



# KING'S TYNEMOUTH ALUMNI

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NEW YEAR NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 23

JANUARY 2011

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# COMMITTEE 2011

**Karen Bilton** (1976) *Chairman*  
**Geoff Scarth** (1950) *President*

**David Bilton** (1975)  
**Shaun Brannen** (1995)  
**Julian Brown** (1969)  
**John Burn** (1957)  
**Bruce Cockburn** (1963)  
**Michael Coulson** (1979)  
**Aidan Johnson** (1989)  
**Simon Johnson** (1987)

**Chris McConnachie** (1999)  
**Sophie Smith** (2006)  
**Ricky Tocher** (1962)  
**Marcus Turner** (2000)  
**New Committee Members**  
**Duncan Jordan** (1993)  
**Phill Mather** (1988)

If you would like to join the Committee, please contact Emma Wotton  
ewotton@kings-tyemouth.co.uk

# CONTENTS

From the Chairman	4
Annual Reunion Dinner	5
Headmaster's Report	6
School News	7
Alumni Families	8
Sports' News	14
KTA Funding Projects	15
News	16
Charities News	17

## EDITORIAL



### A Happy New Year to all!

In this edition you will find our new calendar of events for 2011, news from former pupils and charities and a feature on Alumni Families, who, I'm sure you will agree, have a significant role to play in maintaining the traditions and ethos of the King's School.

Forthcoming events include the Annual Reunion Dinner on Friday 1st April. If you would like tickets or to arrange year group reunion tables, please get in touch. On Saturday 8th May, the Annual Children's Cancer Run will take place

at Gosforth Park and we hope to make another Alumni Group Entry. This was a great day last year and I would encourage anyone with children especially to come and take part in this. I can promise you the one mile option is buggy friendly!

Thank you to all who have contributed to this Newsletter, please continue to send in your news. In the Summer Newsletter I will be running a feature "King's Around the World". If you live or work overseas, or have recently been on a gap year, please get in touch.

The next Newsletter will be published in July. Please send in your news to the Alumni Office by 31st May 2011.

**Emma Wotton**

**Mrs Emma Wotton**

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*The King's School*  
*Huntington Place*  
*Tynemouth*  
*Tyne and Wear*  
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Tel: 0191 258 5995

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## NEW HEADMASTER FOR KING'S



Edward Wesson

In January, we look forward to welcoming new Headmaster Edward Wesson, who joins us from Reigate Grammar in Surrey.

Educated at Tonbridge School, Ed gained A Levels in English, History and French before going on to Cambridge to read Law. Following this he spent two years in Journalism before pursuing a career in teaching. His first teaching post was at Wellington School, Somerset before spending 12 years at Hampton School where he was Head of Sixth Form. In 2006 he was appointed Pastoral Deputy

Head at Reigate Grammar where he also coached 1st XI Cricket and U14 Rugby.

Ed is married to Susie and they have a daughter Molly, born on the 12th November this year. His personal interests are history, theatre and food, along with cricket, Nottingham Forest Football Club and running to keep fit. Both he and Susie are very much looking forward to coming to live and work in Tynemouth.

Cover photograph by Brian Smith, father to Sophie Smith (2006) and William Smith (2008)

# CONGRATULATIONS

## BIRTHS



Congratulations to **Nikki Johnson** (2000) and her fiancé David Maguire on the birth of **Alice Jeane Maguire** on the 20th September 2010.



Congratulations to **Sam Walton** (2000) and his wife Helen on the birth of **Oliver Samuel Walton** on the 14th June 2010. Oliver's Godparents, **Marcus Turner** and **Katie Holmes** are both former pupils from the classes of 2000/01.

## ENGAGEMENTS

Congratulations to **Michael Willits** (1998) who is to marry his long term girlfriend **Kate Crutchley** in Orlando on the 29th December this year.

A large number of former King's pupils are to attend the wedding party in the USA. **Neil Dutta** (2000) and **Chris Willits** (1999) are to be the best men and **Michael O'Neill** (2000) will be an usher.

## MARRIAGES

Congratulations to **Lisa Appleby** (2000) and **Chris Tocher** (2001) who got married in Otterburn in August this year.



They were joined by their many friends from King's: **Alex Johnson** and his wife **Lucy**, **Damian Wall** and his wife **Kelly**, **Johny Wall** and fiancée **Zoe**, **Andrew Bilsland**, **Richard Kershaw**, **Richard Thompson** and his partner **Sarah**, **Chris** and **Caroline Thompson**, **Christian Taylor**, **Neil Dutta**, **Andrew Shield** and his wife **Vicky**, **John Daniel**,

**Ed Kassell** and his wife **Lucy**, **Alastair Taylor**, **John Craggs**, **Adam Farrow**, **Andrew Stirrat**, **Adam Karimian**, **Katy Newall**, **Ian Laider** and his wife **Millie**, **Kate Wickam**, **Marcus Turner** and his fiancée **Katie Holmes**, **Roopika Jerath** and her husband **Vinny** (nee Sehgal), **Nick Went** and his partner **Holly** and **Richard Gardham**.

Please keep us up to date regarding new arrivals, engagements, marriages or degree success

# CALENDAR OF EVENTS 2010/2011

## FRIDAY 21ST JANUARY

KSPTA Ceilidh and Burns Night Supper  
The King's Hall, 7.30pm

## THURSDAY 10TH MARCH

KTA AGM and Committee Meeting  
Tynemouth House, 7.30pm

## FRIDAY 25TH MARCH

KSPTA Quiz Night  
Café K, 7.30pm

## FRIDAY 1ST APRIL

KTA ANNUAL REUNION DINNER  
Drinks at 6.30pm in Oswin's  
Dinner 7.30pm The King's Hall

## SATURDAY 8TH MAY

Children's Cancer Run  
Gosforth Park

## TUESDAY 2ND JUNE

KTA Annual Golf Tournament  
Tynemouth Golf Club

## THURSDAY 8TH SEPTEMBER

Hockey and Touch Rugby, Former pupils Vs 1st Team and Staff  
The Parks, 5pm start

## 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

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# FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Karen Bilton (1976)

On the 11<sup>th</sup> day of the 11<sup>th</sup> month at the 11<sup>th</sup> hour the School always holds an open air service for all pupils and staff, together with any parents and alumni who wish to attend, and this year was no exception - a wreath was proudly laid on behalf of the KTA by our president, Geoff Scarth and special tributes were paid to former pupils who have died in war or as a result of war. As I write my piece for the next newsletter I have just come home after attending the Remembrance Sunday Service which was held at the Tynemouth Village War Memorial and which was a poignant reminder of the many sacrifices made during the wars and conflicts of the past century and of the sacrifices still being made. At the service held at Holy Saviours Church before we went on to the War Memorial today a remembrance poem entitled 'There will be Peace' by David Roberts was read, the final two lines of which have stayed with me and will do so for many a day.

***'There will be peace:  
When enemies become fellow  
human beings'***

We now approach Christmas and all the flurry of activity associated with the festive season, although I do realise that by the time you read this newsletter it will all have passed and

been enjoyed, but I hope that New Year Resolutions are not yet forgotten.

Similarly I would hope that the advert, the piece of good news and the suggestion which I wrote about in the summer newsletter have not yet been forgotten. Briefly the message from these was that as from July 2010, all leavers of the School from year 11 onwards automatically become members of the KTA and that current members will no longer be asked to pay an annual subscription. My suggestion was that you might however consider **continuing** your current standing order or, even **increasing or commencing a new** standing order in favour of the KTA. Why do I encourage you to do this? All monies donated by you will be transferred direct into the KTA Bursary Fund which is being set up in conjunction with the School Bursary Fund with the express intention of being able to provide bursaries to children or relatives, of alumni, who deserve a King's School education and the start in life which we have been fortunate to benefit from, but whose parents are simply unable to afford the fees. *As former pupils you could make a tangible difference to the lives of young people by considering either a donation to the Bursary Fund or, in the*

*long term, even a legacy. I leave that thought with you.*

The Reunion Dinner 2011 is already proving to be popular and tickets are selling quickly. If you would like to gather a year group table together please don't leave it too long before you apply as numbers are restricted. I am looking forward to seeing you there.

Emma and I have worked closely together this term on a number of projects one of which involves the professional scanning of all the School Magazines onto PDF files - an exciting prospect. These should be available for alumni to download online in the near future.

For the last KTA magazine Emma arranged for a photo shoot of all the current pupils who have some family connection with alumni whether it be through a parent, grandparent, or other relation. The close alumni family ethos of the school is confirmed by her findings: at the time of the photograph 80 pupils from 50 families had some connection with an alumni member, 95% of which were parents. And there must be many more for whom there is also an alumni link.

All the best to you all for 2011.

**Karen Bilton**



**John Hall (1943) and Geoff Scarth (President) (1950) at the unveiling in 2007 of the memorial tablet dedicated to all Alumni who have died. This is situated in the School Chapel**

KING'S TYNEMOUTH ALUMNI  
ARE PLEASED TO INVITE YOU TO THE

# ANNUAL REUNION DINNER 2011



To be held on

**Friday 1st April 2011 at 7.30pm in the King's Hall**

Drinks reception in Oswin's from 6.30pm

Non-Members, partners and guests welcome

**Tickets £25.00**

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

# HEADMASTER'S REPORT



World Challenge Expedition to the High Himalaya, 2010

We have enjoyed a very busy and productive term in both Junior and Senior schools and it has been my great pleasure to have had an opportunity to work with pupils, staff and parents to restate some of our core principles of courtesy, good manners, integrity and the importance of treating others with respect. In early September we celebrated the successes of our pupils, both past and present at our annual Prize Giving in The Sage, Gateshead. This year we added pieces by our choir and orchestra to the traditional hymn and National Anthem. The outgoing Upper Sixth had indeed done as well as we had hoped for with 90% gaining their first choice university after 60% of A level grades were A\*, A or B, with 100% pass rate as in the past four years. That 10% of all A level grades at King's were the new A\* grades were outstanding reward to pupils and staff who have worked so hard together. Some of our pupils who exceeded their expectations are reapplying this year having planned to take a productive GAP year and should take up improved places in 2011.

King's as we all know is not just about academic results; it is about the quality of the person who also achieves those grades. That depth of character and personality, features difficult to measure, but recognizable nonetheless, arise from the rich experience that pupils at King's benefit from. I was privileged this summer to lead and share the experiences with one of the World Challenge expeditions to the high Himalaya in India. I have travelled to many parts of

the globe with our pupils and what really strikes me is their ability to get along with one another, however difficult the conditions and to make good decisions. They discuss things, listen and show respect for not only each other, but also those they come into contact with. These 'soft skills' are probably the ones that will take them further in their chosen careers than mere examination results.

Never ones to sit back, the school have taken the opportunity of a term's interregnum to complete a full 'self evaluation exercise' involving the views of pupils, staff, parents and governors. This term long enterprise has enabled us to clearly identify 'what we do well' and also 'what we want to do better' so that in the coming terms we can continue to strengthen the position of King's within the North East educational community.

As the term has progressed we have enjoyed an impressive range of musical, sporting and cultural activities, visits and expeditions. More than 150 pupils have been out and about in Northumberland and Cumbria on DofE expeditions, the senior rugby squad had a successful tour to Prague in the Czech Republic, hockey tours went to Scotland and a full fixture list from U10 to U18 level have taken place in all our key sports. The Junior School had their usual Harvest celebration at Holy Saviour's in Tynemouth and the whole school celebrated our 150th Anniversary at St George's Church, Cullercoats earlier this term. This was a wonderful celebration of the work of

Nathaniel Woodard, Dean Milner-White and subsequent Heads who have developed the King's School into what we see today. It was our great sadness that in order to get the full school into the church there was no room for guests and former pupils. Recently our senior school choir enjoyed singing Evensong at York Minster and have also continued to develop their relationship with St Michael's church in Alnham.

At the beginning of term we welcomed some new members of staff to replace those who moved on last year, and they have settled in remarkably quickly, already making their mark on King's. Mr Scott Sweeney heads up the Design Technology department, Mr Peter Allonby joins the Geography department, Mr Rhatigan is our new teacher of Spanish, Mr Philip Taylor is new Physics teacher with an interest in sailing and DofE, Ms Cate Amsdorf has started our new venture in AS and A level Psychology which has been eagerly awaited by Year 11 pupils, Mrs Joy Pearson is an additional member of the Learning Support department. In the library Mrs Julie Angel has taken over the reins and is developing the resources week by week. We seem to have a good balance between established, committed members of staff and new colleagues who bring new ideas and energy that help move King's forward in these exciting times. There is something very special about the King's community and I'm sure it will be in good hands in the future.

*With Best Wishes*  
**Mark Heywood**

# SCHOOL CHOIR SING AT ST MICHAEL AND ALL ANGELS, ALNHAM

Steve Clark, Church Warden

Staff and pupils from The King's School Tynemouth once again played the lead role in the life of the rural community of Alnham, a tiny hamlet in North Northumberland, where they led the worship at the parish church of St Michaels and All Angels in November. The King's School, Tynemouth use what was the former School House in Alnham as an out door activity centre; over the past few years they have played an ever increasing part in the local community, culminating in members of the Senior Choir taking the lead yesterday in a choral communion, attracting many visitors, and helping to swell the congregation.

Church Warden Sara Smith said "It is fantastic to welcome the pupils from King's School, Tynemouth. In a village where nearly half the houses are either second homes or holiday lets this input of life is vital to sustaining any sense of community in the village. Their music was awe inspiring and uplifting and we look forward to welcoming them back very soon".

Philip Sanderson, Director of Music, at The King's School said that the staff and pupils had thoroughly enjoyed their weekend, using the church on the Saturday to rehearse for their performances at York Minster later this

week, for their number of carol services throughout December and, of course, to lead the worship here at Alnham on Sunday. Not only was the Choir in fine voice, but also the congregation sang extremely well. It was delightful and uplifting to have a full church all singing together and to hear the organ played wonderfully. On the 27th November The King's School's Choristers, a choir of much younger pupils will contribute to worship that morning. "Looking into the future together, we have planned an evening of readings and carols by candlelight in the run up to Christmas at Alnham. The service will be on Tuesday 7th December at 6.30pm and all are welcome" Philip Sanderson also commented that the Carol Service at Alnham is one of the Choir's most treasured venues in which to perform.



# 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE KING'S SCHOOL



On Thursday 23rd September the Senior and Junior Schools met in St George's Church Cullercoats to celebrate the 150th Anniversary of The King's School.

The Rt Revd Martin Wharton, Bishop of Newcastle preached in the service to a packed church. King Oswin of Tynemouth, after whom the school was named and for whom our new building is dedicated, was remembered for his qualities of justice and generosity.

The work and dedication of Dean Eric Milner-White in securing the early future of the school, joining us with the wider Woodard family of schools, were highlighted in prayers and readings and the continuing work of Governors, staff and pupils were celebrated. With an eye on the past we look forward with great hope to the continuing success of The King's School, Tynemouth.

## 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 are:

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-tynmouth.co.uk](mailto:ewotton@kings-tynmouth.co.uk) for further discussion.

If you would be prepared to represent your profession at the School Careers Convention in November 2011, please contact the Head of Careers, Mrs Valerie Hansen, on [vhansen@kings-tynmouth.co.uk](mailto:vhansen@kings-tynmouth.co.uk)

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# ALUMNI FAMILIES

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**There are currently in the region of 50 alumni families with children at King's.**

**Here they write about their own experiences of school and why they have chosen King's for their sons and daughters.**



**Ian Angus (1982) and his wife Helen have two daughters, Sophie who left in 2010 and Amy in Lower 6th.**

It is perhaps the ultimate endorsement when past pupils choose to send their own children to a school such as ours. I say 'ours' because I still feel such a strong sense of belonging even though it's almost 30 years since I left King's. As a boy I remember being told (as I think we probably all are at some stage) that school days are 'the best days of your life' and thinking, whilst immersed in stressful and often seemingly boring study, how can this be?! But it's true in so many ways; the friendships formed, values learned, pranks played, gossip shared, opportunities afforded to develop skills in sport, music and drama, to enjoy memorable school trips and excursions, the field centres at Alnham and Hawick, the Canal Cruise not to mention Ski Trips and now the ultimate - World Challenge. If it weren't for the small matter of having to study in between all the fun I could almost be describing a holiday camp!

King's offers wonderful opportunities for its pupils in all manner of self development and academic achievement but as a pupil with homework deadlines and daily routine, it is sometimes difficult to see the wood for the trees. By this I mean that we don't perhaps fully appreciate what we have until it's gone and only on later reflection do we understand the enormous benefit that a King's education bestows in so many different ways, certainly not only in the academic sense.

I have been fortunate enough to have been able to provide a King's School education for my two daughters from their very first day at Kindergarten. Sophie completed her A levels in June of this year and is now studying Geography and Geology at Leeds University whilst Amy is now in Lower 6th having just started her A levels. Sophie was distraught at the thought of having to leave Kings, and I did ask

myself whether I'd done the right thing in sending her to the same school all of her life ( I had a state school education until the age of 11 and so was able to draw something of a comparison). I needn't have worried however as she has carried strong attributes of self belief and King's values with her beyond the school walls and out into her new world with great confidence which is precisely why I wanted to send my daughters to King's in the first place.

As a family, we live in Tynemouth and I've had the privilege of serving the School as a Governor for the past 11 years. My own connections with our school remain strong and I'm confident that through the excellent efforts of our Alumni Association myself and my daughters will continue to enjoy our relationship with the school and our contact with old friends for many years to come.





Alumni Children, Summer 2010

**Nigel Cooke (1980) and his wife Louise have two daughters, Francesca in Junior 2 and Emilia in Junior 5.**

Possibly one of the biggest decisions that I was asked to make for quite some time was to choose which school my two daughters would attend.

I can remember going back to re-visit the school and being amazed at how many improvements had been carried out since I left the school in the early 1980's. The school today is, in my opinion, far bigger and better equipped than I could possibly imagine.

A significant advantage when making our final choice was that the school was now co-educational. In my opinion, having my daughters brought up in a single sex environment would only inhibit their social development and subsequent behaviour.

The ethos of Kings School is exactly what my wife and I were looking for. The school values are quite simply first class and the overall environment offered is second to none.

The fact that the school is able to offer small classes, a strong moral code means that I am confident that both of my children will enjoy their time at Kings and I am sure that they will leave with a positive attitude towards the school.

Perhaps, unlike many parents, the academic qualifications were not necessarily the highest priority during my decision making process when choosing the school. A combination of factors including the girls' happiness, a broad range of sports and out of school activities and the general ability for them to enjoy the school experience all rated equally as high on our list.

Whilst as a parent you always hope that your children will achieve good academic results it is important for us as a family that our children are also instilled with good life skills and values.

I am extremely confident that my children and their subsequent education are in safe hands with all of the staff at Kings School.

On numerous occasions, whilst out and about with my two daughters, people approach me to say how smart, well behaved, polite and courteous my children are. These are exactly the values they will need in the future to take them forward to what I hope will be a happy and successful career. I have entrusted The King's School with the job of putting in a firm foundation for them. So far my children's experience at the school has been nothing less than first class. Both girls are extremely happy and look forward to going to school on a daily basis (I hope that this will continue for the next ten years or so).

I can, without hesitation or exception, strongly recommend any parents go



Photo of Emilia and Francesca holding up "The Cendant Cup" which their dad was awarded for being the "Best Estate Agent in the UK"

to have a look around the school, view the excellent additions and extensions which provide first class facilities and meet and greet the teachers who will instil good qualities into their children.

## Sue Corcoran nee Golightly (1980) and her husband Jamie have two children, Christian is in Junior 2 and Gabrielle.

When it came to the time to make the decision as to which school our son Christian would go to, we were in the very fortunate position of to be able to choose Kings. As a former pupil of the Kindergarten myself, I wanted Christian to experience what I had been lucky enough to experience a small, family orientated school. I truly value the small class sizes, the strong moral code and the acceptance and encouragement each child receives at Kings. Christian goes into and comes out of school happily each day, and during his day he has the opportunity to experience such activities as story

tellers, archaeological digs, trips here there and everywhere to develop his academic and personal skills.

Last year I was asked to go and speak to Christians Year 1 class about my experience of school. Back in the 70s, King's Kindergarten was based in a house in Monkseaton. One child in the class did ask me if we had electricity when I went to school which made me feel extremely old and they did have a little laugh when they saw the photographs of our 1970s uniform! The children loved hearing about Mrs Searle the Head Teacher living upstairs to the classrooms and how once a week we had to take our shoes off to go into her sitting room to watch the television. The girls were shocked to hear that back then girls had to leave Kings after the Kindergarten and were only allowed back for sixth form. With our daughter Gabrielle a few

years away from starting school, it's lovely to think her big brother will be there for her on her first day and many years to come, although my brother **David Golightly (1988)** was probably very relieved I wasn't there for his years at Kings.



## Alex Giles (1974) and his wife Jane have one daughter Lucy who is in Junior 3.



People say - "From the first day you start at school the memories stay with you."

For me the Kings memories are not just about my schooling, a long time ago, but also encompasses my daughter and her friends, the older children who spend time with me on work experience, the employment of ex-Kings pupils and finally my friends who, teachers and Alumni themselves, one would say have benefitted from a Kings school education.

We all as parents, employers, family members and those who have roles in the community seek to guide people towards the right goal – being the

right person, behaving like you would to others especially in an ever increasing mean world.

That can only be done at certain times of the day and therefore having the reassurance that at other times Kings School are doing their part in the correct development of your child is warming. There are important groups as mentioned that I should explain more about to give you the whole story.

I started at Kings School in 1972, catching the bus from the Links in Whitley Bay with the four Sawyer children to start my life development, a grounding that still stands with me today that reflects the school motto of being civil in custom.

My daughter, Lucy, started her school life there in 2007 along with 19 other anxious couples. To this day my wife and I see the happiness and warmth from the others parents as they drop their children off. We are a close bunch of parents yet one theme remains strong throughout, Kings creates the right ambience and setting. The kids come out of school happy, wanting to tell you about their varied day. The enthusiasm shines from 7 and 8 year olds and certainly from all the children who have been at our house for parties, tea, sleepovers and also for two week summer holidays there is **not** one of them that has made you think - "never again!"

Being lucky enough to own my own company means the flexibility of allowing as many work experience kids and encouraging the creative spirit in them. Through Miss Hansen we have now seen current and ex Kings pupils spend time with us, each with their own joie de vivre yet still that all rounded persona. In fact we were so impressed with one ex Kings pupil we employed her full time.

Friends - essential to your sanity. Having played cricket at Tynemouth CC and rugby at Percy Park RFC for many years again ex Kings pupils and teachers become part of your life and for me those ex Kings pupils and teachers have that Civil in custom spirit whether on the pitch or in the bar afterwards.

Kings is an essential part of all of our lives and as you have just read not just individually for me but in friendship, in your own children, in other people's children and in the community – it's not just an education for life.



**Andy Mason (1985) and his wife Sarah have one daughter Sophie who is in Junior 5.**



Sophie Mason

Last August, Sophie finished her local Whitley Bay First school, after having enjoyed it very much. It was a natural break in her education to change schools, and join her family members who have already passed through at some point, into King's School!

Sophie entered Class J5C, into the care of Mr Lilly, and follows a fair few members of her family into the school. Her Grandfathers attended in the 1950's, her mum, Sarah and her sister Helen were in the Kindergarten at Holywell Avenue, her auntie Christine was in the Sixth Form, and I attended in the 1980's. In fact Mr Lilly was my Rugby coach for one of the rugby teams then. I definitely remember **not** being allowed sneak my vest on under my sports top, when the wind was howling in from the North Sea, whilst I froze on the wing, ready to drop the ball when it was passed to me!

We went through many deliberations, as I am sure many parents do, in deciding where Sophie could go to school. This was quite a traumatic time, as we realised that Sophie had made some special friends at her First School, and understandably it would be a wrench to leave them behind. After not too much deliberation, King's School was the option chosen.

This decision was based mainly on the fact that all our family agreed that life at King's School was on the main, "a happy time". We thought that if your child can go to, and then come back from school with a smile on their



Grandads are on the back row, 1953 cricket team, Mason far left, Fairbairn far right

face, then the rest could follow naturally. Personally, I whilst, never being "a brain box", found that when I left school to join the Merchant Navy, was able to use the values of respect I had been taught by the school (maybe unknowingly to me!!!), to be able to interact well with crews I worked with, ploughing the high seas, making life a bit easier in an exposed environment. Also the work ethics installed into me by my teachers, enabled me to study hard in order to gain my professional qualifications, once I was in the world of work. Now I have moved job ashore, I still find these "life skills" invaluable in both my working environment, and social life outside work.

Sophie is well into her first term, and I can confirm that she seems to have a fun time at school, as well as benefiting from the attention that can

be achieved by being in a small class of children. She has made good friends in the class, and keeps touch with her mates from her old school as well.



Sarah Mason in the Kindergarten at Holywell Avenue



Andy Mason: Front row football team, second from right

**Jenny Hearl has two children at King's, her brother, John Ellis, attended the School in the early 1970's. Louise is in Year 10 and David is in Year 8. Jenny writes:**

I would have no hesitation in recommending King's School. My children have both been very happy at the school. We initially chose King's as Louise & David had been in private nursery for many years, as I work full time. King's offered extra services such as after school club which was very convenient for me. When we looked at the local state school and King's there was no comparison, the facilities on offer and the Ethos were the main attractions for us.

I am delighted with the way in which all of the pupils have good manners, are smart and care about each other. I think that the basic values and principles of the school are so important and the children stand out and are such good ambassadors for the school.

I did not send the children to King's to achieve academic excellence, I sent them to learn good values, have discipline and become smart, professional and polite young people and to enjoy their time at school, experiencing and having diverse opportunities.

**Stephen Overs (1982) and his wife Nicky have three children, Leon in Junior 4, Holly in Junior 6 and Lili in Year 9.**

We chose King's for a number of reasons:

The most important aspect for us was to have a coeducational system for the children as we believe single sex schools can inhibit social development. In my time at King's, girls only entered the school in Lower Sixth so having mixed classes all the way from Kindergarten to Upper Sixth is a far better system.

Also, on a more practical note, as we have a son as well as daughters, it is



more convenient for us, and better for the children to attend the same school as their siblings.

The ethos and general values taught at King's were also a contributing factor in our decision. In this regard, King's school has changed little since my stint there, sometime during the last century!



**Duncan Weir (1987) and his wife Karen have three children, Alexander in Reception, Harriet in Junior 3 and Annabel in Junior 6.**

Duncan attended Kings School from age 6 to 16, and he has nothing but fond memories of his time there.

Both he and his older brother Paul still manage to keep in contact with many of their school friends. This is despite Paul now living with his own family in London, otherwise I am certain both of his children would be attending too! In fact, many of Duncan's and Paul's school friends are now clients, and insured with us!

When our children were born there was no doubt where they would go, so it's a good thing King's became co-ed as Annabel & Harriet came along before Alexander!



**Carole Waller (1981) and her husband Christopher (1980) both attended King's and have two children, Katie is in Junior 4 and James is in Junior 5.**

I was asked recently why my husband and I decided to send our children to The King's School, Tynemouth. It wasn't a hard choice for us, both being former pupils of the school. I left in 1981, and my husband Chris, left in 1980. We both have siblings that went to the school, and a parent that had been a Governor. I was involved in the setting up of the re-formed Old Boys Association that became the Kings Alumni. So our ties with the school have never really been broken.

When our eldest child, James was nearing school age we went along to an Open Morning, more to be nosey than anything else. We thought that it would be interesting just to see the old school again. Little did we realise what this would result in!

Our first impression of that visit was how positive, interested, and motivated all the staff were regarding their role in the school. Admittedly we

also notice the faded grandeur of the Junior School, but this was easily over compensated by the enthusiasm, care and concern that the teachers all had. After all a building is just the shell, it is the staff that bring the building to life. Our feelings were confirmed when we were shown around the rest of the Senior School by some of the 6th formers. They were a credit to the school. As a parent this was what we hoped our children would mature into- confident, charming and well rounded individuals.

We now have 2 children at Kings, a son in J5, and a daughter (Katie) in J4. They both love going to school and they come home and excitedly tell us what they have done that day. Fortunately we have never had the discussion as to why they have to go to school – they just accept it, and enjoy it. Scarily my son is taught by a master who also taught my husband. We seem to have come full circle.

My husband and I both look back fondly at our days at Kings. I joined in the 6th Form, as in those days girls were only accepted in the 6th form. I really did have the best time of my life, and little did I realise that I would meet my future husband at school. From the outside the school still looks as it did in

the 80's, but inside it has moved with the times. The Chapel where we use to hold our Core Course has been revamped; the girl's common room is no longer where it was, and is now a reception area. Girls have access to all the sports facilities. When I was at Kings we could play hockey, and that was it. We had no changing facilities, and use to jostle for position in a small class room upstairs to get changed, leaving clothes on desks, and ducking at the window just in case anyone saw you. There is the fabulous new Oswin's Building that dominates the school play ground, and the Arc has long gone, but it is strange how when you do go back you still feel as if you have been drawn back into the heart of Kings. I just hope that both James and Katie will have the fond and happy memories of Kings that their parents do.

Carole Waller (nee Smith aka "Pint Size")



Andrew Alderslade  
Zoe Alderslade  
Connel Andrew  
Sophie Angus  
Amy Angus  
Callum Ballard  
Gwen Ballard  
Chris Baron  
Daniel Baron  
James Bramley  
Macy Buchanan  
Harrison Buchanan

Emily Burke  
Jessica Burke  
Daniel Chambers  
Ellie Combe  
Niall Combe  
Rebecca Combe  
Francesca Cooke  
Emilia Cooke  
Christian Corcoran  
Christopher Dawson  
Lucy Elder-Smith  
Kathryn Elliot

Bella Fatherley  
Noah Fatherley  
Adam Frost  
Alex Gardner  
Lewis Gardner  
Lucy Giles  
Jack Glendinning  
Sophie Glendinning  
Archie Gray  
Jack Griffith  
David Hearl  
Louise Hearl

Alex Kidd  
Sarah Kincaid  
Rosie Kincaid  
Jonathan Laws  
Alex Littlefield  
James Macleod  
Sophie Mason  
Kate McLellan  
Charlie Miller  
Kester Miller  
Joel Miller  
Harriet Mutch

Alex Mutch  
George Mutch  
Harry Mutch  
Laura Nicholson  
Daniel Nixon  
Charlotte Nixon  
Lawrence O'Grady  
Leon Overs  
Holly Overs  
Lili Overs  
Sam Oxley  
Luc Potts

Iola Potts  
Alex Rye  
George Rye  
Nick Short  
Ben Sidney-Wilmot  
Ryan Sidney-Wilmot  
Tony Smith  
Lydia Smith  
Sophie Smith  
Ben Taylor  
Daniel Taylor  
Sophie Thompson

Amy Thompson  
Daniel Thompson  
Chris Wake  
Peter Wake  
Katie Waller  
James Waller  
Harriet Weir  
Annabel Weir  
Alexander Weir

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# SPORTS NEWS

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## Tag rugby and hockey event 2010

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**The former pupils vs current school is always a great chance for friends from over the years to reunite.**

More importantly though it's a chance for the former pupils competitive nature to be rekindled. The current school looked fit and agile whilst the former pupils dusted off their hockey sticks and made endless excuses before taking to the pitch. The former pupils came out all guns blazing and managed to gain a comfortable lead by the end of the first half. However after an impressive first half the former pupils began to slow, with fitness levels not quite what they used to be!!!

The current school took advantage of this and scored 2 quick goals. 6-2 and heading into the last 5 minutes the former pupils managed to hold out and win in style, with goals coming



Ruth Gordon (2006)

from the likes of Jenny Bilton and Jamie McCalvey to name but a few. With the bragging rights secured for another year we headed to the pub to reminisce

about the good old days at King's. An excellent day all round enjoyed by supporters and players.



Rob Snow

**Four teams played; one former pupils, one staff team, an U6 and a L6 team.** There was some very good running rugby with the staff team trying to slow it all down a bit. The former pupils' team eventually won with the last try of the game. It was an excellent event and enjoyed by all.

If you would like to take part in this year's event, please contact Gary Bradley on [gbradley@kings-tynemouth.co.uk](mailto:gbradley@kings-tynemouth.co.uk)

**Marcus and I would like thank all of those involved with the Kings Old Boys Mid-week cricket team for helping us to finish top of Division 5 of the North East Mid-week cricket league and therefore gaining promotion to Division 4 in our first season since formation.**

The team won all but two of our matches during the season- one loss in the league on an uncharacteristic off-day vs. Proctor and Gamble and one loss in a close battle with Blue Flames from Division 1 in the cup.

The performances were solid throughout the season and the team was a good mix of non-cricketers and those who had played cricket regularly at school and since leaving.

We would also like to thank the school for providing us with the use of Priors

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## Cricket "King's School Old Boys"

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Chris Willits

Park for most of our home games and Tynemouth CC for providing their ground on a couple of occasions and for providing cricket net usage.

We would like to thank the Sunday Old Boys team for their help and to Bill Ryan for agreeing to play for us at short notice when we were low on players. We look forward to next season when the competition should be stiffer and our aim is to gain promotion from Division 4 and also to have a longer cup run

than this season. We start winter net training sessions soon and will keep you updated on our progress when the league commences next May.



# KTA FUNDING PROJECTS

## Senior Rugby Tour to Prague October 2010

Rob Snow

**A squad of 23 boys went on the rugby tour to Prague in the October half term.** This was an excellent tour with some very tough rugby but an experience that the players will never forget. As well as playing rugby the team had the opportunity to do some sightseeing in the culture rich city of Prague.

Many thanks to the KSPTA and the KTA for kindly sponsoring the tour kit.



The team



End of tour meal at a traditional Czech restaurant

## SCOTLAND HOCKEY TOUR REPORT – OCTOBER 2010

Clare Taylor

### TOUR SQUAD

A large squad made up of three U6th, five L6th and ten players from year 11. Sally Marsden and Jayne Sewell were late withdrawals from the squad and Becky Lakin, Rosie Kincaid and Lizzie Parfitt were late additions. The tour was open to any player from the sixth form or year 11. The year 11 players were outstanding in their commitment to pre tour training.

### MATCHES

The Thursday evening match was against Clydesdale Hockey Club. It was a great experience to be play a club side although they were a bit too strong for us with several Scottish national players (9-0). Their hospitality was excellent.

The fixture against Jordan Hill was very well matched (1-1) and many thanks to Jordan Hill who selected an appropriate team to make this fixture such a close game.

Saturday saw the final fixture against Kelvinside. Despite tired legs this was the best performance by the squad against a strong Kelvinside team (lost 3-0).

### SPONSORS

Thank you to the KSPTA and KTA for their generous sponsorship of tour kit.

### STAFF

Thank you to Shona Smith for yet more of her time given to Kings hockey.

### SUMMARY

Overall a very successful tour. The tour squad were a breath of fresh air-hardworking, keen, fun, considerate and good company.



It is unusual to single out one player from a squad but Kathryn Elliott does deserve a mention; as Captain of a young squad she was the perfect role model, incredibly hard working on the pitch with never a sign of frustration despite less experienced players around her.



### Scanning of school photographs and magazines

The KTA has financed a project to have all the old school magazines and photographs scanned professionally. The photos date back as early as 1913 and the magazines go back to 1935. These are now available in PDF for anyone who is interested.

# NEWS



## **CHARLOTTE SWADDLE (2006)**

Charlotte graduated from Sunderland University this year and has set up business as a jewellery designer maker.

Charlotte makes handmade jewellery from paper and silver using traditional origami folds and techniques.

She exhibited at the Baltic earlier this year and is currently exhibiting at the National Glass Centre. She is planning an exhibition at the Biscuit Factory for 2011. She also sells collections from The Sage and Northern Print.

Charlotte's designs can be seen at [www.casdesign.co.uk](http://www.casdesign.co.uk)



## **CHARLOTTE GRABHAM (2000)**

Since leaving King's Charlie gained a 2.1 degree in English Literature from The University of Newcastle.

She then went on to be a District Manager for Lidl before moving into Marketing and Events. After a stint as a Marketing Executive for Ultimate Leisure Group, she was offered the position of Head of Events for ncjMedia Ltd. From ncjMedia she went to work for superbrand Jagermeister, before leaving last September to complete her Executive Postgraduate Diploma through the Chartered Institute of



Marketing. She then decided to set up her own company and in April of this year Atomic Marketing Agency was born, offering marketing, events and business consultant support services. Charlie now lives in Jesmond with her French Bulldog Sidney, loves to travel and is still working her way through her 'bucket list'.

## **NICHOLAS RAMSDEN (2004)**

I am still working in Juba, capital of the perhaps soon to be newly-independent Southern Sudan, though now with a Dutch company, BMB Mott MacDonald, contracted by the UK Department for International Development (DFID) to manage a pooled development fund, the Basic Services Fund (BSF).

The BSF works in the Primary Health, Primary Education and Water & Sanitation sectors of basic services development, investing in clinics, schools, borehole wells, latrines and various types of personnel training through NGOs – some of who are well-known “high street” international organisations such as Save the Children and OXFAM, whilst others are much smaller, Sudanese community organisations or Church groups.

I am working in Juba in the BSF Secretariat overseeing all current education projects in Southern Sudan, which will end in December 2011. We are targeting the construction of around 30 new schools and the training of over 2,000 teachers with a budget of around £10 million – not a lot of money when stretched over a region about half the size of western Europe.

Southern Sudan is widely expected to vote of its independence from Khartoum in a referendum scheduled for 9th January 2011 following over 2 decades of civil war between northern and southern Sudan which ended in 2005 and in which over 2 million people were killed. If Africa's newest independent nation is born in 2011 it will require the continued support of the United Kingdom and many other international partners in building systems and infrastructure – a daunting task indeed.

# CLASS OF 1971

## FRED EISNER (1971)

Since leaving King's in 1972 I have been married twice and I have a son called Steven aged 29 by my first marriage and a granddaughter called Ellie aged 8 and 3 cats and after my first wife, Doris, died in 1995 I met Betty and we got married in September 2000 and we have remained blissfully married ever since.

I started work as an Assistant Buyer for a chemical company for about 2 years and I then worked for approximately 10 years as a Civil Servant working at North Shields County Court and thereafter I joined Linsley & Mortimer solicitors in Grey Street, Newcastle upon Tyne and I

qualified as a Legal Executive in 1984. I then worked in that capacity for a number of local firms in the North East including Watson Burton solicitors for more than 20 years doing Personal Injury work, mainly helping people with Industrial Deafness claims and clients who were injured at work or in road traffic accidents, and in 2004 I thought "a change is as good as a rest" and I started work for my present employers Wallers solicitors in Newcastle engaged in Commercial Litigation work and I have remained there ever since.

I live in Whickham with my adorable wife Betty and our 3 cats, Socks, Tigger and Izzie since we were married and we also own a three bed roomed town house in Spain near Alicante which at the moment we use as a holiday home and where we intend to spend a lot of time in the Winter months after we have both retired in a few years time. Betty who has a daughter Julie and a son Nigel from her previous marriage is working part-time from this year as an Administrator for the Northumbria Police Authority helping police men

and women with criminal injury compensation claims and is winding down for retirement but being her toy boy I keep her young! My hobbies include playing bridge with another ex-King's pupil, John Gladders, and we started learning and playing bridge together in the Sixth form at King's in 1971/72 and he has been my bridge partner ever since playing once a week at Tynemouth Bridge Club for more than 39 years. Betty and I also like walking, socialising and going on holidays and on cruises. Oh, life is a ball.

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## GEOFF MOIR (1971)

Qualified as a Solicitor on the 1st August 1977.

Married had 3 children, Michaela, Alastair and Christopher. Divorced, now living with Alison.

Still living in South Shields and playing cricket for the old boys, occasional games of golf with Clarkie and Stu.

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# CHARITIES

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Ella Holder and Rosy Riley (2006)

## VOLUNTEERING IN SOUTH AFRICA



The girls traditional dance group

Earlier this year we were given the opportunity to go to the Eastern Cape of South Africa for five weeks to help with the completion of an amphitheatre being built in collaboration with Dodgy Clutch and Ryder Architects. The amphitheatre was designed here in Newcastle, but it is being made from local and naturally sourced materials, by a team of local people and local businesses. Whilst we were there, we focussed on the completion of the seating, which was left unfinished

earlier in the year, and due to weathering needed a little tidying up! The seating is made from gabion baskets, which you may recognise at the side of the road, often used to stop land sliding. When we arrived on site for the first time we were greeted by both the primary and secondary schools who sat around the unfinished seats, and performed for us. It was amazing to see the potential of the theatre and just how much the people of Gqumahashe would do for both education and entertainment! As well as filling the baskets, we also spent some time in the primary school, talking to the children and asking them questions about themselves and how they live. We collated everything we learnt to bring back to the UK to share with Primary schools in the north east as part of another on-going project within Dodgy Clutch. When we left to come home on the 13th of November,

the third row was just being finished, and the fourth row has also just been completed in the beginning of December, putting us ahead of schedule! The whole experience was incredible to be a part of and when the roof is raised in early 2011 the anticipation will be over!



On site completing 3rd row



Seating finished!

# CHARITIES

Emma Louise Long (2000)

## AMAZON HOPE

In May 2010 I headed out to Peru to commence a trip of a lifetime through South America. I qualified as a doctor in 2006 and having worked in England and Australia wanted to put my skills to use in an underprivileged part of the world. The Vine Trust is an international charity which seeks to enable volunteers to make a difference to some of the poorest communities in the world. I thought their medical project, travelling on a boat to otherwise inaccessible villages along the Amazon to offer medical treatment, sounded perfect. I hoped my AS-level Spanish from King's would help me although I was assured we had very good translators on-board!



After a few days to acclimatise in Lima and to meet up with the rest of the British dental and medical team we headed out to the jungle village of Iquitos, the Peruvian gateway to the Amazon. We were immediately hit by stifling heat and humidity but no sooner had we stepped on-board Amazon Hope 2 then we were off!

There were 3 doctors on-board; a Peruvian doctor (Dr Ronald), my friend Vicky who I qualified with, and myself. Dr Ronald participates in every trip, having only a couple of days in between to spend time with his young family in Iquitos. Because of the poor wages in Peru he cannot work on a voluntary basis but is an essential part of the team due to his extensive experience in jungle medicine. There is, however, a heavy reliance on British volunteer doctors to make up the team in order to treat the large numbers of patients.



Day 1 we arrived at our first village of Bellavista. Within minutes of docking the top deck was filled with patients waiting to be seen. Our 'consulting room' was a small area in the basement with an examination couch and chairs. We set to work, ably assisted by our fantastic translators Ronald and Frank, although we were soon fully able to translate the main presentations of 'gripe' (flu), 'dolor de cabeza' (headache) and 'dolor de estomago' (stomach ache)!

The biggest difficulty we faced was the sheer numbers of patients presenting to be seen. Over 10 days we visited 19 villages and consulted over 900 patients. Mothers came into the consulting room with 4 or 5 children, all of whom, including the mother herself, wanted to be seen. We treated a lot of diarrhoea and skin complaints, and all patients attending the boat were given treatment for worms. One of the highlights for me was when I delivered a baby on board the boat, a healthy little girl who was named Ema Victoria after her British doctors! We also treated some more serious problems, and had to send one child who required urgent surgery to the hospital in Iquitos, a difficult decision as the hospital at that point was 9 hours away even by speedboat (there is no air ambulance), and a treacherous journey in the dark.

I had an experience I will never forget and met some truly amazing people out on the Amazon. I improved my Spanish and even practised a bit of salsa on board! I would encourage health professionals of any kind to consider taking part. Each individual

trip is 2 weeks long, specifically to enable those with limited time to participate. Afterwards I continued my journey around Peru, Bolivia and Argentina and despite having finished the medical project found my help called upon on a number of further occasions! I would like to thank the King's Tynemouth Alumni for their kind donation towards the Vine Trust's project.

Left: The boat; Above: A consultation showing myself, my translator Ronald, and some patients; Below: A group photo of the British team, from left to right back row is Glynn Wakefield (helper), Colin Levey (dental student), Victoria Hamilton (doctor), myself, Gareth Blair (dental student), left to right front row is Shona Mason (dentist) and Ashley (dental nurse).



# CHARITIES

Gregg's Children's Cancer Run

## CHILDREN'S CANCER RUN

The 2010 North East Children's Cancer Run smashed last year's fundraising amount by an astonishing £15,000, bringing the grand total raised to £215,000, which was presented to the North of England Children's Cancer Research Fund (NECCR) last week.

The 28th Gregg's Children's Cancer Run saw over 1,500 more runners turn up for the UK's biggest fun run than the previous year. The some 10,000 mothers, daughters, aunts and grandfathers all helped raise over £215,000 which will go directly towards funding for the NECCR, which works to find the causes of childhood cancer and developing new treatments.

David Wood, Chairman of the NECCR commented, "I send my heartfelt thanks to every single person who took part in the race in May and helped raised money for the NECCR, it truly is the greatest North Run".

The Gregg's Children's Cancer Run began in 1983, when 100 students from The King's School Tynemouth took part in the race to raise money for treatment for fellow student, Chris Peacock. Chris was diagnosed with cancer of the kidneys when he was four years old, and was given just a 30% chance of survival. Chris, now 36, is chairman of the race committee, and a proud father of two girls.

Chris said, "I'm pleased to announce that the date for the next run, which will take place on Sunday the 8th May 2011. I look forward to seeing everyone there, and hopefully we can beat our record again".

Richard Hutton, Finance Director at Greggs spoke of the company's belief in the run, "Greggs plc was proud to support the 2010 Children's Cancer Run. The event is hugely popular amongst everyone in the North East and especially amongst Greggs people. The NECCR is an excellent cause and we are hugely grateful for the hard work of everyone involved in raising a tremendous total to help children in the North of England".

The Children's Cancer Run is a 5-mile cross country family fun run set up to raise money for the North of England Children's Cancer Research Fund (NECCR), and is sponsored by Greggs.



Photos from 2010

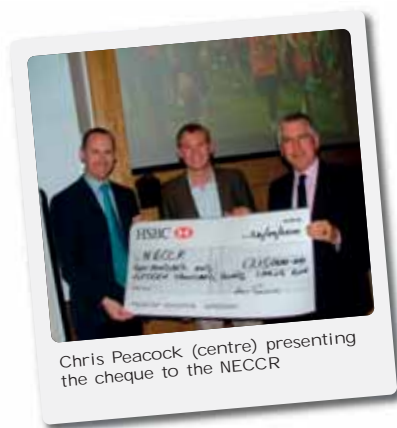
This year's run will take place on Sunday 8th May at Newcastle Racecourse in Gosforth Park.

The 1 mile option is "buggy friendly" for those with young children wanting to take part.

If you would like to enter as part of the King's Tynemouth Alumni group, please contact Emma Wotton

[ewotton@kings-tynemouth.co.uk](mailto:ewotton@kings-tynemouth.co.uk)

For further information, please see the official website [www.childrenscancerrun.co.uk](http://www.childrenscancerrun.co.uk)



Chris Peacock (centre) presenting the cheque to the NECCR

## CHARITY AT KING'S

Irene Nicholson

It's good to know that the school you have been so closely associated with is a caring, giving establishment. Over the past few years especially, Kings has come to be regarded highly in the local area for its contributions to good causes.

The Lower Sixth Charities Committee has raised significant sums for cancer charities over the years; this term our £500 donation went to Testicular Cancer Care. Committee members visited Year Group assemblies to offer a little information about a disease which kills thousands of men and boys in this country each year. The 'Blue Day' events included a raffle which offered prizes of surf lessons,

clothing and cosmetics. We sold blue cakes and held a football penalty shootout (of course the pupils won) to add to the fundraising.

The annual 'King's Got Talent' show, helped to raise the significant sum of £850 for 'Help for Heroes'. This event, organised entirely by sixth formers, with Alex Reed and Jonathan Bird at the helm, was a huge success. The audience watched in rapture as petite Eve Simpson from year 7 stood alone on the stage and sang her way to first place in the competition. Contestants from every year group enjoyed the limelight, knowing their efforts will

help support wounded servicemen and women and their families, involved in the conflict in Afghanistan.

A fun 'Film for Christmas' evening is planned for our Junior School on December 10th. For Senior School pupils, a 'Christmas Café' with gift items on sale, is one of the festive events taking place just as the term comes to a close.

We have a very committed group of sixth formers this year. It's gratifying to think that as well as absorbing all that King's has to offer, these students will leave a benevolent legacy behind them.

