



# KOSA NEWS



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The Magazine of the Old Scholars of Kingswood Grammar School

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## EDITORIAL...



My thanks to all those who have made contributions of articles and photographs to this and past editions. I enjoy editing and producing KOSA NEWS but we need to ensure the continuation of the 'NEWS'. I would welcome contact with any member with computer desk-top publishing experience who lives in the Bristol area and who has an interest in putting together an edition of the magazine with a view to initially acting as an understudy and in the long run keeping our publication going.

Succession planning is important and new blood and ideas are always welcome and I believe that our publication now needs both! Any offers?

## DIARY DATES...

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

Our Buffet Lunch is booked for **SATURDAY, 12 APRIL 2008** at Lincombe Barn. We meet at between 12 and 12.30 for a quick AGM at 12.30 where you can have your say about KOSA and its Committee. Then we sit down to a hot buffet lunch at about 1.00pm. As ever, we have arranged a cash bar so you can chat over old times with a beer or a glass of wine. Fill in the enclosed form now and send it to our Treasurer, MARTIN HARRYMAN, 5 Brecon View, Bleadon Hill, Weston Super Mare, BS24 9NF Tel: 01934 812315. All cheques payable to 'KOSA'.

### **ANNUAL AUTUMN LUNCH:**

Already booked for **SATURDAY, 11 OCTOBER 2008** at Lincombe Barn, Downend. Please book the date in your diary now. DAVE KERSHAW (48-56) has suggested (see page 10) that we make this a special reunion for the 48ers as it's their 60th anniversary of commencing at KGS.

### **46ers REUNION:**

This will take place at KATHLEEN HARDWICK now Filer's farm in Clapton-in-Gordano on **SATURDAY, 10 MAY 2008**. (see page 9).

### **54ers REUNION:**

This is planned for an indeterminate date. More details from PAUL DAVIES (956 2692), CHRIS BRYANT (975 4656) or ROGER FOWLER (960 2999), all code 0117.

### **67ers REUNIONS:**

See page 10 for details about STEVE COOKE'S regular reunions.

## OBITUARIES...

ROSALIND CAMERON (54-61) now VERNON has written to KOSA to report the death of ELAINE BUSH (56-63) later SHIRFIELD:

'ELAINE BUSH sadly died in June 2007, after several years of illness. She leaves 2 daughters and her mother.

'Elaine was a KOSA committee member until her husband became ill. She enjoyed her years at KGS and went on to study languages at London University. She spent many happy years abroad in France, Spain, Barbados, Bahrain, South America, and Ascension Island. She was a teacher for many years abroad and in Weston Super Mare, where the family settled after their years away.



'Her father, who donated the 'Bush' prize for Practical Science to KGS, and elder sister went to KGS, as did I, my sister and mother, and a great uncle, WYNDHAM PARNELL, who was killed during the war. We all miss her greatly.'

Elaine is shown above on a school trip to Paris in 1957. She is the 3rd from the right.

## DAVID BATEMAN (72-78)

David Bateman's cousin's husband, Roger Almond, has informed KOSA of Dave's passing:

'We're sorry to announce the tragic death of David Bateman at the early age of 46 in Spain, where he has had a business for a number of years. He was taken to hospital after a fall on 10 December 2007 and he passed away the following morning.

'He was very proud of his selection for a place at Kingswood/Kingsfield as it followed other family members, his aunt EVELYN BATEMAN (28-33) and his cousin MARGARET SHIPP (50-55). He thoroughly enjoyed his academic time there and the sport, especially rugby.

'Although he gained 9 'O' Levels and 3 'A' Levels he could not be persuaded to go to university. His great love was music and in 1979 he was a founder member of the punk rock band, the *Vice Squad*, and in the early years he played lead guitar. He also wrote much of their early music and lyrics.

'There are many tributes to Dave on the website <http://www.lastrockers.com> which was updated on 13 December 2007 in memory of Dave. A quote from the web states that 'It was generally agreed that the group would not have existed without Dave as he wrote all the best-known early songs and was an excellent organiser of rehearsals in garages and church halls...'

PADDY YEOMAN (45-54), later MILLWARD sadly passed away on 18 August 2007 after a long fight with cancer. A celebration of Paddy's life took place in the form of a civil service on 28 August at Memorial Woodlands Chapel, near Bristol.

Paddy was a childhood sweetheart of TERRY MILLWARD (46-51), they having met at KGS and they celebrated forty seven years of marriage. Terry's chat-up line was unique: Paddy had been playing hockey and had been hit in the mouth by the ball. Her lip was bleeding and Terry, who as a fifteen year old had a crush on her, offered to kiss it better. They were married at Hanham Baptist Church.

Paddy had a flair for foreign languages and at KGS she obtained 'A' levels in French, Latin and English Literature and won the Senior Prize for English in 1953. Together with her sister YVONNE YEOMAN (47-54) now Marchant, Paddy was awarded her School Colours for Hockey. She was also awarded a County Major Scholarship in French and Latin and

after leaving KGS went to the Sorbonne in Paris. She also spoke Spanish and German, the former coming in handy when they visited their house in Spain. She worked as a civil servant and was also secretary to the Public Relations Officer at Bristol City Council. Later, Paddy joined *Le Club Francais* to teach French to local children as young as three.

At forty, after giving birth to her third child, Paddy decided to take up running as a hobby. She completed several marathons and half-marathons and continued to run up to six miles a week until she became too ill to do so. Paddy and Terry's garden was always immaculate, designed by Paddy, and she also wrote poetry in her spare time.

Paddy will be sadly missed by her three children and by the rest of her family, many of whom had strong connections with KGS.

The photo shows Paddy as captain of the 2nd XI Hockey Team in 1952-53. Others shown are, back row: Kathleen



Townsend, Pat Beese, Yvonne Yeoman, Fay Chappell and front row: Jean Lovell, Barbara Rogers, Paddy, Margaret Harris and Rosemary Thorne.

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COLIN TICKTUM (51-58) died in Norwich on 6 September 2007 after a long fight against cancer. His obituary is written by his mother, Mrs Grace Ticktum, who at the time was 94 years young:

‘Colin left KGS in 1958 and in the following year he took up an executive officer’s position with the Treasury in Whitehall, the first applicant to be accepted on the qualifications he already had. He worked there for 10 years and was then loaned to the Civil Service College in Sunningdale to administer the college. It was there he encountered a young lady who was to become his wife.

‘After 3 years, instead of returning to Whitehall he moved to Norwich to be in charge of the Treasury’s new computer operation. This took 15 years to complete, during which time he married Susan and had set up home in Norwich where he eventually purchased a listed building which they lovingly restored to pristine condition and filled with antique furniture.

‘Having dug up a silver spoon in their garden which proved to be Roman, this sparked off his interest in collecting antique spoons, especially when he remembered that he had an altar spoon which his father had picked up in a derelict church in Anzio during the War.

‘After the 15-year computer project he was not keen to return to London and persuaded the Treasury to let him take early retirement, so at 46 he was a pensioner. Looking around for a second career he set up a small private finance company which later purchased the building adjoining their house, also listed, and two flats in a small development.

‘The spoon collection was growing fast and through many years being involved in antiques whilst furnishing their home, he became more and more interested in antique silver of all kinds, prompting him to set up a silver business. He used his expertise to work for the Castle Museum, value collections and gave advice to local organizations and on local radio. He published two books on his spoon collection and wrote an updated history on Norwich Silver. Having no children, he set up a charitable trust to care for his valuable collection and to ensure that it was kept intact for the city.

‘The collection is housed in the corner building made over to the trust, a well-secured room forming a small museum. This museum and trust were formally opened a year ago, and Colin’s book on Norwich Silver officially on sale from that time. Colin finally lost his battle with cancer a year later.’

Many will remember Colin for his love of sport at KGS. He excelled at running, and a cursory examination of *Kingswood Chronicles* reveals that in 1958 he was Athletics Captain for Davies House, was in the 1<sup>st</sup> XI Cricket team, and came second only to MIKE REDGERS in the Senior Boys 100 yards on Sports Day. He came third in the Discus in 1957, but won it in 1958. Someone reckons that there is a record of Colin and SMITH both completing the mile in less than 5 minutes – that’s an average of about 12mph! – Ed.

The photograph on page five includes Colin in the 1st XI Cricket Team of 1957. He is in the second row, second from the left next to the teacher, who is the Maths teacher ‘FELIX’ FELTON.

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Norman Millhouse has informed KOSA of his mother, BRENDA ANSTEE’S (28-34) passing.



'I have the sad duty of informing you of the death of my mother BRENDA ANSTEE (28-34) later Millhouse on 26 June 2007. I know she would have wanted me to inform you as she was always extremely fond of her old school and had many happy memories of her time there.

'Brenda was born in Southampton on 3 June 1917. She lived on the top of Tog Hill, Wick and began her education at Cold Ashton village school. She told the story of how she stayed with Miss Box the headmistress at Cold Ashton in order to help her pass the exams for KGS. Here is a copy of the letter written by Headmaster, Major Eaton:

*Miss Brenda Anstee has been a scholar at this school for six years. She has now left to take up a commercial appointment.*

*While she was here she made good progress in all her subjects. She passed the Bristol University First School Certificate in six subjects last year and then went on to take a commercial course. She was again successful last month in passing all her subjects. I consider her therefore very well equipped for office*

*work, having both a good general education and a specialised commercial training.*

*Of her character, general adaptability, and willing spirit I cannot speak too highly. Whatever task or duty is assigned to her she carries out promptly, efficiently and intelligently. It does not matter to her whether the work is menial or important: her high sense of duty makes her carry through all her work with the same thoroughness. Any employer therefore who offers her a post will be amply repaid by her keen, reliable, efficient service.*

*(Signed) M J Eaton, Headmaster.*

'She had two younger brothers who also attended Kingswood Grammar, Victor and George. George was tragically killed on 12/13 October 1944 aged 22. He was a pilot in the SAAF. Squadron 31 and was flying one of 20 Liberators which were dropping supplies to the Italian partisans. According to records, due to an unprecedented change in the weather six of the twenty planes crashed into the mountains of northern Italy on their return. Some 48 airmen lost their lives including the ex pupil of whom



Kingswood can be justly proud. Victor, his elder brother was also in the RAF and after the war worked for the MoD He died in 1999 in Pendine, Wales.



'Brenda enjoyed a long and happy life, she had five children, six grandchildren and seven great grandchildren and until the last eighteen months, was healthy and active. She loved painting and read-

ing books of a spiritual nature and devoted much time to the church. She



organised the Mother's Union for a number of years and was church warden at St James in Westerleigh, indeed she was honoured for her dedicated service to the church at Bristol Cathedral where she received Maundy Money from the Queen.

'The final year of Mum's life was not a good one as she developed dementia and ironically ended her days at Fairview Court Nursing Home in Kingswood but as a family we remember the happier times and I know she loved receiving the KOSA NEWS and on behalf of Brenda would like to say a big thank you to



everyone connected with Kingswood Grammar school past and present.

'The other photographs show Brenda with her brothers in the late 20s, Brenda in school uniform, and the two brothers on a Velocette motorcycle, Victor's driving! Those aren't helmets they're wearing! Those aren't helmets they're wearing but they appear to be KGS caps!'

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NESTA JEFFERIS (45-50) now Chalcroft has informed KOSA of the passing of her brother:

'My brother DESMOND JEFFERIS (33-37) passed peacefully away on 5 November 2007 at Katherine Hospice, Banbury. He was cremated at Banbury on 15 November.

'He was a rock to my brother and sisters as my Dad had left us early. Always full of dry humour, he kept us happy. He worked at Kingswood Water Company alongside his pal GEORGE BRERETON, served in the Army (RAC), then Esso, Bristol and finally at Marks and Spencers in London, where he married and had daughter Lorraine.

'After losing his wife, he moved to Banbury to be with his daughter where he tended his garden and spent his retirement studying the wild birds and playing his jazz records. He was also glad to have received KOSA NEWS each time it was produced. We will all miss him.'

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LEW COX ( 40-47) sadly died in July this year in Lymington, Hants. With help from his family, school and college friends, JOHN PENNY (1940-47) has assembled this abbreviated celebration of his eventful life:

'Lew and I were close friends at KGS for seven years during which time we shared a passion for sport and outdoor pursuits. In 1945 and 46 the two boys,

with GEOFF BISHOP, made two 'epic' cycle/camping expeditions to Devon and Cornwall towing a trailer with their kit. Later as students Lew and I chartered a yacht and, with friends, sailed to the Norfolk Broads for two weeks. These were memorable times.

'The Cox family moved to Kingswood in 1939 enabling Lew to start at KGS in September 1940. From the early days at KGS Lew excelled at sport, in particular gymnastics, soccer and athletics. Traditional fixtures with schools in the region posed travelling problems which were overcome where possible with ingenuity, but on occasions bizarre results. I returned with Lew from a Merrywood fixture one very cold Saturday morning with frostbitten toes!



'Lew was a superb 'quarter miler'. He won the Gloucestershire Senior Schools event in 1946 and 1947, and capped it by winning the AAA Championship in 1947. He also won numerous trophies on our own KGS Sports Days. He was Captain of Davies House, and later he and I presented a trophy to be awarded to the top athlete in Davies House, which I fear was destroyed with others in the school fire.

'Two other events played an important role in Lew's life at KGS. One was the annual Harvest Camp held every August during the war years. We slept in bell tents, cycled everywhere and worked very hard. We also acquired a taste for farmhouse cider and learnt the subtleties of half-penny pontoon. The second event was the ATC Unit organised by MESSRS WINTERTON and LOCKHART. Lew enrolled with great enthusiasm and a total commitment.

'Lew was conscripted into the RAF for two years at the end of 1947. He attained the rank of Sergeant PTI, qualified as a parachute jumping instructor, and represented the RAF in rugby, gymnastics, athletics and parachuting displays.

'After the RAF, Lew went to Goldsmiths' College, London where he studied to become a secondary teacher specialising in Science. He then entered Loughborough College for a one-year supplementary course in Physical Education.

'Lew taught Physical Education in Dorchester, Ryde IOW, Sevenoaks and Cowes until the early 70's. During this time he married Mary Knight, a Goldsmiths' friend from Somerset. They returned to the IOW, along with their three children Elizabeth, Jonathon and Nick. Lew designed their detached home at

Gurnard in a large garden with great potential. This provided a perfect location for a growing and loving family home.

'Lew continued as Head of Physical Education at Cowes Secondary School until 1970 when he secured secondment to a course in Rural Science at Reading University. Shortly after his return he retired as Head of Physical Education to become Head of Science with a specialism in Biology. The school became a comprehensive as Cowes High School and within a short period he was appointed Head of Sixth Form, a position he held until he retired in 1989.

'Throughout their married life Lew and Mary developed a strong interest in natural history and the countryside. They became members of the IOW Natural History and Archaeological Society, and Lew became President in the early 80s; Life Vice-President followed. This interest spilled over into school life resulting in Lew becoming responsible for the school's annual Natural History Camp.

'Following retirement Lew and Mary left the Island to return to Somerset and settled near Bridgewater. Here Lew maintained his interest in natural history, gardening and bee-keeping as well as taking to new interests in artwork and woodcraft. Unhappily, Mary died in 2000; she had been studying to the end and she was awarded her degree posthumously by the Open University.

'This is a brief appreciation of a wonderfully active life in which Lew's enthusiastic, but self-effacing character made him such a successful and much loved husband, teacher, father and friend. By his example he set high standards in all aspects of life with which he was associated, yet he was an extremely gentle man who lived his life with the greatest integrity and set an example to us all.'

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We have also been notified of the passing of L. GALLOP and ALAN KEMBREY, both years unknown. To all those who have lost a loved one we send our condolences.

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### *PUNISHMENTS...*

COLIN DEMMERY (54-59) brings up the delicate subject of detentions:

'Attending the last Autumn Lunch it was good to meet up with other 'young upstarts' from the 54-59 era. During the pre- and post-lunch conversations the subject of detentions came up, and those of us who had 'served time' during their schooling.

'Unfortunately I had to admit to the ultimate punishment on one occasion – the dreaded Saturday Morning Detention. Mine was reward, along with two or three other classmates, for teaching a bully from a lower year a lesson by dragging him with his feet around the oak tree a few times. Apparently he and his parents objected and we were told to do time!

'I remember that I tried to keep it quiet as I had a Saturday job helping the local baker. I told him I was having extra lessons that day and would be unable to work. Unfortunately one of my customers split on me and Horace (the baker) called into my home later that week to enquire if I was available for the coming Saturday or, much to my embarrassment, in prison again?

'Do other former pupils have recollections of detentions and was the Saturday morning 'three hours' from 9.00 to 12.00 attended by any other readers?'

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### *ANOTHER 46er REUNION...*

PRISCILLA POWELL (now Maguire) reports on their last reunion:

'The second reunion of those who commenced at KGS in 1946 took place on 16

June 2007. The event was a huge success and thoroughly enjoyed by all.

'KATHLEEN HARDWICK now Filer hosted the event at her beautiful farm near Clapton-in-Gordano. We were blessed with lovely weather and were able to sit outside eating and drinking, admiring the Somerset countryside and reminiscing about the years 46 to 53 at KGS – and what memories they were! A few photos were on display and the passage of 60+ years seemed impossible to comprehend. The only downside of the event was the fact that six people had to cry off because of other commitments.

'PRISCILLA POWELL organizes the reunion and she has made contact with some 25 old scholars of the year. The group started last year to celebrate 60 years since we all started at school and we hope to make it an annual event. and as the news spreads we may be able to contact more and more of our year group. Anyone who started at KGS in 1946 should contact Priscilla on 0117 959 3902 if they are interested in meeting old school mates once a year.

'Those in the photo on page 10, clockwise from the left, are Kathleen Hardwick, Neil Smart, Pauline Baines, Priscilla Powell, Peter Brake, John Kidner, Cynthia Underwood, Gordon Jones, John Salter, John Gray, Marcia Phipps and Janet Crew. Brian Cuff took the





ing, Kathleen Townsend, Mary Townsend, Diane Powell, Doreen Pillinger, Lucille Woodbury, Marlene Short, Joyce Osborne and Iris Mountstephen.

'So how about coming along to the lunch and see if you recognize any of your former classmates or

photo, by which time Philip Gibbs had left. Flowers were, of course, presented to Priscilla and Kathleen.'

even if you will be recognized. But book early, the autumn lunch is very popular. I'll see you there!'

The next reunion lunch for the 46ers is already fixed for 10 May 2008 at Kathleen's Farm – Naish Farm, Clapton-in-Gordano.

### ...AND ADVANCE NOTICE...

DAVID KERSHAW (48-56) proposes a meeting of the 48ers:

'In September 2008 it will be 60 years since about 120 of us started our secondary school careers at KGS. Someone will no doubt know the exact date.

'If you are one of the above 120 why not think seriously about coming to the KOSA lunch on 11 October 2008 to meet up with long-lost classmates and discover what they have managed to do in 60 years ie job (how many?), marriage (how many?), children, grandchildren and perhaps even great grandchildren.

'Among the people I recall are Wilson Barrett, Brian Baish, Peter Hemmens, Michael Stanton, Tony Lear, Gerald Kenwood, Roland Humphrey, John Mead, Gilbert Gay, Peter Malpass, Peter Williams, Michael Wilmington, Bethy Bell, Pat Beese, Janet Emms, Pat Hard-

### ...AND YET ANOTHER...

STEVE COOKE (67-72) has e-mailed KOSA to let us know that a group of his contemporaries get together on the first Sunday evening of each alternate even month at the White Harte Pub, Bridgegate. If you're thinking of going along phone Steve on 07886 559299 or e-mail him on:

[stephen.cook@burns-anderson.co.uk](mailto:stephen.cook@burns-anderson.co.uk)

Names of those meeting include John Bracey, Steve Powell, Tim Moxham, Joanna Hellin, Janet Binham, Neil Harden, Bill Inwood, Martin Davies, and others. Why not add your name to the list?

As you know, KOSA meets for lunch twice per annum, in the Spring and the Autumn. It has always been your Committee's policy, however, to support any other reunions which may be planned by members.

This support can be in the form of names and address labels from our database and even financial support approved by the Committee to get a reunion started. Just contact the Secretary or the KOSA NEWS Editor for help.

### *ONE FROM DOWN UNDER...*

MARY MILES (42-49) now Bentley writes from New South Wales:

'As usual, lots of interesting items about pupils known and unknown in the last edition...the spirit of KGS lingers on!

'I liked the questionnaire - it asked about pivotal things of our time (42-49) And I noticed that one of them was not answered - DOES the MILES prize still get awarded - and do the current students recognise its donor? (I'm afraid not, Mary-Ed)

'Then ALAN OTLET's (39-46) communiqué started up all sorts of pleasant memories.....Wasn't it FROGGY Davies? I struggled under his teaching methods - not realising that he was challenging me when he remarked "Your brother was a scholar; you are a miserable student"...something that would not be allowed in today's 'enlightened' atmosphere! I always knew that my brother and I had other differences than our gender! I was all for people and sport (I once had the honour of collecting the Davies House Champion cup, as well as being Sports Secretary and 2nd XI hockey goalie) while he related to cerebral activities - and still does.

'How many ex-KGS pupils live in Australia? I note MAURICE KING (44-52) lives in the next suburb to myself....and JOHN PENNY's (40-47) grandchildren attend Barker College which is round the corner from where I live. John and Pauline visit occasionally, and several years ago we had a reunion with them and TONY PERDUE (40-48), who used to escape the English winter by sailing 'down-under' on an annual basis.

Mention of BOB OTLET (41-48) brought back memories of the Drama Society, energetically led by MISS DAVID, and the technical support group REDFORD, MONTACUTE, LAUDEN, OTLET, and

sometimes LOXTON....How many of them continued in this line of interest? After I had completed my initial nursing training at the BCH (Now the Royal Children's Hospital, I believe) I studied with the Bristol Old Vic for a while, until I realised that I would never be a star...interestingly my whole life in Australia has been shared between family, General Practice Management and amateur theatre; where, in 'retirement' I spend most of my energies making props for a number of Musical and Drama Societies, and have recently been inducted as one of the first Members of the Hall of Fame of the Association of Community Theatres. One of my earlier experiences with the Drama Society was the making of props for our production of *Blythe Spirit*....

All good wishes for the Reunion at Downend....wish I could be with you; the war years at KGS were very special and unusual in that we were exposed to a whole range of interesting people who might never have been an influence in our lives had 'normal' conditions prevailed. I always believe that THAT was the best education anyone could have.

PS If BOB OTLET and MARIAN OSBORNE (40-47) are at the Reunion, let them know that I also fly light planes....and am an educational speaker for the Royal Flying Doctor Service..

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### *...AND ANOTHER...*

TONY HART (55-58) brings us up-to-date on what he's done since KGS. He can be contacted on:

hart\_t@bigpond.net.au

'I first went to Kingswood in 1955 having moved from Beeston in Nottingham and Kingswood was my second grammar school. In 1958 we moved again, to Hitchin in Hertfordshire, after which I went to Birmingham University in 1960. After university I came to Australia with

my then wife and young daughter, initially to Canberra and later to Sydney.

'In 1992 my second wife, son and I came back to the UK to live and work for three and a half years in Yorkshire, before returning to Sydney. A year and a bit ago we left Sydney moving to a little town called Bangalow near Byron Bay in New South Wales.



'I always remember Bristol and Kingswood with great affection. They were the places I consider as the basis of my major growing up. Academically I was first introduced to

Latin (which I hadn't done at my Nottingham school from where I had been for one year after the 11+) and was rather daunted that I had to get up to 'O' level standard in three years. I didn't. French too, was another new challenge - I made it by 'O' level but only just. Music was an especially horrendous experience in the hut with, I think, ERIC HILTON. I recall STEVEN YORKE and myself, both tall and gangling, embarrassing ourselves and everyone else as we were made to "sing" individually when our voices were breaking and we already had the least melodious of the whole class! I think MR HILTON'S approach was second only to my Long Eaton GS divinity teacher who hit us on the back of the hand with the sharp side of a metal ruler if we even sighed in his classes. Nonetheless we survived.

'Four things were most pleasurable about Kingswood. Firstly, I was at the age where girls became creatures of

interest instead of scorn. I was lucky enough to be surrounded, or so I thought, by some of the most interesting and attractive young women, many of whom appear on the form photographs. Unfortunately, because I moved away after 'O' levels, I missed out on their later teen development. It would be nice to hear from and see a few of them one day - friends such as SUSAN BIRCHLEY and WENDY ALLEN. The boys weren't bad either - some were good mates as we Aussies would say. I remember ANTS RICHARDS and ALAN NOTT well, as we played under-15 rugby together for the school, with STEVEN YORKE, too. ALAN NOTT and I spent one summer cycling around the south of England, and the following year (it would have been summer 1958) cycling through (would you believe) Switzerland! After this we pedalled up the Rhine Valley and saw some of the post-war devastation of Germany.

'Secondly, sport was a great interest at Kingswood. Rugby was king in winter and I played for two years with the under 15s. It was most enjoyable to travel away to exotic places like Dursley and Chipping Sodbury to play. We often travelled with the 1st XV and I learnt most of my early rugby songs on these trips. I regret not seeing this phase through to the VIth form but I did manage to get in a lot of rugby at my next school in Hitchin, Herts. Athletics was another excitement in summer - but running the 440 around the main sports field and coming back up the hill on the final bend was an experience one did not want to have to do too often. They were good, simple times, but gee we were fit and healthy.

'One rugby coincidence - five years later I was with my Birmingham University geography group on a field trip in Grenoble in France. A few of us were testing the local Green Chartreuse and we got mulling over old times. It turned out that



one of my fellow geographers (Cledwyn Davies) was from Lydney and we calculated that we had played against each other when I was at Kingswood. A few more GCs and clarets later we were again the best of mates.

‘Thirdly, by and large, the teaching staff were human and responsive to our needs as emerging adults. I particularly remember GEOFF HOCKING and GEORGE BUTCHER who were my class masters when I was class head boy (can't remember what it was really called) in 3L1 and 4L1. George moved to near Aylesbury after I had left Kingswood and I saw him a couple of times while I was at Hitchin. It was good to see his picture in a recent KOSA edition.

‘And finally, one of the most maturing things about Kingswood was the opportunities to travel overseas. My parents scraped together the pennies to get me to Paris with the school trip in 1956 (I think) and was this an experience! I eternally thank my parents for this great opportunity - it perhaps added to my wanderlust and geographic inquisitiveness. This went on I think to generate my later interest in geographic information systems on which I now consult and write about (but I digress - these are things for a later letter).

‘Last year I was in Paris with my wife and we spent a fair bit of time searching for where I stayed in 1956 - I remember well the Boul Mich but I couldn't be sure where we stayed exactly; if any reader knows I would love to know so I can track it down next year when we visit again. The following year Paris was capped by Switzerland - a trip that, quite literally changed my life. We stayed in Interlaken and travelled widely. The mountains were something to behold and the cleanliness, colour and clarity of the air showed me that there were alternatives to home. I said then that I would return and have now visited Interlaken about five times since. But the high spot of the return trip to Bristol was that we flew - yes flew – from Basel to Southend. As I stepped up the steeply inclined floor of the DC9 airliner little did I realise that the next time I flew it would be from Sydney to Canberra at the start of my new life in Australia 5 years later. And this was to be a new life in a country where air travel was, even in 1963, a fairly common event, particularly for government officers (which I became) who needed to visit various parts of the Australian continent.

‘When I left Kingswood I lost contact with all my friends and it is with much regret now, looking back on it. My wife still is in

contact with her friends in England she had at primary school, let alone high school and university. Girls are so much better at keeping contacts.’





THE DIG, 1960...



Top, clockwise:  
 Margaret Chell, David Ewins,  
 Barry Angel, Stuart Huggett,  
 Carole Lovell, nk, Colin Coombs,  
 nk, Mary Fudge, Linda Davies  
 Diana Williams

Unknown legs, Carole, Linda

Wheelbarrow games!

Dave, Margaret, Carole,  
 Barry, Mary, Diana



Diana, Margaret, Carole and  
 Barry



### *THE DIG, 1960...*

CAROLE LOVELL (54-61) brings back memories of 'The Dig':

'TONY HART, in your last edition of *KOSA NEWS*, bewails the 'lack of information, contacts, etc. from....1954 starters', alongside PAUL DAVIES' proposal of a reunion for the very same people, and two whole pages devoted to *HMS Pinafore*, which features just that cohort. Perhaps, then, you will prefer not to publish the following on the grounds of overkill!

'It refers to an article in the very same *Kingswood Chronicles* in which *Pinafore* appears, but on a topic which I have never yet seen referred to in the magazine – 'The Dig' in the summer term of 1960. Since I have recently unearthed a treasure trove of photographs of that expedition, I hope my co-author, MARGARET CHELL, will not mind my making use of it. For those who do not have the 1960-61 KC, it gives the flavour of that week better than I could at this distance in time, and so is reprinted below:

#### *THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL DIG*

*On July 7th, a few days after the finish of their Advanced-Level Examinations, a party of a dozen Sixth-Formers set off to camp on Overton Down — four miles from Marlborough — to take part in the construction of a barrow. The object was to discover the amount of silting which would take place over the space of 100 years. Periodic sections will be taken through the bank, and the action of the soil on various materials—e.g., leather, bones, wood, cloth—will be noted. The whole exercise is related to the findings of recent excavations about the early inhabitants of the British Isles.*

*The main process was the digging of a trench 100 ft. long, 12 ft. wide and 6 ft. deep, a laborious task on which we spent many back-breaking hours. For the most part 20th Century implements were used, but experiments were made using primitive tools such as must have been used by the early Britons: antlers (from the Duke of Bedford's*

*Woburn Abbey deer herd) for picks, shoulder-blades (animals', of course) in place of shovels, and wicker-baskets serving as buckets.*

*However, there was the lighter side to the week's stay, and despite frequent showers we enjoyed camp life, for some of us a novel if not exactly exhilarating experience. Cooked meals were provided, but the party spent much time and energy on the thankless task of preparing vegetables for thirty people—otherwise known affectionately as *k spud-bashing*'. Work on the site, too, was regularly relieved by much-needed tea-breaks, but this was not an un-mixed blessing, the water having an iron tang which was at first hardly palatable. However, we consoled ourselves with the thought that we were seeing (and tasting) Nature in the raw, and bore all hardships like true pioneers.*

*Evenings were spent in various occupations—rambles, drinking coffee round a camp-fire, or in the Nissen hut which served as a canteen. We even ventured into Marlborough one evening to attend an advertised dance; unfortunately, only to discover that the poster was some years out of date!*

*Altogether our stay was a most enjoyable one, and we ventured to see the completed barrow a week later. Although it is unlikely that we will be present at the final sectioning in 2060, we hope to revisit the site during the next sectioning, and were very interested in the film which appeared on television a few weeks ago, not only because we became screen stars. On behalf of the whole party, we would like to thank Mr. Nelson for his organisation of the 'dig' and look forward to this year's proposed camp with enthusiasm.*

'On re-reading this account, a couple of questions sprang to mind. First, did I really just dream the visit to the site of Sir Mortimer Wheeler, the pre-eminent archaeological celebrity of his time? I have told many people of it over the years, yet there is no mention of him in the article. Strange! Second, when was the first 'sectioning' carried out, and what did they discover?

‘Perhaps other members of the expedition may be able to enlighten me about the first. However, a few minutes on Google provided me with more than I could wish to know about the second. Apparently the first cross-section of ‘*The Overton Down Experimental Earthwork*’ was taken in 1992 by a combined team from Lampeter, UCL and London Guildhall Universities. Their chemical and quantitative analysis showed considerable compaction of the soil and organic change in the materials we had buried 32 years previously, which ‘*have important implications for the preservation of biological and cultural remains*’. (Those of a more scientific bent than I am will be able to glean more detailed information from the full report.)

‘All I want to know now is, why weren’t we invited?! And will we be invited to the next one in around 20 years’ time? On reflection, it’s good to think that our slave labour yielded and is continuing to yield some valuable scientific data. At the time, however, my immediate educational benefit was the realisation that even in showery July weather, it was unwise to wear pedal-pushers when working on chalk. The resultant excruciating sunburn earned me a new nickname for weeks afterwards – ‘Redlegs!’

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### *CORRECTION+...*

JOAN BRIDGES (40-47) now LEE was prompted to write when she read one of our obituaries in the last edition:

‘I’m writing to amend your brief notice of the death of MURIEL WELLS (40-45). Muriel could have been her proper name but she was always known at school as Audrey. She was in my year group (1940 entry) and she left in 1945 after taking School Certificate, as it was in those days. It used to be possible then to enter teacher training college with that qualification and the last time I saw Audrey was when she was a student at Fish-

ponds Diocesan College. I was at that time a student at Bristol University but had been invited to attend a Christmas carol concert at Fishponds College.

‘You mentioned her connection with Downend Church School. She may well have later taught there but she was never a pupil there (I was!). Audrey attended primary school at Soundwell where she used to live. My chief memory of her was during our first year at KGS when, in those sweet-starved early war-time years, a group of us took the bus up the hill to Kingswood in order to treat ourselves to an ice cream in Woolworths. It was worth the roundabout way home!

‘Thinking about Audrey made me also recall the wartime summer farm camps mentioned a few years ago in the magazine. I attended two of those; one at Slimbridge and a later KGS one at Falfield, near Thornbury. The Slimbridge one was a huge camp attended by several Gloucestershire schools. Audrey, I think, attended that camp. Much of the time was spent picking up potatoes, unearthed by a tractor which circled the potato field, so we had to be speedy before it reached our area again!

‘It was back-breaking work but we all enjoyed the camaraderie. One of our year group, JOYCE ELLERY, a friend of Audrey, composed a ditty which fitted in well with a popular tune of the time (the title of which eludes me). However, our version ran:

*Work girls, work and be contented,  
It doesn’t matter if your backs are sore,  
For within the years to come  
You can tell your little son  
That you helped to pick potatoes for the  
war!*

‘I have to say that neither of my two sons were much impressed with their mother’s contribution to the war effort!

'I would also like to endorse ALAN OTLET'S (39-46) appreciation of KGS. He was another near contemporary – a year ahead of me, I believe, and also from Downend.

'These days there is a depressing side to the magazine for people in my age group. So many familiar names appear among the obituaries, but inevitable, I'm afraid. Apart from AUDREY WELLS there was also HAZEL HARRIS (41-?). She was the year below me and remembered for her enterprise at the outbreak of war at Downend Church School where she formed a 'Trench Club' and collected pennies from a group of us in order to buy goodies (still available in 1939) for us to eat should we be incarcerated in the trenches (air-raid shelters to our younger Old Scholars!) for any length of time.

'I was in my last year at primary school and we only experienced in that time one short session underground, so few of the goodies were consumed. Since there were no sell-by dates in those days, the year behind me may have fared better, especially as food became more difficult to get.

'I also noted the death of JOHN SALTER (46-54). Never a contemporary of mine at KGS as he was seven years my junior but he lived just across the road from me in Badminton Road, Downend. All this makes sad reading, but nevertheless it is good to have our memories of the past stirred occasionally.'

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#### *TWO FROM THE 40s...*

BETTY HEMBROUGH (43-48) now Bridges has sent KOSA one of those personal photos of herself and JEAN STOCK. Betty believes that they were seated on the steps of the Art Room and that the photo might have been taken in 1948 by SHEILA SHEPSTONE. We fea-



tured *Sheila's Shots* in the last edition and Betty remembers both Sheila and MARY JONES, who featured in those photos, very well.

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#### *...AND FROM THE 60s...*

LINDA WINTER now WEBB (59-66) notes the dearth of contributions to the 'NEWS from her contemporaries. She writes:

'Having received many editions of KOSA NEWS, I note that you receive very few submissions from those who attended the school between 1959 and 1966, so I decided to remedy that!

'I recall my years at KGS as a very happy period in my life and fond memories of that time are rekindled each time I read the magazine. It would be good to hear from other ex-pupils who would have arrived at the School on a certain day in September 1959, dressed in their

smart new brown and blue uniforms and ready to take up their desks in the terrapin huts that lined one side of the playground. (If I remember correctly, we were Forms 1W, 1B, 1L and 1R!)

'I often wonder what happened to the other 120 or so pupils who shared that time with me. One of my school friendships has endured for the past 47 years - I became friendly with HAZEL LISMORE (now Wilson) in 1960 when we were in the Second Year together and we went off to Birmingham University in 1966. We both married at around the same time and both went on to have two sons apiece, our first sons being born in 1974 and the second ones in 1976. Hazel and I still continue to see each other regularly and have had some happy outings with our husbands. We enjoyed a visit to SARAH CLOTWORTHY in Bournemouth where she has lived for many years with her family. I also receive Christmas cards from VALERIE GAY (now Lee). Val is an eminent local councillor in South Gloucestershire and her efforts on behalf of the community are often featured in the local newspapers. JILL BARNES, with whom I had been very friendly at school, went off to Durham University in 1966 and sadly we lost touch. Jill and I, and also GILLIAN JENNINGS, were part of a very small group who took 'A' Level Latin under the tutelage of MR STUART SYKES who I believe continued to teach at the school for many years after our departure.

'I am enclosing a photograph of a 1965 production of *Dido and Aeneas* in which I was involved. I recall having great fun during rehearsals. DAVID MILES, who was in my year, took one of the male lead parts. He married BERNICE COLLINS and I bumped into them about a year ago in (of all places!) a Salsa Dance Class (obviously our interest in performing arts has not waned since those heady days of performing in *Dido*!)

There are many familiar faces in the photograph, some of whom I cannot put a name to, but I think one of the boys was DAVID SMALL who wrote to KOSA News recently seeking information about his uncle.

'I wait with anticipation to hear of the exploits of others from 1959-1966!'

Who can refuse such a reasonable request? Photo of *Dido* on page 28. - Ed.

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### RUTH'S RESPONSE...

Some articles in KOSA NEWS 29 prompted RUTH DULBOROUGH (57-63) now Bishop to write:

'My brother let me have a copy of the above some time ago, as I was mentioned in it! On page 23 '*Watts' Fans*' - I signed the eulogy to HAROLD WATTS, Art Master. Also, we knew somewhere in the family archives we had copies of our Form photos and yesterday I found the Form IIW - 1959. It is signed by most of the form members on the reverse. No doubt you will have had response from others since then, but if not I think the person responsible was E THOMAS, cannot remember his Christian name. I must admit not to being a contributor to the KOSA News - which I may change. I do not keep in contact with any of my former school colleagues, which is pretty pathetic.

'On one of my brother's form photos, there is a signature of one C PILLINGER (54-61) - it always amuses us when we see/hear him on tv or radio as he was always so popular with Headmaster C N RIDLEY! Our other claim to fame is that we lived a few doors along from STAN (BUSTER) BURRAGE (51-56) (now Chairman of KOSA) in the 50s, in Church Avenue, Warmley. We were friends with his brothers who were nearer our age, especially George and Brian. Do pass on our best wishes to him.



'The other article of great interest was 'A *Gricer's Tale*', page 9. Our father was in fact Station Master at Mangotsfield not long before it closed. It was very busy in those days, they used to run from one platform to another to service the trains, as it was almost non stop action at some times of the day. I eventually worked for British Rail for some years and even had the honour of working for the Station Master at Temple Meads in the top hat days in the 60s. I am now of course 'retired'.

'I notice on Friends Reunited that quite a few of my fellow scholars have joined up, including ALAN HIRESON (62-69) who we knew as children. We lived at Oldland Common then. I think my brother met him last year either in OC or at Bitton Railway.'

'The only other person I have any contact with from KGS is BOB FORD, who lives in Frenchay. He must have left around 1954 - I only know him through his wife, we used to attend the same Bridge lessons!'

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#### *COLIN'S COMMENT...*

COLIN PILLINGER (54-61) has responded to a mention in the last edition: 'I see yet again I got a mention in the news letter - as a form prize winner! I actually won the Redford Maths prize once beating boys at least a form, if not two, above me (creep). I was much prouder of that. Is it still going or been declared inappropriate to reward effort?'

'That isn't the reason I'm writing. I have a new self-published book *Space is a Funny Place* - 50 years and more of space exploration - the funny and the serious side. I remember when Sputnik was launched in 1957 those of us at the school at the time felt we were part of it because BERNIE LOVELL, who was right up there at the top of the Honours

Board outside the Library, was tracking the first satellite with the Jodrell Bank Telescope. He is still around and ought to be featured in the News for his exploits.

'Anyway knowing I still have lots of friends in KOSA I thought you might be willing to publicise the book for me. If so I would be willing to donate £2.00 from every copy I sell through KOSA. I wouldn't start planning a holiday in the West Indies, but a few people might buy a copy or two as presents.

'I note there is a move to have a 1954 intake reunion, I was one of those and would be interested. Incidentally so was RICHARD (GILBEY) STRANGE (54-59), your Latin classicist correspondent from the summer 2007 edition - I thought he was asleep in Latin, or like me did Maths homework, but obviously not.'

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The book Colin mentions is well-worth the £17.50, which includes post & packing. Send your cheque with order to:

Prof. Colin Pillinger  
PSSRI

The Open University  
Milton Keynes  
MK7 6AA

Give your contact details, name, address, telephone number and e-mail, and Colin is willing to sign the book and dedicate it if you wish. State clearly the wording you require and don't forget to mention that the order comes from KOSA to secure our two quid per copy!

With the 50th Anniversary of the Sputnik launch, 2007 has been a busy year for Colin in the media. Amongst other things, he's featured in the *Sunday Times* feature *The Best of Times, Worst of Times* and he was asked to write an article for the *Times Higher* about his motivations. As it features KGS, its contents are reproduced on the next page.

## THES ARTICLE

On the 50th anniversary of the launch of Sputnik, Colin Pillinger recalls the boyhood wonder that helped mould his career.

In the middle of a splash of green that used to be a playing field, at the not-so-fashionable end of Bristol, stands a giant oak tree. It is symbolic of the school I attended as a teenager. Indeed, it is all that is recognisable to me except for the "temporary" classroom where I first hung my satchel in 1954.

When I went there it was called Kingswood Grammar School (KGS to those of us inside and "the cow sheds" to those who weren't). Going to grammar school was considered a bit soft. I was never sure why - the secondary modern school and the new technical college where most of my friends were had more desirable buildings, especially in winter, when compared with the long low hut with paper-thin walls. It wasn't surprising when the whole lot burnt down, except for the "temporary" block that was made of asbestos.

It doesn't sound much like an academic hotbed, does it? Nor the place to throw up a hero of the space race. Not me, I hasten to add, but in October 1957 KGS did just that. As the world listened agog to the "beep, beep, beep" from Sputnik, the first artificial satellite, the pupils were encouraged to stare up, not just at the heavens, but at the Honours Board. Even after more than 30 years of the school's existence it didn't take long to read, but there it was, the second name - A. C. B. (Bernard) Lovell, the man in all the papers because he was tracking Sputnik with his telescope at Jodrell Bank.

Just above Lovell was another name familiar to us: Brian Sammons, our chemistry master, aka Fishy. Surely he

must have known this Lovell bloke? "Yes." So Fishy went up in our estimation. Our headmaster, who also taught physics, delighted in telling us Lovell was an old boy.

My form, 3L1, occupied the classroom nearest to that Honours Board. It was only a few yards from the headmaster's study, with the chemistry lab just a little further on. So I probably got exposed to the part that our school played in Sputnik more than most. I was 14 at the time. I couldn't wait to be 15, when I could leave school. And I probably would have had it not been for Mr Hocking, my form and maths master, who summoned my parents to the school and told them I should stay on, even do science A levels and perhaps go to university.

Nobody in my family had ever been to university, but chemistry, physics and maths A levels it was, and the rest, as they say, is history.

I interrupted Sir Bernard, as he now is, the other day as he was mowing his lawn. I'm glad to say he is well at 94. We talked about his recollections. He hadn't intended to have anything to do with Sputnik, though he knew a satellite launch by the Soviet Union was imminent. "Yes," he remembered Brian Sammons - "older than I was". Then he went on to relate the story of how Sputnik saved his bacon. Jodrell Bank had run out of money. There was no means of "driving" the newly constructed telescope to point it at what you wanted to observe in the sky. Nobody had been paid and the builders were on strike.

Then came the call from the military. Khrushchev had launched "a weapon against which there was no defence". They had to know where it was. So back came the workforce, and the control room was finished in double-quick time. The giant telescope, which now bears



We need more Beagle 2s, projects that everyone believes they played their part in, and maybe there could be 500 stories like mine in another 50 years.

Colin Pillinger is professor of planetary sciences at the Open University. He has a new book, *Space Is a Funny Place*.

Contact:  
psrg@open.ac.uk

Lovell's name and is in as good a fettle as the man who made it, locked on to Sputnik's carrier signal and the bills were paid. Lovell had saved the world.

That's something else I share with Bernard Lovell - the experience of believing you are doing the right thing for science when the powers that be are reluctant to pay for it. It must be something in the Kingswood water!

I will always be grateful for the role he played in Sputnik, even if it was, by his own admission, as an afterthought. I wish other kids could have the same inspirational old boys to encourage them to consider science careers.

What did Sir Bernard want to ask me? "Are you going to have another go at Mars?" And that's the point. Beagle 2 had lots of people who were really peripheral to the main event but nevertheless there were all manner of local-boy-makes-good stories all over the UK.

In addition, Colin has had an Asteroid named after him. Asteroid 15614 is now officially Asteroid Pillinger, and the above photograph shows the presentation to Colin by a NASA official. Congratulations on the award, Colin, and for putting KGS on the map.

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### *CORRECTIONS AND ADDITIONS...*

A letter from BERYL HODGES (52-57) now Littlehales wrote to name the members of 4B of 1956 which we published on page 7 of 'NEWS No: 29. She writes:

'The Spring 2007 edition included a letter from ANNA SALLIS (52-58) who gave a few names of the people in the photo. There may be people who will be interested in the names of the others (such as myself standing behind ANN HARRIS).

'My sister ANNE HODGES (45-49) now Warren was interested to see my name as a new member when she received her copy in Nowra, NSW, Australia.

'As with ANNA SALLIS, I also was friends with twins MAUREEN and MARGARET JENKINS. My other friends were ANN GARDNER and CHRISTINE SIMS – Happy memories!'

Boys: J Britton, R Beese, M Gayton, C Harris, B Parker, P Overberry, Bruce Perry, T Box, H Burt, Jeffries, Hooper, R Perkins, Dave Scudamore, John Ellis, John Wilmott, J Dicks.

Girls: Valerie Gane, Ann Gardner, Ann Johnson, Jean Morgan, Anna Sallis, Joyce Adams, Rosemary Cryer, Beryl Hodges,

Marion Gane, Janet Sawyers, Christine Sims, Brace, Mr Pople, Sandra Gay, June Hopes, Pauline Brain, Ann Harris.

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BILL KNIGHT (48-55) has helped us identify the players in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. He writes:

'Regarding KOSA NEWS 31 and the picture of the production of *A Midsummer Night's Dream* on page 24 and the attempt on page 23 to identify the players.

'I was Oberon on the extreme left, clearly identifiable by my antennae. To my left as Titania is not MARY HUCKLE but PEARL GARDNER. To her left and behind her is GERALD KENWOOD. We came to KGS from Downend Church of England School together with MICHAEL WOOD, with whom I am still in touch. Gerald is not seated in front but Bottom, with the asses' head on his knees, seated centrally in the front is LEAR. To the left of the front seated row, hand on stage, I confirm MICHAEL ROCKY. BRUCE CARPENTER is seated, second from (the observer's) right in the second seated row. I confirm MIKE SAGE, ALAN BAINES and DAVID ANGELL. I am quite sure about these.

'The name of GANE, in the role of Puck on the observer's extreme right rings a

bell but I do not remember his first name. For the unknown to GERALD KENWOOD'S immediate left, and wearing a white hat, "MERRICK" comes to mind but I am very doubtful about that.

'If you have information on the careers and lives of any of them I would be interested to hear.'

WILSON BARRETT (48-55) in a letter from Strasbourg, where he now lives, also confirms that the third person from the left of the middle row of the photograph is not TONY LEAR but GERALD KENWOOD. TONY LEAR is seated in the front row.

Wilson also comments on ALAN OTLET'S (39-46) letter in the last edition. He writes:

'I note that MR DAVIES found favour in the eyes of DR OTLET as regards the teaching of philosophy and logic. Mr Davies did not find favour with me as regards the teaching of French. Fortunately, MR MOODY arrived. With hindsight, however, I feel that Mr Moody's efforts to ensure satisfactory 'A' level results may well have been motivated by a desire to further his own career. Your contributors are usually full of praise for KGS teachers, and I am indeed grateful to Mr Moody, but I am convinced that in many cases the comment 'could/should have done better' is applicable.

'Dr Otlet points out that KGS was the 'outcome of local men (not women?) of standing after WWI who wanted to provide a fuller education to children of a very working class area'. Perhaps there is a sociology student about to embark on a PhD course and who is looking for a research topic. What about 'KGS and Social Class'?

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*DID YOU KNOW..?*

The current HM Lord Lieutenant of Bristol is ex-KGS Scholar MARY FORTY now MARY PRIOR MBE.

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## 1948 SPEECH DAY...



JOAN HEMMENS (41-48) now GREEN has kindly sent the 'NEWS many photos and press cuttings, some of which will have to be held over in the interests of balance. Of particular interest, however, is the photo above of the 1948 Speech Day. The press description is 'Joan Hemmens (head girl) shows one of her awards to the head boy, R E D Garrett and other prize-winners after the presentations had been made by Mr R R Dobson, vice-chairman Glo'shire Education Committee.'

Behind Joan and Dick are (l-r) Geoff Bishop, Bob Otlet, Megan Davies, Jeanne Hicks, June Marriott, Peter Redford, Kathleen Wilcox and Vernon Roberts.

According to *Kingswood Chronicles 45-49* the prize which Joan received was probably the 'Parents' Association Prize'. In 1949 Joan was awarded a County Major Scholarship to finance a university place.



The photo below (left), also from Joan, is of the 6th Form Girls of 1948. Those identified are:  
Back row: Hazel Long, Mary Miles.  
Second row: nk, Margaret Vagg, nk, June Wride  
Third row: nk, Pamela Nash, Margaret Edwards, Jean Knight, Sheila Francis  
Front row: Ruth Stock, June Marriott, Joan Hemmens, Jeanne Hicks, Kathleen Wilcox, Megan Davies.



## EXPEDITIONS...

DEREK BAILEY (49-53) scanned this text from the *Kingswood Chronicles* 50-51.

'It goes with the photo of myself and RICHARD BUCKLEY in Hyde Park on one of those trips. You'll note that I'm wearing my school cap which you also modelled for the KOSA NEWS!'

### EXPEDITION DAY, 1950

What a grand day the School had last July, when expeditions were organized to London, Windsor, Blenheim, Oxford, Cheddar, Wells and Glastonbury! History was made when the London train began its journey from Bitton. Having arrived at Paddington, the party divided, the Seniors going to the South Kensington Science Museum, and the Juniors for an extensive tour of London, which included a visit to Buckingham Palace, Westminster Abbey, the Houses of Parliament, the Tower of London, St. Paul's Cathedral, ending with tea at Regents Park Zoo.



From the coach which took the party to Windsor various places of interest could be seen. They halted at Marlborough before finally reaching their destination. From Windsor a boat trip was made to Runnymede, travelling down the Thames, and on returning they toured Windsor Castle. Unfortunately St. George's Chapel was not open to visitors. After an open-air tea, the party returned, stopping only at Marlborough.

Another party went by coach to Blenheim Palace, where they were particularly thrilled by the fine approach. They went on to Oxford, for a conducted tour of the Colleges Corpus Christi, Merton, and Magdalen. On the return journey the party halted at Fairford in order to admire the magnificent stained-glass windows in the church. One more stop was made at Cirencester before reaching home.

Last but not least was the Junior expedition to Wells, Glastonbury and Wookey. At Wells a conducted tour was made of the Cathedral, where those on tour attended a small service held by a young clergyman. From here the party went to Glastonbury but unfortunately, owing to the high charge, was unable to visit the ruins. After lunch they proceeded to Wookey, where they paid a visit to the caves, and took tea overlooking the swimming pool. Thus the first Expedition Day in the life of the School ended successfully, everyone having thoroughly enjoyed themselves. Long may it remain a permanent day in the School's calendar.

B.B.M. and C.E.W.

We believe that C.E.W. was COLIN WINTOUR, who taught French, but who was B.B.M.? Any ideas?

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## DEVON REUNION...

PAT WALKER (56-62) now BRYAN wrote to KOSA NEWS to add a renewed friend to our numbers:

'I have just spent a few days in Saunton Sands Hotel, North Devon, where I bumped into KGS contemporary SANDRA LUCAS, now Williams. We hadn't seen each other since school – she recognized me instantly – not bad after 45 years! We had lots of catching up to do.



'Sandra and I were best friends throughout KGS, along with JUDITH BURT and JENNY QUINTON, who hailed from Newton-le-Willows and joined us in the 2<sup>nd</sup> form. I would love to get back in touch with Judith and Jenny.' (We have traced Judith, but have yet to trace Jenny. Does anyone know of her whereabouts? - Ed)

The photograph (above) shows the reunion in November 2007 and the photo below shows the fab four in 1959 at KGS. From the left, Jenny, Judith, Sandra and Pat.



### *THE PRESIDENT...*

DAVID LEWIS, our President, retired at the end of August 2007 after 18 years as Headteacher of Kingsfield School, the successor to KGS. We are very grateful to David for showing genuine interest in KOSA and its objects and for providing a link for us with the present school. He has been a very regular joiner at our lunches over the years and he has agreed to continue as president until the next AGM. We wish him well in his retirement and we hope that our links will continue. Perhaps belatedly, your editor has asked David to provide us with a pen portrait of himself, and this he has done.

### DAVID IAN LEWIS

Born in 1946 in London (at a very young age) and bred from 1948 in Dorset.

Attended primary school in the small north Dorset village of Fontmell Magna, and then in 1958, went to Shaftesbury Grammar School, a small country school for boys. By happy chance, Mary Miles (now Mary Lewis) went to the sister girls' High School. 1965–68 Queen Mary College, London University, reading English. This was the time of "Swinging London" – we were of course very sober students.

Following a brief period working with Wiltshire County Council, took up a teaching post at Gillingham Grammar School in north Kent, to teach English and run the library. It was an exciting time to join the school with a large intake of similar young teachers and it was a good apprenticeship. By coincidence that I only noticed later the Head, John Hicks, and the Deputy Head, John Heath, both came from Bristol.



I was involved in the usual activities that keen and ready-to-please young teachers take on in addition to teaching in the classroom, such as trips locally and abroad, school plays and music. Mary had taken up a teaching post in a neighbouring school and we married in 1969. Our first home was a flat over a laundrette – convenient for the washing and warm in the winter when all the tumble driers were on.

In the mid '70s Kent experimented with various sorts of school organisations and our school became a bilateral school of about 2000 pupils on a new site. I was promoted to the new post of Professional Tutor. In 1975 our daughter Ruth was born, on Bonfire Night. Our second daughter, Wendy was born in Downend in 1978.

In 1977, we moved to Bristol when I took up the post of Head of English at Rodway School, which had previously been Rodway Technical High School and, like Kingsfield, had been made comprehensive about ten years earlier. It is strange that in those days one could teach in a school and be almost totally unaware of

the neighbouring school only half a mile or so away. So it was with Rodway and The Chase School for Boys just a couple of roads away and with Kingsfield, just on the other side of Rodway Common. However we were bound to get more familiar when in the early 1980's Avon County Council reviewed the secondary provision in the Kingswood area and following consultation about possible closures, decided to amalgamate some secondary schools. Kingsfield did not need to join with any other school but a consequence of the changes elsewhere was that its large Sixth Form was drastically cut in size. In Rodway's case it was married to The Chase School to become a split site mixed comprehensive of about 1800 pupils. Amalgamations are forced marriages and it took some time to settle down; the split site meant that teachers moved from the Lower School to the Upper possibly two or three times in the day – just think of the carbon footprint that all that travelling created!

My post at the new Mangotsfield School was initially Head of English and then quite quickly thereafter, Deputy Head. The new school with all its planning and organization issues provided valuable learning experience and gave me the confidence to seek Headships and I was very fortunate to be appointed in 1989 to Kingsfield.

The previous substantive Head, Bill Haxworth, had left in 1988 and there had been a "Caretaker" Head, Anthony Claridge, for one year. I was therefore only the fourth permanent Head of the school since its opening in 1921.

In my experience, senior members of the teaching staff tend to end up teaching the odd lesson here and there in the timetable when there are a few unfilled spaces late in July! So in addition to teaching English, in my time, I have taught Religious Education, Personal and Social Education, German and

French; and as Head one also gets to visit classrooms, laboratories, games fields and witness some miracles of teaching and motivation, care and understanding and undiminished patience and good humour. Of course there are occasional tantrums, raised voices and non-cooperation – from pupils too!

The link with KOSA really established perhaps a couple of years after I took up my post, was a pleasure and I am confident that the new Head, Steve Longton, will want to keep it alive and meaningful. In addition to the contact with members I was able to report on the interest of the Association and its support to the school through school assemblies. While the present pupils are bound to be most concerned with now and what is to come, it was important to me that they were aware of the school's history, the lives and experiences of their predecessors and the continuity of priorities and values.

In the 18 years from 1989 to 2007 when I retired, Kingsfield grew from just over 800 pupils to around 1200. The grounds and buildings inevitably mutated to accommodate the various shifts in the curriculum and the change in the pupil population. The operation of the school changed too: in the early '90s we started to run our own budget and needed a Bursar to manage business. Now the school has a delegated annual budget of nearly £5,000,000. In 1989 the school had one computer for the office and two to use occasionally and unreliably with pupils. Now virtually everyone -staff and pupils- has access to a machine and to the global communications of the Internet. In 1989 pupils played sports on that old fashioned sort of grass that grows and has to be mown; they still do but Kingsfield has a floodlit Astro turf artificial surface that allows all weather playing. And in Spetember, 2006 the school was designated a Mathematics and Computing Specialist College; this was a special

and proud moment: it recognised some of the particular strengths of the school and was the result of some intense and dedicated work by some staff. In a way, this sets the direction for the school as it moves into this new century.

It was a privilege and pleasure to work with committed colleagues aiming for the best outcomes for our pupils and to work with so many young people who brought their own personalities, anxieties, talents and enthusiasms daily to school.

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### **KOSA MATTERS...**

#### **WHERE ARE THEY NOW..?**

We have lost the following members where mailed copies of KOSA NEWS have been returned. Can anyone supply the present whereabouts of Bob Harris (55-60), Peter Damsberg (62-69), Kathleen Owen now Waplinton (staff) last heard of in Spain, and Angela Chew (74-79) now Martinez last heard of in California.

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### **WELCOME...**

New members since last time, commencing year in brackets:

Paul Fishlock (60-63), Kate Rashley (67-72), Ron Williams (50-57), Gerald Connock (50-57), Colin Millward (44-49), John Garlick (58-59), Peggy Green (39-46), Alun Coonick (68-75), Peter Perry (46-51), Mervyn Wring (46-51), Tim and Jane Andrews (73-78), Sandra Lucas (56-61), Margaret Hope (36-40), Alison Howells (66-67), Judith Burt (56-62).

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### **LADIES' SCARVES...**

The KOSA ladies' scarves have now arrived and will be available at the Spring Lunch and the AGM on Saturday, 12 April 2008. If you would like to order one before that date they are available from ALAN HIRESON (address in committee members' list) price £10, including post and packing for the UK. only.

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*DIDO AND AENEAS - 1965*

