



# KOSA NEWS



NUMBER 29 - SUMMER 2006

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...



This time we have included a small report on what is happening at Kingsfield School, our successor on what we often regard as the KGS site. TONY HART (55-58) visited the site when home from Australia:

'It was quite strange to see all the major changes, and particularly the loss of the main field in front of the school, which I remember well. Doing the 440 on that field was a horror, what with the wind and the slope! It was also disappointing to see that a large proportion of the rugby fields had gone - to housing. I remember playing many schools there, especially Lydney, which was always quite a trial.'

Looking on the bright side, the new school has many fine buildings dedicated to particular subjects, and the school has been awarded Special Status in Maths and Computing from September 2006. Whilst we in KOSA naturally look back to our schooldays, we must not ignore the progress which is taking place on a site which has been dedicated to education since 1921 - 85 years. Long may it continue.

Why not take a trip down to the site to see what is taking place there?

## DIARY DATES...

### **ANNUAL AUTUMN LUNCH**

Our Autumn Lunch is booked for **SATURDAY, 14 OCTOBER 2006** at Lincombe Barn. We meet at between 12 and 12.30 for a quick chat, then we sit down to a hot lunch at about 12.45 - 1.00pm.. It's an occasion when you can chat to your heart's content with your old friends over a beer or a glass of wine - as ever, we have arranged a cash bar. You will see on page 16 that we hope to make this a Kingswood Old Boys RFC Reunion, so if you wish to be with the rugby crowd please mark your form 'rugby' in red. 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'.

### **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING & BUFFET LUNCH:**

Booked for **SATURDAY, 14 APRIL 2007**. Please put it in your diary now.

## OBITUARIES...

BILL KNIGHT (48-55) has informed us of the death of his younger brother DON KNIGHT (50-58):

'Don joined KGS from Downend Church of England Junior School in 1950. At KGS he was fond of rugby and cricket and became a prefect before leaving. He played for Kingswood Old Boys RFC and, with MIKE WOOD (48-53), he founded the Vassals Cricket Club, which prospered for a number of years in Downend, but is now, I believe, defunct.

'He went on to study Law at Fitzwilliam House, Cambridge, where he was chairman of the Law Society. He enjoyed Cambridge and started to read for the Bar, but for financial reasons gave that up and did manual work for a year after graduating.

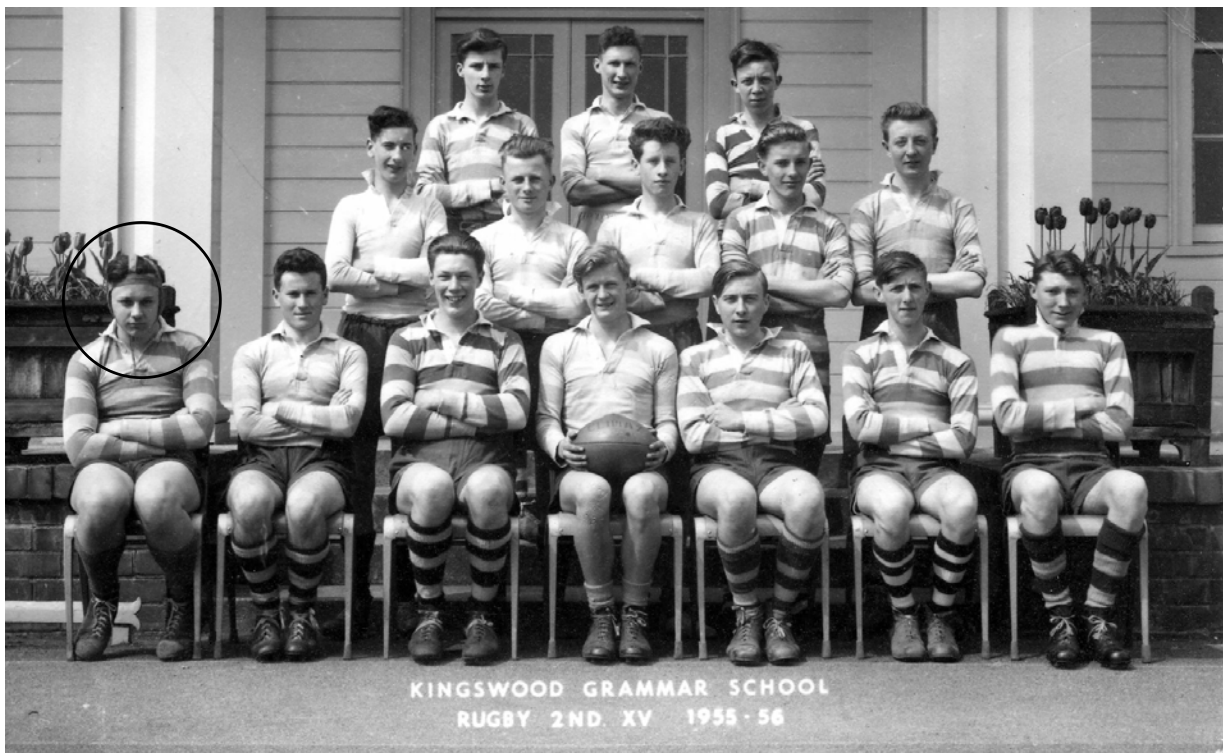
'He then became an account executive in a major advertising agency and in due course he and two colleagues founded Craton, Lodge and Knight, a prestigious firm of marketing consultants, of which

he was a director. He also practised as a respected London magistrate.

'Don was a leading light, committee member and for two years chairman of the Oxford and Cambridge Club in Pall Mall. There he presided over the contentious disputes which hit the national press some years ago over the admission of women to the club. He married Chrissy later in life, a business woman and former schoolteacher and governess in far-flung parts of the world. They lived in a flat in Kensington and a cottage in Suffolk and had no children.

'Don died suddenly from a heart attack, apparently without pain and totally unexpectedly on 1 April 2006. His funeral was held in the village of Marlesford and his club ran a memorial service in June in St. James Church, Picadilly. Great affection and respect for him was expressed by his old firm, the magistracy and his club.'

Don is seated on the left in the front row of the 55-56 photo below of the 2nd XV. The others in the front row are Giles, Banks, Goldsmith J, Malpass, Ticktum C, Jay. The middle row are Rodgers,



Cromwell R, Nicholls, Marsh, Head. The back row are Williams P, Cullen J, McKenzie.

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GEORGE BRERETON (32-38) also passed away in April 2006. We are indebted to his wife, Rita, for the following information about George:

'George was born in Southern Ireland in December 1921 and came to live in Oldland Common at the age of 11 months. When he left KGS he worked for the West Gloucestershire Water Co. where he spent 40 years, first as a clerk and rising to Distribution Engineer of the Northern Division. He knew well the pipes and pumping stations from Kingswood to Badminton, without the aid of computers!

'During the war, George joined the Royal Navy and became a radio operator on the destroyer *HMS Wheatland*. He saw action in the Mediterranean Sea and on the Russian Convoys. He spoke little of his navy experiences and apart from going to Ireland and Jersey he never left England again. One can only imagine the trauma he went through and when he was demobbed he weighed only five and a half stone.'

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GRAHAM WINDSOR (48-53) passed away after a relatively short illness on 6 June 2006. The Minister of Hanham Methodist Church, where Graham was a member, conducted a moving service in which he spoke about Graham's sense of humour and his setting of high standards in everything he undertook..

Graham was an engineer who had two spells in the aircraft industry, with BAC and with Rolls Royce, where he was part of the design team on the *Concorde* project. He also lectured in Rolls

Royce and Soundwell Technical Colleges in Engineering and Mathematics.

Graham was a keen Jazz fan, and your editor often bumped into Graham at local Jazz gatherings. He was also a regular cyclist, being a member of Kingswood Cycle Club, the Cyclists Touring Club (CTC) and latterly the Bristol Thursday Old Time Cyclists. He was also long time secretary of Hanham Green Belt Conservation Society and was regularly seen at the KOSA reunions.

Graham will be missed by all who knew him, but especially by his wife Beryl and his two children and grandchildren.

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ELAINE PACKER (63-70) now SKIDMORE has informed KOSA NEWS of the death of LORNA OLSSON (63-70):

'Lorna died on 10 March 2006 in Perth, Western Australia where she lived. Lorna was always vibrant and passionate about life. She returned to England on many occasions and parties and get-togethers were always held. She last visited in July 2005 and was an inspiration to all who knew her. When breast cancer was diagnosed in her late thirties she refused to let it dominate her life and, as she said, 'she lived with cancer'.

'She will be greatly missed by all her friends.'

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Marilyn Gibbon has written to KOSA to inform us of her father's death:

'My father DEREK BLAXILL was a pupil at KGS from 1941 to 1943 and subscribed regularly to your magazine. He was 79 years old when he died on 24 February 2006 and recently enjoyed attending his grand-daughter's wedding in July 2005 where he was the life and soul of the party and stayed up until 1 o'clock in the morning, despite difficulties with illness!

'He died happily and peacefully at home after a short illness, surrounded by his loving family; his wife Joyce, two daughters Marilyn and Debi, and a son Neil. He asked that he be remembered in your magazine to any school friends who may have been at school with him.'

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Daughter Frances Stockford has also written to us to let us know that her mother, MURIEL FRANCES BRITTON (31-36), later BROWN, passed away unexpectedly from a DVT after a hip operation on 16 September 2005 at the age of 85.

'She often reminisced about her school days at KGS and playing hockey and tennis with friends MONA (now Walker) and FREDA BENCE, who later became her sister-in-law FREDA BROWN.'

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KATH. HAWKINS (33-37) now MOUNSTEPHENS has written to KOSA to let us know of the death of COLIN BEACHAM (43-51). She writes:

'Colin was a pupil at KGS in the early years of the war, and from there he won a scholarship to Cambridge, although this was delayed by his National Service. Eventually following this, he began his career at Emmanuel College where he rowed for the College, as he did for Pembroke College Oxford, where he completed his second degree.

'He began his teaching career at Midhurst Grammar School moving from there to take up a Deputy Headship at the new comprehensive school - William Temple in Preston. From there he moved into special education and this was his true forte. He was instrumental in the establishment of, and was indeed responsible for the running of, Hephaestus School in Berkshire, which catered for high ability children with severe physical handicaps. It was very successful,

attracting pupils from all over the world, until it was forced to close when the education authority removed its funding in an economy drive. He then became the special Education Needs Advisor to the county, a post he held until ill health forced his early retirement.

'All his life Colin was devoted to his sister EILEEN BEACHAM (34-39) later CASTERA, (an obituary reported in the last edition) and supported her through the rest of his life. A confirmed Francophile he and his family spent much time with Eileen at her home in South West France. She died late last year and Colin was devastated. He had been planning to visit her in the autumn.

'Colin had a happy and loving family life, with his wife Sue, his children and most recently his grandchildren. All his life a committed Christian and gardener, he was a happy man and a real pleasure to have known.'

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JIM HAYES' (38-43) son has informed KOSA of his father's passing:

'CHRISTOPHER JAMES HAYES (38-43), known to all as JIM, died in Frenchay Hospital on 13th February 2006.

'On leaving school Jim joined Baker Baker's at Clifton where he met his future wife Joan. Jim joined the Army on National Service around VJ day in 1945. Fortunately, he didn't have to take part in any combat, but he did like to tell his stories of that time, including being cheered in the streets when all he had done was put on a uniform, jumped into a lorry and later spent a long night as Guardhouse Sergeant.

'On returning to 'civvy street' Jim re-joined Baker Baker's for a while and then took a job with SWEB. He worked for SWEB for 39 years, initially in the Sala-

ries Department and then in Personnel and Training. He initially retired in 1987, but still having lots of energy, thought that semi-retirement would suit him better and found a part-time job with the Nat-West Bank, finally retiring aged 67.

'Jim and Joan, who celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary last year, enjoyed ballroom dancing and travel well into retirement. They could be seen gliding across the floor at many Bristol dance venues on Saturday nights and did get to see the real South Pacific after being great fans of the film for many years (I bet they did have a little dance on a beach somewhere).

'Although Jim had not been well in recent years, he was still swimming aged 78. On his birthday he proudly described himself as the oldest member of the over 50's swimming group. When we discovered that there is also an over 70's group his response was "they are far to old"! Jim may then have been old of body, but he was always young at heart.'

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#### KGS CONNECTIONS...

Geoffrey Harding, husband of RACHEL PENNY (47-52) now HARDING, has written to the 'NEWS to give us the sad news of JOHN HARDING'S death. He writes:

'For some time now I have been toying with the notion of dropping you a line, as I have many connections with KGS.

'JOHN HARDING (46-49) died on 14 January 2006. A number of you (such as MICHAEL PENNY (46-51) and PETER BRAKE (46-51)) may remember him as a fellow of humorous imagination and gifted vocabulary – attributes that flourished over the years. Whilst his career was mainly in the fashion industry, he developed talents at writing prose, poetry and even song, with charm and

ability to intrigue and entertain a wealth of friends wherever he went. His abilities were often directed towards assisting charitable organizations.

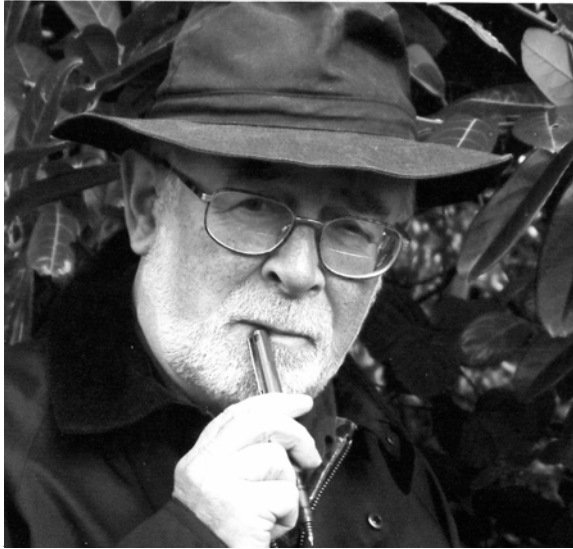
'Not long ago John wrote to 'KOSA NEWS' mentioning that, although he had transferred to Colston School after only two years, he had always preferred KGS. For me, he was not only a cousin but a dear, life-long friend and mentor. As lads, John, MICHAEL PENNY and I used to venture as a trio into Warmley: along the dram-road, in the quarry, by the brooks, across the meadows and up the trees, armed with our sheath knives (as would not be fitting these days).

'I was not at KGS but lived in a house on Deanery Road, the back-garden fence of which overlooked the school buildings. It was through this fence that I spied upon the pupils during prolonged recuperation from illness until, at the age of thirteen, much to Michael's wonderment, I became fascinated to see his sister Rachel walk to fetch her bike from the cycle sheds. Rachel and I married in 1958 and are still happy together, but missing John's exuberant and unforgettable presence.

'So KGS means a lot to me, not only for these associations, but because many members of my family attended the school, including John's mother EILEEN FORWARD, PETER SKINNER, my 'cousin-in-law', cousins DAVID and ANN WELSFORD, brothers-in-law JOHN and MICHAEL PENNY, and uncle GERALD UNDERDOWN (born 1914) and an aunt MILDRED UNDERDOWN (born 1908). Aunty Milly attended the first school reunion, was a most popular teacher at Warmley School and taught my wife Rachel.

'If JOHN HARDING were here now he might weave all this into some flight of fiction, poetry or song. It is not surprising

that he became known amongst friends as 'Big Bard John'. A fitting tribute, at his funeral in the Brendon Hills, was a specially composed anthem performed by members of four choirs.



'The photograph of John was taken two years ago for the cover of a CD of his poems, which raised £1,000 for a children's hospice in the West Country'

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LIONEL HARRIS (52-57) has informed KOSA of the death of his cousin, ANN HARRIS (52-57) later Hughes:

Just a few words for the KOSA magazine about my cousin Ann who died, following a long illness, at the end of February 2006.

'Ann Harris was born in 1941 and lived her early years in the tailor's shop opposite the gates to Staple Hill Junior School, where her grand-father had the business. We both went to the school and "eleven-plussed" to KGS at the same time where we were mistaken by many as twins - not surprising as our mothers were cousins, our fathers were brothers and we were born a couple of months apart.

On leaving school Ann worked as a dental nurse at practices in Staple Hill and

Fishponds before moving to Surrey then to Ashford and latterly to Shepperton.

'Despite her illness and continuing treatments she did not lose her interest in travel abroad or gardening at home. She leaves husband Keith, a son and daughter and four grandchildren.'

Ann is shown on the opposite page in form 4B in 1956. Ann is seated in the front row on the right hand side.

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The Very Rev ANDREW RADFORD (55-61), Bishop of Taunton, died in the Sue Ryder Hospice in Gloucester on Sunday, 21 May 2006 after a period of illness. Bishop Andy, who had surgery to remove a brain tumour in September 2005, was consecrated as Bishop in Westminster Abbey eight years ago, an event which was reported with photographs in KOSA NEWS at the time.

Andy, who was the son of Rev Canon John Radford, vicar of Holy Trinity Church, Kingswood, originally trained as an architect. However, he was called to Holy Orders and ordained in Bristol Cathedral in 1974 when he was 30 years of age. After a spell as assistant curate at St Mary's, Shirehampton, he joined BBC Radio Bristol as religious programmes producer.

In 1980 he became vicar of St Barnabas Church, Bath and Englishcombe but continued in broadcasting with Severn Sound, and in 1987 he won the Sony Award for Local Radio Personality of the Year. He also served in the communications unit at Church House, Westminster and as an advisor to the Archbishop of Canterbury on bishops' ministry in the church.


A service of thanksgiving and memorial for his life was held at Wells Cathedral on 3 July 2006, which your Chairman,



Editor and respective wives attended to represent KOSA. Lessons were read by Andrew's sister Sarah and brother Martin, and tributes were given by Lord Carey, onetime Archbishop of Canterbury and others.

Bishop Andy, who was described by the *Bristol Evening Post* as the 'English Billy Graham', leaves his wife, Christine, two daughters and two grandchildren. He was obviously an exceptional churchman.

The Cathedral Church of St Andrew in Wells



**A Service of Thanksgiving  
and Memorial**  
for the life of  
**Andrew John Radford**  
Bishop of Taunton

Monday 3rd July 2006  
2.30 pm

Instead of showing Andy as Bishop, we print a photograph over the page with his classmates in 4L2 in the summer of 1959. Andy is standing fourth from the left.

As KOSA NEWS is being prepared we have received notice of the passing of EILEEN LONGDEN, who was at KGS in the 1930s, and also JOHN KENDALL (49-55). Although John was not a member of KOSA, he came from the 'Kingswood Kendalls', many of whom went to KGS.

We seem to have increasing numbers of obituaries in each edition, but it is important that we celebrate their achievements during their lives. To all those who have lost a loved one we send our condolences.



KINGSWOOD GRAMMAR SCHOOL  
FORM IV L2 1959

### FINAL FAREWELL...

KOSA members will be aware that our Chairman PETER WALTERS (47-54) passed away in March 2005. Peter's wife and committee member, JEAN LOVELL (48-56), decided that Peter's ashes should be scattered around the Old Oak Tree at Kingsfield School, a tree which

was so prominent when the grounds were KGS.

With kind permission from Kingsfield Headteacher and KOSA President DAVID LEWIS, Peter's ashes were scattered on 13 May 2006 by Jean and son Richard and daughter Alison. Both Richard and Alison are old scholars of Kingsfield School. We are sure that Peter would have approved.



There are now two oak trees which we can regard as 'ours'. The Old Oak is well-known to us all, and in 1995 KOSA planted an oak to commemorate those who lost their lives in the Second World War, fifty years after its end. There is a plaque in the entrance hall of the current school recording the event. On a recent visit to the school, both oak trees were found to be in good health. In the old days the Old Oak was in splendid isolation, but over the years it has become more closely surrounded with new buildings as the school has expanded.

The Old Oak is shown on the left.....



.....and the New Oak is shown below.



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## A GRICER'S TALE...

MIKE ROGERS (52-56) writes on some long-held interests which started at KGS:

'Crikey! Is it really 50 years since I cycled from Brook Road and off down Tennis-court Road, away from the excellent last year stewardship of GEORGE BUTCHER, form-master of 5MS and teacher of English? By nature, I am a nostalgic person and thus an avid reader of the *Bendrey Bugle*. So many names and so many faces over the years.

'It would be easy to recall memories of school life (which I greatly enjoyed) and fellow pupils. In retrospect, I wish that I had put more effort into two subjects that have since played key roles in my life, namely mathematics and music. Despite the best efforts of DOC TREVELYAN and BEN HODSON, I did not much like maths, though I did receive a prize therein from the hands of SIR BERNARD LOVELL (24-31). ERIC HILTON's

music lessons seemed to consist solely of translating Beethoven's *Egmont* overture to " tafa, tefi , tifi."

'After KGS, I went straight into local government finance with Bristol City Council and completed my accountancy qualifications in 1962. After 18 years as a Finance Director with two local authorities, an early retirement in 1990 saw me go off to lecture in accountancy, maths and stats in FE/HE colleges. I still do that today. Classical music is a major relaxation, with a very large collection of books and recorded music. An early highlight of my musical education was an overnight train journey from the 1962 Wagner Festival at Bayreuth and straight to a Klemperer-conducted Beethoven concert in the Festival Hall with your Editor. (I remember it well as a really momentous occasion – Ed).

'Those in the know will have worked out what is my other major interest. A "gricer" is one who is barmy about steam railways. Well, we only have preserved steam now, with the Avon Valley Railway at Bitton and the Sheffield Park " Bluebell" railway close to me in East Sussex, as examples.

'It was in my first year at KGS, that this interest developed. From my desk in MISS WYCHERLY's classroom ("the huts"), my attention wandered away from her beloved *Lady Precious Stream*, across the playground to the LMS railway line that ran between Mangotsfield and Bath (Green Park), across Siston Common. This line was an important link in the country's rail system, bringing traffic from the North to the South coast. The *Pines Express* was the major passenger service, but there was plenty of local traffic to interrupt lessons. Engines were too far away to be able to note the numbers for eventual recording. It was a sadness to leave this classroom (and "Nellie", who was great) and join the

French class of MARION JACOB (all the lads loved her!) in the main school. Bonjour, Marion – vive la France!

'Outside of school, it was not difficult to bump into trainspotting chums at local stations or Temple Meads. A motley "end of platform bunch, with notebooks, duffle coats and curly sandwiches". A very familiar spot to meet was on the slope of Rodway Hill overlooking the triangle of Mangotsfield station. Carson's chocolate factory stood in the middle of the triangle, which saw trains from Bristol-Newcastle (one long side) North of England-Bath (other long side), with the "bottom" joining Bristol direct to Bath. Mangotsfield was a very busy junction, which opened in 1869 and lasted 97 years. Many of the lines are now cycle tracks and my wife and I called off at Rodway Hill on a recent visit to Downend. We were amazed at the quantity of trees and bushes that now covers the slope and the former station yard entrance.

'Fellow pupils and members of the "Rodway Hill Mob" who I particularly remember, were Mike Bendrey, Barry ("Pwang") Fillingham, Micky Stanton (brother of Hazel), the late Malcolm Gayton, "Spike" Bond, Robin Elsmore ( who emigrated to Australia), Johnny Shearn and the mature Vespa scooterist, Alan



Phipps. Others were Phil Darke. Dave Church, Bob Slavin, Doug Edwards, Dave Wall, Mike Cokayne, David Ewins, Mark Adams, Richard Strange, Keith Millett, Alan Howl and Paul Lear. (Have we missed anyone out? Are there any other ex-KGS members who would admit to such anorak activities of their youth?– Ed).

Another spotting chum was Terry Tomp-



kinson (TNT), who moved near to me in Downend from Leicester, where he had attended Wyggeston Grammar School. If he and the others mentioned read these ramblings, I hope that they bring back very happy memories of Ian Allan combined volumes, platform tickets and bunking sheds.

'My black and white railway photos from those days are too poor to reproduce here, so our efficient Editor has kindly added some shots from his archives. (Photos of Mangotsfield Station by courtesy of BOB SLAVIN (48-54) - Ed.)

'It is indeed a small world. My loves of railways and music came together on the evening of 29 May 2000. Bath Green Park station, now a Sainsbury's car park, was the venue for a performance by the Bath Philharmonia of Mahler's 8<sup>th</sup> Sym-

phony. My programme lists 117 musicians and 450 voices in performance. Special acoustic resonance tests were made on the ability of the glass roof to survive! A far cry from the whistle of a departing steam engine, all those years earlier.' (That's enough nostalgia - Ed.)

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## THE LESSON...

JUNE MARRIOTT (41-48) now EVANS responded to being added to the list of those receiving the 'NEWS.

'Thank you so much for sending the KOSA NEWS at the behest of DAVID ROWE (41-49). I am impressed with it - being slightly involved with our local village magazine. I am sorry to be so long in answering. I am returning the form and donation. I am interested to see that you have a lunch planned for the 14<sup>th</sup> October at Lincombe Barn Overdale Road - could I have some more information please - we would both like to come if possible.

'Your picture on page 6 in the Summer 2004 edition of ex KGS members at the Golden Wedding of JEANNE HICKS (40-48) (now JONES) brought back memories. We were contemporaries in the sixth form and subsequently at Bristol University (where I also met my future husband - ex Bristol Grammar School). I remember one other special occasion when four girls had their 17<sup>th</sup>? birthdays on the same day. We asked for permission to use the library after school for our party and MISS QUINTON (senior mistress who always enjoyed social gatherings) said we could hang up our party frocks and store any food and (soft) drinks in her study cupboard.

'On the festive day we spent a happy hour before school admiring one another's dresses, icing little cakes someone had brought (despite rationing!) and storing it all away. Suddenly the bell went for assembly and after much wiping of sticky fingers we were setting

off in great haste when Miss Quinton suddenly said "Oh! my goodness there is no one to read the lesson - I meant to ask one of you - here, June you can do it". Seizing a Bible from her shelf she thrust it into my hand together with a piece of paper with the Bible reference written on it. I made it onto the stage seconds before MAJOR EATON, who then announced the hymn - unfortunately for me a short one, as I spent it frantically searching for the place.

'I stood up to read 'Take ye no thought for the morrow, what ye shall eat or what ye shall drink or wherewithal ye shall be clothed....." Out of the corner of my eye I saw Quinnie with twinkling eyes and her hand over her mouth and to my right the row of prefects vainly struggling to keep straight faces as I read on trying to control the wobble in my voice!! Afterwards MAJOR EATON politely but somewhat icily enquired "What was the cause of our mirth" - MISS QUINTON apologised saying she had not remembered what the reading was to be - but "How very apt" was her comment.

'I thoroughly enjoyed my years at KGS and particularly remember MAJOR EATON - a true gentleman with care for all his pupils as individuals and Miss Quinton for her fund of knowledge and her sense of fun. She was our form mistress in the upper fifth and senior mistress in the sixth form. I regret that I have lost touch with all my contemporaries except David whom I have known since we were babes in arms. I look forward to meeting you, perhaps in October, and catching up.'

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## ANOTHER TERRIFIED ONE...

VALERIE HANDY (42-49) now ROUTLEY responded to JANET CHELL'S (56-63) admission in the last edition that it was her mother, Violet Chell, who was the strict disciplinarian at Mangotsfield School:

'As always I was interested in reading my copy of KOSA NEWS and in answer to Janet Chell's letter on The Chells in Spring 2006 edition. I can say that I was also one of those who were in awe of her mother, Violet Chell.

'I went to Mangotsfield C of E School for nearly two years and during the last year of that period I was in the class of Lindsey Farmiloe, the headmaster. Mrs Chell a hard working and conscientious teacher, and a very strict disciplinarian, which at that stage of my life I did not appreciate, taught the class below.

'On one morning each week we started the day with an R. E. lesson from Mrs Chell, but when I was late she refused to allow me to disrupt the class by joining them, and as I was very much in awe of her I was usually late that day so that I could stay in my own classroom reading.

She also taught me needlework but I cannot remember what I made, I only remember that I was always in trouble for chattering. (Those who know me, know that I haven't changed!)

'Both Mrs Chell and myself had a good laugh at the fact that I was so afraid of her, much later in life when we met, and I too was a primary school teacher.

'On another subject, is there any reader who is still in contact with the French pen friend found for them by Miss Perry in the 1940s? I still write to and visit mine in Lyon, she like me was a teacher; we have graduated from writing about boy friends to grandchildren and still exchange Christmas cards and parcels for all the whole family.'

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### PETE'S EPISTLE...

PETER MALPASS (48-55) writes about past editions:

'May I, through the medium of KOSA NEWS, thank GORDON JONES (46-

53) for his Appreciation of my late father in the Spring Edition of the 'NEWS. My brother Gordon (an Old Bristolian) and I were greatly touched by his words and we would also like to thank the many ex-pupils of his who down the years corresponded with him or visited him. He greatly appreciated the contact, especially in the years after our mother died.

'Issue No.26 was of special interest to me as the article of 1066 AGAIN mentions MR R A RILEY and MR D P SMITH amongst others. They had, as the article states, been seconded from St. Paul's Teachers' Training College Cheltenham and to which they subsequently returned and were in fact members of the staff during my time there from 1957 to 1960. Mr. Riley had even been one of my father's lecturers at the college in 1925!

'I hope to be with you in October as Saturday 14th October 2006 is in my diary and I look forward to meeting "Old (m)embers" from my era.'

At the top of the next page is an unusual photograph of Davies House in 1953 which Peter has sent to KOSA. It is believed that House photographs were very rarely taken, although we have published a similar photograph of Haskins House in an earlier edition.

The pictures, presumably prints, are trophies which the House won that year for Drama and Choral-speaking. Does anyone recall where in the school they were hung after the photo was taken?

PETER MALPASS is standing in the second row from the front, fifth from the right.

The staff in the photo are GEORGE BUTCHER (English), MISS GOODFIELD (Maths), 'WOODY' WILLIAMS (Woodwork), MISS BAGSHAW (History) and IAN ASHWELL (Geography).

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## THE OTHER VIEW...

PHIL DARKE (47-52) responds to the 11+ debate:

'I don't think that the return of the grammar schools is the panacea for the current ignorance and bad behaviour amongst young people. 'One has to recall past times,' states MARLENE HAYWARD (53-60). Very well, let us do this and start at 1947 when I left Kingswood Junior Boys' School.

'The 11+ presented no difficulty as I had been well schooled by Mr Morgan who was universally respected as a dedicated teacher. Incidentally Mr Benson, the late SHEILA BENSON'S father, was headmaster. I cannot remember how the candidates for the exam were selected, however about half a score of boys passed this test and thus became potential KGS pupils, the remainder of the class were destined to attend Hanham Road Senior Boys' School at Woodstock.

'Regardless of intellectual capacity most of us came from working class

backgrounds, Kingswood then being noted for the boot and shoe, and engineering trades. Although I had been accepted as suitable material I was not keen to attend KGS, but my objections were always overruled by my being told that if I did not seize this opportunity I was destined for a 'dead end job'. By means of this flawed reasoning, threats and (unfulfilled) promises I was thus induced to spend a miserable 4 years at KGS. In common with most striplings, I had not given much thought to my future, and a complaint I have often heard from former KGS scholars is that on reaching school leaving age they received both poor and scanty advice on careers. Was this truly the case? I know that I embarked on a very brief career as an insurance clerk, probably because it was Hobson's choice.

'William Greener, the famous Birmingham gunmaker and philanthropist, once stated that the so-called Ruling Classes had no idea how the rest of the population lived, because the former had been educated by an elitist system which was far too heavily biased in

favour of the Arts and Classics. To a large extent this still held true when I attended KGS and was, I think, the main drawback of the grammar schools.

'Marlene should be aware that in 1948, standards of discipline and behaviour were enforced by draconian methods that are no longer fashionable, or indeed permitted. Surely the causes of the behaviour so deplored by her are traceable to the corrosive influence of vile TV programmes and irresponsible parents who expect teachers to accomplish in a few hours what they (the parents) have failed to do in sixteen years.

'Returning to Greener's theme, what was so enlightening in the study of Latin, the works of William Shakespeare or the soppy novels of Jane Austin? No one disputes that music, painting and literature enhance civilised living, but I submit that these subjects were of doubtful value to a youth about to commence a job in industry or commerce and shortly to face two years compulsory service in the armed forces.

'I may be mistaken but I think that many of my classmates –the 'Boney Britton baiters' and "rabble" as described by FROGGY DAVIES (French) displayed only minimal interest in the KGS curriculum, and wished to start full time employment as soon as possible. We would have been better served by something after the style of the comprehensive system.

'My employer, when faced with a recruitment crisis, once remarked 'I am like a man who urgently needs a hammer, and can only obtain screwdrivers' this statement reinforces my contention that the grammar schools tended to divert the abilities at their disposal

into the wrong channels. Comprehensive schools, where properly managed, avoid this situation. Certainly Rodway Technical School, for instance, has produced results comparable, if not superior, to those of KGS.

'I must admit that I did receive a good education at KGS and the more clever and diligent pupils were certainly encouraged to realise their potential – but not always in the UK judging by the number of 'colonials' who write to KOSA NEWS. Finally look no further than the Royal Family to perceive the nincompoops produced by the system denounced by Mr Greener.'

The debate continues? - Ed

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## A VIEW FROM USA...

DEREK BAILEY (49-53) makes a contribution to the debate from Colorado:

'A couple of thoughts about your comments on a possible return to grammar schools vs. the three-stream approach that we grew up with. With the perspective of living for more than 40 years in the USA where high schools (What I guess the UK has called Comprehensive Schools) are the norm I have to say I have mixed feelings about the return to the three-stream approach. I think there is no question it creates a class-laden approach to secondary education that, as was said elsewhere in the 'News, those who didn't make it to a grammar school were often seen as "failures".

'We all know that is hardly the case. The world needs plumbers every bit as much as it needs college (Or as you would say university) graduates. The world of work is a place where all kinds of skills, capabilities and expertise are needed to make society work. I also fully recognize that society at the same time has a pecking order of prestige/class for jobs but I sense that breaking up the schools back

into what we knew only adds to this problem.

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## POETRY CORNER...

'MAUREEN JENKINS (52-58) now Williams is feeling her age! She writes:

'I wonder whether this is any use for the 'NEWS – the ramblings of a near 65 year old. I did enjoy seeing the three pictures of '6 Commercial' in the last edition. What memories!

I smiled at the piece about *Jerusalem*. I don't belong to the WI, but I love to hear it at Test Cricket (on TV, unfortunately).

The 52ers are 65

Looking forward to going slow?  
Will we do that – ah no!  
Free swimming is for the 60 plus  
And nothing to pay on the bus.  
Weekly cheap cinema trips  
With free coffee and bics.

Extended families keep you on your toes,  
Sky TV, homework, e-mails, freecell, anything goes.

Here in Cardiff everything is great,  
The Leisure Centre beckons – can't wait!

Happy retirement to all 52ers. Hope we can have a get together in our 70<sup>th</sup> year!

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## A RESPONSE...

Oh dear! When producing the 'NEWS we try not to give offence even though our memories of the past are sometimes not always good ones. In the last edition PENNY ENGLAND (59-64) now DEVERILL remembered an end-of-term tennis match. VERA ROWTHORN, Headmaster RIDLEY'S secretary from 1956 to his retirement, thought that the report 'warrants a reply'. Your editor has spoken to Vera, and I think that it's fair to say she is treating this in a lighthearted fashion.

'I was astonished to read Penny England's vitriolic account of her last tennis match against the staff of KGS. I was Mr Ridley's secretary at the time and did indeed play in that match. However, I'm afraid Penny's memory is at fault on several counts.

'My partner "a friend and leading light from a local tennis club" was actually MISS MORRISON, the Senior Mistress, who to my certain knowledge was not a member of any tennis club, local or otherwise. In fact, she had to borrow her tennis gear from me for that day, but being a good sport entered into the spirit of what we both thought (obviously erroneously) was to be a friendly social legal occasion.

'Regardless of this, and after 42 years, Penny continues to attribute certain puerile remarks to my late husband and quote them in great detail, and yet does not remember her opponent was Miss Morrison. Very strange.

'Finally, I congratulate Penny on her self-professed ability to read minds, but "it was obvious he was secretly incandescent with rage" – Over a game of end-of-term school tennis? – to paraphrase John McEnroe – Penny, YOU CANNOT BE SERIOUS!'

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## ANONYMOUS LATIN...

The MISS QUINTON entry in Latin in the autograph book, which we published last time, has been translated by an anonymous correspondent who described his/her self as 'A grateful (pre-war) pupil of GEQ':

'Easy is the descent to Avernus (Hell) nights and days black Pluto's Gateway lies open. But to recall one's step and escape to the breezes above.

This is the task, this is the toil.'

QED

(When we had solved or proved a theorem in mathematics, weren't we told to put QED at the end? - Ed).

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## BACKGROUND WORKERS...

We should pay a fitting tribute to members who have worked in the background for KOSA. One of these is KENNETH MEEK (40-45). Kenneth is currently in a nursing home in Birmingham, near to his home, and does not enjoy the best of health. In past years, however, Ken has been an enthusiastic supporter of KOSA and regularly attended the KOSA gatherings with his wife, Joyce.

Ken carried out considerable research on KGS in its early years, when it was initiated in 1921 as Kingswood Secondary School. Ken researched the early papers now kept in Gloucester Record Office and produced his book *We Were There*. He paid for its printing and binding and made it available to KOSA members in exchange for a donation to our funds. He also financed the production of some attractive, boxed, glass paperweights showing a photograph of the school, together with photographs of the first Headmaster and Headmistress. These two items alone have been instrumental in raising considerable funds for KOSA.

Joyce Meek, although not having attended KGS has also supported our activities and she has now made available to KOSA the balance of the books and paperweights. These will be available at reunions for a donation of £5 and £3 respectively until they are exhausted.

We are happy to make the books available by post but will have to add £3 and £2 respectively for postage and packing. We would like to thank Ken and Joyce for their valuable contribution to KOSA activities.

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## BISHOP'S SERMON...

JOHN BISHOP (52-57) has delivered the following message to all (ex?) rugby players:

'I was recently reminded by one or two old boy rugby men that they thought it was time for another get-together. It was suggested that we might combine a reunion with the KOSA Annual Lunch to be held on Saturday, 14 October at Lincombe Barn, Downend.

'I have discussed this with the 'powers that be' ie the editor, who cannot envisage any problems. May I therefore refer all ex-rugby men to the booking form in the centre of the current 'NEWS? If you would like to meet up again, not only with Old Boy Rugger B-----s, but also with old school friends and contemporaries, then please book your place at the lunch marking the bottom right hand corner 'RUGBY' in red. This will enable us to set aside some tables for the rabble.

'I look forward to renewing acquaintances in October.'

Opposite we have included some photographs to remind the older ones who they are! – Ed.

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## DUNN ROAMIN'...?

ANITA JO DUNN (31-34) writes:

'On page 20 of KOSA NEWS Number 27 - Summer 2005, MURIEL HILL (34-37) (now JAMES) asked for news of DORA DUNN (34-39) who was her best friend at KGS during that period. I remembered Muriel very well, and her regret at having lost touch with my sister prompted me to write to her at once, c/o the Editor, to give her the sad news of Dora's death in May 2005, four years after moving from Ludlow to the Scottish Highlands. On receiving my letter, Muriel phoned me. Since that initial hour-long conversation





School First XV - 1956



Kingswood Old Boys RFC - 1965

we have remained in touch and plan to meet this summer.

'Muriel will not mind if I correct a few of her memories of that pre-war period at KGS. It was not Dora nor I but our older brother RENNIE DUNN(28-33) who passed the Matriculation examination. Determined from an early age to learn to fly, on leaving KGS he took a Civil Service examination for entry to RAF Halton, Buckinghamshire, for a three-year training in aeronautical engineering. On leaving, he was awarded a Lord Wakefield Scholarship and a cadetship to the RAF College, Cranwell.

'Once, towards the end of his two-year training and by then a Pilot Officer, he was given permission one weekend to fly a Tiger Moth biplane from Cranwell to Tilton aerodrome not far from where we then lived. My parents, Dora and I were not allowed on the airfield, but from the adjoining roadside verge we watched him take off, circle above us and wave before disappearing towards the north-east. On leaving Cranwell he was awarded the Aeronautical Engineering Prize and, at his own request, was posted to 87th Fighter Squadron based near Saffron Walden, Essex. Just before war was declared in September 1939, the squadron left for an airbase near Lille in northern France.

'Now on active service, on one occasion, during a lengthy chase after a German plane and running short of fuel, he had to make a forced landing in Belgium - then a neutral country - and in doing so, to avoid a cyclist, nearly ditched his Hurricane. Quickly captured, he was interned in a moated fort, from which he and two other British servicemen escaped that winter and made their way, in disguise, to rejoin their respective bases in France. Shortly before the fall of France in May 1940 his squadron was recalled to England. At Easter that year he mar-

ried his fiancée Denise Foster and was killed two months later in a flying accident near Harrogate, at the age of twenty-three.

'After Dora returned from WAAF service in Egypt she trained as a teacher and enjoyed her first post at a Primary School in Hampshire. Later she found even greater pleasure and fulfilment through her work as a Home Teacher for the Blind in rural Wiltshire. One of her many duties was to teach the Braille and Moon systems that enable the blind to read. Her son Tim (M.Sc. Bristol, PhD. London) is now a Lecturer and Tutor at the Centre for Development studies at Swansea University.

'After returning from wartime work as a Timber Measurer (Women's Timber Corps) in the Lake District, Yorkshire, Northumberland and Sussex, and having already taken a secretarial training, I secured a post as Personal Secretary to the then Professor of Geology at Bristol University, then spent six eventful years helping to pioneer one of the first four Field Study Centres founded by the Council for the Promotion of Field Studies (now Field Studies Council).

'By then our family home was at Fern-down, near Wimborne, Dorset. It was there, quite by chance, that my parents met a niece of MAJOR EATON's and learnt that he and Mrs. Eaton had retired from KGS to nearby Swanage. They came to visit my parents, expressing their sadness not only at Rennie's death, but also of the passing of other KGS scholars whose lives, so full of promise, had been extinguished by war. I was in a residential job at the time, as Private and Farm Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Dorset, but had an opportunity later to meet and talk with them, and thought how fortunate pre-war scholars were to have such a fine Headmaster. He ruled with a kind but firm hand, and with great

understanding. I remember KGS as a happy, lively school.

'Finally settling in Oxfordshire, and after retiring in 1984. I resumed a youthful interest in botany which had been encouraged during MISS EYRES'S Biology lessons. I remember the occasional botany walks she conducted in the 'marshes', as we called them, close to the school; also a Saturday morning visit to an ancient wood near Bath, and the rows of paste pots on one of the classroom benches, each labelled with the wild flower on display.

'It was the chance discovery, in the first year of my retirement, of a new site for one of Britain's rarest wild flowers, followed by an invitation from the Nature Conservancy Council (now English Nature) to undertake a long-term study of it - the results of which are now in English Nature's library - that led to twenty years of absorbing, enjoyable botanical activity: survey work, further liaison with English Nature and with the wild-plant conservation charity Plantlife International, the formation of the Cotswold Rare Plants Group, and some published work.

'This culminated, to my genuine surprise, in the award of an MBE in the 2005 New Year Honours, for 'Services to conservation in Oxfordshire'. I mention this because at the Investiture ceremony at Buckingham Palace on 24 May 2005, after receiving my award from HRH Prince Charles, my attention was drawn to the fine upright figure of a Royal Marine being presented with the George Medal. A glance at the list of Recipients, as they are called, identified him as Colonel PAUL JOBBINS (59-64). 'This image stayed with me, and when I saw the small photograph of him on page 8 of the Summer 2005 KOSA NEWS, I recognised him at once and read the interesting account of his career. Until then I did

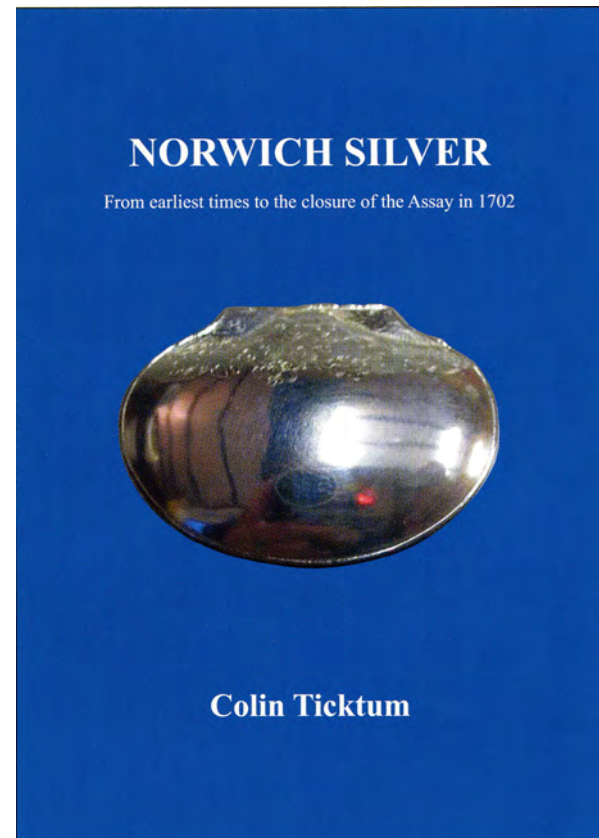
not know that he was a distinguished old scholar of KGS, and this discovery gave added warmth to my memories of that wonderful ceremony in the ballroom of Buckingham Palace that day.'

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## CROSS THEIR PALMS...

COLIN TICKTUM (51-58) and his wife Susan have closed their silver business in Norwich but have spent a considerable amount of time putting together all their research and archive material into a book, so that it's available to people interested in silver generally and Norwich Silver in particular.

*Norwich Silver*, with 184 pages and 61 b&w photographs, was published in May under the auspices of *The Colin & Susan Ticktum Charitable Trust* which will receive any profits. There's a limited print run, so if you are interested in the publication send your application to the Trust at Elwyn House, 1 Cow Hill, Norwich, NR2 1EZ, Tel/Fax: 01603 625143. The price is £24.95.



## NEWS FROM KINGSFIELD...

We propose to include something about our successor school on the Brooke Road site in each edition of the 'NEWS'. We have strong links with the school in that the KOSA President is DAVID LEWIS, Headteacher of the school.

Every year KOSA makes an award of a cheque for £100 to a year 11 student at Kingsfield School who has made a significant contribution to the school over time and in a wide variety of activities. It values the enthusiasm and commitment with which the student has approached the opportunities available at the school. The award is to a student nominated by the school.

Our first award winner went to REUBEN HOLT and we hear that Reuben has won a place at Oxford to read Mathematics. Many congratulations! This year's award went to RACHAEL STREET and the cheque was presented to her at the school by KOSA Chairman STAN BURRAGE (51-56). Amongst her many activities Rachael was a member of the netball team and achieved the Dance Leadership Award.

Italian has started as a second language in year 9 and a school skiing trip to Italy took place in January 2006. The school has been awarded Specialist Status in Maths and Computing from September 2006 after a visit to the school by an HMI Inspector. Music features extensively in school activities and the show *Joseph and his Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* was put on in March – a long way from *The Pirates of Penzance* in our day!

Altogether a lively school – and the buildings on the site continue to proliferate!

JILL BROOKS (53-59) now Hayden has sent us a March press cutting which reported that CHRIS LEE, a 16 year-old former Kingsfield pupil was in a junior

team from the Army which planned to climb to the summit of Island Peak, a 20,500ft Himalayan peak.

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## BOB'S AWARD...

KOSA'S Vice-Chairman, BOB GRAY (49-56) has been presented with one of Scouting's major awards, the Silver Acorn.



Bob was presented with the Silver Acorn by the County Commissioner at the St George's Day Parade in Bristol Cathedral on the 23 April 2006. The following Sunday he joined other award holders from around Britain at a service at St George's Chapel, Windsor.

The Silver Acorn is an award presented by the Chief Scout in recognition of especially distinguished service to Scouting. Bob has been a member of the Scout Movement for over 60 years, having joined the 1st Downend Cub Pack in 1945. He then went to the Scouts at Fishponds Baptist Church following other old scholars such as DAVID BEARD (44-52), and brother JOHN GRAY (47-54). He progressed through the Group as a scout, senior scout and rover, gaining the award of Queen's Scout in 1954.

He became a leader with the group and apart from a short time as an Assistant District Commissioner for Fellowship

(older support members), he was active until 1997, when pressure of work forced him to retire. Since then he has been a supporting member, taking part in the Bristol Gang Show at the Bristol Hippodrome every year for twenty years and, with Sherry his wife, looking after the staff catering at the local Jamboree held every year since 1978. Many congratulations, Bob, from KOSA.

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### CONGRATULATIONS...

Our congratulations, too, are due to ROBERT SKIDMORE (67-69 Sixth Form), who has recently been appointed Visiting Professor in Medical Technology in the Department of Engineering at the University of Cardiff. He has also been made a Fellow of the Royal Academy of Engineering. (Not bad for someone who failed their 11plus! - Ed.)

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### QUERY ANSWERED...

EILEEN COVE (37-42) now ELEY phoned KOSA in answer to the query from JOYCE TYSOE (39-43) now MELLOWES in the last edition regarding the whereabouts of MARION HENDY.

(Sincere apologies to JOYCE TYSOE - from the Editor who spelled her name in the last edition as Pysoe.)

Eileen later wrote:

'Marion had been teaching in Gloucester and it appears that she died about 30 years ago at the early age of 50 years. Marion was my closest friend from the day we started at KGS and remained so until she sadly died. I know she had a sister, Margaret and a brother Conway at KGS, both younger than her, but I have not been in touch with either of them.

'JO and DORA DUNN (see JO's letter on page 16) and their older brother RENNIE lived just a few doors away from me in Filton and Dora and I spent quite a lot of time playing together - she was a couple

of years older than me. One day, Mr. and Mrs. Dunn went out, presumably Jo too, and Rennie was set to look after us two girls, aged then probably about six and eight. I can imagine what a pain two little girls were, so to keep us quiet he gave us each a jam jar filled with mud and water and paint brushes. We had a lovely time painting Mr. Dunn's garage doors. No, he was not at all pleased when he saw our handiwork and poor Rennie got a rollicking.

'Being an only child I much enjoyed the company of a 'real' family and it was a great thrill to be taken out occasionally in their bull-nosed Morris car. Very happy memories indeed. Rennie bought from my Father our 1928 Singer Tourer car though it was not long before, in my Father's words, he drove it up a lamp-post and wrote it off.

'I remember all too well the dreadful day when we heard that Rennie had been killed - there had never been a young man so full of life. I would love to hear from Jo if she so wishes - she may like to know that I am in touch occasionally with HEDLEY ORGAN - I feel certain that his sister who died very young was a particular friend of Jo's.'

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### AN APPEAL...

In KOSA NEWS we attempt to provide some balance in a number of ways - between the years, the sexes, the sports and so on. We seem to have many contributions from those who were at KGS in the 30s, 40, and 50s, but there seems to be a dearth of contributions, both text and photographs, from those who were at KGS in the 60s and 70s.

Maybe it's due to a change in our attitudes to our *alma mater* which accompanied the earlier and greater mobility resulting from further and higher education being available to many more people. Whatever the reason, can we have



KGS Soccer Team - 1961-62



KGS 1st XV Rugby Team 1961-62

more contributions from the 60s and 70s to make the 'NEWS' of greater interest to all.

On the page 22 are two interesting photographs from 61-62. The soccer and the rugby sides. Was that the first year when soccer was re-introduced into the sporting timetable after the dominance of rugby from 1949?

### WATTS' FANS...

We're YOU responsible/ involved in this eulogy for HAROLD V WATTS, who taught Art from 1948-59? Obviously Harold was a very popular teacher and it's possible that this would have been prepared by the girls only. Can you date it?

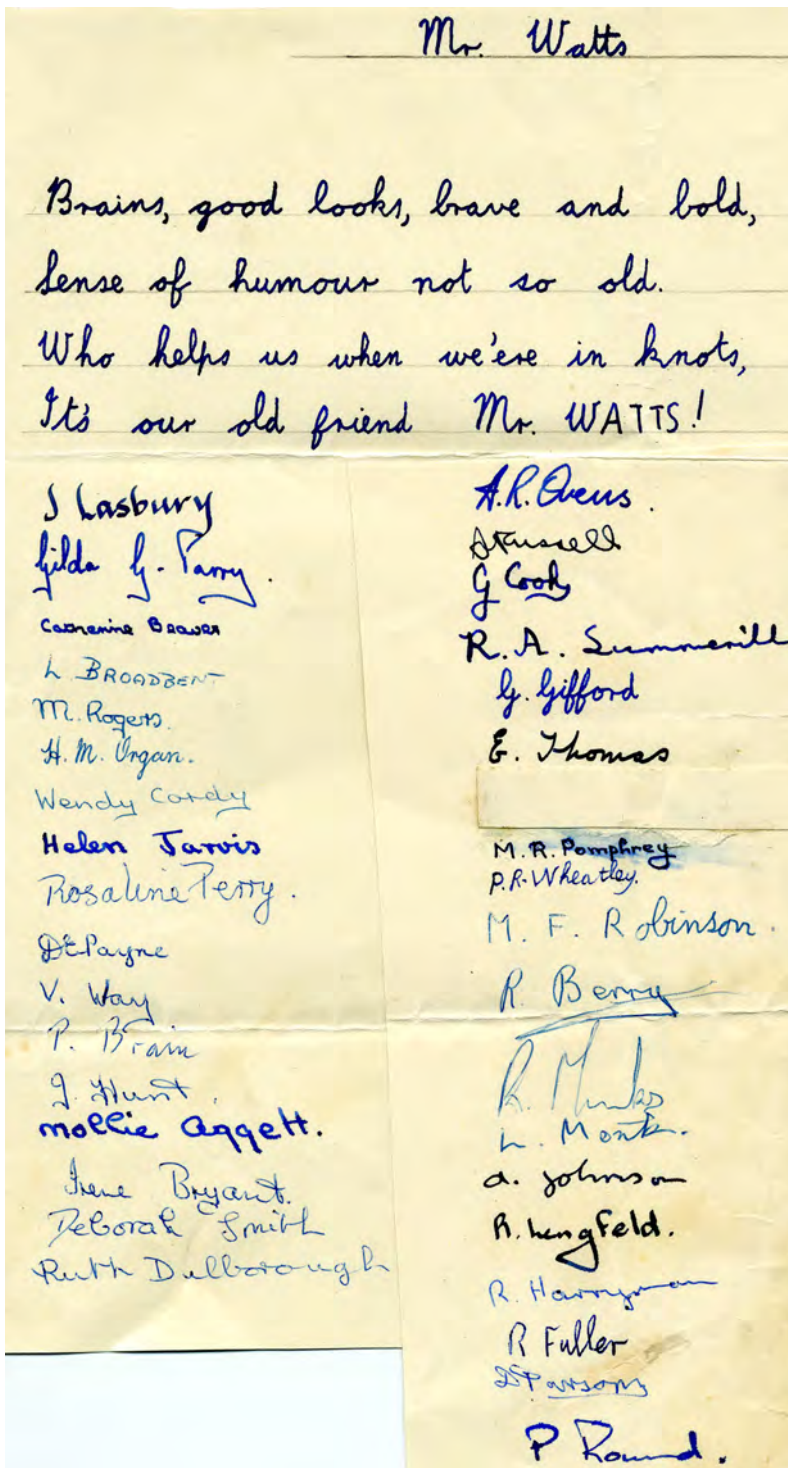
Brains, good looks, brave and bold,  
Sense of humour not so old.

Who helps us when we're  
(sic) in knots,  
It's our old friend Mr  
WATTS!

Signed by:

J Lasbury, Gilda G Parry, Catherine Beaver, L Broadbent M Rogers, H M Organ, Wendy Cordy, Helen Jarvis, Rosalin Perry, D E Payne, V Way, P Brain, J Hunt, Mollie Aggett, Irene Bryant, Deborah Smith, Ruth Dulborough, A R Ovens, A Fussell, G Cook, R A Summerill, G Gifford, E Thomas, M R Pomphrey, P R Wheatley, M F Robinson, R Berry, R Monks, L Monks, A Johnson, R Lengfeld, R Harryman, R Fuller, I Parsons, P Round

Some KGS folk even went to Harold's wedding and took the following photograph. He certainly had a very keen fan club!



## 2 WATTS...

JUNE STEPHENS (56-61) now Rogers has sent KOSA some of her old photographs and one of them is of her second-year form in 1958 when HAROLD WATTS was form master, hence the name of the form being 2W (below). June is standing on the second row on the left hand side.



June has also sent a personal photograph of her friends on a 1958 school trip to London (top left). The friends are STEPHANIE DODDRELL, GLEN SHORT and BRENDA GANE. BRENDA is now Brenda Kinkead and lives in New South Wales.

## IN PRINT...

The March edition of the family magazine *Yours* saw the publication of an article by BRIAN ILES (45-50). Brian used the humorous sayings over the years of his children, Martin, Richard and Nicola and his wife ANN COLES (49-54) as the basis for his article.

No doubt most of our children have come out with similar sayings, but it doesn't make them any the less humorous. His daughter was frightened at the prospect of having a 'tennis' injection after being hurt. She once asked 'why don't trees fall down as soon as they die, like people?' Or one of the boys was worried he'd get 'dramatic fever', and the other lay claim to a 'telescopic memory' and once said 'Go away 'cos I want to be lonely'. Amusing stuff.

## FOND MEMORIES...

In our last edition we reported the death of DOREEN BELLAIRS (41-46) later LEAT, and she is remembered with af-



fection by EVE TARLING (now KIMMINS), a contemporary of hers:

'I met Doreen at Staple Hill Junior School not long before starting at KGS. She befriended me when I arrived from just outside London completely lost in the middle of a really cold January in 1941. We remained best friends and visited each other regularly until her sudden death from a heart attack in January 2006.

'We both sat the civil service exam which had just started again when war ended, and although I was sent 100 miles away she stayed in Bristol, married Roy and had a daughter, Elizabeth. Her life was quite simple, but she was happy. Roy was not a well man for quite a long time, and this limited what they could do. Elizabeth was a loving daughter who studied at Bristol Grammar School and has made a successful career in banking.

'I am unable to come to functions any more but long may KOSA continue. I have always been proud to have attended the school.'

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## KINGS SCHOOL..?

BOB LEONARD (67-74) has sent KOSA a copy of the *Main School Prospectus* dated 1967 prepared by Headmaster RIDLEY for parents. Unfortunately, it is too voluminous a document to include in the 'NEWS in full, but here are some interesting extracts:

'...the name of the school is not settled, and in the prospectus we issued to Primary Schools we named the school, Kings School. We understand, however, from the Education Committee that the Home Secretary has been unable to recommend to HM Queen (sic!) that such a title be permitted...for the moment the name Kings School is being used.

'...Your son or daughter has set upon a course which will lead, at the end of the 5<sup>th</sup> year to either the Ordinary Level GCE or CSE, or a mixture of both. The school is now in two parts, the 11-16 School running parallel with other schools of the Consortium, and a VIth Form College...

'...We have a long tradition of boys and girls going to Universities, to Colleges of Education, to colleges of Advanced Technology and to Colleges of Further Education...Our Old Boys and Old Girls are playing their full part in the life of the community in many ways.

'At various stages of the pupils' careers we arrange lectures and discussions and answer questions about the problem of growing up into adults. Series I takes place in the first year and is concerned with the elementary facts of life centred on the family...Series II is concerned with the problems of physical and psychological developments of adolescence and developing relationships...(How did you receive the news about the birds and the bees at KGS? – Ed)

'With the growth of the School in numbers came additional buildings...The original building finished at the steps and the present School Library was the Hall...in 1938 the present Hall block was built, as well as the Gymnasium. The buildings throughout are in the Colonial type of framed wood, lined with asbestos, and have no claim to architectural style.

'Each pupil on entering the School is allocated to one of the form Houses, and the forms are denoted by the first letter of the House (1E = Eaton, 1F = Fussell, 1D = Davies, 1H = Haskins)...each week there is one House assembly, which is a service of worship, followed by general house matters. School meals are taken by houses. House prefects are in the fifth forms...School prefects are chosen from

the 5<sup>th</sup> form groups and each house contributes to a reasonable share of this body.

'School meal is provided for up to 650 children per day, cooked on the premises with a good and varied menu. It costs 1/- per day and the money should be brought in to the Form Master or Mistress on Mondays. Pupils who have a cold lunch eat in the dining room with the rest.

'The School Outfitters, The Don, Park Street, Bristol maintain a good standard of uniform at competitive prices...Wilful breaking of uniform regulations will be dealt with vigorously...School uniform will be worn at School on all occasions, for School Matches on Saturdays and for outings.

'All pupils cycling to School have to take a cycle test organized by Gloucestershire Constabulary before a permit to ride is issued. Until the test can be organised they may come by bicycle if parents give a personal certificate of the roadworthiness of the cycle and the ability of the child, in writing to the Headmaster.

'Each pupil will be asked to contribute 7/6 per year to the School Fund, which is used for general amenities for the School outside the provisions of the Local Authority and also a copy of the 'Kingswood Chronicles'.

There is a very detailed school uniform for girls specified including 'for Forms I and II Pinafore frocks' and for Forms III to V 'Plain brown skirts (not corduroy), not tight fitting or unreasonably short'...however, in Form II if a pinafore dress is outgrown, permission to wear a skirt must be obtained from the Senior House Mistress by letter from the parents..." ...It is not permitted to use

make-up or coloured nail varnish or to wear jewellery, except watches...'

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## 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.

Pamela Short (44), Shirley Short (46), Hilary Berrow (56), Muriel Cox (31), Geraldine Ashley (43), Keith Harris (41), June Marriott (41), Alan Brain (37), Gillian Duvall (60), John Winchester (55), Bob Saunders (46), Margot Ford (43), Ray Guest (51), Joy Painter (58), George Coates (56), Maureen Olive (49) – rejoining, Tony Hart (55).

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## CONTACTS...

From time to time we are asked to supply contact details to other KOSA members who wish to contact long-lost friends from school. Getting KGS people together is one of our major aims. However, if you do not wish your contact details to be given to other members, just let us know and we will mark your record accordingly.

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## TOBIAS AGAIN...

In the last edition we featured some photographs of *Tobias and the Angel*. Someone has kindly sent us the cast list from the programme (see next page).

In spite of being marked December 1952(?), it actually took place in 1951.

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CHARACTERS.

TOBIT, a poor Jew . . . . . David Rosevear  
 TOBIAS, his son . . . . . Jack Sandover  
 ANNA, his wife . . . . . Barbara Tugwell  
 RAPHAEL . . . . . Clive Hall  
 A BANDIT . . . . . David Hilling  
 RAGUEL, a rich Jew . . . . . Gordon Jones  
 SARA, his daughter . . . . . Anne Slater  
 AZORAH, a dancing girl . . . . . Ruth Fisher  
 SHERAH, a singing girl . . . . . Mary Huckle  
 SAM, a Nubian Slave . . . . . David Acton  
 ASMODAY, a Demon . . . . . John Pool  
 HOURS { . . . . . Joan Redford  
 . . . . . Rosemary Leigh  
 . . . . . Rosemary Morris  
 . . . . . Jean Perry

The play is set in Mesopotamia and Northern Persia before the reign of Ahasuerus.

ACT I.

Scene I. Tobit's hovel in Nineveh.

Scene II. On the banks of the Tigris, a day's march from Nineveh.

ACT II.

Scenes I & II. Raguel's House in Ecbatana.

ACT III.

Scene I. A Khan near Kifri.

Scene II. A lane in Nineveh, outside Tobit's hovel.

There will be one interval of ten minutes.

All costumes and scenery were made in the School.

Tobias and the Angel  
 December 1952(?)

FROM THE AIR...

We have published the photograph on the back page before, but have been asked to publish it again. It covers the whole school site from the canteen to the Gym and the woodwork/music rooms to the new 'huts' encroaching

onto the boys' play area to deal with the school's expansion.

The date of the photograph is estimated as the late 50s, certainly after 1956 or 1957. Most of the satellite buildings remain today, but the Gym. has gone!

