



KOSA NEWS



NUMBER 10 - SUMMER 1997

The Magazine of the Old Scholars of Kingswood Grammar School

EDITORIAL:



I can't believe we've reached the age of ten, well in terms of editions, anyway! Those of you who came to one of the earlier reunions in April 1991 will remember that we held a raffle designed to provide the 'seed corn' for the creation of a newsletter. Number 1 came out in the Spring of 1992 - a mammoth eight-pager! My thanks to all those who have kept faith with the venture by providing letters, photographs, articles, queries, bouquets - and brickbats! Its success has been assured only by the expressions of your support and interest. Many thanks.

In this edition I was planning to publish an article on the Old Scholars who have found their way into print. Due to the marvellous response I have received on sport at KGS I have decided to hold the article on publications over until the next edition. However, please let me know of Old Scholars who have published in books, articles, magazines and newspapers, and if you can send copies, so much the better. It will be published next time.

You will see the report of our April AGM on page 2, but since then we have held a small reunion for those who commenced at KGS in 1951. We tried to contact all 1951ers on our list, but if you were missed please accept our apologies. We booked the restaurant at the Griffin, Bridgegate, and 32 of us had a marvellous evening, made special by the attendance of English master GEORGE BUTCHER and his wife, Sheila. George gave us a talk, and as MARK ADAMS remarked, if you closed your eyes it was like going back to 'O' level English classes in 1956! A memorable evening! Is this one of the ways forward for KOSA? If you would like to organise a year reunion with your Committee's support, including financial support, please let us know.

Mike Bendrey, 26 Overndale Road, Downend, Bristol, BS16 2RT
Tel/Fax: 956 565689 Internet: ml-bendrey@uwe.ac.uk

DIARY DATES...

Autumn Lunch:

Lincombe Barn in Overndale Road, Downend has been booked for SATURDAY, 11th OCTOBER 1997 for the regular Autumn Lunch. The application form is included with this edition of KOSA NEWS so put the date in your diary NOW!

Please fill in the form and get it ASAP to Treasurer FRANK RAWLINGS.

Frank's address is 74 Oakdale Road, Downend, Bristol, BS16 6EA Tel: 0117 956 1050, and Frank would like to get all applications in by the end of September, please. The accommodation at the Barn is limited, so it's first come first served!

KOSA'S AGM...

The AGM of KOSA was held at Kingsfield School at 7.30 pm Friday, 11th April 1997. The Agenda had been published in the previous Newsletter (No. 9) and copies of the previous AGM (26th March 1996). Minutes were circulated before the meeting commenced and were duly approved by a show of hands.

Chairman's Report: I briefly reviewed what had happened since our last Annual General Meeting. Last year the AGM was followed by the Spring Social Event. Reports via the Newsletter, personal remarks, and the numbers attending this AGM (over 100), proclaimed its success. The melodious strains of the 1920's "New Romance in Duo", the plentiful supply of food by BOB GRAY and staff, the availability of a bar and the excitement of a raffle, all made an impact. I said that this year we were endeavouring to repeat the performance. The arrangements for bar, the catering, and the raffle were the same and that we had asked the "New Romance in Duo" back again to entertain us.

I reported that the Annual Luncheon at the Lincombe Barn, Downend, on the 12th October 1996 had been a great success and we had squeezed in 120 people. Perhaps the celebratory 75th Anniversary of the School, the cake and "bubbly", had something to do with it!

At the luncheon, a cheque for £150 had been presented to David Lewis, our President, for books for the School Library, including another copy of Sir Bernard Lovell's book, "The Reluctant Astronomer". One of the highlights of the celebration was the presentation by old scholar MIKE COKAYNE (1952-57) of a series of framed photographs of the school taken just before the fire, which was gratefully received by the President

on behalf of the Association to hang in the school.

I congratulated MIKE BENDREY, Social Secretary and Newsletter Editor on the content and quality of the newsletter, together with thanks to his wife Eileen for her able support. I was able to tell the meeting that we are continuing to flourish with over 700 names on the mailing list! We are surprised and delighted by the increasing number of overseas ex-scholars who avidly read the Newsletter.

Treasurer's Report: The 1996/97 Accounts were circulated prior to the meeting and were reported on by the Treasurer, FRANK RAWLINGS. He spoke on individual aspects and commented that the financial position was more than satisfactory. The Accounts were adopted by the Meeting and I thanked Frank for his continuing work in administering the Association's finances.

Election of President: It was proposed, seconded and resolved that Mr DAVID LEWIS be re-elected President for the ensuing year. The President then addressed the meeting, giving important and interesting detail on the school, now with a roll of nearly 1,200 children. Music and dance was still an essential part of the curriculum and there were connections abroad, including France, Jersey, Rumania and Barbados. E-mail links had been established. The Budget was set at Christmas and budgetary control played an important part in the administration. OFSTED had completed an inspection just before term ended and the report was awaited with eagerness.

Election of Chairman, Officers and Committee: I was delighted to be elected as Chairman for the ensuing year, together with FRANK STEPHENS as Vice-Chairman, JOHN POWELL as Sec-

retary and FRANK RAWLINGS as Treasurer. The meeting also elected MIKE BENDREY, RON CLEMENTS, JUNE LONG, ESME RAWLINGS and BILL COX were elected as Committee members for the ensuing year, together with the co-option of MIKE COKAYNE (our budding Archivist).

Subscription for the coming year: The Treasurer reported that some 700 members were circulated with the Newsletter and other material through the post and that the cost to send a newsletter abroad was still in the region of £1. He could see no reason why the present funding arrangements (i.e. by a voluntary contribution of £3 towards the cost of printing and distributing the KOSA Newsletter) should not be continued. The meeting agreed. The other activities (AGM, Spring Social Event and Autumn Luncheon) were self financing.

I then thanked everyone for coming, especially those who had travelled long distances and wished everyone, when the time came later, a safe journey home and asked them to keep reading the newsletter (and sending in items). The meeting then closed at 8 p.m. and we moved into the main part of the school for the 1997 Spring Social Event.

PEGGY BOLT,
Chairman.

MEET THE SECRETARY...

Congratulations to our Secretary JOHN POWELL (1943-48) and Molly (Head Girl, East Barnet Grammar School 1951). Both singers in their local choir, they celebrated their Ruby Wedding with a Garden Party at their home in Hertfordshire on the 7th June 1997. They were honoured by over sixty guests and were so delighted to have their three lovely

daughters and families, two of whom live in the West Yorkshire/Cheshire area, with them as well.

Both having taken early retirement in 1989/90 - Molly as Deputy Head of a large London Comprehensive School and John as Accountant to a Local Authority in Hertfordshire; he later "did the books" for a Company manufacturing heart monitors, defibrillators and life support ancillary equipment in Hertfordshire and is now Finance Director of The New School of Organ Studies, a Charitable Trust based at Luton, Bedfordshire.

John "got away from it all" by completing the sixty mile London to Brighton Cycle Run in aid of the British Heart Foundation (with 27,000 other cyclists) exactly a week later and ended the ride with fish and chips on the pebble beach afterwards!



Last year over £300 was raised in sponsorship which John expects to exceed this year. John says he contracted cycling fever by overtaking (with others) MISS PERRY in the mornings when she was going to school in her Austin 8 - and never really got over it. These were on the occasions when otherwise he was very

often later than late on the late bus from Downend via Staple Hill!

Devoting a great deal of time to charitable work for some years John is the organiser of a local annual Music Season featuring choirs, organ recitals, orchestras, ensembles, instrumentalists and vocal artists with proceeds going to the South West Herts Peace Hospice, the Make-A-Wish Foundation - the charity which provides essential help and funding to children who are terminally ill and the Children's Society amongst others.

In between events he carries out some family history research. On the paternal side in the late 19th century the family Powell lived at "Rose Cottage", a little smaller but still opposite the "Salutation", now "The Village Inn" at Mangotsfield; on the maternal side, the Gregory family lived at the northeastern end of Jubilee Road, Kingswood, strangely (?) enough also named "Rose Cottage". Grandfather was an organist as were two of his daughters, one being John's mother. John is Secretary to the local branch of UNISON, the Public Service Employees Union retired members group and Molly is fortunate enough to be able to provide extra tuition to pupils at local schools on occasions. They are both able to get down to Bristol to see friends and family fairly often and John still remains a member of the Bristol & District Organists Association and supports their Colston Hall Concerts and other meetings with enthusiasm.

Mike's Treasured Shots...

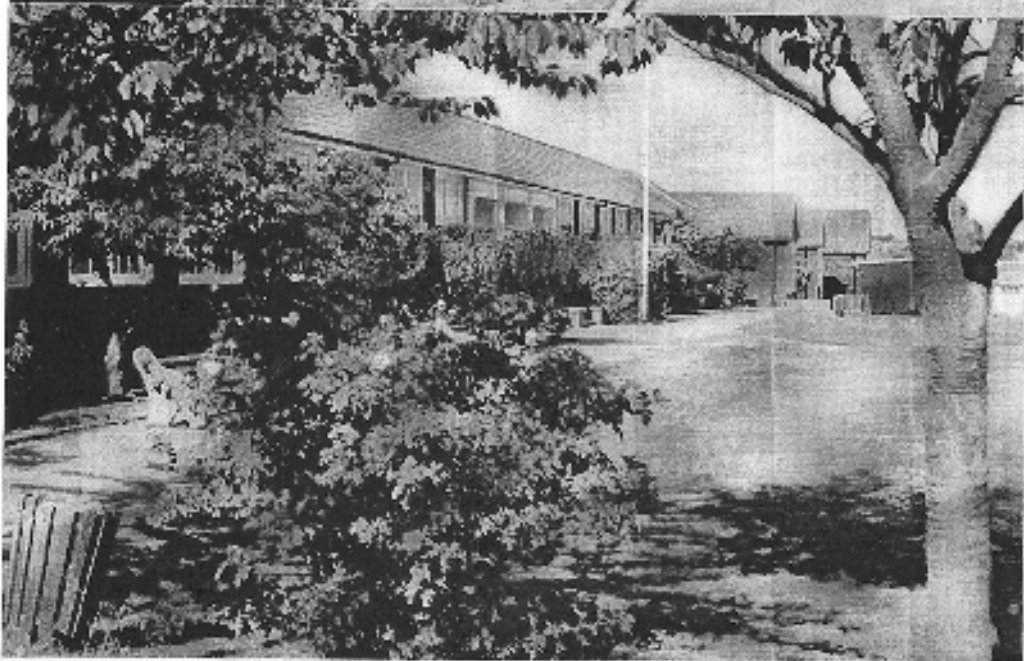
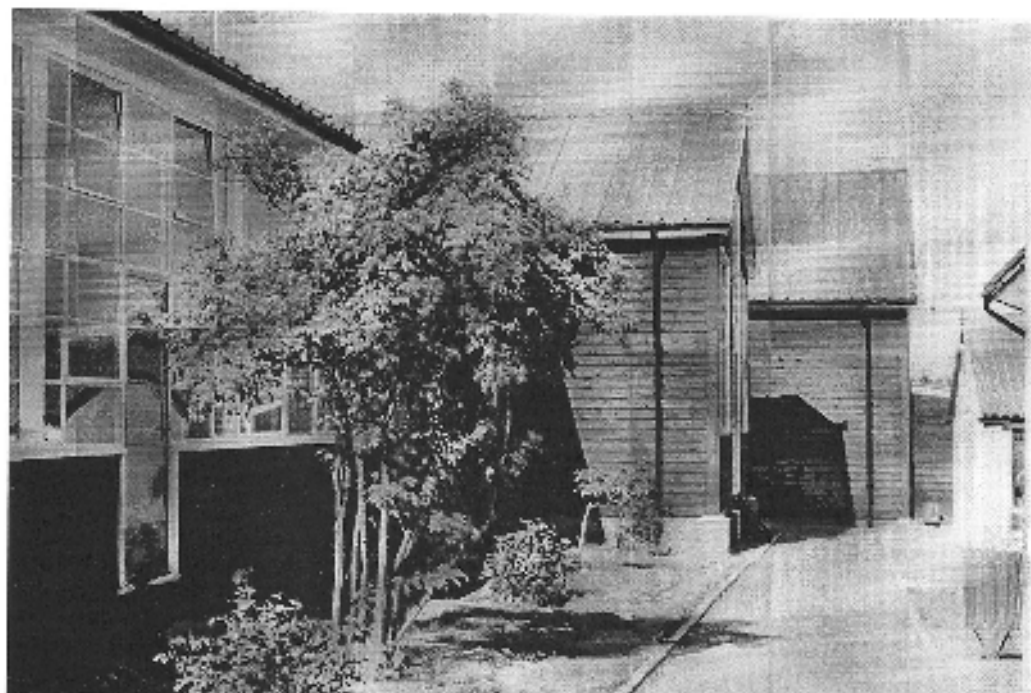
MIKE COKAYNE (1952-58) writes:

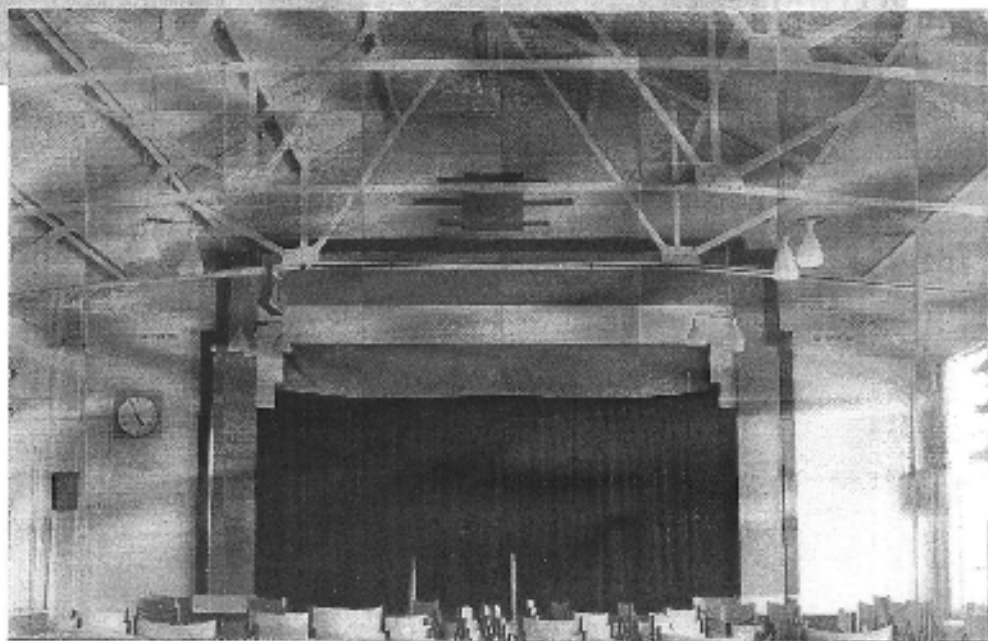
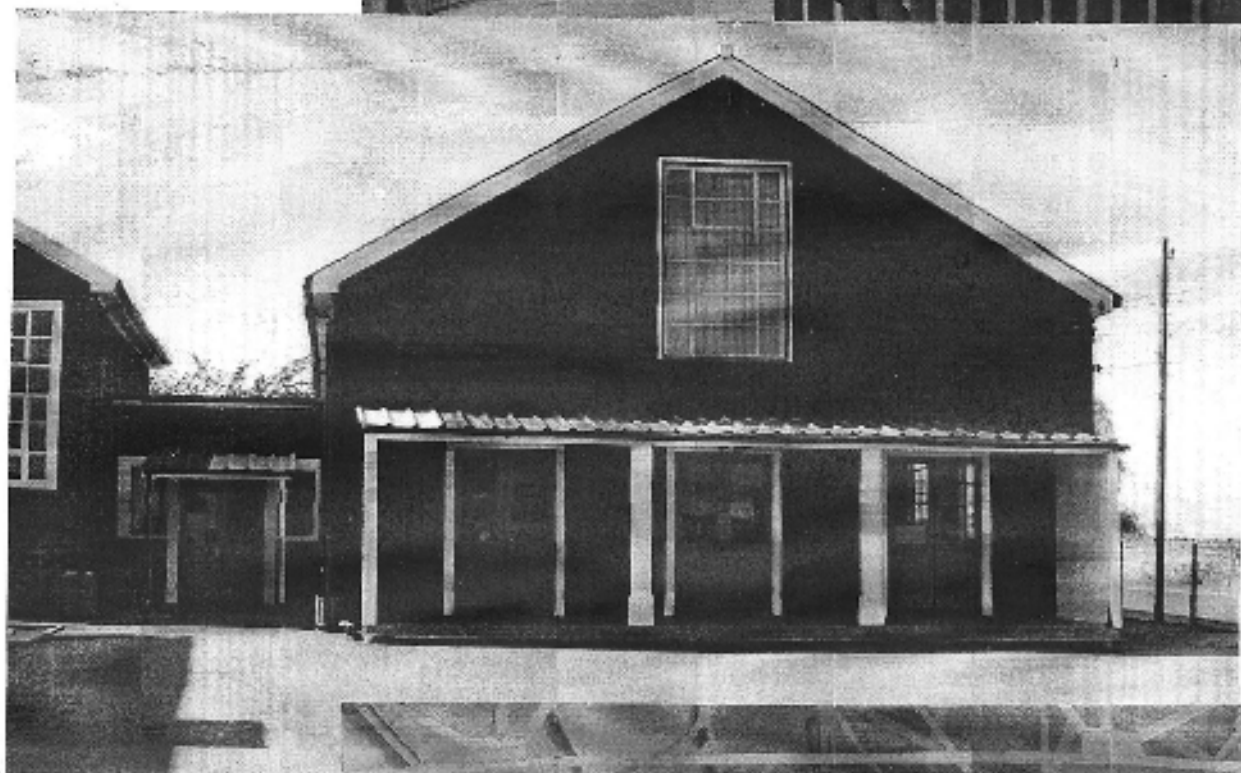
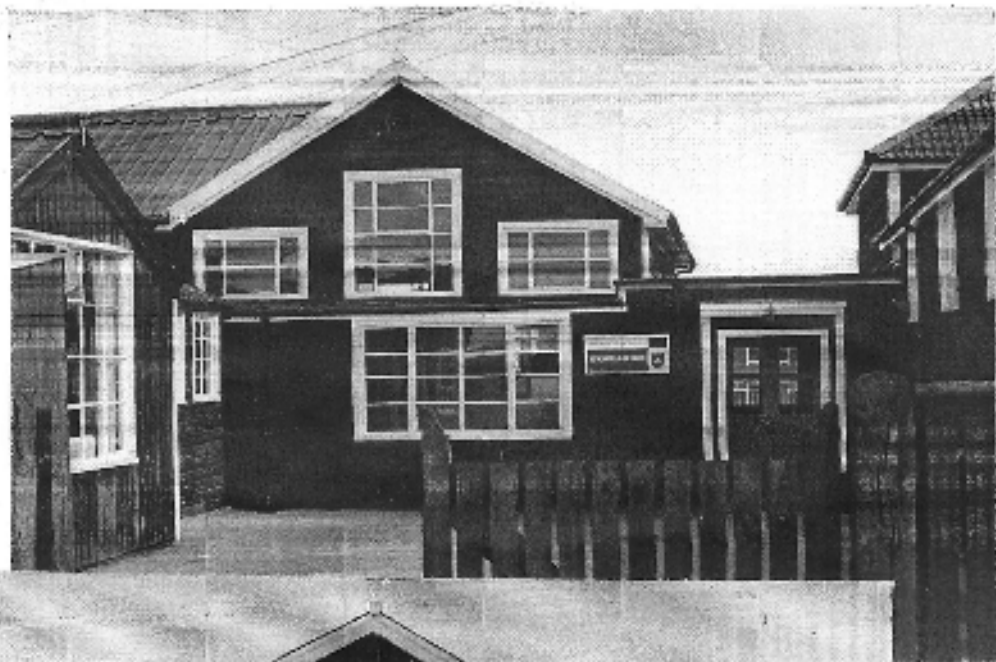
'By some quirk of fate it looks as if I have the dubious honour of having taken the last photographs of the original Kingswood Grammar School buildings

before their destruction by fire in 1976. I know what you might be thinking, but I can assure that any inclination I might have had to burn the place down was fully explored during moments of rebellion back in the 1950's!! It had no appeal to my pacifist inclinations and offended my affection for the buildings and grounds even though I was not that enthusiastic about some of the things which went on within them!

'The story really began in the summer of 1975 when I made the considerable effort to get away from a very demanding job for a couple of weeks to attend the Stockton and Darlington Railway 150th anniversary celebrations in County Durham. Anyone who has run an oldish car will know that many events and expeditions are at the mercy of an MOT test pass and so it was for me in 1975. For my sins, having a job which required me to drive about 600 miles per week by myself, I thought that I would like an E-type Jaguar convertible and bought one in 1974. Having dealt with a number of pretty silly faults with it, I put it in for its MOT in June 1975 with some confidence. I will not list the failure items but it took nearly two months of frantic evening and weekend work to get the car back on the road for the S&DR event, and I succeeded in getting an MOT pass in mid August 1975.

'A year later, July 1976, I found myself in Sussex, where I had lived since 1967, with just a few weeks left on the car's MOT certificate during what was another blazing hot summer. In a mood of nostalgia, I had during that year renewed contact by letter with one of my ex KGS friends and felt a sudden urge to go back to some of my old haunts not visited since 1962, and to cruise in my E-type along the many lanes and byways I had often cycled in my school days. All of this before my current MOT expired!!





'The result was that I drove up from Sussex and made a hurried solo photographic tour of Mangotsfield, Rodway Hill, Siston Common and of course KGS.

I arrived at the school in the early afternoon on yet another hot day, August 3rd 1976, to find it still deserted for the Summer holidays except for the Caretaker who was engaged on some maintenance items which that day involved the boilers. I took a series of views of the exterior and noted that a few changes had been made since I was last there. At that point the caretaker offered to let me go inside. This I did gratefully, but it had become cloudy outside and I had no flash unit with my camera. There was enough light to take a shot of the corridor but I spent a couple of minutes framing up the Honours Board but could not get a sensible shutter/aperture reading. The caretaker was with me and I said to him, "It's no good, I'll have to try again later". "Anytime" he said to me! Luck was with me however, having taken a fair collection of external views, I decided to finish off the roll of film and got a nice shot of the interior of the Assembly Hall and stage. I thanked the Caretaker and went back to Sussex. As was my practice at the time, I had the negatives developed but not printed and filed them. Sometime at the end of the 1980's I became aware that the old KGS had burned down, reportedly on a "Bonfire Night". However, it was not until October 1995 that I discovered that the fire had occurred just a few days after I had taken my photographs! Creepy!!

'Obviously many ex pupils will have been seriously depressed by the loss of the old school, as was I, but at least we have a dozen or so colour photos of the "old timber sheds" in their last days. All resulting from a tangled process of my going to Shildon in 1975 and wanting to make my sentimental journey to the fields

of my youth in 1976 before having to lock up my E-type for the winter with an expired MOT Certificate!'

Some of Mike's photographs are included in this edition of KOSA NEWS. We hope to publish more of them in later editions.

In an earlier letter, Mike responds to the letter received from MAUREEN FORD (GRIFFIN) (1951-58):

'So, MAUREEN GRIFFIN has surfaced! That young lady caused me considerable confusion during my second week at KGS when, upon the morning bus from Mangotsfield to Kingswood via Staple Hill, she passed me a 'love letter'! Good news, Maureen, I still have it and if you make a substantial donation to my favourite charity, known as The Mike Cokayne Restoration Fund, I will burn it - otherwise 500 photocopies will be sent to your nearest and dearest!'

(Why photocopy? We would be willing to publish for nothing! Watch this space! - Ed)

Brickbat...

MARGARET VENN (ILES) (1942-47) was pleased to see the V2C photograph in the last edition, except that it was 1947 not 1941. (A thousand apologies - Ed.)

'My friends called me Fuzz! You can see why! I'm sitting all knees and hair, front row, third from the right.

'Although I left KGS in 1947 I waited until 1993 to complete an Honours degree with the Open University, proof that some of us are late developers. Now I run a couple of Writers' Groups locally, work for the Open University and produce books on local history'

OBITUARIES...

COLIN WINTOUR

It is always with sadness that we record the death of old scholars and staff, and we are sorry to announce the passing of COLIN WINTOUR, who was Head of French at KGS and at Kingsfield School from 1949 until his retirement. Affectionately known as 'Frosty', he was a superb teacher of French and featured regularly in the School productions of Gilbert & Sullivan operas, *The Pirates of Penzance* in 1952 and *The Gondoliers* in 1956, for example.

HAROLD WATTS, who taught Art and was a contemporary of Colin's wrote 'We are sorry, indeed, to hear of the death of Colin. He and I became quite good friends as we attended two courses, one on Cricket, the other on Rugby...the first held in Bristol under George Emmett, and the other at Cheltenham Ladies' College with J B Toft. Having Colin as my companion on these two occasions made things most enjoyable...' GEORGE BUTCHER (English) went to the Service of Thanksgiving for Colin's life, and met fellow staff members MISS SPILL (French) and RALPH HYATT (Chemistry) there. He will be sadly missed.

We are indebted to REG WEBLEY (1930-37) for the following tributes to his contemporaries, DR RALPH PEARCE and EDNA STUBBINGS nee HELE (1930-38):

DR RALPH PEARCE

'Ralph was the second son of Albert and Jane Pearce and went from KGS to Bristol University to read Physics. After graduating he carried out research in Magnetism under the guidance of Prof. Sucksmith. This was the subject of his PhD thesis and remained his first love for the rest of his life. He worked at the Na-

tional Physical Laboratory for some years, and then joined EMI Central Research Labs. At Hayes. There he developed an electrostatic cathode ray tube and made contributions to the manufacture of magnetic tape and its applications in the field of security.

'He was a talented photographer and artist, and to enable him to indulge these skills to the full he developed stiff light-weight canvasses and was thus able to carry many large canvasses when he went on holiday. So a relaxing painting holiday was followed by working up during the winter evenings guided by Polaroid camera shots taken at the scene.

Ralph married DORIS WALL, also an Old Scholar, and is survived by his wife and two daughters.'

EDNA MAY STUBBINGS (nee HELE)

'Edna was educated at Staple Hill Primary School, and from KGS she won a scholarship to St Hilda's College, Oxford in 1938 to read Natural Science, the very first girl to go to St Hilda's from KGS. For the scholarship she had to study Physics and take a written exam. This was an unusual subject for a girl in those days, and



Major Eaton suggested that she enlisted my help. This proved to be an enjoyable experience, for me, at any rate!

'Like many of an age she recently started to take an interest in Genealogy, and partly because of this she moved to Cornwall shortly before she died. My guess is that she was attracted by the place name Hele, a village a few miles south of Cullompton.'



CHARACTERS.

| | |
|-----------------------------------|------------------------|
| Major General Stanley | E. L. Parry. |
| The Pirate King | C. A. E. Wintour, Esq. |
| Samuel (his Lieutenant) | J. A. Pool. |
| Frederic (The Pirate Apprentice) | H. V. Watts, Esq. |
| Sergeant of Police | J. D. Hodson, Esq. |
| Mabel | Joyce Osborne. |
| | Wendy Lansdown. |
| Edith | Mary Huckie. |
| Kate | June Dicks. |
| Isabel | Ann Bryant. |
| Ruth (Piratical Maid of all work) | Anne Slater. |

Daughters of
Major General Stanley

CHORUS OF MAJOR GENERAL STANLEY'S DAUGHTERS.

| | | |
|-----------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Veronica Amos | Barbara Lennox | Heather Slade |
| Janet Bell | Jean Lovell | Rosemary Thorn |
| Shiela Benson | Pat Miller | Pam Tippett |
| Molly Cains | Joyce Mizen | Kathleen Townsend |
| Janet Emms | Shiela Mizen | Pamela Weeks |
| Pat Freeman | Iris Mountstephen | Barbara White |
| Gillian Gilbert | Gillian Park | Muriel Williams |
| Janet Hale | Denley Perrett | Ruth Wintle |
| Pat Harding | Heather Pomphrey | June Wood |
| Wendy Hulbert | Marlene Short | |

CHORUS OF PIRATES.

| | | |
|---------------------|----------------|----------------|
| I. Y. Ashwell, Esq. | J. B. Edwards | A. M. Lear |
| A. C. Baines | D. P. Foice | J. E. Padfield |
| F. W. Barrett | B. C. Forty | C. W. Rees |
| E. B. Carpenter | J. Gibbs | M. J. Rockey |
| D. J. Church | R. A. Gore | P. J. Walters |
| J. Cofe | J. Hiles | F. J. Young |
| J. A. Croucher | R. G. Humphrey | |

CHORUS OF POLICE.

| | | |
|-----------------|---------------|----------------|
| E. B. Carpenter | B. C. Forty | T. J. Wheeler |
| D. P. Foice | J. Gibbs | J. E. Padfield |
| | P. J. Walters | |

SCENES.

ACT. 1. A Rocky sea-shore on the coast of Cornwall.

ACT. 2. A Ruined Chapel by moonlight.

There will be an interval of approximately 15 minutes between the 2 Acts.

STAGE MANAGERS AND STAFF. H. W. Williams, Esq., A. Brown, G. L. Butcher, Esq., C. R. Buckley, D. Bailey,

SCENERY designed by H. V. Watts, Esq., and constructed and painted by L. Gay, P. J. Walters, G. Williams, Pat Beese, Jean Willett, and Kathleen Townsend.

COSTUMES under the supervision of Mrs. W. Staite.

MAKE UP under the direction of H. W. Holford, Esq.

GIRLS' DANCES directed by Miss E. Morrison.

ACCOMPANIST T. G. B. Hackston, Esq.

BUSINESS MANAGER E. J. Peet, Esq.

MUSICAL DIRECTOR E. Hilton, Esq.

The Opera produced by J. D. Hodson, Esq.

COLIN WINTOUR - A TRIBUTE

COLIN, AS THE PIRATE KING, LOOKS ON AS HAROLD WATTS SERENADES ANNE SLATER IN 'THE PIRATES OF PENZANCE' - DECEMBER 1952

NORMAN CANARD

GERALD TIPTON (1942-50) writes:

'Sadly, I report the demise last year of NORMAN 'DUCKY' CANARD (1944-48?) who died in Fishponds of a heart attack. He will be sorely missed by his family and friends in Coalpit Heath, where, after retirement from Bristol Omnibus Co. Ltd. he worked as part-time caretaker at the local school. His wife, EMILY STUBBS, was also an Old Scholar to whom I am sure we all extend our sympathy.'

We have also received the sad news that LEN BUSH (1923-28), a KOSA Committee Member for some years in the earlier days, RON FRENCH (1937-42) and JOHN BRITTON (1945-50) have passed away.

To all those families who have lost a KOSA loved one we extend our sympathy.

SIXPEN*TH FROM DEVON...

Alan Tanner (1944-48) writes:

'I have written to HAROLD WATTS and sent him a copy of a letter he wrote to me when I left school in 1948. And ("you never begin a sentence with - and" - MISS WATTERS 1947) in No. 9 there am I seeking the whereabouts of Norman Bracey and on page 15 there he is!

'Writing to HAROLD WATTS reminded me of the first two school trips organised after the wartime restrictions, no European 'aunts then, although we did go to foreign fields - Birmingham for an exhibition of Van Gogh paintings (very exciting and dramatic pictures). No disrespect to Birmingham but it was foreign. I remember asking a porter on the station where the Art Gallery was and I could not understand a word he said (I am better at it now).

'Up to that point the only foreigners I had seen were Germans in films and they always spoke English! We also went to London for a Paul Nash exhibition of paintings (I was particularly impressed by his war scenes) Those two artists have been my firm favourites ever since, although I haven't got too many originals on my walls. Does anyone remember those trips organised by MR. DEMPSEY the year before Mr. WATTS came to the school and after POP SEARLE had retired?

'Writing to HAROLD WATTS also reminded me of my early interest in theatre as I started a puppet club at the school with the support of MISS WYCHERLEY which I believe lasted for a few years. I did not continue my puppet interest after school except that a puppet booth I had built for my own use I later gave to Pill Junior School - wonder if they still use it? I have continued my interest in all forms of theatre and have just completed my 60th acting role as C S Lewis in "Shadowlands" - at the last reunion the first person to recognise me was not an old school chum but someone who had seen me performing in Torquay. I also direct quite a bit now as I do not have to learn the lines!

'Here's an academic thought regarding present educational standards - why not use past School Certificate papers Maths, Physics, Chemistry, French etc. as the principles must still be the same. How would today's youngsters fare, or more appropriately, the teachers? And no multiple choice. I have the 1948 papers if any Examination Board would like to risk the test!

HARRY KNOTT (1931-36) writes:

'Thank you for KOSA News, which I found quite interesting, and brought back many memories, mostly pleasant, of my time at

school.

'There cannot be very many people of my generation left. I left school in 1936, a very long time ago, and of course, so many were lost in the War. I noticed my old friend PAUL MOUNTFORD was mentioned. We were great friends during and after our school years, and it was a great loss to me when Paul died of wounds received in the Dieppe Raid. He was in a reserved occupation, but managed to wangle his way into the Royal Navy.

'My cousin, HARRY WILLIAMS, your older members will no doubt remember him, was killed early in the War. He, also, was in a reserved occupation, the Metropolitan Police, but joined the RAF, passed out as a pilot in Fighter Command, and crashed during a training flight. We all looked up to him, a great character and a fine sportsman.

'One could go on mentioning so many, but LES MARSH (1932-35) is the only 'old boy' that I keep in contact with now. I'm afraid that I'm not very mobile these days so cannot attend any reunions, but would like to continue to receive the 'News'

FORM V2C, AGAIN...

JEAN COOPER (nee ROSS) (1944-46) writes:

'We were very interested in BARBARA SANDOVER'S (1936-42) letter in No. 9 as she is my husband's cousin. I came across a photo of her in her WJAC uniform with my husband BOB COOPER in ATC uniform. I was also thrilled to see the picture of my old Form V2C, which was 1946 not 1941. I wonder who sent it in. (It was Fuzz, Jean - Ed.)

Back row l. to r. are: Lynes, MacDonald,

Gowing, Bracey, Gibson.

Eileen Walklett, Margaret Hook, C. Cummings, Alan Kembrey, K Batten, Margaret Marsh, Anne Fenn.

Front row l. to r. are: Margaret Hawkes, Elizabeth 'Dizzy' Dawber, Myself - Jean Ross, Diane Thompson, Molly White, Sheila Hunt, Margaret 'Fuzz' Iles, Pamela Tucker and Maureen Rawbone.

'I bumped into DIANE THOMPSON in Soundwell Swimming Baths about 20 years ago but have lost touch with everyone else except MARGARET ILES whom I occasionally see. SHEILA HUNT'S parents used to keep what is now the "Tower" fish shop in Kingswood. Going back to MARGARET ILES, I still think of her affectionately as 'FUZZ' ILES - old habits die hard. She is now MRS VENN, well known in local literary circles.

'I can remember MISS PERRY, my form mistress for a year and MISS QUINTON (glad to see the old "Quinnie-bus" rhyme lives on as in the last issue), MISS POWELL, MAJOR EATON, 'TWORKY', 'POP' SEARLE and JOCK LOCKHEART (he would never give me more than 8/10 for Art whereas Pop would give me 9 or 10!). BUNNY AUSTIN who was the only maths teacher who could bang figures into my thick skull - he had tremendous patience and would never go on to the next lesson until he was quite sure it had penetrated.

'I was only at KGS, for two years with I think either IDRIS MORGAN or MR HOLFORD as Form Master after MISS PERRY. MR SAMMONS was there in that time and also MISS BIGGS who taught me the secret of good pastry, if nothing else! I can always remember a question in the cookery exam which was - "Why do you use a wooden spoon to stir custard etc?" My answer...because a metal one would scratch the pan.

WRONG! The answer was...to stop the custard sticking to the panwell, you can't win 'em all! (Too clever for my own good!).

'In addition to the form photo published in the last issue, I also have a snapshot of some of the masters in their common/ staff room. Presumably in this enlightened age the mistresses and masters co-inhabit the same room.

'My eldest daughter ELIZABETH COOPER (1968-73) also attended, by then, Kingsfield School. Once again, I was chastised by a member of staff....nothing changes! MR WILLIAMS, who was teaching when I was there had me 'on the carpet' for allowing Elizabeth to be late for school!'

(S)CENT FROM A FLOWER...

JOYCE PURVIS (nee FLOWER) (1936-41) writes:

'I was most interested to read from one of my classmates - BILL and BARBARA SANDOVER (1936-42) (nee WILLIAMS). I remember them well, they both lived in Hanham. BILL SANDOVER and BILL BROWN (who, I believe, went into teaching) helped me with my Physics homework. I was the only girl taking Physics for school certificate and it was because I told MISS EYRES, the Biology mistress, that I did not approve of dissecting live worms! Incidentally, I did pass in Physics with, I think, a credit - due, I am sure, to the help I received!

'I still keep in touch with a lady called MARIE HARRIS (1926-30) who lives in Cock Road, Kingswood and must have been among the first pupils when the school opened.'

A VISIT TO COCK ROAD...

Your editor took it upon himself to visit MARIE HARRIS (1926-30) who proved to be a very interesting lady. Marie's special subject was English Grammar and Literature, in which, according to MAJOR EATON, 'she excelled in originality and freedom of expression'. MISS WATTERS confirmed this, too, and Marie kept in touch with her and MISS QUINTON long after leaving KGS. Indeed, when MISS WATTERS retired to Scotland in 1960, Marie sent her a poem in celebration. The remarkable thing is that Marie can still remember poems which she composed many years ago. Here's that poem:

Fulfilment

To wander where the mountains rise
Clear, crystal-tipped to azure skies -
Or big the golden moonlight kiss't
Then veiled again in silver mist.

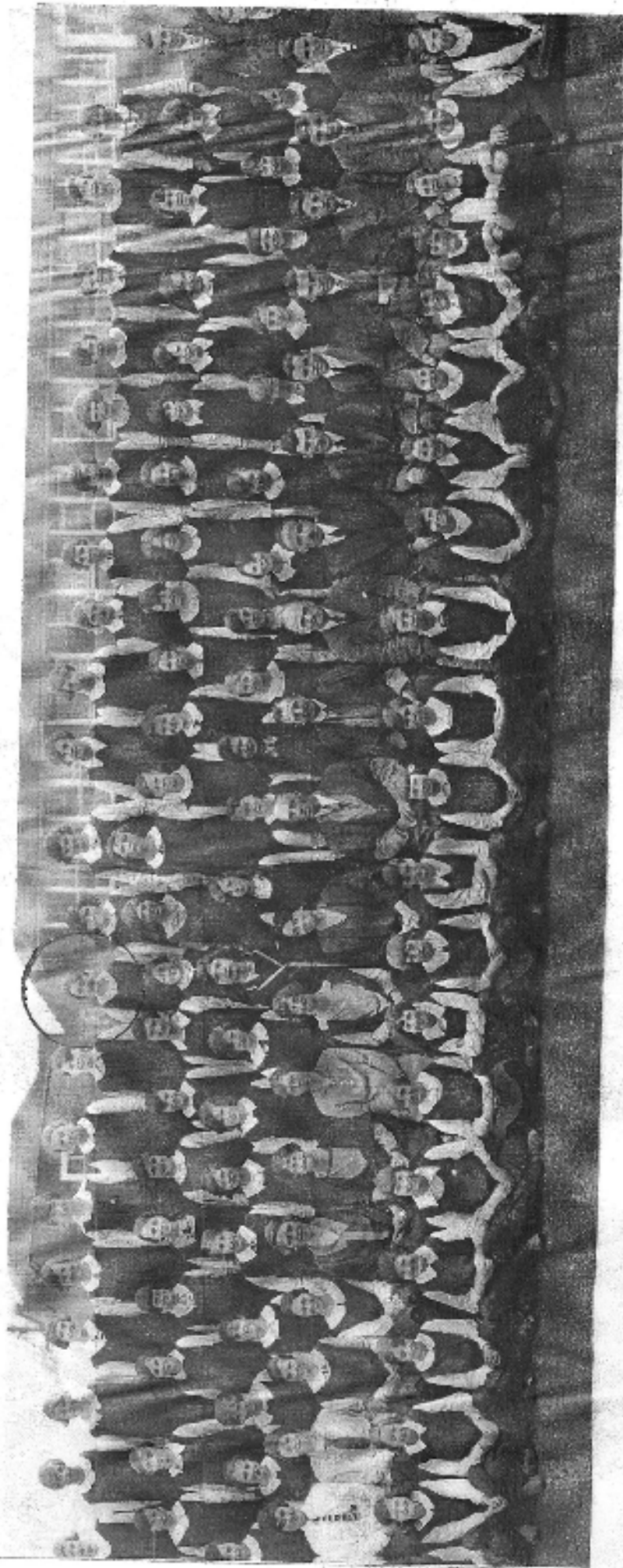
To walk anew the sheltered glen
O'er ways untrodden yet by men;
Where moor and hillside are endued
In shadows amethystine hued.

Where nature waits, as peaceful still
As when the mountain and the hill
Arose exalted from the dust
To form their everlasting crust.

O, what could there more lovely be
Than this, which I before me see -
Or what, in outward eye or mind
To rival this can Beauty find?

Marie L Harris

Marie was a contemporary of SIR BERNARD LOVELL and MRS ALICE BRITTON, wife of much loved 'BONEY' BRITTON. Printed opposite is a section of the school photograph for 1927 on which Marie appears.

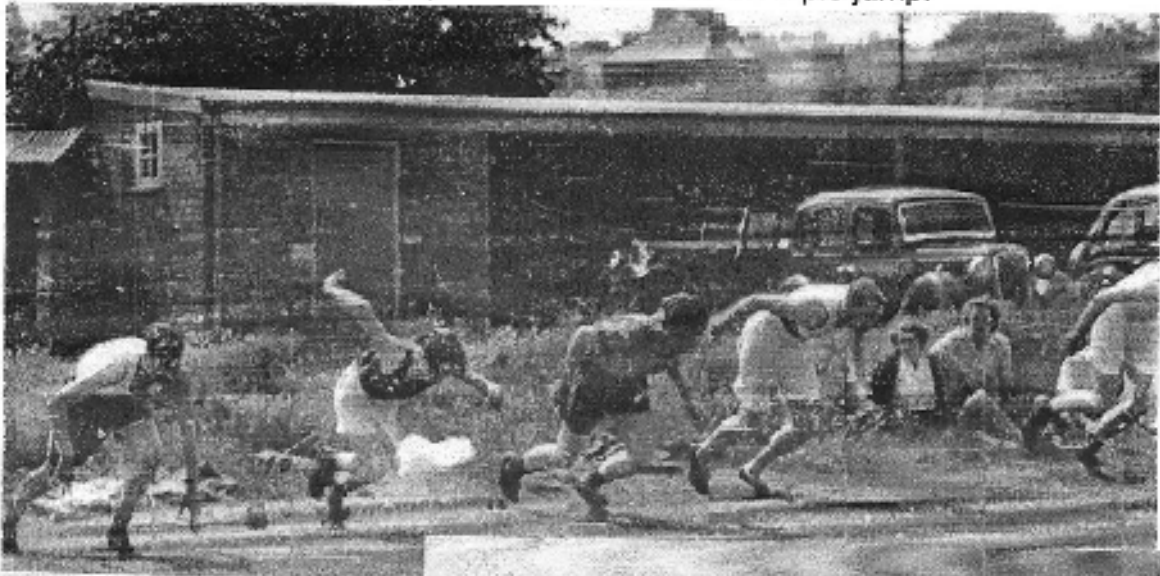


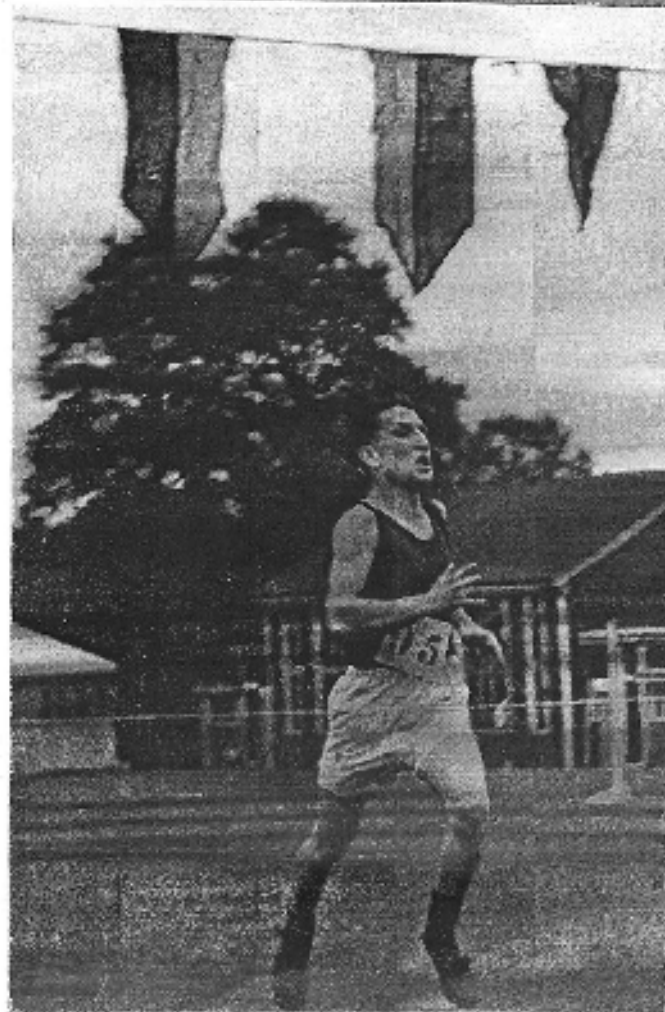
KINGSWOOD GRAMMAR SCHOOL, BRISTOL.

SPORTS DAYS AT KGS...

We are indebted to GERALD TIPTON (1942-50) for the action photographs on these pages. Notice that the distances are in real money, not a metre in sight! On the facing page (top to bottom). KEN ADDINELL (STAFF) beats Gerald to the tape in the 440 yards race of a Staff v School event in 1948. Gerald gets his revenge in the 100yards, with W TICKENER coming in third place. The third photograph shows Gerald winning the 440 yards in the School Sports of 1949, and the bottom photograph shows the finish of the 1948 100 yards showing COLIN JEFFERIS, ?, LONG, ROY WOTTON, and GERALD TIPTON. In the spectators on the right can be identified M DANN, VIV BRACEY and MISS MARRISON.

On this page. Old Boys v School v Staff in 1949. In the start of the 100 yards, from left to right are KEN MEEK, GERALD TIPTON, DAVID PETERS?, and KEN ADINELL. The bottom photographs are of Gerald in the triple jump.





MORE SPORTS...

The first photograph on the opposite page, supplied by MAUREEN O'NEILL nee CLENCH (1945-52), shows MISS DAVID attractively turned out for Sports Day 1951. Next to it are the cups which JOHN BISHOP (1952-57) won as champion boy of the School in 1954. He won the 100 yards, the long jump and the 220 yards as to qualify for champion boy one had to win three events. He also won the Fussell House cup and was in the winning relay team. Quite a haul!

The largest cup shown in John's photograph, amongst others, was also won by PETE WALTERS (1948-55) when he was champion boy in 1952. Pete won the 100 and 200 yards, and the lower photographs show Peter in action in winning the long jump.

Recognisable in the spectators in the bottom photo are BRIAN SAMMONS (Chemistry), DAVID CHURCH, ROY WILCOX, one of the BREDDY brothers, ERNIE HOOPER, VIC JORDAN, KEVIN NOBLE, ELLIS PEET (Maths) and JIMMY WILDE (Games).

ANOTHER VIEW OF KGS...?

RICHARD STRANGE (1954-60) writes:

'I neither particularly loved nor hated my schooldays, and the only link with them which can - occasionally - bring a lump to my throat, is the sound of 'Jerusalem'. Even this may be more to do with the fact that its singing brought down the curtain on another term, than with pride in the establishment! Certainly, as one progressed through the school, and thus stood ever closer to the rear exits of the Assembly Hall, many male pupils only faintly heard the final strains as they pedalled away into the distance, having

slipped prematurely away to a few weeks or months of freedom.

'For some it was a freedom: from bullies (admittedly not many, and I did not myself suffer), or lots of homework in homes where conditions were not ideally suited to study. Or homes where family incomes were such as to require pupils to spend a lot of time delivering newspapers, meat or bread, working in shops, helping with household chores, or labouring on farms.

'With a few notable exceptions, the letters I have so far read in KOSA NEWS tend to convey a somewhat closeted and even cosy atmosphere. But KGS was part of a greater system, not an isolated island. It reflected, even in my days (1954-1960), the large social and financial disparities of the real world. The purchase of school uniforms was an extremely heavy financial burden on many parents. Free or heavily subsidised dinner tickets were dispensed by the thousand. The free availability of milk was a godsend - how a certain Government Minister, herself a mother, could conclude that families did not need this assistance some twenty years later is beyond my understanding. Even today, the nutritional level of millions of children's diets is considered inadequate.

'In one sense KGS was an island of course - an island of-privilege. It was not the fault of grammar schools but in those days, if you did not pass the dreaded '11 plus' you were consigned to a local Secondary School. By and large the latter institutions were effectively sink-holes into which 90% of school-children disappeared: where the highest form of achievement was proficiency in 'Tech Drag'. They were generally



under-funded, even more so than KGS, which itself was not exactly awash with money. Thank heavens for the mainly properly funded and staffed Comprehensive system which eventually came into being.

'Ironically it was the contrast between the systems and the results, which makes me everlastingly grateful for the education I received at KGS. All attempts to foster pride in 'belonging to a House' or in school tradition were lost on me. But only there could I have been introduced to the wonders of science and gained an appreciation of languages. I have been privileged indeed.'

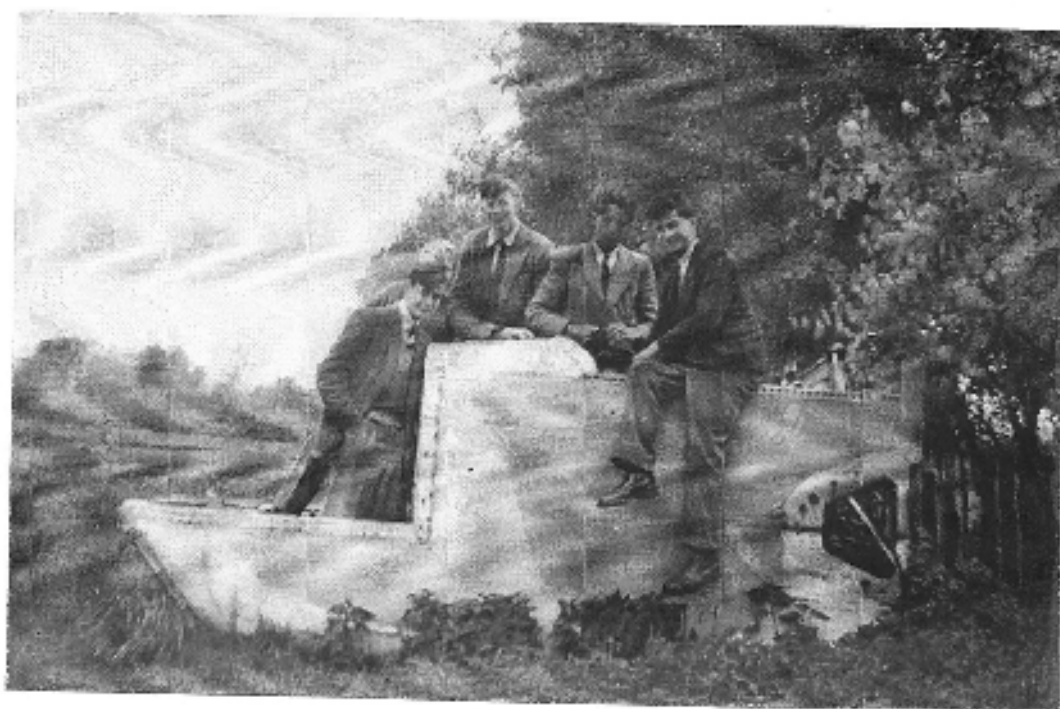
THAT PLANE AGAIN...!

GRAHAM H R JOHNSON (1945-50) writes: 'In the light of recent correspondence in the 'NEWS regarding the aircraft nose which languished amongst the stinging nettles near the air rad shelters, I thought that perhaps you might like to know something of its history.

'As ANTHONY CURTIS (1939-46) correctly states in No. 9, it was indeed a Beaufort Mk IIA powered by Pratt & Witney Twin Wasp S3C4 engines and the serial number was AW351. Built at Filton as one of a batch of 50 to contract No. B136959\40, it was delivered to an Aircraft Storage Maintenance Unit and thence to the Overseas Aircraft Despatch Unit at Portreath, Cornwall.

'Whilst with this unit, it took off on 8th April 1942 but shortly afterwards developed engine trouble and the pilot, doubtless all too aware of the Beaufort's poor performance on one engine, elected to ditch in Colwyn Bay, North Wales, alighting about three-quarters of a mile off-shore. A Westland Lysander of 275 Squadron was sent up to search for the crew, but by the time it arrived they had already been rescued and taken ashore by rowing boat.

'Clearly, an attempt was made to salvage the aircraft and apparently the nose, rear fuselage and outer mainplanes were detached but the centre



section with engines proved too difficult and was left to sink into the mud where it remains to this day. Apparently, the propellor tips are still visible at low tide. 'Having been an aviation enthusiast since the cradle I was naturally very interested in this relic when I arrived at KGS in 1945. At the earliest opportunity I set off to investigate, oblivious of the fact that I was being observed by MAJOR EATON from his office window. A passing prefect was despatched to haul me into the Head's presence.

'I was informed in no uncertain manner that the air raid shelter and the aeroplane were strictly out of bounds and that any future transgression on my part would result in a swipe of the cane! Later on, MR RIDLEY seemed less concerned about things like that - hence the photograph of a few VC classmates taken in 1950. They are GEOFF WORNER, DAVE LEWIS, DENVER PADFIELD, HUGH HENDY and PHILIP DENT.'

LILIAN MAKES CONTACT...

LILIAN HUGHES nee BLUNDELL (1931-36) writes:

'I attended Kingswood from 1931 -1936 and remember RENNIE DUNN, sisters JO DUNN (1931-36) and DORA BOWYER (1933-38) very well, as I lived in the next road and Jo was a special friend of mine. By a strange coincidence I have been hoping for some years to trace her, we kept in touch for many years after school by letter and visits, then we moved and I lost touch. I am still in touch with two other friends of this period who also lived in Filton and were friendly with Jo as well. Like most people who went to Kingswood I think we were fortunate, I was very happy

there and could write some memories if you would be interested. I have a good snapshot of MISS POWELL taken one lunch hour when she was tending the garden and also one of the old wooden building taken from the bottom of the playing field, as well as a class photo of 1935 and large school photos. (Yes, please - Ed).

'I met my husband BRYAN HUGHES there, when he transferred from Cheltenham Grammar School at the age of 15, not knowing it was a mixed school until he arrived there! Sadly he died last January after we had been married for 54 years. He was an apprentice at the old Bristol Aeroplane Co., he consequently became a Chartered Engineer, C.Eng, I Mech.E. and when he retired from Normalair Garrett Ltd. in Yeovil, he was Chief Draughtsman.

'I saw D Bowyer's letter in No. 8 issue, summer 1996, I remember PEGGY and STELLA EVERY, RUTH and MARY MAWSON, RUTH SPRACKMAN, FRANK and EDNA STEPHENS and many more, it brought back so many memories., I wish I had known about KOSA before, but we left Bristol many years ago and moved around the country. By a strange co-incidence our new Labour MP for Stroud, David Drew, lives in this road and, I have recently discovered, he also went to Kingsfield School.'

CONGRATULATIONS...

To KOSA Committee Member BILL COX (1927-34) who reached the ripe young age of 80 recently. To celebrate he took a balloon ride, taking off from Ashton Court and passing over his house in Downend and over Keynsham. Who says the spirit of adventure is lacking in the young people of today?!

VIEWS FROM DOREEN...

DOREEN LINDEGAARD (nee PILLINGER) (1948-53) writes:

'I was pleased to hear that BRIAN WILLIE (1948-54) had his reunion with SHEILA POW (BENSON) (1948-54), as I forwarded KOSA to his sister and my friend JANICE WILLIE (1948-53), who passed it on to him.

'I was glad to hear of MISS DAVID. I loved her lessons and have found a knowledge of Latin invaluable over the years. She used to wear a purple knitted frock and read to us "if we were good" from Naomi Mitchenson's "Victi" - the Conquered. Salve Magistral I was desperate when she left, and her place was taken by my very least favourite teacher, MISS MORRISON for the final year. I failed.

'I was interested to hear of COLIN BEACHAM a few issues ago. I wonder if Colin remembers an essay competition we both entered called "Our Town"? Colin won £3. 10s, I came second with £2. 10s and WILLIAM KNIGHT was 3rd, receiving £ 1. 10s, all princely sums in those days - 1950. The competition was organised by the BBC and was an exchange event between KGS and a school in Tromsø, Norway. BEACHAM, KNIGHT and myself had to go to BBC Bristol and speak over the airwaves to Norway to wish our counterparts happy Christmas, a fairly nerve tingling business, using the heavy old fashioned mikes. One or other of the boys went by bike, I think it was Colin, but WILLIE KNIGHT and myself travelled by bus. though we sat in separate seats and ignored each other. Everyone was far too shy to speak to a member of the opposite sex in those days. In the following spring, the Tromsø school visited KGS. The students were extremely glamorous, like the American "bobby-soxers" we knew from the cinema, their only uniform, boys and

girls alike, being jaunty little red caps. What a contrast with our hideously drab brown and blue!

'We were each assigned a Norwegian student, and my "friend for the day" was called Inger Lindrupsen. She was small and blonde and very pretty, and four years my senior. We wrote to each other as pen friends and met again four years later, when we travelled round Norway together. She taught me to hitchhike and to smoke, which had a profound effect, as I indulged in both for many years. I went to stay with her on several other occasions after her marriage and move to Sweden, and my friend for the day became a friend for life. This year, my son, when in Sweden on a business trip managed to spend a few days with Inger and her husband at their home in Karlstad. Is anyone else still in touch with their Norwegian?

'Apropos the letter from HAROLD WATTS. I am hopeless at art, and one day when my daub was even worse than usual, the bell rang, and I turned it face down on my desk before attempting my escape. Harold saw this from the front, and bellowed "Look at that girl!" Everybody dutifully turned and looked. "She's ashamed of her work!" I wished the floor would open and swallow me up!

'On the news front: Old Scholar Professor COLIN PILLINGER was on 'The Sky at Night' on Sunday 18th August 1996 talking with Patrick Moore about the "Life on Mars" Meteorite, a project in which he is heavily engaged.'

OPERATION ARCHIVE...

MIKE COKAYNE (1952-58) has joined the Committee, and suggests that we build up a archive for posterity. Anyone who has been involved in genealogy

knows how important this information can be to future researchers. Mike writes:

'Most ex-pupils who have kept in touch with events at the old school will be aware that most of the school's records were destroyed in the terrible fire of 1976. These would have consisted of attendance records and both staff and pupil files, plus the more public items such as the "Honours Board" and the numerous class and whole school photographs which lined the corridor walls. The loss of these vital ingredients of a school's history serves, in time, to deprive the institution, and indeed the local community, of a large proportion of their roots. There can be no doubt that KGS has had a substantial effect upon the lives of those who attended the school and therefore upon both the local area and the City of Bristol. In some cases, the existence and performance of KGS, its staff and pupils will have had even national and international benefits.

'I would not of course be suggesting that KGS was unique in this respect but whereas most other schools can pull a book from a shelf or point to a corridor or assembly hall full of trophies, photos and written records, poor old Kingswood Grammar School has lost much of its first 50 odd years of history. Or has it?!

'In my few years of involvement with KOSA, I have been amazed at just how many ex-pupils have vivid recollections of who was at KGS and when, who was in which form and who the teachers were. Even more surprising has been the realisation that so many class and school photographs have survived. All of this has suggested that it should be possible to reconstruct the basic outline of KGS records from its earliest days up to the point of destruction. This will not be possible of course without YOUR assistance!

'Following discussions with Mike Bendrey, I have offered to take on the task of compiling the KGS Archive and have made a preliminary study of what we could do. Obviously there would be little merit in rewriting the history of lateness, sickness, absenteeism, detentions, school lunches and the like, interesting though they might be when assessing the eventual fate of certain pupils! The changing cost and choice of lunch menus might be an interesting field of study perhaps! Of interest also will be the annual prize giving list, although certain individuals seemed to win them all and us lesser mortals had to sit there gritting our teeth, clapping and pretending that we were glad that we hadn't won anything! To be realistic, we should initially aim for the fundamentals and fit in as much supplementary data as becomes available.

'To this end I have commenced the setting up of a computer data base (what else these days!) which in effect will be a series of personal files for every pupil who can be identified as having attended KGS up to the end of records. Attached to these in a form yet to be finalised, will be photographs where available. Certainly from what I have seen it should be possible to assemble "Form Files" based on surviving form photographs and former pupil's memories without too much difficulty. Down to business then! If you would like to take part, please fill in the enclosed form.'

A SHORTIE FROM 'TICH'...

TREVOR WHEELER (1951-56) writes: 'Those copies of KOSA NEWS I received certainly brought back memories of people and events. The references to 'Pirates of Penzance' and 'Bartered Bride' reminded me that I appeared in both, not because of any thesbian abil-

ity, but because of my size. At 3' 10" I was the smallest pupil in school and no doubt ERIC HILTON and BEN HODSON thought it amusing to cast me as a policeman in 'Pirates of Penzance'.

'I was one of two clowns in 'Bartered Bride', the other was ROGER 'NOBBY' GREENAWAY (1950-55), who, as we all know, certainly made the big time in show business.

'Incidentally, I remember remaining the smallest pupil until my 4th year when a couple of 1st year girls, not boys, were shorter than me. I did eventually grow - to a magnificent 5' 2"!!

'I retired in 1994 after 36 years in local government, the last 20 years of which working with ALAN FELTHAM (1950-56?)'

PHOTOGRAPHS...

We have been building up quite a collection of KGS photographs and memorabilia, recently augmented by a framed photograph of the School in 1948 delivered by ANN WITHEY (SUTTLE) (1951-52) on a recent visit from Canada. Accompanying the photograph was a letter from husband JIM WITHEY (1944-53) which is self explanatory. Brian has appended a list of names identified, which unfortunately space prohibits inclusion. Thanks, Brian:

KINGSWOOD GRAMMAR SCHOOL PHOTOGRAPH, 1948.

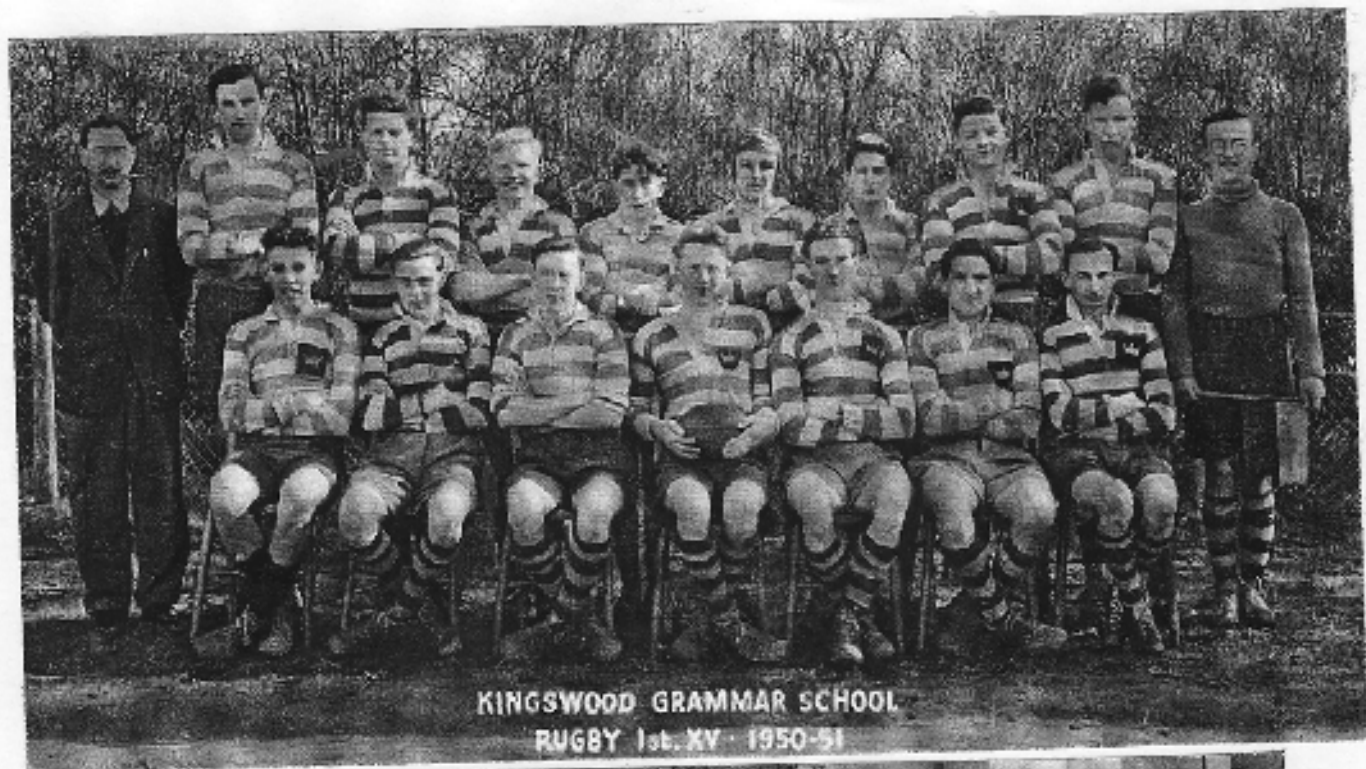
'This oak-framed photograph, taken in September, 1948, utilised the technique of arranging the entire school in the form of a large crescent. The camera, mounted on a tripod with a motor driven camera platform, slowly traversed the

arranged pupils and staff, after we had been cautioned to remain motionless for a few minutes, I well remember several similar earlier photographs, taken in this fashion, hanging along the corridor of the main school. Some had been taken with the school building as a background and, in these, the school roof came out as a convex arch, due to the optical physics! In one other such photograph, one small boy, originally standing on the extreme left of the photograph, appears twice. Apparently he had run from left to right and reached the extreme right before the camera had finished its rotation (honest!).

'MAJOR EATON, the Headmaster, had this copy framed in oak (probably done by the then woodwork master, MR. WILLIAMS, or one of his senior class). It hung in Major Eaton's study until he retired in the summer of 1949. I well remember seeing it there, on the left hand wall as one entered the room. Not that my visits to this 'sanctum sanctorum' were that frequent and it was never associated with any disciplinary actions. It was probably an interview in connection with a small assistance grant that he had arranged.

'Major Eaton took this photograph with him when he left the school and it was displayed hanging on the wall in the hallway of his house in Wareham, Dorset.

'BRIAN SAMMONS, who taught chemistry at KGS for 23 years, paid many visits to the Eaton residence, He was among the first pupils to be enrolled at KGS and was its first Head Boy. Many will remember him, and his close friend FRED BABER, for their keen interest and support of KOSA. Mrs. Eaton gave the framed photograph to Brian when



KINGSWOOD GRAMMAR SCHOOL
RUGBY 1st. XV · 1950-51



KINGSWOOD GRAMMAR SCHOOL
FORM IV G · 1955



KINGSWOOD GRAMMAR SCHOOL
RUGBY JUNIOR XV · 1953-54

KOSA OPERATION ARCHIVE

If you would like to take part in building up an archive of KOSA members and their achievements, please fill in the form below. Please feel free to leave any questions unanswered. Thanks for your help.

FULL NAME: _____

MAIDEN NAME: _____

DATE OF BIRTH: _____

JUNIOR SCHOOL PRIOR TO KGS: _____

YEARS AT KGS - Please give the forms for each year

COULD YOU LIST ANY FORM-MATES' NAMES?:

Do you have a form photograph you would be willing to lend KOSA? yes/no
ACTIVITIES:

Were you in any teams (sport, chess etc)? If you recall any dates and results, please give them. Were you in any plays, etc? Give details.

LEAVING KGS:

What qualifications did you obtain at KGS?

Where and what did you study after leaving KGS?

Qualifications obtained - academic and professional:

COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

Here are your Committee Members after the April 1997 AGM who will be pleased to answer any queries or will be happy to hear your suggestions for the future of KOSA:

- Peggy Bolt (1938-43) Madam Chairman, 293 Badminton Road, Downend, Bristol, BS16 6NU Tel: 956 4020
Frank Rawlings (1939-43) Treasurer, 74 Oakdale Road, Downend, Bristol, BS16 6EA Tel: 956 1050
John Powell (1943-48) Secretary, Park End, Deacon's Hill, Watford Herts, WD1 4HN Tel: 01923 232472
Bill Cox (1927-34), 45 Downend Road, Downend, Bristol, BS1 6 5UF Tel: 956 7019
Esme Rawlings (1941-45) 74 Oakdale Road, Downend, Bristol, BS 1 6 6EA Tel: 956 1050
Ron Clements (1939-46) 5 Rangers Walk, Hanham, Bristol, BS15 3PW Tel: 967 2328
June Long (1939-45) 5 Clevedale Court, Downend, Bristol, BS1 6 2SG Tel: 956 7910
Frank Stephens (1930-35) 44 Amberley Way, Wickwar, Glos. GL12 8LP Tel: 01454 299221
Mike Bendrey (1951-56), Editor, 26 Overndale Road, Downend, Bristol BS16 2RT Tel/Fax: 956 5689
Mike Cokayne (1952-58), Archivist, c/o 11 Hamlet Road, Ludlow, Shrops. SY8 2NR
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KOSA REUNION LUNCH

To: Frank Rawlings, Hon. Treasurer, KOSA,
74 Oakdale Road, Downend, Bristol, BS16 6EA Tel: Bristol 956 1050

I enclose £_____ for _____ places @ £11 each for the KOSA Reunion Lunch to be held at 12.30pm on Saturday, 11th October 1997 at Lincombe Barn, Overndale Road, Downend.

Name _____ Guests' Names: _____
Maiden Name _____
Address _____

If you have any special dietary requirements please inform us

Years at KGS _____ to _____

1 enclose £3 as this year's contribution towards the cost of KOSA NEWS

*delete if not applicable

Please make cheques payable to 'Kingswood Old Scholars' Association'