



OK NEWS 2022



Spring 2022

FROM THE EDITOR...



Firstly, I should introduce myself, as this will be the first OKA magazine that I have published and many of you reading this may not know that I am new to the role. In May 2021, after 10 years as Alumni Officer, Helen Hopperton stood down. Helen has been instrumental in the continued development of the OKA, and we thank her for her tremendous efforts. Disappointingly, the first task that Sarah and I had was to cancel the Summer Ball and Reunion Day due to Covid. However, onwards and upwards, as the saying goes and the whole committee are very much looking forward to all of the upcoming events in 2022.

A little bit of background about myself, after leaving Kimbolton in 1995. I went on to graduate from The University of Northampton with a Combined Honours degree in Fine Art and Art History in 1999. Art, especially painting, was always a huge part of my life whilst at Kimbolton with Frank Priest's influence and the new addition of the Pellegrini Art Centre providing the perfect environment, I flourished as a painter.



Hockey was and still is one of my main passions. In my school years before 'astros' were a thing, many of our year group would spend every lunchtime practicing on the grass pitches outside of the Spinney Block and the Castle, heading back to the classroom after lunch with very muddy shoes! I am very lucky to have been able to continue to play such an amazing game, from being the top goal scorer for the school 1st XI 3 years running to being selected to trial for England Ladies Masters, to now having the opportunity to be a part of a fantastic team of sports coaches here at school.



On a professional level, my love of organising events led to a career in Event Management and more recently I have been involved in managing Continuing Education Events for Equine Veterinarians throughout the world.

Covid put pay to any international travel and I was delighted to see the Alumni position available. I couldn't resist the opportunity to get involved in life at Kimbolton again!

To all who have contributed to this edition of the Magazine, thank you. To those who haven't contributed, please consider sending in your news, however big or small you think it is.

The OKA Committee are continuing to work hard to develop opportunities for all alumni members. Whether this be on the sports field, at social events, or through networking opportunities and career advice.

I really hope that the interest in supporting the OKA is set to continue - remember the success of the Association relies on your involvement! You will find details of future events planned in this publication and on the OKA website. If you are interested in attending an OK event, please get in touch and find out more - we are here to help and just a fleeting thought shows you have some level of interest in connecting with the OKA and your former school friends!

Victoria Wakefield

Contact Us

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Old Kimboltonians' Association

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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 2022. 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.



Sunny Panorama by R E Knell

(Cover Photo: Courtesy of R E Knell)

FROM THE HEADMASTER

I had rather hoped that the strange circumstances pertaining at the time I penned my previous OKA Magazine introduction would have long since dissipated twelve months later. Sadly not; January 2022 has proved a Covid-lite version of January 2021. However, there is a great deal more optimism on the ground this time around. School is operating at close to 'normal', if one ignores the omnipresent face masks (which renders classroom Q&A sessions difficult, unless one has acute hearing!). The Senior School did take a mild pummelling at the fag end of the Summer Term, as most of our Lower 6th were 'pinged' off the premises and the Ball had to be cancelled; replaced with an U6th Leavers' meal, speeches and disco in early September, post A-Level results. The Prep School suffered a number of waves of pupil absence in the Autumn. However, by and large, we escaped pretty unscathed and the average pupil absence has never exceeded 2% of the Senior School population.



That 'population' did not contract as a result of the economic ravages of the pandemic. The 2021 Autumn Term began with a record number of pupils in the school – now nudging the 1100 mark. Whilst any longer term School Development Plans were inevitably put on ice for the duration, the Governors are looking forward to publishing a new Strategic Review during the course of this year, to which, undoubtedly, alumni relations will form a part.

Whilst no major construction projects have taken place, the campus has been spruced up in a number of areas – not least with the completion of a new Outdoor Pursuits compound, a brand new set of changing rooms alongside the Duchess all weather pitch and, most notably, a grand new entrance to the Prep School. Long overdue, it brings an impressive sense of light as you enter the building and you can see straight through to the playing fields beyond; a softening of the otherwise somewhat austere redbrick Victorian façade.

Sadly, the year provided thin gruel for OK events. However, the OK football team are progressing well in the Arthurian League, under the tutelage of the spritely captain, George Wilson and, equally spritely, Manager Jon 'Pep' Hunter. Simon Doyle (Captain of football 1982) and I have watched a number of games together from the side lines, convincing each other that we could both still 'do a job' in the middle of the park. Actually true in Simon's case, as he donned his shorts during a November injury crisis.

Last year saw the retirement of a number of Kimbolton stalwarts with Messrs Bamford and Bates departing after a combined 67 years' service to the School. Indeed, I imagine some of those pupils whom AJB first taught in 1984 are, themselves, pondering retirement themselves now. Kimbolton School owes a huge debt to both teachers and it was disappointing that pandemic restrictions prevented us giving both of them the rousing send-off which they fully deserved.

Other notable departees were Edward Valletta, Bursar for 22 years and responsible for overseeing a plethora of building projects over the past two decades and, of course, our own OK Alumni Officer, Helen Hopperton. Helen will be greatly missed, both for her encyclopaedic knowledge of the OK 'network' and the calm assurance with which she took on this new role a decade ago, and then ran with it so successfully. I am delighted that her successor, Vicky Wakefield, is also an OK.

A warm welcome too to Sarah Gill who took over the OK Presidency in the Summer – the first President to be a pupil during my tenure at Kimbolton. James Brown's term as President came to a frustrating close as all his excellent ideas on taking the OKA forward were wrecked on the rocks of Covid. I very much enjoyed working with James and he has prised open initiatives through which Sarah's presidential ambitions can flow.

I look forward to seeing many of you over the course of the year, as we emerge blinking from our enforced 'hibernation' over the coming months. In particular, I hope that the OK weekend in July will prove a rumbustious occasion as we celebrate three years' worth of leaving anniversaries. I trust that the sun will shine on the righteous and old friendships can be renewed after such a lengthy hiatus.

Here's to 2022.

Jonathan Belbin



FROM THE OKA PRESIDENT

Sarah Gill (OK 12)

Reflecting on the last year for the OKA has been more difficult than expected; the continuation of the pandemic and its impact on us all, has meant the association has had yet another quiet year. Yet, there have been some big changes in the association committee, including the penmanship of both this welcome letter and the editor's letter - so that seemed a logical place to start.

My first OKA committee meeting coincidentally was also James Brown's first as President of the association. James's ambitions for the OKA in his proposed plan were clear and exciting, unfortunately thanks to the pandemic, the outcome seen by the main body of the association is not reflective of all the hard planning work he has laid for the future. What you will see in the next few years very much builds on James's plan, the creation of smaller more casual events in addition to our traditional yearly calendar – keep your eyes peeled. We will also continue to build stronger networking opportunities for OKs, supporting them in their careers, promoting OK projects, business and supporting all ventures where possible.

Thank you, James, for all your hard work for the association and particularly for adding an additional year to your presidency during the pandemic, whilst managing a home move and your growing young family. Finally on a personal note thank you for encouraging me to take on this role - there is certainly a pint owed at an OKA event in the future!



James, I, and our predecessors would not have been able to hold this position and association would of course not exist as it does without the brilliant hard work of previous OKs to create such a successful association. For Kimbolton one of these people is of course Helen Hopperton. The past few months in this role have given me a much better insight into what Helen has done for the association over her past 10 years as Alumni Officer - the word transformational is a mere scratch of the surface. I am so grateful to her for continuing to help Vicky and I find our feet; we are also very pleased to say Helen has agreed to stay on the committee filling our vacant Treasure's role. As the Headmaster said, she has an encyclopaedic knowledge of the OKA and that is something that not only we on the committee value, but as a wider organisation require. Thank you, from us all Helen – I promise at some point I will stop popping-in for a cup of tea with a list of questions and start just having the tea!

Given the changes above, it seems a sensible time to introduce myself a little further, as I appreciate for the majority of OKs we probably have never crossed paths. As the Headmaster said, I am the first president of his tenure and therefore form part of the more recent years of OK leavers. My time at Kimbolton started in 1998, in the last single year intake of reception classes; we had our first term in the prefab building, whilst the 'New Pre-Prep' was completed. I finished at Kimbolton 14 years later in 2012 with 9 others who had also started in 1998, having been taught by the likes of Andrew Bamford, Chris and Alison Bates and Jeff Garland. Like for many other OKs, school also played a huge role in my family life, with my brother George (OK'15) and cousins Kate (OK'10) and Eleanor (OK'14) Burton also attending and completing 14 years – we probably walked past many local pupils and girl boarders on our way to the Prep school with our Grandfather Archie, loaded with more sports bags as each of us started our journey. Although I can't speak for my other family members, I can honestly say that I mostly loved my time at school, I was never the best at anything, I was mostly well behaved and got on with most of my teachers; I am sure they thought I was often too chatty (a continuing trait) and that at times I could have put more effort in to my work. Instead, my focus tended to be on the things I enjoyed, building friendships and taking up the opportunities presented; whether that be a CCF opportunity, house event (I'll always back Gibbards), school trip or sport – there was always something brilliant on offer.

Many of my favourite memories of school where had during my time in the Army section of the CCF, certainly something which is a give more get more set up - field weekends and summer camps are still mentioned regularly when catching up. A particular favourite is my missed ambush of 2011, seemingly not able to live it down amongst my close friends and apparently also fondly remembered by Mr Grey, who I caught up with at the schools Kimbolton- based field weekend 2021. Truly though, the enjoyment I had in CCF was often linked to the pride and responsibility I felt when wearing the uniform, I was reminded no more of this than when laying the wreath for OKs at the 2021 Remembrance parade, a similar feeling only to the one I had when leading my platoon down the High Street as a colour sergeant 10 years prior. I am so in awe of those OKs who are serving and have served both in our own military forces and those around the world. A huge thanks must be extended to committee member Thomas Campbell (OK'14) for organising and leading a platoon of leavers who wish to recognise them.

Although the Association's past year has been quiet, I would like to take this opportunity to thank George Wilson (OK'13) and Jonathan Hunter (OK'80) for their continued commitment throughout the pandemic to OKA football (played when rules allowed). I have been to a few matches over the past few years and luckily, they have always won. I am told this is thanks to the strong squad Jonathan and George have created, ensuring a good team is put out every weekend. A further thanks must also be given to all the footballers who give up their Saturdays to represent us so well. It was great to see some sponsorship to the club training tops this year from Cabins GB, a big thanks to David Blair (OK'77) and James Blair (OK'11) for this. If you would be interested in sponsoring the Football in anyway in the future, we would love to hear from you; please contact the office for more details.

I am really looking forward to leading the committee into the next few years and I am hopeful we can move forward without any further restrictions. We as an association exist for all OKs, our main aim is to foster friendships and relationships made at school. However, as a committee we can't move the OKA forward without your support. Therefore I ask the following things of you all. Firstly we all know how important friends have become over the past 2 years. If you can arrange a group gathering however big or small at our OKA day in July please do. We will be celebrating 3 years ('20 '21 and '22) worth of reunions that evening so we know the day is going to be busier anyway, but do let us know you're coming or if we can help connect you with others who are attending. As always, the morning sport and day cricket matches will be played, the known Mall football tournament is returning. Andrew Bamford will be doing Castle tours (designated times TBC). We will ensure the bar is well stocked, the burgers are flowing, the Green Room afternoon tea will be served and there's the addition of local Ice creams available this year, so the hope of sunshine; a bouncy castle for those with children or adults wanting to be children.

Finally, please support us moving forward. We will be proposing new events to cater for the diverse range of membership. Please support them where you can, feedback to us with your thoughts and feel free to make suggestions; we can't grow or learn without this. Most importantly, update your contact details and remind friends, family to do so - you just need to get in touch with the office. If you would like to join the committee or feel you have some time to give to the association without joining the committee please reach out. New faces and fresh ideas are always welcome!

I look forward to writing my next update, surely with much more to say about the events of the association in the 2022 year. So for now, till next time...



The Committee & Representatives of the Old Kimboltonians' Association

OKA Committee...

President:	Sarah Gill (OK'12)	Treasurer:	Helen Hopperton (OK'85)
Vice President:	Jonathan Belbin (Headmaster)	Secretary:	Victoria Wakefield (OK'95)
Danni Belbin (OK'12)	Joanna Doyle (OK'84)	John Hitchin (OK'71)	Bill Skinner (Former Staff)
George Beverly (OK'08)	Hattie Gellatly (OK'13)	James Hodges (OK'11)	Andrew Bamford (Former staff)
Joshua Spink (OK'07)	Theo Gibbs (OK'68)	Abi Hooton (OK'15)	
Thomas Campbell (OK'14)	Sarah Gill (OK'12)	James Hopperton (OK'94)	
Michael Capps (OK'65)	Charlotte Goodson (OK'88)	Jonathan Hunter (OK'80)	
Josh Doonan (OK'13)	Alaster Gray (OK'73)	John Mayes (OK'51)	

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		jamescmoore6@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)	Sallie Aylott	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 to help drive the Association forward and organise events & reunions.

For more information on what this involves please contact

Victoria Wakefield, Alumni Officer:

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

School NEWS

LARA NAMED AS #SHEPADDLES AMBASSADOR

Fourth Form paddlesports enthusiast Lara has been named by British Canoeing, Canoe Wales and the Scottish Canoe Association as one of 16 inspirational #ShePaddles Ambassadors for 2021. The talented 14-year-old first took to the water aged six, learning and developing her skills with Wansford-based KEW paddlers. She now fits white-water kayaking and sea kayaking around GCSE studies and U15B Hockey matches, naming Llagollen in Wales and, more locally, the River Nene as her favourite places to explore.

In her spare time Lara enjoys helping teach younger children at the Leam Boat Centre, and recently chose kayaking as part of her Bronze Duke of Edinburgh award. This involved taking a British Canoeing Foundation Safety and Rescue Training course, which is an early step towards becoming a qualified coach. She also has her sights set on one day completing the 125-mile Devizes to Westminster canoe race – in which Kimbolton has an enviable track record.

She says: "I'm super excited to be a #ShePaddles Ambassador and am looking forward to working with British Canoeing over the next 12 months. I want to encourage more young women and girls to take up the sport, and hope my experiences will inspire others to get involved."



RECORD AWARDS FOR DEBATERS

Twelve Kimbolton pupils competed against 36 other teams at the annual Cheadle Hulme Model United Nations Conference on 9-10 October. There was tough competition from schools including Oakham, Manchester Grammar and Shrewsbury, as well as some delegations from overseas.

With the aim to debate from the perspective of a particular country, Emily, Mollie, Ben, Harriet, Caitlin and Alistair represented the Central African Republic whilst Sam, Mimi, Anna, Mariko, Tawana and Thomas represented Bolivia.

The whole team did superbly well to secure a record number of awards. Pride of place went to Tawana who won the Science and Environment committee, whilst Harriet and Emily were highly commended, meaning a top three finish, in the Historical and Political committees respectively. In addition, Mariko, Anna and Sam were all commended, meaning a top five finish for their debating too.

In the overall team awards, both Bolivia and the Central African Republic were commended, placing them both in the top 5 teams in the final reckoning, whilst Caitlin and Mollie also received an award for their performance in the General Assembly.

Congratulations to all involved on these exceptional results!



CREATIVE WEEKEND FOR SIXTH FORM ARTISTS

Our Sixth Form Art students recently enjoyed a three-day residential retreat at Burwell House. 25 artists and photographers enjoyed the chance to work on independent, individual projects - including life drawing and outdoor night photography. The annual trip, a highlight of our Arts calendar, is a chance for students to start large projects, experiment, work together, and take artistic risks.

The trip concluded with an ensemble photo shoot, loosely based on the work of Tim Walker, whose highly imaginative images are inspired by a love of fairy tales and adventure.

Head of Art Mrs Lisa Bamford said: "The photography students had to compose and run the shoot, with our art students as their models. The results were stunning. Thanks to the Drama department for letting us raid their costume store!"



GOLD FOR KIMBOLTON ATHLETES

Kimbolton athletes Tiggy and Jemima helped Kettering Town Harriers middle distance squad to team Gold in the U13 Girls' Midland Road Relay race at the weekend. Year 6 Tiggy, aged just 11 and competing in her first regional championship, ran a fantastic second leg, with Second Former Jemima - who has set 4 club records and a new school 800m record in an extraordinary track season - securing victory with the fastest lap of the day.

HOUSE SAILING ON GRAFHAM WATER

Congratulations to Gibbards, winners of our Senior House sailing competition which took place in breezy conditions on Wednesday 6 October. Three races were completed, each one consisting of two laps around a triangle course. Racing was close, with the difference generally coming down to a few minor mistakes.

Gibbards got off to a good start, winning the first two races, however Rob and Sam had a lot of work to do in the third race having received a penalty just before the start. Meanwhile, Balyes had a poor start in the first race, but recovered to second; getting into their stride, Owen and Henry then scored another second place and a win in the third race. Early signs showed that these were the two boats to watch!

Owens (Lloyd and Benny) and Dawsons (Jack and Milton, defending champions) were in a close battle for third and fourth place overall. At times they were very close to the Gibbards and Balyes boats, but were hampered by making a few more mistakes than the others. Dawsons eventually secured a second place in the last race which would work in their favour.

Two tie breaks were resolved after a little head-scratching and consulting the World Sailing rule book. Well done to all the sailors, it was a thrilling match to watch!



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



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Prep News

KIMBOLTON DAY OF LANGUAGES

Fitzpiers - winners of the Prep's 'Cultural Catwalk' competition.

Bonjour, Hola!, Buongiorno ... The whole school celebrated Kimbolton's Day of Languages on 27 September, with pupils enjoying a packed programme of linguistic and cultural activities - as well as a delicious lunch, with menus in French and Spanish. For the Upper Prep, a highlight of the day was the 'Cultural Catwalk' inter-House competition, in which children from each House represented a French-speaking country. Points were awarded for presentation, creativity, music choice - and enthusiasm! Pupils also enjoyed listening to a French story, *Bon Appétit! Monsieur Lapin* (click below), read by 23 different members of staff, and watched a French film, *Ernest et Célestine* in the Hunter Hall. At the Lower Prep, Year 2 enjoyed a French breakfast as well as activities and games with our A Level language students.



Meanwhile, activities at the Senior School included a Duo Lingo challenge, a word tree, cake sale, lunchtime 'talking points' with conversation starters, a quiz, meetings of the International Society, French and Spanish clubs, and a dedicated modern foreign languages book display in the Vanbrugh Library.

A Council of Europe initiative, the European Day of Languages has been celebrated every year since 2001. The main message of the day is that language skills are a necessity and a right for everyone, young and old, opening up opportunities and helping us to understand each other better.

Mrs Marta Viruete Navarro, Head of Modern Foreign Languages at Kimbolton, said: "Our aim is to promote the rich linguistic diversity of Europe and raise awareness of the importance of lifelong language learning for all our pupils. We have decided to celebrate our Day of Languages so that all languages are included, not only European. The two assemblies held in the WBLT and the Lewis Hall in the Senior School were led by our pupils and brought together the whole community so that staff and pupils alike could share their linguistic skills in a variety of languages. A few pupils did not know that other non-MFL teachers could speak in different languages!"

INSPIRING SCIENTISTS OF THE FUTURE

Lower Prep pupils came face to face with exotic animals including Wilma the lizard, Annie the frog and Jeff the corn snake during an exciting 'Animal Encounters' workshop. The session was part of KSTEM (1-5 November), our biennial whole school celebration of Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths. Visiting animal expert Chris Welbourn spoke to the children about animal habitats, life cycles, and the different stages of development and growth.

Other events for Prep pupils this week include Biology workshops for Years 3-5, an interactive Physics demonstration by Senior School teacher Mr Wigington, a Royal Institution lecture presentation, and a hands-on Lego workshop.

Meanwhile, at the Senior School, pupils are enjoying a similarly packed programme of events. Highlights include 'Stand up Scientist' Ian Dunne, a STEM careers talk for the Lower 6th, and Octas workshops where 4th Form GCSE pupils used dowel and rubber bands to create a tunnel of Octahedrons – a fun challenge involving DTE, Maths, fine and gross motor skills, problem-solving and teamwork.

We also welcomed 'Science Magician' Dr Matt Pritchard to the Hunter Hall and William Brown Lecture Theatre, for sessions with both Prep and Senior pupils. His shows were packed with science tricks, stunts and puzzles as pupils were challenged to

develop their critical thinking skills and discover the sneaky scientific secrets behind the surprising illusions!

Senior School KSTEM organiser Mr Wigington said: "I hope the week has provided all pupils with exciting and memorable experiences, encouraging them to develop their skills, ask questions, and become inspired about future careers in STEM subjects."



CCF News

KIMBOLTON CADETS REPRESENT CCF AT THE CENOTAPH

Thirty Kimbolton School CCF cadets (including cadets from St Peter's School) from Fourth Form to the Upper Sixth represented all Combined Cadet Forces across the country in London at the weekend, in support of the Royal British Legion's Acts of Remembrance - a once-in-a-lifetime honour. Fifteen cadets were involved with the Festival of Remembrance at the Royal Albert Hall on Saturday, and then the other 15 paraded past the Cenotaph on Sunday in front of the Royal Family, political leaders, current and ex-members of the Armed Forces and World War veterans.

In Kimbolton village, we also commemorated The Fallen as the School's CCF, along with village youth groups, supported the Kimbolton Branch of the Royal British Legion in its annual parade and Act of Remembrance along the High Street and at St Andrew's church.

Congratulations to all the cadets on their commitment and representation of both Kimbolton and the CCF.



Festival of Remembrance at the Royal Albert Hall

Is the *OK News* 'on-line' the future?

If you are happy to read future editions on-line and save the OKA printing and postage costs, please email:

alumni@kimbolton.cambs.sch.uk

FIELD WEEKEND 2021

Field Weekend at the Senior School! Members of our Combined Cadet Force (CCF) contingent headed out on manoeuvres, while other groups made use of their time with a variety of activities and trips.

In the School grounds and in local woods, Army, RAF and Navy cadets from the Fourth to Sixth Forms went through training exercises, and then camped out overnight. The Navy cadets took part in activities at Grafham Water and at HMS Excellent in Portsmouth.

Members of our Community Service Unit planted Spring bulbs for the local community around Kimbolton, and carried out general maintenance work in St Andrew's church grounds and graveyard.

The Third Form went on a joint History and English trip to the National Memorial Arboretum, to study the key theme of Remembrance, especially linked to World War I. The Second Form visited Cadbury World and Bournville Village to complement studies of Fair Trade in Geography, and Quaker Philanthropy in Philosophy, Religion and Ethics.

Finally, the First Form enjoyed a team-building activity day in Northampton that included karting, simulator racing, climbing, bouldering and caving.



The Parachute Regiment and Airborne Forces Memorial at the National Arboretum.

STAFF ROOM NEWS



ANDREW BAMFORD

First, the historical perspective. John Stratford's school history *From Churchyard To Castle* (published in 2000) pays tribute to long-serving members of staff at Kimbolton over two centuries – from George Cole in pre-Victorian times (portrait in the White Hall) to Cyril Gibbard (1911-53) through to many stalwarts from the late 20th century epitomised by Geoff Coles (1958-94) and Roy Butler (1962-2000). All dedicated their working lives to the school, and this pattern continues, with numerous present teachers, male and female, near or at the 25-year 'qualification' required for inclusion in the Stratford pantheon.

Colleagues, pupils, OKs and parents all love staff who commit themselves long-term to the school in this way – and of no one is this truer than Andrew, who retired in July after 37 years' service.



He arrived in 1984 from Bury Grammar School and Selwyn College Cambridge to teach in Philip Burkett's History Department. Initially a boarding tutor living in White House and then Kim House, his pastoral skills had their first recognition with promotion to joint Head of Balyes with Frank Burns in 1990. When Philip Burkett's successor, Philip Armitage, died suddenly on the football pitch one Tuesday afternoon in autumn 1990, Andrew was the natural choice, even at just 29, for the role of Head of History – so Room Six in the Orangery and P11 and P14 in the Castle became the Bamford domain, and remained so for the next 31 years.

Andrew's History Department flourished, with an impressive range of teachers and tip-top academic results supplemented by a gamut of tours and visits – yes, the annual high-profile, mass-participation trips to Paris, Versailles, Berlin, Munich and the 1WW Battlefields, but also the smaller, curriculum-enriching visits to places like Hughenden Manor (home of Disraeli), Apsley House ('No 1, London', where the Duke of Wellington's windows were smashed by demonstrators in 1830) and the Civil War Museum at Newark. All these in their different ways reflected Andrew's deep knowledge and passion for English history and for carrying his pupils along with him in his enthusiasm.

We used to have a section in the Kimboltonian called Further Afield, and in the era before globe-trotting sports tours, the furthest of these were mainly Andrew's initiatives. With vision, energy and administrative skill he took groups of Sixth Formers to Russia, his early visits still in the Soviet era, and in 1992 he set up the first pupil exchange with Bridgewater Raritan High School in New Jersey, building on the links set up through an earlier teacher exchange involving John Greening. Andrew was truly the Founding Father of the US Exchange, enabling hundreds of Lower Sixth formers to enjoy the educational, social and cultural experience of the Exchange over more than 25 years until the pandemic intervened.

The US Exchange was run with the Politics and English Departments. The replacement of Public Affairs with Politics, and the creation of a new A Level department under Chris (and later Alison) Bates was transformational, and soon History and Politics became a popular and highly successful combination of subject choices, its success shown by the large numbers going on to read these subjects at university. This Bamford/Bates axis later came to be at the academic centre of the Belbin era, with Andrew as Head of Sixth Form and Chris as Director of Studies (later Deputy Head Academic).

By the end of the Roger Peel years in 2002, most of the long-serving stalwarts mentioned earlier had retired, and Andrew was given his main leadership role. He had previously run the Sixth Form Club (a three-evenings-a-week drinking den in the bowels of the Castle – yes, really!) and introduced the annual Sixth Form Ball (never a leavers' event, but for the whole Sixth Form), but being Head of Sixth Form, a new post created for him by Jonathan Belbin, involved much more than partying and cheerleading.

Along with the big personality, the booming Lancashire accent, the jokes, the anecdotes and the sense of fun, the famed 'Va Va Voom', Andrew was developing a real vision of the Sixth Form as a place where pupils developed the confidence to flourish both academically and personally.

Previously, there was annual worry about how many Fifth Formers might leave and go to Hinchingsbrooke, Long Road or elsewhere. Now, numbers in the Lower Sixth grew, with many talented pupils joining from other schools, including some from families looking for just two years of private education. Andrew promoted the Sixth Form and its pupils constantly, not just through his own example and energy but also through inspiring enthusiasm in others, pupils and staff alike. There was (and is) something for everyone: Sixth Form facilities, the Citizenship programme, the UCAS processes, the tutoring system along with so much drama, sport, music, service activities, a vibrant house championship. Under Andrew's leadership, every Sixth Former felt part of the whole, and enjoyed it.

All readers who were at the school between 1984 and last July will have their Bamford memories. Mine include exchanging draft UCAS references by email between the Careers Room and his office in the dungeons deep into a winter's evening, and once even between one Battlefields tour bus and another. I remember flying to the US with him as members of the Exchange party were getting copious free drinks from British Airways (one was seriously hungover when we arrived in Bridgewater). I remember him being told off by the Beefeaters for over-enthusiastic guiding at the Tower of London, and later him chivvying a bemused-looking group of students to "move and groove" before it was pointed out that they were from a different school.

But anyone who has had the privilege of being Andrew's colleague or pupil over the years will know that it's his acts of kindness that mean most. When a Balyes pupil was anxious about returning to school after a suspension, it was Andrew who brokered and hosted a meeting between the boy and the Headmaster in the comfortable environment of his house in Castle Gardens. When a cricket-loving retired colleague was struggling with early-onset dementia, it was Andrew who organised and took him for a day at Lord's. When school tragedies such as the death of Michael Nutkins in 2005 shook the Sixth Form, it was Andrew that spoke to and for everyone at the funeral. I've heard Andrew's speeches in many different circumstances over the years: he's a master of the art, and always fully prepared with hand-written notes.

Lest this sounds like an obituary, I'm glad to say that one evening recently (Aug 21) Andrew and I went down the A1 in the car together for our umpteenth Watford/Crystal Palace match, the difference this time being that we were accompanied by 15-year-old Anna, sporting her new Palace shirt and twittering away to her dad with all the latest Palace gossip.

And last Sunday (Nov 7th), he was his usual exuberant self as the new Curator of the Castle, a role he has taken over from Nora Butler, welcoming visitors, sharing his knowledge and enthusiasm and also bringing in new ideas – in this case, including Lower Sixth formers in the team of guides.

Two things remain to be said, both of them evident at Andrew's retirement party at the Castle in August. First, his ability to connect and have genuine friendships across the generations: his guest list extended from Philip Burkett's widow Jean, now well into her 90s, through many friends of four decades, including colleagues in their 20s.

And at his side, Lisa. She first came to Kimbolton for a year in 1993 as a "left-wing artist-in-residence with red hair and leggings" (Andrew's words) and after a long courtship involving many weekend miles in a small Peugeot between Kimbolton and Millfield (with occasional stops at Selhurst Park), they were married at the Castle in 1999. What joy! Their partnership has been at the very heart of Kimbolton life in the years since.

A few weeks ago (Oct 21) Andrew texted to say that he, Lisa and Anna are moving from Thurleigh to Hartford, barely a mile from the Skinners in Wyton. We've invited them to supper on moving day – much hilarious talk is guaranteed!

Bill Skinner

CHRIS BATES

Chris Bates retired as Deputy Head (Academic) in July 2021, after 30 years dedicated service to the Kimbolton School Community. He leaves a massive legacy in so many ways from curriculum innovation to making the Politics Department a “blue riband” in terms of academic standards and innovative teaching. Above all, a wise and humane counsellor, he has influenced the lives of generations of Kimbolton students and set the benchmark for professionalism for the teaching staff.

Chris joined the school as Head of Public Affairs and a teacher of history in September 1991. It was a very difficult time for the History Department as we grappled with the unexpected death of Philip Armitage in October 1990 and I was looking for two new teachers to take the department forward. We struck gold with Craig Woodgate and Chris Bates. Chris immediately transformed Public Affairs into Politics and within a few years Politics became one of the four biggest departments at A levels, both in terms of the quantity of students and quality of results. Chris made the subject come alive not only in terms of the lessons but by the whole host of extracurricular links he developed from the Politics Society, Amnesty International to the Philosophy Discussion Group.



There was no dumbing down but a raising of expectations. Lured by the prospect of unusual coffee, many students first learnt about Nietzsche or Locke in P10 on a Friday evening after school. The fact that he could run this intellectual club at 4.30 on a Friday and attract a good cross section of the school from the 3rd Form and above is testament to his charisma and legendary status at Kimbolton. He had a large teaching load in the History Department as well with many courses foisted on him by me including documents on the Norman Conquest to the Cambridge History Project covering 1000 years of British History. It was so much fun working with him, especially at the annual Upper Sixth Leavers BBQ in our garden with Chris driving the pupils over in a minibus and reading out his yearly poem with a pen portrait of each of our charges.

Commitment to History and Politics extended to a large number of school trips. Chris was very committed to the American Exchange and completed many trips to our partnership school in Bridgewater New Jersey which gave him the opportunity to visit Washington and in particular the Supreme Court of which he wrote several scholarly articles. He tried to inject a degree of sanity on numerous History trips to the Battlefields, Berlin and Russia in contrast with the rather excitable Head of History! It was Chris who first found the grave of OK Philip Stubbs at Thiepval which has become a place of pilgrimage on the annual 3rd Form visit to the Somme, and remained calm at the infamous Rossiya Hotel in Moscow with its distinctive array of prostitutes, Kalashnikov's and cockroaches. He even managed to find Amit Patel who got off the metro at the wrong stop on his way to the Pere Lachaise Cemetery - no easy feat in a pre-mobile phone world. He particularly enjoyed residential Sixth Form trips in the minibus to places such as Gladstone's Library at Hawarden, though by day three on these trips many of the students were broken, hence the question from the curator at Shugborough as to whether Kimbolton was a Special School. Aside from History and Politics Chris also made a massive impact on the sports field, most notably in his first love of hockey.

Chris also played a massive role in the pastoral side of the school. Starting as a tutor in Owens House, within one year of joining Kimbolton he was running Kim House. He did this for 7 years and certainly proved to be a worthy successor to Roy Butler in chalking up triumph after triumph for Dawsons in the House Championship. He created a fantastic ethos in Kim House. In particular he was wonderfully supportive of Graham Mott after his life changing accident, driving his friends up to Sheffield regularly to see Graham in hospital, masterminding his return to school and even running the London Marathon in aid of spinal research. After 7 years at Kimbolton House it was time to move on, especially when his son Alex asked when he would have to move out of his parents' accommodation and join the other boys in the House.

Critical and logical thinking soon led Chris to take up new key leadership responsibilities in the School forging a new curriculum initiative in his role as Director of Studies, which was transformed into Deputy Head Academic when the Senior Leadership Team was established. Here Chris piloted through some seismic changes at Kimbolton, notably the reorganisation of the timetable and the end of Saturday school and, Kimbolton becoming a digital school with the introduction of iPads for all pupils. It was Chris's grasp of detail, ability to explain and diplomacy which meant that these changes were introduced smoothly, with less technically confident colleagues feeling reassured whilst others were given license to innovate. Not only was the timetable changed, but it allowed Sixth Form students to benefit from a super curriculum with the 7th period giving them an opportunity to research beyond the confines of the curriculum, with Politics leading the way with its Bates inspired blogs. He made provision for Citizenship lectures from outside speakers each Friday and a really exciting diet of practical and academic challenges offered on a Thursday afternoon. He really focused teachers to look at education in its widest sense and colleagues from other schools always looked with envy at the foresight from Kimbolton. In a crisis you need someone at the academic helm with vision, dedication and selflessness and the fact that the School was able to handle the Covid 19 pandemic so well is largely due to Chris. Just think what might have happened if Gavin Williamson had been Deputy Head (Academic)! Unfortunately, CAGs and other constant U turns from the educational establishment took their toll of Chris's health in his last few weeks at School; but I am delighted to report he is now back to his old self enjoying the academic challenges of his PhD on Thomas Jefferson at Edinburgh University.

Of course, throughout these 30 years Kimbolton has benefitted from the Bates partnership, with Ali an equally influential figure in the formative development of so many pupils, as well as keeping Chris on the straight and narrow. All at Kimbolton are delighted that she is continuing in her vital roles with UCAS, Debating and Politics. Of course, Kimbolton has also been a family affair for the Bates's with both Alex and Sophie having distinguished school careers here.

Chris Bates will surely go down as one of the key figures in the history of the School over the last 50 years. He has achieved so much visibly in terms of results and innovation but more importantly he has been a role model to generations of pupils and staff. He has a strong moral compass and his whole approach was governed by kindness and humanity.

I am sure he will enjoy a long and fulfilling retirement. Thank you, Chris.

Andrew Bamford

EDWARD VALLETTA

When the now ex-bursar Mr. Edward Valletta first arrived at Kimbolton in May of 1999, it was AGI Day. Being a man with military as part of both his career history and education (he had attended the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst), this was sure to have had an impact on first impressions. Later on, he found himself walking around the school and thought to himself “this school is absolutely stunning.” In the twenty-two years that have passed since that day, Mr. Valletta’s opinion of the school remains unchanged and as high as ever, despite the changes and transformations that the school has seen in that time, many of which he had a hand in personally overseeing.

Most notable of these innovations is the construction of the original Queen Katherine Building, despite having been what he describes as a “disastrous build.” Nevertheless, it was the construction of this building that was a fundamental step in the right direction for the school. “That took us out of the old Kimbolton School and put us into a new Kimbolton School. Before, we had the Spinney building and we had the Orangery, which were very old 1960s-1970s pre-fab classrooms, and we were very much stuck in old ways of doing things.”

Indeed, the Kimbolton we know today may not exist as it currently does without the consistently reliable and tactile approach Mr. Valletta has applied to the school during his time here, an achievement that will surely stand tall amongst the impressive legacy he leaves behind.

“I became a bursar because I saw the bursar at my old school and I saw what a fantastic job he did and what a lovely life he had in beautiful surroundings, and I thought ‘that is a job I will do one day.’” Originally, Mr. Valletta had a fixed plan in mind for his future after he left the army; he had stayed at his previous school for 5 years, he would then stay at Kimbolton for 10 years, and then move on to the next school. However, as time went on, he found it was getting harder and harder to leave, largely because he found himself loving the school so much that he didn’t want to go. He felt entrenched in the school, in part because his children were attending it at the time and were also loving it.

“I’ve done all I can here. The pandemic hasn’t helped, but I’m feeling older and it needs to go to someone younger who has more energy than I do.” Mr. Valletta regrets leaving at an odd time (as opposed to the end of the year) and without the expected fanfare that something as momentous as this would warrant, and would have liked to stay longer. However, he feels that his replacement, Mrs. Agnew, would need to be brought in before the summer in order to put into effect her changes as soon as possible.

Mr. Valletta singles out the construction of the second QKB as one of, if not the endeavour he is proudest to have been a part of during his time at Kimbolton. He was fundamental to working out the logistics behind its construction and implementing specific teachers’ requests into the layout of the building. “It’s a great building. I’m very proud of that building.” Mr. Valletta has summed up his duties to the school in relation to the headmaster: Mr. Belbin’s role is to bring in and educate pupils, and his job is everything else.

In terms of what comes after Kimbolton, Mr. Valletta will be embarking on a five-week building course, a complete departure from anything he’s done before, and with which he intends to “rewire rather than retire,” and feels that it will be a suitable direction to head in without having to start a new career. Additionally, Mr. Valletta, a big fan of country music, has purchased tickets for such musical artists as the Shires and the Wandering Hearts, and will see them as soon as the restrictions allow.

Mr. Valletta officially left his position on the 6th of April 2021.

Interview by Nicholas Goldwin - U6 pupil.



ELIZABETH SIMONS

Liz retires after 16 years of dedicated service to Kimbolton School. She joined the Staff as the Textile teacher in 2005. Liz was a passionate and enthusiastic teacher and she had many excellent ideas for the pupils. Textiles is taught to all the First and Second form pupils and Liz calculates that she has taught over 2000 students in her time at Kimbolton. She said that when she reached the stage of teaching the children of some of her initial pupils at Ernulf School then perhaps it was the time to retire.

Liz's room was full of interesting and unusual items, which inspired the pupils when completing their various projects. From Puppets to felt objects as well as lovely plants, her room was crammed to the rafters but it made for an inspiring work place.

Not only did Liz teach Textiles but she contributed to other aspects of school life. Often in a lunchtime you would hear music drifting out of her room from Blues, Folk, Jazz and at Christmas, lovely carols. Liz is a very talented musician and she ran the ever popular Ukulele club for many years. The pupils really appreciated the chance to have a good sing song and relax a little at lunchtimes.

Liz also ran a very successful after school Textile club. I would often pop in and see what the pupils were up to. They would be having a lovely time with squash and biscuits which were kindly provided by Liz, as she appreciated that the pupils had had a long day. They produced some fabulous creations and there was always a sense of calm in the club. Indeed some of the pupils were so inspired that they went on to make lovely textile items, which they then sold via their online businesses, and at the school Christmas Fayre. Liz didn't like to waste anything and lots of the products were made from recycled items and the pupils were also keen to embrace this. Some parents kindly donated material and other bits and pieces; nothing was ever wasted.

Liz also took a Sixth Form session during the Thursday afternoon minority time. Some wonderful creations were produced and it allowed the pupils to develop their artistic and creative talents. Having a whole afternoon to relax a little as well as having the chance to be creative and productive was a great thing for these students.

Liz enjoyed having her son Joe at school. He is also now hoping to follow in Liz's footsteps and become a Teacher (of History).

Thank you for all of your hard work and dedication to the school and we all wish you a long and happy retirement.



NORA BUTLER

After over twenty years, Nora Butler retired from her role as Castle Curator in the summer of 2021. She leaves behind an enormous legacy and has been instrumental in bringing alive the history of the Castle to a wider audience, whilst at the same time undertaking much scholarly research into the history of our wonderful castle and the families that owned and lived in it.

Unstinting in her hours of dedication, Nora has masterminded Castle Opening, marshalling a whole army of steward volunteers mainly from Kimbolton Local History Society to bring the history of the building alive to thousands of visitors over the years. She has also made the Castle accessible to children with Tudor and Victorian trails for local schools to dressing up boxes at Castle Opening. The memory of the Castle's most famous resident was kept alive with the inauguration of the annual Katharine of Aragon service each January on the anniversary of her death. With grants from the Wingfield family, Nora designed the Heritage Room in the Castle with informative boards and artefacts enabling visitors and pupils to have a complete overview of the Castle from its medieval origins to its acquisition by the School in 1950. She has also undertaken valuable research in a whole host of areas ranging from the history of the grounds to thwarted plans in the Victorian era to extend the Castle.

She has been tenacious in ensuring that the fabric of the building is respected and was prepared to stand her ground if there were plans mooted to "modernise" key parts of the building such as the Chapel. Her knowledge of the village and Parish Church has also enabled the Castle to be fully seen in the context of the local area. She has researched some of the rather chaotic archives left by the Dukes of Manchester and it was fitting that one of her last acts as Curator was to arrange for the Kimbolton History Society to purchase and donate a portrait of the 5th Duke of Manchester to the Castle. Following its journey from South Africa, it now hangs proudly in the White Hall. Above all, Nora's love for everything Kimbolton permeates everything she has achieved and both the School and community owe her and Roy a tremendous debt of gratitude not only in her most recent role but to nearly sixty years service to Kimbolton School.



JANET O'BRIEN

On Sunday 7 November 2021, a team of OK netballers took on Janet O'Brien's specially selected squad in a match to commemorate Janet's time at Kimbolton School. After 13 years coaching netball at both the Prep and Senior School, Janet O'Brien retired in December. Janet is well known for coaching the School's first team netball, and past netball captains and first team players were keen to arrange a match against Janet and her chosen squad to showcase their skills learned from Janet over the years. The girls were particularly looking forward to stepping on court with Janet and finally getting the opportunity to play against her. Unfortunately, it wasn't to be as only a few days before the match Janet managed to fracture her wrist in a netball-related injury! Nonetheless, the match still went ahead with Janet assuming the role of umpire - which she enjoyed all the same.

The OKs put up a strong fight, scoring 11 goes in the final quarter to claw back the deficit, but were no match for Janet's well coached team. The final score was 34-22. There was plenty of time following the match to reminisce about the years being coached by Janet with a wonderful spread from the school's catering team. Thank you to everyone who was involved in making the event happen.



Back row left to right - Maddy Stokes (OK'12), Lara Engelbrecht (OK'21), Claudia Pert (OK'17), Yasmin Gallifant (OK'18), Henny Woods (OK'18), Janet O'Brien, Mrs Gilbert, Emily Gilbert, Mr Gilbert, Mr Lawrence
Front row left to right - Beccy Cox (OK'18), Lara Bettles (OK'11), Danni Belbin (OK'12), Kayla Engelbrecht (OK'16), Kerry O'Brien, Sam Lawrence, James Belbin (OK'14), Lizzie Bonnaud.

AMY OXLEY

Amy joined the School fresh from her PGCE in 2017 and since the very start thoroughly involved herself in all aspects of Kimbolton life. Universally liked amongst the staff and pupils, she always committed herself fully to her classes, taught with warmth and enthusiasm, and went above and beyond for countless pupils.

Throughout her time at Kimbolton she involved herself in rifle club, Duke of Edinburgh, Philosophy Society, CCF, myriad trips, and, of course, she was no stranger to the odd staff social!

She will also be missed by the boarding community; Amy regularly came into work with cookies and cakes, elaborately painted nails, and tales of the boarders' escapades - all evidence of an evening well spent in White House!

As she moves on to pastures new in London, we wish her the best of luck and are sure that her new school will quickly recognise how lucky they are to have such a dedicated and hardworking teacher joining their ranks.



JACK MIDDLETON

Jack held the position as Head of Hockey and reports on his time at Kimbolton. "It has been really good and really interesting working in a school and especially in the sports department. We have also had some amazing results in terms of hockey and being a 2B tutor has been great." Mr Middleton is now moving on to a new school in Watford, near London, after 3 amazing years at Kimbolton.

Excited by the new challenges ahead, he recalls feeling both happy and sad when he got his new job, sad because he was leaving a lot behind, mainly the pupils and happy because lots of his friends live around London so he can see all of them again.

Of course, being a tutor has been very exciting too. When asked what he enjoyed most about being a tutor he replied "I think it's just that everyday I come in and something new, different and exciting is happening. Story time has been a highlight, and debates about very random things such as who has a shower in the night or in the morning and the feeling of being part of a team, has been awesome".



MOIRA COX

Moira has been in the Chemistry department at Kimbolton since 2016 and has now moved on to become Head of Chemistry at Stamford High School.

Mr Crawford stepped down from teaching biology and is now the School Chaplain.

Other members of senior school staff who also left last summer:



David Mehew retired as the school porter after 36 years and 2 months at Kimbolton.



School nurse Emmeline Lyster who has left for pastures new.



Catering manager Stephen Collins has moved to Bishop Stortford School as Domestic Services Bursar.



The Prep school said a fond farewell to two teachers, Tommy Evans who has left to join Stephen Perse in Cambridge in the PE Dept, and also Emma Whiterod.

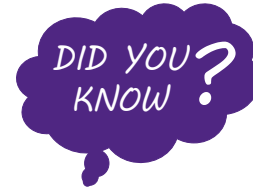


Welcome to the Old Kimboltonians' Association...

Once again, the end of school for the 2021 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 at an OK event very soon.



The 2021 Upper Sixth on results day.



The top Kimbolton universities over the last 5 years are:

1st	Nottingham Trent
2nd	Leeds
3rd	Durham
4th	Nottingham
5th=	Loughborough
5th=	Newcastle
7th	Exeter
8th	University of East Anglia
9th	Reading
10th=	Sheffield
10th=	York

Student	Course	Destination
Rishal Adacen	Economics	Kings
James Anderson	Aeronautical Engineering,	Loughborough
Vina Ao	Medicine	Plymouth
Musa Asad	Economics & Statistics	UCL
Rhys Atkins		Employment
Priya Auton	Interior Architecture	Coventry (2022)
Maia Bache-Haley	Graphic Design	Loughborough
Sam Barrett	Law	York
Rosie Bettsworth	Modern Languages	Leeds
Callum Bland		Applying to Australian universities (2022)
Oliver Bourne	Combined Honours	Durham
Tom Brown	Biological Sciences	Nottingham Trent
Owen Brownston	Mathematics & Physics	Warwick
Libby Butler		Gap Year
Milly Butts	Medicine	UCL
Leo Calonder	Politics	Bangor



Student	Destination	Course
George Carswell	Hospitality Management	Oxford Brookes
Karina Chappell	Politics & Philosophy	Manchester Met
Patrick Choy Winters	Philosophy & Politics	Exeter
Isabella Constant	Modern Languages & History	Durham
Jace Craig		Gap Year
Amelia Crimp	Liberal Arts	Bristol
Toby Dason-Barber	Psychology & Philosophy	Reading
Angus Dent	Chemical Engineering	Manchester
Andrew Dowdell-Stent	Natural Sciences	Cambridge
Eve Duberly	Environment & Business	Leeds
Hannah Duggins	Languages with Management	UEA
Tom Durrani	International Relations & Modern	UEA
Amelia Dwight	Business Economics	Exeter
Ella Edwards	Modern & Medieval Languages	Cambridge (2022)
Kallum Edwards	Mechanical Engineering	De Montfort
Lauren Eke		Pilot training
Lauren Elliott	Business & Management	Durham
Lara Englebrecht	Psychology	Liverpool
Armen Etemadrad	Architecture	Brighton
Tom Felix	Geography & Archaeology	Reading
Anna Fraser	Law	Exeter
Francesca Freeman-Hall	Mental Health Nursing	Leeds
Araminta Gibb	Modern Languages	Bath
James Gibbons		Gap Year
Tom Giles	Politics & History	Newcastle (2022)
Charles Godsell	Quantity Surveying	Nottingham Trent
Rory Goodsall	Human Geography	Sheffield Hallam
Kobe Grant	English	Exeter
Molly Greene	Product Design	Nottingham Trent
Oliver Greenhow	Marketing & Management	Durham
Kylie Grimsley	Medical Pharmacology	Cardiff
Indie Grint	Real Estate	Nottingham Trent
Jasmine Henson	Medicine	UEA
George Hogan	Business Management	Nottingham Trent
Jasmine Hogan	International Business	Nottingham Trent
Isobel Hughes	Animal Science	Nottingham
Katie Jackson	Marketing & Management	Exeter
Scarlett Jessup	Liberal Arts	Bristol
Grace Johnson	Modern Languages & Cultures	Durham
Yazmin Jones	Criminology	Surrey



Student	Destination	Course
Charlotte King	History	York
Sam Kirkpatrick	Financial Economics	City
Darcey Lancaster-Adlam	Scenic Arts	Rose Bruford
Cordelia Lightfoot-Jennings	Drama, Theatre & Education	Royal Central
Alexia Lisle	International Relations	Kings
Finley McCann	Geography	UEA
Liszka McKay	Nutrition	Exeter (2022)
Jasmine McLoughlin	Fashion Marketing	Nottingham Trent
Enya Moyer	Theatre & Anthropology	Augustana University, S Dakota, USA
Ewan Murdoch	Management & Innovation	City
Shota Natenadze	Political Economy	Kings
Christopher Neal	Medicine	Nottingham
Elio Nejim	Physics	Bristol
Craig Nyamarebvu	Law	Oxford
Alice Oldfield	Natural Sciences	Durham
Johnny Oliver	International Relations & Politics	Oxford Brookes
Collins Onumajuru	Law	Reading
Lauren Paku	Geography	Durham
Connor Peck	Chemical Engineering	Bath
Maddie Peters	Mathematics with Finance	Liverpool
Josie Philipps	Veterinary Science	Bristol
Gareth Price	Industrial Economics	Nottingham
Max Proietti	Mathematics with Economics	UCL
Libby Ramply	Interior Architecture	Northumbria
Charlotte Rose	Medicine	Brighton & Sussex
Noah Sanderson	Modern Languages & History	Leeds
Ilya Semple	Philosophy	Trinity College Dublin
Alistair Severn	Mathematics	Durham
Emma Skillett	Politics with International Relations	York
Ben Smith	Computer Science	Cambridge
Joseph Stokes		Gap Year
Ben Stoneman	Business Law	Nottingham Trent
Hannah Sullivan	Product & Industrial Design	University of the Arts London
Harriet Sykes	Biomedicine	UEA
Cameron Ward	Business Management & Marketing	Nottingham Trent
Joseph Watson	Automotive Engineering	Loughborough
Elsbeth Williams	Spanish & Latin American Studies	Leeds
Hazel Williams	Politics	Southampton
Wesley Wong	Pharmacy	UCL
Charlotte Wright	History & Politics	Sheffield



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 Members' area on the OK website.

If you haven't 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 website's navigation menu on the left. A purple circle with the text "PLEASE CLICK HERE" and an arrow points to the "OK Update Form" link under the "OKA Membership" section. The main content area displays the "Old Kimboltonians" page, which includes a description of the association, its objectives, 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 REVISITED

Jacob Setterberg (OK'86) and his son, also Jacob, were visiting from Sweden. They were on a whistlestop tour of Cambridge and London and were delighted to be able to visit the school. Jacob enjoyed reminiscing with his son about his time at school as a boarder in both White House and Kim House. Jacob was also a keen golfer, and spent his weekends practicing his swing on the Mall, he recalled that he had many a conversation with the then Headmaster David Donaldson about the divots on the castle cricket pitch.

Jacob agreed that much had changed within the infrastructure of the school but also there were still some things that had not changed and were exactly as he remembered from some 35 years.



Jacob with his son in front of the Castle on his visit in November 2021

OKA ARCHIVES

The Digital Archives are no longer password protected and therefore you can have free access to all information and photos.



Old Kimboltonians' Association Digital Archives

Welcome to the OKA digital archives!

Being a former student of the school is a great privilege and a great responsibility. It is a privilege to be able to share your memories and photos with others who were also part of the school. The OKA digital archives are a great way to do this. They are a free resource for all former students and their families. They are a great way to share your memories and photos with others who were also part of the school. They are a great way to share your memories and photos with others who were also part of the school.



The Return of the Friendly Invader

Kimbolton has deep links with the United States. Edward Maria Wingfield whose family owned Kimbolton Castle was the first President of the Jamestown Colony, the first English speaking colony in the New World. Two Dukes of Manchester married Americans and the parish church has the only Tiffany window in the UK, whilst in more recent times we have been lucky to participate in our annual exchange with Bridgewater-Raritan High School in New Jersey. However, the most important link was forged in the Second World War with RAF Kimbolton becoming the “friendly invasion” of our American allies. On the site of the present Bicton industrial estate, between May 1943 and June 1945 the airfield was the home of the USAF 379th Bombardment Group, which operated B-17 bombers. The 379th holds the distinction of having flown the largest number of WWII sorties.

Chris Bates, (see earlier Staffroom News), forged a strong connection with the 379th Bomb Group Association and was instrumental in building up an impressive collection of memorabilia from our American friends in a specially constructed cabinet in the Orangery. This collection has been added to in a wonderful way thanks to a special donation by the Cavaliere family from Fairfax, Virginia. In 2019, Robert Cavaliere was clearing out his mother’s house who had just passed away. He went into a clothes closet and discovered it was slightly bigger than he remembered.

At the back of the closet were some bags and Robert was astonished to find that they were the flying jacket, two dress uniforms and personal kit and effects of his father, Paul, who had died in 1984, but had served in the US 379th at Kimbolton Airfield in the Second World War. Paul flew more than 20 missions as a B-17 Flying Fortress navigator with the Kimbolton-based 379th Bomb Group in 1945.



Paul on board a B-17 Flying Fortress in 1945.



Robert and his family thought carefully about how to preserve these wonderful, historic effects and remembered the connection with Kimbolton School. They therefore donated the uniforms and personal effects to Kimbolton School, where they are proudly displayed. Now that Covid restrictions have eased, we were delighted to welcome Robert (Bob), his sister Joan to Kimbolton. They were present for the Last Post Ceremony at Kimbolton School on November 11th as well as laying a wreath at the Kimbolton Airfield Remembrance Day ceremony on 14th November before attending the Kimbolton High Street Remembrance Sunday Parade of the British Legion and Kimbolton School Cadets and Act of Remembrance. They also visited the American Cemetery at Madingley and the Imperial War Museum, Duxford.

Explaining his donation, Bob said “If the family kept them they would have been in a closet somewhere until I died and then no one else would have wanted them. But here, they can be on display for many to see, and the photographs and navigational instruments, along with the uniforms, tell a story that none of us siblings knew very much about when my dad was alive, a missed opportunity to learn about an amazing time in his life. So there was no question in my mind but that the school would treat the items with reverence and make them much more widely available to the public than they would have been anywhere else we could have given them to.”



Robert Cavaliere and his sister Joan admiring the uniforms and memorabilia of Robert's father Paul.

Reflecting back on his visit, Bob said, "It was eye-opening, and humbling, to experience the reverence in which the American and English servicemen from both World Wars are still held." It was especially emotional for him to find out that his Dad's usual plane, Seattle Sue, had crashed upon take-off a mere one week after his father's last mission.

There is a display in the Orangery Corridor, together with other memorabilia relating to Kimbolton School families and the First World War.

AJB



Robert and Joan meeting some of the pupils from the school



Laying a wreath at the Airfield on Remembrance Day 2021

Remembering OKs lost at war

On Remembrance Sunday, the School CCF once again took part in the parade down the High St, a commemoration of all past OKs who lost their lives in past conflicts.



Once again the boarders marked Remembrance Sunday with yet another poignant display at White House.



The OK squad taking part in the Remembrance Sunday parade.

Thomas Campbell (OK'14)
Georgie Spence-Jones (OK'14)
Bayley Anderson (OK'20)
Joseph Simons (OK'16)
Henry Farrer (OK'16)
George Farrer (OK'18)
James Wilkins (OK'18)
Talya Atkins (OK'18)
Matt Simpson (OK'18)
Charlie Gardner (OK'17)



David Whitworth (OK'39) & John Whitworth (OK'40)

I had the pleasure of meeting James and Andrew Whitworth, the sons of David Whitworth (OK'39) and the nephews of John Whitworth (OK'40) in the Autumn of 2021.

Since the passing of David in 2017, Andrew and James had been keen to visit the school, and after a long delay due to Covid, they finally managed to make the visit in November 2021. It was a very heartfelt visit as James and Andrew had very little insight in to their fathers and uncles time at Kimbolton. In fact they knew very little of their past until they unearthed files and boxes of Kimbolton memorabilia whilst sorting through their late father's possessions. Andrew explained that their father was always reluctant to talk about his past, as the loss of his brother and the effects that the war had on him were too great.

After leaving Kimbolton, John joined the RAF becoming an Air Gunner as part of the No 103 Bomb Squadron. Tragically in July 1944, John was killed in action whilst on a bombing mission to Germany when his Lancaster Bomber was shot down. He was laid to rest in the South of France. After leaving Kimbolton, David also joined the forces enrolling at The Royal Military College at Sandhurst and becoming an active member of the No 15 Platoon, C Company Infantry.

Thank you to James and Andrew for taking the time to visit the school and share their story.



John Whitworth back row, 3rd from the left in the School 1st X1 in 1938



David Whitworth 3rd row, 2nd from the left.



John Whitworth front row, 4th from the left. RAF No 103 Bomb Squadron.



David Whitworth - Lieutenant in the No 15 Platoon, C Company. The Royal Military College Sandhurst 1946.



Headshot of John Whitworth. The final page of his flying log book and his final resting place in the South of France.



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 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.



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. Olivia is due to complete the Marathon des Sables in April 2022 and we wish her the best of luck! Read below about Amy's incredible achievements.....

....marathon completed!!

AMY GORDON (OK'13)

After 2 years of waiting due to the impact of covid, Amy finally completed the London marathon in October 2021. Amy writes: It wasn't fast, it wasn't pretty, and it hurt quite a lot, but I completed the London marathon.

It was never about the quick time. It was about knowing that you can overcome anything. In two and a half years, I've gone from being seconds away from death, to the London Marathon finish line. I'm hopeful that my story shows other brain injury survivors that there can be life after brain injury.

Well done Amy.



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 2021

Whilst the income generated in the year to August 2021 was very low due to the absence of OK events, the accounts ended the year in a positive position. Expenditure was kept to a minimum due to the OKA magazine being produced online, with no printing and postage costs and with minimal additional expenditure throughout the year, the OKA balance sheet remains healthy.

The OKA receives subscription income from the School and ad hoc voluntary contributions from OKs. This income covers the running costs of the Association, including subsidies for young OKs to attend OKA events, the publication of the OK News magazine and various OK sporting activities. As a non-profit making organisation, OKA events are carefully planned and managed so as to break-even, however from time to time an unplanned profit is made. When this occurs, the profit is donated to the OK Scholarship Trust Fund.

The Association's income (through membership fees, sale of merchandise, donations and bank interest received) was slightly below that of the previous financial year. Costs associated with running the Association decreased significantly due to the OKA Magazine being produced online, this led to a small profit of £2880 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.

OKA Balance Sheet as at 31st August 2021

2021		2020
£63,844	Current Net Assets	£61,165
<i>Represented by:</i>		
£ 12,069	Bank Current Account	£6,628
£ 0	Market Harborough Building Society	£ 2,696
£17,380	Nationwide 1	£17,372
£30,423	Nationwide 2	£30,296
£ 3,972	OK Merchandise Value	£ 4,178

A big thank you to John Hitchin for putting us in touch with Melissa from Fair Price Accounting who audited this years accounts.

Fair Price Accounting Services Limited

Lakeside, 710 Station Road, Grendon, Northants. NN7 1JB

melissa@fpaservices.co.uk

Tel/Fax: (01933) 666406

Reg No. 7364104



The OK Lodge of Freemasons (Lodge No 7204)

By John Hitchin, OK'71 (Lodge Secretary)

The Lodge had 3 successful meetings in 2021, held in the months of October (2 meetings) and December. We didn't have our usual March, May and September meetings due to Covid restrictions but, we still gained 1 new member who had patiently been waiting to join since December 2019!

Peter Wright (left the School 1957) was probably our most mature Old Kimboltonian to join The Lodge being a very vibrant and joyful 81 year old! Our previous new member was 23; some of our existing members, in 2021 celebrated, their 96th, 97th and 99th birthdays. Being a Freemason is obviously good for one's longevity but for sure no barrier to youth!!

Like all the activities that 'work' under the banner of The Old Kimboltonians Association the Lodge is successful, being recognised in the Province of Northamptonshire and Huntingdonshire as a very happy and vibrant Lodge. We are 2nd in membership out of nearly 100 lodges in the Province albeit our members can only be those who have attended the School as either a pupil or member of staff.

The Lodge was formed in 1952 and held its first meeting in the Castle on the 11th September in that year; the leading lights in the founding of the Lodge were William Ingram, Cyril Gibbard and George Hunt all very well known in the history of Kimbolton School.

The Lodge as with the Old Kimboltonians Association is deeply loyal to the School and along with the Association donates as much to the School as a society with a membership of 60 is able to do. In recent years The Lodge has made an annual donation of £3,600 to the Headmaster's Bursary Fund along with the Debating Cup with a prize of £50 for the winners. We have also awarded a small bursary, £250, to a recent leaver of the School for three years to assist with her music studies. We are soon to have discussions to see if we can increase our donations to the School, but more of this next year!

In February the Lodge usually holds a luncheon followed by a musical entertainment and in the Summer we would usually hold a grand occasion comprising of Dinner, Concert & Firework display, but sadly we lost both of these events to Covid restrictions.

In spite of reduced fund raising occasions The Lodge continued with its donation of £3,600 to the Bursary Fund via the Old Kimboltonians Scholarship Trust so ably chaired by Michael Capps who along with his wife, Penny, is a regular supporter of The Lodge social occasions.

For the current year of 2022 The Lodge has its usual 5 meetings in Kimbolton Castle and a 6th in London which has been held on Saturday, February 5th. This meeting was introduced due to an influx of members from London and surrounds; it enables these members who live in and around London to have a reasonable travel time. The meeting is held at Mark Masons Hall in St. James, Piccadilly, just next to St. James' Palace, a very grand building with a very large portrait of Michael Herbert, an Old Kimboltonian, hanging in a very prominent place on the main staircase.

With regard to social functions, to which all are very welcome - wives, family, friends and especially Old Kimboltonians - we are holding our annual Summer Dinner, Piano Concert and Fireworks on Saturday June 25th; contact John Hitchin for details.

The proceeds from this event, which is being held in the name of the Geoff Coles Memorial Fund, to help The Lodge to continue its support of the Old Kimboltonians Scholarship Fund along with Macmillan Nurses; a cause so dear to Geoff Coles who was for a long time Secretary of the Old Kimboltonians Lodge and a key member of the Old Kimboltonians Association over many years.

In 2017 Freemasonry celebrated the 300th anniversary of the first Grand Lodge of England which shows the ageless appeal of a fraternity that promotes traditional virtues among its members; as well as being actively involved with charitable causes; as charity begins at home the Old Kimboltonians Lodges main giving is to the School. It's also a great deal of fun too!

Although The Old Kimboltonians' Lodge was founded in 1952 (very young in Masonic terms there being Lodges still active which were founded in the early 1700s) ... Kimbolton Castle, through the Dukes of Manchester, has Masonic connections going back to the eighteenth century of the 4th Duke of Manchester, was Grand Master of England, 1780-1786, his portrait is in the Green Room and the 7th Duke, who was the local 'ruler' aka Provincial Grand Master 1863-1887.

Occasionally I receive questions about women and freemasonry; so just to clarify, ladies can be freemasons and our website, which can be seen as part of the OK's website www.oklodge.org, will give links for any ladies who might be interested; please be in contact with myself. On a final but very important note, the Lodge has met in the Castle since 1952 and I would like to put on the record the Lodge's continuing thanks to the Governors and Headmaster, Jonathan Belbin for their kind permission for us to meet in these wonderful surroundings.

I also express my thanks to the Bursar, Jenny Agnew and her staff including the caretaking and catering department who look after us so well.



This year the School has welcomed a new Catering Manager, Stuart Cox who along with the rest of their staff are presenting dinners that have never been better, we are truly delighted at the wonderful and flexible service that they provide for us.

As The Lodge member responsible for arranging our catering I would like to put on record my especial thanks to Stuart, Clare and Tim for the fantastic job that they do, and of course to Karen and her team from the caretaking staff.

At our Christmas meeting I had the privilege (the Father Christmas beard has now been severely trimmed!) of presenting a congratulations card to Stuart on his recent appointment as Catering Manager along with a bottle of champagne (see photo). Stuart and his predecessor have been unstinting in making us very welcome and putting on such delicious dinners and always served in such a polite, cheerful and friendly manner by their colleagues---11 out of 10!

Every Christmas at our Lodge dinner we ‘pass round the hat’ and give the contents (cash!) to the catering staff. But since we lost our meeting in 2020 we gave the staff £150 from Lodge funds to cover for the lost Christmas of 2020 and as a thank you for ‘putting up with us’!

The current Master of the Lodge is Maxamillian Constant who is our youngest Master ever at the age of 30, Maxamillian’s leaving year was 2014.

His predecessor was Bruce White, leaving year 1985, Bruce was our longest serving Master as he was in post for 2 years due to The Lodge’s inability to hold its annual Installation meeting in Autumn 2020.

If you would like to find out more about this wonderful society, which has stood the test of time and been patronised by members ranging from the local postman to the Kings of the country; along with a very long list of famous scientists, musicians, sports persons, Old Kimboltonians and Presidents of America but not ‘you know who’ !!

P.S. Join soon! We’re having curry at our next meeting!!!!

OK LODGE CONTACT DETAILS

Secretary John Hitchin



07702 597670



johnhitchin@btinternet.com



www.oklodge.org



Old Kimboltonians’ Lodge



Kimbolton School

OPEN MORNINGS 2022

Prep School – Friday 13 May and Friday 7 October

Senior School – Saturday 1 October

BOOK: kimbolton.cambs.sch.uk/visit



THE
GOOD
SCHOOLS
GUIDE

OK'S Working Overseas

VICKY BECKWITH (OK'86) has recently had a paper published in the Waikato Journal of Education :- ***Parents' perceptions of global citizenship education in rural Aotearoa New Zealand*** - <http://wje.org.nz/index.php/WJE>

Vicky is a Literacy & Numeracy Leader at Universal College of Learning & PhD student, and presented this paper at the Oceania Comparative and International Education Society (OCIES) conference at the beginning of December. She is also part of a post-graduate panel during the pre-conference's new and emerging researcher workshop where she presented her perspectives of Positionality, and Vicky has also been awarded an Emerging Researcher Scholarship by OCIES.

On the global citizenship side, she is continuing her research as a PhD student with the University of Waikato and is working on a second paper on global citizenship due to be submitted shortly.

In other news, Vicky has been actively involved in promoting dyslexia awareness, including leading the Dyslexia-Friendly Quality Mark (DFQM) trial at UCOL Horowhenua, which has resulted in that campus becoming the first ITP (Institutes of Technology & Polytechnics) to achieve the quality mark in Aotearoa New Zealand. Vicky gave an information presentation about the DFQM at the 2021 ITP Research Symposium in November and submitted a paper to the proceedings journal. www.dfqm.nz

Vicky would also be very keen to get in touch and willing to offer support and guidance to any OK's residing in New Zealand.



OK'S Working Together

TASH HOLDAWAY (OK'16) has been in touch, as she and a fellow OK have been working together recently. Tasha and **RUTHIE PHILLIP-SMITH (OK'01)** have been working together as members of the Stage Management team on A Christmas Carol - a Ghost Story at Alexandra Palace Theatre.

Tash said that to find a fellow OK working in theatre has been incredible! The images below are of Ruthie and Tash, along with members of the backstage team on the set.



Arctic Reunion

It was a chilly reunion for two OKs who reunited this March in Tromsø, Norway, as Lieutenant Julian Caithness (OK'11) and Lieutenant Mat Hendery (OK'12) ended up working side by side in the Maritime Component of a large scale NATO exercise in the Arctic Circle. The pair worked in close proximity as their two vessels manoeuvred together for the month-long "Cold Response 22" exercise. This exercise, involving over 25,000 soldiers, sailors, and airmen from 28 countries, tested NATO's ability to repel an invasion from a major power in the high north of Norway.



Julian joined the Royal Navy in 2014 as a Warfare Officer and, after a training position in the Helicopter Carrier HMS OCEAN, served for two and a half years as an Officer of the Watch on the Frigate HMS SUTHERLAND, where he also held the roles of the Ship's Boarding Officer and Intelligence Officer. He is now serving as the Senior Officer of the Watch in the Amphibious Assault Ship HMS ALBION, responsible for the management of the Bridge team. Next year he will be travelling to the USA on a two year exchange with the US Navy where he will be the Navigating Officer of the Guided Missile Destroyer USS WINSTON S. CHURCHILL.

Mat completed a BEng in Aerospace Engineering before going on to earn an Engineering Doctorate and a place in the nuclear sector of Rolls-Royce as a Materials Technologist. Here he covers material aspects of the entire plant lifecycle from liaising with Design Engineers in the early stages through to being a principal failure investigator of ex-service components. He joined the Royal Navy Reserves in 2016 and was subsequently trained as an Amphibious Warfare Officer. He was mobilised for this deployment, which is his first active tour, to work alongside HMS ALBION in the Royal Fleet Auxilliary vessel RFA MOUNTS BAY where he works as part of the Ship-To-Objective Manoeuvre (STOM) cell. This team coordinates the movement of personnel, equipment, stores, and vehicles ashore via landing craft and helicopter, and provides a communication link between the ground forces and maritime units.



Both Mat and Jules were enthusiastic members of the CCF at Kimbolton and owe their current military careers to the foundation they learnt in the cadets.

OK Events

As we are all aware unfortunately the 2021 events headed in the same direction as 2020. Only the Ladies hockey in September 2021 and Football in December 2021 took place. Once again the Ball had to be cancelled along with all of the other activities on the 2021 Reunion Day.

We are very much hoping that we have seen the back of Covid and the events planned for 2022-2023 will be able to go ahead. As you will see, we have a number of new and exciting events planned for the coming year with the main information below. However please have a look at our website for full information and keep an eye on social media for updates.

May 2022



Stomp the Divots with the OKA



The Prince of Wales Trophy Finals 2022

The Royal Berkshire Polo Club - Winkfield, Windsor

Saturday 14th May 2022

Hospitality Tickets to include: Entry to the Club - Parking - Grandstand Seating -

2 Course Luncheon - Wine at the Table

£145 per person

Tickets available now - Email the office for more information.



2022 Summer Reunion Day

Saturday 2 July

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.

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 OKA Memorabilia
 - Bar & Refreshments

Attention all 2020 Leavers: the Headmaster and Mr Gilbert are planning a separate 'Class of 2020' lunch for you on OKs' Day, on Saturday 2nd July (12pm - 2pm). Please put this date in your diary.

More details to follow.

2022 Sports Fixtures & Year Group Football Tournament



Sports Fixtures

Matches against School teams will be played throughout the day; the match timings are as follows:

(Timings subject to change)

- 0900 Canoeing - Huntingdon
- 1100 Ladies' Tennis - Castle Courts
- 1130 Rounders - Heath Field
- 1100 Men's Tennis - Castle Courts
- 1130 1st XI Cricket - Castle Pitch
- 1200 Year Group Football Tournament - The Mall
- 1300 2nd XI Cricket - Welsted Pitch (Prep School)
- 1300 Sailing - Grafham Water



Old Kimboltonians' Association

Summer Ball

Saturday 2nd July 2022

7.30pm - Drinks reception followed by dinner, live band, dancing, entertainment & fireworks

12.00am - Carriages

Tickets: £75 (£5 discount for OKs who have left in the last 5 years, 2015 & 2016 leavers)

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

available from: www.oks.co.uk/events



- Pre-dinner Drinks
- Live Band Performances
- Disco
- Entertainment
- Fireworks



OK SPORT

An overview of the fixtures in 2021

Unfortunately we were not able to run the 2021 rounders, cricket, tennis and sailing matches due to the Covid restrictions. But we were able to field teams for the Autumn term with ladies hockey and mens football.

OK FOOTBALL



George Wilson (OK'13)



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

We wrote in last year's OKA magazine about the stop-start 12 months for Arthurian League football with the various lockdowns. The uncertainty of whether football matches would go ahead continued throughout much of 2021.

The Arthurian League season was abandoned January- March 2021, thwarting the opportunity to secure promotion. However, the cup competitions were able to resume as we came out of lockdown (number whatever it was?!). Four months without fixtures meant friendlies were required ahead of the Arthur Dunn ('Dunn') and Junior League Cup ('JLC') competitions restarting. An evening weekday game on the 1st April saw a 3-0 victory vs premier league side, Old Alleynians, which was followed by a 1-1 draw against Div 1 side, Old Reptonians on the 10th April. Two good results to give the OKs momentum going into the quick succession of knockout cup matches:

- The 17th April Dunn Round of 16 tie vs Division 1 side, Old Malvernians, saw the OKs victorious, beating the 17x Dunn Cup winners 5-3, which included a hat-trick from Henry Langley
- The 24th April JLC Round of 16 tie vs Old Sennockians saw a 3-1 victory
- On the 1st May, the OKs beat Old Radelians 2-1 in the JLC quarter final
- On 8th May, the OKs were knocked out of the Dunn in the ¼ final, losing 3-2 against Old Salopians
- On 15th May the OKs lost to a strong Old Ardinians side in the JLC semi-final.

After a relaxing summer break, the OKs returned to the field in September, turning their attention to the 2021/22 Arthurian League season. The first game saw a 4-2 loss to Old Cholmelians II, but the next three fixtures were cancelled due to our opponents failing to get sides together. In fact, three teams subsequently pulled out the league for the season as this phenomenon continued. Clearly a lagged impact from Covid, with the resumption of weddings, stag do's and holidays putting pressure on most league teams' availability. The OKs were not immune from this lack of availability: we were gladly helped by three school 1st XI players during our next fixture vs Old Brentwood II in October which saw the OKs come from two goals down to secure the point; but saw a disappointing result away in Shrewsbury to a very strong Old Salopians side in the first round of the Dunn.

November, however, saw a renewed availability, and the OKs have been able to go on a good run of form, with seven wins and two draws up until the time of writing (9th February 2022), which has included 5-0 wins vs the School first XI and Old Shirburnians (the latter in the JLC round of 16), as well as a thumping 10-0 league win at home to Old Tonbridgians II, which saw Josh Smith score five!

Top of the league, with three league games to go, and a JLC ¼ final vs Old Etonians IIs, the OKs are eyeing-up a third promotion and another good cup run going into the home straight for the season.

We'd like to send our best wishes to Allan Owen, who we wish a speedy recovery having undergone surgery to repair his Achilles which he ruptured during a league game in January. We would also like to thank the School, the Headmaster, Chris Hope, Tony Lawless, and the OKA for their constant support of the Club. The connection between all parties has allowed the OKFC to continue thriving and progressing, with school leavers coming-up through the ranks of the Club. Long may it continue!

"Lastly, a massive thank you to **David Blair (OK'77)**, who kindly donated a set of training tops to the squad. They proudly wear these around the grounds of the Arthurian League! Much appreciated David ! "

Yours in Sport,

George Wilson & Jonathan Hunter
(Club Captain) & (Club Chairman)



OKA 1st XI – 5th December 2021

Back row: Josh Smith, (OK'18) Rob Holmes (OK'16), Josh Eddon (OK'15), Henry Langley (OK'20), Harry Darnell (OK20), Johnny Bowers (GK) (OK'14), George Wilson (C) (OK'13), Nick Brown (OK'08).

Front row: Tom Biddle (OK'14), Adam Goodyer (OK'19), Jack Kenmir (OK'12), Sam Findlay (OK'14), Finn McCann (OK'21), Charlie Godsell (OK'21), James Belbin (OK'14)







OKA 2nd XI – 5th December 2021

(Back row) Alex Sargent (OK'14), Nat Knell (OK'14), Jacob Shortland (OK'14), Aidan Ward (GK) (OK'18), Will Bennett (OK'14),
 Tom Davies (OK'12), Ollie Harper Smith (OK'15)
 (Front Row) James Dunmore (OK'14), Scott Irwin (OK'16), Charlie Ibbotson (OK'14), Will Tatman (OK'15),
 Pete Taine (OK'12), Calum Richards (OK'12)

OK CRICKET

 **Charlie Gingell (OK'13)**
 gingell.charlie@gmail.com

Whilst the 2021 OK Cricket match was cancelled, the cricket team were able to take part in the Cricketers Trophy: Unfortunately they suffered a defeat to The Old Wellingburians.

The team was:

James Wilkins (OK'18), Guv Kooner (OK'11), George Jessop (OK'20), George Richards(OK'10), Charlie Evans (OK'20), Alex Kenyon (OK'19), Will Tatman (OK'15), George Farrer (OK'18), Jonny Doyle (OK'16), and Jon Hunter (OK'80) dusted his whites off!!



Teams from past years:

Above: 2014 OKA 1st XI

Left: 2016 OKA 2nd XI

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 LADIES HOCKEY

It was a very sunny Sunday morning and almost perfect playing conditions, for the OK Ladies Hockey v's 1st XI.

The game started well for the OK, where we dominated the forward play with lots of possession and circle penetrations.

The School defended well and with some great saves from the goal keeper. It was goalless at half time although there had been plenty of chances at both ends. The school pressed high and were awarded with a couple of penalty corners, however they were denied a goal by a solid and organised OK defence.

Soon into the 3rd quarter the OK's scored the first goal. After a great move down the right, the school failed to clear the ball and Alex Furbank (OK'15) slotted home the first goal. The school came back soon after a well paced strike on goal following a dominate period of play. Late in to the 4th quarter, the OK's scored again, with Charlotte Goodson (OK'88) finishing off a strong move, which again came from down the right with Kate Ramply (OK'18) and Isobel Hughes (OK'21) linking well to finally get a cross into the D.

Late into the game, the school set their press high on the OK's defence, forcing an error which led to them turning the ball over and putting one past the stranded goalkeeper Vicky Wakefield (OK'95). All in all it was a fabulous game of hockey, an even match with some great periods of play. Many players and spectators said that it was the best OK game for many years.

Thank you to all who played, it was so great to be able to field a full squad, also to the large crowd of OK supporters who kept the whole team going even when they were tiring towards the end of the game.

Thank you also to the school for fielding a great team, providing refreshments and umpires.

Report by Natalie Gaunt, Hockey Captain (OK'16)



Natalie Gaunt (OK'16)



natalie1.gaunt@googlemail.com



Please get in touch if you want to play for the OK Hockey Team, we are working really hard to develop the OK Ladies Hockey Squad, with the view to competing in Alumni Competitions and Tournaments.

It doesn't matter if you havent picked up a stick for a while, but if you fancy a game then please contact the office.

alumni@kimbolton.cambs.sch.uk

OK LADIES AND MENS TENNIS



James Hodges (OK'11) - Men's
Sallie Aylott (OK'88) - Ladies



jameshodges93@ymail.com
alumni@kimbolton.cambs.sch.uk

2014



Like all of the other summer sports, the OK Tennis and Rounders fixtures did not go ahead.

If you would like to get involved in 2022, please contact the Captains.

2018



OK ROUNDERS



Charlotte Ralph (OK'06)



cl.ralph@live.co.uk

2014



2017



2012



OK NETBALL



Danni Belbin (OK'06)



danni.belbin2120@gmail.com

Netball in 2021 also became a victim of the Covid restrictions.

With the fixture planned for March 2022, we are very much hoping that this will take place.

2005



2015



2011



2016



2012

2019



OK GOLF



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



robinsoncharles@btconnect.com
tombroughtonharrison@gmail.com



“ OKs Golf and the Grafton Morrish Tournament “

For any keen golfers amongst you, the OKs will be competing in the Grafton Morrish Tournament at the The Gog Magog Golf Club on Sunday 15th May 2022.

The Grafton Morrish is a foursomes competition for gender neutral teams of six. Over 100 schools will compete in regional qualifying rounds with the top 48 going through to the finals in North Norfolk from 7-9th October 2022.

If you would like to be considered for selection please send your name, WHS handicap and club to :
tombroughtonharrison@gmail.com
Mobile: 07860960795

2022 Events:

6th May - St Neots

20th September - Hunstanton

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 ...*



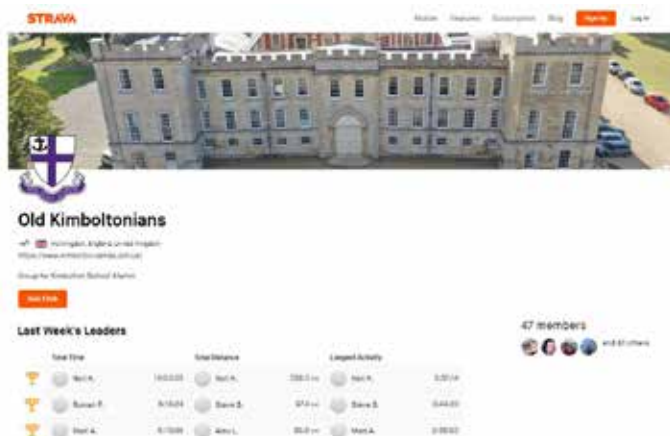
Old Kimboltonians Golf



Cycling activites at Kimbolton



OKA Cycling on STRAVA



To join other OK's on Strava copy this link - <https://www.strava.com/clubs/677498>

OK SAILING



Alaster Gray (OK'73)



alasterlesleygray@hotmail.com

After another year of cancelled Sailing events we are very much looking forward to seeing this back in the calendar in 2022. With very little to report, here are some photos from previous OK Sailing and Canoeing Days:



2016



2013



The Date for the 2022 race against the school is Saturday 2nd July .

*If you're interested in racing, please contact Alaster Gray (OK'73) on:
alasterlesleygray@hotmail.com*

OK CANOEING

2012



2013



NEWS OF OKS

News and announcements from OKs around the world...

AN UPDATE FROM ROGER PEEL:

When I left Kimbolton in 2002 to take up a new role with HMC our intention was to retire to the West Country on completion of my seven year contract. We had settled well in East Leicestershire and were enjoying busy lives. Joanna and family had moved nearby and so our plans altered and we stayed put.

In 2019, Joanna left Ratcliffe College to take up the position of Deputy Head (Pastoral) at Sidcot School in Somerset and, with Rachael and Christopher settled in the London area, we decided it might be wise to be closer to at least one of the family. We are not getting any younger!

We put the house on the market and the pandemic struck - attempting to move certainly presented some challenges. Unable to stay anywhere over night, we made several trips to Somerset and back in the day, viewing five houses at a time. Eventually we found the house we wanted and moved at the end of January 2021.

We haven't downsized and ignored the gentle steer from the family that a small retirement bungalow would be appropriate!

In 2020 my hip had collapsed on me so, on arrival in Somerset, the first of many tasks was to find a consultant and in May I had a full left hip replacement. It has certainly changed my life for the better and I am gambolling up the Mendips which rise behind our house. This is a delightful area and we have been particularly fortunate to end up in Draycott, an incredibly friendly place, situated 1.5 miles from Cheddar and 5.5 miles from Wells.



Roger and Sue, 20 days after his hip replacement operation in 2020, on the path around the Cheddar reservoir.

Sue has joined the WI and is a volunteer in the village community shop and I have become a volunteer driver, collecting supplies from various outlets for the shop. The village has a delightful small church very close to our house. The organist is the world famous Barry Rose who lives in the village – he was the Director of Music at St Paul's at the time of the Prince Charles and Diana wedding.

By chance, Catherine Lynn (OK '97) and her family live in the village and she kindly entertained us late in the summer when her mother was visiting. It is a small world, but I'm not sure how many former pupils would want their old headmaster as a near neighbour!

Since I became fully mobile after sorting my hip out, we have much enjoyed exploring more widely in this marvellous county. I recommend Somerset to you all.

The twentieth anniversary of our leaving Kimbolton will be marked in the summer of 2022. When I look back, I sometimes feel as if I am looking down the wrong end of a telescope, as it all seems such a long way away. That said, Sue and I have a very rich memory bank of such a defining fifteen years in our lives. What I missed most when I left was the daily contact with young people and Sue, likewise, missed her teaching in the Spanish department.

Headmastering can be a very challenging occupation but I never lost sight of the trust placed in me by the governors when they appointed me. When I had retired from HMC, I did consultancy work appraising HMC heads and assisting governors appointing new heads, which made me appreciate the real challenge of appointing a new head.

Every new head is expected to make his/her mark on the school during their tenure of office. I hope I achieved that whilst preserving the unique ethos that makes Kimbolton School stand out. None of a school's achievements are down to the head alone, it is a team effort involving governors, staff, parents and pupils. I was always grateful for the huge support I received from all those constituencies and, of course, from Sue who was always at my side when things got tough.

Would I do it all again? Absolutely! I recognise that today's challenges are very different from twenty years ago, but there is so much joy to be had from working with young people in a positive school environment.

I have been fortunate to enjoy an extremely good relationship with Jonathan Belbin, who is a good friend. It has been a thrill for me to see the school prosper and grow under his guidance.

As an honorary OK (I think I'm allowed to make that claim) I feel I can join you all and feel very proud of "our" old school.

Sue and I send our best wishes.

Roger

1950 - 1969

Robert N Soek (OK'66), joined the school in 1958 and stayed at the school until the end of the U6. He then went on to study HND Electrical and Electronic Engineering and Industrial Training at Pye Unicam, Cambridge. He then worked at SRC Winkfield, ICL Stevenage and STL Harlow on Satellite tracking, Computers and Aircraft Electronics.

In 1974 Robert moved to Holland and started working for Philips, from 1984 to 1989 he worked on the MRI development of the MRI scanner at Philips Medical Systems. In 1989 Robert moved to Brazil to set up a Latin America regional service organization for Philips, before setting up his own company exporting and importing new technology equipment in Brazil in 1992, followed by a second company in the Netherlands in 1993. Robert 'semi' retired in 2016, and spends time at his homes in the Netherlands to Sao Paulo.

Robert has one daughter and two grandchildren who currently live in Longstanton near Cambridge. Member of the IET (UK), and Senior Life Member of the IEEE (USA), and the DEHS (UK) Hi pastimes include: Travelling, visiting Museums, Cultural Activities, Aviation, Electronics, swimming and Scuba diving.



Robert, "Check out the F-35 cockpit!"
This was taken at the Paris Airshow in 2013

1970 - 1989

Peter Fielding (OK'81), played in a memorial cricket match for John Edrich (the ex England and Surrey cricketer) at Balmoral in September representing Surrey Senior Cricketers. The Queen was in residence and he spoke to Prince Andrew who was walking his dogs round the boundary.



The photo is of Peter laughing at a comment from one of his team mates on his way back to his bowling mark. He took 2 wickets for 4 runs.

1990 - 1999

JAMES BROWN (OK'94) and his wife Nic welcomed baby Charlotte into the world, a sister to Jess and Will.



WILLIAM FOLLETT (OK'97)

On 20th November 2021, Will swam solo around the iconic Palm Jumeirah, Dubai. Will embarked on the 11km swim to raise as much money as possible for the Larchfield Children's Home in Tanzania, on behalf of Gulf for Good charity.

Swimming in these waters isn't without its dangers and on a training swim leading up to the challenge, Will was unfortunate to encounter some jellyfish.

He was stung about five times in total. Luckily, his support crew had vinegar on hand to deactivate the venom that jellyfish release, as well as plenty of water, dehydration salts and energy gels. Will said, "Once you're swimming, the adrenaline kicks in and the pain soon wears off!"

Will was delighted to have completed the swim around #palmjumeirah in a little over 4 hours. So far he has raised close to AED40k for #gulf4good charity and the children of Tanzania.

It will not be Will's first long-distance, open-water swim in the region, having taken on the 4km Al Fahal Island swim in Oman six years ago.

Five years of service in the British Army with the light infantry saw him stationed in Northern Ireland, Afghanistan and Iraq. He left the military in 2006 and emigrated to Dubai a year later. Now working for security and crisis management group Restrata, the company's tracking equipment will be used to monitor his swim while he is in the water.

**2000 - 2009**

SAM ROBERTS (OK'07) married Rachel on the 2nd October 2021, after a cancellation in April 2020. It took place in Biggar in the Scottish Borders and a fair few OKs were present. Sam's sisters, Hannah (OK'00), Abi (OK'03) and brother Joel (OK'09). Also there were Josh Spink, Tom Kirkpatrick, James Buckley, David Lindley, Alex Boardman, Charlie Taylor, Tom Kirkpatrick and Chris Abington (All OK'07)



Sam and Rachel on their wedding day.

JACCY DATTA (nee Gascoyne, OK'09) is now a financial crime specialist with High Street bank Santander and the President of Future Faces, Birmingham Chamber's networking group for the city's young professional community. After studying Spanish and linguistics, she found herself working as an investigation specialist at Amazon's London HQ, before relocating to Birmingham to work in financial crime and intelligence for Deutsche Bank and now Santander.

As President of Future Faces, she will lead one of the city's largest membership organisations through a new chapter as it absorbs the now defunct BPS Birmingham following a merger deal last year.

TIM McGLASHAN (OK'09)

On the 8th July 2021, Tim and his wife welcomed the safe arrival of a baby daughter, Otilie into the world.

DAVID LINDLEY (OK'07) married Sorrel Carrs (whom he met at Exeter University), at Longstowe Hall in Cambridgeshire on 30th October 2021, third time lucky after it being cancelled twice due to Covid. In that intervening time they had a baby girl Eliza, and around 20 OKs joined them to celebrate their wedding, which was wonderful!



David and Sorrel on their wedding day.

OLIVER BRIDGE (OK'07) has been in touch, and is now located in Sheffield, in October Oliver and his wife Lucy welcomed their second child, Felix James.

CHRIS ABINGTON (OK'07) got engaged to Maedbh Lyons on Christmas Day.



JEMMA FEAVER (OK'09) and **CHARLIE ALEXANDER (OK'07)** were delighted to get married in May 2021 after a delayed wedding due to Covid in August 2020.

Due to Covid restrictions only 30 guests were allowed to attend, so although they were not able to have everyone they wanted, they were lucky enough to have a number of OKs: Rebecca Cox (OK'09), Rachel Brown (OK'09), Katie Feaver (OK'08), Natasha Feaver (OK'10), Natasha Alexander (OK'11), Sophie Anthony (OK'09), Henry Alexander (OK'09), Sam Paske (OK 07), James Buckley (OK'07) and Joshua Spink (OK'07).



They also welcomed Billy Alexander into the world on 8th November 2021 weighing 9lbs 1oz.

Have we included **YOUR** news?

If not, it's probably because we didn't know about it!

Please don't miss out next time - send in your news as it happens to:

alumni@kimbolton.cambs.sch.uk

2010 - present

MICHELE WATERS (OK'10) Michele (nee Miller, OK'13) married Lt Dominic Waters RN on 25th June 2021 at Elstow Abbey in Bedford. Laura Anderson (née Miller, OK'08) was Maid of Honour, and Katy Brough (OK'13) was a bridesmaid. Also in attendance were Amy Gordon, Jordan Bucklow, and Rebecca Lee (all OK'13) and Delia Brough (former staff). The couple have moved to Devon where both of them now work.



Michele and Dominic and the wedding party sporting the Kimbolton School colours.

AMY GORDON (OK'13) After five years, thirteen exams, a global pandemic, one brain surgery, six months off work and hundreds of hours of studying, Amy is finally ACCA qualified and works for Shaw Gibbs Accountants.

ABBIE MAY (OK'18) completed her 120-hour TEFL qualification, alongside studying Spanish abroad. It was a great learning experience and the opportunity to engage with a variety of learners, including large groups and business students.

EMILY KENYON (OK'17) has completed her 4 years at Newcastle University with a distinction in her Masters in Public Relations and Media Studies.

TOM DAVIES (OK'12) started a new position as Head of Key Account Management at SWARCO. SWARCO is a leading supplier of traffic management and transport systems and specifically electro-mobility solutions.

THOMAS CAMPBELL (OK'14) has recently qualified as a chartered surveyor working for Eddisons, Barker Storey Matthews in Peterborough.

CLAIRE COTTERILL (OK'10) is now engaged to Iain Butler and they plan to marry in Cambridgeshire in July 2023.

RUTH WATSON (OK'16)

Ruth won The Most Promising Civil Engineering Apprentice 2020 at the Civil Engineering Contractors Association (Yorkshire & Humberside). Ruth is currently working for Mott MacDonald a leading global management, engineering and development consultancy. She is a project leader in the Mott MacDonald Bentley joint venture office in Leeds, working in the water sector as the civil designer on two phosphorus removal schemes as part of WINEP (Water Industry National Environment Programme).



Ruth receiving her award at the Civil Engineering Contractors Association (Yorkshire & Humberside) awards.

LOTTIE LUMBERS (OK'17) having achieved a 1st Class Honours MEng degree in Aerospace Engineering from Nottingham University, Lottie commissioned as a Fg Off into Her Majesty's Royal Air Force on 10th Feb 2021. She completed the course in 18 weeks as the first Accelerated Training Pathway Entrant from the University Air Squadron, paving the way for future sponsored students. She now embarks on her career as an Engineering Officer (Communications Electronics).



ISOBEL HUGHES (OK'21) writes:

The traditional route to selection for the England hockey team is via progression up through school, county and then regional squads. I had been fortunate to be selected for the east region squad in 2019 and as the next step I hoped to secure a place in The Futures Cup tournament in Summer 2020. Each region nominates one or two players who get to play in this tournament where the England selectors assess them against their peers. Unfortunately, due to Covid restrictions, the Futures Cup was cancelled and replaced with a new selection process taking place in November.

This new process actually ended up being even more competitive as it opened up opportunities for nearly 500 girls to try out. Initial trials were carried out at three venues across the country and were conducted with covid precautions in place. This phase of selection reduced the field from 500 down to about 30 who were taken through to Phase 2 trials. Here the 30 were then competing against existing England U18 players and U16s that were transitioning to the U18s.

Due to Covid wave 2, the face to face trials had to be paused. Instead, some training was initially delivered virtually, covering a number of issues such as nutrition and anti doping. The anti doping education was really eye opening as it highlighted how careful we needed to be with what we consumed, especially with some drinks that can contain banned additives.



We also had strength and conditioning exercises conducted in our living rooms over zoom! There were also challenging aerobic programmes so as to be as fit as possible when face to face selection could resume. This face to face selection eventually resumed at Lilleshall sports centre in Shropshire and Bisham Abbey in Berkshire, which are the national hockey centres for junior and senior respectively. Due to different infection rates in different areas this was disrupted as some players, including myself, were not permitted to travel to all of the sessions - in the end selection was based on reduced assessment hours which meant added pressure to perform consistently well.

This final cut would select the players who would get to play for England in the internationals in Valencia over the summer of 2021.

After a nervous wait, the news finally came through in May 2021 that I was lucky enough to get a place in the England squad. It turned out that I was one of the few from the original 500 that was selected to join the existing England U18 and U16 players.

Unfortunately, due to Covid the Valencia tournament was cancelled, so instead a home nations tournament was organised where we played Scotland, Ireland and Wales. This was an incredible experience and being fortunate enough to pull on an England shirt and stand for the national anthem is an experience I will never forget.

CAMERON LANE-LEY (OK'10) married Emma in Southrepps, Norfolk on New Year's Eve 2021.

Cameron and Emma are both Officers in the British Army and are looking forward to catching up with any OKs in London once they are both posted there in the summer of 2022.



In attendance were (L-R) Edward Brown (OK'10), George Richards (OK'10), Ross Gibson (OK'10), Matthew Chitty (OK'10), Josh (OK'10) and Amy Clark, Nick Scrivenger (OK'10), Jodie Hughes (OK'10), Matthew England (OK'10), Barnaby Spink (OK'10), Katie Turness (OK'13) and William Parker (OK'10).

RACHEL BROWN (OK'09) married Alfred Yeatman on 10th September 2021 at St James Church, Spaldwick. They were joined by a number of OK's. Father of the Bride William Brown (OK'78), Bridesmaids, Jemma Alexander (née Feaver) (OK'09), Rebecca Malindine (nee Cox) (OK'09) and Sarah Dawkins (OK'09). Groomsmen, Charles Alexander (OK'07), Harry Brown (OK'12), Archie Brown (OK'16). Also in attendance, Sophie Anthony (OK'09), Katie Good (OK'09), Karen Anderson (OK'09), David Childs (OK'09), Laurence Welman (OK'09), Natasha Alexander (OK'11), Paul Botsford (OK'74) and Tim McGlashen (OK'09).

JOHN HEATH (OK'13) was commissioned into the Army in 2019 and joined the Rifles Regiment. In 2021 John was involved in many Covid duties in Liverpool and Wales. He has also been deploying on exercise with the Indian Army, conducting adventurous training to Loch Ness and most recently deploying with the United Nations to Cyprus. This final deployment is with Op Tosca which sees British soldiers patrolling the buffer zone to prevent incursions from both sides.

DEATHS & OBITUARIES

IN MEMORIAM

It is with deep regret that we report the deaths of the following Old Kimboltonians.

DR DAVID CHEANEY (OK'50)

RACHAEL CORBISHLEY (OK'10)

BRYNMOR DIGBY (OK'17) on 28th November 2021

PHILIP GREENHAM (OK'66) Late November 2021

SIMON CHARLES HIPWELL (OK'78) Early 2022

LEON RADFORD (OK'48)

ANDREW SIMPSON (OK'84) on 23 March 2020

LUCIE WOOD (OK'03) on 4 March 2021

We received news, as the magazine was going to print, of the very sad passing of Dr David W Donaldson, Headmaster 1973-1987, a full tribute will appear in the next edition of the magazine.

LUCIE WOOD (OK'03) Lucie was a pupil at Kimbolton School, joining the Prep at 7 years old and continuing, together with her elder brother Matt and sister Laura, throughout her education. These were happy years for her where she met some of her lifelong friends. Sadly for her family and her many friends, she died very unexpectedly but peacefully in March 2021, the result of a previously undiagnosed condition.

She was 35 years old.

After leaving school Lucie went to Warwick University and was awarded a 2:1 in Business Studies with French. She was an ardent European, so a year spent in France during her degree was very special to her. She moved to London after leaving university and worked for several companies, Unilever in particular for the last 10 years. She loved her work, became Global Marketing Manager and planned to stay there.



During these last few difficult months many of us have shared our memories of her. We remember her love of life, her thoughtfulness and skills. She loved to craft anything from tapestries, embroidery to knitted toys and a wide variety of cakes and baking, making any occasion a little more special. She loved to travel abroad often to follow Grand Slam tennis events. Like many people she was finding the recent travel restrictions difficult, especially not to being able to visit Matt and his family in Seattle, as well as her family in UK.

With her school friends Lucie shared a love of music, especially boy bands, usually ignoring the need to be in vogue. Her friends recall her making a cherished playlist when they all left school. She selected the perfect song for each one.

Lucie relished her independence and had bought a flat in London where she planned to raise a little girl, whom she was in the process of adopting. We were all delighted and looking forward to the time when she would have been joining our family.

We would like to use this opportunity to thank everyone for all the wonderful gifts, messages and support we have received. We treasure them all. A tree will be planted in the school grounds in her memory.

If any OKs would like to remember her in their own words, we have set up a tribute page, through WaterAid which can be accessed from the link below:

<https://luciewood.muchloved.com>

Stuart and Sue Wood and family.

BRYNMOR FRANK DIGBY (OK'17)

Brynmor attended, lived, and grew up in Kimbolton and between 2004 - 2016 he had 12 wonderful years attending Kimbolton School. He started in Reception and left after 5th form.

He was part of Owens House and loved all the things the School offered. He was cheeky but in a fun sort of way, which meant when he got into trouble the teachers wouldn't stay cross with him for long.

He loved his time with the CCF (Army) completing many camps, activities and shooting, as well as the annual Remembrance Parade which brought the School, local community, and the Royal British Legion (RBL) together. As the then Chairman of the RBL this was a very proud day for me, especially when I had both Brynmor and his sister Poppy in the same parade as myself.

These 12 wonderful years' at Kimbolton School have created many fond memories for me and my family and ones we regularly remember with a smile on our faces.

On the afternoon of Sunday the 28th of November 2021 our lives changed forever, when Brynmor was tragically taken from us in a car accident. He was only 21 and had been a larger-than-life character for most of his 21 years we had with him.

On the 29th of December we laid Brynmor to rest in the old graveyard in Kimbolton and held a beautiful service with over 400 friends and family attending.

I would like to say on behalf of the Digby and Humphrey's- Evans families, thank you for all the kind messages and cards we have received. But also thank you to those who attended and joined us at his beloved Kimbolton Cricket Club afterwards, to celebrate his life and Brynmor as an individual.

Thank You - RIP Brynmor

Pete Digby (Dad)



SIMON CHARLES HIPWELL (OK'78) died suddenly in early 2022 at the age of 61, he was a skilled dentist and much loved for his manner with both his patients and all of his family

RACHAEL CORBISHLEY (OK'10)

Rachael Corbishley died on 2nd October 2021, a few months shy of her 30th birthday, from a brain tumour that she faced with the same bravery, humour and determination she lived her life with.

Rachael – or Rach as her school friends called her – joined Kimbolton aged 11, and was already all of the things she would grow up to be: gregarious, ambitious, funny and fiercely intelligent. She might have been intimidating were she not so friendly; bypassing cliques and hierarchies, she had the unique ability to be kind to everyone – to see the worth in them.

Never one to waste time, Rachael immediately threw herself into school life. Beyond being a straight-A student, she took part in the gym display, the charities committee, debating, swimming competitions and school plays. Later came Young Enterprise, the Kimboltonian and prefect duties. And in case it seems like she had no time for much else, you should know that Rachael never missed a party.

When she reached fourth form, lacking any particular interest in holding a gun, and possessing that innate desire to help people that would stay with her for the rest of her life, Rachael opted for community service over the more-popular CCF option. It was a win-win, because it meant spending Thursday afternoons with her beloved sister Naomi at Spring Common, a school for children with special needs.

It was in sixth form that Rachael's principles crystallised: she became a person who knew what she stood for and what she valued, and was utterly unafraid to express it. English class nurtured a passion for reading that would continue to grow, and Politics offered the chance to argue – with passion, empathy, good humour and a lot of flamboyant hand movements. She almost always took the liberal stance and found herself outnumbered in a year group that tended towards the conservative. She didn't care. She knew what she believed. Friends, classmates, teachers – if she thought you were wrong, she'd let you know. Usually with the classic Rachael eye roll.

Alison Bates, who taught Rachael Politics, remembers her fondly:

“When I look back to my time teaching Rachael, there is one overwhelming memory that comes to me first: that huge, joyous, infectious smile. Rachael would bound into my room, full of enthusiasm – whether it was the first or last lesson of a busy day, it would make no difference. Positive, enthusiastic, brimming with ideas – she brought such a light and joy to every lesson. Beyond that ready smile, however, was a seriousness and a determination: Rachael was ambitious, conscientious and set herself high standards. Essays were not a mere chore to be endured but an opportunity to read, to think, to explore ideas. Her strong social conscience and commitment to rights and justice were always so apparent. She loved to debate and discuss ideas: well informed, she was a formidable debating opponent whether in the P10 Politics classroom or on the floor of a Model United Nations conference.



“As I approach the last stages of my teaching career at Kimbolton School, I can reflect fondly on my good fortune to have met and taught so many wonderful, inspiring young people. However, there is no doubt that Rachael will always stand out as one of the most thoughtful, intelligent and committed of all. It may be something of a teacher’s cliché but she really was an utter pleasure to teach.”

It was that mix of intelligence and passion that earned Rachael a place at Trinity College, Cambridge. When she went for her interview there, her future director of studies made the following note: “A real live wire! Consistently intelligent across a range of topics. Has got Things To Say about the world.” He underlined the words “Things To Say”. Anyone who knew her can agree with that.

At Cambridge, she studied Politics, Psychology and Sociology (classic Rachael – why take on one thing when you could take on three?), and continued her dazzling trajectory. She won a junior scholarship in her first year, organised high-profile speakers for the Cambridge Union, ran the Politics Society and fundraised for SOS Children’s Villages, including a sponsored skydive – all the while seeking out those kindred spirits who were as interested in socialising as they were studying.

After graduation, a UN internship in Geneva led to a job with Save the Children in Cardiff, before Rachael moved to Cairo to work with Syrian refugees. It was the perfect career for someone with such a fire for tackling injustice. When war broke out in Yemen in 2015, she was asked to join Save the Children’s response team based in Jordan, where she met her partner Alun. He remembers how she would work late into nights and weekends – yet still somehow manage to be a regular at Tequila Tuesdays and Whisky Wednesdays.

After a brief stint in London, Rachael and Alun moved to Uganda, where she managed the Education Consortium, overseeing refugee education projects for multiple organisations, including Save the Children. It was not an easy job, but as Alun put it, she “led by example and sheer force of personality”. She and Alun made a home together in Kampala, and outside of work, she hung out with friends, went to parties, sponsored a naughty elephant called Esampu and danced around her kitchen to the Hamilton soundtrack.

Through all the years spent in various corners of the world, Rachael remained a loyal and diligent friend, sharing gossip, book recommendations and outrage at the state of the world from afar, then cramming in catch ups during stints back home. When she returned to the UK in 2020, to do a master’s in Education and Development, we were thrilled to have her back. She was part way through that master’s, getting distinctions in all her essays and preparing to start volunteering in a women’s refuge, when she became ill. On the same day that she told her friends the devastating news about her brain tumour, she also urged us all to vote for the Women’s Equality party in the mayoral election. There is only so much time for despondency when you are busy trying to make the world a better place.

Though Rachael was always deeply sceptical of the institution of marriage, she and Alun decided to have a civil partnership. She planned to have a big party to celebrate it in 2024 – and what a party it would have been. Even as her illness progressed, she remained the same optimistic, chatty and determined Rachael.



The doctors said she wouldn’t get out of bed again; the next thing they knew, she was walking down the stairs of her flat and into the pub. A force of nature to the very end, she died at home, surrounded by as much love and support as she had given out over her unjustly short life. She didn’t get to finish her master’s, but the university has decided to award it to her posthumously.

It probably won’t surprise you to know that Rachael was ambivalent about the idea of private education – especially after meeting so many people for whom accessing even basic education was a daily struggle. But the truth is, Rachael loved Kimbolton. She loved her friends, her classes, the school trips to America, Edinburgh, Dorset and Belgium, the opportunities, the ludicrously beautiful grounds. And thank goodness she came here, because it meant we were lucky enough to know her. There are not enough pages to do justice to all the things that Rachael did and all the things that she was, but I can say with confidence that she made everyone around her better and braver. I will forever feel lucky to have been able to call her my friend. In the months since she died, “Be More Rach” has become a mantra of which we remind each other often.

Some of Rachael’s school friends, along with her family, planted an oak tree on the school grounds in her memory. If you are near the cross country route, just beyond the swimming pool, look out for a small oak sapling and remember a truly extraordinary woman.

Alexandra Pollard (OK’10)



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