



KOSA NEWS



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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...



It's not always currently politically correct to talk about class. Many would argue that we're all middle class nowadays. However there's something about gaining a good education which enables the less privileged to transcend class boundaries and which is clearly a route to gaining entry to the professions. Why else is the government trying to increase the number of students from 'underprivileged' backgrounds gaining entry to a university education?

Recent research reported in the *Times Higher* has suggested that it's becoming harder for underprivileged young people to cross those class boundaries into the professions. Could one of the reasons be the virtual abolishing of the grammar schools? Certainly in many cases attendance at schools such as KGS proved to be the initial key for many of us to become Architects, Lawyers, Doctors, Teachers, Engineers, Accountants and to join the professions from what was often a less privileged background.

Perhaps we should bring back the Grammar Schools, or at least some kind of educational establishment which would enable streaming according to ability in a real sense. The Comprehensives were to be the answer to this problem, but have they succeeded when a relatively high proportion of leavers lack basic numerical and communication skills. What do you think?

We're steadily increasing the number of back editions of KOSA NEWS on the Web. We're not able (yet) to produce a 'NEWS in colour at reasonable cost, but if you go to <http://kosa.freewebsite.org/> you'll find many of our photos in colour.

DIARY DATE...

Lincombe Barn, Overndale Road, Downend has been booked for our Autumn Lunch for **SATURDAY, 1st OCTOBER 2005**. We meet at about noon for a chat and sit down for lunch at about 12.45pm. Please put it in your diary now as an occasion where you can meet old friends over lunch with a glass of wine or a beer from the bar. Please complete the form enclosed and send it to our Treasurer, MARTIN HARRYMAN, 5 Brecon View, Bleadon Hill, Weston Super Mare, BS24 9NF Tel: 01934 812315

PETER WALTERS...

'It is with great sadness that we say goodbye to our Chairman PETER WALTERS (47-54), who died on 15 March 2005.



'Peter was, as many of you know, a very sociable person, loved to chat, loved his family, his beloved granddaughters and cherished his many friends. Above all, he was a man of great integrity, honesty and generosity.

'It was at KGS that I first met Pete. I was about 13 and Pete was in the 6th form and a Prefect, no less, but he was happy to chat to me, and others, in the queue outside the canteen at lunchtime. In those days senior pupils didn't talk to lowly ones, and I realised later that Pete's attitude then was symptomatic of how he regarded people later on in life.

'Peter was born in Clifton, but moved to Hanham at a young age and went to Hanham Church School before passing the 11-plus in 1947 to go to Kingswood Grammar School. At school he much

enjoyed and excelled in sport, playing Rugby, Football and Tennis and he was a good athlete as a sprinter and long-jumper. Believe it or not, Pete was known as 'Skinny' Walters at KGS. He was in some of the Drama productions and developed a lifelong interest in Music. This interest led him to the choir at Hanham Methodist Church.

'After A-levels at KGS he went to Birmingham University to read History. Pete described this as 'the best time of his life'. Birmingham was fortunate to have 2 black-belt judo instructors so Peter took this up, eventually gaining a Black Belt himself and became an instructor for the next 30 years. He passed his love of Judo to his son Richard and daughter Alison, and a group which he taught for many years when he returned to Bristol.

'Pete's ambition was to teach, so after Birmingham he attended Exeter University to obtain his Diploma in Education. Pete's first teaching post was in History, English and Art in Minehead followed by a spell at Newent Grammar School.

'During this period he married Jean (Lovell) in 1960, lived in Cheltenham where Richard was born, and Gloucester where Alison was born. Pete had originally met Jean at KGS and they began to go out together in the 6th form there.

'After 8 years in secondary education Pete, Jean and their family moved back to their roots in Bristol and Pete joined Further Education with Soundwell College, moved to Bristol Polytechnic then Brunel College of Arts & Technology. He remained there until he retired in 1993 after becoming Head of Humanities. If you knew Pete like I did, I am sure Pete was an excellent lecturer. Like all good

lecturers, he probably told the students what he was going to say, said what he was going to say, and then told them what he had said.

'Pete's great loves and interests in life, apart from his family and friends, were music, art and, of course wine, and his knowledge of all three was very extensive and he was regarded as a great expert in wine. In recent years Peter developed an interest in stained glass engraving at which he was masterly at incorporating his talents for both design and drawing. In 2000, Peter became Chairman of KOSA where he renewed many friendships originally made at school.

'Pete and I had a great relationship - one where you can say scurrilous things to each other and each knows that the other doesn't really mean it! I remember that Pete feigned being very upset when I accused him of bringing a bottle of plonk to a dinner. I don't think he ever forgave me. If you knew Pete, it was probably one of the worse things you could accuse him of. Indeed, it was I who was guilty of bringing the bottle of red, bottled on a Bulgarian collective farm!

'Jean says that if you wish to remember Pete, there was a close friend at KGS called BRUCE CARPENTER who has also, sadly, passed on, and Bruce always knew, whether it was in London, Paris or Vancouver, where the best coffee shops were with the most wonderful cakes. Please think of them both, when on the Champs Élysées, you tuck into the gooiest and most expensive cakes possible!

'Bye, Pete. We will all miss you. The world was a better and happier place for your having been around.'

The Ed.

MORE OBITUARIES...

His colleague and friend, Peter, informed KOSA that DENNIS LOVE (35-39) died peacefully in his sleep from a heart attack at his home in Westbury on Trym on 7 May 2005. He had suffered from heart problems for several years.

'After leaving KGS Dennis became a trainee manager in the footwear trade for Dolcis and managed a shop in Castle Street (destroyed in the war). He was called up for military service in 1941 and served in the RAMC for 6 years, during which he achieved the rank of Sergeant Major.

'On leaving the army he returned to Bristol and began work with Dolcis, managing a shop in Union Street, then moving to London for 4 years where he opened several new shops. Due to the illness of his mother he returned to Bristol to care for her and worked for GB Brittons in Kingswood for several years as a Sales Representative and Area Manager for the west. Dennis took early retirement in 1980 due to his first heart attack. Dennis spent 10 years living in Cyprus, but returned 3 years ago due to failing health.

'Dennis' main hobby was amateur dramatics and he played for several companies, most of which have now gone, but Kelvin Players and St Ursula's are still going. A few weeks before he died he had a reunion with friends from St Ursula's, many he hadn't seen for over 30 years. Dennis was also actively involved with Brentry Methodist Church, where he was a Church Steward. Dennis will be sadly missed.'

TONY MOMBER (51-56) has written to inform us of the passing of his cousin, DIANA BLOSSOM (49-54) later COLE:

'Diana, who did not like anyone to know how old she was, died on 6th March 2005 after a two-year battle with cancer. She remained positive right up to the end, even though she knew her condition was terminal.

'Diana had three children and five grandchildren and had a talent for music and drama, having been involved in amateur dramatics for most of her life, albeit as a chorus member or show director. She had a very happy and cheerful disposition which was the epitome of her personality. This shone through by the tributes paid to her at her funeral service at Westbury Parish Church on 10th March. The service included 'Jerusalem', which as we all know has a special meaning for those of us from KGS.'

TREVOR WHEELER (51-56) passed away on 3rd March 2005 and GEOFF MACKAY (52-58) has written this tribute to Trevor:

'It is a privilege to be asked to write this tribute to Trev for KOSA NEWS. Like all of us he was proud to have attended KGS but perhaps not so keen on his occasional nickname: Titch.

'As I try to put adequate words together, I feel considerable sadness that the need should have presented itself so prematurely and unexpectedly. We must nevertheless, now be upbeat about his life; Trev would want that. About those things he achieved and how well he used his abilities, his impish sense of humour,

and the uplifting influence he had on others.

'We were Downend lads and it was a good place to grow up in. I can't remember when I didn't know Trev or our other mutual pal ROGER EVANS (Evvo) (51-56). We were infants, juniors, adolescents and young men together. In fact, in Roger's case, he and Trev were toddlers in the same street, living practically next door.

'We were in the Downend Church Lads' Brigade together and cycled to school each day together. Sometimes arriving with frost in our hair in those days when we really had winters. Later we helped form the Downend Rovers Football Club and we were so proud of that. We only really began to go our own ways in our very late teens and early 20s when we developed symptoms associated with that debilitating hormonal condition loosely defined as an "interest" in girls.

'Naturally I could go on at great length about those great years of our childhood and youth. There was one occasion however, that particularly sticks in my mind. In about three seasons we went from being the truly Downend "Ragged Assed" Rovers to an almost invincible young footballing side; moving up the divisions of the Bristol Suburban League. The other member of us four inseparables was RALPH (Toffee) CLARK (51-56). An elegant winger if ever there was one. Trevor was a fine footballer also and passionate about the game. I think he was about 48 when he finally hung up his boots.

'On this occasion we were tormenting the opposition defence as we so often did. Toffee floated the ball across from the wing. All five feet of Trev seemed to



chosen words spoke volumes about Trev's life during those years beyond our youth.

'Roger Evans began and told of those early days. Several friends and working colleagues then spoke over the next hour in celebration of his life. They talked of humorous times and those times when his support was needed and never failed. How bravely, and with such composure, he coped with his illness

soar, almost to defy gravity, above the opposition defence. In went his head and into the back of the net went the ball. "He ain't half bloody tall for his height!" uttered one of the despondent opposition. "How in heaven's name (or words of similar sentiment) did he do that?" "He does it all the time!" was the response.

'As I have said, the inevitable happened. We all went our separate ways to pursue our lives and careers. Occasionally keeping in touch combined with the odd reunion. Trev spent most his working career as a very successful Local Authority Officer. From the age of 18 until 1968 he was with Bristol City Council, then with Oxford County Council for two years, after which he returned to Chipping Sodbury. In 1974 he moved to Thornbury and at the time of his retirement in 1994 he was City Treasurer (Revenues). He was a Fellow of the Rating & Valuation Association and actively lectured about his work.

'We attended Trev's Funeral on Thursday 10th March at the Forest of Dean Crematorium. A tranquil, wooded place and its tiny Chapel was crowded, with standing room only for the very many who came. I found those who spoke at this Service very moving and their well-

right to the end. They talked of a beloved family man; Husband, Father and doting Grandfather of five grandchildren. A great personal friend and an extremely well liked and highly-respected working colleague. "Everyone wanted to be in Trev's team," said one of them and to lose his best friend in these latter years was clearly as much as Tony Verinder, another old mate and intrepid Downend Rover, could bear.

'I was so impressed with Trev's lovely family and the dignity Joyce and Trev's children displayed on the day. I know I speak for all as our heartfelt sympathies go with them. God Bless you Trev. In all respects you were truly: "Tall for your Height."

We announced in the last edition the passing of PERCY LOVELL (31-37). JEAN LOVELL (48-56) (now WALTERS) has now given us a summary of his life:

'PERCY LOVELL was my uncle and a man of great charm and generosity, with good looks and above all many talents. Not only did he go to Cambridge where he was awarded both an MA and a MUSB, but he excelled in sport, as can be seen in various team photographs

published in KOSA NEWS over the years. He had a great gift for music and played the piano beautifully. The local paper in Wylam, Northumberland where he lived reported his long and dedicated career as a musician as well as his fine character. He will be greatly missed:

'After studying under Basil Ord at King's College, Cambridge, Percy was awarded the LRAM (Licentiate of the Royal Academy of Music) in 1944. He was Director of Music at Bootham School, York from 1943-64, after which he became a lecturer at the University of Newcastle, specialising in renaissance music. He performed and conducted the University Madrigal Choir and the university Choir and Orchestra, and he directed the Newcastle Bach Choir for 12 years.

'After his retirement from the University he conducted the Tyneside Chamber Orchestra, the Camerata Singers and Players and the Tyneside Symphony Orchestra. He was also the President of Hexham and District Music Society from 1965 until his death.

'Percy, who was described as a kind, self-effacing, unflappable and humorous man, is survived by Mary, his wife, and four musical sons, 12 musical grandchildren and two almost certainly musical great-grandchildren. He was all that one imagines a Quaker should be.'

RON CLEMENTS' (39-46) wife Jane has told us of the passing of BRENDA TWYFORD (41-46) (later HARRIS). Brenda, who died at the end of 2004, was an expert on the history of this area and the families who lived in Hanham, Bitton, Oldland etc. She had amassed loads of data about local families and was always willing to share her knowledge. We have

also been informed by KEITH WHITE (41-47) of the death of PHILIP BALL, who was a contemporary of his at KGS.

To all of those who have lost a loved-one we extend our sincere condolences.

YOUR NEW CHAIRMAN...

STANLEY BURRAGE (51-56), otherwise known as 'Buster', was elected as Chairman of KOSA at the last AGM in April. When he left KGS he entered an apprenticeship with Thrissell Engineering Ltd before joining the family firm of Kelston Engineering Ltd in 1961. There he was involved in the development and production of pumps until the Pump Division was sold to Serck Ltd, when Stan moved to Gloucester with the company as Production Engineer. Several moves followed in sales and engineering with different companies, one developing pumps for offshore refuelling systems. Since 1985 Stan has worked in his own businesses.



Stan has been married for over 40 years to RITA RAYNER (53-59), who of course supports Stan at all the KOSA functions. They have three children and six grand-

children and have lived in Nailsworth for over 30 years. Stan is a churchwarden and bellringer, being towermaster of the church at Horsley. However, Stan learned his bellringing more locally in the tower at Warmley Parish Church.

...AND COMMITTEE MEMBER...



ALAN HIRESON (62-69) also joined the committee at the last AGM. Alan has had a career with British Railways and its successors, and recently left after working in Swindon for a number of years. Not content with working in the railway industry, Alan is also a supporter and volunteer at Avon Valley Railway at Bitton, helping to develop what is increasingly becoming a tourist and leisure attraction there. Alan's family have long-standing links with KGS: Rev Hireson was an early governor of the school and his Uncle FRED HAMBLIN started there in 1922.

A warm welcome aboard to both Stan and Alan.

THE RIGHT KIND OF GM...

SALLY JOBBINS (63-68) now TUCKER sends KOSA news of her brother PAUL JOBBINS' latest award:

'Readers of KOSA NEWS may recall a letter I wrote previously about my brother Colonel PAUL JOBBINS (59-64) who had been awarded an OBE for his services to the Royal Marines. I am very proud to be writing once again as he has now been awarded the George Medal for saving thousands of lives during a civil war in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

'Paul spent six months of 2004 there as a senior UN officer. In May 2004 vicious fighting broke out between two rival factions of the Congolese Land Forces in the city of Bukuvu. More than 100 civilians were killed in the clashes, with troops murdering children, raping women and pillaging homes. During a two-week period Paul risked his life to hold peace negotiations and rescue civilians and UN personnel.

'At one point, together with another officer, he drove unarmed through a hail of bullets between retreating government forces and advancing rebels to try to establish ceasefire talks. He persuaded the dissident former General Nkunda to halt his advance with 4,000 soldiers and to meet the UN Force Commander. He then drove to the airport where he organised an emergency aid convoy after discovering that UN troops were reluctant to escort vital supplies to Bukuvu

'Paul received his medal at Buckingham Palace on May 24th and the following day flew to Liberia to begin another peacekeeping role with the UN.

'Paul is one of a number of members of our mother's family (the Burges) who



attended KGS. Sadly since my last letter her sisters, BERYL HAWKINS (36-39) and MARIAN YEOMAN (39-44), have passed away.'

KOSA adds its congratulations to the many received by Paul on his award. The photograph is published by courtesy of BCA Films. - Ed

THAT REPORT...

Our publication in the last edition of the newspaper report of the classroom-death at KGS has prompted yet more responses:

CLOSEST TO ACCIDENT...

KATHLEEN PALMER (44-49) now NORMAN writes:

'Having received my first KOSA NEWS I was surprised to see the report of the accident from the Evening Post of 16 October 1946 reporting the sad death of ROBERT HAYNES at KGS.

'I was the 13 year old girl sitting beside Robert, watching him pick away at, what to me, was an unknown object. A few seconds after I looked away, the accident occurred.

'During the inquest, which I was asked to attend, it emerged that Robert and a friend had visited local ammunition dumps. They collected discarded weapons containing explosive powder in order to make fireworks.

'We attended Robert's funeral at Kingswood and afterwards we visited his home in Moravian Road to meet the family.

'In September, my grandson Joseph will be starting at Kingsfield School and I still have my school hat which I wore from 1944-49!'

JOHN'S STORY...

JOHN LOXTON (39-47) has also written about the sad story in the last edition:

'Though not in the classroom where ROBERT HAYNES fatally injured himself, I have a vivid memory of the sad occasion. I was in the 6th form and we were having a lesson with MR. SAMMONS in the Chemistry Lab. I was seated in the back row and nearest to the door.

'We all heard the explosion followed by a terrifying scream. I said to Mr. Sammons "Can I go and find out what has happened?" He nodded approval and I ran out into the corridor and saw MISS POWELL, stalwart as she was, walking up the corridor with Robert on her arm. His abdomen was all ripped apart and there were other wounds on the upper part of his body and on his face. It was a fearsome sight. Miss Powell took him up to the staff room at the end of the corridor from where no doubt she telephoned for the ambulance and did what she could for him.

'We learned afterwards that he had picked up the shell at Colerne aerodrome where the Mosquito fighter

bombers were based. I had cycled up there myself with a friend but wisely we hadn't picked up anything dangerous. I also remember going to the funeral at the Moravian Church. The minister went on at what seemed to me inordinate length about the danger of picking up strange objects, which seemed a bit overdone in the circumstances.

'Incidentally, as may have been pointed out to you before, in the photograph of the cricket team on page 15 of Number 22 - Spring 2003 the names of those of us in the back row are the wrong way round! I think that the front row of the hockey team suffered the same fate! Never mind, these things are bound to happen from so long before your time.

'I note also in the same issue the death of MARY CHELL. I wonder if she was the Miss Chell who terrified us in Class 1 of the Junior School at Mangotsfield. She was a very strict disciplinarian! I remember having a new pen/pencil rubber as part of a Christmas present, and using it in my exercise book before the ink was dry! It made, as you may imagine a terrible mess, and brought her wrath down upon me. The Headmaster there, Leslie Farmiloe, refused to coach pupils for the 'scholarship' and it was generally believed that only one child could win a place at grammar school from each junior school. We broke the mould in my year with MARGARET HENDY sharing the distinction with me.

'The Downend head was a crammer and many of his pupils arrived at KGS that year. I got on the school bus and was treated so badly by them I never went on it again, preferring to walk the one and a half miles until I had a bicycle that made the journey easier.

'I remember CRUSTY MERRITT, whom I was to link up with again later at Handsworth College in Birmingham,

and SAM KIDNER a fellow farmer's son. On one occasion Sam, who was a bit of a lad, indulged in the filthy practice of putting carbide in the inkwells. When tackled by MISS WEIR, not noted for her discipline poor girl, he said, 'I found this pebble and dropped it in the inkwell ..and it all bubbled up, Miss'. I think he got away with it, to the amusement of all around him.'

EX-KGS ON EX-MOOR...

The last edition triggered some memories from JOHN HARDING (46-49):

'Each time I receive a copy of KOSA NEWS I am afflicted by a small but gnawing sense of guilt at having never kept in touch with the old place. This uneasiness is somewhat diminished, however, by the reflection that I am even less attached to the school I subsequently attended. I never even *read* its Old Boys' (now girls as well of course) magazine despite the fact that I was approaching middle age (19) when I left that seat of learning. Evidently I am not the stuff of which assiduous 'old boys' are made.

'And yet. And yet. When I read familiar names echoing down the decades - PETER BRAKE, NORMAN SALTER (should this be JOHN? - Ed), JOHN COLE, MIKE PENNY (and even RACHEL PENNY, of whom I still see a lot because she married my favourite cousin) I feel the tug of a certain nostalgia. Perhaps it is merely for youth; I hit seventy in April!

'I do not recall that I thrived much at the place. It may have had something to do with the fact that during my years there ('46 - 49) the blackboard was always totally out of focus, which I imagined it was for everyone until one day it was

suggested to me that I might need spectacles. By this time the mysteries of algebra and geometry (taught, I seem to remember, by a small tetchy Welshman) were lost to me for ever. Even after I was transferred, with greater general success, to Colston's the other side of Bristol, they remained so.

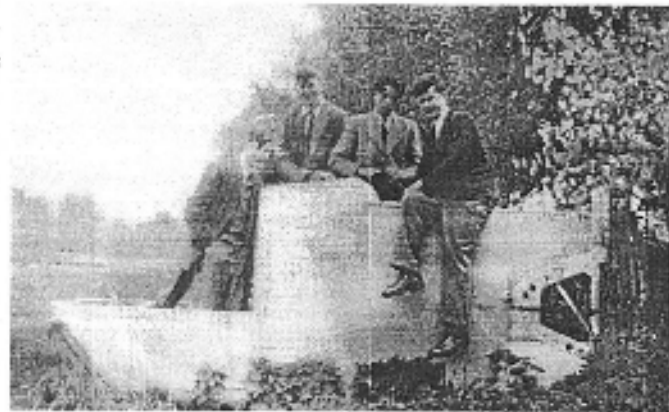
'Nevertheless, the umbilicus with KGS remains longer and more elastic than most, if only by virtue of my mother having attended it in the twenties. She was born in 1912, so her stay must have been around '23 until perhaps '28, I guess. She died as recently as 1998 and was always proud to tell me she had been in the same class as BERNARD LOVELL. Her name (somewhat unfortunately putting her at the mercy of wags) was EILEEN FORWARD.

'Not to take too much of your space, Mr Editor, by droning on too long - but your recounting in the current issue the story of ROBERT HAYNES' dramatic end reminds me that I was sitting in the classroom next door that sad afternoon. I occasionally have to indulge a wry smile these days when reading of the hordes of earnest 'counsellors' being drafted in platoons to schools where some individual tragedy has befallen. I remember no such visitations when the above took place. The coolness of MISS POWELL had to suffice. Were we tougher then, or just harder-hearted? A bit of both perhaps.

'Finally, a little news about another old scholar whom some will remember. When I came to live in this very isolated hamlet on the edge of Exmoor twenty years ago, quite a number of local chaps worked for the largest land-drainage firm in the area. It was owned and run (assisted by a couple of sons) by one WILLIAM HUGHES HENDY, known to all as 'Hugh'. It was years before we

discovered we had been at KGS together, he being a year or two older and thus in a higher form.

'I remember seeing in a previous KOSA issue a picture of four lads clustered around the remnants of an old aeroplane in the school playing fields. Hugh was one of them. Perhaps it was the contemplation of that relic which bred in him the desire to fly. Many are the Summer afternoons down here when I have lolled (or occasionally worked) in my garden, then heard the lazy drone of a light aircraft above. Nine times out of ten it would be Hugh in his distinctive yellow-painted biplane, recently up from Dunkeswell and now patrolling his patch. It was, as I say, late in our acquaintance when we discovered our common school history, and from then on he promised several times to 'take me up'. I am sure he would have but, after a far better crack of the whip than poor ROBERT HAYNES - although still perhaps not an over-generous one - he died in 2002 aged sixty-nine.'



John, we have attempted to reproduce the photo of the remnants of the plane which resided in the field until the mid-50s. It first appeared in 'NEWS No: 10 of Summer 1997.

The lads were GEOFF WARNER, DAVE LEWIS, DENVER PADFIELD, HUGH HENDY and PHILIP DENT. - Ed.

RON'S RAMBLINGS...

RON ILES (45-53) was again encouraged by the last edition to write, and below is an extract from his extensive missive:

'Thanks again for the interesting Newsletter, but talk of KGS and I think of the Princesses there, then, entrancing heavenly flowers the glorious perfumes I was too shy to breathe in deeply and the happy lads who all went separate ways... Half a life-time to get a balanced view of how well post war Warmley Colditz prepared its inmates for Serendip.

'My earlier missive to you put in KOSA has evoked responses - DAVID ROSEVEARE, PHIL DENT, but where are RALPH GAY, DAVE HILLING, JIM-WITHEY perhaps you'd like to let me have their emails or give mine to them? (If you wish to contact Ron his e-mail address is roniles@eircom.net - Ed.) JACK SANDOVER is still married to Shirley, I was his best (?) man but never heard again until recently after I fixed the yellow kermit to their car bonnet! The frog is presumably extinct, but I hope happy.

'ROBERT HAYNES was a refined distinctive lad who may have been new to the School. I sat at the same dining table before it happened. Sitting next to him I had asked him to stop picking at a .22 live bullet with a pen nib or pin trying to extract the explosive. Then, or maybe at another time, I got clobbered, knocked many feet across the floor by one of the new vicious Kamp Guards and rendered blink-quiet for interrupting the Colditz 'silence or else' munch regime with my prattle. The gentle table monitor who remained quiet was GILLETTE. So it happened later that Robert exploded the bullet on his lap in his desk in the fourth or third class room from the girls'

end, one or two rooms away from Ridley's and opposite Fishy's Funky Pharmacy. I was in the second classroom from the end, I think, and after the explosion we were instructed to remain in our desks by the teacher, it might have been a Latin lesson. Later, a couple of us crept into the now-emptied classroom from where the bang had come, blood spots over the walls. Had I been 'teacher tell-tale' Robert might be writing to KOSA today. From brief acquaintance, a most pleasant guy that might have been another backwoodsman in one of our private out-of-school adventure groups.

'But for the Grace...we too might have gone much the same way.... The 'experiments' of DAVID ROSEVEAR and me in the Chemistry Lab when 'Fishy' Sammons was in the staff room, we were never caught, and as David writes, we too were blown up - making hydrogen, lighting the flask outlet without removing the air, *kabooooom!* Tiny splinters of glass everywhere, David had been stooping over the apparatus and I was within two feet. Miraculous escapes. And discovering how to mix concentrated nitric acid with different cooking ingredients in clamped test tubes, to get brilliant white incendiary then brown acrid crackle, then potassium permanganate fumes, then *ka-ploosh boom* to make brilliant purple ceiling blobs which Fishy didn't notice after...apparently. An inviting unlimited Treasure Trove of Bangs and Stinks, Billy Buster Heaven, wonderful and hilarious, unthinkable now...

'Other unknown pupils making deadly mercury fulminate to pour to dry at the entry to the lab, so when a class arrived, it went off like firecrackers, under their feet, equally exhilarating. Fishy probably suspected me for everything after I withdrew myself from his class because of

other extra-curricular priorities and the need for non-slow motion learning...'

FROM BOTTOM TO TOP...

KEITH LLEWELLIN (55-60), a recent member welcomed in the last edition, wrote to the 'NEWS about his increasing flirtation with the French language (and a member of the population!):

'I thought MISS WATTERS was standing-in for English because of what I read about her in the 59-60 *Kingswood Chronicles*, where MR RIDLEY says she did an MA in History. (I believe she taught History in her early years - Ed.)

'I cannot remember being top at anything, but I did get into the top class for French. At the end of the third form year we took some internal exams to decide which subjects we would carry on with. One decision to be made was whether the boys would do metalwork or French and since I was very keen on metalwork, I tried to fail the French exam.

'I think I succeeded but I was not chosen to do metalwork anyway. This was 1958 and I am sure they were short on facilities. I was put into the bottom class for French which I remember was an abysmally low standard, but after a week or two the teacher (I cannot remember his name) said he would recommend me for the middle class. However, the middle class was bursting at the seams but there was plenty of room in the top class where, ironically, I was placed. I am sure they pulled me up to their level.

'A few years after leaving school, I brushed up my French before I went on a holiday in France picking grapes. I made some friends and went back. In 1970 I married a French woman, a bourgignonne. On taking early retirement seven years ago I did some language

studies at the University of the West of England and started doing freelance French translating.

'The course at UWE was a distance learning course which I did over two years. I was awarded an MA in Advanced Language Studies in 2001. It may be I was the only one to have been awarded this degree since I was the first past the post and they changed it afterwards to an MA in Translation Studies.

'I never went to university from KGS. I left school at 16 and was glad to be out in the wide world. A day per week off for part time studies was part of the jobs I did and I studied chemistry to ONC level but then changed to physics. I worked at Bristol University as a technician in the physical chemistry research laboratories for three years during the 60s and this gave me a taste of the student life.

'When I changed my job and worked for St Annes Board Mills, after passing HNC physics, they gave me a year off to study for the Grad Inst P exam, at what was then called the Bristol College of Science and Technology, which I passed in 1970.

'The Institute of Linguists used to run an examination called Examinations in Language for International Communication which was rated at about degree level. It was a course of evening classes and I passed this exam in 1998 and it qualified me to be able to do the MA examinations and dissertation over a two year period.

'My wife is Françoise, nee Guillemard and we have two children, Sophie, 30 and Nicolas, 28. Françoise is from Bligny-sur-Ouche, population about 800, in Côte d'Or, on the other side of the hills from where I picked grapes in 1964, in Morey-St-Denis.'

KEITH LLEWELLIN (55-60) (see opposite) has loaned KOSA his copy of the blue-covered *Songs of Praise* which was used for assembly. Hymn no: 446 was sung as the last thing before leaving for the school holidays. Remember this?

South African 2nd Annual KGS Re-union Lunch

Numbers nearly doubled at the second KGS re-union luncheon held in Cape Town in October 2004 when ROSEMARY (nee RICHARDS) and TERRY

GENERAL

5* The tall trees in the greenwood,
The meadows for our play,
The rushes by the water
To gather every day;

6. He gave us eyes to see them,
And lips that we might tell
How great is God Almighty,
Who has made all things well;

445 Edward J. Brailsford, 1841-1921.
All things which live below the sky,
Or move within the sea,
Are creatures of the Lord most high,
And brothers unto me.

2 I love to hear the robin sing,
Perched on the highest bough;
To see the rook with purple wing
Follow the shining plough.

3 I love to watch the swallow skim
The river in his flight;
To mark, when day is growing dim,
The glow-worm's silvery light;

4 The sea-gull whiter than the foam,
The fish that dart beneath;
The lowing cattle coming home;
The goats upon the heath.

5* God taught the wren to build her nest,
The lark to soar above,
The hen to gather to her breast
The offspring of her love.

6* Beneath his heaven there's room for all;
He gives to all their meat;
He sees the meanest sparrow fall
Unnoticed in the street.

7. Almighty Father, King of Kings,
The lover of the meek,
Make me a friend of helpless things,
Defender of the weak.

446 Jerusalem.
William Blake, 1757-1827.
AND did those feet in ancient time
Walk upon England's mountains
green?
And was the holy Lamb of God
On England's pleasant pastures seen?
And did the countenance divine
Shine forth upon our clouded hills?
And was Jerusalem builded here
Among those dark satanic mills?

2. Bring me my bow of burning gold!
Bring me my arrows of desire!
Bring me my spear! O clouds, unfold!
Bring me my chariot of fire!
I will not cease from mental fight,
Nor shall my sword sleep in my hand,
Till we have built Jerusalem
In England's green and pleasant land.

447 Jean Ingelow, 1820-97.

AND didst thou love the race that loved
not thee?
And didst thou take to heaven a human
brow?
Dost plead with man's voice by the mar-
vellous sea?
Art thou his kinsman now?

O God, O kinsman loved, but not
enough,
O Man, with eyes majestic after
death,
Whose feet have toiled along our path-
ways rough,
Whose lips drawn human breath:

2 By that one likeness which is ours and
thine,
By that one nature which doth hold
us kin,
By that high heaven where, sinless,
thou dost shine
To draw us sinners in:

3 By thy last silence in the judgment hall,
By long foreknowledge of the deadly
tree,
By darkness, by the wormwood and the
gall,
I pray thee visit me,

4. Come, lest this heart should, cold and
cast away,
Die ere the guest adored she enter-
tain:
Lest eyes which never saw thine earthly
day
Should miss thy heavenly reign.

448 John Stuart Blackie, † 1809-95.

ANGELS holy, high and lowly,
Sing the praises of the Lord;
Earth and sky, all living nature,
Starry temples azure-floored,
Man, the stamp of thy creator,
Praise ye, praise ye God like Lord:
Praise ye, praise ye God the Lord,
Praise ye, praise ye God the Lord.

KOSA'S 2005 AGM...

Right:
David Kershaw
(49-56) deep in
conversation with
Denley Perrett (now
Ford) (49-56)



Left:
John Gray (47-54)
and
Jeff Ford (48-56)

Below - The Girls of '54:
Molly Woodington (now Hayes),
Ros Cameron (now Vernon),
Carole Lovell (now Pitson) and
Linda Davies (now Levis)



Above:
David Hilling
(47-54)
and friend,
illustrating
that all friends
are welcome at
KOSA events!



BLEAKMAN joined with ALAN BAINES (49-56) and DIANE (nee WOGAN) (55-61) and LIONEL HARRIS (52-57) for a memorable day in the warm South African spring sunshine. Allan's wife Lynne who is, unfortunately, not ex-KGS stock was such an admirable hostess for the second year that she has been made an honorary member for the future. Excellent food and plenty of good quality local wine created the perfect backdrop for many stories and reminiscences. Why not join the party if you are in Cape Town next spring.

Shown in the photo (above) from the left:

Allan Baines, Lynne Baines, Terry Bleakman, Rosemary Bleakman, Diane Harris, Lionel Harris

ANOTHER COLONIAL...

PETER MYERS (48-52) writes from down-under:

'This is to let you know we've recently downsized into an apartment and to inform you of my new address.

'Even though I spent only 4 short years at KGS and in the Bristol area I do enjoy the continuing contact with the old school and former colleagues made

possible through the KOSA NEWS and I would like to continue to receive it please. I would also like to congratulate all concerned with its production on the excellent job you all do to keep KOSA going and growing!

'I've been especially interested from recent issues to learn there are others from KGS in different parts of this enormous continent including MATT KING (44-52) (whom I knew in the 6th Form) in New South Wales and I would like to extend a welcome to him and to others to make contact with me if they find themselves visiting the Brisbane area. While it would be good to think we might all of us meet up somewhere this would not be at all easy to organise in such a vast country. One of the things I try to do since retiring to Australia 10 years ago is to organise twice yearly get-togethers for former international civil servants (mainly ex-UN staff) living in Queensland and that has not proved all that easy - one colleague drives 750 kms. (two days) to attend the functions in Brisbane! But in case any former KGS folk are visiting this way, please feel free to include my contact details in the next News if you so wish.

'Unfortunately I just missed out by a few days on the opportunity to join the last October lunch but my wife and I were in U.K. to see family over Christmas and the New Year and were very enjoyably wined and dined by JOHN BRYANT and DAVID BEARD (both 44-52) and their respective spouses at an excellent pub in Devon before we headed back down-under.

'Although I regret I'll also be unable to attend the October lunch this year, I'm sending the enclosed small contribution to boost KOSA coffers in whichever way you feel appropriate. I'm always conscious that mail to Australia is not cheap!

For those members of our Australian Branch, Peter's address is 29/82 Sandford Street, St Lucia, Brisbane 4067, his telephone number is (07) 3217 8152 and his e-mail address is p.myers@uq.net.au. There's now no excuse for not getting in touch!-Ed.

CANADA CALLING...

JOHN PULLIN (42-46) from Burlington, Ontario, Canada, writes:

'It has been fifty years since I arrived in Canada and now look with anticipation for the KOSA News. Scanning the pictures for familiar names and faces I was surprised to see a picture of my mother and aunt Irene in a girls' hockey team submitted by their sister, JOAN KING, now PARRY, in the Spring 2003 issue. My mother GWEN KING appeared to be about fourteen so the picture is probably within a year of 1923.

My years as a student were 1942 to 1946, when I transferred with my brother, Tony, to Chipping Sodbury as a result of a family move to the Kings Arms at Westerleigh and for me a loss of Kingswood friends.

'After serving my conscription time in the RAF, I was reunited with several of those school friends at my first and only employer in England, Fry's. The economics did not appear to be promising and it was with mixed feelings and the 20 pounds you were allowed to take out of the country that I sailed on an old Cunarder *Atlantic* from Southampton in June 1954.

'Friends whom my parents had made when they were here from 1929 - 1932 helped me to survive those critical early years. Their support with the parcels during the war can never be forgotten.

'A couple of early career jobs with a bank and a steel maker in Hamilton ultimately led me to a 40 year career with Ford of Canada. My fate became sealed when, Nancy, a Canadian, and I were married in 1958. Daughter Joanne arrived to start the decade January 1, 1960, followed in short order by Jim and Tony who all reside in the immediate area. Following Nancy's death in 1982, Isabel and I married in 1986. Our combined six kids have produced four grandchildren.

'Spring through fall are spent golfing and time at the cottage which we built in 1987, two hours north of Toronto on Lake Muskoka. We do try to get back to England every year or two to visit my aunt Joan and Norman Parry in Dawlish, my cousin Basil Woodward in Hanham, sister Carol and her husband Eric Salmon in Bath, and other cousins and their families. We promise to co ordinate one of these visits with a KGS reunion.'

KOSA was instrumental in putting John in touch with TESS DENNING (42-46) (now WEAVER) some time ago, and we know that John visited Tess when he was last in the UK earlier this year

PAUL'S POINTS...

PAUL DAVIES (54-61) writes

'I thought it was about time that I put "pen to paper" for KOSA News. I have been receiving this jewel of a publication for many years and never tire of reading and rereading its contents. However I think that you should be made to add a health warning on the front cover as it certainly causes me severe problems when I turn the pages. A name or event will trigger the memory banks into over-time and before you know where you are there are so many things going around in the mind that you have to put the magazine down and do something else to give the brain a rest.

'There have been many incidents related in the columns of KOSA News about various surprise meetings of former KGS students in all parts of the world. Indeed you made mention some years ago of my own meeting with ALAN QUARTLY (55-62) when he was captain of my flight home from Vancouver and previous to that when he was piloting a special Concorde flight out of Filton that I was privileged to be on.

'However the main reason for this letter is to tell you of another chance and unusual meeting with an old friend from KGS in recent weeks. I have remained firm friends with ROGER FOWLER (54-61) since leaving school and we have made a point of keeping in touch ever since. Early in March we and our wives went on a cruise around the Caribbean. One day when returning to the ship from a shore excursion to Antigua my wife and I got into conversation with another couple, who were on the same cruise, and it was very obvious from his accent that he was a "local" to my home area. We chatted for several minutes about where we now live before returning to our cabins. It wasn't until several hours

later that I realised that I knew him. When I next saw him a day or so later it was great to confirm that he was KEITH MILLETT (54-60) who spent at least the first three years at KGS at the next desk across the aisle to me. He too had suddenly remembered me. We had briefly met some years before (about 1988) when we were attending our respective employers' Christmas meal at Parkside Hotel in Brislington. Other than that we hadn't seen each other for some forty five years.

'Needless to say that every time we saw each other during the remaining time on the cruise we would reminisce about various school events and the usual opening comment was "do remember so and so....?" and off we would go again! It is surprising that I haven't met Keith before as his daughters both live in Downend and he often takes grand children out for walks around the area near my own home. We have promised to try and keep in touch.

'Opposite is a photograph taken of Keith, Roger and me (l to r) during the cruise. I also attach a 1958 school photo when the three of us were in the same form. Keith is back row extreme left with me next to him. Roger is third from left on the row in front. I also attach a photo of a sixth form group taken in 1960 which includes the now famous Professor Colin Pillinger (not shown - Ed.). He has been mentioned many times in your pages but I don't recall a school-day photo of him. I was pleased that he did acknowledge an email from me following the launch of Beagle 2. He was a close neighbour for several years when we lived in Winterbourne Down just prior to his departure to Milton Keynes. There are many good friends on both of these photos and it would be good to meet up with them again.



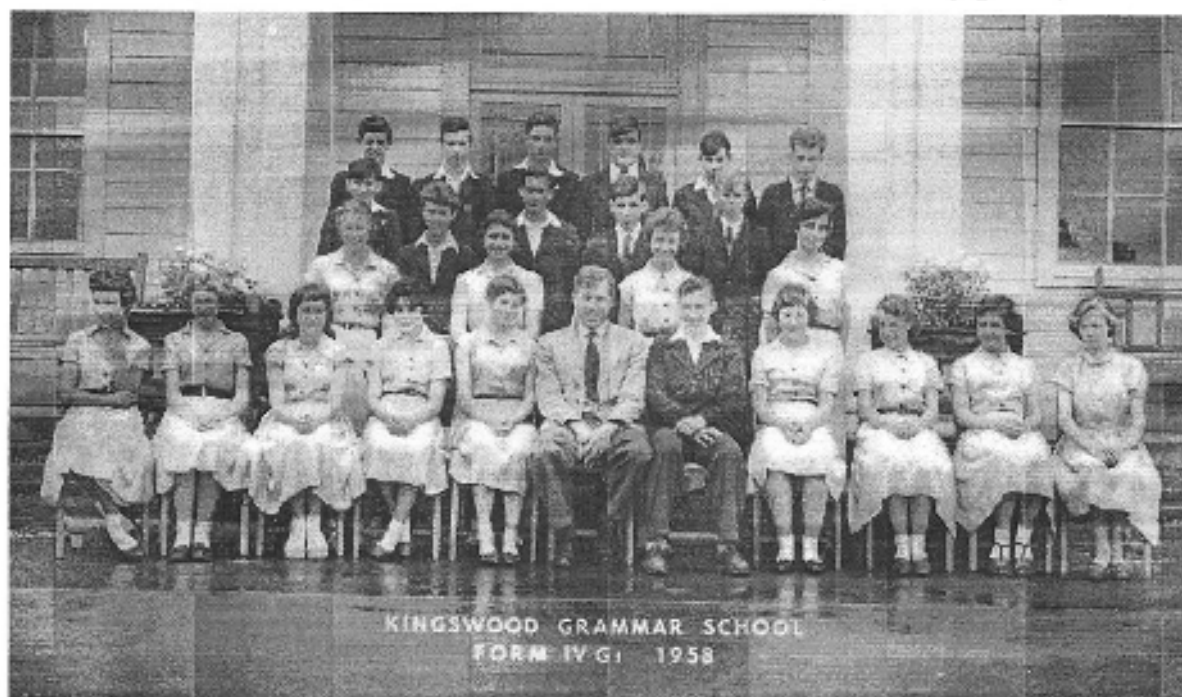
those many incidents of which I was a part. One thing that does mystify me is the apparent lack of information in your pages from my era (54-61) apart from occasional articles from people such as GORDON JACKSON. What has happened to the characters of those days such as KEITH YOUNG, ARCHIE KENDALL, ALAN MARSH, ROB (Bunny) STONE, ALAN (Harry) THOMAS, TERRY BLEAKMAN, (see the report of the meeting of our South African Branch on page

'Another surprise meeting for me in recent times was when I saw Tony Down (55-61) walking in Hum Road, Keynsham close to my son's home. I had gone shopping for my wife and was in trouble as I had been gone for such a long time! Tony and I enjoyed some time chatting at the roadside mainly about our many years playing Rugby together in various school teams including three years in the first team.

'I am finding that having started this letter/report that it is difficult to stop and I could go on for ages writing about friends, acquaintances, teachers and

15 - Ed.) TREVOR SCANTLEBURY, IAN GOLDING, CHRIS BRYANT etc? Perhaps a few of us could get together and organise a reunion for the 1954 intake!

'I have said enough for my first contact but will definitely write again and give some details of my life since those wonderful days at KGS (although we didn't realise or appreciate it at the time) and also some fond memories of my time at the school. Isn't it funny how these memories come on as we get older? It is hard to think that all my friends from KGS are now potentially grandparents!



NEWS FROM THE STAFF...

It's always good to hear from the staff of KGS, and we have contact with at least four of them:

ENID EVANS, who was in the English department at KGS for 19 years writes: 'This is a letter which is long overdue. First of all I must thank you for sending me so regularly the most interesting of magazines which brings back so many memories of my time at KGS, later to become Kingsfield.

'I have been moved to put pen to paper belatedly as I have appeared in two recent editions of KOSA NEWS! As deputy in charge of the English department and a member of Haskins House staff I appeared with MR BILL BLAKE (French Department) and MR ROGER PARFITT on the back cover of No.24 in the assembly photograph taken in the Old Hall. I am seated on the right of the photo, in a white cardigan. My hair was dark then – it is now silvery white!

'Then to my surprise, I have appeared more recently as form teacher of the First Year Haskins Group in front of the Old Assembly Hall, which sadly went up in flames with the remainder of the old school (familarly known as 'the Cowsheds') in 1976.

'Of course, I have many memories of KGS and Kingsfield as I was a staff member from early 1963 to 1982 – most of them very happy, as I also assisted with drama and musical productions such as Gilbert & Sullivan, A Christmas Carol and so on.....My most vivid memory is of standing in the ashes of the School on the morning after the fire....'

A note has also been received from ELEANOR SPILL (56-83) who taught French. She writes:

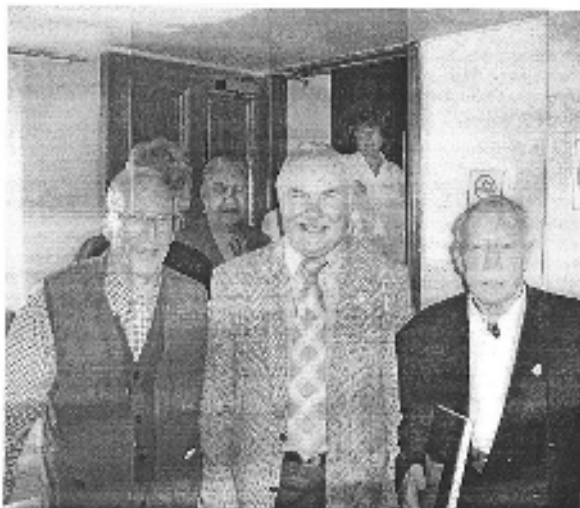
'I always enjoy reading KOSA NEWS. It's fascinating to hear ex-scholars' opinions of the teachers - good and bad and tolerant!

'I went to Fairfield, and I remember that our hockey teams were nearly always beaten by Kingswood. We were very envious of their sports fields and facilities on the school premises, as we had to travel to Filton once a week for all our games.

'Happy days.....'

It was very good to see GEORGE BUTCHER (English 52-58) and his wife Sheila Butcher in May when they attended the 51ers' Pensioners' Party in early May 2005. George and Sheila kindly interrupted their holiday in Dorset to attend.

It was also good to welcome IAN ASHWELL (Geography - 51-53) at the same event. Ian has enjoyed a varied career since his days at KGS, eventually finishing as Professor of Geography at a



Canadian University. He has come back to Bristol in retirement.

In the photograph above, George Butcher on the left and Ian Ashwell on the right pose with the KOSA NEWS Editor.

A LOST FRIEND...

The story about Warmley Baths in the last edition encouraged MURIEL HILL now JAMES (34-37) to write:

'On reading through 'NEWS 26 several items brought back memories - some of them very painful - notably the chilliness of the Warmley Baths. I do not recall such drastic action as described in the article, but I do remember trying to swim the 16 lengths to achieve the quarter mile certificate and thus gain a few points for the House - in my case - Haskins. At the end of the swim I was so cold that my friends had to help me out of the shallow end!

'The bath was indeed fed from a spring, and was straight out of the ground - it may have been treated, but I am not sure. The Community Centre had not been built at that time - the summer of 1935.

'I was pleased to learn that BETTY CLINKER has joined the Old Scholars -I knew Betty well as we often rode to school together - I met her again several years later when we both attended Dressmaking classes. Betty had two little girls and making their dresses was often cheaper than buying at that time somewhere in the late 1950's.

'You also state that you have lost contact with (amongst others) DORA DUNN, and sadly so have I - she was my best friend at school, and we remained in touch for many years. We were at school from 1934 - in my case until 1937, but Dora stayed on to do the Matriculation exam. She had an older sister Anita (Jo) and a brother Rene. The brother was in the R.A.F. and lost his life in a flying accident in this country in about 1937.

'When war started in 1939, both girls joined the Women's Land Army - Timber Corps, but Dora left after a time and joined the WAAFs. She saw service abroad in Egypt. I joined the WRENS in 1942 and remained until 1946. We met up again and continued our friendship. Dora took advantage of the Crash Course offered to ex-service personnel to train as a teacher - it was for one year. In 1956 she married, and with her husband set up a Grocery business near Cheltenham.

'I married in 1957, and in about 1960 my husband took me to visit Dora, by now she had two children, Timothy and Anne. In 1963 my son was born, and although we never met up again, we did keep in touch for some time. I think the advent of the supermarkets hit the business hard. Then I lost touch for a long time until I saw Dora's address in KOSA News, by now she was a widow, Timothy was working in S. America and Anne had married and had twins - Rosie and George, she lived in Gloucestershire (if I remember rightly somewhere near Prinknash). Dora was living in Ludlow - Timothy came home to study for a PhD.

'I continued to send cards for her birthday and at Christmas, and wrote to her when my husband died in 1999. Up until 2000 I received a card in return, but not in 2001. In 2002 I took the precaution of putting an address label on the back of the envelope, and in due course the card was returned 'No one living at this address in the past year'. I cannot understand why no one got in touch with me to notify the death of either Dora or her sister. It was an unsatisfactory end to a long standing friendship.'

ANOTHER SWIMMER...

OLIVE FORD (39-44) now DAVIES writes:

'In case there are no members of KOSA who are members of the Bristol & Avon Family History Society, I am writing to you to let you know of a letter in their March journal from a Diane Eaton, who lives in Oxfordshire. She writes that some years ago her husband's godfather JOHN HARRIS (Jack) died and she has some of his photographs and memorabilia. He was from Staple Hill and was a Registrar most of his working life. Amongst his photographs are some of football teams of Kingswood Secondary School dated May 1924. They are KGS 1923-25; KGS 1925-26. Another school team from about the same date could be a cricket team as all the boys are in white.

'I am enclosing a photograph of the 42-43 -1st XI hockey team (below). It was great to meet up with ERICA IVORY (39-46)(now Wickens) last October and a few of my other contemporaries. I also have a school photograph of about 1941 if you should be interested in that.

'Being a comparative newcomer to KOSA I am not aware of what has been printed before in relation to members'

letters but MARLENE HAYWARD'S (53-60) reference to Warmley Baths certainly rang a bell. I hadn't realised that they were still in use as late as 1960. They were certainly very daunting but I shall be forever grateful for them as I am sure I would never have learnt to swim if they hadn't been there.

'I wonder if MISS MORRISON taught her initially by the same method as she used for us. We were spread-eagled across the tops of desks and taught the breast stroke ensuring that the arms and legs were in co-ordination. When we finally got in the water we had sausage like airbags strapped to our backs with a line attached and we were towed across the baths until we could project ourselves. I always used to envy BERYL WARNE who would run along the side of the baths and dive in. I haven't got that far as yet and I don't suppose I will now!'

Our thanks to Olive and others who drew our attention to the availability of the photographs, some of which are shown over. The originals have now been passed to the Kingswood Heritage Museum. If any members have school photographs they wish to dispose of, personal or 'official', please give KOSA first refusal. Arrangements can be made to donate them to a chosen destination after they have been scanned and added to our archives.

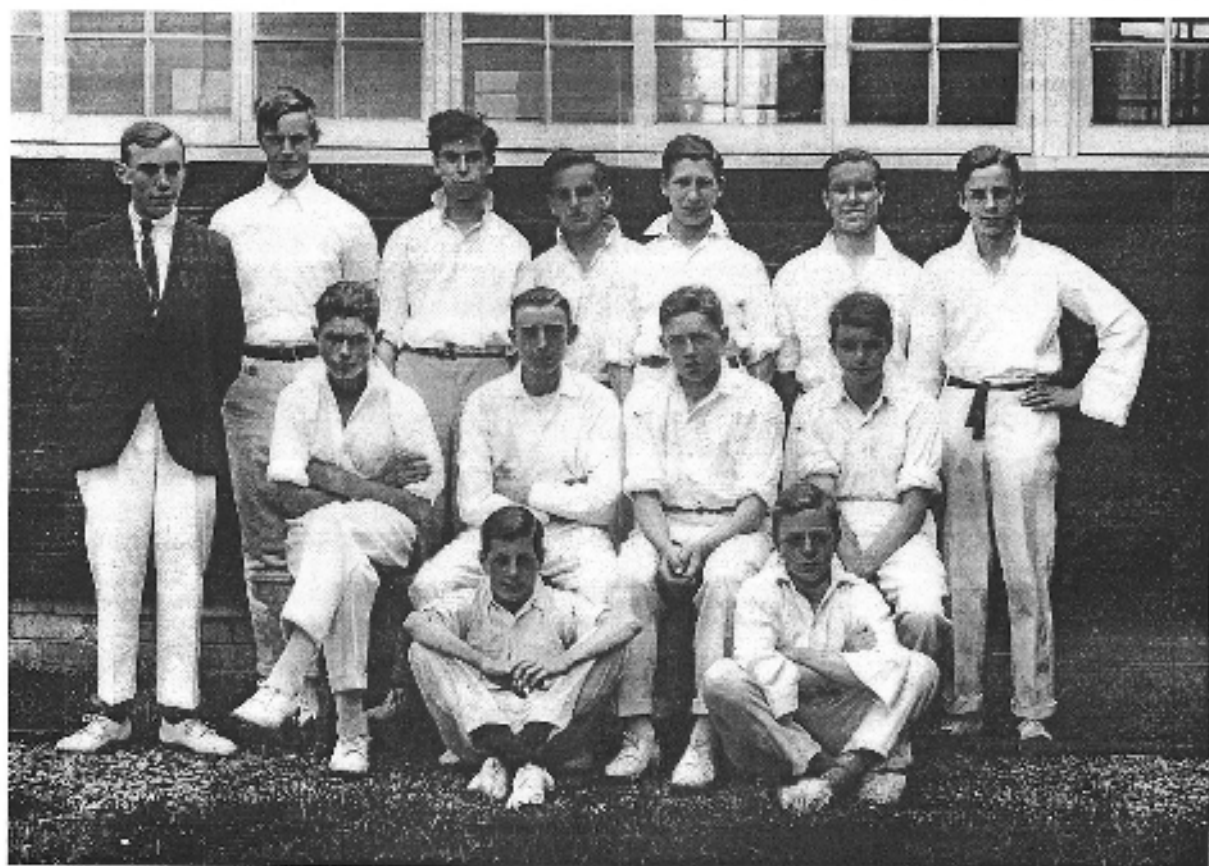


1942-43 1st XI
Hockey Team

Back row:
Gwen Leigh, nk,
Middle row:
nk, Vera Hook, Erica
Ivory, Barbara Tippet
Front row:
Olive Ford, Hazel Perry,
Eileen Morris, Beryl
Warne, Marjorie Hillier

THE TWENTIES...

The Soccer and the Cricket Teams of 1926



THE RUM AFFAIR...

ALAN J SCADDING (36-41) has written many articles for KOSA NEWS, and he has now written an autobiography of his experiences in the Royal Navy, which he joined towards the end of WWII after a spell in the ATC, fire-watching at KGS and working at Fry's and the Admiralty. We enclose a brief extract from the book.



'The film *The Caine Mutiny* reminded me of an incident I call *The Rum Affair* witnessed by me in October 1945 that occurred on board repair craft E303 then moored close to Changi in the Johore Straites close to Singapore.

'During the weekly stocktake of food and rations it was found that 2 gallons of undiluted Naval Rum was missing. The rum was normally stored in a steel locker room below deck level and always kept locked except when rations were drawn each day, under control of a duty officer. The only key was kept by

the 1st Lieutenant. Although E303 was an engineering ship, only a few of the crew were sufficiently able to manufacture a spare set of keys. The 1st Lieutenant had a brainwave. He ordered all crew to stand by their lockers; Officers and Pos searched each locker and some were found to contain small quantities of rum, the owners admitting to storage for forthcoming 21st birthdays.

'Private storage of rum was a Naval offence and the guilty owners of the rum found were charged and punished by cancellation of shore leave and deduction of pay. The atmosphere below deck simmered with resentment at the harsh treatment.

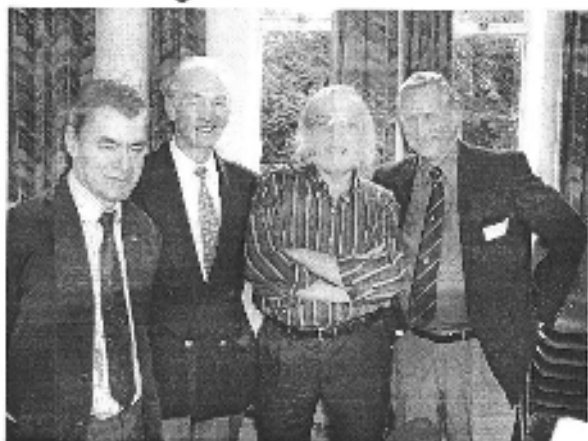
'The next day motor-mechanic 'B' was forcibly dragged by six crew members to the 1st Lieutenant's cabin. There 'B' confessed to the theft. A skilled welder, he had cut a hole by acetylene burner through the steel plate bulkhead of the rum store sufficiently large to remove two jars of rum. He then re-welded a patch to the bulkhead, cleared it up, and departed with the rum, which he eventually smuggled ashore and sold in Singapore.

'This was a very serious crime in the Naval world. The next day all officers and crew were mustered on deck. Motor-mechanic 'B' was formally charged and his punishment announced. 90 days imprisonment in Trincomalee (Ceylon) Naval jail. A large motorboat manned by Naval Patrol (Police) crew drew alongside and 'B' was formally escorted to the craft and he was deported off towards his prison sentence. Another drama was over, we never saw 'B' again, but his skill was quietly admired.'

The photograph above shows Alan in all his Naval finery.

Q & A...

In the last edition we promised to report COLIN PILLINGER'S (54-61) question and answer session at last October's KOSA lunch. Our thanks again to ANN EDWARDS (52-59), now Trevanion, for transcribing the session:



Question: Do you foresee the time when man will get to Mars?

Answer: I think it is absolutely inevitable that men will go to Mars, but I shouldn't hold your breath! People have been talking about this since the Apollo programme that I was involved in. We decided not to actually bet on when we would land on Mars, when the Apollo programme ended. When the last astronauts left the moon a bunch of people who were involved in the programme sat around and said "Shall we have a sweepstake about when NASA will get back to the Moon? Shall we all put 20 dollars in?" They talked about it and some dates were mentioned, and I should warn you that all those dates of man going back to the Moon have been passed, but if we had all put in the 20 dollars it would have been accumulating in a nice little fund, so when we did get there it would be rather worth winning. The earliest date I can foresee is 2025, or 2030. It would be irresponsible to send people to Mars until we have answered the question "is there, or was there, life?". If we send people to Mars

we will actually send terrestrial biology to Mars, and if we bring things back then there is the risk that we would bring back the Martian biology. If you unleash Martian biology into a terrestrial environment then something which is adapted to a very harsh, low resource environment would be unleashed into an environment with copious quantities of source materials for bio-chemistry, and who knows what might happen?

Question: Has anyone ever established where *Beagle* landed, or where it crashed perhaps, and is there any possibility in the future of retrieving it?

Answer: The best chance of retrieving it is if we land people on Mars, then an astronaut may pick it up and bring it back, in which case I shall claim bits of it. That is the best chance of retrieving it now; we are no longer listening for any radio signal. If it was there and had opened then the solar arrays would have been covered by dust and the battery (which was built to last 180 days) would have gone down. We looked in 60% of what we thought was the likely landing ellipse, and we had to stop looking because Mars is currently in a very unfavourable position. We cannot communicate with Mars at the moment, it's behind the sun. So we've stopped looking. All the looking was from photographs taken by an American called Mike Mallin using a camera on a spacecraft called *Global Surveyor*. No photographs have been taken by the European Space Agency's Mars Express, which I find very upsetting, that the group that took us there couldn't spare a few moments to scan our ellipse. It is extremely difficult to do this – there are 3 times 10 to the power of 9 pixels in this ellipse, and *Beagle* would be 1 or 2 pixels unless it was the parachute, in which case it would be about 10 pixels. When you do it you have to

look and say "is this something or is it an artefact?" You then have to take a photograph of the same place again to see if it's still there. Every time we went back to something that we thought might be a chance it turned out that it wasn't there in the second picture. The exception to that was that we actually found what looked like a small impact crater on the wall of the rather big crater that was in the centre of our ellipse. At the time we dismissed it and said "this isn't big enough to be anything that could be representative of *Beagle*". However in recent times a spacecraft called *Genesis* crashed on earth. Well when *Genesis* crashed on earth, it crashed at something over 200 mph, and it made an exceedingly small crater. So we have to revise our thinking about whether that crater was perhaps *Beagle 2* and we may try yet again to take pictures of it. Talking about *Genesis*, something that this tells you is that it is very difficult to land on a planet, the last 50 miles through the atmosphere is the most unforgiving journey you will ever take. We knew everything there is to know about Earth, and we had helicopters waiting to hook *Genesis* to safely bring it to Earth, and we couldn't get it down. I would take a lot of solace from that and I had 4 experiments on it, and even NASA, with all its resources couldn't do it.

Question: How much money would you need to further your work taking into account the rate of inflation several years hence?

Answer: If you have to get the rocket, build the craft and all the things that go with it, and we would like to do more testing than we did before – that is less difficult if you get started earlier. If you get started early enough you can get the testing into the schedule, but you will not get this for less than £100 million. Now, before you all take a sharp input of

breath, thinking that I'm going to mug you on the way out, there is actually a way in which we could get this money, and this is the way in which I want to pursue it. There are so many people that write to me, and so many people who send us things in envelopes. Kids have sent us their pocket money, and a man has sent us his dole cheque. Lots of people have written saying "why don't you appeal to the people, the British population wants to do this?" We have a MORI poll showing that 68% of people wanted us to try again. There is a way, but I do not have the resources to collect money from individuals. But there is a thing called the Lottery. I would love to talk to the Lottery about financing science; the Lottery doesn't ever finance science projects. This is something that the public at large seems to want to do and it might be something the Lottery could take on, and I'm exploring that at the moment.



Question: I've heard that there is a radiation belt between earth and space which would kill anyone trying to travel through it, unless there was such a heavy coating on the spacecraft that it wouldn't be able to get off the ground – is that true?

Answer: That is something that was feared when Yuri Gargarin went up, if

you tried to take an astronaut outside the earth's environment they would have to go through what is called the Van Allan belt, and we've now been through the Van Allan belt – we took astronauts to the moon and they survived. There are however, other cosmic ray fluxes which go right the way through space, and I may as well tell you this: whilst we were on our way to Mars with Beagle, the sun erupted in the most vicious solar flare that has happened since the space age began. Anyway, the Beagle instrumentation survived all that because we were constantly in touch with the space craft for about 7 months during it, and we have measurements of what that is. You do have to shield astronauts from cosmic rays; you would certainly have to shield astronauts if they were on the surface of



Mars, but once you get there, that is not a problem – you simply dig holes and get them underneath the surface to shield them. However, these are all serious problems that have to be dealt with before you send people to Mars. There is not just that, but also the physiological problems such as the bone loss that they will incur and the fact that there is nothing to keep the blood in the lower part of the body. It will run up to the head, and that is not good for you over a long period of time.

Then there are all the psychological effects: We've all been locked in a classroom for an hour with people we didn't like – think of 2 and a half years in a drum with someone you hated!

Question: I'd like to congratulate Colin on the way he dealt with the press.

Answer: That really wasn't difficult, the press were among our biggest fans. On January 7th when Mars Express actually got around to trying to communicate with us for the first time, and it was really our best bet at communicating, because it was the one system that we actually had tested end to end, so we knew it should work (it ought to work, it should have worked). The other systems we were using were things that we'd put into place after Beagle had left so we hadn't actually tested them on the ground. But that day there was a very, very expectant throng of journalists (if you think this room is crowded then that particular room was absolutely choc-a-bloc, and I was facing camera lights that just go flash, flash, flash all the time). When I had to say to the journalists that we hadn't got a signal there were hardened journalists in the room that were almost in tears, they were really choking back on the questions they wanted to ask, you could see and also hear it in their voices. I took a conscious decision right at the beginning of this project, that if we were going to do it, then the way to bring it home to people was to share it with them. To do it in real time with them and not sanitising, not going into a little room to get our signal, and then come out to read from a prepared statement. We wanted you to see both sides of this. What you actually saw was the hard side, but if we had succeeded, we wanted you to see just how much scientists enjoy doing science, because if we had been able to show you that I think it would have had a huge effect on the

way people think about science and scientists. There are so many scientists who work in the cocoon, the ivory tower of "trust me I'm a scientist – I can't be bothered to explain it to you because you won't understand". We felt we could explain everything and allow you to share it. If it worked – we're pleased.

Question: I've recently read a book called *The Nearest Star*, which amounts to being a report of what is known so far about the sun, and it's only a typical star within the Universe and there is nothing special about it. When I put the book down I was frightened out of my life – it's absolutely awful the way things hang together – do you ever get this feeling about anything?

Answer: The Sun is actually a very insignificant star in the great cosmos. It's called a "main sequence star". It's been around for 5 billion years already and it will be around for another 5 billion years, by which time the nuclear reactor that runs the sun will have expanded it, so that the atmosphere of the sun will have engulfed earth and then we will be no more I'm afraid. Then it will become a rather significant star, it will become what's called a "red giant", and it will eventually blow up and throw all its ashes into the cosmos and they will be recycled, and you will come back as the carbon compounds of some other star. So life will go on, I have no doubts about it and I don't get frightened by such things. I cannot however, look at the Moon at night without thinking to myself "I touched that". I think my biggest regret out of *Beagle* was that the team that worked for me, who were a fantastic bunch of people and did everything they possibly could, it would have been nice for them to look at Mars in the sky for the next few generations and think "gosh we were part of that, we actually got there!" We still might, we'll give it our best shot.

THE KOSA AWARD 2005...

THE CITATION

The award of a cheque for £100 is now annually made by KOSA to the year 11 student nominated by the school. It is to recognise the student's significant contribution and support to the school over time and in a wide variety of activities. It values the enthusiasm and commitment with which the student has approached every opportunity to develop his or herself and to help others.

This year's award goes to the student whose academic record shows considerable progress and is a testimony to her determination to succeed. She has represented the school in a wide variety of sports, her attitude being characterised by a great sense of the needs of the team, cheerful competitiveness and good grace in victory and defeat.

She has had great success in the performing arts as actor and a singer. She has taken part in numerous concerts and productions where her cheerful self-confidence has had a positive effect on other performers. Her teachers speak highly of her warmth and positive attitude in the classroom and her great sense of responsibility and consideration for others.

The KOSA Award for 2005 goes to JENNY MOORE.

KOSA's congratulations go to Jenny. It is also good news that our last year's recipient, REUBEN HOLT, achieved one of the top five scores in GCSE Mathematics in the country in 2004. Head Teacher and KOSA President DAVID LEWIS points out that although academic prowess wasn't the criterion for the award Old Scholars will appreciate his success. Many congratulations to Reuben.

WELCOME...

Additions since last time are below. Maiden names are given in most cases, and the starting year in brackets, if given. When contacting KOSA NEWS it would be helpful if you give your first name, surname, maiden name (if appropriate) and your years at KGS. Many thanks. If you know of anyone who would like to receive the 'NEWS, just let us know. We'll do the rest. No-one is chased for money, the subscription payment is up to you.

Muriel Land (32), Richard Dowle (56), Carolyn Whiteside (53), Margaret Harris (40), Mary Palmer (51), Jackie Sherlock (63), Roger Newman (57), Joan Ford (45), William Ashley (30), Sibyl Watts (26), Audrey Denning (32), Rex Parry (50).

We have lost contact with MRS WENDY DODD, last heard of in Spain, the 'NEWS having been returned. If you know where she is or are moving yourself, please let us know.

We have held some material to next time, but please keep writing and sending those photographs!

...AND FINALLY...

The '51 Pensioners' Party took place in May. Here's a few shots which illustrate the enjoyable time had by all. Zimmer frames were parked outside.



COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

Here are your Committee Members after the April 2005 AGM who will be pleased to answer any queries or will be happy to hear your suggestions for the future of KOSA:

Stan Burrage (1951-56) Chairman, 7 Old Bristol Road, Nailsworth, Glos. GL6 0LJ Tel: 01453 832 952
Peggy Bolt (Ottlet) (1938-43) Vice-Chmn 293 Badminton Road, Downend, Bristol, BS16 6NU Tel: 0117 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: 0117 956 5689
Eileen Bendrey (Matthews) (1952-59) 26 Overdale Road, Downend, Bristol, BS16 2RT Tel/Fax: 0117 956 5689
Gordon Bolt, 293 Badminton Road, Downend, Bristol, BS16 6NU Tel: 0117 956 4020
Bill Cox (1927-34), 45 Downend Road, Downend, Bristol, BS16 5UF Tel: 0117 956 7019
Bob Gray (1949-56) 4 Ludlow Court, Willsbridge, Bristol, BS30 6HB Tel: 0117 932 5934
Alan Hireson (1962-69) 95 North Street, Oldland Common, Bristol BS30 8TP Tel: 0117 932 6607
June Long (1939-45) 5 Clevedale Court, Downend, Bristol, BS16 2SG Tel: 0117 956 7910
Jean Walters (Lovell) (1948-56) 9 Selworthy, Kingswood, Bristol BS15 2RJ Tel: 0117 987 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 1st October 2005 at Lincombe Barn, Overdale Road, Downend, Bristol

Name _____ Guests' Names: _____

Maiden Name _____

Address _____

Post Code _____

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: 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 _____

Post Code _____

Years at KGS _____ to _____

*We do not chase for an annual subscription
Your Committee simply 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'

KOSA OPERATION ARCHIVE/ADDRESS UPDATE

If you would like to take part in building up an archive of KOSA members and their achievements, please fill in the form below. Please feel free to leave any questions unanswered. Thanks for your help.

FULL NAME: _____

MAIDEN NAME: _____

DATE OF BIRTH: _____

JUNIOR SCHOOL PRIOR TO KGS: _____

YEARS AT KGS - Please give the forms for each year

PLEASE LIST ANY FORM-MATES' NAMES (continue over):

Do you have a form photograph you would be willing to lend KOSA? yes/no

ACTIVITIES:

Were you in any teams (sport, chess etc)? If you recall any dates and results, please give them. Were you in any plays, etc? Give details.

LEAVING KGS:

What qualifications did you obtain at KGS?

Where and what did you study after leaving KGS?

Qualifications obtained - academic and professional: