



# KOSA NEWS



**NUMBER 22 - SPRING 2003**

The Magazine of the Old Scholars of Kingswood Grammar School

Editor: Mike Bendrey, 26 Overndale Road, Downend, Bristol, BS16 2RT  
Tel/Fax: 0117 956 5689 E-mail address: [kosa@mlbendrey.worldonline.co.uk](mailto:kosa@mlbendrey.worldonline.co.uk)

## EDITORIAL...

Many thanks to all those who give support to KOSA NEWS by providing articles, photographs, programmes and other memorabilia from your days at KGS. It's always surprising what's out there and in this edition we reproduce photographs of the cleaning ladies, kindly lent to KOSA by BRIAN MERRIFIELD (see page 5).



In each edition we aim to include something to represent the many years represented by KOSA members. We hope you think that we have been successful in achieving this aim, but remember that the content depends on what YOU contribute. Please bear with us if we haven't printed your contribution this time, but we hope eventually to include them all in future editions.

Finally, the sad passing of COLIN WELLS (see page 2) means that KOSA is without a treasurer. If you think that you can help by joining the committee and taking on this important role please contact our Chairman, PETER WALTERS, on 0117 967 8177.

## DIARY DATES...

### LUNCH & AGM

Your Committee was encouraged by the virtual maximum attendance at the Autumn Lunch last October and have decided to hold the AGM at the same venue with a Buffet Lunch. Lincombe Barn, Overndale Road, Downend has been booked for SATURDAY, 26th APRIL 2003. We will meet at 12.30pm sharp for the AGM and follow with a buffet lunch at about 1pm. Please put it in your diaries now as a very pleasant occasion when you can come along to meet old friends and have a good lunch for £8. There will also be a bar. Complete the form enclosed and send to our Editor, address above.

### AUTUMN LUNCH

Lincombe Barn, Overndale Road, Downend has already been booked for our popular Autumn Lunch for SATURDAY, 11th OCTOBER 2003. Please put it in your diaries now. As always, there will be a bar.

We hope that you'll come both to the AGM and the October lunch, but whether you do or not, thank you all for your support.

## KINGSWOOD RFC GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY

Kingswood Rugby Football Club, formerly Kingswood Old Boys Rugby Football Club, will be celebrating its 50th season in 2003-04. A dinner is being arranged for SATURDAY 27 SEPTEMBER 2003 in a marquee at the club in Grimsbury Road, behind the Tenniscourt Inn. A chance for all old players to get together to talk rugby. For more details phone John Bishop on 0117 967 6083 or see the club's website at [[www.kingswoodrugby.co.uk](http://www.kingswoodrugby.co.uk)]

## OBITUARIES...

It is with great regret and sadness that we report the passing last December of KOSA Treasurer COLIN WELLS (53-57). Colin willingly took over as Treasurer at the last AGM, saying that he was happy to add it to the many other offices that he carried out now that he was retired. 'It won't take me long' he said, which was typical of his attitude to serving others.

COLIN JOHN WELLS was born in Hanham on 18 October 1941, being the fifth of a family of eight children. He was nicknamed 'The Prof.' by his family, although he was not the first of the family to go to KGS, having been preceded by his sister CHRISTINE (44-48). After leaving school he and his brothers and sisters



founded what was ultimately a chain of newsagents shops in the area.

In whatever Colin entered he achieved success and status. He was President of the Bristol Branch of the Federation of Retail Newsagents and the Western District Council, was Chairman and Treas-

urer of the Bristol, Somerset and Wiltshire Committee and was a member of the National Welfare Committee of Newstrade, known as Old Ben. Colin was also a Freemason for 35 years, achieving senior rank within the organisation.

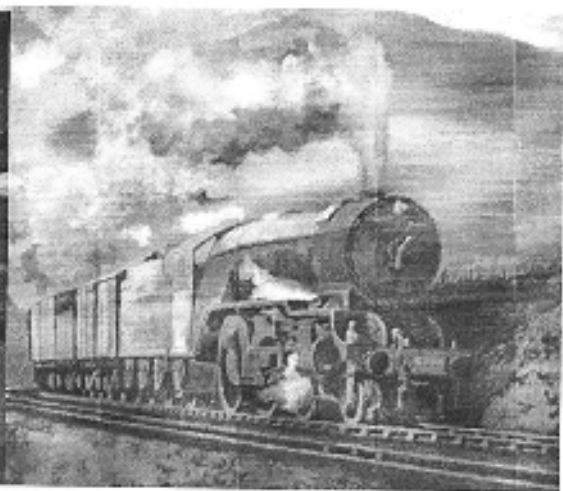
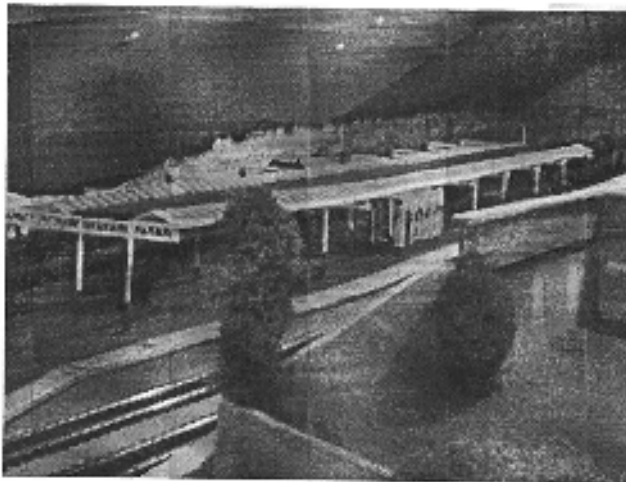
Our sympathies and condolences are extended to his wife, three children and all his family. He will certainly be missed by all who knew him.

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It is with deep regret that we have to report the untimely death of MALCOLM GAYTON (52-57), who passed away on Wednesday 30th October after a very short illness.

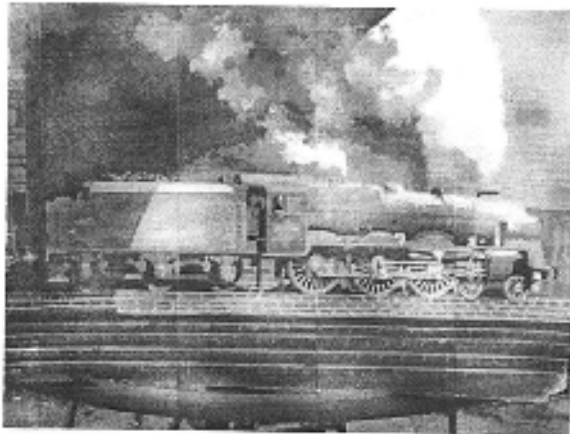
Malcolm was one of the founder members of Bristol Suburban Railway Society, who set up the original preservation scheme at Bitton in 1972. He became the Steam Locomotive Superintendent and played a large part in resuming to steam the Society's very first locomotive, the Avonside 0-6-OST, which was later to be named 'Edwin Hulse'. Malcolm was also a major partner in the small group of members who rescued Stanier Class Five No. 45379 from Barry, and brought it to Bitton in 1974.

Malcolm first became interested in railways by being one of the 'Mangotsfield Mob' - a group of train spotters who congregated at the junction station in the late 1940's and early 1950's. He was a 'Midland Man' through and through, and many an hour was spent at Bitton in the 1970's and 80's listening to his tales of train spotting. Malcolm remained an active member at Bitton for many years, and although was not as involved recently he continued to have a deep interest in the Avon Valley Railway's progress, and kept in close contact with many of the working members. He was taken ill on Friday



25th October and rushed to hospital, but passed away shortly afterwards. Malcolm combined his love of steam

teams. After reading French at Bristol University, she taught in local Bristol schools before retiring from Thornbury Church School and she continued to be involved in the local community for a number of years.



'Sadly, her health deteriorated from 1989, and she was in a nursing home for the last eight years of her life. She died peacefully in her sleep on 12 June 2002.

railways with an artistic ability which was quite exceptional and on this page we show some photos of some of the paintings which Malcolm completed. They are, of course, in colour, so we are unable to do them justice here. He was also an outstanding modeller, and in his loft he left an unfinished model of Mangotsfield Station (top left). We show these as a fitting tribute to Malcolm and his skills.

'Mary was the cousin of DOROTHY CHELL, the first KGS pupil to obtain an Exhibition Scholarship to Oxford, and she was the aunt of MARGARET, JANET and RICHARD CHELL, who were at KGS between 1954 and 1967.'

JANET CHELL (now MATTHEWS) has informed KOSA NEWS of her aunt MARY F B CHELL'S passing:

We have also been informed of the death of PAT COLEMAN (later BUDDEN) (31-37) by her husband, WILLIAM C BUDDEN. Pat died on 5 April 2002 and she will be sadly missed.

'MARY CHELL entered KGS in 1922, travelling to Warmley from Staple Hill by train. She was Head Prefect 1928-29 and a member of the hockey and tennis

RON PLASTER (41-46) has informed KOSA of the death of JOHN CULLUM (also 41-46).

To all those who have lost loved ones we extend our sincere regrets and condolences. Things were better for our having known them.

## ONE THING LEADS TO... ANOTHER...

It all started when a Mr Brian John Merrifield wrote in the *Evening Post* about his trip to the Siegerland in Germany on the Kingswood-Siegerland Exchange in 1952. A photo was published, and your Editor asked Mr Merrifield for a copy, as several ex KGS folk were recognised. Here's the photo taken at Temple Meads Station.



Amongst those recognised from KGS are, from the left:

Front row: Anne Worlock (2nd), Margaret Saunders (3rd), Marcia Phipps (6th), David Kershaw (7th), Bruce Carpenter (8th), and John Gray (9th).

Back row: Roy King (4th), Jack Sandover (7th), Derek Smith (8th), Iris Mountstephen (11th). Mr Merrifield is second from the left.

Your Ed. Wrote to JACK SANDOVER (45-53) who replied:

'Mr Biffen, the organiser is there, too. This was, I believe, the very first exchange with Siegerland. In my memory, Cologne station in the middle of the night

(took 24 hours to get to Siegen) was a pretty deadly place just after the war. I still keep in touch with my host too - Martin Stucher (now living in Freudenberg)'.  
**THE FORGOTTEN ARMY...**

It turned out that Mr Brian Merrifield is the son of TOM MERRIFIELD, who was the School Caretaker back in the 40s to 60s, and Brian very kindly let KOSA borrow some photographs of the forgotten army

of the caretaker, the cleaners and the groundsman who kept KGS going behind the scenes. Do you remember on those cold mornings when you came into a warm, clean school without a thought for those who were responsible for that state of affairs? Well, here's a photographic tribute to the forgotten army.

TOM MERRIFIELD was the caretaker who, amongst other duties, kept the boilers going with the coke which was delivered and piled high by the boys' cycle sheds each Winter. TOM COOPER was the groundsman who lined out the pitches for rugby, cricket, hockey, tennis and for the annual sports day.



Top:  
The cleaning ladies and Mr Merrifield  
pose outside the school



Below:  
Mesdames Merrifield, Davies and Bryant  
with some early arrivals



left:  
Messrs Cooper and Merrifield  
in the girls' bike shed.....and  
below: Bob the Dog



## THE FORGOTTEN ARMY (continued)



left:  
The winter of 1947,  
outside the canteen

below:  
Brian John Merrifield's  
painting of his home,  
the caretaker's cottage



left:  
Mr and Mrs Merrifield's  
well-deserved  
retirement in 1965,  
after serving many  
generations of KGS  
pupils

### **SOME ORIGINALS...**

A very nice letter has been received from two originals from 1921, GLADYS ANSTEE (now NELSON) and her friend JOSIE WHITTERN (now SCUDAMORE):

'Jo Scudamore and I would like to convey our thanks to you for sending us a copy of KOSA magazine, we enjoy reading it so much. We are both now 92 years of age. Jo had a nasty fall 2 years ago and has since then had a lot pain and discomfort, she has recently had a hip operation in Southmead Hospital and is slowly recovering. She is now at home and her daughter is staying with her. My eye sight is deteriorating so I don't now go out on my own, but my daughter, who lives with me, takes me to see Jo most week ends.

'My diabetes nurse, PAT ROBINSON, attended KGS much later than Jo and I, but she also enjoys reading KOSA. I also see RANDY GILLINGHAM, who also attended KGS; he had a heart by-pass operation a few years ago and has been wonderfully well since.

'I still belong to the oral history group at Yate. The committee members meet at my house once a month and hold a general meeting at Poole Court the next week. Jo sends her regards to all the members.'

In the original school register which is in the possession of KOSA, GLADYS ANSTEE is recorded as the 71st pupil to enter Kingswood Secondary School, as it was then, from Warmley Church of England School, and JOSEPHINE ELIZABETH WHITTERN is entered as no:52 from Staple Hill Council School. They both started on 16 September 1921, GLADYS in 3a, and JOSIE in 3b. That's over 80 years ago!

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### **...AND A LATER ONE...**

SUE WELLS now PULLEN (59-64) writes:

'As I list my results for the KOSA Operation Archive I regret my exam results do not reflect the high standard of education I received at KGS. - just 4 'O' levels!

#### **The Passes**

French, Music, English Literature - through the wonderful teaching of MRS BRITTON (BONESS) who continually quoting from *Macbeth* throughout our lessons helped me to really understand Shakespeare. Also MR HODSON got me through my Maths' exam early at Christmas (Oxford Board) along with BRENDA GREEN. The only two girls in a class of boys! MR HODSON had so much to tell but "the two girls" placed limits on him!

#### **The Failures**

MR HUMPHRIES (R.K. and my final year form teacher, see photo over) instructed us brilliantly on the life of Moses but I failed to recognise the question about him in the exam. Domestic Science, I made the cardinal sin of attempting to cook something I had not attempted before and English Language and Human Biology, well who knows?

#### **School Uniform**

A very big expense for my parents but with the exception of my pinafore dress (3 boxed pleats back and front) which was discarded in the third year for a more "mature," pleated skirt, lasted the whole five years! All of it, sports equipment included, from the Don at the top of Park Street. It was interesting to see the picture of a school hat in the last issue but mine was different, more of a bowler type with a distinct dent down the middle where it was folded and shoved into my Burberry pocket until within sight of school, when it was placed on my head! The school was blessed with great and

memorable teachers, MR TROTT (Maths) with his questions around the room. Each wrong answer meant firstly "stand up", then "stand on chair", then "stand on desk". He always quoted he once made someone get onto a cupboard, but I never saw that! He was also a dap hand at the art of chalk and blackboard rubber throwing! MISS WYCHERLEY, (Nellie) (English) such a lovely lady, how could anyone not remember her? How the boys loved to tease her by sing-

child's nanny was not for me as I needed other people to work with. Thanks to her I joined Lloyds Bank where I was very happy as a Teller and when my husband, Bob, and I became Newsagents it was I who enjoyed the serving side of the business, whilst Bob remained 'backroom boy'!

'Now a grey haired granny (although I prefer nanny!) of 5, I can act out my once first choice of career and be relieved that



ing "There's an Old Mill by the Stream" but she always took it in good heart. The MR WILLIAMS' - there were three at one time, Woodwork, Biology and Science.

'MISS MORRISON (Deputy Head) caught me coming back from Kingswood one lunch-time when I was supposed to be 'in' at school dinners. I was gated for a week, which meant after lunch I had to go to the Library until lessons resumed. But how, I've always wondered, did she firstly know my name and secondly, that I should have remained on school property? She also told my parents that a career as a

my path took the line it did, as I have had the best of all worlds.

'Quick PS - Glad to see COLLEEN PARROTTS' (55-62?) name as joining the club (last issue) along with WENDY BISP and JEAN THICKBROOM. I 'hero worshipped' them as 'rebels' in school. Later (with Co) I spent a few "man-hunting years" and in the last year bumped into her at Hanham Mothers & Toddlers, so "hope to see you at future lunches and meetings, Co!"

(In the photo above, Sue is 4th from the left, middle row - Ed)



### **A FAMILY MAN...**

MORWENA SHERRIFF, now RAT-CLIFFE (50-52) writes:

'I enclose a photograph of the Ridley family. How did I come to have that print? Now for some background information.

ents, she relived her schooldays when I was there. She was very amused at the account of MR RIDLEY'S first assembly in a letter from BRIAN SAMMONS to DOREEN PILLINGER. The 'batman' gown and hood and mortarboard cer-



'My father was a Methodist Minister and came to Kingswood in 1950 and we lived in The Park next door to the Ridleys, who were in number 27. It was rather daunting having the headmaster watching my every move!

'My parents got on well with the Ridleys and when my mother was asked if she could find accommodation for a young teacher she willingly agreed. The teacher was COLIN WINTOUR (known as 'FROSTY', who taught French). He lived with us for some time, and when he married his wife joined us.'

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### **ROSEMARY'S RAMBLES...**

ROSEMARY DOGGETT (64-71) writes: 'I always look forward very much to receiving my copy of KOSA NEWS which has brightened up otherwise very dreary days. My mother, although not ex-KGS enjoys reading them as, like lots of par-

tainly rings a bell with me, he kept that up when I was there, but he had to bow to public opinion regarding the use of the cane. It was rumoured the then Senior Master 'JACK' DALZIEL had a size 12 'dap' in his study for such purposes. Despite this he was very popular and much missed when he left to become Headmaster of Elmhurst School in Somerset.

'MR RIDLEY was well known for his sarcasm and he would say 'would that boy at the back who thinks this is very funny be so kind as to tell us the joke seeing it's so important it cannot wait until the end of assembly'. The Saturday morning detention was the ultimate deterrent in my day and often there would be threats hinting at such a punishment to those who dared to talk in assembly!

'MARTIN RADFORD, brother of ANDY, now Bishop of Taunton, did a brilliant

impersonation of MR RIDLEY taking an assembly. He also turned what was a minor role in the *The Mikado* into a show that someone said should have been called 'Martin Radford's Flying Circus. His father Canon John Radford, was then vicar of Kingswood. JOHN BUDDEN, mentioned in the last 'NEWS, was also in *The Mikado*

'Recently there was correspondence in KOSA NEWS when some people whose lives were more humdrum didn't want to read about Professor A or Bishop B. Speaking as one who is on the bottom rung of the Civil Service (I find having to keep up with the latest IT, as well as changes at the top enough to cope with...we sit at the same desks, turn on our computers and find we are something different). I very much enjoy getting a vicarious thrill from reading about the successes of former KGS pupils.

'Who else do I remember? MISS MORRISON, the Deputy Head, nicknamed 'Min', took us for Latin. She was small and dignified, rather like Queen Victoria. I see her now trotting along the long corridor in the old school. We always had to greet her in Latin 'Salvete magistra' and she would reply 'Salvete discipuli' (I hope I've spelt it right!). I had both Miss Evanses for English, one a little Welsh lady with dark hair. In the sixth form I was taught History by 'BOMBER' HARRIS, who was quite a character and nowadays would not be considered PC in the scenarios he used to act out when teaching 19th Century European History. He used to turn a chair round and sit on it as if riding a horse.

'My sister went to Kingsfield 6th form in 1975 where she met and later married PAUL SAGE (71-78) whose elder brother NIGEL SAGE was at KGS 1961-68. As a result of 'KOSA NEWS' I had correspondence with ROBERT PILE, who was not

only at school with Nigel but shared digs with him at Sheffield University. Nigel is now a clinical psychologist and Paul is a sound recordist with Granada Television in London. Nigel was also taught history by 'BOMBER' HARRIS.

'Nigel and I both remember a notorious occasion when MR RIDLEY in one of his assemblies told us of how a 'distinguished guest' had visited the school. He was always having 'distinguished guests' and he would take them across the grass to view the new 6th Form and Science Blocks, but woe betide any pupil who used the same route! When he returned to his car a certain unmentionable four-letter word beginning with 'F' had been written on it. MR RIDLEY wrote the unmentionable word on the blackboard. "This distinguished guest was not unnaturally most upset" he said, but he never said the word, he just referred to the blackboard. I understand this event was picked up by a tabloid newspaper, although I never saw it myself.

'MR RIDLEY was a mixture of progressive and traditional. He set up Personal Relationship courses, sex education, which is probably why the tabloids printed the 'Headmaster writes four-letter word on blackboard' story. He was quite left-wing, but as far as discipline went he was traditional. When I see how free and easy pupils are now with their head teachers, he seems almost Victorian. It amuses me when reading the 'NEWS that the teachers were as frightened of him as the pupils were.

'I enclose a newspaper cutting regarding Minnie Haskins who wrote the poem beginning 'I said to the man who stood at the gate of the year...' which was used in the King's 1939 Christmas broadcast and at the funeral of the Queen Mother. (She was related to one of the founders of the

School who was the first Chairman of the Governors (1921-25), hence Haskins House – Ed). The house where Minnie lived was turned into a nursing home where my grandmother departed this life, so the poem has special significance for me. I think in one of the other verses the dawn is mentioned and I remember from my days at KGS that splendid easterly aspect over the Freezing Hill, Lansdown and Kelston Tump, the most southerly Cotswolds as they roll down to the Avon Valley at Bath. I remember seeing some wonderful sunrises when we had British Summer Time all the year round in the late 60s, when the sun didn't rise till 9 o'clock.

'I hope you find these memories helpful, and do keep telling us about Professor A and Bishop B, but I don't mind hearing also about the others!'

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### **WITHEY'S WRITINGS...**

From Canada JIM WITHEY (45-53) writes: 'Last August 1st my wife shouted up to me, around 10am, that the post had arrived and it contained edition 21 of KOSA News. I immediately put down my house cleaning equipment and was lost to the world for the next couple of hours. I must thank my cousin, JACK WITHEY (41-46), for his best wishes contained in that edition.

'On page 17 you have published the very photograph of the First XI soccer team that caused MAJOR EATON to grab me by the arm and propel me to the corridor wall, outside room F and, pointing to Jack in that self same photograph (third from the left in the middle row) told me to emulate him, if I could! I noticed that immediately behind Jack is the goal keeper 'CRUSTY' MERRITT (bright red hair). I saw him at the KOSA reunion lunch in 1995, minus the red hair and now a reverend. He seemed pleased that I

recognized him after 50 years.

'I want to pick up on a few things from my old friend JOHN GRAY'S (47-54) communication. How can this photograph be one of the second rugby XV? Two members in it are wearing first XV colours! PETER KNIGHT (?), at the right of the back row, is one of these. I notice that the fellow who is second from the left in the front row is wearing 'junior' colours (which was a pale blue 'K') while one is wearing second XV colours, which was a tree of green and brown. I know that John played for the first XV in 1952-53 because I have the photograph in front of me and he is sitting in the front row, third from the left, next to me. How wonderful to hear that John had managed to help out the Merrifields with accommodation after they retired. The groundsman, whose name John had forgotten, was TOM COOPER (mentioned on page 22 of KOSA News number 18). He used to encourage the senior boys to meet with him in his little shed at the rear of the gym in order to teach them the joys of smoking!

'In KOSA News number 20 I was pleased to be reminded of MALCOLM HANKS (45-50) and his memories of our trip to see 'OLLIE' HOLFORD in hospital. I do not recall the convalescent hospital outside of Axbridge. I thought it was the tuberculosis sanatorium at Ham Green (which, a little later on, was to be my home for ten months or so). I doubt that Malcolm has that distinguishing head of very fair hair that he had in those days.

'I was fascinated to hear of RON ('BUNNY', because of his front teeth) ILES (?) I was a good friend of his from the days in Hanham Road Infants school (1938-42) and Hanham Abbots Junior school (1942-45). I helped him collect grass snakes and the occasional adder down in the woods near Hanham river. I

recall that we photographed an orchid as it produced a beautiful golden yellow flower overnight and then it withered into a putrifying mess within minutes. I knew that he had gone to Kings College, University of London and got a degree in biology and then went to Africa to oversee the production of fish in reservoirs, but I lost touch with him in the 50's. To think that he has settled in south western Ireland!

'I have noticed the lovely photograph of the school on the back cover of KOSA News 20. I wonder if someone could superimpose a plan of the new school over it? When we were there at the planting of the memorial tree to old scholars who fell in WWII, in 1995, I lost track of just where we were for the ceremony. But I do recall seeing the old oak tree not far from the present school.

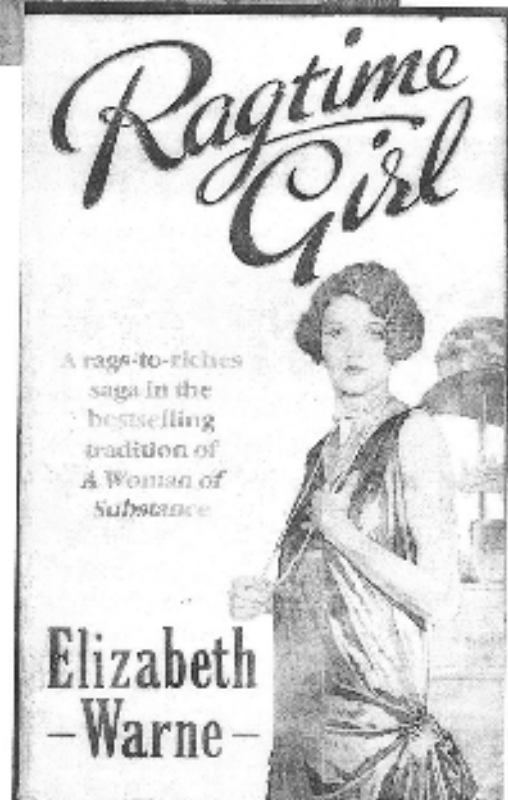
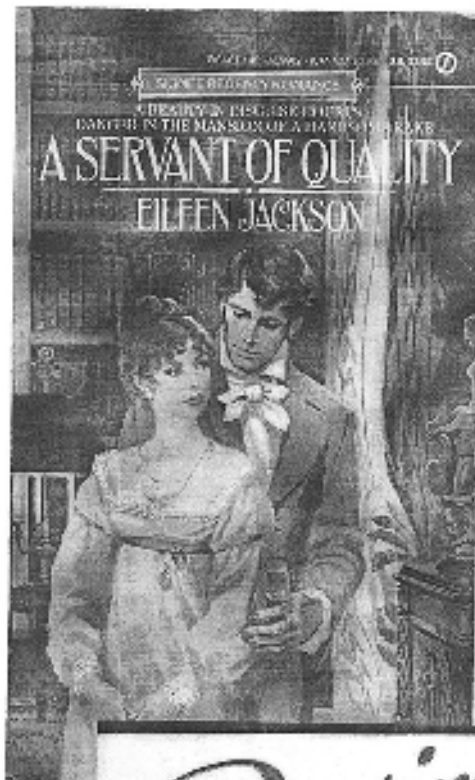
'In closing, please don't think that all of this is worth publishing. It's just that KOSA News does provoke some new memories every time one comes through the door!'

#### **KINGSWOOD'S AUTHOR...**

EILEEN WARNE now JACKSON (37-41) has had many books published, as reported by her relative BRIAN ILES (45-50). Eileen was born in Bristol and has since moved north via Oxford and Salford to Scotland where she now lives with her husband in a Regency gatehouse situated in a beautiful wooded valley, west of Girvan in south west Scotland.

Eileen sold her first short story at the age of nine (pre KGS!) and has since written a number of historical novels under pseudonyms. *A Servant of Quality*, published in 1988, is a romance of a lady disguised as servant girl to avoid marriage to a bore, only to be compromised by a rake called Lord Hugo Ramsey...

*Ragtime Girl* is about a poor working girl from, yes, Bristol....with lots of Bristol references Kingswood, Wills Tobacco Factory, Hotwells, Cabot Tower and *The Pink 'Un*. Someone is even described in the book as 'too toffee-nosed for Kingswood now!' Eileen has now stopped writing.



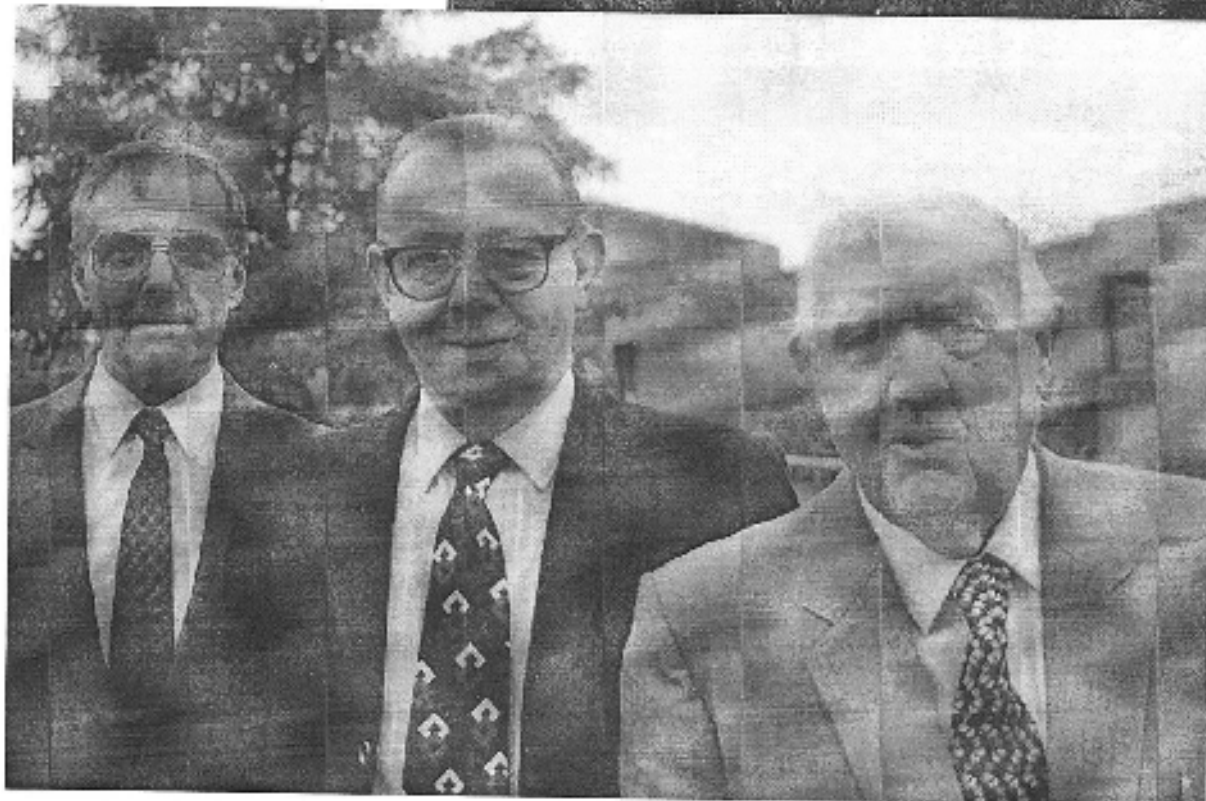
### **FRIENDS FOR LIFE...**

On the right is a photograph of Bob Denning, Brian 'Ginger' Lovell and John 'Tiker' Bailey taken in about 1942/43 when they were mates at KGS together.

Below is the same trio taken in 1995 when KOSA celebrated the passing of 50 years after the end of the Second World War by planting an English Oak at Kingsfield School.

The oak was planted in memory of those from KGS who gave their lives in that conflict, and we hope that in time it will complement the old oak tree which so symbolises Kingswood Grammar School.

The order is changed slightly from the original, being Bob, John and Brian, but you would have known that from the fact that our trio have changed little!



## **INTERNATIONAL TRAVELLED...**

DAVID KERSHAW (48-56), who was on the trip to Siegen, Germany in 1952, (see the photo on page 4) writes:



'I did enjoy the October lunch and the opportunity of meeting people generally I had not seen since leaving KGS in 1956.

'The Siegen visit was, if my memory serves me right, organised by Kingswood Youth Service which was based between the Clock Tower and Hanham Road. I think that the exchange was organised by Earnest Biffin, who I think is the balding gentleman on the right of the back row. I have very little recollection of the trip, but I have managed to find one or two photographs of it, none of value to KOSA NEWS, however. The German party was here on 16 August and I have a vague idea that we left on the day of the Lynton floods, which I think were to the end of August....

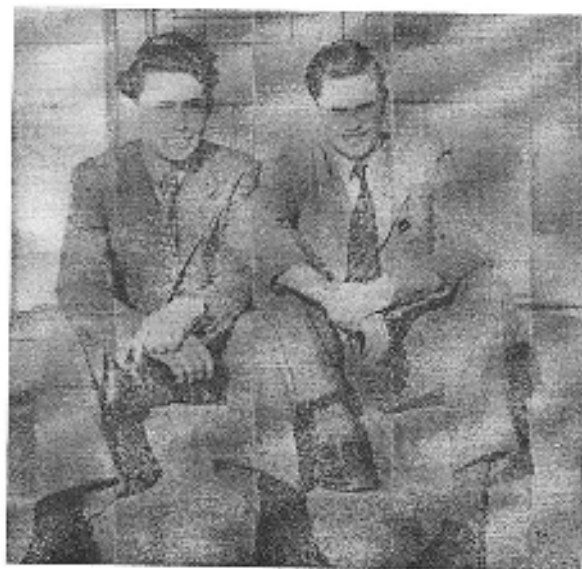
'The Christian name of the German boy who stayed with me was Dieter, whilst the boy with BRUCE CARPENTER (48-56) was Rudolph. Although the trip was to Siegen, I stayed in Kreuztal and Bruce at Hilchenbach, both villages north of Siegen.

'The photograph (left) is of me and MARY HUCKLE, now THORNE (48-52) in Wanaka, New Zealand in 2001. It's actually a fraud because we forgot to take a picture together there, so I took a photo of me on North Island and sent it to Mary who used computer wizardry to record us together. I think it covers very well the couple of hours of our visit which Mary wrote about in KOSA NEWS 19....'

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## **FRIENDS...**

JEAN KNIGHT now BRIGHT (40-48) has supplied this photo of her late husband JEFFREY BRIGHT (right) with DAVID ROWE (41-49) on the steps at KGS in November 1946.

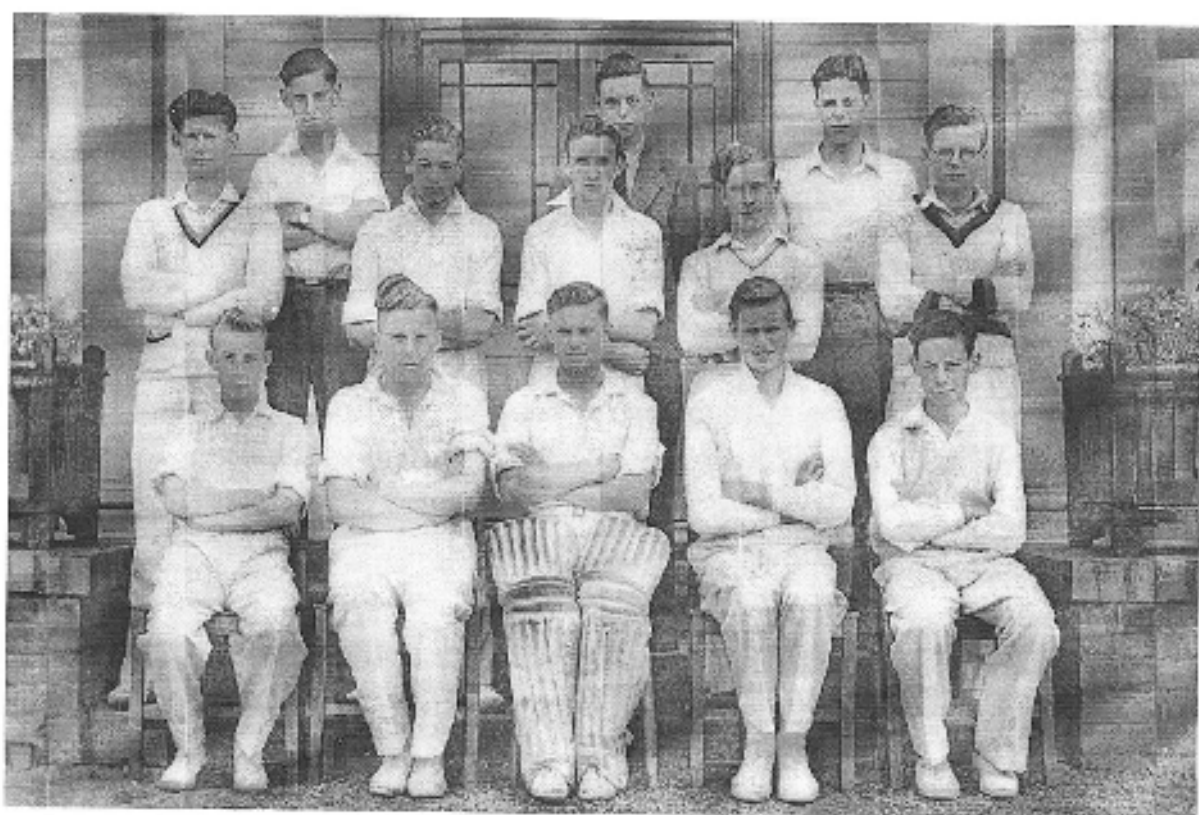


## **SPORTING COUPLE...**

In addition, in the photographs opposite, Jean is in the 1947 1st XI Hockey team (front row, centre), with her future husband in the 1947 1st XI Cricket team (front row, second from right). The other members of both teams are named.



Back row: Beryl Hicks, Kathleen Wilcox, Dorothy Ross, J Frith, Molly Brain, Pat Kendall  
Front row: Helen Brain, Marion Osborne, Jean Knight, Dorothy Watkins, Sheila Francis



Back row: Loxton, Bishop G, Barnard, Mortimer, Morgan, Sawyers, Herbert, Peters  
Front row: Wootten, Merritt, Jefferis, Bright, Adams

## **CONGRATULATIONS...**

SALLY JOBBINS now TUCKER (63-68) has e-mailed KOSA with the following news:

'I thought readers might be interested to hear about my brother, COLONEL PAUL JOBBINS (59-64). Paul received an OBE in the Queen's Jubilee birthday honours for his service to the Royal Marines Reserve which he joined in January 1972 but in particular for the time he spent in Sierra Leone as British military liaison officer to the High Commissioner. The award recognized his commitment through a tense and complicated situation. Paul, who is also a Chipping Sodbury town councillor, was on his way to the Falkland Islands to take part in the 20th anniversary commemoration of their liberation when news of the award reached his home.

'Paul is among a number of descendants of the Burge family who attended Kingswood Grammar School. These include our mother's sisters BERYL BURGE now HAWKINS (37-40), MARIAN BURGE now YEOMAN (40-45), IAN SMITH (54-61) and TREVOR HAWKINS (59-66) who married JEAN KELLY (62-67).

'In more recent years our nephew DARREN CREW, my own children LUKE and LAURA TUCKER and Paul's sons, OLIVER and NICHOLAS JOBBINS, have all attended Kingsfield School.'

---

## **ANOTHER JOHN'S JOTTINGS...**

JOHN COLE (49-56) was prompted to write by JOHN GRAY'S missive in the last edition. He writes:

'The reference to 'JIMMY' WILDE (games) by JOHN GRAY (46-54) in the last KOSA News brought back pleasant memories of that teacher on the rugby

and athletics fields.

'At the very impressionable first year level we more than half believed that he was the same legendary Welsh Jimmy Wilde called 'the ghost with a hammer in his hand' who had been some decades before the world champion featherweight boxer. Certainly he could ghost through our attempts at tackling him and could wield a good clout with a plimsole for misdemeanours - 'getting the dap'.

'It was Jimmy's coaching that developed ROY KING's (49-56) ability to 'sell a dummy' that was so outrageous that luckless opponents would find themselves chasing shadows on the pitch next door!

'On the athletics field Jimmy could be persuaded sometimes to demonstrate handsprings and other gymnastic feats. These of course together with his habitual black sportswear got our fevered imaginations working to debate whether he was the role model for 'Alf Tupper - the tough of the track' or else the ageless black-clad athlete who also appeared in the 'Wizard' and 'Hotspur' reading comics. More seriously however I remember Mr Wilde as an encourager of talent, rarely raising his voice, who added character to the interesting mix of KGS staff.'

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## **JOLLY HOCKEYSTICKS...**

JOAN KING (34-38) now PARRY has sent KOSA a photograph (below) of an early KOSA hockey team of the late 1920s or 30s. As readers will be aware, in the early years KOSA had many activities and teams, including football, hockey, amateur dramatics and rambling. JOAN writes

'I enclose details of my years at KGS. (mostly undistinguished!). It's been quite odd after all these years picking out fa-



miliar names from the KOSA mag. PEGGY OTLET (38-43) (now BOLT) and I have been in contact ever since school days, but we all went our various ways during the war and contact was lost. In an older issue Peggy let me have, the name DORA DUNN appeared, we were great friends and if you have her address I would love to contact her.

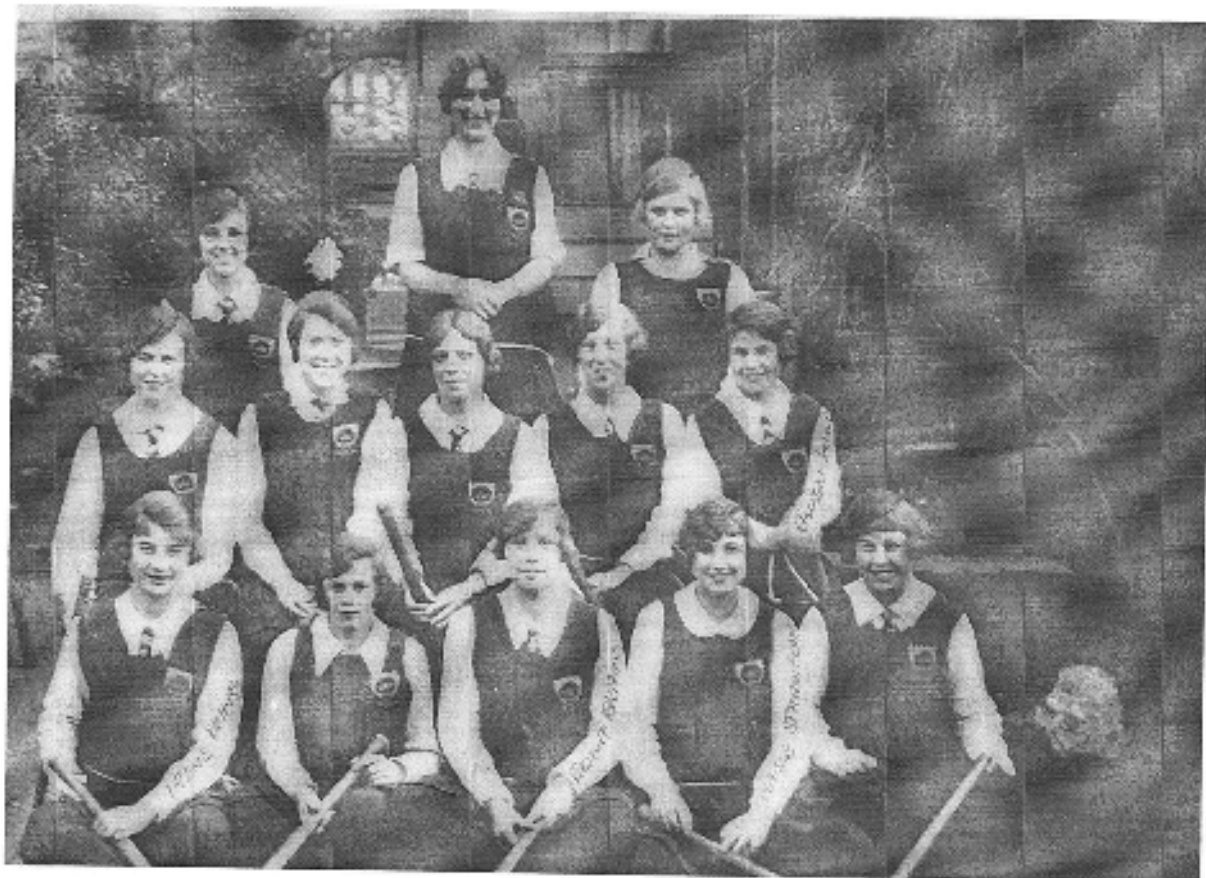
'My two older sisters, GWEN and IRENE KING (middle row, right and front row, left respectively) were founder scholars at the school. Names that come from their time are BILL SCANTLEBURY, BRIAN SAMMONS, FRED PEACOCK, EDNA BRAIN, MAISIE STRAWFORD, (front row, middle and second from the right respectively) and BEATIE LAWRENCE. Being thrust upon my older sisters to be 'minded', I spent many hours eavesdropping, and later I was hauled around on the KOSA hockey team forays with them. I enclose a photo of said team, which must have been taken in the late 20s, early 30s.

Gwen kept in contact with Brian Sammons until he died and Fred Peacock was a family fiend. I look forward to more mags, one gets very nostalgic in one's old age!

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By some coincidence, which often happens with KOSA, we were also sent a photograph by FREDA BENCE now BROWN (31-37) of what she called 'The Old Girls Hockey Club' which she dates around 1938/39 (see next page). Freda identifies DORIS WALL now PEARCE (22-27) in the centre of the group, 'just before her marriage', and we have also identified EDNA BRAIN on the left of DORIS.

It's a big group of some 29 girls, and as it's of the Old Girls it must contain girls from a number of different years. We are trying to identify as many people as possible, so if you know the names of any of the girls please let KOSA know.





### **A 1944 REUNION..?**

JOHN BRYANT is proposing to hold an informal lunch to celebrate the Diamond Anniversary of the 1944 entry to KGS. Although this is some way off, he would like to get some indication of the level of interest, without any commitment, at the present time.

Date: May - June 2004

Location: Somewhere on the outskirts of Bristol.

Day of Week: Probably Tues/Wed or Thurs.

Diet: Catering for any dietary requirement can be made.

Transport: Hopefully help can be arranged for anyone who needs transporting to the venue.

Cost: Somewhere between £12 and £15.

We hope that as many as possible will want to come and meet-up with old friends in a happy and relaxed situation and To register an interest, please contact either:

DON BREDDY 0117 9373307 or  
JOHN BRYANT 01981 540316.

Would you also kindly pass on this information to any 1944 pupils with whom you are still in touch but who may not yet be KOSA members and therefore not see KOSA News. Spouse/Partner or Friend would be very welcome. Go on, pick up that phone now!

### **ANOTHER FROM CANADA...**

MARGART BENSON now ROSS (54-59) writes:

'I received two newsletters from KOSA thanks to my brother-in-law's cousin, TERRY OSBORNE (49-55). What a lovely surprise! My Sister SHEILA BENSON, later POW, (47-54) had passed over some older newsletters to me when I had been home to England and I had found them very interesting. The newsletter containing news of her death was especially special to me - she was a wonderful person and will be sorely missed. I live in Canada as you know, and although we were miles apart, we were very close.

'Reading these newsletters, I remember names and can put faces to some, but

not to others. I have dug out my old form photographs. I started in 1954, Class 1A with MISS WATTERS - a person I have never ever forgotten and whose name I have brought up many times in my present job. She gave us all such a good grounding in English - the youngsters these days have no idea sometimes of grammar, etc.!! Her ears must burn sometimes; I will never forget her. I have all the form photographs until I left Form VI in 1959 (with the exception, for some reason, of 1958).

'I have been living in Canada with my husband (British) since 1975, and we

picture shows MARION SAGE, MARGARET BENSON, LINDA YEOMAN and PAM herself dribbling the hockey ball, and the lower photo shows MIKE REDGERS, JUNE GROVES and FREDA WHITE each winning their respective 100 yards.

This gives us an excuse to advertise once again our video which we have called 'Kingswood Cameos'. It consists of glimpses of life at KGS from 1955-71 made from film rescued from the fire by being held at home by Senior Master 'WOODY' WILLIAMS and made available by his son MIKE WILLIAMS (71-74). It

includes Sports Days of 1955 and 56, 'The Bartered Bride' of 1955, rugby, tennis and hockey and much, much more.

A snip at 8 quid (including inland postage)! Orders to the Editor, please.



have one married son and one grandson. My husband is retired but I am still working at the moment. Life has been good to us here.

'Please let me know what the cost would be of sending me the newsletters - I would love to keep in touch, as Sheila had done, to keep her memory alive.'

Thanks to PAM JONES now BRABNER (52-59) we are able to reproduce some press cuttings (sorry - poor quality!) of what was probably the 1956 or '57 Sports Day. The top



TRIO OF WINNERS of 100-yd. events are (left to right) Michael Redgers (senior boys), June Groves (senior girls) and Freda White (middle girls). In the picture below, senior girls are dribbling the hockey ball.

## PUZZLE PAGE...



Can you identify the above classroom? What's it worth? Well, one free ticket to the buffet lunch and AGM at Lincombe Barn, Downend on 26 April 2003. Sadly, the KOSA couple who were kind enough to send me the shot are not eligible, but if they come I'll buy them a drink! - Ed

The photo below, thought to be of her form in 1936, was sent in by MURIEL HILL now JAMES (34-37). Muriel writes: 'Thank you for the news of BILL SCANTLEBURY (23-27), he was my boss when I worked at West Glos. Water Company from 1954-57. Other ex-KGS pupils there were KATHLEEN HICKS, LAURENCE SMALL, FRANK SMALL



(and his wife DOREEN TIPPETT), MEGAN WHITE (formerly COOK) and JAMES BAILEY.

Identified on the photo (left) are:

Back row: Jack Fry, ? Fletcher, James Bailey, Peter Gay, George England, Reginald Smart, ??, Richard Smith, Richard Maggs.

Middle row: Barbara Robinson, Marjorie Powell, Muriel Hill herself, Kathleen Hawkins, Jean Wreford, May McIlwraith, Mary Hicks, Joan Ellis, Marjorie McCann, Mary Ashley.

Front row: Charles Nunn, Desmond Iles, ? Woodman, Hedley Organ, Charles Brown, ? Dovey, Walter Palmer.

Lower front row: Esme Every, Joan Bate-man, Dora Dunn.

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## **MORE 30s & 40s**

### **MEMORIES...**

A couple of letters from SID WEBSTER (36-41):

'On leaving KGS I became a student electrical engineer at Newman's of Yate, but watching a programme on Palestine the other day (having served in the Middle East) brought back the times when the Palestine Police came to KGS to recruit, kitted out in the khaki which I wore later on. Did anyone join? This was the days of Empire, and it was quick promotion in Palestine, good money and early retirement. However, as I found later, it was a dangerous place to be!

'Contemporaries at KGS included VIC AMOS, GEORGE PALMER, LES MARK and DENNIS MONK. Some of the lads played a dangerous trick on MISS QUINTON. She always sat on the desk top during lessons, with her feet on the seat. All the bolts had been stripped and dropped down knot holes in the floor. In Latin the verse went:

*'Quinibus satibus on the deskiorum,  
Deskibus collapsibus and Quinney on the*

*floorium.'*

'She was a rather strict woman to me. Later, when she retired, she lived in a bungalow in Holbrook Lane, Bridgegate. I did have a chat with her, but as far as I was aware she was on her own.

'ERIC HILTON came to teach music after my time. However, Kingswood Community Centre ran music lecture sessions by him and I went for a number of years. Some of the talks were held at his home, below Staple Hill Park, because he illustrated themes on his grand piano there. We were always very well looked after by him and his wife, outside of what was required. Later I saw him at his bungalow North of Bristol on the Gloucester Road when he opened his garden under the National Garden Scheme where he had a wonderful collection of Alpine plants.

'My musical interest was, of course, affected by 'KYBER' KEATES. It was difficult trying to follow the score of Beethoven quartets and then having to leave the school when the sirens sounded for shelters in houses on Kingswood Hill. K. was a hit with the girls, and I recall him walking up the Hill with admiring girls around him.

'MAJOR EATON was a stickler for discipline and quite frightening. In my first year, at Assembly the girls were dismissed and canes were sent for. Two boys - no names no pack-drill - had been found 'cribbing' their homework in the lavs. They were severely caned in front of us. It made quite an impression, and one, a later friend of mine, did not hold it against him and visited him at Wareham in his retirement.

'Major E. was very proud when, one morning, he announced to the School that KGS had obtained more places at Oxbridge than Bristol and Manchester,

normally the trend-setters.

'Another strange incident at the start of WW2 was when 'FLOSSIE' POWELL, a severe disciplinarian, decided we must forego our leather satchels for rucksacks as our shoulders were drooping. Flossie had us outside her classroom wearing our rucksacks, 'goose-stepping' around the tarmac. I was brought up a Christian Socialist, and this was bizarre. I was very much aware what was happening in Nazi Germany and I never forgot this peculiar incident.

'What happened to DR BLOOM, a refugee from Europe, who taught Chemistry? My recollection of MR BROWN (Maths) was that he was always riding a low racing bike. When he left KGS he joined Douglas' in the accounts department and I occasionally saw him - always with the bike! He married a KGS girl.

'Well, I joined KGS in the mid 30s, thoroughly enjoyed it and kept in touch with quite a few ex-pupils by letter - including ROGER WINDSOR (55-60).'

CHRISTINE BIGGS now FOSTER (51-58) has sent KOSA NEWS the picture below of the cast of 'The Gondoliers' which was performed on 12th to 15th December 1956, which we have been able to match up with the inside pages of a programme sent in some time ago by REV. JOHN 'TWEEDY' HARRIS (53-60). John has underlined the performers' names as the ones he saw when he attended.

John has given us quite a collection of programmes: HMS Pinafore (1960), Concerts by the School Orchestra, Christmas Concert (1959), S Glos Music Festival (1960) and the Senior Orchestra (March 1964). Perhaps we can feature some in later editions.

John explains that some programmes are missing, such as the one for 'The Bartered Bride', because in those days he couldn't afford to pay for entry to the performance, buy a programme, and get the bus home to Mangotsfield. Something had to give, and it was usually the programme!



# THE GONDOLIERS

or, THE KING OF BARATARIA.

## DRAMATIS PERSONAE.

### THE DUKE OF PLAZA-TORO

(a Grandee of Spain)

LUIZ (his Attendant)

DON ALHAMBRA DEL BOLERO

(The Grand Inquisitor)

MARCO PALMIERI

GIUSEPPE PALMIERI

ANTONIO

FRANCESCO

GIORGIO

ANNIBALE

THE DUCHESS OF PLAZA-TORO

CASILDA (her Daughter)

GIANETTA

TESSA

FIAMETTA

VITTORIA

GIULIA

INEZ (The King's Foster-mother)

Chorus of Cantadine, Gondoliers, Courtiers, Men-at-arms, Heralds.

## ACT I THE PIAZZETTA, VENICE.

## ACT II THE PAVILION, IN THE PALACE OF

BARATARIA.

(An interval of three months is supposed to elapse between Acts I and II)

DATE 1750.

## CHORUS OF CONTADINE.

Margaret Benson,	Christine Biggs,	Christine Copping,
Margaret Forsey,	Mary Forty,	Elva Forward,
June Groves	Jean Hirst,	Marion Long,
Mary Powell,	Angela Rodman,	Brenda Sealy,
Anne Stone,	Gillian West,	Carolyn Whiteside,
Delvene Woodman,	Shirley Wilcox,	Linda Yeoman.

## CHORUS OF GONDOLIERS, COURTIERS, MEN-AT-ARMS.

S. Culling,	D. M. Hussey,	J. Masters,
R. Moore,	R. Perkins,	M. Powell,
C. Rees,	C. Taylor,	C. Ticktum.
Drummer boy	- - -	R. Hall.

Heralds	- - - - -	{ F. Dobbins.
		{ S. Wallington.

Costumes of Chorus made under the direction of Miss K. Owen by Mary Powell and Brenda Simmons.

Certain Principals' costumes and those of Courtiers and Soldiers in Act II by S. B. Watts and Co. of Manchester.

Scenery constructed by H. W. Williams, Esq. and 5AB boys.

Scenery painted under the direction of H. V. Watts, Esq. by Wendy Edwards, Gillian Guthrie, Jennifer Lacey, Sandra Lewis, Avril Middleton, Angela Redman, Judith Winchurch, B. Brown, M. Preen and G. Featherstone.

Electrical work by J. Burcombe, D. Feltham and D. Shepherd.

Stage hands under the direction of H. W. Williams, Esq. and C. A. E. Wintour, Esq., R. Beese, B. Brown, K. Dugdale, B. Fillingham and K. Jay.

Make-up under the direction of A. M. Britton, Esq.,

G. R. Morris, Esq., and Misses J. Horseman and E. Spill.

Chorus trained by - - - - - E. Hilton, Esq.

Business Manager - - - - - E. J. Peet, Esq.

Dances arranged by - - - - - Miss E. Morrison.

Accompanist - - - - - Miss M. Jacob.

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



TESS DENNING now WEAVER (42-46) has passed to KOSA the above photograph which she believes to be 1944 or 45. She has identified Geoff Nichols, Steve Townend, Rex Weaver and Norman Sage in the middle row and Mavis Evans and Sheila Francis in the front row. Can anyone identify the form, date and any others?

### **MORE MISSING...**

The photo below of 3D in 1954 was sent in by PHYLLIS HANKS now MESSENGER (51-56). Phyllis writes that she can't have taken much notice of the boys in those days as she can't remember one name! We have, however, identified the following - girls and boys!:

Back rows (boys): ??, Mike Preen, ? McKenzie, Fred Hanratty, ? Rodgers, Tony Lucas, ??, Gary Milton, Hugh ?  
 Middle row (girls): ??, Dorothy Clarke,





Brenda Simmonds, ??, Celia Cullen, Joan Pomeroy, Pat Ryan, ??, Phyllis Hanks, Pat James, ??, Cynthia Rogers, Front row: Wendy Lloyd, Vic Jordan, ??, ??, 'Frosty' Wintour (French), ??, ??, Hazel Stanton, ??.

Can anyone fill in the blanks? Unfortunately no prizes!

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### **A CORRECTION...**

A family resemblance was noticed in the photo of the School Governors in the last edition. ALAN HIRESON (62-69) writes: 'The photo on page 26 my mother and sister are convinced is that the Rev. Gentleman in the back row left is actually my great-grandfather Rev Thomas Hireson. I am less convinced of his identity but have to admit that it does look like him. He was a school governor at some point in history.' Apologies, Alan. We erroneously identified him as Rev E Love - Ed.

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### **NICKNAMES...**

ERICA IVORY now WICKENS (39-46) raises the nickname of 'Tonky' or 'Twonky' as that given to a short man with a limp who was an Austrian refugee who taught Chemistry and whose name was DR BLOOM (see Page 22). On investigating past 'Kingswood Chronicles' it seems that Dr Bloom did 'some excellent work as Quartermaster in some of the wartime camps (ably assisted by Mrs Bloom)', but by the 1949 edition he appears to have disappeared.

Re page 11, Erica points out that ESME RAWLINGS also retains her school hat which she produced at a dinner a few years ago, and on page 16 she remembers MARJORIE WINWOOD, but has no knowledge of her now. She used to arrive at KGS by coach with many others from Filton in those days.

---

### **WELCOME...**

Additions since last time are below.

Maiden names given, and starting year in brackets, if known. When contacting the 'NEWS' it is very helpful if you give your first name, maiden name (where appropriate) and the years at KGS. Thanks.

Morwenna Sherriff (50), Mary Ellis (?), Peter Miller (56), Brian Baish (?), Herbert Ross (38), Jack Sandover (45), John Carter (56), Jeanette Jay (54), Margaret Benson (53), Jean Iles (37), Alan & June Wyatt (45), Sid Webster (36), Jackie Hill (55), Eileen Warne (37), John Britton (52), Brian Lloyd (50), Joan King (36?), Keith Culley (51), Joanna Hellin (68), Norma Lewis (36), Anne Lasbury (53), Rev C Jill Bryant (62), Margaret Stonehewer (46), Margaret Shipp (50), Jack White (41), Ray Edwards (46), John Pullin (42), Anne Hodges (45), Lynda White (51), John Durston (43), Wendy Joy (54).

If you know of anyone from KGS who is not yet receiving KOSA NEWS and would like to receive a copy, then just let us know. We'll do the rest. Moved or moving? Please don't forget to let us know your new address.

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### **OCTOBER LUNCH...**

Over 100 had a great time as you can see from the photographs on the next two pages. It was quite an international affair with not only DEREK BAILEY (49-53) coming from Colorado, but also PETER MYERS (46-52) from Australia and MARY CARR now HOWES (54-57) from New York State.

If they can make it from overseas, then there's no excuse for you from 'just around the corner'! Our next lunch is after the AGM on 26 April 2003. You will be made very welcome, and why not bring a friend?

Your Committee hopes to see you there!

From the bottom right hand corner, then clockwise. All the way from New York State-  
MARY CARR now HOWES (54-57), EILEEN MATTHEWS now BENDREY meets  
PAM JONES now BRABNER, (both 52-59) and NANCY BUSH now FISHER (39-45)  
celebrates her raffle winnings. The couples are MRS ELIZABETH and ROGER  
MOORE (52-59), ANN EDWARDS now TREVANION (52-59) and PETER MILLER  
(55-60), and husband and wife team CHRISTINE TAYLOR (55-59) and BOB  
PERKINS (52-57)

### OCTOBER LUNCH 2002





Left: All the way from Wales, MAUREEN CURRY now HENNEVELD swops stories with BRIAN FORTY, both 47-53.

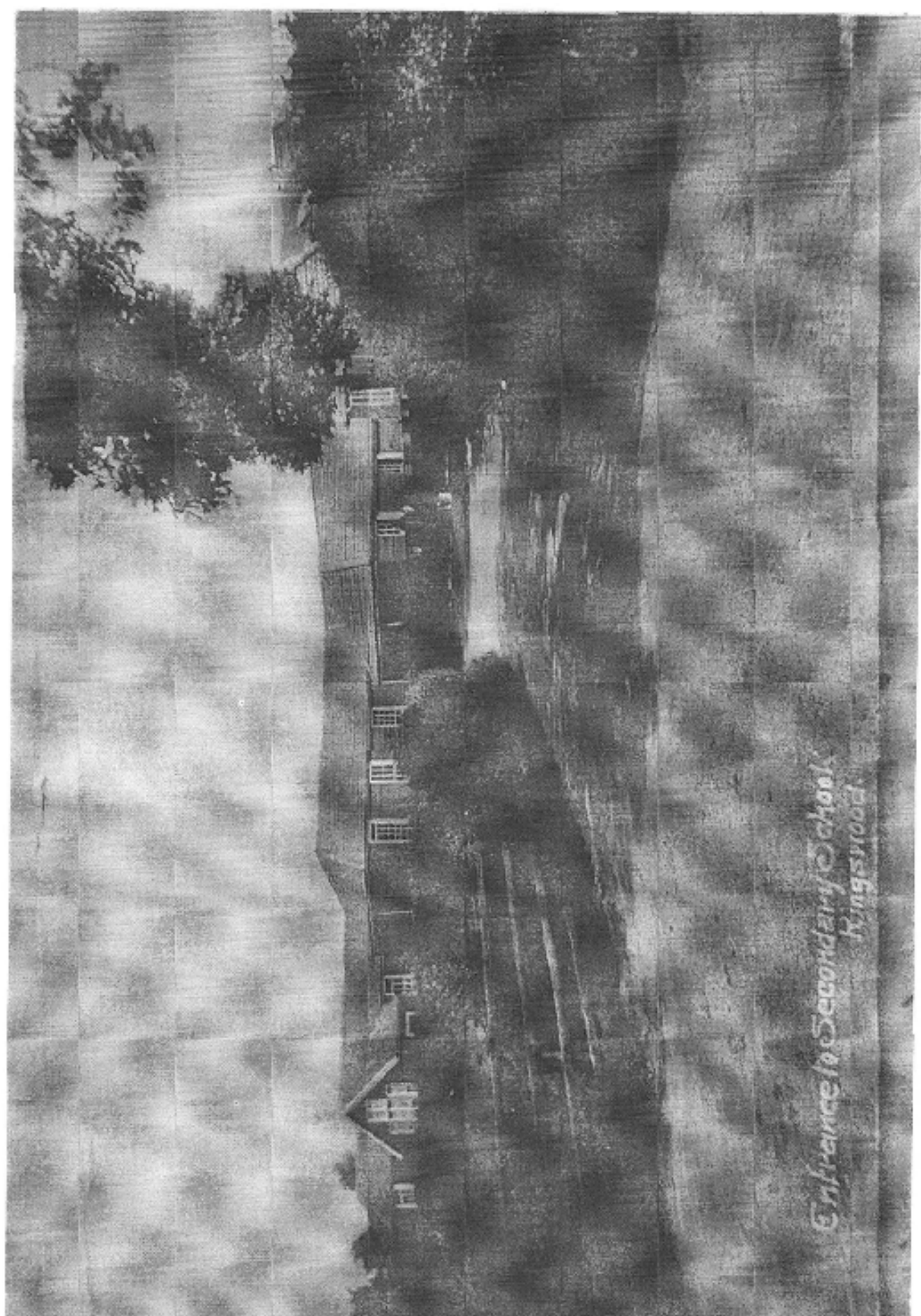
Below: JEAN LOVELL now WALTERS (48-56) with KOSA President DAVID LEWIS and DAVID KERSHAW (48 -56) reminisces with MIKE WHITEFORD (47-54).



Left: PETER BRAKE (46-51) (also from Wales) and DON BREDDY (44-52).

Below: DIANE MALLARD now EVANS (47?), MIKE WHITEFORD and KOSA Chairman PETE WALTERS (47-54)





*Entrance to Secondary School,  
Kingswood.*

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS:**

Here are your Committee Members after the April 2002 AGM who will be pleased to answer any queries or will be happy to hear your suggestions for the future of KOSA:

Peter Walters (1947-54) Chairman 9 Selworthy, Kingswood, Bristol BS15 2RJ Tel: 967 8177  
Peggy Bolt (Oriet) (1938-43 ) Vice-Chmn 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  
Mike Bendrey (1951-56), Editor, 26 Overdale Road, Downend, Bristol BS16 2RT Tel/Fax: 956 5689  
Eileen Bendrey (Matthews) (1952-59) 26 Overdale Road, Downend, Bristol BS16 2RT Tel/Fax: 956 5689  
Gordon Bolt, 293 Badminton Road, Downend, Bristol, BS16 6NU Tel: 956 4020  
Bill Cox (1927-34), 45 Downend Road, Downend, Bristol, BS16 5UF Tel: 956 7019  
Bob Gray (1949-56) 4 Ludlow Court, Willsbridge, Bristol, BS30 6HB Tel: 932 5934  
June Long (1939-45) 5 Clevedale Court, Downend, Bristol, BS16 2SG Tel: 956 7910  
Jean Walters (Lovell) (1948-56) 9 Selworthy, Kingswood, Bristol BS15 2RJ Tel: 967 8177

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**KOSA AGM & LUNCH**

To: Mike Bendrey, Editor KOSA, 26 Overdale Road,  
Downend, Bristol BS16 2RT Tel: 0117 956 5689

I enclose £\_\_\_\_\_ for \_\_\_\_\_ places @ £8.00 each for the KOSA AGM & Lunch to be held  
at 12.30pm on Saturday 26th April 2003 at Lincombe Barn, Overdale 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'

---

**CONTRIBUTION TO KOSA NEWS\***

To: Mike Bendrey, Editor KOSA, 26 Overdale Road,  
Downend, Bristol BS16 2RT Tel: 0117 956 5689

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 £5 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'

**KINGSWOOD OLD SCHOLARS' ASSOCIATION**

**THE NEXT REUNION & AGM**

Notice is hereby given that the AGM will take place at Lincombe Barn, Overndale Road, Downend on SATURDAY, 26 APRIL 2003 at 12.30pm, followed by a Reunion Lunch at 1.00pm

**AGENDA**

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