



# KOSA NEWS



**NUMBER 12 - SPRING 1998**

The Magazine of the Old Scholars of Kingswood Grammar School

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## **EDITORIAL:**



The success of any organisation is that it looks to the future as well as taking into consideration its past. Without doubt, KOSA is about the past, but we have long been concerned that we get very little correspondence from those who went to the School in the 60s and 70s. In this edition we have tried to compensate for that dearth of information by reporting on a reunion of those from the 60s and by publishing a letter from the 70s. More are, of course, welcome. Our numbers continue to rise, and if you know of anyone who would be pleased to be added to the circulation list, just let the Editor know. Address below. Our thanks are due to all those who have made KOSA NEWS possible by their financial contributions. Very much appreciated.

You will see that our AGM will take place before the reunion of Friday, 17th April 1998 at 7.30pm at Kingsfield School, and if you wish to put candidates forward for Committee membership to be considered then, please contact our Secretary, John Powell, whose address is enclosed.

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## **DIARY DATES...**

### **SPRING REUNION...**

The next reunion will be on FRIDAY, 17th APRIL 1998 at Kingsfield School. There will be a short AGM, followed by a reunion, buffet, bar, chat, a chance to meet old friends and (we hope) some entertainment. There is a form enclosed with KOSA NEWS, so please fill it in and send ASAP to our Treasurer, RON CLEMENTS, 5 Rangers Walk, Hanham, Bristol, BS15 3PW Tel: 967 2328. The accounts for the year are also presented with this KOSA NEWS for your approval at the AGM.

### **AUTUMN LUNCH:**

Lincombe Barn in Overndale Road, Downend has already been booked for SATURDAY, 10th OCTOBER 1998 for the regular Autumn Lunch at 12.30pm. The application form will be included with the next edition of KOSA NEWS, but please put the date in your diary NOW!

The accommodation at the Barn is limited, so it will have to be on a first come first served basis!

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## CHAIRMAN'S REPORT...

You could say that our annual Luncheon on Saturday 11th October 1997 at the Lincombe Barn at Downend, was a rather "holy" occasion. I had to mention that care was needed as the floor had "erupted into holes" in places and for people to be careful not to "put their foot in it"; in a different way than usual on these occasions, when trying to recognise and remember the name of some one you haven't seen for a long time! In spite of that potential setback, we had 124 Old Scholars and their friends at the luncheon, all in a very jovial mood.

On a more sombre note, you will remember that in the last Newsletter (No. 11), two of the obituaries were to two Old Scholars and former KOSA Committee Members, FRANK RAWLINGS and DAVID PEACOCK, mentioning their valued contributions to KOSA and our condolences to ESME RAWLINGS and Margaret Peacock. On your behalf, the Committee has donated £100 to FRANK RAWLINGS' favourite charity, the Royal National Lifeboat Institution, as a small token of our respect and love. Esme has told me that with other monies collected she has been able to give the RNLI over £900; a very worthwhile cause. A further donation of £100 was sent, via Margaret Peacock, to "Friends of Worcester Royal Infirmary", the hospital where David was nursed and cared for during his illness. We do hope that both Esme and Margaret will feel able to continue supporting and enjoying our future social events.

Returning to the Autumn Luncheon it seemed, in view of the circumstances, even more appropriate to other absent friends; some of whom will be able to join us next year, but others who can no longer be with us, and our sympathy went out to their spouses, re-

lations and friends.

As usual we had the support of our President DAVID LEWIS at the Luncheon, and we were delighted to be able to give him two cheques for Kingsfield School. One was a donation from DAVID PEACOCK'S estate, £250, in appreciation of his education at Kingswood Grammar School and I read out the letter from Margaret Peacock that had accompanied it. The second cheque was from our Association, KOSA, for £200, to be used for students with special needs. DAVID LEWIS responded by giving us news of developments at the School and how the donations would be used.

I thanked everyone who had helped to make the Luncheon a success, the Committee, our Bar team, the raffle ticket sellers, and BOB GRAY and his team. In view of the circumstances in the hall, it was only with the kind co-operation of BOB GRAY (himself an Old Scholar) and his wife Sherry and their team, had it been possible for this event to take place. As usual they looked after us very well; giving us the usual high quality lunch and with a good choice. This led me into the combined final Toast, Kingswood Grammar School and the re-vitalised Kingswood Old Scholars' Association. A number stayed afterwards to mingle and chat; it had been a very successful reunion!

As you will see elsewhere in this Newsletter, the Annual General Meeting and the Spring Event will be held at Kingsfield School on Friday, 17th April 1998. As the Committee Members have to stand for re-election, it is also an opportunity for any Old Scholar interested in taking a more active (though not too onerous) part, to put forward their names to the Secretary, JOHN POWELL, whose address is enclosed.

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## **A CELEBRATION...**

CATHERINE GARDNER (1931-1936), hereinafter known as Kay Stanton, was wife, mother, grandmother, humanist, civil servant, secretary, teacher, gardener, singer, Arabic speaker, amateur actress, superb cook, organiser par excellence, and goodness knows what else. All of this was celebrated during her secular committal at Yeovil Crematorium on 9th December 1997.

Seventy seven years was just about enough time into which all of this could be crammed.

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## **OBITUARIES...**

WINSTON (WOODY) WILLIAMS, who was Woodwork Master and latterly virtually Senior Master, at KGS from 1946 to 1981 passed away on 14th February 1998 at the age of 77. Win's son, MIKE WILLIAMS (1971-74), told KOSA NEWS that Win was involved in a motor accident on a dual-carriageway in South Wales when he collided with a car being driven on the wrong side of the road by an elderly man. Although Win survived the accident, he died later from a heart attack. We extend our sympathies to Mike and to Win's partner who was also injured in the accident.

'WOODY' WILLIAMS taught hundreds of KGS pupils how to make joints, build bookshelves, turn lamp stands and generally chip away at wood before synthetic materials took over. He always seemed very strict, being able to recognise a chisel handled dangerously from a hundred yards, producing the well-earned dressing down. Whenever an injury did occur, Win was expeditious at the iodine treatment, the stinging pain from which ensured that you didn't transgress again for a very long time!

It was after we had left KGS that we appreciated Win's friendly qualities. He came to a reunion in 1984, starting the 'Grace' with a long blast on the whistle, and he was present at many Kingwood Old Boys' Rugby Club gatherings. Its successor, Kingswood Rugby Football Club, join KOSA in sending their condolences.

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## **LEONARD BUSH (1912-1997)**

Len's daughter, ELAINE SHIRFIELD (1956-63), writes:

'LEN BUSH (1923-28) was born two days before the sinking of the 'Titanic', in the village of Withecombe Raleigh, near Budleigh Salterton, Devon. At an early age he moved with his family to High Street, Kingswood, where his father was the Gas Regulator!

'He won a scholarship to KGS in 1923 and became great friend with BRIAN SAMMONS. It was at KGS that he developed his interest in Chemistry. In 1928, after matriculation, Len joined Wm. Butler & Co. as a laboratory assistant. Later he became a research chemist, doing research into coal tar products and disinfectants.

'Len married a local girl, Phyllis Roberts, in 1938, and they had two daughters, ANGELA and ELAINE, who followed him to KGS.

'He was a member of Whitfield Tabernacle Church, Kingswood and was for many years a member of Kingswood Urban District Council. He was chairman of Kingswood Community Centre, chairman of the League of Friends of Cossham Hospital and on the commit-

tee of Frenchay Health Authority. He was a Special Constable, and a member of the Civil Defence in which he held the position of Technical Reconnaissance Officer for S W Gloucestershire. He even managed to take an active part in a local dramatic society. You name it, Len was part of it!

'Len maintained his ties with KGS by being Treasurer of the PTA for ten years, presenting the 'Bush' Prize for Practical Science, annually, to a pupil of KGS, and being an active member of the Eatonian Society. He died, peacefully, in June 1997.'

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ALBERT FREDERICK PEARCE

REG WEBLEY (1930-37) writes:

'Dr Pearce was born at Kingswood in 1913. Educated at Kingswood Grammar School, he won a Scholarship and went to Bristol University, from where he graduated with 1st Class Honours in Physics in 1933. A University award - the John Stewart for £46, a big sum, in 1933, helped to fund his research into The Mobility of Positive Ions. His thesis on this subject was accepted and he was rewarded with the degree of Doctor of Philosophy in Physics in 1937

'He joined the Central Research Laboratories of EMI and worked on Local Oscillators, a type of vacuum device used for the detection of enemy ships and aircraft by Radar. After the war to widen his practical knowledge of physics, he spent two years at Massachusetts Institute of Technology working beside Dennis Gabor, a Nobel Prizewinner, and the inventor of Holography.

'Pearce returned to EMI about two years later and was appointed Technical Director of the Electron Tube Division, a division mainly concerned with Photomultipliers and semi-conductor photodiodes.

He remained in this post until retirement.

'His scientific interests and practical skills were evident at an early age. For example, he and his brother built up a comprehensive MECCANO set and were constantly making intricate working models. One that I particularly remember was a drawing machine in which both the pen and the writing surface were independently controlled and made to follow simple curves. By using different-coloured inks as well, one could obtain a very large variety of beautiful eye-catching designs.

'He built a simple telescope, and adapted a clock mechanism, to offset the apparent motions of the stars arising from the earth's rotation. He was about 15 years old at this time.

'In later life, he learnt to make violins and made one for each of his children. He played for many years in the Misbourne orchestra and when increasing illness made this difficult, he and a band of friends used to meet in one another's houses and played chamber music.

'He died on 29th November 1997. His wife, Joan, predeceased him, and he is survived by son, two daughters, and six grandchildren.'

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## MEMORIES OF THE 30s...

KATHLEEN BERRY (now ASH)  
(1935-39) writes:

'I entered the school in September 1935 in Form 2C, and I wonder if many Old Scholars of that period remember that we were housed in a wooden hut on the edge of the tennis courts.

'Our form master was W A TICKNER, who like the rest of us had to brave the elements in the Winter to get there. However, once inside the wooden build-

ing, there was a stove pot heater to warm us. As well as being our form master, he took us for French and was considered by the girls as quite good looking.

'I still remember how cold the water was at Warmley Swimming Pool, the opening of the New Hall where we had morning assembly, and the excitement of the Gymnasium being erected.

'My particular friends were MAUREEN NEWMAN, BRENDA BRAIN, MAY MEREDITH, WINIFRED HOWLES and BARBARA HACKWELL. It would be great to hear from them, or anyone of that period.'

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### ONE FROM THE 70s...

We get precious few letters from those who went to KGS in its final years, but we are pleased to print extracts from a long letter and photograph from DEBBIE MOULES (now FRY) (1970 - ), now living in deepest Wiltshire. Debbie writes:

there. Enclosed is a form photograph of my second year class. It would be great to get in touch with any of them, we often talked of having get togethers, the main one being when we were 18 years old, but here we are fast approaching our 40th birthdays and have not met up (unless I've missed them!). I got to hear about the 'NEWS from my cousin, PATRICK MOULES (?), and I had another cousin, BRIAN MOULES, who went there, but who has since sadly died.

'When I started in Kingsfield (as it was then) in 1970 I lived in Marshfield and was the only girl to pass her 11+ from Marshfield Primary School. I remember it being daunting the first couple of months, although I knew a couple of older girls already there from the village. We used to travel on the bus, going round the villages of Wick and Doynton picking up. In our village we had two teachers from the School, MR and MRS HUMPHRIES, he taught RE and she History. Their children, ALAN, MARK and RACHEL HUM-



'I found KOSA NEWS very interesting, but was rather disappointed that all the news was from pupils of before my time

PHRIES, also attended the School, and I believe although Rachel is in America, the sons still live in Marshfield.

'In the photograph I can remember quite a few names:

Back row: nk, Nick Chichester, nk, Richard Scudamore, nk, Malcolm Pagett, nk, Steven Curtis, Dave Dring, nk.

Middle row: nk, nk, nk, Carolyn Brain, Julie Daffern, Ruth Bryant, Colin Freeman, Liz Wood, Della Orchard.

Front row: Pauline Gillard, Jane Bracey, Jane Ford, Beverley Mills, Bridget Crew, Debbie Moules, Nicola Mortimer, Christine Worth, Christine French, Kathryn Powell.

'Also not on the photograph was another friend of mine, CAROLE NORTH, who was probably not there that day. I'm afraid I cannot remember the name of the form teacher. The friends I made while at Kingsfield became good ones. Due to me living in a village well out in the 'sticks', in order to go to any parties or out of school activities it meant I used to stay in their houses quite often. I know CHRISTINE WORTH went into Nursing, and I think NICOLA MORTIMER went into office work, but I'm not sure about the others.

'As to myself, I left school and went to Bath Technical College where I took a City & Guilds Catering Course. After qualifying I worked in Wye College, Kent, then back to Bath Higher College of Education, then after 2 years to a Sports Council Sailing Centre on the Isle of Wight where I lived life to the full, learning to sail and seeing how the other half lived during Cowes Week. Then back to Bath University. I now have two children, Daniel 10 and Aimee 7, work at two pre-school groups as an assistant, but still keep in touch with Catering by waitressing in the evenings.

'I would love to hear from anyone from my past...'

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## POETRY CORNER...

Over the past few years we have published a number of poems from Old Scholars and ex-staff members. Here is another from MARIE HARRIS (1926-30). Marie often writes about nature, the seasons and her garden, which overlooks the Avon Valley:

### PHILOSOPHY

O eyes so blinded by the world - mundane-  
Could I but see, as first I saw, again,  
The wild briar rose, so fragile, and entwine  
The trailing sweetness of the columbine  
Beneath the timeless sun!

Where, bluebell carpeted, the woodland  
glade  
With periwinkles and the harebells, made  
A link between the azure firmament  
And nature spring - adorned in deep content;  
Then Earth and Heaven were one.

'Twas then, before the laws of God and man  
Could yet reveal to me the master plan  
Of time and space, and relativity  
This then was life in its entirety -  
A pure and simple thing.

But in maturity, the Summer gold  
Of corn fresh harvested, laid rich to hold,  
Though lifeless in itself, the vital seed,  
The nucleus of man's terrestrial need -  
This was awakening.

'Twas then I knew, but vaguely, yet in truth,  
Eternal purpose shapes our lives, from  
youth,  
To beautify, to serve, to destinate  
To higher regions of divine estate,  
Where Earth and Heaven are one.

O, life that from its depths can so transcend  
To heights where wider vision yet may lend  
A new perspective from a loftier clime -  
Through quietness uplift to peaks sublime:  
There lies the timeless sun!

We promised in KOSA NEWS 9 that we would bring you JEAN FLOWER'S poems from time to time. Jean, who passed away in 1996, taught at KGS and was the wife of JOHN FLOWER (1938-45). So in a less serious vein:

#### BATH NIGHT

Reading in the bath  
Is fun  
Till you choose a book  
Whose colours  
Run!

#### HOMEWORK

I was scrubbing the floor when the  
survey-man found me,  
Just knee-deep in children and carpets and  
foam,  
With washing-up piled in confusion around  
me:  
"Do you work," he asked brightly, "or just  
stay at home?"

#### THE BIRTHDAY PARTY

Prompt on the dot they march in, faces  
beaming  
With battle-light and soap;  
Twelve little boys with parcels, collars  
gleaming,  
Hair-oiled and full of hope.

The barbarous orgy roars to its conclusion  
'Mid jelly-spattered walls  
And sausage-trodden carpets; wild confu-  
sion,  
Black eyes and loud cat-calls.

We see why these mad annual rites find fa-  
vour;  
Careworn we comprehend,  
As, fortified by double gins, we savour  
The silence at the end.

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### KGS IN PRINT...

Did you know that one of the teachers who joined the staff in 1966 for his pro-

bation year wrote up his experiences and views of KGS for publication? NICK OTTY, who spent the years 1966-72 at KGS teaching English, wrote 'Learner Teacher', published as a Penguin Educational Special. Nick had the foresight to change the names of those mentioned therein to protect the innocent (or was it to protect the guilty?), but some of the names are more transparent than others. Nick, who is now a university lecturer at UWE, Bristol, has kindly given us permission to publish extracts from the book in which KGS became Grove End Grammar School. Here's a flavour of the book:

'Well, the term is over. The head's control of his native language became more and more tenuous. At the final assembly he addressed the school for forty-five minutes about I Corinthians, 13. 'Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels and have not love, I am become as sounding brass or a tinkling cymbal.' I don't know what kind of divided tongue he was speaking with, but subordinate clauses and parentheses sprouted and branched from incomplete subordinate clauses until the head spun with the wasted effort of attempting to recollect where he began. And just as one had it pinned down, some startling and random recollection, about meteorology, or when I was your age, was thrown up by the fruit machine of his mind, and set everything at odds again. I thought the children were wonderful to tolerate it, but at length he wound himself down at the far end of a blind alley of total irrelevance. Unadvisedly he attempted to get going again by means of what was supposed to be a rhetorical question.

'Well, where do we go from there?'

There were several impatient shouts of 'Home', and 'on holiday', and Mr Curle

immediately became so 'wroth' that 'he was out of alle charitee'.

So, forgetting St Paul, he berated us all for our misplaced sense of humour. Then we sang 'Jerusalem' and 'God save the Queen', and in solemn silence he declared the term closed.'

Does that ring a bell? Or this:

'But now I have been 'on the carpet'. Summoned to the headmaster's study I find both Mr Curle and Miss Prynne looking grave. Miss Prynne is pursing her lips and puffing through them, as though she is about to blow a valve. I am transported back in time to naughty boy occasions from my schooldays. A strong connecting link is the wish I have now, and always had then, that I knew which of my many crimes has been detected. Black marks? - Homework? - Discipline in 2B? In fact it is a total surprise. Emotion seems to have blasted Mr Curle's syntax, so it is with difficulty that I sort out the story. Some parent in an anonymous phone call to Miss Prynne has accused me of recommending all my third-year pupils to have sexual intercourse before the age of twenty-one.

'I stoutly deny the charge, but admit to having held a discussion with 3A about sex before marriage. Miss Prynne gulps with amazement and then puffs on. She remains silent, however, and leaves me shadow boxing with the strange shattered brilliance of Mr Curle's mind.

'It's too early in your, you, perhaps you lack the, it needs experience to tackle such a subject.'

'I didn't tackle it exactly. They brought it up and wanted to talk about it.'

'Well, subjects, I think it would be, sub-

jects like this really come under my "Education for Adult Life" course.' (Two lessons in the first year to show them that rabbits do it; two lessons in the fourth year to hint that some married, Christian, adult humans do it too; two lessons in the sixth year for any questions.)

'But they wanted to talk about it now, not the January after next. I do feel it is important, Mr Curle, to take these matters as they arise naturally for the children.'

'Oh, I quite agree, but it takes a lot of know-how to guide a discussion of that kind.'

'A guided discussion is not a discussion. I can't decide their conclusions before we start.'

'Of course, of course, I'm with you all the way there, but sooner, or, sometime, sooner or later they, they will turn round and ask you what you think about it.'

'They did.' (Double gulp from Prynne.)

'And what did you do?'

'I told them. What else can one do?'

More later!

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### COMPETITION CORNER...

The following words were made famous by King George VI in a broadcast to the nation during the Second World War. Can you link these words to KGS? A bit obscure, but if you can there is a free reunion meal either in April or October - your choice:

I said to the man who stood at the gate of the year:

Give me a light that I may tread safely into the unknown.

And he replied:

Go out into the darkness and put thine hand into the hand of God.

That shall be to thee better than light and safer than a known way.



## TURNING A COUPLE OF (FEATHER)STONES...

GUY FEATHERSTONE (1950-58) writes...

'You did right to put me (us) on the KOSA mailing list. It was good to hear of JOHN HARRIS (1953-60): it's not so long ago I was taking one of his ex-classes at Saledine Nook HS in Huddersfield. On another occasion, just before he left, I remember John commenting in the Staff Room one morning that he was off to take his 5000th Assembly! I'm glad he's got a "new life"!

'I was indeed at KGS from 1950-1958, and my wife from 1951-1958 as PATRICIA BALL; that's her, third from the right, front row, centre photo, back cover of magazine No 10.

'We were very sad to learn from that issue of the death of "FROSTY" WINTOUR. He is remembered with great affection as one of the finest teachers, in every sense of the word, we ever were taught by (quite apart from getting me a good French 'O' Level!).

'HAROLD WATTS and his wife Marjorie we have kept in touch with for many years - in fact, I owe him a letter now, since it's a while since I've written. I still can't get over how YOUNG he looks as the apprentice pirate.

'MICHAEL HOLLOWAY and his wife BRENDA (nee SEALY) (52-59) also live in Huddersfield. There are a few of us ex-pats here, even an ex-student of Chipping Sodbury GS who teaches German at John's old school. She still carries her distain for the "Kingswood Cowsheds" ....

'I don't know what to write about now, without boring the pants off you all - it's all

so long ago since we were at KGS, or even living in Bristol. We both left Bristol in 1958, Pat to go to Bognor Regis TC to become a teacher, me to Manchester University to become an Architect. Pat did become a teacher, but I left after two years to work as Assistant Art Director for a film company in London, where Pat joined me in 1962 after our marriage. We moved north with our two children to "Last of the Summer Wine" country in 1970 (where we soon bumped into the Holloways). Pat continued to teach locally and retired not long ago as a Head Teacher and with an MA awarded by York University, (taken in her forties). By which time, after years as a Production Designer working for the BBC, ITV and independents, I had taken a B.Sc. degree at Leeds University (in Geography), in the late '70s and finally became a technology teacher by virtue of a PGCE taken when I was 47 at Sheffield Hallam University. Re-reading that last paragraph, You might have to get GEORGE BUTCHER to correct it and at the same time pass on our greetings (he may remember that I never did get to play Orlando!).

'Because Pat has retired and I only work (occasionally) as a supply teacher (any ex-fellow pupil or teacher will probably be mind boggled at the very thought of Guy Featherstone being a Teacher), we spend much of the year travelling on the Continent in our camper, mainly to the mountain areas, since we have enjoyed climbing for several decades now.

'I think that just about; sums us up — any alternative would do your eyes grave injustice. However, do keep in touch: nostalgia can be very pleasant sometimes, and we do carry many pleasant memories of our time at the old Kingswood Cowsheds.'

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## **A VISITOR FROM OZ...**

We were pleased to see ANN TOWELL (now KINGSBURY) (1952-57), all the way from Perth, Western Australia, at the October 1997 luncheon at Lincombe Barn. When Ann got back to Oz, she was kind enough to write:

'...I really enjoyed the lunch so much. Thank you for making me so welcome. I did have one chance meeting with a classmate before I left the UK. I was visiting a relative in Wick, when who should come to the door but MARGARET JENKINS - one of the twins. We recognised each other immediately, except that I had to ask her which twin she was!'

Nearest the camera, from Perth, Australia, Ann Towell (now Kingsbury), with Irene Luffman (now Fewes) both (1952-57) and Delvene Woodman (now Sherman) (1951-57)

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## **MORE THOUGHTS FROM REV 'TWEEDY' HARRIS (1953-60)...**

'For a school built of wood, isn't it amazing that we never had fire practices? If we did, I cannot recall them. It isn't as though there were not warnings, for there was a fire in one of the temporary classrooms around 1959/60. We were having an 'A' Level History lesson with MR NELSON (Piggy), and began to smell burning from one of the heaters. I was the one deputed to inform the school office, and I remember the thrill of running up the corridor (forbidden by the rules) to tell the secretary. We were discussing the Russian system in our lessons at the time, and could only conclude that some ma-



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levolent Communist was somehow responsible for this event!

'From my point of view I struggled academically at KGS until I got into the 6th Form. My school reports recount a mediocre story of generally arriving at about 22nd or worse in a class of 36 or 37. This was in the A stream. This was both a shock and a disappointment, as at Mangotsfield Junior School I had come top of the class or thereabouts most times. One may presume that the gap between what I was taught at Junior School and Grammar School was great, but maybe there is another side to the story. I remember plenty of discipline at Kingswood, but for me, little of the encouragement that the smaller Junior School had constantly provided. If there were successes, they were surprises, such as at the end of the 2nd year, when MRS DIPROSE (nee MITCHELL, whom we nicknamed 'Driprose' when she got married!) read out the Maths results for the whole year. To my astonishment, and definitely hers, I had come 8th - Maths not

being one of my strong points.

'I think I was a bit of an 'imp' in class, and my reports bear that out. Later on I became an awkward, scruffy youth, all too conscious of his National Health glasses, who came from the 'sticks', Blackhorse Road, Mangotsfield, was a long way to travel in those car less days. The 97 bus was our form of transport, but if you stayed behind after school there was either a three mile plus walk home, or a bus ride up Kingswood Hill, another bus to Downend, and then the mile walk from Downend. In my most awkward stage, I used to walk home purposely, to avoid doing any piano practice at home, with my friend of that time, ROGER HOLDER, who lived on the edge of Staple Hill. One of the results of living that far away was that I never felt quite part of the school, and when, later on, there were social events, I never went to them, unless they were connected with Music.

'At school there was some bullying, and a few of us lived in fear of a certain individual who made life uncomfortable for us when he saw us at Games and PE. We in turn made life very unpleasant for one member of our class, something which I now regret. School discipline was usually strict and within the accepted norms of the day, but I remember having the hair above my ears pulled excruciatingly by a certain Science teacher, merely for eating my dinner too slowly. Or at least, that was his version of the event.

'So I responded to encouragement when I found it, From the beginning we had ERIC HILTON for Music. Whilst I cannot in all honesty support his scheme of work which involved learning songs by tonic solfa and French time names each week as homework, and singing or clapping them solo the next week, I always got good marks and encouraging comments.

It was therefore no surprise that one day Eric marched into a lesson and announced that the following would be taking Music in the 3rd Year and I was one of them (it involved giving up Geography), Try doing that today and there would be a rumpus! Dubious schemes of work and endless dictated notes with occasional interludes for a record etc, it may have been, but you became a musician with a considerable 'ear', if you had an ability base to start with, I shall always be grateful to Eric for the sound grounding he gave me. He was a generous person too, and regularly gave me a lift to Mangotsfield to save me walking if I had stayed behind for some reason, That, for him, represented a considerable detour. Immediately after 'O' Levels I started having piano lessons with him, They cost 6/3d a week, way beyond our means. Fortunately I had an aunt who paid for them. Up till 'O' Levels I had had Harvey Punter, who played the organ for Downend Parish Church, and who lived in the large mansion at the Council Offices end of Page Park. He was a nice man, but real progress only came when Eric started teaching me and I got good marks in grades 6,7 and 8 piano exams with him, He used to lend me music history books from his vast collection, changing them every fortnight. By then, I was fired with enthusiasm, and he was the focus for much of that, hard taskmaster though he was at times.'

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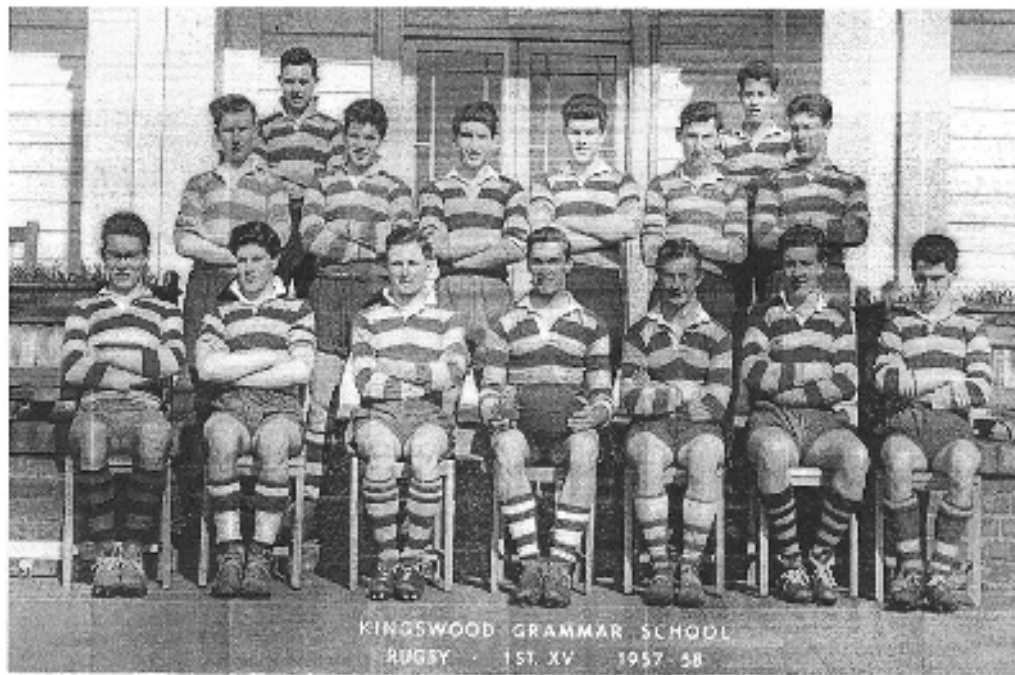
### **DID YOU KNOW...?**

That KGS commenced its existence as Kingswood Secondary School and it changed its name for the 1927-28 academic year. Curiously, no reference to the change can be found in the Kingswood Chronicles of that year, just 'Kingswood Chronicles, being the magazine of The Kingswood Grammar School'.



KGS Cricket teams:  
Above 1951  
Below 1933





KINGSWOOD GRAMMAR SCHOOL  
RUGBY 1ST XV 1957-58

**1st XV Rugby 1957-58**

Back row: David Hussey, Don? Knight, Vic Jordan, Guy Featherstone, Craig Davies, Simon Nicholl, Simon Banks.

Front row: Roger Blake, Ron Williams, Roger Cromwell, Mike Redgers, 'Josser' Wilcox, Richard Palmer, Roger Carroll



Football 1st XI 1935-36

Berry J (goalkeeper), Perdue, Lovell I, Palmer, Harding (capt), Cann, Hunt R (linesman), Bailey, Wilshire, Lovell P, Peacock D, Dando R.

## THE OTHER REUNION...

A reunion of KGS 1960-1967 pupils, organised by CHRIS GREENFIELD and ROB LARKHAM, was held at the Griffin Inn on the 11th October. Other than a few small Christmas casual reunions held in the 1980s, this was the first major meeting of people who had last met at least 30 years ago. Sixteen attended and introduced each other - a bit of memory searching revitalised the grey cells, even if the other grey matter that had necessitated the re-introductions was not revitalised. About half-a-dozen apologies were also sent.

After a cautious start enhanced by managed table-swapping, the reminiscing became raucous, almost to the extent that no time seemed to have passed since the events themselves. By the end of the evening everyone seemed to know each other as we did when at school. It was quite remarkable, and a reflection of what the school had done for us, even if it had taken 30 years for us to realise it.

A repeat event is planned for Saturday 3rd October 1998. Further details will emerge but contact any of the following nearer the time:



Those attending were:

Back row: Peter Taylor, Rob Larkham, Brian Allez, Roger Stanleigh, John Bracey, Martyn Stevens, Bruce Senior, Colin Fry, David Panton.

Front row: Patrick Moules, Anne Pillinger, Peggy Wilkins, Ann McNamara, Lindsey Iles, and Chris Greenfield. John Wrigley took the photograph.

Chris Greenfield 0145-824-1325, Rob Larkham 0125-262-9558, Peter Taylor 0117-937-2920 or Lindsey Iles (now Harris) 0117-932-7371

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### E-MAIL FROM CHRIS GREENFIELD...

I was devastated that 'TWEEDY' HARRIS'S article (in No: 11) failed to mention that he was joined on the teaching staff of his Huddersfield High School by an-

other ex-KGser [me] for two years in the late 1970s! We often swapped stories about staff - especially Eric the eyebrows Hilton, I don't remember how we found out that we had both attended KGS, but I do remember that in an ocean of West Yorkshire voices John had not lost his delicious Mangotsfield[?] Bristolian accent. I congratulate him on his new reverence!

Finally, I suppose that you have ruled out the suggestion of giving the newsletter the more original, if slightly sinister, name of 'kosa nostra'?

Christopher Greenfield

I wonder whether CHRISTOPHER GREENFIELD is still a Liberal. In the mock election reported in Kingswood Chronicles of 1964-65 page 17 the votes were as follows: C GREENFIELD (Liberal) 157, D MARSH (Labour) 170 and R WILLIS (Conservative) 154. The reporter, who happened to be D MARSH (I) went on to report 'The main point of interest was the very fine showing of the younger Liberal candidate, whose interesting speeches and attractive posters did much to forward his cause...' Ed.

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### SAD NEWS...

As we go to press, some sad news arrived from SUE HANDOLL (now WITHERS), concerning her mother, who was an original 1921er:

'I am writing firstly to inform you that my mother, who has been a member of KOSA for the last few years, sadly passed away last November 4th at the age of 87. She was Mrs IRIS LORRAINE HANDOLL (nee HASELL) and was, I believe, at KGS, almost at the beginning. Certainly she knew MAJOR EATON, FRED BAKER and BRIAN SAMMONS, all mentioned in No:10 of KOSA NEWS.

'I was at Kingswood Grammar School from 1954 to 1961 and have read with interest items about MR RIDLEY (who was my Headmaster) and mention of MR WATTS, MISS MORRISON, MR BUTCHER and MR SAMMONS. I have particular reason to be grateful to MISS SPILL and MME LAPADU who arranged an exchange for me with a French student. After a few years gap, I contacted the family again and we have been in close touch for the last 20 years. It is a friendship both my husband and I value.

'When I think back to those school days, certain things stick out in my mind. At Christmas, the last assembly, when the choir set off at the top end of the school and each class joined as their classroom was passed. Singing, along with other Bristol Schools, at the Cathedral when our rendering of "The Heavens are telling the Glory of God..." was accompanied by lightening cracking down the spire. Being in the chorus of HMS Pinafore. The Triangular Sports and the pungent smell coming from the Chemistry lab are among them, all treasured memories.

'I should be very glad to hear from anyone from my era, having lived in Somerset for the last 34 years I have lost touch with all my school friends.'

---

### ARCHIVIST'S REPORT...

MIKE COKAYNE (1952-58) continues to work on 'Operation Archive', and here is his latest report:



'Well, avalanche is a good description of the response to our last request for Archive information and

inevitably, expectedly, some of it is slightly contradictory! Nevertheless it all contributes to the overall picture of, where, who, when at KGS. Quite a few KOSA members have had second thoughts about when and who etc, and these details are being incorporated into the overall records. However, this is taking a lot of time and comparisons have to be made!

'Whilst we have to acknowledge responses from 155 KOSA members, which are being processed, special mention must be made of photos from DOROTHY CLARKE (1951-56), PERCIVAL LOVELL (1931-37), who always makes a major contribution to archive matters, PETER SKINNER (1949-53) who has sent photos, VALERIE HILES (1951-58) who has sent many photos, including the famous MONSIEUR LAPADU, whom I last saw disappearing at speed down the lane on his Vespa Scooter, with MISS JACOBS, who taught Music and French and eventually became MME LAPADU, riding side saddle. I rather think KGS was never quite the same again after his six to nine months there as a French assistant.

'Thanks also to ROSEMARY GIBSON (1952-57) and DAVID CHURCH (1949-56) for a complete overload of photograph copies which amongst other things put MARGARET FORTY (1950-55?) (who I fancied rotten, followed by her sister MARY (1952-57), who I fancied even more rotten) into the archive picture!

'It is going to take months to assemble the new information and compare it with the old but we now have it, which is what matters! Thank you to all of you who have taken the trouble to think about and send in your thoughts!'

---

## MEET THE CHAIRMAN...

PEGGY (MARGARET) OTLET (now BOLT) (1938-43)



Peggy's family moved from Birmingham to Bristol in 1936, thinking that the Bristol air would be better for her health as she was asthmatic. They lived first of all in Filton, and then in Brentry, before eventually moving to

Downend. She became a pupil at Downend Church School in January 1938 - for her the important "scholarship to Grammar School" year!

Peggy later attended Kingswood Grammar School as did her OTLET brothers ALAN (1939-46), BOB (1941-48) (married to former Old Scholar, MARION OSBORNE 1940-47), and DAVID (1947-53) (married to former Old Scholar, JILL STAPLES 1950-54). Like many others at the School she cycled the torturous route to KGS via Downend vine and Teewell Hill often in record time!

She enjoyed School sports, hockey and tennis in particular. Once, with fear and trepidation she was partnered with MAJOR EATON in a tennis tournament; needless to say they didn't win! Peggy became a prefect and the Captain of Davies House in later years.

Bristol City Council became her employer and she worked in the Bristol Library Service for seven years. Still cycling (but now on a racing bike), she cycled daily to the centre of Bristol.

In September 1950 she married Gordon Bolt and they lived initially in Clifton and



later in Downend, where they have lived ever since.

Peggy attended many of the social functions of the Eatonian Society; the first at the old Royal Hotel with MAJOR EATON being the President. After chairing one of the annual dinners at the "new" Kingswood Civic Centre, she was asked to become a Committee member and has remained one ever since. She became Chairman of the Eatonian Society and continued as such when the Kingswood Old Scholars' Association was re-formed. Also, Peggy is a Committee Member, a Past Chairman and a Past Programme Secretary of the Leap Valley Ladies Club which meets monthly, providing members with social events, topical talks and donates money to various charities.

She has 'enjoyed the social occasions and the related "behind the scenes" activities at the Bristol Polytechnic and latterly its successor institution, the University of the West of England. When her husband was made an Honorary Fellow of the University in the autumn of 1997, the Vice-Chancellor kindly and publicly acknowledged her support and involvement at the Ceremony at Bristol Cathedral.

In her early married years Peggy was a member of the Wendons Amateur Dramatic Society in Downend, and was interested in cycling and tennis. In the latter years, gardening and ballroom dancing has occupied many free leisure hours.

### **THE BARRATTS OF WIM- DOLE STREET...**

We are indebted to GORDON JONES (1946-52) for supplying us with photos of the above play enacted by the 4th Form in 1949. The top photograph of the cast includes Gordon Jones, John Gray, Mike Stevens, Mike Jobbins, Jean Perry, Terry



Gibbs, Dave Peters, nk, Ann Morris and Kathleen Hardwick.



In the picture below, Jean Perry plays Elizabeth Barratt-Browning and Mike Stevens is Robert Browning. Any other like photographs hidden away? If so, why not lend them to KOSA NEWS?

## POINTS FROM THE POST...

We have received many letters, and it is difficult to do justice to them all. However, here are extracts from some of the letters recently received:

First of all the mistakes: JUNE PICKLES now BIRCH (1938-45) points out that in the obituary of EDNA STUBBINS we said that she had moved to Cornwall, but a few miles south of Cullumpton still makes it Devon, not Cornwall. Quite right, June. Perhaps our Geography lessons were wanting!

MURIEL BRITTON (now BROWN) (1931-36) wrote to say how much she had enjoyed the Barn luncheons of 1996 and 1997. She attended at the invitation of sister-in-law FRED A BENCE (now BROWN) (1931-37), and she was amazed at being able to recognise so many 'old girls' and compare notes. After leaving school, she was away for a period in the Civil Service, and then spent over 3 years in the Land Army.

PAUL LEAR (1954-61) says that he's seen several references to Professor COLIN PILLINGER, a contemporary of Paul's, over the years. First, concerning his involvement in Moon rocks and, more recently dealing with the possible evidence of past life on Mars. Paul uses a lot of magnesium at the school where he teaches, and he has often thought of Colin because of a magnesium scar which Colin sustained at KGS.

JANE BRACEY (now TILEY) (1947-52) dropped out of formal education when her parents moved to Tetbury. However, she's hoping to persuade the classmates with whom she is still in contact to attend a future reunion. How about April

17th, Jane?

LIONEL HARRIS (1952-57) points out that he, JOHN STUBBS and DAVE CHURCH lived within 'spitting' distance of each other, in Morley Road, Staple Hill, when at school. He remembers DAVID CHURCH playing Soccer, with DAVID NICHOLAS and NOBBY GREENAWAY in Soundwell, known locally as 'the hilly-ground' between Spring Hill and New Cheltenham Road. DAVID was also an effective cricketer. Lionel writes: 'He was my house captain in Haskins and once pulled me out of a lesson to play cricket for the house 1st XI against Fussell (I believe). I remember having to get under a 'skyer' from JEFF FORD - which luckily I held on to!' Lionel's mother, DORIE HARRIS (nee WINSTON) (1926-31?), remembers contemporary JIM COKAYNE, KOSA Archivist MIKE COKAYNE'S father, 'Isn't it strange how families' lives have inter-related around KGS without us knowing!' writes Lionel. How true.

NESTA JEFFERIS now CHALCROFT (1945-50) writes:

'It would be grand if all four groups of my years at KGS could be arranged. Maybe a meal in the centre of Bristol, but others may have other ideas.

'We did have a pleasant time at school. With the ending of the Second World War we felt that we could express ourselves more freely. With the blackout and the army barracks near at hand life was a bit restricted. My first cycle ride to Cheddar Gorge with D class with MR MORGAN, our teacher, was such a treat after the war. Also seeing a few films at the Kingswood 'Odeon' cinema with the school - 'Hamlet' and 'Henry V' were the two that stand out in my mind. Pity that the 'Odeon' was demolished.'



### WHO SENT THIS...?

Your Ed. tries to be very careful with the photographs which have been entrusted to his care, but he's ashamed to admit that he has no information as to who has sent this photograph of the 1931 Hockey team for publication. Could the owner please drop me a line, and I would be very pleased to return it to its rightful owner. With thanks. The names on the back of the photograph are not very clear, but appear to include:

MB Pastmoore, E England, T Bishop, B Brain, P Furber, E Morris, D Watkins, M Winwood, I Winstanley and J Furnock?  
Anyone with more information, please?

### 'THERE WERE GIANTS IN THOSE DAYS...'

On the retirement of staff members their photographs were usually featured in 'Kingswood Chronicles'. Here is one:



Mr. H. E. Wilde, 1941-1968

(Photo: A. G. Hancock)



COMMEMORATION DAY.

The W.J.A.C. with A.T.C.  
in procession.

### **BARBARA'S PHOTO...**

BARBARA WILLIAMS (now SANDOVER) (1936-42) writes about the above photograph:

'I acquired it 25 or more years ago at an Old Eatonian dinner at the Royal Hotel, College Green. BRIAN SAMMONS had been to see Mrs Eaton following Major's death and had been given a lot of school photographs which he offered to anyone who was interested. As I was the only

one present who had been a member of the Women's Junior Air Corps, or 'Jacal' as we were known, I kept this one. In view of later events, those photographs would have made a valuable archive had they been kept together.

'I have put names to faces as far as I can remember, but unfortunately after over 50 years, although many of the faces are familiar, names escape me. We were, of course, led by our CO MISS

MORRISON who, in the style of the Grand Old Duke of York., marched us up to the top of the hill and presumably down again afterwards, although I have no recollection of the event or what we were commemorating, I think that it would have taken place in 1943 or 1944. probably the former. The ATC. contingent behind us is led by MR. WINTERTON but I cannot distinguish the faces of the others.

'The photograph was definitely taken from outside High Street School, as evidenced by the kerbside barrier at the school gate. Also, you can see where the old tram lines have been removed and replaced by new cobble stones. Because of the narrow road at that point the tram line was single track.'

We also asked ERICA IVORY (now WICKENS) (1939-46) and MARGARET MORRIS (1934-40) to help us with the names, and we have been able to identify those below.

Left line: Barbara Williams, nk, nk, nk, Jean Robinson, nk, Jill Hird

Centre Line: Margaret Morris, Jean Kinghorn, Margaret Jefferies, nk, Megan Cook, Moira Wastell, Barbara Tippett, nk, Doreen Hamell, Barbara Lamden.

Right line: Muriel Hicks, nk, nk, Erica Ivory, Barbara Brain, Jean Newman, Brenda Palmer, Mary Hardwicke, Marjorie Phipps. Other names mentioned were Vera Hook and Sheila Stephens.

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## PRIZE DAY, 1959

This was probably the last time that MAJOR EATON came back to the school, and below is an extract from the 'Kingswood Chronicles' of 1959-60:

It was a memorable Prize Day as the distinguished visitor was the school's former headmaster, MAJOR M. J. EA-

TON, who had started the school in 1921 and retired in 1949.

The Chairman of the Governors, the REVEREND W. J. DOWNES, MA opened the proceedings and the Headmaster in his report welcomed the visitors, the Chief Education Officer for Gloucestershire, Mr. W. R. Watkin, the representatives of the local government authorities and Mr. R. E. Love, former Clerk to the Governors. He then spoke briefly of the aims of a grammar school, a broad academic training before specialisation in science, and the building of character through the idea of service to others. The examination results at "O" level had been 70% which was well above the national average. At "A" level 55 candidates had entered with 86% success; one State Scholarship had been won and fourteen County Major Scholarships as well as an Open Scholarship in Chemistry given by the Steel Company of Wales. Several County Major Scholars had gone into industry before starting at a University and this experience, he felt, would widen their horizon and sharpen their ambition. He then gave an account of school games and excursions and concluded by thanking the Staff for their support.

MAJOR M. J. EATON next presented the prizes. In his speech (after an amusing introduction concerning the reputation of Kingswood in the past) he gave three vignettes from his experience as headmaster. The first was of a master who had not flinched from the work necessary in teaching a subject which was new to him; the second was of a girl who by her reading at a school service made the words live; the last was of an old boy who, though no scholar himself, was proud of the academic honours won by the school. These incidents seemed to him examples of the Platonic ideas of Truth, Beauty and



Goodness. These ideas were a unity and could not be separated. The scientist while revealing the humble origins of human life should not forget its spiritual triumphs.

The vote of thanks was proposed by MISS TIDDER and seconded by the Head Girl, JOSEPHINE CRITCHLEY.

Photograph of the 1959 Prize Day above, believed to have been taken in the school library, shows Head of School DAVID EWINS, MAJOR EATON, REV. DOWNES, Head Girl JOSEPHINE CRITCHLEY and Headmaster C N RIDLEY.

#### **A KGS MP...?**

Congratulations to DAVID DREW, who

is now the MP for Stroud. DAVID describes himself as having gone to Kingsfield School, although by the Ed's reckoning he was probably there in 1961, when it was still KGS. Can anyone confirm?

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#### **GEOFF HOPKINS (1951-57)...**

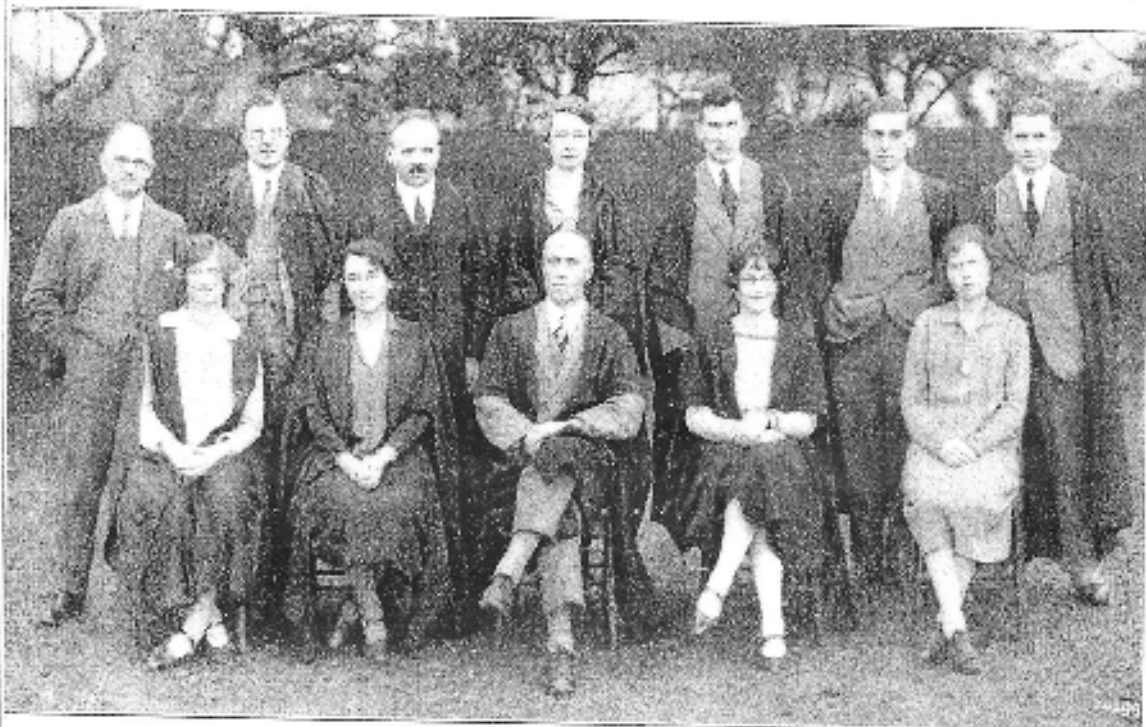
told us that we never mention JIMMY PYLE, his 4th Form Master. Has anyone news of him?

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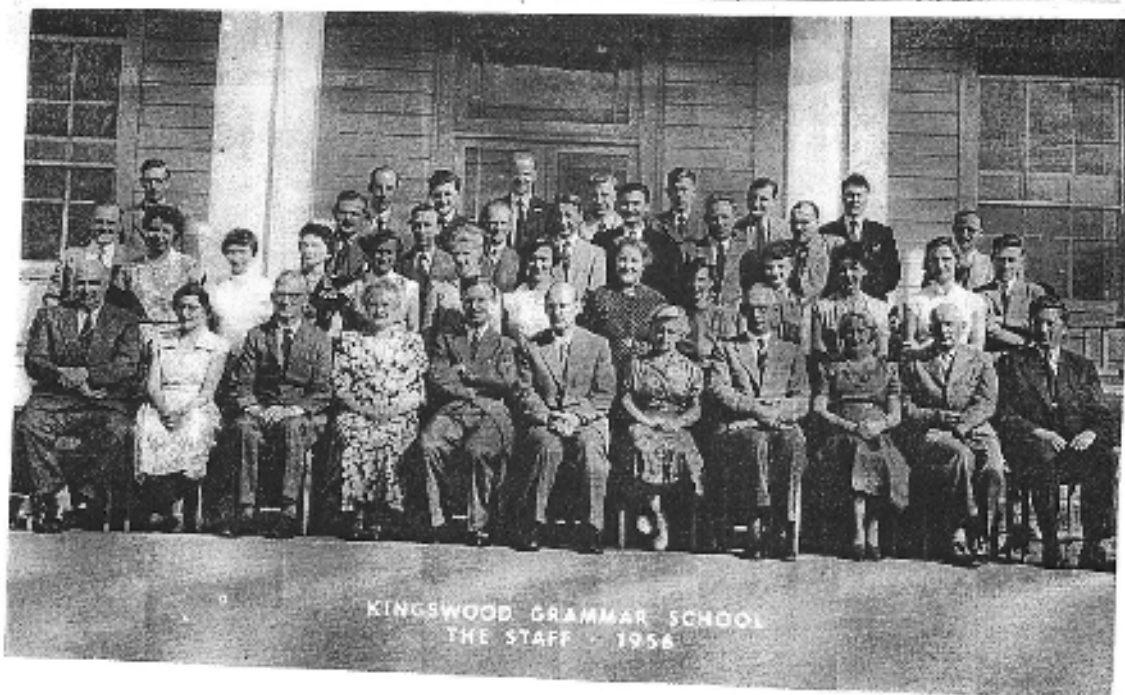
#### **SUPPORT THE SCHOOL...**

Kingsfield School Band will be playing at St George's, Brandon Hill on 5th April 1998 at 7.30pm in the Bristol Windband Concert. Tickets from the School £5, with concessions.

The School Staff, 1928.



MR. SCHEPPE, MR. HOWARD, MR. DAVIES, MISS PERKINS, MR. BRITTON, MR. KINTON, MR. JONES,  
MISS GUNTON, MISS POWELL, MRS. GIBSON, MISS WATSON, MISS HODGSON.



### COMPARISONS...

Above, the staff of KGS in 1928, below, those of 1956. Some appear in both... Can you spot them?

On the back page (top) is a photograph of the School's Easter trip to Paris in 1956. Below is an unidentified form and date. Do you recognise anyone? Please let us know.





## THE NEXT REUNION

This will take place at KINGSFIELD SCHOOL, which is on the site of KGS, on FRIDAY, 17th APRIL 1998. The AGM will take place at 7.30pm, followed by the Reunion at 8.00pm. If you know any Old Scholars please photocopy this page and pass on. All Old Scholars welcome!

Notice is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting of Kingswood Old Scholars' Association will take place at Kingsfield School at 7.30pm on Friday 17th April 1998, followed by a Reunion at 8.00pm

### AGENDA

1. Minutes of Last AGM
2. Chairman's Report
3. Treasurer's Report
4. Election of President
5. Election of Chairman
6. Election of Officers
7. Election of Committee Members
8. To fix the Subscriptions for the ensuing year

### KINGSWOOD OLD SCHOLARS' ASSOCIATION RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 1997

BALANCE AT BANK 1st JANUARY 1997		2,019.55
RECEIPTS:		
KOSA NEWS Subscriptions	926.50	
Costs	<u>1,109.91</u>	
	Deficit	(183.41)
Annual Lunch	1,735.38	
Expenditure	<u>1,532.42</u>	
	Surplus	202.96
AGM & Reunion	1,383.20	
Expenditure	<u>1,229.68</u>	
	Surplus	153.52
Interest Received		47.34
		<u>2,239.96</u>
PAYMENTS:		
Postage and Telephone		57.70
Archive Costs		124.51
Donations - Kingsfield School		200.00
- Worcester Royal Infirmary		100.00
- RNLI		100.00
BALANCES AT BANK 31st DECEMBER 1997		1,657.75
		<u>2,239.96</u>

I have examined the books and vouchers made available to me and in my opinion the accounts set out above form a true and fair view of the affairs of the Kingswood Old Scholars' Association as at 31st December 1997. The balance carried forward of £1,657.75 is represented by funds held at Lloyds Bank Plc as at 31st December 1997

  
signed: Eric R. Arnold, FCCA

14. February 1998

### 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

Ron Clements (1939-46) Treasurer, 5 Rangers Walk, Hanham, Bristol, BS15 3PW  
Tel: 967 2328

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

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, 'Hendafarn', Sarnau, Llanymynech, Powys, SY22 6QJ  
Tel: 01938 590294

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### KOSA AGM & REUNION BUFFET

To: Ron Clements, Hon. Treasurer, KOSA,  
5 Rangers Walk, Hanham, Bristol, BS15 3PW Tel: 967 2328

I enclose £\_\_\_\_\_ for \_\_\_\_\_ places @ £8.50 each for the KOSA  
Reunion and Buffet be held at 7.30pm on Friday, 17th April 1998  
at Kingsfield School.

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'