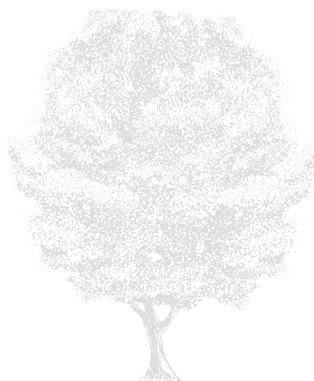


# THE ILEX



[www.landorassociation.co.uk](http://www.landorassociation.co.uk)  
[www.landorconnect.co.uk](http://www.landorconnect.co.uk)

Summer 2020

## Birthday Memories

A look back on our spectacular 140th anniversary celebrations in 2019.

## Old Girls' News

Catch up on events and stories in the Old Girl community.

## One Campus Plus

A thank you to our benefactors and a look at the projects they have supported.

## Spirit of King's

One Old Girl's legacy, and a visionary sculptor, encapsulate the spirit of our school in steel.

## Lockdown

Find out how the school community has come together during the pandemic.





# Introduction from the Head Master



Welcome to this first edition of the Landor Association's new annual publication, The Ilex.

Why 'The Ilex'? The ilex tree has always been associated with Walter Savage Landor, the poet who was born in the Smith Street house that now bears his name. Landor House used to have extensive gardens which included the area which, until last year, housed King's High School. In these gardens was a huge old ilex tree, or Italian holm oak, which had already stood for hundreds of years by the time of Landor's birth in 1775. Popular legend has it that the poet sought his inspiration while sitting under its branches. What better name could there possibly have been to give to a magazine produced and edited by the girls of King's High School, which flourished from 1911 to 2014, to inspire their literary endeavours?

Now we have a new incarnation of 'The Ilex', a name so intrinsically linked with Landor. But this new magazine belongs to the whole Landor Association, and not just to the girls of King's High. Your new Ilex will feature all facets of the Landor community, present and former pupils, governors and staff of King's High and Warwick Prep, and local friends of the school.

We hope you enjoy this inaugural Ilex, and I would be interested in any feedback or suggestions you have for future editions.

Mr Richard Nicholson

Front Cover: Spirit of King's Unveiling Tuesday 28 January 2020.

## Recent Events 2020

### Annual Landor Lecture 24 February

Old Girl, Dr Helen Castor (KHS 1979-1986) was delighted to find a supportive and captivated audience in the Landor Association, including several special guests. These were Mrs Walton, mother of an Old Girl and Dr Castor's former Primary School teacher from Milverton, and three of her King's High teachers, Mrs Hall, Mrs Lampitt and Miss Lenygon. The last named was one of Dr Castor's history teachers and a dedicatee of Dr Castor's book *She Wolves* with the late Miss Mary Yates. Dr Castor met and chatted with the Landor Association community after her talk, happily answering questions and having her photo taken with guests.



### Old Girls' Association (OGA) Annual Lunch and AGM 29 February

Seventy five King's High girls from ten decades of the school's history, from Jean who arrived when war broke out, to the current Head Girl and her two assistants, attended the first ever OGA Lunch and AGM on the Banbury Road. The guest speaker, Old Girl and meteorologist Professor Dame Julia Slingo (née Walker, KHS 1962 – 1969), delivered a very enjoyable illustrated physics lesson on the vagaries of climate, entitled "‘Nature intended me for the tranquil pursuits of science’ but... My life as a climate scientist." Her work as Professor of Meteorology at the University of Reading, and as Chief Scientist at the Met Office, was certainly anything but blue skies and sunshine – although a thoroughly rewarding and enjoyable career for Dame Julia.





# Lockdown

The schools in our Foundation closed on 20th March in response to the Government's directive. It was an emotional time for our pupils, from those in our Reception classes who understood little about the prospect of not returning to school for the rest of term, to our Year 13 girls who had to come to terms with leaving school without their customary commemorative farewells.

The school's positive spirit shone throughout the National Lockdown. Teachers worked tirelessly to put on a vast number of live-streamed and recorded lessons for all age groups. Assemblies and special school events continued online. Careers days and "virtual school trips" were organised. Everyone showed a huge amount of resilience and adaptability.

A new website, Foundation at Home, was set up to showcase the excellent work of our pupils in supporting one another and the wider community.

Visit [www.foundationathome.co.uk](http://www.foundationathome.co.uk) to read our stories.



# Former Staff Events

## Former King's High Staff Lunch 16 October

Over thirty former King's High staff, both teachers and support colleagues, came for lunch at the new King's High School on Banbury Road in October. Some of the former teachers had taught in the 1950s and '60s, whereas others had left in the past few years, and one in the summer. All were amazed by our new state-of-the-art, purpose-built school which was shown to them by Sixth Form tour guides. After a sumptuous lunch from M. Charpentier in the Dining Room, younger girls entertained the party with a varied programme of drama and music. Tea, coffee and the chance to catch up with old friends in the staffroom rounded off the afternoon.



## Former Prep Staff Lunch 4 March

More recently this March, twenty former Warwick Prep staff came back to Banbury Road for a tour of King's High followed by a wonderful lunch in the Prep School Hall, and finished with performances by the Junior Choir and musicians in piano, violin, harp, oboe, and xylophone, led by Director of Music, Miss Griggs. Guests included former Head Mistress Mrs Elizabeth Prichard, who, fittingly, was the first Head at the Prep School to introduce individual instrument lessons. It was wonderful to see so many of the pupils playing a whole variety of instruments which are now taught at the Prep School.

Mrs Dodsworth with former Head Mistress Mrs Prichard (1981-1997)



If any of your former colleagues from King's High or Warwick Prep are not receiving Landor Association mailings and would like to join us, please ask them to get in touch with **Polly Beidas** at [khs-LandorAssociation@kingshighwarwick.co.uk](mailto:khs-LandorAssociation@kingshighwarwick.co.uk)





## Looking back

It is fitting that the first edition of The Ilex should include a review of our 140th anniversary year in 2019. Many people worked tirelessly on these events. However, the Director of the Landor Association, Mrs Sarah Didlick deserves special praise for organising the planning and running of all aspects of the year. The Birthday celebrations and farewell to Smith Street will live long in the memories of all those who took part.

## February

The second annual Landor Association Lecture on Wednesday 6 February 2019 was a real eye opener. Most of us think of Queen Victoria as an elderly, humourless figure, but TV historian Lucy Worsley was keen to debunk this myth. Victoria, she told us, was a passionate woman, and in the early part of her reign she was young, autocratic and more than a match for the male politicians who sought to advise her. The audience at Warwick Hall also learned that her life with Prince Albert wasn't the bed of roses it is often depicted to be; Victoria was in many senses an equal to the man who would be king!



Dr Worsley told a rapt audience about her own early career. Her parents had discouraged her pursuit of History at university, so much so that she began science A levels, until her natural craving for historical study and research came strongly to the fore, causing her to abandon science in favour of Ancient and Modern History at New College, Oxford. Later on, her work as Chief Curator of Historic Royal Palaces allowed her to indulge her passion for dressing up in the clothing of her heroines from history.

Questions from the floor, including plenty from King's High and Warwick Prep pupils, were taken very graciously by Dr Worsley, and after the Lecture she chatted with the audience, many of whom waited for her to sign her latest book, *Queen Victoria: Daughter, Wife, Mother, Widow*.

## March

On Tuesday 19 March 2019 we welcomed over 120 Old Girls to the Lansdowne Club in London for a drinks reception. The evening was a wonderful occasion for Old Girls to catch up with friends, contemporaries and staff, some of whom they may not have seen for a long time. Guest ages ranged from 25 to 75 and it was wonderful to see so many faces. Mr Nicholson updated the guests on Project One Campus and we raised a glass to King's High for the 140th Birthday celebrations. Karen Thomson (KHS 1966-1971) was invited up to cut the cake – Karen had travelled from the Outer Hebrides (The Isle of Barra) to be there on the night.



## April

On Thursday 25 April 2019 we welcomed over 60 guests to our second Landor Association networking evening. The focus this year was on medicine and allied health professions.

The Medical Careers Networking Evening was a truly fascinating event where King's High and Warwick Prep pupils aspiring to work in health related fields listened to captivating talks by keynote speakers. These were all from the school community and brought together Old Girls, parents and friends of the school. Afterwards the girls were able to question and network personally with the guests from a variety of medical occupations. The event was incredibly diverse – with talks from nurses, physiotherapists, dentists, flight nurses and doctors as well as a professor of trauma and orthopaedic surgery, and we all gained extensive knowledge of these occupations and the lives of the speakers.

We were introduced to the reality of medicine from the keynote speakers. Their experiences ranged from volunteering as a dentist in Botswana, to designing the medical centre for the Abu Dhabi Grand Prix, to delivering a baby at 3,000 feet, to the great sense of pride nurses feel as they discharge their patients to go home as well as the trust required by physiotherapists from their patients.

The evening stimulated intellectual curiosity in these fields for everyone who attended and has definitely made a lasting impression upon many of our pupils. This was increased with the networking opportunity. The girls found it incredibly useful to ask questions, trying to glean as much knowledge from the speakers as possible.

*Report by Lottie Quinn, Year 13*



# Farewell to Smith Street Birthday Weekend - July

Head Master Mr Nicholson said we need good endings as well as good beginnings, and the end of King's High's 140 year tenure of the Smith Street site was a time of great celebration amid the poignant farewells.

Across the weekend of Friday 5 to Sunday 7 July 2019, the Smith Street site welcomed back approximately 1,400 visitors, comprising old girls and their families, former parents, governors and staff, and local friends of the school.



## Friday

The weekend opened with a fabulous Art Exhibition, organised by Ms Sarah Jordan, and showcasing breathtaking artworks from pupils aged 3 to 18. This was held at the Old Shire Hall in Warwick, and viewers were stunned by the stellar quality of the exhibits.

## Saturday

The blue doors of Landor House and the Butts were thrown open on Saturday 6 July 2019 to welcome members of the Landor community, some of whom had not set foot in school since the 1940s. Old girls brought their husbands and children (and even a couple of pet dogs!) to see the classrooms, labs and corridors where they had spent their teenage years. Visitors came from Canada, Africa, Australia, all over Europe and all over the UK to drink in the Smith Street atmosphere for the very last time.

Saturday's atmosphere was that of a fete, with 'sideshows' including music and drama performances from King's High pupils, stalls from local Smith Street traders, a complimentary hog roast, photo and video memory booths, and the opportunity to purchase souvenirs, including historical laboratory equipment.

Down at the school playing fields on Gallows Hill, current school teams took on old girls' teams in a netball tournament. A special accolade is due to Old Girl Celia Hammerton (née Stevenson) who had not only flown from her home in Canada to enjoy the

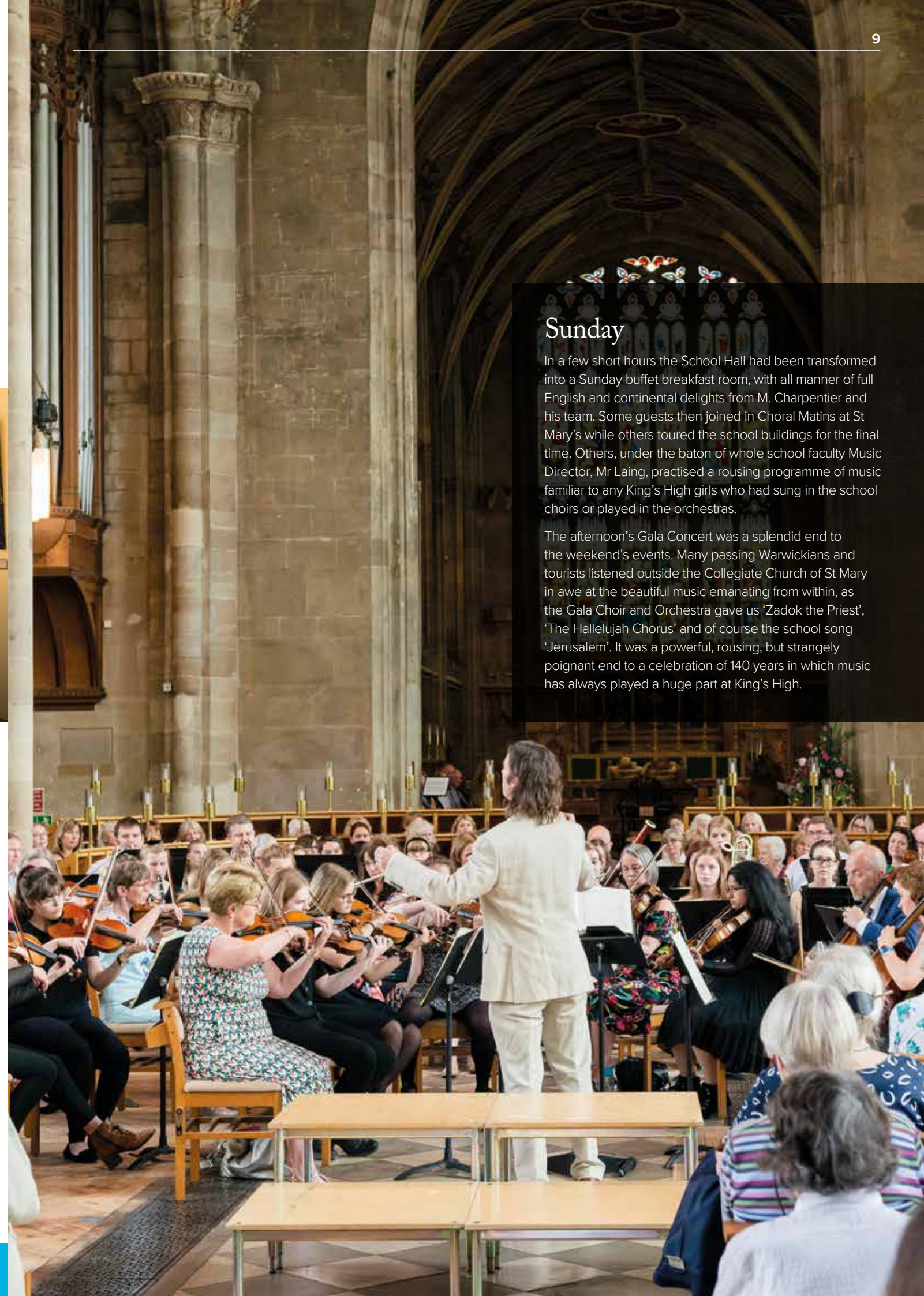
celebrations, but donned a netball bib for the first time in forty years to take part in the tournament. Celia played in Sunday's orchestra too.

The school caterers went to town on preparing a sumptuous Gala Dinner for Saturday evening, but the food was not the only highlight. Diners were entertained by eight short speeches from Old Girl representatives from every decade since the 1950s, and long-serving staff member Mrs Sue Lampitt also gave a teacher's perspective. It was interesting to hear the recurring themes down the decades, with skirts being rolled up when out of the teachers' sight, and teachers like Miss Greenwood and Mrs Hall earning respect and / or affection over several decades. One of the speakers was Professor Dame Julia Slingo (nee Walker), representing the 1960s, and showing great family continuity because her late mother, another Old Girl, had spoken at both the 75th and 90th birthday dinners!

## Sunday

In a few short hours the School Hall had been transformed into a Sunday buffet breakfast room, with all manner of full English and continental delights from M. Charpentier and his team. Some guests then joined in Choral Matins at St Mary's while others toured the school buildings for the final time. Others, under the baton of whole school faculty Music Director, Mr Laing, practised a rousing programme of music familiar to any King's High girls who had sung in the school choirs or played in the orchestras.

The afternoon's Gala Concert was a splendid end to the weekend's events. Many passing Warwickians and tourists listened outside the Collegiate Church of St Mary in awe at the beautiful music emanating from within, as the Gala Choir and Orchestra gave us 'Zadok the Priest', 'The Hallelujah Chorus' and of course the school song 'Jerusalem'. It was a powerful, rousing, but strangely poignant end to a celebration of 140 years in which music has always played a huge part at King's High.





# Farewell to Smith Street Memory book

Many happy memories of  
teaching in Priory! I love  
my office in Landor too  
Mrs. Didlick

Loved every minute  
of my time at Kingstigh  
1981-1986. Friends for life  
were made and we will  
be touring today.  
Fabulous memories in these  
buildings. Remembering with  
laughter. Pippa Robinson.

I was here a long time ago - under  
Miss Doorly (Aunt Do) - so many changes  
since then! A quite amazing school!  
So enjoyed coming back for the last time.  
Thank you -  
Ellen Hurw 1941-1950

It is only a reflection  
that one realises just  
how talented we all  
are. Who would have  
thought 40 years on we  
could sing like that!  
Ros Ingledew (Wilson)  
1946-1983

Thank you for an amazing 7 years.  
We made longlasting friends and my experience  
taught me so much moving into the next  
stage of my life. I look forward to keeping  
in touch with old school mates in the  
years to come. Hannah JW  
2004-11

So lovely to take a trip back  
in time this morning. So many  
memories of running down these  
corridors to be first in the lunch  
line! Will always treasure my time here  
Maudine Grey 1988-2006-2013

So lovely to visit - I have  
many happy memories  
of my time here  
Charlotte Whitehead  
2006-2013

Liz Jarvis  
(Jarv) '75-92  
Still a glorious  
romantic rubble  
of buildings packed  
with memories!

I was here a long time ago - under  
Miss Doorly (Aunt Do) - so many changes  
since then! A quite amazing school!  
So enjoyed coming back for the last time.  
Thank you -  
Ellen Hurw 1941-1950

So proud to be part of such  
an incredible legacy. It truly  
is the end of an era!  
Maud Beidas x  
2015-present

Such a privilege to be a parent of a  
soon-to-be 'old girl' and take  
part in this wonderful weekend  
of music & song! We'll miss the  
blue ch  
Liz Evans  
(Maya 2013-)

Lovely to be back  
making old Staff & being  
recognised by old pupils.  
Wonderful singing - especially  
of Jerusalem - which brought  
tears to my eyes - Best wishes  
for a wonderful new School &  
future - Angela Cameron (Trayford)

Lovely to be back (and to  
see that the dent in the  
OGL ceiling lives on after  
my little chemistry mishap...!)

Esther Kisby  
1991-1998

I will miss the  
School. worked  
here 19 year  
Jackie Smith

Elisabeth Edwards  
2015 - present day  
lots of wonderful  
memories at Landor  
site

Liz Jarvis  
(Jarv) '75-92  
Still a glorious  
romantic rubble  
of buildings packed  
with memories!

Wonderful to be able to come  
back to share in the 140th  
anniversary and play in the  
orchestra! Celia Hamerton  
(nee Stevenson), now living  
in Canada. (1970-78)





# The Great Procession

Wednesday 10 July 2019 was not just any old end of term, but the end of the very final term that King's High would spend on the Smith Street site.

A gloriously sunny day began with the last assembly ever in the School Hall, which had been built in the 1880s just a few years after the school opened in 1879. Former governors and local dignitaries joined the staff and 650 girls in celebration and reflection, before all filed out of the Hall and through the Butts corridor, and down through the Cottages to Landor House. When every member of the school had passed through the blue door into Smith Street, where the traffic had been stopped, another ceremony took place, with speeches from the Head Master, from the Mayor of Warwick Councillor Neale Murphy, and prayer and thought from Rev. Dr Alycia Timmis of the Collegiate Church of St Mary. The Head Girl team read marvellous poems in the style of Walter Savage Landor, written by the poet Dr Robert Dougal Renton, husband of Mrs Renton, the Deputy Head (Pastoral). Finally the Head Girl, EJ, turned the key with great solemnity in the lock of the blue door, the school song 'Jerusalem' was sung, and many tears were shed.

Led by Dr Burley, Deputy Head (Pastoral) and Dr Seal, Director of Studies, the pupils began their 'long march' from Smith Street to the school's new home on the Banbury Road site. Members of the public lined the route to wave and cheer, and a gun saluted from Warwick Castle. Old Girl Felicity Bunker had dressed in the school uniform of her 1950s schooldays to make the journey.

Once on the Banbury Road site, the King's High girls were welcomed by flag waving members of the Warwick Prep community, a CCF guard of honour, representatives of the Warwick School community and a fly-by. For most of the girls, it was their first time in the new buildings, as they ventured out onto the Quad that would become so familiar to them over the next two terms. Music from King's High and Warwick Prep filled the sunny Quad, and Mr Nicholson addressed his school in its new home for the first time. He was just getting into his stride when an anxious Mrs Renton, tapping her watch, reminded him of the time. 'Don't stop me now,' he retorted. 'I'm having such a good time....'

At this point, a dance troop comprising many staff members leapt into a 'flash mob' routine perfectly choreographed to Queen's classic hit, whose lyrics had already been quoted by Mr Nicholson. The school was enchanted by the lively performance of its teachers. It was a joyous conclusion to what for many had been a bittersweet end of term.







## November Carnivalé Ball

On Saturday 30 November 2019 almost 300 guests gathered at King's High School to celebrate the 140th anniversary year and raise funds for One Campus Plus. The school was transformed into a festival and mardi gras theme for the evening. Guests were greeted by fire performers, steel pan drums and entertainers on stilts before making their way to the "Carnivalé Hall" for drinks.

A flash mob and gospel choir then brought guests through to the assembly hall where a spectacular 3-course dinner was served by the Foundation's three executive chefs. A silent auction was held throughout the evening, offering an array of exciting prizes donated by members of the school community to support the One Campus Plus campaign.

Many thanks to the guests who attended the Ball, the staff who worked tirelessly throughout the evening, and the Ball committee of Mrs Griffin, Mrs Owen and Mrs Harding for their support in planning the event.



## December Lamor Association Carol Service

The Lamor Association Carol Service has, in three short years, established itself as a firm favourite in the Christmas calendar, heralding as it does the beginning of King's High and Warwick Prep's Christmas celebrations. Held on the evening of Tuesday 3 December 2019, the service was a sumptuous occasion, and a celebration of Christmas for the whole community that makes up the Lamor family. There were rousing carols, poetry and readings, with music from the Foundation Chamber Choir, Senior Chamber Choir, Warwick Preparatory School Senior Choir, King's High School String Ensemble, and Warwick Prep Hand Bells. Celia, Year 6 at Warwick Prep, sang the solo for Once in Royal David's City, and Florence (Year 11) sang the solo for Adeste Fideles. The Readers were Isabella (Year 8), Hannah (Year 7), Bryony (Year 13), Amy (Year 10), Milly (Year 13), Amber (Year 10), and Warwick Prep's Veda and Paige. A collection was taken for St Mary's Church and the Mayor of Warwick's Christmas Fund. One friend of the school commented that she felt very honoured to be part of it, praising the quality of the choir's singing and the readings. 'The school should feel justly proud of everyone who took part, but it is, of course, what we have come to expect. It was a lovely start to Christmas.'



## December Winter Concert

What better way to forget Brexit and the General Election than to join with a choir of over 700 people, whose ages ranged from 8 to 80, to celebrate Christmas and all things Warwickshire?

Composer Brendan Ashe had been commissioned to write a celebratory oratorio for choir and orchestra on the occasion of King's High's 140th birthday, and 'What You Will (A Warwickshire Will)' was the powerful, all-embracing result. I say 'all-embracing' because Ashe as a composer had never been pigeonholed into one genre, and his work superimposed Shakespeare's stunning language on a series of diverse musical movements.

We were delighted to involve several local primary schools in this performance; these were Bishop's Itchington, Kineton Church of England, Priors Field, Westgate and Wilmcote Church of England Primary Schools, whose junior pipes warbled and mingled delightfully with more senior voices.

In addition to members of King's High and Warwick Prep's choirs and choral societies, Ex Cathedra and the Choir of the Collegiate Church of St Mary, soloists Taryn and Katie's beautiful voices soared into the eaves of Warwick Hall, and beyond. The final component of the gathering was the newly-convened Ilex Ensemble, chiefly comprising King's High Old Girls and members of the Lamor Community, many of whom had been encouraged to dust off their vocal chords at the Gala Concert in July.

Artistic Director (Music) Mr Laing marshalled the voices skillfully, and at breakneck speed, through the oratorio, and the evening closed with Christmas carols, in which the audience was invited to participate, and Jingle Bells.

Mr Nicholson's hopes to make Warwick into a town full of singing had been realised in a highly enjoyable way.



# The Spirit of King's



## January 2020

Our 140th celebrations cumulated on Tuesday 28 January 2020 with the unveiling of The Spirit of King's, a dramatic work of Art, which is set to become a new landmark in Warwick. Kathleen Soriano, Chair of Liverpool Biennial of Contemporary Art, and former Director of Compton Verney, unveiled the 8 metre polished steel sculpture at a ceremony to mark the anniversary, and our move to the Banbury Road.

Mr Nicholson, Head Master of King's High, commented: 'We decided to commission something spectacular and lasting, to celebrate 140 years of educating girls, and these key moments in our school's history. Reflecting on what made the King's community so special, the answer was: our spirit. It was therefore important that our signature sculpture should capture this unique quality.'

The sculpture, which stands taller than the school buildings, is the work of sculptor, Liz Middleton. Liz spent three months researching King's High's pioneering history, talking with pupils and former pupils, discussing what the school meant to them. She comments: 'It was really inspiring, spending time with the girls, seeing them start their exciting journey at school, and how that develops over time, as they learn, change direction, and take risks. I wanted to express the ambition, dynamism and compelling energy I felt at the school and heard from the school community. I love the harmony between the effort, skill and power required to bend stainless steel, and the gestural lightness and joy of the form.'

This has been something of a family affair for King's High. The sculpture was made possible due to the generosity of a former pupil, Aileen Littleton. Aileen also worked as school secretary at King's High for a time, and was a tour guide for St Mary's, Warwick. Another former pupil, Sarah Collicott, founder of Artscape Management, commissioned Liz Middleton and curated the project.

*'Above all, the sculpture is a glorious, confident gesture. It invites each of us to reflect on our individual route through life, challenging and inspiring us to make it as joyous as it can be.'*  
Mr Nicholson





# Old Girls' News

## Life is what happens when you're busy making other plans

Beth Irving (KHS 2006 -2013)

Sometimes life doesn't work out the way you expect, no matter how carefully you plan. That's the best bit though! That's when you really start living.

When I left King's High in 2013, I knew exactly what I was going to do. I gained my place to study orchestral clarinet at the Guildhall School of Music & Drama in London, and then I would keep auditioning until I eventually achieved my dream position in a top professional orchestra. So, I locked myself in a tiny sound proofed cell for up to 7 hours a day, practiced the same pieces that all the other clarinetists played, rarely took a day off from playing and it would all be worth it for the sake of achieving my dream.

However, I slowly lost the Beth I knew; the one who loved music. Did I want to get to 40 and have only ever played the clarinet? Even if my mental health was beginning to take a back seat for the sake of this ambition, surely I wouldn't ever be able to actually leave music? Then one day, a professor said something which was one of the most valuable things I ever learnt in my four years at music college. They said, "The art of success is redefining what success means to you." It took me a few years, and a lot of counselling, to truly start understanding what he meant.

So, in 2018, I did the next logical thing, and went to live up a mountain in the Canadian Rockies. Together with six co-workers, we ran a teahouse from May until October, situated at an altitude of 2135m, with no running water or electricity. This meant no showers, and our water for tea, washing up, cooking and cleaning, was all hauled by hand from the nearby glacier-fed lake. We had outhouses for toilets, so had to safely seal the barrels and be trained in directing helicopters, as they long lined new and old barrels in and out every week. Due to our remote location, all our food was freshly baked. We hiked all the fresh supplies up, and all the rubbish down the mountain on our backs, every time we did the commute to work. We lived up the mountain during our 3 to 6 day shifts in a small wooden hut, with three bunk beds and a wood burning stove for heat. We hiked with bear spray due to the grizzly and black bears in the region, and wore

crampons to cope with the deep snow and ice at the start and end of the summer season, which would arrive as early as the end of August!

During my first season at the Teahouse, I learnt of a backcountry ski lodge in the region, and went out for an interview, which involved a 12km hike into the lodge and a horse trek out! I got offered the job, and had to learn how to backcountry ski tour (a cross between downhill and cross-country skiing), as well as complete my avalanche training. My shifts were ten days long, so the commute to work would be a 12km ski through a boulder field, across a frozen lake, up a mountain and down into the next valley where the lodge was located. On occasions I could ski in just a t-shirt, and other times the wind was so strong that you could hardly see the end of your skis, with the wind chill bringing the temperatures down to -50°C. Cases of frostbite were common, and we had to prevent guests from skiing in or out of the lodge at times. In January, we had 77cm of snowfall in less than two days, meaning the route to the lodge was impassable, so we had to radio for an emergency helicopter drop of supplies.

This backcountry ski lodge had no WiFi, mobile phone service, running water or electricity. We hauled our water by hand from the nearby creek, which involved breaking the ice and pulling four buckets at a time, in a toboggan, by hand. Showers were only in the form of filling a watering can and pouring it over ourselves in a tool shed. With temperatures often down to the low -30's, this made them some of the quickest showers of your life! We had no contact with friends or family during every work shift over these four months from December 2018 to April 2019. It was liberating to be free from the shackles of the modern world, and guess what? Nobody missed me that much, and my true friendships weren't affected negatively, but only became stronger.

In May 2019 I returned to the teahouse, got promoted and trained as a baker and manager, which involved baking from 4.30am every morning and finishing my day around 8.30/9pm. The teahouse closed for winter in October, after which I spent one month visiting old friends around Europe and two months travelling alone in New Zealand. Following this I will be heading to India to visit where many of my ancestors lived, then travelling through Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan, before starting my new job working as a bike tour guide in Austria this summer.

My experiences in Canada gave me the confidence to go out there and realise that the world really does look after you, and unexpected doors start opening the more you explore. By breaking out of the music bubble that was my world, I've met some of the most incredible people, been touched by the kindness of others and pushed myself in new and exciting ways.

I have no regrets about leaving music. The last few years have only assured me that you should trust your intuition, and accept that dreams and aspirations alter as you change throughout life. The only risk of failing is by not taking any risk at all. Therefore, do what makes you happy in the now, and only then will you achieve true success.





# History



The King's High School for Girls, Warwick, held its first Speech Day on Wednesday 17 November, 1880, just over eighteen months into the school's existence. The event was called 'Prize Distribution' and took place at the County Hall, Warwick, with the added gilt of the Countess of Warwick to present the prizes. The platform party consisted of the Governors, Clerk and Lady Managers of the School, the Headmistress Miss Mary Janet Fisher, the Countess, and the Mayor of Warwick.

On one side of the Hall sat almost 100 girls. On the other side were their parents, and friends.

Speeches from the Governors and the Countess were highly congratulatory at the work of Miss Fisher and her staff for the school's first eighteen months, and most trumpeted their support of the new practice of educating girls academically on the same lines as boys.

The Chairman of proceedings, Mr Thomas Lloyd, read a letter from the Rev. Dr. Jex-Blake, Head Master of Rugby School, who had been unable to attend. 'These girls' schools are one of the best developments of education in our day', he said, 'and meet a great want - a want that is greater even than it is felt to be, for people have been slow to realise the blessing and the power that well educated women can be. [...] Women seem to me far more fitted than men for many educational works, as some of the most indispensable qualities of a good teacher are eminently feminine - tact, sympathy, patience and quickness of perception.'

He spoke of the school's rapid expansion from 21 girls in April 1879 to 100 in November 1880 and complimented Miss Fisher and her staff for the services they had rendered.

The Clerk to the Governors, Mr R C Heath, read a report from the external examiners who had visited the school in the Summer Term. He claimed 'the premises were not originally intended for a school, but have been well adapted and have been suitably

furnished. [...] It seems probable that additional accommodation will shortly be required'!!!

The subjects of instruction that had been examined were Scripture, English History, Grammar, Literature, Geography, Arithmetic, Latin, French, Singing, Drawing, Needlework, Drill and Exercise had also been observed.

The Countess of Warwick congratulated the school, its mistresses and the prizewinners, but urged that those who had not won prizes would not be discouraged, as striving for high aims brings its own reward. Twenty eight prizes were presented by the Countess, with some girls winning more than one. She also congratulated seven Exhibitioners, two of whom had been offered a year's full fees remission, and five who had been offered half fees for a year.

Further speeches from Governors followed, with the following remarks worthy of interest:

'Not very long ago, a sort of apology would have been required for attempting to give what was now termed "higher education" to girls. Such an attempt a few years ago would have been regarded as unwise and impracticable - unwise because it was thought that a higher or improved education would unfit them for those domestic duties to which they might hereafter be called [...] and that the study necessary to attain that higher culture would affect their general health. Experience has shown however that groundless were all those fears, and people have since learned [...] that the better the education a girl received, the better fitted would she be to perform whatever duties might devolve upon her.' Canon Evans.

Rev. Newman offered Miss Fisher some advice: 'Do not work the girls too hard.' If he were addressing boys, however, he would say the opposite, 'Because boys were like certain animals which occasionally required the whip, whereas girls now and then wanted the rein, where they were apt to run a little too fast.'



# Of Mulberries, Ilex and Acorns

There have been four histories of King's High over the past 140 years, beginning with 1929's 'Book of the [Golden] Jubilee', which contrasted Victorian education with that of the late 1920s. Then there was Miss Browett's 1979 Centenary Book, 'a portrait, with flowers' of the school and its history, filled with reminiscences, Ilex entries and artwork from Old Girls and former staff. Then Old Girl Jean Field produced her glossy illustrated coffee-table book, 'The Ilex and the Mulberry Tree' in 1997. The fourth incarnation, by two Old Girls who between them can boast 114 years' association with the school in a variety of capacities, 'Of Mulberries, Ilex and Acorns', is the most lavish yet. It is a full-colour, large-format hardback which not only chronicles the history of King's High and Warwick Prep from 1879, but also illustrates the evolution of girls' education from the experimental mid-Victorian era to the technological age of the 21st century.

At a Gala book launch in December, co-authors Jennifer Edwards (KHS 1952 - 1960) and Polly Beidas (KHS 1974 - 1981) both spoke of a nearly ten year process that led to the book's publication, from the germ of an idea in headmistress Elizabeth Surber's brain, to a luncheon where it had taken Jenny a nanosecond to persuade Polly to be her co-author, to its fruition guided by Head Master Mr Nicholson, publisher Peter Jones and editor Zoe Antoniou. Both Jenny and Polly paid tribute to Zoe for her patience, dedication and gentle cajolery, and to Mr Nicholson for driving the project forward. Jenny spoke of the Prep School's innovation, and mentioned that it had been exactly two years to the day since their initial meeting with Peter Jones of Profile Editions. She was glad that the book had been ready to coincide with the school's 140th anniversary year. Polly was delighted to achieve her childhood ambition of becoming an author, and said that 'fan mail' from her former English teacher, Mrs Gillian Hall, praising her writing, and a phonecall from a 1930s Old Girl saying that their research had been 'spot on' had meant so much. The authors recalled nocturnal text message exchanges about King's High history, and a Saturday afternoon text conversation trying to identify faces in a photograph taken before either of them were born!

After drinks and canapés, the audience of friends, Old Girls, former staff and members of the Landor community were able to purchase copies of the book and have them signed by the authors. If you haven't yet bought your copy, there is still time to do so. Priced at £45 plus P&P, please email **KHS-LandorAssociation@kingshighwarwick.co.uk** for further details.





# Development



The Development Office drives the fundraising to enable the schools to deliver an extra level of benefits for all those who study, work and play here. School fees pay for the running costs of the schools alone and to be able to develop our facilities, offer bursaries, expand into new areas of teaching and provide increased extra-curricular opportunities we rely on the donations we receive.



## Music School

The school has secured the historic Susi Jeans Organ thanks to a generous benefactor. The impressive instrument belonged to influential organist and teacher, Lady Susi Jeans. Through her many broadcasts and concerts from the mid-1930s, she introduced new life into British organ-playing, and inspired a generation of musicians. The organ will grace a dedicated room in the stunning new Music School which opens in this year.

## Play Space

Warwick Preparatory School Association (WPSA) committed to raising £50,000 towards the Prep Play Space project for their 50th Anniversary year. They have been doing a fantastic job with a wide variety of events including a quiz night, challenge 50, bobble hats, discos, raffles and much more.



There are plenty more opportunities to pledge your support to the One Campus Plus campaign. Please do get in touch with us by contacting Laura Bainbridge via email at [l.bainbridge@kingshighwarwick.co.uk](mailto:l.bainbridge@kingshighwarwick.co.uk) or visit the website for more information [www.onecampusplus.co.uk](http://www.onecampusplus.co.uk)

We are very grateful to all our supporters of the One Campus Plus Campaign and thanks to them it makes things like this possible.

## School Library

The school library will be officially opened (date TBC) by Mr Win Neuger and Dr Christie Neuger (née Cozad) KHS 1964 -1965 who have very generously donated to the One Campus Plus project. The library will be named 'The Cozad Neuger Library'. Dr Neuger commented 'We are so thrilled to be able to support the school in this way. We feel very passionate about giving back to the school as it gave me so many wonderful and valuable experiences in the short time that I was there. We were very impressed by the new facilities when we came to visit recently and we look forward to opening the Library in due course.'



# Thank you to all our benefactors who have supported the school

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# Landor Connect

Download the new mobile app – giving you direct access to the free online network of fellow Landor members where you can connect for careers advice, networking opportunities, job opportunities and keep up to date with upcoming events and access photos from past events.



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