



KOSA NEWS



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The Magazine of the Old Scholars of Kingswood Grammar School

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EDITORIAL...



My appeal in the last edition for someone (younger?) from the Bristol Area to help put together an edition with a view to succeeding in the editor's chair largely fell on deaf ears (or blind eyes!). Save a very complimentary letter from JOHN COLE (49-56), which modesty prohibits me from publishing, in which he suggested that one advantage of my stepping down is that the new editor would surely not model that cap. How it has escaped ceremonial burning only DEREK BAILEY (49-53) can explain (it's his). Being upset by such sentiments I have reverted to childhood and gone back some 57 years to my first photo taken at KGS, complete with school tie - but no cap.

We are sorry that BOB GRAY (49-56) and his wife Sherry have now retired from catering. They have served us well (geddit?) over many years, for which we would like to express our grateful thanks. We hope to see them both, seated, at future lunches.

As ever, many thanks for all your contributions. I've had to hold some over for next time and I still have many photos yet unpublished, so watch this space and please keep your contributions coming.

DIARY DATES...

ANNUAL AUTUMN LUNCH:

Booked for **SATURDAY, 11 OCTOBER 2008** at Lincombe Barn, Downend at 12 to 12.30, lunch at 1.00pm. DAVE KERSHAW (48-56) has suggested (see last edition) that we make this a special reunion for the 48ers as it's their 60th anniversary of commencing at KGS, so we'll set some tables aside for their party. 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'.

54ers REUNION:

This is planned for an **FRIDAY, 10 OCTOBER 2008**. For details, see page 27. More information and booking forms from PAUL DAVIES (956 2692), CHRIS BRYANT (975 4656) or ROGER FOWLER (960 2999), all code 0117.

ANNUAL BUFFET LUNCH and AGM:

Already booked for for **SATURDAY 18 APRIL 2009** at Lincombe Barn, Downend. Please book the date in your diary now.

OBITUARIES...

TERRY MILLWARD (46-51) passed away in early January 2008, only four months after his wife PADDY YEOMAN(45-54) died. Terry's tribute to Paddy was published in the last edition.

Terry's funeral and Celebration of his Life was held at Memorial Woodlands, Alveston on 15 January and tributes were given by his daughter Lisa and his son Joe and others. Terry and Paddy's other daughter, Terri, was also present and she has written to KOSA NEWS on her father's death:

'It is with deep sadness that I write with the news that my dearest Dad died on 3 January 2008 after a very short and unexpected illness, aged 72. This was a dreadful shock after losing my mother, Paddy (nee Yeoman) nearly five months previously.

'Although those of you who knew Dad will have your own memories of him, I thought I would relay to you my impression of Dad's time at school that I have gleaned from many tales over the years.

'He said he started at KGS a year earlier than he should have done, at the age of 10, as he was considered by his primary school to be bright enough to face a greater challenge. This did not translate into academic achievement as, in his own words, he spent his time at KGS "messaging about"! He would always laugh when he told me he never bothered at school and had to go to 'night school' after he left, to get the required O-levels for getting a job. This did not hamper his career, though, as he retired in 2003 from running his own successful finance company for more than 30 years.

'Dad started courting Mum when they were both 15. Infamously, the romance began when she was hit in the mouth by

a hockey ball. As she walked past Dad with a bloody lip, he offered to kiss it better. The rest is history – their relationship prevailed through separation when Dad did his national service in the RAF and Mum attended the Sorbonne in Paris. They were married in 1960 and had three children, Joe, Lisa and myself, and leave behind three young grandsons.

'Dad was the youngest Millward in his family of four and his elder brother by two years, COLIN (44-49?), also attended KGS.

'A particular friend was JOHN MARCHANT (44-49), who went on to marry Mum's sister, YVONNE YEOMAN (47-54). Other classmates in the fifth form at KGS that Dad would talk about – I am sure I have missed some! - included Michael 'Sticky' Brittain, Diane Mallard, Dai Davis, Margaret Smith, Pete Dudbridge, Kathleen Vann, David King, Barry Ratcliffe, Roy Smith and Jimmy Williams. I believe some of those young men were also alongside Dad in the 11th Company of the Bristol Boys Brigade, which met at Wesleyan Methodist Chapel in Kingswood, along with KGS scholars Bill Edmunds, Dave Jefferies and Dave Pine.

'These memories of my dad would not be complete without a mention of his considerable sporting prowess, especially in football. Although he represented KGS at both rugby and cricket, football was his greatest love. He represented the Bristol Battalion of the Boys Brigade on a number of occasions and had a promising spell of youth football at Bristol City, prior to his RAF service. For many years he was a stalwart for the Cadbury Heath Football Club and was well known in local football circles. Indeed, as a child I personally remember him acting as a referee in local Saturday games, in his later life. I always had the

feeling that although he accepted he was too old to play on the team, he loved to at least be on the pitch!

This is just a snapshot of the man Terry Millward was. He was a fantastic person, husband, father and friend – solid gold.'

DR PETER TAYLOR (60-67) passed away at the early age of 58 on 27 March



2008. In a moving service at Abson Parish Church, close to Peter's home, his friend, James Short, gave a comprehensive summary and tribute to Peter's achievements.

Peter was a born academic. After leaving KGS, Peter studied at Lanchester Polytechnic, now Coventry University, to obtain his first degree. He was then awarded a postgraduate certificate in Quantitative Social Studies at the University of Kent in 1972, an MSc in Economics by Cardiff University in 1976 and a Doctorate from the University of the West of England in 1996 where he was on the academic staff, which he joined in 1973. He ultimately joined Bristol Business School where he held a number of senior appointments. A tribute to Peter's excellent relationship with his students was made at the service by one of his overseas doctoral students.

As well as his success in academia, Peter found time to run a farm in Abson with his brother, Paul. He enjoyed cycling, walking and the English countryside generally. Peter leaves his wife, Mary, whom he met whilst at Coventry, and sons Tom and Charlie.

Through his students and his published work Peter leaves an enduring legacy and a tangible memorial to a full life cut short early.

MARGARET STAPLES (49-54) (later Churchus) passed away on 30 December 2007.

A scan of *Kingswood Chronicles* reveals that Margaret obtained the 4G form prize in 1953 and, with her cousin JILL STAPLES, they played attendants to Hero and Beatrice in the production of *Much Ado About Nothing*.

Her husband Alan told KOSA that, after leaving KGS, Margaret had a long and successful career in nursing, which was the one and only career she wanted. After her final retirement she spent time enjoying her family and holidaying.

When Margaret was at Bristol Eye Hospital she was awarded the prize for Practical Nursing and later won the coveted Silver Medal there. She also spent many years at Cossham Hospital, where she was Senior Ward Sister. She regarded this as the highlight of her career.

In about 2001 she was diagnosed with motor neuron disease. This steadily progressed and the three years leading up to her death became unbearable. Margaret leaves a husband Alan, a son and daughter and their families.

Stepson John Cole has informed KOSA of the passing of HEATHER JOY TILLMAN (32-39) later Cole, who lived in Kent.

'Heather excelled academically attaining her 'A' Levels and becoming Head Prefect. Her achievements were particularly notable as she was raised through a series of foster families following the death of her mother when she was four.

'Heather retained fond memories of KGS throughout her life and spoke highly of MAJOR EATON, who was



aware of her difficult circumstances and provided her with his support and encouragement.

'Heather left KGS at the outbreak of the war and her hopes of university were temporarily abandoned. She participated in the war effort joining the Ministry of Food, where she quickly became an executive and she voluntarily trained girls as an officer for the Women's Air Corps. She retained vivid memories of the horrors of the Blitz in Bristol and she never forgot that many of her Kingswood classmates were killed in conflict, having joined the RAF.

'After the war Heather studied Social Sciences at London University and joined the probation service where she met her husband. They settled in Kent and shared many interests including pol-

itics and social justice issues. During their retirement they collected antiques and operated a market stall making several lasting friendships. At the time of her retirement at 58 she was working as a Senior Psychiatric Social worker assisting children from troubled families.

'Just before Christmas 2007 Heather suffered a severe stroke and died on 6 January 2008. She had survived her husband by 20 years. Her only surviving relative is her step-son who resides in Australia. She will be remembered for her generosity, determination and selfless approach to life.'

On page 5 opposite is a photograph of the 1939 Speech Day which took place at Zion Hall, Kingswood on 10 May. HEATHER TILLMAN is seen receiving a prize from Professor P W Slosson, Carnegie professor of History at Bristol University.

PHIL DARKE (47-52) has informed KOSA NEWS about the loss of his younger brother, ALBERT JAMES DARKE (49-53):

'Jim left KGS to start a general engineering apprenticeship at Torrance and Sons. At the age of twenty-one he was called for National Service and served his two years as an infantryman in the Gloucestershire Regiment, returning to Torrance and Sons and full employment as a fitter/turner. With the decline in heavy engineering he took employment with a small engineering firm, where he was given a fairly free hand in the development and production of plastic tooling for aircraft engines.

'Whilst not, perhaps, amongst the most brilliant of KGS scholars, he possessed an instinctive grasp of machinery and its problems. He was highly skilled at his trade and widely respected for produc-



ing a sound job. As a sideline he repaired automobiles and helped many a lady in distress with her 'wheels'. The plea of 'I gotta have it' (the car, of course) invariably met with a sympathetic and patient response.

'Jim, like me, became passionately fond of sea fishing and we spent countless hours in a small boat angling for bass and flatfish amongst the shoals and reefs of Start Bay. He also spent many hours fishing from the beaches and rocks of Lannacombe Bay - an area he loved dearly.

'Jim never surrendered and at seventy years of age he was still working at the job he loved, despite suffering from an advanced stage of lung cancer.

'He finally succumbed on 21st April 2008 after returning from North Devon where he had spent the weekend with his young, motherless, grand-children.'

HILDA JOY LEWIS (21-28), (later Chart) was one of the original pupils of Kingswood Secondary School and we have been informed of her passing by her

husband, Norman. The following is a summary of Hilda's life prepared by her daughter and brother, ARTHUR LEWIS, who was 12 years her junior.

'Hilda was born in 1909 in Oldland Common. As a child Hilda was greatly influenced by her father who was a builder by trade, and at various times a postman, merchant seaman and pet shop owner. He was not a churchgoer and Hilda remembers vividly the day when he was arrested and taken from their home - a conscientious objector in the First World War. He was in prison for some time and sent to do hard labour building roads. Hilda's mother was a Primitive Methodist.

'Hilda did well at school, gained a scholarship, and later passed the exams for a place at Cambridge University. However the family could not afford to send her there, so she went to Bristol University instead and remained living at home. Hilda's subjects were French and Art. She spent some time studying at the Sorbonne and working as an au pair in southern France.

'When she qualified Hilda took up various teaching posts in secondary schools. It was when she was teaching



in the Midlands that Hilda was first introduced to the Unitarians. Hilda married Norman in 1945.

'As well as bringing up the family (two daughters) and helping with the market garden business, Hilda (with Norman) took five elderly relatives under her wing (and roof) during the 1960s and 70s patiently caring for their various needs.

'Hilda was active in the local Dramatic society, both on the stage and behind the scenes, where she created imaginative props and costumes, including a splendid mermaid. She also learned the violin.

'Natural history, and Art were always important to Hilda. She drew and painted, having produced many village magazine cover illustrations. She was particularly interested in birds, had painted many, and derived great pleasure from watching birds in the garden. She also enjoyed people watching! Hilda had a very worthwhile and long life'

We have been informed by his wife Gwyneth that CHARLES BROWNE (34-41) died in February 2008 after a short illness. He and EDDIE HAWKING (37-42) enjoyed an annual reunion together when they recalled their old schooldays. 'Charles was born in Kingswood and at KGS obtained an excellent Higher School certificate in Science subjects. After school he was recruited by the Ministry of Defence where he tested explosives such as Semtex at their site in Bridgwater. He rode in motor cycle trials for the Douglas team, winning many awards and trophies.

'After the war Charles became involved in printing and studied typography. He later became a computer expert. At school he became interested in local history, attended lectures at Bristol University and took part in the excavation of a Roman Temple at Nettleton. He became a member of the Bristol & Gloucestershire Archeological Society and the Prehistoric Society, later becoming a extra-mural lecturer in Archeology for Bristol University. He became involved in many 'digs', including the Keynsham Abbey site, cut through by the by-pass.

'A keen photographer all his life, Charles was awarded a licentiatehip of the Royal Photographic Society for his work with digital photography. He had a deep appreciation of classical music, arranged pieces for brass bands and annoyed the cat by playing Bartok on the piano. He also used his computer to compose work himself. He also took up sailing. One can say that Charles lived life to the full and gave of his best in whatever he was involved.'

A Requiem Mass was held in St Augustine of Canterbury Catholic Church, Downend in memory of Lt Col RENÉ BOYELDIEU (27-32) who died on 21



René enjoyed chatting, and the photograph left was taken at a recent KOSA reunion with René on the right swapping stories with Secretary JOHN POWELL (43-48) (centre) and René's contemporary BILL COX.

February 2008 in his 92nd year. René was born in Downend as one of seven children, a number of whom went to KGS when it was Kingswood Secondary School (KSS).

René joined the army at the outbreak of World War II, served all over the world including North Africa and the Middle East and was eventually promoted to lieutenant colonel. After the war he was posted to India and he later worked in industrial relations at National Smelting Co. Ltd in Avonmouth and in the clothing industry in Leeds.

On retirement he moved back to Bristol to live in Pucklechurch and his fluent French proved invaluable to the committee which organized the annual exchange with Pringy, near Paris. He was also the oldest member of Cleve Rugby Club but he never considered himself too old to master his lap-top computer.

Your editor can vouch that René was a real gentlemen and a good friend. He had many friends in Pucklechurch and in the Fleur de Lys, which he regularly used as his local watering hole. After his cremation at Westerleigh, his many friends gathered at, where else, the Fleur! Very appropriate!

We have also been notified of the deaths of HAYDN GOULDING (37-42) who died on 6 May 2008, of BETTY CLINKER(35-42) later Ford, who passed away on 18 January 2008, of DONALD BROOKES (41-48) and of DOROTHY CROOKE, later Hawking, who died in November 2007. After leaving KGS, Dorothy went to the West of England College of Art and we are informed by her husband that she left some splendid paintings.

To all those who have lost a loved one we express our sincere condolences. One message seems to come through loud and clear: many of our members who have passed on certainly lived their lives to the full.

MISTAKEN IDENTITY..?

On page 2 of the last edition we reported the death of ELAINE BUSH (56-63) and published a photograph of whom we genuinely thought was Elaine on a trip to Paris in 1957. BRENDA GANE (56-61) now Kinkead wrote from Australia to assure us that the person we identified as Elaine wasn't her. Furthermore, MARGARET REECE (55-62) now Wills identified herself on the photo and corrects the date:

'The photo on page 2...was indeed taken in Paris on the school trip to France, but the trip was at Easter 1960 not 1957. The whole trip was from 7th to 15th April, the 7th to 10th being spent in



Paris and the afternoon of the 8th included the Eiffel Tower, the rest in Avignon. The report was in *Kingswood Chronicles 59-60*, pages 31-32. There were 34 pupils plus MR RIDLEY, MISS MORRISON, MISS EVANS and MR HUMPHREYS. I know, because I was there – second from the left on the photo. Margaret also identified the person on the extreme right of the photo – ELISABETH BECKER (55-62).'

ROSEMARY LOVELL (56-61) now Cross has also identified some of the others:

'The third from the left is SHEILA YOUNG and the fifth is MARILYN HILLIER' she writes.

Brenda points out that we have published other photos of Elaine:

In 'NEWS 29, page 24, there is a photo of Elaine on it. She is at the far right, standing up; I am sitting in front of her. She is also in No:31, page 28, Form 3L1. She is sitting in the front row, 4th from the right next to GEORGE COATS, whom I e-mail quite often as a consequence of the KGS web-site. He contacted me initially and I also keep in touch with JANET CHELL, thanks to KOSA. I was also in the same class as JUDITH BURT mentioned on pages 25 and 27 of the same edition.'

The photograph is reproduced above, but we still have been unable to posi-

tively identify the fourth girl from the left. Any offers?

ANOTHER FROM OZ...

MARY MILES (42-49) now Bentley also offers some identification and comments on the last edition in an e-mail:

'Thanks for no: 32, in particular the photos on page 23 of the 1948 Speech day. So good to have the large recognizable one at the top, with everyone with characteristic poses – lots of memories there...

'The lower photo of 1948 6th Form Girls I also recognize. Next to me and behind JUNE WRIDE is PAM BALL; at the other end next to MARGARET VAGG is BARBARA HIGGENBOTHAM, and on her right, next to PAM NASH is DAMARIS JONES, who became Lady somebody...That leaves the person behind MARGARET EDWARDS, next to JUNE, who I remember as a particular friend of IRENE ASHFORD, who does not appear in the photo.

'The other item of particular interest is the profile of president DAVID LEWIS...such good taste to marry someone named Mary Miles! However, I'm glad to know that Kingsfield School retains the concept of having teachers of wide-ranging interest and energy – and humour.

'I maintain contact with HAZEL LONG, and through her, PAM BALL; also MEGAN DAVIES, living in French-speaking Canada; ESME BRITTON, 'STIV' CURTIS, JOHN PENNY, TONY PERDUE - on a more or less annual basis. I just wish I could join you all at the Barn again.

'I hope your succession planning gets lots of interest and commitment - a rare quality...'

SATURDAY MORNINGS...

SANDRA BLAKEN (58-63), now Woodruff (58 – 63) remembers cleaning the library!

'In response to COLIN DEMMERY'S (54-59) enquiry as to whether other pupils attended the Saturday morning detention (Issue No. 32 page 9), I certainly remember attending and my punishment was to polish the library. At the end of the detention I left a large blob of polish on the librarian's chair, thinking it was very funny. I never did hear whether the unsuspecting librarian sat on the polish.

I wish I could remember the crime I had committed and telephoned a friend, who I felt sure would have been in on it with me, to see whether she could recall the detention but with no luck I'm afraid.

I remember getting into trouble with MISS MORRISON on the return walk to school after attending a service in Kingswood Church and I think it was something to do with me not having my school beret on. However, I don't think this would have warranted a Saturday morning detention.

Also In detention on a Saturday morning was MARLENE HAYWARD (53-60). (I thought it was only boys who transgressed enough for the 'ultimate' sanction - Ed):

'It was the commencement of the Michaelmas term – September. I was now 14, beginning to find my independence and feel my feet a bit in the world. ANGELA BUSH, my friend, and I had decided that on Saturdays we would go to Bath swimming. I would catch the train at Mangotsfield and she would board in Warmley for Green Park station in Bath. Like most parents, mine were not wealthy and I made the decision to save my dinner money and not buy dinner tickets.

'However, by dinner time I was hungry and there was at the bend in Brook Road, near the hall entrance to the school, a detached house, side-on, with a substantial orchard in front. The gentleman there and his wife sold apples and pears at a price of 3 for 1d. I decided, therefore to buy 3 apples for my dinner – only a 1d. The apples were sour and unripe and like concrete to eat.

'The following day, during breaktime, I had finished my bottle of milk by the woodwork room and was making, my way along the terrace to the J-room steps when suddenly I had the urgent need to use the toilet. I entered the school building where a prefect was waiting at the steps to the lower corridor. 'What are you doing back in the school during breaktime?' she called. I ignored her and ran to the toilets where I had chronic diarrhoea, was feverish and washed my hands in the lovely warm water. The bell went and out I came, only to be confronted by the prefect who was waiting for me. 'You have defied a prefect,' she said 'you are in Saturday morning detention. Go to the office and tell them.'

'MRS CRUSE and MRS BAILEY were in the office. 'You, in Saturday morning detention?' they said. 'Yes,' I replied. MRS CRUSE took out the file and entered my name for three weeks' time. At home at tea time, to my relief, my parents found this humorous. Three weeks passed; what was in store for me, I wondered. My mother was a saintly character and my saviour on many occasions. She came from Norfolk and had a lovely sense of humour.

'The day arrived and on setting off on my bike by the gate my mother gave me a parcel and told me what it was for. It was a lovely day, no MR HILTON (Music) blowing his horn on his car. I made my way through the gates and there was

Headmaster MR RIDLEY'S Jowett Javelin car parked by the woodwork room. He was here!

'I made my way down the corridor past room E. MR RIDLEY had a new gadget fixed on his door. The red light read 'ENGAGED' and the green light 'ENTER'. I tapped the glass pane. The red light came on – 'ENGAGED'. I waited for 'ENTER' to show and I entered.

'I was alone – only me on Saturday morning detention. MR RIDLEY asked me what I had done to 'merit' my detention and I stated that I had defied a prefect. At the age of 14 I was far too embarrassed to broach the subject of chronic diarrhoea. However, he noticed the parcel I was carrying, 'What have you there?' he enquired. 'Sandwiches, sir' I replied 'You don't get dinner with Saturday morning detention.' Remembering my mother's words I said 'Oh, but that's not my dinner, sir, - they're for my tea.' MR RIDLEY laughed, then his usual half-smile, and adjusting his pipe in his mouth. 'go on, run along, MRS MERRYFIELD will find something for you to do.' I then polished all the chairs and tables in the library and dusted all the shelves.

'Thank you KGS, for this caused much laughter around the fire at Christmas time. Four years later I left KGS for Trinity College, University of Wales to become a teacher, so my Saturday morning detention was not held against me.'

DIFFERENT CAREERS...

One of our correspondents wrote to say it would be nice to know about KOSA careers before they appeared in our obituary columns.

JOHN COLE (49-56) has had the great idea of carrying out an interview with ROGER GREENAWAY (49-55) and has

sent us the result of their conversation. John writes:

'I was a classmate of Roger's and we picked up on our friendship a dozen or so years ago. He has had a successful singing and particularly song writing career in popular music, somewhat different from the average KOSA member and almost certainly unique.

JC: Looking firstly at your songwriting career, which among your successes of the 60's and 70's are your favourites?

RG: I was lucky enough to be involved in over 60 hit songs as well as producing such acts as "White Plains", "The Fortunes", "The Drifters", "Gene Pitney" and others. I guess I have four particular favourites. Firstly, "You've Got Your Troubles (I've Got Mine)" by the Fortunes, which was the first song Roger Cook and I wrote together. Secondly, "Lovers Of The World Unite" which was our first self penned hit as David & Jonathan produced by George Martin, the fifth Beatle and thirdly, "I'd Like To Teach The World To Sing" by the New Seekers which became the iconic advertising song for Coca-Cola and fourthly, "Like Sister & Brother", my first hit with the Drifters.

JC: The longevity of your musical partnership with Roger Cook amazed the industry. What's the secret?

RG: The secret, if there was one, is that our voices blended well together, we were good friends and remain so to this day and there was a chemistry between us that created a real catalyst to creativity. Roger Cook also happens to be a very talented writer and performer.

JC: The pop music scene seems notorious for drink, drugs and relationship breakdowns. How have you avoided the pitfalls?

RG: I got very lucky by meeting the right lady and if you remember my first ambition as a young footballer was to play for

England so I never smoked or touched alcohol or drugs. Never have never will. My wife Brenda and I will also celebrate 47 years of marriage in October this year.

JC: And how did you come to meet Brenda?

RG: I was performing in a 4 night variety show at the Colston Hall in Bristol with Nat Jackley as the headline act and Brenda was a dancer in the show. I was smitten at first sight.

JC: You now work for the American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers. Prior to this you campaigned for the Freedom of Information Act and worked in a senior but voluntary capacity for The Performing Right Society. Why was that?

RG: I have always been interested in having a Freedom of Information Act (similar to that enjoyed in the USA) which we now have. As for the PRS I was keen to learn more about the industry I was part of and ran for the PRS Board and was elected. I became its Chairman in 1983 which was, as you rightly pointed out, unpaid. I left the Chair in 1986 by which time I had set up a Chairman's Office and created a situation that meant any future Chairman would receive proper remuneration. I retired from the Board in 1994 and because of the experience I had gained was offered the position at ASCAP running their International business. I took six months to decide but have not regretted the decision at all. I love to travel and take care of our creators' rights and dues.

JC: Can the radically changing music reproduction technology be harnessed sufficiently to be fair to the creators?

RG: The short answer is no. Music becomes freer by the day. I could write reams on this topic but now is not the time. Once new models have been

accepted and shown to work we will be able to earn a fair recompense for our works but it will be at a much reduced rate. We are going through a revolution and will all have to get used to less.

JC: I know you have found The BBC arrogant at times but can you instance a better model elsewhere?

RG: I've had my ups and downs with dear old Auntie but in all honesty I have not seen a better model anywhere else. That is not to say that there is still a considerable amount of waste at the BBC.

JC: You are a devoted family man and I know your own happy upbringing was significant. Can you reveal a little of how your sons and daughter have some of your and Brenda's talent?

RG: All my children had academic music training and all play two instruments. They all play piano. My daughter chose an acting career but decided only recently to go back to college to get a degree. My elder son is quite successful as a media writer/arranger and conductor. Recently he conducted Paul McCartney's "Ecce Cor Meum" at the Royal Albert Hall and Carnegie Hall in New York. My youngest son Simon had a fairly successful few years as a member of a band called "Aurora". They had several hits in the UK and were very successful in Japan. He's written music for a James Bond movie and TV jingles. These days he makes a living from music and construction. Two years ago he suffered a brain tumour and thankfully after a very successful operation in the USA he is back to full health.

JC: You and Brenda raise money for specific charities and you have a lot of fun in doing so. Tell me about it.

RG: Brenda has for many years been a member and Chairlady of the Fund Raising Committee of our local hospice, The Princess Alice Hospice which together

with the “Ex Servicemen’s Mental Welfare Society” are our two charities. About ten years ago we reformed “The Kestrels” and we do charity gigs for the hospice and Cancer Research. We have performed at the Colston Hall on several occasions in recent years, in November in aid of Armistice Poppy Day Appeal. We have a real good time, a great laugh and we raise money for good causes. How lucky we are.

JC: Turning now to KGS years, I visualise you in sport, in ‘The Bartered Bride’, harmonising in the coach as we travelled to away games, oh and acting (up) in Miss Vaughan’s classroom reading of ‘The Tempest’. Now what are *your* strongest memories?

RG: I guess the strongest memory I have is being clipped around the ear by “Boney” Britton our English teacher. Almost everything else is a blur. Oh and having an early crush on Heather Pomfrey who never knew I existed.

JC: Any influential teachers?

RG: I can’t recall his name now but the man who taught us French beyond “O” level awakened a love of the French language that re-appeared in my late 40’s.

JC: That was Mr Moody I’m sure, rather than Mr Wintour (‘Bonjer Monjer’). You left from the first year Sixth. You’ve told me that you have been incredibly lucky. Surely however, hard work must have been required then and throughout your career?

RG: I always give 101% to whatever I do but I know that success has a lot more to do with luck; certainly in the world of music. A bit of talent helps also.

JC: Finally, now that at least partial retirement approaches, is there any chance of getting you to another KOSA reunion?

RG: I’d love to come to another KOSA reunion. The problem is always whether I’m in the country or not. I will make it I assure you when the date is convenient.

JC: Many thanks on behalf of KOSA NEWS readers and especially your KGS contemporaries.

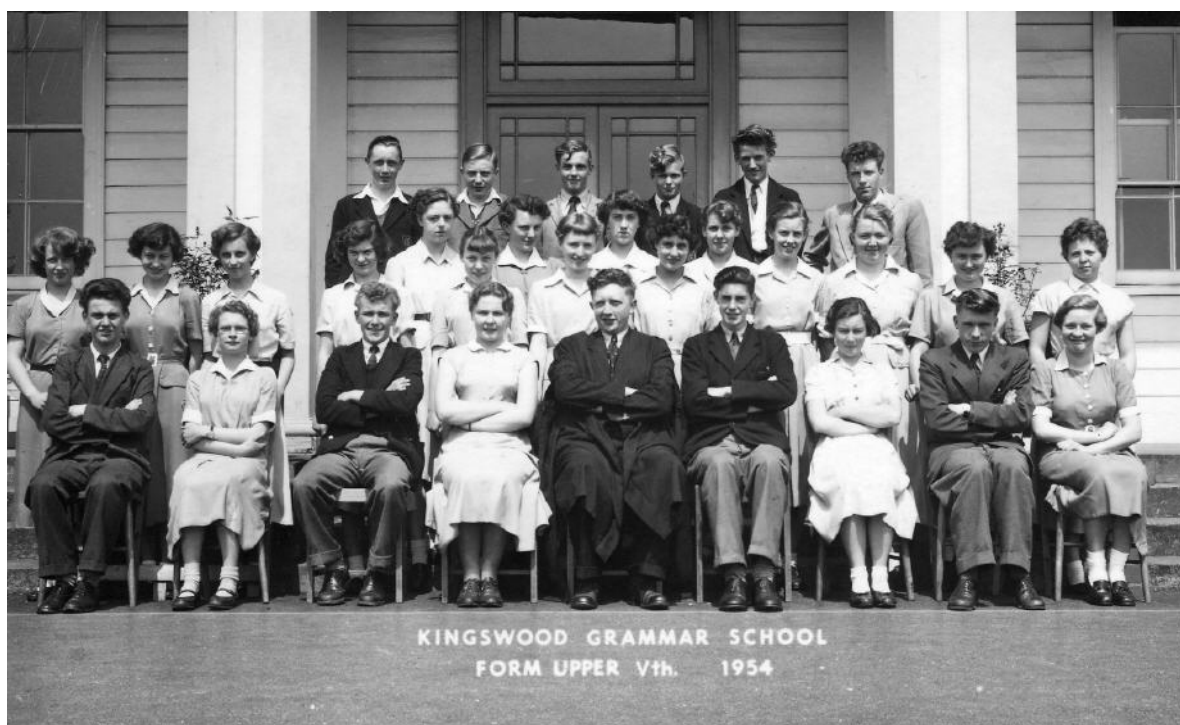
The photo on page 13 is of the Upper 5th Form in 1954. JOHN COLE is on the right of the back row and ROGER GREENAWAY is on the front row, two to the left of Form Master CYRIL NELSON, who was Senior History Master.

An interesting, but different, career has been pursued by ANN MORRIS (46-52) now Soutter. Ann has sent us a potted biography:

‘I gather some people have asked after me, therefore I thought I might send you a potted biography for the KOSA NEWS.

‘I was sorry not to be able to get to the 46ers’ reunion on 10 May, but am hoping to get to the reunion on 11 October. I did have a very pleasant lunch with Cynthia Hurdle, Priscilla Maguire and Kathleen Hardwick just after Easter, trying to catch up after a 56 year gap!

‘I went to Oxford (1953-56) to read French, took a DipEd in 1957 and after trying to be a school teacher for four years spent eight years (1961-69) as Supervisor of Courses at Wolsey Hall, Oxford, then a long-established correspondence college, and from there joined the London-based Council for National Academic Awards where I stayed for 18 years, working my way up from admin. assistant to Registrar for Arts & Humanities, and for a short while as Registrar for Special Academic Developments. We were concerned with degree course validation and accreditation in non-University institutions and for the main part of my career I was responsible for some seventeen subject Boards and



panels in Arts & Humanities. I was glad to take early retirement before CNA was abolished in 1993. It's an odd and rather sad feeling to have spent so much of one's life in an organisation which no longer exists, just as it is to have been at a school that no longer exists, though it has been replaced! After that I became Chief Assessor to the Council for the Accreditation of Correspondence Colleges (now the Open & Distance Learning Quality Council), from 1989-98, and from 1995 to 1999 was also Chief Inspector of the British Accreditation Council for Independent Further & Higher Education (BAC). I am still a Council member of BAC and sit on its Accreditation Committee. None of these jobs since 1969 were solely desk jobs, I'm glad to say - they all involved a heavy programme of college visits, always interesting, followed by the less interesting task of writing visit and inspection reports!

I was first married to an Oxford antique dealer, William Ridler, in 1959. He died in 1980, and in 1985 I met a Henley-on-Thames solicitor, John Soutter. We lived together for nearly fourteen years before

getting married in 1999. He had been suffering from Non-Hodgkins Lymphoma for twelve years before he died in 2001. I had no children of my own but inherited a stepson and stepdaughter from each of my marriages and have an assortment of step-grandchildren.

The other big milestone was that on my 40th birthday in 1975 I registered with CNA to work for a PhD on the subject of 'George Borrow as a Linguist'. Although I was nominally allowed a half day a week research time it was hard to achieve in practice, and I also needed a ten-month sabbatical to complete the work, which involved two trips to North America in pursuit of Borrow manuscripts in several university libraries. I eventually had my thesis accepted for a PhD award in 1983, and in 1996 produced a printed version in a limited edition for private circulation.

Retirement has left me still very busy. I decided in 1984 to start a bookdealing business on the side, specializing in the nineteenth century and conducted mainly through book fairs and by post. It gives me a range of social contacts I

wouldn't otherwise have, and though not especially profitable is very enjoyable. I was also involved from 1991 in the establishment of the George Borrow Society, of which I am Chairman and Editor of the *George Borrow Bulletin*. If there are any Borrow enthusiasts amongst KOSA members do ask them to get in touch with me! The Society has become a real life-line, giving me many friends internationally.

'I feel a certain amount of guilt over the patchy state of my memory about my school years. Do any of my contemporaries remember the crashed aircraft fuselage on the grass near the main building? We used to swarm over it in our spare moments, fascinated by all the instruments in the cockpit. I also remember exploring the (out of bounds) air-raid shelters, rather dank and smelly, with puddles on the floor, and the dreadful incident of the boy who blew himself up playing with a grenade (was it?) he had found, though he was not in our class. There was blood on the ceiling. And there was the French mistress Miss Perry's Austin 7 car.

'I particularly remember how important our extra-curricular activities were - performing as a witch in the school's first production of *Dido & Aeneas*, in the chorus of the *Pirates of Penzance*, and as the maid, Wilson, in *The Barretts of Wimpole Street*. I remember helping to paint the scenery for *They Came to a City*, and learning how to do stage make-up. I have happy memories of Miss David's Latin classes - does anyone know what happened to her? We had a brilliant music master whose name escapes me, who deafened us with recordings of Vaughan Williams and Sibelius. I think it was his fault that I was once expected to sight-read 'Jerusalem' on the grand piano in morning Assembly because the usual pianist couldn't be there! We were the guinea

pigs for O and A Levels in 1951, and I don't think it did us any harm as some of us were fast-tracked to do some of both in that year. Looking back, it seems to me that we had a fine record as far as the Honours board was concerned - I suppose that was lost in the fire? A good number achieved State and County Scholarships every year, and KGS had some outstanding teachers, remembered with great affection.

'Anyone wanting to get in touch is welcome to e-mail me on ann@soutter.orangehome.co.uk or telephone 01865 858379. Having had two married names I continue to use the name Ridler for book dealing activities and everything to do with the George Borrow Society, and Soutter for everything else.'

ONE FROM THE 60s...

DAVE BRAMMER (66-73) has sent some information which should take the 'NEWS into the 70s and he has asked for more contributions from his contemporaries. We're always happy to welcome contributions from all the years represented by KOSA members.

'I hope the photo on page 15 is of some interest. It is Form 3F from 1969 and I think I have been able to identify everybody, but apologies if any of the names are spelt incorrectly.

From Back l to r - Peter Robbins, Steve Mears, Trevor Bawden, John Holloway, Richard Nash, Dave Brammer

Steve Burgess, Mike Haughton, Steve Fletcher, Brian Hore, Dick Johnson

Angela Barnes, Linda Corkell, Wendy Angell, Carol Lambert, Denise Holmes, Marilyn Walter, Sally Williams, Penny Hewlett



Helen Pfaff, Catherine Sutton, Gill Butlin, Andy Smith, Sue Clark (Form Teacher), Julie Lippett, Ann Stickland, Jane Cater, Susan Babb

'I have to admit that with the passage of time I have lost touch with all those from that class. I remember that our Form room that year was Room N in the old building.

'Looking back at your article in the Spring edition about punishments I certainly gained a fair share of "black marks", but always avoided the dreaded third which meant a Saturday detention. I do recall several of us being singled out by Mr Williams for allegedly messing about in a Church service (guilty as charged I am afraid to say) and each of us having to fill a dustbin with rubbish from the school grounds one evening. This proved more time consuming than at first thought and took a good 2 hours to complete.

'I also recall that my bus home to Oldland Common was the 383 which left at

3.50 opposite the Tenniscourt Inn and meant a mad rush after last lesson to get to the stop in time as we only had 5 minutes to get there. A virtual impossibility if you had French with Mr Wintour last lesson as he was infamous for extending time well beyond the bell - even more frustrating if you had a different lesson and he was using your form room and you had to wait for him to finish.

'I always look forward to receiving KOSA NEWS, although it would be nice to hear more from contemporaries of mine and later years as well as the insights from those who attended before us.'

42-47 REUNION...

PAT KENDALL (42-47) now Smith writes:

'We have all known one another since 1942 and most have been in touch since leaving school. The last few years we have met regularly every few months, going out to different places and enjoying meals together. Sadly, five have lost their husbands.

'EILEEN POWELL and PAT KENDALL went to Hanham Road Infants' School together at 4 years of age and we remember having to have an afternoon nap in little beds in the school hall. This



was 73 years ago.

'We advanced to High Street Primary School and joined TESS DENNING and JOYCE NEW. When there was an air raid the fire station next to the school sounded a siren. Some children went to shelters in school grounds, but Eileen, Tess, Pat and Joyce ran across the road, carrying gas masks, to Joyce's house opposite and went down to a cellar which had been made into a bedroom and playroom. There we had a great time playing and was sorry when the 'all clear' sounded and had to go back to school.

'Next we progressed to KGS which was enjoyed by all, except if you got a detention for running down the long corridor of the old school. We really enjoyed our young years.

'Now we can sit back and watch our grandchildren and great grandchildren living their lives. Doesn't time fly!'

Pat was one of six from the Kendall family to attend KGS and she had two daughters and two sons, SUSAN, JUDY, MARTIN and IAN SMITH, who also attended.

THEN:

On the back of the original photo is written 'Outside and inside our form room window - 1947' Boozing on milk are Molly White (outside) with Mo ?, Anne Seymour, Iris Jarrett, Tess Denning and Pat Smith.

NOW:

On the next page is a more recent photograph at one of the 1942 reunions. From left to right: DianeThompson, Tess Denning, Pat Kendall, Eileen Powell, Iris Jarrett, Sylvia Kembrey, Anne Seymour and Joyce New.

THE OTHER VIEW...

From time to time we get a view of KGS which is refreshingly different from most and such is the one from ROYSTON BYWATER (38-43). Royston lives in Canada and has sent an extract from his book which covers his time at KGS in the war years. He writes:

'If you are looking for stories about the old school this is an extract from my life story that may be of interest. I was not one of those perfect students that went on to university and ended up a pillar of society. I believe my life to have been more interesting than that. I have always had a job and travelled the world. I did go to university twice, taking hydraulics and numerical control machining and have altogether six trade certificates which enabled me to get a job anywhere in the world. I've been retired for 20 years and now I live in the best place on



earth finally, after emigrating three times and surviving two years in the Middle East with the RAF. Happily married for 53yrs with four children and seven grand children, all living in this province.

The War Years

Life went on, we still went to school as usual, most day-to-day activities were the same, sometimes there were daylight raids and we would all be marched to the shelters, they were dug at the bottom of our playing fields. What utter chaos that was, there were no electric lights some kids were frightened of the dark so were picked on by older kids, there would be girls screaming for one reason or another and teachers shouting for order. My school was more or less in the country by the village of 'Warmley,' a four mile bike ride from home, we didn't get many raids as there was nothing to bomb around there, it's only when 'Jerry' was being chased by a fighter that they dropped their bombs anywhere to

lighten their load to get away. The closest to the school was a land mine - they are big and come down by parachute - it landed on the common about a hundred yards from a farm house, it didn't do any damage just blew a big hole in the ground.

Once a week our class would be driven to a farm to help out, some would be harvesting potatoes that had been dug up by a tractor-towed mechanical digger, others would be haymaking and various other jobs on the farm. I don't think the farmers were too thrilled to have us, as you can imagine, there was an awful lot of mucking about - like potato fights. The only fringe benefit was sometimes being able to buy a dozen eggs.

In 1938 I had passed the scholarship exams for the Grammar school, I didn't want to go as all my pals were going to the Staple Hill Technical School. However Dad told me I had to go seeing as

how I had passed the exams. Most kids that went had rich parents that paid for them to go. It wasn't too bad except for the snotty snob types, at least we were not forced to wear the school uniform, just encouraged, most of the girls did, the boys were allowed to wear grey suits instead if they so wished - and I so wished.

The idea of the school uniforms was a good one; it was intended to keep everyone on the same level, seeing as there were working class, middle class and the rich. It didn't work however, if you bought at the recommended shop it was all expensive, this is where the middle class bought theirs, the poorer ones had home made knitted pullovers and cardigans with plain skirts and lisle stockings, as long as the colours were blue and brown it was okay. The rich people's kids had 'Cashmere' cardigans and pleated skirts with real silk stockings, so this was as bad as wearing a badge.

The headmaster was a MAJOR EATON. I don't know if he was actually a Major or just took that title on himself; a lot of these rich English snobs do that, they can even buy a title if they have the right connections - at least he sure looked like a Major. The only time I was in Major Eaton's presence with just the two of us - I had been summoned to his office for I thought a lecture and then the cane - but I was wrong, as I only got the cane; it seems that he was speechless. I was in the hallway one day eating an apple while walking to my next class with a couple of friends. Three older boys going the opposite way- one was a prefect--stopped us and told me off for eating in the hall, it seemed to me that he was trying to impress his friends at my expense. He told me to throw the apple away then turned and walked on with his friends, they were laughing. They were about twenty feet away as I let fly with the half eaten apple aimed at the back of

his head, it would have been spot on target but he turned around at the last split second, and it smacked him clean in the gob, hence my visit to the Major's office.

"Bend over that chair." He says motioning me to an easy chair.

I did just that, he felt around my backside, because some bright spark (probably COMELY) had tried putting a couple of exercise books in their pants one time on being summoned to the office.

"This is going to hurt me more than it hurts you."

I mean; what utter B.S. He delivers six of the best, they sting and I can't sit down the rest of the afternoon. In the classrooms the teachers only cane you across the hand or smack your head, our headmistress would come up behind you as she walked around the classroom and if you were being messy or not working to her instructions she would whack your knuckles with the edge of a wooden ruler; just about broke your fingers. These days they would all be sued for child abuse.

The concluding part of Royston's extract will be published in the next edition.

NEW BROOM...

In the last edition we published a pen portrait of the retiring Headteacher and current KOSA President DAVID LEWIS. The new head, STEVE LONGTON, has kindly completed a similar exercise for KOSA and we welcome Steve in his new role and we hope that he will have many happy and successful years leading Kingsfield School. Steve writes:

Dear KOSA Members,
As I come to the end of my first year as Headteacher at Kingsfield School, I would like to give you a long overdue introduction to myself.

My name is Steve Longton. I was born in Dartford on the outskirts of South East London into a culture which valued education, seeing it as a means to securing high quality employment and success in life generally.

As I have gone through my career in teaching, I have held on to that. It is the desire to promote education as a means of improving young people's life chances and, in some cases, of levelling out social inequalities, that really motivates me.



I am a teacher of Modern Foreign Languages, specialising in French and German. I completed my teacher training at St Paul's College in Cheltenham and my first post was in Cinderford in the Forest of Dean. I got my first promotion two years later, and a year after that became head of department.

Exposing young people to a rigorous, demanding subject and giving them the opportunity to travel and meet people from different countries and cultures, naturally fitted well with my beliefs about education.

As I matured as a teacher, and especially through work on my MA, I became increasingly interested in the 'bigger picture' of how young people succeed and what is required to bring that about. It seemed a logical step then to go into senior leadership, and that of course culminated in my appointment as Headteacher from September 2007.

Since my arrival, I have often spoken publicly about my sense of privilege in leading a school with such a long and proud tradition, and also of my sense of responsibility for ensuring that future generations of Kingsfield students continue to succeed. Without ignoring the many examples of excellent work that go on at Kingsfield every day, I have made it clear that standards of students' progress and attainment must improve.

In September 2007, we adopted a new mission statement, 'Everybody will achieve their Personal Best and enjoy the experience'. We designed a new logo, which again, is about aspiration, growth and success. Students, parents and staff have got behind this and are working hard to ensure that challenging academic targets are met. Predictions are good, but of course the real proof will come with the results this summer.

Whereas the school, like any organisation, must continue to move forward, I do value our connections with the past most highly. I was delighted when Mike Bendrey came to present awards to our outstanding students in May and I thank you for your contributions.

The students were rightly very interested by the long traditions of the school and as we move forward and plan for future success, I believe it is important that we do not lose sight of our past. Mike and I talked briefly about how the School and KOSA might continue to work together and I am most keen to continue to develop links.

In finishing then, I would like to assure you how much I have enjoyed my first year as Headteacher at Kingsfield School. It is a great school with great traditions and it is a privilege to have the opportunity to lead it. I look forward to the school's future progress with optimism.

THE KOSA AWARDS...

As members will be aware, KOSA makes a cash award to a student of Kingsfield School who has made a noteworthy contribution to the life of the school and to the community generally. In the past it has been awarded to one student, but this year the Headteacher Steve Longdon decided to share the award between a male and a female student, a decision with which we heartily agree. The following are the citations which were read out by the Head when your Editor was pleased to present the awards at a Year 11 presentation in June. A cheque for £50 was given to each student:

The Female Award: BLAISE DYER

'Blaise has represented her year group on the school council where she expertly voices her opinions and represents those of her peers.

She has represented the school in sports events, in every major musical and took part in the Bristol-Bordeaux exchange programme.

She has been awarded a gold certificate for engagement in her assessments throughout her schooling and reports from her subject teachers are always glowing.

In Year 11 she has been a prefect and a dance leader, choreographing dances for younger students in the school musical and 'Footlights'.

Outside school she has been a member of Ten Sing, a theatrical and singing group and has helped plan 'Youth for Youth' and other community projects. Additionally, she works with groups of young children and is involved with several other youth groups.

Blaise is enthusiastic and never stops smiling and I am delighted that she has

applied to stay with us in the 6th Form where I know she will continue to make a major contribution.'

The Male Award: GUY LIMB

'Guy is trusted and respected by all, and at the same time is modest and unassuming. He has a kind and supportive disposition and always puts others before himself.

He has an excellent attendance record and commitment to school work, consistently achieving Gold Awards during years 7 to 11. Reports from his subject teachers have been excellent. He already has an 'A' grade for GCSE Physics.

He is a prefect and has superb citizenship skills. He spoke to an audience of 300 prospective parents and students on behalf of the school.

He contributes widely to the community. As a qualified first-aider he volunteers for work with St John Ambulance every week, undertaking further high-level training to use a defibrillator.

Guy participates in a wide range of charity events and gives generously. In Year 8 he saved his pocket money and gave £35 to the Leprosy Charity Appeal when they came to the school.

He is hard-working, generous of spirit, a very special young person who sets and meets the highest standards in every aspect of his life. A credit to his family and to Kingsfield School and I am delighted that Guy will be joining us in the 6th Form next year.'

Your Editor told Year 11 that KOSA would like to add its congratulations to these two outstanding young people and to wish them all every success in their future academic studies and in their chosen careers.

DIDO AND AENEAS...

This opera seems to have been a particular favourite of KGS over the years. ANN MORRIS (46-52) was in the first production in 1951 and the photo in the last edition was of the 1965 production.

GORDON JACKSON (55-62) writes to give us some of the background:

'I was interested in the picture of *Dido & Aeneas*, a production I saw some three years after leaving KGS.

'According to Music Master ERIC HILTON'S notes (the consensus at the time), Purcell wrote *Dido & Aeneas* for the young ladies of Josiah Priest's School in Chelsea and it was performed there in 1689. Many schools, under the impression that *Dido* was a school opera, put it on, and found the technical demands and musical subtleties surprisingly challenging!

'Modern scholarship has found that Purcell, with his librettist, Poet Laureate Nahum Tate, actually wrote it for a production at court, either for Charles II (1660-85) or James II (1685-88). It is not clear whether the court production ever took place. The music as we have it today survives through Josiah Priest's School production, which made cuts, and so some of the opera has been lost.

'At KGS, ERIC HILTON conducted the opera with his usual dogged determination with a conducting technique of his own invention. On the night I was there there was a mishap. One of the scenes was set outdoors, with a fountain. Unfortunately, the water supply for the fountain was the same as for the washing of the coffee cups, so when the cups were being washed the fountain was about six inches high! These things do happen!'

IN LOVE...

PHIL DARKE (47-52) was prompted by the report of the London trip in the last edition:

'I was interested to read of Expedition Day – 1950 in the Spring edition. The expedition to which the article refers seems similar to the one in which I participated but I don't think it was the same one.

'I have hazy memories of boarding our reserved chocolate and crème carriages at Temple Meads and our train travelled non-stop, I think, to Paddington. The trip was most interesting as I was then madly in love – with steam locomotives! As we passed Swindon Works many locomotives were standing outside on the reception sidings. Also I noticed a Bullied 'Austerity' 0-6-0 standing outside Reading Shed – the first Southern Region locomotive I had seen. (That last paragraph was for the steam buffs – Ed.)

'I had opted for the London Tour and I vaguely remember seeing ravens and Beefeaters at the Tower and the guardsmen on sentry 'go' at Buck. House. The sporty types like MARGARET SMITH and PADDY YEOMAN went to Wimbledon, I think, superintended by the Games Mistress.

'We ended the tour at the Zoo where we were to have our tea. It was a beautiful sunny day and tea was served on small tables on the lawn. Amongst our group was boy named BRIAN WILLIE and a girl named DELICE LOCKE. I particularly remember this as I thought Delice looked very pretty in a light blue cardigan – were we allowed to wear 'civilian' clothes on such an occasion?

'However, the highlight of the trip for me was observing ex-GWR Bulldog 4-4-0 locomotive No: 3455 *Starling* on pilot duty as our train rattled homewards

through Swindon Station. As *Starling* was withdrawn from service in June 1950 it would seem that the school trip must have taken place before this date.

'I also remember visits, with the school, to the Kingswood 'Ambassador' Cinema to view, respectively, *Henry V* and *Destination Moon*. Presumably these films had some relevance to our studies. Hoping this may be of interest to you and your readers.'

MAKE THAT CONTACT..!

PAT WALKER (56-62) (now Bryan) writes as the result of a letter in the last edition and with the lesson to contact those old friends sooner rather than later:

'I was delighted to see the article about SANDRA LUCAS and myself. I'm delighted to let you know that I have contacted JUDY BURT and received a reply. Hopefully, we will meet up in the summer and I'll send you an appropriate photo for a future edition.

'Sandra had a very old address for JENNY QUINTON which I (very hopefully) wrote to. Sadly, I had a letter back from her husband Brian to tell us the Jenny was diagnosed with cancer in Spring 2006 and died in August 2007. So we were just a few months too late. Her husband said she was extremely courageous and accepting at the end, partly because she had lived her life to the full. She taught Dance and PE in a local school for 10 years and then, after a break when their two boys were born, taught child-care at the local college.

'In recent years she became a very active Christian and Lay-worker for the Methodist Church, with a responsibility for three local chapels. She played roles in the local amateur operatic society. I remember at school she was one of the leads in *HMS Pinafore*. Her two boys are 28 and 26, and the younger one was

married earlier this year. She sounded quite a Lady! 'So unfortunately our four-some get-together will be reduced to three, but perhaps Jenny will be with us in spirit.

'I unearthed an old 'NEWS from 2003 to send to Sandra and in it I found a form picture from 1936 showing MARY ASHLEY (35-37) who is an aunt of my cousin's cousin. I showed her the picture and she was delighted. She passed her scholarship in 1935 from Wick and Abson C of E School, but unfortunately, due to family commitments, she had to leave KGS at 14 and go to work. She lives in Downend and has recently celebrated her diamond wedding anniversary with her husband, Tom. She is fit and active and a keen gardener.' (We've added Mary to the circulation list – Ed.)

'When she started at KGS in 1935 her first form teacher was MISS WYCHERLEY (English) who was also my first form teacher in 1956! She also remembered MISS WATTERS (also English) and MISS MORRISON (Games).'

ANOTHER FROM OZ...

ALISON HOWELLS (66-67) now Smith writes from down-under:

'I started at KGS in 1966 in Form 4W (MR WILLIAMS) after moving to Kingswood. I really enjoyed my time at KGS and my favourite class was Human Biology with MISS ALEXANDER. However, I did win the end-of-year prize for Needlework. This was a second-hand book from the library as I don't think MR RIDLEY thought it was a career subject. It did help that I had taken the subject for three years at my previous school, Merrywood Grammar for Girls, although it was new to KGS.

'The following year I was in 5F with MISS BALDWIN. On leaving KGS I went to Soundwell Tech. for two years doing a



secretarial course. I had a couple of jobs in the city before moving to an estate agent in Kingswood where I met my future husband, Chris Smith, who lived in Longwell Green. He was the local 'bobby' and I was his 'tea stop' and after 6 weeks he asked me to marry him and we were married the following year.

'David was born in 1976 and we emigrated to Perth in 1977. Matthew was born in 1978, so we have a Pom and an Aussie, although both were 'Made in England'. My cousin, ROGER EVANS (51-58), has been visiting his daughter and family here and has told me about KOSA, so I am very excited to be able to contribute my little bit. I would love to hear from anyone who remembers my short but happy stay at KGS. I particularly remember KATHRYN LUFF and FRANCES DRURY. My e-mail address is chrisali@people.net.au.'

Alison's photograph of 5F in 1967 is shown above. Alison is the 4th from the left in the front row, next to MISS ALEXANDER.

SELECTIVE MEMORY...

The discussion about *A Midsummer Night's Dream* encouraged ALLAN BAINES (49-56) to write 'from hot and windy Cape Town'.

'The latest KOSA arrived yesterday and I went into my usual hibernation for as long as it took to do the first rapid skim, The detailed examination sessions will take several days.

'One point struck me on page 22. Puck, of *Midsummer's Night* etc was CHRISTOPHER GANE. He was part of a friendship in our earliest years from 1949 with me and JOHN (Oliver) GOLDSMITH, of whom you presented a CV in a recent edition. Chris was not at KGS for long. He left during, or at the end of Form 2 and we heard no more.

'It is amazing how I remember incidents of that friendship, while pupils I must have known for 7 years (49-56) are erased.'

MEMORY LANE...

When JEAN PULFORD (39-45) now Curry reached the age of 80 her son brought her back to Bristol to tour some of the old sites, including that of KGS. Jean has written a lengthy recollection of things as they were, some of which are below:

'In 1935, my father was transferred to Fishponds railway station and so at the age of seven we moved to Kingswood on the outskirts of Bristol where we bought our first house at 62 Sweets Road. I continued my schooling at Soundwell Junior School in St Stephens Road under Miss Britten and Mr Pearn as Headmaster. One of my best friends was Barbara Mason.

'My father was very proud when I won a scholarship to KGS in Tennis Court Road, after I scored the second highest marks in the whole county. I started at KGS in September 1939, the same time as war broke out. When the news was announced, I was staying in Cornwall.

'I soon established a close circle of friends at KGS including Pat Jenkins (my best friend who went on to marry into the name of Lynch), Beryl Warne, Erica Ivory (Ricki, who subsequently married Gordon Wickens), Pauline Kemble (Podge), Audrey Gibbs, Ashley Fellows, Rex Church, Alan McFarlane, John Britten, Frank Rawlings and Jean Marsh (known as "Swampy"). I still have one of those wide angle school photographs taken in June 1941 when I was in "B's" and in the 3rd year.

I remember the Headmaster Major Eaton and the Head Mistress Miss Powell. Mr Howard taught Geography and Mr Serle, Art. Other teachers included Mr Austin, Mr Keats, and Mr Britton. Of course the school was rebuilt following the fire in 1976, but on a recent visit I noted the building labelled as

'Humanities'. I am sure that this was originally used for Domestic Science for the girls and Woodwork for the boys. It also looked like the tennis courts were still there and also the foundations of the air raid shelter. I remember on one occasion running across the field from the school to the shelter and being pushed in by a teacher as a German airplane began machine-gunning the school – fortunately no one was hurt. Whilst at KGS, I was in the Women's Junior Air Corps. We did aircraft spotting, first aid and lots of drill! On one occasion we were inspected by Queen Mary.

All around the school were fields and the one time I played hookey was when we hid in the corn fields opposite! I would either walk home or catch the bus from Tennis Court Road – the bus stop is still there – and the bus would take us up Chiphouse Road to the cross roads from where I would walk up Sweets Road. In those days, Pound Road – or Lane as it was then – had hedges and fields on either side. We enjoyed walking up there on fine days but were too frightened to walk after dark.

On one train journey home - I had spent the summer with Pat Jenkins and we were expecting the train to stop at Mangotsfield Station - it didn't and my father made us jump from the moving train before it could travel on to Fishponds!

Of course these were the war years. I remember walking with my father past Eastville Park on the way home one day and seeing hundreds of soldiers recovering from the evacuation of Dunkirk, so this must have been around the end of May, beginning of June 1940. My father said that he regretted taking me that way and had he known he would have avoided that route to save me from the distressing sights. I learned later that they were brought there in double-decker buses. The soldiers were ex-

hausted and some were taken home by civilians and offered the chance of a good bath and a home-cooked meal.' Part 2 of Jean's recollections will be published in the next edition.

On the right is a photo of QUEENIE STONE (30-35) now Quenault with her three grandchildren, Philip, Louise and Sarah. Queenie lives in Jersey and we have been told by her daughter Anne that she is no longer able to speak or write after a stroke two years ago. She loves to receive the 'NEWS and looks through the photos and points out her old friends. We hope that Queenie enjoys seeing her own photograph when she receives this edition.



The rustic view above was taken on an Easter Lake District trip in 1957 and was sent in by MONICA JONES (53-59) now

McCulloch. The group from left to right are Mary Gibbons, Ron Williams, Pam Jones, Yvonne Randall, Mavis Craven, Caroline Whiteside, Monica Jones, Linda Yeoman, Valerie Bolwell and David Hussey.

DIB, DIB, DIB...

At the top of page 26, also from 1957, is a rare photo of the Scout Troup at KGS sent in by BARRY SHEPHERD (55-59). Barry writes:

'My memory is poor on names, but 'skipper' was possibly MR WILKINSON, a KGS teacher. I am on the left of the front row and next to me is a patrol leader called MILLER. To the right of Mr Wilkinson are twins, whose names escape me completely. Just to the right of 'skipper' , ie over his left shoulder is MARTIN CLUTTERBUCK, who was in 3Gi at the time.'

Can anyone identify the others in the photograph? Were any other youth organisations at KGS at any time, such as a Guide Troup for the girls? - Ed.



FOR THEIR SISTER...

VIC YEOMAN (55-60) and his sister, LINDA YEOMAN (53-59) (now Reeves) are running the Bristol Half Marathon in September to raise money for St Peter's Hospice in honour of their sister PADDY MILLWARD (nee YEOMAN) who spent



the last five days of her life in St Peter's. This is their explanation.

'We were so impressed with the fantastic care shown not only to Paddy but to all the family that we felt compelled to give something in return. Our decision to

try to run the half marathon (even though we're not 'runners') is because Paddy used to run marathons and half marathons and was a well-known figure running around the Longwell Green area, even after she had been diagnosed with cancer and undergone chemotherapy. She was so brave in the way she coped with her illness, she was an inspiration to us all, and we feel that we need to do more than just make a donation to the Hospice - we wanted to somehow try to match her courage and do something that is a real challenge for us, although her challenge was far, far greater. We only hope we can make it - if we don't, it won't be for lack of trying. So keep your fingers crossed for us!'

St Peter's hope to raise £100,000 over the next twelve months in order to recruit 3 new nurses to the Hospice at Home Team and Vic and Linda are hoping to raise £1,000 between them. If anyone would like to sponsor them, please send donations (however small) to Vic Yeoman, 1 Footshill Road, Kingswood, Bristol BS15 8EP.

RECOGNITION...

Rob Upton, husband of ANNE BROWN (54-59), has been carrying out a campaign to encourage recognition in the area of the achievements of SIR BERNARD LOVELL (24-31?). Rob points out that thousands of seamen from the Atlantic convoys, for example, would be grateful to Sir Bernard and his team in developing airborne radar which helped counter the U-boat threat in WWII.

Bitton Parish Council, in response to one of Rob's letters, pointed out that there is no 'blue plaque scheme' for the area so it would not be possible to mark Sir Bernard's place of birth. Even Bletchley Park said that they have extreme difficulty filling in the gaps of the story of radar.

The local Evening Post failed to even mention Sir Bernard in a poll they organised on leading citizens of Bristol and West Country, and his radio telescope at Jodrell Bank has been under threat.

Is there anything which can be done to give Sir Bernard the recognition he deserves?

REUNIONS...

KOSA is alive and well if the number of get-togethers, other than the 'official' lunches, is any indication of its health.

There was another successful reunion of the 46ers at KATHLEEN HARDWICK'S (Filer) farm on a beautiful day in May supported by even more members and their spouses. Again, PRISCILLA POWELL (Maguire) did a marvellous job searching out those from her year. Photos of the event in the next edition.

A 54ers reunion has now been planned for Friday, 10 October 2008 by PAUL DAVIES et al at Shortwood Lodge Golf Club, Mangotsfield. Please phone Paul on 0117 956 2692 to book a place.

The 54ers are considering arranging a reunion of the year, but starting with the members of 'BONEY' BRITTON'S 1D form in 1954. To gauge interest would the following identified by JILL BROOKS, TILLY HULL, JENNIFER BENNETT and MARLENE HAYWARD please phone JILL BROOKS on 0117 937 3344. The ones marked with an asterisk we think we have your addresses already but if you know any of the others, please pass on the message:

Valerie Bolwell*, Pamela Nichols*, Marion Sage*, Mary Hall, Diane Leighfield*, Judith Brown*, Carol Hallett*, Pat Hedges, Sheila Brewer, Maureen Seymour.

Banks*, Budd, Gatt, Davies K, Lear, Noble*, Willmott R*, Willmott J*, Mealing M, Mealing C, Jefferies K*, Jefferies P, Haynes*, Reice*, Hodges*

WELCOME TO...

New members since last time, using maiden names for the ladies:

Ruth Dulborough (57-63), Mary Goodfield (48-53), Norma Ellis (54-60), Barry Shepherd (55-59), Dave Scudamore (52-57), Maureen Foxwell (46-51), Mary Ashley (35-37), Kathleen Owen (staff - rejoined), Richard Walters (73-80), Carol Hallett (54-58), Ray Wotton (46-52), Sylvia Hook (46-52), Ann Morris (46-53), Lynne Cox (58-63), Peter Screen (48-52), Jean Pulford (39-45), Berenice Dyer (44-50), Gillian Gilbert (50-57), Steve Longton (Headteacher), Peter White (43-48).

DATA PROTECTION...

One of our main objectives is to get KOSA members together. Consequently we release addresses to fellow members when enquiries are received. However, if you do not wish your address to be released just let the Editor know and we will mark your entry and restrict the release of your details.

SPORTING GIRLS...



...AND 30 YEARS ON...

Above: School Hockey Team - 1930
Below: Under 14 Netball - 1960-61

