



KOSA NEWS



NUMBER 23 - SUMMER 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

EDITORIAL...

Here's another pot-pourri of letters, photos and facts of KGS. I sometimes look at an edition when I have finished putting it together and feel that it's really a dog's dinner, a mish-mash of bits and pieces with no particular aim or structure. However, people seem to like it and, in general, I get more bouquets than brickbats, although the latter are not unknown! Do let us know how the 'NEWS could be improved - perhaps it needs a face-lift and maybe a change of style.



We have pursued a number of projects over the years. A video is still available (see page 19 of 'NEWS 22) and, as we we are often asked for unavailable past issues, another project we are considering is a combined edition of KOSA NEWS from the very first edition to the current one. We haven't investigated the cost yet, and as it would be over 500 pages it could be quite expensive, say between £10 and £15 plus P&P. What do you think - should we pursue it further?

DIARY DATES...

AUTUMN LUNCH

Lincombe Barn, Overndale Road, Downend has been booked for our popular Autumn Lunch for SATURDAY, 11th OCTOBER 2003. We meet at 12.30pm and sit down for lunch at about 1pm. Please put it in your diaries now as a very pleasant occasion when you can meet old friends. As always, there will be a bar and you will be made very welcome. Please complete the form enclosed and send it to our Treasurer, MARTIN HARRYMAN, 5 Bracon View, Bleadon Hill, Weston Super Mare, BS24 9NF

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 has been arranged for SATURDAY, 27 SEPTEMBER 2003-04 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 9676083 or see the club's website at [www.kingswoodrugby.co.uk].

1944 REUNION

In our last edition we announced that a 1944 Reunion was planned next year for those who Entered KGS in 1944. Details are not yet available when going to press but please contact Either DON BREDDY on 0117 9373307 or JOHN BRYANT on 01981 540316.



KOSA NEWS



NUMBER 23 - SUMMER 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

EDITORIAL...

Here's another pot-pourri of letters, memories, photos and facts of KGS. I sometimes look at an edition when I have finished putting it together and feel that it's really a dog's dinner, a mish-mash of bits and pieces with no particular aim or structure. However, people seem to like it and, in general, I get more bouquets than brickbats, although the latter are not unknown! Do let us know how the 'NEWS could be improved - perhaps it needs a face-lift and maybe a change of style.



We have pursued a number of KOSA projects over the years. A video is still available (see page 19 of 'NEWS 22) and, as we are often asked for unavailable back issues,

another project we are considering is the production of a 'combined' edition of KOSA NEWS from the very first edition to the current one. We haven't investigated the cost yet, and as it would be over 500 pages it could be quite expensive, say between £10 and £15 plus P&P. What do you think - should we pursue it further?

DIARY DATES...

AUTUMN LUNCH

Lincombe Barn, Overndale Road, Downend has been booked for our popular Autumn Lunch for SATURDAY, 11th OCTOBER 2003. We meet at about 12.30pm and sit down for lunch at about 1pm. Please put it in your diaries now as a very pleasant occasion when you can come along and meet old friends over lunch. As always, there will be a bar and you will be made very welcome. Please complete the form enclosed and send it to our new Treasurer, MARTIN HARRYMAN, 5 Brecon View, Bleadon Hill, Weston Super Mare, BS24 9NF Tel: 01934 812315

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 has been 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 9676083 or see the club's website at [www.kingswoodrugby.co.uk]

1944 REUNION

In our last edition we announced that a 1944 Reunion was planned next year for those who entered KGS in 1944. Details are not yet available when going to press but please contact either DON BREDDY on 0117 9373307 or JOHN BRYANT on 01981 540316.

OBITUARIES...

Margaret Batt, daughter of DORIS WALL (22-27) writes to inform KOSA of her mother's passing:

'I was pleased to find the Spring 2003 copy of KOSA News on my mother's doormat. It enables me to write and tell you that she died in November 2002, at the age of 93. Glancing through your pages, I was impressed with the level of support you obviously generate, and quite astonished to find my mother's name and photograph in your 'Jolly Hockeysticks' section.

'Perhaps this is another coincidence for your collection. Here's a note on her life: DORIS WALL was born and brought up at Syston Hill Farm, Syston Common, Kingswood. The family knows very little about her school days at KGS, although we know she was proud to go there. We have some photographs of a school pro-

duction of *'Antigone'* in Grecian dress in 1925, and of course there was hockey. Again we have a number of team photographs, unfortunately without any names. Your correspondent, FREDA BENCE, is right in that the picture in the last edition must have been taken just before Doris' marriage. We have also found certificates showing she was a member of the Red Cross and qualified as an ARP Warden, although, presumably, this must have been after she left KGS. She also trained in secretarial work and business administration, and worked in an office in Bristol until her marriage.

'In March 1940, Doris married RALPH PEARCE, from Downend, in Syston Church and moved to Hampton in Middlesex. Ralph, who was a Physics PhD, had taken a post at the National Physical Laboratory in nearby Teddington, along with his older brother FRED. Both RALPH and FRED were ex-KGS.

'Ralph and Doris had two daughters, Margaret and Barbara. Doris was always very keen on our education and certainly kept my nose to the grindstone. I think she was pleased with our various degrees although our subsequent scientific careers were difficult for her to follow.

'As far as I know, she didn't continue with her hockey after her marriage, but I was expected to endure cold muddy afternoons on the hockey pitch in my turn - without much success I might say (sorry ladies!). However, her competitive spirit was amply illustrated in her support for Manchester United, and woe betide anyone who called when the tennis was on at Wimbledon or someone was beating someone else at snooker. After we left home, Doris developed her interest in gardening and supported my father in his painting and photography. She had two grandchildren, Richard, who is an IT project manager, and Caroline who is a floor manager for BBC TV news and current affairs. Although she was a member of a technical family, Doris never had a computer but I suspect that, given her business background, she would have mastered it at least as well as I did.

'Sadly Ralph died in 1997 and since then Doris became increasingly isolated, preferring her own home and her own company. She died after only 3 weeks in a nearby nursing home on 21st November 2002.

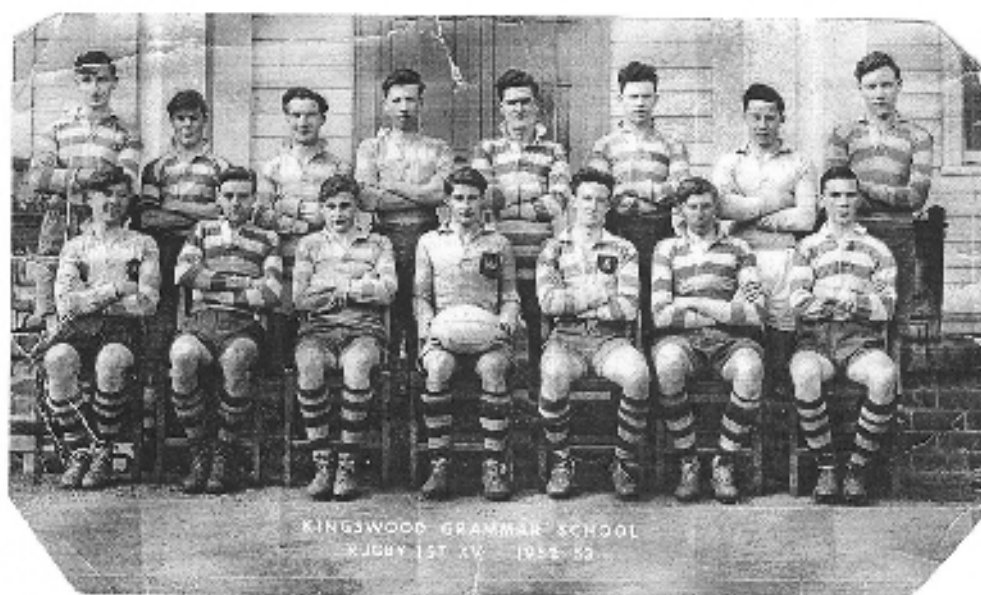


duction of *'Antigone'* in Grecian dress in 1925, and of course there was hockey. Again we have a number of team photographs, unfortunately

JIM WITHEY (45-53) and his wife ANN SUT-
TLE (51-53) write from Canada:

'It is with great sorrow and regret that we have learnt of the death of PETER KNIGHT (45-53) on June 27 2002, from a sudden heart attack.

'He was my great friend at KGS and afterwards. He was best man at our wedding in 1958 and I at his first wedding a little later. He was married three times and had five children. He played rugby for the first XV (1952-54) (In the photo below Peter is on the back row on the left hand side and Jim is second from the left, front row-Ed) and in the same year played cricket for the



first XI. I cannot do justice to his contributions to my life and others. Perhaps a few anecdotes will suffice.

'I well remember his part in a production, for parents' day 1952 of 'Lady Precious Stream'.(see later photo - Ed). It was presented outdoors on the steps of the main entrance to the school. He borrowed an academic gown and, perched on a stool, threw confetti all over the main entrance steps to simulate a snow-storm. Everyone howled with laughter at his antics except MR. RIDLEY, who ordered him to remain behind and sweep it up!

'He lived, with his parents and younger brother, Jim, at 174 Downend Rd. I usually spent time with him there because he had so many things that I did not. One of these was a BSA airgun.

One afternoon, when both of his parents were working, I persuaded him to fire at a small target at the bottom of his garden, about 30 to 40 yards away. It was bounded by a high wall, so I could see no danger. Peter fired at the six inch square target from the ground floor window at the back of the house. I concentrated on the target with a pair of binoculars. After he let go one shot I exclaimed "Where's that gone?". We both looked hard at the target but, slightly to the right of this, we noticed a clump of hollyhocks. One of them was leaning, ever so slowly, to the left doing a slow motion collapse.

"Christ!" said Peter. "Father is very proud of those. He'll give me hell for that". A council of war followed. Then Peter came up with one of his brilliant ideas. "Ice lollies!" he shouted and headed for the refrigerator. We had a lolly apiece and then Peter took the sticks that were left and dyed them green with ink. He also dyed some string and, very carefully because the stem had not been shot through to breaking point, splinted the hollyhock in an upright position. It lasted all summer and not a further word was heard about it.

'We never lost touch completely when we left school. Peter went to the University of Bristol, where he got a degree in chemistry. He could equally have read English. He then did national service in the army as a sergeant instructor and then taught at Marling school in Stroud. More than four decades ago he moved to Totnes and then to Buckfastleigh and taught the sciences in a local school there, becoming head of physics. He was teaching there two days before he died.

'I received a copy of his obituary written by a teaching colleague, I presume. I shall take the liberty of quoting some extracts from it.

"Peter possessed an undying belief in science. Many people will testify that he was a born teacher. He saw a use for words and under-

stood them profoundly. To his colleagues, and therefore to his pupils, he brought enthusiasm, generosity, sacrifice and perspective. He taught two generations of families, fathers and sons, mothers and daughters. In them he saw a likeness, like Robert Donat in 'Goodbye Mr Chips'. A born teacher. A loved teacher. Generous and enthusiastic. Poetry was, for him, a kind of glue maintaining a life. He wrote well for occasions, for sons, for daughters. He was a profound poet. The world has a little less knowledge without him".

PERCY LOVELL (30-37) has informed KOSA of his brother ROY LOVELL'S (26-31) death. Percy writes:

'I write to thank you once again for an excellent Spring edition of KOSA News and to tell you that my brother, ROY (Royden Luther) LOVELL, died on 24 January 2003 at the age of 88.

'Roy was at KGS from 1926 to 1931. He excelled at football and was vice-captain of the First XI in 1930- the most successful team the School had produced up to that date. He earned the following critique from his captain, D W Wright, that year: "Lovell is an accomplished player with an accurate shot from all angles. He has the rare talent of being able to create openings for his colleagues"

'On leaving KGS Roy played for Cadbury Heath YMCA until a severe leg injury put an end to his footballing career. He then turned to cricket and became a gifted all-rounder in Bristol club cricket, captaining the elevens fielded by the likes of E S & A Robinson, J S Fry and other Companies for whom he worked as an accountant/cashier. One of his favourite stories was of catching out one of the Gloucester players in a club match on the County ground right on the boundary.

'Roy was well known locally and nationally in the Independent Methodist Church in which he was a minister and lay preacher and his devotion to the little Chapel in Mill Lane, Cadbury Heath was unstinted - following in the footsteps of his parents and grandparents. He was ably supported by his wife, MARION BEESE (1926-1930) with whom he had a wonderful marriage lasting 63 years. Roy enjoyed his years at KGS and I like to think he was a great credit to the School.

'Roy, like many others at KGS had to leave school as soon as it was possible legally -even before taking the School Certificate - in order to supplement the family income. Even our second cousin BERNARD LOVELL [at the same stage] believed he was to leave KGS to work in his father's radio/cycle shop in Oldland Common - but MAJOR EATON'S pleading with his parents preserved him for the 6th form and University. In my case the family income had improved sufficiently by 1934 to allow me to stay on in the 6th - the luck of being the youngest in the family! I overlapped briefly with Roy and by 1932 I was playing in the Soccer XI with some of the giants like Harry Williams with whom Roy had played.'

In 'NEWS 21 we published an extract from BILL SCANTLEBURY'S (23-27) memories of KGS in the 20s. Sadly, Bill passed away on 16 January 2003 in his 92nd year.

Bill, although born in Downend the youngest of five children, moved to Kingswood and went to what was then Kingswood Secondary School. When he left school he joined South Glos. Water Co. Where he stayed for most of his life. During the war he served in the RAF.

Bill was a long-standing Freemason, being a member of a Downend Lodge for many years. He had a lifelong love of cricket (KOSA NEWS 21 included his photo in the school team in the 20s), loved gardening and continued to drive his car and play golf into his 90s. Bill's son TREVOR SCANTLEBURY also attended KGS 54-59.

Your Editor visited Bill often, and was impressed with his gentlemanly demeanour and sharp brain into his 90s.

In April *The Bristol Evening Post* reported the passing of BRIAN BURGESS. BRIAN was born in 1925 and therefore probably went to KGS in 1936. Brian died on 15 March 2003.

Born in Staple Hill, he went to KGS after moving to Hanham. After service in the RAF, he entered St Luke's Training College, Exeter to train as a teacher. He taught at Frenchay School and Kingswood High Street where he was sportsmaster

and deputy headmaster. In 1961 he was appointed head teacher at Iron Acton C of E School

A short note from her daughter, Mrs Mary Cripps, informed KOSA NEWS of the death of LILIAN MAY BLUNDELL (31-36) (latterly HUGHES).

LILIAN was 82 years old and died in the Caerphilly Miners' Hospital on 13 February 2003.

KOSA is sad to announce the passing of ERIC HILTON who taught Music at KGS from 1949 for 20 years. We can but do him justice by repeating Headmaster C N RIDLEY'S comments in Kingswood Chronicles when he retired:

'Mr Hilton came with me in 1949 to take over the Music Department - or rather rebuild it. Mr Hilton, a Lancastrian, with all the directness of all northerners, set about the task in no uncertain manner. He had so many things he wanted to do: to teach musical literacy to the many, to encourage the very musical to the heights of university and college, and to encourage everyone to enjoy opera, and instrumental playing for the fun of doing it. In the early days, there was much opposition from pupils and some parents, but gradually they were won round, and Music at KGS became a very live subject in the curriculum.

'The combination in the production of Gilbert & Sullivan operas was a happy one, and teachers and pupils joined together and enjoyed themselves. Of later years, Mr Hilton has given his energies to orchestral training, and his annual concerts were memorable.

'Mr Hilton himself, rightly respected and not a little feared for his uncompromising standards of work, has had a warmth and concern for his pupils, and his forms, and nothing has been too much trouble for his furtherance of their welfare....Mr & Mrs Hilton can be proud of their two sons who passed through KGS and have done well in medicine and dentistry at Mr Hilton's own university of Manchester.

'Many years ago at a General Inspection of the School by an HMI, a very distinguished musician commenting on Mr Hilton's work said that never

had he, in all his experience, seen teaching of that quality.'

Eric, who was quite an expert in growing Alpine plants, spent his last year in a nursing home in Thornbury. He kept in contact with many Old Scholars, especially at Christmas, JEFFREY NEILSON (44-50), MARGARET REECE (55-62), MIKE HOLLOWAY and his wife BRENDA SEALY (52-59) and many others.

To all those who have lost a loved one we express our condolences. Our lives have been made richer by their existence.

RUGBY ROUNDUP...

In this 50th year of the founding of Kingswood Old Boys' RFC, KOSA asked JOHN BISHOP (52-58) to give us a potted history:

'In the last year of MAJOR EATON'S reign as headmaster KGS changed codes from soccer to rugby. In 1954 JOHN GRAY, RON PARSONS and other formed an Old Boys' Rugby Club, and the first game was played in the 1954-55 season against Old Elizabethans.

'The principal officers of the new club were Headmaster NORMAN RIDLEY (President), ELIS PEET, who taught Maths and Games, (Chairman) and DAVID OTLEY (Captain). Regrettably, the records of the early years have been lost, but the club quickly became established using the school playing fields at Deanery Road, with MR RIDLEY continuing as President but with our new Chairman BRIAN SAMMONS. DON BREDDY took over captaincy for a couple of seasons followed by, amongst others, JOHN SALTER, RON WILLIAMS, DAVE PAGET, DENNIS MORGAN and ROGER BEESE.

Two captains more than made their mark. JOHN TOBIN was a fine and physical player whose 'advice' and encouragement could easily be understood no matter where you were on the pitch. Even when running the touchline with an umbrella, his rich cultured tone was very much in evidence. The other was MIKE REDGERS, whose athletic footballing skills were inspirational. Our main problem was getting the ball to him!

'In 1970-71 we appointed our first 'outsider' as captain, but it was in this era that ROGER WINDSOR spent a couple of years at the helm. Looking back over the years it is the opinion of many that he was our most outstanding captain and he continues to take an active role in the club, despite his dodgy knees!

'Our first end-of-season Annual Dinner was held at the Kingswood Hotel in, I think, 1962. by then the club was running - more or less - a 2nd XV so the event was well attended and a resounding success. The guest speaker was John Currie, an England International, who regaled us with bawdy tales in the poshest of dialects, succeeding in astounding, even shocking, PRESIDENT RIDLEY who also attended.

'Financially, we benefited from the activities of a vibrant Social Committee. Dances were held at such hip venues as Holy Trinity Church Hall and Page Hall. In the early 60s we became more ambitious and hired the Grand Spa Ballroom in Clifton. MIKE REDGERS and TOM HARRAWAY, ably assisted by DAVE PAGET, DAVE PINE and many others were the instigators of this successful idea. Very quickly the dances became over-subscribed and our funds swelled. The money raised in those far-off days eventually formed the deposit which enabled us to build our own clubhouse at Church Avenue, Warmley in 1979-80. GEOFF ANN, as Chairman, instigated the idea of having our own ground there, and subsequently the council wanted that

ground and this caused the move to Grimsbury Road, its present home.

'The Old Boys 'closed shop' began opening its doors, so to speak, very early on. By the mid 60s a fair few of our players were not old boys, and in the early 70s the club formally changed its name to Kingswood RFC.

'The last time an Old Boys team appeared in an official game was 14 November 1976 when we played the School 1st XV to help raise money for the 'Appeal Fund' which had been set up following the fire. The photograph of the team is below.

'The old boys who achieved much in the world of rugby were KEITH BABER and MIKE REDGERS. Keith retired from playing in his early 20s due to an injury and immediately took up refereeing. In a career that spanned nearly 40 years. Keith rose to prominence as a referee, then as a national referee assessor, besides overseeing the coaching and training of referees in the Bristol area for many years. Mike was our outstanding player who played for Bristol United and Bristol, whose promising first class rugby career was cut short by injury.

'So to the present day. We look forward to celebrating 50 years of rugby in Kingswood during which time the club will have played over 3,000 games, fielding at least 750 players in the process. How many friendships have been forged in that time via the fun and enjoyment experienced

on and off the pitch is impossible to say. But one thing is for sure - without the vision, dedication, and enthusiasm of the KGS old scholars of the 50s and 60s, KRFC may never have existed, let alone be going as strong as it is today.'



The players in that memorable match were:
 Back Row: Terry Short, John Shiers, Ted Young,
 Tom Harraway, Geoff Ann, Max Lovell, Bob
 Eales, Andy Warren, Dave Pine, Keith Baber(ref)
 Front Row: Bob Hallett, Vic Yeoman, Roger Car-
 roll, Roger Windsor, John Bishop, Dave Paget,
 Dave Wall, Dave McCarthy. Heroes all!

ESSE NON...

DOREEN PILLINGER now LINDEGAARD (48-
 53) sent us a possible source of the KGS emblem:



'EDWARD WHITE (55-61), recently showed me a gold signet ring, hallmarked 1902, more than twenty years before our school was founded, and which belonged to his grandfather Harry J. White of the well-known Kingswood newsagents and booksellers, Shipp and White's. The "signet" is unmistakably the badge of KGS. Were we guilty of plagiarism or was the engraving done later?

'I enclose a photocopy of another bit of heraldry which Ed gave me, with a quartered shield showing a peck (sic!-it's a Kingswood thing) and shovel and miner's lamp, (the collieries), a motor cycle, (Douglas's), boots and shoes, (G.B. Britton's, plus numerous others), and finally, corsets and a wheel, representing the stay factory and light engineering, which I suppose are loosely connected. Above is something very similar to our KGS badge and the engraving on the ring. As you know, Ed's Dad, F.J. (JIM) WHITE, was one of the founder scholars of KGS. (He was pupil number 102 and entered Form I of Kingswood Secondary School on 16 September 1921 - Ed)

'The motto, "Industria Floremus", means, I think, "by industry we flourish". Which reminds me, it was the wonderful MISS DAVID who commenced my form's Latin lessons with "Salvete puellae et pueri", to which the answer was "Salve magistra". She was the epitome of glamour in her hand knitted purple dress. If the class was good, she would read aloud to us from Naomi Mitchison's book "The Conquered", (in Latin "Victi"), about Roman Britain. I only finished it recently, more than fifty years on, having bought it from a second-hand shop in Fort William!

'On the subject of teachers, I have never forgotten an incident when HAROLD WATTS, (Art), showed me up. I was never any good at drawing, and how I passed 'O' level, I will never know. One day, as the bell went, I turned my particularly dreadful daub face down on my desk and attempted to sidle out. At the top of his voice Harold yelled out, "Look at that girl!" and everybody turned and looked. I went brick red. "She's ashamed of her work!" Harold cried. It never put me off Art appreciation, but I still can't draw!

'As for Edward, he says his final year was the only enjoyable one(!) when "a wonderful man called ANDREW TROTT finally got enough Maths into my thick skull to get me through 'O' Level. I will be forever indebted to him."

KOSA - NZ BRANCH...

A few well-heeled KOSA members have been able to get to New Zealand to hold meetings with our NZ Branch President BONNIE CARR (now CRON) (51-57). First ROGER MOORE (52-59) descended upon Bonnie and her husband:

'My wife, Liz, and I had a wonderful seven week holiday in New Zealand. We were able to spend time in the South Island enjoying the magnificent scenery, jet boating, kayaking and walking. We then crossed to the North Island where we spent a week with friends - one of whom had been our bridesmaid 30+ years ago. We finally got to the lovely Bay of Islands and Kerikeri where we met up with BONNIE CARR and her husband Jim.

'We decided that the two of us constituted a quorum and held a meeting of KOSA New Zealand - reminiscing about friends we were in touch

'We continue to keep in touch via email, and I have sent some photos back to Bonnie & Jim. Above is one of Bonnie and me after 45 years - we haven't changed a bit have we?!

And then MAUREEN GRIFFIN (now BATTEN) (51-58) and her husband, Alan, also partook of the Cron hospitality. Maureen writes:

'Just to let you know that I did get to meet up with Bonnie Cron (nee Carr) and her husband Jim on our third trip to New Zealand, and what a time we had, all 4 of us!

'Time to reminisce about all our yesterdays and also to catch up on at least some of the things which had happened to us and our families during the 50 years - yes, 50 years! - since Bonnie and I had first known each other at KGS. (Her Kingswood Uncle had also been best buddies with my ex-KGS Uncle.)

'But time, too, for the present. Theirs is a most interesting sub-tropical garden of trees and shrubs with its unusual hard landscaping of volcanic rock and producing many unusual fruits like fejoas as well as vegetables in raised beds, some all year round. They sow sweet peas in their autumn which then thrive in winter, but find they cannot grow things like lilac, lily of the valley, roses or geraniums as conditions produce many leaves but few flowers. Jim is very proud of his mini-banana plantation!

'Having amused them with tales of our adventures (or rather misadventures) with our camper-van, it was soon very obvious that we all shared a great sense of fun! And not a few bottles of excellent New Zealand champagne-style wines later, Alan discovered that Jim was "into trains". In no time at all, two men not quite young enough to enjoy playing on the floor (well, with trains anyway) were puzzling over the electrical components, track and train of American origin, determined to get it operating under New Zealand power even if it did have to be on Bonnie's kitchen table!

'There was time to talk to Bonnie about things literary (I managed to skim-read her father's American biography throughout one mostly sleepless night). She has a room devoted to her researches for her book about Margaret of Anjou, and I soon caught her enthusiasm for such



with and catching up with much of what had happened in our lives since we last met some forty-five years ago! We had a wonderful four days with them over the Easter Weekend, including a tour of their fascinating garden which grows, amongst other things, oranges, lemons, persimmons, apples, pears and bananas! In these four days we also experienced the tropical rain and sun which makes such fertility possible.

detail as which item of jewellery was given to what courtier in a particular year, for example. And time to discover many other shared interests between all 4 of us, but all too soon we had to be on our way if we were ever going to reach 90-mile beach before heading back to Auckland and home. However, it WAS wonderful, just for a while, to connect the past with the present in such a delightful way! And to re-discover a friendship of value to us all - thanks, largely, to KOSA NEWS!

'Well, that says it all really - except to mention that I think I've succeeded in persuading brother Bob (in Canada) to send you a contribution for a future issue - by email. And I always thought he was such a goody-goody during his time at KGS!'

A VOICE FROM CANADA...

BOB GRIFFIN (55-63) writes:

'After getting and enjoying a number of issues of KOSA News mailed to me, a thoughtful arrangement by my sister MAUREEN GRIFFIN (51-58) (now Batten), I thought it was about time I made a contribution.

'At KGS I was an average kid who scraped together enough GCEs to get to the University of Newcastle Upon Tyne, where I learned to drink copious quantities of Newcastle Brown Ale and loved the place so much that I married a local girl and had 3 beautiful kids!

'After a shaky graduation I joined the exulted ranks of IBM who quickly recognized my extensive talents and promptly exported me to Toronto, Canada where I've lived in exile ever since and married twice again (after divorcing the pre-requisite two times of course...I just love those marriage ceremonies!). So here I am, still in Toronto, working as an IT consultant helping firms spend as much money as possible on expensive and troublesome computer stuff, but it's a living!

'My only claim to fame, or infamy, at KGS was when I almost burnt the school down before its time! I did one of those totally stupid things that most people do at least once in a lifetime (go on, admit it!). While waiting for a lower sixth maths class to start, I thought I would impress the class

by setting light to a wax milk carton left over from the morning break. Just as it began to burn MR. HODSON was spied heading for the classroom, and in panic I tossed the smoking carton into a locker and sat down. Mr. Hodson quickly noticed the smell of burning and demanded to know who "thinks this is a chemistry lesson?"

After repeated demands for confession and interrogating each class member, I finally owned up and was banished to MR. RIDLEY's study for punishment. To ensure a fitting sentence, Mr. Hodson even came to the study to explain my stupidity. Fearing expulsion at the very least and maybe even imprisonment, I began plotting escape to foreign lands on the first ship leaving Bristol Docks. But I was lucky, Mr. Ridley must have been in one of his rare good moods, I got off with just a couple of detentions. But the awful image of what could have happened has stayed with me ever since. I wonder if anyone else remembers this?'

NEW NEW ZEALAND MEMBER...

KEN ALDRED (48-53) remarried last year and has now moved to Napier. Ken, who's an International Security Analyst, writes:

'I am now well and truly settled in New Zealand and do not anticipate returning to the UK for any great length of time - but, who knows what will turn up in the future? By the way, thanks for mentioning my marriage in a recent News.

'I have now turned my attention from NATO and European defence to the problems faced in the Asia Pacific area and have recently been invited to become a New Zealand National Council Member of CSCAP (Council for Security Co-operation Asia Pacific), an organisation based at Victoria University in Wellington. Terrorism and international crime are amongst the issues being addressed as well as the more usual ones of defence and arms control.

'I am also still working on citizenship issues and hope to set up a New Zealand organisation to link with the Council for Education in World Citizenship in the UK, of which I was Honorary Director for my last two years in London. So, plenty to keep me busy in between fishing in the

Pacific Ocean (which is just about 50 metres from the front of our house) and mountain-biking in the neighbouring (Japanese owned) forests!

'How many of your readers are living over here? I would be pleased to make contact with anyone who might be living in or visiting Hawke's Bay or who is living somewhere that I might visit.'

(Why don't you New Kiwis get in touch with Ken? His telephone numbers are (Home) 6 836 6914 and (Mobile) 21 187 2677. Please let KOSA NEWS of any meetings - Ed.)

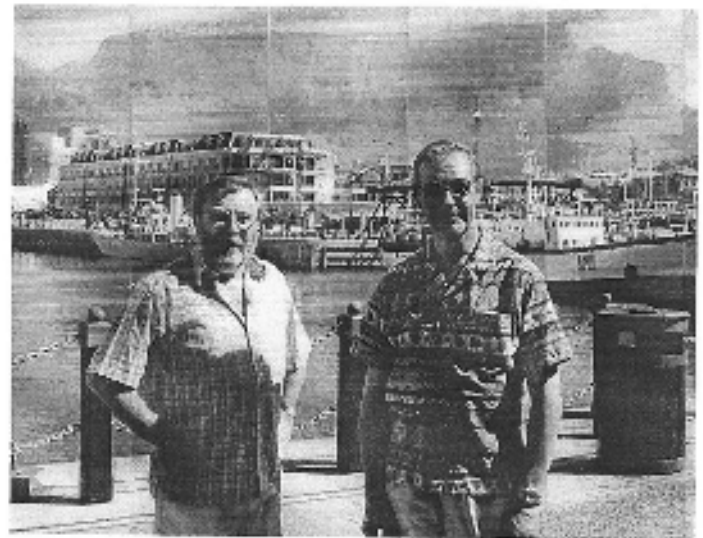
UNDER THE TABLE...

PETER MALPASS (48-55) writes:

'I had the pleasure of meeting ALAN BAINES (49-56) in Cape Town on 12th November last, thanks to you supplying his address. I wrote, Alan then e-mailed me and on arrival at our hotel in Cape Town phone contact was made and we arranged to meet the following day. Alan arrived at the hotel at the appointed time and I think we walked past each other in the hotel reception hall, but made contact by Alan's car which he had previously described to me. We had a very pleasant drive and ended up at a cafe on the Waterfront. During the time together we reminisced over our time at KGS and both wondered what happened to OLIVER (Olly) GOLDSMITH. I learnt that Alan is still keen on sailing and had in fact been a volunteer crew member of South Africa's equivalent of our RNLI.

'Alan hasn't been back to the UK for about 10 years and as his family are settled in South Africa has no plans to return. However he would welcome a meeting with any contemporaries who may be visiting Cape Town, especially if they take a supply of the Bristol Evening Post and/or the Western Daily Press as I was able to do, for he is still interested in his roots. Is the Bristol Observer (Kingswood Edition) still in circulation? If so, perhaps any future visitors could take a batch out to Alan.

'I'm enclosing a photograph of our meeting (above), we accosted a passer-by to take it, taken on the Cape Town Waterfront. There are no prizes for guessing the back drop. Note that Alan



has not the expanding girth that many of us seem to have these days.

'I had a contemporary named BRIAN BAISH and recently came across some old DFEE correspondence from my time as a Head and noted the Statistics Officer was one BRIAN BAISH. Could this have been the BRIAN BAISH of my era at KGS?'

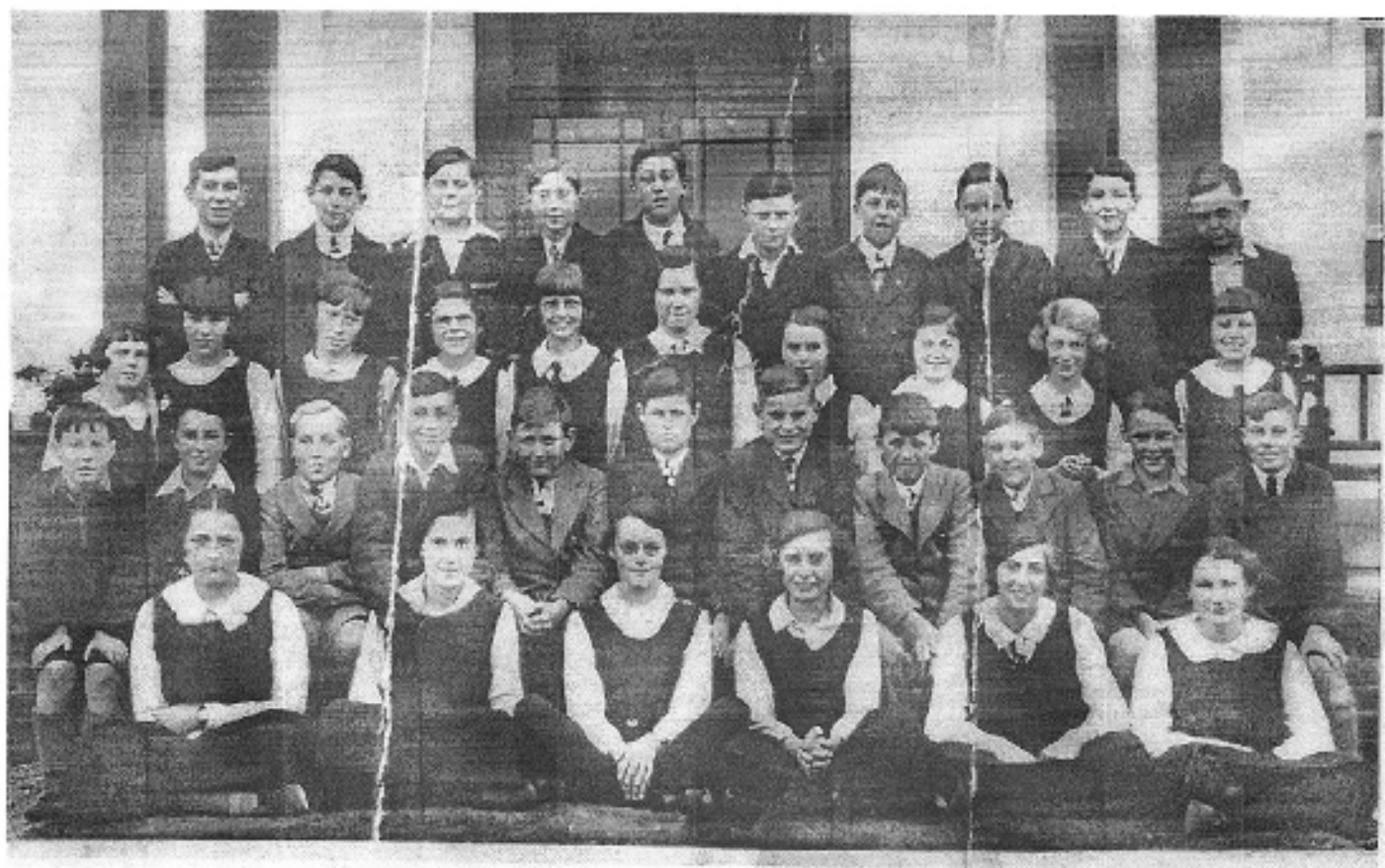
FROM DEEPEST OLDLAND...

ALAN HIRESON (62-69) writes:

'Just a few notes re the last KOSA News (22). Is there any chance you have time to scan the photo of 2C (see page 12) and send to BOB MEAKER (62 -?) to put on the website? This is my one year that seems to be missing from [www.kgs.info] (Done-Ed)

'The photograph on page 20 of KOSA news No 22 includes PETE GAY. Pete was well-known in Oldland Common, and next door neighbour to my sister until his death in September 2001. Through the kindness of his wife Edna, I have been able to borrow and copy another photograph (see page 11). Unfortunately, it cannot be dated precisely - circa 1936?

Others that can be identified are from the left: Top row: 3rd Max Haynes, 6th ? Britton, W Summerhill, Pete Gay, Jack Britton. 2nd row from top: 9th Muriel Hill, ? Gillian - 3rd row from top: 2nd George Brereton, also living in Oldland Common and who was able to name some of the others, 3rd ? Perry, 5th Eric Cains, who now lives in Chipping Sodbury; then George Rivers-



front row: 1st Elizabeth Knee, 2nd ? Young, 5th Marion Ashley, ? Rixon

As to subsequent careers, George Brereton says that Jack Britton ran a band later on.

The item by ROSEMARY DOGGETT (64-71) has reminded me of the four-letter word incident, which I can (partially) remember. At the assembly that 'Chips' RIDLEY called, I was probably in the instant coma that came over me whenever he started talking, but suddenly woke up and realised what he had written on the blackboard. Yes, a newspaper did get hold of it. I never saw any sort of editorial or article, but one break time someone had got a copy of a page with a cartoon of a teacher chalking 'WORK' on a blackboard - I think that there must have been some industrial trouble in the country at the time.

The page was passed round our little group rather quickly as I recall. Perhaps there was a thrill in being in possession of what we thought might have been a banned publication. I cannot remember what newspaper it was - possibly the *Daily Mirror*? Can anyone out there remember the approximate date?"

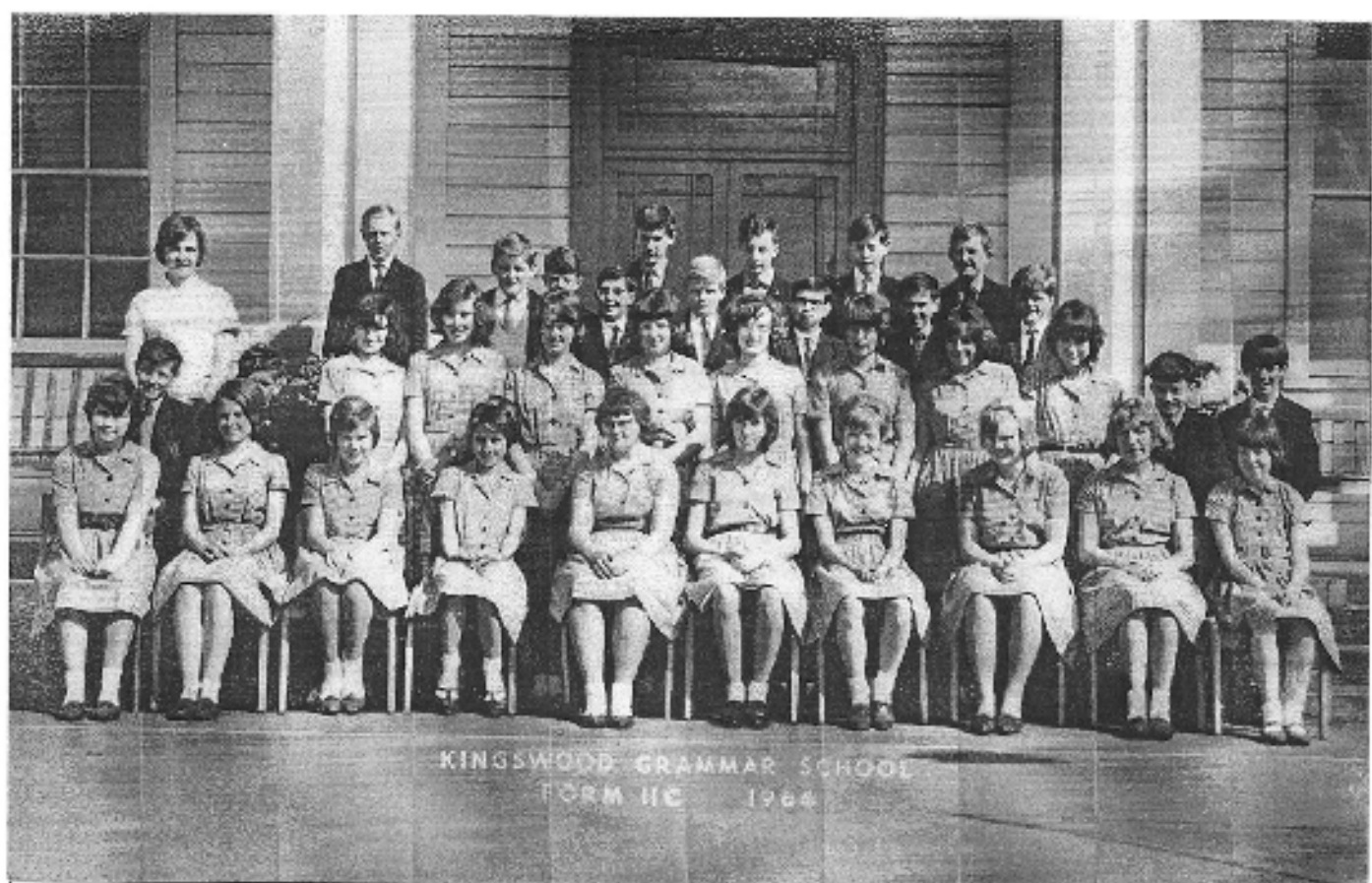
CONFIRMATION...

GORDON JACKSON (55-62) also confirms the event. He recounts the 'dressing down' in assembly and the cartoon in the *Daily Mirror*.

'At the time Prime Minister Harold Wilson was planning to modernise the trade union movement. The cartoon showed several union leaders as the class, and Mr Wilson as the headmaster, complete with cartoon mortar board and gown, pointing with a cane to a word on the blackboard. The caption was 'Oh no, he's showing us that four-letter word again.' On the blackboard was the word 'WORK'.'

THE PUZZLE...

MURIEL HILL (34-37) (now JAMES), who's on the photo above, was one of those who attempted to identify the classroom shown on 'Puzzle Page' in the last edition. Others included PETER MALPASS (48-55) and TREVOR JONES (39-44), but the winner of the free lunch was RON PLASTER (41-46). The scam was that it was not of KGS, and although Ron couldn't identify the actual building, a tall order, his detective work at eliminating KGS was excellent. The building was Marling School, Stroud, but a dead



KINGSWOOD GRAMMAR SCHOOL
FORM 11C 1966

Two back rows, left to right: Miss Cockroft, Steve Jenkins, Graham Stephens, Alan Hireson, John Tucker, Dave Batt, Clive Perry, Nigel Hunt, Mario Falzarano, Robert MacDonald, Richard Cains, Robin Smallwood, Richard Shean
Middle row: Mike Stowey, Jim Burgess, Stella Hore, Jackie Morledge, Joy Uren, Sara Parry, Jean Kelly, Barbara Amos, Pat Gay, unknown, Alan Morgan, Bob Meaker,
Front row: Helen Jones, Yvonne Schofield, Linda Kidd, Lesley Norwood, Rosemary Rees, Brenda Tyson, Liz Newell, Marion Lovell, Unknown, Christine Jones?, Carol Evans.

ringer for KGS. Unfortunately, Ron was unable to attend to partake of his free lunch in April due to a prior engagement. If he cares to contact the Editor we would like to arrange for him to attend the October lunch.

ILES' SMILES...

BRIAN ILES (45-50) has sent KOSA NEWS a missive of his school memories:

'As usual the last magazine was chockfull of good stuff. Unfortunately I figure in one article on false pretences; but while I'm not a relative of Kingswood's Author EILEEN WARNE (now JACKSON) (37-41), there is a family connection. She was in fact a school friend of my half-sister, JEAN ILES (37-41) (now GING) (Apologies for the confusion - Ed)

'Jean was the first of our branch of the Iles family to become a KGS scholar. I followed her nine years later and at one time a third member was also at the school. This was my uncle Alec Iles, the famous bald headed barber of Hanham Road. Just a short sabbatical for him though, cutting grass instead of hair. He was a groundsman. My wife ANN COLES (49-54) and her sister MARGARET (51-55) also went to KGS.

'Sadly after her Mum died Jean was brought up by my aunt Nellie Green (nee Iles). I really thought Jean was my cousin until the day I inherited her satchel when I started at the School. I discovered the name Iles in it. Which reminds me that the only other distinctive item of uniform was my cap. It was a plain brown one on

which my mother had stitched blue circles. Unfortunately there was one too many. Mum wasn't fussy about details. You had to laugh.

'Most of my memories of school are funny but there are several more painful. For example, the whacks. After I'd stopped laughing at the brilliant Latin couplet sent in by SID WEBSTER (36-41) on page 21 of the last 'NEWS, his account of MAJOR EATON'S discipline brought fresh tears to my eyes. I was caned a few times by the major, including three strokes on the ass in front of an audience of boys, to teach me -and them -that Saturday detentions took precedence over playing football. Another time I was punished for spitting in the playground in full view of Prefect 'MUFF' BISHOP.

'Yet I'm sure the headmaster had a sense of humour. The reason he gave for commuting one of my sentences was that my term's work had improved but so soft was that single stroke, I've an inkling that the crime I'd committed tickled him enough to stay his hand. Also I shall always cherish the delusion that it was my quirky recitation of 'Nicholas Nye' which had persuaded him to give me a chance in the first place after I'd scraped through to an interview on the repechage. (Three of us from Hanham Abbots came through on the second trawl.)

'I have rather different feelings about another 'disciplinarian'. On page 16 of the last edition the

rugby players record pleasant memories of JIMMY WILDE, Games Master. I remember him as a devil with the dap if we tried to keep out of the shower. This determination to get us wet after Gym or Games seemed perverse to me as he always cancelled our precious soccer periods if conditions were anything damper than a light dew. When the ovoid displaced the spheroid on the curriculum however, he didn't show quite the same concern. I suppose he thought that getting muddy all over instead of just on the knees and knicks was good for our skins as well as our characters. I got my own back though, by hitting him for four in a School v Staff cricket match. Well, sort of. He bowled me next ball.

'The gentlemen's game of soccer was phased out not long after I arrived at the school. It was a huge disappointment even though I could seldom get into the School Juniors because Jimmy favoured a right-footed outside left called EDDIE FRITH. But school is really for lessons isn't it, and luckily I enjoyed most of them. With Latin-as SID WEBSTER'S verse illustrates - a sense of humour helped. In our class there was a boy whose creative pronunciation brought the dead language to life and had us in stitches After any break, when MISS DAVID asked who was next to read, we always chorused the name of the hapless youth. I never thought of it as victimisation because, besides being a brilliant batsman, he was a really thick skinned extrovert and seemed to relish the attention.



'I don't think the girls who sat at the back of 3D felt the same about MR MORGAN when he tried out a new way of arresting their attention. MAUREEN CLENCH (now O'NEILL) certainly didn't see the joke as it knocked her glasses off - the flying blackboard rubber that is. MR MORGAN'S defence must have been that he didn't do it on purpose but the impression left with us boys was that the fiery left winger had a deadly shot!'

The photograph on page 13 is one of 2D in 1946 from MAUREEN CLENCH, which includes Brian in the back row. The full list is, left to right:

Back row: John Britton, John Smith, William Lewis, Ronald Lewis, Alan Wyatt, Brian Iles, Colin Hoy, David Roberts

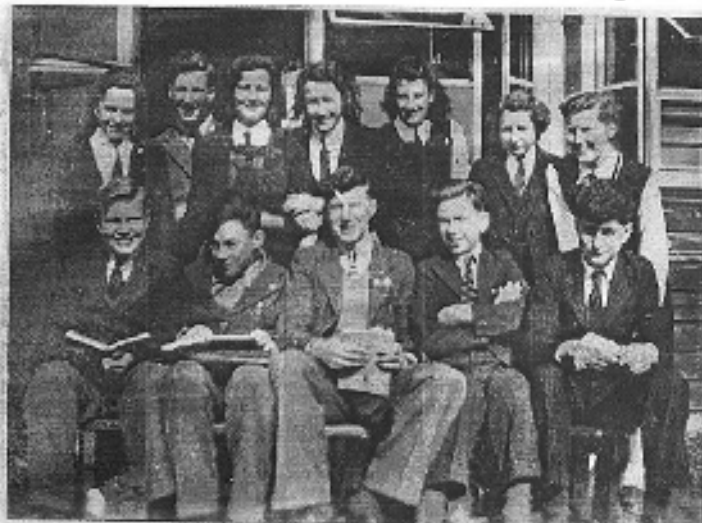
Middle row: Marjorie Bateman, Jean Smiley, Kenneth Lamble, Denver Padfield, Hugh Hendy, John Davies, Brian Perry, Geoffrey Warner, Philip Dent, Shirley Paget, Nesta Jefferis

Front row: Sheila Duffell, Marjorie Begurney, Pat Norley, Pat Jones, Ruth Fisher, Pat Waldron, Brenda Smith, Maureen Clench, Hazel Kembrey, Pam Jennings, Margaret Gadd, Irene Bracey



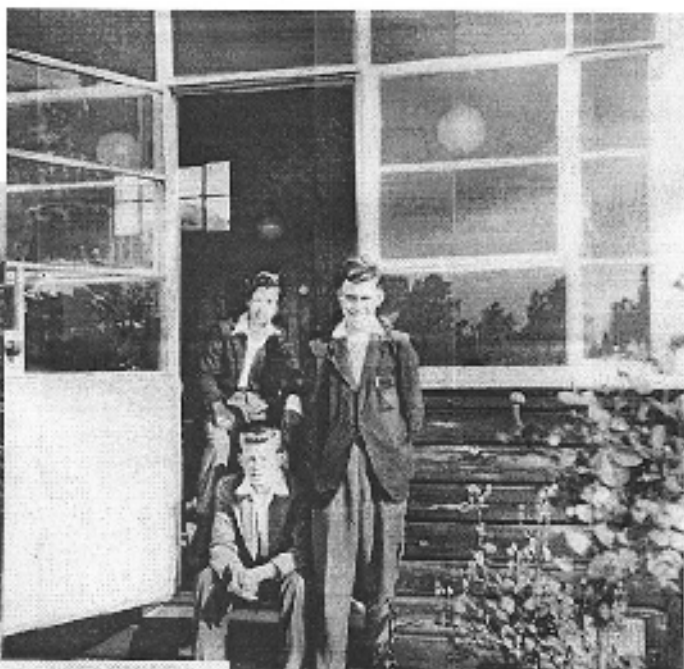
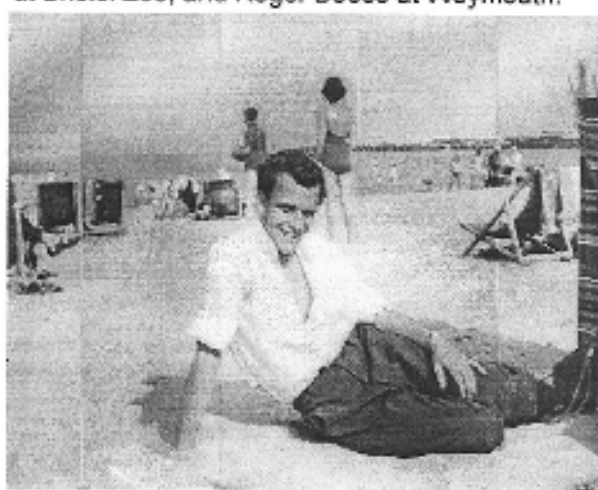
MAUREEN'S MEMORIES...

MAUREEN CLENCH (45-52) (now O'NEILL) has given KOSA some of her personal photographs of life at KGS: Anti-clockwise, the group below from 1949 includes S. Duffell, A. Wyatt, J. Crane, H. Kembrey, Maureen, P. Horley, P. Jennings, B. Lewis, S. Allen, D. Padfield, J. Britton and P. Dent. 1952 *Lady Precious Stream* Rosemary Morris and Anne Slater. 1947 Hazel Kembrey and Maureen in the Gym. 1951 on the terrace with Messrs Addinall, Austen and Howard: Mary Mead, Margaret Breddy, Hazel Kembrey, Gwyn Knight and Pamela Jennings.





JIM BRITTON (52-57) sent in these personal photos: Above Form 1J 1956 (Miss Jacob) and (clockwise) John Dicks, Roger Beese and Bruce Perry outside school, Roger Beese and Bruce Perry inside school, Bob Perkins and Alan Brown at Bristol Zoo, and Roger Beese at Weymouth.



THE BOFFINS...

If he's collecting all the recent references to himself in the media, COLIN PILLINGER (1954-61) must have a scrapbook much larger than 'War & Peace' - maybe more like the complete edition of 'Encyclopaedia Britannica'. As a result of the launching of his Beagle2 to Mars back in May, Colin was everywhere: *The Telegraph*, *The Observer*, *The Sunday Times*, *Tonight Programme*, and even *Private Eye* described Colin as 'a man whose flamboyant muttonchops and west-country burr seem at odds with a brain the size of a planet.'

To top it all, Colin was awarded the CBE in the Queen's Birthday Honours of 14 June. Congratulations from KOSA. Not bad for a chap whose education was at 'the Cowsheds'. According to an interview with him on the 'Today' programme on Radio 4 in August, he's now searching for any remaining bits of Darwin's ship 'The Beagle'.

Colin's activities are avidly followed by MARIE HARRIS (1926-30), a contemporary of SIR BERNARD LOVELL (1924-31). She points out that the Radar system, to the development of which Sir Bernard made a huge contribution, is now used by Beagle2 in its mission, so it's a case of one old scholar helping out another. We understand that Sir Bernard is 90 in August 2003, and we add KOSA's congratulations for that occasion.

Incidentally, your Ed. recently bought a paperback called 'The British Genius' on a second-hand bookstall. It was about those who have contributed to the greatness of our nation and there in the index were several references to Sir Bernard Lovell.

MILES AWAY...

MARY MILES (1942-47) now BENTLEY responded to the last edition:

'As usual lots of interest and memories came flooding in with the 22nd edition of KOSA News. To the extent that I nearly missed my station, and would have been late for my stint at the Radio Station where I am a Receptionist and Director. (2MBS-FM is the first FM station in Australia,

before the ABC. We broadcast "Fine Music" with a volunteer workforce, and are now celebrating our 28th year...).

'News from 'down under' regarding the MILES progression from KGS is that brother JOHN - One of the infamous 4C of 1942 - and his wife have settled into their new country and became Australian Citizens last February. John has made contact with the poets' world in Sydney, and has just had published his first collection of Australian (and a few UK) works under the title of "A Writing Unexpected" -a graceful acknowledgement to "Banjo" Patterson, in appreciation of the opportunity that this country has given him. He is also a member of the Royal Society in Sydney. Despite the recent bush fires being as close as the other side of the street, they are both glad that they came out - after more than 30 years of my encouragement!

'I continue to be busy with various Musical Societies - mostly as Properties Master, but occasionally playing bit parts; and with the local Gang Show. Also have recently taken on the job of promotional speaker for the Royal Flying Doctor Service - now in its 75th anniversary year, so you can see that we both have a great debt to the extraordinary education that we had at KGS.

'Looking at some of the photos I think I can identify a few faces - but with the passage of time could easily be in error.... Page 15, back row of the 1947 Hockey team I believe between DOROTHY ROSS and MARY BRAIN (not MOLLY?) is DOROTHY FELLOWES, (not J. FRITH?) a dauntless goalie; and in the front row next to SHEILA FRANCIS is DORIS WATKINS (not DOROTHY?). Nice to see pictures of JEFF BRIGHT - "The vision that delighted" many girls but was half of the Bright/Knight mix even then... we always used to say that she needed a ladder to kiss him !

'Page 24 top photo; back row third from the right could be PETE FELTHAM, and in front of him is N.E.D.GARRETT; at the end of that row is DAMARIS JONES, now Lady something; and next to Sheila in the front Row is MARY BEESE, with JOYCE LOVELACE next to her. In the middle is BARBARA HIGGINBOTHAM.

'Yes, I remember Twonk; (page 25). We were a disrespectful chemistry class, and he used to get so exasperated with our "humming" that he would throw bits of chalk in the hope of silencing the instigator, usually GEOFF SHAKESPEAR. I believe he left and was replaced by BRIAN SAMMONS.....

'Coming back to brother JOHN MILES, I think that he and GORDON WICKENS were responsible for introducing Rugby to KGS - which was taken up so enthusiastically in the lunch hour that they appointed themselves referees.....

'I would like to have the opportunity of writing to Mary Thom (Huckle) as she was one of my 'fan club' in my final year at KGS, together with 'Rosemary, Audrey, Sheila and June' surnames unfortunately forgotten, but clearly inscribed in my copy of 'Rebecca' in 1949 when I left.

My e.mail address is:

[marybentley@hotmail.net.au]

BRAMMER'S GRAMMAR...

DAVE BRAMMER (1966-73) also responded to the last edition:

'Thank you very much for sending me the KOSA NEWS. A fascinating read. I guess that as a pupil starting in 1966 I scarcely qualify as a KOS, as the school quickly became Kingsfield in my time. (You most certainly do! - Ed) You may be interested in a few memories I have of names from your Spring Issue.

'MR RIDLEY was the Head throughout my 7 years at the School, my abiding memories are of the end of term assemblies when we would always sing "Now thank We All Our God" and "Jerusalem". He was also famous for recounting tales of an explorer called Wally Herbert, who I must admit I've never heard of since leaving school!

'ROSEMARY DOGGETT (1964-71) was at the school in my time but I believe one or two years above me. Also nice to see a mention of my old friend ALAN HIRESON, with whom I've lost contact over the past few years.

"FROSTY" WINTOUR was a very well known French teacher who invariably kept his classes in up to 15 minutes after the bell. If you had French last period you knew there was no chance of catching the 383 bus home (it left at 3.50)

"BOMBER" HARRIS certainly brought his subject to life. He used to try and teach us History and we did everything to steer him away from the subject and on to some wild and rambling story of his University or Service days. These stories were usually told with an ever-increasing level of volume and much flailing of arms. Probably the most popular teacher we had at the time. Despite all distractions I still passed History A level and retain a keen interest in historical and political matters.

*"JIMMY" WILDE was nearing retirement when I joined but he had tremendous respect and when he did retire the boys gave him a standing ovation at the last day of term assembly. BASIL HUMPHREYS was of course still teaching at that time and I believe his wife was also a teacher at KGS. His son Alan, was in the same year as myself.

JEFF'S NOW HI-TEC..!

JEFF NEILSON (44-50) wrote to DEREK BAILEY (49-53) in the US after accessing the KOSA web site on [http://www.kgs.info]. By the miracles of modern science the message found its way to KOSA:

'What a fascinating site this is. I am 70 and have just acquired a computer so I spend many hours roaming all over the place. Today I found your address but I was quite disappointed to NOT see any entries from pupils who left school in 1950.

'I moved on to Bristol Medical School & have had a most successful career, most of it in the U.S.A. I have kept in touch with Eric Hilton [music] since I left school. His last Christmas Card was quite sad....he wrote that this one would be his last...he was 93, frail and in a nursing home. (See Eric's obituary in this edition - Ed)

'Feel free to contact me at:

[jeffneilson@comcast.net] and I hope that my first computer will unite, or reunite me with old friends.'

GREAT SCOTT...

IAN BRYANT (58-64) asks if anyone knows the whereabouts of MR SCOTT who taught him Geography all those years ago. Apparently Ian borrowed some Aircraft magazines and wishes to return them...!

THOSE EXCHANGES...

BRIAN MUMFORD (45-52) wrote to update our memories:

'Regarding the Kingswood/Siegerland Exchanges; DAVID KERSHAW is incorrect in thinking that the 1952 Exchange was the first. I was on the 1951 exchange and that was the second one.

'They were organised by an independent body called the Kingswood/Siegerland Friendship Council which had close ties to Kingswood UDC and the South Gloucestershire Youth Service of which Ernest Biffin was the Area Youth Leader. Indeed, local youth clubs provided the majority of those who took part. Our group in 1951 was led by Mrs Winnie Willmott of Warmley and was accompanied by Cllr. Hall of Hanham, the then Chairman of Kingswood UDC. Later I led the exchange in 1959, both being most enjoyable and worthwhile visits.

'With regard to DOC BLOOM who taught at KGS: He was appointed Head of Science at Filton Grammar/Technical School when it opened in 1959, and held the same post at Filton High School when the comprehensive was formed by linking with Filton Secondary School in 1964. He was a colleague of mine from that time until he retired. DOC was also heavily involved in local politics, being a Filton Town/Parish Council member.'

MORE CORRS & ADDS...

MALCOLM HANKS (1945-50) writes:

'I do not accept JIM WITHEY'S (45-53) suggestion in KOSA NEWS 22 that I was wrong regarding our visit to MR HOLFORD in hospital. The small hospital was Chute Selve on the A38

at Cross near Axbridge.

'In a previous edition there was talk of MR RIDLEY being responsible for the introduction of Rugby to KGS. It was one of MAJOR EATON'S last acts and we fifth formers left our football boots at home in protest. We were, of course, kept in after school and had to stand at the bottom of the steps whilst he lectured us on how Rugby was more of a team game. As far as we were concerned this meant that 30 could play instead of 22, leaving fewer boys to kick around on their own behind the goal. Our protest was only a 'one-off', although it did seem rather silly playing Rugby with football posts!

'KOSA 22 also refers to Minnie Haskins and her famous poem read by King George VI - 'I said to the man who stood at the gate of the year'. She is featured in a display at Kingswood Museum, Tower Lane, Warmley where many items from former local industries may also be viewed on Tuesdays and Sunday afternoons.'

3D - 1954...

DOROTHY CLARKE (1951-56)(now HOLMAN) writes:

'Thanks as always for the many happy memories the mag conjures up of our years at KGS. Regarding the photo PHYLLIS HANKS (Now MESSENGER) sent in, PAULINE ROGERS and her husband were with us when KOSA was delivered - hence we were able to pour over the contents and together think we have identified a few more of our 'old' pals.

Back row: ??, (good start!) Mike Preen, Roger McKenzie, Fred Hanratty, Gordon Rogers, Tony Lucas, Derek Tucker, Gary Milton, Richard Templeton.

Middle Row: Sylvia Netcott, Dorothy Clarke, Brenda Simmonds, Sandra Davies, Celia Cullen, Joan Pomeroy, Pat Ryan, Sheila Thorne, Phyllis Hanks, Pat James, Kay Finch, Pauline Rogers (not her sister, Cynthia - don't worry, Pauline was more amused than miffed!). Front row: Wendy Lloyd, Vic Jordan, Janet Watts, Roger Bees? 'Frosty, Wintour, Margaret Sale, Pete Robson, Hazel Stanton, ?? 'Hope there's no mis-information here - apologies if there is.'

Our thanks also to SALLY PODMORE (51-56) (now FLETCHER) for her help.

OH DEAR...!

DAVID PETERS (46-52) chastises the 'NEWS for the second time:

'Thanks for KOSA News 22. However, I am again wrongly identified on P15 in a sport in which I had no prowess: cricket! I agree there is a sort of resemblance but I had only started at KGS in Sept 46. My only sports were discus, shot and of course rugby. I do not recall there being another Peters at school so it's a mystery to me.

'As to the photo on p 14, can this be the black-haired elfin Mary, she of the challenging gaze as we passed in the corridor, who I remember notably backstage in a diaphanous costume, possibly in *Tobias and the Angel*? But then, she would probably not recognise a photo of me now, white haired and stroke-ridden! Herrick's lines come to mind:

That Age is best, which is the first,
When Youth and Blood are warmer;
But being spent, the worse, and worst

Times still succeed the former.

'Keep up the good work - it is always a delight to receive an issue.'

A thousand apologies, David - Ed

MORE MISSING NAMES...

DOROTHY ROSS (41-47) (now SCAMMELLS)



also writes that the hockey team photo on page 15 of the last edition reminded her of another photo:

'I enclose a photograph (see below) taken, I think, on the same day in 1947 of the tennis six of that year. In the back row are the BRAIN TWINS and BERYL HICKS, and the front row is made up of DOROTHY herself, SHEILA FRANCIS and DOROTHY FRY. I also have a photograph of the Hockey team of the year before when ERICA IVORY was captain. (We're interested - Ed)

'With regards to the photograph at the top of page 24 sent in by TESS DENNING now WEAVER: I believe ROBERT PEERS and TREVILION are in the back row and HALE is in the middle row.'

BARBARA DAVIES (41-46) has also put her thinking cap on. She writes:

'I think the photo is of 5.2A in 1945 as FREDDIE HALES and BOB PEERS entered in 1942 and came into 5.2A straight from the 4th Form. She identifies:

Front row: KATHLEEN MOSELY, DOREEN VICKERY, ??, BARBARA herself, BARBARA HIGGINBOTHAM, MAVIS EVANS, JUNE LOVELACE, EILEEN BEESE, ??.

'Middle row, from the right, 1st DAMARIS JONES, 3rd FREDDIE HALES and in the back row 1st BOB PEERS and 4th JOHN 'BONNY' BROWN.'

KATHLEEN HAWKINS (32-39) now MOUNSTEPHEN was delighted to see her form photo on page 20 of the last edition, sent in by MURIEL HILL who was middle row, 3rd from the left. KATHLEEN, who is a former Lord Mayor of Bristol, is to the right of Muriel in the photograph. She writes:

'I was even more delighted when my grandchildren recognised me! The 'missing' boy at the back between FRY and BAILEY is, I think, CLAPHAM. I remember all of the girls, of course, but we never bothered with the boys in

our own class! I met up with GEORGE ENGLAND quite recently, who hasn't changed a bit. Nice also to see the photo of my niece IRIS MOUNTSTEPHEN, who is now living in France, on page 4 with the Siegerland party.'

SMALL REUNIONS...

It's amazing where ex-KGS folk meet. A letter from 'down-under' from ANNE HODGES (45-50) now WARREN, illustrates the point.

'MANY thanks for the two editions of KOSA news that you sent -so many memories - 'BUNNIE' AUSTIN (Physics), who I don't think approved of girl students, and his classes were so boring! Who taught History? I'm having a "seniors moment" and can't remember, and it was my best subject!

'MR. TICKNER... I still remember my embarrassment when trying out for the school choir, standing on the stage 'singing the scales' "Open your mouth" he yelled. Needless to say I never returned!

'MR. WATTS (Art), now he was a heart-throb! MISS MORRISON (PE/Sports) She always did some clever Cossack Dancing at the school concerts.

'News of KOSA came to me from MOREEN OLIVE (48-54) now DIETZEL, who lives further south, in Bega, NSW. We met at a Women's Spring Solstice Gathering and I recognised her accent and she mine.

'We discovered we had lived a few streets apart but attended different primary schools. How the memories stirred MAJOR EATON, MISS QUINTON, MISS PERRY (French). Every sentence that week-end began "Do you remember...."

'Unfortunately I now have a visual disability which leaves me with no central vision, but a magnifyer helps with necessary reading and KOSA NEWS is a MUST.'

Closer to home JACK BURNHAM (35-39) asked KOSA if he could contact any of his contemporaries on our list. He eventually met up

with PEGGY ILES (now FORD) and HAZEL CANNARD (now ROBERTS) at Hazel's house. Jack wrote:

'When picking up Peggy I was surprised how easy it was to forget the 63 year gap since last seeing her. The two hour visit was most enjoyable, and many other school friends were recalled. Sadly, a few were known to have passed on, probably not surprising as most of us are on or close to the 80 mark!

'We exchanged phone numbers, so I am hoping we may get together again in the near future.'

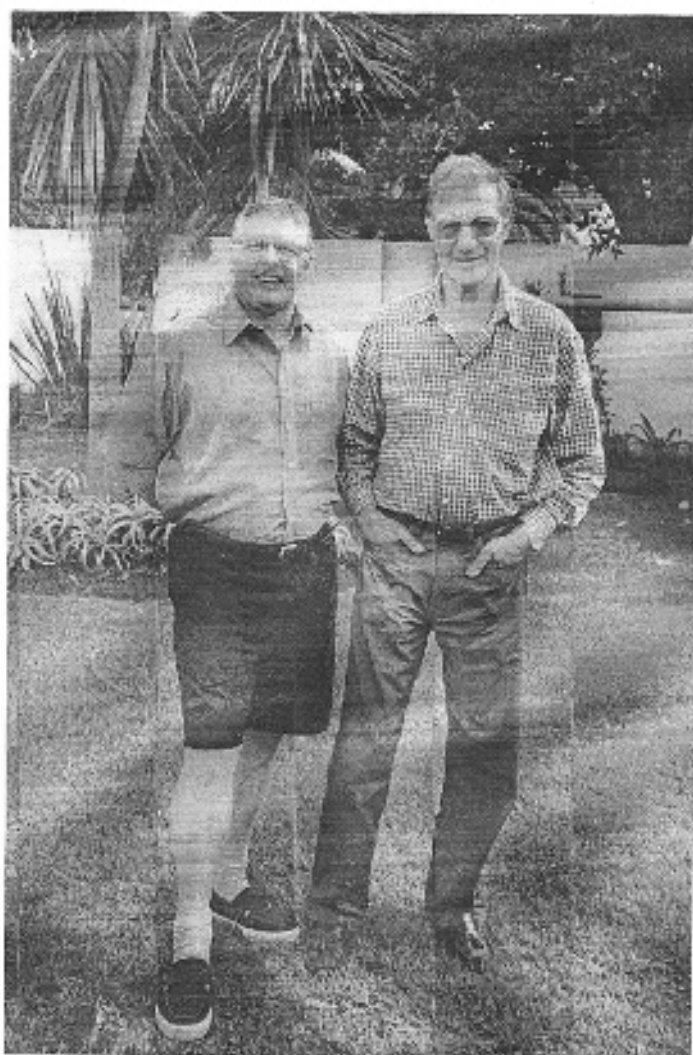
SOUTH AFRICA, AGAIN...!

BRIAN LLOYD (50-55) has also visited South Africa (See PETER MALPASS' visit on page 10). Brian writes:

'Several years ago I met up with a school pal who had emigrated to South Africa some twenty years ago. This pal, David Dix who attended Woodstock School, was visiting his parents in Kingswood, just a few yards down the road from where I lived in Blackhorse Rd. Dave and I served our apprenticeship together, also National Service in the Air Force, spending most of our two years at RAF Locking. Dave in admin and myself an MT driver. Dave was also my best man at my wedding.

'During this visit a reunion of some past friends was convened over a pint or three and an invitation to visit Dave was offered. Now living in the Orange Free State on a farm with two trout lakes - the offer was tempting. During this time of deliberation I was by chance given a copy of KOSA NEWS 21 and came across a photo of ALAN BAINES (49-56) and LIONEL HARRIS (52-57). Alan had lived a few yards away during our school days and is now retired and living in Cape Town. After some enquiries via the Editor and Lionel, a visit to Alan was built into our itinerary.

'On arrival at Table View, Cape Town, it was with some trepidation that we were to finally meet with Alan and wife Lynne - bearing in mind I had not met Alan for about fifty years. After initial greetings we soon settled into some serious reminiscing of names and places, helped along by the appropriate liquid refreshment. It soon



became clear that we had scored a hit with the reunion.

'Alan had fixed some superb B&B accommodation close by and also arranged for a two-girl tour company to show us the sites of the area. Both of these bookings proved to be out of the "top drawer". During our stay which took in Table Mountain, Cape Point and the Winelands we were also invited to Alan & Lynne's daughter and family for a "braaie"(BBQ).

'Finally all good things must come to an end. With our last goodbyes said it was left to reflect on having enjoyed such good hospitality, how can we not think of a return trip some day!' In the photo above Brian is on the left

SID'S SCENARIO...

SID WEBSTER (36-41) writes:

'I have the impression that I am one of the oldest writing to you, but EILEEN WARNE (37-41) does ring a bell and I'm pleased that she's had some books published. (See 'NEWS 22 'Kingswood's

Author'). What happened to HILARY BLANDFORD, who looked something like Shirley Temple?

'Many may not realise now that some children, even when they earned a place at the school, were not sent because it was considered snobbish. This was pre-war and it was an era when some would not take promotion because they would have to 'lord it' over their peers. I had a relation who did not take up a place, and I myself came under pressure not to go mainly from Christian Socialists who met for Bible and social meetings in the hope of a more equal society, in retrospect a rather naïve view.

'I had been offered a place at Lord Wandsworth School, Basingstoke which was anathema to such people. However, my mother was a widow and I chose KGS. A few thought that KGS was not good enough and moved their children to Bristol Grammar School.

'However, being a KGS pupil had disadvantages. Often, we were attacked - we moved in groups for protection - by the local secondary school pupils. The prize was our caps with the brass *Esse Non Videri* badge. The general rule was that we were supposed not to be out without the cap in school time.

'I did meet MR RIDLEY when I was with Dr Pratt, who was an ex-Indian Army doctor and a member of the Pratt (Holdfast) family, in the local library. We were both interested in the 'new writing' at the time, being the 50s and 60s. I never let on that I had been to KGS; very obviously he was so different from the authoritarian MAJOR EATON.

'Mention was made in NEWS 22 of DR BLOOM - it must have been DR BLUM. I was very sympathetic to him because the Christian Socialists nearly all read the *New Statesman* under Kingsley Martin's editorship, and whatever the politicians may have said at the time, we were well aware of the concentration camps, even before the war.

'On the question of punishment some of the canes were held in the prefects' room, although they could not use them. It was said that they could use a dap as long as it was entered in the book. Was it ever used? One Head Prefect who

was named BRANSON and MAJOR EATON sent him for the canes and there was so much tension as we could hear his echoing footsteps along the corridor!

'BRANSON was, I think, heading for Oxbridge, and another popular figure at the time was 'BARRELL' BATES who went on to Bristol University and took a doctorate in Physics. When the university was doing research for my company I saw him in the distance. What happened to him?

'Another contentious matter at the time was half-scholarships when parents were required to pay. Some said that there were even quarter-scholarships. Did they exist? Here again, it was thought that some half-scholarships pushed out borderline 'fuls', but I suppose that we shall never really know.

'KGS was a very welcome addition to what was a poor but then very religious area. The nearest Grammars in Glos. were Thornbury and Wootton and previously an earlier KOSA officer, VIC AMOS, was transferred from Thornbury. The success in those days lay with MAJOR EATON, who did try to bring the ethos of a public school to KGS. Did he succeed? Later, of course, in the post-war period the new Education Acts brought in a more liberal attitude which I was for mainly because the old system could be unfair. Now there seems to be a resurgence of grammar schools.'

TRIUMPH OVER ADVERSITY...

HELEN TILLMAN (32-39) now COLE has been added to the list of members and has responded with the following letter:

'On the back page of the 'NEWS 21 I recognised all but two of the staff of 1928. The others were still there when I started there in September 1932 and left in September 1939, except for MR JONES (Chemistry), who died a year or two before the war. At the end of summer term we always had a staff v pupils cricket match. MR JONES (or JONAH, as we called him) was always wicket keeper and he was unfortunately hit on the forehead by a cricket ball, but appeared to be alright. He then went on holiday to France with his wife and I believe he died in

the train compartment.

'I think I could say that MAJOR EATON and MISS POWELL (FLO) had more influence on me when young than anyone else. They obviously knew my background and provided me with much needed stability. I was removed from my mother when 10 days old because she had TB and died when I was about 4. I had a series of foster parents until age 7 when my father remarried. I and my stepmother were quite buddies, my father was the problem! At Christmas 1931 he took me from London to the main station in Bristol where he handed me over to 'Vic'. He told me that I was to stay with Vic and Stella, his wife, for Christmas. In January I became aware that I had been dumped again when I was taken to the local council school at Filton.

'Soon after, I sat 'the scholarship' and was successful and started at KGS in 1932. My father did not believe in educating women and used to come down to see MAJOR EATON once a year. After I reached 14, the normal school leaving age, it became obvious to me that it was the Major who each year persuaded my father to keep me on another year. I have often wondered how the Major did this, and it was only recently that it dawned on me that both men had been in the Army in the First World War, my father was a corporal and the Major a major!

'My father agreed that I should stay on to take the Civil Service Executive exam in March 1940 (you had to be 18), as he wanted me to outdo his cousin who was 'top brass' Civil Service. What he did not know was that the Major knew I wanted to go to university to read Medicine. Consequently the Major arranged for me to have a dual system of subjects for what was the then the Higher School Certificate. It was damned hard work, but I did it without my father being aware of it. Major told me that he was sure that I would get both a State Scholarship (£200 a year was a lot in those days) and a County Major Scholarship and therefore could become independent.

'War was declared on 3 September 1939 and my father insisted I leave school. I was turned down



'My father was very annoyed that I became a probation officer. My loyalty remained with 'Uncle Vic and Auntie Stella' who were my last foster parents. They all, of course, died some time ago – my father did not mention that he had a daughter in his will, leaving everything to my brother who kept it all!

'When I was at KGS I was aware that MR JONES (Chemistry) lived in Filton with

Sports Day 1939:

Music Master Harry Keyte practises before the event

by the WAAF, as a childhood injury caused me to fail the medical and found myself at the Ministry of Food. I started as a Grade III clerk and rapidly became an Executive – also a First Aider in the blitz – and a WSAC Unit Commander of a group of 100 girls, as Flo put it 'in my spare time'.

'Major and 'Flo' still kept their eye on me. In the middle of the war she asked me to go to KGS one afternoon to see them both. They had discovered that at the end of the war women would not stand a chance to do medicine, the men would be given priority. Flo had already decided that I would make a good probation officer and had arranged interviews in Bristol for Victory D Day, but I was later accepted by the Home Office in London and was a Home Office student by VJ Day.

'Until she died Flo kept in touch with me each Christmas as she did with other girls. I cannot speak too highly of the care which she and Major provided and also the excellent standard of education.

'By the time I retired I had become a qualified and experienced probation officer, psychiatric worker, child-care officer, and family case-worker. I also had university qualifications in Social Science and Criminology. I could not have done any of this without the first class education provided by KGS.

his wife who was the postmistress. We knew that they used to take in homeless boys and train them in the post office then pass them on when they became independent, to take on another boy. Recently I contacted a couple about a reunion of people brought up at Muller's Orphanage in Bristol. Both had been at Muller's, and the man had been placed with Mrs Jones during the war. As the post office was opposite BAC it was a hot spot during the war and he remembers spending a night during a raid in the cupboard under the stairs with Mrs Jones, who also had a gun!

'In the photo at the bottom of page 20 of 'NEWS 22 I recognise GEORGE ENGLAND and CHARLIE BROWN (we never called him Charles!). George lived in the tollhouse in Marshfield in 1938/39 when I was in 6.2 and they were in 6.1. We were all doing Botany and Zoology and KEN ADDINELL was the Botany master. In the summer holiday, August 1939, KA used to pick me up in his 2-seater car (he and his wife lived in Downend) and we went to Marshfield and met George and Charlie, who arrived on his motorbike, and we spent the day doing Botany and sandwiches. The weather was perfect and it was the last bit of normality we had before the war was declared in September 1939.

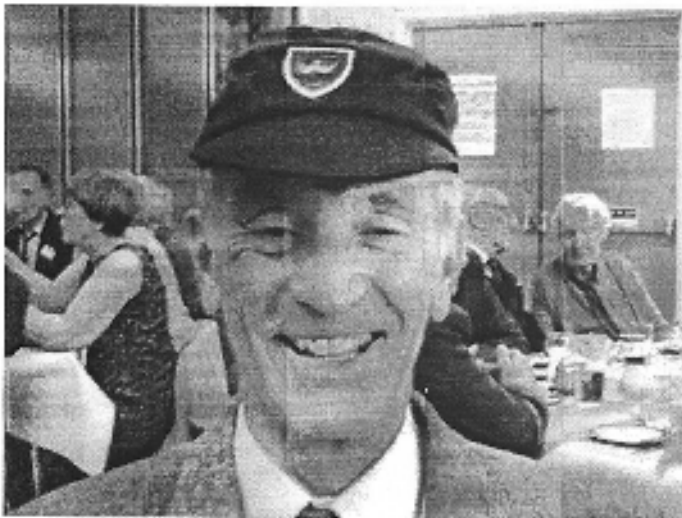
'The photographs are of Speech Day and Sports Day in 1939. I'm sure many will recognise themselves in the former.'

Heather does not mention that in the centre of the Speech Day photograph (next page),



Professor P W Slosson, Carnegie Professor of History at Bristol University, is presenting a prize to her. The Speech Day took place at Zion Hall, Kingswood. Why wasn't it held in the new School Hall, which was completed by that date? - Ed

THE NEW TREASURER...



The Committee's grateful thanks go to MARTIN HARRYMAN (51-56) who volunteered to join the Committee as Treasurer at the last AGM in April. Martin, who was a contemporary of the Editor at KGS (yes it's a 50's takeover, folks), spent most

of his career in the Royal Air Force and enjoys golf, sailing, ballroom dancing his motorbike, car-boot sales and retirement. When asked if he intends to work again, he describes himself as a complete hedonist, whatever that means! We're sure that Martin will do a great job as your treasurer. You can see from the photograph that Martin still wears the old school cap, although not everywhere! Welcome aboard, Martin.

Because we were without a treasurer for some time we were unable to publish KOSA's audited accounts with the last 'NEWS'. They were presented and approved at the last AGM and they are included for your information this time.

AN APOLOGY...

In the last edition of KOSA NEWS we featured what we called the 'forgotten army' of cleaners, groundsmen and caretakers who were so important in keeping KGS going. In the article we called MR MERRIFIELD, the caretaker, 'TOM', but we are informed by his son Brian, who kindly supplied most of the photos we used, that he was always known as 'CHARLIE'. Many apologies for the error.



V Crafts 1953:

Back two rows (boys): ?, ?, Carter, ?, Michael Roberts, Tony Venn, Geoff Ford, ? Middle row: Margaret May, Gillian Park, Sally Ashley, Margaret Harris, Diane Fillingham, Diane Chivers, Mike Stanton Front row: Ruth Wintle, Beryl Hayman, ?, ?, 'Woody' Williams, ?, Jean Palmer, Barbara Rogers, Ann Brewer, June Lewis



Form 3A 1954

Back row: Roger Cole, Michael Stranks, 'Wally' Hammond, John Masters, Peter Harris, Roger Coles, Roger Cromwell, Frank Cole, Jim Britton, David Cole, Philip Elsmore Middle row: Jill Thomas, Marion Long, Edith Ashley, Caroline Reeson?, Janice Molyneaux, ?, Shirley Brimble, Margaret Smart, Anita Coates, David Hussey, Gillian Maddocks, Maureen Wallington, Susan Jefferies, Monica Screen, Valerie Hiles, June Collins, Deanna Martin Front row: Geoff Gay, Mary Palmer, Keith Culley, Valerie Fox, Miss Esme Vaughan, Martin Harryman, Maureen Griffin, Colin Ticktum, Lynda White

MORE SAD NEWS...

As we go to press, the news has come through that TOM HARRAWAY passed away on 15 July 2003. Tom started at KGS in 1950 and most of his career was spent as an Estate Agent, where he was well-known locally. He was a stalwart of Kingswood Old Boys Rugby Football Club, being Chairman for three years in the 1970s, as well as contributing as Vice-Chairman and Social Secretary.

Tom was quite a character with an unforgettable grin. He enjoyed life to the full and will be sorely missed by his wife Marina, their sons Mark and Christopher, and his many friends. KOSA conveys its condolences to them all.

We have also received the news that PAULINE MOORE (45-49) now POOLE has recently lost her husband in June 2003.

WELCOME...

Additions since last time are below. Maiden names are given, and the 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.

If you know anyone from KGS/Kingsfield who is not amongst the 1,100 now receiving KOSA NEWS, and they would like to receive a copy, then just let us know. We'll do the rest. We do not chase for subscriptions, all payments are purely voluntary and we invite you to contribute a fiver per annum towards the costs. Moved or moving? Please don't forget to let us know your new address.

Heather Tillman (32), Carole Lovell (54), Diane Chivers (48), Glenys Dando (53), Jeffrey Neilson (44), Andrew Fussell (57), Roger Summerill (57), Barry Lewis (50), Jenny Taylor (59), Margaret Atkins (30), Jennifer Willcox (50), Gordon May (48), Diane Mallard (47), Nancy Leonard (44), John Edwards-Woodham (47), Pam Whittern (44), Valerie Gay (59), Paul Bamford (50), Dorothy Ross (41), Linda Davies (54), Paul Jobbins (59), Eric Cains(34), David Coles (52), Pat Lowman (64), David Brammer (66), Brian O'Neill (52), Frank/Doreen Small (30 & 33?), Pam Draper (53), Ian Bryant (58), Ron Iles (?). Welcome aboard!



FROM THE 60s...

Just so that we span the whole period of KGS, here's a shot (page 26, below) of the under 15s Rugby XV for 1967-68. This was taken from the website prepared by BOB MEAKER (62-?) on which there are lots of goodies like this one. Why not go to it on [<http://www.kgs.info/>] and register your interest?

The team is made up of:

Back row: Mr Bowden (Teacher), Richard Bendrey, Phil Doswell, Richard Grey, Geoff Hutton. *Middle row:* Chris Hopper, Nick Harris, Phil Smith, Terry Scouse, John Budden, Alan Round. *Front row:* Richard Beake, Chris Darch, Robert Sherrington, Leslie Barnard, Doug Ward, Peter Millett.

AGM LUNCH...

Your committee was pleased with the support -thanks to all who attended. It was obligatory for the boys to wear their school caps, otherwise a Saturday morning detention was on the cards. Most (not all) conformed. Even 'BUSTER' BURRAGE (51-56), who reputedly never actually wore a cap when at KGS, obliged (see top right).

Right:
Stan 'Buster' Burrage
(1951-56)
Below:
John 'Des' D'Alessio
1952-56



Above: John D'Alessio and Lynda White (now Smith) (51-56). Left: Messrs Waldron, Bendrey, and Forty, with (front) Whiteford, Walters and Bailey
Below, left: Phyllis Hanks (now Messenger) (51-58) with Alan Hireson (62-69)
Below, right: Eileen Matthews (now Bendrey) (52-59) with Rita Rayner (now Burrage) (53-59)



An Early KOSA Reunion
Dinner about 1958-60



COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

Here are your Committee Members after the April 2003 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 (Ottel) (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
Martin Harryman, (1951-56) Treasurer, 5 Brecon View, Bleadon Hill, Weston-S-Mare BS24 9NF Tel: 01934 812315
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

KOSA ANNUAL LUNCH

To: Martin Harryman, Treasurer, 5 Brecon View, Bleadon Hill,
Weston-Super-Mare BS24 9NF Tel: 01934 812315

I enclose £ _____ for _____ places @ £12.00 each for the KOSA Reunion Lunch to be held
at 12.30pm on Saturday 11th October 2003 at Lincombe Barn, Overdale Road, Downend, Bristol

Name _____ Guests' Names: _____

Maiden Name _____

Address _____

If you have any special dietary
requirements please inform us

Years at KGS _____ to _____

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

CONTRIBUTION TO KOSA NEWS*

To: Martin Harryman, Treasurer, 5 Brecon View, Bleadon Hill,
Weston-Super-Mare BS24 9NF Tel: 01934 812315

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.

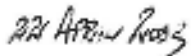
Please make cheques payable to 'Kingswood Old Scholars' Association'

KINGSWOOD OLD SCHOLARS' ASSOCIATION
RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED
31 DECEMBER 2002

	£	£
BALANCE AT BANK 1 JANUARY 2002		1907.26
RECEIPTS:		
KOSA News Subscriptions	1560.13	
Expenditure	<u>1338.34</u>	
Surplus		221.79
Reunions & AGM	1833.55	
Expenditure	<u>1791.90</u>	
Surplus		41.65
Interest Received		1.56
Raffles		<u>57.00</u>
		<u>2229.26</u>
PAYMENTS:		
Audit Fee		15.00
Donations to Kingsfield School		100.00
BALANCE AT BANK 31 DECEMBER 2002		<u>2114.26</u>
		<u>2229.26</u>

I have examined the books and vouchers made available to me and in my opinion the accounts set out above form a true and fair view of the affairs of Kingswood Old Scholars' Association as at 31 December 2002. The balance carried forward of £2,114.26 is represented by funds held at Kingswood Bank PLC as at 31 December 2002.


 Signed: Eric R. Arnold, FCCA


 April 2003