



# **KOSA NEWS**



## **NUMBER 37 - SUMMER 2010**

The Magazine of the Old Scholars of Kingswood Grammar  
& Kingsfield Schools

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### **EDITORIAL...**

We have now been publishing KOSA NEWS for 18 years - we're now in our 19th year of publication. On looking through the past editions the contributions which ex-KGS and Kingsfield folk have made in their respective fields is impressive. In the areas of science, health, business, education, religion, charities, the arts and indeed the whole gambit of human activity they have been there at the cutting edge.

In this edition we seem to have concentrated on the books written and the poems constructed. Many of our members seem to enjoy writing poetry, something which would surely have delighted our English teachers of yesteryear. When we were at school these activities were those which were done by others, but thanks to a sound education we were given the confidence to attempt them for ourselves.

All this success was achieved largely with virtually no careers advice. How things have changed!

### **DIARY DATES:**

#### **ANNUAL AUTUMN LUNCH:**

Booked for **SATURDAY, 9 OCTOBER 2010** at Lincombe Barn, Downend. We meet at 12 to 12.30 for a chat and a drink from the bar and sit down for lunch at about 1.00pm. 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'. If you wish to sit on the rugby table please mark your form accordingly - see report on page 10.

#### **46ers REUNION:**

The next lunch at KATHLEEN HARDWICK'S farm down in Clapton-in-Gordano is yet to be fixed. If you're a 46er and haven't attended yet, phone her on 01275 853180 or Mobile: 0783 7528427 or PRISCILLA POWELL now MAGUIRE on 0117 9593902. You will be notified of the next lunch by post.

#### **ANNUAL SPRING LUNCH...**

Already booked for **SATURDAY, 9 APRIL 2011** at Lincombe Barn, Downend. Please book the date in your diary now.

## **OBITUARIES...**

MARY POWELL (51-56) and DAVID LEWIS, ex Head Teacher of Kingsfield School and currently Vice-President of KOSA, have put together this tribute to 'BUNTY' JOHNSON (55-62), later Hinder, who died suddenly on 27 March 2010:



'Bunty was born in the Shetland Isles in 1945 and she spent her early life there and for a short time on Orkney where her father was in the Merchant Navy at Scapa Flow.

'The family moved to Bristol in 1955 and Bunty went to KGS and later to Swansea University to study English. After a time with the Mobile Library Service, she moved with husband and two sons to South Africa. On returning to this country she found that teaching offered a more satisfactory career for a single mum as she then was. She returned to teach at Kingsfield School in 1980 and was very happy teaching several generations of children over the years until she retired in 2002.

'Bunty Hinder was a respected teacher held in much affection by pupils and colleagues. Her subject was English but what she really taught was care and thoughtfulness and consideration for those with whom she worked, young and adult.

'Bunty was small in stature - a bit like a wren - but pupils did not doubt her authority and the sharpness of her tongue when she needed to use it. And of course her accent was delicious Shetland-unmodified, it seemed to my ears, despite all her years on the mainland and way south of the Border. She would often quote to me a Shetland expression or piece of vocabulary when it seemed

more apt and to the point than anything Bristol's dialect had to offer.

'Her priority was our Kingsfield pupils: she understood their experience and perspective having been a pupil at KGS and a resident in the community. She was generous in her time and care with pupils, their parents and her colleagues. In her dealings with folk she kept her eye on what was right and what was appropriate in the circumstances.

'For ten years Bunty was a pastoral head of year at Kingsfield, mostly in the first three years and particularly in Year 7, the first year of secondary school. Her experience and insight were most valuable with the newcomers who arrived fresh each September. She managed these pupils with a caring and firm hand and quickly noted the characters - the shy, the boisterous, the industrious, the troubled and the troublesome. She had already done the ground-work along with her colleagues in the year team, by visiting our partner primary schools and she had listened well to her primary school colleagues. Indeed way after her retirement, primary school colleagues



fondly recalled Bunty's pre-transfer visits with respect.

'On retirement she joined the Kingswood Heritage Museum, firstly as Archivist, then later as Curator. She was in her element surrounded by donated artefacts, and planning future displays with other volunteers. She still kept in contact with colleagues from Kingsfield School.

'Her real love however was her family – her boys and daughters-in-law and grandson Sam gave her so much pleasure. The whole extended family met at the museum for a get together a couple of years ago, much to Bunty's enjoyment. She died too young - we shall miss her greatly.'

At the Museum Bunty was planning a KGS display next year to commemorate the 90 years since the founding of the School in 1921. I'm pleased to report that the Museum is currently working on the display and it will appear next year as a fitting tribute to Bunty. We are hoping to open it on the occasion of our Spring Lunch and AGM so that visitors to Bristol can be there on that occasion.- Ed

The photo at the bottom of page 2 shows Bunty on the right with her friend MARY POWELL (51-56) and *Timeteam* presenter Tony Robinson at Kingswood Heritage Museum. Tony is a patron of the Museum.

His wife, Margaret, has informed KOSA of the passing of BILL BROWN:  
Born in Hanham on 13 February 1925, WILLIAM (BILL) BROWN (35-42) passed away on 30 November 2009. Bill taught at Hanham Abbots School, after qualifying from Loughborough College as a teacher.

'On leaving college he was called into the Army Intelligence Corps and served



in India and the Andaman Islands, in the Bay of Bengal, where the main task was the investigation of Japanese war crimes, and was recom-

mended for a commission for his work on the Tarmugli Incident. (The Tarmugli Incident was where the Japanese were accused of murdering 205 civilians and maltreating many others - Ed.)

'Later he taught in several local schools until 1985, retiring as Head of Technical Studies at Wellsway Comprehensive School in Keysham. He was an Oxford Examiner for twenty years also a member of Hanham History Society, Kingswood Bowling Club and Kingswood Probus. He attended Hanham Baptist Church for 80 years, becoming a Deacon and Church Secretary and also enjoying the choir.

'Bill was the author of two books, *Sparks From Our Blakeys*, an autobiography



which was featured in KOSA NEWS 17 (Summer 2000), and *In Another Time*, a novel set in the 18th Century with Hanham as its focal point, illustrated by STEPHEN PHIPPS (61-68).

'Bill embraced life with its many diversities in the strength of his skills and personal qualities, loved greatly by his family. He leaves his wife, Margaret, daughters Jane and Jennifer, three grand daughters and four great grandchildren.'

The photo on the bottom of page 3 shows Bill Brown on the right with his friend, DAVID BULLOCK (37-43).

MONA OWEN (41-48) (now Timko) has written from Alberta, Canada, where she now lives, to inform us of the death of JUNE WRIDE (41-48) (later Barwick):

'After school June attended St Mary's College, Cheltenham and then taught in Bristol, I think in Fishponds. She then married a missionary and went to Africa and, although she had no children of her own, she adopted two boys. She was very good at Art and made a name for herself locally and was known in the long-term care facility as 'The Artist'.

'She was a widow for many years and came to visit me once in Canada. My friend, OLWEN PERRY, and myself were planning a visit to Africa to see her but before we could finalise the plans she had to be transferred to another long-term care home, in Johannesburg, as she was unable to walk.

'Incidentally, the three of us, June, Olwen and myself all lived in the same road in Downend, practically within shouting distance of each other in Burley Crest. We all became teachers and ended up in Africa, Australia and Canada.

'I corresponded with June for many years, but learned of her death last Christmas'

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We have been informed by her daughter that QUEENIE STONE (30-35) (later Quenault) passed away on 18 October 2009 in Jersey at the age of 90.

'Mum used to love looking at the magazine and pointing out people that she knew from her schooldays at KGS. I used to look at the magazine with her, and although she is no longer with us, I started to look through the last edition. On page 12-13 I could hardly believe that Mum was mentioned by ALICE WEBB (now Johnson) who must have been in the same class as Mum. From the words on the postcard, which I loved reading, it seems that she knew Mum.

'If you are in contact with Alice, please give her my regards and thank her for the memories of KGS which she shared with us in that article. I really enjoyed reading them. I did look carefully at the photo of the hockey players of her era but I don't think that Mum was a hockey player. However, it was lovely to see people of Mum's age as they were in 1935; she would have loved looking at that photo.'

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We don't have a very recent picture of Queenie Stone, but her friend ALICE WEBB has provided us with a photo from another age.

On page 5 is a photo of a trip to Pensford in the Summer of 1935 - the 29 June, to be precise. Described as a Naturalists' Outing, the flowers they have collected are evident.

Queenie Stone is third from the left in the back row and Alice Webb is on the end next to her. Another age, indeed!

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KOSA has also received the sad news of the passing of OLIVE FORD (39-44) (later Davies), MAUD HARRAWAY (26-33) (later Porter), COLIN MILLWARD (44-49), EILEEN POWELL (42-46) (later Toft) and JOHN PURNELL (43-48).

### ***OOPS..!***

We always try to produce a quality mag - both from the point of view of accuracy of content and the standard of English (the latter mainly because a copy goes to GEORGE BUTCHER, your Ed's 'O' level English Teacher!)

CAROLE LOVELL (54-61) (now Pitson) noticed some errors:

'Just one thing - or rather two, I suppose - that I noticed in the mag. (see how quickly it gets read?): there's a picture of my brother's 1W (I thought it was 1A! - Ed) form class on page 25 - my brother CLIVE LOVELL'S class, that is, not Colin! And just below him to his right is his best friend IAN (Lance) HULL, who doesn't get a mention in the list below.

'Ian was always known as 'Lance' because he was given the part of Sir

Launcelot Gobbo in the class reading of *The Merchant of Venice*. He was lucky not to be stuck with 'Gobbo' as a nickname, I reckon! Were children really not as cruel then as they would be now?'

ROY HUBBARD (52-57) wrote about the same photo (he thought that they were a good looking crew):

'It's ROY ELLIS and IVOR DIXON and the person not mentioned is PAUL HULL (So who's right? - Ed). Roy also spotted the error in the URL for Kingsfield School's website, which should read:

[www.kingsfieldschool.org.uk](http://www.kingsfieldschool.org.uk)

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

On the 1954 photo referred to above are JOHN (Tweedy) HARRIS and JAMES BROKENBROW, who were also at Manchester University together. John would like to trace James, who was last heard of in High Wycombe.

EILEEN REEVES (46-51), now Barnes, who now lives in Bude, Cornwall, would like to contact anyone who was in her years at KGS.

Can anyone help with these appeals?

### ***GIRL GUIDES @ KGS...***

SONIA DAVIS (58-65) (now LAWES) writes;

'I was thrilled to see the picture of the KGS Girl Guides in the Spring edition of KOSA NEWS, I was a member of the group and am on the picture. The others were BARBARA COTTLE, SANDRA ALWAY, and HAZEL, although I can't remember the other name.

'We all made our saris from bed sheets dyed blue and our shoulder bags were navy blue. We rehearsed at Barbara's house on Hanham Road as we had to learn an Indian song, dance and game. It was all towards a competition to find the best patrol in Gloucestershire. The

idea was that for the final stage you had to choose a country and find out about guiding in that country. As well as the performance we had to produce a display of guiding in India. The event was held in a school in Gloucester, I believe, and at the end we came out as winners and were presented with our prize by the Duchess of Gloucester.

'The camp Hazel mentioned at Charmouth was great despite the weather and when we got caught coming back from the midnight beach-feast we thought we were really in trouble but being the good experienced Staff they were, they knew exactly what we were going to do and were waiting with hot chocolate. We had some great times and in the days before Health and Safety took control, some great adventures.'

### **LANGUAGES AT KGS...**

KOSA NEWS 36 prompted GORDON JACKSON (55-62) to write:

'I'm pleased that TONY DOWN (55-61) remembered me. He was very good at sport. I was hopeless!

'Tony's other interest at KGS was languages. German started as a school subject for us when we reached the 6th form in 1959, so he was able to join a class run by KEITH SHARP, which took students from scratch to 'O' level in a year. As our form took 'O' levels a year early, Tony was able to take 'O' level German at 16 and 'A' level French and Latin at 17. As was customary at the school, at 18 he re-took 'A' level French and Latin (to improve his grades) and took German 'A' level for the first time. As the school secretary was German (her name was EDITH BAILEY and she married an Old Scholar, JOHN BAILEY after the war - Ed), Tony was able to talk to her in her own language.

'The photo of the French play on page 24 reminded me of another play (or could it have been the same one?) done by 3rd or 4th formers at an Open day. (No, it was not the same one according to LINDA YEOMAN -Ed). It was called *Le Champignon* (The Mushroom). A family ate some mushrooms and when the dog suddenly died they mistakenly blamed the mushrooms - such was the humour of those school plays! I don't know how many of the audience understood the French - except for some visiting students from France who found the honest KGS French accents hilarious!

### **MURIEL RESPONDS...**

MURIEL HILL (34-37) (now James) Responds to ROYSTON BYWATER (38-45):

'WELL DONE, Roy Bywater - at least you responded to your critics!

'I left KGS in 1937, and you did not start until 1938, so our paths never crossed. From some of your quotes I think you possibly lived in Pucklechurch or not too far away? That was of course largely a farming area, and like many other villages there was not a great deal of interest in education such as there is today.

'The normal school leaving age was 14, 16 if you went to a grammar school. Quite a number of boys and girls left KGS at the age of 15; the boys to start apprenticeships, the girls to do an intensive course at a commercial college.

'For girls the attitude was that it was not worth spending a lot of money on their education because they would marry, and indeed if you were not 'spoken for' by the age of 21, you were considered to be an old maid, and on the shelf.

'Married women did not generally work after marriage, but if they had been in a large store such as Baker-Baker, or Jones, they could be retained to cover

holidays or the sales. Similarly, if they worked in a bank, they could be recalled to cover holidays, or for the year-end accounts.

'Thank you, Roy, you apologised for not knowing about MAJOR EATON, and it was that which did annoy me. Sadly, you were correct in saying that people bought rank, or title, and sometimes degrees to impress, and they still do today.

'You seemed surprised that I did not know about the Black Market, but this did not come about until the war started and so many commodities were rationed, such as food, clothing, tobacco and petrol. I joined up in 1942, so I was out of circulation, and if there was a Black Market in or around Abson, I was not aware of it, and certainly my mother would have been too scared to be a part of it.

'As regards bullying -there didn't seem to be much during my years – my brother who was two years older than me was teased because he wore glasses, and did not take much part in sporting activities, but what few knew was that he was virtually blind in one eye, and had a 'dicky' heart. He died in 1977 at the age of 57.

'You advised me to get out more -I wish I could. I had joined up to get away from the village, but did not get around much even then. I started service life in Liverpool, and after training was sent to the Warrington area. My health suffered, so I was then drafted to Brighton, and finally finished in Portsmouth.

'My mother was not strong, and I had to have compassionate leave to look after her for three months, I finally left the Service in 1946. In 1950 I went to London to work, but after just 18 months mother had a stroke, so once again I had to give up work to look after her and Dad - there were no carers then.

'Your school days may not have been the happiest days of your life, but you certainly made up for it later; for me, I met someone who wished to marry me, and just a few months later both parents died in 1957. My husband died 10 years ago, but at 87 I am still around, and in good health!'

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### **ALTERNATIVE VIEWS...**

When we published ROY BYWATER'S alternative view of KGS it initiated quite a response from those who disagreed. DOREEN PILLINGER (48-53) (now Lindegaard) also has a more critical view of what went on at KGS. It's a lengthy piece so we have had to hold the second half over until the next edition:

#### **Mr Quelch and other Stories - Part 1**

In my second year, Major EATON was succeeded as headmaster by C.N. RIDLEY, who apart from the *pince nez* resembled Mr Quelch, Billy Bunter's adversary. (See 1973 photo of CNR, below). Every morning he strode through assembly and mounted the stage, grim with resolution, mouth severely set, chin pointing up at the ceiling. If he wore a mortar board it must have been super-



glued to his head. He had a thing about 'nose-baggers', his name for those who favoured sandwiches over school dinners. I was one. It was the only time he ever spoke to me.

Nothing could bring on an upset stomach like the prospect of hockey with my nemesis Miss MORRISON. (see KOSA 36) How I craved to go streaking down the wing like the chosen but needless to say, she put me in goal where I was useless. I tried my best even with bruised and bloodied shins from the raised sticks of the Amazonian horde. However, a tally of eleven goals let in during one session sealed my fate. More often than not, I shivered on the touch line or had to run round the field with the fatties, the girls rooted out from hiding under the coats in the cloakroom or those who accidentally on purpose forgot their gym kit.

By contrast, the prospect of double Maths on a Monday morning was almost a relief. The teachers in this department were a rare assortment. "Joner" JONES, was small but deadly and tweaked ears if attention wandered. Mr HODSON, a Gilbert & Sullivan devotee, roared, red-faced, and hurled board rubbers with precision. As one who was unable to turn decimals into fractions even arithmetic was a foreign country but during my time in 3D(imbo), a miracle happened. Dr TREVELYAN, a young enthusiastic teacher, achieved unexpected success and I, along with other dimwits was promoted the next year to 4C, where our frail talents foundered under the ancient and vinegary '-Chuckles" HOWARD. He once gave me one out often "for charity". The status quo was soon restored by which time "the Doc" had gone to pastures new and that ended any hope of Maths for me. Recently I found comfort in the discovery that Napier devised logarithms so that he could predict the Second Coming. I knew there had to be a use. I have never knowingly needed a

logarithm, even less a sine or cosine, in later life.

Music was another highlight - Not! Because of post war austerity we had no instruments, not so much as a triangle. I suppose they had been boiled down for shrapnel and not replaced, so we improvised, with two fingers of the right hand beating time on the palm of the left. Eric HILTON, clipped moustache and patent leather hair, leapt about like a great black bird, gown flapping, crying idiotically "ta fa teffi ta fa teffi ta ta ta". You couldn't make it up. I suppose he did his best in the circumstances. However, for 'musical appreciation' surely there is no excuse for the dreary tone poems he foisted on us. Enough to put you off for life and in my case, very nearly did.

I can't remember what "Jake" SPEAR taught, but it took place in one of the auxiliary cowsheds to the right of the field. He failed to grasp the name of one of my form members, a quiet, pale boy called GERALD KENWOOD and addressed him as Ken Wood. "Wood?" he called at registration. (Uproar!) "Kenwood, Sir," said the child, patiently, frequently. (More exaggerated falling about.) Perhaps this was Jake's attempt at humour. Kenwood went on to star as Puck in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. In Act 2, Scene 1, he must have been instructed to use Mr Bowdler's *Shakespeare for Families* and advised to omit the final 'offensive' word which followed "Then slip I from her.....", lest it should provoke riotous hooting from the hoi polloi. (Go on, look it up, I know you're longing to!) Strange the things you remember after 60 years..... are you out there, Ken?

Other teachers' nicknames derived from the sporting heroes of the day: "Jimmy" WILDE (Boys' Games) and "Bunny" AUSTEN (Physics). "Scruffy" MORRIS, "Frosty" WINTOUR (French), "Boney"



BRITTON (English) and 'Fishy SAMMONS (Chemistry and a late KOSA member) are self explanatory. Years later, Scruffy, (Geography, one of my GCE failures), pulled up for petrol at Jack Lamb's garage in Downend where I was working as a pump attendant. He was not pleased to see me thus engaged and immediately wrote a reference "to help you get a more suitable job." A Mr HACKSTON taught General Science for those too thick to specialise, but clearly hated it and us. He paced up and down at the front of the class intoning softly and rhythmically tossing a piece of chalk in the air, catching it over and over again. As a way of keeping order it was inspired. The class spent his lessons in a hypnotic trance.

Despite previous information in KOSA News, I thought it was Miss QUINTON who stuffed her hanky in her knickers. 'Gertie', rather fervent though harmless and kindly, was Deputy Head. She was the author of a (no doubt) erudite book on her subject, Divinity, called *Knowledge* which can still be Googled. (Hands up anyone who has read it!) Miss WYCHERLEY, another elderly-seeming teacher taught English in Room C. She wore her grey hair in old fashioned braids wound round her head. In a sweet voice she would plead: "Come along people, settle down." We usually did. I can still recite the passages of Shakespeare we learned by heart in her lessons.

Further down the corridor was Miss WATTERS, a no nonsense lowland Scot who also taught English as well as History. I liked her equally with Miss DAVID (again see KOSA 36). She was a stickler and would keep the class in for 'corrections'. She also explained what is now called 'the greengrocers' apostrophe, though it didn't have a name then. My hairdresser to this day has 'Hairnet's'

for sale. I itch to amend such abominations and often do. My goddaughter recently showed me her essay homework of which she was very proud. The creative spelling had been passed without benefit of red ink. I evoked the memory of Miss W, who was firm but fair. We shall not see her like again.

*To be continued.*

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## **RUGBY NEWS...**

JOHN BISHOP (52-57) has kept us up-to-date with Rugby news:

'On various occasions I have contributed to this magazine by reporting details of the life and times of Kingswood RFC, the rugby club that grew out of Kingswood Old Boys RFC, founded in 1954.

'There are still connections with KGS although, with the passage of time (56 seasons), these are few and far between. The present President is ROGER WINDSOR (55-60) who has been a force to be reckoned with for nigh on 40 years. He took the office at the end of the 2008/09 season and has continued his constant and vocal touchline support, thus encouraging the 1st XV to achieve its finest hour.

'For non-rugby readers it may be worth explaining that at the bottom of the rugby union pyramid lie the county leagues - Gloucestershire County has 4 divisions - Premier and Divisions 1, 2 and 3. KRFC have been very competitive members of Division 2 for many seasons. On just one occasion we slipped into Division 3 for a year due to some admin. errors costing us a significant loss of points. Last season, aided and abetted by excellent coaching and the arrival of a couple of good players, we not only produced entertaining rugby but won all but one - the last- of our games, thus becoming champions by a comfortable margin.

'So next season, for the first time in our history, we will be playing in Division 1 and hoping to establish the club before

moving onward and upward. The club was formed by ex-KGS scholars and for about the first 15 years relied completely or mainly upon an influx of old boys. The club has grown into a thriving rugby organisation, still playing on the school field where it all began, still a sky blue and chocolate brown strip and still using the school badge. Long may this continue.'

At the request of JOHN COLE (49-56) at the next lunch on 9 October we are hoping to welcome as many Kingswood Old Boys RFC players as possible in a Rugby reunion. We will set up a table or tables exclusively for their use so that they can swop stories of their Rugby exploits which, strangely, seem to be more embellished the longer ago they occurred. They will, of course, be situated in the corner so as not to upset our normal patrons with their rough and uncouth ways...!

### ...RUGBY PAST...

DAVID GIFFORD (53-60) has forwarded the photo (below) of the 1st XV in 1959-60. David is the captain with the ball.

### ...AND SOCCER...



BOB FUDGE (53-60) has been rewarded for his contribution to grassroots football in Gloucestershire by being awarded an FA 50-year Long Service Award. It was presented by Ken Fry earlier this year. Bob is on the right in the *Bristol Evening Post* photo (above).

Bob started his Soccer career in 1958 whilst still at KGS as a striker for Mount Pleasant, where he became club secretary from 1964 to 1970. He then joined Nicholas Wanderers as a player and became vice-chairman four years later.



KINGSWOOD GRAMMAR SCHOOL  
RUGBY · 1ST XV 1959-60

Bob took over as chairman in 1976 and treasurer in 1984, also acted as reserve team manager from 1978 to 1990. He has also been active on District League and Premier Combination Management Committees and received the EG Neal Trophy for efficiency in 1989.

Congratulations to Bob from KOSA.

### ***COINCIDENCE...***

At the same time as the news came through about BOB FUDGE, MICK THOMAS joined KOSA and sent us some interesting snippets about soccer at KGS. Mick wrote:

'It would be nice to get in touch with BOB FUDGE again. I got to know Bob quite well when we were both in Upper 5 Science and then the 6th Form where we both studied Chemistry and Physics, though I did Biology while he took Maths as his third A-level. I'm not surprised to hear of the soccer award. Bob was an excellent footballer who, with elder brother Ron and another ex-KGS pupil BERN PHIPPS, played for Mount Pleasant, a team whose regular 'watering holes' were the Cross Keys (at Mount Pleasant) and the Tennis Court Inn, not far from the school.

'Seeing Linda Yeoman's photograph of the 1953-54 Form 1A in KOSA 36 also brought back lots of memories. I joined the class when it became 2A in the 1954-55 session, having been moved up from 1B, and did well in all subjects apart from Latin where I excelled myself by going from top in 1B to bottom in 2A, a fall from grace not unrelated to the fact that I was probably in love with 1B Latin teacher Miss Horseman but didn't feel quite the same way about her elderly, though kindly, counterpart (whose name I've forgotten) in 2A.

'As regards the item on the soccer team on page 12 of KOSA 34 I can confirm that soccer started in 1959, much to the

disapproval of rugby-loving Headmaster C N RIDLEY. A few weeks after JOHN GLEN made it possible for us to play soccer I remember that the weather was particularly atrocious, with the result that the pitches were waterlogged and all Wednesday afternoon games, including rugby, were cancelled. As a small group of us were walking back along the corridor from the changing rooms to the library we encountered Mr Ridley, who couldn't resist making a sneering comment about 'fair weather soccer players' and was certainly not interested when we pointed out that all games had been cancelled. I guess the reason the incident sticks in my mind and why I was particularly aggrieved at this petty and rather undignified slight from the headmaster was that, before John Glen introduced soccer, I had played rugby for the second and then the first XV. (Mick is second from the left in the second row of the 1st XV photo on page 10)

'Further evidence of Mr Ridley's snobbery with regard to 'the round ball game' was forthcoming in the succeeding weeks when a KGS soccer team was formed. The results of our first two matches, victories over another school (I can't remember the name) and a Bristol Technical College team led by ex-KGS pupil BOB FUDGE, failed to receive a mention when the other sporting results were read out at the following morning's assemblies. However, our third match (which was held at Rodway Hill Technical College because of the poor quality of the KGS pitch) was deemed worthy of mention even though we lost by 3 goals to 1. Perhaps the fact that our opponents were a touring side from Imperial College, London had something to do with it.

'Unfortunately, I can't remember much about the other members of this first KGS soccer team but I believe they included MIKE (Ned CAINES) (now living in Vancouver), ALAN HAYES, ROB FIDKIN and MARTIN MANN.

'Apart from the C.N.Ridley soccer incidents, one of my least pleasurable KGS memories is of ERIC HILTON (Music), whose attitude must have all but destroyed many less talented pupils' interest in music, berating members of 1B in their end-of-year music exam. Fortunately, 1B's music teacher was MISS JACOBS but Eric came in for the oral part of the exam where, after singing a 'guide' note, he then proceeded to 'la-la' a short melody for which we were expected to write down the notes, something which only those rare individuals with perfect pitch could reasonably be expected to do with any degree of accuracy. Fortunately, I was sat near the back but after his first rendering he rounded on the poor unfortunates in the front desks with the words "Some of you are writing down rubbish" - not exactly helpful for the apprehensive 'cloth-eared' members of the class (probably the majority of us) who were having their first taste of KGS exams.'

### **OLD ACQUAINTANCES...**

Professors DAVID EWINS and COLIN PILLINGER (both 54-61) are pictured below at a Royal Society policy meeting on 17 February this year to discuss 'Global Warming'. Both are Fellows of the RS. We think these were the only two attendees from the same school at the meeting - three cheers for KGS!

The last time they were in the same room David, as Head Boy was at the *Esse non Videri* lectern in the School Hall leading



three cheers for the staff prior to breaking up; Colin was at the back of the Hall cheering louder for the holidays.

What was it about 1954 starters? Was it an exceptional year to produce at least two professors?

Whilst putting this article together on 8 August your editor is listening to Radio 4's Sunday morning programme BH on which Colin is one of the guests to discuss the contents of that morning's papers. Spooky or what!

### **ROLLS GALORE...**

In the last edition on page 18 we featured a photo of DAVID KERSHAW (48-56) and friends arriving at a KOSA Reunion in Dave's Rolls Royce. A postcard from WILSON BARRETT (48-55) in Strasbourg where he lives commented succinctly 'I note that David Kershaw now rides in comfort!'

We also mentioned that MIKE COKAYNE (52-58) owns two Rollers, to which David's response was to send KOSA the photograph (below) of his two Rollers! The older one on the left is a 1928 20HP model and the later one is a 1972 *Silver Shadow*. Can anyone beat that?



David Kershaw's two Rollers (above)...

...and a photo of Mike Cokayne's duo is shown at the top of the next page.



(51-57) (now Cron), attended KGS when the family lived in Kingswood in the 50s.

MARGARET LOVELL (50-55) is now an internationally acclaimed sculptor who has had a book written about her. An extract from the book review in a recent RWA Friends Magazine gives a flavour of the content:

*Margaret Lovell, Sculptor* by Peter Davies and others.

In this beautiful new book, Peter Davies explores Margaret Lovell's life-long love of sculpture, spanning four decades. The book is lavishly interspersed with more than two hundred high quality illustrations, giving many fine examples of Lovell's sculptures from the outset of her career, to the present day.

Demonstrating talent at an early age, the book describes the 'artistic debt' she owed her school teacher HAROLD WATTS in setting her extra work that enabled her to pass her 'A' levels during her first year at college. It was her passion and dedication to Art, plus sustained hard work, that finally persuaded her parents to dismiss the idea of their daughter having a nice safe job working in a bank.

At the end of the book in a section aptly named 'Reflections', Margaret Lovell gives a personalized account of her life and work. Perhaps it is here that one can capture a little of the essence of her drive and creativity, as she states towards the end of her summary: "Whilst I am engaged in making sculpture I am in a beautiful oblivion of peace".

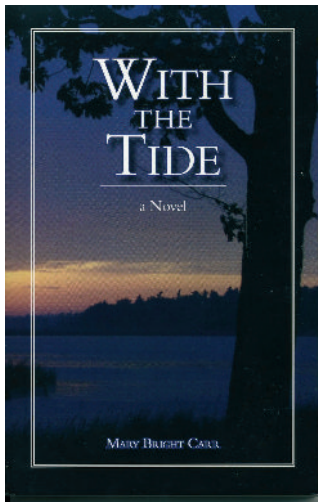
The book is available at £29.95 from the publisher, but Margaret has agreed to give members of KOSA a £5 discount if ordered through her and if KOSA is mentioned on ordering. Signed copies may be ordered through her website:

## **AUTHORS...**

Also in the last edition we reported the book, *Two Penn'oth of Poison*, written by PENNEY ENGLAND (59-64) (now Deverill). We have received news of more books produced by KOSA members.

MARY BRIGHT CARR (54-57) (now Howes) has written a novel, *With the Tide*. The book, which has been published in the US where Mary is a professor at a university in New York State, is available on the World Wide Web for \$15.

The novel to some extent reflects Mary's experience of living on both sides of the Atlantic. The book is set in New York, Dublin (where Mary was at university), Lymington and London and she said that she even used some ideas which she developed after we took her to lunch at the *Rose & Crown* in Wick! Altogether a good read.



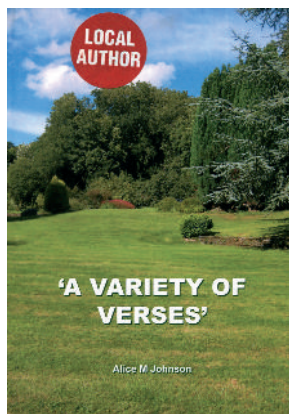
Mary has a good pedigree as an author as she is the daughter of American author John Dickson Carr who was a prolific writer of crime novels and radio plays. Mary, and her sister, BONITA CARR



Margaret tells us that just about the first photo in the book is of her with Harold Watts, taken over a year before he died. She is still in touch with Harold's son. The photograph above shows Margaret (left) with Harold and Mrs Watts in their home in Cornwall.

In the last edition we printed the memories of ALICE WEBB (30-35) (now Johnson). What was not reported was that Alice writes poetry and she has a book of her verse in print - *A Variety of Verses*. From the proceeds she make a contribution to her parish church of St James in Tytherington, where she lives.

Copies are available from Alice on 01454 412148 at a bargain price of £6.99. The poems are all from Alice's



experiences of a long life - she is now 91 years young - and they are very entertaining.

An apposite example of Alice's work written in 1996 is printed on page 15 opposite. The

friend referred to is ETHEL KIRK (30-35) (now Harding), a

friend of Alice's who is also 91. They went to primary school and KGS together. The poem captures Warmley Station and the years gone by, seemingly in a flash.

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### **AUSSIE TREK...**

BRENDA GANE (56-61) (now Kinkead) has completed a trek across the Australian Desert, and although we don't normally cover members' holidays we report Brenda and her husband's adventure. Because of its length, however, we've had to slightly edit the story:

'My husband, Stephen and I, last September left our home in Sydney and headed for the Red Centre of Australia in a Nissan Patrol. We travelled some 3,500 kms with about 2,500 kms of that on dirt roads before reaching our main objective, the Canning Stock Route in W. Australia. The Canning is said by many to be the most challenging 4 x 4 track in the world because of its remoteness, terrain and length. It was a stock route established by Alfred Canning in 1906/07 consisting of 55 wells spaced about 30 kms apart for watering cattle. Most wells are now dry ruins with just some wooden posts and metal troughs left. A few have been restored and give excellent water.

'The Canning from Billiluna in the north where we joined it to Wiluna in the south is 1700 kms in length, with 1200 kms of this being sand dunes to cross! There are also many hundreds of kms of corrugations, stones, steep creek beds and washouts to conquer. The track receives no maintenance, has no official signage, and is one vehicle wide. A compass and GPS are godsend, especially at junctions where there might be some form of unofficial signage left by previous travellers. Travellers have to be able to carry enough fuel, water and food for a 1200 km stretch of the track where there are no services at all.

1996 - 68 YEARS ON!

The years between are nothing - we met - we laughed - we strayed  
Around the old school buildings,  
where once two children played.  
The rooms were strangely empty - the  
playground silent - bare,  
No running, jumping children, ball-bed  
or hopscotch square.

The years between are nothing - we met - we laughed - we talked.  
We wandered round the village,  
where once two girls had walked.  
The Station House was altered, its  
garden just 'not there',  
The level crossing gates were gone  
-the footbridge now thin air.  
The platforms empty - silent, no snaking  
railway lines,  
A concrete cycle track instead - a sign  
of changing times.  
No glowing railway signals, the waiting-room  
locked, too.  
The coal-yard now a car-park, with a  
very obvious loo.

The years between are nothing - we met - we laughed - we knew,  
That next scene was the Grammar  
School for our young maidens two.  
The next four years were full of fun,  
and gathering information,  
They must have done some work - for  
both, achieved Matriculation!  
Then one - whom College beckoned -  
stayed on for 'Higher' things,  
The other left for pastures new - to try  
her restless wings.

The years between are nothing - we met - we laughed - we're OLD!  
In years perhaps, but not in mind, and  
when the story's told -  
Both grew mature, and found a mate  
and happiness in living,  
Both mothered sons, who kept them  
young, joy to their parents giving.

And now as Grannies, still quite young,  
in heart if not in deed,  
The years between are nothing - we met - we laughed - we strayed  
Down Memory Lane together, reliving  
days gone by.

'Stephen said that nothing we had read or heard about the track had really prepared him for what it was really like. To be quite honest my heart was often in my mouth. We also had car trouble with a broken exhaust and a damaged radiator, which didn't help and we only saw 13 cars on the track the whole two weeks we were on it. Our average speed was 20 kms per hour in third gear, so the going was very slow. We snapped our warning flag off on day two, as the track was so narrow that we just could not avoid all over-hanging vegetation. Fortunately Stephen was able to fix this with some tape he had thrown in at the last minute. We had so much "big" recovery gear like snatch ropes, electric winch, special mats etc, but what we really

needed was bolts, wire and washers for the problems we faced.

'There was great beauty there to be sure, the scenery changed markedly as we travelled from north to south, crossing the Tropic of Capricorn around well 19, but the punishing terrain on the Canning was something else, harsh and unforgiving. The temperatures for us were warmer than usual; up in the high 30's range most days with evenings and mornings quite cool about 5 degrees. Apparently 1,000 people travelled the track or parts of it this last season '09, which would be about 400 cars. We were at the end of the season, hence our not seeing many people, which actually I feel was safer on the dunes,

because when you climb up them you just cannot see over the other side. We used to stop on the top to see which way the road went as it could go left or right and also if there was anyone else coming up the other side. We only met one other vehicle on a dune, and they were coming up as we were on the top so there was no problem fortunately. We had to make 5 attempts to get over some dunes, they were high and difficult!



'We were very pleased to have completed the trip, especially with our car issues, so we headed for home which was still 4,000 kms away, rather than doing some other things we had planned, having travelled almost 10,000 kms in all.'

The photo (above) shows Brenda out in the Bush in her Aussie gear.

### ***TWO REUNIONS...***

PAT BRYAN (56-62) (now Walker) wrote to KOSA NEWS about her reunion with old friends from a School photograph: 'In fact I have had two reunions. I bumped into SANDRA LUCAS a couple of years ago after 45 years. We eventually managed to get in touch with JUDY BURT, but sadly JENNY QUINTON, the fourth member of the quartet in our school photo, had passed away a couple of months previous to our contact. I travelled to Devon in June and stayed with Sandra and the next day we went to Cornwall to meet up with Judy, who is

married to JOHN WINCHESTER (55-60), and had a wonderful time.



Jenny, Judy, Sandra and Pat  
at school in 1959



Reunion 1: Judy, Sandra and Pat in 2010

'You can imagine the chat as we had 48 years to catch up on. Hopefully we will make this an annual event. When I returned home I had an email from JANET CHELL with an invite to lunch the next week to meet up with BRENDA GANE who was over from Australia. Amazingly Judy and John also came up from Cornwall (to stay with her Dad who lives at Timsbury). Brenda left England 40 years ago. What a very special treat to meet up and relive (with some old photos) our time at KGS and to catch up with all the family news from the last 48 years.'

(Phew! - BRENDA GANE certainly gets around - see photo top left and her Aussie trip which starts on page 14 - Ed)





Reunion 2: Pat, Brenda, John, Judy and Janet

***ANOTHER DOWN UNDER...***

COLLEEN BYRNE (46-53) (now Thomas) writes from Sydney, NSW:

'Thank you so much for sending me KOSA NEWS, it really takes me back to my youth!

'In No: 36 Spring 2010 on page 24, the article entitled OXBRIDGE - JULY 1952 I recognise the person first from the left as JEAN PERRY, also a 46er, who went on to do a law degree at LSE as far as I recall. I met up with ANN MORRIS last year when I visited the UK, at CYNTHIA UNDERWOOD'S house in Weston-Super-Mare together with KATHLEEN HARDWICK and PRISCILLA POWELL, also 46 to 53ers, at a mini reunion.

'I also have news of my brother MARTYN BYRNE 1952 to 1956 or 7, He now has Alzheimer's and lives in a very nice nursing home also here in Sydney.

'I must congratulate KOSA on the new colour photos which really take me back. I remember going to the air raid shelters which were trenches which had been dug out of the playing fields in front of the school buildings. We lived so close to the school they were our nearest shelter as we didn't have an Anderson shelter in our garden. We would walk along Tennis Court Road in the dark and go

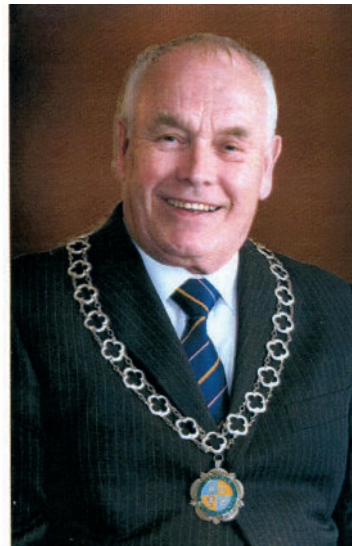
down into the trenches which were all muddy and wet, with wooden seats along the sides, and we could hear the planes going over-head and the sound of anti-aircraft guns in the distance. Eventually my mother got fed up with going out in the middle of the night and we just stayed home. I was about five at the time but that was my first attendance at Kingswood Grammar School.

'I did attend a couple of reunions at Downend with Cynthia in about 2004 and 5 before coming back to live in Sydney and remember the one attended by COLIN PILLINGER when they were still hoping for news of their satellite.

'I remember reading a letter from ANN HODGES also in Sydney some time ago. She is a cousin of mine, as is ROGER GREENAWAY - how families keep cropping up, all attending KGS!'

***...AND ANOTHER 46er...***

Since early May, TERRY GIBBS (46-50)



has been Mayor of the town of Hatfield in Yorkshire, which is about 6 miles to the east of Doncaster.

Terry tells us that he is very proud to have been elected especially as he believes that he is the first non-Yorkshire person to occupy the 1-year post.

Terry regularly attends the 46 Reunions which are held twice yearly at KATHLEEN HARDWICK'S (now FILER) Farm in Clapton-in-Gordano, Somerset.

## **JUNE'S MEMORIES...**

JUNE PICKLES (38-45) (now Birch) has shared with KOSA some interesting war-time memories.

'I remember the day of the dress rehearsal of *1066 and All That* took place at KGS. The sirens went so that Good King Bess, the Caveman and everyone else ran in full costume to the trenches or shelters.

'At the height of the Battle of Britain MISS POWELL had all the girls in the Hall at a break-time and berated them about their posture – "At least the Germans hold their shoulders up!" she said. She then got us in a circle to do the goose-step to improve our posture – much to the delight of the boys watching outside!

'She was a superb teacher and the only one I heard say that if Chamberlain was so taken in by Hitler at Munich why did he order increased production of Spitfires on his return? 1938 gave us time to build the planes that won the Battle of Britain.

'All my teachers were great at KGS but three who stood out for me were MISS POWELL, MISS WATTERS and 'BONEY' BRITTON. The latter developed my love of English by encouraging me in my written English and of the written word in books and poetry – but you had to work for him! Through KGS I learnt that anything in life that looks easy is likely to be the result of hard work.

'I married and had a family after going to my grandmother's old college of St Mary's, Cheltenham, now part of the University of Gloucestershire, the first grand-daughter to do so. I then taught in Northampton and Bristol.

'Returning to teaching I at the same time studied for my BEd and my MEd and had a year's secondment to study for my DASE in Counselling and Careers, which got me my last post as Head of Careers in a local comprehensive school when jobs were scarce.

'I've written a lot of poetry and creative writing on many subjects since retirement and I owe it all to the good teaching of all the KGS staff. I must admit, however, that I have never really liked Maths!'

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## **KGS ARCHIVES...**

JULIE JOHNS (68-75) has come across some useful references when carrying out some research of her own. She has found that there is a wealth of information in the Gloucester Archives Office about Kingswood Grammar and Secondary Schools which is immediately available for research. Elsewhere DOREEN PILLINGER (48-53) has queried the possibility of a history of KGS and Kingsfield, in which case this information would be extremely useful.

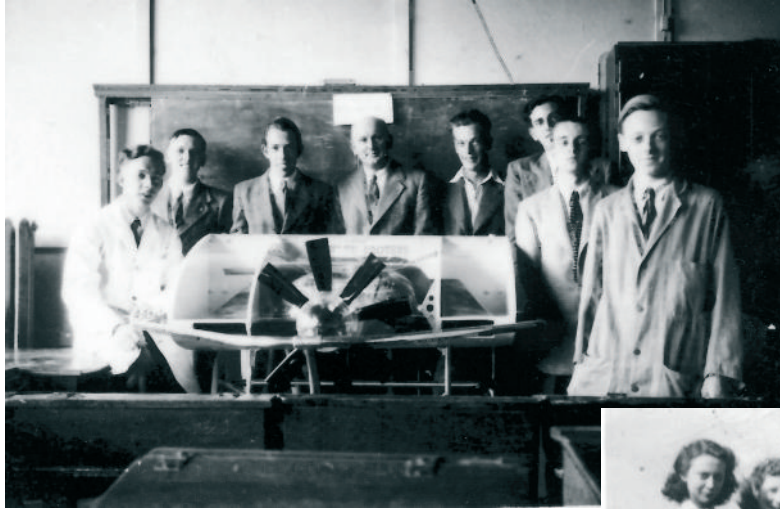
Under the reference SM192/ there are volumes of School Governors' Minutes for KSS and KGS for the years 1921-49, the minutes of the Finance and General Purposes Committee for the same years and the Works Committee minutes for 1921-39, about 17 volumes of papers in total.

If any member has the opportunity to access any of these volumes please let KOSA know. The late KENNETH MEEK produced a book called *We Were There* which covered the early days of KSS and KGS in which he quotes Gloucester and Bristol Record Offices as two of his many sources. A copy of the book is available from Committee Member ALAN HIRESON (62-69) on 0117 3730578 for a donation of £8, but only 3 copies left - first come, first served!

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### **A KGS COUPLE...**

Last time we briefly reported a letter from DAVID 'ROY' WOTTON and his wife SYLVIA HOOK (46-51). Roy went to Bristol University after KGS and went into aeronautics when he joined Fairey Aviation in Hayes, Middlesex.



Perhaps an indication of Roy's future career was illustrated by the photograph (above) of the scale mock-up of the Brabazon engine installation in 'BUNNY' AUSTEN'S Physics lab in 1951.

The photo (below) shows ten girls from Form 3A in April 1949. Sylvia is standing, second from the left.

At the bottom of this page is a photo of Roy's 5th form - Roy is 2nd row, 5th from the left. Other (legible) names signed on the back are:

D Roso?, E Fletcher?, AJ Churchill, GJ Tipton, M Powell, A Rooper?, M David, RL Trevelyan, V Fisher, Margaret Vagg, P Penn, Anne Seymour, Dorothy Fry, Brenda Newman, Valerie Handy, K Arnold, Iris Jarrett, Pamela Ball, D T Weaver,



**BACK TO ROOTS...**

MERVYN POWELL (49-57) has written a book of verse called *Travels in Verse* which he has published privately. It reflects the places he has been lucky enough to have visited during his varied life, from Nairobi and the Rift Valley of Africa to Death Valley in the US. He has also been kind enough to let us have



some of his photos of his era at KGS.

Above is Mervyn in c1954 on his new Raleigh Racer about to cycle to KGS. Below is one of the Kingswood YMCA productions in about 55 or 56. Which one? As is usual at that time the cast is virtually exclusively made up of KGS



pupils. KOSA Vice-Chairman, BOB GRAY, is the pirate. Nothing changes!

We've chosen to publish one of Mervyn's poems about the Bristol accent, as if there was one!

Bristolian

If you want to speak Bristolian really well  
And all your critics swiftly quell,  
Its an easy rule, clear as a bell,  
'To words ending in a vowel, simply add an 'L' '.

It will seem strange at the beginning  
With comments rather stinging.  
But you will soon get the ideal,  
As your way you feel.

When I was a teacher in school,  
I believe they thought me a fool,  
When I taught things geographical  
About Americal and Africal.

Their spelling became quite absurd.  
They didn't know the correct word.  
Was it Zambial and Gambial,  
And Ghanal and Nigerial?

Their learning made me cry  
As the years rolled by.  
Their work became abysmal  
When studying Abyssinial.

It really got much worse,  
As indeed is this verse,  
Because then I taught Australial  
With its capital, Canberral.

Some countries were not changed by my  
tongue,  
Germany, Holland and Belgium,  
To get a good testimonial,  
I avoided Albanial and Estonial.

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### ***JOHN'S MEMORIES..***

JOHN BERRY (32-38) wrote a paper of his memories of KGS before he died and they have recently come to light. In 1940 John found himself in France with the East Kent Signals looking down on Royal Navy ships which he couldn't possibly reach. He was captured by the Germans and spent the rest of the War in POW camps in several countries in Europe. During this time he learned to speak fluent German and in 1945 was released by the US troops.

In October 1995, 50 years after the end of hostilities, KOSA planted an oak tree in the grounds of Kingsfield School to commemorate those from KGS who were killed and injured in service of their country during the Second World War. Appropriately, John Berry helped plant that tree and we are pleased to report that it survives to this day to complement the Old Oak.

John's written reminiscences are many and quite detailed so we are planning to spread them over a number of editions. They serve as a tribute to John Berry's memory. In the photo on page 22 of the cricket team in the 30s, John is standing, second from the right:

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### **REMINISCENCES OF KGS. (Part 1)**

There follow some memories of Kingswood Grammar School over the period 1930 to 1938, in no particular order of

time or importance. One season the Boys' 2nd XI cricket team were having a wretched time - something like 9 defeats and 2 draws. The girls challenged them to a match, under normal cricket rules. The boys were scared stiff they would lose and carried out the most intensive course of practice, lunch time and after school, ever known: it was a tight match, no quarter given or asked, which the boys, to their relief, just managed to win.

Nor was any quarter given (at least by the girls), in the annual hockey match, just before the Easter holiday, between the girls' hockey first team and the boys' first eleven football team. MAJOR EATON used to referee, and would give the boys a strict warning about careful play - but it would be the boys who would suddenly stumble and fall, a hockey stick between their legs on the blind side of the referee. Nevertheless, on at least one occasion, the boys won, even if almost everyone of them limped off the field.

Much more gentlemanly was the annual tennis match, on the last day of the summer term after the rest of the school had gone home, between the girls' tennis team and eight of the boys' cricket team (the girls insisted they should be from the cricket team in order to exclude certain boys good at tennis but not at cricket). For girls to be on the premises a mistress had to be present, and MISS POWELL would only consent to the match if one had volunteered for this task; what she never knew (at least we hoped she didn't) was that the moment her train for Clifton steamed out of Warmley Station, the mistress would bid everyone a happy day and holiday, and disappear. This match always included tea, paid for by the boys. One year the boys had problems in finding a fourth pair, but two of the cricket team volunteered to learn how to play and went into

secret practice. In their first match of 11 games against the girls' first pair, brilliant but a bit temperamental, the boys won something like 9-2: every shot they played was heavily sliced, and the harder the girls hit the more out of court their returns went, even through a school window. But the girls second pair, steady rather than brilliant, took just one game to get the hang of what the boys play was and then slaughtered them 10-1. The girls used to have a fine tennis team, partly because they used to practise in the lunch hour against the boys (we believe Miss Powell! was torn over this - she disapproved of the girls mixing with the boys, but she was proud of the girls' success).



During the summer the girls used to support the boys' cricket team, going down to watch (in their summer frocks of course, not their school uniforms) before going to help MRS MOSS serve the teas - to be waited on by pretty young ladies was a treat for the visiting team, though no doubt most of the young ladies were more interested in members of the home team! Again, this was a practice of which Miss Powell would not have approved, though Major Eaton did not

voice dissent if he ever came down to watch.

Another tradition operated on away sporting trips, when both boys (football or cricket) and girls (hockey or tennis) travelled by coach to another mixed school, of which there quite a few in the area. On the way out, the master and mistress in charge sat in the middle of the coach with the girls in front of them and the boys behind; on the return (unless Flos was the mistress!), the master and mistress sat at the front and asked no questions as to where everyone else sat.

A lot of stories are told to Miss Powell's

detriment but she had her good points. On one occasion she called for silence in the dining hall during lunch. One of the prefects saw a boy about to flip a banana skin over his shoulder, and ordered him not to - a strident voice from Miss Powell "When I ask for silence, that includes the prefects". That afternoon the prefect concerned shared with one of the other staff (MISS

EYRES, as it happens) the problem of how the prefects could be expected to maintain discipline when their authority was undermined in this way. Something went on behind the scenes, for the next day Miss Powell called the prefect in and unreservedly apologised for her hasty remark, promising to avoid such a step in future.

One prefect, too, was called up before Major Eaton. He had been on duty the previous evening after school, and one

junior had quite deliberately hung around instead of changing out of his football gear, in order to delay the prefect. Eventually the latter had frog-marched the boy out, sending his clothes out after him, whereupon the boy had stated he would complain to the Head. Major reminded the prefect that he should not have dealt with the problem physically, merely reporting him, and advised him to adopt that procedure should the problem arise again. As the prefect left, Major stopped him as he reached the door and added "Oh, by the way, I have given that boy six of the best!".

A post-war memory:

After the war, there was a cricket match between the school and the Old Scholars, which drew to a very exciting close finish, so much so that when a batsman snicked the ball to the wicket-keeper not only all 11 fielders but also both umpires appealed. Also, at the first Old Scholars' dance after the war one returned soldier who asked a young lady he had known at school for a dance received the initial response "But you're dead!".

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### **THE SONGWRITER...**

BRENDA WOODMAN (49-54) (now Frost) has looked up her fellow-pupil, composer and singer ROGER GREEN-AWAY (49-55) on the Web by accessing Wikipedia. For the non-techies, Wikipedia is like an encyclopaedia online; it's a mine of information but it doesn't always get everything right.

It gives Roger as having been best known for his collaboration with Tony Cook and when they were both members of *The Kestrels* close-harmony group they decided to begin writing songs together. Their first hit, by The Fortunes in 1965, was a #2 UK hit single 'You've Got Your Troubles' and later that year they began recording as David & Jonathan. In 1968 they announced that

they would cease recording as a duo but would continue as songwriters.

Probably their most famous composition 'I'd like to Teach the World to Sing' started life as a *New Seekers*' song 'True Love & Apple Pie' but was rewritten as a TV commercial for Coca-Cola, eventually becoming #1 in the UK and #7 in the US in 1972.

Nowadays, Roger takes an increasingly administrative role in the music industry but he is by some measures the twenty seventh most successful songwriter in UK chart history, based on the number of weeks his compositions have spent in the charts. According to the website, he has had 58 Hits, 2 #1s, 31 Top Tens and 562 weeks in the Charts.

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### **...AND THE PAINTER...**

NORA HILL (33-38) (now Brierly) always wanted to go to art college but war broke out so she trained as a shorthand typist instead after leaving KGS. She eventually became the Postmistress in the small community of Grosmont in south Wales, just happy to watch her husband, who was a professional artist, painting the watercolours in which he specialised.

After he died, Nora signed up for a local art class in the Town Hall and has never looked back. Using Grosmont as her inspiration - she and her husband had fallen in love with the village from the day they arrived 46 years ago - she produced paintings of the area and had them printed as a variety of postcards and sold them in her shop.

Following her success with the cards, Nora then produced a book of poems with illustrations which she sold to raise funds for the restoration of the village church. She sold 200 copies of her book *Grosmont in Very Simple Verse* in three weeks raising over £1,000. Some copies

were sold as far afield as New Zealand and Canada.



© Nora Brierly

Nora has no plans for another book, but is planning to continue to capture the beauties of her village on canvas. Above and below are examples of her work.

#### GROSMONT - The Hill of Green

The first time I saw Grosmont  
I knew it had to be  
The village I had searched for,  
This was the place for me.

The Greig was bathed in sunshine  
On that mellow autumn day,  
A hill so very wondrous  
It took my breath away.

A happy hill, such peace was there,  
The sheep, they grazed without a care  
Upon those slopes of green and gold  
Where sheep have grazed since days of old.

The village stood beneath it,  
A mix of this and that.  
A dog came out to greet me  
And then a friendly cat  
Purred its way towards me  
Confirming what I knew,  
That this must be a special place  
With special people too.

Some 40 years have rolled away  
And changes there have been,  
But one thing never changes  
That glorious hill of green.

#### ***DID YOU KNOW...***

GEOFF MACKAY (52-58) has sent KO-SA the photo below of the famous Kingwood Clock Tower. He tells us that the photo is actually a spoof - the tower is actually three storeys high not four.



Geoff tells us that the tower was designed by his great grandfather as it appears in the photo, but Kingswood Council, or whatever the local bureaucracy was called at the time, wanted a cheaper design - hence the truncated version we see today. It cost the magnificent sum of £114 in 1897, being many thousands at today's prices.

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#### ***AN AWARD...***

MARY FORTY (53-58?) (now Prior) has been awarded an honorary MBA degree by the University of the West of England, Bristol for her outstanding contribution to local public service and her advisory support of Bristol Business School.

Mary is an MBE, a JP and the Lord Lieutenant of the City of Bristol, the Queen's representative in the city.



### **DEMOCRACY...**

In the last edition, just prior to the May 2010 election, we featured our two ex-KGS MPs, DAVID DREW (63-70?) and JANET ANDERSON (61-?). Sadly, (although that very much depends on your political point of view) they both lost their seats in that election. The latest news of David, who represented Stroud in Parliament for 13 years, is that he is now in a non-executive role as Chairman of Forest Green Rovers, a football team in Nailsworth. There is no news of Janet's plans – perhaps she could drop KOSA a line and let us know.

### **TOP JOB...**

RICHARD SCUDAMORE (69-77) is Chief Executive of the Premier League. Richard, who is one of the first who started and left Kingsfield School, read Law at Nottingham University and Land Management at Reading. He then worked in newspapers and publishing for 10 years in marketing with Thomson, three of which he spent in the United States as Senior Vice President for

Thomson's operations in the southern and eastern states.

Richard was appointed CEO of the Premier League in 1999 after a two year period as Chief Executive of the Football League. He's a qualified level 5 referee and reported to be a Bristol City fan. With Richard's high-profile role, he features regularly in the media.

### **YOUNGSTERS...**

The photo below of the 1960 under-14 Netball Team appears to be unusual in two respects.

Most of the sporting photos we receive are of the boys' rugby and cricket teams and the girls' hockey and tennis teams; netball team photos are quite rare. It was unusual, too, to have team photos of the younger teams designated by age; they were usually described 'Junior' or 'Second XI'.

Are there any more out there and can anyone give us the names of the girls in the shot?





### ***SILENCE...***

Kingsfield Maths teacher, ALF COLES, had a mention on the recent Radio 4 programme Word of Mouth, which is hosted by Michael Rosen. Alf discussed the use of silence as a means of obtaining attention and good behaviour in class. He has found that promoting silence affects the pupils' responses and has provoked discussion in class.

Alf, who is completing a PhD and has been at Kingsfield for 15 years, reported that 40 pupils out of 60 in the 6th form are studying for 'A' level Maths. Good to hear that Kingsfield is keeping up traditions.

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### ***RSA CONNECTIONS...***

ROBIN WELCH (56-64), LIONEL HARRIS (52-57) and Lionel's wife DIANE WOGAN (56-61) all have connections with South Africa. They all have property and spend time there during the year. Indeed, Diane was actually born in Cape Town and was brought to the UK when young where she attended KGS.

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### ***SAD NEWS...***

As we complete this edition of KOSA NEWS the sad news has come through of the death of RALPH HYETT in July 2010 at the age of 84. Ralph taught Chemistry, having joined KGS in September 1955 after obtaining his degree from Exeter University and initially teaching in Gosport, Hampshire. He was born in Tavistock.

At KGS Ralph served as Head of Chemistry, Head of the Sixth Form and Head of Upper School before retiring in 1986. He also ran the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme and the school sports teams. He cycled into his 80s and enjoyed gardening, walking and cooking. He was married to Christine and they had two sons.

Many budding scientists passed through Ralph's Chemistry laboratory, including COLIN PILLINGER (54-61). Ralph appears in the 1962 staff photo above. In the back row, he's the fourth from the left.

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

### ***OUR APPEAL...***

In the last edition we appealed for support for the Kingsfield School trip to Kenya, which was facing increased costs due to the falling pound. Due to your generosity, we were able to pass over £425 plus \$84 to the school and we would like to thank all those who contributed. Two students from the school came to the April reunion to talk about the proposed trip and receive the donations. The photo below shows KOSA Chairman STAN BURRAGE and Treasurer MARTIN HARRIMAN (both 51-56) with Sarah and Emily at the lunch.



### ***WELCOME TO...***

New members since the last edition, using maiden names for the ladies: Jane Brown (61-68), David Ann (55-63), Barbara Cool (45-50), Clive Lovell (53-59), Roger Coles (51-58), David Britton (56-60), Stephen Wallington (56-64), Corrine Gilson (51-56), Tony Cockram (55-62), Mick Thomas (53-60), Bob Fudge (53-60), Jenny Read (55-60), Mark Slavin (78-82), Mervyn Peacock (27-33) (father), Ian Peacock (58-65) (son), Joan Webb (40-46?), David Forward (58-65), Lynn Culley (56-62), Paul Culley (60-66), Nora Hill (33-38).

We extend a welcome to all those who have joined us. We welcome contributions of stories and photographs from them and existing members to help keep the memory of the School alive. If you know of someone who might like to receive KOSA NEWS just send us their details and we will do the rest.

### ***THANKS...***

Many thanks to all those who have sent in financial contributions to KOSA. We do not normally acknowledge receipts from individuals on the grounds of cost, but nevertheless they are very much appreciated. Our accounts for the year to 31 December 2009 which were approved at the last AGM are enclosed, now audited.

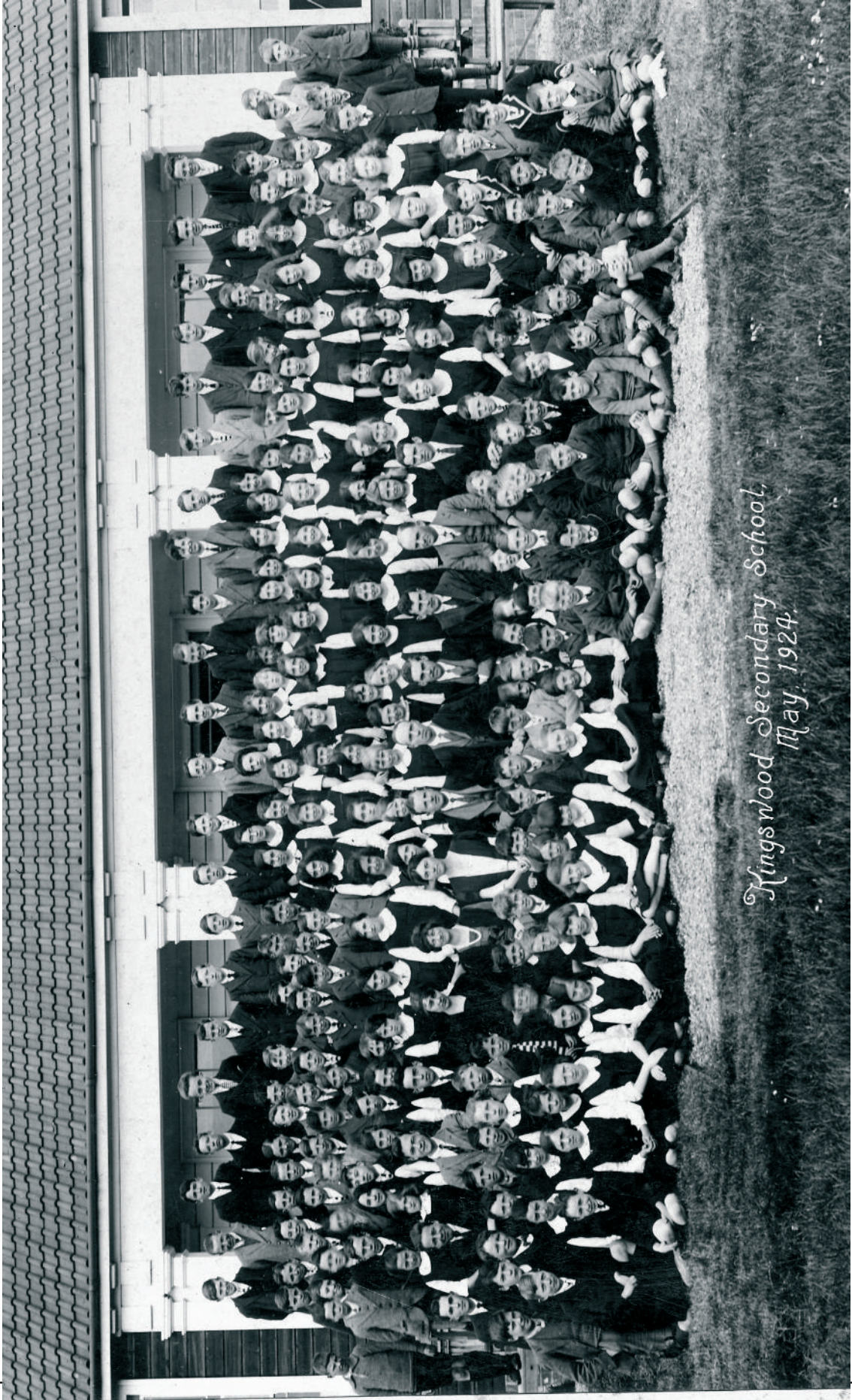
Your Committee is considering the possibility of inviting members to pay their voluntary subscriptions by a bank standing order. What do you think? Please let us know.

### ***DATA PROTECTION...***

One of the major objectives of KOSA is to reunite friends and colleagues of our school-days. To enable this to take place we encourage the free exchange of contact information but we only give this information to other KOSA members. If you do not wish your contact information to be given, please inform the editor and your wishes will be respected.

### ***...AND FINALLY...***

The photo of the school in 1924 on the back page was sent in by EILEEN GINGELL (41-44) (now Noble). On the photo are only about 208 pupils and 11 staff then. A good example of 'big oaks from little acorns grow!'



*Kingswood Secondary School,  
May, 1924.*