



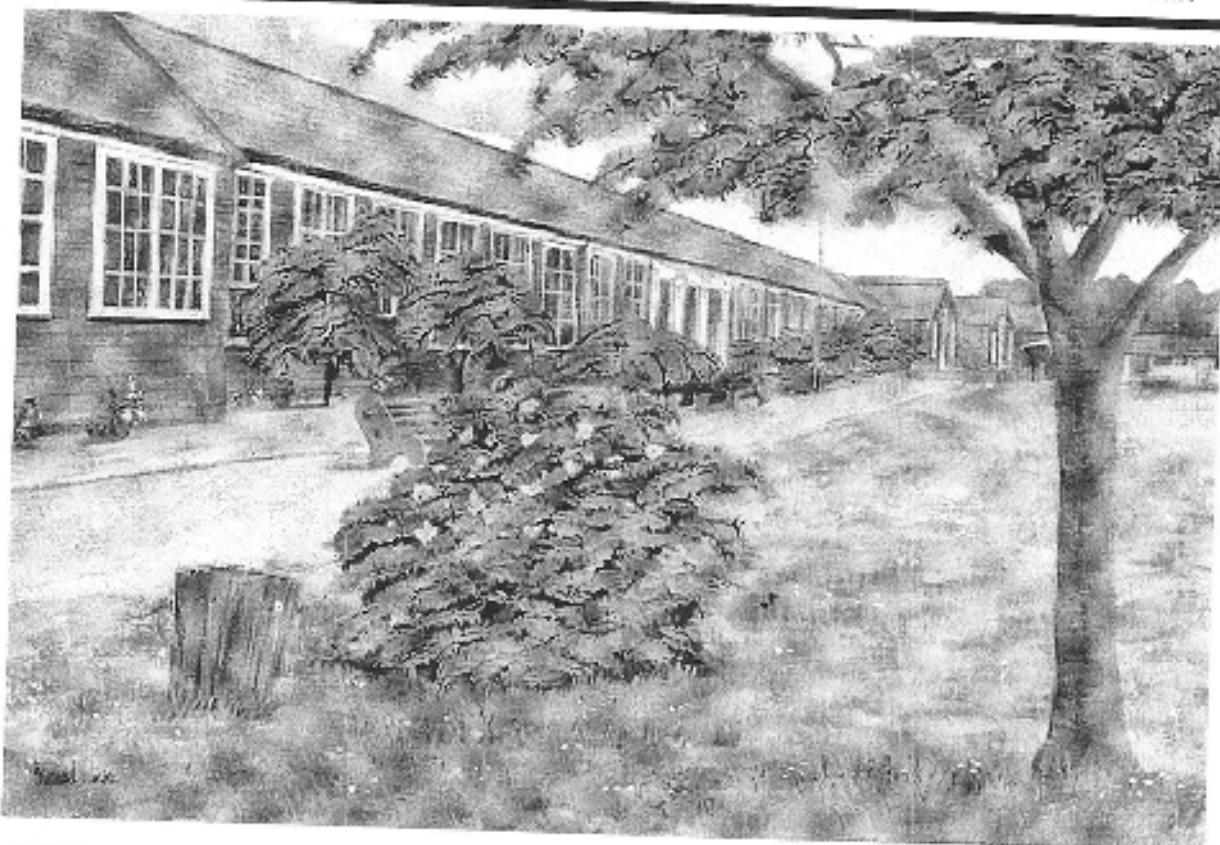
# KOSA NEWS



## NUMBER 17 - SUMMER 2000

The Magazine of the Old Scholars of Kingswood Grammar School

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KOSA has commissioned the above painting by local artist Michael Punter, in colour, and prints are available from the Editor. Large prints, not framed, with a mask to fit frame size 16" x 12" are £12.99 and small framed prints approx. 5.75" x 4" are £5.99, both including postage. Cheques payable to KOSA.

### **DIARY DATES...**

#### **AUTUMN LUNCH...**

The form is enclosed for our very popular Autumn Lunch at Lincombe Barn, Overdale Road, Downend on Saturday, 14th OCTOBER 2000. Come along to meet old friends. There will be a bar. Send the enclosed form to our Treasurer, RON CLEMENTS, 5 Rangers Walk, Hanham, Bristol BS15 3PW Tel: 967 2328

#### **1951ers and 1952ers...**

We are planning individual reunions for those who started at KGS in 1951 and 1952 who have had, or will be soon celebrating, their 60th birthdays. The 1951 reunion, at which English Master GEORGE BUTCHER and his wife hope to attend, will take place on Friday, 29th September 2000 - see form enclosed. The 1952 get together will be in 2001 - also enclosed.

## ALL CHANGE AT KOSA..

At the AGM on the 7th April 2000, as the current Chairman (PEGGY BOLT) was standing down, it was decided, as an



interim measure, to elect GORDON BOLT as Acting Chairman for six months. Gordon, who was made an Honorary Member of the Association, in accordance with the Constitution at a Committee meeting on the 31 March 2000, has been associated with KOSA activities over many years through his wife Peggy. Also at the AGM, PETER WALTERS, JEAN LOVELL (now WAL-



TERS) IRENE LUFFMAN (now FEWS) and KEN ALDRED were elected on to the Committee as members or co-opted members. ESME ROBERTS (now RAWLINGS) decided to stand down from the Committee, and subsequent to the AGM MIKE COKAYNE decided to stand down as Archivist and Committee Member.

At the AGM Gordon thanked the meeting for electing him and also thanked the retiring Chairman, PEGGY OTLET (now BOLT), (who remains on the Committee as Vice-Chairman) for her sterling work for the Association over a number of years. Later at the Social Event, she was presented by MIKE BENDREY with a framed coloured drawing of the School, on behalf of KOSA, and Mike also thanked her for her work and com-



mitment as Chairman.

At a Committee meeting on 9th June 2000, following a discussion on the need for a successor at the end of the Acting Chairman's six months term of office, the Committee were pleased to accept PETER WALTERS as the Acting Chairman for the following six months ie until the next AGM in Spring 2001, when more permanent arrangements for the

Chairmanship can be made.

Our thanks are due to the retiring members for all the work they have contributed to KOSA. In Esme's case she joined her husband FRANK RAWLINGS, who was our stalwart treasurer for many years, on the committee and Esme continued working for KOSA after Frank passed away. MIKE COKAYNE did a marvellous job as KOSA's Archivist and we are now looking for someone else to take up the challenge. Mike will be a hard act to follow! Any offers?

Our photographs opposite show the new Acting Chairman Gordon, top left, and new Committee members Irene and Peter. Welcome aboard!

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## OBITUARY...

TERRY GIBBS (1947-50) writes with the sad news:

'Receiving the much looked forward to 'News today was rather strange on a personal note. Under normal circumstances I would not usually have managed to get my hands on it until Ann had read it cover to cover, and then hid it in one of her many handbags to ensure easy access, for her that is, until I demanded to know its whereabouts.

'Sadly however I have to report that ELIZABETH ANN GIBBS, nee BRYANT (1948-53), passed away on October 17th 1999, after suffering from bowel cancer, which was only diagnosed early in April 99. Despite having the bowel removed, and a colostomy bag fitted in May 99, we were informed it had spread to the glands, and there was only one outcome. Added to this, whilst in the operating theatre, the aortic valve collapsed causing more serious problems, requiring further hospital treatment, but after two more months it was decided she was too ill to undergo

any further surgery and I brought her home and nursed her until she collapsed in my arms on the 12th October. Ann died in Doncaster Royal Infirmary on the following Sunday with myself and our two children at her bedside.

'Ann left the Grammar School in 1953 and attended St Matthias College at Fishponds before starting her Teaching career at Wick Church of England School, followed by our marriage in 1956. After raising the family Ann returned to teaching at Wick Church of England School, the very school she attended prior to KGS. In 1968 my job with the Home Office Prison Department took us first to Portland and then to Yorkshire where we decided to remain. Ann was very much in demand, as all schools were short of staff. Ann remained teaching until early retirement was offered in 1991, and gladly accepted.

'I myself spent 30 years teaching in the Prison Service, and have obviously seen the other side of life. These pressures, however, took their toll and following five minor heart operations, I needed open heart surgery which took place at Sheffield's Northern General in May of '96.

'Many times Ann and I would reflect on our happy school days at the 'sheds', and vowed one day to attend a Reunion but health stopped us, and now it appears it was perhaps never meant to be. A few years ago DEREK BAILEY (1949-53) arrived at our home and spent a few hours reminiscing with Ann, but as I was a year older than both of them the conversation was more about their years than mine, but Ann so enjoyed that day, and continued to relive it for ages. Perhaps there is a message here for all of us 'Don't just intend doing it, DO it.' I know Derek was shocked at the news, but also glad he visited.'

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## **A DAUGHTER'S APPRECIATION...**

A fascinating letter from the daughter of someone from KGS – self explanatory:

'My name is Jane Rees and, although I went to a Bristol grammar school, I am the daughter of RITA DAVIS (now REES) (1941-46) and I know you have already written about her in KOSA News because after Mum has finished it I too like to look in the hope of learning something about her old school.

'Mum has, as you have already written received the MBE in 1994 for her work for Headway, the brain injury association but since then has progressed even further with the association. Firstly, she raised the money to build Headway House in the grounds of Frenchay Hospital as well as the funds to keep it running.

'Secondly, two years ago she set up a European Confederation of family associations of people with brain injuries, which has twelve countries involved. She is now President and travels extensively throughout Europe, as well as attending Board Meetings in Paris and the European Disablement Forum in Brussels every six weeks. She has also been appointed a Governor of the International Brain Injury Association based in Washington DC, which she also visits twice a year.

'Through this work she speaks at Conferences throughout the World. Last year she was in Quebec, Madrid, Australia and this year has been invited to speak at a Congress in Rome arranged by the Association of University Professors for the Jubileum 2000.

'On 24 March Headway held a Celebration Service in Westminster Abbey. We now know that the congregation num-

bered over 2,000 and Mum read one of the three lessons. Eighty people from Headway Bristol travelled to London for the service, some brain injured, some carers and some volunteers. Amongst the eighty there were quite a few of ex KGS people.

'All of this came about because of my head injury in 1976, when I had just entered my final year at University studying Biochemistry, which resulted in my being in coma for four and a half months in the Cambridge Hospital. Mum never gave up on me and never will, even though I had very little memory and a loss of cognitive skills. I am now taking an A Level in French and studying City & Guilds IT, so you can tell how hard she has worked not, I might add, only for me but for many hundreds of people in this area.

'I feel very sure that, whilst she is a very strong person, it is surely in her early years she learned to stick at things and to have the tenacity never to give up, which is why I try to learn about her years at KGS. In reading KOSA it seems to be that this characteristic of never giving up is one that belonged to the school in general. She might be angry to learn that I have written this letter to you but I know she will forgive me because I am so proud of what she has done, not only for me, but so many others who have suffered a brain injury.'

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## **THAT VIDEO...**

MIKE WHITLOCK (49-56) ordered one of our 'Kingswood Cameos' videos (still available at £8 from the Editor). Mike writes:

'My interest in the video is that I can remember filming with KEN POPLE and also I was in what is now called the "technical team" for the Bartered Bride (in Feb. 1955) My interest in theatre has remained with me and I am very involved



with stage lighting and sound work in amateur dramatics and especially in musicals and light opera. It was these activities which prevented me attending the 49ers Reunion in September 99'.

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## **PEN PORTRAITS FROM THE SIXTIES...**

PAULINE WARR (now COLE) (1957-63) writes:

'I have just spent an hour on my day off (luckily) reading the KOSA News which has just arrived. I always read it in the hope of seeing a reference to SOMEONE I was in the same class as. Every time I hope and I always intend to write to you but never have. Obviously my year do exactly the same. So, I have decided that THIS TIME I WILL! So here goes...

'I was at KGS 1957-63. I realise now (and have for many years) that I wasted most of my time there and bitterly regret it (that is another story). My one claim to fame was the prize for 'Senior Craftwork' which I still treasure. Anyway, I have been married and lived in Devon for thirty years now and have lost touch with most people from my Bristol days. MARGARET DALEY who was in the same class lives in Kingsbridge and KEITH DAVIES who was a year or so behind me taught my two children at Kingsbridge School and lives in the next village to me.

'Life is very pleasant here, we are about 2 miles from Salcombe and Hope Cove and I enjoy village life and my job nursing the elderly in a Residential Home. We have a lovely house and garden and a donkey and I am a Granny!. I have no wish to return to city life but I would love to hear what has happened to some of my old school friends. My husband John is a 'local' down here and is surrounded by people he grew up with. I often think it would be nice to renew some of the old friendships.

'My sister Margaret lives in Cheltenham and I have passed my KOSA news to her. She was a year ahead of me. In particular I would love to hear from HILARY GILLARD, WENDY COWLIN, and HAZEL BROWN. I lived in the 'Cherry Tree' Cake shop in Staple Hill.'

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NIGEL PECKETT (1958-64) writes to update us on what's happened to him over the years:

'In 1958 I arrived from Dorset when my father took up work at the 'Approved' school (Reformatory) in Kingswood. I went to KGS from 1958 to 1964 and was in the 'B' stream from the second to the fifth form, in the sixth form studied chemistry, physics and maths. I was never very happy at KGS, I found the regime under MR. RIDLEY somewhat authoritarian without the leavening of fun. Other pupils who were better at sport than I seemed to find life there more enjoyable. I notice that KOSA News seems to lack the number of articles from the 'Ridley period' that the 'Eaton period' seems to engender, perhaps other people feel the same way. I certainly don't feel a strong attachment to my schooldays at KGS in the same way the earlier pupils seem to have. As time has passed I have lost contact with all of my school friends although I see their faces in KOSA News from time to time.

'When the school burnt down in 1976 my father was a teacher there and the only item he retrieved from the ashes was his school whistle. This was a brass 'ACME Thunderer' and it was melted into a quite artistic shape but no longer functioned. A sad end to a whistle that had served many years of duty. Here's a short summary of my past.

\* Married to Sheila (Tingay from London) since 1970

\* 2 children: Luke (aged 23) still at home

with an honours degree in Engineering working in computing, Frances (aged 19) at Plymouth University studying Marine Biology. Hobbies: Beekeeping, archery, painting, historical re-enactment and I am a fencing coach

\* Passed my 'O' and 'A' levels and went to Leeds University in 1964

\* 1964 to 1967 studied Chemistry and got an Honours Degree

\* 1967 to 1971 studied wool chemistry and got a Ph.D.

\* 1971 to 1973 research at Birmingham University funded by Imperial Cancer Fund

\* 1973 to 1974 PGCE at Birmingham University in Chemistry

\* 1974 to 1980 Taught science in a large comprehensive

\* 1980 to 1985 Taught science at Stafford College of Further Education

\* 1984 to 1986 Diploma in Education - Computing

\* 1985 to 1995 taught computing at Stafford College of Further Education

\* 1995 to 1996 Diploma in Education - Special Needs

\* 1995 to present teaching maths, science and computing in a small unit for pupils who have been excluded from secondary school(s).

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Just to prove that KOSA NEWS goes all over the world, we received a fax 'out of the blue' from ROBERT PILE (1961-68) in Lagos, Nigeria! Robert writes:

'I have noticed more names I recognise from my time at KGS and No:16 contained interesting letters and anecdotes from ERIC HILTON and MISS SPILL, both of whom I remember well. I doubt that either will remember me, however, as Music and French were not my strongest subjects, although ironically I now work for a French Company!

'I left KGS in 1968 with 'A' levels in Geography, Physics and Maths. Together with 'O' level Latin these were to prove the ideal foundation for Geology, which I studied at Sheffield University. After graduating with a BSc (Hons) in 1971, I joined BP as a geologist and in 1972 started working overseas in Abu Dhabi. In 1974 I moved to Singapore and spent most of my career working in Asia. In 1989 I joined the French TOTAL again in Singapore, and as you can see I am now their Exploration Manager, in Nigeria and possibly the only reader of KOSA News in Lagos!

'Over the years I have worked in, and visited many interesting (and difficult) places such as Pakistan, India, Bangladesh, Burma, Thailand, Laos, Cambodia, Vietnam, China, Korea, Indonesia, finally Nigeria. I never imagined I would live such a nomadic existence when I was a pupil at KGS!

'Despite this, I have always kept in close touch with Kingswood and some of my contemporaries living in the area, namely, MIKE BROWN, PETE KENDALL, STEVEN PHIPPS, and BARRY MUMFORD. I suppose you would call us the KGS group of the Sixties, and I hope that some others of our generation will get in touch if they see this letter.

'I would like also to say a 'Thank You' to any of my former teachers who might read this and to let them know that their efforts are much appreciated now, if not at the time! Are you in touch with 'ERIC' SYKES? I remember when the sixth Form Centre was built and we were the first inhabitants with MR SYKES in charge. Should anyone wish to correspond with me please contact my Aunt, Miss B Williams, 60 Court Road, BS15'

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### **JACK DALZIEL...**

A member of staff who would have been there in Robert's time was JACK DALZIEL. We are sorry to learn that Jack is unwell in Orchard House, Bishop's Cleeve. His wife told us that most of the time he is 'with it', but at other times he is withdrawn. However, Jack has a good memory for people, so if you would like to write to him, his wife's address is Eveline Dalziel, 21 Rectory Court, Bishop's Cleeve, Cheltenham GL52 4LJ.

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News from ANN WILTON (now FRASER) (1963-70):

'I actually remember MR. HILTON as a music teacher 'toon semitoun'! I had no talent for music and got frequent detentions. He was also responsible for me wearing glasses as he spotted that I could not see the blackboard from the back of the class. MISS SPILL I remember as a form teacher, as well as teaching me French. I went to the reunion organised by ELAINE PACKER and have kept in touch with some of the people I met there ever since.

'I have had a rather chequered career. I went to Bangor University after leaving Kingsfield with 10 O levels and 3 A levels and obtained a degree in history. I then came home and worked for five years as a laboratory assistant for Bendix Westinghouse Ltd. I left to start a family and now have four sons and one daughter, Paul aged 20, Martin aged 18, twins Richard and Angela 14, and Christopher nearly 12. The youngest 4 children attend John Cabot School in Kingswood. I recently returned to studying and last year obtained a RNMH nursing qualification from the University of the West of England. I have recently started work as a trainee assistant home manager at a community home for adults with severe learning disabilities and challenging behaviour in Longwell Green. I have been married to

Bill a lift engineer for twenty years and we live in Fishponds. Some of your readers may remember my mother Mrs. Wilton who taught at Samuel Whites school. She is still alive and living in Longwell Green, though unfortunately she is nearly blind.'

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### **THE RED TEACHER...**

MAUREEN CLENCH (now O'NEILL) (1945-52) writes:

'Congratulations yet again on a superb magazine and how nice to hear from MR. HILTON and to know that he is still alive and active.

'BRIAN CUFF was indeed correct in identifying the 'Red under the bed' as the blonde teacher sitting next to BONEY in the 1948 school photo. His name was DAVID MORGAN and I (standing between BONEY BRITTON and HAROLD WATTS) have good cause to remember him. He threw the board rubber at me and broke my glasses. I believe (surprise, surprise) I was talking. Knowing that I would be told off by my mother for larking about in school I told her that I had sat on them. I doubt that she would have complained to the school about this assault on a pupil, only grumbled at me. How times change. I don't think that would happen today.

'He was certainly not my favourite teacher. I think I must have caused him considerable problems because on another occasion, he asked HAZEL (nee KEMBREY) to go out to the front of the class for talking. When I said that I was the one talking, not Hazel, he brought a pile of hard backed geography atlases down on my head so forcibly my knees buckled.

'I am almost equally certain that it was he who picked up STEPHEN ALLEN by his hair and when he put him on the ground



again he rubbed the hair from his fingers and we watched while it fell to the floor. Obviously David Morgan was a good pupil of Stalin!

'The teachers, with the exception of David Morgan, were all caring and helpful, even to those like myself who used the school as a huge playground until the reality of school certificate loomed. With two terms to go my attitude changed. Just in time!'

MAUREEN regularly attends the KOSA Autumn Lunch at Lincombe Barn. Above is a photo of her table last year.

JOAN WARD (now WILDGOOSE) (1943-48) also wrote to say she was taught Economics by DAVID MORGAN in 1947/48 and she believes that he also taught and played football.

'I saw a photo of him in the 'Evening Post' some years later leading a rally for Communist supporters, but I am unaware that he put up for council elections. He didn't have a Welsh accent in spite of his name!'

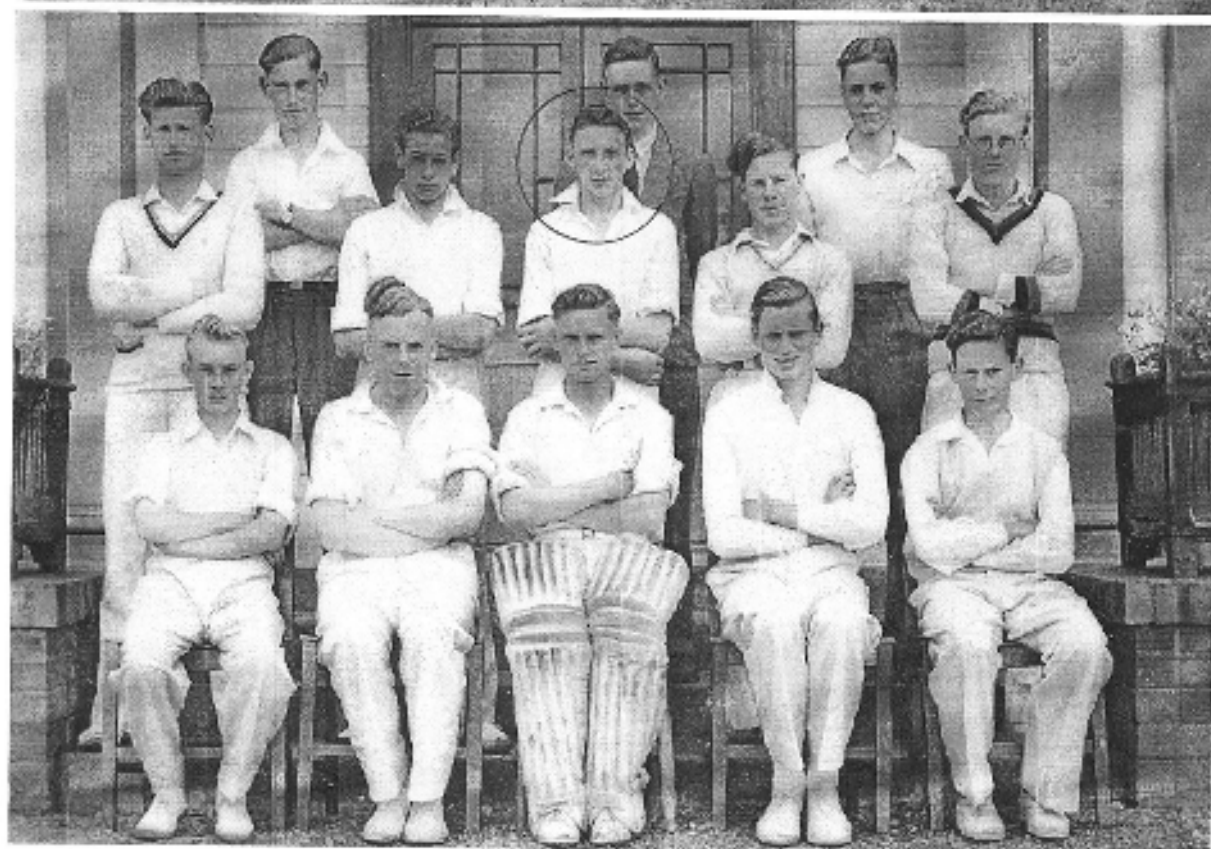
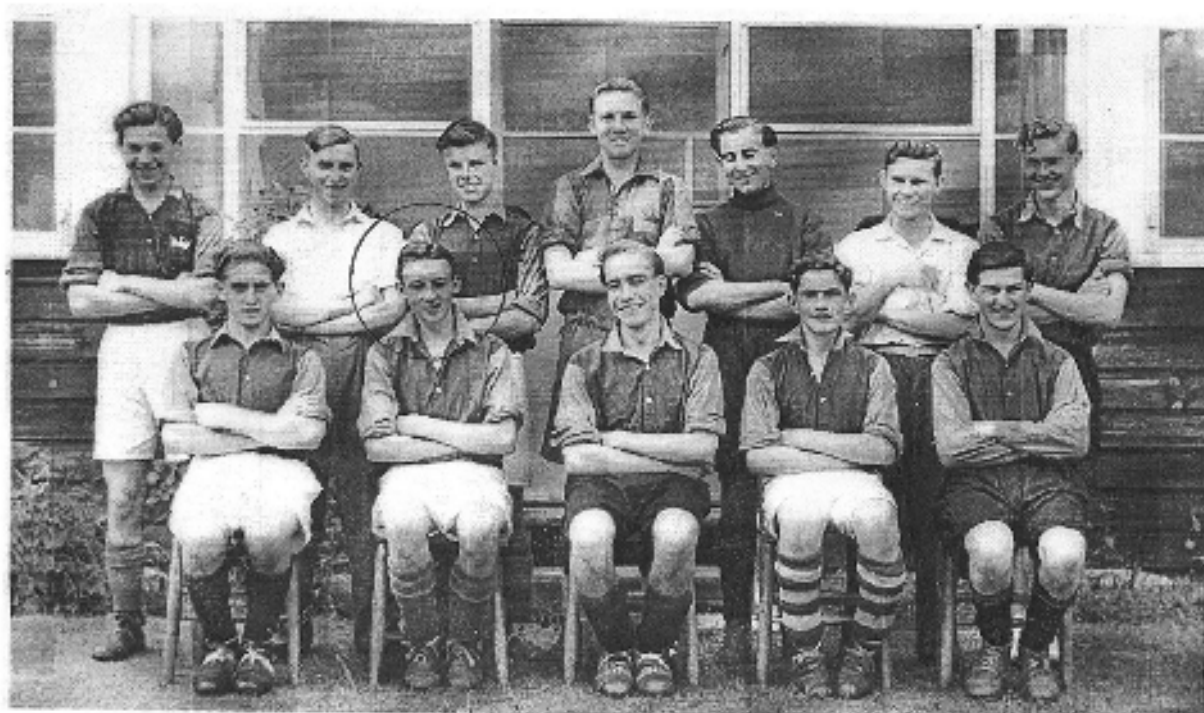
DAVID CREW (1948-51) confirmed that MR MORGAN taught Higher School Certificate Economics:

'He stood in the local elections but never attempted to put over his views during lessons and never tried to influence us in any way. As far as I was concerned he was a good bloke and I would be sorry to think he got sacked for his political opinions. It was, however, a time when having fought one war it was expected that the next would be against the Russians. If he was sacked, maybe that had something to do with it.'

### **BRIAN'S BOOTS...**

Former pro. footballer BRIAN MORTIMER (1943-48) hung up his boots as Courage engineering director back in 1991. As you can see from the photo, Brian was well-trained at KGS, appearing in the soccer School teams of 1947 and 1948 before playing inside forward with Bristol Rovers from 1949-51. Brian also had trials for Everton before rising to the





first division in his chosen career in the brewing industry.

'I was a part-time pro and in those days you earned only £12 per week in season and £7 in the summer. Then one day the foreman told me I had to decide whether

to be a footballer or an engineer. It wasn't a difficult choice' recalls Brian. Eventually, after a number of career moves, Brian was promoted to group chief engineer in 1980 and for the last four years he was the company's engineering director based at their Staines head office.

## REQUEST FROM OZ...

MAURICE KING (?-52) in South Australia sends some memories and a request. Can you help?

'I have just received the latest copy of the KOSA News, and as always it stirs the memories of those days when life seemed to be free of worry, and we found it hard to believe our parents when they used to tell us that 'schooldays are the happiest days of your life'. Yes they were good in retrospect but as the years advance our memory begins to play tricks on us, and we begin to wonder if we are getting the details right.

'I was very pleased to see the photograph of 'Another Reunion' in KOSA 16 as all of those in the photograph were my contemporaries. Even though, I doubt very much if I would recognise them nowadays, but as you gave their names their faces became familiar.

'The ALAN TURNER here is the bigger of the two boys of the same name, the other was tall and skinny, and rather studious. I remember the day ROBERT HAYNES was killed by a shell explosion at the school our class being taught English by MISS WYCHERLEY was in the classroom at the top of the steps that led to the upper corridor, and I remember Alan jumping up with some dramatic comment and gesture when we heard the explosion. Of course we were ignorant at that moment of the tragedy that had just occurred at the other end of the corridor.

'NORMAN (FIDO) BRACEY was also in my class, as also was JIMMY HULSE. For a while Jim used to be in the 111th Holy Trinity Scout Troop, to which I also belonged, and many a Tuesday I would walk up Warmley Hill from Warmley to Fairview Rd where Jim lived in the top

house, and together with CLIVE WHITTUCK we continued up to the church to the scout meeting. I seem to remember both FIDO and JIM were good soccer players.

'I didn't have much to do with TONY BURGESS as he didn't come from my locality, but I believe he and ALAN? GARLAND were good mates. DAVID BEARD and myself were quite close for a time until our paths diverged within the school. I myself was quite skinny in my school days, and I was very envious of David's physique, - he seemed like Charles Atlas to me! I can just about remember EDDIE LEWIS - a broad smile and a shock of hair. Of those in the photograph the one I had most contact with was DON BREDDY; we were good mates and were together for much of our latter years at KGS. Thanks for the memories!

'Our time at KGS was during the war, and about 12 months ago, by way of the 'Bristol & Gloucestershire Archaeological Society' I came into contact with a Mr O'Reagan of the Imperial War Museum. His is the Co-ordinator of the 'Defence of Britain Project' which is collecting detail of all aspects of the defence of Britain during the war. I have already supplied him with what details I can remember of the siting of air-raid shelters, sirens, gun emplacements, fire stations, searchlight sites, static water tanks, road blocks etc. I am sure many ex-students of my vintage will also have memories of many of these things that were so much a part of our lives during those years, and would be interested in contributing to this project. If so details should be sent to:

Mr O'Reagan,  
Co-ordinator of 'Defence of Britain  
Project'  
Imperial War Museum,  
Duxford Airfield,  
Cambridge, CB2 4OR

## SOME OF THE FEW...

BRENDA ANSTEE (now MILLHOUSE) (1928-34) has written to us with a brief record of both her brothers who were at KGS, both serving in the RAF, but one making the ultimate sacrifice in 1944. Brenda writes:

'There may be few who remember VICTOR and GEORGE. Our lives together were very brief. We lived at the top of Toghill in a cottage rented from the Clarke's of Tracey Park. We walked the two miles to the C of E school at Cold Ashton, now a house. Then to KGS, firstly by bus then by bicycle.

'The last time I saw George was when he came to say goodbye before going to Malta in 1941.

VICTOR GEORGE ANSTEE (11 JANUARY 1920 - 11 DECEMBER 1998)



Victor was a boy entrant to RAF training at Shoeburyness, Isle of Sheppey. In 1940 he was with the BEF in France and escaped by travelling through France to Marseilles from

where he returned to England aboard a collier. His next major posting was to Nova Scotia helping to train aircrew, returning in 1943. 1945 - Calcutta, 1950 - RAF, Lugo, Malta and on returning from Malta was posted to several stations. In 1956 he was made a Warrant Officer at Compton Bassett and he eventually retired from the RAF in 1960 at the age of 40.

'In 1962 Victor joined the Proof and Experimental Establishment of the MOD at Pendine in charge of the handling of munitions and in 1980 he finally retired. He died in 1998 and is buried with his wife

Gladys in the churchyard of St Margaret's, Pendine. He is survived by his daughter Heather.

GEORGE FREDERICK JESSE ANSTEE (25 MARCH 1921-12/13 OCTOBER 1944)



Like his elder brother, George was a boy entrant to RAF training at Shoeburyness, Isle of Sheppey. In 1940 his first posting was to Lee on Solent, then to RAF Luga, Malta in 1941. After Malta

was relieved a letter arrived from George in Salisbury, Southern Rhodesia. And in 1943 he joined a South African squadron and trained as a pilot. Further letters were



received in 1944 from Foggia, in Southern Italy, and George was reported missing on 12/13 October 1944 whilst dropping supplies to the partisans in Northern Italy. His grave is in the

Milan War Cemetery, Italy and his name is on the War Memorial in Cold Ashton Churchyard. The photo is of George's grave in 1949; it has since been replaced in 1953 with the inscription 'Sergeant (Pilot) GFJ Anstee, RAF'. The photo of George was taken in Salisbury, Southern Rhodesia.' George was one of a number from KGS who gave their all in war.

Brenda also sent a newspaper cutting from 'Bristol Times', an historical supple-

ment in the 'Evening Post', of a secret hero ALBERT WILLIAMS. It is a fascinating story of a KGS airman:

ALBERT WILLIAMS lived in Clifton Street, Easton, and he joined the Royal Air Force in 1938, and after basic training, was then selected for aircrew training as an observer. He was posted to the Bristol Blenheims of 21 Squadron, part of 2 Group, which was stationed at Watton but was spread over several airfields in Norfolk.

Albert flew from Bodney, a satellite airfield to the main base at Watton. The Blenheims of 2 Group were taking heavy losses in the attacks against German convoys off the Dutch coast and iron ore convoys down the Norwegian coast. But they also had successes, and his aircraft was credited with sinking a 5,000-ton German ore carrier.

In February 1940, a call went out for volunteers for a special mission. Twelve crews were selected, and they were sent home with special instructions. At the end of their leave, they were to take off their RAF uniforms and travel back in civilian clothes - and they were not to answer any questions, even from their families. When the neighbours saw Albert in his civilian clothes (not permitted in wartime) the rumour spread around Easton and his old school, Kingswood Grammar School, that he was on the run and had deserted. Even today some people still believe this was the case.

In fact, when the crews reported to RAF Bicester they were issued with a complete set of false papers, including a passport and a trade. They kept their real names but all the paperwork claimed they were civilians. The following morning all was revealed. They were taken to a hanger on the far side of the airfield and when the

doors were opened, there stood 12 Bristol Blenheims with swastika markings. The swastikas were being whitewashed over, as it would have been very dangerous to fly anywhere in British controlled airspace showing the Luftwaffe symbol.

The mission, they learned, was to deliver the aircraft to Finland which was at that time fighting the Russian invasion and even Fighter Command had not been informed until the moment of take-off. They flew first to the north of Scotland, then via Norway and Sweden, and finally landed on a frozen lake in Finland.

Three months later, on June 13, 1940, 21 Squadron was on a rest day after suffering heavy losses during the German advance through the Low Countries. All the other squadrons in 2 Group were already in action when a large concentration of German tanks was reported in Foret du Gault, south of Paris. 21 Squadron was called into action, and bombed the tanks, but was then attacked by fighters and lost three aircraft. ALBERT WILLIAMS was on one of them and there were no survivors. The crew has been laid to rest next to each other in the small cemetery at St Hilliers, a village south-east of Paris. In 1993 Jack Williams, of Kingswood, Albert's younger brother, visited the grave site. Do any KOSA members remember ALBERT, and do any still think he was a deserter? He really was 'one of the few'.

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#### **FOUR PENN\*TH...**

RACHEL PENNY (now Harding) (1947-52), writes an appreciation of her brother's achievements:

'My brother, MICHAEL PENNY (1946-51), after GCE 'O' Levels in '51, left KGS and studied Engineering at Cheltenham Technical College. Within a short time, he was accepted for an apprenticeship at The Royal Aircraft Establishment at Farnborough. Here he achieved an



HNC in Aeronautical Engineering, followed by post-graduate study at Cranfield Institute of Technology where he was awarded his MSc.

'During his first employment with GEC, Stanmore, Middlesex, he met an Australian nurse working in London, Margaret Lamont (Monty). They were married at our church, St.Barnabas, Warmley in 1961 and later that year Monty took her 'souvenir' to Australia. The proposed three years turned into thirty nine years and they are still there, in Adelaide.

'Mike continued his career in scientific engineering in South Australia working for the Defence Ministry of Australia. Later,



he led a team of scientists exploring laser technology which produced equipment to chart Australia's 2.6 million sq. kilometres of coastal and continental shelf

waters. The 'LADS' (Laser Airborne Depth-Sounder) system now has international application and involved Mike in a great deal of international travel.

'In 1986, in recognition of this valuable work, my brother was awarded the Professional Officers' Association National Award of Merit. Also the Paul Maguire Maritime Award of \$2000 which he donated to a display of 19th Century ships' figureheads at the Maritime Museum, Port Adelaide. In 1990, the Australian Prime Minister, Mr. Bob Hawke, awarded Mike the Public Service Medal (PSM)

which is equivalent to our British OBE.

'In 1993 whilst using 'LADS', the Australian Navy discovered a dangerous rocky outcrop, hitherto unknown, beneath the sea close to a shipping lane off Port Lincoln, S.Australia. This now appears on charts of the area and is named the 'Penny Shoal'.

'Mike and Monty had four daughters. Tragically, their eldest, Karen was killed in a hit-and-run car accident in '87. They have four lovely grandchildren. Although officially retired, Mike still contributes regularly to the work of his 'team'.

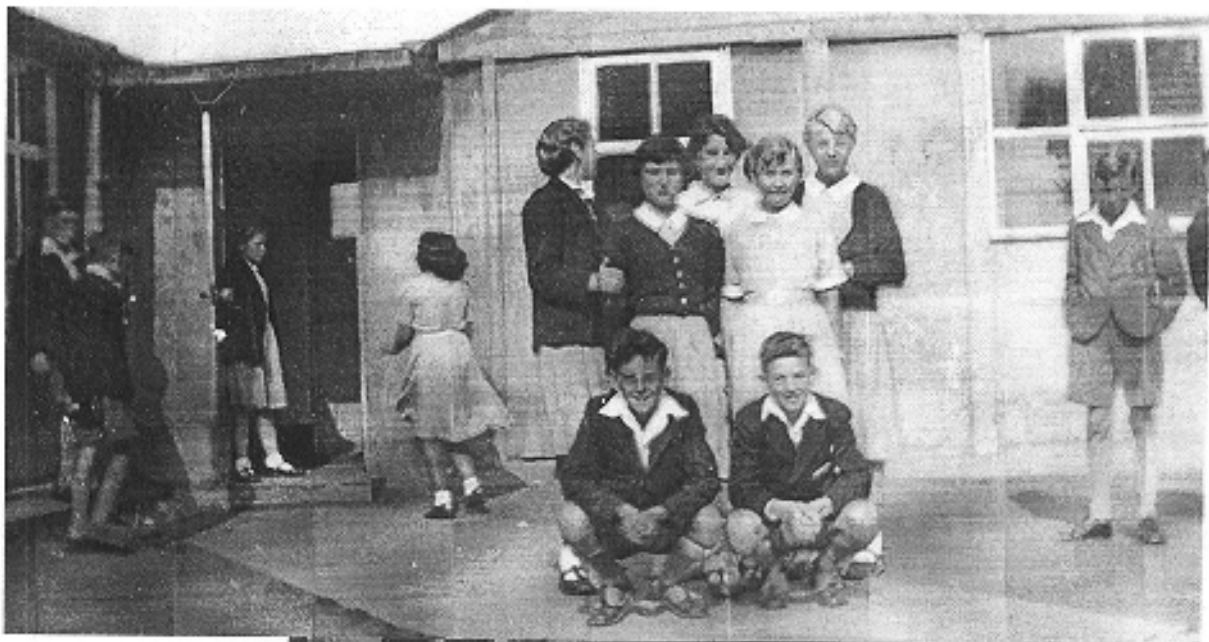
'My elder brother JOHN PENNY (1940-47), my sister CHRISTINE PENNY (now ROWLES)(1955-60), and myself, are all very proud of our brother's achievements. Modest Mike says he was in the right place at the right time!

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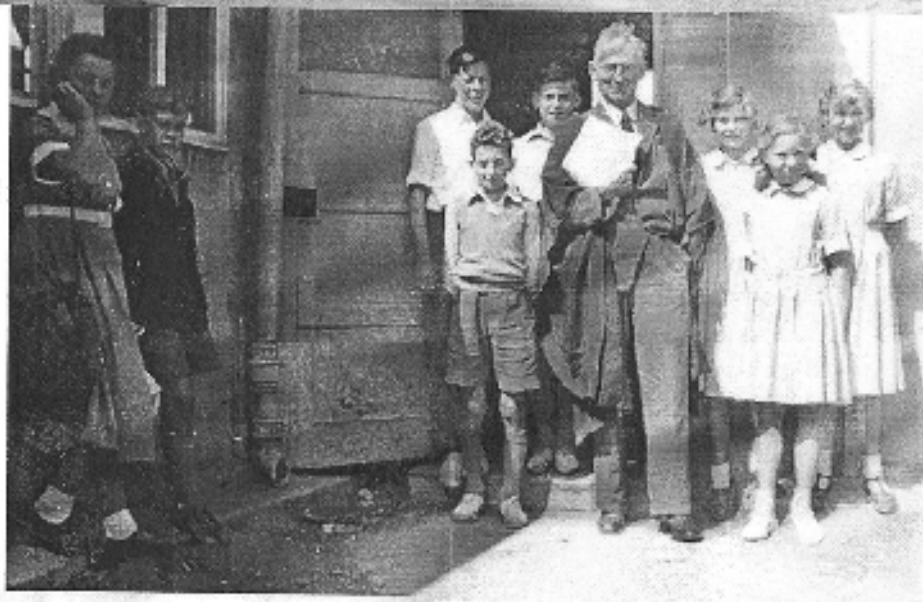
### CARR'S CONTRIBUTION...

BONITA (BONNIE) CARR (now CRON) (1951-57) writes from the north island of New Zealand:

'If I enjoy reading about others it is only fair that I contribute but where to start? I have received an email from DEREK BAILEY from Colorado, he hopes to visit New Zealand with his wife this year, and a letter from MAUREEN FORD (GRIFFIN, as I remember her) who has just visited but did not get up to the Bay. Kerikeri, in the Bay of Islands, is almost as far north as one can go in New Zealand - but it is truly as beautiful as its name and was one of our reasons for settling here, we can garden all year round. My husband, Jim Cron (born in Glasgow, raised on Newfoundland and educated in the States) and I came here in 1972 directly from New York City where we had worked in publishing, and it was something of a culture shock as Kerikeri was then a tiny



top:  
 Outside the 'Huts'-1  
 Marion Sage  
 Pat Hedges  
 Valerie Bolwell  
 Pamela Lewis  
 Pamela Nichols  
 Stewart Lear  
 Kevin Noble



Outside the 'Huts' 2:  
 middle: Form Master  
 'Boney' Britton with (l to r):  
 Simon Banks, Stuart Lear,  
 Keith Davis, Marlene Hayward,  
 Angela Bush, Pamela Lewis



left:  
 School Trip to the  
 Lake District,  
 Easter 1958  
 Valerie Bolwell, Mavis Craven  
 and Monica Jones at  
 Grassmere Lake

## KGS and KINGSWOOD YMCA...

Many KGS pupils were also members of Kingswood YMCA and here are some examples of the activities in which they took part:



left: 1957 Show  
Elva Forward  
Roger Cromwell  
Bob Gray  
Charles Painter  
Margaret Hayes  
Vic Jordan  
Derek Harvey  
David Hussey  
Gillian Guthrie  
Cat unidentified!

right:  
Bevy of Beauties:  
Vic.Jordan, Derek  
Harvey, Marilyn  
Harvey, Roger  
Cromwell, David  
Hussey and (in  
front) Charles  
Painter



left:  
The Duke of  
Edinburgh's  
Bevy of  
Beauties  
with their  
certificates

Linda Yeoman, Jill Brookes, Mary Gibbons, Pamela Lewis, Sandra (now Mrs Jerry Bond), Jenny Hunt, Pam Jones, Irene Luffman, ? Simmonds and Caroline Whiteside

dot on the map (it isn't all that much bigger now) with 750 households spread far and wide - for this is citrus growing country.

'But it is the memories that KOSA News brings back to us all that are of real interest. The photographs of 'That October 1999 Lunch were a thrill - I recognised everyone pictured. Hello, and how happy I am to 'see' you all again. If anyone wants to get in touch I undertake to answer letters or emails. Missing from the photos, and from the News, is my best chum from KGS, JOSEPHINE CRITCHLEY (although MARY GIBBONS and EILEEN MATTHEWS were close seconds). I would love to know where she is now. If you read this, Jo, or if anyone who knows your whereabouts does, I still think of you on November 24th.

'I failed to recognise JOHN BISHOP although I have a vivid memory of him on the rugby field, the one across Tennis Court Road, on a very wet and windy day when House Playoffs were in progress. He scored a try, but that isn't the memory. Another player (can anyone say who?) with John at his shoulder reached the try line and promptly dropped the ball. (Well, the conditions were slippery) Bishop, as I of course thought of him, stopped short, put his hands on his hips and shouted 'YOU ASS!' Sorry John, and to make it worse I have become an All Black fan. I wasn't rooting for him because he was not in the Greens, but our Editor was. I have a distinct memory of not one but two Fussell House trips on which, I have no idea why, BENDREY was responsible for counting heads to make sure we were all aboard the coach, and his exasperation when some of us would not 'stay put.' (Can that memory be accurate, Mike'?) (The one to Corfe Castle and Swanage in about 52 or 53 I remember - Ed)

'The letter from MR HILTON brought him

back to me vividly. What I remember best was his extraordinary energy, he never kept still. I used to wonder, if he was tied hand and foot to a chair and unable to move, would he explode from sheer internal pressure? MR WATTS also figures in a musical memory, he was rather embarrassed at playing a hero Frederick, in 'The Pirates of Penzance.' I couldn't understand why at the time, I thought he was super. I remember MISS WATTERS with affection after all these years. She was a wonderful and inspiring teacher and such literary appreciation as I have I owe to her. MISS QUINTON'S Divinity classes remain with me, not for their theology but for the discussions it was so easy to side track her into (and she taught us far more that way than we ever realised.) But her best effort was over the question as to whether it would be possible for anyone to teach adequately if there were no books of any kind. The class was asserting that it would not be possible, when she announced dramatically, 'Nonsense! I would be a much better teacher if there were no books because then you, all of you, would have to listen to me for a change!' JO CRITCHLEY and I giggled for weeks, does anyone else remember it?

'O' Level year was traumatic for everyone I guess. I remember MR RIDLEY saying I was not to sit Maths 'because my answers would not be worth the paper they were written on' (He was quite right.) So it had to be Biology and MR WILLIAMS' contribution (apart from being a great teacher) was to look at me sternly and say 'You will pass Biology, that is not optimism it is an order.' I did. The only exam I ever failed was 'O' Level Geography. MR MORRIS was so incensed that he told me never, under any circumstances, to enter his classroom again. I owe an enormous debt to MISS BAILEY (and MISS HORSEMAN) and MR WINTOUR who struggled to teach me Latin and French because



when I went back to university as a 'mature student' (what a marvellous euphemism for being old) specializing in medieval history, I had to read them again and was amazed at how much that they dinned into my head was still there. On one occasion MR WINTOUR went over and over something I just could not get, I don't remember what it was, but it clicked in the end and he heaved a deep, deep sigh, stretched, and said 'Finally, Bonita, finally.' MISS BAILEY just used to grab handfuls of her hair and shake her head violently - what a marvellous teacher she was.



'At Massey University, from which I have just received an MA, the Head of the History Department interviewed me at one stage and said he was extremely puzzled. According to my file I had attended only five years of secondary school (KGS was the longest stint my sister and I ever put in at any school) and yet I could write extremely good essays. How was this? Without thinking I replied indignantly, 'It

wasn't a secondary school it was KGS!' I guess that about sums it up.

'Was there any member of staff we truly didn't like? If so I don't remember him or her, although a couple of bad tempered encounters with MISS OWENS, the domestic science teacher, might qualify as dislike. I have read with mild astonishment the letters in the KOSA News criticising some of the teachers, but that is fair enough I suppose, not everyone has the same perspective on things; still and all, how lucky we were! My address is Access Road Kerikeri Bay of Islands New Zealand, e-mail: cron@voyager.co.nz And If anyone visits NZ our telephone is unlisted - so note it! 09-4077150'

The picture (left) shows Bonnie, very wind-blown, by the garden fountain - designed by a landscaper (the fountain, not Bonnie) The tree in the background is an avocado.

### **ANOTHER REUNION...**

THELMA BEDDOE (now GOWERS) (1936-41) reports:

'What a joy it was to meet up with JOAN SMITH (now BALDWIN) (1934-39), after sixty odd years! Thanks to Joan's letter and photo which appeared in the last KOSA NEWS. I had problems keeping my feet on the ground while anticipating her visit.

'Joan remembered I was short and could tuck under her arm as we walked along. I recalled liking BILL DIDHAM who was tall enough to step over me. I wonder what happened to Bill.

'My time in KGS began in 1936 when I joined Form IV, as it was called then. During the bombing of Bristol about 1941 we moved back to South Wales. I was sad to leave, missing such friends as ESME EVERY and ROSEMARY WIL-LITTS. Later I returned to Bristol to read

Biology at the University, 1947-51), MISS EYRES having said after School Cert. 'Thelma, you must do Biology'. How obedient we were!

'Many thanks to KOSA for their efforts. The experience whets the appetite for more.'

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### **ANOTHER FROM AN EX-DAT...**

We seldom have letters from South Africa, but one was recently received from ALAN BAINES (1949-56):

'I recently received several of the latest editions of KOSO NEWS, sent to me by my sister who was also a pupil at KGS. The news letter was unknown to me until now so it was a great pleasure to wander back along memory lane being reminded of staff and pupils whom I thought I had forgotten having not revisited the school after leaving, more than 40 years ago.

'Many of the names of contemporaries are only vaguely remembered but the group photograph in the 15th edition reminded me vividly of DAVID CHURCH, ROGER GREENAWAY and JOHN COLE. Other names crop up raising a smile of nostalgia. Stage shows are often mentioned. I was a pirate of Penzance, around 1954 and, I seem to remember, the Father of the Bartered Bride. That must have been 1955 or 56. (It was February 1955 - Ed)

'After leaving the school in 1956, I went to the University of Wales, Bangor to study Forestry. PETER WILLIAMS also went that year, to study Botany. I wonder where he went subsequently.

'I graduated in 1960 and in rapid succession got married and sent to Tanganyika as a Forest Officer with the Colonial Service. My wife and I spent five inter-

esting years there including getting involved in the army mutiny. From there we went to Nigeria, started the Biafran war and departed very smartly. The next stop was New Zealand for three years until Africa called us back. There were eleven happy years in Lesotho, which is a little Kingdom surrounded by South Africa. I was part of a team setting up a Forest Service for the government. It is not easy to establish plantations in a country where the minimum altitude is 5000 ft! We were yet again to watch the army mutiny.

'In 1984, we went to Transkei, a "homeland" of the apartheid Government, where the inevitable happened. We were there for fourteen years and I retired two years ago. Lynne and I now live in Cape Town only a few minutes from both our children and three grandchildren. We have both recently joined Rotary and I am heavily involved in the Masonic Order. I hope this brief autobiography may be of interest to someone and look forward to receiving further copies of the newsletter.'

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### **...VISITING AN EX-DAT...**

MAUREEN GRIFFIN (now FORD) (1951-58) visited MARY HUCKLE (now THORN) (1948-54) in New Zealand:

'Our visit to Mary and John proved quite interesting as well as most enjoyable - I guessed she might have had difficulty in remembering me, as she was a full 3 years older and the object of hero-worship on my part (she sang beautifully, was popular, rode the school bus with me, spent one memorable birthday treat with me - and was responsible for my becoming an Anglican at Downend C of E where I joined her in the Choir). But when I reminded her of the ponytail, the teeth, the bus and Church, it all came back to her - not that either of us look much like we did! John's younger sister, SHEILA THORN (1951-?), it turned out was in my class at Staple Hill Junior School, and our Mums

used to stand outside school chatting interminably, each with a large brood of small children, as I remembered. John, Mary's husband, lived in Alexandra Gardens, Staple Hill.

'John and my Alan got on like a house on fire talking men's talk, while Mary and I caught up with news and views and the interim - they moved to Wanaka from North Island to be near their daughter and grandchildren, two sons having made their homes in Australia. John misses his sea fishing but now plays a respectable round of golf. Both looked very well and fit, and one of them at least is a very keen gardener! Mary remembered JOHN SALTER (1947-54), whom she knew through her brother, Peter. It certainly is a very small world!'

### **..AND RECEIVING A DOM...**

And MARY'S short letter reporting the visit...

'Thanks for the KOSA News No.16 and since receiving that I have received the video 'KGS Cameos' which I thoroughly enjoyed. I didn't recognise any pupils, except GRAHAM GILES, as it was taken after I left, but enjoyed seeing all the staff again, especially MR HILTON, MR PEET, MISS MORRISSON and many others and lovely to see the 1948 school photo again on the front cover.

'A while ago I had a visit from MAUREEN GRIFFIN, a very short visit unfortunately but nevertheless most enjoyable and it was lovely to toss a few names into the hat that we were both familiar with. I only wish it had been longer. I read the article on page 27 "Reds under the Bed" and on looking back at the photo, the name MORGAN came to mind. Does that ring a bell with anyone? I also read with much enjoyment (and a whisp of nostalgia) the long letter from ERIC HILTON. There are just so many names that crop up in the

various articles that I am familiar with, it is always a great joy to read them.'

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### **FROM DARKEST SALOP...**

PETER MALPASS (1948-55) writes:

'I was saddened to hear of the passing of BRIAN WILLIE (1948-54), a fellow former Hanhamite whom I followed from Hanham Abbots School to KGS.

'The question of records relating to the Samuel Whites Scholarships was raised in the 16th Edition. These Scholarships had ceased by the late 1940's, but I do remember as an infant attending the old Samuel Whites Infants School in High Street, Hanham during the War seeing a series of Honours Boards hanging either in the hall or Miss Butler's (The Headmistress) classroom. These I'm sure would have contained the names of the earlier recipients of the awards, if not JIM BURGESS' name. When the old building was demolished it is possible that such artefacts were entrusted to the Methodist Church in Hanham Road.

'MARION JACOB (now LAPADU) features in many of the recent editions. I wonder, does she remember taking an impressionable 16 year-old out for breakfast in Paris? It happened during a school visit at Easter in 1954. Marion (we all referred to her as such behind her back) arranged to take a group of us to the Anglican Church for Easter Communion. The pre-breakfast hour dawned and I was the only person to appear, a true "Gentleman" even in my formative years. The rest were of course slumbering, sleeping off the effects of the cheap French wine which at the time we all thought that French teachers 'TOM' MOODY and 'FROSTY' WINTOUR knew nothing about. It was following the Communion Service that I was treated to breakfast at a pavement cafe.

'Recognition is quite rightly given to the achievements of MARGARET LOVELL (1950-55). I've followed her success through writings in the Bristol Press and saw one of her first commissions on display in the former Warmley Rural District Council Offices. I can't remember its title but, if my memory serves me correctly, it depicted a field of corn or grass ( sorry Margaret if I'm wide of the mark). Margaret used to live in Creswicke Avenue, Hanham just up above DAVID KER-SHAW (1948-56) whom I was able to catch up with after over 35 years via the telephone, thanks to DEREK MOODY.

'PETER SKINNER'S mention of the Warmley Bakery reminded me of a painful episode in my school life. I wonder if Peter remembers the day we had almost made our return from the bakery, being a few steps from the Brook Road gate, when the shadow of HEADMASTER RIDLEY spread over us. We were despatched to wait outside of his study, to experience either the admonishing or adulatory gazes of all who passed on their way to afternoon lessons. The result was of course the cane, preceded in my case by the words 'well Malpass I've caught up with you at last'. The only time he did!

'The 1941 Second Eleven cricket team photograph features three members whom I played cricket with at Hanham in the late 50's and early 60's - ALAN COWLES (who I believe was then a dentist), STAN BILLINGS (who kept the Market Garden at Stonehill) and PETER HALE who captained the team for a while. GERALD WHITEFORD (1948-53) (who is kneeling down on the right hand end of the second row of the photograph on page 15 of No: 16) also played at Hanham in the 60's.

Many people have mentioned that if they had known some one was living in a

specific part of the globe that they were touring they would have made an effort to contact them, myself likewise. Although I'm sure BRUCE CARPENTER, WILSON BARRETT and, yes again, MARY HUCKLE (what an impact she made upon the male genre of her day) are relieved that I was ignorant during my travels of the close proximity of their abode. May I float an idea for consideration? This being that a directory of KOSA members be published in a handy size that both sedate tourists and globe trotters could carry with them and so enable contact to be made with folk from one's past. (What do you think? - Ed)

'Like all who attended Tracy Park at Wick in September 1999 I thoroughly enjoyed the nostalgic event, although I was sorry not to have had a word with my A Level Geography Mentor KEN POPLE,. Many thanks to JOHN BREDDY, BRIAN BUTLER and JOHN COLE for the hours of work which resulted in such a successful evening.'

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### **MORE SPARKS...**

In the last edition we mentioned the book by BILL BROWN (1936-42), 'Sparks from our Blakeys' available from him at 20A Victoria Road, Hanham, BS15 3QH (Tel: 0117 967 3822), for a fiver, post free. The book is full of boyhood memories of pre-war Hanham and here's a flavour:

'We ran home in the clear March sunshine enjoying the realisation that it was all over, but would I join my big sister at Kingswood Grammer (sic!) School? Some weeks later, a group of us were called to the Grammar School for an interview with the headmaster, a gentleman named MAJOR EATON.

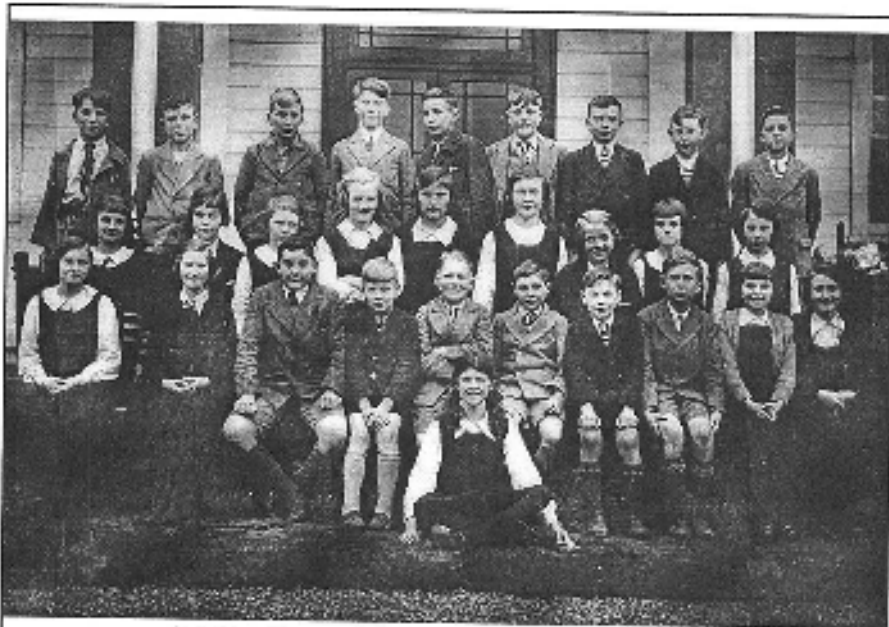
'We had moved from Samuel White's to a brand new school at the bottom of Cre-



swicke Avenue, so to arrive at KGS, to find that it was nothing more than a line of wooden buildings, joined by a central corridor, all rather dowdy, was rather shattering. The fact that the buildings had been christened, the 'cow sheds', did not improve the situation. We were directed down this seemingly, unending corridor to the library where we were seated to await our interview in the headmaster's study, a few yards away. After reading a passage from a book I had been given, there followed a very ordinary conversation which concerned my home, my parents and my sister in Year 3 - at KGS there was no Year 1 - everyone started in Year 2. At the

Road and thence to the bottom of Warmley Hill, this saved Mother the sum of seven and a half pennies per week.

'Despite the appearance of the wooden buildings, the atmosphere of the school was infectious to the point that the great majority of the pupils had a real desire to learn. Apart from French, which I could not master, all the lessons opened up new territory for me. Maths became a three-pronged attack with algebra, geometry and arithmetic, all the science subjects became a wonder; the dissecting of an earthworm or creating iron filing patterns with a piece of paper under



1936 - Form 2C Is Bill Brown here?

which a magnet was placed. The greatest joy however, came when the boys in the class separated from the girls. Our female companions with their baskets of ingredients entered the cookery room, at the same time we were introduced to MR WILLIAMS in the woodwork shop. Some ten double workbenches, racks of planes, chisels, saws, gauges,

end of this conversation I was told that I was free to go home.

'Sometime later, in school, the names of those who had passed were read out, fortunately mine was one of them, so I would join my sister at KGS, unfortunately I had not been granted a Samuel Whites' scholarship; this was a sum of money given to aid the less well off children who had gained a place at KGS. It was thus established that my sister would travel by bus to school, whilst with a few pals I would walk through the lanes down Cock

strange looking cramps, mallets, squares, vices, bench hooks, everything we desired for our dilly production....

'The one bad thing about KGS was that we all had to wear soft-shoes, "daps" or plimsolls were the order of the day, because this made movement down the wooden corridor less noisy. We were given small lockers in the cloakrooms where we left our boots or heavy shoes. Later however, a compromise on footwear had to be reached, because too many pupils were developing flat feet.

'Affectionately known as 'Chuckle', MR HOWARD the physics master collected dinner money once a term. All the pupils who stayed to dinner, which meant you brought your own, were granted the use of the dining hall, another wooden building where tables set with plates and glasses of water were available. For this luxury plus grace, we were charged one shilling per term. The closing date for the money to be paid in was usually a Friday, without fail, MR HOWARD would come to school on the following Monday sporting some new item of clothing, very often a pair of trousers which he tended to wear at 'half mast'.

'If the woodwork shop was my heaven, then the swimming lessons, early in the summer term became a hell. From school we walked to Warmley swimming baths, a matter of ten minutes or so. A rather depressing facade led into an area surrounded by a high brick wall and down one side, were wooden cubicles where we changed. Stepping out, many boys wearing their football shorts, little white bodies covered in goose pimples, all stopped and stared at the large concrete hole, green on the bottom, filled by spring water from Warmley brook. Open to the elements, there were very often a number of leaves, caterpillars, and other small pieces of debris floating on the surface. We lined up at the shallow end and with great trepidation slid into the uninviting liquid, whilst retaining a firm grip on the bar around the side of the pool. I cannot describe the shock which we all experienced; unable to speak, we were given instructions to jump up and down to keep warm, this had the effect of some unfortunate individuals coming to grief on the slimy bottom and disappearing beneath the surface.'

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### **FIRST FOOTERS...**

Some time ago we reported that the

original 1921 School Register had come to light in MAJOR EATON'S own hand.

RENE BOYELDIEU (1927-32), although not a 1921er, was interested to find out whether his brothers and sister were in the register. We were able to tell RENE that his brothers PIERRE ALEXANDER and GEORGE PAUL BOYELDIEU were numbers 30 and 93 respectively in the register, both starting on 26 September 1921. His sister LILIAN ELIZABETH BOYELDIEU started on 14 September 1923, all three having transferred from Staple Hill Council School.

'What luck to have discovered that (or some of that) which was lost' writes RENE. 'I am the only Old Scholar left in this family. ALEC was killed in a motor accident in Watford in 1927 and GEORGE died of enteric fever in South Africa in 1937. He was working for Rowntrees in East London. My sister LILY died three years ago in Bristol.

'As for me, I married Dora Whiting on 24 June 1939, and we celebrated our diamond wedding anniversary a year ago. We married at St Joseph's RC Church in Fishponds, and on the anniversary received a local blessing at St Augustine's Downend, but also a Papal Blessing sent from Rome. A wonderful thing for us, and a complete surprise.

'I was mobilised in the TA in 1939 and was in France by Christmas. I was commissioned in the RASC and then served in the Middle East (El Alamein), Syria, Iran, India, Scotland, Germany and Singapore, plus a couple of spells in London in Combined Operations HQ and the War Office. After a long parting Dora joined me in India in 1946, and by then I had joined the regular army. I retired as a Lieutenant-Colonel'

GLADYS ANSTEE (now NELSON) (1921-28) featured as number 71 in the

register, having started on 16 September 1921 from Warmley C of E School. Until relatively recently Gladys attended our reunions, and this photograph of Gladys has come to light taken by MARIE HARRIS (1926-30), we think in 1929 or 1930.



Sisters: Eileen with younger sister Gillian (1957-62)



Eileen with very old school friend Vic Yeoman (1951-59)

### **XX YEARS YOUNG...!**

Eileen Parsons (now Davis) (1951-56) has celebrated her XX birthday at the An-dross Suite, Sandown Park, Esher, Surrey since the last KOSA NEWS. A swish affair it proved to be, too, with 100 guests including lots with KGS connections such as the PARSONS, the KENDALLS, the YEOMANS, the JORDANS all in evening dresses - and that was just the men!

On the right are just a few photographs of the celebrations which took place on that special evening for Eileen.

This edition's competition: Fill in the X's - no prizes, especially to the PARSONS etc!



Vic Yeoman (1955-60) with Audrey Kendall (1945-50), now Mrs Ron Parsons

## **MORE CANADIAN CAPERS...**

A long letter has been received from JIM (1945-53) and ANN WITHEY (nee SUTTLE) (1951-53) in Canada:

'The fourth from the left in the back row of number the 1950 5th form photo in No:15, page 26 is, indeed, DOUG EDWARDS. His obituary is given in the same volume on page 17. The question as to who is third from the right in the back row of that photograph is answered in the text below it! It is RON PARSONS, a good friend of mine who married AUDREY KENDALL. The identities of the people in the photographs at the bottom of the page 15 in 'NEWS No:15 are:

Second photograph from the bottom l to r, Don Breddy, John Munda (Captain of rugby and cricket), John (Nobby) Bryant, Peter Myers.

'At the bottom of the page, from the bottom left and clockwise John Munda, Ann Slater, Don Breddy (partially visible), Jim Withey, with John Poole on his back, Josie Vagg, Maureen Clench, Peter Myers and Ann Suttle (for the past 42 years, Withey).

'Now some comments on NO: 16. On page 16 and 17, PHILIP DARKE'S (1948-52) letter brought howls of laughter from us! Non-achiever indeed! Nonsense!

'His recollection of 'FROGGY' DAVIS was spot on! Except that, with us, he opened his class with us with the diatribe "You gelse, will all end up as assistants at Woolworths. And you boyse will end up as chimney sweeps!" He was fond of boxing and often questioned the boys as to whether we had listened to the Bruce Woodcock heavyweight bout (he was then British and Empire champion). He was also very keen on Freddie Mills, the middleweight British champion. But he would save the best until last. "You are too young to have heard of the greatest of

them all, GGGeorggges Carpentier!" He would shake a fist in front of him while saying this. I never saw him rough anybody up, although several other teachers were rather spiteful. I once got to a first XV rugby practice early and I had changed and had a ball in my hands. Then I noticed Froggy rushing off to Warmley Station for his train to Bath. I motioned as if to pass the ball to him with the enticement 'show us how it is really done'. He scarcely paused but turned to me and said 'My boy, I would run you off your feet!'

'The 'BONEY' BRITTON story rang a few bells. I well remember his violin playing  
'God prosper our Noble King, our  
lives and safeties all,  
a noble hunting once there did in  
Chevy Chase befall'.

'In the 1940's MR BRITTON had a classroom next door to MR WATTS' Art classroom. It had a glorious view looking out over the temporary 'Huts' and a static water tank, placed there during the war. We had French doors leading to the outside. One frosty morning, someone from our class had a portable soldering gun and, noticing a thin surface of ice on the contents of the static water tank, cut a beautiful rectangle of ice with the soldering gun and laid it reverently on Boney's desk. He came bustling in and started the lesson. Then he noticed the sheet of ice, by now melting and dripping all over the floor and other things on the desk. He vented his fury almost immediately. He tried to pick it up and, of course, it broke up! He demanded to know who had done this (I know) but we all said it looked so much like a pane of glass from one of the windows we didn't take much notice!

'Before I croak, I must know what a 'wobbler' is. It might be a one inch piece of blackboard chalk thrown at hypersonic velocity. But I really don't know and I



should like to increase my vocabulary by one more word at least. (Remember Jim's been living in Canada for years, so has missed some of the developments in the English language over here – Ed)

Now to more serious stuff. I was saddened to learn of the passing of GRAHAM JOHNSON. He was a good friend to me, BRIAN BUSH and TERRY HIBBS. He made beautiful models of aircraft, both flying and static. I well remember his 'Beauglider' purchased as a kit from the Model Airport at the top of Christmas Steps in the centre of Bristol. We flew it from the 'Kings Hills' (owned by a disreputable set of three brothers Kendall and don't let them catch you trespassing on their land). This was located about half way down Cock Road, near the Methodist Chapel that I attended. We also went out, as a gang, to Lulsgate Airport (undeveloped then). But in those days we flew powered airplanes on a thirty foot line. A real racket those little 2cc engines made. But the Piece de Resistance was the 'Dynojet'. This was a real jet engine, about 18 inches long, that worked by pumping air, from a car tire (sic!) pump, down the spout of a compressor, whereupon it would let out a banshee wail and take off like the clappers of hell. Thereafter it was propelled by a ram-jet effect. The substrate aeroplane was shaped like a V-1 (doodlebug) flying bomb used by the Germans in 1944. If I remember rightly, Graham, in a team with others, acquired the world speed record for a thirty foot tethered line. I think it was 130mph or thereabouts.

'We casually mentioned our 'toy' to 'BUNNY' AUSTEN, our physics master. He was very interested to have us bring it in and do a bench run during the lunch hour. We brought it to school and fastened it to a bench. There were just three or four of us. We got it started and what a

noise! It would only run for about 30 seconds without the forward motion to cause the ram-jet action and it glowed white hot! But it was enough! Before we could get it pumped up and started again, there appeared the entire staff at the door of the physics lab wondering what the hell was making that noise! When one considers that the physics lab was on the left, going down the long corridor above the steps, while the staff room was way below the side entrance and the boys cloakroom which were all below the steps, I think you can imagine the noise that attracted so much attention.

'I lost touch with Graham after school in 1950. But I never forgot his abilities and enthusiasm for his aeroplane models. We did meet him and his delightful wife in the October of 1995 get together at Lincombe Barn. He looked in fine shape then. We extend sincere condolences to his family.

'I cannot let this opportunity pass without commenting on the fine figures of men on page 25 of edition number 16 the 1944 entrants COLIN BEARD looks as though he could be very strong in the second row of the scrum (as he was in 1949 and 52 for the first XV ) and DON BREDDY could still pull down a few balls from lineouts - except that someone has painted his hair white! Don looks in exceptional shape, not a pound over his fighting weight of 1949!

'On page 27 of the same volume, I am sorry to say that BRIAN CUFF is mistaken if he thinks that 'OLLIE' HOLFORD is on the left of Boney Britton in the 1948 photograph of the whole school. That person is a red headed guy known to us as MOGGIE MORGAN. In fact, 'Ollie' was the one not identified in the photograph, in KOSA NEWS number 13 on page 21, taken in the staff room. In the photograph

he is the second from the right, in between MR. KEATE and MR. SPEAR. Which reminds me that my favourite experience with 'KHYBER' KEATE was of him walking into a rowdy classroom, somewhat late, scratching the back of his head with a piece of wood with a six inch nail hammered through it. He got our attention immediately!

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### CONTRARY VIEW...

'PAM FURBER (now PAINTER) (1935-42) disagreed with PHILIP DARKE'S letter, but for a reason different from JIM WITHEY. Pam writes:

'The more I think about that letter the higher my blood pressure rises! I never found MAJOR EATON to be a martinet, and a student friend who did teaching practice at KGS was as mystified as I was at the description. He was not a 'swank-pot'. You ought to come to old 'Cirencester' for those!

'Surely by 1948 PHILIP DARKE had advanced beyond the idea that education for women was a waste of time? I don't think he has any sisters, or he wouldn't be disturbed at the thought of girls in the classroom.'

More from Pam next time.

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### CORRECTIONS and CONFIRMATIONS...

GORDON JACKSON (1955-62) writes: 'I'm sorry the editor got JIM WHITLOCK'S name wrong (so is he, apologies - Ed.). Jim was an exact contemporary of mine and as well as being a talented artist he showed prowess as an actor. He took the lead as M. Jourdain in the 1961 KGS production of 'The Prodigious Snob', an English version of Molière's 'Le Bourgeois Gentilhomme'. (Anyone any photographs for a future edition? - Ed.).

'As for Professor ROBIN SMITH

(1954-61), he is but one of a clever family. You might recall that his sister, DIANA SMITH (1955-62), was a violinist in the KGS Orchestra (as pictured in a recent edition of KOSA NEWS). Diana was always top of the class, and shone in the sciences. Despite the limited opportunities in medical schools because of the quota system, she gained a place at London University to train as a doctor.

'Your correspondent CAROLINE SMITH (1963-68) arrived at KGS after I had left, and I remember her as a bright 11 year old. ERIC HILTON, as was his wont, had taught the first-formers folk songs in tonic solfa, and Caroline told me she had invented her own system to make sure she could sing the right set of solfa to the right folk song title when required!

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### SUZANNE'S SUBMISSION...

A very, very long letter from SUZANNE PHILPOTT (now MARTIN) (1962-70), part of which is published below. We'll carry over the rest of her letter for next time:

'It's amazing how the memories come flooding back, things you had not been aware of for years, totally unimportant at that, suddenly they are retained, unlike the important dates you had swotted for your History exam, which went straight out of the window the minute you turned the paper over!

'I remember in my first year admiring from afar a guy called ROBINSON. He was, I believe, the School's Athletics Captain and, I think, the only black pupil in the school. He didn't as much as walk, but strolled with an athletic grace, the Sidney Poitier of our time. I wonder what became of him and if my memory was even correct?

'The canteen, with lumpy gravy, yellow fat (was it horsemeat?), frogspawn, those

humble plastic mugs...Assemblies at the beginning and end of term, with three cheers for staff and school, MR RIDLEY declaring the term over or beginning, 'And now thank we all our God' and 'Jerusalem' sung with such a feeling of community.

'1962 was the year of the snow and our first at KGS. There were no buses, and being a keen pupil I was determined not to miss a thing. I walked from Mangotsfield, which was a feat in itself and remember the caretaker's house at Rodway Tech. Being totally covered in snow on the common side only, which, thinking back, would have made an incredible photo.

'I was lucky to enjoy my schooldays and never missed a day, apart from my 5th year when I was due to read in assembly; couldn't handle it so I feigned illness: and yet I became a teacher!

'In our 3rd year we were set three Saturday morning detentions for our misbehaviour towards MR BIRCH in Maths. Poor man, I look back now and wince at my attitude, and yet by today's standards we were little angels.

'I remember the outside toilets, blue with smoke, but don't remember them being raided by the staff. I do recollect that the netball courts and the tennis nets were always full of kids playing (seriously) at every available opportunity. Nothing was abused and, luckily for me as I became a PE teacher, it was 'the thing' to be good at sport. We appeared to be far more responsible in some ways than the kids of today. I remember being told as a hockey team that our match was at St George and to make our own way there, no coach being available. MISS LEVER duly arrived at the venue, quite confident that we would all be there – and amazing we were – after many bus changes and much

walking. I can't imagine it happening today.

'The boys always got the Gym if it was raining, and we had to trudge up to the hall for team games –that was until we had a trampoline and then as we were less likely to kill ourselves the space was shared more evenly. MR WILDE seemed as old as the hills to us and 'LIL' smoked like a trooper! How did they manage?

'Those were the days of cloakrooms that were used, and desks that were yours for a year. I never remember losing any kit or books. Nowadays kids have to lug all their stuff everywhere with them.

'In the winter we sat on the hot water pipes that ran the length of each classroom; I'm amazed we didn't get piles, and the free-standing stoves in the terrapins would have given the Health & Safety Executive a field day!

'We were, I believe, one of the lucky years to be allowed a Common Room in the 5th year, not just a Prefect's Room, but for all of us. It had a coffee machine and we had constant music. I still have wonderful flashbacks to revision days if certain records are played. We were also the first year to move across to the new 6th Form Block, our own uniform – and sheer bliss – our own canteen. It made us feel quite the elite, and I'm sure our work reflected the vastly improved facilities.

'Going back in time to those rare glimpses one got of the inner sanctum, the staff room, with teachers behaving like people! Slouched in chairs – and 'laughing'! The air was always a blue fog, how they didn't all die of cancer I really don't know.

'I remember MISS ROSEVEARE sailing down the corridor with her gown flapping - she was indeed quite imposing!  
More of Suzanne's letter next time.

**DECADES APART...**



1933 -  
Form 3a



1950 -  
Form 5c



1968 -  
Form 2d



## Calling all 59 year olds.....!

Did you join KGS in September 1952? Will you be 60 years old in the coming academic year? We are hoping to arrange a reunion in February 2001 for everyone who joined Kingswood Grammar School in 1952. Depending on the majority preference we could organise either an informal get together with a buffet or a dinner. If you would be interested in joining us, please complete the form below and return before September 30<sup>th</sup> to:

Eileen Bendrey (nee Matthews)  
26 Overdale Road  
Downend  
Bristol  
BS16 2RT

Irene Fews (nee Luffman)  
94 Middle Road  
Kingswood  
Bristol  
BS15 4XL

Tel/Fax: 0117 956 5689

Tel: 0117 956 6603

Yes, I would be interested in attending a reunion for the '52ers in February 2001.  
I would prefer a buffet/dinner (please indicate preference)

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Maiden name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## Calling all 1951ers.....!

For those who started KGS in 1951 we are arranging a buffet at The Griffin, Bridgegate, on Friday, 29<sup>th</sup> September 2000, 7.30 pm til late! It will be held in the Function Room at the back of the pub so numbers are limited to 50. Cost £9. Partners welcome.

To: Mike Bendrey, 26 Overdale Road, Downend, Bristol, BS16 2RT Tel/Fax: 0117 945 5689

I enclose £ \_\_\_\_\_ for \_\_\_\_\_ places @ £9.00 each for the 51ers Buffet to be held at 7.30pm on Friday 29<sup>th</sup> September 2000 at The Griffin, Bridgegate

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Partners Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Maiden Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Years at KGS\_1951\_to\_\_\_\_\_

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

**PLEASE PHOTOCOPY AND PASS ON**

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS:**

Here are your Committee Members after the April 2000 AGM who will be pleased to answer any queries or will be happy to hear your suggestions for the future of KOSA:

Gordon Bolt, Acting Chairman, 293 Badminton Road, Downend, Bristol, BS16 6NU Tel: 956 4020  
Peggy Bolt (Oliet 1938-43) Vice-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, BS16 5UF Tel: 956 7019  
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 5688  
Peter Walters (1947-54) 9 Selworthy, Kingswood, Bristol BS15 2RJ  
Jean Walters (Lovell) (1948-56) 9 Selworthy, Kingswood, Bristol BS15 2RJ  
Irene Few (Luffman) (52-57) 94 Middle Road, Kingswood, Bristol, BS15 4XL  
Ken Aldred, (1948-53), PO Box 5908, Newbury, Berks, 1948-53

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**KOSA ANNUAL LUNCH**

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

I enclose £\_\_\_\_\_ for \_\_\_\_\_ places @ £11.50 each for the KOSA Reunion Lunch to be held at 12.30pm on Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> April 2000 at Lincombe Barn, Overndale Road, Downend, Bristol

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'

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**CONTRIBUTION TO KOSA NEWS\***

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5 Rangers Walk, Hanham, Bristol, BS15 3PW Tel: 967 2328

I enclose £\_\_\_\_\_ as my contribution to KOSA NEWS

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Maiden Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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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 for non-payment.

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