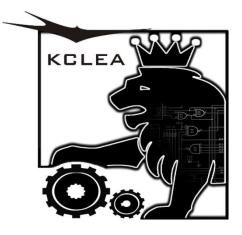
# THE EXINGS SINGINESS. BULLETIN



Autumn 2024

### AGM 2024

KCLEA

Annual General Meeting Formal Notification

Thursday 5th December 2024



#### **INSIDE**

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### A message from the President by Peter Weitzel



It's a Great privilege to be KCELA President again- it gives me another opportunity to point out that KCLES predates all Engineering Institutions other than the Civils!! – and thus the long tradition of Engineering at King's. The last time I was President that was very much in doubt, but now I look at a thriving School of Biomedical Engineering and Imaging Science – highly regarded by students, and the increasing certainty of the General & Electrical engineering from the reformed Department of Engineering – making more rounded Engineers for tomorrow's industries.

With such vitality in King's it seems that KCLEA should be as lively – and serve its members – by networking (hence LinkedIn group etc) and helping each other, reinforcing contacts with Kings and the current work of academics and students, and share the successes that we have made in making the world a better place.... But as our Warcry has "we are, we are, we are the Engineers" – but WHO are KCLEA Engineers, of the 2000 the alumni office still can contact – we have quartiles of graduation years at 1994, 2008 and 2016 – that means that just over half of you – OUR members are under the age of 40

If KCLEA is to continue, we need you to take on the direction and running of KCLEA. With the support of the current committee. I have started to get things set up so that KCLEA can thrive in the second quarter of the 21st Century, but it can only be as good as its active members.

#### Please look at what we are planning:

Portfolios to serve the members "communications" -including the new newsletter and this bulletin, the "Events" to network and find out about Kings and what Kings engineers are doing, coordinating KCLEA member "Activities" with the Students (And staff), and growing "membership" and treating you our members more personally.



### A message from the President by Peter Weitzel



I cover these in more length in my AGM report and I will be outlining this and answering your questions at the AGM -on Zoom 5<sup>th</sup> December 2024.

https://www.kclea.org.uk/index/agm2024.html

Please register for this .. it will not be boring!!

But if you think you can help – look at the information on the website and contact me .... President@kclea.org.uk

At the Annual Lunch I had two quotes — The first of these was the late Prince Phillip on the Today Programs

"What was not created by God...was invented by Engineers".

The second I will share with you next time

### **AGM 2024**



# KCLEA Annual General Meeting Formal Notification

Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> December 2024 at 6:00pm

The KCLEA's AGM will take place on the 5<sup>th</sup> December 2024 via ZOOM.

Please register at: https://www.kclea.org.uk/index/agm2024.html

#### Agenda

- 1) Apologies for absence/ Minutes of the 2023 AGM/ Matters arising
- 2) President's report on past year \*
- 3) Accounts, including the Trustees' report.
- 4) To Note Student Bursaries and Medals
- 5) Nominations and Election for Officers and Committee members
- 6) The 13 Club Trophy
- 7) Discussion and Adoption of updated constitution \*
- 8) President -KCLEA's Future- Communications Events Activities Members and Operation \*
- 9) AOB

Chris Bowden, Hon. Secretary KCLEA

<sup>\*</sup> documents available at above URL



BSc(Eng.), AKC, MIET, MRAeS (retired), CEng (retired)



### Electrical Engineering Class 1958

My interest in engineering began at an early age - I was always curious about how things worked and what they were made of. During the war I must have been five or six years old when I found my father's 'hidden' Home Guard rifle, with bayonet fixed, and a belt of live ammunition. "Is the bayonet to help guide the bullets?" I asked - but the question remained unanswered.

Whilst still at school I made my first AM radio receiver at home, aged eleven, by obtaining a pair of war surplus high-impedance headphones, and repairing a cat's whisker crystal set found a junk shop. Later I progressed to build a FM radio when seventeen, and was delighted to receive the BBC Wrotham test signals prior to the first FM service opening on 2nd May 1955! I was fortunate that my passion was nurtured at school, and I was awarded a Kent County Scholarship, enabling me to attend university. The first in my wider family to do so.

I graduated a 'beer' in 1958, and was given a valuable piece of advice from an uncle, "Congratulations on your degree, but remember that's just a key to your career. Work hard, and with luck you will do well". "What's luck got to do with it?" I naively asked. I hadn't appreciated it at the time, but how right he was!

I did a Graduate apprenticeship with the Marconi Company until 1960. A time where I found myself up 500 foot masts and towers, and the wearing of the cumbersome leather safety harness of those days became a moral dilemma. "The first thing I'll do if a man falls off the mast is put a safety harness on him - what will you say to the inspector?" - the greeting words of the foreman rigger. It was the first time my black and white intense religious upbringing had to acknowledge life's shades of grey.

A memorable moment from those days was when two light aircraft flew each side of the tower below us. 1960 is the year in which at 22 I married my 20 year old fiancé Janet - and yes, we did get a congratulations card from the Queen sixty years later!

Within six months of getting married we left the UK to live in Nigeria, working for Marconi installing and maintaining trunk telephone VHF communication systems. This was a life enhancing experience on many levels, especially when a well hooded cobra reared up in front of the Landrover as I arrived at a remote



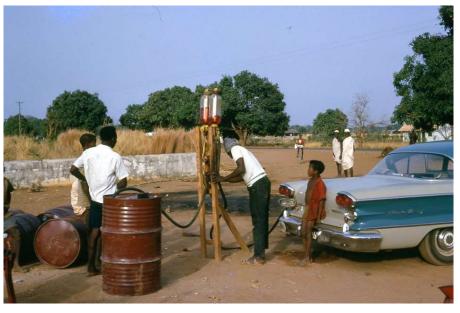


Electrical Engineering Class 1958

repeater station. I found myself at the top of another mast, only 400 feet this time, but had to endure an un-forecast tropical rainstorm that suddenly came from a clear blue sky. A near collision with a Mercedes lorry with a white on red banner 'No Condition is Permanent' on top of its cab, was a philosophy that could have been less dangerously learned.



Assembling 4 stack VHF yagi aerial arrays Bauchi, Nigeria 1961



Refuelling the Pontiac at Kontagora, Nigeria 1962





Electrical Engineering Class 1958

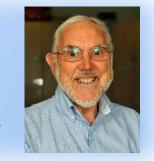
We returned to the UK in 1962 where I worked as a Systems Engineer at Marconi, Chelmsford. It was here that I had a technical article on "Tropospheric Scatter" beyond-the-horizon multi- channel radio communication systems published. There were no satellites then. I was promoted due to the "fire in my belly" and was afforded my own small office with a carpet - very important in those days! Abroad as a civil servant a year or so later, I was on the circulation list of selected documents from the British Embassy, including English translations of Chinese technical papers - and there almost word for word was my article.

https://themarconifamily.pbworks.com/w/file/fetch/110598391/Point-to-Point February 1964.pdf

Soon after our daughter was born in 1963 my family and I moved back to Africa, East Africa this time - Tanganyika now Tanzania, Zanzibar, Kenya and Uganda - where I was a Senior Executive Engineer with Her Majesty's Department of Technical Cooperation. It was here that I discovered a new passion - sailing! I taught myself of an evening sailing up and down the creek in Dar-es-Salaam before the breeze died away.

Between 1966 - when our son was born on my birthday - and 1968, I was back in Chelmsford as a Communications Systems Marketing Engineer for high value projects worldwide. This required me to travel around Europe, North and South America, The Philippines, Thailand, and the Middle and Far East, frequently carrying out site surveys to select radio station locations best suited to the terrain and propagation conditions. Being required to hand over one's passport on occasions was apprehensive making, as were the times when armed bodyguards were provided by the 'host'. I vividly remember the pearl handled revolver, the well-armed soldier leading through dense vegetation, the fingerprints of both hands being taken at entry to a military base prior to a survey flight in a small military twin-engined propeller aircraft, and - after I had told the pilots that I had seen and photographed all that I needed thank you - the pain behind my eyes and not knowing which way up I was as the plane heeled and turned back towards base, where it made a rapid decent and bouncy landing - "Sorry Doug.. I've not checked out on this aircraft" said the senior officer co-pilot, who was their ace fighter jet pilot!





Electrical Engineering Class 1958

In 1969, describing myself when asked at interview as a "Management Oriented Systems Engineer", I joined the British Aircraft Corporation as an Assistant Project Manager, and later became the Chief Product Assurance Manager Guided Weapons for BAC (now BAE), the youngest executive in their history it seems. It was during this time that I studied for and, after a practical interview with a Master Mariner, was awarded the official Board of Trade Yacht Masters Certificate. - a blue hard backed embossed document very similar to a passport at that time. Now all I needed was a yacht!

I had been very impressed with the welcome and hospitality shown to me during my working visits to Greece, and wanted the children to begin to appreciate that there are many ways of living this life. So, in 1975 Janet and I decided to sell the house so that - with the blessing of their headteachers who loaned English and Maths books - we could take our children, then 12 and 9, on an educational voyage under sail to and around the Mediterranean in a 38 ft steel yacht. A yacht that incidentally, when the boatyard holding company went bankrupt, I spent two years finishing and fitting out in our Hertfordshire garden. In due course each offspring established and ran their own business.

There was no GPS then, and navigation was done by sextant and nautical tables. Janet had also obtained a Yacht Master qualification, and she learnt to speak some Greek - rather necessary in those days. Our 12 year old daughter was chief cook and became the youngest ever member of the Ocean Cruising Club - sailing over 1,000 miles port to port with no stops.

We returned to the UK in 1976 and I resumed work, - this time with Hunting Engineering Ltd. at Ampthill - as International Project Manager for a very large secure high tech system.

Then, in 1981, I left to became Operations Director of a high tech security company, implementing major VIP and strategic security systems both in the UK and abroad.

In 1984 I "retired" to go sailing again, in a 50 ft yacht that I had been refitting over the previous 6 years. My wife and I then embarked on our second voyage to and around the Mediterranean.

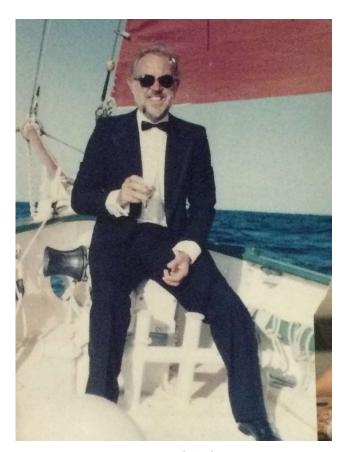




Electrical Engineering Class 1958

In 1986 I was persuaded back to work as Operations Director in the Far East, implementing high tech security systems. During this time I commissioned the building of a 49 ft traditional wooden yacht, the next adventure never far from my mind. It was to be an ocean capable vessel built to my specification with continuous in-build professional surveys, and be a semi-permanent home, capable of being handled by my wife and I without the need for crew.

After two years in Jakarta I retired again, and Janet and I lived afloat until 1997, sailing to and around the Mediterranean, the Canaries, Cap Verde Islands, the Caribbean, the USA, the Bahamas, Sn Salvador Islands, Bermuda, the Azores, and back to Turkey. By the time I swallowed the anchor I had sailed 38,483 miles, anchored 780 and moored 512 times.



Doug, Mid Atlantic





Voyage Chart





Electrical Engineering Class 1958

By 1997 we had grandchildren so returned to the UK permanently

Since moving back, my passion for engineering has been kept very much alive. I spent 15 years as a volunteer for the charity REMAP(Rehabilitation Engineering Movement Advisory Panel) designing and making/building

bespoke equipment to assist persons of differing abilities when no appropriate equipment is commercially available. This has included designing and building various equipment for the STEPS charity which helps children with severe motor/movement difficulties.





Height Adjustable Exercise Bar with presets designed and built for STEPS Charity





Electrical Engineering Class 1958

Meanwhile six happy years were spent professionally managing a close friends Mediterranean based luxury yacht - a tough job but somebody had to do it! Eventually there was the sad task of executing a Power of Attorney for its sale.

In 2014 my novel "Raft of Lies" was published - but how much of it is fiction?

I now scratch build one meter +/- model ships and yachts from line drawings, including a radio controlled model of our transatlantic yacht. Building vessels from kits with a high level of difficulty and labelled 'expert' is another satisfying challenge. My latest and just finished two year project was a 1:250 scale model of the Titanic, which gave a model length of 1093 mm with a beam of 120 mm - surprisingly long and slender by modern standards!



The Titanic



Smit Rotterdam Ocean Going 22,000 HP Tug



### Reunion

### Richard Warwick

Civil Engineering Class 1964

### Still going strong

The KCL Civil Engineers who graduated in 1964 held Their first reunion on Friday 1st July 1994, the exact 30th anniversary of the day when their degree results were made known. Of the 23 in the group, it was possible for 20 to be tracked down and 10 were able to meet up at the I C E. It was a success and reunions have taken place every year since except for 2020 and 2021 due to covid.

Most reunions have started at the I C E for lunch followed by a visit somewhere (often engineering themed) and others have started with a river trip from Westminster to Greenwich followed by lunch at The Trafalgar Tavern. Only 1 of the 20 was unable to attend any reunion (he lived in Florida) but some of the group have attended very nearly every one.

Visits after lunch having included going to Brunel's Rotherhithe shaft, the Royal Institution (and for tea), the Houses of Parliament, the Cabinet War Rooms, Kew Gardens, HMS Belfast, the Greenwich Observatory (and for tea), the Thames Barrier and the Cutty Sark. Also, to the top of the BT Tower, to the top of the Q E Tower (to see and hear Big Ben chime), walking through the Greenwich Foot Tunnel, travelling on the DLR, going to the Florence Nightingale Museum, visiting the Evelina Children's Hospital, St James' Park and St Martin-in-the-Fields (for tea), the Royal Society's building, the Bank of England Museum, the British Library as well as to Tower Bridge and seeing its mechanism, the Millennium Wheel, seeing the MI5 and MI6 buildings and visiting the Imperial War Museum, travelling on the Thames cross-river gondola and visiting the O2 building. Also, and in between the annual reunions, there have been many 'mini' reunions, including five in or near Vancouver.



#### Reunion

### **Richard Warwick**

### Civil Engineering Class 1964

There has generally been a good turnout for every reunion. This year, on Friday 5th July, at the 29th re-union, when the 60th anniversary was celebrated, there were 14 engineers out of a possible 18, plus 6 ladies. Further, there were 4 'special guests' - civils who had graduated in 1963 so, with them, the party totalled 24.



After assembling at the I C E and having lunch there, the party travelled by bus to King's where we were met by Krishna Keerthana Chiruvolu, a guide arranged by the KCL Alumni Office, who gave us a 90 minute tour of the College. We then went to the Somerset House café for a cup of tea before dispersing.

Of the above mentioned 20 engineers, 19 reached the age of 80, 18 are still alive and 14 have celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary. So it's been 'good going' for most of us.



# Reunion Richard Warwick

Civil Engineering Class 1964

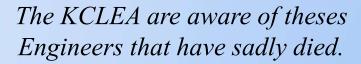
In November 2016, the 1964 civils finals group was honoured when the KCLEA awarded it the KCLEA 13 Club Trophy and eight members of the group were able to attend the presentation by Graham Raven, Acting President, at King's.



25th November 2016



### **Obituaries**





Edwin Joseph Willis	Civ Eng	1951-54	14 Mar 2023.
Anthony Neville Jolliffe	Civ Eng	1955-58	05 July 2023.
Michael Allen Frank Rush	Civ Eng	1951-54	27 Nov 2023.
David Michael Russell	Elec Eng	1955-58	29 Jan 2024.
John Bernard White	Mech Eng	1955-58	21 Mar 2024.

### In the following pages Eulogies are given for:

Stanley W.E. Earles	Mech Eng	1950-54	11 May 2024
Kenneth Hubble	Mech Eng	1952-55	25 May 2024
Ian Duncan Robertson	Elec Eng	1981-84	06 June 2024.



# Obituaries **Kenneth (Ken) Hubble**



(November 30, 1934 - May 25, 2024)

Born: 1934, Worthing, Sussex. Married 1960-1985, 1 Son, 1 Daughter. Died on 25 May 2024. Ken studied at King's, (1952-1955) BSc(Eng), obtaining 2nd Class Honours, specialising in Mechanical Engineering. With medical deferment from National Service, he immediately started work in the defence industry, joining the English Guided Weapons Division of the English Electric/Marconi/Napier Group as a Graduate Apprentice. Extensive courses at Marconi College in Systems, Radar, Electronics, Servos



promoted growth as an Aerospace Engineer. Starting in 1957, Ken acquired specific skills for developing control systems and instrumentation which led to opportunities in the burgeoning American Space Industry where Ken accepted a position with Honeywell Aerospace in Minneapolis, MN. Among many interesting and high-profile projects, Ken worked on the Apollo Space Mission project. After seven years at Honeywell, he moved to Sperry Flight Systems in Phoenix, Arizona. Again, he engaged in a variety of projects involving commercial and military aircraft, as well as satellites which included a stabilisation momentum wheel for the Hubble Telescope. Ken made one final company move in 1978 to Martin Marietta in Orlando, Florida, where he initially directed a large engineering design group and subsequently transferred to the International Operations division. While living in Arizona, Ken rekindled an interest in British Classic cars. He first restored a 1939 SS100 Jaguar which now resides in a Scottish museum and then acquired a 1954 XK120 Jaguar that remains in the family. Ken retired in 1995 and enjoyed driving the Jag and developing his expertise in repairing and restoring antique chairs, both passions he enjoyed sharing with others.

Ken appeared in the King's Engineer Bulletin v6.



# Obituaries Stanley Earles



(18th January 1929 – 11th May 2024)

Stanley William Edward Earles (FKC) was born on 18 January 1929, the son of William Edward Earles and Winifred Anne Cook. He died on 11 May 2024 at the age of 95.

Education: Kings' Engineering 1950-54, (Jelf medallist in 1953 and BSc (Eng) with 1st class honours), AKC. Doctor of Philosophy, University London, 1958. Doctor of Science in Engineering, University London, 1977. President of KCLES 1952-53.

Career: Apprentice, production engineer, Nuffield Company, Morris Commercial Cars Ltd., Birmingham, 1944-1950.



2009 Stanley received the 13 Club Trophy

From 1954-55 Stanley Earles served in the Royal Navy Scientific Service. After this he took up a post of lecturer at Queen Mary College, University of London, from 1955-69, Reader from 1969-1975 and Professor from 1975-76. In 1976, Stanley moved back to Kings, to take up the post of Professor and Head of the Department of Mechanical Engineering, a position he held until his retirement in 1994. During this time, he was also Dean of Engineering of the University of London from 1986-90 and first Head of the School of Physical Sciences and Engineering. Along the way, he gained his PhD in 1958, DSc(Eng) in 1976, Fellowship of the Royal Academy of Engineering (FREng ) in 1992, Fellowship of King' College (FKC ) in 1993, and became a Fellow of the Institution of Mechanical Engineers (James Clayton Fund prize 1967, Engineering Applied to Agriculture prize 1980).



# Obituaries Stanley Earles (18th January 1929 – 11th May 2024)



The President of the KCLEA 2002-04, at the 2009 KCLEA AGM, the President, Dr. Norman Borrett, presented the 13 Club Trophy to Professor Earles. In presenting the trophy Dr. Borrett highlighted Stanley's record of service to the Division of Engineering and the KCLEA.

Of particular note at that time was that, when Mechanical Engineering was to be phased out in the early 1990s, he fought a strong rearguard action which saved the Department (at least for around 18 years). He deserves praise for the fact that, if it had not been saved, there was a Plan B as he had arranged positions at University College for most, if not all, of the academic staff in the Department. Closer to home, he served as Governor of the University of Hertfordshire (Hatfield Polytechnic) from 1989-93. Stanley Earles was also a reader at his local parish church, Broxbourne with Wormley, Hertfordshire and was a trustee of the Wormley Parochial Charity until May 2019. Gardening and Real Tennis were among his other interests.



Mike Clode, Soon-Ling Choong and Stan Earles (2012)



## Obituaries Ian Duncan Robertson



(6th June 2024)

Professor Ian Duncan Robertson died on 6 June 2024 at the age of 61, after a notable career in electronic engineering.



Ian came to King's in 1981 from the Judd School, Tonbridge, to read Electrical and Electronic Engineering. He graduated in 1984 and joined the Plessey Research Laboratories at Caswell Park, Northamptonshire, but returned to King's to study for a PhD in 1986. From 1986 to 1994 he was also a research assistant and Lecturer in Electronic Engineering and from 1994 to 1998 a Reader at King's.

Ian's notable early research included; 1984 to 1986: Plessey Research, Caswell. GaAs MMIC Research Group. 1986 - 1998: King's: Initially as a Research Assistant working on the T-SAT project and then as a Lecturer, leading the MMIC Research Team. Reader from 1994.

In 1998, Ian was appointed Professor of Microwave Subsystems Engineering at the University of Surrey, where he established the Microwave Systems Research Group and was a founder member of the Advanced Technology Institute.

He then moved to the University of Leeds in 2004 to the Centenary Chair in Microwave and Millimetre-Wave Circuits. He remained at Leeds until his untimely death in June.

Ian was Director of Student Education (2006-11). Five years later Ian was appointed as Head of School (2011-16), where his long-sightedness was essential in seeing the emerging prominence of robotics and its crucial place in the School at a time when interest in electronics was dwindling. Ian was totally committed to securing the best interests of the School, its staff and its students. If his own interests featured at all, they were very much at the bottom of that list.



# Obituaries Ian Duncan Robertson



(6th June 2024)

While he was dedicated to leading the School professionally, Ian was also well known for his sense of humour and for not taking himself too seriously. Many Christmas parties and School social events saw "Professor Robertson" don a not-so-serious outfit to add some light-hearted fun, to the delight of both staff and students.

Alongside these major leadership roles, Ian maintained a strong research profile, publishing three books and over 400 peer-reviewed papers. He was elected Fellow of the IEEE in 2012 and appointed Chair of the General Technical Programme Committee for the European Microwave Week in 2011 and 2016.

Emerging from the Head of School role, he recognised that microwave research had "moved on" and was eager to apply his design and analytical skills to new challenges that captured his interest, including robotics and sustainable systems.

One of Ian's strengths was not to get stuck in an unquestioning acceptance of the status quo – he was always prepared to challenge the orthodoxy and instead of asking "why?" he would often say "why not?" He spontaneously bought a mobile robot and contacted colleagues to see what could be done with it – in typical Ian style, "just get things going and see what happens". As was often the case, Ian's "shot-in-the-dark" led to long and fruitful academic quests with colleagues from Mechanical and Civil Engineering and Computing. The team won a large equipment grant that transformed Robotics research at Leeds, followed by major grants to create self-repairing cities and then robots inside pipes ('Pipebots'). Over the last year Ian led the integration of software, sensors and mechanical elements of 'Pipebots' from universities across the UK towards an amazingly successful finale event commended by the UK research council.

Ian was a man who was always there for colleagues and ready to help to make their working life easier. During a recent conversation over coffee, he thought back on his career, the students that had gone on to great things, the successful research grants – the ones that weren't successful, and the people that had made a difference. On his reflection, through all the twists and turns of his inspirational and impactful career, he said he came to realise that the most important thing is family. We think that is how Ian would want to be remembered: a family man as well as a true academic who cut through the peripherals to the things that really matter."



### **Picture Board**

Random Photographs from over the years







### **Editor's Oddment** by Mike Clode



Another year flashes by and "the season of mists and mellow fruitfulness" is upon us once again. Unfortunately, personal issues have taken me away from the current issues and hot-topics of the KCLEA and its Committee this past year. Peter Weitzel is at the helm having taken over as President last November. I am pleased report that the KCLEA has been very busy and active over the past year with our usual annual events taking place.

Our AGM is being held 'virtually' this year on 5<sup>th</sup> December 2024. I urge you to tune in to catch up on the developments and future direction your society is heading.

As I said earlier due to personal circumstances, I was unable to attend this year's Engineers Lunch in July. This was sad for two reasons; firstly not catching up with my fellow Beers and their stories, but more importantly to voice my sadness that the College is NOT happy with our 'Engineers Chant' and has requested we comply with College Policy by explaining the wording ...... big sigh!

#### Mike C's Joke du Jour:

Three engineers and three mathematicians are on a train going to a conference. The mathematicians each bought a ticket. The engineers have one between them. The engineers rush off and jump into the tiny lavatory as the conductor walks through the train car. The conductor knocks on the lavatory door and says, "Ticket, please." At which point the engineers slide the one ticket through a ventilation slot and the conductor punches it. The mathematicians think this looks like a good trick and decide to try it on the train ride back home. As the mathematicians board the train they have one ticket between them. The engineers have no ticket! After a while, one of the engineers says, "Here comes the conductor!" So all three mathematicians jump up and run into the lavatory with their one ticket. One of the engineers goes to the lavatory door and says "Ticket, please."

#### Hope to see you on the 5<sup>th</sup> December, (virtually of course)

If you have any contributions to the Engineering Alumni of King's please e-mail me at kclea@clode.net. I am happy to consider contributions of all types, especially self indulgent ones. I wish you all the very best and look forward to hearing from you.