



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...



WELCOME to another collection of reminiscences of our school-days and perhaps a way of catching up with those friends with whom we have inevitably lost contact over the years. In some cases we may sadly learn in the 'NEWS' of their passing, and it's then when we regret not getting in touch sooner.

My editorial comments in earlier editions, perceived to be in favour of bringing back the grammar schools, have prompted some correspondence. As we go to press, the future of secondary education seems yet again to be in the melting pot, with the government planning to make substantial changes. I hope that they get it right this time, otherwise a whole generation will be affected, perhaps adversely, by the constant political tinkering with our educational system.

I believe most of us will consider ourselves to have been fortunate to have had the benefit of a grammar school education. However, perhaps the 11+ was too early to discriminate, and it was clearly attractive to adopt comprehensive schools as the solution. But have they really achieved their early promise?

DIARY DATES...

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING:

Like all good and well-run organisations we have an AGM. This year our AGM and Buffet Lunch is booked for **SATURDAY, 8 APRIL 2006** at Lincombe Barn. We meet at between 12 and 12.30, a quick AGM at 12.30 when you can have your say about KOSA and its future, then we sit down to a hot buffet lunch at about 1.00pm. Painless! Then you can chat to your heart's content with your old friends over a beer or a glass of wine. Fill in the enclosed form now and send it to our Treasurer, MARTIN HARRYMAN, 5 Brecon View, Bleadon Hill, Weston Super Mare, BS24 9NF Tel: 01934 812315. All cheques payable to 'KOSA'.

AUTUMN LUNCH:

Lincombe Barn, Overndale Road, Downend has already been booked for our Autumn Lunch for **SATURDAY, 14th OCTOBER 2006**. We meet at about noon for a chat and sit down for lunch at about 12.45pm. Please put it in your diary now.

OBITUARIES...

KOSA has received the sad news from Albin B Smith that his wife of 49 years, JEAN SHEILA SMITH nee CRANDON (42-47) died suddenly on 20 June 2005. Jean's particular local KGS friend was JOAN WARD (now WILDGOOSE). Albin, who was a pupil of St George Grammar School, told us that he always read our magazine with a bit of jealousy, as St George did not have an equivalent.

JEAN LAURIE ROBINSON (39-43) sadly died on 7 April 2005 after suffering a severe stroke. She always spoke of her years at KGS with affection.

Her varied career encompassed working as a lab technician at Bristol University Physics Dept; and a fund-raising organiser for both RNIB and Barnardo's, and her many interests included photography, painting and amateur dramatics.

Friends will remember her for her outgoing personality.

JO DUNN (31-36) has sent us a copy of the lengthy obituary of REX GIBSON (43-50?) which appeared in *The Independent* on 8 June 2005. Rex was awarded the first Shakespeare's Globe Sam Wanamaker Award in 1994 'for the most outstanding contribution by an individual...to the world's knowledge of Shakespeare'. He was the prime mover and series editor of the Cambridge School Shakespeare series launched in 1991, and he and his wife Margaret (Powell) are described as 'living and breathing Shakespeare'. Clearly, Rex was a world authority on Shakespeare.

Rex graduated from Bristol University in 1953, served as a lieutenant in the Dorset Regiment, and obtained his Cert. Ed. at Redland College in 1958. He became deputy head of a Mangotsfield School and obtained his PhD from London Uni-

versity. In 1973 he was appointed to the staff of Cambridge University. He died in a Cambridge Hospital on 1 May 2005 after an illness.

EILEEN BEACHAM (34-39) (later CASTERA) died on 4th September 2005 aged 84 years, and her old friend, contemporary and former Lord Mayor of Bristol, KATHLEEN HAWKINS (34-38) now MOUNTSTEPHEN wrote to KOSA NEWS:

'I first met Eileen when we were both 14 at Speedwell Girls' School. We had a wonderful headmistress, Miss Elkins, and she organised first Eileen's entrance to KGS and then mine. Because we were older than the rest of the entrance class, we were meant to do a speedy removal into an age-related class, and Eileen managed it before I did!

'Those were happy years for us both, she was always keen on sport, tennis, hockey, netball and PT (in gloves and scarves!) but I loathed all of it. Our friendship survived, nevertheless, for 70 years.

'After leaving the 6th Form at the beginning of 1939, she went to work at the Admiralty in Bath and in her spare time she served in the RAF Cadets. I married in 1940 and from then on she spent a lot of time with us, many mornings almost missing the Bath bus! At the end of the war she did her Teacher Training Course and taught senior girls at Brislington until she married Jean Castera, a friend of her brother COLIN BEACHAM, also a KGS scholar.

'They were married for seven years, Jean was in an elite French officer group, and Eileen went with him to Germany and their two sons were born there. Jean was sent to the Cameroons, and Eileen was all packed up ready to join him when she had the news that he



had been shot down whilst on patrol and lost his life.

'She returned to Capbreton in SW France, where Jean's parents were schoolmaster and schoolmistress, having been active in the French Partisans. Eileen planned to bring up her three children in France as Jean would have wanted. We had arranged for Anne, the eldest child, to come to us that Autumn to go to school with our children to perfect her English, which she did.

'Our eldest boy used to go to Eileen and we also visited, as Eileen did us. Anne came back to Southampton to gain her MSc and married an Englishman, Ian, so in many ways it was full circle. Eileen's parents-in-law were very good to her, very helpful with the children, and she built the house Jean had intended for them. Colin was a good brother to her in her exile, for I truly think she saw it as that, and her school friends, too.

'Eileen had planned a visit to England this October when Colin was going to France, and we were all looking forward to it. She was a dear lovely girl. She died in her sleep.'

In the photograph (above), taken at the end of school in 1938, Kathleen is shown on the left, MARGARET PEACOCK (now EDWARDS) in the centre and EILEEN BEACHAM on the right.

Past Deputy Head of KGS and teacher of French and German STANLEY JARVIS passed away on 15 November 2005 aged 92. He joined KGS in 1956, succeeding 'TOM' MOODY as Deputy Head and left to become Head of Leominster Grammar School. In 1967 he returned to the area to become Heads of Keynsham Grammar School and later Wellsway County Secondary School from 1969. He led the Wellsway School until 1974 when he moved to Ralph Allen School, in Bath.



Stanley Jarvis was born in Aylesbury and won a scholarship to St Catherine's College, Oxford where he gained a first class honours in French and German. He lived in Salford and was an active member of Victoria Methodist Church in Keynsham.

CECIL ROBERT GARTON LAWRY (33-37), usually known as PETER, passed away last August. Peter started work at Fry's as an apprentice after leaving school and worked there for 45 years, finally retiring as a Senior Manager in Maintenance.

After 4 years in the RAF, in 1945 Peter married Mary, who was herself in the WAAF, and they celebrated more than 60 years of marriage. Peter was a Scoutleader in Downend for many years, Chairman of Fry's Old Time and Modern Sequence Dance Club for 17 years and was an active member of Hanham Folk Centre, having been Chairman of both the Dance Club and the Car Club there. He had also been President of his Probus Club. Peter was active in Freemasonry, which he joined in 1959, and he was Master of Tyndall Lodge, Downend, in 1972.

Peter had been ill for the past 14 years before passing away on 28 August 2005.

As we go to press the sad news has come through from New Zealand that GORDON HARRIS (32-38) passed away on 29 October 2005. Gordon had been resident in a nursing home for some time following a stroke and had been unable to read and write in the latter stages of his life. Despite this, Gordon's death was sudden - his wife JOAN BLYTHE (32-38) had enjoyed a glass of wine with him only the previous day.

Catherine Horton has informed us of her father's death:

'JOHN BRIAN DAVIES (36-43) died peacefully at home in Codsall, South Staffordshire, on 20 February 2005, less than a week after cancer had been diagnosed.

'He had been Head Boy at KGS before going up to Emmanuel College, Cambridge, to read Maths and Physics. His interests throughout life were many and varied: from hill walking to cricket, Mozart to astronomy, Shakespeare to code-writing (the latter particularly for the entertainment of his four grandsons and one granddaughter). His death

came just six weeks after he celebrated his eightieth birthday – a day which he had been able to enjoy with his family despite ill-health.

'Whilst at Cambridge he became both intellectually convinced and spiritually drawn to evangelical Christianity, the main driving force for the rest of his life.

'He was prevented from being called up into the armed services by asthma but played his part in the war effort as an engineer in Armstrong Siddeley's aircraft manufacturing works in Coventry, and this work continued for some years. His love of the hills drew him to a Methodist Guild Guest House in Barmouth, on the Mawddach estuary in West Wales, where he met his future wife, Phyllis, who was employed there to lead the guests on mountain walks.

'The couple married in 1952 and soon moved to the Wolverhampton area, where John worked as an engineer for Boulton & Paul, also aircraft manufacturers, and their two daughters were born. Later he moved to Wolverhampton Polytechnic, where his love of Maths and Computing found full expression in an academic environment. But he was always interested in relating abstract learning to practical engineering. Many of his students were studying a branch of engineering and a number were overseas students or from one of the ethnic minorities so well represented in the West Midlands, who appreciated the patience he displayed when faced with language or cultural differences. His gentle approach and genuine interest in people as individuals made him a much loved, as well as respected, lecturer.

'Sadly, Parkinson's Disease was diagnosed in 1990. John gradually lost the ability to enjoy some aspects of life that were most precious. He rose to the many challenges this illness presented,

with characteristic courage and cheerfulness. His theology was able to cope with the changing circumstances and John died in faith and in hope of resurrection, a Christian gentleman in every sense.'

JOYCE IVORY (1928-1933) later Wheatley passed away in August 2005 and her obituary has been sent to KOSA NEWS by her son, DAVID WHEATLEY, who was Head Boy in 1961:

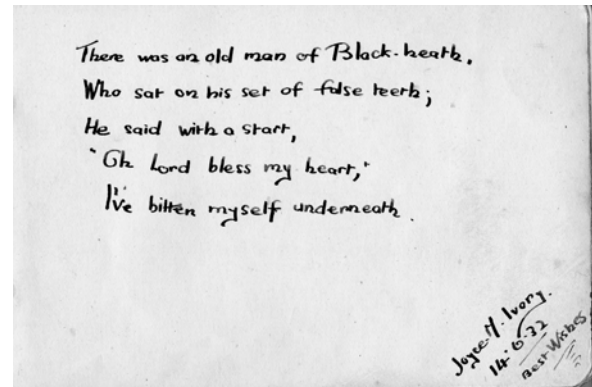
'Joyce was born on 21st December 1917 to Alf and Emily Ivory at Kendleshire, Gloucestershire, youngest of 4 children. The family later moved to Cassell Road in Fishponds. Her father was a well-known local sportsman, being for a time captain of the Downend CC 1st XI, as well as playing for the Cleeve RFC 1st XV. After gaining a 'scholarship' to KGS, Joyce soon followed in her father's footsteps, captaining both the 1st hockey XI and the school tennis team – often partnering her cousin JOYCE EDWARDS (later Stevens).

'Whilst in her 'Matriculation Year' Joyce took the lead of the 'plaintiff' in the school production of *Trial by Jury* by Gilbert and Sullivan. Joyce was very popular with the KGS boys and had a whole string of well known male admirers – including SIR BERNARD LOVELL and FRANK ('ALF') WILTSHIRE.

'Joyce eventually married 'leading craftsman' Philip Wheatley in March 1941 – Philip was in 'civvy street' a music teacher, and all Joyce's 3 children – DAVID (54-61), PAUL (57-64) and HELEN – now Brocklebank (60-67) followed her to KGS and inherited the family's musical talents.

'Despite being widowed in 1953 and having to struggle financially in those early years, Joyce led a full and active

life, continuing to dance, cycle and play tennis – she got the KGS parents' tennis team up and running in the 50's and was its captain for many years.



'Joyce's health began to deteriorate around Eastertide and after a long spell in hospital, she eventually died on August 28th 2005 in Blackberry Hill hospital aged 87.'

ESME RIDGE now BRITTON writes about the passing of her friend:

'It is with the deepest regret that I am writing to tell you that my old friend, AUDREY CURTIS (41-47) later JOHNSON passed away on 8 September 2005, in Dorchester. She would have hated 'passed away', and would have probably crossed it out and put 'died'. However it's phrased, it is very hard to think that she was not indestructible after all.

'Aud stormed across the scene at KGS, creating minor mayhem and major fun, quite unable to resist any chance of a prank. She was always willing to carry out anybody's wild plan, whatever the consequences, and threw herself into everything extra-curricular! She was a strong games-player, a talented artist and an excellent mimic. She could do MISS POWELL perfectly – even Flo herself agreed! Although she was good at anything which caught her interest, her

ambitions were not academic ones. After several years of debilitating illness, her mother died, and Aud set her sights on leaving home to join the WRENS.

'In 1947 she went into the Fleet Air Arm as an air mechanic, showing such an aptitude for the work that she was one of 12 Wrens selected for special training to a much higher level as a Pilot's Mate – a title which gave rise to some leg-pulling! By now she was known as 'Stiv', which had been her brother's nickname at KGS, and that was how everyone knew her from then on. She had a reputation for being a joker, and there are plenty of funny stories to tell about her exploits. It was no surprise to hear that she had managed to be in one of the planes at the Spithead Review for the Queen – strictly forbidden for a Wren – but that was Aud!

'It was in the Navy she met her husband Collin, and their first job in civilian life was running a pub near Slough, where Aud developed her great gift for socializing, chatting to all kinds of people over a drink, something she enjoyed – and practised – for the rest of her life, and which led to many long friendships.

'They moved to Dorset with their two daughters, Lindsay and Noelle, and there Aud did a variety of jobs until a lucky chance took her into journalism. She became a hugely popular columnist, *The Wanderer*, on *the Dorset Echo* for the next 20 years. She grew quite passionate about Dorset, MAJOR EATON'S beloved Hardy country, and researched local history and customs for her daily writing. She attracted a great following of readers and many glowing tributes have been printed since her recent retirement. She actually kept up her column until only a few weeks ago, terminally ill as she was, with lung and bone cancer.

'She dealt with the cancer as she did with everything else – face up to it and then get on as best you can. Unable to walk or lie down, she had her hospital room arranged with a reclining chair but no bed, giving her room for her computer, books, records, general clutter and a few bottles for the refreshment of visitors! She loved visitors, and they poured in every day.

'Every year Aud had what she called her birthday bash, and she was determined to have it this year as she was 75 on 9 August. She was taken by car to hold court in the car park outside the place where her daughter and son-in-law were cooking pub breakfasts for the 150 people who turned up! It was her last fling, and the cancer was finally winning.

'Meanwhile, she put all her affairs in order, then planned her funeral. We went into the church to the strains of rock & roll – *The Wanderer*, and left the crematorium to Monty Python's *Always Look on the Bright Side of Life*, which was her philosophy.

'Everywhere she went, she knew people, or someone knew her, reflected in the number of people who came to fill and overflow the church, holding 'Stiv' in real affection, all having their lives enhanced by knowing her.

'Aud was devoted to her family, her girls and their own families, Collin having pre-deceased her by several years. Her death leaves a huge void in their lives, the lives of her brother TONY CURTIS (39-46) and his family, and certainly mine after a friendship of more than 65 years!'

Other members whose passing have been notified to us are DOREEN LEAT, formerly BELLAIRS (41-46), who lived in Shirehampton, FRANK WILTSHIRE

(31-36) from Downend who died in December 2004 and PHYLLIS CHARLESWORTH, formerly WATTS (29-35), also from Downend.

To all those who have lost a loved one we send our condolences.

THE LOST FRIEND...

JO DUNN (31-36) has responded to MURIEL HILL'S (34-37) (now JAMES) effort to find DORA DUNN (34-37):

'Muriel is, understandably, sad at losing contact with my sister DORA DUNN (later BOWYER). They were in the same year at KGS and were close friends. Very sadly, Dora died on 13 May 2005 aged 82 following an illness. I have written to Muriel to tell her this and for her to contact me if she wishes to know more. Please add the address to the enclosed SAE and pass to Muriel. (Done – Ed.)

'I was also very interested to read on pages 7-8 about the remarkable career of PAUL JOBBINS (59-64). It so happens that I was at Buckingham Palace myself on 24 May 2004 to receive a lower award (MBE) and clearly remember his receiving the George Medal from HRH Prince Charles. I had no idea that he, too, was an ex-scholar of KGS!'

KOSA's congratulations go to Jo on her award – Ed.

On a later charming postcard of the village of Charlbury, where she lives, Jo writes:

'Muriel phoned me straight away and expressed her sadness on hearing that Dora had died. I remember Muriel very well, and we talked at great length and agreed to keep in touch, which will be easier now that I have her address and telephone number,

'I wish particularly to correct an error to Muriel's reference to my and Dora's brother RENNIE DUNN (28-33). He was, in fact, a Hawker Hurricane fighter pilot who, on the eve of World War II was, with other members of his squadron, posted to Lille, in France. He was engaged in action there until the squadron was returned to England on the fall of France. He was killed in a flying accident on 1 June 1940, at the age of 23.'

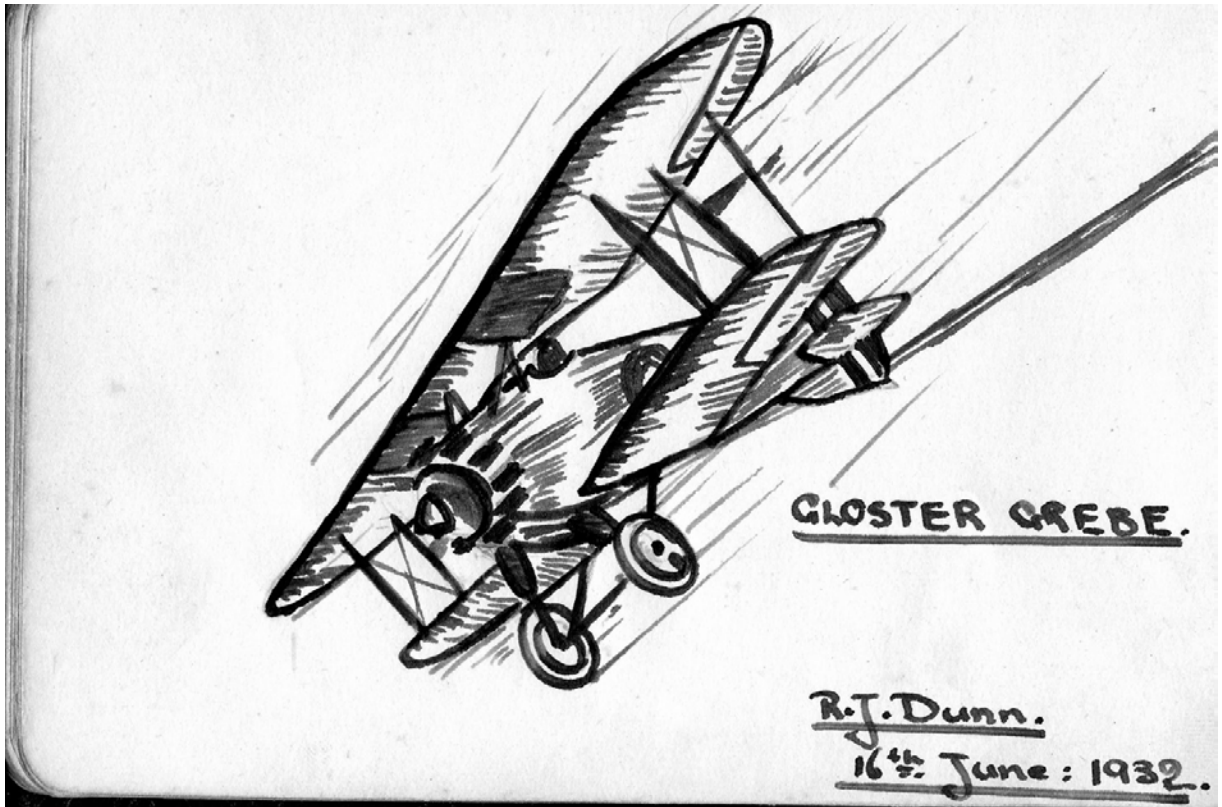
AUTOGRAPH BOOKS...

Do you remember those little autograph books (mainly kept by the girls!) in which friends were invited to write their contribution? Well, RUTH SPRACKMAN (29-35) now Brentnall has lent KOSA NEWS hers from the 1930s in which some of the RENNIE DUNN drawings appear (see example over).

It's clear how much Rennie was interested in flight and the drawing is somewhat prescient of the sad end which he experienced. Many of Rennie's drawings in the autograph books to which he contributed were of aircraft in flight.

Contributions are also included from MISS QUINTON (later Senior Mistress) in Latin, of course, and other staff such as 'POP' SEARLE, MISS M. A. 'MA' PERRY, 'CHARLIE' HOWARD, and B JONES, the Chemistry Master who died whilst on holiday abroad. Can anyone translate Quinnie's verse from *Virgil*?

There are also contributions from pupil friends, of course. Those well-known Downend residents BILL COX (27-34), now a KOSA Committee member, and PHYLLIS WATTS (now Charlesworth), and also G W PARNELL who gave his life, as did RENNIE DUNN, in the Second World War. The contribution by JOYCE IVORY is shown by her obituary in this edition.



Kingswood Grammar School,
nr. Bristol

"Facilis descensus Averno,
noctes atque dies patet atri ianua Ditis:
Sed revocare gradum superasque evadere ad antras,
Hoc opus, hic labor est"

Virgil. Aeneid VI

Wich best wishes.

G. E. Quintan

A. D. 21 Kal. Aug.

THE CHELLS...

JANET CHELL (56-63) now Matthews responds to a query in 'NEWS No: 27: 'In the last edition JOHN LOXTON asked whether it was MARY CHELL who taught him, and terrified him, at Mangotsfield School. It was not Mary but her sister-in-law, our mother, Mrs Violet Chell. She is remembered as a strict disciplinarian, but she did get them through the 11-plus. She was not a KGS pupil, but the three of us were: MARGARET (now GREGORY) (54-61) now in Montreal, Canada, JANET (now Matthews) (56-63) now in Seaton, Devon and RICHARD (60-61), living in Frenchay.

'Maybe others who were terrified by Mrs Chell will identify themselves!'

PLANE SPOTTING...

JACK WITHEY (41-46) writes about the war years:
'Harvest Camp. I think it was 1943, at the height of the war. We were camped near Dursley and every lad worth his salt was interested in aeroplanes and stopped what he was doing if he heard an aircraft approaching – a) to establish if it was friendly and b) to identify its make, if British.

'This particular day we all found astonishing: a plane appeared flying low, and we couldn't believe what we were seeing. It didn't have propellers! How could a plane fly without propellers? What we were seeing was a test flight of the jet plane, the Gloster meteor, but this was secret at the time.

'It appears that this plane was used to combat the V1 or Buzz Bomb as it became known. It was fast enough to catch the V1 over the North Sea, and using its wing tip would upset its flight and send it crashing into the North Sea.

It was far too dangerous to shoot at it as the subsequent explosion would destroy the Meteor.'

ANNE'S DAISIES...

ANNE BROWN (54-60) now UPTON was reminded of something which was discernable from her form photo:

'Having read the Summer 2005 edition and PAUL DAVIES' (54-61) letter and seen the photo of 1VG1, I noted the shoes I was wearing. (I am sitting third from the left in the front row). Now I don't expect the male readers to understand this at all, but the girls will know what I mean, I REMEMBER THOSE SHOES!

'I had to wear lace ups at the beginning of my time at KGS, heavy clod-hoppers that I loathed. I used to put them on after school and walk round and round the bedroom, doing my homework, desperately trying to wear them out! Eventually they did, or I out-grew them and my dear Mum said that I could wear the slip-ons that all the other girls were wearing.

'Then heaven! My mother, in a moment of weakness, allowed me to have those shoes. They were beige suede, very unsuitable but wonderful! If only ROGER WINDSOR (55-60) hadn't kept pushing me down the coal-hole, my mother might have consented to buying me another pair!'

THE COMMERCIALS...

An illustration (well, three actually!) of how KGS people stick together over the years is on the following page. V1 Commercial posed for their photograph in 1958 at school. They met again in 1988 and some of them came to the KOSA reunion last October 2005 at Lincombe Barn. 47 years!

V1 COMMERCIAL



1958 - left

Back:
Margaret Jenkins,
Yvonne Randall,
Janice Packer
Mrs Hurst, Maureen
Jenkins, 'Nettie' Nixon
Front:
Hazel Alvis, Pat Flew,
Jean Hurst

1988 - right

Back:
Margaret Jenkins,
Yvonne Randall, Janice
Packer, Maureen
Jenkins, Jeanette 'Nettie'
Nixon
Front:
Hazel Alvis, Pat Flew,
Jean Hurst



2005 - left

L to r:
Irene Luffman,
Maureen Jenkins,
Jeanette Nixon, Hazel
Alvis, Margaret
Jenkins, Terry
Carter (!), Pat Flew

QUEL AGE...?

TONY FARR (63-70) was reminded of some French homework:

'I was interested to read the comments of one of my French teachers, ELEANOR SPILL (55-82), and I am reminded of an anecdote.

'Miss Spill rather unwisely set us a homework in which we were to describe our teacher. As part of this, we were invited to estimate her age. When you are 12, everybody over 25 looks very old so I made what I thought was a reasonable guess.

'When reporting back on the homework, Miss Spill told us how some kind members of the class had flattered her by suggesting that she was about 'vingt et un', but one horrible boy had written "Mlle. Spill a cinquante ans". I was mortified, especially when I was told by somebody in the class that Miss Spill was a contemporary of his mother at school, so was actually 'trente-neuf'. I apologised profusely and learnt an early lesson on the delicate matter of a lady's age. Miss Spill graciously accepted my apology and I am happy to repeat it here.

'Whilst I did not continue my study of French beyond 'O' level, I retain a love of the language and enjoy brushing up my skills each time I visit French speaking countries. For this, I am grateful to Mlle. Spill and others, such as M. WINTOUR'

...NOCH MEHR...

Continuing with the language theme and members of staff, we have news from KEITH SHARPE who taught mainly German but some French at KGS in the late 50s.

Your editor and spouse, EILEEN MATTHEWS (52-49), visited Keith and his charming wife Marlies at their home near Limburg in Germany last summer. They have lived in Germany for over 20 years

where Keith had taught English in a school before retiring a few years ago.



Keith remembered the sixth formers at KGS who took 'A' level German and were contemporaries of Eileen, particularly JOHN TIDBALL and TONY WARR, and would like to be remembered to them. Both Keith and Marlies (above) are well and seem to be enjoying their retirement. At the time, Keith was still very interested in the Test series against the Aussies - even a long time in Germany doesn't remove the concern for the Ashes from an Englishman's blood!



TEACHER and PUPIL

The photograph (above) is of teacher Keith Sharpe and pupil Eileen Matthews over 45 years on. Keith was instrumental in encouraging Eileen's love of the German language at KGS. They both obtained German degrees from the University of Bristol.

AN APPRECIATION...

GORDON JONES (46-53) recalls his 11 plus and his time in the primary school:

'During the last year of my time at Hanham Abbots primary school I found myself in the class of Mr. W.M.Malpass. It was then that the problem of "The Scholarship" for attendance at the Grammar School arose. That held no problems for me because I was considered by all, including my parents, to be a dreamer, and lazy to boot.

'At an appropriate time "Sir" talked at length to each pupil individually. I had no idea what it was all about until it was my turn. The basis was, of course, the forthcoming exam.

"What's the point of me taking them?" I asked, "I know I won't be able to pass." "Of course you can pass, and I expect you to." was the reply. There followed a series of pointers about how I could really improve my results, particularly in English, (Composition it was called.) and arithmetic. "Think of it this way and don't worry about them." He also mentioned again the "Malpass Golden Rules" which were written large above the cupboard to the right of the blackboard. I remembered them, and I know that I applied them throughout my school life, and beyond. Sadly I cannot remember now what they were, but that's normal I guess. He talked to me like an intelligent being and nobody had ever done that before. I was being encouraged and that was something new. I would never forget that man.

'15 years later, when I gave up my several sorties into mundane jobs and found myself facing a real career at last, I then said a very sincere mental "Thanks" to my past mentor. At the time of my retirement (after another 35 years) I again thought very fondly of him and said "Thank You" once again as I did at

every stage of progress within my chosen profession. From that time on I often thought how sad it was that I was never able to really express my gratitude personally to that wonderful man.

'It was by pure chance that I discovered KOSA, and a year or so afterwards saw an article written by PETER MALPASS (48-55) mentioning his father. I straight away contacted Peter and discovered that M.W.M. was still living at his same address in Hanham. I wrote a letter immediately, explaining all this and requesting to see him sometime. I was invited a few weeks later and spent more than two hours in very active conversation from both sides. To my surprise that man had such incredible recall of all of his past pupils, as was obvious as we talked about the characters in my class at that time. Then I mentioned that I had an older sister who was also in his class at one time. He asked her name, and then, after a moment or two of thought, he gave me a very accurate description of a ten year old girl exactly as I knew her from family photographs. She is now 82 years old and had left home for a wartime job in nursing before I had left that school.

'I was saddened when I attended his funeral, but I felt satisfied that I was actually able to say "Thank you, so much." to the man that made such a deep impression on me at an early age. In fact I also thanked him on behalf of, what must have been, thousands of other pupils who would never have had the opportunity to say the same. I don't think any of them would argue about that. Nobody forgets a good teacher.'

THAT 11 PLUS...

MARLENE HAYWARD (53-60) responds to the Editorial in the last edition:

'Concerning the last Editorial: Should we bring back the Grammar Schools? I

passed the 11+ to KGS when it was based upon General Intelligence and the 3Rs.

'The words 'Grammar School' in the Oxford dictionary means 'a secondary school with academic curriculum'. To study for a profession, one had to secure an 'O' level pass in English language. Mathematics running a close second. It was the old 3 Rs.

'I was diametrically opposed to comprehensive education from its conception. "Change and decay in all around I see" Comprehensive has proved of itself to be comprehensive in most aspects. Today's news will repeatedly inform us it is comprehensive of violence and drugs and abject matters. The establishments are too large for Heads or Heads of Departments to know the children personally. I believe when I attended KGS in 1953 we had some 700 pupils, and that was large enough.

'To reinstate the Grammar Schools one has to recall past times and the opposite. I attended Downend C of E School and my friends who were in the B stream were to pass on to the Page Secondary Modern School – another good school. However, the Secondary Modern had a grave stigma attached to it. The black and white truth was one was branded a failure at 11 – that was wrong. At the time it would have been better if the schools had been called 'Secondary Grammar' and 'Secondary Practical'. To work with one's hands is also God's gift. To watch the potter at the wheel is lovely, as is watching a glass blower creating a blue-glass object.

'In 1953 I was re-christened in my road as the 'Grammar Bug'. It brought forth its dangers. I attended Christ Church, Downend with my friends. My mother, with her wisdom, never allowed me to

wear my school uniform there. They, from the Sec. Mod., certainly didn't wear theirs. I could never go swimming with them.

'I consider it is best to have two smaller schools on the same campus – 'Secondary Grammar' and 'Secondary Practical'. Both being equal in value and necessity in life. Come on Kingsfield 6th Form General Debate Class – let's hear from you! What do you 16 to 18 year olds think of this issue? Let's read your views in KOSA NEWS. Although we are the elders, we still think and care about the pupils of our school and we are interested.'

In a short postcard from WILSON BARRETT (48-55), who lives in France, he simply warns 'I noted your plea in favour of grammar schools, but do not forget the dreaded hurdle of the 11+'

Perhaps something along the lines of Marlene's suggestion might be sensible.

WHERE ARE THEY NOW..?
KOSA NEWS has had a letter from JOYCE PYSOE (39-43) now MELLOWES asking for the whereabouts of MARION HENDY. 'She went to Bristol University with me and whom I lost touch with when I left Bristol in 1951. My husband, who died in 1968 was also an old scholar, I think 1924-30.'

KOSA would still like to know the whereabouts of staff member ELLIS PEAT, who taught Mathematics and Sport in the 1950s and also old scholar and staff member ROSEMARY WILLETTS, who taught French at about the same time.

If you would like to trace someone with whom you were at school and have lost contact, why not try the 'NEWS? We have been successful in the past and could help you in your quest.

MUSICAL MEMORIES...

GORDON JACKSON (55-62), who in response to the last editorial about grammar schools suggested that they should have been reformed, not abolished, has dropped us another line:

'I'm intrigued to be named as a frequent KOSA correspondent (see last edition). I hope that I don't outstay my welcome!

'I read JEAN LOVELL'S (48-56) (now WALTERS) obituary of her uncle PERCY LOVELL (31-37) with interest. Percy was at King's College, Cambridge in 1937 – 25 years before me. KOSA NEWS prints the music director's name as Basil Ord. Actually it was Boris Ord. Well, even that's not quite true as his real name was Bernhard. Boris was a nickname given to him as a young man after he had been involved in a production of Mussorgsky's opera *Boris Godunov*. He then took Boris Ord as his professional name.

'Your mentioning the end-of-term services ending with *Jerusalem* brings back memories. The services included a biblical reading ("But where shall wisdom be found?"), hymns, prayers, and MR RIDLEY'S summary of the term's achievements. The climax was the cheers from the Head Boy and the Head Girl. One would say "Let's give three cheers for the masters and mistresses of the school – hip hip hooray, hip hip hooray, hip hip hooray,!" The other would cry "Now let's give three cheers for the holidays!" Guess which got the biggest cheers! (This was certainly the pattern in the 50s and 60s – was it different before and after that period? – Ed.).

'Incidentally, Jerusalem has a tricky piano accompaniment (including a nasty leap in the introduction), which ERIC HILTON, the Music master, would invariably play with at least one wrong note! I

wonder whether he ever practised the piece.

'Talking of school services, the daily morning services usually had ERIC HILTON as pianist (he played a Bach chorale while Mr Ridley ascended the hall platform). In my last year it was decided to give the young pianists of 6th form 3rd year a go. The day came for me to accompany – when I reached the piano there was no hymn-book and Mr Ridley was coming onto the platform. He announced the hymn and fortunately read out the first verse – so I played a tune to fit!

'After the service Mr Ridley called me to his study. I had played the wrong tune! However, he had seen that there was no hymn-book on the piano, so he realised that I had made the best of the situation!'

LINKAGES...

The photographs on the opposite page are linked. The one above shows the 2005 Annual General Meeting of our Colorado, USA branch. We seem to be a bit light on membership at the moment and DEREK BAILEY (49-53) is President, Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer, Membership Secretary and Member and he was a bit fed up of holding meetings with himself. However, DAVE KER-SHAW (49-56) came to the rescue for last year's AGM when he visited Derek in 2005.

The lower photograph was taken by Derek in July, 1973 in the new 6th form block at KGS. On the right is MRS STAITE who taught Home Economics at that time. The link is the lady on the left, who is Nancy Bailey, Derek's American wife. Nancy has been to our reunions on a number of occasions.

Does anyone know what happened to Mrs Staite after she left KGS, and where she is now? Please let us know.



TOBIAS AND THE ANGEL...

Your editor remembers seeing his first play in the School Hall in his first year at KGS. As a rather naive 11 year old, when required to attend the dress rehearsal, I was amazed at witnessing JACK SANDOVER actually kissing, yes kissing, ANNE SLATER. Two photographs of the production have now come to light (opposite page), and the following report appeared in the *Kingswood Chronicles* of the time, written by DHO. (Was this DAVID OTLET?)

In a recent note to the 'NEWS, JACK SANDOVER agreed that MISS DAVID really made use of his 'naive certainty'. 'Naive, I was. Certain, I wasn't! I got quite taken with ANNE SLATER, though!' wrote Jack.

'At the end of the Autumn Term of 1951 three public performances of James Bridie's play *Tobias and the Angel* were given

'It was not until a week or two before its presentation that the school were awakened to the fact that a play was being produced in their midst, when frequent exhortations were made by the Headmaster to distribute tickets far and wide.

'For this play the Woodwork Department under Mr. Williams, and the Art Department under Mr. Watts, had long been busy making entirely new flats, which will provide the scenery for any future plays. Mrs. Staite, helped by Mrs. Watson and the girls, showed remarkable ingenuity in translating Mr. Watts's sometimes exacting designs into terms of calico and chemical dye. Mr. Holford held make-up classes, and the electricians went into consultation over the difficulties of creating the hot sunlit world of Persia and Mesopotamia. Miss Morrison trained the dancers; Miss Marrison gathered stage properties; and Mr. Hodson was ready to perform Herculean tasks behind the

scenes with the enormous flats. Meanwhile, under Miss David's direction, rehearsals continued in dinner hours, after school, and even on Saturdays—and finally—order came out of chaos, and all were ready for the first night.

'There was a good level of performance. Jack Sandover as Tobias, played his part with a naive sincerity which exactly suited the gentle charm of the play. He quite won the hearts of the audience who found irresistible the bond of affection which obviously existed between master and his dog Toby. Anne Slater gave a more sophisticated performance as Sara, and played a very difficult role with talent and charm. Perhaps the most impressive part was that of the Angel, and Clive Hall certainly did assume some aloof, ethereal quality which quite convinced the audience that he was a boy from another world. His fine voice and diction added much to this effect.

'The old father and mother were well portrayed by Barbara Tugwell and David Roseveare, who showed themselves able to bring out both the pathos and the humour of the parts. The smaller parts were each interesting in their own way. Gordon Jones, playing Sara's father Ragnel, proved a natural comedian, with his neat gestures and immobile countenance; David Hilling was a most attractive bandit; John Poole, as the foul fiend Asmoday, leapt and cavorted over the stage like a diabolic ballet dancer, and Sara's handmaidens danced, sang and fluttered about the garden in truly Oriental fashion, an effect enhanced by David Acton as the dusky Sam. The rapt silences and outbursts of laughter implied that the audiences thoroughly enjoyed the play. It is to be hoped that in the future there will be many such interesting and enjoyable plays as this one for future audiences to appreciate.'

- D.H.O



In a later letter Jack Sandover wrote: 'When you mentioned *Tobias and the Angel* I started to cringe! The photos will perhaps embarrass a few of the others, too. An earlier 'NEWS mentioned RON ILES (45-53), now living in Co. Cork. So I go onto the www and hey presto Ron

and I get in touch after 40 years. My wife and I passed through that area on our way to visit our son. Can I recommend the area to anyone wanting to discover quiet new places without guaranteed sun all day. Best wishes to all my old friends - too many to list here.'

KOSA AWARD...

In the last edition we announced that the KOSA Award of £100 to a student at Kingsfield School was awarded to JENNY MOORE. Jenny has now written to the 'NEWS to express her thanks, and we hope that Jenny will keep us informed as her stage career progresses:

'My name is Jenny Moore. I am the student from Kingsfield Secondary School who won the KOSA Student of the Year Award 2005. I am very delighted to be awarded this achievement.

'I believe this award is a very good idea as it credits pupils who may not necessarily achieve the highest academic standard yet constantly give 100% effort and hard work. When I first found out that I had won the KOSA Award I was shocked as I rarely achieve A-grade status in education. However, I like to contribute to all school activities such as school sports, musicals and shows, as well as helping fellow students and staff.

'I am very pleased to receive this award for my hard work. The money I have received will contribute to my further education on becoming a performing arts student. My long-term goal is to get a part in a musical or show, as singing and performing is my passion.

'Thank you again for giving me the KOSA Award, and I hope other students are as grateful as I am. I would like to take this opportunity of thanking my teachers and friends who have helped me through my school life.'

ONE FOR YOUR THOUGHTS...

PENNY ENGLAND (59-64) (now DEVERILL) sent the following memories to KOSA NEWS:

'My mother (born 1913) also went to

KGS. She would have been there sometime around the early 1920's, she grew up with and went to school (St. Annes C of E Oldland and KGS) with BERNARD LOVELL.

'On my very first day at KGS I saw MR WINTOUR striding down that long corridor, black gown flowing ...he looked like batman and, coming from such a small village school in Oldland where the entire population was 46 pupils, he scared the life out of me!

'MR RIDLEY was Headmaster in my time and MISS MORRISON, Headmistress, would delight in gathering us girls in the hall at least once a month to check the length of our skirts. She did this by getting us to kneel down... if your skirt touched the floor it was acceptable...if not then it was deemed too short. She taught Latin but even she had to admit defeat with me and I gave it up (or was it Miss Morrison who gave up?) after one year.

'I enjoyed Art very much and had one teacher, whose name escapes me, who could never actually remember how many children he had because his favourite comment was "I find I have 3 or 4 children" when trying to explain how one of his offspring could produce better art work than we did.

'My first form master was MR SHARPE (I think) I also believe he taught French. Also in the first year I had MISS WYCHERLEY ('Quietly People') for English followed by MR BRITTON. He once told my father (at a parents' evening) that I was incapable of finding three words and making a sentence which, considering I have published one book, am about to publish another and have written numerous magazine articles on my Family History, now has a touch of irony about it! His wife

taught Greek Mythology which comes in handy when we go away to Greece each year.

'Later on we had an amazing English teacher called MR LARKIN (we nicknamed him Alf) who could take off any voice, dialect or accent you cared to throw at him. Well do I remember him reading the first chapter of *Julius Caesar*, taking all the parts in various voices. We reckoned he was wasted as a teacher and should have been on the stage. He used to drive a very insecure bubble car which the boys constantly hijacked from the road alongside the school canteen.

'MR HILTON did his best to make me appreciate Music and it is to him that I owe my love of *Jerusalem*, however in later years it was the wonderful MISS HANVEY who instilled my passion for classical music as did MR NELSON with History.

'MISS RAPSON taught me Domestic Science and was responsible for dragging KGS into the 20th century. She was a very determined Cornishwoman who decreed she could not possibly teach girls the art of cooking and entertaining without the proper equipment and thus her first term at KGS saw the delivery of the latest Hotpoint twin tub washing machine, a deluxe Kenwood food mixer plus all attachments and a complete "make over" of the little flat adjoining the DS classroom.

'MISS SERCOMBE gave up trying to make me fluent in French, although MRS CONNIBEARE persevered and managed to teach me all the words to the *Marseillaise* ...nowadays this comes in handy when England play France at rugby because not only can I remain impartial by singing both anthems should my friend's French son-in-law be in the room but I can

also impress him with my grasp of the language.

'MR HUMPHRIES (Divinity, I think) used to run a debating society and once threatened to ban me if I didn't stop arguing so much....I could never understand why because what's the point of a debating society when you can't argue your point.

'I enjoyed playing tennis (but no other sports) and remember a "friendly" tournament against the staff at the end of my last term, I played in a doubles match against Mr Ridley's secretary and her friend, who were "leading lights" at a local tennis club. Before the match her husband took us aside to "assure" us that although they were the current unbeaten champions they would, naturally, not be playing to their usual standard today. Needless to say we beat them convincingly.... afterwards he tried to make light of the situation even suggesting he "use his influence" to get us immediate membership of the club (there was a long waiting list to join apparently) as we "clearly had potential" but it was obvious he was secretly incandescent with rage.'

AN APPEAL...

For some time now BOB MEAKER (62-69?), who lives and has a business in Majorca, has been keeping a web page up-to-date for KOSA on <www.kgs.info>. Our thanks to Bob for all his efforts and why not have a look at Bob's site, now?

However, Bob's business commitments are making it increasingly difficult for him to maintain the site and we are asking if there is anyone out there with the technical expertise (and the time) to keep the web site going. If so, please get in touch with Bob on <accounts@toptravel.com>.

1946er..?

Did you start at KGS in 1946? If so, this year represents 60 years since you stood there in trepidation as a young 11 year-old waiting to be told where to go on arrival at the school. PRISCILLA POWELL (46-51) now MAGUIRE and PETER BRAKE (also 46-51) wish to get you together to celebrate the event this summer at a reunion. Please contact Priscilla on 0117 959 3902 or Peter on 07759 70650 to tell them that you're interested.

KOBRFC ex player..?

You will have read on the front page of advance notice that our Autumn Lunch is being held on 14 October 2006 at Lincombe Barn. It has been suggested by JOHN BISHOP, JOHN COLE *et al* that we combine a 'Rugby Reunion' with the Autumn Lunch. So if you were a Kingswood Old Boys RFC player and would like to meet your old Rugger mates please reserve the date in your diaries now. We will be happy to put some tables aside for the rugby fraternity so that you can relive your past victories. Rose-coloured spectacles not supplied, but will undoubtedly be brought! More details in the next edition.

72-75 REUNION...

A successful reunion of 72-75 leavers took place at Hanham Community Centre on 28 May 2005. JULIE JOHNS (69-75) reports:

'After a few nervous moments on arrival (when people wondered whether they would recognise their former classmates after 30+ years), the room was soon buzzing with conversation. People came from France, Scotland and various parts of England for this 30th Anniversary Reunion. Having spent so much of our lives together, it was not surprising how quickly the familiarity returned and friendships were re-kindled. The evening flew past and everyone agreed we must

do it again..... so put 2010 in your diaries!'



Above are a couple of photographs of the event as supplied by ROB GERRISH.

1964 REUNION...

A reunion for those who started KGS in 1964 or were in the 6th Form from 1969 was held at the Tenniscourt Inn on 20 April 2002. RICHARD BENDREY (64-71) has brought to KOSA NEWS' attention the website set up as a record of the occasion. There are some very good photographs on the site, but the 'NEWS was particularly interested in the 'before' and 'after' of the 1966-67 Junior Rugby XV shown opposite. For those interested the website address is shown below: <http://mysite.wanadoo-members.co.uk/KGSReunion>.

It's great to know of all the reunions. If you want publicity for your event just let KOSA NEWS know and we'll include the notice. After the event let us have some photographs. The 'NEWS now goes to almost 1,200 Old Scholars.



Above:
The 1966-67 Junior Rugby XV

Below:
A shadow of their former selves outside the Tenniscourt Inn, 20 April 2002:
Nick, Chris, Richard (Bendrey), Peter, Rob, Clive
Geoff, Richard, Steve and Mark.



1938 SPEECH DAY...

EDDIE HAWKING (37-42) has sent KOSA an invitation and a programme of the 1938 Speech Day. Probably before the new School Hall was completed, the event was held at the Zion Hall in Kingswood. Other venues which are known to have been used were the Page Institute Hall in Staple Hill and also Congregational Church.

Kingswood Grammar School.

The Governors and Head Master request the pleasure of your company, and that of your friends, at the Speech Day Ceremony to be held in the Zion Hall, Kingswood, on Thursday, May 5th, at 8.0 p.m.

The Prizes will be distributed by
PROFESSOR J. E. V. CROFTS, M.A., B.Litt., The University
of Bristol.

Hawking

KINGSWOOD GRAMMAR SCHOOL

SPEECH DAY

Thursday, May 5th, 1938,

WITH THE
DISTRIBUTION OF PRIZES

BY
Professor J. E. V. CROFTS M.A., B.Litt.
(Professor of English in the University of Bristol).

The Chair will be taken at 8.0 p.m.
by
The Rev. T. HIRESON,
(Chairman of the Governors).

HIGHER SCHOOL CERTIFICATES.

Bristol University :
J. P. Wreford, (with distinction in Pure Mathematics).
J. B. Berry, R. S. Webley, (with distinction in Applied Mathematics).
D. H. Brown, S. H. Bransom, E. M. Hele, B. W. Martin
D. I. Perdue, W. S. Preddy, F. J. Woodley.

Oxford University :
R. Gill, P. Lovell, (with distinction in English and History).
W. Cole, E. Kirk.

FIRST SCHOOL CERTIFICATES.

Bristol University :
K. W. Barnfield, E. E. M. Beacham, J. L. Blythe,
M. E. Bryant, F. Cole, F. F. Davis, P. A. Every,
J. M. Grant, J. M. Hall, O. D. Halls, B. S. Labrum,
M. M. Lodge, M. E. Luxton, M. Malein, A. B. Naish,
R. A. R. Palmer, K. E. Peacock, E. M. Poole, J. W.
Riley, M. I. Robbins, E. S. Robinson, D. S. Routley,
R. M. Skidmore, W. E. Steele, H. J. Tillman, J. L.
Watts, J. A. R. Webb, B. Williams, E. M. Williams,
M. E. Williams, A. S. Wiltshire, A. W. Pullin.

Oxford University :
L. M. Lovell.

CIVIL SERVICE AND COMMERCIAL EXAMINATIONS, 1937-38.

Elementary Theory-Shorthand.
E. Callaghan J. Monelle, M. Burgess, M. Carter, N. Hill,
G. Swaffield.

Full Theory-Shorthand.
G. Swaffield, E. Callaghan, M. Carter.

Speed Shorthand.
M. Malein. 60 w.p.m.
F. Bence. 60 w.p.m.
F. Bence. 70 w.p.m.

Typewriting-Intermediate.
F. Bence, Elementary. (1st. Class).
F. Bence, Advanced. (Business Stage).

Book-Keeping-Elementary.
F. Bence, (1st. Class).

Civil Service Clerical Class.
W. Morgan, (First in England); V. Haskins.

PROGRAMME.

- The Chairman.
- The Head Master's Report.
- Distribution of Prizes.
- Address by Professor Crofts.
- The School Choir.
Two part Songs: (a) Greeting. *Mendelssohn*.
(b) Dream Song. *Rathbone*.
(c) Rolling down to Rio. *German*.
(d) I waited for the Lord. *Mendelssohn*.
- The Recorders.
Folk Songs: (a) Gathering peascods.
(b) Nancy's Fancy.
16th Century Air: Tower Hill.
Sonata for Recorders: (*Johan Matheson*.)
- M. Macfarlane.
English Speaking Prize poem. ("An ancient to ancients": *Hardy*).
- The School.
Jerusalem (*Parry*).
- The National Anthem.

Subject Prizes.

Highest School Certificate Result.	Presented by:
Divinity	The Head Master.
English	Miss G. E. Quinton
"	Mrs. P. Fussell
History	Mrs. Eaton
"	Rev. A. Lee-White
Geography	Miss O. Powell
French	Mr. H. F. Wren C.C., J.P.
"	Mrs. F. W. Brain
Latin	Mr. & Mrs. H. C. Monks
"	Mrs. Perry
Spanish	Dr. C. H. B. Elliott M.A.
Mathematics	—
"	Rear Admiral C. Hughes-Onslow
"	Mr. J. W. Reed
Science (Morgan Prize)	Mr. B. J. Woodhall, J.P., C.C.
Chemistry	Mr. W. H. Morgan J.P.
"	Mr. C. H. Gover B. Sc.
Physics	Mr. R. E. Love A.C.I.S.
"	Mr. S. G. Wilshire
Biology	Mr. C. Matthews C.C.
"	Prof. M. Skepe B. Sc.
Zoology	Mrs. C. Hughes-Onslow
Art	Mr. F. Eyres, J.P.
Art	Mrs. Hamblin
	Mrs. W. Haskins

Crafts	(S) Mr. A. Lear, J.P., C.C.	R. W. Maggs
"	(J) Mr. T. Burnham J.P., C.C.	K. Bastable
Domestic Science	(S) Mrs. R. E. Love	B. Williams
"	(J) Mr. Underdown	J. Baker
General Progress	Rev. T. Hireson	J. Macilwraith
"	The Staff	T. Beddoe
"	"	P. Yeend
General Reading	"	M. Rixen
"	"	K. Hawkins
"	"	R. Crocker
"	"	J. Lyne
English Speaking Prize	Mr. E. R. Brown	J. P. Wreford
"	Mr. A. M. Britton	M. Macfarlane
"	Miss M. M. Watters	B. Arnell

S. Senior School.
M. Middle School.
J. Junior School.

FORM PRIZES.

	1st.	2nd.	3rd.
V2A	M. L. Carter	W. J. Bates	M. L. Ashley
V2B	W. A. Hart	F. H. Turner	—
IVC1	D. J. Bateman	E. P. Every	M. Macfarlane
IVC2	M. N. Peacock	W. G. Didham	P. H. Carter
IIIA	K. Toogood	D. Tippett	—
IIIB	K. J. Harnell	B. Arnell	P. Furber
IIIC	R. M. C. Gillingham	J. G. Eastman	O. Hillier
IIA	M. W. Willmott	J. Flower	K. G. Long
IIIB	M. Hicks	J. Monk	V. Gowing
IIIC	J. Davies	M. Britton	K. G. Fussell

School Examinations, 1937-38.

SCHOLARSHIPS:

Open Exhibition in Natural Sciences, St. Hilda's College, Oxford.
E. M. HELE.

State Scholarship: P. A. LOVELL.

Merchant Venturers' Scholarships in Mathematics, Bristol.

B. W. MARTIN. D. I. PERDUE.

UNIVERSITY SUCCESSES, 1937.

W. F. Cox B. Sc.; 2nd. Class Honours in Physics, Bristol.
G. W. Parnell B. Sc.; 1st. Class Honours in Zoology, Bristol.
F. T. Hamblin: Ph. D. in Chemistry, Bristol.
F. J. W. Harding: "Sacher" Travelling Scholarship.

G. W. Parnell: University Research Scholarship in Zoology, Bristol.
Research Scholarship, Dept. of Industrial and Scientific Research.
"Heath Harrison" Travelling Scholarship, Oxford.
New College, Oxford.

APOLOGIES...

The gremlins are attacking the 'NEWS again, for which the editor takes full responsibility. In the last edition the obituary on page 4 was for DIANA BOSOMWORTH (49-54) later COLE, not DIANA BLOSSOM, as printed. Those around the wreckage of the plane at the bottom of the school grounds included DEREK WORNER, nor WARNER as printed. Apologies to all concerned. We're getting more like the *Grauniad* every time we publish!

AFTER 55 YEARS..!



Mr. Lewis Cox (left), retiring as head of the sixth form at Cowes High School, is seen with former pupil Geoffrey Collins who has gained a first class honours degree.

LEW COX (40-47) retired in 1989 as head of the sixth form at Cowes High School, but was appointed as teacher-naturalist at the Newtown Nature Reserve, IoW. He is now currently retired, of course, and lives in Bridgwater. After leaving KGS he served in the RAF as a parachute instructor and did his initial teacher training at Goldsmith College, London University.

He subsequently specialised in physical education at Loughborough College and later studied environmental science at Reading university. In 1952 he was head of PE at Dorchester Secondary Modern School, then moved to the IoW as head

of PE at Ryde School. After a number of appointments he became head of the sixth form.

Lew re-established contact with JOHN PENNY (40-47), whom he last saw in 1950 when they went sailing together on the Broads, and thanks to contemporary ESME RIDGE, now BRITTON, they met again at last October's reunion. The photo above was taken at Lew's 1989 retirement.

DEVELOPMENTS...

In 1968 the sixth form centre was opened at Kingsfield. Max Barnes from the *Evening Post* produced an article on 13 July 1968 to report on the development. From a rooftop catwalk on the new building Barnes commented 'Below us spread the story in bricks, mortar and wood of the school known to many as Kingswood Grammar School. The old school, a vintage building whose thread-bearness was hardly disguised by rambler roses in bloom.

'The wooden building along whose echoing floors so many pupils have passed...but the efficient language laboratory and two splendidly equipped lecture theatres of the new centre make the old world of Kingswood Grammar School seem far away'

Apologies for the rather poor reproductions of the article's photographs opposite. They show, from top left, CHRISTINE HODGKINS in the language laboratory, some of the students, NIGEL WILLMOTT (former head boy), HELEN LANE (former head of school), CATHRYN LUFF (head girl) and DAVID BATT (head of school), COLIN WINTOUR, Head of Modern Languages, operating the language laboratory and a general view of the modern library, showing the study booths.

Perhaps the end of an era?



The modern library with separated booths for students studying at Kingsfield School.

OUR POW...

In the last edition we published an excerpt from ALAN SCADDING'S (36-41) book. We have received another publication, this time from JOHN BERRY (32-38), who served as a German prisoner of war. Here are some excerpts from John's story.

'I worked for the Inland Revenue until I was called up...After two month's training I and another recruit named Frank Wright were transferred to a special unit which specialised in signals training. We joined the 2nd/6th infantry battalion of the east Surreys just before they were posted to France.

The first night we were allowed out Frank and I went to a local café where we ordered a meal in French. In walked a group from our battalion who ordered a meal, which contained eggs, in broken English. Not knowing French, they proceeded to demonstrate how an egg was laid and it was only after they had completed this demonstration that we revealed ourselves, whereupon we became known as 'the couple who knew French'.

'Attached to the 51st Highland Division, we were sent up to the front again to form a second line of defence. I spent some hours on the machine tapping out Morse sending a message reporting how the German tanks broke through our lines to the south. We somehow got detached from our battalion and after having slept the night in a farmhouse woke to find a German tank parked in the road outside, so we went out the back way, came across an abandoned vehicle and drove through the British lines at St. Valery en Caux.

'Eventually we were herded into a large building where most of us fell asleep, to be awakened by a cry for a signaler. They wanted to signal the Navy offshore

to fire on a German machine gun post. That he was successful was proved when, with its third shot the post was destroyed....but the signal came through from London that we were to surrender at 11am. By this time we were in a field, and at 11am the Germans appeared in their scores from the hills around, by which time we had destroyed our rifles. So we were captured.

'We were marched through France (passing close to Lille) and Belgium to Holland where the Dutch laid on soup for us made with peas. We then got on board barges which were to take us up the Rhine to the Ruhr, where I managed to see a German doctor as my hernia was beginning to concern me. He was more concerned to find traces of lice on me!

'We then went up to a camp in the Hamburg region for a couple of days, before going for two days on a train to Poland, via Berlin, where we finished in Stalag XX. I learnt that the Germans took literally the statement on the trucks which said eight horses or forty men.

'At this camp we had the first taste of British behaviour. In our ration was 2 7/8 biscuits per day, plus hot soup, but it was much later that we found that our ration was 3 biscuits, the rest going to the (British) cooks. The soup caused a nice dilemma: whether to go early and hope for seconds or go late and get the thick stuff at the bottom of the boiler!

'It was here that the British spirit first showed itself. The Germans put up a daily war bulletin and we soon decided that their U-boats had sunk more than the world's total shipping. One POW worked out how to get at the notices and one day put a note at the end 'One of our U-boats successfully torpedoed South-end Gas Works'. The Germans retaliated by not putting up any more notices!'

WELCOME...

Additions since last time are below. Maiden names are given in most cases, and the starting year in brackets, if known. When writing to KOSA NEWS it would be helpful if you would give your first name, surname, maiden name (if appropriate) and your years at KGS. Telephone and e-mail address would be an added bonus. Many thanks.

If you know of anyone who would like to receive the 'NEWS, just give us the above details and we'll do the rest. No-one is chased for money, the payment of a subscription is up to you.

Elizabeth Charters (57), Clive Godfrey (61), Wendy Daffern (71), Tina Milkelson (??), Jenny Whorrod (56), Jan Morgan (59), Joyce Pysoe (39), June Stephens (56), John Guthrie (64), Hazel Alvis (52), Richard Bendrey (64), Penny England (59), Wendy Bisp (56), Brenda Gane (56)

DID YOU KNOW..?

That there was a troupe of Sea Scouts at KGS? PAT WALKER (56-62) now Bryan has sent KOSA the photograph (below)

of the 57th Bristol Sea Scouts taken in 1960. Skip was Biology and Chemistry Master Chris Wilkinson. Does anyone know when the troupe started and how long it lasted?

THE PROFESSORS...

They're getting in the news again. SIR BERNARD LOVELL (29-31) unveiled a plaque at Malvern College last June commemorating the work carried out there by the Telecommunications Research Establishment during the war. 'It was among the greatest combinations of scientific talent ever assembled in Britain' he said. COLIN PILLINGER (54-61) was the subject of an unmerited vitriolic attack in *The Times* in January concerning Beagle2. He responded in suitably vigorous terms!

SO KGS...

The upper photo on the back page was sent to KOSA by English Teacher GEORGE BUTCHER (52-58) and is simply a view of the grounds during a summer lunchtime sometime in the 50s. No poses, no particular target subject, but it captures the atmosphere perfectly.



