



October 2003  
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## "THOROUGH"



### EDITORIAL

Following the AGM earlier this year, we welcome new committee members as well as the new 2003 Scholars.

We shall be letting you know the names and universities of new scholars in the next newsletter and would like to give new scholars the chance to introduce themselves on this occasion. If you've just started at university, please write and let us know how you are getting on and if you have any requests for our careers page.

2 Australian doctors have written with news this month (page 3) and in the next issue we will continue this theme with a careers piece from a doctor working in England. Meanwhile, in this issue, I am very pleased we have a contribution from Paul Silk, for many years a clerk in the UK Parliament and now at the Welsh Assembly (page 4).

I myself would be very happy to answer questions from any science graduate wanting to move into communication, having worked as a journalist and now running a science centre on the site of a research laboratory.

Enjoy your read.

Best wishes,

Emma Sanders

### AGM AND SCHOLARS DINNER 2003



The Annual General Meeting and Scholar's Dinner was held at the Sketchley Grange Country House Hotel in Hinckley on Thursday May 29th.

The following members were elected to the Committee of the Association:

**Chairman & Treasurer :**  
Jonathan Price

**Vice Chairman :**  
Jim Watson



photos Philip Chapman-Sheath

#### **Committee Members :**

Shona Ashmore  
Christopher Bunker  
Philip Chapman-Sheath  
Tim Price  
Andrew Roland-Price  
Emma Sanders  
Susan Saunders

Following the AGM, The President, Scholars and their guests were provided with a sumptuous five-course dinner, complemented with wines from the Sketchley Grange cellar. Stimulating conversation over dinner added to the pleasure of the evening

The guest speaker for the evening, Adrian Graves (pictured left), Fellow of the Institute of Public Relations, gave an interesting, and amusing account of the image of the publicist and an insight into the role of the parliamentary lobbyist.

The Queen was toasted by the Chairman and the Guests.

Gerry Brierley

"Education must elevate the mind, must improve your faculties of thought, must clear your vision and make you understand your place and duty in the world."

Field Marshal Lord Kitchener of Khartoum.

## UPCOMING EVENT

### Wilde at Magdalen

Tuesday 21st October  
6.00pm for 6.30pm

The Practice Room, Magdalen  
College, Oxford University

The Kitchener Scholar's Association would like to invite members to a special and informal evening in Magdalen College, Oxford University. We are very pleased to have arranged this evening on behalf of Kitchener Scholars with Dr. Robin Darwall-Smith, KS and Archivist at Magdalen College and University College who will be our host and speaker on Oscar Wilde's time at Magdalen College, Oxford.

Why not make a day of it and explore the City of Oxford and its spires, then come to our event in the evening?

Please reserve your place as soon as possible as numbers are strictly limited.

We will meet at the Practice Room from 6.00pm for 6.30pm, dress for the evening is suggested as smart and informal and there will be wine and light refreshments available. The evening is planned to conclude at about 8.00pm.

To reserve your place please contact :

James Watson  
tel: 01296 661000  
email: jamesrwatson@tiscali.co.uk

## THE KSA RUGBY CUP

The committee have in their possession the KSA Rugby Cup. This was competed for by teams of KS from Oxford, Cambridge and London.

It carries the inscription: Kitchener Scholars Association, Rugby Football Challenge Cup, Presented by The Hon. Sir Arthur Stanley, GBE, 3<sup>rd</sup> December 1926; and on the reverse:

1926 Oxford and Cambridge  
1927 Cambridge  
1928 Cambridge  
1929 Oxford  
1930 Oxford  
1931 Cambridge  
1932 London  
1933 Oxford  
1934 Oxford  
1936 London  
1937 London.

The presumption being that 1937 was the last time that the cup was played for – but maybe one of our readers could confirm whether this is the case.

It is interesting to note that during these years there were sufficient KS at the Universities to field a full rugby team.

I did hear a rumour from one of our more elderly KS that the cup went on a 'jaunt' after one particular AGM, but eventually returned safe to KSA hands!

If any current KS have any ideas how we might bring the cup back into use, your committee would be pleased to hear them. Perhaps we could field a rugby team from amongst our ranks and challenge a current University side?

*Tim Price*

We have also been given some KSA newsletters from the same period and will include some snippets in our next edition.



## MANSION HOUSE DINNER

There are a few tickets left for the Kitchener Dinner at the Mansion House on the **8th October**. Please contact the Secretary for more information.

## FRIENDS REUNITED

A field for the Kitchener Scholars Association now exists on the Friends Reunited website : [www.friendsreunited.co.uk](http://www.friendsreunited.co.uk). If you use the service, don't forget to add the Association to your list of schools and colleges.

## DEADLINES FOR CONTRIBUTIONS

We welcome contributions to the newsletter.

Please send your letters/emails to Emma Sanders (contact details on page 4).

Submission deadlines :  
1<sup>st</sup> March for Spring Edition  
15<sup>th</sup> September for Autumn Edition

## FOR SALE

KSA TIES  
6 pounds incl p&p;

KSA BROOCHES  
4 pounds incl p&p;

Please contact the treasurer  
(address on the back page)

## EMAIL ADDRESSES

Do you have an email address?  
If so, the committee would like to know.

Please send an email to the Secretary : [brie@onetel.net.uk](mailto:brie@onetel.net.uk) and you will receive updates about KSA events throughout the year.

## MEMBERS NEWS

**E R Reid (KS 1942)** writes:

I was doubly orphaned in infancy but thanks to a scholarship at Epsom College and my Kitchener Scholarship I was able to qualify in Medicine at the London Hospital Medical College in 1947. Since that time I have had a varied and satisfying career and now in the evening of my time as a doctor I would like to record my sincere thanks to the Kitchener Scholars Organisation for my chance to follow my father's profession. I can have no advice to young graduates on their choice of field to follow in medicine, but I would advise that "Doctor" means teacher and that they should endeavour to be leaders in their communities. They should develop an ability in public speaking and in the written word. I wish the new graduates the same enjoyment in our profession as I have experienced, thanks to the chance I was given.

**Cecil Walkley (KS1948)** sends us a newspaper clipping of his exploits as triathlete. Indeed, at 74 years old, he still runs half marathons and competed in 11 triathlons in the last 6 months plus several ocean swimming races! He writes : I am still practising as a Specialist in the field of Rehabilitation Medicine as I am fortunately very well.

He also comments on Kilimanjaro following the photo in the last issue: I was intrigued by the signs in the background as I spent a week on top of Kilimanjaro when one of the objectives was to celebrate the independence of Tanganyika by lighting a beacon, firing rockets and making a radio broadcast at midnight 9th December. Hence the name of the peak - Uhuru. As you can appreciate, I had a fabulous time.

The sign reads : Congratulations you are now at Uhuru Peak, Tanzania, 5895m AMSL. Africa's highest point, world's highest free-standing mountain, one of the world's largest volcanoes. Welcome.



## LOST SCHOLARS

The Secretary has been updating the database of members of the KSA. There are a number of members of the Association whom he would like to trace. (Some are still paying membership fees but we have no contact details for them!)

There is little information available beyond the individual names. He would like to hear from any member of the Association, who has information concerning the current location of any of the scholars listed here.

The Secretary's contact details are on the back page.

G.R.Bell  
M.Dagnall  
Richard Fairlamb  
C.R.Hawker  
David Jenkins  
R.M.Northover  
Ms M.J.Townsend  
Capt.R.D.M.Weekes  
Miss S.C.Woods  
A.Williams  
David Williams  
Dr.A.J.Williams  
Michael Young

## OBITUARIES

### **KENNETH HAL HARPER, MA, MPS KITCHENER SCHOLAR 1931**

Kenneth Hal Harper was born on May 18<sup>th</sup> 1911, in East Bridgeford, Nottingham. He was a pupil at Bromsgrove School from 1925 – 1930, being appointed Headboy in 1929, and later to become a Governor of the school for 15 years. From Bromsgrove he went up to St Catherine's College, Cambridge, graduating in 1933 with an honours degree in Natural Science.

On leaving Cambridge he joined the Boots Pure Drug Company, now the Boots Group where he qualified as a Pharmacist in 1936, being elected a Fellow of the Royal Pharmaceutical Society in 1970.

He continued his career with Boots and was appointed to the Board in 1959, retiring as Production Director in December 1971.

Kenneth was also interested in people and the community in which he lived and was appointed a Justice of the Peace in Shirehall, Nottingham Bench in 1962, eventually to become Chairman of the Bench in 1976.

A man of many parts he lived life to the full. A keen golfer, he enjoyed fishing, was an accomplished painter, with a love of music and the ballet. Many of these interests he shared for over 60 years with his wife Bette.

The death is also reported of :

Rev.T.J Lowrey  
Rev E.J Baston  
Prof.D.H.Everett MBE,  
DSc,DPhil,MA,  
Cannon R.T.Warburton MA,LTh  
Alan John Barron

# A PATH TO WORK : WORKING AS A CLERK IN PARLIAMENT

*Continuing our series of articles on different career opportunities, we follow the path of one KS into Parliament : Paul Silk studied Classics at Oxford.*

“Clerk” is a pretty dull sounding title for a profession, but those of us who work as Clerks in the UK Parliament, the Scottish Parliament, and the Northern Irish and Welsh Assemblies are relaxed about that because we are lucky enough to have really fascinating work.

So what do we do? Basically our job is to help elected Members achieve their political ends. We give them extra muscle, if you like. And we do that regardless of political party. That means we have to be scrupulous in our neutrality.

Perhaps the best way of illustrating this is to describe my own career.

After reading Classics at Oxford (where I was very grateful for the extra help my Kitchener Scholarship gave me), I decided to take the civil service exams. In reading the bumph, I saw that there were jobs called Clerkships in the House of Commons and the House of Lords, and I decided to have a go. The Lords and Commons are small outfits and only a few Clerks are recruited each year, but I was fortunate enough to get in, and joined the Commons in 1975.

I stayed in the Commons until 2001, and held a number of different jobs. Some were procedural – advising MPs on questions or motions or bills. That sounds a bit boring, but it is fascinating to be at the centre of events, helping politicians use the parliamentary process to achieve their political ends. Yes, you are a backroom boy or girl- it’s not work for someone who wants prominence for themselves – but never, ever dull if you enjoy politics and people.

What I personally enjoyed most were my three periods as Clerk to different Select Committees – Energy, Home Affairs and finally Foreign Affairs.

Select Committees have the job of scrutinising government, and they rely on their Clerk to brief them, write their reports and organise their work generally. Committees tend to occupy themselves with the most interesting parts of the political agenda, and I have been able to join them at briefing sessions or on visits which were enormously interesting. Examples which stick in my mind are going down pits just after the miners’ strike, being briefed on climate change by the Head of the Met Office, visiting Strangeways Prison days after the riots there or travelling around as the Foreign Affairs Committee visited places from Yerevan to Beijing. And there is great satisfaction in watching the launch of a committee report which the media seize upon, and which you have had a considerable hand in preparing.

Although a small profession, clerking is done world-wide. I was seconded to the French National Assembly and the German Bundestag, and did a lot of work with the Council of Europe Parliamentary Assembly. Beyond that, I enjoyed contacts with other Parliaments around the world – there’s a family of Clerks out there, from Peru to Poland, and links are strong and fruitful.

I’m Welsh, and so when the opportunity arose to apply for the job of Clerk to the National Assembly for Wales, I could not let it slip. I was selected, and started work in Cardiff on St David’s Day 2001. Here I am responsible for 250 or so staff who provide the full range of parliamentary services to our 60 Members. We do everything – lawyers and librarians, security officers and catering staff, translators and press officers. It is endlessly varied, always interesting and actually thrilling to be able to help shape our new democratic system.

So, I’d advise any Kitchener Scholar who is interested in public service, and who has a strong interest in politics but no political prejudices, to think about a career as a Clerk or in parliamentary administration more generally. And I should be very happy to give any advice to anyone who wants to contact me at [Paul.Silk@Wales.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:Paul.Silk@Wales.gsi.gov.uk)

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