



KOSA NEWS



NUMBER 11 - AUTUMN 1997

The Magazine of the Old Scholars of Kingswood Grammar School

EDITORIAL:



Many thanks for the material for KOSA NEWS sent to me over the years, and this extra edition will 'soak up' some of the letters, photographs and articles which have so far been unpublished. Although I still have enough material for another edition in the Spring, I hope that this will not stop you from sending in your contributions, especially those who haven't written before. Go on, put pen to paper now!

My aim for the 'NEWS is to produce a balanced and quality publication, commensurate with the resources available to us, full of interest to its readers, whilst at the same time providing a vehicle to bring KGS people together. After all, we do share a common background even though there are many years between the oldest and youngest members of KOSA. I hope that you think we have succeeded so far.

There will be a Reunion and AGM in the Spring, but at the time of going to print the date has not yet been fixed. However, there will be another 'NEWS before then in which an announcement will be made. Lincombe Barn has already been booked for the Autumn Lunch on Saturday, 10th October 1998, so you can put that date in your diaries.

In the meantime can I encourage you to support MIKE COKAYNE'S 'OPERATION ARCHIVE' by completing the enclosed form and sending it to him. Your KOSA Committee's addresses are on the back of the form.

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Kingswood Grammar School
4th August 1976

TWO OF THE FEW...

DAVID HUMPHRIES (1952-59) writes:

'Prompted by JENNIFER ANGEL (BENNETT) (1952-59), I decided to attend the KOSA Reunion last April. What a surprise to see so many faces of yesterday and what a delight to renew old acquaintances. I have now read all the back-issues of KOSA NEWS, which kept me enthralled for hours!

'I was particularly interested in those young people who gave their lives during World War II, as being a member of Hanham Local History Society, we recently researched the twenty six Hanham men who gave their all. A memorial stone was laid on 14 May 1995 on the existing War Memorial at Hanham Folk Centre, and after dedication, the REV ARTHUR MERRITT (1934-39), brother of REV ALAN MERRITT who officiated at KOSA's tree planting ceremony, gave an informal address. He served in the RAF from 1941 to 1946 in the South East Asia Command, and now lives in retirement in Weymouth. He spoke of the Hanham men he knew, and among them were two pupils of KGS. They were GEORGE WYNDHAM PARNELL and FREDERICK ILES.

'An obituary by C M Yonge appeared in the press when he died which reads:

GEORGE WYNDHAM PARNELL

"Pilot Officer G W Parnell received his school education at Kingswood Grammar School. In 1934 he was awarded a Gloucester County Scholarship and entered the University of Bristol, where he began work for the degree of BSc in Zoology. He early attracted attention by his conspicuous ability and attractive per-



sonality.

"In 1937 he graduated with a first class honours in Zoology. His abilities were now further recognised by the continuance of his Scholarship and an award from the

Department of Scientific and Industrial Research. He had already begun to specialise in entomology, and he now commenced research on the life history of willow aphids, in the course of which he made important contributions to knowledge, notably on the effect of light on the appearance of winged forms in these animals. He received the degree of PhD in 1940 after submitting a thesis on this work.

"In 1939 he received the high honour of the award of a Commonwealth Fellowship tenable for two years in the United States... being only the second successful candidate from Bristol. From August 1939 until May 1940 he worked at the University of California, but then returned to offer his services to his country and volunteered for the RAF. He died within a few days of the completion of his training. He will long be remembered as one of the most brilliant graduates of the University of Bristol"

'George died on 5th February 1941, aged 25 years, and is buried in Whitfield Tabernacle Churchyard in Kingswood where his grave is marked with a military headstone and tended by the War Graves Commission.'

'FREDERICK ILES was born in April 1923 and died on 17 April 1945. Fred's father

was a policeman in Stroud and on his retirement returned with his family to his native Hanham in 1934. Fred (or Ferdie), who was transferred to KGS from Marling School, was very good academically, especially in French (written and oral), mathematics and science. He also excelled in sports and played for the school cricket and football teams. He also won 'throwing the cricket ball' three times on Sports Days.



'Fred gained a scholarship to Bristol University and served in the Home Guard until he was called up. Although he had attended officers' training courses, he joined the Royal Armoured Corps as a ser-

geant but later transferred to the Royal Tank Corps where he became Master Gunner and Master Driver. He went into Europe after the D-Day landings and was in the first convoy of tanks to knock down the gates of Belsen Concentration Camp, which he described in a letter as 'hell on earth'. During the clearing of the site at Luneburg Heath, where the German surrender to Montgomery took place, he wrote home saying 'it's all over now, we will soon be home'. On 17 April 1945 -



only weeks from the end of the war in Europe - allied typhoon aircraft shot up and bombed our own tanks and Fred was killed. He was buried in a Military Cemetery in Becklingen, near Soltau in Germany. This account was recently related to me by Fred's surviving younger brother, Victor.'

OBITUARIES...

It is with great regret that we report the passing of two stalwarts of KOSA who died within a few days of each other in October 1997. KOSA will be so much the poorer without their enthusiasm and commitment:

FRANK RAWLINGS (1939-43) had been treasurer of KOSA for as long as anyone can remember, and Frank brought to KOSA his professionalism, his organisational skills, and his regard for the educational experience which he received at KGS.

Frank was well-known in Downend where he lived, not only as manager of Lloyds Bank, but also as a member of the Rotary Club of Fishponds and Downend where he served as President, member of Downend Round Table and the 41 Club, and as treasurer of RNLI. Frank was not only associated with the Old Scholars of KGS, but he was also an active Governor of Mangotsfield School.

We extend our condolences to Frank's wife **ESME**, who is also a Committee Member of KOSA, and who as **ESME ROBERTS** was at KGS from 1941-45, and his son **Tim** and daughter **Claire**. His true friendship will be sorely missed but never forgotten by those who knew him.

DAVID PEACOCK (1928-36) took over as Secretary of KOSA from **FRED BABER** on his return to Bristol when he retired. In that position he worked very closely with **FRANK RAWLINGS**.

David won a place at Bristol University where he gained his BSc. His further studies were interrupted by the War and, in 1940, he was recruited by ICI as a research chemist at their plant in Billingham on Tees-side. He remained in the

Agricultural Division of ICI for the rest of his working life, spent mostly in the North of England, retiring as Works Manager of their plant at Heysham, Lancs., in 1975.

In 1994 David moved with his wife Margaret to Broadway in Worcestershire. A particular pleasure of that move was the contact made with old scholars VIC and BARBARA AMOS (1937-42 and 1938-41), who lived nearby.

We would also like to express to David's wife Margaret our best wishes and condolences at this time, and to express our thanks for the contribution that David made to the development of KOSA.

STAFF NEWS...

It's always good to hear from past members of staff at KGS, and thanks to DAVID HILLING (1947-54) we have managed to trace IAN ASHWELL, who taught Geography from September 1951 to December 1953. Ian writes:

'Many thanks for sending the latest KOSA News. It takes me back! But I was sad to see the report of the death of COLIN WINTOUR who joined the staff with me in September 1951. The photo of the 1952 'Pirates of Penzance' recalls very happy memories of that production which involved such a large number of both staff and youngsters. I have since done quite a lot of Gilbert and Sullivan up to relatively recently in London.

'I have been meeting DAVID HILLING (1947-54) from time to time at the professional level; and he has been keeping me broadly up-to-date with the school. I first met him when he was a sixth-former at the Gower field course in Biology and Geography which BARBARA RICKETTS and I started, I think in 1952. He has

since gone on to greater things!

'As for myself, after leaving KGS in December 1953, I took a Master's Degree at Bristol in 1956 and then had three years teaching Geography at Portsmouth Grammar School, then a Direct Grant school, before returning to Bristol to do a PhD in Geography. I then moved to university teaching in Canada in 1962 at Calgary, which became a full University in 1963. In my first year there we had 3 staff in the Geography Department, when I left in 1970 we had 14 and I had been Professor and Head. Returning to UK I had teaching posts at the City of London Polytechnic and then at the University of Salford where I finished in 1982 as a Senior Lecturer, having been retired early (like everyone else there over 50) because of the cuts in university grants at that time.

'Meanwhile and since I have had considerable connection with the Youth Exploration movement, particularly with the British Schools Exploring Society, with which I have been on many expeditions to remote places as scientist (in meteorology), leader and Chief Leader of 4 expeditions, the last in 1992. I was Chairman of the Society 1984-93 and was awarded the Gill Memorial Award by the Royal Geographical Society in 1993 for service to youth exploration. Incidentally I have just returned from being a leader with the BSES expedition to South Greenland.

'I came back to Bristol last year because I still have strong connections with the University and found myself travelling back and forth along the M4 from SE London to Bristol so often that it seemed convenient (and much more pleasant) to make a permanent move.

It was good to hear that HAROLD WATTS and GEORGE BUTCHER are

still around. I see KEN POPLE at various Bristol University reunions - he took over from me in 1954 at KGS. I have not really looked at the local area since 1953 but I would guess that since the fire and the change to Kingsfield, and the building of new roads, I would recognise very little. There was even a railway station!

We have also managed to trace the whereabouts of JACK DALZIEL (1962-66), thanks to BOB LEWIS (1933-40) who taught with him at one stage of their respective careers. Jack, who played for Bristol RFC in his youth, writes:

'...I had three active experiences relating to KGS. In the late 1930s I played regularly for St George Grammar School against KGS at soccer and cricket. In 1948 I did my teaching practice there when working for my Certificate of Education, and then I served (happily) as Senior Master from 1962-66, leaving to become Headmaster of Elmhurst Grammar School, Street, which was much smaller than KGS.

'I was very pleased to hear of BILL BAILEY (1959-64), and may all the Old Scholars continue to thrive!'

RUGBY NEWS...

JOHN BISHOP (1952-57), President of Kingswood Rugby Football Club, has given us news of the latest get-together:

What does one call a group of ex-rugby players? A 'pride of lions' comes readily to mind but would not do in this instance as none of the Old Boys gathered together on Saturday, 27th September last ever attained such lofty status. Perhaps a 'Gallery of Players' would be suitable on this occasion as most watched the game

from an elevated position on a bank which runs parallel to the touchline.

About 25 turned up, most on time (which makes a change), whereupon we all set upon the ample buffet whilst quaffing ale and swapping tales of yore. Several made their debut appearances at this bi-annual event. DAVE PETERS (1946-51), he of the primitive kit, travelled from Milton Keynes. PETER MALPASS (1948-51), who looked extremely fit and well, managed it from Shropshire. Both were last involved with the Kingswood Old Boys Rugby Club, as it was then, nearly 40 years ago. JOHN POOLE (1948-51?) was a last minute arrival bringing good news that JOHN SALTER (1949-56?) was well on his way to a complete recovery after a major operation.

Needless to say, there were the regulars from afar, including JOHN COLE (1949-56) and ROY KING (1949-56) who always seem to be able to find the time to renew their centre partnership, in the bar rather than on the field, even though it involves major journeys from distant parts. There is even one Old Boy still strutting his stuff, albeit in a veterans' XV. As he approaches 60, BRIAN BUTLER (1949-55) looks forward to yet another season having continued to play the game he loves for over 40 years. Most of us do well to get out of bed in the mornings!

A few hardy souls retired to the Tennis Court (pub, not a real court!) for an evening meal and a few more pints (whose counting?), only to be accosted by DEREK HARVEY (1949-56), best remembered for his lustrous black hair and dynamic action at scrum-half. We gave him a warm welcome, particularly as he offered to buy a round. His offer was, of course, accepted.

And so to bed!

If anyone would like a copy of the group photograph please send a large SAE to John Bishop. Club ties are also available @ £8 each. Please send a cheque payable to 'KINGSWOOD RFC' to John at 9 Park View, Kingswood, Bristol BS15 9TS.

SPORT AT KGS...

The article and photographs in KOSA NEWS No.10 created quite a lot of interest, in some unusual directions. The following letter and photograph were received from MIKE WILTSHIRE (1948-55):

'Thanks for the copy of KOSA NEWS. It's good to know that there are still some old timers of my acquaintance out there. I enclose an old photograph of the days when 'Ashpan Albion' played against 'Tarmac Town' between the hall and the gym. every lunchtime. Unfortunately I have been unable to locate a second photo which showed the other side, which included me.

'Personally I am embarking on exciting times. At the end of October I flew to Australia, via Singapore and Hong Kong, for a meeting with a younger brother, whom until recently I did not know existed. My parents were divorced when I was very young and a young brother named Chris was given up for adoption on day one, so we have fifty five years to catch up with. Plenty of late nights and heavy drinking!

'Please keep me up to date with all the gossip, and I would also like to hear of any get togethers'

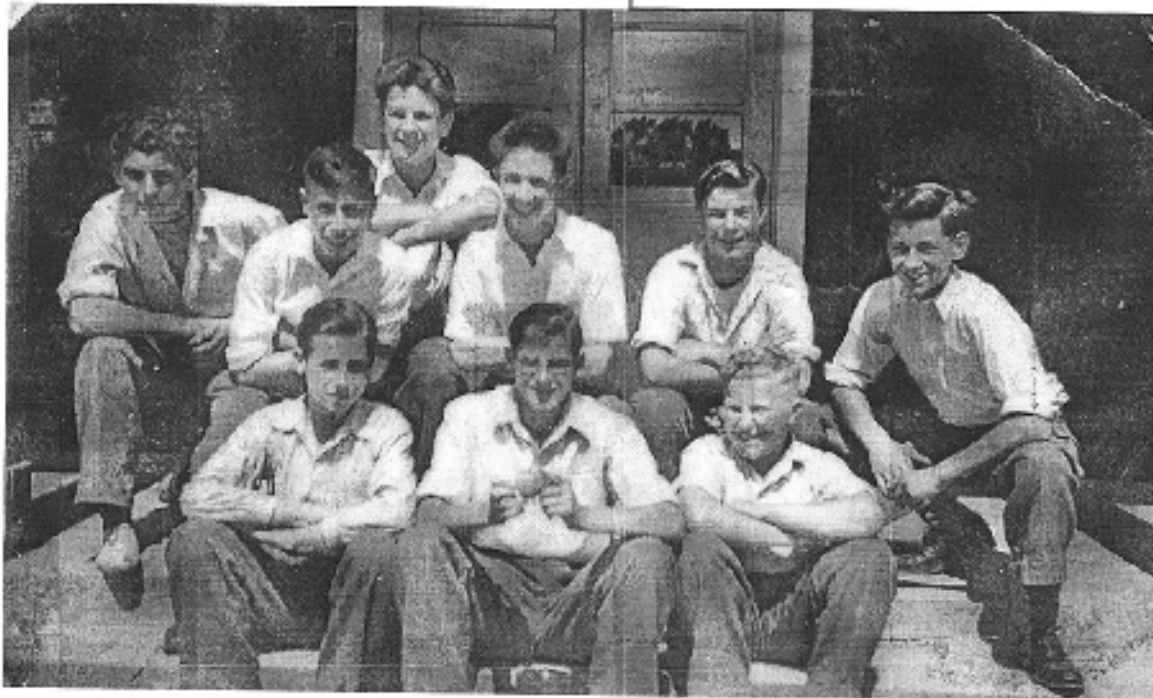
TARMAC FOOTBALL
THE LAST DAY AT SCHOOL
(1955) (opposing side)

Back Row:

NEWMAN, YOUNG,
JERRERIES, HOPKINS,
RENNOLDS, HEMMENS

Front Row:

MEDLICOTT,
WALTERS, HILES



FAME DENIED...

DAVID PETERS (1946-51) was shown in one of the Sports Day photographs in the last edition, but David thinks differently. David writes:

'I have examined with the aid of a powerful magnifying glass the photograph on page 14 of Number 10 and am still not convinced that I ever took part in this race.

'I was never much of a runner, even (some would say especially) on the rugby pitch. My summer sports involved throwing objects into the (very) near distance and it was not until the Army slimmed me down and got me really fit that I worked up sufficient speed to play on the wing. As this proved too exhausting I converted to blind-side flanker, a position requiring great speed over five yards but allowing cunning and inspired loitering to otherwise effect the destruction of scrum halves.

'Hence it is most unlikely that I ever ran a hundred yards all at once and especially not in a prestigious meeting like that shown. If anyone can prove me wrong, I shall be delighted!'

PUBLICATIONS...

It really is amazing the contribution which KGS folk have made to the printed word in all its guises. When we were there, I remember being impressed by seeing the words 'Senior Mathematical Master, Kingswood Grammar School, near Bristol' in the book 'Comprehensive Mathematics' written by J D (BEN) HODSON, the book which many of us used for 'O' level Maths from 1955. Incidentally, I've no idea how my wife and I obtained the book, but its previous 'owners' were

GEOFF HOPKINS (Oct 1955), COLIN ADAMS (September 1956), A(NNE?) HARRIS (Jan. 1957) and MARY GIBBONS - undated!

Another book written by a staff member was 'THE MID-FROME VALLEY', written by Geography Master GEORGE 'SCRUFFY' MORRIS for use in teaching Geography in local schools. George arranged publication and financed the venture himself, and the book may still be seen in local libraries.

My appeal for publications by old scholars elicited the response from JIM WITHEY (1945-53) 'I don't want undue publicity but I published 106 papers and 19 chapters for books on the results of my research in pharmacokinetics, health risk assessment and toxicology. This was part of the job, and I enclose a few copies of some of the less technical stuff for your amusement.' I won't list all those which Jim enclosed, but they range from 'Mutagenic, Carcinogenic, and Teratogenic Hazards Arising from Human Exposure to Plastics Additives' to 'Carcinogenic Risk Assessment of Complex Mixtures' to 'An Inexpensive Sieve Pump'. Jim tells me that after 'The Toxicology of Styrene Monomer and its Pharmacokinetics and Distribution in the Rat', they gave up experimenting with rats and decided to use accountants instead. They were getting too attached to the rats!

Someone who is regularly published is RICHARD STRANGE (1954-59), who acts as historical consultant to the monthly publication 'Steam World'. Richard has also had a number of articles published in like publications. It seems that KGS 'housed' a number of steam enthusiasts in its day, and photographs of the steam era by ALLAN PHIPPS (1948-53?), DAVID WALL (1954-59) and MIKE COKAYNE (1952-58) have been

seen in magazines. In addition, DOUG EDWARDS (1945-50) has carried out research into railway accidents, signalling systems and track layouts and published a number of books and articles as a result.

From land to air: DAVID PETERS' (1946-51) article 'Air Support in the Campaign against Mau Mau' appeared in 'Aeroplane Monthly' in two parts in November and December 1996, and will have two anthologies coming out this year: 'King's African Rifles Centenary' and 'Christmas Under Fire'.

DAVID ROSEVEAR (1945-52), who was a research chemist with Bristol University and ICI before becoming a senior lecturer with Portsmouth Polytechnic, is now Chairman of the Christian Science Movement. In that capacity David has written a book on 'Creation Science - Confirming that the Bible is right'

DAVID 'TAFF' HILLING (1947-54) has contributed chapters to six books, and is the author of three other books: 'Africa: Geography and Development', 'Transport and Developing Countries', and the most exciting of them all, 'Barge Carrier Systems'! David has also written nearly 100 articles in academic and technical journals, and has a book on Merchant Shipping underway.

Not to be outdone by the excitement of 'Barge Carrier Systems', MIKE BENDREY (1951-56) is co-author of that stimulating text 'Accounting and Finance in Business'! JUNE BIRCH (nee PICKLES) (1938-45) traces her success right back to BONEY BRITTON'S English lessons. JUNE has had her poetry published, and won a prize from Radio Merseyside for a poem she read on the air. She has also written her autobiography.

We are aware that SIR BERNARD

LOVELL has, according to 'Who's Who', produced many, many publications, including an autobiography, but 'Echoes of War: The Story of H2S Radar' was noticed recently in Blackwell's Academic Book Sale.

And from international publications to local efforts, no less important to those with a story to tell. BRIAN ILES (1945-50) has written, and has available on cassette, his campaign songs on the saving of the 'Blue Bowl' name, and the retention of Hanham Hall. Brian has also published under a nom de plume a short story, and a book 'Inspirations from the South'.

In earlier editions of KOSA NEWS we announced that JOSIE DUNN (1931-36) had written a book on 'The Flora of Ditchley - Wild Flowers of an Oxfordshire Estate' and that JOYCE HORVATH (OSBORNE) (1948-53) had provided short stories and articles for many magazines.

There must be many more. What about putting pen to paper for KOSA NEWS?

IN THE NEWS...

During the sad time when it seemed that all the nation mourned the death of Diana, Princess of Wales, ANDY RADFORD (1955-61), who is now a Rev. Canon, was interviewed by one of the Dimbleby brothers on BBC1 on the day of the funeral. RITA REES (DAVIS) (1939-45) was also interviewed on 'Points West' about the occasion when the Princess visited 'Headway', a charity in which Rita is actively involved. Rita was also featured in an article in the Society page of the Grauniad in February of this year, again concerning her good work with 'Headway'

On 12th October last, SIR BERNARD LOVELL was interviewed on the 'Sunday Programme' on Radio 4. Described on the programme as being 'as sharp as a razor', Sir Bernard, whose father had been a lay preacher, talked about science and faith not being incompatible after being taken to see Jody Foster's film 'Contact', in which she plays an astronomer looking for life in the universe and in which the principle of Occam's Razor is quoted. The principle is, in simple terms, 'all else being equal, choose the simplest explanation' and William of Ockham, in Surrey, lived in the 14th Century and established the principle of reducing assumptions to the absolute minimum. Who says you don't learn things in KOSA NEWS?

MORE SPORTS...

In the photo below, PEGGY ALLAN (SALTER) (1930-35) and her friends admire the cups won on Sports Day in

1933. In the front row are R. Sprackman, E. Longdon, Peggy Salter, K. May, and E. Lacey. In the back row are L. Amos, J. Thatcher and an unidentified friend.

A year later, Peggy won the Senior High Jump with 4' 4", a record!



IRIS REMEMBERS...

IRIS PARSONS (WILLMOTT) (1931-36) writes:

'It was nice to see LILIAN BLUNDELL now HUGHES (1931-36), one of my closest friends writing in the last issue. The memories of KGS live on, and the training from the teachers gave us all a good start to face the challenges of life.

'I wonder how many are still with us. I know MR JONES, the Chemistry teacher, died before his time. MISS PERRY, MISS AYRES, MR HOWARD, MR SEARLE, MR AUSTEN and MISS WATTERS were all there when I started in 1931.

'The Christmas parties will be remembered by most, and the wet dinner hours when we were allowed to dance in the old hall to the piano playing of PERCY LOVELL (1931-37) who, I understand, rose to great heights in the music world. We also enjoyed the after school English Society with its debates and play reading.

'The production of 'Trial by Jury' was enjoyed by both pupils and parents, with JOYCE IVORY (now WHEATLEY) (1928-34) singing a leading role. Class mates shown in the 1931 first year photograph opposite were:

Back row: COWLES, BAGERNIE, MERCHANT, JOHN EASTMAN, WHITE, NK, BRACEY, NK, CROSS

Second row: IRIS BENNETT, NK, EDNA POWELL, LILIAN BLUNDELL, HILDA BURCHELL, NK, OLIVE PULLEN, OLIVE BENNETT, MURIEL BRITTON, FRED A BENCE

Third row: NK, HUDD, JOHN HALE, NK, STRIDE, DANDO, NK, WHITE, SMITH, BRENDA SAUNDERS

Front row: MARGIE PRATTEN, MONA WILLIAMS, IRIS WILLMOTT, JOAN MILWARD, DOROTHY BRIERLEY. I'm afraid I can't remember everyone these

days, and it was the practice to call the boys by surnames only.

'I later joined the PTA when my daughter SHEILA PARSONS (now WILLIAMSON) attended 1954-59, and then her daughter, JANE WILLIAMSON, attended, making it the 3rd generation since 1931.'

LILIAN REPORTS BACK...

'In the last edition LILIAN HUGHES nee BLUNDELL (1931-36) expressed a wish to trace her old friend JOSIE DUNN (1931-36). Lilian sent KOSA NEWS some photographs, and here are some extracts from her letter:

'I am sending on the photo I mentioned to you on the phone. The occasion was a party of Junior Imps (Young Conservatives) from Filton going to Birmingham to hear Anthony Eden speak. As you will see there were 7 or 8 KGS pupils there. I am not sure if ROY MILLHOUSE went to Kingswood or not, but he married BRENDA ANSTEY (1928-34) who did go to KGS and she lived Kingswood way, I do not know how he met her otherwise. The other photo of MISS POWELL was taken when she was gardening in the school grounds. She started a gardening club and helped the children to grow flowers and vegetables in their own patch. I did not belong to this club, however.

'JO DUNN and I had a lovely long chat, we met in the Lamb Inn at Burford, although I recognised Jo straight away she was not sure if it was me. We caught up on all our news and hope to meet again in September, before the winter is upon us. Many thanks for sending me her address. We found that we had a mutual friend in the Botanical world when I lived in Yeovil, who could have told me where Jo was years ago, if I had only known he knew her!



'I was also delighted to have a phone call from FRANK and EDNA STEPHENS (1930-35) who apparently live not far from me. I always thought Edna was in my class but cannot see her on the photos, memory playing tricks I suppose!'

Above:
IRIS WILLMOTT'S (now PARSONS) first year class of 1931.

Right:
MISS POWELL attends her flowers in the garden near the school fence in the 1930s.

COMPETITION RESULT...

JOHN COLE (1949-56) was correct with his answers to the last competition. The first photo was unusually not taken near the steps near the headmaster's study. The second was all girls, unusual in a co-ed. school such as KGS. The third was a rugby XIV, not usual for Rugby Union. Well done, John. A free ticket to the Spring Reunion is yours.



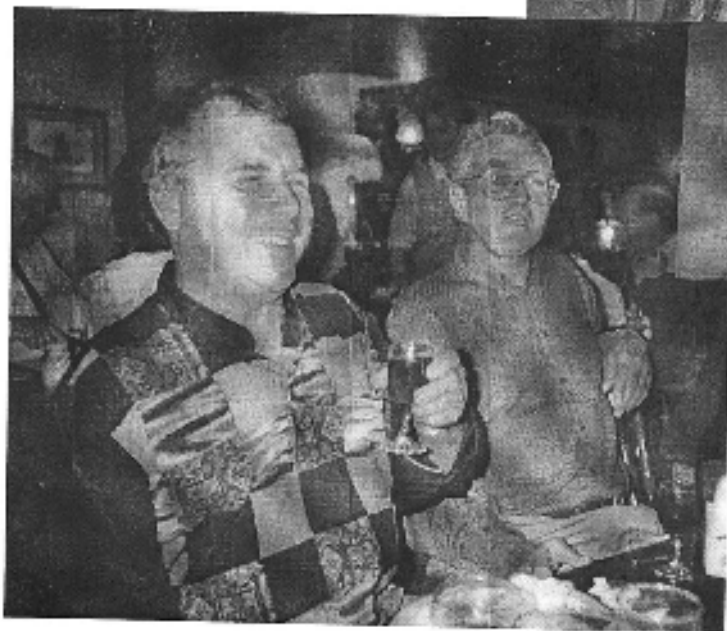
CLASS OF '51 MEETS AT 'THE GRIFFIN'

Right:
English Master GEORGE BUTCHER says 'hello!' between making peace with STAN (BUSTER) BURRAGE and MARTIN HARRYMAN after 40+ years.



Left: BACK HOME!
George chats to PETER (POMPEY) ROBSON, whose parents were landlords of 'The Griffin' in the 1950s

Right:
MARK ADAMS, RITA RAYNER (now MRS BURRAGE) and MARTIN HARRYMAN look at those photographs of another era.



Left:
TREVOR (TICH) WHEELER and RALPH (NOBBY) CLARK relax with a glass of wine.



Below:
 MAUREEN GRIFFIN
 (now FORD) and ROD-
 NEY HARVEY



Above:
 Nearest the camera, ELVA FOR-
 WARD (now LAZENBURY),
 DELVENE WOODMAN (now
 SHERMAN), MAUREEN WAL-
 LINGTON (now CULLIN) and
 JOHN CULLIN.

Below:
 JOHN (DES) D'ALESSIO and DAVE
 (PINZO) PINE together wonder where the
 past 40 years have gone.



Above:
 JUNE HOPES (now MRS ROBSON) and
 SALLY PODMORE (now FLETCHER)





Left:
HILARY KENDALL
 (now FINCH) with
 Mrs Clark
 and Mrs Wheeler

Above:
 A pensive **DAVID**
KENDALL and his
 wife

Left:
MR & MRS GEORGE
BUTCHER and
ANITA COATES
 (now GINGELL)

CLASS OF '51...

In KOSA NEWS No 10 we announced that a small reunion had taken place in May at 'The Griffin' for those who had

started at KGS in 1951, where the guests of honour had been English Master **GEORGE BUTCHER** and his wife **SHEILA**. The pictures on pages 12 to 14 give you the flavour of a very enjoyable

evening .

We would not be breaking any confidences by reporting that, at KGS in the '50s, STAN BURRAGE and MARTIN HARRYMAN proved to be the bane of George Butcher's teaching life as he fought to maintain discipline in form VMS (Modern Science), of which he was also form-master. We are pleased to report, as shown in the first photograph on page 12, that a truce has been signed over a pint and peace has now broken out!

Everyone was delighted that George and his wife had agreed to subject themselves to the ordeal of bridging the time-gap, and we all agreed that it was both a terrific experience and a pleasure to have been taught by him.

MUSIC AT KGS...

Not to be outdone by the correspondence and photographs on sport, we are reminded by MARGARET REECE (now WILLIS) (1955-62) that there was a flourishing Music tradition in the School. Margaret writes:

'With reference to the letter from JOHN HARRIS (1953-60) in KOSA NEWS No 9, I, too, have the School Orchestra photo taken in July 1960. I and my cello are standing just in front of 'Tweedy' Harris in the photo (shown below) but his memory fails him regarding the name of the teacher/conductor. She was not JUDY BEEKER but JULIA BEEKEN.

'I, like JOHN have kept in touch with Music Master ERIC HILTON, and so, through him, I occasionally receive news of fellow musicians from KGS days. I know MARGARET SQUIRES (now CAINES), and I keep in touch with JENNY HUNT (now QUARTLY) and DIANA SMITH (now HARRIS), but would be very interested in news of any of the others in the photo.'

The members of the orchestra, both present and missing, are listed on page 16. Anyone with any photographs of the School Orchestra of another era? We would be very interested.



SCHOOL ORCHESTRA 1960

Front row:

DIANA SMITH (now HARRIS) violin
PETER SAUNDERS (violin)
DAVIS 'CHES' WHEATLEY (violin)
ROGER GARLAND (violin)
MISS JULIA BEEKEN (conductor)
JENNY HUNT (now QUARTLY) (violin)
JOYCE ?? (violin)
ROLAND FUDGE (violin)
MALCOLM JAMES (violin)
PETE LYNE (double bass)

Second row:

MAURICE HOLLAND (viola)
JOHN 'TWEEDY' HARRIS (viola)
MARGARET REECE (now WILLIS)
(cello)
MARGARET SQUIRES (now CAINES)
(flute)
RICHARD HOLLOWAY (cello)
RUTH WHITE (flute)
BRENDA FORD (clarinet)
FREDA WHITE (cello)
STEVE WALLINGTON (trumpet)

Missing:

GORDON JACKSON (clarinet)
HELEN ORGAN (viola)
FRANK DOBBINS (cello)

'TWEEDY'S' STORY...

REV. JOHN 'TWEEDY' HARRIS, who was in the School Orchestra of 1960, has sent KOSA NEWS a 'massive missive' which set out his thoughts of KGS on looking back. We will be pleased to 'trickle' John's cogitations into successive editions, but here to start is his story to date:

'I was looking at all my old reports yesterday evening, all for the purposes of using them in a sermon I was giving. Have you thought of the possibility of old reports, or have you dismissed the idea? (Good idea! - Ed.)

'I have also put together some thoughts about KGS. If my pen flows as it ought, then some of my 'thoughts' may paint a picture you may not want to print, for memories of KGS are not all of an unclouded, happy time, reading plays under the oak tree, or any of the other idyllic pictures conjured up by your correspondents. Being miles away means that my contact with Bristol as a whole has faded, especially since my parents died in the 1980s. A pity, as LIZ HILLING was in my form, and one would like to meet up with her and any of the others, particularly of the 1953-60 vintage.

'Yes, my life has been interesting, although I don't know how interesting to your readers. I went off to Manchester in 1960, staying in the same 'digs' as MIKE HOLLOWAY for a year, and then when Mike went off to live in a flat, I was joined in the digs by JAMES WILLIAM BROCKENBROW (BROCKY). I have lost touch with him - he did VSO. in West Africa, but apart from that..... ? He lived in Bath Road, Longwell Green (Do you run a lost ex-pupil service?). I visited him a couple of times there, because ERIC HILTON used to get behind with his famous dictated notes and took them to his nearest pupil during the holidays, who would duly copy them, and then deliver them to someone else until they got round everyone. I always walked to his house from the far end of Mangotsfield to Blackhorse Road!

'Following Manchester I did a year's Teaching Diploma at Reading University (1964-65), the equivalent of today's PGCE. I had started going out with Audrey at Manchester (having met her way back when we were both kids at a Christian Camp). We got engaged and decided to live near one set of parents (she came from near Sheffield). I had already spent some time in the North, and

liked it and the people, so we happily settled to teaching jobs in the Huddersfield area. We have two boys, Andrew and Paul. Andrew, an engineering graduate, is 26 and works for Ford in Climate Control (ie electronic air conditioning in cars). He is currently in the U.S. Paul, a geology graduate, is 24 and is a field officer for an Environmental Consultancy, working all over the South, out of Colchester. So they are both Essex Men when Andrew is home!

Teaching has been a wonderful job for us, and I spent 25 happy years as Head of Music at a 11-16 High School, with 2 bands, 2 orchestras, a Senior Choir etc, with my colleague producing other groups to match. We have had many notable pupils, including the Principal Clarinettist of the London Symphony Orchestra, who plays the C.S.Lewis theme on 'Shadowlands'. The school was the first school in the world to perform Sweeney Todd by Stephen Sondheim in the early 1980s. Throughout this time, despite all the successes and high moments I was aware of a 'call' within, and this came to a head in 1992, when I got to 50, and realised that if I was ever to respond to that call then it had to be soon. I was brought up in a Methodist family, and alongside my professional work I was, with Audrey, running all sorts of things, much of it Christian work amongst young people. I was also playing cricket in the Huddersfield Leagues every week. Life was busy! I candidated for the ministry at the end of 1992, and to cut a long story short was accepted. There followed two year training in Manchester and I am now in charge of five churches to the South of Barnsley in what were mining communities. I am getting great satisfaction in ministry, and Audrey continues to teach Latin and Classical Studies in Huddersfield, some 20 miles away.

'Well, you asked for it Mike, and you have got it, or some of it! Feel free to print as much, or as little as you wish. I shall not be offended at all if you print nothing. That goes for my thoughts on KGS too. Some of them would be libellous if I printed the names in some of the incidents, I suppose!'

A GEOGRAPHER REMEMBERS...

In KOSA NEWS No 9 we reported that JOHN COLE (1949-56) had re-discovered KEN POPE, who taught Physical Geography at KGS in the '50s. John has given us permission to quote from what you'll agree is an interesting letter received from Ken:

'I was delighted to receive KOSA NEWS, although the obits of MRS BAILEY and GEOFF HOCKING make me feel my age! But am pleased to have news of 'WATTY' enjoying his retirement in Devon, and if you are corresponding, do give him my regards.

'The mag jogged a few memories. The lad who went to Liverpool was, I think, actually HILLING. There was quite a throng of sixth-form geographers at the time, which presumably included yourself. ROGER GREENAWAY was one, I think, and BRYAN WILLIE another.

'I don't remember MAJOR EATON, as I arrived not long after RIDLEY was appointed. This was in HOWARD'S final term before retirement; it was sad it was so short. He lived, I remember, in a substantial house just off Wellington Hill. He was followed as Senior Master by a very nice chap whose name I don't recall (it was TOM MOODY - Ed) but who arrived to teach French and be groomed for stardom. He soon achieved his head-

mastership, I think at Kingsbridge in Devon. RIDLEY had arrived as very much the new broom, and his sharp, intrusive managerial style was not always welcomed by the staff. The older ones - in particular dear old BRITTON - just ploughed happily on, fortified by their looming retirements, but some of the settled mid-career staff were sorely ruffled, and several of the mobile younger ones looked for other appointments. However, I always found RIDLEY very fair, if occasionally unpredictable. Is that maybe the secret of stimulating management?

I see the Editor asks if I have any tales to tell. Reading FRED WARD'S account of visiting the crashed Britannia at Downend reminds me that I was one of the first newsreel cameramen to reach the scene. This was in my interim period of freelancing, shortly before leaving KGS. I was at home at the time and got a telephone call from TWW (precursor of HTV). I rushed there and found that the only other cameraman on the spot was a colleague with whom I later formed our film company. He was filming it on 35mm film for Movietone News, while I was using 16mm, the TV news transmission gauge then. The police had not yet cordoned off the area and no-one queried me, no doubt because of the movie camera. It may sound ironic in the face of such a disaster to say that really it was unfilmable - an incoherent scatter of fragmented debris, shattered trees, with broken roofs and windows on the adjacent houses, not long built then. I came across a rescue party recovering a body, and filmed them, expecting every second to be told to 'Get lost!', but they ignored me and worked in silence, I suppose from their Civil Defence experience during the War when silence was needed to listen for trapped victims. Of course that scene was not televised, except for short section in long

shot. An unforgettable feature was the strange smell. I had noticed it from newly-crashed aircraft during the War, and learn that it is a very usual experience. I suppose it is a combination of spilled aviation fuel and the cooling down of stressed aluminium. The film was I gather used by ITN and overseas news broadcasts as well as TWW.

If it sounds odd that I could be both teaching and freelancing as a cameraman, newsworthy events like the Britannia were the exception. More normally one could submit a general interest subject and if TWW liked it they would commission me to film it, which I could do at weekends. One example was the story of a chap near Wotton-under-Edge who had invented equipment for moulding rubber for theatrical masks and costumes - common now, but novel then. We spiced up the story by filming a little cameo of him as a frightening gorilla. Gorillagrams were not yet invented!

TWW (Television Wales and the West), later employed a series of contract producers to whom I was sometimes assigned as cameraman. One I remember was a character who had worked with commercial TV in USA, and Knew It All. We were to film new Roman excavations at Caerleon which were attracting-media attention. As it happened I had filmed the same subject a few weeks earlier for an unconnected documentary I was making, and had gone to great lengths to make prior arrangements with the chief archaeologist at the site. He was a bearded and uncooperative giant of a chap who could only be persuaded to allow filming with great difficulty, insisting on seeing the script, the exact words of commentary, prior viewing of all material shot, and full briefing on the proposed use of the filmed material. So on the way to the dig I ventured to ask my TWW producer if

he had given prior notice of our visit. He was surprised, then airily dismissed my query. No-one, he announced, objected to being put on the telly; there would be no difficulty. So I said nothing. We reached the lip of the dig and looked down on our bearded giant working away with his minions. He glanced up at us lining his skyline. There we were - God our producer, his girl assistant with clipboard, me with a movie camera and my assistant with a tripod. He then bent back down and went on working. God, of course, was indignant at being ignored. 'I say', he called, 'We're from TWW. The bearded giant paused a moment, then stretched up to his full height and stared at us. 'Are you then', he answered. 'And which water-works is that?'

'No wonder TWW lost the franchise to HTV!

'I don't know if any of the above is of use to you or Mike - you shouldn't start me reminiscing! But again, thanks for your interest, and do keep me in the picture.'

WILLIE REMEMBERS...

BRIAN WILLIE (1948-54) writes:

'I am delighted to report fully re-established contact with TONY and SHEILA POW (nee BENSON) after more than 30 years as a result of my letter in KOSA NEWS No 7.

'On reflection, that letter did less than justice to my sporting achievements at KGS. Having a strong instinct for self preservation, most of my time on the rugby pitch was devoted to avoidance of any contact with either the ball or the opponents. Nevertheless, on one occasion I was instructed to participate in some strange ritual called 'conversion'. With a single kick, I not only converted the try, but also converted a window of KEN

ADDINALL'S lab. into a shower of broken glass which rather upstaged the production therein of hydrogen sulphide!

'The event had two interesting sequels: (1) My rendering of 'Nessun Dorma' in the changing room afterwards was interrupted by an irate 'JIMMY' WILDE, who used the terms 'Willie'...'dreadful noise'...and 'slipper' all in the same sentence. It was left to Pavarotti decades later to achieve fame and fortune with his version of the same aria - albeit in Italian and in the right key! and (2) The interview with 'CHARLIE' HOWARD, who demanded payment for damage to school property - to wit - one window. My plea of poverty (and my entitlement to free school dinners proved it!) fell on deaf ears, as did my submission that the accident resulted from the inappropriate location of the rugby posts. What finally settled the matter in my favour was my plea of diminished responsibility on the grounds of temporary insanity.

'After all, I reasoned, anyone who would risk life and limb chasing a misshapen ball and diving at other people's ankles in a sea of mud, must surely be mentally unbalanced! After questioning my use of the word 'temporary' he dismissed me with a warning not to do it again. And I never did...play rugby, that is!

'Cross country runs were less traumatic affairs, especially once one had found the short cut which eliminated 90% of the hard work. One had to risk the possibility that one of the marshalls could actually count, but experience soon showed that there was nothing to fear on that score! Cricket, too, was generally rather pleasant, involving a leisurely study of the daisies near the boundary when fielding, and a stay at the batting crease too brief to require any unseemly rushing about between wickets.

'Meanwhile...back in the classroom... 'JAKE' SPEAR was a kindly old man whose strengths did not include good classroom discipline. Built roughly on the lines of a compact barn, and having the same degree of mobility, he required a full minute to complete the 180 degree turn from facing the blackboard to facing the class. This gave ample time for the launch, flight, landing and total disappearance of 30-odd paper darts. On one occasion after being 'accidentally' locked in his store-room, this generous man attributed the event to a sudden draught and a faulty door lock.

'MISS DAVID (Latin) and MR JONES (Maths) were of a different ilk. Detentions were for those sinners who only got 9 out of 10 in tests. One instinctively felt that anything less than 8 would involve boiling oil, melted lead or hanging, drawing and quartering. I learnt a lot of Latin and Maths in a very short time!

'MR HODSON earned the gratitude of the entire queue waiting to enter the examination room for the 'O' level maths exam, when - after frowning darkly at us - he cast his eyes to heaven and growled 'Not a chance, not a bloody chance!' The relief of tension, I am sure, contributed to some excellent results that day.

'MR TURNER (French) too had a dry sense of humour. After one session of oral work in class he gazed at me and said 'Willie, you have a superb French accent.' Then, after a brief pause, he added 'One day you must try to learn some French words to go with it!'

'After 30 years in the teaching profession myself, I remain convinced that KGS had far more than its fair share of good teachers in the late 40s and early 50s.

'Who else can recall trooping up to the

Ambassador (or was it the Odeon by then?) for a special screening of 'Scott of the Antarctic', or to hear Laurence Olivier offering to exchange his kingdom for a horse for some reason which totally escaped me at the time? Or the day trip to London Zoo where 'Brumas' was allegedly the first polar bear to be born in captivity? Or the first post-war youth exchange with Germany in 1950 when Cologne was still little more than a railway station and a battered cathedral in a sea of rubble?

'Was it all nearly half a century ago? Or was it the day before yesterday? Tempus fugit!!'

DAVID ROSEVEAR LOOKS BACK..

'KOSA no. 9 was especially welcome with its photo of my classmates of '52. All the half forgotten memories swept back. There's MR PEET with MAUREEN, RUTH and BARBARA, ROSEMARY, VERA and JOAN, all looking suitably sober. There's the late ALAN J. CROUCHER, SANDOVER, JEFFERIES the sprinter, Didymus DENT, MUMFORD and MUNDIN, ARTHUR, ILES, BEARD, KNIGHT and 'Fe ACTON. What a bunch of innocents. In our day, 'making out' referred to exam results and 'going all the way' meant staying on the school bus right on to the depot. 'Grass' was mown and 'joints' were carved.

'Good to hear of MISS DAVID 'And unto these if rest at be intended, let in, sub, super, supper be appended.' But was that the accusable or the ablative? I remember one occasion, actually quite tragic, standing at my desk to explain why I hadn't done my Latin homework yet again, when there was a loud explosion of a shell from the next classroom, followed by screams. My misdemeanour was

forgotten.

'My favourite member of staff was MR SAMMONS who let us do practical chemistry during the holidays; allowing us to smoke in the lab. Health & Safety Exec would have a fit today. Thanks to Fishy's enthusiasm I became a lecturer at Portsmouth. Talking to a freshman in the chem. lab. at the start of another year, I said "You come from Kingsfield School" He looked at me as if I were Henry Higgins, but the accent was unmistakable.

'My first day at KGS in 1945 included English with MR BRITTON. I sat at the back and soon became absorbed in picking a hole in the cardboard wall. I could see the Art master's shoes as he stood before his class. I started pushing through little balls of paper which rolled around him. Then I became aware that the Art master, together with Boney (was a warrior) were standing over me. Fortunately MAJOR EATON was too busy, being the first day of term, to deal with me, though on subsequent occasions I learned that there is a destiny that shapes our ends.'

OLD SCHOLARS MEET IN LONDON...



DAVID HILLING (1947-54) is Honorary Secretary of 'The Geographical Club, a dining club with its origins in 1826 for the purpose of bringing together geographers and travellers of note. One dinner each year is held jointly with the Royal Society Club and this year it was David's turn to organise the event. One of the Royal Society Fellows present at the dinner was SIR BERNARD LOVELL.

The last time David and Sir Bernard had met was at KGS Prize Giving in December 1954 when the then Professor Lovell presented David with a prize! David was able to produce a photograph (see below) as a reminder and it provided a starting point for reminiscing about KGS.

Sir Bernard is still very active in the scientific world and working hard on behalf of the Jodrell Bank radio telescope which brought him fame.

In the photograph DAVID HILLING is seen receiving his prize from SIR BERNARD LOVELL, with Senior Master 'TOM' MOODY immediately behind them. Headmaster NORMAN RIDLEY is on the extreme right of the photograph, and on his right, seated, is REV. DOWNES, who was then Chairman of the Governors.

LICENCE TO RIDE...

Those who were at KGS in the 50s will remember the 'great bike permit scam', dreamt up by Headmaster NORMAN RIDLEY to boost school funds. The police inspected all bikes for roadworthy condition, put their owners through a simple test, and for the grand sum of 6d (2.5p) issued a permit allowing the holder to ride to school by bike.

KINGSWOOD GRAMMAR SCHOOL, NR. BRISTOL

LICENCE TO RIDE A BICYCLE TO SCHOOL

GRANTED TO.....*C. N. Ridley*.....

FORM.....*III B*.....

DATE OF TEST.....

No. *334*.

C. N. RIDLEY
HEADMASTER

THIS LICENCE MUST BE RENEWED EACH YEAR.

Each permit had a unique number which also had to appear on the owner's bike. We are indebted to TERRY OSBORNE (1949-55), whose number was 334, for retaining his permit. EILEEN MATTHEWS (now BENDREY) (1952-59) remembers her number as 468, and indeed, close inspection of her Hercules bone-shaker retained from that era clearly shows that number still proudly displayed on the rear mudguard!

The permit system quickly fell into disuse, and its currency was seriously devalued by the discovery one day of a supply of blank permits when a box of them fell out of a cupboard in Room G.

As no forgery of a signature was required, a genuine licence could then be obtained instantaneously for nothing!

OUR ARCHIVIST REPORTS...

MIKE COKAYNE (1952-58) has been very busy, and here is his first report:



'During the six months or so since the KOSA Committee agreed to pursue the

concept of reconstructing as much as possible of the KGS pupil records, I in particular have had a very enjoyable and challenging time! Whilst I have my memories of my period at KGS and can therefore apply my own recollections and data, I am completely dependant upon the recollections of others for periods outside of my own. As many of you will be aware, the basis of the reconstructed records is the year of entry into KGS, a logical step but one with a number of built in traps and complications.

'Where someone has a clear memory of their own or someone else's year of entry it is straight forward enough, but there were numerous persistent variations over the years. The 6th form classmates frequently remembered often came from a wide range of entry years and it is hard to trace them back. Difficult also to pin down, are those who came from other schools and entered KGS at upper form levels. A factor which threw me for a while was ignorance of the fact that until the late 1940's there was no Form 1!! A further problem results from KOSA members basing their dates of entry on school photographs, which were usually taken at the end of the school year, but sometimes at the beginning of the school year! Another unhelpful aspect was the policy of frequently changing the form names, particularly the 4th year and above. Oc-

asionally difficult to resolve, unless photographs are available, was the existence of two pupils with the same name in the same year.

'In spite of the random aspects of task, the forms sent out with the last newsletter have produced excellent results and we are very grateful to all of those KOSA members who have taken the time and trouble to scratch their brains and return the forms. We are however desperately short of data for the early and middle 1920s. The process of entering up the information received has been progressing but is proving to be a continuing process with Archive forms still drifting in at the rate of several per week. By contrast, my first attempt to "test the water" for expanding our records at the reunion of 11th October, by tabling the information we had to date for the comments of those present, produced a veritable avalanche of memories from enthusiastic ex KGS scholars. The flood of information was stemmed only by the expiry of the time available to us. As it is, it has taken me a month to enter up the additional information received that day.

'One important point is that in any paperwork I produce I will only refer to our female colleagues' surname when at school, meaning no more than that is how we will all- recognise them!! The only possible complication we could, encounter over this is if any KGS lady pupils became married whilst still at school, which so far I doubt!

'And so where are we at the moment? (sorry Miss Matters!) Firstly I want to emphasise that no criticism whatsoever is intended towards any of our contributors and that any memories transmitted to us are respected and treasured, but are nevertheless assessed for historical accuracy. Careful comparison of source

material is allowing corrections to be made and these will be reported in due course. As a result of work carried out to date a new terminology for KOSA Archives has emerged, - the "Eddie Hawkins Factor". Why? Well, EDWIN HAWKING Esq (1937-42) was obviously well liked and well remembered but reported to us thus: Edward Hawkin, Eddy Hawking, Edward Hawking, Edwin Hawker, Edwin Hawking, Eddie Hawkins. Eddie Hawkin!!!

'Fortunately 'Edwarne Hawkinges' is still able to put us right, but others sadly are not, and it could be that this factor alone could frustrate us in our attempts to re-write KGS history. Enjoyable though my task undoubtedly is, when I hear of one of our colleagues leaving us, I usually know them only as fresh faced teenagers with their lives before them, appearing on one of the official school photos, or in one of the unofficial pics taken by fellow pupils. One way or another KOSA's Archive project will attempt to preserve their memories in as comprehensive a way as possible.

'Enclosed with this Newsletter is a copy of the KGS Year of Entry list relevant to your year, as it stands at present. Could you please look through it and add or correct anything which you can. Alternatively we enclose a letter explaining that we do not have some basic information about you, particularly your years of attendance at KGS.! Pupils of the post 1953 entry please bear with us as we are trying to get the first 32 years sorted first. It would have been 1952 had it not been for MARION HARRIS (1953-59), who single handedly supplied about 60 names for the year 1953 with identification on photocopies of form photographs. This method of presentation is very helpful to say the least. Your detention for next Thursday evening has been cancelled

Marion, but KOSA does not have any gold stars to issue!

'In conclusion, KOSA cannot be other than very impressed with the amount of Archive information that some of our members can recall and extends its thanks to everyone who has contributed to date, We are eagerly awaiting more!. All and any contributions are, of course, very much appreciated.'



KGS Soccer Team - about 1927
Humphries (W), Lewis, Neville, Green, Perry
Chivers, ??, Osborne, ??, ??, Humphries (L)

....and 30 years on...



KINGSWOOD GRAMMAR SCHOOL
HOCKEY 2ND XI 1956-57

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

PLEASE LIST ANY FORM-MATES' NAMES (continue over):

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

John Powell (1943-48) Secretary, Park End, Deacon's Hill, Watford Herts,
WD1 4HN Tel: 01923 232472

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