



# KOSA NEWS



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The Magazine of the Old Scholars of Kingswood Grammar School

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## EDITORIAL...



Here at the World Headquarters of KOSA International we like to keep things going and try to plan for future succession. For this reason we now advertise the position of Assistant Executive Editor with a view to taking over from the Executive Editor in due course. This important post would suit someone who is a KOSA member, reasonably computer literate, lives in the Bristol Area (our World Headquarters are in Downend) and is younger than the current Executive Editor, who was at KGS 1951-56. Interested applicants should apply to the above address. Salary, by arrangement, but at least double the salary of the present incumbent.

We also have a vacancy in our Spanish office, although the role could be carried out in any of the four corners of the circular globe. BOB MEAKER (62-67) runs the KGS website and he, too, would like someone to take over from him. See page 26, bottom right hand corner for details.

KOSA International will only continue if we have volunteers who are willing to carry out these important roles. Interviews will take place shortly.

## DIARY DATES...

### **ANNUAL BUFFET LUNCH & AGM:**

Booked for **SATURDAY, 18 APRIL 2009** at Lincombe Barn, Downend. We meet at 12 to 12.30 for a chat and a drink, a quick AGM at 12.30 and lunch at about 1.00pm. This year we will be considering a proposal to amend our Constitution to enable us to elect Vice Presidents of the Association. 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 10 OCTOBER 2009** at Lincombe Barn, Downend. Please book the date in your diary now.

### **49ers REUNION:**

On a date yet to be fixed, this will be organised by JOHN COLE and JOHN BREDDY. All 49ers on the KOSA database will be notified in due course by post, but any queries please contact JOHN BREDDY on 01249 652976 or on e-mail on j.breddy@sky.com.

## OBITUARIES...

KEN POPE, who taught Geography at KGS in the 50s, died on 1 November 2008 in his 91<sup>st</sup> year. Ken was a Bristolian in almost all respects. He attended Fairfield Grammar School and graduated from Bristol University in 1939 with a double first class honours and the best Arts Degree of his year. After university he was commissioned into the Royal artillery and served in the Western Desert, Italy and N W Europe.

Ken left KGS to join a TV company called TWW and worked for a film company as a scriptwriter and subsequently film director. Later on he started West of England Film Company and produced well over 100 documentary films.

Ken became very interested in the celebrated British artist Sir Stanley Spencer when he found that his father-in-law had been stationed with the artist during WWI. After 10 years of research he pub-



In the 50s he developed an interest in cinematography. At KGS, where he was known affectionately as *Yak*, he ran the photographic club which produced 16mm films on the 54 and 55 Sports Days and the Story of Warmley Brook (see below). MARTIN JEFFERD (56-61) wrote to say that he recalls that Ken showed films in the hall once a week, at the cost of 1d, when he usually showed two films, one factual and one a cartoon. Through him Martin was introduced to *Tom & Jerry!* The photo above shows Ken as form master of 4B in 1956.

lished the definitive biography of the artist, which was subsequently recommended for a Whitbread prize. Your editor understands that the book *Stanley Spencer - A Biography by Kenneth Pople* is no longer in print. However, used copies can be obtained on the World Wide Web if a search is made.

One nice touch at Ken's private funeral was that the organ was played by one of his ex-pupils, DAVID WHEATLEY (54-62). 'Someone we both liked and respected,' said David, 'Rare qualities in a teacher.' A kind, modest and popular

man who achieved much in his lifetime. As a family man Ken had 6 children and 16 grandchildren.

Ken's website is currently still available at the time of writing if techies go to <http://www.stanleypencer.co.uk> and/or <http://www.kenpople.pwp.blueyonder.co.uk>, as are his films made at KGS, now on DVD. A cheque to the Editor for 6 quid secures a copy of the DVD *Kingswood Cameos* – made payable to KOSA, of course.

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KOSA is also sad to report the death in 2008 of HAROLD WATTS, who taught Art at KGS from 1948 to 1959.

Harold was a big influence on many pupils at KGS. KOSA has received many letters over the years expressing appreciation of his support when they were there. He influenced JIM WHITLOCK (56-62) who, although he eventually went into the church, continued to exhibit his paintings for many years. MARGARET LOVELL (50-55) became a successful Sculptor due much to Harold's support. She wrote:

'Mr Watts had been a very special teacher for me at KGS. (As he had been for many others). At age 16 years, my parents thought it was time I earned some money, so I had to leave school, despite my earnest desire to have a career in art.



Harold was a very popular teacher who was probably involved in the creation of the scenery for every production during his time at KGS. As a result his handiwork can be seen in many of the photographs of productions such as *The Pirates of Penzance*, *The Gondoliers* *The Bartered Bride* and many others.

Well, I was ONLY a female, and girls just got married and had children!

'However I worked so hard at my art, that my parents relented and agreed I could go to art college after a year. But in order to get a grant I needed an 'A' Level. So with unstinting generosity, Mr Watts helped me with the syllabus for 'A'

Level and History of Art. I would go to their house for tuition and help. I remember having tinned peaches for tea one Sunday afternoon, with their two adorable little children being on very best behaviour because 'a pupil was coming'! Mr Watts would walk me to the bus stop near the top of Muller Road and put me on the bus to return to Hanham. He would stand there, very upright with real square shoulders, putting weight on one foot then the other, rubbing his hands together to keep warm, though he was wearing soft brown leather gloves. Strange the details one remembers isn't it?'

ROGER MOORE (52-59) wrote about Harold teaching Rugby:

'I recall HAROLD WATTS standing in a group of us holding the ball aloft and saying, 'Come on now, TACKLE!' No one really wanted to take on a master until LARRY WATKINS dived between our legs, caught Harold around the legs and floored him with great force. I don't recall him ever asking to be tackled again!' JOHN GRAY (47-54) also recalled the annual School v Masters games: 'They were soon abandoned after MR. PEET (Maths) and MR. WATTS (Art) received a bad mauling from PETER BRAKE and others.' ANNA SALLIS (52-57) (now Duncombe) remembers how kind and considerate he was when she lost her mother.

Harold and his wife retired to Cornwall where they regularly received KOSA NEWS. Although they attended a reunion at Kingsfield School about 10 years ago, when his ex-pupils were pleased to see him, he wrote on several occasions regretting that he was unable to attend reunions because of the distance. However many ex-scholars visited him there.

In KOSA NEWS 29 we published a poem signed by no less than 35 girls, evidence indeed of his fan club:

Brains, good looks, brave and bold,  
Sense of humour, not so old,  
Who helps us when we're (sic!) in  
knots,  
It's our old friend MR WATTS!

We were very lucky at KGS to have such people on the staff.

The photograph on page 3 is of Harold Watts' form 2W in 1959.

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KOSA has had a letter from CLIVE ROBBINS (46-52) informing us of the passing of his wife LUCILLE WOODBURY (48-55). Lucille died in July 2008 after a short painful illness.

A cursory review of *Kingswood Chronicles* by your Ed. revealed that Lucille had a school career full of achievement. She was awarded the prize for Form 2A in 1950 (along with BRUCE CARPENTER), was one of four members of the School Council to represent the school on the South Gloucestershire Youth Civic Council in 1953-54 and became a prefect in the same year. Lucille became Head Prefect and Head of School in 1954-55 in which post she seconded the speech of thanks given by MISS TIDDER, a School Governor, to SIR BERNARD LOVELL at the Speech Day on 16 December 1954. The following year she was awarded the 'Berry' Special Prize.

Her career after school has been added by Clive:

'After leaving KGS Lucille did teacher training at St Mary's, Cheltenham and following graduation she returned to Kingswood, having secured a teaching post at High Street Junior School. A happy time, as she was working with her old Headmaster, Leslie Dobbs. Marriage, a move to Hanham and the arrival of children suspended her teaching for



some years. Lucille eventually returned to the blackboard at Samuel Whites Infant School and took early retirement in order to care for her sick mother, but kept in touch with the 'old firm' by being a governor for a number of years. Unhappily, her illness put a stop to all that.'

The 1955 photograph of the Prefects (above) shows Lucille to the right of Headmaster NORMAN RIDLEY.

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JOHN BELSTEN (48-54) died on 29 July 2008 aged 72 years. We are indebted to David Brown, a friend of John's, for much of the following information.

'John wished his body to be made use of by the medical profession, so there has been no interment or funeral service; instead, John asked that he should be remembered at a memorial service. This was duly held at which *Jerusalem* was sung.

'After leaving KGS with 'A' levels in Chemistry, Physics and Biology he worked for a while at the Bristol Aero-

plane Company in Research and Development. He obtained part II of the Graduate Membership of the Royal Society of Chemistry in 1960 when he commenced a research post at the Bristol College of Science and Technology. He was awarded a PhD by the University of Bath in 1967 in *Aspects of the Organic Chemistry of Fluorine*. He eventually





became a Fellow of the Royal Society of Chemistry in 1975 and he retired from a subsidiary of Unilever after being involved in the chemistry for normal fragrance materials.

'John is remembered not only for a very impish sense of humour, but also for his strong moral sense and scientific integrity. John was an only child who, sadly, never married. His nearest relatives are cousins in Norfolk and in the Bristol area, but he also leaves behind a wealth of friends who miss him, and regret his sudden and unexpected death.

'After he had died the hospice said that they had never had so many visitors to see one patient, a testament to how nice a person John was.'

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JOHN TIDBALL (56-59, Sixth Form only) sent in collected tributes to a very special person, JOHN GARRATT (55-60), who sadly passed away on November 12th 2008.

'I did not know John at KGS because he was 3 years my junior, but he was a contemporary of BOB DEMMERY (55-60), EDDIE WHITE (55-61) and COLIN PILLINGER (54-61). We all became friends after leaving school thanks to the then flourishing Kingswood-Siegerland Youth Exchange.

'In the mid 1960s we all went our separate ways, but thanks to Colin's sister DOREEN PILLINGER (48-53) (now Lindegaard), we all (except for Bob who lives in Ottawa) got together again in May 2003 at the *Barley Mow* in Abingdon for Colin's surprise 60th birthday party. John bought me a pint, and for himself a mineral water, informing me he hadn't touched a drop for many years on doctor's orders.

'The following year I went to John's 60th at the Compass, Tormarton, and there

was John once again drinking mineral water. He certainly didn't need alcohol to fuel his unique, very dry sense of humour, which I am sure he will always be remembered for by all who knew him. We met again in June 2008 at the Globe in Frampton Cotterell, when Bob Demmery was visiting England from Canada. That was the last time I saw John, but we kept in touch through e-mail and Facebook. John would send me a "superpoke", and then admit he didn't have a clue what it was!

'It was a very sad day at Westerleigh Crematorium on 24th November, when Doreen, Eddie, his wife Ingrid and I met up again to pay our last respects, and offer our condolences to John's wife Yvonne and his daughter Vivienne'.

COLIN PILLINGER writes: 'I think you might say John was a drinking buddy. He was more Eddie's friend than mine, although I did go on holiday with him and Eddie one time. The thing I remember most vividly about that holiday was John, a lifelong Bristol Rovers fan (we all were), being arrested in the Austrian ski resort of Igls for singing *Goodnight Irene*. A fair amount of beer had been consumed, Eddie and I saw the policeman coming, John didn't. We spent more than one night in the Hofbräuhaus, Munich, purely to listen to the Oompah



band (not drink any more beer). I reckon the next time I saw him after that was for my 60th birthday'.

DOREEN PILLINGER writes: 'I first knew John when he was a teenager and I was very much an "elder sister" to my brother Colin's KGS friends who congregated at our house in Kingswood. John and I renewed our friendship many years later at Colin's 60th birthday party when we discovered a shared interest in genealogy. His death came as shock as he survived a serious illness a few years ago and seemed to be fully recovered'.

EDDIE WHITE writes: 'A devoted family man and Bristol Rovers season ticket holder, John was also a committed socialist and atheist to the end, with a secular ceremony when his coffin departed to the strains of the Rovers' rallying song *Goodnight Irene*. His healthy scepticism for authority was rooted in his Grandfather's death in the slaughter of Arras and the blame often laid at the door of the British High Command.



'At KGS he bridled against the efforts of the Headmaster to run things along the lines of a minor public school. This was much evidenced in the matter of games. The banning of "the round ball game" was particularly hard for John to bear and on the rare occasions when his ever more inventive sick notes or losses of kit failed to prevent his appearance on the

Rugby field he steadfastly refused to handle the oval ball.

'A further brush with authority occurred in 1964, at the age of 20. On holiday in Austria John ignored the request of a policeman whose uniform bore a passing resemblance to those of the Third Reich officers, to desist from singing *Irene*. Still complaining loudly about injustice in view of what his captor's father probably got up to in WW2, he had to be sprung from the local nick by 3 friends who scraped together a fine of 20 Schillings. John was always fun to be with and as a loyal and true friend would have done the same for us.

'The loss of his wry and often self deprecating sense of humour will be much lamented. In middle age he became ill with a serious addiction which he battled hard to successfully overcome with the support of his family and thankfully was fully recovered for the last 12 years of his life, earning the respect of all who knew him. He enjoyed his all too short retirement and never lost that invaluable sense of humour.

BOB DEMMERY writes: 'In June I had the great pleasure of seeing John for the first time since emigrating to Canada in 1967. John and his wife Yvonne joined my wife and other Dem-

mery clan members plus John Tidball and his wife for dinner at a local pub. We had a wonderful evening reminiscing on days gone by and enjoyed a great meal. At the end of the evening as we said our goodbyes John looked at me and said "Now I know who you remind me of - you look just like your bloody father did the last time I saw him". Over the next few months we stayed in contact over the

web - a new toy for John. I enjoyed his humour and the movie quiz challenges he kept sending. He always won.

'One day I received an e-mail telling the horror story of John and Yvonne returning from France on the train. He remarked that he wished he could get over his fear of flying. This brought back memories of our only holiday together taken while we were working together at Bass and Worthington. Due to his phobia we decided on San Sebastian by train. A two day journey with couchettes. A great holiday adventure for two young men; lousy weather but cheap booze. Maybe it was this adventure that made me want to go into the travel business. If so I will always be eternally grateful to John.

'I was looking forward to seeing John again this November, but unfortunately his illness prevented this. I was saddened to learn of his passing a few days before I returned to Canada. I will miss our internet challenges and the many more meals we could have shared together as friends. Fortunately we were able to meet that one last time.'

On the photo on page 6 are (l to r) Ingrid White, Eddie White, Colin Pillinger and John Garratt at the Hofbräuhaus. That on page 7 is of Françoise Tidball, Eddie White, John Tidball, Doreen Pillinger, Colin Pillinger, John Garratt and Yvonne Garratt at Colin's 60th birthday.

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FRANCIS GEORGE POWELL (26-31) died on 6 November 2008 at the age of 93. He was cremated at Canford Cemetery followed by a Service of Thanksgiving at Holy Trinity Church, Kingswood on 21 November 2008 where Frank had been baptized, was a choirboy, member of the Scout Troupe and where he met and married STELLA BRAIN (27-32), who had also attended KGS. Brother IVOR POWELL (44-48) read a Bible-

reading, and Frank's son-in-law and grandsons gave reflections on Frank's life.



Frank was the second oldest of seven children and when he left KGS at 16 he started work servicing vending machines. He then worked for Carson's Chocolates but then moved to Bristol Aero Engines where his first job was to destroy the letters received from the unsuccessful applicants for his job! He retired from Rolls Royce in 1979 after being part of the Concorde team.

Frank contributed to public service by serving on Kingswood Urban District Council from 1946-58 where he was Chairman of the Council in 1949 and 1950. He also served as a magistrate and was a JP at Staple Hill. He always regarded Warmley/Kingswood as his home and was devastated when his home was compulsorily purchased for demolition for the construction of the Ring Road. In his later years he moved to Henleaze where he became a member of St. Peter's Church and where Stella played the piano.

Frank was no stranger to computers and the World Wide Web and he was a very active and independent person to the end. As his son-in-law, Will, said at the Service, 'The world will be diminished by his absence.' Frank leaves two daughters, MARY (now Janes), who was at KGS 51-56, and MARGARET (64-71).

Frank saved all his life for The Children's Society. Anyone wishing to make a donation in memory of Frank is invited to make cheques payable to The Children's Society, c/o Funeralcare, 20 High Street, Westbury on Trym, Bristol, BS9 3DU.

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MAUREEN JONES (47-53), who was a well-known local singer, passed away on 17 July 2008. After leaving KGS she trained at the Royal Academy of Music and won the coveted Kathleen Ferrier Prize at the age of 22. She had a successful career in classical music and also appeared in many summer shows with such stars as Arthur Askey, Mike and Bernie Winters, Harry Secombe, Frankie Vaughan, Russ Conway and Ronnie Hilton. On one occasion she deputized for opera diva Maria Callas.



Maureen also made appearances with such leading orchestras as the London Symphony, Royal Philharmonic and the London Mozart Players. She also sang with the Scottish Variety Orchestra. She

worked tirelessly for the music festival movement and helped to organize the Kingswood Competitive Festival. She taught singing and was a member of the Association of Teachers of Singing.

According to the 1950-51 *Kingswood Chronicles*, at KGS Maureen performed as one of the principal singers in the 1950 production of *Dido & Aeneas* in which she played Belinda. This clearly represented the beginning of a memorable career.

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GEOFF CURTIS (60-67)

LIZ KENDALL (60-67) has informed KOSA of the passing of her husband in 2008.

'Geoff died suddenly in July 2008. We met at KGS which his sister, DIANE CURTIS, also attended. His football and cricketing skills were developed there,

as was his great sense of fun and his natural talent for making everyone laugh and smile.

'He went to Manchester School of Art, eventually returning to Bristol to set up his own architectural practice. His work has included projects for a number of South Gloucestershire Schools, including Kingsfield School. He also helped create, design and build the excellent facilities at the nationally recognised Fromeside Gymnastics Club. He became coach for the local football team and was a member of Chipping Sodbury Golf Club.

'Ever the practical man, he was never happier than when renovating properties. He loved to travel, nature and walking and had so many plans in place to enjoy these when he retired at 60 this year. Above all he was a kind, liberal man, generous with his time and a loving husband and father to Matthew and Thomas.'

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Sheila Sheppard, her daughter, has informed KOSA of the death of MARI-GOLD RIXEN (32-36) later Webster: 'My mother was born at 70 Church Road, Staple Hill on 19 October 1922 and she died with us here in Boston on 18 August 2007.

'After leaving KGS she worked with her father at his chemist shop before training as a nurse in Bristol during the war. Her elder sister, MARGARET RIXEN, attended KGS two years ahead of Mari-gold and my mother attended the KOSA reunions with her brother-in-law Eric Wellington, Margaret's second husband.'

The photo on page 10 is of the 1936 girls' hockey team. Marigold is on the back row, third from the right.

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BILL BROWN (36-42) has written to KOSA about the death of his brother-in-law, SYDNEY BRYANT (41-46), in Australia:

'Born in Hanham in 1930, Sydney attended Hanham Abbots Junior School and KGS, where his favourite members of staff were "BONY" BRITTON, 'POP' SEARLE and MISS QUINTON. After leaving KGS he worked in the offices of Wills Tobacco Co until he enlisted in the Regular Army in 1948.

'He joined the Leicestershire Regt. and served in Hong Kong, Korea, Kenya, Uganda and the BAOR in Germany. Home postings took him to Leicester, Oakham, Plymouth and Watchet. He retired as Warrant Officer Class II after 17 years' service.

'In 1970 he emigrated to Australia under the assisted passage scheme with his wife Nancy and their two small daugh-

ters. He settled in Caringbah on the outskirts of Sydney and made a career as an insurance assessor, playing an important part in the Darwin floods.

'Following a number of years of ill health he died peacefully in hospital in April 2008, just prior to his 78<sup>th</sup> birthday. He leaves Nancy, two daughters and three grandsons.'

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We have also been notified of the passing of CYRIL EDWARDS (34-38) who died on 21 February 2006, PAM HARTFORD (later Salway) and PEGGY HOLLINGUM who died on 27 November 2008 aged 91 years. Mrs Hollingum taught needlework at KGS in the 1940s.

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Sadly, since publishing the first part of her memoirs last time, JEAN PULFORD (39-45) has also passed away. The second part of *Memory Lane* follows as a tribute to Jean and her time at KGS.

## *MEMORY LANE - Part 2*

'In those war days I had piano lessons with a Mrs Baker who lived in Soundwell Road. One day after my lesson, my father came to collect me. Unfortunately, the bombing had just started and I was wearing my father's tin hat. Just as we turned into Church Road, a bomb came screaming down and my father pushed me to the ground and lay over me to protect me. It was all very frightening! Up until his death on 4 October 1988 my father still retained as a memento, a piece of shrapnel that had come through the roof of our house.

'There was an anti-aircraft gun positioned just up the road. I remember my cousin Henry who was aged about 5 at the time, had come to stay with us and he and my brother John wanted to see this gun in action. My father took all three of us out one evening and when the gun fired it made such a noise and frightened poor Henry and John so much that they ran all the way back to our neighbour's air raid shelter with such speed!

'When we eventually got an Anderson shelter at the bottom of our own garden, it was a great place for my brother John to play in. He was in the habit of collecting caterpillars in jam jars and one time we spent a very uncomfortable night in the shelter covered in creepy crawlies when he failed to put the lids on securely!

'I also remember standing on the corner of Pound Lane and Chiphouse Road and watching a dog fight going on overhead. I suppose that these were fairly common during the Battle of Britain and during the bombing raids.

'During one bombing raid (it might even have been during the worst raid on the city 16 March 1941 which lasted from

8.27pm to 4.15 am the following day) my father was working the signal box at Fishponds and spent hours putting out incendiaries. He later received a commendation from the Railway Company by telegram for his efforts: unfortunately that telegram has been lost. It was all hands to the pumps in those days. My mother worked part time at one of the munitions factories like Magnals, Douglas or Carsons but I cannot now recall which.

'There were lots of soldiers around in Bristol and as a young girl, I was under strict instructions to stay clear. Even the local dances were vetted by my father beforehand before I was allowed to go and even then I had to be home by 10pm. VE day was celebrated in Staple Hill Park with my friend Pat Jenkins. As a special dispensation, I was given a "free pass" to come home at whatever time I liked!

'At the age of sixteen I gained my School Certificate but stayed on another year studying Spanish. I left school in July 1945 and with the help of the daughter of Mr & Mrs Button from Wickwar, was able to secure a job with Lloyds Bank Ltd. in Corn Street, Bristol. Working for a bank in those days was quite prestigious and we were required to wear hat & gloves on the way to work and address even our closest colleagues formally – Miss so and so and Mr so and so. I travelled to the bank by bus, walking from Old Market, along Wine Street into Corn Market. Of course, the war had just finished and much of the city had been flattened.

'In February 1947 my father secured a relief signaller job in Evesham. I think my mother really wanted to return home so no doubt he was looking out for just such an opportunity. I put in a transfer to Lloyds Bank in Evesham and was successful, although coming from a major

city to a rural branch was quite a come-down.'

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### *FROM THE WILDERNESS...*

BOB BURFORD (57-61) has joined KO-SA from Wilderness, South Africa and has been reviewing some back copies of the 'NEWS:

'I was at KGS from 57 to 61, a year shorter than the normal minimum, not I might add because of expulsion or any other disgraceful reason (came a bit close from time to time!). I did my first year at Cotham Grammar School before my parents moved to Gloucestershire, them was the rules in those days I believe!

'Through the offices of Friends Reunited I met up with a few of my old classmates in Downend in August 2008. In the photo (below) l to r JANET LACEY, MARTIN JEFFERD ROSEMARY LOVELL, myself ROBERT 'BUFF' BURFORD, and CAROL LEWIS, all 56-61 and as far as I recall, 2WK, under WILKIE WILKINSON Bio teacher and Sea Scout, 3G3 under JOHN GLENN, the fourth year was 4H under MR HUMPHREYS (RK) and finally 5X. Yep! nobody was prepared to take us on at that point!...and who can blame them. We are now all +/- 63 years old, sorry ladies!



'As a result of reading the copies of the 'NEWS sent to me I have a small amount of input which hopefully is useful and/or interesting.

'Concerning the query raised over the introduction of soccer in No: 29 page 22, I believe the first year it was played was actually 1959. JOHN GLENN joined KGS as a maths master but he also played for Bath City at semi-pro level, and I think he started it up. That year three guys stood out at third year level, DAVE WILLIAMS, who is pictured front row right top picture, PETE SMITH from Staple Hill and DAVID COPP who, believe it or not, was community policeman for Downend for some years, what else could he do with a name like that!

'Still on soccer there were two very good players in the school team lineup (as indeed I am sure they all were) who played for Downend Rangers, the first is back row extreme right MARTIN MANN, who sadly died very young (about 1964/5) and second in from the right, middle row ROB 'FIDO' FIDKIN.

Moving now to the 'trainspotters' MIKE ROGERS comments on, well you already have ALAN HOWELL who lived adjacent to the carriage sidings at the western corner of Mangotsfield's triangular junction. You should however add me and also ROBERT 'MOGGY' MORGAN (55-61) who was very knowledgeable and whose entire family were into trains, indeed, they were very nearly awarded 'freedom of the city status' at Templecombe Junction on the Old Somerset and Dorset. We spent a lot of time on Temple Meads Station and of course Mangotsfield - some of it during the week if you see what I



mean. I was quite selective in terms of subjects and thwarted a little by the choices offered but I got 5 "O" levels in the main subjects, so no complaints really, although I regret not doing 6th form and university, but Headmaster NORMAN RIDLEY wrote me off prematurely so that was that. I went into architecture and building via Brains Food Products (Pies) but that is another story.

Concerning the reference to JIM 'SID' MATTHEWS, made by 'TWEED' HARRIS (somebody used to read the *Eagle*, then) in No:31. Jim was not only a good footballer and played for the aforesaid Downend Rangers, but he was also, as I think Tweed mentioned an excellent cricketer and played for a number of years for Downend CC, then as now a top class local side.

'On the staff front like many of your readers ARTHUR 'BONY' BRITTON was a lovely man. Sure, he was 'bony-baited' by all and sundry, but without exception any of us would have leapt to his defence had the need arisen, he was universally loved. His wife of course also taught English and was responsible for my Eng Lit and Eng Lang 'O' levels. She came in as a sort of temp in 1960 they lived in Saltford, as did JIMMY 'THE DAP' WILDE. ANDREW TROTT turned up trumps with the maths. A large ponderous bloke, large ponderous voice. A very jolly guy named MR SCOTT (Geography) proved a hit, he had the big advantage of being a Goon Show fan, well I mean he must be OK. 'WILKIE' WILKINSON, a senior sea scout from Devon and biology master was inclined to be a bit sarcastic and very changeable! Lots of mention for 'FISHY' SALMON, a fruity voiced inveterate cigar smoker but nothing of 'BUNNY' AUSTIN, a very large physics master with a throat clearing habit and one of the fastest right hooks in the business.

'The real revolutionary event in staffing came with the arrival in 59/60 of a new Art teacher to supplement/replace MR WATTS, his name was ROLAND PORTCHMOUTH. Like, wow! This guy had the long hair, attitude, amazing gear including, yes, dark coloured shirts and wool ties, complete with suede boots and narrow wrap-over cavalry twill strides. Girls had to be carried off to the sick room in droves. My pal in Art class ROGER BYE (56-61) and I actually went to Bath one Saturday where he had a one-man exhibition in the Green Street Gallery. He was a member of the Royal Academy and his pictures were very atmospheric with bold colouring and semi-abstract. He took the whole class on a day out to the Tate Modern I think. It was a real eye opener.

'Well that's about it. I hope I have not bored anyone. I notice that in the 1960 prize list MOLLIE AGGETT (57-62) received the junior Geography prize. She was in 'NELLIE' WYCHERLEY'S form at one time and we went out together post school and I owe her an apology, so I would love to write to her if you KOSA have any details.'

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MARTIN JEFFORD, one of the above 56-61 crowd, organised another mini-reunion in October 2008 for those who couldn't attend the earlier occasion. The photo on page 14 shows Martin on the left, with the addition of KEITH WITHEY and LES LACEY.

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### *DISGUSTED, BRISTOL..!*

In the last edition we published an extract from ROYSTON BYWATER'S (38-43) book. Roy's memories rather upset MURIEL HILL (34-37), now James. She writes:

'I received my copy of KOSA No.33 a few days ago - and I was so incensed by the extract from Royston Bywater's book



silk stockings, and since Royston Bywater was at school during part of World War 11 such luxuries were in short supply, and on coupons.

‘Now for my real anger. He casts doubt on the authenticity of the title of "Major" for the Headmaster - was he not aware of the fact that many of his contemporaries were children of men who had lived through the Great

that I cannot rest until I have put the record straight!

‘He alleges "that most kids that went (to KGS) had rich parents that paid for them to go". This is not true. You sat the scholarship exam from village schools in the South Gloucestershire area - I lived in Abson, and attended the Wick & Abson C of E school - the Headmaster was Mr.R.A.Kidd.

‘If you did well, you were awarded a scholarship and therefore a free place - if you did moderately well you could be offered a half scholarship, and were invited to take up a place on payment of half fees. There may have been places offered after that to full paying scholars, but I am not aware of any in my year (1934-35).

‘The school uniform was stocked by The Don in Park Street, but some girls had their gymslip and blouses made by a local dressmaker as I did. The gymslip buttoned on the shoulder, and had two or three sets of buttons so that it could be let down as the wearer grew in height. The box pleats could accommodate the expanding bust-line without too much embarrassment to the wearer, and therefore with care lasted throughout your school life. In my year I was not aware of any "Cashmere" cardigans, or

War, and many would have served in it. Has he never heard of the Battle of the Somme in 1916, and again in 1918 when the Germans used Mustard Gas which severely damaged the throat, vocal cords and lungs of those who were caught up in it? Major Eaton had been in that conflict and was so damaged that for the rest of his life he spoke in only a little above a whisper. Royston Bywater, you should be ashamed of yourself!

‘Many of my contemporaries served in the Second World War - as I did. My father had served in the First World War - in the Canadian Army - he was in the battles at Ypres and on the Somme, but mercifully he came through - he greatly admired Major Eaton, as did most of those who knew him.

‘I was brought up to the idea that even if you could not say anything good about a person - you did not say anything bad about them unless you were very sure of your facts, once a person has a bad name it is difficult to lose it.

‘You have my permission to publish this -I hope I am not the only one to feel strongly about the slur on Major Eaton, especially as he had no children who could defend his character.’

On page 15 we continue with Royston’s view of his life at KGS from 1938 to 1943.

## *THE OTHER VIEW – PART 2*

'The English teacher, MR 'BONY' BRITTON, was the main reason I failed English. Tall, skinny and bad tempered, he would walk up and down between the desks and sneak up behind the boys, we couldn't win as if you sneaked a look to see if he was coming up behind you he would bang your head. If you had made a mistake on something he had just taught us he would bang your head again. He had one of the boys out in front one day to show the class how stupid he was, the boy -- (it was COMELY again) -- answered back, so 'Bony' banged his head; grabbed him by the scruff of his neck marched him across the classroom to the door, opened the door and belted him out. Comely landed on the floor in the hallway at the feet of his parents, they had just come in the outside door to see the headmaster about their boy's grades. Oh Boy! - Old bony didn't know where to put himself, we were all hoping that his Dad would belt bony but they all disappeared down the hall to the Major's Office, then the whole class erupted in laughter. We never did hear what happened, only bony was a bit more civil for a long time after. Comely was for once in his life quiet and tried to behave himself in the future - under threats from his Dad I shouldn't wonder - but he couldn't last too long like that and I'm sorry to say he was eventually expelled. Not too long after that, I heard that a girl was also expelled, but this was not true as I found out some-time later.

'MR KEATES our music teacher and band master, nicknamed 'Kiber' a handsome well-built man with an evil smile - more like a leer - spent his whole time trying to scare the s\*\*\* out of kids, a sadist who enjoyed dealing out punishment, he used to lift boys off the ground with one hand around their necks. I didn't like him but I think a lot of the girls thought he was wonderful.

'Chemistry was my top subject -- the teacher was a DR BLOOM - he had a short dumpy body with a slightly splayed foot that gave him an awkward gait, no smile ever cracked his toady-looking face, he was a good Chemistry teacher and I liked him. He had a booming voice, sat on a stool at his bench on a raised platform in the lab; he could see all that was happening in class, except behind the students' benches that were placed across the lab: with a gangway on each side. He really did look like a toad sat on a toadstool.

'The lesson after Chem: was swimming and sports, some of the boys would change into their football togs behind the bench where teacher couldn't see them, a couple of the girls not to be outdone would change into their swimsuits. We had a couple of boys -- 'Comely' and his mate - that were always in trouble, which wasn't hard, but they didn't seem to give a damn, the same with a couple of the girls.

'One day there was a bit of a commotion along the other end of my bench, it looked like one of the boys (Comely of course) was tormenting a girl who was trying to change into her swimsuit. DR BLOOM was glowering down and straining to see what was going on - what was coming off was more like it - he wasn't too swift at moving and didn't like getting down off his stool. He booms out. 'Comely! -- What are you up to?' 'Nothing Sir' This was his stock reply. 'Stand up! Comely, at once.' Comely stands up with his hands behind his back.

"What have you got there? Raise your hands where I can see them RIGHT - NOW."

'He raises his arms above his head and there's a brassiere hanging on his thumb. At this sight the teacher jumps down off his stool and comes charging

up the aisle - maybe he was hoping to see something, - the girl scrabbles to get her blouse back on; she straightens herself just in time. The teacher almost blew a gasket but doesn't really know what to say to them, most teachers would have sent them off to see the Major but DR BLOOM liked to think that he was in complete control of his students. Admitted most kids were frightened of him because he was a frightening sight, especially when he was mad.

'The headmistress, she was my homeroom teacher in the fifth form, was a real battle-axe I don't know how I've forgotten her name, I didn't think I ever would. She was also ugly but so interesting, she took geography and had been around the world twice and knew so much; probably she's the reason that I was always good at geography.

'Mr Howard was my Physics and Maths teacher, he would not tolerate any messing about so we learned a lot in his class. I didn't like him too much but Physics was my second best subject and Maths my third.

'It was at this school that bullying raises its ugly head again, I hated bullies with a passion. I didn't get picked on myself but got beat up twice for standing up for someone that was being picked on. I had no boxing skill but had done a bit of Judo with Jack and pals in the road, the next time I got in a fracas I tried a couple of throws that I knew and they worked good putting the kid on his back. From then on I didn't seem to get any more trouble, as the bullies would back off. I found out a while after that someone had spread it around that I was an expert in Judo. I did get my 'Black Belt' in Karate later in life.

'I started dating one of the girls when we were fifteen. I was completely infatuated, blonde blue eyes, but one big snag, isn't there always? Her family were king sized

snobs - her brother played cricket for the County and for England, her father had a Doctorate at something, so I guess they thought they had to be snobs. Anyway I was smitten and thought for sure that I would die if she packed me up. After a month or so she said her parents did not approve so she packed it in. - I didn't die.

'I played football and cricket for the school team visiting all the other Grammar schools around, which was very enjoyable, I never really liked the school very much, and it seemed to me that the teachers in general favoured the kids that had paid their way in. In my last year I was in the fifth form, we had exams every year, I had an unbelievable mark of - 96% in Chem. - 86% in Physics - between 70 and 80% in Geometry, Algebra and Arithmetic, this put me top in Physics and Chem. and I expected to get the prize. Silly me. However it wasn't as simple as that, two other boys got the prizes, the only reason I could get was that these other boys had been overall better in class etc: in other words you also had to be a suck-hole as well as being top. I also heard through the grapevine that they couldn't believe that I came by the marks honestly. Well I thought - to hell with them I'll be leaving soon to start my apprenticeship.

'In the next year or so I bumped into a couple of the old school friends. I was really surprised, at school they had all talked ordinary but now they all had this put-on posh way of speaking. I was talking to a former mate that played on our football and cricket team, this boy had been a good mate at school, now was a jerk.

'Where are you working then?' He starts talking in this false highbrow way like the others. 'Oh! Aim in bonking yew know, wot yew up to Roy?' 'I've been working in a machine shop as an apprentice.'



'Ew! Ay cuddent possibly dirty may hons.' 'Oh! Is that so? - Well to each his own - Goodbye.'

'They must learn to talk like that at home they sure didn't learn it at school. After that if I ever spotted any ex-school friends I would duck in somewhere or cross the street to avoid them hopefully before they saw me.'

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### *ANOTHER RESPONSE...*

Part 1 of ROYSTON BYWATER'S contribution which appeared in the last KOSA NEWS has also prompted TREVOR JONES (39-44) to respond. Trevor was almost a contemporary, so would have experienced the same or similar approaches to education and the treatment of pupils as Royston. Trevor writes:

'First I have to say that I thoroughly enjoy reading the various KOSA NEWS that you so ably edit and I trust that you do find somebody who will take on and continue your sterling work, although in my experience willing volunteers are always hard to find.

'My reason for writing to you was your article " THE OTHER VIEW ", page 16 of the last issue, an extract from ROYSTON BYWATER'S book, he was at Kingwood 1938-43, a year ahead of me, I recall his name but do not specifically remember him, and I must say I find his description and recollections of the school do not tally with my own, albeit some 65 years ago, in fact I find some of his opinions somewhat biased.

'Briefly my own background is as follows: My parents both came from middle class families, my Dad's family was originally from the Isle of White, farming stock, my Great Grandfather ran and owned a milk business in London, Clapham, and this eventually became part of 'United Dairies', but the money did not come down to us. Dad was a very good

salesman and after his First World War service worked for several large companies including Heinz. Mum's family was from Essex, her dad owned and ran a shop, and during the War. Mum worked for the Bank of England, a well-paid young lady and I was born in 1927 in Lewisham, London.

'In 1929, the Slump, Dad was sacked, (No redundancy in those days.), he eventually applied for and got a job in Bristol, at the princely salary of £2.10s (£2.50) per week, a lot less than he or Mum were used to and they moved to Bristol to a rented bungalow at Hanham, about 6/- per week, so I was brought up in Hanham, going to Samuel Whites Infants and Primary and Hanham Abbots Junior Schools. Dad and Mum soon settled in the area, they made friends took part in the local activities. Cricket, Tennis etc. Dad progressed well in his job, but times were hard, and I made many friends some of whom also went to KGS.

'In 1939, due to a legacy, we moved to a new detached house in Hanham, and I was awarded a place at KGS, starting in Sept, I also was volunteered by a friend, PETER HALE also at KGS, he was about 3 years my senior, to help dig the trenches at the KGS. (I don't think we did much but at least we helped.). My parents bought me a new bike, about £6.00, from a shop in Oldland, kept by SIR BERNARD LOVELL'S father, I was kitted out in the required school uniform, 'THE DON' I believe, but had to wear my short grey trousers, as they still had some wear in them, so Mum said. I recall I was not pleased about this as I was fairly tall for my age.

'I was not posh or came from a posh family, my parents had to pay a fee, about £6 per term, the average working tradesman got about £3+ per week, and in fact I never felt that my school friends came from a posh background, and

those who did were generally sent into a Bristol School, (Clifton, Bristol Grammar, Colston's or Redland etc.).

'So I was at KGS through the war years, we did go to the shelters during a raid, I recall it was all very orderly. Girls at one end boys at the other, never the twain shall meet, or did they, no electricians as Roy said but most of us had torches, we also played in the shelters when there was no raid, and got chased by the Prefects who whacked us if they caught us.

'We did work occasionally on local farms, certainly not every week, and we certainly were not offered eggs, they were on ration about 1 per week. When I was in the 4th and 5th forms we had Harvest Camps, at Dursley and Berkeley I think, during the Summer Holidays we worked on local farms, and were paid about 1/- per hour, we had to pay for our keep at the Camp in army bell tents. Incidentally the girls were at a camp in Slimbridge - well away from us.

'At school we had Naval, Army and Air Cadet forces, both for us and the girls, and most of us joined, and took part in local parades. My parents were both involved with the local defence forces. Dad was in the Home Guard, (Dad's Army), he was a Sergeant and had a rifle with 5 bullets. Mum was in the WVS - First Aid and ran the Penny A Week Red Cross collection for Hanham. They also took part in the special money raising weeks that happened every few months.

'In 1944 I left KGS, having obtained my School Certificate, I had had a good education, I was not good at languages but was good at maths and the sciences, I did get caned on the hands once by Major Eaton, incidentally. I understood he was an army Officer in the 1st World War and was very highly regarded in the teaching profession, and I always found him very fair, as I said I had had a good

education and enjoyed my stay at KGS and it has stood me in good stead for my adult life.

'After my stay at KGS, I went into the construction industry, trained with a local Building Contractor, about 6 years, did various day release and evening courses at the Merchant Venturer's College, a precursor to Bristol Polytechnic, got my Ordinary and Higher Certificates and eventually became a Fellow of the Institute of Building, FCIOB. The Company I was with, Elbows, constructed many different types of buildings including some New and Large Extensions to Schools, we built the New Canteen, Science and 6 Form, and Caretaker's House at KGS, in 1956 I became a Junior Director and MD in about 1970, I retired in the late 80s. I represented the Company in the Bristol Branch of the Federation of Building Trade Employers and served as its President.

'In my private life, I was involved in many local community affairs, played some sports. Tennis Cricket and Golf, joined Round Table and then The Rotary Club, (I am still a member), I got married in 1954 to Grace, not ex-KGS, and we are still together, we have lived at Hanham /Longwell Green and Winterborne Down, and have made many friends including some who were involved with or went to the KGS.

'All in all I am grateful too and proud to have been involved with the KGS, this is apparently very different from ROYSTON BYWATER'S feelings.'

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### *AWAY FROM SCHOOL...*

Some of the most interesting photos are those personal ones which are taken with our school pals when we were away from the KGS environment, maybe on a school trip (in uniform!), on holiday, or just pursuing our hobbies. The photos on page 19 are examples of some of those.

AWAY FROM SCHOOL...



A day out at Cardiff Arms Park to watch the Rugby - 1955 or 56: l to r: Derek Moody, Tony Brown, Colin Rees, Roger Cromwell and Richard Palmer

Below: Keith Millett and Tony Powell on a school trip in the 50's (in uniform!)



Above: Martin Clutterbuck in the stocks  
Below: Rita Rayner (53-59) (centre) in Paris, but who are the others?



Left: Richard Strange (54-59) (top), Keith Millett (55-60) (left) and Dave Wall (54-61) (standing) about to steal a BR loco.

## *DETENTIONS –*

### *THE OTHER SIDE...*

DENNIS DUNN (37-44) responded to the recent letters on Saturday morning detentions:

'I went through KGS without getting a single Saturday morning but, having reached Prefect Status in the 6<sup>th</sup> Form, I was somewhat riled to find that my duties meant I sometimes had to supervise them!

'One Saturday I was cycling to School and reached the end of Tower Road, Warmley where I met a group of Juniors who turned out to be the Junior Football team on their way to a match somewhere. Seeing me, they asked if I was on duty.

'On confirming that I was, indeed, on duty they told me that they all had Saturday morning detentions, but seeing it was to be supervised by me they decided not to attend.

'I was blown if I was going to cooperate in letting them off when I had to go to school after a blameless life (well, sort of), so I said "If you don't turn up, I shall report you to the Major (Headmaster MAJOR EATON)." And I did. I think they all got two cuts of the cane on their hands.

'I suppose that my lack of sporting instincts didn't help. During games I was always one of the 'rabbits' left out of the team to play with a spare ball elsewhere. In cricket I once scored one run and decided to retire from the game whilst I was still at the top of my form. My sporting interest is still unchanged.

'By the way, I still have no idea what the score was at the game!'

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## *THAT INTERVIEW...*

ROY GORE (49-54) writes from darkest Suffolk:

'KOSA NEWS is always an interesting read, but the last issue became even more so when I read the interview with ROGER GREENAWAY (49-55) by JOHN COLE (49-56).

'Roger & I started school together at Soundwell C of E Primary School at the very young and tender age of five, eventually having passed our 11 plus we went on to KGS. After leaving school we both did our National Service - Roger in the Army & myself in the RAF.

'My memories of Roger are as someone who was always friendly and easy going with a ready smile as the photo on page 13 shows. I last saw him well over 40 years ago at the *Gaumont Theatre*, Wolverhampton when he was with the Kestrels (I was probably biased but I thought they were easily the best act that night!). The manager of the *Gaumont* was a friend of mine and I managed to go backstage during the interval and have a chat. I remember Roger said how much he was enjoying life and had just bought his first new car - a Mini I think - I was really impressed. He had not changed then and I do not suppose he has changed now.

'I have just retired, having had my own business for many years, and so my time at last is very flexible. I have no idea where Roger now lives, but if he has any time to spare and he is in this country it would be really good to meet up with him again. If you are able, please pass my best wishes to Roger, and if possible my contact details as well.' - Done - Ed.

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## *THE FIRE...*

BRIAN HODGES (53-58) has passed on to KOSA NEWS the *New Observer* of 13 August 1976 in which the fire of Satur-





day, 7 August is reported, with many photographs of the devastation. Unfortunately, scanning the press photographs do not give quality good enough for publication. However, the photo above has been made available and shows the site after the fire. The photo is taken, probably from a fireman's ladder, from the Hall end of the site.

In the centre of the site is the boys' entrance from Brook Road on the right, where one window of the boys' cloakroom appears intact. Behind the cloakroom are the brick-built boys' toilets, still standing, as is another L-shaped brick-built structure at the bottom of the photograph. Can anyone identify this structure? We think it may be the Art Materials Store Room, but cannot be sure.

Surprisingly, someone's car appears to have been left for the weekend only to be caught up in the conflagration.

### *DÉJÀ-VU..?*

The BBC reported that a blaze, which the police believe was started deliberately, caused extensive damage to the Art Block at Kingsfield School on Monday, 28 July 2008. Three teenagers seen running from the scene may have started the blaze.

### *THE SPY FROM KGS..?*

A reporter from the *Manchester Evening News* interviewed SIR BERNARD LOVELL (24-31) in November 2008 after some released papers revealed that the Soviets tried to turn him in the 60s. Here is an extract, still in 'news-speak':

What is little known is the vital role that Sir Bernard Lovell and his observatory played during the darkest hours of the Cold War. For the first time, the scientist described how Russian officials attempted to detain him in the country during a visit to USSR. Secretly, Lovell then held membership of several military commit-

tees and was privy to a number of Britain's defence secrets.

At a time when America and the Soviet Union were locked in the space race, the British scientist enjoyed an international reputation and was encouraged to collaborate with Soviet counterparts, despite the obvious underlying rivalry.

It was after assisting one visiting Russian scientist on a space probe project, that Sir Bernard was invited to be the guest of the Soviet Academy of Sciences during June and July 1963 on an unprecedented tour of the major optical and radio observatories. While there they tried to encourage him to defect and while he will not be drawn on exactly what happened his voice falters as he explains he was left ill after the visit.

'The point is that I should have been prevented from going to the Soviet Union in 1963 when they certainly knew we were part of the defence network. I shouldn't have gone. There were other reasons for the visit connected with my research on red dwarf stars as well as seeing their telescopes.'

Whether British authorities were aware of the problem at the time or took diplomatic action to extract their man was unclear. But upon returning to England, Sir Bernard said he was racked with doubts about his research and even considered becoming a Church of England vicar. Perhaps encouraged by thawing Cold War relationships, he later returned to Russia in 1976 with his wife and also hosted visiting Russian scientists.

In conversation, Sir Bernard reveals that the interest of the British military dated back to the genesis of the Mark 1 telescope. Indeed, one of the key reasons that the project went so disastrously over budget (with a final bill of £700,000 - the

equivalent of several million in today's money and 10 times more than originally projected) was because of last minute charges demanded by military chiefs who wanted to be able to track inter-ballistic missiles.

Lovell agreed to make the changes even though construction work was well under way. But Whitehall bureaucracy meant that the Air Ministry could not meet the promise of funding the alterations. Lovell was left holding the can for the extra costs, while the press and a powerful committee of MPs called for his head over the costly white elephant.

Having been warned that he faced the possibility of prosecution and jail, if the telescope had not found Sputnik, the telescope and his career would have finished. 'I don't think we would have survived. The situation was so bad the university could have dismissed me with ignominy. I had altered the telescope for reasons that could not have been divulged.

'It was known only to a very few people that I had been approached by the chief of airstaff who said that the telescope could be used against the Soviet missiles. He told me we had the only instrument in the world that could detect the Soviet missile. I simply wanted to come back and do research but events wouldn't allow me to.'

For five years, Jodrell Bank was relied upon to give the four minute warning of an impending nuclear attack. During the Cuban Missile crisis, Jodrell Bank was still the only device capable of tracking incoming Soviet inter-continental missiles. It was decided, at an emergency session of Cabinet that the dish be turned towards USSR, in the hope of giving a few minutes warning of an attack. It was only with the creation of the dedicated RAF Fylingdales warning sys-

tem in Yorkshire in 1963, that the scientists were released from their military role.

Earlier this year, the funding for a key project that would secure the future of the observatory as a research centre came under threat. Despite rumblings from the government funding body that the scheme was a "low priority", a massive public campaign and outcry from astronomers worldwide ensured that a compromise was found.

Although there are now dozens of more powerful radio telescopes around the world, the facility still has a future, he said. 'Obviously it has a limited life. It is marvellous that it is still around after 50 years. I realise now that I was asking for what was barely possible at the time. Hopefully once it has outlived its usefulness as a research tool it may have another life as an education centre and a static monument.'

Although he retired as director of the observatory in 1981, Sir Bernard still makes weekly visits to the centre and has been busy completing a raft of books and research papers. He is the author of numerous books and papers.

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### *GETTING TOGETHER...*

We're pleased to report that a number of reunions are taking place in addition to the usual Spring and Autumn lunches which we regularly organise.

On 10 May 2008 the 46ers got together for a lunch at KATHLEEN HARDWICK'S (Filer) farm on a beautiful day. A photo of the gathering is on page 24. They got together again at Kath's on 6 December and both dates now seem to be fixed in the KOSA calendar.

The 54ers got together at Shortwood Lodge Golf Club at a reunion organised by PAUL DAVIES, CHRIS BRYANT and

ROGER FOWLER on 10 October 2008. A good time was had by all as can be seen from the photo of the group which is on page 25.

Incidentally, an apology for finger trouble from your Ed in the last edition. It's those who started in 1953 in "BONY" BRITTON'S class who are planning a get-together, not those who started in 1954 as erroneously reported. If you are interested please phone JILL BROOKS on 0117 937 3344.

If there are any other reunions planned, please let us know and we'll include something in KOSA NEWS. We are told that there is another reunion planned this year for those who started in 1949 as it will be 60 years (yes, 60 years!) since they started at KGS. This will be organised by JOHN COLE and JOHN BREDDY, whose details are on the front of the magazine. Get in touch with them if you are interested.

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### *NEVER TOO LATE...*

JOHN (DES) D'ALESSIO (52-58) is planning to emigrate to Canada at the ripe old age of 68. John (below, in his KOSA NOSTRA shirt) spent a good few years of his life in Canada, but is now planning to retire there.



Another KOSA member in his 70s is taking his pilot's licence. Your Ed has promised not to reveal who, but he has promised to let us know when he completes it.

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### THAT 50% MARATHON...

LINDA YEOMAN (55-60) and brother VIC YEOMAN (53-59) would like to say a huge 'Thank You to everyone who responded to the article in the last edition of KOSA NEWS by sponsoring us for running (and walking!) the Bristol Half Marathon. It certainly was a challenge (one we don't intend to repeat!) but we made it!

58), Malcolm (Harry) Thomas (54-61), Bruce Bennett (54-59), Pauline Carter (54-51?), Howard Nowell (59-66), Leslie Lacey (56-61), Peter Williams (52-57), Angela Williams (56-58), Roger Bye (56-61).

We welcome all those who have joined us. If you know someone from KGS who might like to receive KOSA NEWS, just send us their details.



'The support we received was fantastic and we have been overwhelmed by everyone's generosity. With your help, we were honoured to hand over to St Peter's Hospice, a cheque in excess of £2,300 (more than double our target!) to help them in the excellent work they do.'

The photo (above) shows Vic and Linda presenting their cheque to Anna Cairns, the Fundraiser for St Peter's Hospice.

### WELCOME TO...

New members since the last edition, using maiden names for the ladies: Judy Gapper (67-72), John Brittain (54-60), Margaret Chell (?), Chris Lovell (58-66), Hazel Lismore (59-66), Brian Parker (51-56?), Rob Burford (57-61), Martin Jefferd (56-61), Carol Lewis (56-61), Jeff Chalk (53-59), Brenda Chalk (54-

### IN THE GENES..?

Although we shouldn't live through our children, we can enjoy their successes and we can speculate that they may be *partly* due to us (the successes, not the children!)

Sarah Smith was the #2 in the UK 4-way Women Formation Skydiving Team which won the 2008 World Skydiving Championship in Maubeuge, France. Sa-

rah is the daughter of GILLIAN GILBERT (50-57) now Smith.

You don't have to be a cricket fan to have heard of Marcus Trescothick who played for Somerset and England with distinction. Marcus is the son of LYNNE COX (58-63) now, of course, Trescothick.

### AN APPEAL...

BOB MEAKER (62-67) set up his KGS website <http://www.kgs.info/> in 2001 and for personal reasons is no longer able to maintain the site. It has been popular over the years, is well designed, and would be a serious loss if it was no longer available. If you have some experience of website design and maintenance and are able to help Bob, please contact him on [bob@kgs.info](mailto:bob@kgs.info) urgently.

## THE DEVIL'S DISCIPLE...

This production took place around 1959 or 60 and was produced by MRS GRIF-FITHS. *Kingswood Chronicles* reported 'The parts of Mrs Dudgeon, Mr Anderson and Richard Dudgeon were acted with the intelligence Shaw demands. The honours go to DOBBINS, who was

a gay and debonair ne'er do well...HILARY BERROW gave a convincing display of nagging, whining self-righteousness and LYNE as the minister dealt courageously with the volteface at the end of Act II and MARGARET JOHNSON did well in acting so sincerely and speaking with such a clear and pleasant voice.'

### CAST

Mrs. DUDGEON ..... Hilary Berrow  
 ESSIE ..... Cherine Beaver or Patricia Brain  
 CHRISTOPHER DUDGEON ..... James Whitlock  
 Mr. ANDERSON ..... Peter Lyne  
 JUDITH ANDERSON, his wife ..... Margaret Johnson  
 LAWYER HAWKINS ..... Andrew Radford  
 Mr. WILLIAM DUDGEON ..... Terence Bleakman  
 Mrs. WILLIAM DUDGEON ..... Sandra Lucas  
 Mr. TITUS DUDGEON ..... Paul Davies  
 Mrs. TITUS DUDGEON ..... Marilyn Gregory  
 RICHARD DUDGEON ..... Frank Dobbins  
 SERGEANT ..... Peter Saunders  
 SOLDIERS ..... Kenneth Case, Keith Millet  
 MAJOR SWINDON ..... Alan Thomas  
 GENERAL BURGOWNE ..... Fred Ward

OFFICERS:-  
 David Taylor; David Buckingham; Alan Feltham

CHAPLAIN ..... Gordon Jackson  
 EXECUTIONER ..... Derrick Whitechurch

BRITISH SOLDIERS:-  
 Michael Mealing; Stuart Huggett; Michael Puzey;  
 Steven Wallington; Norman Golding.

HESSIAN SOLDIERS:-  
 John Taylor; Ian Smith; Geoffrey McBroom;  
 Angus Challinor.

CROWD:-  
 Angela Charters; Linda Davies; Carole Lovell;  
 David Harvey; Peter Rowatt; Christopher Thompson  
 John Winchester; Brian Young.

The action of the play takes place in the small American town of Websterbridge in the year 1777, when the passions roused by the breaking-off of the American colonies from England boiled up to shooting point.

### ACT I.

The kitchen of Mrs. Dudgeon's farmhouse on the outskirts of Websterbridge. It is nearly dawn.

### ACT II.

The living room of Minister Anderson's house; evening of the same day.

### ACT III.

SCENE 1. Early next morning at the British Army Headquarters in the Town Hall.

SCENE 2. The Council Chamber a few minutes later.

SCENE 3. Just before noon in the Websterbridge market place.

