

KEYnotes

2022 EDITION THE ANNUAL MAGAZINE FOR BIRMINGHAM GIRLS' OLD EDWARDIAN CLUB



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Sporting success past and present

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BIRMINGHAM 2022 FESTIVAL

*Celebrating the power of the arts
to uplift and unite communities*

REMEMBERING THE QUEEN

*Old Edwardians share their
memories of Queen Elizabeth II*

Chairman's Welcome



A warm welcome to all Old Edwardians, especially the most recent leavers from KEHS. Whether you left school in 2022 or 1942, I hope you will enjoy this edition of KEynotes.

A great deal has happened since the last edition of KEynotes and it seems when looking back through the history of the school, events today often mirror events from the past.

In May the committee were asked by school if we would allow the Club Room to be used as a space for SEND students. This is a growing issue for all schools and of course we were aware of this. We had hoped we could share the room, but unfortunately that was not possible, so with much sadness we have relocated the Archives to the stage area in the Hall.

Miss Major found a room for the Old Girls at the heart of the school a century ago, so we seem to have come full circle. We have a mammoth task ahead, but we are determined (in true Old Eds style) to make it work. Please read the article on Archives to follow our progress.

Throughout the life of our school, Community Service has been a constant strength and as students and Old Girls helped Belgian refugees during the first World War, support for Ukrainian refugees is evident today – through fundraising, offering accommodation and we were happy to donate chairs from the Old Girls Room to families in Hereford.

News of Old Edwardians comes to us via many avenues, most often from themselves or friends. The story of Muriel Wheldale Onslow however, came completely out of the blue!

A gentleman called Richard Hawkins contacted the Development Office to nominate Muriel as a Distinguished Old Edwardian. She had featured on a BBC programme called Botany, A Blooming History (2012) and was named as one of three scientists who unveiled the universal laws of genetics. Unfortunately, at the beginning of the 20th century Cambridge University did not award degrees to women – this injustice piqued Richard's interest and he began to research Muriel's life. This led him to the KEHS website. Seeing that she was not listed as a Distinguished Old Edwardian, Richard contacted school to propose that she should be! Her story is indeed amazing, I hope you enjoy reading about her fascinating life and we are so very grateful to Richard for his nomination.

Our other featured Distinguished Old Edwardian is Karen Bailey – another amazing lady who has forged a highly successful career in law. She served as Chair of the Old Edwardian Club and has supported school in many ways over the years. Her words offer wisdom for us all.

2022 has been a great year for Birmingham, in particular hosting the Commonwealth Games and of course Old Edwardians played their part – in sport and in the spectacular festival events that showcased what a fantastic city we live in. Our school was itself at the very heart of events, being so close to the Athletes Village, and served as the centre of police operations.

Our mantra when working with the archives is always Past, Present and Future and as we look forward, we are preparing to celebrate 140 years since KEHS opened.

School is organising various events to mark this huge milestone and I hope you will join us at the Annual Reunion on 17th June 2023. This will be the first opportunity that the whole Old Edwardian Community has had to come together since 2019 and it would be fabulous to gather former students from across all the generations for this landmark year.

Information about booking places will be available within the magazine and online. If you want to gather as a year group, please let the Development Office know so they can seat you together.

The Development Office continues to work hard to ensure alumnae links stay strong and we appreciate the time and effort it takes. They have very kindly included a photograph of the team in their KEynotes article, so you can put faces to the names and read all their news.

I must pay tribute to my fellow committee members for their time during the summer when we had to pack up all the archives, which was a huge task! Also, the Facilities staff who helped us with arrangements and moving the archives to the stage, and Charlotte Gallant, the Foundation Archivist.

Finally, I would like to thank Kirsty von Malaisé for her continued support as we all look forward to celebrating 140 years of KEHS.

Enjoy KEynotes 2022 and please keep in touch.

Annette Duffy (née Glennon)
Class of 1983

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DISTINGUISHED OLD EDWARDIANS



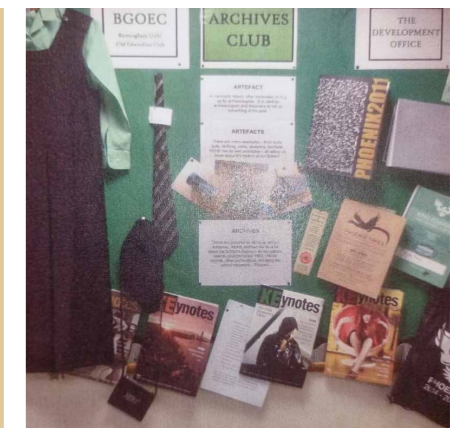
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Note: the views expressed in these articles are those of the authors themselves and do not necessarily reflect those of the school, the Old Edwardian Club or the KEynotes Committee.

Principal's Welcome

After a summer of the best A Level results in the school's history, such a testament to our students' work ethic, their teachers' support and parental encouragement during these difficult years, the new academic year has begun very well.



There is lots that we are looking forward to seeing take shape this year, most notably the imminent opening of our new Design Centre, which will enable girls to study the new Design Technology and Computing GCSEs as well as greatly enhancing facilities for Art, contributing to the broad and balanced curriculum that we offer students at KEHS.

The Design Centre will also add considerably to the footprint of the school, which for some time has felt to be using every inch available. Such was the position when we identified a strong need to create a SEND room, a space where girls who have diagnosed sensory needs, for whom the busy-ness of the school day is over-stimulating, can find some quiet and recalibrate. We have all been extremely grateful that the space for this has been created by the generosity of the BGOEC, who have released the 'Old Eds Room' for this purpose.

The archive collection which was kept in this beautiful room is now housed on the Hall stage, at the very heart of the school, and will in due course provide the space for viewing the collection. Right at the beginning of this academic year, we had cause to share with the school footage from our archives, from the Queen and Prince Philip's visit to KEHS and KES in 1955. We also created a new piece for the archive, in the form of our condolence book, which many current pupils signed.

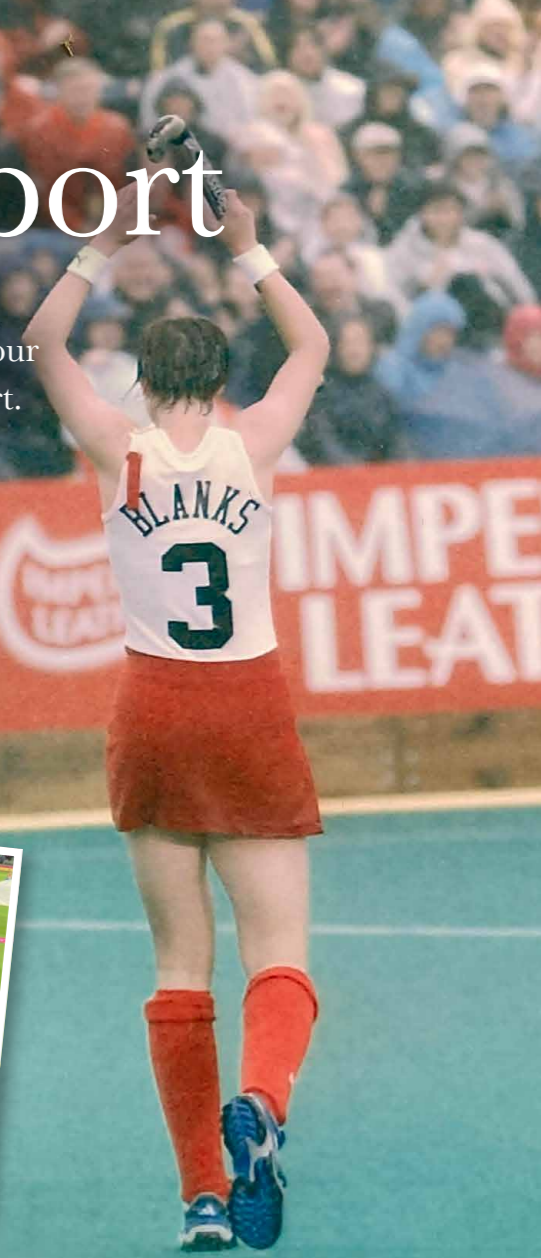
The archives, and the Old Edwardian community will be supporting our series of events in celebration of 140 years of KEHS. The school opened on 18th September 1883, and we will be laying on several occasions during 2023 for Old Edwardians to engage with the school, in Birmingham, and in London. Do look out for notifications of the various events, and I hope to see many of you at them!

With all good wishes

Kirsty von Malaisé

KEHS and Sport

In the year in which our beautiful city hosted the 2022 Commonwealth Games, we wanted to showcase some of our own OEs and staff who have unique connections with sport.



Sarah Blanks

On the 3 August 2002, I walked out to a capacity crowd as Captain of the England hockey team to play in the final at the XVII Commonwealth Games in Manchester. A home games is a special occasion in an athlete's career and it does not get better than contesting for the gold medal on home soil in front of cheering crowds. In fact, it probably does if you win gold; unfortunately for this England squad, we did not - unlike the fabulous team of 2022 who played a fantastic final this summer and were crowned the Commonwealth Champions.

Being part of the home games as an athlete was an incredible experience. When I look back at pictures and take my medal out of its box - as I did to write this article - I feel immense pride and satisfaction. I worked hard to earn my international caps and gain my regular spot in the squad. Playing hockey was my life and I thoroughly enjoyed it; I got paid to play a game I love with my friends. I can only partly recall those two weeks in Manchester, as I needed to stay focused and keep my emotions in check ready for each game. Two weeks before the start of the Manchester games, I had also sat by my Mum's bedside and watched her take her last breath before she died of cancer after a 10 year long illness, so there may have been some emotional numbing happening too. However, this year I could allow myself to feel the full intensity of the build up to the Birmingham Commonwealth Games, in ways I could not twenty years ago.

And what exciting Commonwealth Games these have been, right here in our city. Although I was not born in Birmingham, I am proud, after 25 years, to call it home and myself a Brummie. I came here to study at Birmingham's prestigious university and never went home. Twenty years on, I am proud and happy to be bringing up my children in this fantastic city, and to watch my eldest grow up as a KEHS pupil.

So, this time around, I swapped my captain's armband for digital tickets and a seat in the stands. Leading the players onto the pitch was replaced with shepherding my children into their seats! We had a fabulous time watching the hockey matches, the singles squash finals, the T20 cricket and 3x3 basketball live. The city was transformed and the joy of the crowds contagious. We waved our flag, cheered for England and got swept away in the emotion and passion of each sport. I saw several current and past KEHS pupils at each venue, all extremely proud that our city was doing such a great job.

To experience a 'home games' as an athlete and as a spectator is a rare privilege and one I am grateful to have had.

Sarah Blanks,
Director of Sport, KEHS

Karthi Gnanasegaram

My obsession with sport, and tennis in particular, began while I was at KEHS and was partly influenced by the freedom I knew sport would give me to be away from home and in the company of others my age. Little did I know that it would lead to a career travelling the world and speaking to global sporting superstars.

During the summer, once exams were over, my life revolved around tennis... playing it, watching it and reading every article I could find about it. My post GCSE work experience was integral to me realising this passion for sport could be turned into a career. A week at a law firm that did everything possible to put me off a law degree, was followed by a week at the Wolverhampton Express & Star newspaper. The sports department realised they had a tennis mad teenager on their hands during Wimbledon so put me to work, watching matches in the office and writing reports. When they published my Wimbledon match reports in the paper with my byline, an excited 16-year-old suddenly realised... people get paid to do this (although I was paid in photos of my favourite tennis players at the time!).

I now had a career ambition that didn't involve being a doctor as everyone had expected. Doing unpaid work experience in every holiday during my university years paid off with a job offer from

BBC Sport and a chance to learn from some of the best in the business. Over the last couple of Covid hit years I have been very lucky to be one of a handful of journalists to travel to global events like the Tokyo Olympics and the US Open, where I was the only British journalist to interview 18-year-old Emma Raducanu after every match of her remarkable run to win the US Open title. This summer was spent on the grass courts of Wimbledon and Queen's Club doing live television interviews with tennis players on court straight after their matches.

I still can't quite believe that I get to chat with the world's best sports stars as a job. It has been a joy to be able to travel to sports events all around the world but with my love of tennis, I have been particularly privileged to interview the current troupe of tennis talent Serena Williams, Emma Raducanu, Roger Federer, Rafael Nadal, Novak Djokovic and Andy Murray, to name a few. As I prepare to head to the Qatar World Cup, I could never have imagined that this is where I would end up, when I was standing on the tennis courts at KEHS on a wet Wednesday afternoon.

I also present shows on Classic FM, thanks to my time with the KES/KEHS Symphony Orchestra... but that's for another story...

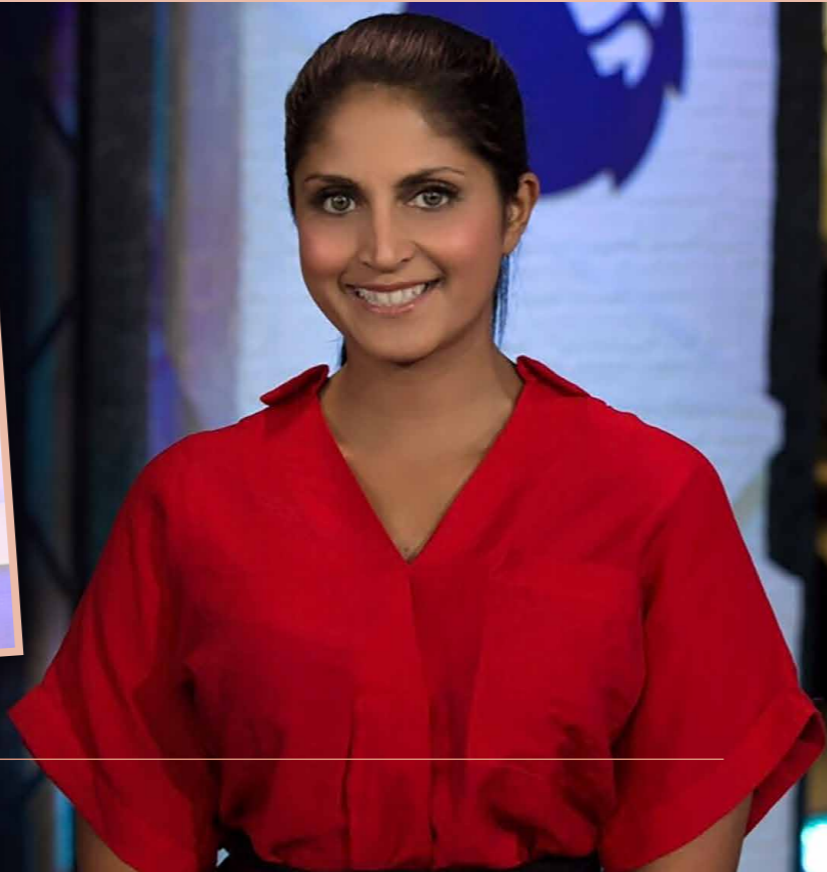
Karthi Gnanasegaram – an 'Old Ed'



*Images (L-R) Karthi with... Roger Federer at the US Open
Carlos Alcaraz at Wimbledon • Serena Williams at the US Open*



*Karthi with Thierry Henry
at Twickenham*



Lucy, colleagues and athletes at the Games!

Lucy MacDonald

Even at primary school I was hyper active and had to be on the move all of the time. Swimming and netball were my first passions - playing for the school, county and Midland squads. I knew that sport and activity would need to be an integral part of my career options, as your job needs to be something that you enjoy - hence Physiotherapy. There definitely is a lot of moving involved and you get to wear tracksuit-bottoms and a polo shirt!

I have worked for the NHS, private healthcare companies and British swimming/diving and England netball. More recently I was venue medical manager at the aquatics centre at the Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games. What an achievement and experience; my sport and, more importantly, my city!

I now (as I get older) understand and appreciate the more holistic benefits of sport and exercise. It isn't just about winning (although that will always be important for me!).

It allows social interaction, teamwork, understanding and listening, with added physical and psychological benefits. It helps us to relax, take time out, think and look after ourselves. We can set our own personal goals and work hard to achieve them. Open water swimming is my new passion.

So, for me, sport and exercise mean everything - they are my job, my passion and my mental support. I write this as I head to the London marathon to support all those fabulous runners and get them round the course. A race for some which is a personal goal and for others the opportunity to raise money for some amazing charities. Believe me, if a rhino in high heels can do it, then everyone can have a go and set themselves a challenge! Sport and exercise offer something for everyone and must be an integral part of everyday life. My life revolves around them and will continue in my children.

Lucy MacDonald (née Doggett) – Class of 1997

Ali Hill

In nutrition, it's better to make one small change than to do nothing and I describe this by saying "every marathon starts with the first step". When I think back to my time at KEHS, whilst I'm sure learning happened, this isn't what springs to mind first. My fondest memories revolve around sport - swimming in the summer and hockey in the winter. I wasn't particularly good at anything, but I loved the feeling of playing my own little part of the team's success and the freedom I felt being in the pool. In hindsight, this was my first step, but at the time I had no idea how sport would shape my life. Leaving KEHS, and encouraged by Mr Hopkinson, I went to study plant science at University. I learnt that wine and dark chocolate (in moderation!) can be good for you. From there, it was a natural transition into nutrition. I worked as a swim teacher and triathlon coach, whilst studying for a PhD. One day, at the pool, I realised that I could make a career from combining both of my passions. As a sports nutritionist I have worked with a wide variety of people - everything from those doing their first park run to high performance athletes, and this path has led me to New Zealand, where I currently live. It's been pretty awesome to watch the Tokyo Paralympics and Commonwealth games from Dunedin and see athletes I've worked with over the years win medals.

Outside of a career, I've learnt so much from sport. It's given me resilience and the strength to keep going when life got tough. It's grown my team-working and communication skills. I've learnt how to coach and get the best out of people. I know that to get the best out of me - to calm my mind - I need to be active. Sport has allowed me to travel; to meet new people and new cultures. And I've learnt that you don't have to be good at everything to have an impact - like sport, success in any aspect of life is only possible with the right support team around you.

Sport can break down barriers and change peoples' lives. You only have to think of Euro 2022 or watch an All Blacks match to see how it brings communities together. When we moved to NZ shortly before the pandemic, I started volunteering with regional swimming, as a way to integrate into the community. And as I sit here, waiting for my daughter's ballet lesson to finish, I have to admit - sport really is a game-changer.

Dr Ali Hill (née Fear) - Class of 1999





The Birmingham Commonwealth Games was the first international competition to showcase the 3x3 format for wheelchair basketball



Jules with Perry!



Jules Parke-Robinson

Sport has been a part of my life for as long as I can remember. My passion for sport was ignited by Miss Evans (Games!), whose enthusiasm and support knew no bounds. She inspired me to work hard but enjoy everything sport has to offer, and I was thrilled to spend a few hours catching up with her last Christmas.

Whilst hockey was my first love at school, on arrival at university I discovered rugby. Born in Abergavenny and studying in Aberystwyth, I found myself selected to represent Welsh Students, Wales A and finally Wales. Some international caps and one World Cup later, my Army career took me overseas and I captained the Army Women's XV and played for the Combined Services. I reluctantly hung up my playing boots after my second maternity leave and searched for the next sporting challenge, discovering Obstacle Course Racing, Korean Kick Boxing and Tae Kwan Do! As I retired from the British Army in 2019, I looked for opportunities to blend my skills and experience with my passion for sport. I secured a Non-Executive Director role on the board of British Wheelchair Basketball and soon afterwards was selected as the new Chair.

The last 3 years have been hugely challenging for our sport, with Covid presenting a significant risk for clinically vulnerable players at all levels. Following our return to play in 2021, the Commonwealth Games in Birmingham was the first international competition to showcase the 3x3 format for Wheelchair Basketball.

And better still, on home soil! By interspersing the wheelchair basketball between the running game matches, our athletes had an incredible platform to demonstrate the physical and mental agility required to play at the highest level. The fast and furious pace of the game, coupled with the incredible skill, speed and agility of the athletes, who also must manage the team tactics without a coach courtside, proved to be a fantastic spectacle. This was also a rare occasion for our players to compete as home nations, so watching the fierce contest between England and Scotland women for the bronze medal was both agonising and exciting.

Having moved away from Birmingham in the 90s, it was wonderful to be back in the city to see the mix of familiar and new. The atmosphere was electric and I was fortunate to visit multiple venues, each unique but playing their part in creating a stage for Birmingham to shine.

From a Wheelchair Basketball perspective, the legacy of the games has already had an impact. With 3x3 now confirmed for Victoria 2026 and our Inspire a Generation programme to increase participation in the sport, the Birmingham Commonwealth Games will continue to deliver for many years to come.

One of the most inclusive sports (able bodied players can take part too!), please do get in touch or find out more at www.britishwheelchairbasketball.co.uk.

Jules Parke-Robinson – Class of 1993

Alex Akins

“Come down and give hockey a go.” My first day in a new class, new school, surrounded by people I was too scared to talk to. It was a pretty standard ‘new secondary school’ day, and I had no idea those seven words would influence the rest of my life. I fell in love with the teamwork, the reliance on one another and the individual pursuit of excellence almost immediately, and although not a natural, over the course of my time at KEHS I worked my way up from the C to the A team. I was supported at every turn, and often used training as a release from the sometimes pressure-filled world of academia. I transitioned from being a hockey player to being a football player, a basketballer, dancer, netballer and every other weird and wonderful sport I could get my hands on.

I'd never had the opportunity to do sport before, at any level, and after dipping my toe in the pool (although swimming was ironically something I hated), I had a thirst I couldn't quite quench. Rowing came along soon after Y9, and was the first sport I took seriously, sitting on an erg one day thinking “I want to go to the Olympics” in this. But after a good five years proudly representing the green of KEHS, I hung up my blades and put on my spikes.

Athletics was the sport that stole my heart completely, and the one that finally made me settle down. The beautiful thing about it was that, having tried almost every sport, I knew that it was the one. They say when you know you know, and I knew. I'd found my perfect match. I'm currently studying at Oxford University (doing a degree in French and Modern Greek), training 5-6 times per week with the Blues (the highest honour you can get as a sportswoman at Oxbridge), and working towards an Olympic spot alongside my degree.



The things I've learnt (and am still learning) from sport generally are transferable skills I've applied to all aspects of my life, such as determination and self-motivation, how to work in a team, flexibility, the harmful nature of negative comparison, and so many others, but most importantly I think, how to handle rejection and learning to lose. Sport, like life, isn't easy. There are bumps in the road, some of which I'm still learning to navigate, but knowing that you can get through, realising that not getting something straight away, or maybe even ever isn't the end of the world, and being able to rely on other people, are things I've learnt from the wonderful world of sport, at whatever level.

I've had the opportunity to meet international athletes (I recently volunteered track-side at the Commonwealth Games), to train under world-renowned coaches, to travel to other countries to compete (shout-out to South Africa Sports Tour 2021) and now I get to keep working towards representing a country that feels like home to me, at the highest possible level. It's been a crazy journey so far, and it all truly started at KEHS. So yeah, the next time your friend says “hey, why don't we try [insert sport]?”, maybe you should, you never know where it might lead...

Alex Akins – Class of 2021



Photo: @lissgphotography

Distinguished Old Edwardians

Since its foundation in 1883, KEHS has nurtured the intellects of thousands of bright, young women. In 1964, the BGOEC chose to celebrate the most notable old girls by producing a series of leaflets about Distinguished Old Edwardians. Today, we are carrying on this tradition with nominations from our community.



Muriel Wheldale Onslow Class of 1898

In November 1896 Mrs Sidgwick, the Principal of Newnham College, Cambridge gave the address at the opening of the new King Edward's High School for Girls.

She said: "This enquiring habit of mind, this desire to know... What school ought to do is to stimulate

that curiosity and to lay the foundations of knowledge on which curiosity can build".

Muriel Wheldale may well have been present at this auspicious occasion, sat amongst the Upper Division of the Girls High School who occupied the gallery. Four years later in 1900 she, along with many girls from KEHS, made her way to Cambridge, joining Newnham College.

Muriel was born in Birmingham on 31 March 1880, the only child of John and Fannie Wheldale. Her obituary in Phoenix 1932 gives a glimpse of her time in school, written by her good friend Ethel Hough:

She joined the 7th form in January 1892 "her long curls and pretty Liberty frocks making her noticeable at once."

She was recognised from her early days as one of the clever girls, not one who "suffered fools gladly" but remembered by a younger girl as one of the most friendly and approachable of the "big girls".

She did not take much interest in games or the school societies but her work in science, particularly Botany gained this comment from one of her teachers: "She was ambitious and gifted with an unusual mental grasp and an excellent memory. She had a keen desire for knowledge and never faltered as a student in her earnest efforts to attain it. Her intellectual capacity was much above the average."

At Newnham, Muriel gained First Class Honours in both parts of the Natural Sciences Tripos, specialising in Botany. Perhaps reflecting the all-round education she received at KEHS, Muriel won the English Poem Prize in her second year. "To Colour" was published in Phoenix 1902 and beautifully conveys her love of her subject.

Sadly, she did not receive formal degree status as Cambridge did not award degrees to women until 1948.

She became a Bathurst Student in 1903, working with geneticist William Bateson as part of his (mainly female) research group. Her main focus was the inheritance of flower colour, particularly in snapdragons (*Antirrhinum majus*). Bateson had found that snapdragon flower colour did not follow the pattern of inheritance in the same way as other species. Muriel worked for four years, cross pollinating selected flowers by hand, sowing the seeds and observing the results. Her research was widely recognised and her publication *Antirrhinum* in 1907 contained a full factorial analysis of her labours.

Bateson said of her work: "the problem of colour inheritance which she set out to solve, proved to be far more complex than was expected, and the solution she proposed is entirely her own work. There is every reason to believe that it is correct, and I regard the paper as one of considerable value."

Muriel became assistant lecturer in Botany at Newnham in 1906 and she received a Fellowship in 1909. Her ambition, however, was to study genetics in its biochemical aspect which she did at Frederick Gowland Hopkins' Biochemical Laboratories, Cambridge from 1914. In 1916 she published "The anthocyanin pigments of plants", which established her reputation at home and abroad as one of the first scientists to visualise and attempt to obtain a chemical interpretation of genetical data.

Her work continued in Cambridge and through it she met her husband, Huia Onslow, whom she married in 1919. He too was a fêted scientist despite being paralysed from the waist down following an accident in his youth. It is recorded that they worked well together - Muriel began to concentrate on the role of amino acids in germinating seedlings and helped Huia with his research, particularly on the origins of the iridescence of some butterflies, moths, and beetles. Sadly, Huia died just three years later. Clearly, she was devoted to him and published Huia Onslow: A Memoir in 1924.

In 1926 Muriel became one of the first women to hold the rank of University Lecturer in Cambridge, her subject, of course, being Biochemistry. This led her to write *Practical Plant Biochemistry* 1920 (still in print today) and *Principles of Plant Biochemistry* Vol 1 in 1931. Sadly, she died aged just 52 in 1932, before she had finished the second volume.

Despite her early death, Muriel's influence lived on. She persuaded one of her students Rose Scott-Moncrieff to continue to work on the isolation of pigments which had so fascinated her in 1914.

Her work was included in a BBC series *Botany: A Blooming History*, first shown in 2012 but a clip about Muriel can still be found on iPlayer and another on YouTube – definitely worth a look at.

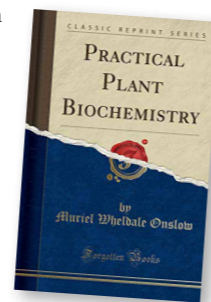
In 2010 the Royal Institution in England put on a play called *Blooming Snapdragons* about female biochemists of the early 20th century – one of whom was Muriel. This too can be found on the internet.

Not only was she a gifted scientist, her artistic skills extended to poetry and watercolours and she was regarded as a top botanical artist amongst her scientific colleagues.

Ethel Hough, who kept in touch with Muriel, concluded her memories by saying:

"It seemed to me that Muriel's character mellowed during these later years, and that as she matured, she developed not only into a woman whose scientific work was known and appreciated by a wide circle, but into a very lovable personality."

Annette Duffy and Cas Britton



Karen Bailey Class of 1981

Karen is the Principal Solicitor of Bailey Wright & Co. Solicitors. The award-winning firm specialises in Education, Employment and Children Law.

Had anyone told me while I was at school that I would be running my own firm, I would not have believed them, any more than I believed that I could be an astronaut or a submarine captain.

I have good memories of school, as much for the social and extra-curricular activities as for the academic aspects. Although there were only two people of colour in my year – me and Indira – there were people of various ethnicities or with experience of diverse cultures. We embraced these differences by having cake sales and events that gave excuses for us to offer foods from various countries and continents. Our form assemblies dealt with issues such as racism and included reggae music where possible. My best friends from school are still my best friends now.

It was clear that our teachers cared about their subjects and about bringing out the best in us. My love of English flourished under excellent tuition. The encouragement to read newspapers increased my general knowledge significantly. I still try to keep my sentences short, like Jane Austen. I encourage staff members to read widely every day, in addition to their legal reading.

I recognised what a privilege it was to be at a school with the facilities and calibre of teaching with which KEHS is blessed. I got much out of it and could have got more. People will say that school days are the best days of your life. I believe that all of your life is what you make it, but you should try and get as much as possible out of the learning opportunities that school provides, whether you enjoy it or not. I certainly wish that I had worked harder at school, as it is a good habit to acquire, but I am also glad that I took time out to enjoy myself as it is important to have a balance.

I left KEHS in 1981, having decided to study Law at university. I chose Law as I had heard it described as a discipline, something which I had been told that I needed more of. I was bolstered in my decision by a completely unrepresentative day of work experience, which comprised a morning in the magistrates' court and the afternoon in a wine bar drinking coffee and eating chocolate cake.

It was not long before I found out that there was more to legal practice than coffee and cake, but my interest in the subject and further work experience only increased my interest. I therefore decided to become a solicitor. I joined the firm at which I had that first day's work experience as a trainee, qualified there and at 27 became the youngest of 18 partners.

Life changing events when I was 30, including my mother's death, made me see things differently and led to the decision to set up my own firm. In June 1996 I became the first African-Caribbean woman to establish a firm in Birmingham city centre.

I have found the business extremely rewarding and have been able to have influence in so many ways. As well as individual cases, that change peoples' lives, we have had other cases that have changed the law.

My most high-profile case to date involved a member of the international peace keeping task force who was deployed in Bosnia after the war there. She was dismissed for highlighting the fact that members of the international peace keeping task force were trafficking women and children in Bosnia. We won her application to the industrial tribunal for unfair dismissal.

The story formed the basis of the award-winning film, *The Whistleblower*, starring Rachel Weiss, Vanessa Redgrave, and Benedict Cumberbatch. Sadly, it did not feature the lawyers, but we were mentioned in the book. The film is still used in international forums to highlight the abuse of vulnerable women and children in war torn communities.

During the firm's lifetime, it has been a privilege to offer work experience and training to many who have gone on to become lawyers or successful in other spheres, having realised that a legal profession is not for them. I have also collaborated with the Solicitors Regulation Authority in developing an Equal Opportunities Toolkit for solicitors.

So, what have I learnt? Play to your strengths. Doing the subjects that you enjoy will not only make you happier, but you are also likely to be better at them. That is why my firm specialises in the three areas of law that it does.

Whatever career you have, you are going to have to work hard so it is best to get into good habits as early as possible:

- Don't forget to take breaks and enjoy yourself.
- No matter how terrible things seem they can get better – really!
- Do not be afraid of failure, but just try not to make a habit of it, learn from your mistakes and put that learning into practice.
- Great grades give you choices (mine were average), but it is about so much more than that, use the opportunity to develop wider social skills and emotional intelligence.
- Be true to yourself, you are in work for a long time, so think about what kind of career environment will enable you to flourish. If something is making you really unhappy, change it.
- There are boring and difficult aspects to even the best job, you have to deal with those to savour the good bits and get even better at what you do.
- Never think that you are too small or insignificant to make a difference. Even if you think this, try anyway.

I hope that your school days are good, but they do not have to be the best days of your life, I hope those are yet to come.

Karen Bailey – Class of 1981



Karen was a 1981 recipient of The Creak Memorial prize

‘All The World’s a Stage’ or ‘It Was Ever Thus’

As the adjoining poem from Phoenix 1914 shows, KEHS has always managed change and new ideas in its history. The enthusiastic Third to the Upper 6th student may have a different uniform, hairstyles and lengths of skirts, but they all turn into ‘Old Edwardians’.

The earliest members of the BGOEC were pioneers of their time from the 1880s and always looking ‘Forward’; Birmingham’s motto. They have always been open and receptive to new ideas and resilient in changing times.

And so, it is with the School’s precious archives: written records; our beloved Phoenix; artefacts; old Entrance exam papers and answers; photographs and those various items of uniform, especially the bloomers!

From the work of Margaret Pugh in particular, instrumental in obtaining an Old Girl’s Room in the school building, she fulfilled Miss Major’s idea that Old Eds should remain at the ‘heart of the school.’ This has come full circle, as the ‘Old Eds Room’ is now on the main hall stage situated in the ‘heart of the school’. Miss Major was wise enough to realise ‘that a school owed its reputation not so much to the present girls as those of the past; that had gone out into the world bearing with them influences which would last till life should end.’

It has been accepted and applauded that the much-needed provision of a SEND room for some students, which will enhance their wellbeing and education, had to make use of the space that the Old Girls’ Room could offer.

The BGOEC has experienced many problems since its inception in 1889 and Old Eds have always continued their work and support of school as policies and circumstances have changed. And what of the school’s unique collection of a great variety of archives? These don’t just include formal records of ‘useful but boring meetings,’ but lively and enjoyable events and activities, where they play a central role. One wonderful tradition re-introduced by the Principal, Mrs Kirsty von Malaisé, includes the House System. The House names remain the same as when they were introduced by Miss Major in 1912. New House competitions continue to develop and pupils wear their House badges with pride again. Miss Pugh, who donated many cups for House Competitions, would be delighted to see this and we look forward to seeing what new competitions the House System will include as this century moves on. Neither can we ever ignore the Creak Memorial Prize, still an important symbol, of giving thanks to particular senior students ‘who by their character and general worth have best served the school.’ Again, this was instigated by Miss Major, from 1919 until now, in memory of the first Headmistress, Miss Creak.

The Old Eds’ Committee now has the task of reinventing the archive space on the Hall Stage, whilst working towards future events and preserving our heritage. We are indebted to the Foundation Archivist, Charlotte Gallant, for her empathy, commitment and ‘rolling up her sleeves’ to help us move on and continue to make our archives relevant and fascinating to present times and events.

We are not daunted; ‘it was ever thus.’ We are now looking forward to future landmarks, particularly the 140th Anniversary of the opening of the school in September 1883. Previous exhibitions of the school’s Centenary, 125th and 130th Anniversaries, have all shown what a rich heritage we continue to pass on to present and future generations. It goes without saying that Old Eds are not only our School’s past and present, but an integral part of our future. Visitors at Open Days and other events and Junior Forms have long been able to view many kinds of resources and enjoy ‘Living History’ lessons!

But don’t just take our word for it, from ‘old’ Old Edwardians. A few years ago, with a vibrant Archives Club of senior students, we organised and maintained our wide variety of archives, and made great strides. Now in their 20’s, with fresh careers or continued academic studies, they have comments to make on the value, continued importance of our school’s treasures and how much we can learn, enjoy and laugh at some of them, in particular some styles of PE uniform!

We always appreciate your views, ideas and donations of archives, which can only add to the valuable resources we already hold, with gratitude, in your names. We may have moved from our beloved room, to a rather different venue at the present time, but The BGOEC continues to maintain our unique history and ‘living’ archives and we are excited to be already working on ideas and supporting School, as together we plan for the 140th Anniversary of KEHS. We continue working with Mrs von Malaisé and the Development Office, to arrange events and activities and plan for the school’s next landmark in its history.

If you would like to get in touch with us, contribute ideas and even join the Committee, please contact the Development Office by phone: 0121 415 2245 or email: oldeds@kehs.org.uk

Annette Duffy and Cas Britton

The Seven Ages of the Edwardian

All the school’s a stage
And all the many pupils merely players:
They have their exits and their entrances,
And one girl in her time plays many parts,
Her acts being seven ages. At first the entrance -
The candidate all timid and aghast.
And then the nervous new girl, with her satchel
And shining pencil box, creeping like snail
Unwillingly to school. Then in the twelfth,
Sighing like furnace o’er her woeful homework,
Done at her mistress’ order. Then the player,
Full of strange slang and armed with hefty stick-
Eager in netball, sudden and quick in hockey,
Seeking the bubble reputation
Despite disfiguring bumps. Then i’ the Middle School
In longer skirts she walks with dignity,
With eyes severe and plaits of formal cut,
Full of wise saws and modern Instances:
And so she plays her part. The sixth age shifts
Into tall and stately Upper School,
With spectacles on nose, satchel at side,
With weighty tomes of learning, wonderous dry:
For dread Martric: or C.H.L looms near
And awes the soul; each with deep, solemn voice
Murmurs anon timeo,
Helas, J’ai penr - what erst I know quite well
Is mere oblivion. Last scene of all,
That ends this strange eventful history,
Is Speech Day and Farewell - and after then
The “present” is an “Old Edwardian.”



Gym garments



Reunion of 2016

Thoughts from the Archives Club...

Annette and Cas spoke to the ‘younger’ Old Edwardians from the Archives Club and they share their views here on the importance and value of preserving our treasured archives. They too, have that undaunted spirit and sense of enjoyment and fun in showing how our unique collection brings past, present and future together in the story of the BGOEC and KEHS.

“Being a member of Archives Club was a wonderful experience; I always found it exciting to be involved in preserving the history of the school. I think being a KEHS girl becomes an inevitable part of your identity once you leave, so having had access to photos and articles from previous pupils’ decades before, really puts you in tune with the legacy that the school has left and of which you are a part.

The hint of challenge that came with archives was a really fun one; there’s a lot more detective work than you’d anticipate. Piecing together events and articles, trying to establish when they happened, what was happening; it’s a great puzzle to find the bits that fit and tie those pieces of history together. It also felt good knowing that the next person wouldn’t have to go through so much trouble to learn about it!

The Old Girls’ Room was always a little time capsule in itself, filled with school lives, thoughts, and ideas of so many interesting and enthusiastic ladies. It was fantastic to have the opportunity to experience KEHS past and be part of keeping those stories alive.”

Lydia (OE - 2018) *1st Class Hons in Psychology, Glasgow; going on to doctorate at Caledonian, Glasgow.*

“My involvement with the Phoenix magazine and Archives Club was a real turning point for me in my time at KEHS. I have such fond memories of discovering the Archives Room with Mrs Britton, and spending a whole summer working to sort through the dusty old items and restore some order to the beautiful room. Being part of the genesis of Archives Club was such a special experience for me personally, that I was creating something new by discovering the old; and on a wider scale of preserving such cherished items that were on the brink of being lost.

When the anniversary of World War 1 arrived, Archives Club steamed ahead into the forefront of our school effort to discover our history - particularly the personal connections of the school and its alumnae with the war effort. This was a real source of pride for myself and others involved, as the things we were discovering on a Wednesday lunch would often make it into the next week’s Assembly, as we celebrated another historic anniversary. I cannot state the unique beauty of the Club, and more particularly, the room itself as such a rare treasure for a school to have.”

Zahrah (OE - 2016) *Dental Student, Birmingham University.*

“I loved being a member of Archives Club during my time at school. Finding things from past copies of the Phoenix magazine, to pieces of old uniform, really made me feel like I am part of a huge KEHS family, knowing that things such as my old photos are going to be there for future girls to see what the class of 2018 was like. It was particularly rewarding for me, as my mother was in the class of 1996, so I always made sure to find little snippets with her in, so I could see what her time at KEHS would have been like.

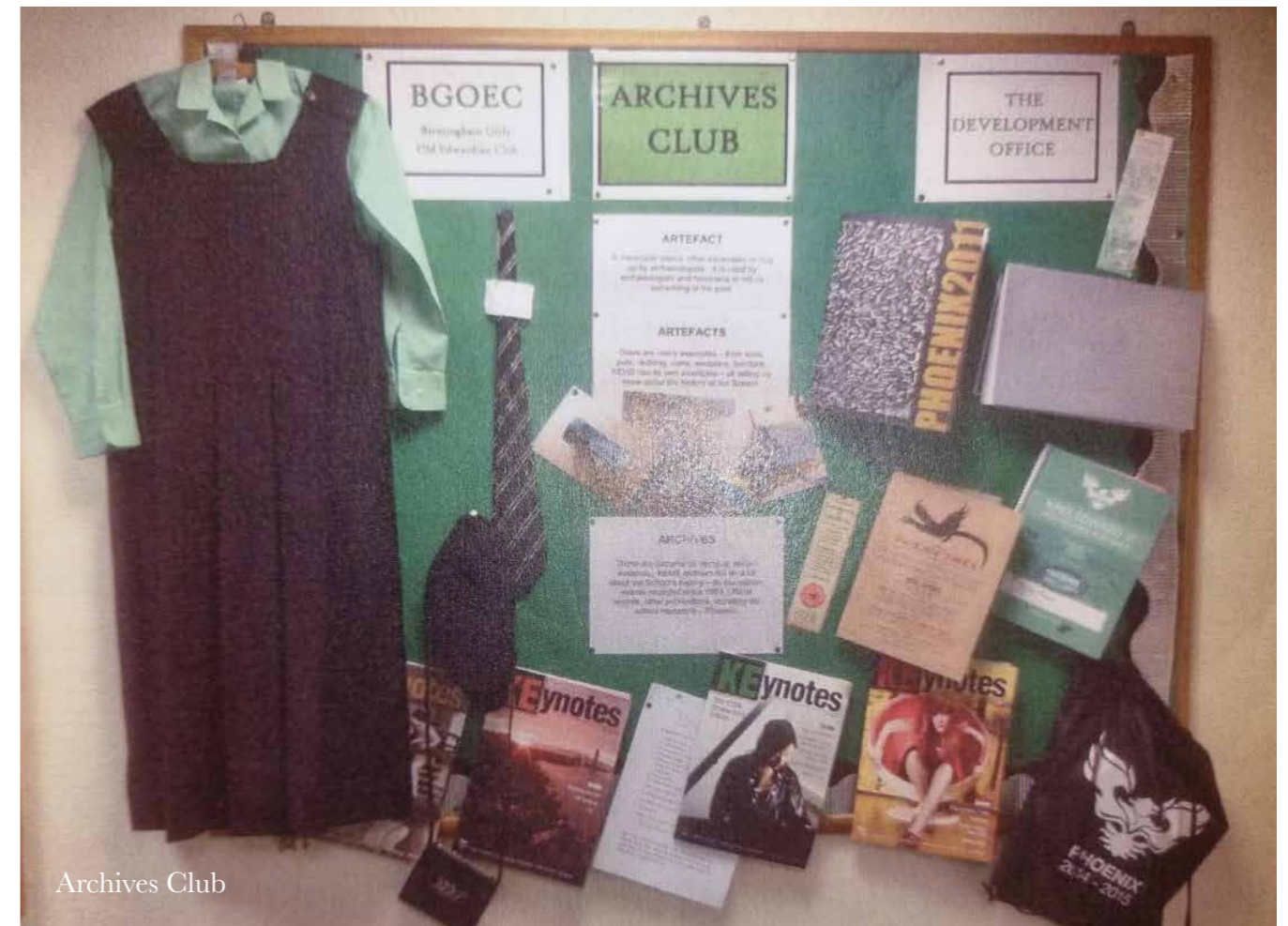
My favourite part was looking at old copies of the Phoenix magazine, and reading them, knowing that KEHS girls have always had that sharp sense of humour. The room itself was beautiful and I always felt so special going in there, especially as I had always seen the door on the Classics stairs without knowing what treasures were lurking behind.”

Millie (OE - 2018) *1st Class Degree, French and Linguistics, York; currently doing Masters in Forensic Linguistics, Aston*

“My time in the Archives Room started as sessions spent rummaging through old documents and photographs during lunchtimes with my Upper Fifth friends. We would be on our knees flipping through piles of paper, sorting them into categories such as ‘Arts’ and ‘Sports’, pausing now and then to query about some little discovery we had made about the school, from whatever document that had caught our attention.

Later, I would be showing visitors around the room on Open Days. I think the connection I tried to make in my ‘spiels’ for the parents was that these artefacts which showed how the school evolved also showed how much of the school’s identity had in some ways stayed the same. These archives showed that KEHS had long had its present spiritedness and sense of community, and that the girls who join the school follow, and continue, a long tradition of incredible women who came in and achieved great things, whilst having a bit of fun too.”

Jieyi (OE - 2018) *BA Music, Durham; PGCE; 1st Teaching Post, Birmingham.*



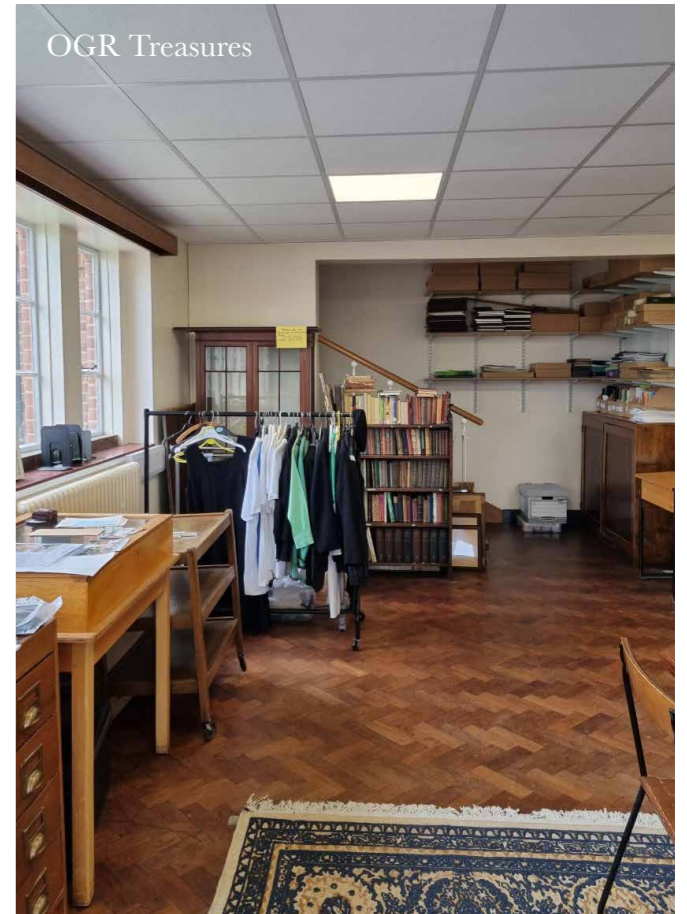
Archives Club

“I was part of the Archives Club over the summer of 2015, having worked for a few days then with some friends from my ‘A’ Level History group. All of us were shocked to find the treasure trove of all sorts of KEHS related memorabilia from generations past, hidden in the building we’d frequented almost daily for the previous six years.

Sorting through old Phoenix magazines proved to be a heartening task, realising that there were many common experiences shared among all KEHS girls, whether leaving in 2016 or 1916. Nevertheless, it was the collection of old KEHS clothing which proved to be a particular highlight. Ranging from old blouses and jumpers, to a gym pinafore, beret and a fetching two-piece sports outfit. Much entertainment was subsequently provided to our friends as they watched us very awkwardly exhibit a range of mid-20th century uniform and gym wear during a whole School Assembly about our work.

I returned as an Old Ed over the summer of 2022 to help sort through some items and once again I found myself spending more time looking at items than sorting through them (I had a great time catching up on school gossip via the Phoenix magazines that had been created since I left). As a school with such a long and distinguished history, it’s always a pleasure to gain more insight into the memories and experiences of the very many pupils that came before my time at KEHS and - now almost seven years since I left - some of those who have followed too.”

Kitty (OE - 2016) *History, Durham; MSc Oxford; PDGE; 1st Teaching Post, near London.*



TuneUp

TuneUp




TuneUp is an education initiative set up by KEHS in September 2020 in response to the impact Covid 19 was having on the long-term future of the arts.

Our initial aim was to create an exciting day of activities for KEHS students, celebrating the power of the arts to uplift and unite communities and advertise the wealth of exciting careers in the industry at a time when it was being labelled as ‘unviable’ and ballet dancers were encouraged to retrain in cyber security!

Our idea quickly mushroomed out of control and with a small team, eight weeks and very little budget we were able to build something really meaningful. With support from friends and colleagues in the arts we created a range of free resources donated from grassroots contributors to household names like Darcey Bussell, Rankin, Giles Terrera, Emma Rice, Michael Grandage, Alex Lacamire, Greg Davies, Adil Ray and our appointed patrons Dame Evelyn Glennie and James Graham OBE.

Relying on schools’ networks like the Girls’ Schools Association (GSA) and The Association of School and College Leaders (ASCL) to help spread the word, it very soon was clear that ‘TuneUp Tuesday’ was striking a chord. By the day itself we had over 440 schools worldwide who had signed up to be part of this free, online arts celebration which offered resources in three streams:

Upskill: a suite of arts activity videos, designed for teachers to use with live or online classes, learning new skills & inspiring creativity.

Upcoming: a library of careers talks from across the sector, proving the arts are vibrant, vital and viable.

Uplift: giving schools access to professional performance recordings to immerse children in the power of collective arts. Contributors included Vamos Theatre, Shakespeare’s Globe and Frantic Assembly.

Since then, we’ve continued to grow, including adding **StepUp** - a stream of advice about further arts education. We now partner with over 600 schools, including 8% of all UK state secondaries, and are being guided by a steering group of Teenage Arts Ambassadors.

Most recently TuneUp has been involved in the Birmingham 2022 Festival as part of the Commonwealth Games. Our project ‘Culture in Common’ was generously funded by Birmingham City Council and built close working relationships with six Birmingham state schools who were our core participants for this project.

Our ‘Culture in Common’ project aimed to do three things:

1. To bring school communities and artists together to co-create six new artworks that celebrate Birmingham’s diversity.
2. To provide highly creative experiences that positively impact on all the young people involved and explore ways in which creativity and culture can be embedded into children’s development.
3. To create and facilitate functional partnerships between schools and local artists for their mutual benefit.

Over 185 Birmingham school children from six schools participated in a selection of 26 workshops run by our artists. With guidance from our 20 Arts Ambassadors (chosen from schools within the King Edwards Foundation Academy Trust), six pieces of artwork were created and shared with the school communities and our wider online TuneUp network.

Our Midlands-based artists were from a wide range of mediums; theatre, visual art, sound design, dance, performance poetry and photography, allowing young people to learn creative expression through a variety of media. This enabled us to produce artwork that was ambitious in its scope and offered our school children inventive and creative ways to explore where they live, showcasing real diversity through their views on culture and community. From sonic postcards, immersive art installations, masked theatre, break dance battles, photography exhibitions & spoken word performances came an uplifting and exciting snapshot of young Brummie life in 2022.

All six strands of our project introduced young people to new skills and helped them build confidence in their own creative abilities.

Northfield School for Girls were proud of their achievements in the performance poetry strand:

‘The film is wonderful- I have shared with the pupils and colleagues at my school. A very proud moment for our school community... all pupils involved have been wonderfully creative, enthusiastic and done our school proud. They don’t give medals for poetry, but if they did, ours would all be gold medallists!’

D. Marchese-Fry, lead teacher, Northfield School for Girls.

Students at Bordesley Green School for Girls engaged really well with the project:

‘I saw some of the pupils at the end of the day and they were still buzzing from the workshop. They said they enjoyed it so much, felt like they have learnt loads and one said she can’t wait for her holiday as she’s going to take so many photos now. It was such a good experience for them and really allowed them to think creatively and explore their ideas.’

C. Neep, lead teacher, Bordesley Green School for Girls.

For our Arts Ambassadors this project has helped develop confident, creative and engaged young arts leaders who feel inspired and empowered to serve their local communities. Whilst many spoke of a new found confidence leading younger students, one particular Ambassador is now seriously considering a career in teaching and has arranged extra work experience with his partner school.

We hope this project is the beginning of many more Education Outreach Partnerships between local schools, artists and TuneUp, helping us reach the right children with the right resources.

TuneUp will now be exploring ways in which we can develop the Arts Ambassador programme as a model for schools’ arts outreach and eventually create a nationwide training programme that gives 16-17 year olds the opportunity to train as arts leaders, developing a programme that has multiple benefits to local communities.

This project has been an uplifting and exhausting experience but one that has taught us so much about the power that the arts has to inspire and engage young people.

Hannah Proops,
Director of Drama, Creative Director of TuneUp, KEHS



Gemma was a show stealer... her defining moment was undoubtedly her wonderful rendition of 'Take a Chance on Me', full of warmth and charm and wit, in equal measure.



MAMMA MIA!

On 18 November 2021, almost half of the class formerly, affectionately, and forever known as 3B, gathered together in London after 23 years to watch one of our very own, Ms Gemma Goggin, tread the boards on a West End stage.

Many of us had hardly spoken since school, save for perhaps the odd add on Facebook or occasionally crossing paths IRL. The news that Gemma was to star as Rosie in Mamma Mia! as the world of live theatre slowly unfurled itself post-Covid was the only nudge we needed to set up a WhatsApp group and instantly start chatting like no time at all had passed.

We quickly settled on a date and plan to do the show followed by dinner. The day rolled around with much anticipation and excitement from everyone attending. Sadly, a couple of people were unable to make the day (and trust me, you were very much missed), but a good gang of us turned up. I think we all felt nervous. So much life has happened in the past two decades and our experiences had undoubtedly changed all of us. Yes, we were older, wiser, maybe a few fine lines, but we were still those girls of 3B who met at the age of 11. We have carried those transformative years at KEHS with us for a generation and it was a joy to be with a group of girls who know the root of you.

A few of us met for a drink in Covent Garden before joining everyone else at the Novello Theatre. Covid and masking was still very much on everyone's minds and whilst our instincts might have been to hug, and minimise the gaping expansion of time that had formed over the intervening years, we had to check with each other whether that was okay. Slightly awkward greeting over and having queued up with our vaccination passports and tickets to gain entry, we headed to Sam's bar for a couple of cheeky Proseccos and the conversation began to flow along with the bubbles. We giddily took our seats and settled back to enjoy the performance.

Gemma was a show stealer. We laughed hardest at her lines and applauded loudly when she sang. Her defining moment was undoubtedly her wonderful rendition of 'Take a Chance on Me' – full of warmth and charm and wit – in equal measure. After the show, Gemma joined us for dinner where we regaled tales of our times at school together, perfectly recounting everyone on the class register in number order, and caught up on 23 years of news and all our defining moments since leaving school in 1998. We bade adieu to Gem as she still had her evening show to do! As we said our goodbyes, we promised to do this again. Get-togethers like this can be so hard to organise, but it was worth it on so many levels. It was a very special evening.

A number of years ago, when we were still starry-eyed young things in our twenties and Gemma had not long graduated from LAMDA, I remember talking with Gem about her career and determination to pursue acting. It's a tough gig and so few make it and truly break through, but when something is your passion, it's your instinct to chase it. It's like breathing. Gemma fervently believed that her time would come. In her twenties she was too young to play the roles she was destined for: the older character-driven roles. Fully-grown women, who have lived a life and lived to tell the tale – battles scars on full display. As a role, Rosie is perfection for Gemma. She brings her undeniable humour and knack for comic timing and innuendo, as well as her phenomenal voice and incredible depth of emotion, making the part truly her own. We were all so so proud of our mega star, living her dream.

Katie Davies *Class of 1998*

Development News

The Development Office is here to keep you connected with the school, providing opportunities for you to revisit and reunite with your peers. We are always delighted to welcome you back.



(L-R) Oliver, Debbie, Adelaide, Gary and Laura

I write to you partly to introduce myself but also to update you on the wonderful things that have been happening in Development over the past twelve months.



Ruari, Lottie and Adelaide

In January I took up the role of Head of Development, although currently I am covering for our Development Director, Adelaide Bailey (OE 2007) who went on maternity leave in May. I am sure many of you who know Adelaide will join me in congratulating her on the arrival of Lottie on 3 June! We look forward to welcoming her back next year. I would also like to welcome and introduce some new staff to you, as well as our existing staff. New to the team is Debbie Macleod who started with us this term as Alumnae Relations Officer

(having formerly been PA to the Principal) and Oliver Friend, who is our Finance Manager and started in November 2021. Gary Williams remains one of our longest standing members of staff as our Database Manager, having been with us for nearly eight years.

One of the most enjoyable parts of my role is talking to you, our alumnae, to hear about your connection to the school, how it shaped you and the memories you have here. I'm inspired by stories of career paths, friendships and marriages that were created here. Everyone's story is different – but there is a shared connection.

For those who are able to support the school financially I thank you for your support. Your generosity allows others the opportunity to walk through our doors. I am passionate about access to education and our goal remains to provide unique opportunities to bright young pupils, regardless of their circumstances.

I am always delighted to hear from any alumnae who are interested to know more about how to support the development of the school and to ensure that no pupils are denied the chance to fulfil their potential.

One of the ways we raise funds for our Assisted Places is through the summer annual telephone campaign. As the school finished for the summer a small team of current pupils got started; two days of training and some software familiarisation and then the girls were on the phones. They had numerous fun and interesting conversations with you all, sharing memories, and career advice along the way - I hope that those who were called enjoyed the call as much as our pupils did. One of the elements to the call is to raise funds for our Assisted Places Fund and I am delighted to tell you that thanks to your help, we raised over £30,000 to support this fund - thank you. It was so inspiring to hear that many of you believe in what we are trying to achieve.



I look forward to meeting many more of you at our events during the coming months.

Laura Salt

REMEMBERING

QUEEN ELIZABETH II



Joan Hall

When I was almost six years old, home for lunch from primary school, I heard on the radio that King George VI had died. Suddenly the popular Princess Elizabeth had become Queen. I remember feeling very excited in June 1953, the following year, when so many neighbours piled into our house to watch the coronation being televised; we were one of the few families in Sutton Coldfield who owned a television set.

The only time I saw Queen Elizabeth II in person was on August 3, 1957. She was paying a visit to the Jubilee Jamboree in Sutton Park, where boy scouts from all over the world had gathered to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the founding of the Scouting movement. At 11 years old (shortly before I began to attend KEHS), I was thrilled to discover that the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh (Prince Philip) would be driving right past our house! That afternoon crowds lined both sides of our street, Chester Road. To celebrate the occasion, we held up small union jack flags. I stood with my family and my best friend Madeleine, waiting impatiently for the open-air car carrying the Queen and her consort to appear. My mother wrote in her diary for August 3rd that it was a "wonderful, hot day" and that finally "they drove slowly past our house on the way back to the airfield, soon after 6 P.M."

As she'd only been on the throne for about four years, Queen Elizabeth hadn't yet developed the charisma and gravitas of her later years; still, we sensed something special about the young monarch. It was a day to remember!

Joan Hall (née Lord) – Class of 64

Rosalind Campbell

I joined KEHS in September 1953 as a Foundation Scholar and my name then was Rosalind Price. I was fortunate to have the privilege of being in Big School for the visit of Her Majesty. We were seated at the front before all the boys and had a good view of this beautiful Queen and her handsome husband. I think the Head boy gave a Loyal Address and there was tremendous applause. The memory has stayed with me even though I have had other occasions to see her close to. I left in 1960 to cross the road to Birmingham University to study chemistry and geology, inspired by the teaching of Dr Way.

Rosalind Campbell (née Price) Class of 1960



The Queen's visit to KEHS in 1955

Pauline Pearson

The death of Queen Elizabeth II has prompted me to share my experience of Coronation Day 2nd June 1953. My father was a Scout leader at the time and the Boy Scouts Association was allocated 25 pairs of tickets for seats in a stand on the Coronation route. A nationwide ballot was arranged and, to my great excitement, my father won two tickets for a stand on the edge of Green Park in Piccadilly. I was nine years old at the time and had only been to London once before – to the Festival of Britain – so to go to London again and this time see the Queen herself on her Coronation Day was beyond my wildest dreams! My Mum, Dad and I travelled to London the day before to stay with friends. My Mum stayed behind on the day to watch on the friends' newly-acquired television. I remember getting up and leaving the house in the dark because we had to travel into London by tube and be in our seats by 7am! It was indeed a very wet and cold day and, looking back, it was very brave of my father to elect to look after a fidgety 9-year-old in such circumstances. I remember him having to take me out to the back of the stands to be sick at one point, such was the level of excitement! We heard the service itself over the loudspeakers until finally the procession came by about 3 in the afternoon. My father took many small black and white photos which mainly show carriages and marching. I do remember the colour of it all, with all the Commonwealth contingents marching past first and then their Heads of State. Then came the Prime Ministers with Winston Churchill, who got a huge cheer, of course. Finally, the Queen and Prince Phillip appeared in the golden coach, which was completely magical to me and a treasured memory after all these years.

Two years later, in 1955, the Queen and Prince Philip visited King Edward's School in Edgbaston. I was in my first year at KEHS next door and was able to see them at close quarters as they walked past us in the shared grounds of both schools.

By the time of the Queen's visit to the school, my father, Chris Dodds, was a biology master at KES (1953-1977) and many years later the new Biology lab was named for him and there is a memorial tree in the grounds of KES. My mother, Doris Dodds, also did some part-time biology teaching at KEHS when I was there. Carrying on the family tradition, my son attended KES 1986-93.

Pauline Pearson (née Dodds) Class of 1962



Leonie Adams

My chamber music group The Dionysus Ensemble who are formally attached to the Commonwealth were invited to perform at the Commonwealth Day Service which was broadcast live from Westminster Abbey by the BBC on March 11th 2019.

Her Majesty the Queen was joined by senior members of the Royal Family to lead a service of celebration for Commonwealth Day with heads of state from all 53 member nations. Our quintet, (violin, viola, cello, harp and flute) performed music pre ceremony and for the Flag Procession. We also accompanied the Commonwealth Youth Choir for their songs in another wonderful youth music collaboration.

As our cellist, I was presented to The Queen and senior members of the Royal Family and Government at the end of the service at the request of The Palace.

Léonie Adams, Class of 1999

Ruth Reinstein

The Queen visited the University of Birmingham (just across the road from KEHS) in 1963.

I was in L4 and we were all sent out to stand in front of the Barber Institute with paper flags and wave. I'm not sure if the whole school was involved or just the younger years. I do remember standing for a while in lovely sunshine, making a lot of noise and feeling thrilled to be missing lessons.

The royal cars probably drove past, but I don't really remember!

Ruth Reinstein, Class of 1968

Old Edwardians' News

1940s



Barbara Colley (née Smith) 1941-47

During the last planting seasons of Spring and Autumn in 2021, I had been collating the tree-planting that has taken place in the village of Bolton-le-Sands near Carnforth. The aim was to plant saplings to match the number of children attending the local primary school - 310. This was achieved, including a further order for a free pack from the Woodland Trust for Spring 2022. For all this I have had the support of the Parish Council, including a small grant towards the order I placed as well as sponsorship from the nearby garden centre, and hope that the school may also contribute childrens' drawings of trees to be exhibited in the library and community hall.

Having now been approached by the Kirkgate Centre in Cockermouth about providing information about the arts facility my husband and I rescued, twenty years ago, I intend to produce a PowerPoint presentation on the three years it took to acquire, restore and convert it to the volunteer-run facility it is today. This may increase awareness of the project and raise money too. The near derelict All Saints' School had been tied to a district valuation, taking into account all it would cost, enabling us to acquire it at the time for the princely sum of £5!

1950s



Angela Clayton-Turner (née Rubery) Class of 1957

Life is much the same as last year with the addition of some theatre going and reduction in mask wearing! Something new is that I now run a Facebook page called the Bromley Dementia Friendly Community Group. I've also got in to zooming in a big way. I have now organised the first one for those of us in my physio training set who are still alive! It is happening this month. Two of the set live at opposite ends of Canada (West and East) so they have a time difference themselves as well as with us in England.

Eva Lawrence (née Ney) Class of 1952

Family history is my main interest and hobby these days. It keeps my brain ticking over when meeting people in person is difficult. One of the most fashionable tools for finding relatives is provided by websites which match one's DNA.

Last year I was contacted by a researcher who had been matched to me and also to several other relatives of mine. I'd never heard of her, nor had she of me, but we were able to establish the name of a common ancestor, my 4x great-grandfather. The researcher lived in the USA but had a sister living in England, whom she was planning to visit. After some hesitation, and against advice, I invited her and her sister to come for lunch. The meeting was most enjoyable, because they turned out to be extremely interesting people. However, we still haven't worked out quite which of my 3x great-grandmother's ten siblings were responsible for this connection!

1960s



Katherine Brandle (née Osborne) Class of 1969

In retirement I have been able to concentrate on my hobby - lacemaking. I was delighted to be awarded two prizes in the Lace Guild triennial exhibition, theme 'Commonwealth', held at the Glass Centre in Stourbridge.

Ruth Coppard (née Reinstein) Class of 1968

Google thinks I have been to India - twice this year. I haven't, but I have been to visit my daughter and family in Cairo and to my small house in Puglia!

In order to do this, I continue to work as an Ed Psych in the UK. I am lucky to have found a job I have enjoyed forever; I'm still learning and still feel useful to others.

I supported my son's election in May to Metro Mayor of South Yorkshire, and am now vicariously sharing another sort of life altogether.

Jennifer Maxwell Class of 1960

In 2021, I received a distinction in Grade 1 piano, taught on Zoom by my daughter.

In July this year, we celebrated my 80th birthday by climbing Goat Fell, at 2886 feet, the highest mountain on the Isle of Arran. In the attached picture of us on the top, I am the one in the middle in pink shorts.



1960s

Elizabeth Wagle (née Skinner) - Class of 1963

I left KEHS in the Lower V1 in 1962 due to illness. Miss Crisp, Miss Woollard and Mrs Jameson continued to encourage me and I am forever grateful for their kindness. I subsequently attended Durham University, as well as Brock and Concordia Universities after I emigrated to Canada with my husband. My career included many positions related to the wellbeing and education of children and families. I taught Child Studies at a community college, became a Director of Child and Family Services for regional government and was named an "Early Years Champion" by the provincial government of Ontario.

After retirement I worked as a docent at the McMichael Gallery. This gallery is devoted to the art of Canada including the Group of Seven.

I now live close to Niagara-on-the-Lake and enjoy the company of my partner and our combined family of eight children and 13 grandchildren. Based on my own experience I advise when life becomes difficult never give up and kindness matters.



Sue Matthews Class of 1969

I left KEHS in 1969, studied Theology at Nottingham University and then did a PGCE at Leeds University. After teaching for four years at Sutton Coldfield Grammar School for Girls I moved to Leeds and am still there!

I was Head of RS and later, Head of General Studies and Assistant Head of Lower School, at Leeds Girls' High School for twenty-eight years during which time I wrote and produced a good number of staff pantomimes.

For the past fifteen years I've been journeying alongside various people, mainly women and children, who have come to this country as refugees and asylum seekers. They have enriched my life so much and I'm very happy to be Auntie Sue or Grandma Sue to so many.

I had a hip replaced just before the pandemic and now enjoy swimming and chair yoga. I also go to a singing group, a poetry group and an art group. I have a lovely bunch of teenagers (mainly boys for a change) in my Sunday Club class at church and I love leading all-age services. Over the years I've visited places from Kos to Japan and New Zealand but I'm sticking to nearer destinations now so am looking forward to holidays in Wales, Scotland and the Lake District this year.

Zoë Skinner (née Jones) Class of 1968

I'm quite surprised to find that at 71, I'm still in demand and doing a lot of work. I have been teaching French almost full-time since the beginning of November 2021, covering for a former colleague who is on long term sick leave. This week I have had an extra lesson - someone on our street set up a Just Giving page to help Ukraine, and people offered their skills, and an hour of their time, for a £10 donation. We've had our fence fixed, and will be receiving a cake and a Malaysian chicken curry!

This morning I gave my French conversation lesson to a couple from down the road, who have booked a holiday in France. We had great fun, they were excellent pupils, and we had refreshments and a chat too. Everyone wins - money goes to Ukraine, we get jobs done, and we have fun and get to know each other better.

I forgot to take a photo during the lesson, but here's a picture of the 'schoolroom' afterwards!



Carol James (née Statham) Class of '68

Let me introduce my alter ego - Mrs Candour! I have been acting with The Stamford Shakespeare Company - this was 2018 in 'The School for Scandal'. I have also been in 'Macbeth', 'Much Ado about Nothing' and 'Julius Caesar'.

The acting has been curtailed due to ... well we all know what!

To fill a gap over the last two years or so I have begun painting - not quite the same, but a lot quieter and less cumbersome than Mrs Candour's clothing. After that experience I will never again ask:

"Does my bum look big in this?!"

Linda Winkley (née Holland) - Class of 1960

I have just retired after working in the NHS for many years; at first, I was a GP in Handsworth and Lozells and then trained in psychiatry. I have always loved my work and went on to become a consultant child and adolescent psychiatrist in South Birmingham. This was an area with several very deprived areas and a heavy caseload.

While working there I also trained as a child and adolescent psychotherapist at the Tavistock Clinic.

Now in retirement, due to Covid I have a quiet life, walking round the park with my husband, seeing friends, listening to music and reading. Life is much less stressful and I am very lucky as we have our daughter living nearby.

1970s



Liz Bridge - Class of 1970

Now I am retired from paid work, I work four days a week as a Quaker Chaplain in HMP Wandsworth where the regime is running at a very restricted level with little education being taught and very limited access to the libraries, sadly. I have book trolleys and DVD bags on every wing and have supplies of art materials, jigsaws, chess and games which are circulating. I have just started a charity for the prison called the Wandsworth Prison Welfare Trust so that we can always buy the items we need, to keep men with something to do through long hours of loneliness and inactivity.

I worked for prisoners through Covid and was honoured with a British Empire Medal in the New Year's Honours List.



Alison Fairchild (née Reybekill) - Class of 1970

I have just returned from 2 months visiting my son and family in Western Australia. I left my husband behind and had a glorious time doing the things that wouldn't have interested him: snorkelling, trekking, off-roading, hiring electric bikes, etc, but also helping look after my 2-year-old and 8-month-old grandsons. A good way to see out my 60s!

You can probably work out who in the photo is me, and who is my son Tom.

Home again, back to cooler weather (sigh).

Ishbel Curr - Class of 1973

I continue to enjoy my fascinating voluntary role as Lichfield Cathedral Exhibitions Officer. Early in 2022 we displayed a selection of spectacular early printed map-books from the Cathedral Library, dating from 1493 onwards. The exhibition was well received. Visitors were particularly intrigued by one map where south was at the top of the map, challenging lots of assumptions. Future plans are to display more of the Cathedral's hidden treasures.



Sally Gray Staff Member from 1983-2005

I'm in my 13th and final year at Bootham School in York. I was incredibly homesick for both Birmingham and KEHS after we moved away in July 2005, and spent some time searching for an equivalent school – of course there wasn't one: KEHS is unique.

My Quaker grandfather, uncle and cousin all went to Bootham; my daughter Flora and I both started at about the same time. It's a boarding school with lessons on Saturday mornings. When I started teaching, way back in the 80s I never thought I would still be teaching Latin and Classical civilisation 40 years on and it's been great to be in a strong department here. I've also moved from being a big supporter of the advantages of single sex schools to absolutely loving being in a mixed school. Bootham feels very different from KEHS, not least because of its very mixed ability but I have been ALMOST as happy teaching here as in the glory days of KEHS.

York is a wonderful place to live. When my daughter was little, there were numerous ruined abbeys and castles to explore. Within the city we cycle pretty much everywhere though at times you can barely get down the street for tourists. I'm still in touch with a few ex-students and would love to hear from anyone.

Sally Jones (née Grant) Class of 1973

A series of Daily Telegraph features I wrote on the tennis 'pariahs', 1956 Wimbledon doubles champions Angela Buxton and Althea Gibson, has been optioned for a Hollywood film. As a teenager, I was coached by Buxton, who became a longstanding friend. She was Jewish and faced severe discrimination from the tennis establishment throughout her career. So too did Gibson, a penniless Afro-American at a time when US tennis was rigidly segregated. In 1957 she became the first black Wimbledon singles champion and she and Buxton remained friends for life.

I still work as a freelance journalist and broadcaster, specialising in news, comment, sport and education plus numerous obituaries for the Times and Daily Telegraph.

Unsurprisingly, I continue to be eclipsed by my daughter Madeline Grant (KEHS Class of 2010) a Daily Telegraph political columnist who recently became the only female parliamentary sketchwriter in British national newspapers.

Madeline has also become a weekly pundit with Guardian political editor Pippa Crerar on the Andrew Neil Show each Sunday evening on Channel Four.

Laura Simmons Class of 1970

In January, my UK pal and I boarded a plane that took us to Sri Lanka to celebrate our joint 70th birthdays.

We spent 10 glorious days travelling around this beautiful island using local transport, trains, bus, tuk-tuks and staying in AirBnB private homes. Wonderful people, great food, an amazing amount of history and varied landscape. We can wholeheartedly recommend it as a destination, but now, reality check, it's -11C and white outside here in Meaford, Ontario!



1980s



Anna Targett - Class of 1983

Anna is delighted to announce that as a Blue Badge London Tourist Guide, guiding is taking off again after two hard years of the pandemic, when everything went online. www.annaoflondon.com

Isabel Taylor - Class of 1982

I always regretted not having gone on to study A level English under Miss Jones (who also taught my mother, Susan Beck (1960)) and rectified that in 2017. I enjoyed it so much that I kept going and have recently graduated with a degree in English and Creative Writing from Royal Holloway, University of London.

The 1982 leavers were sad that the official school reunion in June couldn't happen, but made up for it with two smaller informal meet-ups, taking place in June and July in Birmingham. Everyone really enjoyed catching up and sharing their news, and hearing from those who weren't able to be there in person. The July group enjoyed visiting the regenerated Gas Street Basin and taking a canal boat tour in glorious sunshine.

1990s

Natasha Goodfellow Class of 1992

I left KEHS in 1992 and am now a writer, editor and curator. My latest venture is Finch Publishing through which I write and produce illustrated maps and guides for garden lovers. The latest, 'A



Cotswold Garden Companion', came out in early March - it would be wonderful if you could give me/it a mention.



Dr Tara Ahluwalia (née Dhody) Class of 1999

Having left KEHS in 1999, I graduated with Honours in Medicine (MBChB (Hons) in 2004). I then completed GP training MRCP, the Diploma in Obstetrics and Gynaecology and Diploma in Family Planning. I am now a GP Partner near Dudley and also work as a GP Appraiser which gives me an opportunity to meet Doctors from other practices. I really enjoy my work. I am very happy that my children have now joined KES/KEHS and am looking forward to being involved in school activities such as the KES Cycling trip and attending the KEHS concert at the Symphony Hall.

Suzy Faulkes - Class of 1994

I am living on the South Coast in Shoreham by sea with my partner and two boys (and a dog).

On leaving KEHS, after a gap year working and travelling, I studied Neuroscience at Bristol, followed by Medicine at Manchester and St George's in London. I ended up in Worthing as a junior doctor and never left the coast again! I spent a year working in Australia, 2 years back at Worthing and then commenced radiology specialty training in Southampton. I transferred to Brighton after having my first son and was appointed as a radiology consultant in Worthing in 2014. I enjoy cycling and sea swimming when I find the time. I still keep in touch with KEHS friends and we meet up every year. Can't believe my oldest will be going to secondary school in September. I remember it well! Would be nice to hear from anyone down this way.



Dr Abigail Hollingdale Class of 1994

After qualifying in medicine at Downing College Cambridge, and junior doctor training in London and East Anglia, I became a Consultant Clinical Oncologist at Peterborough City Hospital in 2011, and also taught communication skills at the University of Cambridge and became the Foundation Training Programme Director for the hospital in 2019.

In 2021, I took a career break and travelled as far away as I could - to New Zealand to cover a year's parental leave for an oncologist in the sunny Bay of Plenty in the North Island. My husband and three kids came out to join me for six months, and we made the most of being in such a wonderful country and travelled around. The first four months had been challenging on my own, but one of the things KEHS gave me was the knowledge that I can be independent and confident, and work towards my goals.

Now I am back in the UK, hopefully refreshed and ready to plunge back into the real world again, with amazing memories of my rather belated 'gap year'.



Melissa Leffler (née Simons) - Class of 1991, Julia Lawley (née Macklin) Class of 1986

Julia and I had been coaching, training and racing together at Solihull Canoe Club for some time before we discovered that we were both Old Eds!

We now run coaching sessions together every week at the club, which has a thriving junior section. We have even teamed up to paddle double kayak at some recent inter-club races, including a third place at Royal Leamington Spa in March (pictured), and a second place at Lincoln a couple of weeks later.

1990s



Léonie Adams *(Class of 1999)*

During the summer term of 2022, children at five Birmingham schools participated in a series of workshops with The Dionysus Ensemble where they discovered composing and how to create their own new music.

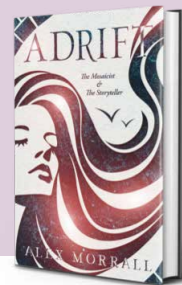
They were introduced to a variety of instruments by members of the TDE team and used these along with their own instruments to create their piece all about the Commonwealth for the Birmingham 2022 Festival, celebrating the Commonwealth Games coming to the city.

All five schools then joined together into one massed orchestra to perform their own creation "Commonwealth Celebration" in community performances in the churchyard at St Mary's Moseley as part of the Moseley Farmers Market, and at Symphony Hall as part of the 'Service for Education's Youth Proms'.

The Dionysus Ensemble
www.thedionysusensemble.com/
commonwealthgamesbirmingham.html

Alex Morrall - *Class of 1996*

Following the acclaim of my debut novel 'Helen and the Grandbees', my second novel has been published, inspired by my early graduate days in early 2000's London and the coast of my family roots. 'Adrift - The Storyteller & The Mosaicist' tells the story of Bernie as she tries to accommodate human affection, when she has only ever learned how it leads to loss.



2000s



Ruth Cooper - *Class of 2002*

I have been living in Milton Keynes for eight years, with my husband of 16 years, Stuart. We absolutely love it here and can't see ourselves moving for the foreseeable future. I'm now the senior designer at The Bicester Collection, the company behind Bicester Village and numerous Villages around the world.

Our son, Tiger, is doing incredibly well and is about to celebrate his 8th birthday, he enjoys catching mice and birds in the garden and sleeping. I volunteer with The Parks Trust, which runs the majority of parks, woodlands and open spaces in Milton Keynes so I get to do a lot of nature conservation work, I also do volunteer marketing for the city orchestra. Stuart is an international DJ so I still travel with him when I can, even after all this time, it's a good chance to catch up with people we know in the UK and further afield.

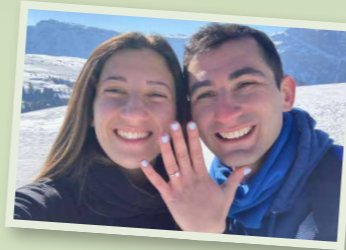
Sanchia Goonewardene *Class of 2000*

Please see below the logos of the Institute of Economics and Peace Ambassador Programme, which gave me diplomatic training. I then put this to good use putting together the Intercountry Collaboration between Rotary in Great Britain and Ireland and Greece. In November I flew to Athens - whilst on a congress there, and being part of a YAU working group, I recruited Greek Rotarians and was also involved in recruitment from Scotland.

It was another level of training in an entirely different dimension to anything I had experienced before.



2010s



Ronit Prais - *Class of 2017*

I am currently studying for a degree in Physiotherapy in Ariel University, Israel, which I am finding incredibly interesting and appealing.

I am also delighted to announce my recent engagement from the snowy Italian Dolomites to my best friend, Yoni Spero.

Olivia Rawlings *Class of 2013*



I have accepted an offer of pupillage at 2 Bedford Row Chambers in London, commencing in October 2022. I am so excited to take the next step in my career, as a pupil barrister.

Catherine Tran *Class of 2016*

For the past two years I've been co-working on the Spanish-English translation of the novel 'Una Bruja en Bikini' (in English: Witches Don't Wear Bikinis) by Ecuadorian author María Eugenia Paz y Miño. The novel was published in May in a bilingual edition containing both the original Spanish and the English texts and I've been in Montañita and Quito in Ecuador for the past two weeks for a book tour to launch the novel!

The photo is of me with my co-translators, Rosario Gomez and Keisha Dumitru from the University of Guelph, Canada (I'm on the right).



2010s



Naina Kothare *Class of 2016*

I graduated in 2021 from the University of Sheffield with a BDS Dental Surgery degree! I am currently doing my foundation training year in North London. It's been a crazy few years!

2020s



Imogen Green *Class of 2021*

On 14 May, my team mate Naomi Lea and I walked 34km along the Jurassic Coastline from Corfe Castle to Weymouth, as part of the Jurassic Challenge. Along the way we were forced to stop to look after an unwell gentleman, pushing us back half an hour, but that didn't stop us from completing the walk in nine hours!

This was all in aid of Crohn's & Colitis UK. So far, we have raised £1,128 together. Thank you so much to anyone who donated, your support means so much.

Sadly Missed

Audrey Margaret Rhodes (née Sutton)

Class of 1946

Sadly Audrey, my mother, passed away on 25 February. However, writing her eulogy reminded me what an inspirational character and a force of nature she was. She also remembered her time at KEHS fondly and spoke of it often, reading the newsletter with interest. Her determination and caring nature supported a successful career and family life and, even more impressively, a lifetime of all manner of charity work.

Mum was born in Moseley in 1930 and grew up in Hall Green. After attending KEHS, Mum attended art college and then secretarial college. She met Michael (Dad) at a dance at the West End Ballroom in Birmingham in 1952 and they married in 1956, remaining inseparable for 66 years, until Mum's passing. A move to Coventry in 1959 also saw the start of many years of voluntary work, first with the Cats Protection League and then, after becoming a mother, the National Childbirth Trust, teaching breathing techniques and pain control.

In 1970 they moved to Rugby, where Mum enjoyed success as a marketing manager and Director's PA for Johnston Construction.

Despite it being a very male dominated industry and era, she quickly made her mark and was responsible for winning several major contracts. In Rugby, her charity work included obtaining one of the first ever grants from the National Lottery in the early 90s to convert a disused vicarage into a drop-in centre. She also delivered "Meals on Wheels", was a fund-raiser for the Air Ambulance, a mediator for the Contact Centre charity and worked shifts at the night shelter for the homeless, at St Andrew's Church in Rugby, right up until her 80s. In recognition of her services to the community she was awarded Volunteer of the Year in 2001 by the Mayor of Rugby. After retirement, she and Dad took up golf and Mum became Ladies Captain at Rugby Golf Club, where she is still fondly remembered. Sadly, ill health forced a move to Cheshire in 2019, nearer family, but even there she quickly gained new friends amongst the neighbours and carers. Those who had the pleasure of meeting Mum, never forgot her, and she will be greatly missed.

Jeff Rhodes (son)



Molly King (née Jervis)

Class of 1954

We were sad to hear of the passing of Molly in February 2022. The phrase 'What can I do to help?' was Molly's most often used phrase, and help she did! She was an active member of the BGOEC Committee as well as the PS! Editorial Committee, add to this a U3A organiser, a member of the local Vesey National Trust Committee, Treasurer of the Vesey Trefoil Guild and a member of Little Aston Bowling Club.

Molly didn't make a fuss, she was just there and working hard in the middle of everything that needed doing. Molly was a Walker - I put a capital 'W' because she was what I would call a real walker. One of the many walks she had done with her late husband, Fred, was a walk round all of the Isle of Wight on one of their holidays.

When at school, Molly was active in sport and when she left she originally trained and worked on the admin side of IMI then after the birth of her two sons, Steven and Robert, trained and taught Maths to GCSE level.

Molly leaves a gap in the lives of her friends and the many people who knew her, but how lucky we were to have known her.

Barbara Davis (née Bayliss)
Class of 1944

Brenda Edwards (née Keevill) Class of 1950

I met Brenda in the queue for the buffet at my first London branch dinner. We quickly discovered that we lived close to each other and from then on Brenda and I would share cabs between Victoria station and the dinner venue.

A more important link was that her family was close friends with the Ward family who also lived in Hall Green. Gillian Ward was in my year, her sister Marian was two years above us and her brother Norman was at KES. Marian has told me that it was Brenda who inspired her to want to go to KEHS. Gill and I became closer when we both chose to take Botany and Zoology as two of our A Levels and it was Gill, now living in Canada, who told me that Brenda had died.

Following school and secretarial training Brenda worked in the Ministry of Education in Birmingham and then in London. She met her husband David at a party and they had 64 happy years together before his death last year. They had three children and when they grew older Brenda starting working for Eleanor Macdonald who ran management and motivational courses for women in business.

The list of Brenda's voluntary activities is endless. She bathed residents at a local Care Home, helped with Sea Cadets and also Red Cross Cadets. The Sea Cadets took up a large part of her life, including driving them to the Lake District in a battered old van and taking a boat down the Thames.

In addition to volunteering Brenda was an accomplished needlewoman, though sadly a stroke in 2009 meant that she could no longer do her crafts but she enjoyed jigsaws and crossword puzzles. After David's death in 2021, Brenda was able to remain in her own home with help from carers, family and friends. The large number of people who attended her funeral is testament to how well-regarded Brenda had been throughout her life and how people valued her kindness and interest in their lives.

Angela Clayton-Turner (née Rubery) Class of 1957

Jean Isabella Burns Hynd (née Farquhar) 1918-2021 - Class of 1936

Jean Hynd, my mother, enjoyed her time at King Edward VI High School for Girls. Here she discovered her love of poetry which she never lost and developed her study and creative skills.

On leaving school Jean went to St. Mary's Training College. The War and marriage meant her teaching career was short. Jean had three children, seven grandchildren and ten great-grandchildren. She was widowed soon after my father William's retirement from Pilkington Brothers.

Jean was a very private person who, I think, felt she had never reached her full potential. Throughout her life she knitted, sewed and designed. She loved literature and ran the WI Book Club for over thirty years. She had green fingers and loved her garden.

She completed several City and Guild courses and was an active member of the local History Club, National Trust, Twin Town and Garden Clubs for many years. Jean also enjoyed travel. The school cruise to Madeira, Casablanca and Gibraltar was the first of many foreign adventures. She loved learning about the local customs especially in China, Mexico, New Zealand and Australia.

Jean enjoyed a long and interesting life which was founded on her time at King Edward VI High School in the centre of Birmingham.

Alison Hopton (daughter)

Elizabeth Warren Former staff member from 1973-1978

Elizabeth Warren, who died late last year, was an extraordinary woman in Classics, with a particular passion for teaching Greek. From 1969 onwards, Elizabeth taught Greek, Latin, Ancient History and Classical Civilisation in a wide range of educational contexts including Bristol University and the Joint Association of Classical Teachers (JACT) Greek summer courses at Bryanston school, Blandford Forum.

I first met Elizabeth when she joined the staff of King Edward VI High School for Girls, Birmingham, in the mid-1970s. As my Latin and Greek teacher she helped me navigate Catullus, Virgil, Livy, Homer and Thucydides, but she was also my form teacher for one year, concerned and supportive – often with a twinkle in her eye – as 24 teenagers over-shared their problems.

Elizabeth's confidence that girls could achieve what they wanted intellectually was inspirational. Setbacks became challenges, mistakes became learning.

My entire class was also convinced that when Elizabeth, aged 20, had married Peter Warren, a research fellow at Corpus Christi, in 1966, they had eloped to Gretna Green. So when Elizabeth brought Peter into school to deliver a sixth form general knowledge lecture on archaeology, there was great interest in seeing this romantic figure. I was entrusted with Peter's slides, stacked neatly in a carousel. I promptly dropped the lot (I still feel mortified about this). Peter and Elizabeth were totally unfazed and years later when I read Elizabeth's 'Memories of Myrtos' in *Aegean Archaeology*, I realised why. Archaeologists are used to dealing with stuff scattered all over the floor. What really impressed me, however, as Peter lectured from his unpredictably sequenced slides, illustrating Early Bronze Age Crete and the discovery of the Goddess of Myrtos, was his emphasis on how pivotal Elizabeth had been to the success of the excavations during the two seasons in 1967 and 1968. She managed food and accommodation with no electricity, drains, rubbish collection, or tarmac in 44 degrees centigrade.

So vale, Elizabeth, and thank you.

Elizabeth Shafer

Elizabeth is Professor of Drama and Theatre Studies at Royal Holloway. In this obituary, she pays tribute to her secondary school teacher and the influence that she had on her own personal and professional journey.

Doris Trott Former staff member from 1970-1996

I worked with Doris Trott for many years and remember her with great fondness. She had a formidable knowledge of literature and expressed her views with precision and clarity, usually laced with humour. As a couple, she and her husband Tony Trott (Head of English at KES for many years) represented true scholarship tempered by wit and understanding. More importantly, however, Doris's genuine and deep interest in the girls she taught, and her extraordinary memory enhanced her qualities as a teacher, because her commitment to her pupils defined her. She was a loyal and supportive colleague and a good friend. I shall miss her.

Jean Moule Former staff member from 1982-2021



Lesley Forbes (née Ogg) Class of 1968

I first met Lesley when she joined KEHS in the sixth form, having been unable to study her chosen A Levels at her previous school. We soon became friends.

Lesley suffered from CMT, which does not affect life expectancy, but which makes life progressively more difficult over the years, affecting hands, feet and energy levels. She became unable to walk more than short distances, but she never complained about her condition, and didn't let it stop her doing the things she wanted to do. She had an electric hoist fitted in her car, which enabled her to get her mobility scooter in and out of the car unaided, so she could travel independently. She also travelled alone by train and even by air!

We remained friends after leaving school, and met up from time to time – not so easy when we were married with small children. After university, Lesley became a social worker, and then retrained as a teacher of English as a Foreign Language. Lesley's husband died at the age of 51 (Lesley and I were 50), and this was a very difficult time for her. We started meeting up twice a year, once in Hitchin (where I live), and once in Clevedon (where she lived). This continued until Covid intervened; even then we kept in touch by email. We had a long and happy friendship.

Lesley had many interests, including a modified form of Tai Chi, and Italian classes, and had been enjoying her usual activities and been in good health until a week before her death. Her three children were with her, and the end was peaceful.

I am so sad to have lost a dear friend, but count myself fortunate to have had such a long and valued friendship.

Zoë Skinner (formerly Powers, née Jones) Class of 1968



Pat Cox (née Symes) Class of 1953

It is not without some irony that I write this tribute to my sister, Pat. In the 2021 edition of Keynotes, she had written for a similar purpose about my wife, Brenda (nee Round), with whom she had shared schoolgirl years at KEHS.

Pat was born in the sleepy Dorset town of Bridport. In 1935 the family moved to Birmingham where tramcars clattered along the road to and from the city centre; they were one of our memories before WW2.

When WW2 was declared in 1939, schools were evacuated, Pat's to Retford near Nottingham. There she was warmly welcome by a couple whose husband had survived the slaughter of the Western Front twenty years earlier. After about a year of the 'phoney war' the evacuees returned to Birmingham and to the Blitz, to sirens and to nights in air raid shelters. Mercifully our family survived.

When she reached the age of 10 Pat won a place at KEHS for girls, newly completed and superbly equipped. She enjoyed her time there, was good at games, especially hockey, was a prefect, willing to participate in all events and to help others; a characteristic she maintained lifelong.

After graduation Pat taught for a year at King Edward VI Handsworth School for Girls, Birmingham. She then continued to lecture in Food Science for many years, both at her old college and at Reading Technical College, which she balanced with marriage and raising three children.

Pat Cox (née Symes) Class of 1953

She was at the forefront of the use of new technologies and the publisher Faber and Faber persuaded her to write 'Deep Freezing', which was published in 1968 and became, and still is, a definitive, much thumbed guide.

Pat's 'don't give up' approach to life was reflected in her active family life: unstinting support for Eric, her husband, detailed planning of holidays at home and abroad, creating imaginative birthday celebration cakes for their three children, then for their eight grandchildren, enjoying concerts and exhibitions, and so much more. Not least was her gentle and generous care for those in need; delivering 'Meals on Wheels', accompanying people to hospital and shopping for those often much younger than herself and until recently a dedicated and active trustee for a local Sheltered Housing organisation. As Thomas Hardy wrote: 'Regret not me; Beneath the yellowing tree, I lie slumbering peacefully.' Well done dear sister.

Keith Symes (brother)

Mary Smart (née Lyon-Smith) Class of 1945



Mary was proud of her academic achievements at King Edwards High School in Birmingham. She first met Peter, her future husband, at Birmingham Architectural School in the late 1940s. They both became members of the New Dramatic Company and their relationship flourished from there. They married in 1951. Mary directed a number of plays for the New Dramatic Company a number of which received critical acclaim in the local newspaper.

Mary was a great lover of dogs. She and her husband bred pedigree Labradors in the 1960s and 70s.

Sadly, she was widowed in the early 1970s and so had to get a job in order to provide for her family.

Despite starting to work in her forties, she had a successful career for many years as a Purchasing Manager until her retirement.

Mary was chair of the Greenwich branch of the U3A in the 1980s for seven years and is remembered for how well she ran the branch. She was a woman of strong will and strong opinions and she was known throughout her life as something of a wit too. As Mary insisted on always having a glass of white wine at lunch, her care home now serves white wine at lunchtime to all the residents who would like it.

Mary's main passion throughout her life was the theatre and she was always interested in the theatre productions of her eldest daughter Annie and her husband Les even after they moved to America.

Nicola and Steve Zealey (daughter and son-in-law)

Class of 1941

Kathleen Booth*

Class of 1944

Marguerite Holt (née Frame)

Class of 1945

Jean Francis (née Bates)

Frances Lomas

Jean Lowe (née Shakespeare)

Class of 1946

Susan Jones (née Mindelsohn)

Joan Patricia Smith (née Brown)

Class of 1947

Jennifer Mountford (née Stephens)

Class of 1949

Eileen Gines

Joyce Molyneux

Class of 1952

Janet Biggs (née Sherriff)

Class of 1959

Professor Katherine Duncan-Jones

Class of 1984

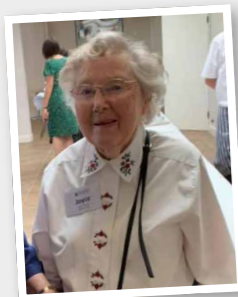
Suzanne Wallace

Staff

Margaret Knight -
Matron from 1985-2001

* Obituary to be included in KEynotes 2023

Sadly Missed



Joyce Stevens *Former staff member from 1958-1975*

I started working with 'Steve' in September 1978 but I knew her before that date, when Gary (my husband now, but boyfriend then!) and I were in sixth form and helped Steve with the swimming sessions she ran for disabled people. This included my own Dad who only had one leg and he asked us if we were interested in helping.

Steve would set the pool up to accommodate the variety of disabilities welcomed to participate. The hardest part was placing a specially manufactured set of wooden steps into the shallow end and tying them to the handrail. These steps meant many of the disabled swimmers were able to retain a little more independence entering the pool, though it was very difficult to force the steps to sink at all and I have no idea how Steve managed it! The swimmers Steve helped to enjoy the freedom of floating or swimming in water ranged from those with limbs missing to paraplegic people and those with cerebral palsy. She taught them from the side giving advice and tuition to those of us helpers in the water.

I was in my third year at teacher training college when I started job hunting. As soon as I saw the K. E. High advertisement 'P.E. teacher required for September' I jumped at the chance to apply.

I received a letter from the school a week later but as I genuinely believed I would not be offered the post, I didn't open it till my Mum contacted me, having had a call from Steve, very concerned to know if I had received it!

September 1978 saw the beginning of my working relationship with Steve. She was a wonderful Head of Department. She explained how she wanted things done but also allowed me the freedom to 'do my own thing'!

Steve did many years of voluntary work in hospitals, visiting patients, taking snacks, magazines and books around the wards on a trolley to help occupy those in the hospital. She didn't know my Dad was poorly in The Q.E. hospital until she walked into his room in a volunteer capacity. As soon as Steve knew Dad was a patient she kindly went numerous times to chat to him. After my Dad passed away she even visited my Mum in her house in Sutton Coldfield as she was housebound. These are just a few examples of the acts of kindness she was willing to offer to people she didn't know very well.

These are just a few personal memories of a very professional lady and an extremely kind person.

"Thank you, Steve, for everything".

Jan Smith (née Bayliss) *Former staff member from 1978-2016*

B.G.O.E.C Treasurers Report 2021

Total Assets of the Club at year end (31.12. 2021) are £34,458, an increase of £3,239 from prior year. This increase can be broken down into:

- (i) Increase in valuation of the Lazard Multicap UK Income Fund investment of £2,379. The total valuation of this investment is now £22,871. See comment below.
- (ii) Dividend income from the Lazard Investment of £860

Cash at bank at year end is £11,588 an increase of £860 on prior year.

Lazard Investment

Global equity markets rose sharply in the first half of 2021 on investor confidence that the global economic recovery would continue uninterrupted despite the emergence of inflation risk. While COVID-19 risk remained a concern, UK equities were buoyed by a successful rollout of vaccines and continued signs of a broad-based economic rebound as the UK economy gradually reopened. Global equity markets continued to climb in the second half of 2021 on the back of generally strong corporate earnings results, and the economic environment improving with the continued vaccine rollouts. Sentiment soured in late November with the news of the Omicron variant, however equity markets rallied in the last weeks of the year when it became apparent that the strain was much less virulent and further restrictions were unlikely.

Anna Emery *Treasurer BGOEC*

London Branch Report 2021-2022

Covid has continued to prevent our usual programme of activities from happening. However, four of us did manage to meet in May to have lunch together in Bromley. Recently, I reached out to see if there was interest in a London lunch, providing two possible dates. It was fairly short notice and there was enough interest to make it viable if all had been free on the same day, but sadly this was not the case. At the time of writing, I am having another attempt and with the help of a Microsoft Form with nine possible dates in November. I'm hoping that at least one of the dates will have enough names to make it worth going ahead.

I hope to arrange a lunch at some point in this academic year and also look forward to us joining in some of the 140th Anniversary celebrations arranged next year which will include an OE London Drinks in September 2023. I am keen also to attempt another joint summer outing with the KES Old Boys. In the past we have had an enjoyable outing to the newly opened Postal Museum and a very successful outing to Bletchley Park.

My personal philosophy now is to live as we did in the pre-covid days but I am aware that many of our older members continue to limit their social activities. Also having to travel to the centre of London in the evening becomes less desirable as one gets older. To me, Zooms have been the one positive to come out of Covid. I'm wondering whether there would be interest in Zoom meetings every four months or half-yearly? Of course, not everyone is online, but maybe the occasional telephone chat with another Old Ed would be welcomed? I would welcome feedback on these thoughts, via the Alumni office.

Angela Clayton-Turner (nee Rubery) *Class of 1957*

Performing Arts Centre

There are always lots of events going on at the Performing Arts Centre, not just by students but outside and professional bodies as well. Visit www.ruddockpac.co.uk

Stay in Touch

Moving house? Changing your email address? Keep your details up-to-date using our online form at www.olders.kehs.org.uk/stay-in-touch If any of your contemporaries are not receiving our communications, encourage them to sign up!



Have you listened to our podcast series featuring interviews with interesting Old Eds from both sides of the drive? You can subscribe now on all major channels and you can find them online at <https://olders.kehs.org.uk/events/online-activities>. If you would like to apply to feature in a podcast please email us at development@kehsmail.co.uk.

PS! Magazine

An informal magazine with wide ranging articles and news as well as puzzles. A bright, relaxing read! To subscribe, please contact Barbara Davis at davis06@blveyonder.co.uk

The Old Edwardians Club (BGOEC) are always looking for loans or donations of uniforms, school books, or anything else associated with KEHS. If you have anything you would like to donate, please contact olders@kehs.org.uk

@OldEdwardiansClub

@KEHSOldEds

Save the Dates!

2023 is our 140th Anniversary Year! Please look out for exciting events to celebrate this, as well as our wonderful annual OE events – see the list below!

Saturday, 18 March 2023:
OE Diamond and Golden Reunion for Classes of 1963 and 1973

Booking details to be posted on the Old Eds website before Christmas, or call Debbie Macleod on 0121 415 2245.

Monday, 27 March 2023:
140 Years of KEHS: An Evening Celebration Birmingham Town Hall, time TBC

Join us for an evening of music, drama, dance, poetry and more as we look back over our school's 140-year history and the significant historical events that have defined this period. With contributions from current students, Old Edwardians and staff both present and former. *All welcome.*

Saturday 17th June 2023: OE Annual Reunion
As this will be our first OE Annual Reunion since 2019(!) we do hope you'll be able to join us for the glorious return!

Thursday 14th September 2023: OE London Drinks

Thursday, 12 October 2023: Annual KEHS Lecture Ruddock Performing Arts Centre, time TBC
Award winning writer, journalist, critic and broadcaster Rosalind Miles (OE 1960) will deliver this year's lecture. *All welcome.*

Details will be updated regularly on the Old Eds website – olders.kehs.org.uk – or contact Debbie – details as above.

The BGOEC Committee & KEynotes Committee

Kirsty von Malaisé *President, Trustee of BGOEC*
Lois Freedman *Vice-President*
Annette Duffy *Chairman, KEynotes & Volunteer Archivist*
Angela Clayton-Turner *London Branch Secretary*
Cas Britton *KEynotes & Volunteer Archivist*
Janet Burgess *KEynotes*
Barbara Davis *KEynotes, Trustee of BGOEC*
Sylvia Dicker *Committee Member*
Helen Nixon *Trustee of BGOEC*
Jan Smith *Committee Member*
Alice Stanley *Committee Member*
Gabrielle Stanley *KEynotes, Trustee of BGOEC*
Charlotte Gallant *Foundation Archivist*
Debbie Macleod *Editor of KEynotes*



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OLD EDWARDIANS



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