him, his art teacher Donald Hood-Cree, begged Neil's widowed mother that he was removed from Kimbolton and sent to Art College! He ended up on a completely different career path and went to the College of Estate Management to become an Auctioneer.

Neil has clearly not shaken his artistic talent over the years - he did his first oil painting in 1979 and is now much regretting his 60+ years lost in the wilderness as he has enjoyed painting during the lockdown - below are images of his work.



Neil's painting of his daughter-in-law and his grandchildren, Oscar and Sam, on the beach (above) and oil painting of St Anne the Patron Saint of Children in his garden (right)



For Rodney Brown (OK 53) the lockdown meant he could just carry on with his art

Rodney remembers his school days at Kimbolton fondly, especially being taught Art by Donald Hood-Cree. Following National Service he joined the creative studio of a London advertising agency and joined a 3-year day release course working with the leading London Transport poster artists of the day.



Pulls Ferry, Norwich
 painted by Rodney aged 14 for his parents

His love for art has never stopped and throughout his retirement he has kept busy with commissions for pen & ink drawings and watercolours.



Cromer, North Norfolk Coast

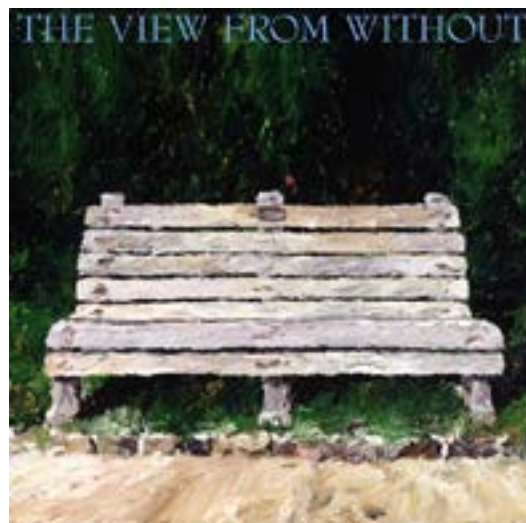
Art of a different type, Steve Buttercase (OK 81) found some old music tapes...

Steve remembers a particular moment when he was 14 years old at school when Richard Laidler (OK 82) came marching up to him outside the Orangery demanding "You play guitar don't you? Come to my house on Sunday..." it was after then that they started their first band.

They went on to write many songs together and were in a couple of bands in the 1980s - their music got played on Radio 1, they got on TV and even won the East Anglian Rock Competition in 1991!

During lockdown Steve found the old tapes of an album their band 'The View from Without' had recorded 30 years ago. Making use of the time stuck at home, Steve got productive and converted the album to digital.

The album, also called 'The View from Without' has now been released - you can find it on Spotify, Amazon, iTunes, Tidal, everywhere in fact!



OKs were also busy writing and/or publishing books!

Nick Sands (OK 70) decided to make a concerted effort to get his book finished...

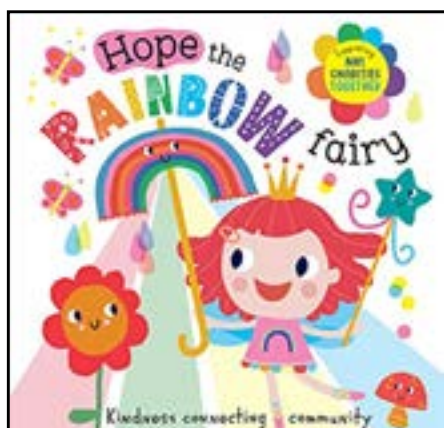
I had been working as a volunteer for the Nottinghamshire Hospice for three years when the lockdown arrived in March and I was unable to continue.

Since retiring in 2016 I had also been working on a crime novel, but never seemed to have enough time to finish it. Our family (we have six grandchildren) and work always had priority. But being at home and unable to work or see my family I decided to make a concerted effort to get my book finished.

With lots of support from my writing group in Nottingham and the East Midlands Writing School, I managed to complete the novel in July. I submitted it to several London publishing houses without success and was beginning to get a little disheartened, but then I remembered that one of my creative writing tutors (crime author Steven Dunn) had had his first book published by Matador, based in Leicestershire.

I sent my manuscript to them and, to my surprise, they decided it was okay to publish! Work on the final editing began and the book, entitled "Leave Only Footprints" was released in paperback at the end of January.

OKs can read more about the book on my website: nicksands.co.uk, In the 'About Me' section I do mention Kimbolton and my English teacher, John Stratford, who introduced me to the joy of storytelling!



We spotted that **Rosie Greening (OK 10)** had written another book.

Hope the Rainbow Fairy was an initiative of children's publisher Make Believe Ideas, and was inspired by the hope-filled rainbow art created by children during the pandemic. All profits from the sale of the book were donated to the NHS Charities Together Covid-19 Appeal.

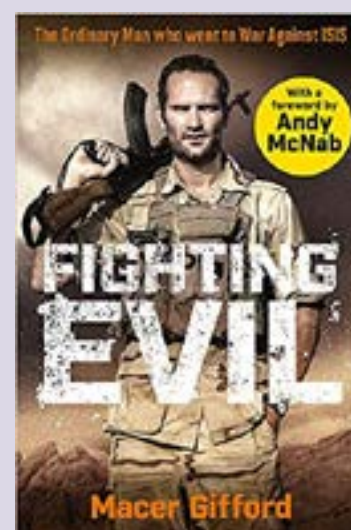
It was good to see OKs connecting in their work... the book was reviewed by **Alexandra Pollard (OK 10)**, deputy culture editor of The Independent, and published in the newspaper in May.

Many OKs will be familiar with Macer Gifford - either from seeing him on various TV documentaries and in various national newspapers, or having been at the School with him.

If you're not familiar with him, Macer (a pseudonym...) is an OK (2006). He was a former currency trader in the City who travelled to Syria to fight with the Kurdish YPG militia against the Islamic State group. He became one of the longest serving British International Volunteers and one of the only few to be promoted to be a Commander in the YPG.

On his return to the UK Macer started working on his book, *Fighting Evil*. It is a complete account of the war against the Caliphate by the Kurds and the remarkable actions of international volunteers who fought alongside them.

It was finally published in May - it has been selling well and has had some great reviews!



Reunions and Events

Sadly the OKA events planned for 2020 and the early part of 2021 had to be cancelled, but the government's roadmap to ease the lockdown restrictions does give us some hope that we will be able to host the 2021 Summer Reunion and Ball at the end of the Summer Term.

We will be going ahead with our plans for these events and have outlined the main information below; please have a look at our website for full information and keep an eye on social media for updates.

Fingers crossed we will see many of you on the 3rd July!

2021 Summer Reunion & Ball - Saturday 3 July



The following activities are being planned for the day:

Sports fixtures vs the school teams

Tour of the Castle & school campus

Access to the Heritage Room and OK memorabilia

Bar & Refreshments

We are hoping to be able to have all our usual activities in place in the usual format, however this will of course depend on whether any restrictions are still in place in early July.

Please keep an eye on the Events section of our website, on social media and your inbox for our updates.

Old Kimboltonians' Association

Summer Ball

Saturday 3rd July 2021

7.30pm - drinks reception followed by dinner, dancing & fireworks
12.30am - carriages

Tickets: £50 (£5 discount for OKs who have left in the last 5 years)
available from: www.oks.co.uk/events

Further details:
alumni@kimbolton.cambs.sch.uk
01480 862223

OK SPORT

An overview of the fixtures in 2020

Unsurprisingly the pandemic put pay to all OK sport last year apart from a few football matches and the golf day in the Autumn Term. To provide additional reading we've included a look back at school sailing in the 1970s and put the spotlight on one of the best footballers to have been at Kimbolton - Chris Powell (OK 60).

OK FOOTBALL



George Wilson (OK 13)



george.a.wilson@icloud.com / 07411 101363

It's been a bit of a stop-start 12 months for Arthurian football with lockdowns, regional tier changes, and the subsequent pitch/referee availability following easing of government restrictions.

Prior to Covid the OKs had made a good start to 2020. We reached the Arthur Dunn Cup ¼ final for the first time in the Club's history, narrowly losing 2-1 to premier league side Old Tonbridgians in a fantastic cup tie on a day when Storm Dennis cancelled 95% of fixtures across the country... but not in Kimbolton!

In the David Walcott Trophy (DWT) we knocked out Old Westminster II 5-0 in the quarters, followed by Old Alleynians III in the Semis, winning 5-4 on penalties after 5-5 AET to progress to the Club's third final in as many years. Whilst in the league (Division 4), we beat Old Stoics 8-3 towards the end of February, putting us in a great place to secure automatic promotion.

We all know what happened next; following the government lockdown announcement on 16th March 2020, the FA decided to postpone all grassroots football, leading to the cancellation of the Arthurian League 2019/20 season, and a delay to our DWT cup final.

Whilst the league season was voided and no automatic promotion/relegation took place, it was decided in August that there was to be a 'realignment of the leagues' for the forthcoming season based on an average points per game weighting, in which the OKs secured promotion for the second season running!

Turning to September, after losing the first two league games of the 2020/21 season in our new Division (3), the OKs bounced back in the postponed DWT final, beating Old Brentwood II 4-1 in St Albans. Two goals from Allan Owen, and one a piece from Sam Finday and Rob Holmes helped the OKs to seal their first cup silverware!... as well as a renewed

energy in the league with wins over Old Epsomians (2-1), Old Tonbridgians II (7-0) and Old Foresters II (4-1).

Prior to Lockdown 2.0 the OKs played Old Aldenhamians in Kimbolton on 31 October in Round 1 of the Arthur Dunn Cup. The game went to extra time where it finished 1-1, before the OKs thought they had 'won' a penalty shoot-out. However, it later emerged that the tie should not have gone to pens, but a replay! In keeping with the rules of the Arthur Dunn competition the tie was indeed replayed...straight out of the second lockdown away at Aldenham school on 5th Dec.

The OKs started the game strongly, linking up well, and creating a wave of chances, but it was the home-side who took the lead after converting a sublime free-kick. The OKs responded well, with Henry Langley equalising before the break with a shot/cross from the right-hand side of the box, and then grabbing his second goal of the day, this time from the pen spot, in the 80th minute of the game! "See it out", "two on the edge", "don't let it bounce" was very much the motto in the dyeing embers of the game: with the Chairman, Jon Hunter, having to come on for the injured Mark Klein to see out the game; a goal line clearance from the Skipper; and an outstanding slap over the crossbar from Johnny Bowers helping secure a massive 2-1 victory. Into the next round against Division 1 side, and 17x Dunn Cup winners, Old Malvernians, which we hope will take place in mid-April 2021, as despite the 2020/21 league season inevitably being abandoned we hope to see a return to Arthur Dunn and Junior League cup football after Easter.

We would like to thank the School, Jonathan Belbin, Tony Lawless, Chris Hope and the OKA for their constant support of the Club, and Head Groundsman Joe Firby and his team for their hard work ensuring we have a superb pitch to play on at Kimbolton.

We hope the next year will see better times for all OKs, and if you have fallen out of love with beautiful game over the last couple of years or want something else to do with your Saturdays in a post covid world, please do come and support the boys in purple in 2021/22 (there's no VAR!)

Yours in Sport,

George Wilson & Jonathan Hunter

(Club Captain) & (Club Chairman)



The DWT final winning OK team

Back (l-r): Dan Wright, Rory Fenton, Rob Holmes, Jacob Shortland, James Belbin, Tom Biddle, Jon Hunter

Front (l-r): Scott Irwin, Sam Findlay, Johnny Bowers, James Dunmore, George Wilson, Josh Eddon, Allan Owen, Jack Kenmir

OK CRICKET



Charlie Gingell (OK 13)



gingell.charlie@gmail.com

We have no no cricket match to report on, but we do have some exciting OK cricket news... an OK cricket team will be taking part in the 'Cricketer Trophy' this year!

The 'Cricketer Cup' is a prestigious tournament conceived in 1966 to support the idea of providing for public school alumni the equivalent of the Arthur Dun for football. The

'Cricketer Trophy' is a sub-tournament played under this umbrella, with the Cup looking to the most successful sides in the Trophy when it is considering expansion of its own competition. The participation of an OK team presents an excellent opportunity to increase the profile of not only OK cricket, but also the OKA and Kimbolton School.

Our first fixture is against Clayesmore Old Boys and will be played at home, on the 1st XI pitch, on **Sunday 13th June**.

As with all OK sports fixtures, we'd love to see some support on the day so we do hope that we will be able to welcome spectators. Please keep an eye on your inbox and OK social media for further updates.

If you are a cricketer and haven't yet been contacted by Charlie to check your availability for the games, please do get in touch with him.

OK GOLF



Charles Robinson (OK 76)
Tom Harrison (OK 68)



robinsoncharles@btconnect.com
tombroughtonharrison@gmail.com

OK Golf Club Autumn Meeting

Fifteen OKs met on a sunny afternoon in September at Luffenham Heath Golf Club near Stamford. It was good to welcome some new faces: Colin Stokes and Ben Burton.

With the Spring Meeting cancelled due to lockdown we still had 3 trophies to award. We decided on one for the front nine, one for the back nine and one for the game.

The course was in excellent condition. Ben Burton won the front nine with 17 point and claimed the John Will's Cup. Michael Whitlock scored a creditable 18 point to win the President's Cup, Michael also won the Colin Robinson Cup with a total score of 33 points.

After the match we had a brief, socially distanced, drink and a round of sandwiches.

It is hoped that we will be able to have two meetings in 2021. St Neots in early May and Hunstanton in September. Details will be on the OK website as well as being sent to everyone on our mailing list. If you would like join the list please email Charles Robinson on: robinsoncharles@btconnect.com

Grafton Morrish Golf Competition

Every year the OKs compete in the Grafton Morrish Golf Competition. This is a foursomes scratch event for former pupils of independent schools. Teams play in regional qualifying competitions in May, and the qualifiers then compete in the finals held over two days on the Hunstanton and Brancaster courses in October.

Covid-regulations permitting, the qualifying competition is scheduled to take place on

Sunday 16 May 2021

If you are a low handicapper (10 or under) and are available to play in please get in touch with either:

Tom Harrison: tombroughtonharrison@gmail.com / 01223 893450 / 07860 960795, or

John Flack: jdandvaflack@btinternet.com / 07807 771284

*The OK Golf Club is open to all OKs
- whatever your handicap ...*



Old Kimboltonians Golf



Castle Saloon Railings (credit: Rob Knell)

OK SAILING

In the absence of a sailing report for 2020, Alaster Gray (OK 73) has written about his memories of sailing at Kimbolton school in the 1970s...

When Grafham Water was created in the mid 60s the school found itself next door to one of the finest sailing lakes in the country.

John Cornner, with help from Jim Townley and others, set up the school sailing club in about 1966. John Cornner was a maths teacher who devoted most of his time to develop and support the school's sailing activities. (I recall Jim Townley, a chemistry teacher, taking a group of us on a Norfolk Broads summer sailing holiday, which was great fun.)

The club also benefitted from the goodwill of parents and friends who loaned their boats to the school. These craft probably dated from the late 1950s and consisted mainly of plywood Enterprise dinghies, together with Jim's Heron dinghy. All had wooden masts. We even had an old Prout catamaran at one stage.

There were two main issues with this type of craft; firstly, being wooden, each required an annual paint and varnish plus general repair. Club members spent a lot of time in the winter working on the craft, often at George House. Secondly these craft were generally over canvassed for any small, light school sailors, like myself, who struggled to keep them upright! It appeared at the time it was not considered a good sail without

a capsized- I did get to know the then rescue coxswain of the sailing club, Alan Hill, rather well!

Proper sailing clothing was initially non-existent. If we were lucky we owned a Peter Storm waterproof jacket. Thick woollen jerseys were a good choice as when soaking wet they acted like weight jackets! I am reliably informed by my brother Chris Gray, five years my senior, that "the theory why we kept warm was based on the premise that most of us lived in a freezing cold castle, with little hot water, and the lake was warm to us." The word hypothermia had only just entered into boating vocabulary!

In the early 1970's a company based in St. Albans called Aquaquip produced neoprene divers wet suit kits. We all became experts in cutting out the patterns from the neoprene sheets and gluing and taping the seams together. The smell of the glue solvent vapour made for a pleasurable assembly experience!

Now at least we were warmer but still plagued by the huge British Standard 3595 life jackets we were obliged to wear (think of Mae West type WW2 life jackets). These things were one size fits all, not so good if you were around 4ft tall as they were so bulky - the protruding collar meant one often became stuck under the boom when tacking!

We generally sailed using Grafham Water Residential Centre as a base in those days and the school had sailing matches against King's Ely, Wellingborough and Oundle schools. We realised how blessed we were to have Grafham Water as our base when competing on rather narrow rivers at away matches. I remember a particular hazard at these away matches was any



Sailing Teams 1972

Back (l-r): B TEAM: A Reading, R Widmer, G Mallett, K Pengelley, M Kingan, A Gray

Front (l-r): A TEAM: M Gilmer, G Hutchings, C Osborne, R Kydd, S Worsley, C Williams

overhanging branches, you had to be very careful not to get the sails caught up in them!

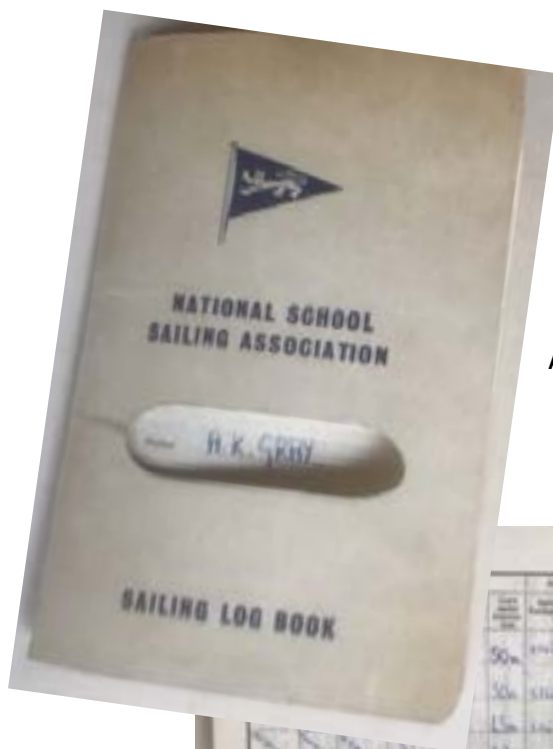
Some school members managed to secure a place in the County sailing team. Every few years we would attend the National Schools Sailing Association regatta, at various locations. Many of these fixtures continue to this day, including the annual OK v school sailing matches.

In the early 70s as a result of various fund raising activities the school was able to purchase a fleet of (then) modern glass fibre Kestrel dinghies, with metal masts. This meant that boat maintenance was now much reduced and together with better clothing we were able to sail into the winter.

Sometimes we cycled up to Grafham, enjoying the fast freewheel down Hoodcree Hill (named after our rather eccentric art teacher of the time, who lived on the hill.) At other times we travelled in the rickety old Bedford school bus with sliding doors. We were generally well supplied with school packed lunches, which I believe British Rail later modelled their sandwich offerings on!

OKs who learned to sail through the school have since gone on to achieve awards at local club level, also at National and International championships, not to mention Olympic representation!

I still see many people from the 70s sailing era and we all appreciate the great opportunity afforded to us, many continue to sail to this day and have passed on their skills to their family members.



Alaster Gray's Sailing Log Book from 1969



Sailing Team 1973 (note the social distancing!)

Back (l-r): P Saxton, C Williams, R Widmer

Front (l-r): A Gray, S Worsley, M Kingan

We hope that the annual race against the school will go ahead this year; the provisional date is Saturday 3 July.

If you're interested in racing, please contact Alaster on: alasterlesleygray@hotmail.com

Chris Powell (OK 60) - possibly the best footballer who has attended Kimbolton School..?

We have mentioned quite a few Old Kimboltonians in the last few editions of the OK News who have become successful sportsmen and sportswomen... **Mike Hazelwood (OK 65)** competed for GB in the EVACI Championships in 2016 winning the javelin and shot events in the M70 age group, **Ben Saxton (OK 08)** sailed for Team GB at Rio 2016 and claimed gold in the Nacra 17 World Championships, **George Furbank (OK 15)** made his debut for England in the 2020 Six Nations Rugby, **Kate Lyster (OK 17)** represented GB at the Munich Junior Regatta in 2017 and more recently rowed for Reading University at the 2019 European Universities Sports Association regatta, and **Josh Smith (OK 18)** earned his place in the Kimbolton record books by notching up the biggest tally of runs in one season (1121).

Chris Powell however is a name that always crops up when OKs from the 60s talk about some of the best athletes who have attended the school in their era.

Chris joined Kimbolton in 1955, travelling from Egypt where his father was a Civil Engineer with the RAF. He puts the football prowess at Kimbolton during the 50s down to three

very good footballing masters, namely Kyffin Owen, a Welsh amateur international, George Ansell, an Oxford Blue, and Peter Jones, who later became a BBC sports commentator.

Chris' footballing skills were soon spotted by Kyffin Owen; Kyffin apparently used his position to ensure Chris was in his boarding house on the Castle Green and was transferred from Dawsons to Balyes so they could win the house football cup each year!

As a schoolboy, as well as captaining the Kimbolton School 1st XI in 1959/60 Chris took part in:

Schools Week 1957-59

Public Schools vs Grammar Schools Dec 1958 & Jan 1960

Cambridgeshire vs Huntingdonshire Youth - Oct 1960

Public School Trial Match - Dec 1958

Scotland vs England Schools - Apr 1959

England vs Scotland Schools - Apr 1960

FA Amateur XI vs Royal Navy - Dec 1959

FA Amateur XI vs Army - Feb 1960

GB Rome Olympics Training Squad - Aug 1959

Luton Town Youth & Reserve Team 1959 - 61



1st XI Football Team 1959-60

Back (l-r) N Kilsby, J Sayer, A W Knight, D Wing, D Hill, H Rawdon

Front (l-r) R Weekley, B Collins, C Powell (Capt), J Flack, P M Hill

The mention of Kyffin Owen, George Ansell and Peter Jones being great footballing masters in the 1950s prompted us to look up other sporty Kimbolton School staff.

William Ingram was a cricketer and played cricket for Huntingdonshire. His friendship with Sir Jack Hobbs, recognised as England's finest batsman at the time, was influential in arranging for Jack Hobbs to coach the Kimbolton cricket team from 1936 and 1947.

Another former Headmaster David Donaldson broke the 100 yard record at Cambridge University held by Harold

During Chris' days at Luton Town the club were in the First Division (now the Premier League); the manager was Syd Owen at the time and the club wanted Chris to sign full-time, but he decided not to in the end. Kimbolton School had two seats in the Director's Box as a gift to the school for Chris' services!

Chris continued with his football after leaving Kimbolton and played for various clubs, including Corinthian Casuals (1961-63), Dulwich Hamlet (1967 - 69) and Cambridge University. His last match before he retired from the game was playing for the OKs in 1981!

Chris didn't just excel at football. He was also a cricketer; as well as being captain of the school 1st XI Cricket team in 1960, he captained St Giles Cricket Club, Cambridge and Wightwick Cricket Club, Wolverhampton, and he played for Cambridgeshire and toured the Argentine in 1966 with the Druids.

He played tennis too and was Cambridgeshire Junior Champion in the single and mixed doubles in 1959 and 1960. He also represented Cambridgeshire in the 1960 Six Counties tournament in Boston.

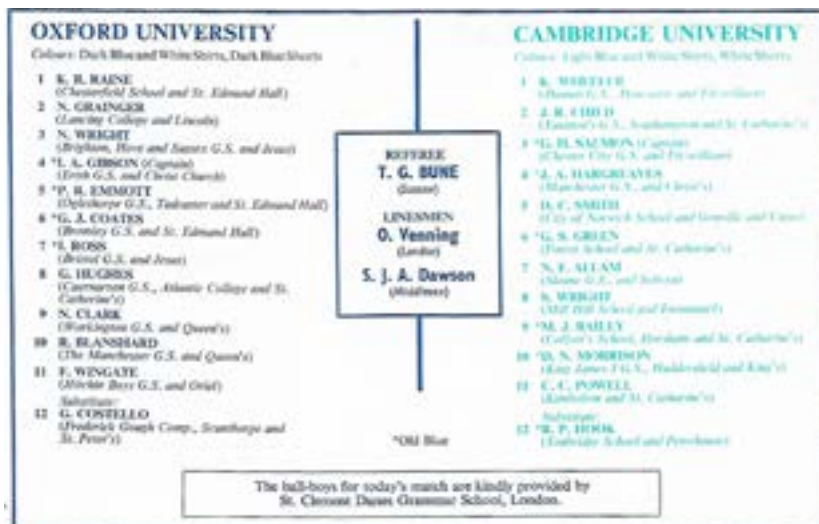
Just to finish, we can't forget that he did a bit of athletics too and competed in the 100 yards and long jump at the Bedford County Championships and Midlands Championships!



Programmes from Chris' involvement in the Scotland vs England Schools match in April 1960, and the 1971 varsity match



Chris playing for Dulwich Hamlet in 1968



Abrahams, winner of the 100m gold medal in the 1924 Olympics and immortalised by actor Ben Cross in *Chariots of Fire*. By co-incidence, Harold Abrahams had an association with Kimbolton - his brother Lionel was Clerk to the Governors and much of his training for the 100m was conducted at Kimbolton.

Current pupils benefit from being coached football by Chris Hope and cricket by Alex Tudor. Chris started his footballing career at Nottingham Forest under Brian Clough. He went on to make over 500 appearances in the Football League for Scunthorpe United and Gillingham and played more than 120 times for Rushden & Diamonds in the Football Conference. Alex played cricket for England 10 times and had spells playing with Surrey and Essex.

NEWS OF OKS

News and announcements from OKs around the world...

Pre 1970

ROBIN BARTRAM (OK 64)

Robin spent a month in Brazil with **Robert Soek (OK 64)** in February 2020 - they have been friends since joining the Prep School in 1957.

Robert's parents lived in the West Indies when he was at school, and he spend exeat weekends and some holidays with Robin's family. Robin was Best Man at Robert's wedding and Robert is the Godfather to Robin's son, Tom.

ROBERT SOEK (OK 64)

Robert's name was spotted by Michael Capps (OK 65) in the November 2020 edition of *FlyPast*. Robert had written about his restoration of a life-saving cockpit module frmo a crashed USAF General Dynamics F-111F.

BOB BOYD (OK 66)

At the start of a 12 week period of self-isolation Bob got in touch with his thoughts about and memories of Kimbolton...

"At the age of 11 I was at my full height (6'4") and thus the Prep Headmaster, Bill (Pop) Jones, allowed me to wear long trousers instead of the uniform shorts! In those days I played in goal and in one away game another Prep school had smaller goals - only 6' high - so I could not get under the bar without ducking!

In the days before the A1 was turned into a motorway we stopped at Baldcock for a break when we went to London for Saturday football fixtures . On one occasion some of us senior players nipped into a pub on the way home only to find the teachers enter just as we had paid for our drinks - we had to leave them on the bar and exit via the rear toilets!

I remember playing in a 1st XI match in 1962/3 against an FA XI which included David Nish who went on to play for England.

In the 1980s I returned to Kimbolton prepared to turn out if the OKs were short. As I got out my car I was approached by Peter Watson, enquiring as to whether I had my kit and he told me the assigned referee had cried off at the last minute and would I please referee the game (I cannot remember the score!)

Whilst a Deputy Head at Leighton Park School, in Reading, I played many games for a veteran team, including tours to

Portugal, Switzerland, Netherlands, Denmark, Bratislava, Hungary and Austria. I remember scoring the winning goal for the team in the 1987 FA over 40s veteran Cup Final against Cambridge City veterans.

Reading about the passing of Paul Robinson brought back my memory of him as a hammer thrower and the fact that in 1960 he placed 3rd in the U15 hammer at the English schools championships at Shrewsbury. The winner was John Hill (OK 64).

In 1961 I competed at my first English schools championships, at Chesterfield, when fellow Kimbolton teammate Geoff Brand won the U15 discus - he went on to a senior position in the police force in New Zealand.

KEN GILL (OK 69)

Ken retirement from his consultancy business was followed by a few poor years after he broke his femur in a car accident. His first operation to mend the break went wrong and his leg had to be re-broken and put in a new 'hardware'. Things were looking positive until Ken unfortunately caught Burkitts NH Lymphoma which stopped his leg from healing. Fortunately he recovered from the lymphoma (thanks to the fantastic team at Addenbrookes Hospital) and he is now finally progressing with his femur mending properly.

What else has Ken been up to? Well he had a 33ft sloop on the east coast for about 20 years cruising the North Sea and English Channel. He skippered for the East Anglian Sailing Trust for about 10 years, taking visually impaired people sailing on his boat. He sadly had to sell the boat when the arthritis in his knees started to compromise his ability to safely move about the boat, and stay on it!

IAN (FRANK) HOWE (OK 69)

Frank and his wife Pascale are proud to announce the arrival of their 5th & 6th grandsons!

Pacome was born on 26 February 2020 in Cherbourg to their daughter Rhiannon and her husband Pierre, and Tadhg was born on 30 July 2020 in Bordeaux to their eldest daughter Myfanwy.

1970 - 1989

NEIL CROMPTON (OK 82)

In February 2020 Neil up the appointment of Her Majesty's Ambassador to Saudi Arabia. He was previously Director of the Foreign & Commonwealth Office Middle East and North Africa Directorate.

MARK LANCASTER (OK 88)

Mark retired from Government in December 2019. He was nominated for a peerage in the 2019 Dissolution Honours and was created Rt Hon Baron Lancaster of Kimbolton in September 2020.



Rt Hon Mark Lancaster

E MARY READ (OK 89)

Mary is the Commanding Officer of 254 Medical Regiment based in Cambridge and she was scheduled to be the Reviewing Officer at the 2020 AGI in May. She has since received a Meritorious Service Award.

1990 - 1999

THOMAS LONGMATE (OK 98)

Thomas got engaged in September 2020 to Rachel Cerrone, of Chicago, USA.

CHRIS THAXTER (OK 99)

After leaving Kimbolton Chris went to study Geography (BSc) at Reading University and then moved on to study Wildlife Conservation (MSc) at Newcastle upon Tyne.

Following a brief spell as a research Ecologist at the RSPB he undertook a PhD in animal behaviour focused on two seabird species in southern Scotland. After completing his PhD in 2009 Chris took up a position at the British Trust for Ornithology, where he is now a Senior Research Ecologist within the Wetland and Marine Unit.



*Three Royal Engineer OKs met by coincidence at the UK Defence Academy in October
Pictured below L-R: Major Eb Mukhtar MBE RE (OK 96), Brigadier The Lord Lancaster TD PC (Late Royal Engineers, OK 88), Major Anna Kirkin RE (OK 98)*

2000 - 2009

MARCUS JONES (OK 03)

Marcus was awarded the British Empire Medal (BEM) in the Queen's Birthday Honours 2020 for maintaining transport services during Covid-19. Marcus is the Service Delivery Director for the Docklands Light Railway and was nominated by Transport for London in recognition of providing the leadership necessary to keep these essential services running. (See page 30)

ARABELLA WISE (nee May, OK 03)

Arabella joined the staff at Kimbolton in September as a French teacher.

OLLIE JUGGINS (OK 04)

Having lead a successful fundraising, Ollie is helping classic car auction startup *Trade Classics* with its strategy and a full redesign. They found that most classic adverts and auction listings aren't very transparent and knew they could do better. Their listings are so detailed (multiple videos, 300-400 photos!) that 80% of customers buy cars from them sight unseen.

It's been a tough time for the classic car market, but Ollie's been actively involved in the re-launch with a new brand, a market leading auction platform, and a whole host of exciting, new to market cars on offer.

You can find out more on:
www.tradeclassics.com.

MARK RALPH (OK 04)

Mark and his wife Chloe welcomed the arrival of Archie Thomas Ralph on 16 December 2020. A little brother for Ollie.



Mr & Mrs Nick Gilbert

ALEX BENSON (OK 06)

Alex is engaged to Abi Barber; the couple are planning to marry in Norfolk in December 2021.

NICK GILBERT (OK 06)

Nick married Antonia Kerschbaum on 6 July 2019 in Modling, Austria. OKs Alex Wilson (OK 06) and William Horrell (OK 77) attended the wedding. The couple live in Austria with their two children Mila (7) and Mavie (2).

RHOD HOWCROFT (OK 05)

Rhod welcomed the arrival of his daughter, Molly Grace Howcroft, who was born in the height of the first lockdown on 16 April 2020 at Hinchingsbrooke Hospital. Both Mum and Dad have recovered well (although are a little tired!).

DAVID LINDLEY (OK 07)

David and Sorrel celebrated the arrival of a baby daughter, Eliza Florence Lindley, on 3 December 2020.

LAURA ANDERSON (nee Miller, OK 08)

Last summer Laura and her husband braved another international Army move, with all the extra fun that the pandemic added to the usual chaos of moving; after two years in Episkopi, Cyprus, they have relocated to Fort Leavenworth, Kansas. Her husband is representing the UK at the US Army Command and General Staff College, while Laura works on expanding her business as a fitness instructor - all while raising their new addition to the family! Their first child, Jason Alan Anderson, was born on Tuesday 13 October 2020. Being pregnant during the pandemic and moving was not ideal, but the family have been thankful to have plenty of time at home together.



Laura Anderson with her husband and new baby son, Jason

AMY NICKS (OK 08)

Amy is a Postdoctoral Researcher for the Victor Chang Cardiac Research Institute based in Sydney, Australia. In 2020 she received an award from the Institute that recognised excellence in the scientific field of cardiovascular research.

2010 - present

CALLUM MACGREGOR (OK 10)

Callum got engaged to Lynsey Harper in November 2020.

ALEX POLLARD (OK 10)

Alex was shortlisted for The Society of Editors' Press Awards 2020 in the 'Interviewer of the Year - Broadsheet' category in March 2021. Alex has published interviews with (amongst others) Maxine Peake, Terry Gilliam and Sophia Loren. Her first published interview, however, was with Karen Meheew in the Kimboltonian 2008!

BARNABY SPINK (OK 10)

Barnaby married Lady Iona Murray on 29 August 2020 at a ceremony with just family attending. They hope to have a have 'Part 2 - The Reception' sometime this summer!



Barnaby Spink and his wife on their wedding day

CINDY PANG (OK 11)

Cindy has obtained her PhD and joined Guidehouse specialising in Life Sciences. Guidehouse Life Sciences collaborates with and provides services to pharmaceutical, medical device and biotechnology organisations facing operational, dispute, compliance and investigative issues. Cindy will be working with clients from Pharma and Medtech.

ZOE BLAIR (OK 12)

After completing her degree at Leeds University in Contemporary Art and Design and working for a while in visual merchandising, Zoe has launched her own business - *KO Ceramics*.

She makes kitchen and tableware, household decorative objects and one-off sculptural pieces. Her collections can be seen and purchased from her website: koceramics.co.uk

JACK KENMIR (OK 12) and DANNI BELBIN (OK 12)

Jack and Danni became engaged in October 2020.

OLIVIA COTTERILL (OK 13)

Olivia is excited to announce her engagement to Ashley Marsh during summer 2020. They are planning to marry in 2022.

JOE WILLIAMS (OK 14)

Joe joined Ernst & Young in 2017 and qualified as a Chartered Accountant with them in 2020. He has recently started a new job as a Fund Accountant for a boutique investment firm.

RUBY MILNE (OK 19)

After taking a gap year Ruby is now at Nottingham University on the PwC Flying Start Accounting course.

GILES PITMAN (OK 19)

Giles is studying Film at Falmouth University and last year he released his first nature documentary, *A Taste of the Galápagos*.

A few days after he left school in 2019 Giles was off volunteering in South America for ten weeks. At the end of his stay he had the opportunity to spend time shooting various sequences and producing a script for his mini documentary which provides an insight into the biodiverse world and ancient landmarks of the local culture.

Any proceeds made from the film were put towards an animal rehabilitation centre in the rainforest called 'Merazonia'.

Editor's Apology...

In the 2020 OK News we published news that Abby Aldridge (OK 14) works for SDC and was one of the architects overseeing the building and development and refurbishment of the Prep School buildings. This information was incorrect and we apologise for this.

Abby currently works for R H Partnership Architects and, at the time of publishing the 2020 OK News, was an Architectural Assistant, working as part of the design team on the refurbishment of the Prep School buildings.

DEATHS & OBITUARIES

IN MEMORIAM

It is with deep regret that we report the deaths of the following Old Kimboltonians and former members of staff.

ANDRE BEESON (Former Staff) on 13 June 2020

KEITH BROOKS (Former Staff) on 28 February 2021

BASIL BROWN (OK 45) on 27 January 2020

EDWARD BROWN (OK 47) on 17 May 2020

JENNIFER BUNYAN (OK 14) on 7 June 2020

BRIAN GLOVER CLARK (OK 42) on 17 April 2018

HUMPHREY CLARKE (OK 47) on 31 December 2019

CHARLOTTE CONROY (OK 97) in 2021

AIDAN COWAN (OK 73) on 31 January 2021

SEAN ELLIS (OK 84) on 21 November 2020

NIGEL B HODSON (OK 58) on 21 May 2020

GORDON C JAMES (OK 60) on 29 December 2020

GRAHAM C KIDMAN (OK 50) on 30 May 2020

ROGER KINSEY (OK 63) on 30 September 2020

COLIN MARTIN (OK 43) on 16 January 2020

GEOFF M MORRIS (OK 73) on 2 September 2020

JOHN E PENTELOW (OK 52) on 20 December 2019

MICHAEL REYNOLDS (OK 58) ON 18 March 2020

DAVID SHEPHERD (OK 72) on 13 April 2020

ERIC T SLAPE (OK 43) on 7 March 2020

ROGER UNDERHILL (OK 63 & Former Staff) - on 7 November 2020

WILLIAM 'BILL' WATKINS (OK 56) on 8 March 2021

TONY WEBSTER (OK 43) on 9 March 2020

LUCIE WOOD (OK 03) on 4 March 2021

ANDRE BEESON (Former Staff)

Andre passed away peacefully on 13 June 2020, following complications from pre-existing ailments.

He joined the teaching staff in September 1958 and left in July 1971, having taught mathematics at all levels. He became House Tutor at Stonely Hall, under Peter Smout, for two years before moving to the Castle in 1963/4 as one of the two Housemasters, firstly with Philip Burkett and secondly with Peter Watson. Andre also helped George Emeléus with Pioneer Camps and Narrow Boating trips during the school holidays.

During his time at Kimbolton, being a talented clarinet and saxophone player, amongst other wind instruments, after much opposition he formed the school Wind Band which

eventually led on to the Jazz Band.

Later in his career while teaching at Forest School, London, Andre pursued his professional jazz career, playing at many of London's top venues, including a regular gig at the Ritz on a Sunday afternoon. He was also recognised by the jazz fraternity, being given life membership of the famous Ronnie Scott's Jazz Club, London.

Andre's intellectual, caring and ever so slightly eccentric nature will be hugely missed by family and friends alike.

Words kindly written by Peter Emeléus

(Please see page 59 for tributes received from OKs).

KEITH BROOKS (Former Staff 1962 - 1988)

Keith passed away on 28 February 2021 after suffering from Covid-19. A full obituary from his family will be included in the next edition of the OK News.



Keith Brooks at an OKA Annual Dinner

EDWARD BROWN (OK 47)

Edward was born on 14th March 1931 at Dillington Farm, Dillington which remained his home until his death aged 89 following several years of failing health, with which he coped with courage, positivity and strength.

Having failed the school's entrance exam and with all places for entry in September 1941 full Edward's father Clement wrote asking if it would be possible to reconsider their decision. In his reply of 22nd August 1941 Bill (William) Ingram wrote "I will certainly do my very best for one of your family with the name of "Edward Brown." (a reference to his grandfather, who had close links with the school.) We have filled all our places available for entry next term but I think I can manage to arrange his admission." This letter was gratefully received and so began Edward's school life at Kimbolton School, or as it was formally known Kimbolton Grammar School. He spent many happy years at Kimbolton School following the family tradition, which continues today.

Edward's Headmaster, Bill Ingram, was a formidable character and upon visiting the Hunter Hall many many years later to see his granddaughter Millie Kenyon (OK17) in school productions, he found being in such close proximity, to what was the Head Master's Office, still caused a shudder to run down his spine. He regularly told of the time he was caught without his school cap; this lapse resulted in a visit to the Head Master's office and from that day forward he always carried a school cap in his blazer pocket, ready to grab at any time to avoid another rather stern telling off. He was very proud of attending Kimbolton School making wonderful friends and creating many special memories.

His school life was overshadowed by World War 2, which had a profound impact on his life. As a teenager growing up

in the 1940s the war coloured and shaped his early years. When school life was interrupted by the war he spent many happy hours with his Uncle Stanley, Auntie Connie and cousin Colin Robinson (OK48) in Turnpike House, Kimbolton. Indeed in June 1944 he knew something significant was happening when a continuous stream of tanks and lorries drove past Turnpike House and through the village cutting up the road. These tank movements signalled the start of D Day preparations with lorries and tanks moving from Overstone Park to the coast. It was one of his proudest memories when one of the tank drivers stopped and allowed a very eager and excited teenager the chance to climb up into the tank and "have a look around", which of course was every schoolboy's dream.

Edward was, as his school reports confirmed, a "satisfactory student" who felt farming was much more fun than Latin, Scripture or Algebra, although he did enjoy French as his teacher was rather attractive. Farming was always much more important than school; indeed he often "forgot" to return to school or even go if something more exciting was happening at Dillington Farm. Indeed while his brother David was in hospital in London in October 1942 he wrote to his mother " We started cutting the barley today so I forgot to go to school".

School days were a means to an end until it was possible to join his father Clement on the family farm. Due to his father's ill health Edward joined C H Brown & Sons straight from school where he worked with his brother David (OK50) continuing the family farming tradition, never really 'retiring'. This is carried on today by his nephew Jonathan Brown (OK85).

As well as farming he had many other great passions and interests: politics, travelling, food and wine although not necessarily in this order! He enjoyed watching cricket (until Ian Botham rose to prominence who according to Edward "was not a gentleman"), although the exceptional coaching of school cricket coach Mr J B Hobbs (later to become Sir Jack Hobbs) failed to unleash any hidden cricket ability in Edward. Many years later he enjoyed watching his grandson Alex Kenyon (OK19) walk out to bat, which was very different to his time when cricket was played on the spinney pitch surrounded by rolls of the Home Guard's barbed wire.

Edward lived in Dillington his entire life and was never happier than when watching PMQs, debating with his family, drinking a glass of wine, with the latest edition of 'The Farmer's Weekly' open on his lap. He is survived by his children Angela and James and grandchildren Millie, Alexander and Edward.

Kindly written by Edward's daughter, Angela Kenyon

JENNIFER BUNYAN (OK 14)

Jennifer tragically died in a car crash near Ramsey on 7 June 2020.

She worked as a school librarian until becoming a full-time mother to Oliver. She left behind her fiance, David, and son.

HUMPHREY BRODIE CLARKE (OK 47)

Humphrey passed away on 31st January 2020 at his home in Northamptonshire aged 87. He had fond memories of his time at Kimbolton School during the war with his brother John (OK 45). His son Anthony (OK 80) also attended the school with his nephews James (OK 81) and Mark (OK 75).

He often talked of his school life. It was quite different at the school during the war with rationing limiting what was available. He remembered having a very large brown pin-striped suit which was several sizes too big for him and did not comply with the school's dress code but was the only one his parents could get at the time – not a good start if you don't want to stand out as a new boy. He became very popular with the younger boys because he dropped a stack of plates that were being cleared away after supper – a task allocated to the new boys - the older boys had that task from then on. He also remembered a time when one of the boys dropped a rotten tomato out of the window of Kim House onto the head of the local shopkeeper who was not being fair when serving boys from the school. He remembered the planes from the American air force flying over the school from the base on the hill and how gradually the planes changed from being camouflaged and being replaced with silver ones as more of them were lost in raids.

He regretted that he could not stay on at school for longer but had to leave at 15 as he was needed back on the farm in Barton Seagrave near Kettering. However he was always grateful for the education he received and was very keen that his son should follow in his footsteps. After leaving school he spent the rest of his life based around farming in Northamptonshire.

He was quite a character and had strong views about most things and would not change his mind once he had decided a course of action. Although a keen Daily Mail reader he was actually a staunch remainder and even ensured that he passed away on the 31st of January - the last possible day he could as a European.

He was a keen Young Farmer who became Club Leader – then President of the Kettering Club. He loved building the floats for the County Show with the Young Farmers in the grain barn on the farm.

After getting married in 1959 he moved to a farm in Hannington – a village between Kettering and Northampton. It was a small farm so he had to diversify – a long time before it became popular. Breeding turkeys was one of his first ventures – building up to about 4,000 turkeys at one time. He was always looking for new projects. When he saw a farmer talking about a Pick Your Own Farm in Kent on the TV he rang him up for advice and went about setting one up. He had a lake excavated to store water to irrigate the strawberries which he also turned into a popular fishing lake.

He always considered himself to be an entrepreneur and developer. At least a dozen houses in the village were built on land he owned. He loved going to sales and having a deal. He would buy anything at auctions as long as it was a

bargain. He had a number of collections he had bought as job lots – such as truncheons, hats, books – anything that took his interest really. His family never knew what he would come back with from a sale. It could be 5,000 shoe boxes which were used on the Pick Your Own Farm, 100s of bottles of perfume, toys, crockery, tractors, cars – anything.

He always liked flash cars. When he was courting he had an American Buick – an enormous open top tourer. When his contemporaries were buying Land Rovers he was buying Ford Capris and Toyota Celicas. Later on he had a Supra with a very large exhaust which was the envy of the local boy racers. He was still driving that in his eighties. However one of his early targets was to have a Rolls Royce by the age of forty - he achieved that and had various Rolls Royces and Bentleys over the years.

He was also very keen on vintage and veteran cars. One of his first cars he had as a teenager after the war was a flat nose Morris Cowley. To regain his youth in the 1970s he bought a complete wreck of one as a project to restore. Later on he joined the Bullnose Morris Club and was a very keen member for many years. He had some memorable adventures including one time the car caught fire in Ireland and when one of the wheels fell off as they were driving along. He was one of the AA's best customers during those years.

He had always wanted to go on the London to Brighton Veteran Car Run so he bought a 1903 Cadillac and joined the Veteran Car Club. He went on 12 runs with various cars and passengers.

One of the things anyone who met him would remember would be his ability to talk and tell a tale. He was not necessarily the best listener but he could talk for England. He always considered himself lucky but was also someone who made his own luck.

He was the Chairman of the Hannington Parish Meeting and then Council for over 30 years. He initiated an affordable housing development in the village which helped people get on to the housing ladder. For over 12 years he volunteered at the Citizens Advice Bureau in Northampton and would often tell people of his experiences helping people that he considered to be less fortunate in life.

Humphrey was a unique character who lived life to the full. His passing has left a big hole in the lives of all who knew him.

Kindly written by Anthony Clarke (OK 80)

AIDAN COWAN (OK 73)

Aidan died suddenly on 31 January 2021.

He was the beloved husband of Ruth, a devoted father to his sons Oliver and Luke, and a loyal friend. He will be deeply missed by all those fortunate enough to have known him well. Aidan was a very kind, highly intelligent, extremely funny, gentle, warm and generous man.

SEAN ELLIS (OK 84)

Sean died peacefully in his sleep on 21 November 2020 after a very short battle with temporal brain cancer. He lived in Farnham, Surrey, and worked mainly from home for computer company ARM (whose offices are in Cambridge).

Sean leaves behind his wife Tamasin and sons James (18) and Thomas (15). He was also brother to Dounia (OK 86).

NIGEL BRUCE HODSON (OK 58)

Bruce Hodson was only of the reported 351 people who died with Covid-19 on 21 May 2020. He had suffered a fractured ankle after a fall at home and caught the virus after an outbreak in his hospital ward.

He was a former sole practitioner of Hodson Margetts, who had served the people of Raunds as the town's solicitor for many years until his retirement in 2005.

In a tribute to him published in the *Law Gazette* he was described as "old school... there was no PC at his desk, no case management software and dictations were recorded onto tapes." He was described as "a private man who took his position of trust seriously... he would not spend time in local pubs as it may give the impression to clients who saw him, an who may have discussed sensitive matters with him in confidence, that he might be gossiping and thereby risk compromising his respected position in town".

GORDON CHARLES JAMES (OK 60)

Gordon died in Peterborough Hospital on Tuesday 29 December 2020 aged 79 years.

Gordon was very well known locally, especially in farming circles. After being educated at Keysoe School and Kimbolton Grammar School, Gordon happily settled into farming life at home. In 1977, Gordon married Sylvia Bellamy at Dean Church. After starting married life in Lower Dean, Gordon and Sylvia moved to Little Staughton in 1983.

Gordon worked with his parents, Charles and Ruth, for many years; gradually introducing new ideas, modern machines, and generally making the farm more efficient.

Gordon was also very interested in conservation and embarked on various government schemes to support wildlife: setting up a tree planting scheme around a pond near Donkey Lane, naming it Ruff Spinney after their great family friends and former Keysoe residents. In 2000, Gordon planted Millennium Wood to the North of Ashfield Farm. Both are now maturing into great assets for the countryside and wildlife.

In recent years Gordon set up a farming partnership with his niece, Sheila (nee Robinson OK 88), and her husband, Robert Smyth. Together with Sylvia, they extended the farm, and continue to bring in new ideas: farming never stands still!

Gordon did not have much time for leisure activities but did enjoy growing fruit, flowers and vegetables in his poly tunnel. He was a great supporter of the Village Show at Keysoe where

he made many friends enthusiastically entering numerous classes each year: he did like to win, especially the Best Farmer Class!

Gordon's winter shoots were very much enjoyed: initially for family, these quickly expanded to include local farmers and friends.

Farmers rarely retire and although Gordon had poor health for some years, he continued farming until September, determinedly completing his 61st harvest before allowing himself to be taken into hospital.

GRAHAM C KIDMAN (OK 50)

Graham passed away peacefully on 30 May 2020 at Hinchingsbrooke Hospital aged 86 years.

ROGER KINSEY (OK 63)

Roger passed away on 30 September 2020 when he failed to recover from Abdominal Surgery in Northampton Hospital.

He had the full Kimbolton experience as a boarder in the 50's and 60's from form Z in the Prep Department up to the Upper Sixth. He loved the school and some of us will remember the School Review of 1963 which was his famous end of year Variety Show. Fifty years later in 2013 he organised a highly successful reunion with one of the best attendances ever.

Roger studied at Chelsea College and thereafter fulfilled his lifetime passion for working in the Arts and Entertainment Business. He managed a number of bands and worked for the Rank Organisation throughout the UK. He then went into retail and ran his own Art and Craft shops with his wife Chris in Northampton.



Roger Kinsey

Roger retired to Ringstead where he was fully involved in running local music events and the establishment of a Heritage Centre for the village. Roger leaves a wife, two daughters and granddaughters.

Kindly written by Jon Tassell (OK 62)

COLIN MARTIN (OK 43)

Colin passed away peacefully after a short illness on 16 January 2020, aged 92. He happily spent the last 2 years at a nursing home. He was father to Owen and Jane, and loving grandfather and great grandfather.

GEOFFREY MICHAEL MORRIS (OK 73)

Geoffrey was a retired Machine Tool Engineer and died suddenly on 2 September 2020 on his boat in Lanzarote.

Geoff is survived by his wife Susan, Daughter Victoria and Granddaughter Orla.

He was born in Wellingborough to Daphne and Peter Morris on 4 February 1956, and attended Kimbolton School from September 1964 to July 1973. After an apprenticeship at Alfred Herbert, Geoff worked in the family business, Premier Engineering, until retirement in 2008.

Geoff was a passionate sailor and his dream was to sail around the world. He and Susan bought an Oyster 56 in 2008, "Spent", and had sailed ever since including realising his dream by sailing around the world - 23 years of pure adventure.

Geoff was cremated in Lanzarote and his wish to have his ashes spread over the sea in a firework was granted after his funeral.

Words kindly written by Sue Morris



Geoff & Sue Morris

JOHN E PENTELOW (OK 52)

John passed away on 20 December 2019. After leaving Kimbolton he did National Service before studying at Cambridge from 1954-57 gaining a 2nd Class degree in Natural Sciences, specialising in Chemistry. He then worked for The Boots Company in Nottingham until his retirement in 1996.

During his time at Boots John continued to study:

1959- MA (Cantab)

1963 - Royal Institute of Chemistry Diploma in Applied Chemistry

1068 - Master of Pharmaceutical Analysis by Examination

1970 - Fellow of the Royal Society of Chemistry

Between 1975 and 1995 he delivered lectures on Pharmaceutical Packaging in various centres in England, Wales and Scotland.

Between 1981 and 1988 he was the UK delegate to the European Pharmacopoeia in Strasbourg on 'Plastic Containers for Pharmaceutical Use', much of this work focussing on the plastics being introduced for use in intravenous bags.

John leaves his wife Pamela, daughter Sheila, son Keith, 3 grandchildren and 4 great grandchildren.

Words kindly written by Keith Pentelow

MICHAEL REYNOLDS (OK 58)

Michael died peacefully at home on Wednesday 18 March 2020 following a long illness. He attended Kimbolton School in the 1950s and farmed extensively at Cold Overton in Rutland for many years. Ill health resulted in early retirement to Oakham.

Michael led a rich and varied life and is greatly missed by his family and many friends. He left behind his wife, Jan, and his children Tom, Tessa and Edward and their families.

ERIC 'SKIP' SLAPE (OK 43)

Eric died on Saturday 7 March 2020 at Providence Court Care Home in Baldock, three days short of his 93rd birthday.

Skip was born on 10 March 1927 to parents, William and Martha (Selma) Slape. He lived in Archway Road, London with his parents until he met and married his wife, Sheila. During the war Skip was evacuated to Ravensden, near Bedford, to a farm owned by Mr and Mrs Parker. Whilst there he gained a scholarship to study at Kimbolton School. He was always very proud of having attended Kimbolton School and often told his family stories of being there.

Skip completed his two years National Service in the Navy, based in Malta. At the end of National Service he briefly worked in the insurance business, then got a job in public relations working for Cable & Wireless where he stayed for 30 years. He took early retirement age 57. On retirement, Skip and Sheila went on a 6 month adventure to Canada



Eric & Sheila Slape

(where Sheila had family) and the USA, purchasing and converting a van into a camper van. In his retirement he took a part time job with Canvas Holidays, he loved his work and spent many of his holidays with Sheila visiting the campsites in France and passed on his experiences to the customers.

Skip and Sheila had three daughters, Kim, Jan and Helen. They have 7 grandsons and 8 great grandchildren. Unfortunately, their eldest daughter, Kim died from breast cancer in 2013. Youngest daughter, Helen, moved in with her parents 3 years ago to become their carer.

Both Skip and Sheila received the MBE from Queen Elizabeth II on 3 December 2004. The MBE's were nominated and awarded for services to the children of Hertfordshire. Skip taught canoeing and sailing to Guides and Scouts for over twenty years. He also volunteered as a swimming instructor and worked with adults who had never learnt to swim. Both Sheila and Skip delivered meals on wheels for many years. He has always been a practical person and was keen to DIY when he was able.

Words kindly written by Eric's daughter, Helen.

ROGER UNDERHILL (OK 62)

Roger passed away on 7 November 2020 after battling with illness. A former school friend, Brent Henry (OK 63) writes about his memories of Roger...

Roger and I started at Kimbolton School in September 1956, but with us always being in different classes, and him being a boarder, and me a dayboy, our paths only really crossed during the day at break and lunch times. Our ways parted in 1962 when we left school to pursue different careers, but we saw each other occasionally at the summer reunions. These meetings became more frequent in later years when my 3 sons were boarders at Kimbolton, and Roger was working there. Richard, Stephen and Michael all have very fond memories of him during their time at Kimbolton. The few memories that I have quoted all happened 60 or more years ago, but are still remembered fondly. There are others, but these deal with what 2 teenage boys, and others, got up to when on CCF Camps and at various parties during their

school holidays, and those will remain in the fog of aged memory.

Roger and I joined the school CCF together in 1959, and both wanted to be in the RAF Contingent, but at that time you had to serve the first 6 months in the Army. The battledress and trousers you wore were equally as hairy, just in different colours!

The 1960 CCF Army Camp was held in April at Ashford, Kent. Roger and I met up at Wellingborough Station, and went there together. We travelled in uniform, and left our suitcases at Victoria Station whilst we looked around Central London. We had taken off our berets, and tucked them through our shoulder straps, which was a mistake, as we seemed to have most of the male pedestrians telling us to 'Put your berets on' – although they weren't so polite, and the 'F' word was used frequently! It came to a head, when a tall, moustachioed man wearing a brown 'British warm' coat, bowler hat, with a rolled umbrella and very shiny shoes, stopped us, and proceeded to read the riot act about us not wearing our berets in public. I can pinpoint the date for this happening: April 8th 1960, because after we had donned our berets, we went to watch President de Gaulle and the Queen drive past in the open carriage that was taking them to Buckingham Palace for the start of his official visit.

It was at this camp that Roger first gave an indication that he was possibly a marksman when shooting. When we went to fire the Lee Enfield .303 rifles on the range, most of us had the arrowed indicator from the butts pointing at the extremities of the target, or waving to show that nothing had registered. Roger's were always towards the centre.

The following year, we went to RAF Leconfield for the Spring Camp. It was here that we both flew for the first time, it was in a Chipmunk, and we both made the same mistake during and after strapping in. When asked if we had flown before, we both said "No", and were then asked if we would like to fly some 'aeros', and both said 'Yes'. The time to find out that you have not properly strapped yourself into the seat is not when you are upside down at the top of a loop - you fall downwards, head first, and it's accompanied by a shout, or scream. We flew on the same day with the same pilot, but there was no indication from him as to whose scream was the loudest!

This was also the camp when Roger and I spent a whole morning peeling potatoes in a shed at the back of the Airmen's Mess. Since then, I have not been able to peel a potato without thinking of us sat beside this mound of spuds which did not seem to diminish, however many we peeled.

At the beginning of September in 1961, we attended the same course at No 616 Gliding School at Henlow, and both went solo on the same day. Following on from that achievement, it's perhaps a pity that he wasn't asked to fly the school glider, and I was; perhaps he wouldn't have crashed it!

The Granville Hotel in Wellingborough was run by his parents, and during the holidays, they let him have the occasional party there, but only at the weekend. I attended several, and stayed overnight each time. Considering that he



Geoff Caldwell, Roger Underhill, Brent Henry & Barry Dunn at RAF Leconfield 1961

was a border and was only home during the holidays, it was remarkable how he came to know so many local girls, but he did, and I shall be for ever grateful!

Roger had a summer job working in the small zoo at Wellingborough, and through him, I got to meet the TV stars Armand and Michaela Denis when they visited. On one notable occasion, Roger brought the body of a dead monkey back to school with him, and presented it to the Biology Department. I can't remember what happened to it, but I do know that I never got to help dissect it! Frogs, rabbits, cockroaches and plant stems was our limit!

ANTHONY PHILLIP WEBSTER (OK 43)

Anthony started at Kimbolton in 1941. He was the epitome of an English Gentleman; modest to a fault and a dignified achiever.

Always in the top of his class he passed all exams with ease. Tony was also a terrific sport. He once caught and bowled the great Sir Jack Hobbs in the Fathers' match. Later the great man said of Tony that "he never ever gave his wicket away but that ball was unplayable!". In the same game he skittled W Ingram much to his chagrin. Tony was certainly county standard. He also played in the 1st XI football team.

Tony left Kimbolton in 1943 to join the RAF stationed in Malta training as a navigator. The war ended before he became operational.

A student of Dickens he could easily have been an author, but he chose to join the family business as Chairman. He died on 9 March 2020 in Kettering.

Words kindly written Tony's brother, Brian Webster (OK 46)



PAT TOWNLEY

We are sad to report that Pat Townley, a very much loved member of the Kimbolton Family, passed away in February 2021 aged 89.

Those who came into contact with Pat will recall an infectious and ever ready laugh, a willing smile and a glint of pure joie de vivre in her eye.

Long after her husband, Jim, retired from the teaching staff at Kimbolton, Pat was still supporting the OKA and clearly revelled in the retelling of antics from a generation of boys and girls at Kimbolton.

The news of Andre's passing prompted several OKs to get in touch with the OKA, writing about their memories of this popular teacher...

It's hard to know where to begin when remembering Andre Beeson. But here goes...

I remember when he first came to Kimbolton as a "student" teacher – while still "studying" at Cambridge; he was almost our age! He seemed to be very much of our generation. I recall him saying how he played jazz much of his time in Cambridge, but still graduated very successfully. There is a scene in a movie (name escapes me at the moment) that shows him in a Cambridge Jazz Club playing how he always played, with soul and mathematical precision.

I started at Kim as a day boy in the second form in 1957, and I was a charter member of the 4 cyclists! When my father, who was in the RAF, was posted to Cyprus I became a boarder in what was then 4X. Oh, my, what an experience that was; I felt almost jailed, but not for long! I was in Bayle's House in the Castle; once I escaped 4X into the lower sixth – and shared a room with Malcom Scoggins - Andre was our House Master. By then he was a fully-fledged member of the staff common room!

One Saturday he invited one or two of us to watch That Was The Week That Was, TW3. A complete eye-opener! And then on one of those evenings he introduced those of us in his flat to jazz. The first opening gambit was Charlie Parker, Yard Bird. I was completely taken and have to say I rarely looked back. We could listen, illegally, to Radio Luxemburg in the "dungeons", but his music from Andre was so much more – so mathematical! Another Andre/jazz moment was one weekend driving from Leicester to Bedford to hear Andre play in a club there. A great evening and one to be remembered.

He was my mentor – you know, I did offend the system from time to time – and he was also a supporter.

I remember when Chris Webb and I were staying at school one parents weekend (ours were out of the country) driving my little Austin 7 along Queen's Walk only to be confronted with Andre and Phillip Burket. When asked "what do you think you're doing?" I replied "driving my car, sir!" needless to say, the car had to go. And then there was the flourishing romance that had us boys all a-giggle!

Farewell Andre! Thank you!

[John Calver (OK 63)]

Andre was my housemaster but more than that, you would nowadays call him my mentor. He was an inspiration to myself and many other boys. Considerate, dedicated ready with advice, as well as talented.

Andre was humane and kind in, what was then, not an always humane, kind environment. He was a reformer and I know he did much to push Kimbolton into a more modern ethos where every child mattered. So important was he that many of us stayed in touch with him for over 50 years.

[David Brown (OK 69)]

I was saddened to hear of the death of Andre. To my recollection he never taught me maths, but he was my housemaster for four years. I was a clarinettist in the Wind Band from the outset and was also a member of the CCF band. An example of his sense of humour: I was small for my age, yet he got me to try out on the baritone sax - needless to say I struggled with it! I have some fond memories of playing the the Wind Band, in particular playing the Can-Can at a local hospital (I think) where we had a troupe of ladies performing the dance.

It was at one such event that I witnessed his prowess on the saxophone and bass clarinet.

In the sixth form, we were regularly invited to a Saturday evening social event in Andre's room, where he made percolated coffee and played us some of his record collection. It was here I was introduced to the music of Ravi Shankar, Sonny Rollins and I also remember him playing a record of the singer Florence Foster Jenkins (wider known now from the film with Meryl Streep and Hugh Grant).

I met him once, several years later in the early 80s, in London, where I was living at the time. I discovered he was playing jazz



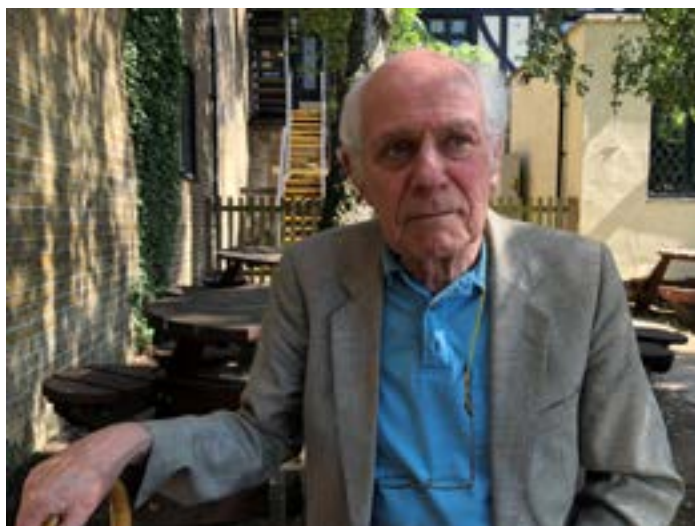
Andre Beeson at a school Pioneer Camp

at a venue there, so went along to see him. He did remember me and it was nice to catch up with him as well as hear him play. He had left Kimbolton by then. Through his influence, I bought myself a saxophone and have been playing music on and off ever since in a variety of bands. He also introduced me to music that I might not have heard of otherwise and gave me a lifelong interest in Jazz.

[Robert Maclagan (OK 68)]

I will always have excellent memories of Andre, not only from when I was at school, but Jon Tassell and myself reconnected with him during the last 10 years. We went to hear him play, both sax and clarinet, about 6 years ago, and had a wonderful evening with him which turned out to be his last playing gig. I feel honoured to have witnessed this night as his playing was, as ever, immaculate in spite of, as he put it, his arthrickety fingers not being what they used to be!! However the most important memory is when he took three of us to the Leicester De Montfort Hall to hear the incredible jazz pianist Erroll Garner. From that evening onward I was hooked on listening to jazz from every genre. I owe Andre an enormous amount of gratitude for that life time event. RIP Andre.

[Written by Roger Kinsey (OK 63) before Roger passed away in October.]



Andre Beeson pictured in 2018 by Paul Nieman (OK 68)

Andre was invited to the 1968 year group 50th reunion, but was unable to travel due to his poor health. He instead met Paul Nieman for lunch locally where this photo was taken.





Old Kimboltonians' Association

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