



KING'S TYNEMOUTH ALUMNI

NEW YEAR NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 21

JANUARY 2010



COMMITTEE 2009/10

Julian Brown (1969) *Chairman*
Geoff Scarth (1950) *President*

Karen Bilton (1976)
David Bilton (1975)
Shaun Brannen (1995)
John Burn (1957)
Bruce Cockburn (1963)
Michael Coulson (1979)
Aidan Johnson (1989)
Simon Johnson (1987)
Chris McConnachie (1999)
Ricky Tocher (1962)

Proposed new Committee

Members:

Sophie Smith (2006)
Marcus Turner (2000)

If you would like to be involved in the Committee, please contact Emma Wotton
ewotton@kings-tynemouth.co.uk

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EDITORIAL



Welcome to the first Newsletter of 2010 and a Happy New Year to you all. I would like to start by thanking Sophie Smith (2006) who has helped with the production of this Newsletter.

Looking back on 2009 it was a packed year for the KTA; the Oswin's Open Evening and AGM in March, the golf match in May, the beach sports event in June, the hockey and touch rugby tournament in September and the Christmas Carol Service at St George's Church to bring the year's events to a close.

In November, the "Official King's Tynemouth Alumni" Facebook Site was created with the help of Sophie Smith. This now has over 350 members and is proving to be an excellent way of communicating with former pupils and promoting events to them. We also have a site on Twitter "Kings Tyne Alumni" and more recently we have set up a group on LinkedIn which we are hoping will help to develop business networking opportunities for all but especially graduates. We are also looking to further develop our careers programme in co-

operation with the school for current pupils, undergraduates and graduates. You will find an appeal for volunteers to assist us in this in our new Careers Section.

Our programme for 2010 comprises of a variety of events for former pupils and their families. The Annual Reunion Dinner will take place on Friday 23rd April in the King's Hall. Many pupils who left in 2000 are using this as the opportunity to celebrate 10 year reunion. Tickets are selling fast so please complete the enclosed booking form if you would like tickets or to arrange a year group table.

This year we are running some new events which are inclusive to those with young children and build on the strong ethos of family at King's. In May there will be a walk from Warden to Tyne Green, Hexham, where there will be an opportunity for canoeing for those interested, finishing with a picnic by the river. In June we will be holding a sports' day and beach party on Long Sands. We will continue to run the usual events such as the Annual Golf Match in June and the hockey and touch rugby tournaments in September which remain hugely popular.

In our "Charities" section we report on the Junior School's annual Masasi fundraising activities, appeals from

former pupils for support in their charitable initiatives and an appeal for former pupils to take part in this year's Children's Cancer Run on the 9th May. Hopefully we will be able to get a group together and raise money for this very worthy cause.

If you would like to join us for any of these events, please get in touch or if you would like to organise a new event, please let me know and I will do what I can to support.

Finally I would like to thank the School and the Committee, in particular Julian Brown, who have supported me during my first year in the Alumni Development Office.

The next Newsletter will be published in July. Please send in your news to the Alumni Office by the 21st May 2010.

Mrs Emma Wotton

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e-mail: alumni@kings-tynemouth.co.uk

A POPPY IS TO REMEMBER



From left to right: Geoff Scarth, President of the KTA, Major G Graham returning from service in Afghanistan and father to Megan Graham (J3) and Hugh Roberts, Chairman of the PTA

At 11am on the 11th of November the 900 pupils and staff of the King's School Tynemouth joined with former pupils and friends of the school for an Act of Remembrance.

Led by our new Chaplain - Reverend Christopher Clinch, the school remembered those former pupils who gave their lives in the two World Wars and perhaps even more poignantly former pupil, James Thompson who died on active service in Afghanistan in May 2008.

The Kohima Epitaph was read by Max Smith from the Upper Sixth who was recently awarded an Army scholarship. The reading of the exhortation was shared between one of our Junior School pupils, Lucy Baines and the President of the King's Tynemouth Alumni, Mr Geoff Scarth who left the school in 1950.

At the end of the service the pupils were given the opportunity to take their poppies and place them in the Headmaster's garden. The wreaths were laid at the memorial stone in the school's new Owsin Building.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

THURSDAY 11TH MARCH

KTA Committee Meeting
Tynemouth House at 7.30pm

SATURDAY 20TH -

TUESDAY 23RD MARCH

School Musical, The Wizard of Oz
7.30pm in the King's Hall

FRIDAY 23RD APRIL

Annual Reunion Dinner 2010
7.30pm in the King's Hall

SATURDAY 1ST MAY

Family walk and canoeing from
Warden to Tyne Green, Hexham

Meeting point 9.30am, The Boatside
Inn Warden www.theboatsideinn.com

SUNDAY 9TH MAY

Children's Cancer Run
See Page 11 for further details

TUESDAY 1ST JUNE

Annual Golf Match at Tynemouth
Golf Club

SATURDAY 19TH JUNE

Beach Sports Day at Long Sands
10am - 3pm

THURSDAY 9TH SEPTEMBER

Hockey and Touch Rugby, The Parks,
5pm-7pm.

NEW MID WEEK CRICKET LEAGUE

For further details, please contact Chris
Willits c.willits@teamsroofing.com

SPORT'S REPRESENTATIVES

Golf

Karen Bilton kebilton@tiscali.co.uk

Football and rugby

Marcus Turner
marcusturner77@hotmail.com

Volleyball

Chris Peacock chris@peacocks.net

Hockey

Jenny Bilton Jenny_bilton@hotmail.com

Cricket

Chris Willits c.willits@teamsroofing.com

FROM THE CHAIRMAN

THIS CHAIRMAN'S LAST DISCONNECTED JOTTINGS



Julian Brown



47. Malcolm Nicholson and the Sixth Form. Autumn Term 1968

It's the last weekend before Christmas and its that time again. I'm on the third reminder email from Emma Wotton, asking for this piece for the Newsletter, and you can see by the heading that this is most likely to be my final Epistle to you all.

I think it was a Wednesday night, and I had just come home from work. Elizabeth, my wife, gave me the message that David and Karen (Bilton) were calling for me at about 7:15 to accompany them to the Kings School Former Pupils Association meeting. I was told that they thought I might be interested. This seemed a bit strange as although I was one of the first group called to Bill Gillen's study that fateful Sunday morning in 1987 to energise us to restart the society, and had initially been the Membership Secretary, apart from attending the odd dinner from then on had taken no active part. Anyway, at the appointed time, they duly called and we trooped down to the old Headmaster's house and went in.

I was given a warm welcome by faces I knew, and some I didn't. After some preamble, we sat down to the business of what turned out to be an AGM, and it all seemed quite interesting. The Agenda progressed, and then it got to the voting. Candidates for the Office holders for the coming year were announced, and hold on a minute!!! What's this, my name's the only one on the list for Chairman and David is saying that I have agreed to take on the job. Well to quote the partner of a gentleman who we believe is a former pupil, *"That's another fine mess you've got me into"*.

I have to admit that I have never regretted it. It is a shame that work has made it

difficult for me to attend as many events as I'd have liked, and from reports had jealously wished I had, but nevertheless have thoroughly enjoyed the experience, meeting many interesting and inspiring people, and corresponded with classmates that I hadn't seen since leaving school back in 1969.

I believe the King's Tynemouth Alumni, as it is now called, is strong in heart, wind and limb. It has continued to grow, and move with the times, profiting from the tremendous support and resource provided by the School. I sincerely hope we have passed this on, with interest, to our membership and to current pupils of the school in the form of travel bursaries, team sports strips etc. and to the school in general with the Memorial and the Stained Glass window in the Chapel. The Newsletter and Website over the years encapsulates all we do so well.

For somebody with a dread of public speaking, standing up in front of you all at the Annual Dinners has been one of the better laxatives known to man, but you have all been very kind to me, to which I thank you. I think that now is a good time to step down. With a new Development Officer in Emma, with whom I have already had long discussions on future plans, and sense of direction, which I support wholeheartedly, I believe my successor will be in very safe hands and will bring with them a renewed energy and enthusiasm to the Committee and the Association as a whole.

I hope you have all had a Merry Christmas and may I wish you all a Happy New Year.

NEWS

DEGREE SUCCESS



Jennifer Bilton (2006), BSc in Physical Geography, 1st Class Honours, Newcastle University.

Nadia Igsiz (2004), MA (Honours) English and Social Anthropology 2:1, University of St Andrews.



Luke Kilmister (2005), BSc in Building Surveying, Northumbria University.

Mark Kilmister (2005), BSc in Building Surveying, Northumbria University.



Sophie Smith (2006), BA in International Relations 2:1, Loughborough University.

ENGAGEMENTS

Congratulations to two former pupils on their engagement, **Rebecca Hartnack** (2006) and **Michael Calvert** (1995)

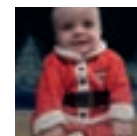
Congratulations to **Adam Ovington** (2003) on his engagement to **Helen Wilson**.

MARRIAGES



Congratulations to **Suzanne Hodgson** (2006) and **James Gretton** who were married on the 30th July 2009 at Whitley Bay Baptist Church.

BIRTHS



Congratulations to **Nick Rees** (1997) and his fiancée **Amy Murray** on the birth of their son **Malachi Stephen Murray**, born on the 14th May 2009.



Congratulations to **Heather** and **Chris Peacock** (1992) on the birth of their second daughter, **Eve Sienna**, born on the 4th December 2010.

MICHAEL CHRISTIE (2002)



Since I left King's I have been Go Kart racing across the North East

on a weekly schedule. In 2008 I came first in the league of racing winning me a shot in the UK championship 2010 down in Kent. My team Name is M. Christie racing. My goal is to become highly ranked in the UK for Go Karting.

KRIS DOYLE (2005)

After graduating from Oxford, in 2008, I worked briefly for a literary agency before starting his current job, as part of the editorial team, at Picador, a London publishing house.

RICHARD LANAGHAN (2005)

I left King's 6th Form in 2005 to study Ancient History at Durham. After graduation I worked for a year before pursuing a career in the Royal Navy. Currently a Sub-Lieutenant, I'm training as a Warfare Officer (Submarine), based out of Dartmouth (Devon) at present, then serving aboard HMS OCEAN in the New Year.

JAMES TAYLOR (1997)

I finished King's in 1997, went to Imperial College (to do a BSc in Biology), and then Warwick University where I completed a PhD in Molecular Virology. I ran the Infectious Diseases Research Group for Warwick University for two years and for the last few years have been running laboratories for Severn Trent Laboratories. I'm still happily living in Coventry with my partner Melanie.

ALI BOYD (2000)



Ali Boyd (2000) with his fiancée Katy. They are getting married in Sept 2010.

Ali left kings in 2000, as did **Johnny Goring** and **Jonny Shand** who will be the best men at the wedding. **Any old friends wishing to attend Ali's stag weekend next August should get in touch with either of the best men.**

HEADMASTER'S REPORT



King's Got Talent 2009.

The year 2008-09 saw, once again, pronounced success for King's pupils in both academic and extra curricular areas. The A-Level results continue to improve - the pass rate of 100% was supported by about two thirds of the exam achieving A and B grades. Record results at GCSE saw 54% of all exams taken being graded A* or A and a 97% A* - C rate.



School Carol Service 2009, St. Georges Church, Cullercoats.

The reality for our pupils is that almost all of them achieved their top choice universities, probably the most important 'pupil outcome' of all! Particular congratulations to four members of the Upper Sixth who achieved offers of places at Oxford and Cambridge Universities - Thomas Moore (Veterinary Science, Queens College, Cambridge), Daniel King (Law, St Johns College Oxford), Helena Cantwell (Molecular and Cellular Biochemistry, Oriel College, Oxford) and Nick Roxburgh (Law, Brasenose College, Oxford). At GCSE James Marriott was shortlisted for the AQA 'GCSE student of the Year' award for his faultless performance.

Whilst exam success abound, so do extra curricular ones. Numerous pupils have again achieved County representative honours; Max Smith the 1st XV Captain has been selected for North of England



The school production of A Midsummer Night's Dream.

and a final national trial as I write! Over 170 pupils of all ages took LAMDA Speech and Drama exams this term and the School's Music, under new leadership and now in its new purpose built music school, thrives.

Three new staff have joined King's this term. James Davies is our new Pastoral Deputy Head who has replaced Martin George, appointed as Headmaster of Durham School. James is a Musician and joins us from the position of Acting Deputy Head at Scarborough College. He is joined by Rev. Christopher Clinch, formerly Parish Priest at St Francis, High Heaton who is our new Chaplain. Our new Director of Music is Philip Sanderson. Philip came from Chetham's Specialist Music School in Manchester and is well known locally as Director of Academic Music at the Sage weekend school. All three have already made a huge impact!

Former Pupils are always welcome at school - we are very much enjoy showing them round the much developed site and all of the new facilities in Oswin's. We are very grateful to the KTA for all it's support of our work and to former pupils for their continuing interest in the life and work of the school.

With best wishes
Philip Cantwell

THE KING'S TYNEMOUTH ALUMNI
ARE PLEASED TO INVITE YOU TO THE
**ANNUAL REUNION
DINNER 2010**

TO BE HELD ON

Friday 23rd April 2010 at 7.30pm in the King's Hall



Tickets £20.00

Non-Members, Partners and Guests welcome

Arrange a year group reunion table and meet up with former friends.

Please complete the enclosed slip if you would like to attend with a cheque payable to The King's School, Tynemouth.

TOUCH RUGBY AND HOCKEY EVENT 2009

FORMER PUPILS TAG RUGBY Vs 1st TEAM AND STAFF

Will Smith



The former pupils arrived to the parks with few numbers. However, they were well up for taking on the current crop of talent in the 1st XV rugby. It had to be tag rugby as it was played on the Astroturf pitches, which suited the former pupils as they had bags of pace and agility. The tournament consisted of three teams: former pupils, staff and the 1st XV.



First game began, and the former pupils dominated from the very start. Some interesting moves from Ricky Handa saw the first try being scored. The 1st XV did respond though, with some good breaks and caused the former pupils some problems. The game was all but in the bag, and when Andrew Webster slotted in the try near the end, the game was done. Former pupils eased to victory in a fast paced, well refereed game. Second game was between the staff and the former pupils, which proved to be a lot more of an even contest. This game had a lot of pride at stake with both teams constantly battling for possession. The staff provided some quality entertainment, with some flowing moves which were orchestrated by Mr. Bradley and Mr. Nicholson. The former pupils were finding it tough during the latter stages as the staff pulled ahead, however they dug deep and found some energy to give it one last big shot. They pulled off some stunning runs and with just a few seconds left on the clock, the former pupils managed to score a try and win the game. All in all, it was a fun filled entertaining afternoon, which saw the former pupils win both of their games and the staff ending up slightly red faced. All of the players involved completely enjoyed themselves and the way each game was played, was in the right spirit and fair. Bring on next year.



FORMER PUPILS HOCKEY MATCH 2009

Sophie Smith

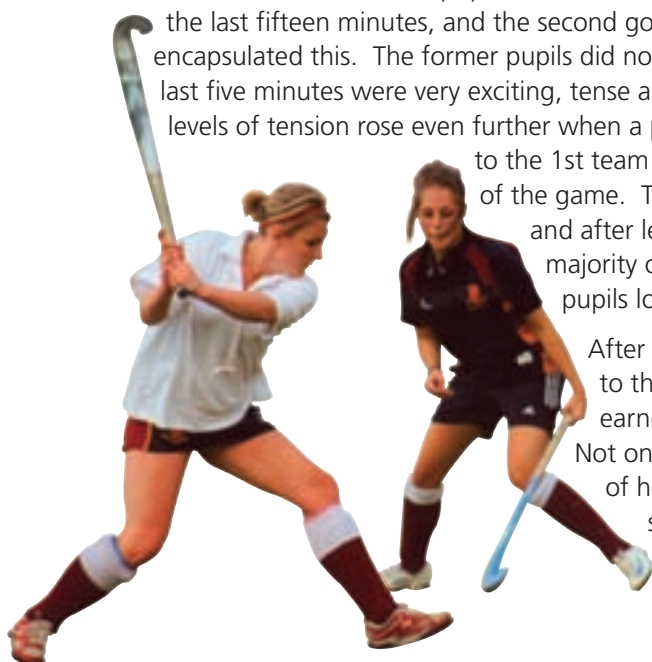
The annual hockey match between the school 1st XI and the former pupils is usually filled with fun and excitement, and this year's event, which fell on Thursday 10th September was no different.

Held at The Parks, North Shields, the match began just after the agreed time of 5pm due to the former pupils' goalkeeper not being able to make it at the last minute. After a little deliberation of who should take her place Emily Swaddle very kindly (and bravely) accepted the challenge.

The match got off to a good start as far as the former pupils were concerned; with the school 1st XI looking a little rusty as this was their first match after the summer holidays. The former pupils took advantage of this, and scored twice within the first twenty minutes of play. After the half time break the tables turned, the 1st XI got themselves together, and scored from a well constructed break. The difference in fitness levels between the former pupils and the 1st XI really started to show in

the last fifteen minutes, and the second goal from the 1st team encapsulated this. The former pupils did not give up though, and the last five minutes were very exciting, tense and filled with action. The levels of tension rose even further when a penalty corner was awarded to the 1st team in literally the last minute of the game. The inevitable happened, and after leading through the vast majority of the game, the former pupils lost by 3 goals to 2.

After the game, we all headed to the Magnesia bank for a well earned drink and some food. Not only was it an exciting game of hockey for players and spectators alike, it was also a very good opportunity to catch up with old friends.



KTA FUNDING PROJECTS

SCOTLAND HOCKEY TOUR 2009

Shona Smith

During the October half term the King's School 1st XI hockey squad travelled to Glasgow accompanied by 3 staff; Miss Clare Taylor and Mr Vaughn Gordon, and Mrs Shona Smith.



A much needed warm up.



A training session with international coach Mattheus Ahrens.

Four matches were played in all with wins against Austin Friars and Jordan Hill 2nd XI, and two defeats from Hutchinsons 2nd XI and Kelvinside.



The squad Sarah Kincaid, Amy Astill, Harpreet Dodd, Nikki Robinson, Kathryn Elliot, Siobhan Murray, Heidi Ratter, Emma Long, Cecily Robson, Sally Marsden, Pippi Firth, Abi Humphreys, Rebecca Combe, Amy Routledge, Alex Corbitt-Smith, Jayne Sewell, Daphne Tertrais, Jess Kirkby.

The girls also took part in a training session on advanced skills, taken by international coach Mattheus Ahrens. All of the girls represented themselves

and King's extremely well, and an enjoyable experience was had by all. Many thanks must go to the KTA for their generous sponsorship of tour kit.

SCHOOL BURSARY FUND

The King's School Bursary Fund was established in 2002 by the School Council with the express purpose of developing a permanent and self-regenerating way of ensuring that access to the school is made available to as many pupils in the local area as possible. This long term scheme will enable the development of a Foundation working within the charity, The King's School Tynemouth Ltd, that will provide means-tested support to individuals who wish to attend King's but are precluded from doing so for economic reasons.

The School Council is committed to ensuring that the school broadens its access as much as possible within the existing financial constraints and so has invested a fixed proportion of net fees each year to develop the Foundation's resources. It is hoped that this long term commitment will be supported in the form of gifts, donations and legacies, particularly from those who have benefited from a King's Education and

the school is very grateful to all those who have supported the principle.

Donations from any source will be maximised by the most efficient means available. Individual donations attract 'Gift Aid' according to the donor's tax situation and are particularly welcome in this form. Both 'lump sum' and 'regular giving' through covenant are equally welcome. Donators may either remain confidential or acknowledged in the school in an appropriate way.

For an informal discussion please contact the Headmaster, Philip Cantwell or the Bursar, Christine Dobson at School (0191) 258 5995.

CHARITIES

MASASI

David Littlefield

For over twenty years the pupils of King's Junior School, Tynemouth have raised money for the Anglican Diocese of Masasi in Tanzania.

The fundraising started when a young clergyman, Revd Richard Norgate, began his ministry in Masasi - and appealed to King's school for financial assistance. The 'Norgate Fund' has sent many thousands of pounds to this needy area. Richard Norgate subsequently became Bishop of the Diocese and, until his death, always appreciated the work done on his behalf. Richard Norgate's work continues and during recent times money for Masasi has



Junior Pupils with the Junior School Headmaster, David Littlefield.



Sixth Form pupils who were involved in fundraising for Masasi when they were at the Junior School and are now going out to Tanzania this summer as part of World Challenge.

been channelled through The United Society for the Propagation of the Gospel (USPG). This long established Anglican charity has links with Masasi and each year its local representative, Revd Geoff Lowson, readily launches our Appeal and keeps us informed as to the needs of the Diocese. In the last two years, for example, we have purchased much needed bunk beds for the local Church school and paid for cataract operations in the nearby eye hospital.

This year's fundraising has been primarily centred on Christmas and the Junior School pupils have taken part in many activities to beat last year's total of £1977.00. This year the money raised will go to buy a motorbike for a health outreach worker in this poor area of Tanzania.



The King's Kindergarten Nativity Play in Holy Saviour's Church. The congregation supported the School's Annual Masasi Appeal.



NECCR CANCER RUN

King's has been involved in the NECCR Cancer Run since it began in 1983. It was started by some of our parents and the then Head of the Junior School to raise funds in appreciation of the doctors and staff at the Royal Victoria Infirmary, Newcastle whose skill and dedication saved the life of a pupil at the school.

To date, The Run has raised almost £4 million for NECCR. The funds that are raised by people gaining sponsorship goes directly to helping the cause of finding cures for children's cancer. The pupils and staff have raised more than £75,000 and have also assisted with the organisation of the Run throughout the year and on the day itself.

This year's Run will take place on Sunday 9th May at Newcastle Racecourse in High Gosforth Park and will mark the 28th anniversary of the Children's Cancer Run.



If you would like to take part, please email me at ewotton@kings-tynemouth.co.uk and we will set up a group for former pupils.

For further information, please see the official website at www.childrenscancerrun.co.uk

APPEAL FROM DAVID COOK (2005)

I am currently in my final year at Loughborough and in the summer I am climbing Mt. Kilimanjaro in aid of Childreach International. This charity helps children in schools and hospitals across Tanzania. Although I haven't finished creating my webpage, I have some basic information at

<http://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/davidcook>

Any help towards my £2300 target would be much appreciated!

MANY THANKS.

NEWS



CHRISTOPHER HOWARD RAINE (1970)

Anne Raine

Christopher Raine and the Duke of Gloucester unveiling the plaque for the Listening for Life Centre

Chris's family felt the school might like to know about Chris' progress since leaving King's School in 1970 after many years commuting daily from Newcastle on the No 11 bus when Malcolm Nicholson was the Head. He and the other teachers gave Chris and his Mum great support following the sudden death of his father.



The Lord and Lady Mayor and hospital officials with Anne and Christopher at the end receiving the Royal Party

On leaving school he went to Newcastle Medical School, graduating with his medical degree and an extra BSc in 1976. He met and married Anne when she also qualified in 1977.

During his training he had studied ENT under Mr Hugo Marshall who inspired him to pursue a career in Ear Nose and Throat (ENT) surgery and he never wavered from this ambition.

After junior jobs in Newcastle he obtained a Registrar post in Liverpool where his first child, Jenny, was born. Then on to the midlands as a Senior Registrar rotating through units in Stoke, Birmingham and Wolverhampton where

his second child, Juliet, was born.

When he was ready for a consultant post, he decided to build an NG kit car to fill in time until the right job came along. Work proceeded slowly until he was successful in his application to Bradford and suddenly the car was completed in three weeks!

So he moved to Bradford, West Yorkshire, where his third child, Jonathan, was born (no more moves and no more children since then!). He developed an interest in the newly developing technique of cochlear implantation which enabled profoundly deaf patients to hear and, if done early enough, to live a relatively

normal 'hearing' life with all the wonderful benefits that brings.

He started performing these implants, originally dubbed by the media as 'bionic ears', with a team of only three people - himself performing the surgery, an audiologist doing the assessments and post operative care and a teacher of the deaf.

There was no NHS funding originally so Chris founded the Ear Trust charity to raise the required £12,000 for each implant. In the beginning, he saw and counselled patients and their families at his family home. The whole family, friends, patients and their family and friends became involved - anything at all to raise money. Chris' neighbours were convinced for a year or two that he was a scrap merchant dealer as they saw the masses of aluminium and other metals arriving at the house to be sorted and sold for recycling - in the days that it was worth something!

Since then, the NHS has recognised the value of this treatment for deafness and slowly began to fund some of the work. But the Ear Trust continued to raise the money required to develop the service and expanded the team from the original three to over twenty at the present time. The unit in Bradford is the centre for the whole of Yorkshire and receives referrals from other areas also. Chris' work in Bradford has gained a national and international reputation of which we are proud.

So the number of patients requiring an implant increased and all patients require the support of the team for the rest of their lives. About three years ago it became obvious that the work was continuing to expand and more space with better facilities was required. Chris had a vision of building his own unit and, thanks to the dedication of The Ear Trust, his Team and the support from patients and their families and friends, local schools and businesses and the Lord Mayor he has finally achieved this.

The Bradford Royal Infirmary realised the value of what Chris was doing and have gone into partnership with the Ear Trust to design and erect the first purpose built unit of its kind in the UK

NEWS

in the grounds of the hospital - The Listening for Life Centre. This new unit houses the Yorkshire Cochlear Implant Centre - all the staff and equipment needed to carry out assessments, education and continuing support of the profoundly deaf patients and their families.

The new unit had its official Royal opening on 15th October 2009 by the Duke of Gloucester who, being an architect himself, appreciated the design of the unit and enjoyed talking to the staff and patients. It was already up and running very successfully and had already hosted three international meetings when the video links between the new centre's lecture hall and the operating theatres were much appreciated by the delegates who could watch and talk to the surgeons performing live surgery.

The architects enlisted the help of Bradford Girls Grammar School just opposite the hospital and the DT and art department held a competition to design a water feature for the new building. The winner was Amber Thiora, an extremely talented sixth former designed a metal sculpture depicting four musicians, each with a head the shape of the Ear Trust logo and playing instruments in the shape of an ear and this now stands proudly outside the new building.

This has been the culmination of 20 years work with the profoundly deaf and has been a dream realised.

But alongside it the everyday work of an ENT surgeon has continued, along with national and international commitments which are even now increasing and will become even more fulfilling over the next few years. He will take up office as president of Otolaryngology at the Royal Society of Medicine next year and continues as an executive officer for his professional association.

So Chris feels he owes a huge "Thank you" to King's School, Tynemouth for such a great start to his working life. Thank you!

There will be an Open Day at the centre on the 6th March 2010 if anyone is in the area www.eartrust.org.uk



DAVID ERNEST WILLIAM LAIDLER (1956)

London, Ontario, December 2009

Following my appeal for news from former pupils in the last Newsletter, Vincent Bootle (1955) suggested I look up David Laidler, a former classmate, who he had just discovered is now extremely famous- otherwise known as "Chips" (because his parents had a fish and chip shop where he worked in the holidays).

David Laidler is currently Professor Emeritus at the University of Western Ontario where he was Professor of Economics from 1975 to 2004. His fields of interest are monetary economics and its history and he has written numerous academic articles and books in these areas including *The Demand for Money (1969, 4th ed 1993)* and *Two Percent Target: Canadian Monetary Policy*.

He writes: So it's true after all: you really can't hide, and after fifty three years, my old school has tracked me down. I ran too, to LSE in 1956, disappointing Mr. Ellison a bit, because he had wanted me to try for Cambridge. Eight subsequent moves, five of them transatlantic, led me to London, Ontario in 1975 to begin what by now looks like a life sentence. By that time I'd lost touch with almost everyone on Tyneside except my parents.

There is no mystery about my present location. First class students and a first class library - not to mention the Canadian academic year (September-April) - were bound to attract someone who had always found the classroom more comfortable than the playing-field. I suspect that most academics were once upon a time teenagers whose biggest dread was the prospect of leaving school and who were lucky enough to find a way not to.

Nowadays I am professor emeritus - a Latin word meaning "no longer on the payroll" - of economics at the University of Western Ontario. I still publish the odd academic work, and write policy pamphlets on behalf of the C.D.Howe Institute, a Toronto-based think-tank which is more pragmatic than ideological, though like me, it would just as soon see the

market economy that we know and love survive a little longer.

For many years, had I been asked what I learned at Tynemouth School that was of lasting importance to me - the question was never put, however - I would have answered: "Not much beyond some salutary lessons about playing fields and how to avoid them". But this would not have been true. I began my academic career as a specialist in monetary economics, and I still am, though rather old-fashioned in my ways by now, but I became more and more interested in the sub-discipline's history as my career progressed and made it an object of serious study.

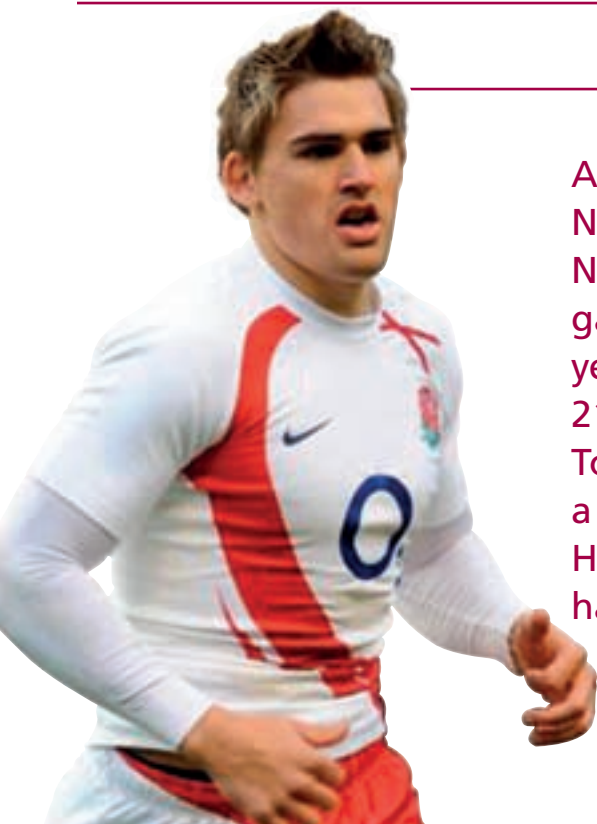
I turned out to be quite good at such work, and I must have learned how to do it somewhere. Though I have always been aware of how much I picked up from some very fine scholars at LSE and Chicago, I am now sure that this part of my education began in earnest in Tynemouth's sixth form.

My main subjects were English Literature and History, with French as the third - poor Mr Ellison really had wanted me to do Classics - and the first two of these required me to begin acquiring exactly the skills needed for later work in intellectual history. I must have already known this by 1956, or why would I have chosen for my last school prize, Bertrand Russell's *Freedom and Organization*, a book about the development of economic ideas before World War 1, which is still in my library? Evidently Eric Milne and Colin Gray, who first taught me how to enjoy ideas for their own sake, had more influence on me than any of us could have expected.

CAREERS

TOBY FLOOD (1998-2003)

Interview by Sophie Smith



After leaving King's in 2003, Toby Flood joined the Newcastle Falcons Academy whilst studying at Northumbria University. He started his first Premiership game against Wasps aged 19, played two consecutive years at England U21's and then the following year aged 21 gained his first cap for England against Argentina. To date, he has played 26 times for England, played in a World Cup Final, won a Guinness Premiership and a Heineken Cup runners up medal with Leicester. He has been playing for Leicester since 2008.

He talks to Sophie Smith about his career as a professional rugby player and the highs and lows of being a professional sportsman. ►

CAREERS ADVICE AND GUIDANCE: VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

We believe there is a role for the KTA to offer careers advice and guidance to current pupils, recent leavers and graduates.

The former pupil network holds a vast range of experiences, expertise and contacts.

The KTA would like to be able to give assistance to members and support each other in a professional capacity.

Our objectives would be:

1. To set up a small working party of volunteers who want to assist current pupils, undergraduates and recently graduated former pupils.
2. To use the member database to set up a business directory of contacts and provide networking opportunities.
3. To develop the Kings Tynemouth Alumni Group on "Linked in" to facilitate online networking opportunities.

4. To use the membership of the KTA to assist, directly and indirectly, enquiries and manageable requests for help.

5. To offer both generic and specific practical help and advice - and ensure confidentiality.

Some examples of practical assistance might include CV reviews, mentoring, information sign-posting, assisting work placements or business set-up.

If you would like to be involved, please contact Emma Wotton
ewotton@kings-tynemouth.co.uk
for further discussion.

If you would be prepared to represent your profession at the School Careers Convention in November, please contact the Head of Careers, Mrs Valerie Hansen, on vhansen@kings-tynemouth.co.uk



What are positive and negative aspects of your profession?

The positives are that I get to travel to some amazing places, play in some great games but the best thing is when I get to run out at Twickenham representing my country. Also the crack actually knocking around with your mates every day and the crack in and around training.

The negatives are the injuries and any long time that you spend out of the game, those are the hardest occasions, or the feeling after losing a game, looking around a changing room knowing that all the hard work has not produced the result we were all striving for.



How did it feel to represent your country in a World Cup?

Being involved in a World Cup is something that I will never forget. There is a different vibe in an England World Cup Camp, there is more pressure as every game has such importance but the boys revel in that and that creates a awesome feeling in the squad. On the field the buzz is hard to explain but to know through every game the whole country is behind you and when you run out in the final there is nothing that can replace that feeling. However we did not win, and that gut wrenching feeling lasts for a long time.



Is it difficult to stay motivated through injury?

It can be yes, there are times when it gets pretty hard mainly on match days when there is nothing you can do for the team. Also those first few months are hard in a boot for the Achilles and on crutches they are very frustrating as you are so limited in what you can do. However you have to remain positive you are going to come back and if you work hard you will come back fitter, stronger and hungrier for the game.

“...smiling and enjoying the game is the best advice I have ever received.”

What has been the best piece of advice you have been given?

The best piece is “play with a smile” there can be a lot of stress playing professional sport through the week and in games. For me I always want to have the enjoyment factor and smiling and enjoying the game is the best advice I have ever received.

Who has been your role model / inspiration?

I don’t have any particular role model but have had people who have helped me in my career at every stage. Chris Davy was fantastic for me when I was at Kings, John Fletcher was a great positive role model at the Academy at Newcastle. When I joined the first team Matt Burke and Jonny Wilkinson were great for my playing development, on and off the field they were always spot on.

Does representing England differ from representing your club?

A little, but mainly due to the off field environment. When you play rugby as a kid you dream of running out for your country, it’s as simple as that, so that is why it’s such an amazing experience and the pride you feel is unparalleled. The pace of the game along with the world class players you test yourself against make it special. The club games are different but the fact that playing for Leicester we want to be challenging for silverware every year make every game so high profile with such importance and when you play for your mates the guys that you see every day make club games special.

What advice would you give someone who wanted to become a professional sportsman?

My advice would be the same as I had when I was growing up. Play as many sports as possible and enjoy those sports. I was lucky at King’s I played cricket, tennis, basketball, football and athletics. I firmly believe that all these different sports helped me develop my skill set for rugby. I was lucky to have the opportunity to play these sports at King’s, and enjoy them due to the environment created by the staff at Kings.



