

THE OLD KIMBOLTONIAN 2023



Welcome from The Head



I am penning my 'From the Headmaster' introduction for the twenty-first and final time. That January date in the diary will now be erased. Whilst no mathematician, I have floundered about (as historians are apt to do with those pesky numbers) to calculate that around 4,000 Kimboltonians have attended the School during my time as Headmaster – actually more than we have on the entire OK database – although 1,100 of that number are actually still at the school and therefore ineligible for the time being.

If you are one of those 4,000, you may have some vague recollection of the odd assembly or caustic Headmaster report, but I am only too aware (as a historian again) of the fleeting nature of my role in Kimbolton School – a bit like St Bede's sparrow; from the year 731AD;

“... but after a short space of fair weather, he immediately vanishes out of sight, passing from winter to winter again.”

“...like the swift flight of a sparrow through the mead-hall where you sit at supper in winter...whilst the fire blazes in the midst and the hall is warmed, but the wintry storms of snow are raging abroad. The sparrow, flying in at one door and immediately out at another, whilst he is within is safe from wintry tempest, but after a short space of fair weather, he immediately vanishes out of sight, passing from winter to winter again.”



Hopefully, the analogy is only partly applicable, and a rich Autumn awaits first!

In preparation for this final missive, I asked Vicky Wakefield to dig out the 2003 edition of this magazine, the first in which I put quill to parchment.

On that first occasion, I wrote about an ‘A level grade fiasco’ involving A2s and ASs (remember them?), the success of the football 1st XI, “a young side with all but two or three returning next year”, and a forthcoming sports tour to Australia. I also proudly informed OKs that we now compiled academic assessments by computer rather than laboriously by hand, “whence one is always but a heartbeat away from the tyranny of spilt coffee”.

Whilst large desktop computers have made way for digital devices, the rhythm of the school year (I also name-checked a major school production – “Oh, What a Lovely War” – and Nine Lessons & Carols) has not altered so very much in the intervening twenty-one years. Indeed, I would hope that many of the positive aspects of school life in the Donaldson and Peel years remain extant too.

Sadly, one of those predecessors in the HM chair died last year. Dr David Donaldson passed away in his 90th year after a short illness, having enjoyed thirty-five years of retirement in his beloved Cornwall. Doubly sadly, his wife Marian (also a Kimbolton teacher) died shortly afterwards. Tributes to both will be found elsewhere in this production. For our part, Heather and I always found David and Marian to be hugely supportive – both to us personally and to Kimbolton School.

One area which has altered over the past two decades is the size of the School. The 848 pupils noted in that 2003 magazine has morphed into almost 1,100 today. To accommodate a larger school, every pre-2002 teaching base (still standing) has had a total makeover – Castle excepted for obvious reasons – whilst the double-headed Queen Katharine Building has soaked up Sciences, Maths and French. I note that, in the 2003 magazine Births section, three of the babies named went on to enjoy a full Kimbolton School career and are now at or finishing university; step forward Libby Ramply, Ben Szczepanski and Angus Dent (an ex-Head Boy no less).

And thus, the world evolves. Take a close look at the Births section of this 2023 magazine. Who knows what the future might hold for them?

I have no doubt that the constants of my time at Kimbolton School: the Castle, sport, music, drama, CCF, outdoor pursuits will continue to thrive even when this sparrow flies off. I have enjoyed supporting myriad Kimbolton extra-curricular activities over my time, with a particular relish, as most of you will know, for the sporting arena. The then OK President, Jonathan Hunter, wrote in 2003 that I had made my debut for the OK football team earlier that year. I have no recollection of how that match went, but in a 'the more things change, the more they stay the same' moment, I also turned out for the OK team this year, a late substitute in our victory over the School 1st XI. Jonathan Hunter, as OK 'eminence grise', was also present on the touchline, his wishful statement in 2003 of the "possibility of a permanent OK team playing in the Arthurian League", having come happily to pass in the interim period.



I am honoured to be asked to take on the Presidency of the OK football team and will endeavour to get to see as many matches as I can in the future, football boots firmly locked away in the car boot.

You will gather from the above that I see my departure less as the end of an era but more of the natural order of things, as a new HM takes the helm. In Will Chuter, the governors have selected wisely and I am confident that he will keenly support the OK Association in the same way as I have tried to do over the past twenty plus years.

I concluded in 2003 by writing;

"To be Headmaster of such a successful and historic School, is both an honour and a privilege. I will jealously guard against any erosion of the standards, which have made Kimbolton School what it is today."

Indeed. *Spes Durat Avorum**. Surely the most pertinent three words with which to sign off!

All the best to all OKs.

Jonathan Belbin

* Let the hope of our forefathers endure



In this Issue



Photo: Courtesy of R E Knell



'Old Kimboltonians' Association' group



Follow @OldKimboltonian



old_kimboltonians



Old Kimboltonians' Association

Contact Us

OK President: Sarah Gill (OK12) **Alumni Officer:** Victoria Wakefield (OK95)

alumni@kimbolton.cambs.sch.uk Tel: 01480 862223 Website: www.oks.co.uk

Information

- 3-5** From the Head
- 8** From the President
- 9** Committee information
- 32** OKA Accounts
- 34** School Open Day

Kimbolton History

Celebrating Kimbolton's rich history with stories and reflections

- 15-19** Kimbolton 60 years ago
- 36-37** Lost without a Trace

The OK Community

A summary of sport fixtures, events, a catch up with news and announcements from OKs and remembering those we have lost.

- 10-12** Welcome to The Club
- 21-23** The Arts
- 24-27** The World of Cricket
- 33** OKA Lodge
- 35** CCF News
- 39-41** OKA Events
- 42-52** OKS Sport
- 53-64** Leaving Members of Staff
- 66-70** School News
- 71-74** Peter Smout Essay
- 75-78** OK News
- 79-84** Tributes and Obituaries

Getting Involved, Giving back.

There are many ways to stay connected and get involved.

- 13** Updating your records
- 14** Reconnect
- 20** Get Involved
- 28** OKA Scholarship Trust Fund
- 29-30** OKA Sponsorship
- 31** OKA Merchandise
- 38** Upcoming Events
- 65** Keep in Touch - Moved House? Phone or email changed?

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 2023. 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.



FROM THE OKA PRESIDENT

Sarah Gill (OK12)

In my first year as OKA President, I found it particularly interesting to follow the school through the term calendar, attending events and realising that whilst a lot changes with year groups, generations and teachers, much also stays the same. I found this particularly noticeable on speech day, where staff, prizes and the day felt much familiar, whilst at the same time being surrounded by unknown parents, pupils and 'new' staff. It is interesting that the Headmaster also notes; so the schools consistency paradox is in his final 'From the Headmaster' introduction.

Although, I plan to write much more next year in my letter about Jonathan's on going support for The Association and on The Committee as Vice President, I want to take this opportunity to briefly thank him now. We are so glad he has accepted the role as the President of the OKA Football Club – his many appearances over the years have always been enjoyed, by players and spectators alike. We look forward to welcoming Will Chuter next year on to the committee and I hope we will be able to get him to attend some association events when his calendar allows.

As always, The Association has had a busy year, in the following pages you can read more about the OKA football club which is still going from strength to strength. We saw the first OK Days Canoeing event, which given DW's prominence in the school year is wonderful and OK10s Alex Pollard and Rosie Greening trekked to the Arctic for the National Literacy Trust.

As a committee we ran the biggest OKs Day and Ball ever, with 2 cricket teams and 2 Rounders squads out, unfortunately the tennis matches did not go ahead, but thanks to all those who organised, played or offered to play sport. Please get in touch with Vicky in office if you would like to be involved with any of these sports this OKs Day – Saturday 1st July. The ball was also a complete sell out, with 150 tickets sold, the Masters Common Room, White Hall and Green Room all used to seat people, it was wonderful to see so many OKs catching up with one another – this is what the OKA is all about. We also introduced a live band, photo booth and some other new areas of the event. We have considered all feedback and you can see all about this year's Ball and how to purchase tickets on pages 40-42.

I've decided to keep it this short and sweet this year, in the hope to get a key point across. I would like to thank every single person, who attended a OKs event, played sport, sent an email or update. We need the support of The Association to keep growing, please get in touch with the office if you have any ideas, would be willing to sit on the committee or even just update your contact details.

We can't run events without support and engagement from you. We are full of ideas and have a great deal of committed people to help make them reality, so next time you come along to something, bring an old school friend who never attends too. I look forward to the next year, 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 (OK12)	Hattie Gellatly (OK13)	Abi Hooton (OK15)	Nick Berry (OK04)
George Beverly (OK08)	Theo Gibbs (OK68)	James Hopperton (OK94)	Minnie Jackson (OK18)
Joshua Spink (OK07)	Sarah Gill (OK12)	Jonathan Hunter (OK80)	Cameron Lane-Ley (OK10)
Thomas Campbell (OK14)	Charlotte Goodson (OK88)	John Mayes (OK51)	George Richards (OK10)
Michael Capps (OK65)	Alaster Gray (OK73)	Bill Skinner (Former staff)	
Josh Doonan (OK13)	John Hitchin (OK71)	Andrew Bamford (Former staff)	
Joanna Doyle (OK84)	James Hodges (OK11)	George Farrer (OK18)	

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	Jim Harrison		jharrison53@btinternet.com
HOCKEY (Men's)	Tom Hopperton		tom.hopperton1@icloud.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)	Vicky Wakefield	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

Welcome

to the Club, Class of 2022



Kimbolton School



A Level Results 2022



<u>Maxwell Adams</u>	<u>Modern Languages & Business - Leeds</u>
<u>Benjamin Andrell</u>	<u>Sports Business & Broadcasting - UCFB</u>
<u>Calan Barclay</u>	<u>Business Management - Hull</u>
<u>Mollie Beavan</u>	<u>Politics & International Relations - Exeter</u>
<u>Matthew Bell</u>	<u>History - Exeter</u>
<u>CeCe Bennett</u>	<u>Psychology - Sheffield</u>
<u>Tristyn Blake</u>	<u>Archaeology & History - Nottingham</u>
<u>Emily Blatch</u>	<u>Gap Year</u>
<u>Christopher Bowland</u>	<u>Medicine - UCL</u>
<u>Felix Butt</u>	<u>Business & Financial Management - Hull</u>
<u>Olivia Cann</u>	<u>Law - Sheffield</u>
<u>Lok Chan</u>	<u>Accounting & Management - UEA</u>
<u>Ka Wai Sophie Chong</u>	<u>Physiotherapy - Plymouth</u>
<u>Chun Chow</u>	<u>Business Economics - Surrey</u>
<u>Elizabeth Collett</u>	<u>Primary Education - Brighton</u>
<u>Ellis Coombes</u>	<u>Theatre - York</u>
<u>Markus Downhill</u>	<u>Gap Year</u>
<u>Toby Eddleston</u>	<u>Medicine - Cambridge</u>
<u>Jamie Edwards</u>	<u>Real Estate - Reading</u>
<u>William Eyles</u>	<u>Business Management - Cardiff</u>
<u>Charlotte Farren</u>	<u>Gap Year</u>
<u>Sophie Faulkner</u>	<u>Gap Year</u>
<u>Harry Godsell</u>	<u>Real Estate (2023) - Oxford Brookes</u>
<u>Nicholas Goldwin</u>	<u>Film & Philosophy - Lancaster</u>
<u>Henry Goodacre-Bullen</u>	<u>Geography - Newcastle</u>
<u>Amelia Goodyer</u>	<u>Nursing - Sheffield Hallam</u>
<u>Owen Gordon-Lawrence</u>	<u>Game Development: Design - Falmouth</u>
<u>Imogen Gray</u>	<u>Finance and Insurance Sector</u>
<u>Anna Greenland</u>	<u>Fine Art - UWE, Bristol</u>
<u>Ben Hallam</u>	<u>Biomedical Science - Warwick</u>
<u>Georgia Hallihan</u>	<u>English - York</u>
<u>Luke Hookham</u>	<u>Medicine - Sheffield</u>
<u>Thomas Hopperton</u>	<u>Agricultural Business Management - Reading</u>
<u>Olivia Howell-Jones</u>	<u>Construction Project Management - Sheffield Hallam</u>
<u>Charlotte James</u>	<u>English Literature & Theatre - Leeds</u>
<u>Matthew Jardine</u>	<u>Business & Geography - Keele</u>
<u>Kieran Jones</u>	<u>Gap Year</u>
<u>Harrison Kemp</u>	<u>Sports Science & Physiology - Leeds</u>
<u>Abigail King</u>	<u>Zoology - Royal Holloway, London</u>
<u>Molly King</u>	<u>Criminology & Psychology - Sheffield Hallam</u>
<u>Sadie King</u>	<u>English - Kings London</u>
<u>Maria Kyoseva</u>	<u>Film - Westminster</u>
<u>Alexander Lamdin</u>	<u>Apprenticeship</u>



2022 House Champions - Owens



<u>Henry Leigh-Smith</u>	<u>International Relations - Leeds</u>
<u>Jack Mash</u>	<u>Mathematics with Computer Science - Southampton</u>
<u>Samuel May</u>	<u>Physics - Southampton</u>
<u>James McGill</u>	<u>Bioveterinary Science - Liverpool</u>
<u>Iris McKinlay</u>	<u>Fashion Design - Leeds</u>
<u>Christian Milledge</u>	<u>Economics & Geography - Leeds</u>
<u>Reuben Moerman</u>	<u>Aeronautics & Astronautics - Southampton</u>
<u>Lucy Moore</u>	<u>Accounting & Financial Management - Hull</u>
<u>George Moore</u>	<u>Law - Lancaster</u>
<u>Amelia Morgan</u>	<u>Fashion Marketing & Branding - Nottingham Trent</u>
<u>Oscar Mulligan</u>	<u>Politics/Foundation - Surrey</u>
<u>Yi Ngan</u>	<u>Physiotherapy - Nottingham</u>
<u>James Noakes</u>	<u>Gap Year</u>
<u>Christopher North</u>	<u>Business & Finance - Lincoln</u>
<u>Sophie O'Donnell</u>	<u>Gap Year</u>
<u>Max Oldfield</u>	<u>Forensic Science/Foundation - Lincoln</u>
<u>Holly Orchard</u>	<u>Business & Management - Durham</u>
<u>James Owens</u>	<u>Veterinary Science - Bristol</u>
<u>Oliver Page</u>	<u>History - Nottingham</u>
<u>Charlotte Parker</u>	<u>Primary Education Studies - Anglia Ruskin</u>
<u>William Paul</u>	<u>Business & Management - Lincoln</u>
<u>William Powell</u>	<u>Marketing - York</u>
<u>Sophie Price</u>	<u>Outdoor Instructor</u>
<u>Joshua Rainford</u>	<u>Chemical Engineering - Sheffield</u>
<u>Srivatsa Rao</u>	<u>Law/Foundation - Kent</u>
<u>Sandesh Ravindran</u>	<u>Chemistry - Manchester</u>
<u>Olivia Rees</u>	<u>Food Business Management & Marketing - Newcastle</u>
<u>Alexander Rice</u>	<u>Gap Year</u>
<u>Sarah Robb</u>	<u>Fine Art - Lancaster</u>
<u>Grace Robinson</u>	<u>Fine Art - Sheffield Hallam</u>
<u>Daniel Robinson</u>	<u>Sport & Exercise Sciences - Durham</u>
<u>Maximus Rossi</u>	<u>Engineering/Foundation - Nottingham</u>
<u>Mia Routledge</u>	<u>Gap Year</u>
<u>Ben Rowbotham</u>	<u>Geography & Management - Loughborough</u>
<u>Grace Sanderson</u>	<u>Religion, Philosophy & Ethics - Kings London</u>
<u>Ishan Sarkar</u>	<u>Gap Year</u>
<u>Lucinda Saunders</u>	<u>Veterinary Bioscience - Harper Adams</u>
<u>Gina Schlatter</u>	<u>Architecture/Foundation - Brighton</u>
<u>Kira Shipley</u>	<u>History - York</u>
<u>Libby Shotter</u>	<u>Geography - Reading</u>
<u>Olivia Smart</u>	<u>Healthcare & Biomed/Foundation - Hertfordshire</u>
<u>Milton Southern</u>	<u>Politics - Keele</u>
<u>Emily Sparkes</u>	<u>English - Cambridge</u>
<u>Eleanor Spicer</u>	<u>Interior Architecture - Northumbria</u>
<u>James Staplehurst</u>	<u>Mathematics - Birmingham</u>
<u>Barnaby Sykes</u>	<u>Business Management with Marketing - Harper Adams</u>
<u>Spencer Taylor</u>	<u>History - Durham</u>
<u>Charlotte Tully</u>	<u>Higher Apprenticeship PWC -</u>
<u>Benjamin Underwood</u>	<u>History - Newcastle</u>
<u>Charlotte Walker</u>	<u>Field Market Intern</u>
<u>Oliver Walker</u>	<u>Motor Sport Engineering - Oxford Brookes</u>
<u>Cameron Wallace</u>	<u>Human Neuroscience - Birmingham</u>
<u>Felix Walton</u>	<u>History - Lincoln</u>
<u>Marcus Werrett</u>	<u>Business & Management - Lincoln</u>
<u>Amy West</u>	<u>Gap Year</u>
<u>Katie West</u>	<u>Agri-Food Marketing & Business - Harper Adams</u>
<u>Isobel White</u>	<u>Sport & Exercise Therapy - York St John</u>
<u>Samuel White</u>	<u>Electrical & Electronic Engineering/Foundation - Lincoln</u>
<u>Conor Whittaker-</u>	
<u>Richardson</u>	<u>Chemical Engineering - Sheffield</u>
<u>Eleanor Wilson</u>	<u>Art Foundation</u>
<u>Nok-hin Wong</u>	<u>Natural Sciences - Bath</u>
<u>Harriet Wyld</u>	<u>Natural Sciences - Nottingham</u>

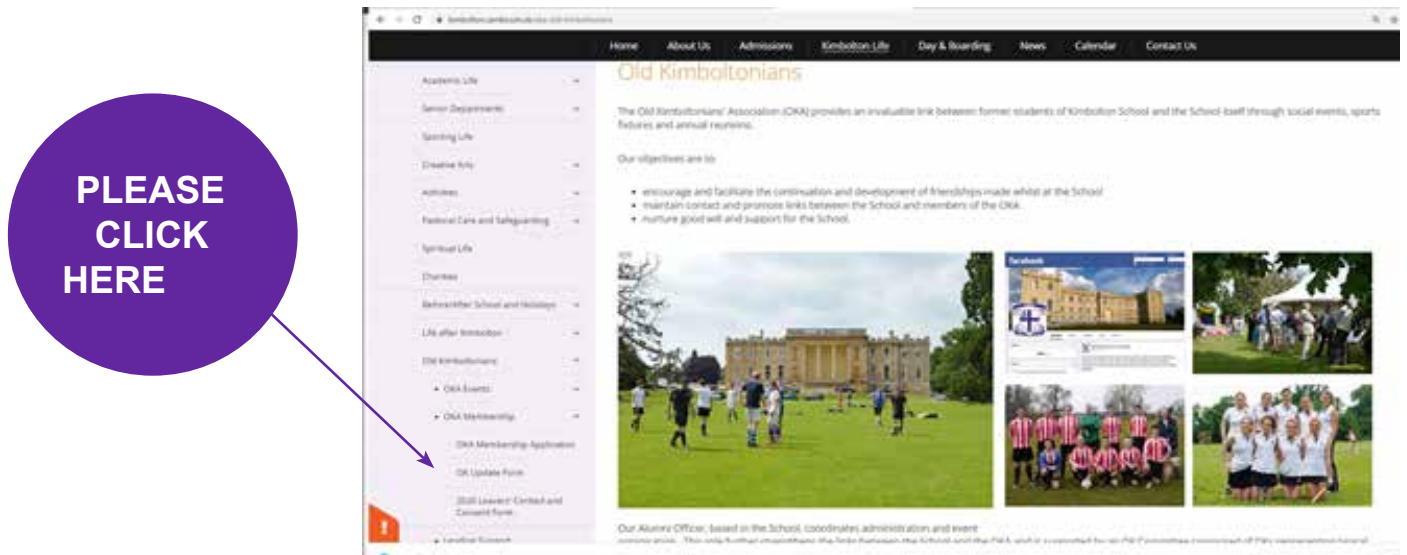


Updating your record with the OKA

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.



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.

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

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



How can I reconnect with the school to keep in touch with the next generation of Kimboltonians?

Add the OKA to your LinkedIn profile.

Helping to promote and grow the Alumni is the very best advertisement for the value of a Kimbolton School education. Your social media presence on LinkedIn and other platforms can provide links back to Kimbolton.

Introduce new parent to the school.

A great conversation will always spark an idea. If you know a parent or child who would enrich the Kimbolton community, then let the school know. The Admissions Team will put information for you to share or they can send it directly to the interested party.



Be an ambassador.

Many current students who are exploring options for their future pathway will have many questions. Get involved with offering advice at Career events taking place at school. Offer answers, options and share your experiences.

Contact the Alumni officer for more information :

alumni@kimbolton.cambs.sch.uk

Introduce a fellow OK to any graduate programmes that the school offers.

The school offers graduate positions every year to newly graduated students. If you know someone who would fit the bill... then let them know.

Support the OKA Trust Fund.

Make an annual gift to the Fund or set up small monthly donations in order to help the school to support selected students throughout their studies.

Contact the Alumni officer for more information :

alumni@kimbolton.cambs.sch.uk

60 years on....



An Extract Taken

From the OK Newsletter of 1962

A letter to the Headmaster from Miss A. M. Bell, of Leamington Spa, gives a fascinating impression of Kimbolton as it was eighty years ago. Miss Bell spent her childhood in the village and paints a colourful picture of the “ old posting town.”

The Bell family lived in East Street, next door to their landlord, a Mr. Bull, who figures prominently in Miss Bell’s memory. He had threshing by flail done at home, in a large carriage-house on his East Street premises. Here also he brewed his own beer, probably in the same way as in the newly restored brewery in the Castle Gatehouse.

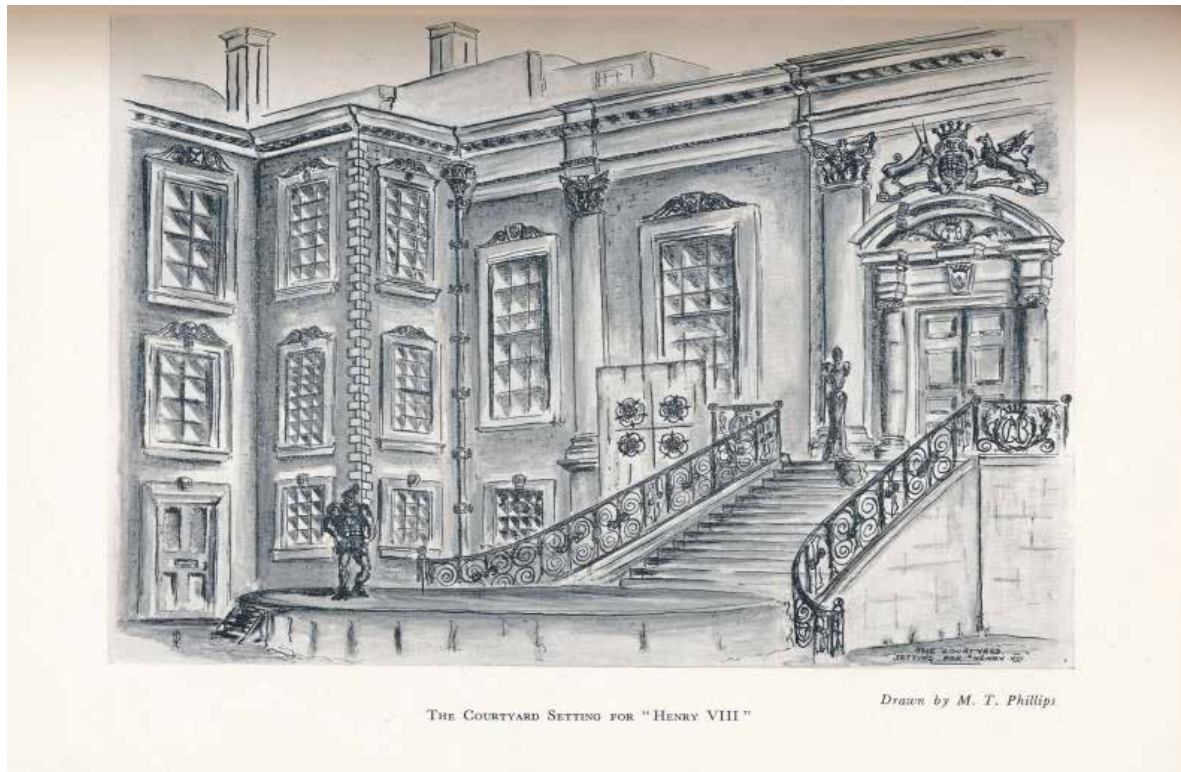
The Welstead family, after whom the Welstead Pavilion at the Science block is named, lived in the village at that time. They actually lived in Kimbolton House, which now harbours the senior boys in Dawson’s House. Another branch of the family occupied Stonely Hall, which has become the largest junior boarding house. Miss Bell went to the village school, run by a Miss Lucilla Gudgeon, daughter of the chemist at Church Corner, where the original shop remains today. As well as being a schoolmistress, Miss Gudgeon played the church organ, which Miss Bell and her school-fellows pumped.

One of these school-fellows, Ernest Wallis, the son of the village postmaster, was attacked by his father, who cut his throat and then started on his younger sister. Another tragedy occurred when the brother-in-law of two sisters at the village school was convicted of murder and sentenced by the famous “ hanging judge,” Judge Hawkins to be hanged. Miss Bell’s recollections of Kimbolton Grammar School, as it then was, are not as clear as those of the village, as she did not come into contact with the school. She does remember the Sports Days, however, which ended with an obstacle race on The Butts, opposite the school, and which included traversing the River Kim. The mile steeple-chase, which is our modern equivalent, can hardly be as exciting as this must have been !

Two boys were also mentioned by Miss Bell : Harlop Burns, who eventually married a school-friend of hers from East Street, and Williarn H. Bailey, who was a friend of Miss Bell's elder sister. It was undoubtedly a coincidence that the brass gas-pendants in the church and W. H. Bailey both came from Walsall ! The Castle was, at that time, still in the hands of the Manchester family, and there was a great deal of social life, consisting largely of balls and hunts. The Portico steps were actually carpeted when the occasion merited it. Hunting took place frequently, and Miss Bell saw her first kill by the oak tree outside the Bedford Road gates.

The fire alarm system was somewhat primitive, a man on horse-back rode into the village shouting, "Fire ! Fire !" and the bell was rung. The same bell sounded curfew at eight o'clock in the Summer and seven o'clock in the winter. In Summer, women used to sit outside in the street, making pillow-lace until curfew rang. Miss Bell shows that Kimbolton in the days of horse-drawn vehicles and turnpikes possessed tremendous character, and it is pleasing and it is to note that, unlike many villages it still retains a great part of the colour which it had in bygone days.

R.N.D.



Recollections of an Old School Friend

Steve Poppitt (OK78) was a pupil at Kimbolton from 1971 to 1978 and recently got in touch not to only share some of his memories of when he was at Kimbolton, but also to reflect on the life of SC Hipwell who sadly passed away in early 2022. He writes:

You recently ran an obituary in the OK Newsletter about my friend Simon Hipwell, who was also a '78 Leaver. I was in Ingrams with him at Stonely Hall, from Sept 1971 until June 1974, i.e. 1st Form to 3rd Form. Stonely Hall was the boarding house for Ingrams juniors. The housemaster was Mr Peter Smout until the summer of 1972, thereafter it was Keith Brooks.

Simon lived in Nairobi, Kenya, with his parents. He didn't talk about his background, beyond the fact that his family were posted to Nairobi. I believe his dad was RAF, as Simon joined the CCF's RAF section. It's just possible it was a Diplomatic posting, with the FCO; but I think it more likely that Simon's father was posted to RAF Eastleigh, near Nairobi.

My father had an RAF posting in Cyprus from 1966-69, even though from 1960 Cyprus was independent; and later had a posting in West Germany, from 1972-75, even though that wasn't a colony either! Quite a few overseas bases remained in those days.

In my year, in Ingrams juniors, Dave Tew had spent time in the RAF at Aden in the Sixties, as well as in Cyprus later; and Boumphrey's family, who were in the Royal Navy, were stationed in Hong Kong. Many of the kids in my year who boarded in Ingrams were from Forces families. Simon prided himself on his invisibility. Until Mike

Petty (former staff, who taught Maths) passed away in 2002, I regularly met up with Mike at every OK event for years, because we both lived in Buckden -- but in all those years I never once saw Simon Hipwell at any OK function! He never attended OK Day, nor the OK Dinner, nor was ever heard of in the OK Magazine. I was at Stonely Hall with him for three years in Ingrams, but I don't ever recall him coming out of his shell. He was pleasant, quiet, and largely invisible!

Simon was a boarder throughout his 7 years at the school, 1971-78, in Ingrams.

Mr Burkett, the History master, was in charge of Tennis, which was an active sport in the Seventies, thanks to what at the time were the new hard-courts down the Mall, in their fenced enclosure, with 15 ft high wire fences -- Mr Burkett had no confidence in our ability to actually play the game! -- situated next to the grass courts on the Mall itself.

When we were Seniors, from the 4th Form onwards, Simon was a keen member of the RAF section of the School's CCF. At that time I became a day boy, on the Huntingdon bus, but Simon was an Ingrams boarder in the Castle. So my recollection of him ends at that point, sadly, except that he remained as a boarder in the 4th, 5th and 6th Forms.

He was on the Sciences-side in the 6th Form, and became a qualified dentist, while I was doing an 'Arts' A-level course (English, History and Geography), so our paths didn't cross.

In the 6th Form, Simon did A-levels in Chemistry, with Peter Watson, and Biology with Ian Burton (IJB). Alan Gilbert recalls that in the senior school Simon was nicknamed 'Theo', after the American TV cop Kojak, who was played by Telly Savalas on the television between 1975-78: allegedly, because of their mutual fondness for lollipops! And he remembers Simon as one of the academics of our form, quietly spoken and friendly. He said Simon cared very much for his younger brother, Paul, who he would always look out for.

Alan also remembers Simon playing the violin in the school orchestra; and that, whilst in the 1st Form, Simon sang for Mr Dale, the music master, as one of the Sisters-and-Cousins-and-Aunts, in the school's production of Gilbert and Sullivan's "HMS Pinafore", in Summer term 1972.

I well remember Simon - who was in my dormitory - rehearsing for that 1972 production. He was not the only Ingrams 1st Former thrown into drag by Phil Dale, to sing a female part! Dave Tew, also in the same dorm, was another of Dale's victims in that production. As there were no girls at Kim in 1972, it was perhaps inevitable; but there was a certain unwelcome notoriety that went with dressing as a girl!

At the time of the 40-year reunion, in 2018, Simon was living up north, after many years in the Bristol area, working as a dentist in Yorkshire and Cumbria in order to be near his grandchildren. He decided not to attend the '78 Leavers reunion in 2018, and said that Kimbolton didn't have happy memories for him. He may have been remembering that production of "HMS Pinafore"!

At the time of his death, Simon Hipwell was working at the Otley Dental Centre.

To change the subject, it seems that all too few OK's remember ex-staff member Richard Mather (RNM), who taught History. He was a larger than life character, and I remember him fondly, at 'O' and at 'A' level. The activities of Steve Birch (OK '78), mentioned below, brought him to mind when I thought of contacting you.

In my first year, 1971-72, the History teacher for the 1st Form was Roy Butler (REAB), because Mr Lewis, the headmaster, couldn't fill that post -- REAB usually taught Geography. David Blackburn (DKB) joined the staff in Sept 1972, to fill that vacancy, straight from teacher training college I think, as the school's youngest (ever) History master.

Head of History in 1972 was Philip Burkett (PRB) -- who tried to avoid teaching the very youngest kids! Classes with PRB tended to quickly dissolve into chaos, because he had absolutely no control over the kids; but he was well liked. DKB was much younger, and had a good grasp of how to prevent a dry subject such as History from boring the kids -- we thought it was because he was not much older than a 6th Former himself, in 1972, so remembered what it was like to be a schoolboy!



Simon Hipwell (back row-centre) - 1975

DKB became headmaster at a school in Manchester after leaving Kimbolton in the 1980s, and now seems to have retired to France. He married a lady teacher who joined the staff at Kimbolton when girls were admitted (from 1978), named Maggie Howcroft.

The last I heard of them, DKB was blogging on 'Facebook' about them attending the final Opera season before Covid, at Buxton in Derbyshire, with David March (a '79 Leaver, latterly Chaplain to the OK Association). DKB was the man who all the old staff seemed to keep in touch with, although there are fewer of them left now. He'd be the man who knows what became of them.

When I last heard of him (also on Facebook), he and his wife were on a "cultural" tour of pubs in Provence.

In about 1974, Richard Mather (RNM) joined the staff, to teach History to O-level and A-level standard. 'Dickie' Mather, as he was known, was quite "posh". His distinctive fruity voice remains long in my memory. With his trademark hairstyle, gait, and glasses, he taught History from 1974 until the early 1980s. He then moved to Oundle School, where he continued to teach History.

I'm reminded of Dickie, today, because Steve Birch has just kindly provided an mp3 audio recording of Mather teaching an O-level class, in 1977, which Steve bugged with the help of a tape recorder and a kid in a lower form.

American history and Watergate was the subject. I suspect the reason why Mather sounds less posh than usual in the tape recording is down to the limited bandwidth available to Steve. I tend to discount his kindly but flawed theory that RNM didn't usually sound posh!!

I retain fond memories of lunchtimes spent in RNM's company in the Half Moon pub in East Street, fortifying ourselves for another afternoon of A-level history. And of his kindly making one period less dull than it might have been, by taking the History 6th for a guided tour of the library in his house in Newtown, after he'd moved out of The George. He wanted to show us his collection of books on the Russian revolution; and I've a lasting memory of nearly falling off the plank bridge over the Kym, near his house; and of his library: an enormous room, with all four walls lined with bookshelves, filled from floor to ceiling with hardback volumes -- a memory of being surrounded by books wherever I turned. He was an excellent teacher, mainly due to his sharp intelligence, but he also had a unique teaching method. He bombarded his classes with printed handouts. The sight of Richard Mather staggering round the school, clutching a vast weight of printed purple notes, for distribution next period, was a legendary one. Mather thought a history lesson was wasted if he hadn't handed out reams of printed purple pages in the course of it. The school owned some sort of early-model photocopier, which used purple ink (the school had a mania for using purple ink for everything), which could quickly reproduce huge quantities of any written material.

If we were any good at history, it was because Dickie Mather read all the latest high-flying academic research on the subject published by the Universities, and handed it round in O- and A-level classes, in his famous purple prose (literally purple!), in these printed notes, years before it got published in the standard textbooks. Mather's purple handouts were legendary. Tales of Dickie Mather are legion! Nigel Trotter recalls fond memories of Dickie's home in Newtown (nicknamed 'Toad Hall'). Steve Birch and Nigel helped Mather run the Film Society in the 6th form, and often met him at Toad Hall to discuss film choices for the school and village film society. He could be a little absentminded. Frequently they would arrive at the arranged time, only to find RNM was late as usual, or had forgotten they were meeting, so would let themselves in (he never locked the door) and pour themselves nice large gin and tonics while they sat and waited for him for the next hour. He could be more than a little absentminded! They walked in one day, when Dickie had just arrived

home, to be met with a foul, putrid smell. On questioning, he pointed to his hob, on which he had left a boiling pan of water earlier in the day before leaving the house. The pan had dried out, and had proceeded to melt all over the hob! In 1977, Dickie led the first ever school trip from Kimbolton to Russia, for a 7-day sightseeing tour of Moscow and Leningrad. Tim Lievesley ('78) remembered Dickie pointing excitedly at some young Russian chap's groin, whilst waving a packet of 'juicy fruit' chewing gum in his face! Dickie, who memorably had shoulder-length hair and looked the part of a hippy, was mistaken to be offering chewing gum for sex; but it transpired he was bartering for the chap's leather belt, as a souvenir. This took place, inevitably, in Red Square: under the eyes of the military guards at The Kremlin!



Steve Poppitt in Germany in 1975

When Philip Wise (a '79 leaver) and I went to Russia with Mather (and PRB) on another such trip, in the Spring of 1979, Mather terrified us by spending most evenings closeted in secret meetings, drinking with local Jewish dissidents opposed to the Soviet regime! How he avoided getting arrested, I'll never know...

I later heard of Dickie Mather when he was teaching at Oundle. DKB was leading another school party from Kimbolton round Moscow, in the mid 1980s, during the Easter holidays. As they were getting into the lift in their Moscow hotel, Mather walked out of it leading a party of kids from Oundle!

I took History at Kim all the way up to A-level. The staff were always cheerful, kindly, and helpful.

Kindest
Steve Poppitt (OK78)

How can I be an advocate for the school and the alumni?

Join the OKA Committee

All alumni members are welcome to join the main committee or one of the sub committees, within the organisation.

We currently have a sub committee to help organise and run the **Summer Ball and Reunion Day**.

We have a sub committee who are involved in organising and developing and preserving the school **Archives**.



Submit a story about your achievements or an extraordinary life event.

The Alumni Officer loves to celebrate amazing achievements, journeys and amazing pivots of all of our alumni.

Highlight a significant achievement from a peer or yourself by contacting the Alumni officer:

alumni@kimbolton.cambs.sch.uk

Share your best school stories.

Take a walk down memory lane and share your stories about your time at Kimbolton. Tales from the classroom, boarding house, sports field or some general recollection of school life.

Support the Sports teams.

Whether you would just like to take part as a member for the team, or have a more organisational role to help with developing and growing the teams.. we would love to hear from you. If you have a passion for a sport not already featured on the calendar, then please let us know and we will try to get some fixtures in the calendar.

Contact the Alumni officer for more information :

alumni@kimbolton.cambs.sch.uk



The Neumonarchs were formed in late 2021 by lead guitarist Cameron Ward (OK21) and drummer Rhys Atkins (OK21); lead singer and rhythm guitarist Tom Giles (OK21) joined shortly after starting up, and almost 6 months after than they recruited Will Powell (OK22), who before joining had never picked up a base.



Despite all attending Kimbolton at the same time, their paths at school didnt ever cross!

Their sound is difficult to describe having been compared to several bands such as *Kings of Leon* and *Ride*, but what can be said is the volume of their live shows is also something to be admired and feared. Having been screamed at by the sound technician at one of their shows for playing too loudly, they will be sure to put on a good show.

Singles out now: 'Discarded Cigarette', 'Touching Distance' & 'Different Now'.

The Neumonarchs - OK Band playing at the Summer Ball on the 1st July

Filmmaking



In 2020, George Ellison (OK19) directed his debut film called “When We Met Again”.

The film is about Faye, a game designer grieving the loss of her partner Amelie. However, Faye believes she may have found a way to bring Amelie back from the dead or at least part of her...

George writes, “I made this film during the pandemic which was an interesting challenge trying to battle the social distancing restrictions and minimise risk. I am proud to say we broke no rules and no one came down with COVID! I was nominated for best short in the First-Time Film-maker Lift-Off Film Festival, but sadly didn’t win”.

In 2022, George was the editor and VFX Supervisor on a short film called “I Recognise The Body In The Water”, Directed by Dan Boldrini. Based on the ‘SCP 2316 article - is a phenomenon of groups of floating bodies mysteriously appearing in the water.’

This sci-fi thriller is about Jack, who has been recently bereaved by the loss of his wife Maya, begins to see apparent visions of his dead wife, luring him back to the lake in which she died. All the while, the global non-governmental organization the SCP Foundation, is aware of these so-called visions of Maya he is experiencing, and dispatches a surveillance team, Mobile Task Force PSI-8, aka “The Silencers” to Secure, Contain & Protect the anomalies.



George explains that this film was funded through a crowdfund where they raised over £3500 which significantly helped in getting the camera rolling. George continues. “We were selected at the San Francisco Arthouse Short Festival, and the Austin International Art Festival, and we also received a special mention at the Tokyo International Monthly Film Festival and we were a finalist at the Lit Scares International Horror Festival, sadly no wins again but it was great to be nominated!

Watch the films here:

When We Met Again: <https://www.gellison.com/when-we-met-again>

I Recognise The Body In The Water: <https://youtu.be/d9qJa29uYBc>

George has also recently hosted a webinar on Texture and Matte Painting with Paul Campion, an amazing Texture and Matte Artist who has worked on *The Lord Of The Rings Trilogy*, *Kingsman*, *Captain America: Civil War* and much more.



Can 2023 live up to the impressive Cricket season of 1977?

The School's Annual Castle Cricket Festival returns to Kimbolton this year and it is 40 years since the 1983 First XI first won the trophy in a nail-biting finish.

The school has won several festivals including the inaugural competition in 1977 which was held at Kimbolton.

Some previous First XI cricketers thought it would be a great opportunity to get together reminisce over past cricketing triumphs and watch the current First XI play on the Castle Pitch.

**Come and join past winning Cricket Festival players for
Lunch in the Saloon and then watch the current School 1st XI battle it out against Watford Grammer School
on
Sunday 9th July
from 12pm.
Drinks reception and a Buffet Lunch.
Match starts at 11am.**

Event organiser Peter Aylott (OK83) says, "It would be wonderful to see as many cricketing alumni as possible and this coincides with the last festival hosted by Mr Jonathan Belbin before he leaves the school after 21 years. He has confided to me that the school has not won the festival during his tenure and so some fingers crossed for 2023".

For more information on how to book your ticket please contact

Peter Aylott - aylottpeter@aol.com

or

Victoria Wakefield, Alumni Officer:

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

An extract from the First XI Cricket report from the 1977 Kimboltonian

Compared with the previous six seasons, The 1977 season produced the most runs by the School (1,898) at the highest average per wicket (20.55, the most centuries (2), the equal highest number of wickets by a bowler (34), and the highest innings total (226 for 5 declared); but perhaps the most impressive statistic of all is that the School remained undefeated after playing more matches than has been customary for many years.

.....A thrilling climax to the season was provided by the first Kimbolton Cricket Festival, when we played host after the end of term to Berkhamsted and Framlingham. The match against Berkhamsted on the Saturday was cricket at its most nail-biting. Batting first, we made a sound enough start, scoring 31 before the first wicket went down, but then the not unfamiliar clatter of very quick wickets saw us slump to 51 for 7, and our unbeaten record suddenly looked sick. It scarcely looked any healthier when we were finally bowled out for 85. Early success gave us hope when Berkhamsted lost their first two wickets for six runs and then an inspired spell of bowling by Robert Lomas (12.3 overs, 9 maidens, 5 wickets for 6 runs) saw us home by the uncomfortable margin of only 5 runs.

The following day, Framlingham convincingly beat Berkhamsted by 8 wkts, and the stage was thus well set for Monday's encounter, and few could have forseen the result at that stage. In the event, Framlingham found the Williams/ Lowther pace combination just a little too quick for them, and they were soon back in the pavilion for only 81 runs. Nothing now was to deny us victory here, and the target was reached with the loss of only one wicket, so ending a thoroughly enjoyable mini-tournament, and a supremely satisfying season.....



This photo is not from the 1970's but this image captures the first ball bowled on the 1st XI pitch by G.E. Bingham in 1956 against the Ely Clergy XI's opening batsman.

Richard Merriman's account of his time at Kimbolton and his latest cricket endeavours, as he leads England Cricket Seniors to victory in Carib Cup at the Kensington Oval in Barbados

Enjoyably reflecting on various stages of life provides a great opportunity to embrace and relive happy times. None more positive and warm for me than my days at Kimbolton between 1989-1997.

The Common Room was a vibrant and energised place with many outstanding teachers and great leadership; the pupil body was a rich vein of talent always ready to give and receive its best. None could be more hard working and supportive than the cricketers I had the privilege of working with over those 8 years. It has been a joy to keep in touch with so many and to see them develop their cricketing lives and opportunities. We had a brilliant time together and had some amazing victories and performances - as the Honours Boards show. I too have kept playing.



Today, I still play for Burton 1st XI opening the batting and captain Derbyshire Over 60s. Last April I was selected as captain of the England Cricket Seniors. I had previously made my debut back in 2019 against the Australians in the Grey Ashes before retaining them down in Australia just before Covid put a halt to all.

In February of this year, I led England in the Carib Cup, held in beautiful Barbados. Having overcome the West Indies in our final group game - a virtual semi-final - we took on the Aussies again in the final, held at the iconic Kensington Oval. From the moment I struck the first ball of the game back past the bowler for 4 we were in command and ended up winning comfortably by 70 runs. Standing in your England blazer singing the National Anthem surrounded by stands bearing the names of the great Bajans of the game (Sobers, Hall, Griffiths, Marshall, Haynes and Greenidge, Garner) was most moving and indeed a very proud moment as particularly I had had the opportunity to play against most of them over my career. To receive the trophy from Sir Gordon Greenidge was a further great honour. This summer the Aussies are back for 5 x ODIs before we head to Pakistan in November as we prepare for what we hope will be a winning World Cup in Chennai, India in February 2024.

It is great to hear how cricket continues to develop at Kimbolton. I really hope that all the boys and girls will make the most of their cricketing opportunities and I trust and hope many will have similar wonderful experiences and memories to look back on and thrive within.

All the best Richard

Sunday 2nd July



**PCA
England
Legends** V's

**Kimbolton
Invitation XI**



The current PCA Masters Captain and Kimbolton School Cricket coach Alex Tudor invites you to a Fundraising Cricket Extravaganza on Sunday 2nd July.

A T20 match of Ex-England Cricketers v's A Kimbolton Invitation XI

3 Course Dinner with lively discussions

Q&A Session with the players

Please contact the office
for more information.

alumni@kimbolton.cambs.sch.uk



OKA Scholarship Trust Fund

For over 18 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.

With the continuing economic uncertainty 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 increase the current award to £7,200 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 by making a donation, please do get in touch:

Making a donation to the fund is easy...



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

For further information and a Donation Form...

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.



It's all about opportunity

OKA Sponsorship

The OKA sponsored Rosie Greening and Alexandra Pollard in 2022. At a glance their achievements may not appear particularly unique, but please take time to read through their stories and you will realise that they were all worthy candidates for our support.

Rosie Greening (OK10) & Alexandra Pollard (OK10) set off for the Arctic to raise money for the National Literacy Trust.

It's hard to prepare yourself for what minus 40 degrees celsius feels like. We'd done all the preparation we could for our Arctic Endurance Challenge – cross-training for the 25km cross-country ski; long hikes with the (very) occasional hill sprint for the orienteering challenge; sessions on the rowing machine to get the core strength we were told we'd need for husky sledding – but that level of cold was an abstract concept for which you can't really rehearse. Even if our freezer had been big enough to sit in, it was still 20 degrees warmer than where we were going.

Where we were going was Kiruna, in the far north of Sweden. Our home for four days would be a remote Arctic cabin, only accessible via a two-hour husky sled, with no electricity, no indoor toilet, and no running water.



But first, we had to raise £8,000 for the National Literacy Trust – a charity that gives disadvantaged children the literacy skills they need to succeed in life. We hosted events – a “Dear Diary” night, where brave souls read from their teenage diaries on stage, which raised nearly £1000, and a Friends-themed pub quiz. We sold Christmas cards and personalised pet baubles. We did silent auctions and went into the office dressed as pumpkins (well, two of our intrepid team members did). The Old Kimboltonian Association kindly donated £250. Eventually, we reached our target – a target that had felt impossible when we signed up a few months before the expedition.



Frighteningly fast, our departure date arrived. We packed our bags full of warm clothes and energy bars (blissfully unaware that they would all freeze and nearly break our teeth as soon as we stepped outdoors), and boarded a plane, then another plane, then a van, and before we knew it we were harnessing our huskies onto our one-person sleds and being given the briefest of lessons in how to drive them.

Then we set off into the dark unknown. The temperature, we were told, was a balmy minus nine. Only after two hours and one frostbite scare did we arrive at our lodge to discover that actually, they'd got that wrong: it was more like minus 30.

Over the next few days, as temperatures dropped even further, we took part in challenges that were both harder and more enjoyable than we could have imagined. Armed with a compass and a map, we waded through waist-deep snow in an orienteering race against the other teams, skied for tens of kilometres on World War Two-era cross-country skis (aka hell), raced our huskies through beautiful frozen forests, lit fires using only what we could find around us, and drilled through the ice in the lake to fish (no one caught anything, so it's a good thing we got hot meals cooked for us).



In the mornings, the inside of our bedroom window was covered in a thick layer of ice, and in the evenings, we saw the Northern Lights dance across the sky. All of this was in such blisteringly cold temperatures that our hair and eyelashes froze. It was so cold, in fact, that one of the other team members got the early stages of frostbite and wasn't allowed to keep competing.

It was all worth it, though. During the evenings while we ate dinner and drank wine, we would play Harry Potter Trivial Pursuit or do a rowdy Swedish-themed quiz, and decompress from a long and challenging day. Some of us braved the traditional 'snow rolls', rushing from the steamy sauna - in only our swimming costumes - to roll about in the freezing snow outside.



There were jubilant moments, like watching the sunset, marvelling at the beauty of the landscape, and our team winning the whole competition and being crowned Arctic Champions! And there were low moments – falling off the dog sled, getting lost in the snowy wilderness, our balaclavas freezing on our faces, the entire god-forsaken ski race. But even in those moments we reminded ourselves that, to be fair, this was what we signed up for... the words “endurance” and “challenge” should have been a clue. And hey, it would all make for a good anecdote one day. And it has.

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

NEW

GaUCHO Belts @ £45.00

Available in Small, Medium & Large



OKA Accounts - Year Ending 31 August 2022

I am pleased to report that the Association's finances remain in a good shape.

Our income remains dependent on OKA membership fees received from the School; in line with with the increasing pupil numbers we saw a slight increase in our membership income to £12,667. With other income generated from the sale of OK merchandise, nominal donations and bank interest, our total income for the year reached £27,965. This figure does include income transactions for the 2022 OK Summer Ball - the first OK event held since 2019 due to the pandemic.

Naturally, the costs incurred by the Summer Ball counteracted much of the income received from ticket and bar sales. Although the Association's intention is to break-even at the end of each event and not make a profit (at the expense of its members), the popularity of the event in 2022 led economies of scale and the OK Ball Committee recorded an excess of £2881. This excess will be donated to the OK Trust Fund in due course.

Other notable expenses were the purchase of additional items of OK merchandise and a nominal number of printed copies of the 2022 OK News magazine, and donations to support the running of the OK Football Club and OK Golf Club. With the financial year ending with a balance of in excess of £70,000 the OK Committee are actively discussing both current investment opportunities and the allocation of funds to support forthcoming projects and OK events.

I would like to take the opportunity to thank Krista Alves, Finance Bursar, for her continued support in the administration of the OKA Accounts and Melissa French for signing-off the OKA accounts at the end of the financial year.

Helen Hopperton OKA Treasurer

OKA Balance Sheet as at 31st August 2022		
2022		2021
£75,541	Current Net Assets	£63,844
<i>Represented by:</i>		
£ 22,565	Bank Current Account	£ 12,069
£17,396	Nationwide 1	£17,380
£30,552	Nationwide 2	£30,423
£ 5,003	OK Merchandise Value	£ 3,972

**A big thank you to Melissa from
Fair Price Accounting who audited this year's 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)

Old Kimboltonians' Masonic Lodge (Lodge No 7204) By John Hitchin, OK 71 (Lodge Secretary)
The lodge held 6 meetings in 2022, 5 at Kimbolton Castle and the 6th at Mark Grand Lodge in St. James' London to help our London members who have such a long journey on Friday evenings up to Kimbolton. I am pleased to report that we continue to attract young members, a recent initiate was a mere 21 years old. On the other hand I am delighted to report that our long term members have all successfully added a year and now we have 3 members approaching their 100th birthdays! In fact one of them will this year become 2 years short of his 100th birthday!

The Lodge held 2 successful social events, the Musical Lunch in February and the Summer Dinner, Concert and Fireworks Evening. Events are attended by members of staff, including the Headmaster and his wife Heather, along with past members of School staff, former pupils and their families and friends most of whom were not lodge members...Lodge events are open to all!!

In 2022

The Lodge donated £4,000 to the Headmaster's Scholarship Fund via the OKL Trust. All monies raised at our events goes towards this wonderful cause, so your support is always very much appreciated. Our next major event is our Summer Dinner in June - we'd love to see you there!

The Old Kimboltonians Lodge was founded in September 1952 by OKs, staff and ex-staff members including some names you might recognise; Ingram, Gibbard, Hunt to name but a few! At that time the School was boys only so the Lodge was for gentlemen, there are Lodges for ladies and the Lodge Secretary would be delighted to direct any female OKs in the right direction if interested. Our evenings begin with the actual Masonic ceremony and by 7.45 we're in the bar!

We enjoy a 3 course dinner in the saloon with many wine takings and toasts, it's all great fun. Freemasonry teaches us to focus on moral, upright behaviour, kindness to others and always to support charities.



Jonathan Belbin
speaking at a Lodge Luncheon

Joining The Lodge costs £150, annual subscriptions are £192 and for this we have 5 meetings and opportunities to visit any lodge in the country and indeed the world!

You would be welcome anywhere in the world, I myself have attended lodges in New York, where I had the spine tingling opportunity to touch the bible that George Washington took his oath of office on to become the first President of America, when it travels, it has its own 'bombproof (literally) case' and with 2 armed security guards, it's value is beyond priceless!

If you'd like to find out more as to why this popular fraternity which has just celebrated over 300 years in its current format, is indeed so happy and successful do contact The Lodge Secretary John Hitchin:

OK LODGE CONTACT DETAILS

Secretary

John Hitchin



07702 597670



johnhitchin@btinternet.com



www.oklodge.org



Old Kimboltonians' Lodge



Kimbolton School

OPEN MORNINGS 2023

Prep School – Fri 5 May and Fri 6 October

Senior School & Sixth Form – Sat 30 September

Sixth Form Open Evening – Thurs 16 November



kimbolton.cambs.sch.uk/visit



CCF News



The OK's are also very honoured to have the Brocklebank Cane which was kindly donated to us from the Brocklebank family in honour of Archie Brocklebank (OK17) who sadly passed away in 2019. Archie loved the CCF and cadets whilst at school and also joined the OK's in the Remembrance parades.



8 OKs marched behind the Kimbolton Branch of the Royal British Legion in the Remembrance Parade.

Thomas Campbell (OK14)

Barney Sykes (OK22)

Milton Southern (OK22)

James Staplehurst (OK22)

George Farrer (OK18)

Joseph Simons (OK16)

James Smalley (OK19)

Charlie Gardner (OK17)

If anyone wishes to come and march alongside the RBL on Kimbolton High Street then any OK is very welcome, please just dress in smart black suits or alike with the OK tie if owned on Remembrance Sunday.

Please contact the office for more details: alumni@kimbolton.cambs.sch.uk

KIMBOLTON CASTLE - LOST WITHOUT TRACE?

In the early 1920's the London and North Eastern Railway company (LNER) was in great financial difficulty. The net revenue had been reduced by about fifty per cent due to a loss in passenger traffic and, to a lesser degree, freight business. LNER, therefore, took measures to improve their overall facilities and efficiency. These included the introduction of new style locos, a number of which were B17's Sandringham class engines designed by Sir Nigel Gresley. A batch of these were named after local buildings of consequence, including Hinchingsbrooke No. 2834, and more notably Kimbolton Castle No. 2833. Weight: 77 tons unladen; Maximum speed in excess of 90mph. Tractive effort: 25,380lb; Cost: £6,960. This engine worked hard on the Eastern section of the railway. Based at the March Shed, she was used mainly for express passenger services and had a comparatively short working life of thirty years.

She was relegated towards the end of this time, to freight, being finally withdrawn from service in December 1958, destined to be scrapped. Unlike her sister engines, Kimbolton Castle, it is thought, was saved from immediate scrapping, being bought from what was then the newly formed British Railways board. The engine was next sighted at Peterborough station in 1959. She was 'dead'. In other words, she was not in steam and was bereft of name-plates. Later that month she was hauled via Huntingdon and the old Midland railway line — which passes near Kimbolton at the Manchester Arms — to Kettering. What happened from here on is less clear as there are conflicting stories as to the fate of Engine 2833, as follows. From Kettering the Engine was towed on to an old Mineral line, which went to the Cransley furnaces and then onto an old iron ore quarry. Here she might have been left in an old engine shed, being used at this time as a farm store, where the farmer/owner stored her under oil soaked sacks and straw bales.

Another possibility is that she was taken only as far as the old furnaces, that had become a scrapyards, and stored there. There were engine sheds at the furnaces site. Could it be that 2833 was stored there awaiting restoration? Unfortunately the yard closed in 1981, all scrap being removed and the sheds pulled down, leaving no trace of any locos. The other possibility is that the engine was scrapped, probably at Doncaster, shortly after her arrival at Kettering and therefore never did get to the Mineral line at all. We would like to believe that the first story is true but must consider the latter a more likely possibility. If, however, the first story is true, it seems a great shame that 2833 lasted twenty-two years after coming out of service, hidden away only to be eventually scrapped. Or, perhaps, she could still be hidden somewhere now? We cannot be sure of her fate and would be pleased to receive any info.



No. 61633 “Kimbolton Castle”, approaches Spalding in June 1954 on an East Anglia — North of England Express.

The railway came to this area in 1866 and the then Duke of Manchester decided that the railway should not pass through any part of the Castle estate. Kimbolton Castle, the engine, could only come as close to Kimbolton as the station located behind the Manchester Arms on the Catworth road. The Manchester Arms would have developed around the passenger trade, which gradually diminished until eventually the station was used only as a coal stock yard, and finally closed in 1959. The Kimbolton School Model Railway Club have a model of 2833 Kimbolton Castle working on the club layout. We would like to consider that it could match the service given by the original and pleased to think that a link with the Kimbolton Castle loco has been formed in this way.

Tim Lewis (OK84)

Extract taken from the 1984 Kimboltonian

UPCOMING EVENTS 2023

SUNDAY 26th MARCH 2023
OK Men's Hockey and OK Netball

SATURDAY 1ST JULY 2023
OK Reunion Day and Summer Ball
OKs Cricket, OKs Netball, OKs Tennis, OKs Canoeing,
OKs Sailing, OKs Rounders
Year Group Football Tournament
OKs Summer Ball – OPEN TO ALL OKs

SUNDAY 10th SEPTEMBER 2023
OKs Ladies Hockey

Friday 13th OCTOBER 2023
London Dinner

SUNDAY 10th December 2023
OKs Football



*Mark your
Calendar!*



You can register for upcoming events, check important information and see what's new at
<https://www.kimbolton.cambs.sch.uk/oka-events>

2023 Summer Reunion

The 2023 Reunion is going to be held on Saturday 1st July and we will have the following available to all visiting OKs - BBQ, Beer tent, delicious afternoon tea served in the Saloon, a merchandise stall, a host of memorabilia to look at as well as a bouncy castle to keep the little ones entertained.

On the sporting front, we will be putting out mens cricket, mixed tennis, ladies rounders teams and the year group football teams. We will also be competing in the annual canoeing and sailing races. (see the sport section for further details).

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

Plans are already underway for all of the year groups celebrating Milestone Reunions, please contact Vicky if you need information on who to get in contact with, or, if you would you like to help organise a year group reunion for your year group!

The following year groups are celebrating specific anniversaries of leaving school, please get in touch with the contacts below if you are interested in finding out more...

1968	Theo Gibbs	twhg1@outlook.com
1978	Alan Gilbert	al@gilby.eclipse.co.uk
2013	Hattie Gellatly	hattie.gellatly@btinternet.com
2018	George Farrer/Emma Parrish	mrgeorgefarrer@gmail.com / emmaparrish45@gmail.com

We are looking for OKs to organise reunions for the 1973, 1983, 1988, 1998, 1993, 2008 & 2003 year group - if you're interested, please let us know!

Please do come along and join us at one of the events. They are informal evenings aimed at keeping OKs in touch with the school and each other.

Summer Reunion Day

Below is a taster of the activities planned for the Summer Reunion in July - further details to follow:

- **Sports fixtures vs School teams**
 - **Tour of the Castle**
- **Access to the Heritage Room and OKA Memorabilia**
 - **Bar & Refreshments**

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

2023 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 Mixed Tennis - Castle Courts

1130 Rounders - Heath Field

1130 1st XI Cricket - Castle Pitch

1200 Year Group Football Tournament - The Mall

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

1300 Sailing - Grafham Water

1100 - Canoeing - St Neots



Summer Ball

Saturday 1st July 2023

1900pm - Drinks reception followed by dinner, live band, dancing, entertainment & fireworks

1230am - Carriages

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



Tickets now available:

<https://www.kimbolton.cambs.sch.uk/ok-summer-ball-23>

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

OK SPORT

An overview of the fixtures in 2022/23

OK FOOTBALL



George Wilson (OK'13)



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

Last years football has been “back to normal “ after two years of cancelled leagues due to covid restrictions. Only the cup competitions were completed. No changing by the side of the pitch and not being able to celebrate goals in an attempt to abide by social distancing! We did however during that time manage to win The DWT trophy, which is our first Arthurian Cup the OK's have ever won! Season 21/22 saw us promoted from Division 3 as Champions of the Division. We also picked up the “Fair Play “ award from all the clubs in all divisions. Two achievements we are were both surprised and proud of!

We entered the Higher League this season and immediately noticed the improvement in standard, as the London based schools have a huge pool of players. At the time of writing, we are still in with a chance of promotion again with a few games to go, but really need a lot of results to go our way. The top two of the “first teams” can go up. We currently lie 3rd.

When you read this you might already know if we have made the final of the Junior League Cup as we play Eton 2's in the Semi-final at Herts University on April 1st. The Final is at Merchant Taylor's School on Saturday 22nd April. I hope you're reading this in the full knowledge we made it through to Finals day again.

We report that, as only ex pupils of the school can play in Arthurian Cup football, we have been searching extensively to include as many players as possible. A total of 41 Old Kimboltonians played for the team this year.

Since establishing the Club as a League Club in 2018 (not too long ago!), there have been a number of OK's who have been really committed to representing the side.

I mention ,James Dunmore, Rory Fenton, Tom Biddle, Sam Findlay, Josh Eddon, Rob Holmes and Jack Kenmir as they have been on this journey from the beginning and their commitment to the cause has provided a real backbone to the team. They won't be able to go on forever (although pressure will put on them to make sure they are all playing next year). We have many others too with a long list to mention all of them but you know who you are.

It was very special this year at OK's Day that The Headmaster Jonathan Belbin made a guest appearance in what is his final year as Headmaster. His cameo performance is the mirror of the support he has given the football team in his time at school. He played in our first match and was given special dispensation to do so.



We wish him well in his retirement and as recognition we have created an Honorary President position at the Club and we would love to see him at any match in the future. Rob Knell who had coached first team football for many years, also retires and was wished well at the OK's match too by all that attended. He is now an Honorary vice president.

I am sure most of you know Chris Hope, current football coach at the school but if you don't, then rest assured Kimbolton School is extremely fortunate to have him working at Kimbolton. He has been a great help to the team not only getting the best out of the current school team, but in his manner and helpfulness to always steer players our way. The school is in the top 20 of ISFA Football Schools, and in a world of Sports Scholarships which Kimbolton does not pursue is quite an achievement! It's good to know that all future OKs will have a decent club to play for too when then leave school and university.

Report by Jonothan Hunter (OK80)

Let's hope we can finish the season off in style! To all Kimboltonians, if you would like to play football for the team then please get in touch, we would love to hear from you and see you in the purple once more !

OLD RADLIANS (H)	LOST 1-2.	(Mark Klein)
OLD MALVERNIANs (H)	DREW 2-2	(Sam Roewenhorst, James Burdock)
OLD HARROVIANS 2'S (A)	WON 1-3	(O.G,Sam Findlay,Sam Rouwenhorst)
OLD ALLEYNIANs 2'S (H)	WON 7-2	(Josh Smith 3, Sam Findlay 2, Tom Biddle, Jacob Shortland)
OLD ETONIANs 2'S (A)	LOST 3-2	(Josh Smith 2)
OLD ALDENHAMIANs (H)	LOST 3-5	(Rhys Hicks 2, Nick Brown)
OLD MALVERNIANs (A)	DREW 2-2	(Jacob Shortland, Sam Rouwenhorst)
OLD SENNOCKIANs (H)	WON 4-2	(Sam Findlay 2,Tom Biddle, Scott Irwin)
OLD CHIGWELLIANs 2'S (H)	DREW 2-2	(Jacob Shortland 2)
THE SCHOOL	WON 4-2	(Josh Eddon,Spencer Taylor, Josh Smith)
OLD SENNOCKIANs (A)	WON 1-3	(Jaiden Fitzpatrick, Jacob Shortland 2)
OLD HARROVIANS 2'S (H)	WON 4-1	(Jacob Shortland 2, Sam Findlay, Mark Klein)
OLD ALLEYNIANs 2'S (A)	LOST 4-1	(Josh Eddon)
JLC KCS WIMBLEDON 2'S (A)	WON 2-5	(Josh Eddon 2, Sam Findlay 2, Rob Holmes)
JLC. OLD CARTHUSIANs 2'S (H)	WON 2-2	(Jaiden Fitzpatrick, Harry Darnell)
JLC OLD HARROVIANS 3'S (H)	WON 4-1	(Rory Fenton, Harry Darnell, Tom Biddle, Sam Findlay)
OLD ETONIANs 2'S (H)	LOST 2-4	(Sam Findlay, Scott Irwin)
OLD RADLIANS (A)	LOST 6-2	(Sam Findlay, Tom Biddle)
OLD CHIGWELLLIANs (A)	DREW 4-4	(Rhys Hicks 2, Jack Findaly 2)
OLD CHOLMELIANs (A)	LOST 3-1	(Jacob Shortland)
OLD CHOLMELIANs (H)	WON 2-1	(Jack Findlay 2)

ARTHUR DUNN CUP

2ND ROUND

OLD ETONIANs (A) LOST 3-1 (Harry Darnell)

Semi final JLC on April 1st v Old Etonian's and last league game v Aldenhamians on 15th April (A)

100 caps for George Wilson



Now, last and no means least, George Wilson (OK13) has been Captain of the Club since it entered the League, and many of our achievements are down to his commitment, organisation and good humour. Leading from the front on the pitch too, as a determined and underestimated reader of the game; he plays at Centre Back.

We are a better team when he plays. He really doesn't miss many games; and that is evidenced by being the first player to have played 100 games for Old Kimboltonians Football Club!!! Congratulations George!

We surprised him at our away match at Tonbridge earlier this year and presented him with a framed number 5 OK's shirt and clearly setting a precedent with School Cap embossed with his name; (others mentioned earlier are not far away from receiving theirs !)



George Wilson (OK13) receiving his 100th cap from the OKA Football Club Chairman Jonathan Hunter (OK80)

OK HOCKEY



Mens Captain

Tom Hopperton (OK'22)



tom.hopperton1@icloud.com

Ladies Captain

Natalie Gaunt (OK'16)



natalie1.gaunt@googlemail.com



Men's Hockey

The Men's Hockey was well supported with the OK's fielding a 1st & 2nd XI.

The 1st XI drew 3-3 against a very strong school 1st XI and the 2nd XI taking a well deserved 4-1 win.

Huge thanks goes to Alec Bryden who has captained the side for the last few years. Alec has done a sterling job organising and managing the teams, and whilst Alec is still going to play in the matches, he has handed the baton to Tom Hopperton a recent 2022 leaver.

Ladies Hockey

Unfortunately the 2022 Ladies fixture had to be postponed due to the death of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.

We tried to re-arrange a fixture towards the end of the term, but we were unable to get a full squad together,

**A Date for your Diary
Sunday 10th September**

Ladies 1st XI Fixture

v's

The School

1030am start

**Teas supplied, spectators
welcome**



OK CRICKET



Charlie Gingell (OK'13)



gingell.charlie@gmail.com



OK 1st XI Cricketers 2022

Whilst it was a fairly blustery day, the rain held off and there was some great cricket played by both of the matches on OK's day.

On the 1st XI pitch, the school won the toss and choose to put the OK's into bat. The OKs started well and scored 159 runs. After tea, the school then came out to bat strongly scoring 163 runs and taking the win.

As the OK 1st XI were heading for their very narrow loss, the OK 2nd XI cricketers were fighting for a win on the Welstead Pitch.

The OKs 2nds, in what was the first match playing for the newly christened Butler Cup, managed to beat the School 2nd XI by 4 wickets. After choosing to field first, the OKs managed to restrict the school to 107 runs from 20 overs, with wickets being taken by a quad of 2011 OKs, Marcus Telford, James Blair, Will Ford and Matthew Pask. Going into bat, the OKs started nervously losing 4 wickets in the first 4 overs, however the ship was steadied by Captain James Moore (OK11) and Peter Fielding (OK81), both retiring on 30 and 32 not out. After that the OKs were in a comfortable position, going onto to win in just 12.5 overs.



OK 2nd XI Cricketers 2022

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 ROUNDERS



Charlotte Ralph (OK'06)



cl.ralph@live.co.uk

Two thrilling games of rounders took place in the summer of 2022, with the 1st Team losing to the school but the 2nd Team putting in a valiant effort to take the win.

If you would like to get involved in the summer rounders fixture on OK's Day (1st July), then please contact Charlotte Ralph or email Vicky in the office: alumni@kimbolton.cambs.sch.uk

OK TENNIS



**James Hodges (OK'11)
Vicky Wakefield(OK'95)**



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

Over recent years The OKA have found it increasingly difficult to get a Ladies and Mens Tennis squad together to play the fixture against the school. With this in mind in 2023 we will be getting a mixed squad together to play a mixed school team.

If you would like to get involved in the summer tennis fixture on OK's Day (1st July), then please contact James Hodges or email Vicky in the office: alumni@kimbolton.cambs.sch.uk

OK NETBALL



Danni Belbin (OK'06)



danni.belbin2120@gmail.com



OK Netballers 2022

The OKs struggled to get a team together for the 2022 game, mainly due to a clash with Mothering Sunday. However, 6 OKs took to the court, some experienced players others who were not quite so experienced!

Having said that the OKs started determined and took an early lead, but with youth on their side, the School battled hard to bring the game level at the end of the first quarter. The School continued to dominate throughout the three remaining quarters with the game ending with the school taking the win convincingly.

Thank you to the school for providing the OK's with some extra players.

If you would like to get involved in the Netball Fixture in 2024, then please contact Danni (email above) or email Vicky in the office: alumni@kimbolton.cambs.sch.uk

OK CLAY SHOOTING



Mark Bennett



4markbennett@gmail.com

The OK's team shot against the School in a very enjoyable event generously hosted by Sporting Targets at Riseley. The OK's team comprised of: Ollie Wicks (Capt), Andrew Clifton, Josh Lee, Angus Brown, Ed Andrews and Barnaby Sykes, an experienced group including several former captains. All shot well and the OK's won by a significant margin: with an exceptional score Angus was overall high gun hitting 46 of 50 targets.

On the 16th November Will and Gemma Nichols organised a shoot and lunch for 31 parents of Prep School students, which was expertly hosted by Sporting Targets, Riseley. The event was not only great fun and thoroughly enjoyed by all, but, also in addition to this, they raised £500 for the Cambridgeshire Air Ambulance: So, a big thank you to Gemma for all the work in organising the event, to all who took part and to the ever-modest Will for his assistance and encouragement throughout..

It was great to see the continuity evident with four former OK's (Will Nichols, James Scott, Alex Measures and Mike George) now Prep School parents. There will be another event later in the year so do please contact Will if you would like to take part and swell the ranks for a fun experience and contribute to a good cause.



OK GOLF SOCIETY



Jim Harrison (OK'71)
Tom Harrison (OK'68)



jharrison53@btinternet.com
tombroughtonharrison@gmail.com

A change of Secretary after almost 50 Glorious Years.

Having served as Secretary to the OKGS for the last 21 years Charles Robinson (OK76) has finally called time on his term of office and handed over to Jim Harrison.

We are enormously grateful to Charles for organising the annual meetings and hope he can now enjoy playing in them without the responsibility of getting everyone on the course, checking cards, collecting entry fees, liaising with host clubs and presenting prizes. Charles succeeded his late father Colin (OK47), himself a regular competitor for the OKs in the Grafton Morrish Scratch tournament.

Between them Colin and Charles organised the OKGS meetings for nearly 50 years.



New Secretary Jim Harrison has been playing in OKGS meetings since 1976 and has played Grafton Morrish golf on many occasions.

He can be contacted at jharrison53@btinternet.com (mobile phone number 07825016897).

Spring and Autumn Meetings 2022

The OKGS held its Spring meeting at St Neots Golf Club in May where a field of 13 OKs competed for the John Wills Cup. Matt Blake (OK03) comfortably saw off the competition with a fantastic score of 41 stableford points ahead of Michael Whitlock (OK74) with 35 points and Jim Harrison (OK71) on 34. Nearest the pin was won by Guy Levene and longest drive by David Taylor.

In September, at Hunstanton Golf Club on the North Norfolk coast, local member Richard Boyd (OK67) won the President's Cup in a small field of 6 OKs with a score of 34 points, with Dan Harrison (OK67) second on 31 points and Matt Blake with 30 points.

The Colin Robinson Cup for the best combined score in the Spring and Autumn meetings in 2022 went to the impressive Matt Blake (OK03).

2023 Events:

Friday 5th May 2023:

Old Pupils Golf Societies Golf Day at Luffenham Heath Golf Club

Sunday 14th May 2023:

Grafton Morrish Scratch Foursomes East Midlands Qualifier at The Gogs Golf Club, Cambridge

Saturday 10th June 2023:

OKGS Spring Meeting (John Wills Cup) at St. Neots Golf Club

Friday 6th to Sunday 9th October 2023:

Finals of Grafton Morrish Scratch Foursomes at Hunstanton Golf Club and Brancaster Golf Club:

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 6th-9th October 2023.

30th September 2023:

OKGS Brampton Golf Club - Autumn Meeting.

If you would like to be considered for selection please send your name, WHS handicap and club to:

tombroughtonharrison@gmail.com

Mobile: 07860960795



Old Kimboltonians Golf

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

Grafton Morrish Former Pupils Scratch Foursomes 2022

In May 2022 the OK's scratch foursomes team played in the East Midlands Regional Qualifying tournament at the Gogs Golf Club in Cambridge. Representing the OKGS were Alan Davie (OK02), Viren Joshi (OK99), Rob Miller (OK05), Rob Pickard (OK01), Ben Burton (OK02) and Caspar Benson (OK10). With a combined total of 81 points the team qualified for the finals held at Hunstanton and Brancaster Golf Clubs on the Norfolk coast between 7-9th October. In a field of 54 pairs, Alan Davie and Viren Joshi finished with a brilliant 33 stableford points, and carded the best score of the day. This was the first time the OKs had qualified for the finals since 2016 and only the second time since 2002.

On a blustery October morning at Brancaster in the first round of the finals the OKs went down two matches to one against former winners Solihull. Alan Davie and Viren Joshi won 2&1 and Ben Burton and Matt Blake took their opponents to the 17th before losing 3&1. This left the match tightly balanced as Rob Miller and Rob Pickard fought their way to the

18th, where they almost holed a 25' birdie putt to take the OKs into the second round.

They eventually lost on the first extra hole. Solihull went on impressively to win the Solihull Salver the next day and the Committee Bowl on the final day. The OKs scored respectably in the Solihull Salver beating a number of teams including local rivals Wellingborough.

Kimbolton School Governor George Yeandle again very generously made his house in Old Hunstanton available to the team for the duration. Grateful thanks to George and also Jim Harrison(OK71) who once more organised the team barbecue on the Saturday night. All in all it was a hugely enjoyable few days during which the team, ably led by Alan Davie, acquitted themselves extremely well and did Kimbolton School proud.

The scratch team are slowly growing in strength and confidence and go into 2023 knowing they can compete with the best. If you would like to be involved in the scratch team and have a handicap of 12 or less, please contact either tombroughtonharrison@gmail.com or Alan Davie at alanjdavie@gmail.com.

This year's Grafton Morrish Qualifier is on the 14th May at the Gogs GC in Cambridge.

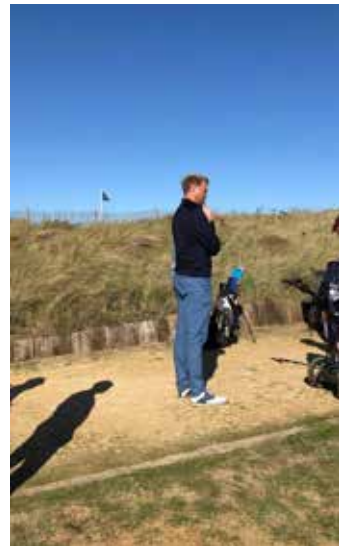
Jim Harrison
OKGS



The OK Team playing at the 2022 Grafton Morrish
Ben Burton (OK02), Alan Davie (OK02), Matt Blake (OK03), Viren Joshi (OK99), Rob Miller (OO05) and Rob Pickard (OK01)



The dramatic scene on the 18th green at Brancaster as Rob Miller and Rob Pickard size up a 25' birdie putt to knock Solihull out of the Grafton Morrish





Fireflies # 4 & #5 Kimbolton

Fireflies #2 & #3 OK's

RIB: Kimbolton 2. Kimbolton Race Management John Sweet

RIB: Kimbolton 1. Race Officers Jason Newell & Mark Aldridge

#2 Helm David Papworth & Crew Alaster Gray #3 Helm Paul Carrington & Emma Skillett

Southerly F3-4. Overcast

A square course was set in ideal sailing conditions in front of the GWSC clubhouse & with starboard mark roundings the x4 Fireflies set about the start sequence for Race 1.

Pre-start saw some tactical positioning and rather over enthusiastic time keeping with FF's #4 & #3 On Course Side as the whistle blew, meaning both boats were to return and re-cross the start line to commence the race. Meanwhile FF's #2 & #5 had taken the port side of the beat to reach Mark 1 and FF's #4 & #3 took the Starboard side courtesy of their earlier tactics. At the windward mark was FF #3 followed by #4, #2 & #5 – clearly demonstrating which was the quickest route windward. Through the line to start lap 2 after steady downwind performances from all boats, saw the sequence FF #3, #4, #2 & #5. Wind remained steady and a tactical overtake by FF #2 saw the boats round lap 2 to finish #3, #2, #5 & #4.

Race 2 was quickly underway with no start line dramas this time and again the beat to windward was split with FF's #2 #5 taking the port side and FF's #4 & #3 taking starboard with the starboard proving to be the preferred tactic. On the run FF #5 capsized although with a quick helm & crew were soon upright again and playing catch up to the rest of the fleet. End of lap 1 saw the sequence over the line being #3, #4, #2 & #5 complaining of too much water on board and not enough boat speed for the self-drainer to be effective... Upwind tactics were in play and unfortunately for FF #4 these meant that after lap 2 the finishing sequence was FF's #3, #2, #4 & #5.

A quick crew change for Kimbolton, FF#4 and race 3 was underway the same excellent conditions albeit slightly less pressure, with FF#5 attempting a port flyer only to run out of water and forced to put in an excellent tack on the line for the fleet to head upwind. The sequence around the windward mark was FF's #2, #5, #3 & #4. This remained the same until the second downwind leg, where a good scrap between FF's #3, #4 & #5 saw Kimbolton dominant in their match. Excellent racing tactics pushed FF#3 to the back of the fleet, thus taking 2nd & 3rd places in race 3 with FF#2 sowing excellent boat speed in clear air taking the win.

No course changes were required for Race 4 as the pre-start sequence got underway. Pressure was increasing & all boats were close to the stern of the committee boat with some hard tactics, which saw FF#4 having no room and having to tack off to then follow the other boats off the line. FF#2 took to the lead and never looked back, to keep the sequence after the windward mark of FF's #2, #3, #5 & #4 the same for the 2 lap race.

So 4 good races saw a competitive day on the water with the OK's just taking the win & we all retired for tea in the wet bar for a debrief.

Report from Mark Aldridge (OK82)





The Date for the 2023 race against the school is Saturday 1st July.

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

Leaving Members of Staff

School bids fond farewell to long-serving
members of the Community

Mark Eddon

Mark, his wife Sally and Luke and Josh arrived at Kimbolton in 2004, coming down from Rossall in the far north west. Mark's biggest role was as Deputy Head, making a major impact on organisation, SLT structuring, school leadership and cumulative discipline improvement. He had a firm, encouraging, humour, supportive manner with pupils. With boundaries set, he always emphasized character, honesty and contribution. He is an organisational expert. This expertise was evident in "state occasions" such as Open Day - routes this way and that, hundreds of volunteer guides and Speech Day organising 1200 people, parents, prizewinners, staff, governors, and getting the names read out right. And Founders Day - herding the recalcitrant, shuffling, disruptive characters into the parish church. And not just the teachers, pupils too.

More recently we saw Mark at his best. I'm not saying that Mark was born to be a Covid Marshal but just saying it played to his strengths - bubbles, taped areas, lists, checking, rotas - marshalling the school in a pandemic -Mark made a real difference,



helping steer the school through a seriously challenging time.

Mark was a member of the Maths department for 18 years, contributing to the success of an engine room of the school. He is a numbers man at heart, statistics especially. Oh, how I remember enjoying many hours listening to Mark discussing statistics with me in his office. Discuss? Hmm

Mark was a member of the Maths department for 18 years, contributing to the success of an engine room of the school. Mark is a numbers man at heart, statistics especially. Oh, how I remember enjoying many hours listening to Mark discussing statistics with me in his office. Discuss? Hmm.

Mark is of course an all-round schoolteacher - his subject, sports teams, trips and DoE. In Russia with Andrew and the history department he loaned the Headmaster his underwear and clothing when HM's bag was lost by the airline. He went to Iceland with Simon Wilson and the Geographers and did the Battlefields trip maybe 6 times. He was always committed, loving the breadth of Kimbolton life and opportunity to learn something new. He is a team player. He certainly loves football - myriad junior teams have benefited from Mark's Tranmere training ground methods. I can testify to this from his first staff five a side game. A nice gentle low stake kick around after school.

We knew we were in trouble when Mark appeared in shin pads. His view of a kick around had different meaning to us soft southerners. Chopper Eddon had arrived. In Staff Cricket. Mark would pad up, go in and with soft hands, determinedly dead bat every ball. No runs scored but he could stay in a long time. Blocker Eddon..

I always enjoyed Mark's Lewis Hall Assemblies. A frisson would go round the hall when he strode to the front then delivering it in a booming style as if instructing an awkward dog to sit down. Two highlights spring to mind. The 'Father Christmas isn't real' assembly in December with the memorable image of Santa smeared like jam on his sleigh as he travelled faster than the speed of light to deliver all presents in time. Memorable, funny, and shattering of 1st Form Christmas happiness.

It is easy to poke a bit of fun, but it is hard to be a Deputy Head. Unsung too. And invariably unappreciated. Big things happen, probably unknown to most, that need firefighting and solving. The advice to the Head and to colleagues. Mark has achieved a lot: organisation transformed, school improved, Inspections survived. He has helped steer the school through the choppy waters of major pastoral and discipline tests. His calm, considered, good sense approach has been valued by all from Governors, Headmaster, SLT and colleagues, prefects and parents alike. He is not one to complain, burden others with his frustrations, putting others first.

His approach can be summed up in four words-duty, commitment, loyalty, and professionalism. He was an all-round school teacher and leader from Governors meetings, the staff meetings to the U12 football. Whatever it was Mark has always done it with characteristic energy, enthusiasm and moral sense.

I am sure retirement will bring more pleasures of walking up hills and down dales; following the ups and downs of Tranmere Rovers, mainly downs there; church matters in Riseley, rugby at Bedford, and time with family. Thank you, Mark.

Thank you, Mark.

Chris Bates

Angela Darlow



I could tell we had a gem from my questioning Angela at interview twenty five years ago. "A reliable and responsible student who has shown herself to be a thinking & lively member of the class", said her reference. All those adjectives apply to Angela's teaching career, in which she has shown zeal, professionalism, skill, and kindness in boundless measure.

If I had to choose a term to associate with Angela, it would be Ronseal: she does exactly what it states on the tin. There is no ambiguity, no equivocation, no indecision, simply alacrity, efficiency, and good will, sprinkled with Enid Blyton-esque lashings of good humour, willingness, and unflinching dedication.

Angela is held in high esteem by pupils and colleagues alike, and her breadth of talent is impressive: she has taught Hungarian as well as French, Maths and ICT; she has led Pilates classes and the CSU as well as serving in the CCF; she has accompanied numerous trips with the French Department, and one US Exchange, accompanied by her husband Nick; she has been a tutor in Dawsons and with the boarders.

Clare Bennett has fond memories of Angela's role in the gastronomic trips to France, where staff and pupils would share a gite. As well as an excellent driver on French roads, she had a key translator/interpreter role: "Her French is so good, the French think she is French!". She always made these trips great fun, perhaps playing twister with instructions in Hungarian or French, and bingo in different languages, or conducting an early morning Pilates session. The goats cheese farm visit was not her favourite trip as she hates goat's cheese (no kidding!) and she had to learn specific new French words for rennet and other cheese-making procedures. Clare and Angela would always share a room and chat late into the night, and

sometimes the children would ask them to be quiet as they giggled so much.

She also accompanied Art trips to France. On one occasion, the police had to be called as some local youths had been following the Kimbolton group everywhere, then she discovered that one of the girls had been flashing at the boys! The boys were breaking in to the grounds of the accommodation as the police arrived. Angela and a very dishy agent de police were able to defuse the situation until the interlopers had gone.

We have valued Angela's unfailing support, and will miss her camaraderie and repartee. She will be sans aucune doute a great loss, but we wish her and Nick much success with their new ventures and plans.

Bonne continuation, et Bises!

Rob Knell

Jon Saunders



1988 saw Jon's beloved Brentford FC reach the 6th round of the FA Cup (in the 3rd Division!) and the semi-final of the Football League Trophy, a gruelling 63-match season, coming 7th in the league (highest since 1964-5), with Steve Perryman as player-manager. 1988 also saw the merger of the SDP and the Liberal democrats and Mrs Thatcher becoming the longest-serving Prime Minister of the 20th century. At Kimbolton School, the 'banda' machine was in operation for pupil hand-outs (ruined shirts!), optics drink dispensers were present in the SCR, and reports were one A4 sheet, with a single line per subject), in the Coote Room. It was also the year when a fresh-faced Jon Saunders applied to Kimbolton School, on 27th January.

Looking at the handwritten letter of application to become Head of Economics at Kimbolton School, I realised just how genuine the contents was. This young teacher from Warwick School

has indeed been committed and been true to his word regarding the broad skill-set, and willingness to get involved, contained in the application. 102 terms, or 34 years, later Jon still has the same passion, drive, and talent. A lengthy list of former students owes Jon a huge debt of thanks, not just for his delivery and knowledge in the classroom, but equally his dedication and the selfless number of hours put into advising, encouraging, and enthusing, with a discreetly guiding hand and bundles of care. Jon has taught Economics and Business Studies with passion over many years, having achieved many successes with students attaining top marks nationally at A Level; I have been privileged to have observed some lessons, and now understand merit and demerit goods, and that a double-dip recession is not a slump in the sales of hummus and taramasalata! He has been a 6th Form tutor in Gibbards, a first-rate university advisor, a YE mentor ... the list goes on and on. One common denominator exists: high standards/excellence. Beyond the classroom, Jon is a talented sportsman, still participating in House crosscountry, and excelling at tennis, badminton, and table-tennis ... I am not sure where Adam Jessup will meet his challenge on the court or across the table in years to come. into advising, encouraging, and enthusing, with a discreetly guiding hand and bundles of care. He has been a 6th Form tutor in Gibbards, a first-rate university advisor, a YE mentor ... the list goes on and on. One common denominator exists: high standards/excellence.

Clare Firby

Without doubt CU holidays over many years have been the highlight for Jon and many of his pupils, and organised with great aplomb, characteristic dedication, and great sensitivity, to ensure all pupils and staff benefit, feel valued, and return home with a sense of enjoyment, a sense of self-worth, and sense of peace. The planning and indefatigable work-rate whilst away are traits that stand out, yet with such humility and altruism.

Jon's Christian faith is not a tagline, nor an ethereal existence; it is a very personal and deep faith by which he lives. His beliefs condition and espouse his speech and actions. Not only does Jon possess a remarkable Biblical knowledge, he lives by the Bible and lives out its teachings. We wish Jon the most glorious, richly-deserved, and blessed retirement, and pray that his time with his lovely wife, Jenny, his wonderful daughters, and grandchildren will be rewarding, and filled with enjoyment.

Andrew Bamford & Rob Knell



Clare was at Kimbolton for 99 terms, arriving at a very different Kimbolton school from Queen Elizabeth Grammar school in Blackburn. The daughter of a vicar, and graduate from Oxford University, but perhaps what's where similarities to Theresa May stop.

Clare has been a force of continuity in the Biology Department, serving five heads of department and forging ahead with Social Biology, and then psychology as a Thursday afternoon activity. She organised the annual trip to Whipsnade with military position, but was sometimes a bit thrown when Robinson's clearly didn't understand this and sent coaches with different numbers of seats from those promised and through "Operation Warthog" into temporary disarray. She enjoyed marching across the sand dunes at Hunstanton armed with a ranging pole, and then in Hunstanton itself, she was often quite intrigued by some of the items on display in the joke shop some of which were of a biological nature. Always keen to help her students, she once volunteered to pick up some fresh tripe for the sixth form practical slides.

from Hellett's, while collecting the weekly extra thick fillet steaks for the Firby household. Rather than coming back with a small bag, she heroically staggered back to school with a steaming and almost dustbin full of tripe having been invited into the back room to select her own even, though the department only needed enough to make a few microscope slides.

Clare was a breath of fresh air when she arrived at a rather staid Kimbolton in 1989, with a personalised distinctive dress sense at a time where most teachers were men, over 50 and with patches on their tweed jackets. Clare and her good friend Barbara Darling were great additions to the somewhat limited party scene at Kimbolton. She quickly threw herself into Kimbolton life appearing on the stage in the Montagu players and becoming a member of the RN section of the CCF. Perhaps Claire had a more Scandinavian, rather than Prussian, take on life in the forces and was more the doyen of the mess than the parade ground. After the CCF, Clare for many years was a regular on the CSU Thursday afternoon bus with her friends Ros Bentham and Bill Skinner. She also played a considerable role in furthering the strength of the school for many years from being a tutor in Gibbards, to helping to launch the careers of many Kimbolton school doctors in the Medical Society, to being a supportive and patient guide in UCAS process as university advisor.

As a Sixth Form tutor, Clare was always willing to see the good in others and fight for a second chance for her adolescent tutees.

Very loyal to the Head of Sixth Form, on the last day in school for UVI, Clare would be the first tutor to try and establish calm around 7:00am in the morning, and would be still there to help at the conclusion of the water fight at post 5.30pm. Claire has a tremendous love for Kimbolton and its environment. Kimbolton is a home not merely a place of employment. The Paul O'Grady of Kimbolton School, Claire has a tremendous love of dogs and was perhaps as a dog walker that she first became acquainted with Joe. They make a wonderful couple united by a common love of nature and a bon viveurs of Michelin style restaurants. We wish Clare all health and happiness in her future academic studies.

Andrew Bamford

Joe Newsam



Joe's interview at Kimbolton School was quite unusual. The initial meeting point was a little unprepossessing, not the lavish Vanbrugh grandeur of Kimbolton Castle, but Bedford bus station where I was told to look for a tall man carrying a large umbrella or even wearing waterproof trousers should it prove to be inclement weather.

I think it was a strange experience for Joe as well as he was staying chez Bamford on the night before the interview. Knowing Joe, he was well prepared to discuss his lesson plan on the 1923 Hitler putsch or the details of the 1867 Reform Act but is soon employed on a more practical basis moving fridges into our garage. He passed both interviews on fridge moving with flying colours and here we are 20 years later.

What a 20 years it has been and there could be no teacher or colleague more cherished and respected than JCN. Joe soon settled into the Kimbolton way of life and it was not long before long lasting members of staff, famous for their open toed sandals, were contacting him up on a Saturday night to play the sound version of the Nazi documentary they were watching on BBC4 down the phone line, and elderly ladies in the village were engaging in long conversations with him thinking he was the Headmaster or the first of many visits to Warwick Castle were being planned.

It is difficult to encapsulate all he has achieved in so many areas. A long and successful pastoral stint as Housemaster of Ingrams one of the most difficult roles in the school. When I was Head of Sixth Form, it was quite easy to spin a yarn to parents because you knew that their children barely spoke to them and certainly did not let them see their academic work. In Ingrams, it is very different as the parents are living their lives through their children and homework criticisms are taken very much to heart especially as they are likely to be completed by competitive parents keen to outdo each other in good assessment grades. The multitude of debating English Speaking Union & Model United Nations teams coached by Joe and Alison Bates; all too successfully and they always seemed

to be in the final of the competition in Liverpool at the beginning of the Autumn Term. each other in good assessment grades.

The multitude of debating English Speaking Union & Model United Nations teams coached by Joe and Alison Bates; all too successfully and they always seemed to be in the final of a the competition in Liverpool at the beginning of the Autumn Term.

Success in Ingrams was followed by promotion to Assistant Head of Enrichment and Extension. Here Joe had built an impressive portfolio of achievements from almost nothing: scholarship programme, then the EPQ and its GCSE equivalent, where; he introduced a whole generation of students to the joys of research; while honing his diplomatic skills to suggest that proficiency in tiddlywinks does not mean that all students are academically suitable to this qualification. The massive amount of building research skills alongside Sue Hart and the mammoth marking of the projects - all this leading to stupendous results.

He was also been a steady hand on many trips led by his overexcitable Head of Department, using his goodish German to explain that a child has had a slight asthma attack, resulting in two ambulances appearing within 5 minutes. Trying to explain to an airport official that Kimbolton students just leave their bags everywhere, and the bomb squad does not need to be called. However, his German did sometimes let him down, particularly when a one-hour cruise on the Konigsee ended up being 4 hours.

Joe has always been a marvellous company. I know both students and colleagues really loved his humour and infectious love of history on all those trips, as well as marvelling at just how competitive he is at ten pin bowling. Then there is the work with trips getting colleagues organised, checking the risk assessments and validity of tour companies and being on call when sometimes things go wrong. All done with patience and calmness, even when the last parental consent form or obscure dietary requirement was winging its way via the child five minutes before departure. The trips themselves that Joe has organised for Ingrams, and with the LVI to Manchester to see the Labour Party archives just before Christmas-not everyone's idea of a good time but Joe and Anne Bantin always filled the trips and the students came back brimming with enthusiasm about the academic immersion they had with Joe, as well as marvelling at the intimate knowledge he has about every Italian restaurant in Manchester. Joe is famous for his fantastic organisation and attention to detail. Every lesson planned and books assiduously marked. The expectations of high academic standards plus a real determination to ensure there will be genuine levelling up for those who need it. Fun and chemistry with the pupils-a cultural melange into understanding 20th century world history, via raps about the Weimar Republic the Bee Gees and Spice Girls. Lessons to look forward to in the knowledge there is someone there who is totally committed and very generous with their time. A source of wise counsel and great company. More than that, Joe was totally committed to the school community and what it stands for.

Andrew Bamford

Ceri Stokes



Ceri Stokes has won a well-deserved promotion as Pastoral Deputy Head at Queenswood School after 21 years dedicated service to Kimbolton. Her career here has covered many guises: DT teacher, running White House, Safeguarding Lead, member of the SLT and member of the CCF. However, whatever role she has played, it has been with professional, care and verve. She will leave no stone unturned, and every detail is mastered in her quest for excellence in developing the pastoral and academic welfare of her students.

Looking back over twenty years, it seems odd to think that women had few leadership roles at Kimbolton and that subjects such as DT were purely male preserves. Ceri was a very important role model in ensuring that equal opportunities for girls were transformed from the theoretical into reality in key areas. She was instrumental in modernising the DT curriculum with Kevin Spencer and increasing the uptake of Design Technology amongst girls. The famous glass ceiling was definitely broken, and Ceri attacked it with a pick axe or perhaps with the stiletto of one of her famous shoes. For 15 of her 21 years at Kimbolton, Ceri ran White House living there with her husband Oli,

Deputy Head of the Prep School, and children Joe and Aoife. Running a boarding house is always a challenge with no clock off time. Ceri ensured that the House ran with warmth and efficiency, with plenty of boarders' activities and innovations. Ceri was always fair, and pupils respected her, even when she sometimes told them a few life lessons they didn't want to hear. It was in very large measure due to Ceri that girls boarding continued to thrive at Kimbolton, perhaps bucking the national trend where it is a comparatively small element in the overall school setup. Whilst being in charge of White House, Ceri also managed to play a full role in the CCF, run a London Marathon and even complete A level Art under the guidance of Mrs Bamford. However, her area greatest expertise was in the role of Safeguarding Lead. This is an enormously difficult, sensitive and ever-changing area to grasp, and Ceri did it with aplomb. She soon had a wide following on Twitter and a column in the Times Educational Supplement. Whatever issue, everyone could be sure that Ceri would adopt the right strategy, think through the issues, and follow the correct procedures.

She was equally prepared to tackle sensitive issues in her assemblies and talks to Sixth Formers in Citizenship, using innovative approaches to get her message and life skills across. A doer, she has a strong moral conscience without being a moralist, she has been a fantastic example of what being a modern, professional teacher means in the twenty first century, as well

as being great fun to be with and a style guru to boot! Kimbolton's loss is Queenwood's gain.

Andrew Bamford

Jenny Webber



I had the privilege of working with Jen for the past 6 years and they have been the most enjoyable years of working as a teacher. If you've seen a school show in recent years they are all very much the mastermind of Jen. As you may have noticed from these shows, Jen has a true love of Shakespeare, so much so she completed a masters upon it whilst caring for her family. Her outstanding knowledge and understanding of what to many is quite the confounding topic has not only been evident in the school shows, but also in the school drama curriculum. This has combined fun and engaging topics with the right level of academic rigour that most people do not realise drama requires.

en worked tirelessly to bring the Drama department to where it is today. Her organisational skills are the stuff of legend and she has this wonderful way of cutting to the core of finding out exactly what it is

a student needs to succeed. She has been a key part of the pastoral team, in Balyes giving support to students who need her wisdom and guidance. She is also the best embodiment of a friend. She is warm and she is giving. She will fight fiercely for you and will not be afraid to put you in place with her trademark one liners.

But now, it's time for a new chapter. She continues on to Castle Newnham to take up a role in their English department but something tells me the world of Drama has not seen the last of her yet as she was asked to sit in on their drama auditions when she was last there. She has been the most fantastic Head of Department, friend and mentor. She put her heart and soul into this job and continued to drive the department forward to be a place where our students excel, achieve excellence and call the Drama department home.

Steph Lace

Julie Brown



Julie joined Kimbolton in 2016 after 15 years living in Dubai. She was a dedicated Geography teacher, respected by pupils and appreciated by colleagues. She is an enthusiast and passionate advocate for Geography,

instrumental in its continued high profile in the school both at GCSE and A level, leading to a large number of students opting for Geography degrees after their Kimbolton journey. She was able to instil her love for her subject by innovative lessons, even making soil A level Projects interesting. Particularly keen on Physical Geography, she particularly enjoyed fieldwork including participating in A level trips to Iceland and was even keen to point out glaciated features to bemused pupils on ski trips to France.

Julie is a lover of the great outdoors and is a qualified mountain leader and Duke of Edinburgh supervisor, using these skills helping out with DoE and Geography field trips and well as being part of the Devizes to Westminster Canoe support crew. She also helped foster the school Ghana partnership. A dedicated professional, committed to the ethos of the school, she was also a very effective tutor in Owens House.

She will be missed by pupils, and staff alike as she expanding her talents by studying for a History of Art degree as well as finding time to travel more.

Simon Wilson

Paul Gillam



Paul joined Kimbolton in January 2018 and joined a department that was in need of some rebuilding and encouragement. Having been at Eton since September 1997, he had the desire to lead his own academic department. The additional lure of Kimbolton was that it brought him back towards Northampton, the town of his childhood.

From the moment I met Paul at interview it was his positivity, “can do” attitude and kindness for others that shone through.

Within days, if not hours, of his arrival there was laughter to be heard booming from the Biology Prep Room. Very quickly many colleagues realised the depth of experience and bucket loads of common sense that underpin Paul’s approach to his job. Always prepared to speak openly and frankly, his leadership skills have been to the fore at all times. Paul wanted to experience running his own Department and this he has done with aplomb. As a result, he has realised that he does have the drive and ability to be an Academic Deputy Head and knows that without gaining further experience in another academic setting that is very unlikely to happen.

Moving to Rugby will give him the opportunity to demonstrate his skills again and broaden his horizons with the International Baccalaureate being offered alongside A Levels. He will also remain close enough to pop home to be with his childhood sweetheart Sally. Given that he first dated Sally in 1983 as a twelve year old, and finally married her in December 2020, 37 years later, Paul may hold a record for the longest courtship!

Paul has given so much to Kimbolton in the brief time he has been with us. His colleagues in the Biology Department are very grateful for his leadership and care, and will miss his smile, kind manner, common sense and good humour.

Alastair Gray

Peter Crawford

Peter Joined Kimbolton in January 2016 initially on a two term contract to teach Chemistry. Nothing if not adventurous, he applied for the post in the car on the way to the airport to catch a flight to Brazil, heard he had been offered an interview whilst on holiday and only arrived back in the UK with a few hours to spare before arriving in the Saloon in the smartest clothes he could find for his ‘interview’. Expecting only to stay for two terms, Heather Garland’s maternity leave allowed Peter to stay on full-time and indulge his passion, teaching Biology.

My memory of this time was his love for the practical application of his subject. Peter’s lab was festooned with yoghurt pots of various sizes with the latest batch of seedlings being lovingly tended, with ‘memory sticks’ for the numerous plants that didn’t quite make it. He said this was

a great example of natural selection, but I think it had more to do with the care the plants were receiving. His development of Seventh Lesson Science projects enabled many pupils to attend the Cambridge Science Festivals to present their work.

When Nicki Bland retired as School Chaplain, Peter felt a strong calling to this position, which he took up September 2017. He spent the first year juggling a large teaching commitment with his desire to develop his chaplaincy role. Over the next five years Peter made, in the Headmaster’s words, ‘a strongly positive, personal imprint on the spiritual life of the school’. He was brave, took risks, expected pupils to participate, stretched us all out of our comfort zones but showed skill, patience and kindness to build many relational bridges.

Peter’s strong desire to see people included, regardless of their race, social background, faith or beliefs, was reflected in his actions as chaplain and other areas, particularly ‘Mandarin Club’, which he initiated with the sole purpose of trying to increase integration for the school’s Mandarin speakers. Many things the Chaplain does are unseen: the kind words, supportive gestures, hours spent with pupils and colleagues just listening empathetically and trying to guide and help. Many of the Kimbolton community have benefitted from this over the past five years.

So what next? Peter has a dream to be published and to that end will be going into Primary Schools to run workshops and promote his books, which he describes as ‘like the Mr Men

books, where the characters are cells in your body'. He also has a wish to design and build, along with a Syrian architect friend, a turkish baths in Cambridge: "I want to increase social cohesion and experience and I want to create jobs for refugees".

Maybe not a 'man for all seasons' but definitely a 'man for all people'.

Alastair Gray

Kevin Spencer



Some people wear their heart on their sleeve, for Kevin Spencer his allegiance and passion for Sunderland Football Club was present in his daily attire; he always wore something connected to the Black Cats. He certainly had to be an optimist to survive Sunderland's football journey during his time at Kimbolton as he endured a few relegations and unsuccessful trips to Wembley.

He never wavered in his almost religious zeal, and now he is able to start his retirement with a new mood of optimism at the Stadium of Light.

His evangelistic desire for fellow members of staff to sample the delights of Wearside was fulfilled on 13th May 2012 when a minibus of colleagues went on a day trip to Sunderland. It was quite a cultural experience as Kevin's father arrived with the Stottie Cakes, whilst Mrs Bates, with her very proper English tones was greeted as if she were a member of the Royal Family at the Sunderland Working Mens Club before the game.

Arriving from Bedford School in 2007, Kevin was a very successful Head of Design Technology which became Design Technology Engineering on his watch. The Department was transformed using Moodle, with DTE being the first department to use a learning platform at a time when some colleagues were still using chalk as their preferred learning device. New and innovative computer-based design transformed how the subject was taught but Kevin was also keen to evoke the designers of the past. Most notably the A level DT class and their teachers recreated the famous Kimbolton Cabinet by Robert Adam, the original of which is in the Victoria and Albert Museum. He even arranged the antiques expert John Bly to unveil the new cabinet. John's father had bought the cabinet in the Castle sale of 1949. Kevin's skills, patience and attention to detail were instrumental in the Kimbolton winning an award for the best DT Department in the UK in 2018.

Many students went on to study Design at university and in their careers beyond. Over 20 students won Arkwright Scholarships following his lead and the addition of the 7th period in the Sixth Form enable the School to participate successfully in F1 for Schools.

As well as being an innovative and successful Head of Department, Kevin played a full role in coaching school sport and accompanied students on sports tours of Australia and Malaysia before organising and leading a tour of the west coast of America from Vancouver to LA for over 60 students.

Wherever in the globe he was, he gave his sage advice in a Bob Stokoe manner! Kevin was totally committed to Kimbolton and its ethos. His northern no nonsense and practical approach, together with a great sense of humour were always appreciated by staff (referred to as 'mate' or 'pet') and pupils alike. After many years teaching, he has gone off to spend more time with his football club!

Andrew Bamford

Linda Ellison



As well as being such a fantastic classroom practitioner, she was a valued, loyal and supportive colleague, easy and willing to cascade her skills and advice to other members of the Department, with an organisation of second to none.

Linda is a one off, 'old school' teacher in the best sense of the word, respected and admired for all her qualities, not just her mathematical professional teaching ones. She worked tirelessly over the years and deserves a very well-earned retirement.

Linda Ellison started her career at Kimbolton as a specialist Maths teacher in Academic Support, teaching at both the Prep and the Castle. She was a strong teacher, empathetic, organised, determined to do an exceptional job, helping pupils to look at Maths in a less pacy classroom setting; turning abstract symbols and numbers into something more tangible, meaningful and real.

Linda's reputation for academic excellence soon saw her snaffled her into the Maths Department, initially part time but when they saw how good she was, her Maths commitment grew year by year: she started with 1st to 3rd form classes and then added the 4th form, then the 5th form, then A level Pure Maths and finally A level Statistics – there was no room for Academic Support!

Linda was pivotal in helping identify and support pupils who struggle with Maths. She was completely dedicated to thorough and in depth marking, so there was no work done by pupils left unseen or unmarked.

Rebecca Stewart & Adam Jessop

Keep in Touch

The success of the OKA depends wholly on OKs staying connected with the OKA.

All enquires relating to the OKA should be directed to our Alumni Officer at alumni@kimbolton.cambs.sch.uk

Don't worry we won't flood your inbox or post box. We only send out one or two mailing campaigns each term.

We look forward to keeping in touch with you!



Register and Login to the Members area: Here you will be able to update your details, search for your classmates and view the OKA Business Directory to look for networking opportunities or support and discounts offered by OKs to OKs.

<http://alumni.kimbolton.cambs.sch.uk/>

SCAN ME

School NEWS

Some special experiences reported by the school website

Drama Students Enjoy 'Exceptional' Theatre Performance

Sixth Form Drama students recently enjoyed a fantastic trip to London to complement their A Level studies of Shakespeare's Othello. The day started at Shakespeare's Globe Theatre, with a tour, lecture, and an in-depth workshop on the play. This was followed with a backstage tour of the National Theatre, learning about the three different venues on site, and how props and sets are created in-house.

Finally, the students watched the National's incredible production of Clint Dyer's Othello, which they all agreed was exceptional. As an extra surprise, they also met award-winning actor Giles Terera MBE (Othello) for a quick Q&A after the show!



Model Pupils Hone Their Skills

The School Warhammer Modelling Club enjoyed a Saturday trip to the world headquarters of Games Workshop, in Nottingham. The morning was spent battling through epic scenery tables, around the wreckage of fallen war machines and besieged space ports.

After a quick lunch in Bugman's Bar, the group sat down and painted their models, with Mr Smith enjoying his first attempt at a Cadian trooper. Finally, a tour of the incredible miniatures collected over many decades finished the experience - notwithstanding the obligatory gift shop on the way out!

The Warhammer Club meets weekly on Friday lunchtimes and offers time and space for pupils to take part in the Warhammer modelling hobby. It allows them to develop their creative skills by painting and modelling, as well as taking part in matches. Each pupil signs up to the agreed rules of fairness, good sportsmanship and personal responsibility, being free to use the communal resources or to bring their own.



Club leader and Physics teacher Mr Thomas Wigington said: "It was a much-anticipated trip, postponed by Covid-19, and one that our pupils will hopefully use to inspire their current modelling efforts."

County Cross-Country Title for Tiggy

Kimbolton runners did themselves proud at the Annual County Schools Cross-country Championships held at Priory Park, St Neots, in cold, wet and muddy conditions on Saturday 14th January. With a high number qualifying to reach this round from the District event, there were several impressive performances on the day, leading to qualification for the Regional round on 4th February.

In the Minor Girls event, Tiggy was 2023 county champion! She had excellent support from Clara, 3rd, Olivia, 4th and Thea, 8th, all of whom qualified to represent Cambridgeshire at the regional round. Also qualifying for the next round were Erin, 13th in the Inter girls, Pippa, 7th in the Senior girls, Rafferty, 2nd in the Minor boys and Harrison, 6th in the Junior boys.

Mental Health Matters

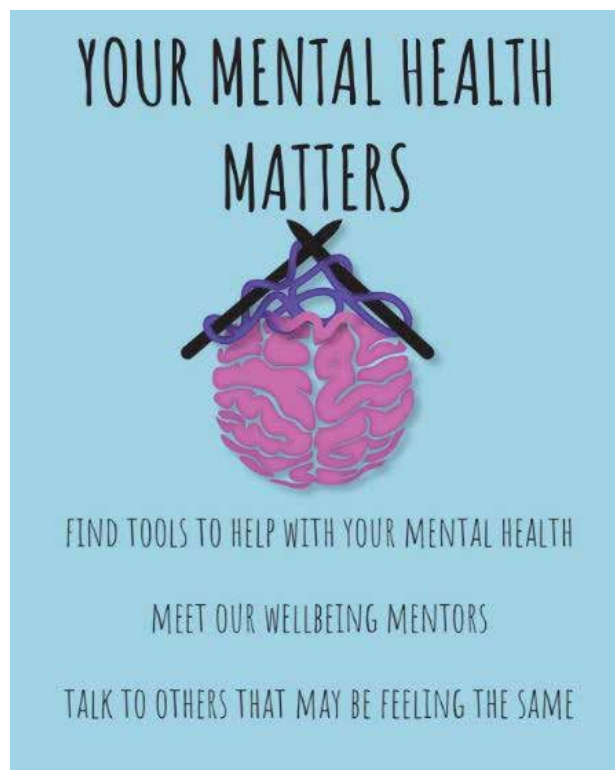
The school launched a series of new after-school Mental Health Workshops at our Senior School, which is designed to help pupils of all ages with a variety of issues they may be facing. Each week, youngsters will leave with helpful and practical tools to support their mental health, as well as strategies to effectively build resilience. Our Lower Sixth Form Wellbeing Mentors will also be on hand to give pupils a friendly face to speak to – all are trained volunteers, who can offer additional advice and support.

Sessions run each Wednesday; there is a different theme each week, with forthcoming topics including an Exam Stress Tool Kit and a Wellbeing Dog Walk during the summer term. Pupils can pick which sessions they attend; the programme for the remainder of this academic year is below.

These workshops are the latest addition to our extra-curricular Wellbeing Programme, which runs across the whole school. At the Lower Prep our Mindfulness Club offers pupils the chance to try slower activities such as puzzles and crafts, learn calming breathing techniques, and enjoy time outside in nature. For Upper Prep pupils, Cobweb Club offers a chance to ‘blow the cobwebs away’, chat with others, and take a stroll around our beautiful grounds. After-school yoga classes remain popular with participants of all ages.

At the Senior School, a weekly focus is Tuesday’s Wellbeing Club, when pupils have the opportunity to get together and relax after a busy day. It’s a fun, sociable and interactive club, open to all years and focussing on activities away from the school curriculum. Activities to date have included music bingo, dodgeball, pumpkin carving, popcorn and movie nights, outdoor activities and marshmallow toasting.

Miss Emily Walker,
Wellbeing Lead, said:
“The point of these sessions is for pupils to meet others who might be going through similar issues and to take part in friendly discussion around themes including stress, anxiety, self-esteem, LGBTQ+ issues - and lots more.”





Former Prep pupil celebrates National Apprenticeship Week

Former Prep pupil and JCB employee Wallace Cairns returned to Kimbolton Prep School this week to revisit his roots and celebrate National Apprenticeship Week (6-12 February). He is one of 78 of the digger giant's current apprentices who returned to their old Primary School to plant a commemorative oak tree and talk to pupils about their education pathway to a prestigious apprenticeship.

“It was a pleasure to welcome Wallace to the Prep. He is a great ambassador for both Kimbolton Prep School and JCB, and an inspiration for any pupil considering a career in business, engineering, or manufacturing.”

Mr Foley

Prep Headmaster Mr Foley led a special assembly and Q&A with Wallace, which focussed on the importance of building strong roots in childhood and making the most of opportunities. The 20-year-old shared his journey from Reception class in 2008 to joining JCB in September 2022, following A Levels in Maths, Physics and Politics. He said: “I have many happy memories of my time at the Prep. Kimbolton taught me independence from an early age, and I thoroughly enjoyed the House Games and sports, especially hockey – which I still play today.”

Several teachers shared their memories of Wallace, with teacher Mr Bull recalling: “I was one of the first people to give Wallace a hockey stick ... we recently bumped into each other again, playing on the same team in a match for Kettering Hockey Club!”

Members of our Prep School Council (of which Wallace was a former member) later accompanied Wallace and Mr Foley for a short tree-planting ceremony near the cricket pavilion. The oak sapling, grown on JCB's farming estate at Wootton, is one of 78 being planted across the UK - each marking a year in business for the Staffordshire-based company founded in 1945. The new tree and commemorative plaque were quickly spotted by some of our current Reception pupils, as they passed by on their weekly Forest School outing to Squirrel Wood!

Top Trips for Lower Prep Pupils

Lower Prep pupils enjoyed a busy week with trips to complement their classroom studies on the topics of 'Island Life' and 'The Great Fire of London'. Year 1 enjoyed a fun 'Pirate Day' at Nene Outdoors, Peterborough, where they designed and built their own pirate ships, before testing whether the vessels would float on a small lake. They also built pirate dens in the woods and hunted for a hidden treasure chest full of delicious treats.

Meanwhile, Year 2 pupils walked through the School grounds to Kimbolton Fire Station. Three firefighters showed the group around, explaining how the fire service works and the different equipment on board a fire engine. To demonstrate how easily fire can spread and under controlled conditions, pupils watched as cardboard model houses, which they'd previously made in the classroom, went up in flames. The fire spread incredibly quickly, helped by the dry conditions and the winds – just like in 1666 during The Great Fire of London.

Class teacher Miss de Friend said: "It made us feel sad watching our hard work go up in flames, but it taught us how dangerous and destructive fire can be, and we discussed what it might feel like if we lost our home and all of our belongings. The highlight of the trip was using the hose - the fire station was incredibly wet by the time everyone had had their turn!"

Thank you to the teams at Nene Outdoors and Kimbolton Fire Station for providing us with such fun and educational experiences.



The Peter Smout Essay Competition



The Peter Smout Essay Competition is an annual competition open to all Senior School pupils that takes place over the summer holidays. With substantial monetary prizes (generously donated by Richard Pigginn OK60) awarded to the winners, it is not surprising that a good number of pupils put pen to paper during their holidays to document their response to a question about a topical, philosophical subject.

In 2022 the essay title was ‘Nuclear Energy and Renewables ?’ Competition entrants were asked to consider both sides of the debate, whilst presenting their own line of argument.

Richard writes, “I have had the very great pleasure of reading all of the essays created by our pupils over the summer. We had a fantastic uptake, and the quality of entries was extremely high. Below is the winning article from Harry - Year 13”.

(Please note that any views documented in the essay are those of the author and that the OKA remains objective on the subject)

How far should Britain prepare for a nuclear future?

“The release of atomic power has changed everything except our way of thinking... the solution to this problem lies at the heart of mankind. If only I had known, I should have become a watchmaker.” Albert Einstein

It was in Cambridge where the atom was first split in 1932. Three hundred miles away, and twenty-four years later the world’s first civil nuclear program was embarked upon in Cumbria. Half a century later still, we have reached a crossroads in regard to our nuclear future. A crooked sign relays our options: to the left is the nuclear policy proposed by Boris Johnson’s capitulating government, one undertaken despite questions of economic unviability and a public distain for the witchcraft of nuclear energy, which education reforms and informationals haven’t yet de-mystified for the general populous. To the right is an abandonment of our nuclear future. Down this undulating road we can see a loss of 16% of our total energy production ¹ at a time when electric vehicles and a digital revolution are demanding increasingly strenuous figures from British power stations. ²

“Is there a third road at this junction?” I hear you ask – “Unfortunately not; not even a rickety farm track.” – is the lamentable reply. The energy surplus presided over by the Conservative Party is just as precarious as their latest government. Teetering at 11% above our total usage, the declining efficiencies of Britain’s eight nuclear plants suddenly appears an urgent problem. ³

With this in mind, the Conservative party placed a “green industrial revolution” at the nucleus ⁴ of their manifesto; a commitment to the “deliverance of a new and advanced nuclear power system” being made and giving much to celebrate. ⁵

Nuclear power is a green power source. To wade through figures is decidedly banal, but also unavoidably relevant here. A well-maintained nuclear plant emits 29 tonnes of CO₂ per GWh of energy generated. Which in comparison to the 85 tonnes from the supposedly stainless solar and the 1,054 tonnes from our belching coal stations looks positively utopian, an attitude furthered by the logistical benefits outlined in Oliver Norton’s concise epigram: “You can fuel a nuclear reactor with tonnes of fuel, rather than thousands of tonnes of fuel.”

Nuclear power has proven a good stock gap between fossil fuels and more ethical alternatives, aiding countries like France, Canada and South Korea in their establishment of renewable sources by providing a secure base for energy production.⁸

However, for a quick “stock gap”, the introduction of nuclear power takes a decidedly long time... The British nuclear industry is buckling under a legacy of underinvestment; reactors creeping ever closer to retirement age. If we are to consider the nuclear renaissance Johnson is proselytising, either a delayed retirement age or an unparalleled building project is in order.

Fortunately, the government seems to have no problem implementing the former to its citizens, the number getting increasingly septuagenarian, so maybe it will do the same to its treasured power plants too.^{9 10 11} Nuclear efficiency has been declining since the 1990s and a new wave of nuclear scientists are warning that our current programme of water-cooled reactors is an inherently flawed and inefficient system, using excess uranium and being more prone to breakage. This in mind, the “commitment” to nuclear power spawns numerous questions. Chiefly, if we are in need of an overhaul of our technology and need to increase our capacity with new plants, how long, and how expensive will this be? The underbudgeting of Hinkley Point C – a power station started in 2016 – is reflective of the spiralling costs of nuclear power;¹² an industry which in the US is quickly collapsing with 12 reactors having closed since 2012: demonstrating their unprofitability.¹³

Even more worrying is the fact that these premature closures mean plants don’t pay back their pollution debt: the damage of their building not being repaid by the green power produced. In a time when every week counts in the transition to green energy, our opportunity for dithering with bricks and mortar is largely gone, suggesting we have neither the time nor the capital for such risks. There remains a pronounced number who say we do have it and we must have it. Nuclear power is a compact and reliable producer of energy, the replacement of whispering wheat fields for sprawling solar ones having caused a flurry of public discontent. However, the average nuclear plant has an energy density 360 times greater than that of wind power and 75 times that of solar and on a finite island where a growing population is present, this suggests the production costs, both monetary and aesthetic, may be worth it.¹⁴

Not only this, nuclear power has a stable base load energy, meaning its output doesn’t fluctuate like weather dependent sources. The Trumpian proverb “when the wind stops blowing that’s the end of your electric” is no less true for its ineloquence; and if my heating was solely reliant on the fickle British weather, I’d be rather concerned too.¹⁵

The average wind farm ran at 44% capacity in 2021, producing less than half of its maximum output, whilst nuclear plants consistently ran at 90% - a figure even higher than Hydroelectric power. This suggests a system fulfilling its obligation and is not indicative of a dying industry.¹⁶

Despite promising statistics, nuclear power remains negatively stigmatised in the public consciousness. The reasons are clear. On our screens, the effects of nuclear disaster have been mobilised for popular entertainment - eight million people watching skin lacerations and strange green hues roaming the sky after reactor number four malfunctioned in HBO’s Chernobyl.¹⁷

Nuclear catastrophe has a pathos absent in other disasters, maybe due to the history of nuclear technology’s usage, or the starry-eyed reverie it was first discovered with and resultantly any misstep in the field is heavily publicised. This media attention and the delayed addition of nuclear science to school curricula has created a playground for misinformation with swings and slide ready-made. Some protestations are grounded in reality: the economic damage of Fukushima and Chernobyl being self-evident, but the depictions of mass human destruction are misleading. The tsunami in Fukushima was the cause of the greatest calamity, not the disintegrating power plant and the nuclear collapse itself has not yet been credited¹⁸ with a direct death by the UN. Estimations for premature deaths by cancer sit at around 1,800, with Chernobyl having a similarly low direct fatality number.^{19 20}

The Russian press has hyperbolised the human cost of Chernobyl mercilessly, numerous outlets being directly sponsored to defame the Ukrainians. Thus, the use of Russian backed figures in the British press regarding potential damage from nuclear disaster in Britain is disingenuous and should be challenged, the human cost of malfunction being unextreme so far.^{21 22}

Articles like these, sowing fear about the spectre of nuclear disaster befalling cobbled highstreets in Britain rarely take into account the health implications of our reliance on fossil fuels. 8.7 million deaths a year have been attributed to the “invisible killers” of coal and oil, a figure that translates as one in five deaths a year connected directly to our burning of fossil fuels.²³ Not only this; research from NASA has concluded that the introduction of nuclear power and its reduction of toxic gases entering the atmosphere saved 1.7 million lives between 1971 and 2009.²⁴

The isolated picture for the success of nuclear power is looking relatively good then. But what about in the context of the 21st century? The Russian invasion of Ukraine has proved the danger of nuclear plants in a conflicted area. James Acton writes “To put it simply, nuclear power plants are not designed for war zones.”²⁵ And while Britain is not yet a warzone, unless you count Extinction Rebellion as a guerrilla force, escalation is a serious danger and the target a nuclear plant presents today is clear: we may as well paint a bullseye on the roof. The war has also highlighted our dependency on foreign goods, particularly for energy. Russia holds British energy prices, and therefore the cost of living, in the palm of its bloodied hands and transitioning to nuclear sources will not change this. Uranium would need importing just as oil and gas do, and unsurprisingly the origins are no different: Russia, Kazakhstan, Saudi Arabia.²⁶

Britain would remain at the whim of undemocratic, outwardly hostile states for its energy production. Something that desperately needs changing. Therefore, my opposition to our nuclear stands not in the context of scientific inadequacy, nor in any moral aversion to the dangers or ethics of using nuclear energy as a primary power source. Instead, it stems from the volatile geo-political climate and the need for British self-sufficiency.²⁷

Benjamin Disraeli, the wellspring for Boris Johnson’s hallowed One Nation Toryism advocated the need for British economic and industrial independence, and while Johnson adheres to a nuclear model, he betrays his idol and we remain in the hands of autocrats that risk our social fabric. Resultantly, to turn left at our aforementioned crossroads, barreling down the nuclear causeway, would be both dangerous and counterproductive: not scientifically or on a local level, but in the context of global politics. So, let us spend that money on our hydro-electric infrastructure and expand our offshore wind arsenal, both of which would remedy many of the disheartening figures presented above. Otherwise, the lessons from the 20th century will reassert themselves even more strongly and make us wish we had listened the first time.

1 House of Lords Library – published 01/12/2021, accessed 27/08/2022.

2 Government Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy – Published 30/09/2021, updated 21/07/2022, accessed 27/08/2022.

3 Ibid

4 Nuclear joke incoming?

5 2019 Conservative Party Manifesto

6 World Nuclear Association report 2017

7 The Economist: Why is nuclear power so unpopular? Oliver Morton: 5/3/2021

8 International Energy Agency, report published 30/6/2022, accessed

9 I think that is the last of the political comments, I semi-promise.

10 Parliamentary debate on nuclear funding: 09/11/2021, much discussion on dangerous levels of disrepair

11 Ageuk.org: State pension age changes and retirement age increases, published 28/4/2022, accessed 27/8/2022

12 The Guardian: Hinkley Point: the dreadful deal behind the world’s most expensive power plant, published 21/12/2017, accessed 27/08/2022

13 Crsreports.congress.gov: published 12/6/2021 accessed 27/08/2022

14 Department of Mechanical Engineering and Mechanics at Drexel University, published January 2010

15 Nytimes: published 3/4/2019, accessed 27/08/2022

16 Windeurope.org: published 24/02/2022, accessed 27/08/2022

17 Businessinsider.com, published 13/06/2029, accessed 27/08/2022

18 Excuse the slightly incongruous word choice given the context, it is the technical term.

19 Nuclear energy institute, cited UN reports from 2011, published October 2019, accessed 27/08/2022

20 <1000 people

21 JSTOR: "Putin's Russia and the mythologisation of the Soviet Union."

22 Again, excuse the over-simplification, I am restricted by word-count and believe what I convey is reasonable, the numbers being in the thousands not the millions that we see from the climate changing effects of other energy sources.

23 University College London: published 09/02/2021, accessed 27/08/2022

24 Kharecha and Hansen Nasa, published 2013, accessed 27/08/2022

25 Eenews.net: published 25/02/2022, accessed 27/08/2022

26 nei.org: published: 30/09/2019, accessed: 27/08/2022

27 Particularly in the energy industry, demanding anything further from other industries seems unashamedly idealistic.

If you are interested in sponsoring the Peter Smout Essay Competition or a similar school project, whether to fund a prize or materials, please contact Vicky Wakefield on:

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

NEWS OF OKS

News and announcements from OKs around the world...

Alex Benson (OK06) & Abbie celebrated the safe arrival of their son, Atticus Lawrence Benson, on 2 December 2022.

Tom Hopperton (OK22) and **Harry Godsell (OK22)** are spending a gap year travelling in Australia and Indonesia. They spent the first 4 months living and working in Sydney, and in November they watched England play in the T20 cricket World Cup quarter finals at the SCG, and met up and had a beer with David Peacock (OK 85) before the match - David was one of the co-founders of the Barmy Army.

Catherine Hunter (OK13) was promoted to Account Director at Aspectus Group in April 2022.

Morgan Brown (OK17) has started a new position as Business Development Manager at Forge Technologies Ltd.

Laura McCartie (OK20) has embarked on a new chapter with Jardine Motors Group, as a Showroom Host at Porsche.

James Johnston (OK11) was promoted to Actuarial Consultant at XPS Pensions Group.

George Farrer: (OK18)

George graduated from the University of York with a degree in Politics in 2021, despite all the challenges that COVID threw with online learning and not having a proper 3 year university experience! In January 2022, he started a role as the Project Manager of the All-Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) on Artificial Intelligence, and also the same role with the APPG on Blockchain. This is with an innovation consultancy think-tank called Big Innovation Centre.

Mark Lancaster (OK88) started a new position as Defence Exports Advocate at Department for International Trade (DIT).

Rachel Grieve (OK17) studied a BA in Criminology and graduated from University of Kent.



Natasha Feaver (OK10) has started a new position as Geography Teacher at James Allen's Girls' School.

Lizzie Fowler (OK00) has started a new position as Director of Strategic Projects at People with Disability Australia (PWDA).

Stephanie Stubbs (OK15) has moved from a band 4 Assistant Psychologist role in a forensic inpatient hospital to a new role for the North Norfolk community learning disabilities team as a band 5 Assistant Psychologist. In this role Stephanie will be delivering therapies to adults with learning disabilities and other developmental difficulties, working with other professionals to help these individuals gain a greater quality of life, developing their self-efficacy and self-esteem. This is the next step in Stephanie's career, with the next being the Clinical Psychology Doctorate.

Sarah McEntree (Garrett OK96)

has spent over a decade as a presenter on several highly successful Heart FM Breakfast shows. Her radio career saw her working with some of the biggest recording artists in the world, which not only allowed her to hone her own performance and communications skills, but she also uses much of that insight today in her coaching and training delivery.

Sarah is the host of the Leader Connect podcast and specialises in communications coaching for leaders. She is passionate about Wellness for All and brings a wealth of holistic wisdom into her work.



This picture is taken from under a giant tree in His Majesty's back garden at Balmoral.

Chris Benson (OK95) studied architecture (Bath, CAT and Oxford Brookes) and now practices as an architect. In his update, Chris explained that his genetic disorder called Usher Syndrome has led to failing sight although he continues designing at a computer. On a happier note, he recalls his only visit to Kimbolton since leaving school. It was April 2012 and he spoke to pupils about Architecture at the Careers Fayre. After his visit to the School he had the pleasure of dining with Frank and Regine Priest.

Katie Wells (OK06) married Matthew Storey on 29th December at Holmewood Hall near Peterborough. Katie's brother Jonathan Wells (OK08) and bridesmaids Clare Otridge (nee England) and Grace Jackson (nee Cullen) attended along with Katy Greenstone (OK06). Mr Wells (OK Prep School Headmaster) also gave a brilliant father of the bride's speech.



George Ellison (OK19) see article on page 20-21.

Hanna McGarva (OK20) has completed an Amazon Operations internship at NCL1 Fulfilment Centre in Newcastle. It has been an amazing 3 months where she has learned a lot of valuable experience, leadership skills and insights. During her time with Amazon she has driven a project focussed on Sustainability, particularly related to the site and it's business goals. Hanna now heads back to the University of Leeds to complete her final year of her degree.

Angus Duncan (OK18) after a 10 month placement as a Junior Political Consultant at BOLDT AG Brussels, Angus has decided to stay.

Maddy Ando (OK18) studied MA Classics and Ancient History at University of Manchester and graduated in 2022. Whalebone Vessel is one of Maddy's poems from a collection produced for the Chariots, Cauldrons and Celts module of her course, and she describes it as her favourite project to date.

Whalebone Vessel

Maddy Ando

What wily wave of white and grit
could topple you, giant, on the flaxen sand
that crowned our island's cairns and loam?
For whom did you hang up your dorsal fin?

It must have been us. Many's the night
we'd carve you for feasting, for brothing, for stewing.
Amazed, untucked the baleen plates from your gums
roughened by dark winds and now to strain
our boiled beans and turnip tops.

Yes, in all innocence we enjoyed your blubber burned
in oil lamps and melted to waxes warm.
I imagined you always warm, always clean as I rub your
oils on my elbows and knees.

I pity the ocean that spat you out like a stone,
for you dazzle us now with your radiant bones.

In daggers and arrows and toys on the moor;
ivory, brilliant, in chubby young fists. As for me,
a tablet on the temple wall announces that I hung
your pendant bones at my throat, and leapt with you,
rejoicing, back to the sea.

The Science

This poem is inspired by an Iron Age whalebone vessel discovered in The Cairns broch in the Orkneys.

University of the Highlands and Islands Archaeology Institute MLitt student, Karen Kennedy, is working with Dr Ingrid Mainland (Programme Leader for MLitt Archaeological Studies), examining, recording, and cataloguing the animal bone fragments as part of her research into Iron Age feasting. The bone itself has offered much insight into ritualism in this period, and how a single beached whale could offer vitality to an entire community in the Iron Age. We could not have learned this without the ability to interpret DNA evidence from bone deposits, enabling a new understanding of these precious sites and what they can teach us about how people lived in the ancient world. Baleen plates are the series of fringed plates in whales' mouths that are used to

strain seawater for food. These would have been removed, cleaned and then used by Iron Age communities to strain their own food.

Frankie Winter (OK19) is extremely pleased to announce that after three amazing years at the University of Leeds, she has graduated with a first class honours degree in History of Art BA!



She particularly enjoyed her final year modules 'Africa and the Atlantic World' and 'Postcolonial Feminisms' which proved relevant to her dissertation. She chose to discuss the presentation of Algerian women in relation to French colonialism, tackling ideas of Orientalism, Eurocentrism and the conquest of the female body.

Frankie now plans to travel and see some of the art and cultures she has studied! Upon her return, she hopes to combine her passion for art and events in the workplace.

Harriet Wilson (OK19) graduated from the University of Liverpool with a high 2:1 in Politics and International Business.



By doing a joint honours she covered a range of topics through a variety of modules from creating a company and developing a marketing strategy for the launch alongside my team, to most recently writing a policy paper discussing the inadequacies of the current education system for special learning difficulty students at GCSE level.

She thoroughly enjoyed her years at Liverpool with a particular highlight being elected as President of the polo club. Moving forward, I hope to take a few months out at the start of the new year to go travelling before finding a career in PR and Communications in the motorsport industry.

James Wilkins (OK19) completed a year in industry with Aston Martin F1 Team. Spending the last 12 months working in the Aero R&D department on various projects based on and around the wind tunnel model.

James explained that he learnt so much in the past year. He went on to say that he worked with some amazingly helpful people, and hopes to be able to use what he learned to aid the completion of his final year at the University of Birmingham. During this next year, James plans to continue looking at wind tunnel models and use his experience to design and build a modular-based wind tunnel model for UB Racing Formula Student team as part of his final year project.



Stephan Abdallah (OK12) is now back home working as a doctor in Hinchingbrooke Hospital A&E.

William May (OK01) has taken up the

post of Head of prep at The Marist School in Ascot, he leaves behind the role of House parent at Wandsworth as well as Teacher of Maths and English.

Jonny Hurcombe (OK01) joins Right Formula with over 10 years of experience working agency side in digital media and marketing. You can often find Jonny with his head in a book researching behavioural science in marketing, or escaping busy, modern life on a paddleboard.

Michael Millington (OK18) is currently acting Pilot Officer at Cambridge University Air Squadron, History and Politics Graduate and he started an MPhil in Early Modern History at Selwyn College, University of Cambridge in October. His thesis will focus on the development of naval warfare during the Interregnum 1649-1660.

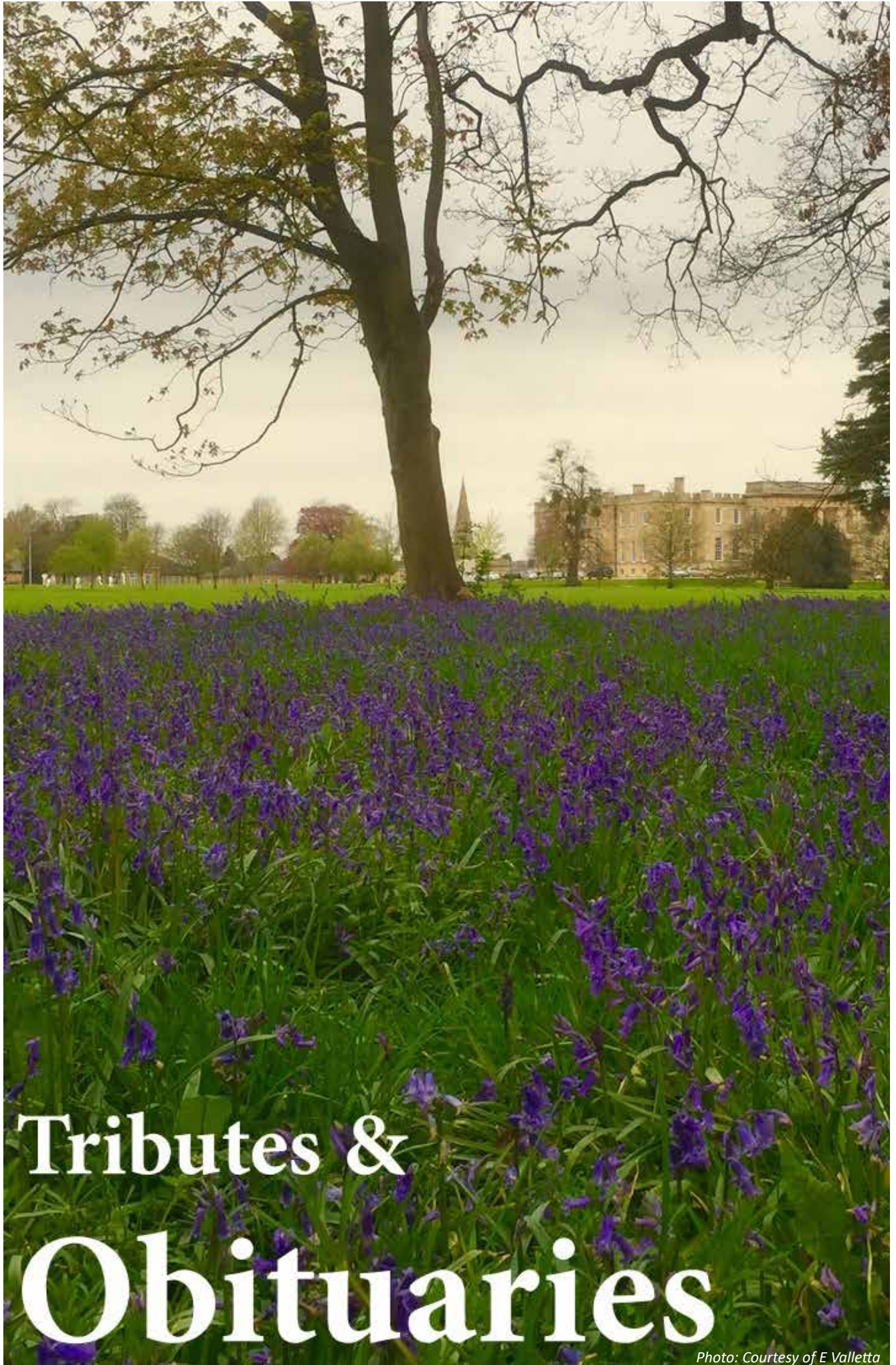
Grace Vanbergen (OK18) started a new position as Project Administrator at Orchard House Food Ltd after 2 1/2 at Whitworths Ltd.

Katie Lawrence (OK19) has been nominated for a Placement and Internship Award for an undergraduate placement in the private sector SME from Loughborough University. Katie has had a fantastic year at Raleigh and was an important part of the product team adding real value into several large projects.

Olivia Fleming (OK16) having graduated from the University of Birmingham with a First Olivia plans to move to Australia for a year and travel extensively throughout South East Asia.

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



Tributes & Obituaries

Photo: Courtesy of E Valletta
www.oks.co.uk

An Appreciation of David W Donaldson, Headmaster 1973 to 1987.



It was a staff meeting in the Autumn term 1972, and Cyril Lewis, Headmaster since 1947 announced to a surprised room that at 62 years of age, he had decided to retire from the job and thus from the school in which he had immersed himself for the previous 25 years. Spring term saw the drawing up of a shortlist of applicants for the upcoming vacancy, followed by the interview procedure. Speculation and rumour over who were the front runners were rife and it gradually became clear that two of the applicants were well ahead of the others. One was Giles Slaughter, and the other was David Donaldson (governmental leaks had nothing on the Kimbolton School Headmaster's selection process!).

Eventually the announcement: it was to be David Donaldson, Spanish teacher at Stowe school for the past 16 years and Housemaster of Lyttelton House. There was, perhaps, a little sympathy for Mr Slaughter having come so close to success, but he almost immediately acquired the headship of

Solihull School, and, ten years later, University College School, Hampstead. In September 1973, and having swapped life in the stately home at Stowe for life in Kimbolton's stately home, David Donaldson, took the chair for his first staff meeting – with the heaven-sent opportunity to inform the assembled gathering that he had saved them from being 'Slaughtered'.

The decision to introduce girls into a school that for over 400 years had been 'boys only', had been taken in principle before Cyril Lewis's departure. It was now in DWD's hands to usher in that fundamental change, but that was far from the only issue that would require his deft touch. The Government of 1976 abolished the Direct Grant scheme – on which Kimbolton relied for around one quarter of its intake. Either the school could hand itself, in entirety, to the local authority and become a state school (or, in view of its somewhat inconvenient position, very close to the county border, perhaps be closed down altogether) or take a calculated gamble and become independent. Independence was chosen, and thanks largely to the safe hands of David Donaldson on the tiller, the gamble paid dividends and the school navigated its way through choppy and uncharted waters.

The product just had to attract the custom, and DWD embarked on an exhausting programme of appeal meetings in a bid to raise the money necessary to upgrade Kimbolton's facilities, making them worth the fees. Perhaps it was fortuitous that with the demand for boarding fading, the school was having to look to the local community for its intake. A new complex ('The Spinney') - to include classrooms, domestic science facilities, art room, biology and geography departments, a new science block (to be named The Donaldson Building) a hard-surface sports area and the building of a Preparatory Department gymnasium were all improvements that were completed in the Donaldson era and they were all facilities that gave encouragement to local parents to pay the fees for their offspring to be educated at Kimbolton.

But what of DWD, the man? In the same way that a teacher presents an image to their students, a headmaster has to present perhaps just the right image to each of his students, the staff, the parents and the governors. In the case of David Donaldson, these were achieved with apparent ease, since he just had to be himself: a strong, warm-hearted human being who showed sincere concern for all within his influence. These characteristics had clearly been evident at Stowe, where he was known for his 'Scottish canniness and his warm sense of humour, but it was his contribution to Stowe's athletics that left an indelible mark. He was himself an athlete of distinction, having captained a combined Cambridge and Oxford Universities team on a successful tour of the USA. Whilst an Athletics coach at Stowe, 18 school records were broken, 7 of which still stand 50 years on. An Old Stoic described him as "quite simply the best schools athletics coach of his generation."

Thirty-six years after leaving Stow, their athletics track was updated to an Olympic-specification, 8-lane artificial-surface facility and made available to the British athletics squad prior to the 2012 Olympic games in London. It was opened in 2009 by Lord Sebastian Coe, and renamed 'The David Donaldson Athletics Track' - a remarkable and impressive tribute to a past member of staff. At Kimbolton, it was DWD who introduced the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme, and also the Summer Cricket Festival. One might ask what toll this multitude of projects may have taken of him. Peter Smout, Senior Master throughout DWD's headmastership, wrote of him (previous published):

"I knew him as an essentially strong, warm human being, with the most sincere concern for the members of staff and students under his command – a man whose judgements were disconcertingly shrewd. He had a great laugh and possessed a talent (though perhaps a questionable one) for mimicry. Above all, he cared for The School, its reputation and its achievements, its examination and sports results. No man I know could have worked harder: too hard, perhaps and that is why his home in Cornwall was so essential. He would return from there with fresh ideas varying from the breath-taking to the deceptively simple, maintaining the momentum and excitement of working at Kimbolton"

Peter refers to the possibility that, perhaps, he worked too hard, and this may have been, if only in part, responsible for his announcing his intention to retire, at the relatively young age of 55, and a year earlier than expected. When asked whether he ever regretted making that early decision, his answer was that he felt there should be a new headmaster in place to see-in the first GCSE examinations. Typical of the man, he had plans – working from his bungalow in Padstow, to study for a doctorate in a branch of the Spanish language, which he successfully completed – but who would ever have doubted it?

One might wonder how a life of such sustained and varied achievement could have been successfully carried on the shoulders of one person. It has to be stated that, in truth, it wasn't, since David had the support of his wife Marian, who shared his ideals, goals and ambitions. She joined the Preparatory Department staff, where she is spoken of highly by colleagues and ex-pupils alike. Not that she devoted her talents exclusively to the Prep. Dept. She was responsible for choosing the furnishings of the newly-created Senior School staff room. David had taken occupation of the Queen's Room as his study (it had, until then, been a classroom), and he felt that the staff should be rewarded with a similar move as he annexed another classroom - the Dining Room to The Coote (Billiard) Room as a most impressive staff common room. Marian always had the knack of handling with style the social and formal occasion, which are naturally part of the life of a Headmaster's wife, and was always at David's side when supporting school sports teams at the weekends. In short, they were a team, and it showed.

On 21st February, 2022, David died in Padstow at the age of 89 following a short illness. Perhaps it was fitting then that Marian, his indispensable supporter, colleague and companion died only 11 weeks later – also at the age of 89. So many will have owed so much to them both.

NC & REA Butler, and IJ Burton.

R.M. Hallifax (OK47)

Alistair Hallifax, Maurices son writes:
Maurice from Lowick was a day boy during part of the Second World War and just after, under the headmasterships of Messrs Ingram and Lewis. The journey from Thrapston by Robinson's Bus with Bill at the wheel was a daily adventurer not knowing at times if they would have to get out and push.

After leaving school he did a short spell with the Inland Revenue before doing National service with 'Br squadron 13/18 Hussars attached to the 2nd & 5th Gurkha Rifles at Kluang Malaya. He was NCO t/c Pay Section for the squadron, but all admin staff had to take their turn laying regular early morning ambushes against terrorists who would exit the jungle to cause great damage in rubber plantations. After demob he was established in the County Court service based at Kettering, but helped when required at most of the other courts in the area.

In 1966 he took overall charge of the Melton Mowbray and Oakham County Courts and recalls one occasion sitting with the circuit Judge when the solicitor representing one of the parties happened to be M A Rich, a classmate last seen over 20 years ago in Lower VI Arts. He had been a keen sportman, playing football for Islip for twenty seasons and cricket for several local teams. He tells of having a trial for Northants in April 1949 as a spin bowler and having to wait for snow to melt before they could play cricket. He was a keen wood turner pieces of his work getting as far afield as Australia, America and Japan.

He was a keen vegetable gardener but above all a church Tower bell ringer for 70 years. For 40 years he was Team captain, conductor Musical arranger for the Waltham on the Wolds handbell team.

He transposed over 350 tunes to suit the set of 42 handbells, the team performed at Music Festivals and numerous venues helping to raise money for charities, including Dystonia which he-himself was diagnosed with in 1985.

He leaves June, his wife for over 67 years, a son, a daughter-in law and three grandchildren. Maurice was buried at Waltham Church, on 3rd November 2022.

Alistair Hallifax

Bruce Chapman (OK 65)

Bruce Harry Charles Chapman (OK65) 15/03/1949 to 22/07/2022

Loving husband to Anne Chapman and caring father to Helen Rudman (1994) and Mark Chapman (1996)

Bruce spent his whole life at Manor Farm Ellington where he followed in his fathers footsteps and grew the farming business, trying lots of new ventures including pigs and chickens.

He enjoyed taking things easier in his later years although his three wonderful grandchildren kept him busy when they came to the farm for visits! It was very fitting that his final moments were on the place he loved the most, his farm.

Michael Stokes (OK58)

died in May 2021, following a short illness. He attended Kimbolton School in the 1950s.

Michael was the popular Hon Secretary of The Cottesmore Hunt from 1981 – 2004. He had also been a keen Polo player. Whilst at Kimbolton School, he and Michael Reynolds, who sadly passed away in 2020, became life-long friends. Michael would travel his pony by train to hunt with the Reynolds family. In his teens Michael trained with Horace Smith, who taught The Queen and Princess Margaret to ride. He was awarded The British Horse Society Diploma and it is believed he was the youngest person to gain the qualification. He established a successful riding establishment, livery yard and kennels at Wansford, with the backing of his family. He was responsible for helping and encouraging many talented and successful riders, including his daughters Caroline and Charlotte. Prior to the establishment of the Riding for the Disabled Association in 1969, Michael was instrumental in helping young people with severe disabilities benefit, both physically and mentally, from riding horses. He found many innovative ways to help them gain in confidence. Michael received the Cubitt Award and later the Cubitt Bar for 50 years' service to The Pony Club. In 1967, he married Julia (nee Lyons) who predeceased him in 2015. Michael is survived by his two daughters and three grandchildren.

Jane Ellis

(We apologise that Michael Stokes's obituary was omitted from the spring 2022 edition of OKA magazine).

Paul Roddis - A prominent member of the Maintenance staff from 1985-1997, sadly passed away on 30/07/22.

Martin Raybould (OK61) died in March 2021.

Andrew Seabrook (OK75) Andrew Seabrook was a well-known (and much loved) member of the Kimbolton community. We are proud to celebrate his life in the wake of his passing. As a youngster, Andrew attended Kimbolton School from 1972 to 1975. He was bright and did well at school - but was keen to start work, so whilst continuing his education at Huntingdon Technical College, he trained as a mechanic at Odell's garage in Gt. Staughton, eventually becoming a fully qualified motor vehicle technician. In 1981 he joined the family farm; everyone who knew him was aware of his strong work ethic and how much he contributed to the success of the business.



Andrew's great love was motorbikes and he went abroad on many touring holidays with like-minded friends. His passion for history took them to diverse and exciting destinations such as: the Guggenheim museum in Bilbao, the Normandy beaches, the site of the dambuster raid on the Ruhr in 1943 and the Salvador Dali museum in Figueras. Andrew also spent many holidays with family and friends - he was always the centre of the party, entertaining everyone. His adventurous attitude meant he was also always the first to jump into the pool or hike up a mountain, or try to speak the local language, especially French which was his favourite subject at school.



In 2017 Andrew was diagnosed with Multiple System Atrophy, an aggressive form of Parkinson's disease. As the symptoms progressed, this unfortunately put an end to his motorcycling days, and later he had to stop working as well.

Despite his physical deterioration, Andrew always remained upbeat and positive, never complaining about his condition and kept his fabulous personality and sense of humour. He was lucky enough to have great support from his family and friends, which helped enormously. Andrew sadly passed away in July 2022 leaving wife Caroline and three sons Tim, Toby and Oliver. Andrew will always be remembered for his courage in the face of his illness, but most importantly for his zest for life and his unforgettable personality.



Andrew and friends along with faithful dog Rosie, handing over a cheque for £10,000 after walking the length of Hadrian's wall for Parkinson's UK.

Caroline Seabrook

David Walmsley (OK75)



The August 2018 edition of the British Medical Journal announced the death, whilst cycling, of David Walmsley on 19th April, 2018, at the age of 60. A keen sailor at school, David left Kimbolton in 1976, and, after reading medicine at Birmingham University, a diabetic himself, he worked as a consultant on diabetes and endocrinology in Leicester and Leeds, where he gained his MD. He then moved to Aberdeen working with a team on disease of the pituitary.

When not involved in medicine, David's hobbies included music and gardening. He had initially intended to follow a career involving natural history, and he maintained a passionate and active interest in ornithology, ecology and local wildlife. David leaves a widow, Jenny, and two sons, John and Philip, both of whom work in academia.

Thank you to Ian Burton for this tribute.



Old Kimboltonians' Association

Kimbolton School

Kimbolton

Huntingdon

Cambridgeshire PE28 0EA

Tel: 01480 862223

Email: alumni@kimbolton.cambs.sch.uk

www.oks.co.uk