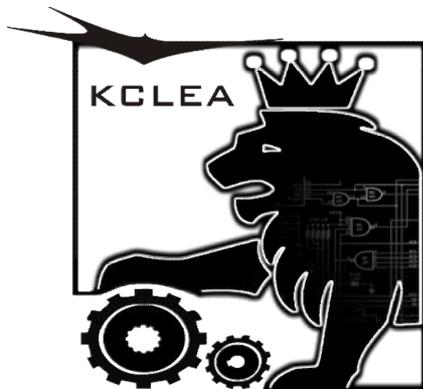

THE KING'S ENGINEER BULLETIN

Autumn 2020



AGM 2020

KCLEA

(virtual) Annual General Meeting
Formal Notification

Friday 20th November 2020 – 6:30pm

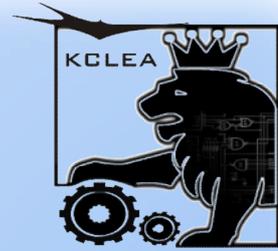


INSIDE

- Annual General Meeting
Formal Notification
- President's report
- Department of Engineering update
- A Virtual Reunion
- My Engineering Journey
Chris Bowden
- Did You Know ?
King's Engineers
- KCLES/KCLEA Activities
- Editor's Oddment

AGM 2020

KCLEA Annual General Meeting Formal Notification



Friday 20th November 2019 – 6:30pm

Further to the invitation from the President David Blacoe via the Alumni Office, I am pleased to present the agenda for our meeting.

Mindful of the current situation our President, David Blacoe, has kindly offered to remain in office. Our Events Secretary, Ted Willis, will not be seeking re-election and nominations are invited. All other Officers are willing to stand again.

The meeting will be online, via “zoom”, and joining instructions are included in the invitation. There will be an online voting option in place.

Agenda

- 1) Apologies for absence
- 2) Minutes of the 2019 AGM
- 3) Matters arising
- 4) Officers' reports
- 5) Accounts, including the Trustees' report.
- 6) Nominations for Officers and Committee members
- 7) Election of Officers and Committee members
- 8) Update on Engineering at Kings
- 9) KCLEA
 - a) The Annual Lecture
 - b) The Annual Lunch
 - c) Communication with members
- 10) KCLES
- 11) Bursaries
- 12) Medals
- 13) The 13 Club Trophy
- 14) AOB

- Chris Bowden, Hon. Secretary KCLEA

If you haven't received the AGM ZOOM invite please e-mail kclea@clode.net



A message from the President by David Blacoe



As we prepare for our first ever “virtual” Annual General Meeting, we are reminded of the principles and aims behind our Association over its many decades. One of the tangible connections with our past alumni is the 13 Club Trophy in the form of a very stately “Reggie”.



So what is the background to the 13 Club? Although a little obscure in the mists of time, its inception can be traced to the spirit of friendship between 13 Beers during their studies at King’s in the period 1928-1932. This generated many subsequent reunions which were a source both of enjoyment and encouragement to each other in their professional lives. Following the death in 1959 of one of its founders and a mainspring of what was now called the “13 Club”, the KCLEA Committee proposed to the 1959 AGM that a suitable trophy should be created. This would be awarded every year to the individual or group of engineering alumni who had furthered the principle of encouraging this same spirit of companionship.

We invite you to nominate suitable candidate(s) to the Committee Secretary for consideration of this meritorious award. Although physical reunions have become impossible in the past 9 months, we know that engineers are renowned for their adaptability! The 2020 decision will be announced at the imminent AGM. We intend to maintain our tradition of an Annual Lecture in February, although it is likely to be in the form of a webinar. Keep up to date with developments on our website: www.kclea.org.uk.

THIS IS YOUR ASSOCIATION.



Department of Engineering *An update*



I know a lot of King's Engineering Graduates are avidly following the development of the new Department of Engineering. I have included some WEB links that you might find interesting. Firstly, a recent Webinar which includes an update on the Department of Engineering. This can be viewed at the link below. Please click on the link below or copy and paste the link into your WEB browser. When prompted enter the password carefully.

 https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/R9q2y36GgN_1lr1rleuazBk78SwwPmtBROqpOtTmL4Md25N9Uj3GCXU74dp4Nr_F_bkWoVgx_uoznESm

Access Passcode: Kingsglobalforum20!

Another interesting link to the current state of play in the new Department of Engineering can be found here:

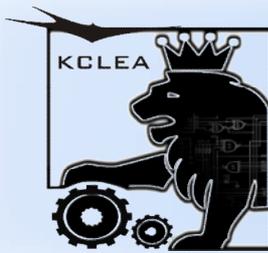
<https://www.kcl.ac.uk/news/kings-engineers-making-a-difference>

It was reported at the last virtual KCLEA Committee held on the 16th October 2020 that:

Target numbers of applications, for both undergrad and postgrad levels, in the new academic year had been exceeded and the General Engineering course is in good demand.

On line teaching procedures implemented during the Covid-19 pandemic are working well

Mike Clode



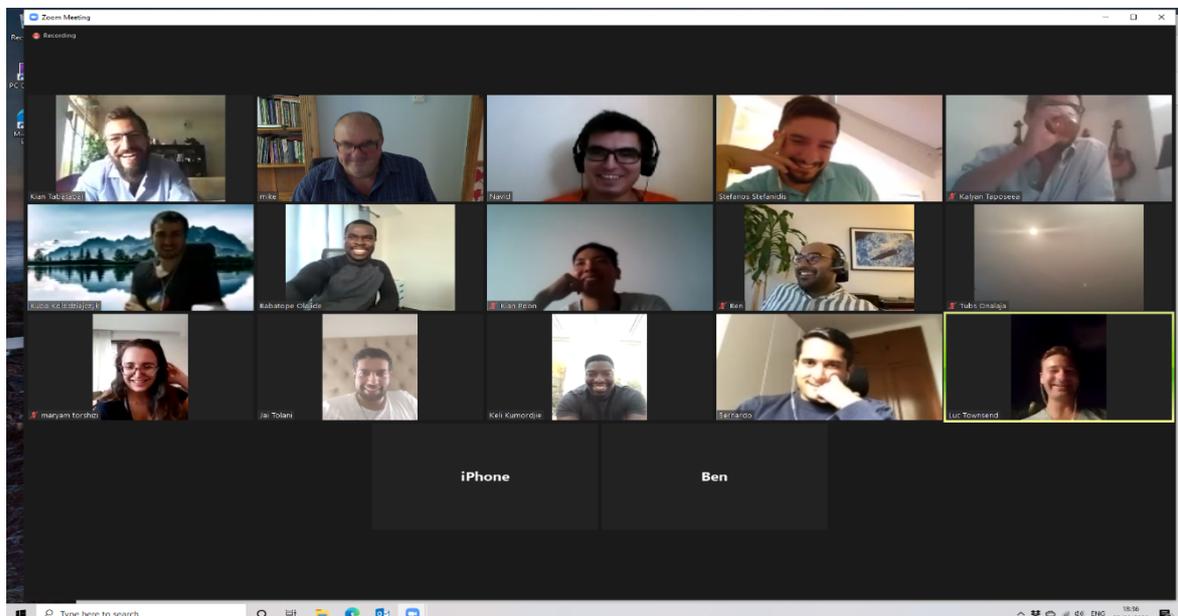
A Virtual Reunion

by Babatope Olajide (2010)

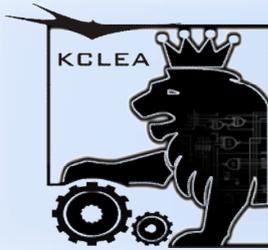


August 22nd, 2020, a group of King's College London Engineering Alumni met virtually on Zoom to catch up on life. It was supposedly meant to be a mega reunion to celebrate our 10 years post-graduation from King's as engineers but thanks to CoViD, our expectations were realigned to what really matters - a celebration of life.

It was wonderful to see a lot has changed amongst the folks! Although most of us have not been active within the Engineering space after the first few years of our careers - the majority of us are currently in Banking, Finance, Investment, IT, and Management. However, it is good to see Alex working on some interesting ocean startups in Africa (CEO at oceanhub.africa), Jai Tolani setting up multiple businesses within the travel industry using technology in Dubai, while Kuba, the geekiest among us then, building some Artificial Intelligence company in Okinawa, Japan. As for myself, I have never for once imagined I would be the person in charge of a major Enterprise Technology Solutions Architecture....What else do you expect? We are engineers after all...



Thanks to Dr. Clode for attending our event. Who knows what's next? Annual virtual meeting? Whatever it is, I hope everyone stays safe and healthy. I look forward to having a much better reunion for years to come. Let's keep this up, guys



Beer o'clock
A Virtual Reunion
By Mike Clode



I am aware of a number of King's College Graduate Engineering groups that meet up regularly. The Alumni Office and KCLA have also tried to facilitate such meet-ups during the old Alumni Weekend. However, in these unprecedented times a number of these groups are starting to hold ZOOM meet-ups. Of course this has the advantage of being more internationally inclusive.

If you are interested in trying to get together with your old friends from your KCL day for a virtual reunion, please let me know and I will try to facilitate connecting you either using the Bulletin or the KCLEA's WEB site. Obviously in these days of 'Data Protection' and 'GDPR' I will need to act cautiously, but I think it is worth giving a go. I am also happy to take suggestions and advice in taking this forward. However, I am just me, in a man-cave, with slightly ageing computer technology but more than pleased to give it a go.



To kick things off, here is an invitation from Sarah (Nee Curtis) Manning who graduated from Mechanical Engineering in 1983. If you want to join a Zoom reunion please e-mail me with you details which I will pass on to Sarah.
E-mail me at : ZoomBeer@clode.net

"Calling all graduates of Kings Engineers in 1983
Sarah Manning (Nee Curtis), invites you to beer -O'clock
Singapore time 8.00pm
UK time 12.00pm
Sunday 29th November 2020



My Engineering Journey by Christopher Bowden (1966)



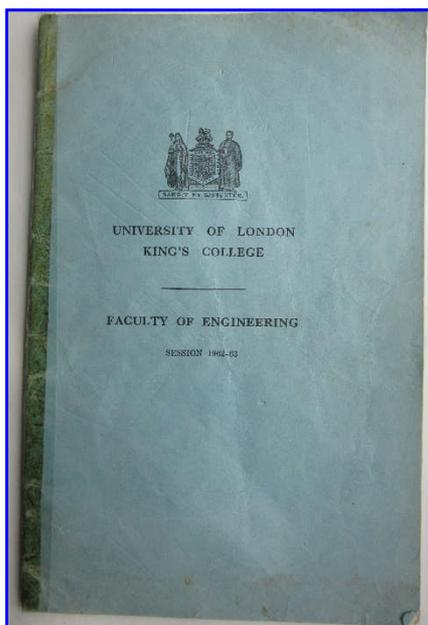
" Memories of my journey through King's and its links to my ongoing journey through life"

So, where did it all start? When I was quite young my father, a works manager, used to take me to his works on a Saturday morning when he dropped in to see that all was well. I remember being fascinated by the stationary steam engine that was driving the line shafting.

My interest in things mechanical grew and I well remember my Meccano set and my stationary steam engine. As a teenager I was a very keen aero-modeller with powered models. (See photo) My favourite subject at school was physics which seemed the natural subject to study at University. Although not an engineer my father had many contacts in engineering so steered me along that route.



Aero Modellers (me 4th from left)



1962/63 Engineering Prospectus

So, why King's? The deciding factor was the Faculty of Engineering prospectus for 1962-1963. Unlike today's counterpart it did not contain any photographs and gave a detailed synopsis of the detail of what would be studied for each subject together with a lot more information including a staff list. I applied and was invited for interview by Robert Pattison, Senior Lecturer. I very quickly received my offer letter, which was unconditional as I had already taken my A levels.

My Engineering Journey

by Christopher Bowden (1966)

I arrived in London by train, suitcase in hand, in October 1963. Via the University of London accommodation bureau I had found lodgings in Tooting. My cabin trunk had gone ahead of me as luggage in advance. I quickly settled in at King's and soon made friends. The course was quite intensive with lectures, practicals and tutorials all day apart from Wednesday afternoon. Wednesday afternoon was kept free for sport. Not being a sporting type I used to go, together with others, to the Queen's ice rink.

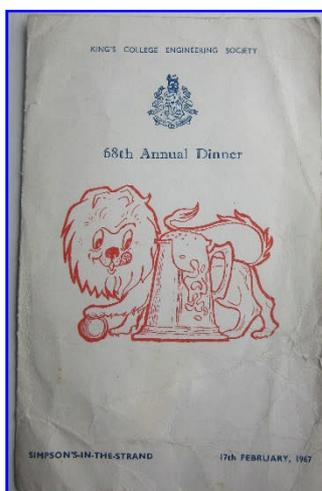
Lecture notes and the write up of practical work was all done by hand on lined foolscap paper and meticulously marked in red. Examinations were as intensive as lectures and we sat seven three hour examinations in the course of a week at the end of the academic year.

At lunchtime we either went to the budget bar (for richer students there was a more expensive place to eat!). Another option was the student's union Chesham bar where a pint of beer cost less than 10p! (in today's terms)



Staff at the Chesham Bar

KCLES held two dinners each year. A formal one at Simpson's in the Strand and an informal one in a pub just off Fleet Street. On leaving the informal dinner in 1963 I called in at College to collect my briefcase from my locker. It was in the entrance hall that the uniformed porter in his office gave me the news that President Kennedy had been assassinated.



Annual Dinner Menu



Porter's Lodge on the Strand Campus

My Engineering Journey *by Christopher Bowden (1966)*

Two interesting comparisons to draw between then and now. Looking at the annual departmental photographs only about 10 out of about 220 students were not wearing a tie.

Current day students will be amazed and envious as to how we were funded. Fees were paid by my local authority and I received a maintenance grant of £79 per term. To put this in perspective my lodgings cost 3 pounds and 15 shillings per week (£3.75 in today's money) which included all meals apart from lunches during the week. In addition to this my local authority funded (3rd class) three return train journeys between home and London. I think that they also funded my daily commuting costs from Tooting.

In my first year I shared a room with the local curate who provided the “sancte”, to complement the “sapienter” being provided by the Faculty of Engineering.

We were so busy studying that we did not socialise much. However, I do remember Saturday evening visits to the “Prospect of Whitby” in Wapping to a big jollification to the sound of live music.

On the occasion of my 21st birthday we decided to live the high life and 6 of us went to the 007 bar at the Hilton in Park Lane where the round of drinks for 6 of us cost less than £2. Immediately afterwards I was “bumped” in the middle of Park Lane.

It was a requirement that, during the two long vacations, we had to spend 6 weeks working in the engineering industry. Fortunately, there were quite a few companies that offered this facility (with pay) which consisted of assisting in a range of departments and not just working on the production line. However, it gave us a taste of the “real world”

Prior to graduation there used to be a “milk round” when engineering companies sought to seek applications for positions which then usually took the form of a two year graduate apprenticeship.

I was attracted by an offer from an engineering firm in the London area to fund a student on the one year M.Sc. course in Internal Combustion Engineering. It was, in effect, the first year of a two year graduate apprenticeship with fees paid, a grant equivalent to salary, and with employment on graduation.



My Engineering Journey *by Christopher Bowden (1966)*

I moved into a flat shared with friends. At this point life in the Swinging Sixties really took off! We had quite a few parties, got to know quite a few young ladies from Bedford College and used to party until 4 a.m. On joining my company I continued with flat life in London.

Over the years King's has been privileged to receive Royal visitors. I wonder what has happened to the silver "Reggie" that was presented to the Queen Mother in 1978

My legacy from King's, in addition of course to the good education, includes the wide range of friends that I made that I keep in touch with, including an annual re-union in London. Life has naturally moved on for all of us and the Bedford College girls have now become the Bedford College grandmothers.



Reggie for Queen Mother

My marriage is perhaps the lasting legacy. Some years after graduation a friend of mine from King's invited me to be a witness at his wedding. The other witness was a school friend of the bride to be. We were obviously well suited and fate took its course.

Things have gone full circle in that my son read Mechanical Engineering (though not at King's because he wanted to stay at home). After a short spell in industry he decided that this was not for him and went into teaching. He is now head of Physics in a girls' independent school.



Blazer Badge



Awarding the 13 Club Trophy to Graham Raven in 2014

Long live Engineering at King's !



Did you Know ? *King's Engineers* by Keith Newton



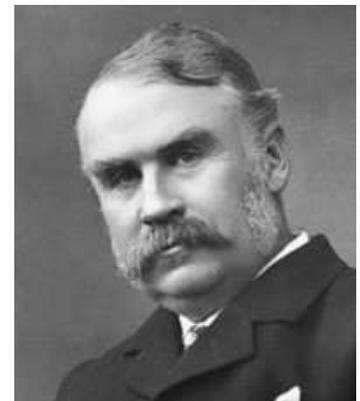
The 'Olympia' Prize (Man and his environment) is conferred by the Alexander Onassis Public Benefit Foundation of Greece annually on persons or institutions who have made a notable contribution to the preservation of nature or the safeguarding of our cultural inheritance or scientific progress connected therewith. 'Man and humanity' are at the core of the interest of the three International prizes awarded by the Foundation, thus constituting, after the Nobel Prizes, the only other distinction of such magnitude putting emphasis on the all-round humanistic approach to man's problems and fate. Sir Harold MacMillan, former Prime Minister of the United Kingdom (1979), the International Union of Conservation of Nature (IUCN)(1980), Prince Sadruddin Apha Khan (1982) and Dr Dillon Ripley, Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution (1984) were the previous 'Olympia' laureates.

In 1985, Kavsi Kaikhosru Framji received this award for his important contribution in worldwide efforts for the protection of the environment and more especially for his activities in promoting the important changes in the concepts of water resources planning on our planet.

KAVSI KAIKHOSRU FRAMJI was a King's Engineer (1927-30).

A King's Engineer was leading the world in considering the environment and sustainability

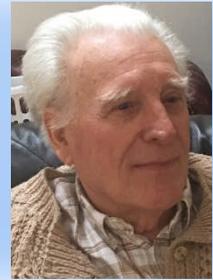
It sometimes seems that there is confusion as to whether W S Gilbert studied engineering at King's as he was partly responsible for changing the Engineering Society into a Shakespearean Reading and Dramatic Society. Skeat dealt with this in his history of the Engineering Society, published in 1957 but the College Archives have published a more comprehensive comment on Gilbert's involvement. This can be found at:



<https://www.kcl.ac.uk/aboutkings/history/flashback/index>



KCLEA Activities
2020 Events
by Ted Willis



CANCELLED

CANCELLED

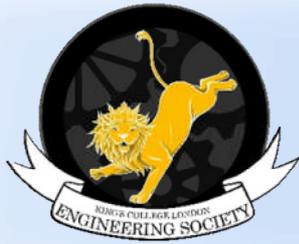
2020 Events Cancelled

Alas the restrictions on movement and gatherings due to the Covid-19 virus has resulted in all social events being cancelled this year and is very likely to impact on next years events. The KCLEA Committee has kept up with virtual meetings and the AGM will be virtual this year.

The KCLEA are monitoring the situation closely and hope the 2021 will allow us to hold the Engineers' Lunch. The Annual Lecture is likely to be a WEB cast in early 2021.

CANCELLED

CANCELLED



KCLES Activities
President's Report
by Tiarna Lee



Fewer new members have joined this year, probably due to there being no Freshers' Fair. It is intended to develop the "buddy" system for the first year. As regards events it is intended to arrange talks from lecturers and a quiz.

Naturally it has been difficult to socialize though a "virtual" freshers' welcome was maintained.

Naturally the social side of things has been difficult, bearing in mind the maximum number of participants who can benefit from a virtual meeting.

It is hoped that there can be more social events in the next semester.



Editor's Oddment

by Mike Clode



I recall visiting Singapore and Malaysia on British Education Tours during the 90s. Whilst on these visits I spoke with hundreds of potential students with a dream of studying in the UK and at King's. Sadly, for many these dreams were mere pipe dreams due to the high financial costs of UK study.

At the same time I started a 'Teaching Innovations Advisory Group' (TIAG) within the Division of Engineering as I was passionate about using IT to aid teaching. Indeed, I won a College Teaching Grant to explore the use of video. From this time to my retirement in 2014, the use of IT was fully embraced by King's and recording of lectures, and their on-line availability, became the norm. Fast forward to 2020 and the delivery of many courses are reliant on WEB delivery due to the current pandemic.

I was a massive advocate of such teaching methods however I believe the current cohort of students are missing out on what most of us experienced in the lecture theatre (both good and bad !!). But we are where we are, and King's appear to be doing a fabulous job in keeping the quality of lectures high. I think there will be a much greater appreciation of the lecture room environment when we get back to the new normal.

Thank you to all those who have contributed to this Bulletin. I particularly liked Chris Bowden's story of his life through King's and his Engineering career. Sadly the story was an uber-abridged version. For those that know Chris from those days might also recognise another KCLEA Committee member (John Thomson) in the Aero-Modellers photo.

Finally, I was really chuffed to be invited to the Class of 2010's virtual reunion. I hope to see a lot more of you in the future. Take care and stay safe.

I was walking to the shops when I saw an Hydrogen atom crying his eyes out. I asked what was wrong and he said he had lost an electron. I said, "are you sure you've lost it" to which he replied, "yes, I'm positive".

Mike C

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.
