

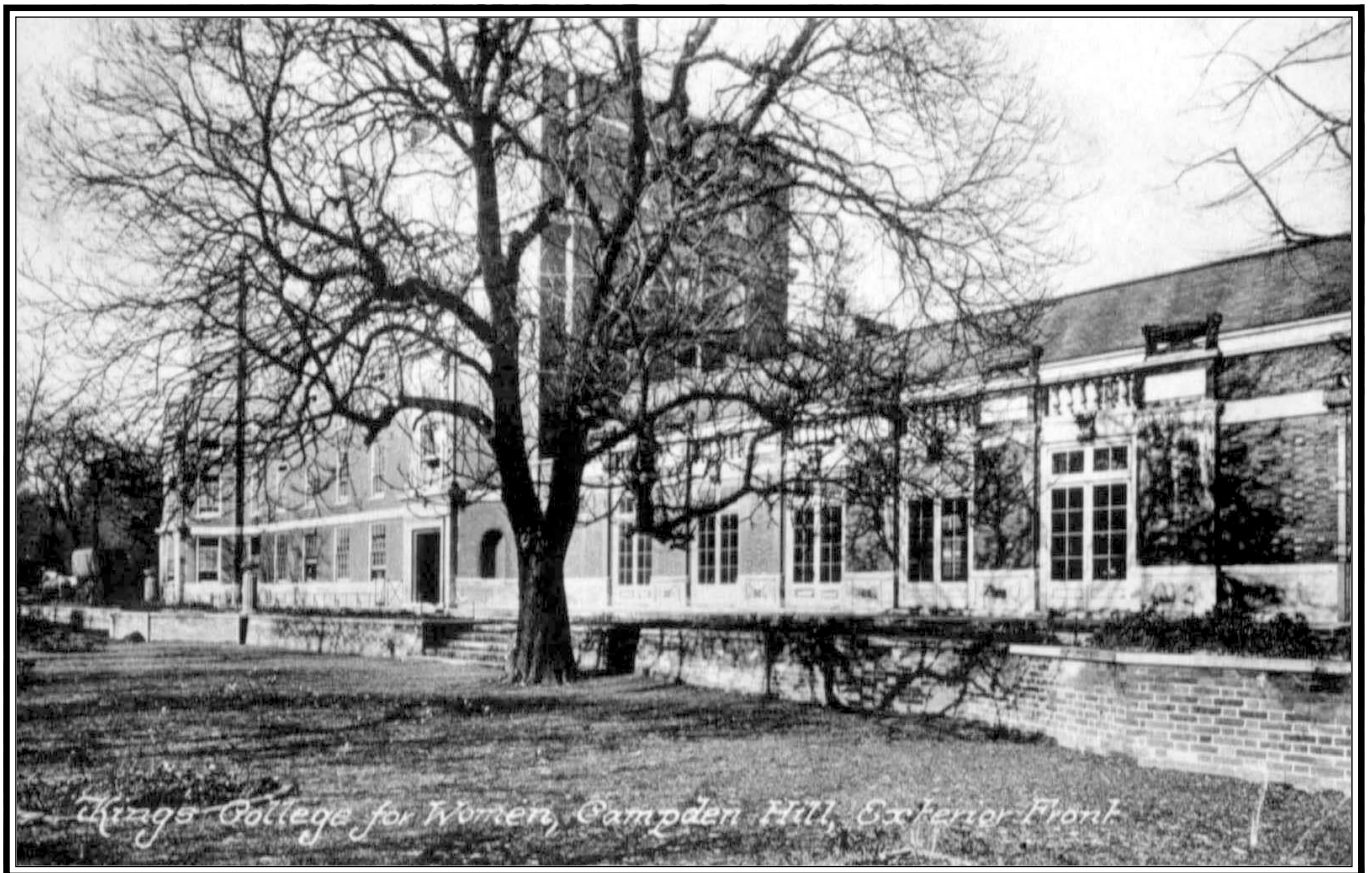


2006

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# ENVOY

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*King's College for Women, Campden Hill, Exterior Front*

*Published by  
Queen Elizabeth (Kensington) Branch K.C.L.A.*

# EDITORIAL

Another year has flown since our last Envoy and sadly (to say the least) brought the closure of yet more Science Departments at Kings. Our two reunions, held in October and June, both marked the closure of important departments: Professor Martin Hughes gave a memorable talk on life and research in the Chemistry Department and Professor Keith Gull celebrated life in Microbiology. (The latter talk has been saved for next year's ENVOY.)

These closures are a big disappointment to many, and it is ironic that the importance of the sciences does not seem to be fully appreciated in today's high-tech world. Nevertheless, I am delighted that Neville Marsh has marked some of the achievement of KCHSS/QEC with his article acclaiming the College's 'output of Scientific Giants' one of whom, Professor Nancy Rothwell, has recently been awarded Dame Commander DBE in the Queen's Birthday Honours. Dame Nancy's presentation of the Fison Memorial Lecture at King's in October 2005 is also described here.

On the social side, many members enjoyed another nostalgia-walk around the Campden Hill Road area, discovering nooks and crannies that often went un-noticed in College days. Several people have had a chance to see around the inside of the Phillimores' development, and Pat Cox has kindly written to describe her impressions.

Thank you to everyone who has written in to keep in touch, or sent items of news for Envoy. We look forward to receiving more snippets of news and welcome any articles. The buildings and many Departments have gone, but the spirit of those home fires is still burning!

*Lyn Embling* (nee Rigby)  
(Physics, 1972-1978)

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# CHAIRMAN'S REPORT



This is an unusual report as we have had two reunions and AGMs since my last annual report, so there is a modicum of overlap as well as reports of actions already taken in the interim.

Last October 36 ex-QEC staff and students met for another successful reunion at the Strand campus of King's College. To mark the closure of the Chemistry department and its undergraduate degrees (as well as his own retirement from KCL) we had invited Professor Martin Hughes (QEC, then KCL Chemistry Dept since 1964) to speak to us. He gave a very entertaining and informative talk on the history of the QEC Chemistry Department since the 1960s, its teaching and research activities as well as an overview of some of his own research activities over the past 40 years. (See page 5)



*Portraits of  
Margaret Joan Sargeaunt, M.A., B Litt,  
Principal 1947-66 and  
Kenneth George Denbigh, D.Sc., F.R.S.,  
Principal 1966-77,  
watch over the 2005 reunion lunch*



We had an enjoyable lunch in the Council and Committee rooms at the Strand underneath portraits of former Principals of the constituent colleges before we started the afternoon with the AGM in which we discussed future activities, membership and committee membership. I reported on these issues on our website in January of this year and we asked the membership to give us their opinions on reunions (timing and activities), and having a QEC-named student bursary. These were subsequently discussed at the most recent AGM (see below).

In collaboration with the Dept of Biochemistry (formerly Life Sciences) at King's, we organised a special reunion to mark the closure of several degrees including Biological Sciences (incorporating Botany, Biology and Zoology), Environmental Sciences, Environmental Health and Microbiology BSc degrees. This was held on June 10<sup>th</sup> as part of the annual KCLA Alumni Weekend. All alumni were welcome to attend but we were particularly keen that former staff and students in those degrees would come to celebrate their successes down the years. Our guest speakers were Professor Keith Gull CBE FRS (QEC Microbiology) now at Oxford University, and Dr Geoff Watts (KCL Zoology) a science journalist and presenter of BBC Radio 4's 'Leading Edge'. About 100 people attended (of which half were ex-QEC), and by all accounts they all had a good time. The guest speakers gave very entertaining lectures which were widely enjoyed judging by the complimentary comments to me. I also organised a reunion walk round Campden Hill on June 11<sup>th</sup> (see page 11). About a dozen people joined me at the Windsor Castle pub before strolling round familiar

territory on another nostalgia trip. It was interesting to see the development of the site where the Atkins building once stood. The new luxury apartment complex there is still not complete but I suspect it will be by next June so our photos will have fewer hoardings on them!

Our AGM on June 10<sup>th</sup> was fairly brief as only 8 months had passed since the previous one. Following discussions and referring to responses to our website polls, it was decided that our annual reunion and AGM should revert to the autumn, but to avoid poor weather, travelling in the dark, and school half-term, we would meet on the last Saturday of September each year. So our next reunion will be on September 29<sup>th</sup> 2007. We will continue to organise the reunion walk in Kensington during the annual KCL Alumni weekend in mid-June subject to interest from alumni. It was decided not to pursue the idea of a QEC-named student prize as no interest or suggestions had come from alumni between the AGM discussions. Any alumni wishing to donate to King's may do so individually and specify which scheme they would like their money to support. The other item of note is that in future the committee will meet at intervals of 4 months rather than 3 months, supplemented (as we already do) with regular email contact to deal with any urgent matters.

As usual I would encourage you to feel free to contact any of the committee with any suggestions or ideas you may have for the Association. Remember that the website ([www.qeca.org.uk](http://www.qeca.org.uk)) is also a focal point for contacting us and other members especially if you want to arrange a reunion, so do check it out from time to time. Please also let us know if you have any news of yourself or other alumni so we can add it to our website and Envoy.

I look forward to meeting you at the next reunion.

*Ann Wood*

(Microbiology 1970-75)

*Further photographs of the QE(K)A events may be seen on the website at [www.qeca.org.uk](http://www.qeca.org.uk)*

### **50 year REUNION 1955-1957**

The 50th Anniversary Reunion of the 1955 Institutional Management Course was held on 18th October 2005 at The Bell and Cross, Holy Cross, Warwickshire. Eleven of the original twenty students attended a very pleasant lunch and were quite reluctant to leave at 4pm.



*Back Row:*

*Sally French-Greenslade/Wrench, Elizabeth Gardiner/Jamieson, Jill Munn/Mitchell,  
Jenny Hughes/Williams, Mary Marriott/Rowlands, Ann Williams/Clements,  
Ann Dent/Davis Julia Bendall/Greenhalgh*

*Seated:*

*Beryl Draper/Hodson, Gillian Titmus/Medcalf, Adeline Rawcliffe/Rucklidge*



## QE(K)A ANNUAL REUNION

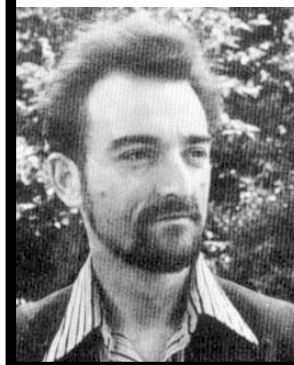
15 October 2005

### Address by Professor Martin Hughes in Tribute to the Chemistry Department

The **Chemistry Department** was very small when Martin Hughes joined QEC from University College London in 1964. There was no office available so Martin had a desk in the research laboratory - where he could keep his eyes on everything that was going on. He did not teach much in the first year and so spent his time engrossed in research in the lab - until a letter from Miss Sargeaunt, the College Principal, suggested that he should come to the Senior Common Room for coffee and get to know the other staff. This he did and soon found also that lunch at High Table was a rewarding experience!

At that time, there were only 12 staff in the Chemistry Department, headed by Professor Harold Burton. Martin was one of two inorganic chemists. In 1967, Leslie Hough from Bristol University became head of the Chemistry Department. The same year, Chemistry moved into the Atkins building. The new laboratories were of very high standard – funding being available at that time as a result of the Robins report. A number of new appointments were made (many of the audience recognised familiar faces amongst the photos that Martin flashed up) and the Department flourished. There were about 50 to 60 postgraduates. The Nuffield Foundation described the QEC Chemistry Department as ‘one of the most innovative in the country’ in terms of their approach to teaching. It was one of the first departments to have a Learning Aids facility, with full-time tutorial support, and it ran one of the first courses in Environmental Chemistry.

QEC benefited greatly from positive interaction between staff in different departments. Informal contacts in the staff common room led to several interdepartmental collaborations. The Chemistry Department in particular benefited from collaborative research, both within QEC and with other Colleges in London. Those at QEC in



cluded the microbiological degradation of organotin compounds in soil, the development of various electrochemical sensors and the building of a human calorimeter. At this time research in Professor Les Hough's group led to the discovery of a chlorinated sucrose molecule that was exceptionally sweet. This was not metabolised in the body and so ideal for slimmers! This sweetener is now marketed successfully by Tate and Lyle under the name "Splenda". The special property of this compound was discovered by accident when a research student thought Les had said 'taste it' and so discovered its exceptional sweetness.

Martin's own collaborators in the College included Bernard Whaler (Physiology), Don Kelly, Ann Wood (Microbiology) and, after the merger with King's, Richard Cammack (Biochemistry). His major and on going collaboration (over the last 26 years) has been with Professor Robert Poole, now in the University of Sheffield: this initially centred on "metals and microbes" including (with Jack Barrett) the extraction of gold using a microbial process that solubilised intractable sulfidic gold-bearing ores so allowing the efficient extraction of the gold on cyanidation. In recent times, collaboration with Robert Poole has centred very successfully on nitric oxide and bacteria. His collaborators outside the college included Dr. Huseyin Mehmet of Paediatrics and Neonatal Medicine at Hammersmith Hospital on apoptotic and necrotic cell death in premature babies brought about by NO and related species, Professor David Lloyd of Cardiff University on toxic effects due to nitrosative stress, Professor Peter Wardman of the Gray Cancer laboratory at Mount Vernon Hospital and Dr. Roberto Motterlini at Northwick Park Hospital. Martin is now moving to join the Hepatology Group at the Royal Free Hospital Medical School at Hampstead. Martin is convinced that the best move in his career was to join Queen Elizabeth College and to discover there the excitement and benefits of interdisciplinary studies, where he was able to apply his own chemical expertise to the study of problems in biology and medicine.

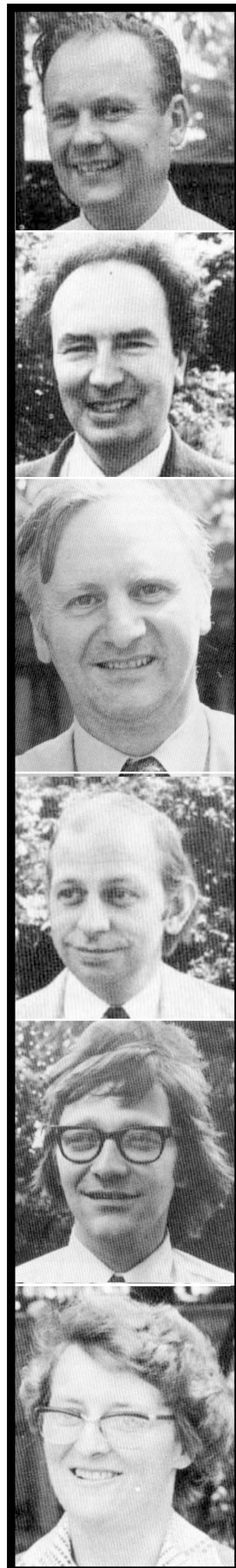
Of the QEC chemistry staff, only four are still at King's today (Dr. Fred Armitage, Prof. Martin Hughes, Dr. Adrian Parkins, the last Head of Department, and Prof. John Smith) and of these only Adrian Parkins has not yet retired. All have fond memories of their times at QEC. The QEC heritage continues through the Burton Memorial Lecture that will be delivered every year at Chemistry meetings in the University of London. This is now a very prestigious event. A number of Burton lecturers were subsequently awarded the Nobel Prize! Ex QEC staff meet in Kensington for a lunch in the summer and at Christmas. Last year they met in the Old Refectory at the Phillimore's and had an interesting account of the redevelopment of the original QEC building

The Chemistry Department at King's is closing on July 31<sup>st</sup>, 2006. Chemistry Departments have also closed at other universities such as Exeter, and this issue has been widely publicised in the national press. All Chemistry Departments in the UK run with a deficit, reflecting for example the need for expensive equipment such as NMR and Mass Spectrometers. Nevertheless Chemistry is an essential subject that is central to a number of disciplines. We cannot do without chemistry. A number of Chemistry staff left King's when the news broke that the Department was to close. About six moved to Imperial College and others went overseas. The Department was fortunate in being able to employ some excellent temporary staff to replace them.

The Chemistry Department also played a major role in the College through teaching students in the Life Sciences and those on the "FCNS" course.

### **Nobel research**

Martin displayed with great pleasure a long list of chemicals on which he has carried



out research. As there was not one carbon atom among them, he felt he could truly call himself an inorganic chemist! His prime focus has been nitric oxide, NO; it has extraordinary chemical versatility, and is 'full of surprises'. NO, a non-innocent molecule, does not react with water and diffuses through cell walls rapidly. It reacts in the cell to give a variety of other compounds, such as nitroxyl (HNO), nitrosating agents, peroxyxynitrite and metal nitrosyl species, all of which have unique effects.

Enthusiasing over the merits of NO, Martin pointed out that it was a key part of the Nobel prize! Indeed, in 1998 the Nobel prize for Physiology or Medicine was awarded to Robert Furchgott, Louis Ignarro and Ferid Murad for their discoveries concerning "nitric oxide as a signalling molecule in the cardiovascular system". Nobel himself suffered from angina and was treated with nitroglycerine, an active component in dynamite, but also an effective agent for treating angina through the release of NO.

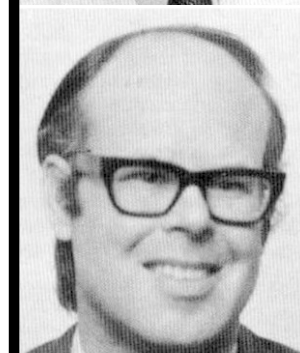
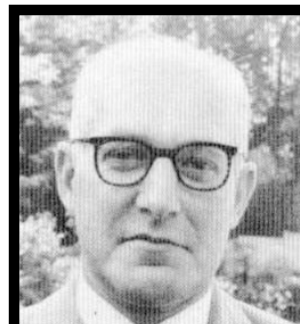
NO is involved in memory, the cardiovascular system and is an important defence molecule in the immune system. The essential function of NO in life is shown in its role in penile erection and then in the contraction of the uterus in birth. Unfortunately a number of diseased states arise from too much NO or too little NO. Too little NO causes angina, high blood pressure, and impotence; too much NO triggers Parkinson's disease, Huntington's chorea, diabetes, inflammation (Crohne's disease and arthritis) and septic shock. Bed bugs secrete a nitric-oxide releasing compound into the bloodstream that acts as an anti-clotting agent and so allows them to feast on our blood.

Martin's enthusiasm and expansive account certainly convinced us of the huge importance of NO!

*Our thanks to Professor Hughes for his interesting talk which brought back nostalgic memories for many in the audience.*

*Photos, extracted from Chemistry Department mid-1970s' brochure  
(In order of apperance, with Editor's apologies to any staff who are not mentioned and for the quality of the scans of scans):*

*M.N.Hughes, D.Sc. - Biological inorganic chemistry  
Prof L.Hough, D.Sc, F.R.I.C. - Head of Department - Carbohydrate chemistry  
R.C.Poller, D.Sc. F.R.I.C. - Organometallic chemistry  
H.P.Bennetto, Ph.D. - Electrochemistry  
M.Rigby, D.Phil. - Intermolecular forces  
D.A.Armitage, Ph.D. - Main group inorganic reactions  
G.W.H.Cheeseman, D.Sc, F.R.I.C. - Heterocyclic organic compounds  
P.F.G.Praill, Ph.D., F.R.I.C - Synthetic organic chemistry  
Prof J.A.S. Smith, D.Phil., F.Inst.P. - Radiofrequency spectroscopy  
A.J.MacLeod, Ph.D., F.R.I.C -Food and flavour chemistry  
M.A.Robb, Ph.D. - Quantum mechanics  
R.S.Satchell, Ph.D. -Lewis acids; equilibria and kinetics  
G.Ayrey, Ph.D., F.R.I.C. - Organic radiochemistry;  
Director isotope unit  
A.W.Parkins, Ph.D. - Organometallic Synthesis  
A.C.Richardson, D.Sc. - Carbohydrates  
L.Richards, Ph.D. - Radiochemistry (Isotope unit)  
R.C.Slade, Ph.D. - Theoretical inorganic chemistry  
F.G.Levitt, Ph.D. - Spectroscopy (Visiting lecturer)  
J.V.A.Davies - Head Technician  
C.W.Bird, Ph.D., F.R.I.C. - Organic mechanisms -  
Camera shy*



# OUR FOUR FELLOWS OF THE ROYAL SOCIETY

QEC can be justifiably proud of its output of scientific giants. As far back as 1919, Edward Mellanby, Lecturer and Professor of Physiology, carried out his seminal work which led to his discovery of Vitamin D. In the 1930's Elsie Widdowson, a Dietetics Diploma graduate, contributed significantly to the science of nutrition by laying the foundations for food value calculations and in the 1940's Vernon Mottram, Professor of Physiology, ensured effective nutrition for the Nation during World War II. In the last 40 years or so, this output has continued with the elevation of four former students of QEC to the position of FRS over the short space of 11 years. These are, in order of election, Howard Dalton (1993), Barry Keverne (1997), Keith Gull (2003) and Nancy Rothwell (2004). Of course, others associated with the College were also noted Fellows of the Royal Society: Kenneth Denbigh, (Principal from 1966 to 1977), Sir Cyril Hinshelwood, Nobel Prize winner in Chemistry in 1956 and Chairman of College Council (1964-67) and Sir John Maddox, acclaimed editor of *Nature* and last College Council Chairman to name but three. However, our current foursome deserves special mention as such a number produced by a tiny College by present days standards, ie. just over 1000 students, is a stellar performance. Here are some brief reflections:



**Professor Howard Dalton, FRS** (Microbiology, 1965). Howard and I graduated the same year and went our separate ways to do PhD's as the first step in our scientific careers. Howard graduated from Sussex with his PhD in 1968 and held a number of post-doc positions before joining Warwick University where he became Professor of Microbiology in 1983. Howard heads a successful team working, *inter alia*, on the biochemistry and genetics of methane oxidation and biotransformations of organic compounds to oxygenated products by bacteria and yeasts. He was President of the Society for General Microbiology from 1997 to 2000 (now an Honorary Life Member) and was awarded the prestigious Leeuwenhock Medal Lecture of the Royal Society in 2000. Besides his University duties, Howard has been Chief Scientific Adviser for the Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) since 2002. He is responsible ultimately for a broad range of science that falls under DEFRA's control and his main role is to provide ministers with the best possible scientific advice.



**Professor Barry Keverne, FRS** (Zoology, 1964). Barry was a year ahead of me at QEC but my abiding memory of him is his mountaineering exploits, especially the Expedition to Ruwenzori, East Africa with John Stirling, Gerald Ault and Nick Norgan in 1964. I remember vivid accounts of giant lobelias and Senecios and an elephant skull which they attempted to bring back! Barry is Professor of Behavioural Neuroscience and Director of the Sub-Department of Animal Behaviour at the University of Cambridge. He began work in the field of hormones and behaviour in monkeys, demonstrating that hormone dependent pheromones signal the stage of the female's reproductive cycle. His work also revealed the importance of the brain's opioid system for "cementing" social relationships in primates and how certain behaviours (affiliation and aggression) differentially influence the brain's endorphins in males and females. Barry is Chair of the Royal Society Committee on Animals in Research.





**Professor Keith Gull CBE FRS** (Microbiology 1969). After graduating with a PhD from QEC, Keith went to Kent becoming Professor in Cell Biology in 1986, thence to Manchester as Professor of Molecular Biology in 1989, Founding Director of the Research and Graduate School and Research Dean at the University of Manchester. In 2002, Keith moved to the William Dunn School of Pathology, University of Oxford. Keith works on the cytoskeleton, cell cycle and cell differentiation of trypanosome parasites. He has been able to provide comprehensive descriptions of these processes and structures showing how an interplay exists between them and that cell type differentiations involve interconnections between cell cycle control and cytoskeletal construction. Keith was awarded the CBE in the 2004 New Year Honours. He recently gave a delightful talk at the 2006 QE(K)A reunion.



**Professor Dame Nancy Rothwell FRS** (Physiology 1976) stayed on to do her PhD with Mike Stock working on energy metabolism in the rat. I have fond memories of sharing morning tea with Nancy in Mike's office and feeding the experimental animals with morsels of chocolate and other snacks. This led serendipitously to the "cafeteria diet" which, in turn, enabled Nancy and Mike to make their important discovery of diet-induced thermogenesis and brown adipose tissue in rats. Currently, her research group is looking at how and why brain cells are damaged by events such as stroke, brain injury and Alzheimer's disease and then how new treatments might be developed to limit the devastating impact of these conditions on patients and their families. They have discovered that interleukin-1, a normal defence mechanism against injury and infection, is switched on in the brain after injury and that naturally occurring blockers of interleukin-1 can limit brain damage. Nancy is Chair of the Research Defence Society, a Fellow and Board Member of the Academy of Medical Sciences and a Trustee of Cancer Research UK. Currently, she is MRC Research Professor at the University of Manchester and Vice-President for Research. She was awarded the prestigious Pfizer Prize for research in 2003 and created Dame Commander OBE in the Queen's Birthday Honours in 2005. I am proud to have contributed to Nancy's physiology education!

**Professor Neville Marsh**

Pro Vice-Chancellor, The University of Adelaide  
Physiology and Zoology (1965)  
Lecturer/Senior Lecturer in Physiology (1968-1991)

*Written by:*

*Professor Keith Gull's amusing address to the QE(K)A Reunion in June 2006, to commemorate the closure of the Life Science Degrees, will be recorded in the 2007 issue of ENVOY.*



**Fison Memorial Lecture**  
*delivered by*  
**Professor Dame Nancy Rothwell**

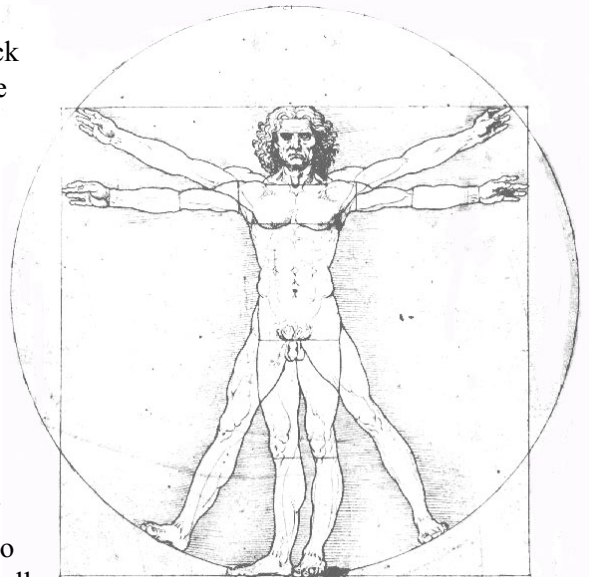
**Science and Arts:  
The Great Divide or Common Themes?**

*Reported by Frederick Warren and Elizabeth Adelanwa*

On the 5 October 2005 Prof. Nancy Rothwell came to King's to give the annual Fison Memorial Lecture. Held every year since 1925, these lectures commemorate Alfred Henry Fison, a Physics lecturer at Guy's Medical School in the early 1900s, and aim to reflect Fison's interest in philosophy as well as that in science and medicine.

Prof. Rothwell was a student at Queen Elizabeth College where she received a first class honours BSc in Physiology in 1976 and went on to complete a PhD in 1978. She is well qualified to lecture on divisions between arts and sciences as she took art for A-level and almost took an Art degree before deciding there was not enough money in it and turned instead to science. Throughout her career as a scientist she has continued to promote links between science and the arts, acting as a trustee for National Endowment for Science, Technology and the Arts, which aims to fund creative talents across a variety of disciplines. She is currently MRC Research Professor at the University of Manchester, was elected FRS in 2004, and was awarded Dame Commander of the British Empire in June 2005. She is currently researching the effects of damage on neurones in the brain.

The lecture was introduced by King's College Principal Prof. Rick Trainor. Prof. Rothwell started by taking a historical perspective and looking at the renaissance, a time when arts and sciences were far more closely linked through individuals such as Leonardo Da Vinci and the founders of the Royal Society, many of whom combined art and science. Christopher Wren, for example, was as famous in his time as an Astronomer as he was as an Architect.



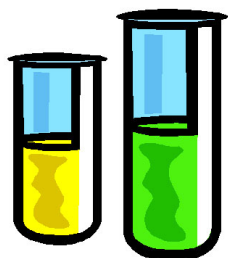
However, by the twentieth century this link had broken down almost entirely to the point where, in 1959, C.P.Snow could give his famous Two Cultures lecture, subsequently published as a book. He argued that science and arts had developed into two very separate activities with little communication or understanding between them. He compared ignorance of the second law of Thermodynamics to not having read Shakespeare, and inability to define mass and acceleration to being illiterate. Whilst Prof. Rothwell felt this was a somewhat extreme point of view, she did agree that there is a definite lack of understanding between Arts and Sciences, and that this is partially due to differences between the two. She described Art as unique and personal, whilst Science must be replicable, and is often a collaboration between large numbers of people. However she felt that the differences are exaggerated by the manner in which Science is portrayed in the media as being a logical, planned exercise whereas, in fact, discoveries and breakthroughs often come via luck, lateral thinking and creativity, and through individuals having a passion for the work they are doing. She felt this was a common thread running through success in all fields.

Prof. Rothwell went on to look at recent efforts to bridge the gap between Arts and Sciences, looking at the artist Naglaa Walker, who holds a Physics degree and makes use of his Scientific background to incorporate scientific imagery into his work, and Neuroscientist Dr. Daniel Glaser, who is the first scientist in residence at London's Institute of Contemporary Art. She concluded by hoping that this work would continue to improve communication between the scientific and artistic worlds.

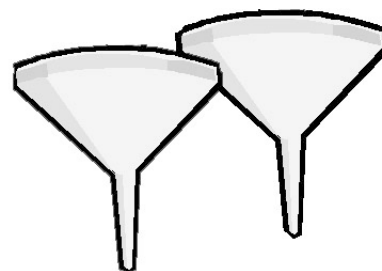
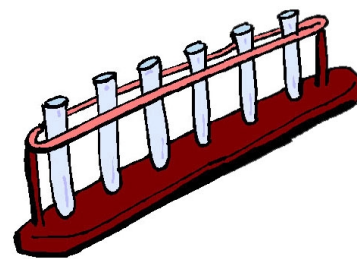
..... And mixing the Art of Literature with that of Science  
 - as well as being an apt tribute to the Chemistry Department -  
 The following parody was extracted from the KCHSS Magazine of May 1950

## ANALYTICAL ADVENTURES

(With apologies to Alexander Pope)



The nymph reviews her troops before the fray;  
 Six shining test tubes stand in bright array,  
 Two funnels flank the forward line of glass,  
 And filter-papers sage prepare to pass  
 Only the liquids, and retain the rest;  
 Just as the Social Sieve will pass the best  
 And trap the sly inferior in its pores.  
 Belinda now from Hermes aid implores,  
 Ignites the flame that burns before his shrine,  
 And hopes the Fates to clemency incline.  
 Into a tube with aim precise and just  
 She first directs the scintillating dust.  
 Now Caustic Soda tries his basic arts,  
 But captiveless into the sink departs.  
 A new solution made she tries once more  
 An answer from the stubborn foe to draw,  
 Adds to the neutral waters placid



Group I  
 Group II

A generous meed of hydrochloric acid.  
 Into the fluid pours a stream of gas,  
 The bubbles pack as human hunters mass  
 To see the mortal blow received  
 But hidden ions have the nymph deceived,  
 And 'No precipitate' she sadly writes.  
 For next the power of Nitric's acid she invites,  
 And woman's wiles of Sal Ammoniac  
 Group III With Sister alk'line to a fresh attack.  
 Yet still the subtle metal yields no clue  
 And still the Group Reagents fleet pursue.  
 At high pH the gas must flow again  
 To draw a captive ion in its train.



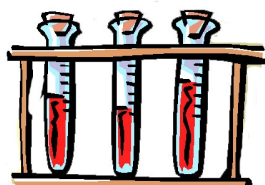
Groups IV  
 and V

But neither Sulphide's troops nor Carbonate's  
 Can bring their mistress back precipitates.  
 Magnesium eludes the Phosphate's snare;  
 Sure in group six the prey must have his lair.  
 And now, as oft in some distempered state,  
 On one nice test depends the chemist's fate.  
 A quick evaporation and ignition  
 Reveal at last the true position.



Group VI

Belinda sees POTASSIUM's lilac flame  
 And writes exultantly the long-sought name.  
 She raises skywards a triumphant voice;  
 Cobaltinitratrite has confirmed her choice.  
 She feels the joy, the all-rewarding bliss  
 That spring from chemical analysis.



M.J.B.

# *A Walk down Campden Hill*

## *Memory Lane*

*Excerpts from the tour guide for the 'QEC - Kensington Walk' Sunday 11 June 2006, organised by KCLA as part of their Alumni weekend, guided by QE(K)A Chairman, Ann Wood*

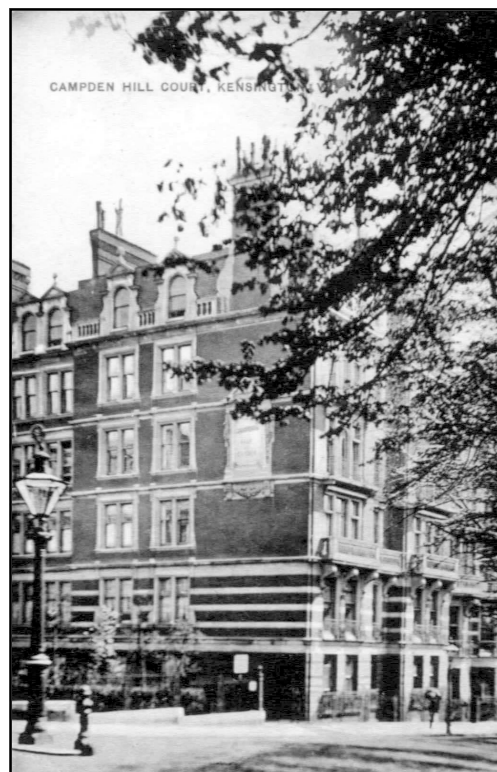
Starting from the Windsor Castle pub turn left along Campden Hill Road and down the hill to the residences of **Kensington Heights**, built in the 1850s. Just down the road is **High Veld**, the South African embassy. Turn right into Campden Hill where **Abuja House** is the Nigerian embassy. Along Campden Hill (on the site of the Atkins Building) is the new luxurious housing of the **Phillimore Square** development, opposite the famous **Holland Park School** with much greenery and shrubs. Planned by LCC Architect in the late 1950s for 2000 pupils, Holland Park School was the first large post-war comprehensive in West London.

Crossing back over Campden Hill Road walk up along **Observatory Gardens** where the opulent houses of 1883 have a French flavour. One of these award-winning buildings has a plaque recording the construction of an observatory by I K Brunel. It was the site of **Sir James South's** observatory\* - since built over - it stood for 40 years until his death in 1867. He was a founder of the Royal Astronomical Society. The blue plaque marking the spot is incorrect in stating that South's dome housed the largest telescope in the world. It was actually the biggest refractor (lens telescope); Sir William Herschel (who died in 1822) had previously constructed larger reflecting telescopes (using curved mirrors) at Slough.

**John Downton** (1906-1991), the artist, musician and philosopher, lived in Observatory Gardens for a while in the early 1930s; it was here he painted 'The Landlady's Daughter'. From the 1970s, **Alexander Trocchi** (an icon of beat literature), entertained addicts and acolytes in his penthouse flat in Observatory Gardens.

At the end of Observatory Gardens, cross over **Hornton Street**, the official address of **Kensington & Chelsea Town Hall**. **Sir Charles Stanford**, (1852-1924), musician and conductor, lived here 1894-1916 at 56 Hornton Street. His students included Ralph Vaughan Williams, Gustav Holst, Herbert Howells, Frank Bridge, George Butterworth, Ernst Moeran, Arthur Bliss, and Percy Grainger. King's College Lectures for Ladies were held at 9 Hornton Street from 1879-85.

Along **Campden Grove**, author **James Joyce** (1882-1941) lived at no 28 in 1931. Kensington was too dull for Joyce, who complained that their street was full of mummies and should be re-named 'Campden Grave'. **Professor Norman Collie** (1859-1942) (Chemistry, UCL) a renowned mountaineer had a house at 16 Campden Grove. He made the first neon light. There is good evidence that Collie should be credited with the discovery of neon, rather than Ramsay, in whose lab he did the work. He proposed a dynamic structure for benzene and discovered the oxonium salt of dimethylpyrone, which was the first example of such a salt. He invented the term polyketide for a group of compounds which play a major role in the biosynthesis of various natural products.



*Early postcard of Campden Hill Court*

\* See article on 'Astronomical Connections' by Duncan Steel in Envoy 2003

It was not until 1955, almost 50 years later, that this theory was finally shown to be correct. He was probably the first to use X-ray photography for medical purposes, when a patient with a needle fragment embedded in her thumb was sent to the college.

Turn right onto **Kensington Church Street** and down past the **Catholic Church**. On the opposite side, **Dunes** has an elaborate doorway in the Art Nouveau style. Turn right into **Holland Street**, originally a public way from Church Street to Holland House. One of the 18th century houses is **Old House** with a Blue Plaque for **Walter Crane**, the artist.

Returning to Campden Hill Road and **Queen Elizabeth College**, originally the Ladies' Department of King's College founded in 1885 but this site was established in 1915 for the Household and Social Science departments, and renamed in 1953 in honour of Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother. It is now **The Phillimores**. Walk along Duchess of Bedford Walk to see The Refectory which is the (Sales) reception area (open by appointment) where apartments can be bought for over £1million. The full extent of the new **Phillimore Square** development can be glimpsed behind the end of the QEC buildings.



*Outside the new imposing electronic gates of the Phillimores*

Walk along the Duchess of Bedford Walk to reach the entrance to **Holland Park** with the peacocks, rabbits, Open Air Theatre, birds and woodland walks, a beautiful 'green lung' in Campden Hill. Follow the path ahead which goes past the best-sited Youth Hostel in London and then walk up the steps leading to the gates (locked) in front of the Jacobean Holland House. This house was built around 1608 but was bombed and gutted during World War II leaving only the East Wing worth restoring.

At the end of this path is the **Café**. But surrounding the cafe are several **flower gardens** including the Dutch or Formal Garden and the Rose Garden, all ablaze with colour at this summer season. The round brick C18 building – the **Ice House** – will have an art show. There are numerous walks further away to the Arboretum, the Wildlife Pond and to see the various statues including one of the third Lord Holland – the statesman Henry Fox (and his pond). Lastly a must, the serene **Kyoto Garden** with a small lake, water cascade and other Japanese features.



**Acknowledgments:**

Jo Crocker's walk plan from June 2005 and Google!  
Thanks to KCLA and Ann Wood for organising the walk.

# THE TRANSFORMATION OF QUEEN ELIZABETH COLLEGE - THE PHILLIMORES

By Pat Cox

One Friday last August my husband Eric, fellow old student Jill Weatherill, nee Gowen, and her son James and I stood outside the impressive railings which now surrounded our old College. As we admired the elegant and very familiar buildings within, the electronically controlled gates swung open to release a top of the range Mercedes. Granted this sudden access we approached the uniformed porter. 'Could we possibly view for one last time the Old Refectory where we had breakfasted, dined, sat examinations, and danced until the early hours?'

The porter must have been rather bored for he invited us in; not just to see the Refectory but to a private viewing of the two apartments that remained unsold, perhaps not surprisingly the two most expensive. The larger one faced out onto Campden Hill Road and had been created from the old Courtauld Hall, the necessity of retaining the listed status of the building resulted in an unusual layout of rooms involving different levels but splendidly and imaginatively furnished.

The two original staircases which had formerly led from the entrance hall in the old College remained and we were able to tell our guide something of the previous life of the building.

The ugly concrete structures which had filled the inner quadrangle providing laboratories for physiology and nutrition were no more. In their place we could see the glass roof of an underground swimming pool. We descended the stairs to admire this fine facility and adjacent exercise rooms Not for the residents of the Phillimores a twenty minute bus ride to the local swimming baths in Paddington!

We were next taken to see the smaller apartment that had been developed from the teaching kitchens, it was good to see the semicircular conservatory had been retained as a principal feature: although the rest of the apartment was over-shadowed by the adjacent block of flats.

And finally back to the Refectory, little changed except for a grand fireplace looking rather incongruous where the High Table had once stood.

Our visit had taken more than an hour and we reluctantly took our leave, but not before signing the visitors book. We were presented with glossy brochures for the two remaining apartments. Did our guide say they were for sale at £9 million for the larger and £7 million for the smaller one? It does not really matter, we were suitably flattered. Perhaps he thought we might just have won the lottery.

An odd thing about our visit - apart from the departing Mercedes- which had facilitated our initial entry to the Phillimores we did not see another soul, coming or going. So where are they all? And who are they? These new residents of this fine old building. No longer the 'scruffy' students rushing to lectures, lounging in the bar, lingering over coffee, playing tennis, signing in and signing out. Perhaps their ghosts will return to tell it how it was. I rather hope they will.





## The Refectory

Top left: KCHSS, 1935,  
*Can anyone identify the portait that was hanging then?*

Top Right: Smartly laid out for the final Reunion at QEC.

Centre and Bottom Right:  
 The Phillimores' lavish reception, *'a fine example of Adams & Holden interiors - a magnificent 75ft room flanked by Doric collumns and filled with light from full-length French Windows which overlook the quad-rangle gardens'* (courtesy Hampton's International)





## The Quadrangle

*Top left: Elegant lawns with magnolia and chestnut trees in 1935*

*Bottom left: 'Ugly concrete structures' in the 1970's*

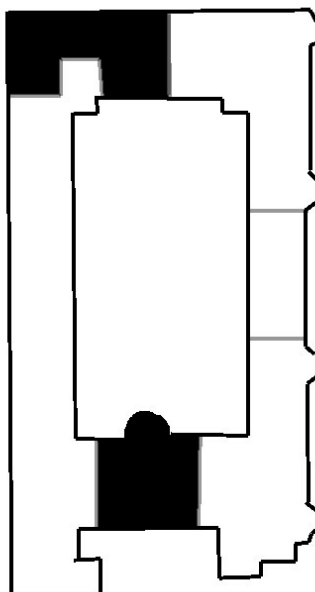
*Bottom right: The Phillimores' landscaped gardens incorporate a 'glass infinity pool' that allows natural light to permeate to the 15m swimming pool below.*



*The Savills/Hamptons' brochure shows the 4151 sq ft 'Apartment 29' in the north east corner of the building. The galleried reception hall leads, on the right, to a palatial (36'4" x 34'4") reception/dining area spread the width, height, and much of the length, of what was once the Courtald Hall. Three sets of elegant French windows lead to a terrace overlooking the quadrangle. The area where students once attended Rag Nights, is now richly furnished with an elegant 12 place dining table, grand piano and several sumptuous sofas.*

*To the left of the reception hall, the 20' family room, 20' kitchen breakfast room and three ensuite bedrooms (one complete with galleried dressing room) spread across two floors in the corner of the old physiology department.*

## FROM RAGS TO RICHES?

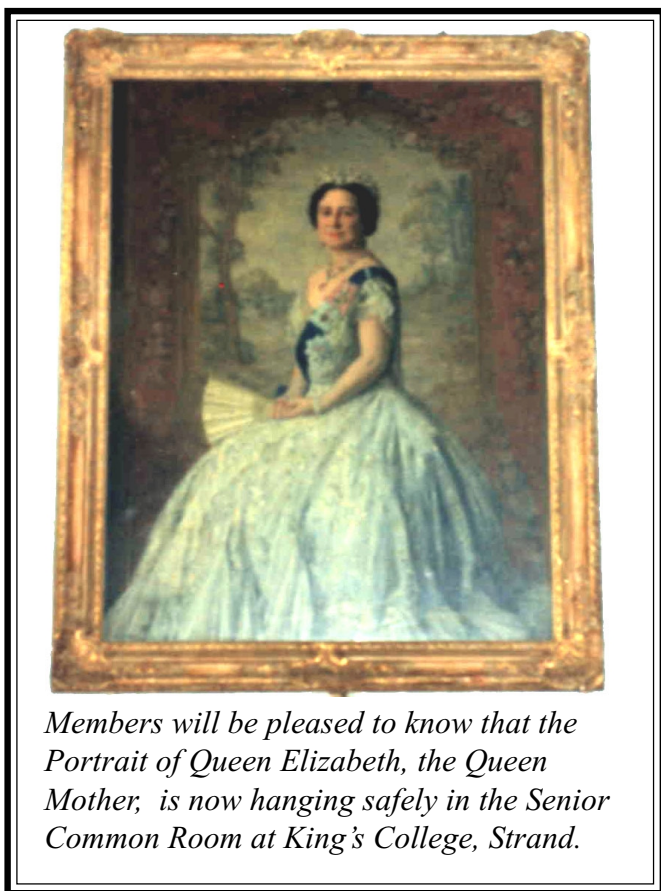


*The conservatory, which opens onto a private garden, is now part of the 27' reception of the 5283 sq ft 'Apartment 25'. Stairs lead to a library. Other ground floor rooms include a huge hallway, 21' dining room, family room, study, 20' kitchen/breakfast room and 21' square ensuite master bedroom complete with dressing room. Three further ensuite bedrooms (two with dressing rooms) and an ensuite 'staff bedroom', occupy the basement area.*

*The palatial finishes include oiled oak floors, 'polished African black granite slab' and 'Crema Marfil marble slab'. The complex benefits from concierge service, swimming pool, gymnasium, for a mere cost of approx £5.69 per sq foot per annum.*



# NEWS FROM MEMBERS



*Members will be pleased to know that the Portrait of Queen Elizabeth, the Queen Mother, is now hanging safely in the Senior Common Room at King's College, Strand.*

## From Innocence to Age

Searching the web for news of old friends we were delighted to find **Colin Upton**, QEC Physics/Astronomy 1972-75. Ever since our College days Colin has promised that one day he will publish some of the music that he 'dabbles with' in his spare time. Colin, now a maths don at Winchester College, has at last produced a CD, **From Innocence to Age**, with one of his students Charles Mauleverer. It has beautiful relaxing choral, keyboard and string music. Well done Colin!

*info: [www.chamber-music.co.uk/CDs/FromInnocenceToAge](http://www.chamber-music.co.uk/CDs/FromInnocenceToAge)*

## FINDING OLD FRIENDS

If you are trying to contact old friends from school or University, it may be worth trying the website [friendsreunited.co.uk](http://friendsreunited.co.uk) which links members of former schools, colleges and workplaces.

*In Touch* also has a website to help people to contact each other: [www.kcl.ac.uk/alumni](http://www.kcl.ac.uk/alumni)

Better still, please encourage old friends to join the QE(K)A Branch of the Association. See back cover for contact details.

## OBITUARIES

We are sorry to hear of the deaths of the following:

Doreen McCall, nee Watson d 15 March 2005

Dr McNally (Physics staff) d September 2005

Ken Smith (Physics staff) d December 2004

Mr John Parsons (Physics staff) d July 2004



## Anna Gillian Williams (nee Rushbrooke) 1937-2005

Anna gained her Diploma in Institutional Management in 1957. After leaving college Anna worked in the Hotel Industry where she met her husband and together they became successful Hotelier's.

Anna never lost contact with her college friends and met up with a group of them each year. She was extremely proud of her stepson Steve, her daughter Alex and her son Robert who were very close to her.

Anna was a loving and thoughtful person who stayed loyal to her friends and family through a life which was full and often turbulent but always cheerful.

Sadly Anna died after a short illness in 2005 and will be remembered fondly by all those who were privileged to know her and sadly missed by her family and friends.

*Nothing to do with QE(K)A but I thought this little story was rather nice  
It was sent to me by e-mail - I'm afraid I don't know who wrote it ..... or whether it's true ..... but ....*

## WHAT GOES AROUND COMES AROUND



His name was Fleming, and he was a poor Scottish farmer. One day, while trying to make a living for his family, he heard a cry for help coming from a nearby bog. He dropped his tools and ran to the bog.

There, mired to his waist in black muck, was a terrified boy, screaming and struggling to free himself. Farmer Fleming saved the lad from what could have been a slow and terrifying death.

The next day, a fancy carriage pulled up to the Scotsman's sparse surroundings. An elegantly dressed nobleman stepped out and introduced himself as the father of the boy Farmer Fleming had saved.

'I want to repay you', said the nobleman. 'You saved my son's life.'

'No, I can't accept payment for what I did', the Scottish farmer replied waving off the offer. At that moment, the farmer's own son came to the door of the family hovel.

'Is that your son?' the nobleman asked.

'Yes', the farmer replied proudly.

'I'll make you a deal. Let me provide him with the level of education my own son will enjoy. If the lad is anything like his father, he'll no doubt grow to be a man we both will be proud of.' And that he did.



Farmer Fleming's son attended the very best schools and in time, graduated from St. Mary's Hospital Medical School in London, and went on to become known throughout the world as Sir Alexander Fleming, the discoverer of penicillin.

Years afterward, the same nobleman's son who was saved from the bog was stricken with pneumonia.

What saved his life this time?

Penicillin.

The name of the nobleman?

Lord Randolph Churchill.

His son's name?

Sir Winston Churchill



# KCLA Report

by John Brockhouse

Since the last report was submitted at the October 2005 AGM, there has been only one KCLA Council meeting (22 February) plus an informal meeting of some of the branch representatives to discuss the Consultation Paper circulated by the new chairman, Steven Rhodes.

At the Council meeting the Alumni Office representative reported a number of developments as follows:

A new Head of Alumni Relations, Rachel Beer, had been appointed and joined the Alumni Office at the end of February;

Rachel Corver's (Alumni Officer, Communications) communications role is to be expanded;

Claire Edwards (Alumni Officer) returned from maternity leave in the Spring but has decided to resign her post as from the end of May to spend more time with her new baby – this is a shame as she has been an extremely helpful contact during her tenure but we wish her well in the future;

A Staff and Alumni Common Room, located in the new South Wing of the Strand Building, opened on 16 May and is available for use during business hours (approx 9:30am to 5:30pm);

A website-based database is under development that will allow personal records to be updated by members.

The KCLA commissioned anthem was performed at the Advent Service in December. The work generated some interest and comment at the reception after the service as it was, in places, challenging for the choir but was generally considered to be a successful piece.

The Alumni Office is currently compiling feedback and figures from the Alumni Weekend and will, in due course, have a 'brainstorming' meeting to look at the future of the event. The indications so far are overwhelmingly positive.

The Alumni Office will be undertaking an information gathering exercise of Alumni Groups in the coming months the results of which will, no doubt, con-

tribute to the Steven Rhodes plans for the future of KCLA. As mentioned above, the Chairman circulated a draft Consultation Paper in February entitled "The position and role of the King's College London Association" together with a copy of an earlier discussion paper produced by Becky Williams (Development Director). The intention was to set out in greater detail what the role and mission of KCLA should be in the light of changes to the College and higher education sector in the last 20 years, the future for King's as set out in the Principal's Green Paper, and the different expectation of the range of alumni and members of KCLA as well as the expectations of loyal King's alumni of long standing.

The paper contained a number of proposals including:

that KCLA should draw up a development plan in conjunction with the Alumni Office;

the adoption of amendments to the Constitution to ensure that KCLA Council should be as representative of the Alumni body as possible;

New posts be created on KCLA Council for former members of staff, 'well wishers' and parents of students of the College and non-graduate members of KCLA;

Assisting the College in its external presentation and in shaping its identity;

Amending the Constitution to include fundraising as one of KCLA's objectives;

KCLA members' involvement in Pastoral support; KCLA as a worldwide body;

KCLA College should work together to produce a group of alumni who are well placed and able to develop as recruiters for the College.

*(If anyone would like full details of the contents of the paper please contact me after the AGM or e-mail [john.brockhouse@btinternet.com](mailto:john.brockhouse@btinternet.com))*

Comments were requested to be sent by 19 May, a final draft will be settled at the Council meeting of 4 October and voted on at the AGM on 26 October.

## QE(K)A FUTURE EVENTS:



### Annual Reunion and AGM

September 29<sup>th</sup> 2007.

### Kensington Walk

KCL Alumni weekend

Mid-June 2007

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