



KOSA NEWS



Magazine of the Old Scholars of Kingswood Grammar School

Summer 1993 No. 3

EDITORIAL...



Although the school site has changed somewhat over the years with the new school rising from the ashes of the old, the ground is still 'hallowed', and, for me at least, never ceases to raise the ghosts of the past, most of them very pleasant and friendly ones. The oak tree is still there, as indeed are the gym., the biology lab., and the music and woodwork rooms of the 50s, although their uses have changed in the meantime.

Good to see so many people, about 150, at the last occasion held at Kingsfield School on 23rd April. Everyone appeared to enjoy the evening. There was a friendly atmosphere, with a number of friendships renewed and many incidents of school life recalled, and in some cases, relived. During the evening our Chairman, PEGGY BOLT, presented a plaque designed by KENNETH MEEK and two framed photographs to Kingsfield Headmaster DAVID LEWIS.

I know, however, that some don't look back on their days at KGS with the same feelings of enjoyment. If you have stories of the causes of your days at school being regarded with less than pleasant memories, then please write and let me include your sentiments in the Newsletter. Who knows, you may be supported by many holding the same views!

The name of the last Newsletter was not received with wholehearted approval, and with the change of the association name to KOSA approved at the last General Meeting we have changed the name of the Newsletter to "KOSA NEWS", a title it perhaps should have possessed all along.

Many thanks for all those magazines and photographs which people have so generously loaned me for use in future Newsletters, and also all the letters with news and views. I will endeavour to use them all in due course, but please be patient! And keep those letters coming!

Several members have suggested that we organise some reunions based on particular years at KGS. Someone asked whether it would be possible to organise a meeting for all those who were at the school at some time during the war years. If you would like this idea pursued, please let us know. Meanwhile, our next meeting is the annual luncheon which will be held at Lincombe Barn, Overndale Road, Downend on Saturday, 25th September 1993. An application form is enclosed.

OBITUARY...

F J BABER C Eng, MIEE

Our President, Fred Baber, died on 31st March 1993 shortly before our last reunion. He was a founder member of the Eatonian Society in 1967, and had been an active committee member of Kingswood Old Scholars Association when it last flourished in the late 20s and 30s.

He joined the school on the day it opened in September 1921, with Major M J Eaton as headmaster, with few staff and eighty pupils. He continued his education at the Merchant Venturers Technical College and subsequently qualified in both electrical and mechanical engineering. He was awarded the Wertheimer Memorial Prize in 1932.

He joined E S & A Robinson Ltd. and was appointed as Electrical engineer to their engineering subsidiary Strachan & Henshaw Ltd. In more recent years he was responsible for Personnel, Education and Training, a position he held until his retirement in 1972. Fred was admitted to Corporate Membership of the Institution of Electrical Engineers in 1941. He was President of the Bristol Association of Engineers in 1957 and was made an honorary

life member in 1970 in recognition of his services.

He had many friends in the Probus movement, and was Past President of the Fishponds Club, and a long-standing member of the Keynsham & Saltford Club.

In earlier years his religious loyalties were with both the Methodist and Established churches, and he endeavoured to maintain Christian standards in his everyday life.

Fred was well known in Masonic circles, being a Past Provincial Grand Officer, a Past Master of Chatterton Lodge, a member of Orpheus Lodge, a Past Sovereign of Downend Chapter Rose Croix, and a Past President of Bristol Masonic Society, of which he was secretary for many years.

Fred is survived by two sons. His wife Amy, to whom he was married for nearly fifty years, died in 1986. They had a very happy relationship.

His interest and enthusiasm in furthering the success of Kingswood Old Scholars Associations, by whatever name they were called, will be sorely missed and a challenge to be equalled.

DAVID PEACOCK (1928-36)

Chairman Peggy Bolt writes...

On Friday, 23rd April 1993, we held our Old Scholars Spring 1993 event at Kingswood School. I welcomed the Old Scholars present to a short General Business meeting, and their partners and friends to a social after the business meeting.

I had to break the sad news of the death of our President, Fred Baber, and the meeting stood in silence for a few moments.

I recalled that the original KOSA was formed in 1926 with the then headmaster, Major Eaton, as the first President. Most pupils joined KOSA on leaving school in those days, with its affiliated clubs covering football, cricket, tennis, hockey, cycling and drama.

However, the early enthusiasm was not maintained in later years, and attempts to revive interest in the Association's earlier activities following the war, and later after the change of headmaster, were not particularly successful. The last reunion dinner was held on 21st March 1958, and eventually KOSA was formally wound up in 1977.

The emergence of the Eatonian Society followed a celebration dinner to mark Brian Sammons' retirement from KGS in 1966, the Society becoming the only formal old scholars' organisation, the members of which were mainly of Major Eaton's era.

Since then, the Eatonian Society has been run successfully by the enthusiasm of various presidents, and the dedication of the Secretary, David Peacock, and the Treasurer, Frank Rawlings, with a small committee. At the same time a number of events were

organised by a group of old scholars of Mr Ridley's era, led by Mike Bendrey, but no formal association was set up.

However, it gradually became apparent by the numbers attending the School's Diamond Jubilee Celebration, and by the 70th Anniversary Reunion in 1991 which attracted over 350 ex-pupils, their friends and partners, that there was a "ground-swell" of feeling that an integrated association covering both eras of old scholars should be set up.

Since that 1991 Reunion, progress has been made in amalgamating the two separate organisations. During the 1980s, the Eatonian Society's Annual Dinner became the Annual Luncheon, and has continued each year in early Autumn - the date this year is Saturday, 25th September 1993 at Lincombe Barn, Downend.

The idea of a newsletter was mooted, and raffle money from the 1991 Reunion provided enough funds to finance a newsletter. Mike Bendrey became a committee member, and with him as editor, the Newsletter was launched in the Spring of 1992. so far two issues have been published and sent to over 400 old scholars.

The Committee, in an effort to discover the real wishes of old scholars, used the Newsletter to carry out a survey by circulating a questionnaire to find the depth of interest, and to determine whether there was enough enthusiasm to extend the present arrangements, and to develop a wider old scholars' association. The results were very positive. The questionnaires indicated that there was majority support for a change of name to the Kingswood Old Scholars' Association.

This was put to the vote at the meeting and carried.

There was a need to elect a committee with wider representation, and the existing committee was re-elected plus three additional members. The Newsletter survey indicated that a contribution to the production of the Newsletter of between £3 and £5 was acceptable, and the Committee agreed that members should be invited to contribute £3 to its production.

The meeting concluded with reports from the Secretary and the Treasurer.

Points from the Post...

From JUNE BIRCH (NEE PICKLES) 1938-44 who now lives in Liverpool:

I have no idea who sent me the Newsletter, but oh my what a glorious memory lane I went down to read it. It was a roll call of my KGS days. Mr Addinall - the day we put the wastepaper basket over the door and he beat the intended recipient through the door! Boney Britton - I adored his English lessons second only to the History lessons of Miss Watters and then Miss Powell. I long corresponded with both the latter and had my photograph taken by Miss Watters when I visited her in Scotland.

Miss Quinton whom I had for Greek Literature in Translation when the glorious legacy of 16 Greek writers came alive for me. One person missing was a Mr Peters who was at KGS for a short time during the early war years - if one lacked attention in his lesson a ruler was rapped across your knuckles - I learnt to pay attention and learnt French

after one such painful experience.

'In my first year sixth form just before Easter, Major Eaton told us of an Empire knowledge competition instituted by the new Lord Lieutenant of Gloucestershire, Lord Bledisloe, ex- Governor-General of New Zealand. An essay was required, and it so happened that there was an exhibition about the Empire (we still had one!) in Bristol that Easter. I went and collected a load of leaflets and as it rained for 3 days I occupied the time by writing up the leaflets outlining the different forms of "government" within the Empire. I won at KGS (I think a few had a go), and I was shortlisted and had to attend for interview by a blind professor at Bristol University.

'Another boy and I were declared joint winners and received a shield before a full meeting of the County Council - a great day out. Major Eaton was quite pleased and gave the news out at service. I was missing and he said I was too modest to appear. Modest, my foot! I was very often late as a prefect except when on late duty, and that was one of those days! I still have the books I chose with the prize money.

'I took Domestic Science - a bonus in wartime as one's ingredients were given in addition to rations, and we were allowed an extra 'dish' in addition to ones we had to do in the lesson. I always went for a savoury - my pastry was always better than my cakes!

'I went on after Higher School Cert. to my grandmother's Training College of St Mary's, Cheltenham. I taught in Northampton and Bristol before marrying and having 2 boys and 2 girls. I returned to teaching and ended up as Head of Careers after completing my B.Ed and M.Ed.'

COLIN BEACHAM (1943-51)
writes:

I was staying with my sister EILEEN CASTERA (nee BEACHAM) (1934-39) this Easter when I saw the first two newsletters. I was a shade disappointed to see no mention of pupils of my years at KGS whom I knew. I was very interested in Mike Berry's letter particularly as it was due to Miss Marrison that I owe my success to Cambridge and inevitably my subsequent career. I would very much like to know what happened to her.

...Incidentally, I believe that KEN MEEK was the Ken Meek that I used to occasionally ride to school with from Longwell Green.

For most of my life I have been in the teaching profession first of all as a Housemaster at a boarding school in Sussex, and subsequently Head of History, Deputy Head of a comprehensive school in Lancashire, and finally for the last 20 years the Headmaster of a National Boarding School for highly intelligent and severely handicapped boys. As I approach my declining years I am now Head of Special Education for the County of Berkshire.'

**Kingswood Scholar elected
Fellow of the Royal Society...**

At a meeting of the Royal Society on March 11th 1993, Professor Colin Pillinger was elected as a Fellow of the Royal Society. The citation reads:

'Professor Colin Trevor Pillinger, Professor of Planetary Science in the Open University, Milton Keynes, distinguished for his major contributions to the geochemistry

and cosmochemistry of meteorites, the Moon, Mars, and the Earth. He has developed very sensitive techniques to determine isotope concentrations of minute amounts of carbon and nitrogen and use them to demonstrate the presence in primitive meteorites of interstellar dust grains which predate the solar system"

COLIN PILLINGER was born in Kingswood and educated at KGS (1954-61) before attending the University of Wales at Swansea where he gained a B.Sc. and Ph.D. in Chemistry specialising in mass spectrometry as a means of identifying chemical compounds and measuring the abundance of isotopes of the elements. Colin then spent seven years at the University of Bristol as a post-doctoral fellow, and was selected as one of the scientists to study the moon samples returned by the Apollo missions to the Moon.

Colin later moved to Cambridge, and then, in 1984, on to the Open University where much of the work concerning interstellar dust grains, the analysis of meteorites from Mars and studies of the genesis of diamond in the deep earth, was carried out. He was appointed Professor of Planetary Sciences in 1990.

Congratulations to Colin, who becomes KGS' second FRS, the first, of course, being Professor Sir Bernard Lovell.

Colin's sister PAT (DOREEN) LINDEGAARD lives in Brislington and was at KGS from 1958-53. Doreen graduated in History from Bristol Polytechnic recently (a late developer?), and now writes books on local Bristol and Kingswood history, with particular emphasis on family genealogy and mining. Doreen will trace your family tree for a reasonable fee!

**ROBERT LEWIS (1933-40)
WRITES...**

The reminiscences of certain Old Kingswood Scholars have prompted me to relate a couple of my own school-time experiences. I remember a fourth-form chemistry lesson taken by Ben Jones in 1935. Towards the end we were clearing the lab. benches and just as I was tipping the contents of a test tube into the sink, he came up casually and asked 'What have you just poured down the sink?' I hesitated, searching for a credible answer to cover my ignorance; but to no avail! A split second later my head felt the force of the palm of his hand as he shouted 'Never dispose of a chemical unless you know what it is! I had a bit of a sore head, but the punishment worked and thereafter I was always mindful of what I tipped down the lab. sink!

On another occasion, I remember having to draw a map of India as a Friday night geography prep. for Miss Powell, who had told us to colour brown the mountains over a certain height. At home that night I had mislaid my brown crayon, so I decided - quite sensibly, I thought - to use lead pencil instead for the mountains concerned. Unfortunately, Miss Powell did not share my opinion! On seeing my effort on Monday morning, she sternly asked 'Why didn't you do as I said regarding the mountains?' Because I couldn't find a brown crayon' was the timid reply. 'Then you could have borrowed one or even used brown water-colour paint!' I half anticipated this first part of her retort, but not the second part, 'Where there's a will there's a way!'

My pride was somewhat dented by this, but that final sentence rang in my ears and many are the times since that

it has rung and helped me confront and overcome problems and crises. Indeed, I had reason to be grateful to Miss Powell for her riposte. She was not the most popular member of staff with the pupils, but nevertheless, an excellent teacher. a disciplinarian to her fingertips, she never failed in her lessons to hold the attention of the entire class.

I shall never forget my final term at KGS in the summer of 1940. Following the fall of France in mid-June, it looked increasingly likely that some form of hostile action would take place on our side of the Channel, and those of us about to sit the Higher School Certificate exam. (it's called 'A' Levels today) wondered whether the exams would take place at all, and when they did, our papers were frequently interrupted by daylight air raid alarms, and each examinee had to be kept incommunicado in the air raid trenches at the bottom of the school playing field. However, for me and most of the other candidates it was a question of all's well that ends well.

I was saddened to find no reference in the Newsletter to Mr D E Davies (Froggy) who was Head of French throughout my time at the school. He was a fine teacher of senior forms and excelled as a sixth form master. His teaching of sixth form groups was relaxed and informal, but gave me a good insight into advanced level French. I shall always be grateful to him for the deep love of the French language and its literature which he passed on to me at school. It paid me handsome dividends both at university and indeed subsequently in my own teaching career. He must have retired in his mid-fifties. Perhaps someone has some information about him?

Where are they now?

I would also welcome news of two of my contemporaries at school: Roy Gill, who lived in Downend, and Alan Stevens who lived in Kingswood. All three of us were in the Army during the war, we all read French at University, and all three entered teaching after graduating at the end of the war. Maybe a hoped-for reunion will materialise!

Letters from Abroad...

The Editor has received two letters from North America. JIM WITHEY (1945-53) and his wife ANN (SUTTLE) have written another interesting letter from Canada, of which more in the next edition. However, DEREK BAILEY (1949-53), who now lives in either Westminster, Colorado or Long Beach California (you know what these Americans are!) has been in touch with Jim and Ann, so KOSA NEWS gets to the four corners of the circular globe!

'We Were There' - The Book...

The Editor now has copies of KEEN MEEK'S book on Kingswood Grammar School 'We Were There' in Bristol. Ken has indicated that, for copyright reasons, the book cannot be officially 'sold', but donations to KOSA funds of around £5 are invited in exchange for the book, which is very well-produced.

If you would like to send a donation to the Editor, he will arrange to send you a copy. Please add postage, which inland will be £3, and in the US and Canada about £8.50. If you are local, you may collect, of course.

The Committee...

Your Honorary Secretary, DAVID PEACOCK, wishes to stand down as secretary shortly. David has done a marvellous job over the years and we are sorry that David has decided to hang up his secretarial biro.

Your Committee has decided to use this as an opportunity to bring new blood onto the Committee. If you would like to make a contribution to the future of KOSA as our secretary, then please phone Chairman PEGGY BOLT on Bristol 564020

The Last Word - Almost

The contents of this Newsletter, its errors, omissions, libellous statements and lies are the sole responsibility of the Editor who has been wrestling with a new DTP program which, due to old age, failing sight and general debility he is unlikely ever to master!

Nevertheless, if you have any comments, bouquets, brickbats or even contributions please send them to:

Mike Bendrey, 26 Overndale Road, Downend, Bristol, BS16 2RT
Tel: 565689

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

The Autumn Reunion...

The regular Autumn Reunion Lunch will be held at Downend Folk House, Lincombe Barn, Overndale Road, Downend at 12.30pm for 1.00pm on Saturday, September 25th 1993. The catering will be provided by old scholars Bob and Sherry Gray, and a cash bar will be provided by Frank Rawlings, our Treasurer. There's ample (free!) parking facilities at the Barn.

Lower overhead costs and a healthy bank balance allow us to reduce the cost slightly this year to £10 per head, and remittances for yourself and guests should be sent to the Hon. Treasurer, Frank Rawlings, 74 Oakdale Road, Downend, Bristol, BS16 6EA. Cheques should be made payable to 'The Kingswood Old Scholars Association'.

Please apply early using the form inserted in this edition of the Newsletter as places are limited to 100 and applications will be dealt with on a first-come-first-served basis. Hope to see you there!

The Rugby Reunion...

Those of you who read the last edition of the Newsletter will know that a successful get-together of the former players of Kingswood Old Boys RFC, now Kingswood RFC, took place in September 1992. There was a lunch in the Clubhouse, followed by the match, a swindle to raise money for the club, and rounded off by drinks in the Clubhouse. A good time was had by all.

JOHN SALTER and DAVID PINE are organising another 'do' on Saturday, 25th September 1993. Lunch will be provided by the ladies, the First XV will be playing Barton Hill (the Old Enemy!), and no doubt the aforementioned John and Dave will do their level best to relieve you of your hardwon gains in aid of Club funds.

Kingswood now run a ladies' team, and JOHN COLE and ROY KING have suggested that, prior to the sponsored game, the former players have a match against the ladies. Walking touch-rugby has been proposed, but with plenty of scrums. A wheel chair will be provided for Club President JOHN BISHOP!

All Old Scholars are welcome, so if you would like to attend the sausage-and-mash-type lunch, sponsor the match and take part in an enjoyable afternoon fill in the enclosed form and send ten quid to John Salter, 10 Oakleaze, Frampton Cotterell, Bristol BS17 2RB. Any other donations for club funds would be gratefully received even if you cannot come along!

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If you need more info. please phone John on 0454/776404 or Dave at the office on 0272/732013 or at home on 0275/848814.



The 1st XI Cricket Team 1932 or 1933?
 ? Wilshire Woods Lewis ? Maggs Hamblin
 Hollister Bailey ? Lucas Churchill



FORM V REMOVE
 1952



HASKINS HOUSE
 1952

Autumn Reunion Lunch

To:

Frank Rawlings, Honorary Treasurer, KOSA
74 Oakdale Road, Downend, Bristol, BS16 6EA

I enclose £_____ for _____ places @ £10 each for the
KOSA Reunion Lunch to be held at 12.30 pm on Saturday, 25th
September 1993 at Lincombe Barn, Overndale Road, Downend Bristol.

Name_____

Guests' Names:

Maiden Name_____

Address_____

Years at KGS_____ to_____

If you have any special dietary requirement please inform us

Please make cheques payable to:

Kingswood Old Scholars' Association (KOSA)

Kingswood RFC Reunion

To:

John Salter, 10 Oakleaze, Frampton Cotterell, Bristol BS17 2RB

*Yes, I would like to attend the lunch at the Clubhouse (near
Warmley Church) on Saturday, 25th September 1993 and attend the
game afterwards.

I enclose £10 to cover the cost and sponsor the game.

*No, I regret I cannot attend, but I enclose a contribution of
£_____ to sponsor the game.

* Please delete as appropriate.

Name_____

Address_____

Years at KGS_____ to_____

Please make cheques payable to:

Kingswood Rugby Football Club