



KOSA NEWS



NUMBER 15 - SUMMER 1999

The Magazine of the Old Scholars of Kingswood Grammar School



EDITORIAL...

When I set out to produce KOSA NEWS I had in mind a balanced approach, something in each edition for everyone. We try, where possible, to cover the whole period of KGS from 1921 to the 1970s and even the 1980s on occasion, with a reasonable split between girls and boys, soccer and rugby, tennis and cricket, staff and pupils, rich and poor....etc. We have also tried to provide a balance between success (however that's defined) and the 'ordinariness' which accompanied most of our scholastic lives at KGS and the careers of most of us since leaving school.

What has come through to me, as Editor, is that most of us believe that KGS did give us a good education and hence a good start in life and we are grateful for that.

I'm grateful, too, for a letter from DAVID WELSFORD (1941-44), see page two, who has identified a worrying tendency in KOSA NEWS to accentuate the so-called academically successful from KGS (my words). On looking through past editions I do detect articles on 'Professor X', 'Bishop Y' and 'Director Z'. In my defence, I have also covered scholars and old scholars who have become housewives, fathers, played rugby, went on holiday, cooked, became secretaries, emigrated, picked bluebells and did a hundred-and-one ordinary things - and that's just in the last edition! However, thanks for the warning, David. We must appreciate that there was another side to KGS and we should portray the lot - warts and all!

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DIARY DATES...

AUTUMN LUNCH...

The form is enclosed for the reunion on SATURDAY, 2nd OCTOBER 1999 at Lincombe Barn, Overndale Road, Downend. Come along to meet old friends. Meet at 12.00 for lunch at 12.30 pm. Send enclosed form to our Treasurer, RON CLEMENTS, 5 Rangers Walk, Hanham, Bristol BS15 3PW Tel: 967 2328

***49...**

JOHN COLE is planning a Reunion of the class of '49 at Tracey Park, Wick on the evening of 18th September 1999. For details see inside KOSA NEWS.

RUGBY REUNION...

JOHN BISHOP will be organising a lunch and a match at the ground of Kingswood RFC behind the Tenniscourt Inn to co-incide with John Cole's event. Details from John on 0117 9676083

***67 LEAVERS...**

Reunion at the Griffin on 9th OCTOBER 1999. Contact LINDSEY ISLES on 01225 87 4279 or PETER TAYLOR on 0117 937 2920.

DAVID'S LETTER...

'Having recently received KOSA NEWS 14 I write with regard to the content therein, and indeed previous issues.

'The accent appears to be very much upon those ex-scholars who achieved academic success, all of whom rightly express their appreciation of their education at KGS.

'However, there are many who did not excel at school and did not obtain 'paper qualifications' - indeed some of us did not even take School Certificate examinations. In my case this was because my parents felt that it was desirable that I should 'get a job' before the return to civvy street of servicemen might have made it difficult to obtain employment. (My father had experienced a period of unemployment during the 1930s).

'In spite of the lack of academic qualifications many of us progressed to senior positions in industry, or commerce, and we also appreciate the start given to us by our period at KGS.

'My feelings about the content of KOSA NEWS is reflected by a number of my friends/relatives who attended KGS.

'Perhaps you could give some consideration to these comments with a view to widening the appeal of the magazine.'

STAFF GET IN TOUCH...

Most welcome letters have been received from JOHN BRODIE, who taught at KGS/Kingsfield from 1956 to 1982, GEORGE BUTCHER, who taught English, and HAROLD V WATTS, who taught Art. John expressed his sadness at

learning of the death of WIN (WOODY) WILLIAMS.

GEORGE BUTCHER, referring to our articles in KOSA News 14, remarks

'Wasn't MISS JACOB attractive!

'I was also very interested to see that picture of NORMAN MOODY and COLIN WINTOUR and the sixth formers in Paris. I remember MOODY because he struck me as the ideal schoolmaster. He became Head of Newton Abbot Grammar School, and wanted a Head of English, which he encouraged me to apply for. I did in fact go for interview. The Governors preferred to promote an existing member of the English Department.

'I seem to remember that he was only in Devon for a year or two, then got a Headship in Nottingham - and not long afterwards I had the news of his death from Mrs Moody.

'He had a jolly good sense of what was important in a school and what wasn't. HEADMASTER RIDLEY was altogether more officious, and liked to show how much he was in command - springing entirely unexpected questions at staff meetings, and frequently catching us out!

'A particular lad came up for discussion amongst one or two sixth-form staff in the Head's office one afternoon, and all of a sudden RIDLEY said to MOODY: 'What did he get in French, then?' '45,' replied Moody, straight out.

'We were walking down the corridor afterwards and I said to Norman Moody 'How on earth could you remember that?' 'Oh, I would think he passed, and 45 is as good a guess as any!'

HAROLD WATTS wrote to report a recent visit he had received from BILL KNIGHT

(1948-55) who now lives in Plymouth. 'There was never a dull moment during the visit' reported Harold.

Harold recalled that when he was a youth he and his father used to catch the tram to Hanham and go for a walk in Hanham Woods, where there was evidence of Hanham's industrial past. There was also a link between the Hanham Estate and the Watts family. 'No wonder I felt at home at Kingswood Grammar School!' concludes Harold.

ENID EVANS (1963-82), who was Deputy Head of English, was particularly interested in ELEANOR SPILL'S contribution in an earlier edition of KOSA NEWS as a contemporary member of staff.

'I particularly remember standing in the ashes of the Old School (the Cowsheds, as they familiarly were known) following the horrendous fire which took place in August 1976. As a senior member of staff in the English Department, I with others was faced with the mammoth task of replacing and ordering thousands of text books and readers before the new session in September.'

FISHY'S BROTHER...

REGINALD GWYNNE SAMMONS (KGS 1921-25), (younger brother of BRIAN SAMMONS, Chemistry Master at KGS) who lost his life during the War, was reported in several editions of 'Kingswood Chronicles'.

In the very first edition of 1924, he is recorded as winning the Form V prize and in the Football Report he was said to be 'Inside right. Appeared in the team towards the end of the season. Neat in passing and accurate in shooting. Not quite dashing enough at present to be really dangerous.' By 1925 the report was 'Filled various positions in the team, being

most successful at outside right. Can shoot well, and passes with good direction.' In the 1926 edition he was reported as having 'obtained an appointment in a bank in Bristol.'

R G Sammons was described in our list of those who were killed during World War II published in KOSA News No: 6 as 'Missing - believed killed'. Correspondence with the Blenheim Society has, however, successfully unearthed further information:

'R G Sammons was shot down on 11th June 1941 when an observer in Blenheim V6367 of 107 Squadron. He took off from Great Massingham Aerodrome at 9.31 am for special targets in North West Germany.

'He was shot down by Messerschmitt BF 109 flown by Lieutenant Otto Schlauch of JG 52 from Leeuwarden, Holland at 10.37 am, 100 kilometres North West of the island of Texel. The Pilot was Sgt. Peter Walker and Pilot Officer R G Sammons, RAFVR, was 33 years of age, married, and from Kingswood, Bristol.

'His death is recorded on Runnymede Panel 34, where the deaths of airmen with no known grave are recorded.'

On passing the above information to one of Gwynne Sammons' daughters, Mrs Penny Franks, she was delighted to be able to know the precise details of her father's death. She told KOSA NEWS 'We have virtually no momentos of his life passed down, but I do have a small medallion showing him as Dux Ludorum at KGS in 1925'

PERSONAL SHOTS...

Can you remember those days when you chatted with your friends at the steps between the boys' and the girls' parts?

MEETINGS ON THE STEPS -1954



Left:
Heather Pomphrey,
Yvonne Yeoman,
June Demmery,
Norma Gibbons and
Jean Kendall

Below:
Jean Kendall, June
Demmery, Jill Sta-
ples and Judith Bea-
ver



Left:
Boys: Graham
Giles, David
Church, 'Nobby'
Greenaway, and
John Cole.
Girls: June Dem-
mery, Jill Staples,
Jean Kendall and
Judith Beaver

KINGSWOOD AT WAR...

Kingswood History Society has produced a facsimile edition of a booklet about the air raids on Kingswood in 1940/41 written by Geo. E Curtis of Kingswood UDC. Our own ANTHONY CURTIS (1939-46), George's son, has written the foreword, and an interesting account of some familiar places it is, too.

TONY was a choirboy at Holy Trinity Church, and he was there on 24th November 1940 when the first heavy raid was experienced. A large number of incendiaries fell in the vicinity of the church, and a number of dwellings in Hanham Road, Court Road, Hopps Road and Lower Hanham Road received direct hits. The most serious damage occurred when a paramine fell at the rear of the houses in Hanham Road, rendering many people homeless. Rev. Cousins closed the service with great despatch, and Tony and his father ran the 450 yards to their home in Moravian Road.

There were other raids on 2nd December 1940 when one house was destroyed in the Courtney Road area, and on 6th December a bomb fell on a shelter at the rear of the Ambassador Cinema (later the Odeon) causing severe damage to about 500 buildings in Kimberley Street, Worcester Road, London Street, Gilbert Road, Regent Street and Downend Road and making about 200 people temporarily homeless. Three young people died as a result of the hit on the shelter, but the casualties could have been more serious as the cinema was occupied by several hundred people when the bomb fell.

Another raid on 16th March 1941 destroyed several houses near Morley Terrace and killed two people, an old lady and her daughter. In all there were 30 raids between 24th November 1940 and 5th

July 1941, and between 24th November 1940 and 16th March 1941 the alarm was sounded on nearly 100 occasions. The booklet's a good read for a quid and is available from Bryan Haynes of Kingswood History Society.

...AND IN CONTRAST...

In the last edition we reported that KEN ALDRED (1948-53) is currently Director of the Council for Arms Control. It was good to see Ken at the last March 1999 reunion and as a direct result of the Kosovo conflict Ken has been interviewed in the media (BBC World Service, Radio 4) soliciting his views. Ken is editor of a quarterly 'Bulletin of Arms Control' and a recent edition included articles on the international arms trade, nuclear deterrent and the global network against nuclear tests. Glad to hear that it's someone from KGS who is trying to create some sense out of this arms business!

Incidentally, Ken was remembered by BOB LEWIS (1933-40), who taught at Bristol Cathedral School which Ken attended at one time: 'I have a dim recollection of teaching him about 1950 and am sorry that he found his stay with us so unhappy.' BOB writes, 'However in fairness to BCS the majority of our pupils appeared to enjoy their schooling and readily tolerated the regime, Saturday morning lessons and all!'

GIs AT ANCHOR...

VERNON STOKES (??) was prompted to write by DOUG EDWARDS' request for information in KOSA NEWS 13 about the American Army around KGS:

'My family were the licensees of the Anchor Inn in Made for Ever for some 50 years. My father was there from 1936 to 64 and my grandparents before him. I was born there.

'During the period the camp was there I was the only civilian allowed to enter, and of course all the lads and their officers frequented the Anchor every night. I have photographs of some of the lads. They were transported to the old Packers chocolate factory at Greenbank (not Carsons), and they were a Medical Corp.

'Some of the village girls married and left as GI brides, including an old KGS girl of my era, DOREEN ARNOLD.'

ENTENTE CORDIALE and CORDIAL INTENT

JOHN COLE (1949-56) has responded to the letter and photographs from MARION LAPADU in the last edition:

'It was great fun to read the letter from MISS MARION JACOB, to see photographs from her spell at KGS (1953-57) and to learn about her subsequent life married to Monsieur MICHEL LAPADU.

'As a fifth and sixth former during those years, I remember their contributions to our 'joie de vivre' with great affection. However readers should not be wholly convinced by her photo caption 'Michel and his beloved 6th formers, of whom he says he has never had such a pleasant class in all the rest of his teaching career'. Michel withstood having his leg pulled very well but one incident on the same Paris trip featured in Marion's letter and one situation (revealed later) indicates we were somewhat short of angelic!

'Four members of the party (DEREK HARVEY, ROY KING, MERVYN POWELL and yours truly) cycled to Paris, staying outside and going in to meet up with the others on special event days. The incident probably happened the same evening that the young teachers enjoyed their 'roteuse'. They certainly were not there to defend us when HEADMASTER RIDLEY bawled us out

for drinking spirits in a bar (he was quite relaxed about 'this weak French beer' although not as relaxed as we seemed to have been dressed in our cycling shorts). The situation that, if known, would have really shocked him was that the four of us spent evenings with a Parisian prostitute in her house! I hasten to explain that she was the mother of one of our four female pen friends in whose village we were camping.

'If MARION and MICHEL LAPADU were able to attend the reunion on 18 September 1999 for year scholars and associates 1949-54/56, they would be most warmly welcomed and who knows we might have further anecdotes revealed?

'In addition to the four cycling-campers, I can identify DAVE CHURCH, MARION HARVEY, and JUNE DICKS on the photo 'Paris trip with Mr Moody' (p.8 Number 14). The photo from the circus scene of 'The Bartered Bride' includes ROGER GREENAWAY and 'TITCH' WHEELER (the clowns), DAVE(?) BRITAIN (strongman), WENDY HULBERT (Esmeralda) and GEOFF FORD (Vasek) dressed as the bear. In 'The BB' MR WINTOUR was in fact Kecal the marriage broker. Modesty forbids me saying who actually was Tobias Micha, the heavy father of the two half-brothers, but my stage wife was JUNE DEMMERY!

'I remember ROGER GREENAWAY (although he doesn't) throwing himself off the stage in his clown's exuberance. Always there was unscripted humour in those school productions.

'In 'The Pirates of Penzance' HEATHER POMPHREY retained her sense of humour, if not all her dignity, when as one of Major-General Stanley's daughters, she resisted capture by the designated pirate so well that all the press studs down the

back of her dress burst open! Guess who was the pirate?

'My own comeuppance had already occurred however. Rehearsing for the Shakespeare production I was told that DENLEY PERROTT would measure me for my costume. Thinking that this would be an interesting hands-on experience I was crestfallen to find that the process was merely to size me up with a tape held horizontally or vertically several inches from my body! On this occasion there was no need of that teacher's refrain 'Wipe that silly grin off your face Cole!' Ah well, happy innocent days.'

EIN BRIEF AUS ENGLAND...

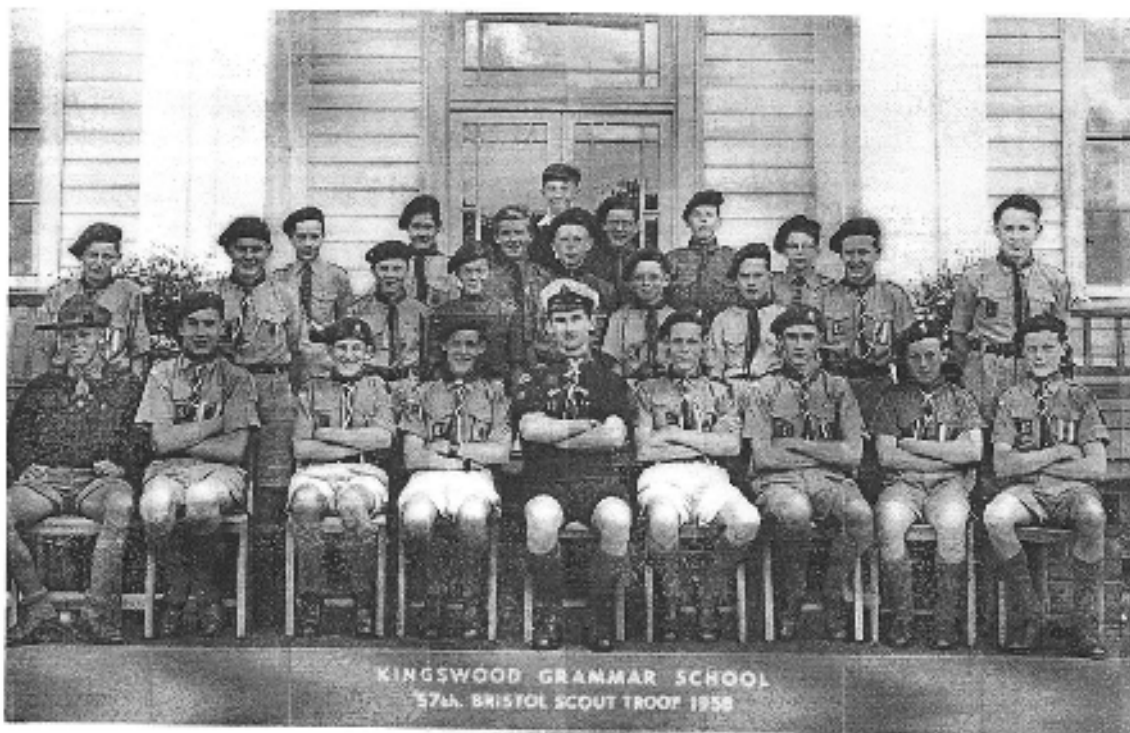
DAVID HILLING (1947-54) has responded to the article about the Siegerland exchanges in the last edition:

'The exchange arrangement was between Kingswood and Kreis (County), not

1954. Indeed, when I did a Masters Degree for the University of Wales (1958-60) my thesis was a 'Regional Study of the Westphalian Siegerland' - involving considerable periods of time in the area with wonderful hospitality from people I had first met on the exchange.

'I am still in contact with four of the Germans, including two in the picture (KOSA News, No 14) - front centre is Martin Stucher, leader and main translator for many years, and Gerhard Neef, two to left behind Martin, now Dr Neef, who has just retired after a career as a geography teacher. Martin was renowned for his ability in translation to reduce long-winded speeches by civic dignitaries to just a few words (!) and even now we talk about those days and the people involved.'

'Incidentally, for how long was there a Scout Troup at KGS? While supply teaching at KGS in the Summer of 1958 I joined the School Scouts at their annual



town, of Siegen and numerous KGS people were involved. I did not participate in the first of the exchanges but was a frequent visitor to the Siegerland after

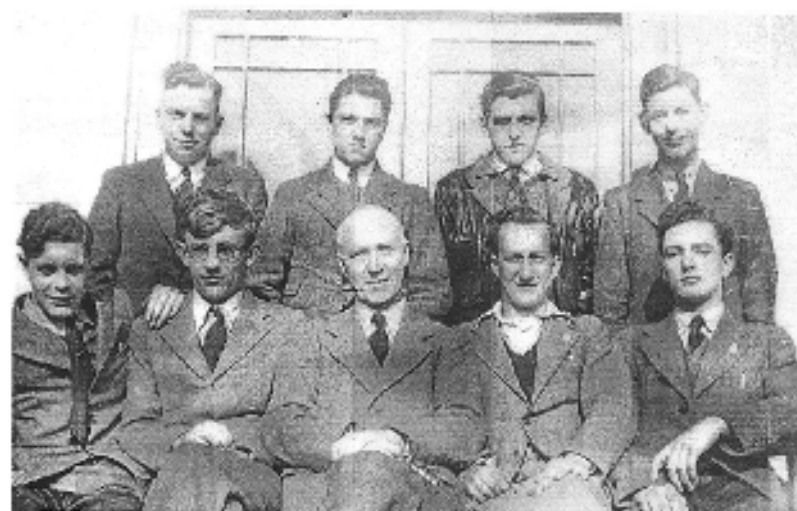
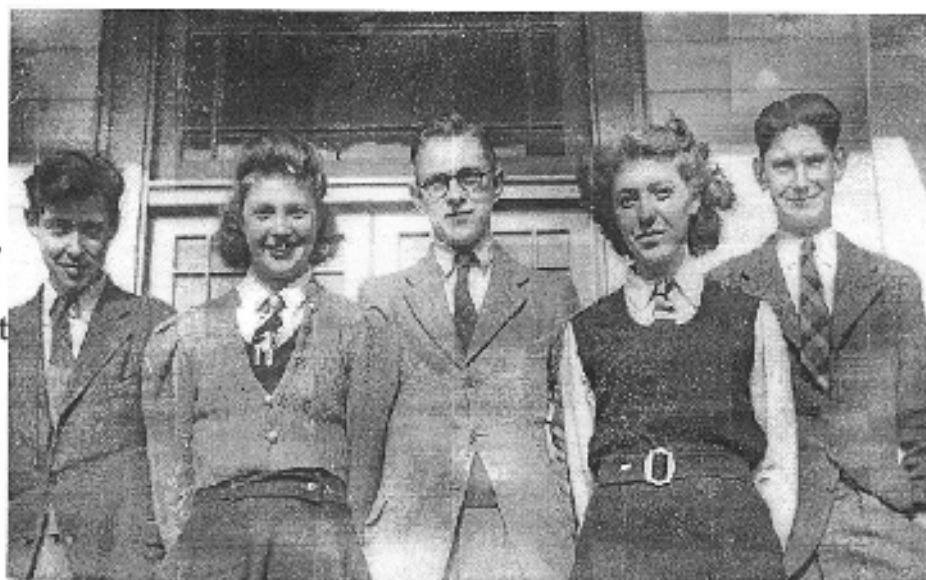
camp in the Kingsbridge (Devon) area. The Scout Master was, I believe, a teacher by the name of WILKINSON'.

A FEW FROM THE '40s



Potato-picking at
Slimbridge 1942
June Long, Marjorie (Flip)
Phipps, Jean Pulford,
Joan Newman, Babs
Tippett, Erica Ivory

Alan Otlet, Erica Ivory
W. David Brunt, Mary
Moseley, Alan Herbert

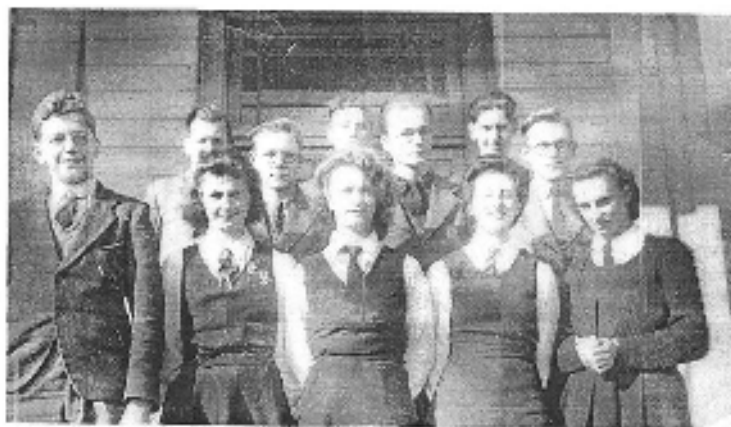


Alan Merritt, Kenneth Jenkins,
John Penny, John Simpkins,
Maurice Bishop, Vernon
Roberts, Major Eaton, Tony
Curtis, Lewis Cox

Hockey 1st XI 1945-46



Back row: ??, ? Ross, Jill Cook, ? Brain, Barbara Binham, ??
 Front row: Diana Darke, Kath Wilcox, Erica Ivory, Mary Moseley, ??



Back row: Basil Britton, John Loxton, Ron Clements, John Milles, Alan Herbert, W. David Brunt,
 Front row: Gordon Harris, Erica Ivory, Beryl Milton, Peggy Green, Margaret Tysoe,
 1945?



Back row: Jean Hicks, Peter Redford, Esme Ridge?, W David Brunt, Joan Bridges,
 Vernon Roberts
 Middle row: Kathleen Wilcox, June?, ??, Laura Palmer, ? Brain
 Front row: Diana Darke, ? Brain, Megan Davies

IT'S A SMALL WORLD...

Recently traced within the safe super-annuated walls of the Centre for Education in Europe, Council of Europe in Strasbourg is WILSON BARRETT (1948-55). Wilson e-mailed:

'Your name was passed to me by BRUCE CARPENTER (1948-56) of Vancouver, Canada, who has been in contact with PETER WALTERS (of similar vintage) of Kingswood, UK!

'I appreciate your offer to relate the story of my life, but I wouldn't wish to bore the readers of KOSA News. Suffice to say I can be contacted at the above at F-67075, Strasbourg, Cedex should anyone wish to receive information concerning the role and activities of the Council of Europe. You, like 99% of the population of Europe, have made the mistake of believing that the Council of Europe is part of the EU. We, fortunately, are not parties to the mismanagement, fraud and nepotism of Brussels!

'On turning to page 2 of KOSA NEWS 13 I saw the name of GEORGE WYNDAM PARNELL who lost his life during the War. My parents were friends of Wyndam's parents, and I inherited his set of Arthur Mee's Children's Encyclopedia which may still be in the family somewhere. Small world!

By a coincidence, Wilson is on the photograph received from New Zealand shown on page 11. He's on the back row, right hand side.

FROM KIWI-LAND...

'We are H GORDON HARRIS and JOAN (previously BLYTHE) of 1931-38 and were delighted to receive copies of KOSA News....After Gordon obtained his B Sc in Botany at Bristol University he spent his war years with the Ministry of Agriculture,

and later taught at Tetbury and Bristol Grammar Schools and lectured at High Wycombe Technical College.

'In 1966 we emigrated to New Zealand, as Gordon had obtained a post at the Central Institute of Technology in Wellington, lecturing in Biology and later Microbiology and Food Science. During these years he obtained an M Sc at Victoria University for a thesis on Sewage Oxidation Pond Sediments. He retired in 1983 to develop his interests in gardening and a small orchard and was able to spend more time on his fascination with astronomy, even building his own reflective telescopes. Unfortunately, he suffered a severe stroke in 1991 which deprived him of speech and left him partially paralysed.

'I particularly enjoyed the items concerning the staff in those early years. The teacher who made the greatest impression on me was MISS QUINTON, not for her Latin classes, but for her Divinity lessons. I still remember one of the essays she set us in the 6th form: 'Is belief in the miracles essential for a Christian?' or similar words. This kind of questioning was not common among ordinary people in the 1930s. She aroused for me a lifetime interest in an intelligent, historical interpretation of the Bible. I can quite understand, as reported in one 'KOSA News', that in her later years of teaching she relinquished her Latin classes in order to spend more time sharing her love of Divinity, as she termed it, with young people.'

YET ANOTHER ONE...

Just to prove that letters are like buses, several come along at once, we have received the following letter from MARY HUCKLE (now THORN) (1947-53), also from New Zealand:

'I was delighted to receive KOSA NEWS from you (God bless my brother!) and I apologise for the delay in replying to you. Although having lived quite happily in New Zealand for the past 41 years I have never had a 'past' I could share with anyone and it's surprising how you miss not being able to join in when friends reminisce about school days, there is a vacuum!

I was at KGS from 1947-53 I took the 11+ exam when a little over 10 years and started in the autumn term at 10. I had to spend 2 years in the first form as I wasn't as smart as I thought I was! I lived in Grace Road, Downend and went to KGS from Christ Church Downend Primary School. I have enclosed four photos for your archives, you are welcome to keep and I have two photos of the entire school, one of 1948 and one of 1953. I will send these under separate cover in a tube. (Thanks, Mary - safely received -Ed)

I remember being in 4 school productions during my time at school the first I remember MISS MORRISON trying to teach me how to dance suitably in something like the Nutcracker Suite. I think then there was Dido and Aeneas, The Taming of the Shrew and The Pirates of Penzance. I think I played Edith and I remember MR HODGSON was the policeman and HAROLD WATTS was the Pirate King (unless my memory is playing me tricks!) I also remember a party after the production finished in MR HODGSON'S flat in Clifton.

My favourite subject at school was music and ERIC HILTON was a major influence. I had piano lessons from him and always remember his beautiful grand piano. We seemed to attend a lot of concerts, mostly at the Colston Hall and some in London. I think I was in Davis house and remember one lunch time playing a tennis match on the grass court which was in front of the



The photo of the tennis team I am not in but found it in an old album of my husband as I married the brother of an old school friend, ROSEMARY THORN. I don't know which year but guess it could be 1953.....

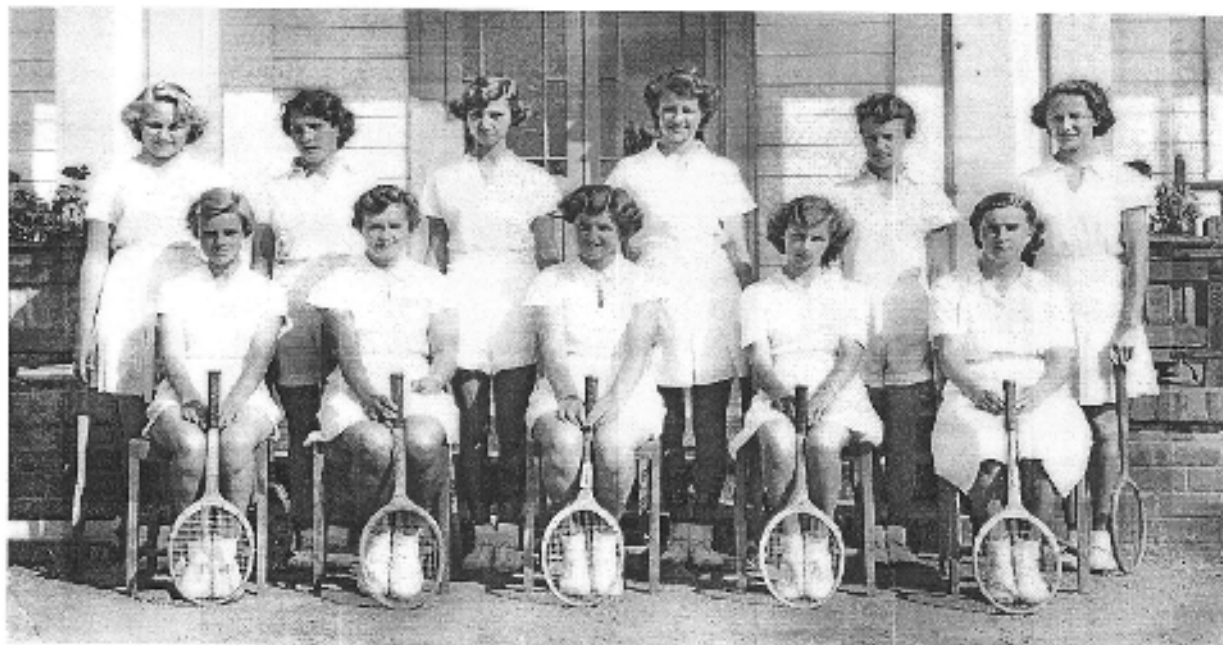
verandah where the headmaster's office was. I think it was MR RIDLEY by that time and I played my little heart out as he came out to watch, all to no avail. I was NOT a tennis player. I remember playing hockey in the winter and we had to go out

through a gate at the bottom end of the school grounds across the road to a playing field the other side. I remember where the bike sheds were (no particular significance) and the big oak tree. I also remember biking home from school via Syston Common and stopping at a little shop somewhere along there to buy ice blocks, raspberry flavoured dipped in choc. Jumping about, I remember I have 3 or 4 old school reports you are more than welcome to for your archives.'

(Mary is third in from the right in the front row of the photograph of 3a in 1951, on page 11 - Ed)

Below is a comparison of tennis 1953-style and a photograph taken about 1929 or 1930 of a tennis party which includes some well-known members of staff.

Mary's 1953 photo shows (front) Kath Townsend, Fay Chappel, Janet Crew, Rosemary Thorn, Pat Kingscott and Mary



Wakefield. Back: Ann Suttle, Pat Yeoman, Maureen Bracey, Sheila Benson and Jean Lovell.

The earlier photograph was purchased by MARIE HARRIS (1926-30) in Staple Hill and shows MISS WATTERS in the front row, left hand side and MISS QUINTON immediately behind her. The two men at the back in the middle in jackets are BRIAN SAMMONS (left) and MR KINTON, both at one time teachers at KGS. The older man in the middle of the group with the beard is the father of BRIAN, GWYNNE and BARBARA SAMMONS who were all old scholars of KGS.

BITS & PIECES...

JILL BROOKS (now HAYDEN) (1953-59) sent KOSA NEWS the Liberal Democrats' 'Focus' for the Wick area in which was reported that TILLY HULL (now BISHOP) (1953-59) was planning to run in this year's London Marathon for charity in aid of the homeless in April, in spite of having had two hip replacements. Did you succeed, Tilly?

Help is always appreciated in identifying photographs and DAVID CREW (1948-51) wrote:

'What a splendid picture on page 12 of KOSA NEWS 14! Part of the 6th form of 1948-49. The names of the people DAVID ROWE couldn't recall were: MAURICE BISHOP, 'EDWARD' LEAR and JOHNNY LAWDEN. David is quite right. The picture does, indeed, show a very happy atmosphere at KGS. Those were the days!' Thanks, too, for the phone calls from MARION OSBORNE (now OTLET) (1940-47) and GERALD TIPTON (1942-50) who also identified the missing names, including DENNIS SHACKLETON. They recalled that it was MERVYN LEAR who was the first boy to drive a car to school after the war (or is someone

going to refute that! - Ed), and JOHN LAWDEN who took some of the Sports Day photos featured in an earlier KOSA NEWS.

BRENDA DEMMERY (1941-45) wrote to identify those on the 1931? photograph on page 6 of KOSA NEWS 14. Brenda writes:

'According to IRIS BARRETT (now HALL) the girls in the photograph were pupils at High Street School and all of them proceeded to KGS. Probably a trip in the holiday before their move. Incidentally, Iris thinks that the trip was to St Catherine's Valley but PAT COLEMAN maintains it was to Blagdon Lake. So one of the others can make a casting vote! The names are: Back row: PAT COLEMAN, IRIS BARRETT, ELSIE PILLINGER, DOREEN FUDGE and JOYCE SMITH. Front row: KATHLEEN GAY, MILDRED BARKER, DOROTHY SHORT and OLIVE BARRETT'

LIONEL HARRIS (1952-57) was also able to inform us that MAX LOVELL (on the Kingswood Old Boys Rugby photograph on page 14) was last seen heading for Exeter City Council after leaving Kingswood District Council around 1974. He also refers to our report in the last edition that SIR BERNARD LOVELL (1924-31) has been known to support Lancashire County Cricket Club: Lionel believes that the lights used at Old Trafford and generally in Test Matches nowadays to determine when bad light may stop play were developed by Sir Bernard's department at Manchester University.

This was also pointed out by JEREMY REICE (1953-58) who told us that he is now retired from a company he joined as a 'dogs body' in 1961 and which he owned when he retired in 1997. Jeremy's Brother-in-law is MIKE ROGERS (1952-56) who has also surfaced recently.

FRIENDS IN THE 20s...



Marie Harris (1926-30)
(centre)
took the photographs
of (clockwise):
Eunice Kelland, Joan
Knott, Mary Rooke and
Nora Stone.
Kathleen Harries
Alice Ollis
and
Olive Cox and Betty ?

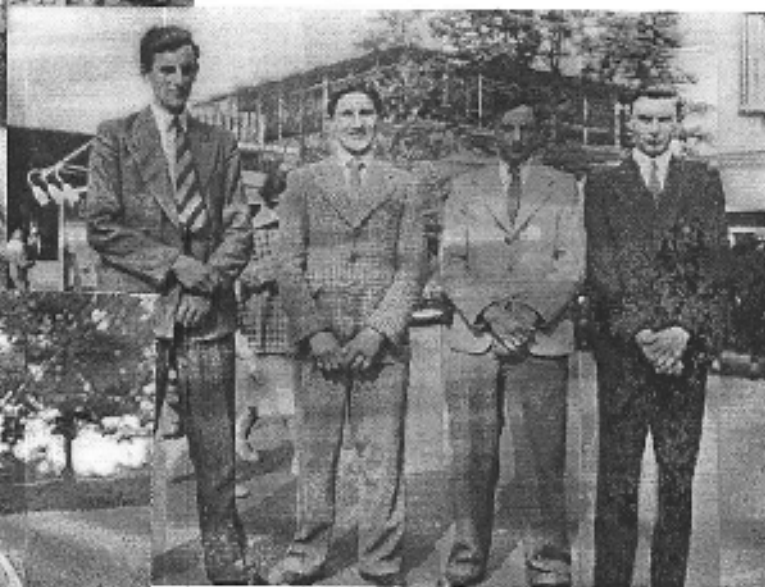


FRIENDS IN THE 50s...

Right:
Geography
Field Study
Trip, Horton
Gower, 1952



Left:
Back: W B Wisker, John Bryant
Front: Peter Myers, Don Breddy
Somewhere in Paignton 1951
Below: Don Breddy, John Mundin,
John Bryant and Peter Myers
Festival of Britain 1951



Left:
An informal group around
Jim Withey - 1957

OBITUARIES...

JOHN HARDING (1946-49) has written to tell us of the death of his mother EILEEN FORWARD (later HARDING) last November in Clevedon. Eileen had been at KGS around 1925.

BOB LEWIS (1933-40) and JOHN BERRY (1932-38) have informed KOSA NEWS of the passing of ROY GILL (1932-39):

'In the last issue we were pleased to announce our contact last November with ROY GILL, who came from Downend. It is now with great regret that we have to report his death on Boxing Day at Lower Raydon, Suffolk.

'At school Roy proved a very able pupil and fine sportsman. He gained his HSC at the age of 16, became captain of the school soccer and cricket 1st XIs, and in his final year he was a well-liked and respected Head Prefect. He left in 1939, having gained a place to read French at New College Oxford, where his scholarship and industry were rewarded with a good degree in 1941.

'After graduation, he started his wartime military service, received a commission in the Royal Corps of Signals and spent the last four years of the war in N. Africa and Italy.

'On his return to civilian life he went into teaching, at first in Devon and later in Essex where he helped initiate the first Colchester Comprehensive School, of which he became Head of Upper School and 6th Form. Following retirement in 1979, Roy with his second wife Jean (his first wife died of cancer in the 1960s) travelled extensively in Europe and the Mediterranean, and last year, only 18 months after a hip operation, drove from N. Portugal through Spain and France,

visiting members of his family at Clermont Ferrand. No mean feat for someone nearing eighty!

'Roy is survived by his wife, five children and three grand-children, and to them all we offer our deepest sympathy in their sad loss'

LIONEL HARRIS (1952-57) has written to KOSA News on his mother's passing:

'DORIS MAY HARRIS (nee WINSTONE) died 9 March 1999 aged 83 - DoB 1 November 1915. She was one of the earliest pupils at the school soon after KGS opened when Major Eaton was the Headmaster. (I am not sure of the actual dates she attended). At school she was said to be academically sound and was a member of the School Hockey First Eleven Team. She left school and went to work for E S & A Robinson at Fishponds in the catering department and became Supervisor in Charge of the Directors' Dining Room until her marriage in 1940.

'She lived most of her life in Morley Road, Staple Hill moving to Longwell Green in the 1970s and to Kingswood in 1988. She supported local charities especially the Cancer Research Campaign where her husband was the Honorary Treasurer for 21 years.

'Doris is survived by her son LIONEL HARRIS (KGS 1952-57) and daughter-in-law DIANE (nee WOGAN-KGS 1955-61) and her daughter Jill, a former pupil at Red Maids School.'

DAVE PINE (1951-56) has also passed on the sad news of his mother's death:

'My Mum, who was REBEE FUDGE (1926-31) at school, passed away in March 1999. She always amazed me with her tremendous memory for names and faces, and going through her files I found

a slip of paper with a list of names she had remembered from the photograph on page 13 of KOSA NEWS 13 of the visit to Bath Botanical Gardens in 1930? The names of those she had identified were: Back row girls: BETTY MOUNTFORD, REBEE FUDGE, LILY PILLINGER, PEGGY LOUGHMAN, MAUD HARROWAY, VIOLET GARLAND, GERTIE UNDERWOOD, NORAH WHITE, JOAN LUCAS, BETTY WILLIAMS. End of row right: EILEEN CHIVERS, ANNIE HICKS (both from Marshfield), IRIS SAGE.

DOUG EDWARDS (1945-50) passed away on 21st January 1999 in a hospital close to his home in Holylake, Merseyside. Your Editor had many interesting phone conversations with Doug about many subjects, such were his wide interests. I got to know him well when I visited Liverpool in the 90s and we 'did' some pubs around the area of the universities. Doug was a generous man, sending me many photographs and photocopies over the years of our common interests, KGS, railways and local history.

Doug was a sensitive person. He never easily got over what he would have interpreted as a personal slight, even when not intended; and I suppose he was only human in craving recognition for what he had genuinely achieved. In fact, Doug was an excellent researcher in getting to the bottom of our past. He wrote many books and articles of his railway interests, and was just starting to get interested in the contribution which the now defunct Carsons building made to the war effort.

Doug's first wife was MOREEN OLIVE (now DIETZEL) (1948-54), who now lives in Australia, and our condolences go to his wife, mother, son and daughter.

JILL BROOKS (now HAYDEN) (1953-59) has sent KOSA NEWS a cutting from the

Evening Post announcing the death of RICHARD MADGE (1961-?) on 11th January. Richard, who was from Downend, was a member of the KGS Rugby 2nd XV and played cricket for Stapleton Cricket Club. He spent most of his working life in Shrewsbury where he taught Drama. He leaves wife Mary and three daughters.

FRANK STEPHENS (1930-35) has informed us of the passing of JOAN BATEMAN (later HOGAN) (1934-38) also on 11th January last. Joan, who lived in Staple Hill, was twice widowed and brought up two children as well as successfully obtaining her Open University degree. Frank's sister-in-law, MARJORIE POWELL (now HOBBS) (1934-38), featured Joan in a letter which was published in KOSA NEWS 9 in Spring 1997, page 20. Joan was obviously a well-liked and popular lady.

We send our condolences and best wishes to all those who have lost a loved one.

50 YEARS ON...

50th ANNIVERSARY REUNION OF '49 ENTRY (54 to 56 LEAVERS)

JOHN COLE (1949-56) writes:

'It's going to happen on Saturday 18 September at Tracey Park Country Club, Old Bath Road, Wick. The Cost will be £13 each - essentially for the buffet. We hope that people will arrive from 7.00 pm - this should give us all a lot of time to greet and meet and catch up on old and more recent history.

'50 letters initially have gone out to known names and addresses of the year group with the request to contact others not on the list, including any who were not with us for the full span of 1949 - 54/56. This

event is not exclusive and partners, siblings and old scholars who have connections with our year group will be very welcome.

'It will be great to have everyone there on the 18th, an informal but unique occasion. JOHN BREDDY, BRIAN BUTLER and I recently visited Tracy Park and were impressed by the ambience (and the beer's not bad either!). It is a large Georgian house, just redecorated, with space for quiet reflection or indeed for 'better halves' to escape the reminiscences. It has B & B accommodation available at about £60 for a double (Tel 0117 937 2251). Other nearby alternatives are also being sought.

'Fags of '49 (re)unite! You have nothing to lose except your claims! (that although everyone else has changed somehow you haven't much...). It will be helpful to all if you prepare and wear a bold name badge (with maiden name if applicable). On the subject of names, please note that it is probably unwise to assume a delighted response to the use of a nickname that someone hoped was safely buried decades ago!

'My phone number is 0121 354 7680. John Breddy's is 01249 652976. Do contact either of us if you want to discuss details. Please make cheques out to 'KOSA 49 Reunion' and return asap to John Breddy, 56 Orchard Chippenham, Wilts, SN14 0BE'

RUGBY REUNION...

JOHN BISHOP (1952-57), Kingswood RFC's President, is organising the bi-annual Rugby Reunion, at the ground behind the Tennis court Inn, to coincide with JOHN COLE'S 'Fags of '49' evening on the 18th September 1999, so those of

you who have to travel to Bristol, why not make a day of it? Bishy assures me that any Old Scholars, male or female, are welcome to come to the buffet lunch and spend a sociable afternoon watching a home match with old friends. A letter to those on the KRFC list will have gone out by now, but others can contact John on 0117 967 6083 or by post at 9 Park View, Kingswood, BS15 2TJ to book a place. Buffet at 12.30pm about a fiver, with any profits going to purchase wind- and water-proof training suits for the club for replacement players who have to hang around on the touchline.

OCTOBER LUNCH...

The KOSA October Lunch is on 2nd October 1999 at Lincombe Barn, Overndale Road, Downend at 12.30 pm. We have a small bar and the lunch, which is prepared by Old Scholar BOB GRAY'S (1949-56) catering firm, is always a very pleasant occasion. Why not put the date in your diary now and send the enclosed form to KOSA Treasurer RON CLEMENTS, telephone 0117 967 2328.

ADMISSION REGISTER...

We are indebted to MIKE WILLIAMS (1971-74), son of Woodwork Master WIN WILLIAMS, for passing on to KOSA for our archives the very first register of Kingswood Secondary School (precursor of KGS) from 1921. Win probably unwittingly saved the register from the flames of the fire which destroyed the school buildings in 1976 by having it at home.

A brief analysis of the register, which is written in Headmaster MAJOR EATON'S own hand, shows that at the start of the school in the Autumn of 1921 there were 116 pupils on the register, 22 were admitted during 1921/22 to make 138 by the end of the first year. The Autumn 1922 intake was 37, with 16 more during

1922/23, and the Autumn 1923 intake was 47, with 11 during 1923/24. By the end of 1923/24, 249 pupils were on the register.

School started on 16th September 1921, and the very first boy, number 1 on the register, was HERBERT NORMAN AMOS LEAR who came from Doynton Church of England School, which was in Chipping Sodbury (!) Urban District. His father was sub-postmaster. The first girl, number 2 on the register, was DOROTHY CONSTANCE KNEATH from Wendover School, Fishponds, whose father was a railway clerk. They were both admitted to form IV, although Herbert was 13 and Dorothy was 15 in 1921. It seems that quite a range of ages was admitted to form IV, and it seems that the forms were I, II, IIIa, IIIb, and IV in the first year.

Looking through the list there appears FREDERICK JAMES BABER (No. 77) who was erstwhile President of KOSA for many years before he died, ALFRED CHARLES BERNARD LOVELL (No. 242) who eventually became Sir Bernard Lovell (what happened to the Alfred Charles?), WILLIAM BARTLEY SCANTLEBURY (No. 177) who still lives in Downend, JOSEPHINE ELIZABETH WHITTERN (now SCUDAMORE) (No. 52) and GLADYS ANSTEE (now NELSON) (No. 71). The latter two ladies we have had the pleasure of seeing at recent reunions.

There are many other multiple surnames which are recognisable as perpetuated by later pupils at KGS as it is possible that some are their predecessors. Names such as BOYELDIEU, BRAIN, BURCHILL, DEMMERY, FUDGE, HARRIS, HASELL, ILES, KELLAND, LEAR, and YEOMAN, just to mention a few. If you have any queries about those of the first three years, please write to the Editor.

THE KGS VIDEO...

Also donated to KOSA by MIKE WILLIAMS are some films of various activities at KGS spanning the years from 1955 to 1971, in a mixture of black and white and colour. Taken by The KGS Photographic Society and WIN WILLIAMS, they have now been transferred to a video which runs for about an hour. The video provides a fascinating pictorial record of KGS, full of nostalgia. If you would like a copy, please send a cheque for £8 made payable to KOSA to the Editor, a price which includes postage and packing. As we have not prepared any copies in advance, please give us time to make copies according to the demand. Remember that the tapes are made from a mixture of old 16mm and 8mm film, so are of variable quality.

The subjects on record are:

Cricket and Tennis:

Cricket includes shots of 'BEN' HODGSON and ERIC HILTON at the crease; tennis is on the girls' courts in front of the school.

1956 School Sports Day

1955 School Sports Day

The Sports Days are in black and white, but from 16mm film and therefore of better quality. It's believed that they were shot under the supervision of Geography Master KEN POPLE, who went on to do greater things in television. There are many shots of the staff, lots of crowd scenes, many events including Javelin, Skipping, Hurdles, Mixed Relay and scenes of collecting the cups at the end from MRS RIDLEY. There are too many faces to identify here, but included picking up the trophies are ROSEMARY CRYER, MIKE REDGERS, MARGARET SMART, COLIN REECE. Other pupils identified include DAVID FOICE, JEFF FORD, RICHARD DAVIES and DENLEY PERROTT. There's even a shot of Shackle-

ton's loudspeaker van, an old Vauxhall? And M LAPADU is somewhere in the 1956 film. If you were there in 1955/56, the video's worth buying for that content alone!

1955 Geographical Survey of Warmley Brook

This was made by the Photographic Society, and included 'SCRUFFY' MORRIS in Wellington boots, and it's believed that JOHN CULLIN points out the line of the stream. Who runs down the field to the brook (in school uniform, of course!)?

1955 (Feb) The Bartered Bride

Again made by the Photographic Society, with lots of scenes from this production, including the ballerina, the strong man, the dancers and chorus, and many, many more.

Rugby, Tennis and Hockey

Some of these are believed to be Staff vs School and, at Rugby, School vs Old Boys. Recognised briefly are HAZEL STANTON (Hockey) and DAVE PINE, ROY KING and others (Rugby).

School Film (A Drama)

A short feature film made by the Photographic Society about a rogue who stole one of the trophies and buried it in the longjump sandpit in front of the school, presumably for collection later. The dastardly deed was discovered and the culprit was chased around the school grounds. Exciting stuff! Who stole the cup? Who found it? Who were those who gave chase? There are also some girl dancers, who were they? All the actors appear to be members of the lower school.

More Sports

1962 Staff Football Match

1963 School Trip to Vienna

Shots on the ferry, and at the hotel in Vienna. Scenes also on some

'Dodg'ems', presumably at a fair or in a park. Ubiquitous duffel bags!

1964 A Day at School

Opens with two boys attending a weather station in the grounds of the school. Who are they? Many interesting scenes - boys' PT in the Gym (horseplay and climbing the ropes), lunch in the canteen, tennis, lesson in a classroom and the chemistry lab., and breaktime. Arrival and hometime - some on bikes, some walking and some taking the bus.

1964 Sports Day and Views of the School

Some good views of the school in colour, with some of the pupils actually painting the school. Ah, yes, times were hard in those days!

1967 School Trip to Austria

1971 School Trip to Austria

Some double exposure on the 1967 film, but the 1971 film shows lots of scenes, including swimming in the lake. What lake?

All good stuff for eight quid!

THAT OTHER VIDEO...

We can still obtain for you 'KINGSWOOD REVISITED' advertised in the last 'NEWS. Part of the video is devoted to KGS, and KOSA have an arrangement with the publishers that they will contribute to KOSA funds for each copy sold. Please send your name and address to the Editor and enclose a cheque for £13.20 (£11.95 plus £1.25) payable to First Take Video.

STOP PRESS...

As we prepare this edition, DAVID CREW (see page 13) is able to add 'I wrote to MONA OWEN in Canada and she says that she is not the girl in the picture in 'NEWS 14 page 13' Does anyone know who it is?

TWO FROM THE 30s...

MURIEL HILL (now JAMES) (1934-37) writes:

'My courage failed me when it came to deciding to attend the Re-union Luncheon partly because of my 'vintage', and also because I do not drive and I do not think there is suitable public transport to get from Whitchurch to Downend.

'Referring back to my earlier letter which appeared in KOSA 9, I recently found a certificate (which I have mislaid) either for Swimming or Diving - this would have gained points for Haskins House (Yellow) which was struggling at that time-1935. I still swim regularly and have recently completed the "Channel Challenge" swimming 22 miles over a period of as many weeks to raise £125 to date for Cancer Research. It was a childhood ambition to swim the Channel at the age of 75 I finally achieved it, but in the comfort of a swimming pool, and in easy stages!

'On Page 18 of 'NEWS 13, there is reference to DAVID EWINS (1953-59). In 1956 I was working at the offices of West

Glos. Water Co., in Soundwell Road, when a new member of staff joined us, his name was Wilfred Ewins. He was the father of David who was still a schoolboy, but hoping to get a place at Imperial College. Obviously he did, and as the article shows, went on to become a professor.

'I left West Glos. in 1957 when I married but it was a happy place to work, many of the staff being ex KGS:

LAURENCE and FRANK SMALL. Frank's wife was DOREEN TIPPETT also ex KGS. JAMES BAILEY, KATHLEEN HICKS, MEGAN COOKE, who became WHITE after her marriage to Brian, with whom I had worked in 1941/2 at Aero Engines, formerly Douglas Motor Cycles. (See AUDREY CURTIS' War report later - Ed.)

JOYCE EDWARDS (now STEVENS) (1927-34) sent us the photograph below of the 6th Form taken on 19th October 1934 which she found when clearing out before a move. Names are: Back row: Cecil Brewer, ??, ??, Reg Webley, Frank Harding, ??, ??, John Wreford. Centre: Joan Grayling, Ruth Sprackman, ??, Joyce Edwards, Doreen ?, Lena Amos, Joyce Ivory, May Wixey. Front: Percy

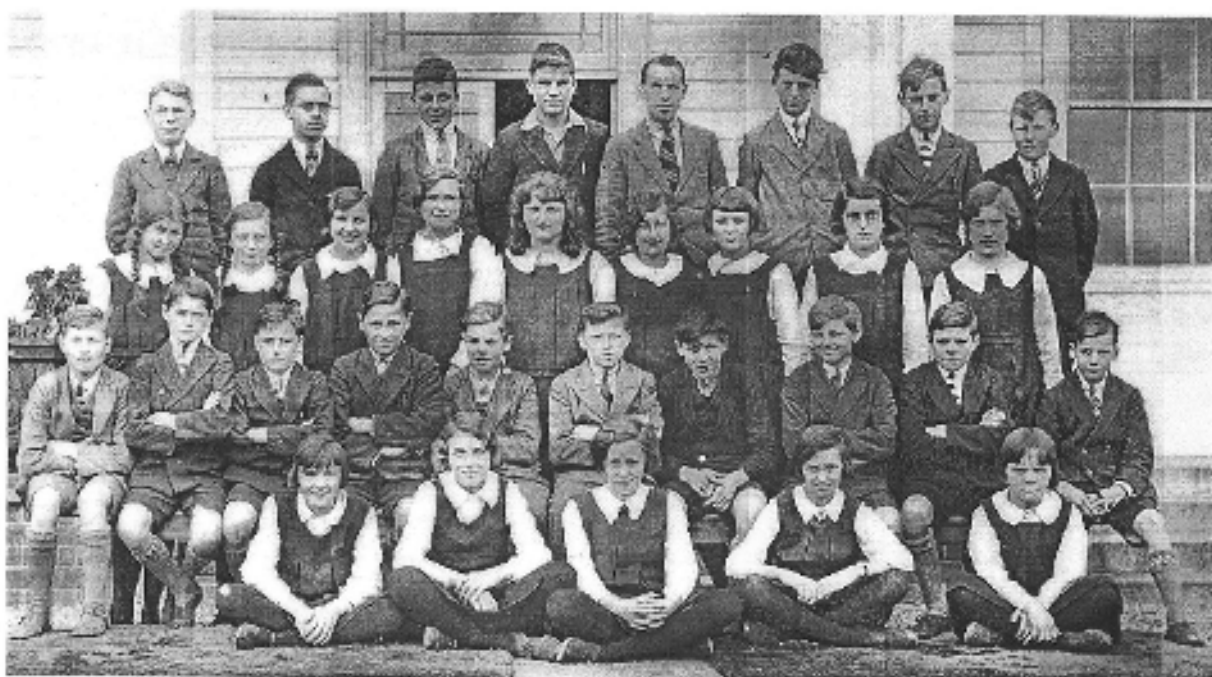


Lovell, ? Tranter, Arthur Perry, Jelfs?, ??, Ronald Broaks.

'I also came across a KGS hatband bringing memories of panama hats which took on weird shapes if they got wet and tussore dresses which immediately looked unironed.

'I noticed in the tennis photos that in 1932 we were wearing white stockings but in 1933 MISS POWELL permitted ankle socks - very daring!'

Dorset, wrote to the 'Evening Post' recently about her experiences.. 'One morning in 1940 or 1941 a German plane came over, almost at rooftop level. [Tony] said it was a reconnaissance plane, probably taking pictures of the Aero Engines [Works]. Years later I saw two photographs of our part of Kingswood taken by the Germans. Aero Engines was clearly marked and all departments named. Dad, who knew about these things, told us that the only inaccuracies were that the cycle sheds were labelled



The photograph above was sent to us by EDNA PERRY (now DAVIS) who is second from the left in the front row. No date or form is given, but as Edna was at KGS between 1929 and 1933 we would guess the photograph is of Year 2 in 1931. Can anyone give us more accurate details?

POSTSCRIPT...

As a postscript to ANTHONY CURTIS' wartime yarn (see page 5), we have come across his sister's letter to a rival publication:

Tony's sister AUDREY CURTIS (now JOHNSON) (1941-46), now living in

canteen and vice versa.'

POTATO PICKERS OF THE '40s...

MARY TWYFORD (1941-46) (now BRENDA M HARRIS) writes:

'You ask about anyone remembering MISS WYCHERLEY taking potato picking parties to Slimbridge during the war. I didn't know this but I do remember going to a "Harvest Camp" at Falfield in 1942 or 43 for two weeks. MISS BIGGS was in charge for one week and she also did the catering; the other week it was Miss Tarrant and the catering was done by a girl

called BAKER (DOROTHY I think) who had recently left the school and gone to a Domestic Science College. The food must have been OK because the only thing I remember about it is having burnt porridge one morning.

'We split into groups to go potato picking, and also to gather the harvest in; we had to stack the wheat in stooks and I am afraid that a large proportion of the stooks fell over! MARY RUSS and I were lucky enough to spend a day at a private house where Mary spent the time in the garden and I was labouring for the rick thatcher. I don't remember any rainy days and we had a great time; it was my only experience ever of being under canvas. The Sunday was Open Day when parents came to visit.

'My main hobby is tracing the ancestors of myself and my husband - almost all of whom came from Bitton and the villages around. It is noticeable that most of the surnames in the KOSA News have a background of many generations in the area. I notice particularly mention of PAT FEWS whose surname has persisted through quite a few generations around Dyrham, Wick, Siston and Bitton.

'I was interested that MISS MORRISON took up playing golf. During my time at school she played exhibition tennis matches with Joe Williams who had a cycle shop at Hanham; I don't know if he was an old boy or not.

'I was a Samuel White scholarship girl otherwise I don't think I would have gone to the school. I remember Mr. Routley coming into the classroom, at Hanham Abbots Junior, and saying that MARY TWYFORD and John Cullum had been awarded free scholarships although John did not take his up. The scholarships were awarded to one boy and one girl

each year and continued until the Education Act of 1944. The reason I am writing this is because I am interested to know of any other pupils who was awarded a scholarship and perhaps someone can supply the information.

'I remember going to the Commemoration Day Service one Sunday in 1942, I was in my second year but I don't recall whether we sat in form order or if we gathered to walk into church. I recognise some of the marchers, MARGARET MORRIS had left by then but her sister EILEEN was a pupil at that time. Eileen was Hockey Captain and went on to gain her Cambridge hockey blue and Major Eaton announced it in assembly.

'I was interested to read of FRANK and EDNA STEPHENS (nee POWELL) (1930-35). When I left school I took over Edna's job at Staple Hill; Frank had just come out of the Royal Air Force and they were moving to Southampton. I have not heard of them for over forty years.

'I hear that KEN MEEK (1940-45) was 70 last October and was given a surprise birthday party; he lives in Birmingham. In either my first or second year it was Kenneth's hand which came round the door to ring the bell to signal the end of a period. Why Kenneth I do not know - perhaps he was the one with a reliable watch!

'I remember BRIAN SAMMONS, who came back as a teacher about 1943, telling us that he had bought a painting by MR SEARLE as a Christmas present for his sister and Mr. Searle had written a message on the back. Apparently she was so thrilled with the message that she almost hung the picture on the wall that way round. I think Mr Searle was one of the most popular members of staff. I know we all lined up to kiss him goodbye when

he retired.

'DR. BLOOM and his wife tended the allotment, MISS QUINTON told us several times that she had taught Cary Grant, MISS BIGGS left to get married and it was reported that she gave cookery demonstrations to the W.I.

'One of the drawbacks of being at the school during wartime was that we missed out on school trips. The only ones I remember was a visit to The Georgian House and an evening visit to the Theatre Royal to see 'Macbeth' which was the set Shakespeare play for School Certificate that year. I know MISS POWELL stopped us afterwards to enquire how MARY RUSS, who lived at Doynton, was going to get home but she was staying the night with me; Miss Powell was very good at that kind of thing.

'I have just remembered that there was a "Credit System" for a piece of good work. When the class had obtained the same number of credits as pupils in the class a half day was given. I must say that some pupils obtained far more credits than

others and I don't think I was one of those who got many!

'I left Hanham in 1954 but have always had close links. We moved to Leicester, via Brynmawr and Lancashire, over 30 years ago and always intended to retire to Hanham but somehow it never happened. My eldest son has moved back to Clifton but unfortunately I am unable to visit as I am housebound with rheumatoid arthritis but through an interest in family history I know more of what goes on in Hanham and Bristol than I do in Leicester.'

BACK TO THE 50s...

The photograph of 3C in 1956 below was supplied to us by BARRY MARTIN (1953-58). Can anyone name the teacher and pupils?

...AND FORWARD TO THE 90s...

Former English Teacher GILL EVANS (1959-87) informed us of SARAH MARTINGDALE (formerly ?), top right, who was at KGS in the 70s, appeared last year in the BBC2 series on 'The Doctors'. Sarah was an anaesthetist at Frenchay Hospital.





by rotating and sealing the end of the tube and blowing a large glass bubble!

'He then told us that all conjuring tricks could be explained by science. He gave as an example an empty beaker, which he held up in front of us (by this time he had our complete 'goggle' eyed

CANADA CALLING...

JIM WITHEY (1945-53), whose in the centre left of the group at the bottom of page 15 and also on the left of the back row of the photograph below, gives us a taste of both sides of KGS. Jim writes:

'I sent some information to MIKE CO-KAYNE, which he requested. It was very specific about my wife, ANN SUTTLE wondering why she entered the school in 1951 and I in 1945. Was I cradle snatching? Answer: NO, she came from Red Maids School to a better one since KGS offered courses to prepare you for teacher training college. She came straight into the sixth form.

'I cannot think of anything bright to write to you about this time around except to enlarge, somewhat, on the story of 'OLLIE' HOLFORD. I should be very interested to hear what happened to him after he left the school I should say that 'Ollie' was his nickname because we were not allowed to know, let alone use, first names for staff. He taught junior science and, apart from MR SAMMONS, was the man who stimulated me most with respect to my chosen career.

'In the very first lesson he taught (I was eleven years old) he taught us that glass was a fluid by heating a glass tube in a Bunsen burner flame and stretching it about five or six feet. Then he amazed us

attention) and proceeded to pour some clear water into it. It went the mauve - purple of potassium permanganate and we all went 'Ahhhhhhhhh!'. He explained, of course, that a few tiny permanganate crystals would mix rapidly and dissolve in the water and that he had placed one or two in the bottom of the empty beaker! Wonderful teaching. Too bad it's all done by computers now!

'Another thing that I remember vividly about, Ollie Holford was a cycling trip that he took the whole class on (about 30) to Cheddar Gorge, Now this was just after the second world war when bicycles had not been manufactured for five or six years so the bicycles that turned out for this trip were old jalopies for the most part (and my children would not come near anything with less than a ten speed). But we got there and back, I recall we stopped at the big house owned by a navy admiral or captain called 'Kingwell Hall' and the old boy invited us in to help ourselves to apples and pears from his orchard. Wonderful!

'Ollie' Holford apparently got the sack (I don't know when) for having leanings or membership in the Communist Party. It is so long ago that it really is a part of History now and all parties are long since dead so perhaps it would do no harm to bring out that story to ascertain its veracity. 'Ollie'



is not on the September 1948 photograph of the whole school so, perhaps, he may have departed by then. At any event, this was before the Macarthy period in the U.S. and England was still a 'Free' country then.'

THE SIXTH...

The photograph above is probably the sixth form of 1953 and has been received from the effects of WIN WILLIAMS given to us by MIKE WILLIAMS, his son. Interestingly, the photograph appears to belong to the third person from the right in the back row who describes himself as 'Me' on the back of the photograph. Who is 'Me'? We would be pleased to return the shot to its rightful owner! All the others are named on the back, shown as:

Back row: J Withey, R Iles, J Britton, ??, J Sandover, J Mundin, J Jeffries, R Parsons, D Rosevear, B Iles.

Middle row: P Knight, E Frith, A Slater, P Taylor, M Powell, F John, M Gadd, R Fisher, J Redford, D Fisher, B Tugwell, C Henneveld.

Front row: B Newman, A Kendall, J Vagg, V Road, Miss Marrison, J Yeoman, R Morris, M Baleman, J Price.

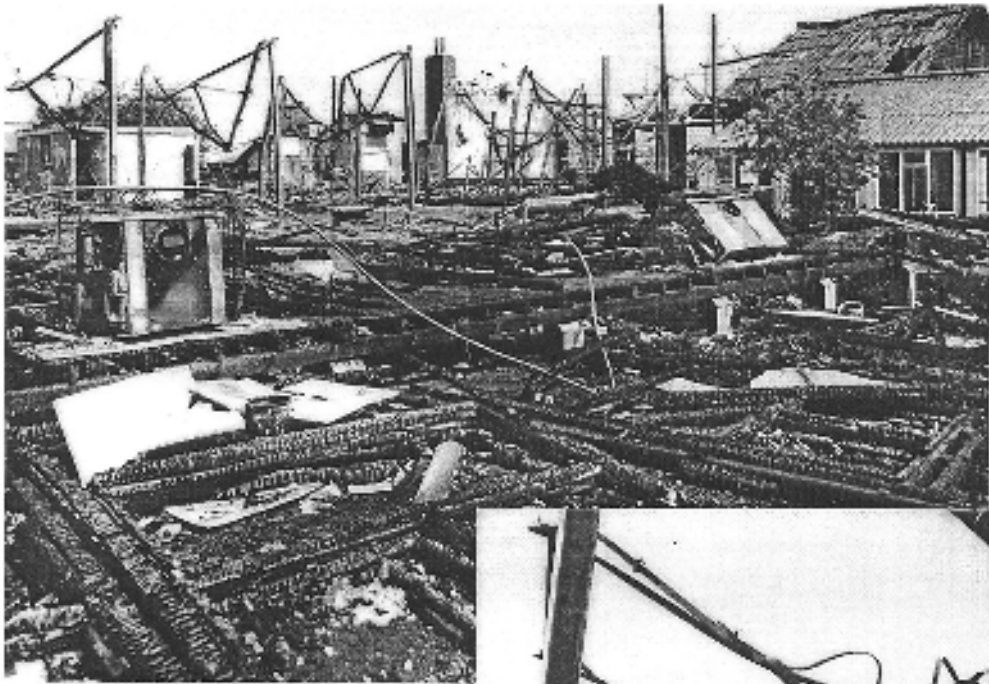
FROM THE INTERNET...

There are very few references to KGS on the Internet. One, however, gives a potted life history of VALERIE MARTIN (1957-64) (now TOMASIN):

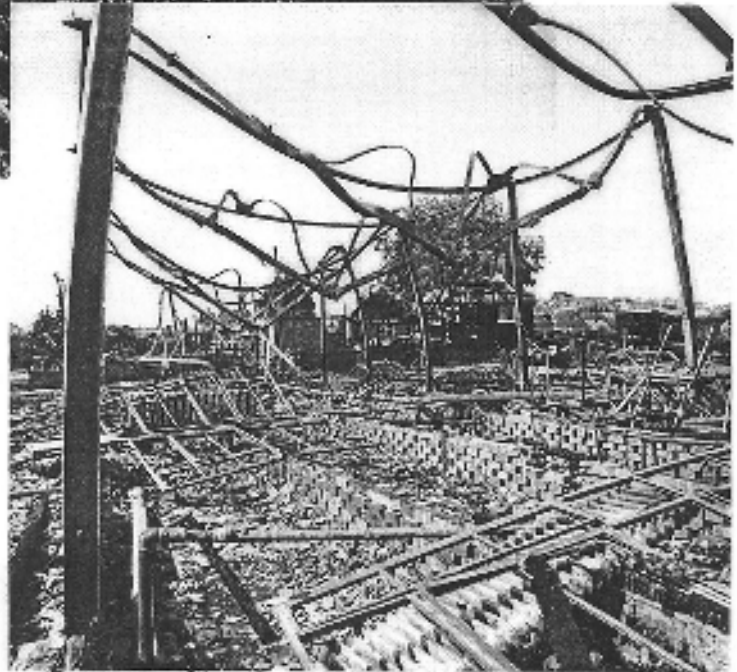


VALERIE TOMASIN (nee MARTIN) was born on 5th October 1945, raised at Upton Cheyney, South Gloucestershire, and educated at Kingswood Grammar School. Before her first marriage she worked for the Ministry of Overseas Development in London and The Port of Bristol Authority. After bringing up her daughter Cerise, Val joined HM Customs & Excise in Avonmouth where she met and later married Trevor. She now shares her time between Customs' Estate Management, playing skittles and helping Trevor organizing and enjoy Trad Jazz.

THE AUGUST 1976 FIRE...



Above:
The Main Hall area



Above:
The classrooms
below the steps



Left:
The devastation, taken
from the Main Hall area



KINGSWOOD GRAMMAR SCHOOL
HOCKEY 1ST XI 1953-54

Above:
Hockey 1954 style



Right:
Hockey 1944 style

Below:
Soccer 1961-62 style



KINGSWOOD GRAMMAR SCHOOL
SOCCER 1961-62

COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

Here are your Committee Members after the April 1999 AGM who will be pleased to answer any queries or will be happy to hear your suggestions for the future of KOSA:

Peggy Bolt (Oflet 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 (1939-48) Treasurer, 5 Rangers Walk, Hanham, Bristol, BS15 3PW
Tel: 967 2328

Bill Cox (1927-34), 45 Downend Road, Downend, Bristol, BS16 5UF
Tel: 956 7019

Esme Rawlings (Roberts 1941-45) 74 Oakdale Road, Downend, Bristol, BS 16 6EA
Tel: 956 1050

June Long (1939-45) 5 Clevedale Court, Downend, Bristol, BS16 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', Samau, Llanymynech, Powys, SY22 6QJ
Elaine Shirfield (Bush 1956-63) 'Newtons' Shrubbery Ave. Weston Super Mare, BS23 2JY
Tel: 01934 416929

KOSA REUNION LUNCHEON

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

I enclose £_____ for _____ places @ £11 each for the KOSA
Reunion Luncheon to be held at 12.30pm on Saturday, 2nd October 1999
at Lincombe Barn, Overndale Road, Downend

Name _____ Guests' Names: _____

Maiden Name _____

Address _____

Years at KGS _____ to _____

If you have any special dietary
requirements please inform us

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

CONTRIBUTION TO KOSA NEWS*

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

I enclose £_____ as my contribution to KOSA NEWS

Name _____

Maiden Name _____

Address _____

Years at KGS _____ to _____

*We do not chase for an annual subscription
but your Committee invites you to contribute
£3 per annum towards the cost of KOSA NEWS.
You will NOT be struck off the circulation list
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IMPORTANT

A MESSAGE FROM YOUR COMMITTEE

We believe that your Committee has served KOSA well over many years but has been virtually static in its membership for some time. We are concerned that no-one from the later years of KGS has come forward to serve on the Committee at the recent Annual General Meetings, and therefore we are concerned about the future of KOSA.

PEGGY BOLT, Madam Chairman, intimated at the last AGM that she wishes, for personal reasons, to stand down as Chairman although she is willing to continue to serve on the KOSA Committee as a member. We are anxious to welcome new, younger, blood to the Committee to preserve the future.

We have power to co-opt members of the Committee at any time, so it's not necessary to wait for the next AGM before new Committee members can join and make their contribution to the future of KOSA.

If you would like to make a contribution to KOSA by joining the Committee please get in touch with our Secretary,

John Powell,
KOSA Secretary,
Park End,
Deacon's Hill,
Watford Herts,
WD1 4HN
Tel: 01923 232472

or any Committee member. We meet about five times per annum, so if you live in the Bristol area or can easily commute, we are waiting to hear from you!