



# KOSA NEWS



NUMBER 30 - SPRING 2007

The Magazine of the Old Scholars of Kingswood Grammar School

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## EDITORIAL...



By popular agreement our last Autumn Lunch was the best yet. We are normally restricted to 120 at Lincombe Barn, our usual venue, but although BOB GRAY (49-56) our committee member who handles the catering side, managed to squeeze in 130 we unfortunately had to turn some late applications down. Moral - book early to avoid disappointment!

We were very pleased to see about a dozen rigger b\*\*\*\*\*s at the reunion, and we were able to put them out of the way in a group in the corner where they were able to re-live and celebrate past victories and commiserate over past defeats. Age seems to have modified their behaviour from earlier years - no rugby songs were sung, no food was thrown and no furniture broken. A very civilised crowd, really.

As far as the current edition of the 'NEWS is concerned, I hope that you enjoy its contents. Sadly, many obituaries this time. However, I hope that you agree that we should celebrate their lives and it is a time when we can review their contributions, albeit briefly. I have had to hold over some of the material, particularly photographs, until next time. My thanks ,however, to all those who have made contributions. It's YOUR magazine, so keep them coming.

## DIARY DATES...

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

Our Buffet Lunch is booked for **SATURDAY, 14 APRIL 2007** at Lincombe Barn. We meet at between 12 and 12.30 for a quick AGM at 12.30 when you can have your say about KOSA, its Committee and its future. Then we sit down to a hot buffet lunch at about 1.00pm. Painless! As ever, we have arranged a cash bar. 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 AUTUMN LUNCH:**

Already booked for **SATURDAY, 13 OCTOBER 2007** at Lincombe Barn, Downend- Please book the date in your diary now.

## OBITUARIES...

JOSEPHINE WHITTERN (21-26) later SCUDAMORE passed away on 7 November 2006 aged almost 97 and her daughter has written to KOSA.

'Josephine Whittern, known as Jo, was born at Staple Hill, Bristol, with one brother Walt and two sisters Ann and Hester. She went to Staple Hill Junior School and was one of the first pupils at the new Kingswood Secondary School.



She enjoyed school and was a good athlete, gaining the most points at Sports Day for three consecutive years and was given a medal in recognition of this achievement.

Her father bought a silver chain for it, but alas it was stolen during one of the many burglaries at her Coalpit

Heath home. She was also an enthusiastic member of the hockey team, though her father threatened to stop her playing if she came home with another split lip. When the team practised, some of the staff, including the Headmaster MAJOR EATON and MISS QUINTON, would play as well to coach the girls and Jo remembered Major Eaton's joy when they beat arch rivals Chipping Sodbury Grammar for the first time. It was made much of in school assembly.

'In her sixties while helping at the *As New* shop in Yate, Jo and another helper GLADYS ANSTEE (now NELSON) realised that they had been contemporaries

at Kingswood School, and in the hockey team together. They renewed their friendship and saw each other regularly and Gladys survives her. (We believe that Gladys may be now the sole survivor of the 1921ers - Ed.)

'She "failed" School Certificate as she did not pass French (utterly predictable according to her French teacher) and left school to train as a nurse at the Children's Hospital in Bristol. However, the injections she received before starting her training had made her ill and tired so she did not enjoy nursing (her only memories of her short career were of washing nappies and radiators!) and after three months her father persuaded her that it was not the right career for her and she got a job in the Accounts Department of Carson's Chocolate Factory where she worked very happily until she left in 1941, when she married Godfrey Scudamore who was a market gardener in Downend.

'It was wartime so wedding essentials were hard to come by and as Godfrey grew vegetables he gave her a bag of onions and she bartered these for icing sugar from the factory and thus was able to have her wedding cake iced. It poured with rain on the day of the wedding so the key players reassembled the next day for the photos, which explains why there was no group photo.

'She had two children Eva and Nick (who both went to Sodbury Grammar!) and once they were at school she helped Godfrey to grow organic vegetables - before they were invented! She was at her happiest in those years enjoying working in the open air with him. However, in 1964 everything changed when Godfrey died of lung cancer. Not only did Jo have to deal with the sudden loss of her beloved husband, this was followed in 1965 by the construction of the M4 which gobbled up half of their land. Jo



nursing home and got her way dying peacefully in hospital just short of her 97<sup>th</sup> birthday, still mentally alert, still solving crosswords and never complaining. In her last conversation before she died she said that she had never felt old, "I don't feel old now" she memorably said."

The photograph on this page shows Jo and Gladys in the hockey team together all those years ago. The photo on page 2 shows Jo in her school uniform at the age of 16.

hated being idle and occupied herself with voluntary work in the patients' library at Frenchay Hospital, for thirty years, and was also employed there in the medical library. She helped in charity shops and was still helping at a Break shop in Winterbourne until she was nearly ninety, and was given one of their Long Service Awards. She also worked on the land again as her son Nick cultivated what was left of the market garden and Jo helped him, walking from Coalpit Heath to Downend to do so until well into her eighties. She was still picking runner beans for him until she was nearly ninety, when a bad fall meant that she had to retire!

'At 92 she had a hip replacement and at 94 a cataract operation which was traumatic and only partly successful but she coped with it all with good humour and determination and managed to stay in her own home and was able to look after herself until July 2006, when with failing health she had to rely upon carers. But she was determined not to go into a

The death of DON BREDDY (44 – 52) has been reported to KOSA by brother JOHN BREDDY (49-56):

'It is with great sadness that I write with the news that Don, my brother, died in October 2006.

'Don became ill early in the year. In June it became very clear that he was seriously ill. He was admitted to hospital at the end of the month. He showed his characteristic determination in dealing with his illness, undergoing stays in both Southmead and Frenchay and then treatment at the BRI as an outpatient. Unfortunately the treatment didn't work and was stopped. Don passed away at home surrounded by the loving family which was the centre of his life.

'Don spent virtually the whole of his life in Wick, apart from National Service in the RAF as a meteorologist and a couple of years of early married life in Warmley. His first work was at Rolls Royce in Filton where he undertook stress analysis on

jet engines (using a slide rule!) He worked on the engines which were fitted in the Avro Vulcan, a later generation of which went into the Concorde. Don didn't really believe in "pride" but we know that he was proud of this work.

'The direction of his working life changed in the 60s. He obtained teaching qualifications and a post in the Bristol Technical College at Ashley Down, later to become Brunel College. His former colleagues talk of "his natural teaching abilities, of the way he could coax the best out of the weakest of students, of the help and support he gave students and colleagues and of his sense of humour."

'In summary, Don was a very modest man who truly loved his family and the community around him. He was a man of few words, and when he spoke, they were words carefully measured, providing guidance or support when needed. His nature was demonstrated in the deeds that he quietly undertook, without ceremony, for the good of others.

'As you would expect his funeral was well attended and it was very gratifying to see all facets of his life represented.'

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KENNETH MEEK (40-45) passed away in Birmingham on 24 November 2006 at the age of 78 after a long illness. A eulogy was delivered by his cousin Bernard at the funeral:

'Kenneth grew up with strong family values in pre-wartime Bristol...and during the war he was entrusted as a runner for the Air Raid Wardens during the Bristol bombing raids. Later he did his National Service in the Royal Air Force.

'Not everyone recognized Kenneth's gift for creating harmony and he playfully misled people in a most disharmonious



way. At a tender age girls teased him over his lack of coordination in dancing. They claimed he had two left feet...he determined to prove those girls wrong and he ended up gaining medals for ballroom dancing and fox-trotting through life with Joyce, whom he affectionately called 'wifey', for 54 years.

'...I recall he worked hard to produce the Meek Family History. I spent some happy times researching the history with him in Gloucestershire pubs that he claimed were owned at one time by the family...He wanted to make sure that the history was preserved for future generations, and he succeeded in producing an informative and entertaining work for which I am sure the family is grateful.

'Kenneth valued the contribution that KGS had made to his development, and particularly the Headmaster, MAJOR EATON. Kenneth wrote a book of the history of KGS called *We Were There* (some

copies are still available – Ed), and he had some paperweights made and arranged for the manufacture of a tie. He did all this without any payment.'

Kenneth was a lifetime Conservative, from the Young Conservatives to a Councillor in Birmingham. There he was instrumental in the refurbishment of Joseph Chamberlain's mansion, the preservation of a wartime prefab and the refurbishment of the Botanical Gardens, as well as the introduction of a leisure services database.

Kenneth's philosophy can be summed up in his own words:

When the task's really worthy, face up  
with a smile  
True courage will help you to all that's  
worthwhile.  
The plan that you thought of can only  
come true,  
If you stop your vain dreaming and set  
out to do.  
Get right into action, go for it and win,  
It's action that counts, not vain-dream-  
ing - begin.  
And know there's but one who can see  
the job through,  
That's a true-hearted, brave, undefeata-  
ble YOU!

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RON PARSONS and wife AUDREY KENDALL (45-50) have supplied KOSA with JOHN KENDALL's (49-54) obituary:

'Born in December 1938 and christened Michael John he was always known as John. During the 1941 air-raids with Dad on night shift and his sisters safely with relatives in the country, Mum heard a loud bang and immediately picked up John and ran outside. An unexploded shell was later found under the side-board. Maybe it was then that John decided life may be short but it could jolly well be enjoyable. That is how family and

friends remember him, entertaining people, whether as the top half of a puppet or dressed-up at parties in high-heels and wigs.

'John went to KGS in 1949 and left in December 1954 to take up an apprenticeship with Rolls Royce where he studied to gain his AMIMEchE.

'He met his future wife, Christine, they were engaged on Mount Snowdon, married in 1964, had a son Haydn, a daughter Anna and later two adored grandchildren, Jed and Macy. They enjoyed 42 years of happy marriage.

'In the early 1970s with brother David he took over and updated the family business, providing an express delivery service of vital components and props for firms and exhibitions. Soccer was his passion. As a youngster he played for Iron Acton FC and in his fifties was still turning out for the veterans.

'Through their love of line dancing John and Chris raised money for charitable causes which included the stroke unit at Frenchay. They also enjoyed rail travel like the Orient Express and visits to the USA and their flat in Majorca. A motoring enthusiast John took great pride in his Vespa, Riley and Range Rover.

'The family is grateful for his painstaking research of our paternal family tree dating back to the early 1700s.

'John suffered a stroke in 2000. While recovering he joined sister Elizabeth teaching at the C of E School at Frampton Cotterell to help children with reading. He became their Father Christmas for the next few years. In spite of setbacks he made himself accessible and cheered up visitors with his fund of stories and jokes. He returned to work but was diagnosed with prostate cancer which spread

and he died on 24 June 2006 after some days in St Peter's Hospice. Haydn, John's son, ran in the Bristol half-marathon to raise £1040 and with £200 raised by the line dancing club it was possible to buy two syringe drivers for the Hospice.



'At the funeral service at Frampton Cotterell Church, Chris Coles in giving the eulogy paid tribute to their friendship. With the rendering of Tina Turner's 'You're simply the best', vision blurred as back momentarily to gladden our hearts was the man we were privileged to call husband, father, brother and friend.'

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DAVID ROWE's (41-49) wife Nan Rowe died peacefully on 19 August 2006 after a long illness. The funeral was held at Barnstaple Crematorium on Thursday, 31 August.

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We have received a letter from RUTH SHEARS (now Henley) (45-50) to inform us of the death of her husband DAVID HENLEY (44-48):

'My husband DAVE HENLEY was hit by a car while on holiday in Spain and he died the next day on 11 July 2006. We were celebrating our Golden Wedding year.

'He had enjoyed some reunions and meals with NOBBY BRYANT, DON BREDDY. IVOR POWELL and others. He had many jobs since he left KGS. He was in the RAF, was a policeman and did office administration and driving after retirement. He was a strong Christian and tried to live his life accordingly. Dave was a prison visitor at Leyhill and also on the chaplaincy team there. He worked for several charities as well.

'We have 3 children and 4 grandchildren and they were the light of his life. One of my grandchildren is at the school now and one is at university from the school.'

David's brother, Terry, has told us a little more of David's life:

'Dave was born and brought up in the village of Cadbury Heath. He attended the local school before going to KGS. His first employment was with the Co-op store in Stonehill, Hanham and at the age of 18 he entered National Service with the RAF, during which time he spent a period in Singapore.

'On leaving the RAF he was employed in the Signal Engineers' Dept. of British Rail, but at the age of 29 he joined the Bristol police force, where he remained until his retirement. For 13 years of his time with the force he was the officer responsible for the Barton Hill area.

'After his retirement he was able to pursue his beliefs as a Christian within the church and charitable organisations. He was involved with the Chaplaincy at Leyhill Open Prison and he was also a member of Euro Evangelism which took him on many trips to Rumania to deliver goods and to work on projects there. He had many other interests, including woodcarving and making full use of his computer and the internet. He will be

sadly missed by his family and friends'

DESMOND JEFFERIS (35-38) has reported his sister's passing:

'Sadly, my sister AUDREY BARTON nee JEFFERIS (37-41) passed away on 11 August 2006 at Dunblane, Scotland, where she had lived for most of her married life.

'She was at KGS, as were her sisters NESTA and BRENDA, brother CHARLES and myself at various times. MOLLY BRITTON was one of her friends who visited on several occasions in Scotland.

'At the moment I am unable to find a class photo of Audrey so that her friends could remember her. Although at her age of 80 many of them are unfortunately not with us now.'

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FRANK STEPHENS (30-35) has prepared an appreciation of the life of JOHN BERRY (1919-2006):

'JOHN BERRY (32-38) died on 21 July 2006, one week before he and his wife Margaret would have celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary. During his latter years his health declined and the final six months were spent in hospital. Despite this he never complained.

'In 1932 he became a pupil at KGS when his father was appointed Postmaster at Kingswood from Devizes. The family's new home was in Staple Hill and we formed a friendship which was to last a lifetime. As boys we walked, cycled, fished, enjoyed philately and went to church together.

'John played cricket and soccer for the school and was a diligent student. He could have followed an academic career

but chose the Civil Service instead. He passed the CS Executive Officers' Entry Examination in 1938 and worked for the Inland Revenue in London. Shortly after, his parents moved to New Malden, Surrey where his father had been appointed Postmaster.

'John, as so many of us had to, registered for military service as war was looming. He joined the East Surrey Regiment in communications and embarked for France in early 1940. He was captured by the Germans soon after and the next five years were spent in POW camps in Poland and Germany until his release in 1945. During this period we were able to communicate, albeit infrequently. (Readers may recall that we published an excerpt from John's POW story in KOSA NEWS 28 - Ed.)

'After demobilization in 1946 he resumed his work with the Inland Revenue and lived with his parents in New Malden. At the same time John became very active in the local United Reform Church, as was Margaret and their family later on.

'John and Margaret were married in the Congregational Church in Staines in 1956 and I was asked to be Best Man. By sheer coincidence my Company had transferred me from Hamble, Southampton to Heathrow, and my wife EDNA POWELL (31-36) had bought a house in Staines and moved in six weeks before the wedding!

'John and Margaret were blessed with two sons, a daughter and five grandchildren. They still managed to attend KOSA reunions in Bristol and on 14 October 1995 the KOSA Committee invited John to plant a commemorative oak tree in the grounds of Kingsfield School in memory of the Staff and Old Scholars who served in WW2, some of whom had paid the

supreme sacrifice.

'John progressed in the Inland Revenue and he became a Principal Officer. His service was rewarded when the Queen invested him with the Imperial Service Order in 1977. He retired in 1981.

'John was a devoted husband and father, a man of deep religious convictions and a staunch friend'

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JOHN FLOWER (38-45) has notified KOSA that his sister JOYCE PURVIS nee FLOWER (36-41) died on 30 July 2006. Her husband died a few years ago, but she is survived by 3 sons, a daughter and 4 grandchildren.

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FRANCES READ nee BRYANT (30-?) passed away on 1 November 2006. She became a trainee teacher at Tormarton, and married husband Charles when she was 20. During the war she lived in Birmingham and Shillingstone and then returned to Wick to live with her husband and two daughters. She taught mainly biological sciences in Oldland Common Girls' School, which later formed Sir Bernard Lovell School, until she retired.

Frances played hockey for Wick Ladies, with whom she served as secretary for many years. She also helped with parades in the annual village carnival. She and her husband took Bible classes for teenagers in their home in the late 1940s and she was a member of Wick Parish Council for 20 years. She also put together a historical record of Wick which was displayed in St Bartholemew's Church. Frances leaves two children and two grandchildren.

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'Tony Rundle has informed us of the passing of his wife, PATRICIA ROSE nee TYLER (47-52) who died on 10 May 2006, aged 69:

'In her early years Pat contracted polio, which prevented her from taking part in many sports at school, but she excelled and gained a GCE certificate in English Language, Art, Cookery and Dietetics.

'Pat and I became cyclists and ramblers and very much enjoyed our trips, especially in the Lake District. In swimming she recently took part in the *Swim the Channel Challenge* as part of the Active for Life, South Gloucestershire, achieving 34,200 metres. I was both proud and sad to receive the award for this achievement on her behalf, after she had died. Pat also had an interest in photography, and in September 1985 entered a slide competition for which she was awarded a first and third prize at Lancaster University.

'Initially, Pat worked for Boots the Chemists after leaving school, but many years later found her calling when she worked for the Artificial Limb and Appliance Centre in Fishponds, where she could empathise with the patients. Finally, 7 years before retirement at 60, she transferred to Southmead Hospital and became Technical Co-ordinator in the Wheelchair Section.'

Tony plans to scatter Pat's ashes on the sites which they loved when they walked together, amongst them the Lake District.

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MARY WAKEFIELD (48-53) now DAVIES has informed us of her sister's passing:

'PAULINE WAKEFIELD (46-52) later CLARK died on 28 June 2006. Pauline was born in Fishponds on 28th August 1935. Just 9 months later her parents moved to Soundwell, and in due course she attended KGS until, after her 'O' levels in 1952, she started work with

Barclay's Bank.

'Pauline (and her younger sister, Mary) maintained their link with the school by playing hockey with the 'Old Girls' until 1970. Apart from a short spell at Hawksbury Upton soon after her wedding (to Michael) in 1958, she lived in Downend and Staple Hill for the rest of her life, despite moving house several times.

'Pauline led a very busy and active life. She and Mike had 4 children, and she helped him run a motorcycle and scooter business for many years. She was actively involved in various groups associated with her local Baptist Church and was group secretary for the scouts for sixteen years.

'When Mike suffered a heart attack and was unable to work for many months she was aged 54 and, just when most people are thinking of retirement, she went out and secured employment at Sun Alliance Insurance Company. Not informing them that, prior to her marriage she had previous experience in banking, she told them that she knew nothing about the insurance industry and even less about computers. However they still offered her the job, where she spent the next seven and a half very happy years. She retired at the age of 62 and promptly found a new role helping a friend to run a toddlers group in the church hall.

'Pauline was a member of Downend Tangent Club for 30 years and was Chairman twice. Later on, she and Mike became very keen on bowls and joined Bristol St. Andrews Bowling Club. She was ladies secretary for three years, was a past lady captain, went on bowling holidays and club tours, and eventually represented the County. She will be sadly missed by her many friends and, of course, her family.'

DAVID SMALL (59-66) has informed us of his parents' deaths, both of whom attended KGS:

'WALTER 'FRANK' SMALL (31-38) died on 14 November 2005 aged 86. He was born, raised and lived in Kingswood for all his life. It is quite probable that he was aware of his future wife, DOREEN when at KGS, as the school was much smaller before the war.

'After leaving KGS, he studied mechanical engineering at Bristol University by way of evening classes. He joined the 'family firm', West Gloucestershire Waterworks, and worked there until 1982, initially as a draughtsman and later in managerial roles. The company was taken over by Bristol Water Company in 1954. Frank's elder brother, Laurie, also worked at Kingswood Headquarters but later moved to Bedminster. The family believe that Laurie attended KGS, but would appreciate anyone who could confirm that he did so.

'Frank loved the outdoor life and he enjoyed nothing more than to be called out in the middle of the night in winter to manage a serious water emergency. He loved hands-on experience and hated bureaucrats. Frank, a family man, was a passionate gardener right up to his death. His garden and conservatory were a mini Chelsea Flower Show and his large fruit and vegetable garden sustained the family for most of the year. He was the original 'Green' long before the Johnny-come-lately Cameron. He loved swimming, tennis, cricket and in later years enjoyed lawn bowls. He also enjoyed motoring and really loved the West Country.

'Brought up an Anglican at Kingswood Parish Church, he joined Kingswood Congregational Church when he married DOREEN TIPPETT in 1943 and he took an active part in the work of the

church. Besides the church, his charities were appropriately Oxfam and Water Aid. Although an asthmatic and was diagnosed with and treated for bowel cancer in 1982, he remained fit until the last 5 weeks of his life.

‘For many years he was a keen freemason, attending many lodges, his favourite being the one that was predominantly a police lodge; he was a firm believer in law and order, fairness and justice.

‘He is survived by his sons: John, DAVID, at KGS 59-66, ANTONY, at KGS 65-72 and ANDREW who was at KGS 71-78 and his six grandchildren.’

‘DOREEN GRACE SMALL (33-40) previously TIPPETTS died on 20 June 2006 aged 83. After a short bout of bronchitis, she died of a heart attack in Frenchay Hospital. She had been dogged by chronic ill health throughout her adult life and husband FRANK TIPPETTS, whom she married in 1943 and was also an Old Scholar, became her principal carer until his death in 2005

‘She was born Kingswood in 1922 of parents with a long lineage in the Kingswood area. Her father died of a wound inflicted in the Irish troubles of the 1920s, when Doreen was still child. To her dying days she was a lover of South Gloucestershire and was a lifelong member of Kingswood Congregational Church where she was a Sunday school teacher for many years. Her Kingswood roots made her a dissenter and she had little time for the Establishment. She loved animals and detested fox hunting and other cruel sports and she gave generously to animal welfare charities and to African children’s charities.

‘Doreen was academically bright and was active in sport at KGS. Her favourite sport was lawn tennis, followed by hock-

ey; she also loved playing the piano and singing. In 1940 she gained a place at St. Matthias teacher-training college. It is possible that she had a nervous breakdown in that year and did not continue with her studies, as her working career was in clerical and administrative jobs and in later life as a ‘dinner lady’. Her addiction to prescription drugs limited her interests, but she was an avid collector of fine china and glassware. She had a love of food and keenly baked cakes, a talent she acquired at KGS. The pressure of motherhood became difficult after 1959.

‘She is survived by the younger generation of her family and a large number of cousins. Tippett’s Road in Kingswood was named after a notorious ancestor of hers.’

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BRIAN HODGES (53-80) has informed us of the passing of his younger sister RITA HODGES (56-61) later Garland. Rita, who died from cancer, was taken ill in November 2005 and died on 10 April 2006. Rita was reported by her mother to be renowned for the number of times she was in detention at KGS! She leaves a husband, Chris, and two children, one of whom, CATHERINE, attended KGS.

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KOSA has received a postcard from JOAN BLYTHE (32-38) now HARRIS in New Zealand to inform us that her husband GORDON HARRIS (31-38) passed away on 29 October 2005.

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To all those who have lost loved ones we send our condolences. It’s both fitting and interesting to read of their lives and the impact that they made on their school, families and their communities.

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## AUTOGRAPH BOOKS...

In a past edition we featured some visual extracts from RUTH SPRACKMAN (29-35) later Brentnall's autograph book from her days at KGS. Sadly, Ruth passed away on 7 June 2006, but her son, Andy Brentnall, has loaned us her book for yet more extracts.

It is not possible to include them all, but here are some further extracts. Staff entries include 'CHARLIE' HOWARD (Maths), M A PERRY and B JONES. The entry by MISS QUINTON in Latin was translated in the last edition:

Think of me on the river,  
Think of me on the lake,  
Think of me on your wedding day  
And send me a slice of cake.  
J Britton, 23 June 1930

It's not the girl that knows the most,  
That has the most to say,  
It's not the girl that has the most,  
That gives the most, away.  
B Jefferies, 6 Aug 1932

I dreamt I had died  
And to heaven did go.  
Where did you come from?  
They wanted to know.  
When I said "Kingswood"  
How Peter did stare –  
Step inside, your (sic!) the first from  
there.  
A Marjorie Orchard, June 1930

Caesar adsura jam forte  
Pompeus aderat.  
With love from Grace, July 1932

When the Autumn sun is setting  
And your mind from care is free  
When of others you are thinking,  
Don't forget to think of me.  
E Jones, 19.6.30

My heart is like a cabbage,  
Nearly split in two,

The leaves I give to others,  
But the heart I give to you.  
Edna, 6/12/32

Fall from a housetop,  
Fall in a tub,  
Fall in anywhere,  
But don't fall in love.  
F Merchant June 19, 1930

There was an old man of Black-heath,  
Who sat on his set of false teeth;  
He said with a start,  
'Oh Lord bless my heart,  
I've bitten myself underneath.'  
Joyce M Ivory, 14.6.32

When the golden sun is setting  
And your path of life be trod  
May your name in gold be printed  
In the autograph of God.

"Beauty is truth, truth beauty; that is all  
Ye know on earth, and all ye need to  
know" [Keates]  
A F Wilshire, 6.3.33

When the leaves of this album are yellow  
with age  
And the words that I write are yellow  
with age  
Think of me kindly and do not forget  
That wherever I am I remember you  
yet.  
Forget me not.  
Stella E, Sept 18, 1930

Smile awhile  
And when you smile –  
Another smiles.  
And soon there's miles and miles of  
smiles  
And life's worthwhile,  
Because you smile.  
Muriel, 28/7/1932.

And, of course,:  
By hook or by crook  
I'll be last in this book.  
M Powell, 23/6/30.

## WHAT HAPPENED TO..?

Some time ago in KOSA NEWS someone asked whatever happened to MR TICKNER, who taught Spanish at KGS before the outbreak of war. NORA BAKER (36-43) (now Cooper) has been in touch to give us her (and his) story:

'After teaching in Gloucestershire for 6 years after KGS and college, I moved to Calne into a large Victorian house with my husband and six children. One day, pushing my pram up High Street, I passed a good looking man who I was sure was MR TICKNER.

'It turned out that, when war broke out, because he was in the Territorial Army he was one of the first to be called upon to fight. He had returned to KGS briefly after the war but then obtained the headship of Calne Grammar School.

'A few years later, when I was chairman of the Townswomens' Guild, I got in touch with the secretary of the Grammar School who informed me that the Domestic Science teacher had left, leaving them with a week to advertise and appoint a replacement. If unsuccessful the school would have to drop the subject. The secretary said 'Mr Tickner would like to have a word with you' and he offered me a job as DS teacher, which, as my children were all now of school age, I decided to accept as a permanent post. This was a most fortunate decision on my part as 18 months later my husband died.

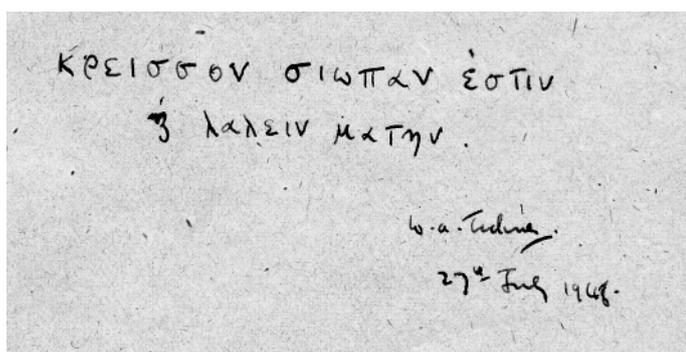
'I stayed on for about 20 years when I retired at 59. Mr Tickner remained Headmaster until he retired at 65, but he died a year later with a brain tumour. However, my eldest son has maintained contact for many years with the Tickners' eldest son.

'Incidentally, I had two sisters and a brother who all attended KGS. My late sister, ENID BAKER, married TONY ROWARK who featured as the small boy dressed as a clown in the photographs of *1066 and All That* which were published in KOSA NEWS a few editions ago.

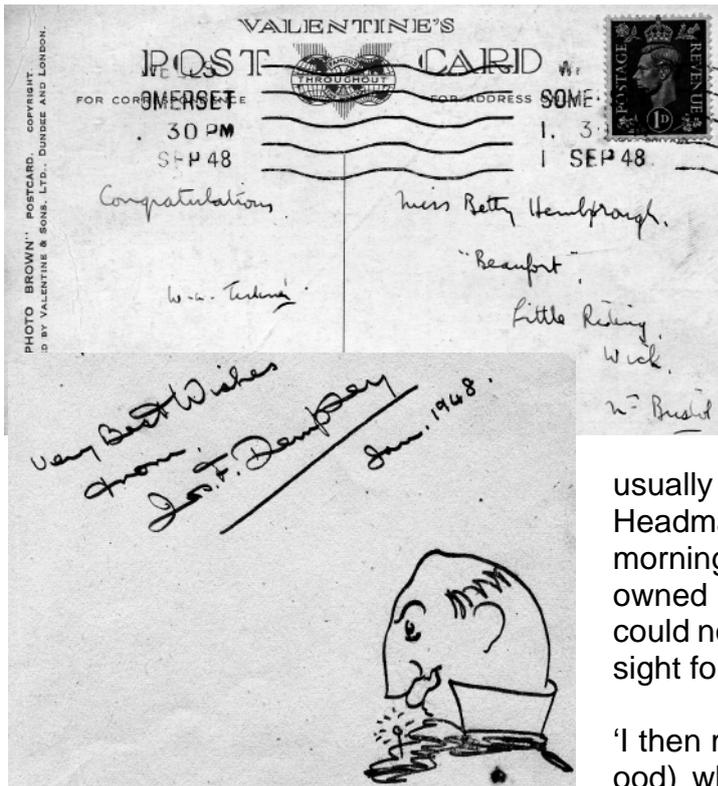
I now have 15 grandchildren and 2 great grandsons and now live in a small, cosy Victorian house – but still in Calne!

## IT'S ALL GREEK...

BETTY HEMBROUGH (43-48) now BRIDGES, who lives in Cornwall, has sent us a postcard (see page 13) and some extracts from her autograph album. The postcard of Wells Cathedral is from MR TICKNER and is dated 1 September 1948 sent to Betty after the School Certificate results had come out. Would many teachers send such a postcard nowadays? Complete with 1d stamp, it would now cost over 55 times that price to send the same postcard – second class, too!



One extract from Betty's autograph album is also from MR TICKNER. EILEEN MATTHEWS (52-59) now Bendrey, who knows about these things being a bit of a linguist, tells us that it's in Ancient (Classical) Greek and can be translated as 'It is better to keep silent than to talk in vain'. Some sort of message to Betty there? The other extract is from MR DEMPSEY, who taught Art.



'I was introduced to JANET CREW (now Beese), who had been my tennis partner in the '53 end-of-year 6<sup>th</sup> Form American Tennis Tournament. I recall winning against JIM WITHEY and JOSIE VAGG. For the first time I could recall, the school could not presumably afford to buy the usual two boxes of 6 new tennis balls which were usually presented to the winning pair by Headmaster MR RIDLEY at the Monday morning assembly. As I had never owned a box of 6 new tennis balls, I could not forgive the school for this oversight for a long time after leaving.

'I then met JOAN PEELING (now Toogood) who was looking very fit and still very attractive (How many of us red-blooded males had had a crush on Joan during our time at KGS?). Joan explained that her fitness came from still playing golf at a very competitive level after giving up tennis. In fact she was still playing at county level, representing Wiltshire. Congratulations Joan.

'JOHN GRAY MBE was also present with his wife Eileen. John was the driving force behind the formation of Kingswood Old Boys' RFC in September 1954, after he and I attended a Bristol Combination meeting earlier in the year. The aim was to gain support for, and knowledge of what would be required, for the club to be accepted as possibly the first new rugby club to join the Combination since WW2. Imagine the look on the faces of the fairly elderly Combination officials (with a wealth of organizational experience behind them) having two 18 year old 'youngsters' applying and appealing for their agreement and support to start a new club only a few years after the School had introduced rugby in 1948-49.

### THE 46ers' REUNION...

JOHN SALTER (46-54) has reported back on the reunion:

'On Saturday 19 August 2006 I attended the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary reunion of the class of 46, together with approximately 25 other 71 year old (young?) ex KGS pupils. The reunion came about as a result of the efforts of PRISCILLA POWELL (now Maguire), ably aided and abetted by my (old) Fussell House rugby adversary PETER BRAKE. Peter still claims he was trying to rake the ball and not me from a loose scrum in a Davies v Fussell house match!

'Feeling slightly apprehensive and wondering whether I would be able to remember names and then able to put names to faces, I entered the lounge bar of the Sandringham, Downend. I need not have worried as I was met by Priscilla, looking well and as attractive as ever who has everything well organized. Soon I was catching up with ex-school friends I hadn't seen since between '51 and '53.

# THE 46ers' REUNION

Right:  
Gordon Jones, Margaret  
Stonehewer and Reg Amos



Below:  
Priscilla Powell, John  
Kidner and Philip Gibbs



Below:  
Janet Crew, John Cole,  
John Salter and  
Reg Amos

Below left:  
Kathleen  
Hardwick and  
Peter Brake



Below right:  
Clive Robbins with  
partner Lucille  
Woodbury





Left:  
Mike Parry,  
Bob Saunders,  
Ray Edwards,  
and John Gray

Below left:  
Brian Cuff, Neil  
Smart and  
Harry King

Below:  
Priscilla Powell,  
Reg Amos and  
Joan Peeling



Left:  
Harry King,  
John Kidner,  
Philip Gibbs and  
Brian Cuff

Right:  
Margaret Stonehewer  
talks to Cynthia  
Underwood



'Fortunately they gave their agreement and the rest is KGS history. After getting the team together and starting to play in September '54, John was eventually joined by RON PARSONS (45-50) and the club went from strength to strength for many years. John went on to start the Kingswood Y's Men's Club based at Kingswood YMCA. That organization is still operational and now based at Lincombe Barn, Downend. No doubt there are other clubs and organizations around which have been started by John and which are still to be discovered. He is that sort of person.

'A fit-looking PETE BRAKE stopped off on his annual cycle ride around Europe on his way back, by bike, to his home in Pembrokeshire. Peter said he would be willing to participate in a charity 1,000 mile cycle ride (race?) around Europe if other scholars would agree to organize the money-raising. Any volunteers? Pete thought that whilst some of the 'boys' who had been members of the Old Boys RFC have met on several occasions, the others had not set eyes on each other for almost 55 years – not long if you say it quickly! Pete thought that everyone was recognized by most of the party, some looking as beautiful as ever – and that was only the boys!

'Priscilla is intending to organize another get-together in 2007. She has had an offer from KATHLEEN HARDWICK (now Filer) to hold it at her farm near Clapton-in-Gordano, just off the M5. This would assist travel arrangements for virtually all concerned.

Some after-thoughts which may be helpful to others attending a reunion for the first time:

\*Relax – don't be apprehensive, and get to the venue as early as possible.

\*Check your camera before setting out to ensure you can take as many photographs as possible.

\*Take with you any relevant form photographs, sport or special event shots and that full school photo!

\*Spend as much time as possible talking to ex-school friends, in particular finding out about them and their families.

\*Make a note of addresses (including e-mail) and telephone numbers of ex-school pals you may wish to contact again in a more relaxed atmosphere, with more time available.

\*Ensure that a vote of thanks is made to the organisers on behalf of those attending and, if appropriate, for flowers to be presented.

\*Have a collection to pay for any refreshments, room hire charges and possibly flowers to ensure that no one person is left to settle the bill.

'In conclusion, my apologies to REG AMOS, RAY EDWARDS, JOHN COLE, JOHN KIDNER, GORDON JONES, BRIAN CUFF and everyone else present for not having more time to 'gossip' and have space here to relate your experiences through life - SO FAR!'

The photographs on pages 14 and 15 show what enjoyable time was had by all.

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## PENSIONERS ALL..?

BRIAN HODGES (53-58) has sent a copy of his 1955 form photograph (see page 17) with the following observation:

'I am 65 this month (December) so most of these from Form 2W must be as well. The W was an egalitarian gesture. We had been 1D, but to avoid the stigma of being D, the forms were given the initial letter of the form teacher, in our case 'BEN' WHITE, who taught Biology.

'The form members are:

Back row: Colin Mealing, Alan Budd, Alan Drew, Keith Davis, Simon Banks, Colin Weeks, Kevin Noble, Brian Hodges



Middle row: Jeremy Reice, Alan Hayes, not known, Pam Nichols, Valerie Bolwell, Marion Log, Carole ?, Stewart Lear, Ken Jefferies, Alan Wilmott, Colin Wilmott, David Evans

Front row: Tilly Hull, Elaine Bush, Diane ?, Jennifer Bennett, Alan Gait, Ben White, Gill Brooks, Judith Brown, Marlene Hayward, Pat Hedges, Mary Hall.

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### IF AT FIRST...

A welcome letter has been received from DENNIS DUNN (37-44) who, it seems, never gave up getting a degree or, much more important, joining KOSA!

'Thank you for your letter and the copies of KOSA NEWS. I'm sorry to have been so long replying, but I have been so busy that I didn't find time until now. – that's retirement for you!

'Yes I started at KGS in September 1937, and left very suddenly in November 1944, when I went home for lunch and found my calling up papers had arrived. I took my books back that afternoon and that was it!

'My father had been ill for most of my last year, and at Higher School Certificate I passed Chemistry and Physics, but went down in Maths. In those days you didn't get a second chance. My contemporaries in 6 Science were MERVYN LOVELL, ALAN BRAIN, DICKY HAYCOCK and STAMFORD GREEN, who all went on to University.

'Some time later I received an invitation to join the Old Scholars' Association, but by then I was in West Africa. I joined, and heard no more. When I got back to England, I went to the School and found MR. SAMWAYS, who didn't know me from Adam, as he had joined the staff after I had left. He promised to pass on my name again, but I heard no more and gave up.

'After the army, I had to find a job, preferably in Science. I started in Canons Marsh Gas Works and got a National Certificate in Chemistry at night school, then spent 30 years as a Printing Ink Technologist in Packaging. I did eventually get a degree, an Open University

BA, and, yes I did choose Pure Maths as one of my subjects. I don't like being beaten! By then it was 1987 and I was near retiring.

'My most vivid memories of School are of MR HOWARD (Maths), throwing out a question and then standing quietly while we argued it back and forth along the row. When we had run up every possible blind alley, he would then tell us the CORRECT answer. Then there was DR BLOOM, at the end of term, getting us to set up an experiment which he knew would produce a very loud bang, then picking up a jar and disappearing into the chemical store with the words "I shouldn't stand too close to that if I were you."

'I can't say I got on with MISS QUINTON, but she left me with an abiding respect for the Old Testament prophets. MAJOR EATON was kind enough to give me a good reference, which was very useful for those employers who managed to read it. His writing was worse than mine!

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### OVER THE BORDER...

ANNA SALLIS (52-57) now DUNCOMBE has recently joined KOSA. She writes from Cornwall:

'Thanks for the KOSA NEWS; it brought back many fond memories and I'm so pleased the 'Old Oak' is still thriving.

'I was sorry to read of the death of ANN HARRIS (Number 29). The photograph on page 7 revealed many familiar faces, it's not so easy, though, to remember names. However, seated next to Ann is PAULINE BRAIN, behind her is ROSEMARY CRYER, with JOYCE ADAMS at her right side, in front of whom is SANDRA GRAY; I wonder where they all are now?

'Living in Wick, I travelled to school by bus with the JENKINS twins, and was

greatly amused by MAUREEN's poem in the last 'NEWS. I occasionally see MARGARET, her other half, on my trips to Bristol to visit my two children and two grandchildren. My third child lives near us in a shared house for people with learning difficulties and comes home every weekend.

'I, too, remember MR WATTS (Art) with great affection. He was my form master when, at twelve years of age, I lost my Mother – he was so very kind and considerate.

'If anyone remembers me and wants to get in touch please phone me on 01208 76642

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### THE THIRD MAN...

JOHN WITHEY (70-77) remembers the end of the old school in a letter to KOSA:

'My father, JACK WITHEY (41- 46) first referred my details to you. I attended the school from 1970 to 77. I have also seen correspondence from my father's cousin, JIM WITHEY (45-53) in Canada, who I'm sure you can recall. (Very well. – Ed) Unfortunately I have never met Jim.

When I joined KGS I met a teacher called MR WILLIAMS, who was a young teacher when my father was at KGS. He then held the role of Head of Houses, none of us could ever work out what that meant! He did teach woodwork for a term in my first year so perhaps I am being unkind. He also had a nickname that had followed him all the way from my father's era - Nose.

'I was at the school when MR RIDLEY retired and accordingly when a young headmaster called MR HAXWORTH arrived. I was also at KGS when the fire destroyed the old school, although I

was unaffected as I was a sixth form student at the time. I clearly remember the school roll of honour, situated on the walls in the hallway behind the central entrance, which showed the academic honours previous students had attained. I sometimes wondered if my name would ever appear there. After leaving school I attended University and left with an Economics degree. Later on I qualified as a Management Accountant and now work as a finance consultant, in the US and Europe.

'I have never visited the "new" school so the old place still lives on in my mind. If I try hard enough I can even recall the smell of damp school blazers in the corridor in the morning, after a rainy start to the day.

'On the day I married my wife, "Jerusalem" was sung with great gusto by all present!'

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### CONGRATULATIONS...

MAUREEN CURRY (47-53) now Heneveld was made a lay reader in the Church of Wales at St David's Cathedral in October 2006. Congratulations to



Maureen, but a bit extreme to avoid the October lunch!

DEREK BAILEY, a contemporary of Maureen's, is proud and surprised that at least one Form V Remove member made Holy Orders!

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### THE BEGINNING...

A report in August 2006 from SIR BERNARD LOVELL (24-31) which appeared in the Daily Telegraph gave the start of his career. It was spotted and sent in by EDNA POWELL (31-35) now STEPHENS:

'In 1928, as a schoolboy of 15, I had no academic ambitions and was regularly at the bottom half of the examinations school lists. One autumn evening that year, a dramatic and unforgettable event changed my life. The senior physics master arranged to take a party of boys to a series of evening lectures on the electric spark, given by A M Tyndall at the University of Bristol.

'That lecture room held all the devices and gadgets that represented my idea of paradise. Suddenly, I desperately wanted to become a student in Tyndall's laboratory. Three years and two examinations later, I was there'.

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### 25 YEARS - TWICE...

ERICA IVORY (39-46) and husband GORDON WICKENS (42-44) received an invitation to the celebration of fifty years of the Ordained Ministry of THE REVEREND JOHN LOXTON (40-47). The 50 years comprised 25 years as an Ordained Methodist Minister and 25 years as an Anglican Priest. The celebration was held in the Church of St Nicholas, Worth Kent, on 29 September 2006, the Feast of St Michael and All Angels.

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## KGS IN PERSPECTIVE...?

The 11 plus debate rumbles on, and GORDON JACKSON (55-62) has responded to PHIL DARKE'S letter in the last edition:

'I sympathise with PHIL DARKE and his unfortunate experiences at KGS. If it's any consolation, even the best pupils were not well-served.

'The A level subjects represented (i) the student's best subjects, or (ii) the subjects suggested by the pushiest teachers, or (iii) subjects which were fitted into the timetable. If you were offered a university place at Oxford or Cambridge you took it. Otherwise you took what university you could. If all failed, there were always the teacher-training colleges. No-one considered how relevant the courses were to available jobs or the student's make-up. You weren't encouraged to take a temporary job between school and university – that was *infra dig*. When I got my first permanent job after university I found it hard going!

'I suspect KGS was typical of a state grammar school of the period, ie an *ersatz* imitation of the public schools, but with pupils from a different background. Yet there were good things in the grammar schools. Because the pupils were of similar ability and were streamed, the teacher could teach without holding back the brightest and confusing the weakest. A comprehensive school, even where the pupils were streamed or set, would have pupils with too wide a range of ability. Moreover, the many bright students in a grammar school would encourage one another in (say) music and drama, whereas the relatively few bright comprehensive students might soon be discouraged by their classmates. I know nothing of Kingsfield School, so its staff and pupils need not be offended by what I have to say about comprehensive schooling in general.

'As in the grammar schools of old, people are still being pushed into university, and some of the modern courses (eg media studies) are neither intellectually rigorous nor relevant to the world of work. In more rigorous courses, such as mathematics and modern languages, one hears about students who have to be given remedial tuition before they can start university studies proper. There are other tales of graduates having respectable degrees from good universities who can neither spell nor write an articulate grammatical sentence – what must the rest of the old comprehensive school pupils be like! I don't believe all these tales are fiction.

'Grammar schools such as KGS badly needed reform. The range of subjects was too narrow. Practical skills were ignored and ordinary jobs frowned upon. Getting to university or college was an end in itself, regardless of whether it led to a job which suited the student's temperament. Yet a reformed grammar school would have worked.

PS. Re the 'Boney-baiting'. 'BONEY' BRITTON, who taught English, was a lovely man, but a poor disciplinarian in the wrong job.

PPS. Don't let's worry about the Royal Family 'nincompoops' – they're unlikely to attend state schools!

PPPS. I found Phil's article lucid and well-argued. Presumably even he learned something from KGS!

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...AND MORE...

RICHARD STRANGE (54-59) also comments on the KGS curriculum:

'I was very interested to read Phil Darke's contribution to the 11+ debate (KOSA News number 29). What Phil was probably unaware of is that by the early 1950s the curriculum was being

heavily steered towards scientific subjects: whether this was through self-enlightenment of the school or Government pressure via funding, I do not know.

‘An interesting effect of this was to split the school's resources and limit development potential of its pupils, for it was impossible to teach *both* Arts and Science to any significant degree. "Chem, Phys and Maths", or something like "French, Latin and English", with associated subjects in both cases, became the order of the day from the 5<sup>th</sup> Form onwards.

‘As someone who regards the perpetuation of a Royal Family in this country as more of a restraint on our cultural and political development than something to revere, I can only nod in approval at Phil's words on *that* subject! Unfortunately, dismantling the education system which helps perpetuate the "nincompoops" is not enough: as long as large numbers of people wish to retain the right to fawn upon the Royals and the system they represent . . . . .’

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## LATE DEVELOPER...

JOHN BELSTEN (48-54) writes from Kent:

‘Your comments on secondary education in previous issues prompt me to write as one of the small number of KGS pupils who previously attended a secondary modern school.

‘I failed my 11+ at Hanham Abbots Primary, but as a late developer passed the 12+ at Hanham Road Secondary Modern, arriving at KGS in September 1948. I recall PETER DUDBRIDGE and GORDON BRACEY were also late developers from the secondary moderns. During our first year at KGS we spent the first two terms in the first form and the third term in the second form.

‘You comment that ‘most of us will consider ourselves to have been fortunate –’. We certainly were immensely fortunate and privileged. Big winners in the lottery of life. A public school education for free.

‘KGS had the best teachers, the best equipment, the best facilities. Hanham Road Secondary Modern was starved of resources. The gulf was huge – these schools and the education they provided could have been on different planets.

‘I must, however, acknowledge the dedication and the commitment of the teachers at Hanham Road who did their best with virtually no resources, and particularly Mr Smith, my form master, who enabled me to pass my 12+. Regrettably, I never expressed to him the appreciation he so richly deserved.

‘In my case the 11+ was too early. Kent still retains selection, now at 11+, but at one time at 13+. A comment from a teacher was ‘when we get them at 13+, two years of their education have been wasted’.

‘For the privileged few selected, the grammar school is undoubtedly the best option. But these students can also do well in a comprehensive and subsequently enter 6<sup>th</sup> form college and university. For the majority the door remains open until 16+ in the comprehensive system, so this is the preferred option for them.

‘I fully support your suggestion (‘NEWS 27) regarding streaming according to ability. In theory, a comprehensive using this system should overcome most of the problems with the present system. Unfortunately, I feel this concept is unlikely to appeal to our political masters.

‘In conclusion on this subject, we should be thankful that we enjoyed such a good

start in life at KGS, regret its passing and feel sorry for those who will never experience it within the state system.'

#### MR RIDLEY'S EXPERIMENT...

'In 1951 I entered 5 Remove as one of the guinea pigs in MR RIDLEY'S accelerated A-levels experiment. We did not study the O level syllabus in those subjects we were to take at A level, but followed the A level syllabus, so we took our A level examinations one year earlier than normal.

'I took A level Chemistry, Physics and Biology at the end of the first year in the 6<sup>th</sup> form, but failed them all. I was successful the second time, at the end of my second year in the 6<sup>th</sup> form, in 1954.

'The experiment was successful in that most of my peer group passed their A levels the first time. The downside was early over-specialisation, as the range of O level subjects was restricted by the A level studies. Thus I was forced to drop History and Geography at the end of the 4<sup>th</sup> form. I also recall a large drop-out of my fellow students at the end of the 5<sup>th</sup> Remove year. I wonder if this experiment was continued. If so, for how long?' ANOTHER APPRECIATION...

'GORDON JONES (46-53) (I remember him) wrote about Mr Malpass in 'NEWS 28. Mr Malpass was my form master in my final year at Hanham Abbots Primary School. I also hold him in high esteem, and like Gordon, regret that I never expressed my gratitude to him.

'I still vividly remember my first science lesson when Mr Malpass explained that dark was the absence of light and cold was the absence of heat. That lesson, in conjunction with books about science from my parents and visits to museums with my father, was the catalyst for my choice of science as a career.

'The contribution of RON ILES (45-53) (KOSA NEWS 27) has stirred many

memories. I greatly respected him as an extremely knowledgeable person. I particularly remember my delight and astonishment when he showed me the greenhouse full of cacti at his home. That visit prompted another long-term interest, although my collection is very modest by comparison.

'Ron's comments about 'experiments' in the Chemistry Lab. reminds me demonstrations for Open Day in the Physics Lab. During 'BUNNY' AUSTEN's lunch absences experiments were contrived which the parents never saw. I recall spectacular fireballs rising to the ceiling when large soap bubbles filled with coal gas were ignited. Fortunately, we were never caught.

'Regarding MR SAMMONS (Chemistry), I am deeply grateful for his dedication to his students in giving part of his Christmas holidays to provide extra practical Chemistry lessons. Once again, I failed to express the appreciation he richly deserved. These comments also apply to MISS RICKETTS (Biology) and MR ASHWELL (Geography) for taking groups to the Gower Peninsula during their Easter holidays.

'In conclusion, many thanks for the view of the grounds during the 50s. So evocative of those golden days.'

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#### GREAT OAKS...

Earlier we featured photos of the two oaks connected to KGS and KOSA. Thanks to a phone call from BILL ASHLEY (30-35) there may be a third. He recalls planting an oak tree with MISS 'FLOSSIE' POWELL (French) and three other pupils to commemorate the Silver Jubilee of King George V in 1935. He initially thought that the old oak was his, but it dates before 1935. Does anyone recall the tree planting ceremony in 1935? Whereabouts on the sports field was it planted?



#### 46 - UPPER Vth...

The photograph above was taken outside the Art Room in 1946 of JOE DEMPSEY's Upper Vth Art Group. STAN CRUSE (41-47), who supplied the photo, has identified them with others as:

Back row: June Wride, David Rowe, Jill Cooke, Geoff Bright, Joe Dempsey, Mary Russ, Audrey Curtis, Mary Ashwin, Pam Nash, Dennis Shackleton

Front row: E Jones, Norman Sheppard, Jack Withey, Donald Brooks, Stan Cruse, Ron Plaster.

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#### KOSA AWARD...

In the last edition, we announced that the KOSA Award of a cheque for £100 had been awarded to RACHAEL STREET and presented by KOSA Chairman STAN BURRAGE (51-56). Rachael has written a letter of thanks to the Association:

Dear Kingswood Old Scholars' Association,

I was very honoured to receive your kind award and would like to take this

opportunity to thank you. Although I was very surprised to be given the award, I was extremely pleased and grateful that my contributions and efforts were recognised.

I have saved the money for the time being and you can be sure I will use it wisely.

Again, thank you for your kindness. I hope the Award will inspire others to take advantage of the opportunities available to them at Kingsfield School.

Yours sincerely,  
Rachael Street

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#### A HOLE IN THE 'COWSHEDS'...

MARGARET STONEHEWER (46-51) (now SIBLEY) has a comment and a query:

'I attended the 1946 reunion on 19 August 2006 at the Sandringham organized by PRISCILLA POWELL (now MAGUIRE). It was a strange experience to see people who I remember as teenagers now in their early 70s! It was very

enjoyable and we are thinking of repeating it next year.

'While at the reunion I mentioned an incident at school that I remember very clearly, but I must admit no one else seems to recall it. One day I arrived at school to be told we wouldn't be able to use the laboratory because part of the floor had collapsed. Evidently that part of the building was over an old mine shaft that had caved in. I can dimly bring to mind walking around the side of the school and seeing the area cordoned off.

'I would be interested to know if anyone else remembers anything about it.'

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## 1928 SPEECH DAY...

FRED HAMBLIN (26-32) has sent in a copy of the 1928 Speech Day programme, in which he himself received a prize on March 5th. (see page 25). Fred tells us that Prize No. 24 for Domestic Science was donated by his mother, who was the daughter of Rev. Thomas Hireson. Rev. Hireson was a Governor of KGS in 1928 and also committee member ALAN HIRESON'S (62-69) grandfather.

A copy of the programme sent to RENÉ BOYELDIEU (27-32) has encouraged the following response:

'It was kind of you to send me a copy of the Speech Day programme for 5 March 1928. At that time I was in my second term at Kingswood, in form 2B.

'Some of the names bring back memories. ALICE OLLIS, who was a close friend of my sister LILIAN BOYELDIEU, and whom I knew well, too. (She married 'BONEY' BRITTON who taught English, but only after she had completed University! – Ed.) R G PERRY was always at the top, academically and in school sports. His brother ARTHUR was in my

form in the fifth. The Perry's had a shoe shop in Staple Hill. In 1946 I was stationed in Calcutta and R G PERRY visited me there. I think he was working with Imperial Tobacco.

'IRENE DARE, who passed the HSC lived in Staple Hill and AJ EDWARDS I remember seeing often in Downend. I see that among the First School Certificates there were five matriculations. There were five in my year, too. ARTHUR PERRY, ALFRED COUZENS, JOAN GRAYLING and myself. I do not remember the fifth.

'I was sorry to read that EILEEN LONGDON had died. I remember playing with the Longdon girls, EILEEN and EDNA in their orchard, where the great attraction was the swing. My sister told me that one day I pushed Eileen off the swing and was sent home by her mother. I remember talking to her about this, and saying sorry, but neither she nor I had any recollection of the event. My sister may have had a good imagination!'

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## ANY NEWS..?

Earlier, DAVID SMALL (59-66) reported the deaths of both his parents. David, who lives in London and is sight-impaired. would like to trace his only cousin MARY SMALL who was born in Dalkeith Avenue, Kingswood and moved to Keynsham, Nailsea and Cleve. Any information about Mary, please contact David on 020 8741 8259.

From time to time we get the KOSA NEWS returned 'not known'. MARY HUCKLE (48-54) now THORNE gave us a changed address in New Zealand some time ago, but mail has again been returned. BONITA CARR (52-58) now CRON from our New Zealand Branch has made some investigations, but no luck in tracing Mary. Does anyone have the whereabouts of Mary or her husband John? Please let us know.

## Programme.

1. The Chairman's Address.
2. The Head Master's Report for 1927.
3. The Distribution of Prizes.
4. Address by the Very Rev. the Dean of Bristol.
5. The School Choir
  - (a) "On Wings of Song," *Mendelssohn*,
  - (b) The Faery Chorus from "The Immortal Hour"  
*Rutland Boughton*.
  - (c) Sea Shanties.
    - (I) The Rio Grande.
    - (II) Shenandoah.
    - (III) "What shall we do with the drunken sailor?"
6. The National Anthem.

## Special Prizes.

- presented for
1. Highest Certificate Result by the Head Master to Edwards, A. J., and Osborne, R. R.
  2. English (Senior) by Mrs. P. Fussell to A. Ollis.  
(Junior) by Mrs. Eaton to B. Mountford
  3. " " by Mr. S. Fussell, J.P., to Perry, R. G.
  4. History (Senior) by Prof. G. C. Field, M.A., to Lewis, A. J.  
(Junior) by Mr. S. Fry, J.P., to Hamblin.
  5. Geography (Senior) by Mr. S. Fry, J.P., to Hamblin.  
(Junior) by Mr. S. Fox, to A. Hicks.
  6. " " by Mrs. F. W. Brain  
to M. Morris and Bennett, C.
  7. French (Senior) by Mr. H. F. Wren to G. Fishlock.
  8. Latin (Senior) by Dr. C. H. B. Elliott, M.A., to Edwards, A. J.  
(Junior) by Mr. S. G. Wilshire to King.
  9. Science (Senior) by Mr. W. H. Morgan, J.P., to Pearce, A. F.  
(Junior) by Mr. R. E. Love to Howes.
  10. Physics by Mr. A. W. Page to Osborne.
  11. Chemistry by Mr. A. W. Page to Edwards, A. J.
  12. Botany by Mr. A. W. Page to A. Ollis.
  13. Mathematics (Senior) by Mr. C. H. Gover, B.Sc., to Iles, W. J.  
(Junior) by Mr. B. J. Woodhall, J.P.,  
to Nunn & Long.
  14. Art (Senior) by Rev. Canon J. Hunter-Robertson, M.A.,  
to M. Iles.
  15. " (Junior) by Mrs. W. Haskins to V. Lovell.
  16. Handicrafts (Senior) by Mr. W. S. Rudge, to Pearce, R. R.
  17. " (Junior) by Mr. T. Burnham, J.P., to Kear.

23. Domestic Science (Senior) by Mrs. R. E. Love to P. Ryder.  
(Junior) by Mrs. J. F. Hamblin to V. Lovell
24. " " by Mrs. H. Brain to Kelland, L. R.
25. Hard Work by The School Staff to E. Rudge.  
General Progress by G. Bull.
26. " " " " S. Pillinger.
27. " " " " Bignell.
28. " " " " O. Cox.
29. " " " " " "
30. " " " " " "

## Form Prizes.

- |                      |                   |                     |
|----------------------|-------------------|---------------------|
| V2 (I) Beese         | (II) Morris       | (III) Hamblin       |
| IVa (I) M. Clark     | (II) M. Morris    | (III) Johnson       |
| IVb (I) Perry, R. G. | (II) Nunn         | (III) Hope          |
| IIIa (I) Long        | (II) I. Sage      | (III) Stephens      |
| IIIb (I) Alvis       | (II) Cruikshanks  | (III) A. Hicks      |
| IIa (I) Powell       | (II) G. Alderwick | (III) M. Harris     |
| IIb (I) Ertle        | (II) L. Pillinger | (III) G. Underwood. |
| IIa (IV) V. Garland. | IIb (IV)          |                     |

*Higher School Certificates of Bristol University.*

- D. Chell, \*C. Clark, \*I. Dare, \*Edwards, W. G., \*H. Lewis, \*R. Reed  
[\*Awarded Highest Exhibitions to Bristol University.]

*First School Certificates of Bristol University.*

- G. Anstee, \*Edwards, A. J., Gapper, H. V., \*Green, D. C.,  
Hunter, W. S., \*Iles, W. G., \*Jones, E. G., \*Osborne, R. R.,  
J. P. Nott, Pearce, A. F., B. H. C. Sammons, C. E. Stock,  
F. L. Watts.

[\*With matriculation exemption.]

*London University Matriculation.*

D. Chell.

*M.V.T.C. Engineering Scholarship, Bristol University,*  
(Value: £42 p. a. for 3 years).

Stock, L. G.

*Somerset County Intermediate Scholarship (Value: £25 p. a.*  
*for 3 years).*

Osborne, R. R.

*Reached the entrance standard admitting to Girton College,*  
*Cambridge.*

D. Chell, I. Dare, H. Lewis and R. Reed.

*Reached the entrance standard admitting to Lady Margaret Hall,*  
*Oxford.*

D. Chell.

## A KGS AFFAIR...

MARGARET REECE (55-62) now WILLS has added another dimension to a report in the last 'NEWS':  
'Just a note of interest and /or curiosity...

'Further to the letter from JO DUNN (31-34) in the last KOSA NEWS No: 29 where she mentions receiving her MBE and also PAUL JOBBINS (59-64) receiving the George Medal at the same ceremony at Buckingham Palace.

'Out of idle curiosity, I asked my daughter Naomi, a musician in the Band of the Scots' Guards, what her duties were on 24 May 2005. She looked up her diary and replied that she was playing double bass in the 15-strong 'Salon Orchestra' of the Band of the Scots' Guards at Buckingham Palace!

Margaret kindly enclosed a photo of her daughter Naomi (see right) to pass onto Jo 'to add to her memories of that very special day.' Jo was, of course, delighted.



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## SILVER THREADS...

COLIN TICKTUM (51-58), whose book on silver was featured in the last edition of the 'NEWS, gives some further background to his trust:

'Many thanks for including details of the book last time. Personally I find it very interesting knowing what people have achieved in their lives rather than reminiscences of past school life. In all honesty I don't know how they can remember; I recall very little of my day-to-day time at school.

'Besides my career in Treasury working with some of the really great minds around and my involvement with the early sixties music scene, I have been fortunate to have a very varied life. It comes as a huge shock to most people that I should even contemplate let alone take early retirement at 46, my wife

doing the same at 50, when everyone seems to be so concerned about careers and work. The change enabled us to do what we wanted to do, like continuing on with our collecting, start the silver business, do antique fairs and become immersed in the social and heritage life of Norwich.

'All this has led to a major project, which I hope, may interest my contemporaries, hence the book. But that is just a small part of what we are doing. We have set up a charitable trust, [www.ticktum.co.uk](http://www.ticktum.co.uk), which we hope is destined to become a small museum and research institute.

'We have given it three collections, two of which The British Spoons and Norwich and East Anglian Silver are of national importance. The other is of unusual and interesting pieces. With them we have handed over a building, which the Trust will use as its headquarters, including a specially constructed vault for public display and raising of

income along with other financial assistance. Altogether the project is now into seven figures, and is basically finished, the website can tell people much more.

'If any ex-KGS are interested we would love to hear from them. I hope it proves possible to include something in a future issue. My cousin Nancy who often attends events also knows all about it.'

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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, plus their current town/country. 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.

Michael Collier (50) Portishead, Betty Hemborough (43) Launceston, Joan Peeling (46) Devizes, Rex Britton (46) Oldland Common, Kathleen Hardwick (46) Portishead, Neil Smart (46) Nailsea, Harry King (46) Downend, Philip Gibbs (46) Weston-S-Mare, Dennis Dunn (37) Warmley, Stephanie Heck (??) Marshfield, Anna Sallis (52) Bodmin, Fay Chappell (48) Kingswood, Robert Cottrell (45) NSW Australia, Antony Small (65) North Common. Ron Bywater (38) BC Canada, Madeline Elvins (54) Hanham.

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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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### DID YOU KNOW..?

That there used to be a KOSA Blazer/Badge? Brought along by TERRY OSBORNE (49-55) to the last KOSA lunch and worn by PRISCILLA POWELL (46-51) now MAGUIRE, who so ably organised the 46 Reunion.



### BACK PAGE...

This time a 1960 version of *HMS Pinafore*, with a cast of thousands...!

