



KOSA NEWS



NUMBER 38 - SUMMER 2011

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

Editor: Mike Bendrey, 26 Overndale Road, Downend, Bristol, BS16 2RT

Tel/Fax: 0117 956 5689 E-mail address: kosanews@tiscali.co.uk

DIARY DATES:

ANNUAL SPRING LUNCH & AGM:

Booked for **SATURDAY, 9 APRIL 2011** at LINCOMBE BARN, Downend. We meet at 12 for a chat and a drink from the bar and a quick AGM at 12.30. We 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'.

59ers REUNION:

IAN BRYANT and PAUL JOBBINGS are organising a reunion buffet lunch for all those who started in 1959. It's booked for **SATURDAY, 16 APRIL 2011** at CHIP-PING SODBURY TOWN HALL, Broad Street, BS37 6AD at 12.30pm If you are one of those 59ers contact Ian on 0117 932 4053 or Paul on 01454 324880 to book and for further details. A bargain at 10 quid!

46ers REUNION LUNCH:

The next lunch at KATHLEEN HARDWICK'S FARM down in Clapton-in-Gordano is on **SATURDAY, 7 MAY 2011**. 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.

ANNUAL AUTUMN LUNCH:

Already booked for **SATURDAY, 15 OCTOBER 2011** at LINCOMBE BARN, Downend. **NOTE CHANGE FROM NORMAL WEEKEND**
Please book the date in your diary now.

KINGSFIELD SCHOOL REUNION:

SATURDAY, 22 OCTOBER 2011 at 7.30-11.00pm at LONGWELL GREEN COMMUNITY CENTRE. For pupils who joined in 1967 & 1968, leaving 5th year 1972 & 1973, 6th form 1974 & 1975. Tickets must be obtained in advance by contacting JULIE JOHNS at matherjohns@btinternet.com or 020 8543 4705 or Mob: 07792 2218089. Details also on Friends Reunited and Facebook.

OBITUARIES...

KOSA has received the sad news of the death of MARGARET FORSEY (52-59) on Christmas Day 2010. Margaret was married to SIMON BANKS (53-59), to whom we send our condolences.

Margaret had a glittering career through KGS and a cursory scanning of the *Kingwood Chronicles* of her era reveals that in 58-59 she was Head of School, Head of Davies House, played in the Hockey Team and was awarded a County Major Scholarship to Westfield College, London University to read French. She was also awarded the 'Berry' Special Prize on Prize Day.

After university, Margaret ultimately became Head of French at Rodway High School, which later became Mangotsfield School.

Boy, is seated on the left of the staff, next to MISS MORRISON.

JILL BROOKS (53-59), now Hayden, has informed KOSA that NANCY PEARCE (52-58), later Cleevly, passed away in September 2010 at the age of 69. She came to Bristol from Somerset just after the war and she went to High Street Junior School, Kingwood, before going to KGS.

After KGS Nancy trained as an income tax officer and she met her husband Roger in Old Market, waiting for the bus home and they were married for 50 years this year. They had two children, Paul and Helen. Up until her death she was a great friend of PAM GUEST (52-59), now Hanks.

Nancy was an active member of the



In the photo (above) of the 1959 Prefects, Margaret is seated in the front row right of the then Senior Master, MR JARVIS, indicating her status as Head of School. VIC JORDAN (51-59), Head

village of Pucklechurch, where she lived. She served on the Twinning Association committee with another Old Scholar, RENE BOYELDIEU (27-32), who died in 2008. The Association handles the twin-

ning of Pucklechurch with Pringy in France, and one of the French dignitaries gave an address at her funeral.

Netball Team (left) on the left of the front row.



TONY WILLIAMS (51-56) sadly passed away on 12 November 2010. Tony was a contemporary of your Ed at KGS and passed the 11+ from Staple Hill Junior School, following his brother JIM WILLIAMS (47-52) to the school.

After leaving KGS, Tony joined Bristol City Council, together with his friend TREVOR 'TITCH' WHEELER

(also 51-56) who passed away in 2005. Tony worked for the Robinson Group for a while but then spent 33 years with Rolls Royce, initially in the Cost Office and latterly as a Management Accountant. He retired from Rolls Royce at 54 and then worked as a delivery driver for a butcher in Mangotsfield, finally retiring at 65.

Omar Beg, Chairman of the Parish Council, summed up Nancy very well in *Pucklechurch News* and we reproduce his tribute with permission:

'Many of you will have heard of the death of Nancy Cleevely at the end of September. Nancy was a member of the Parish Council for some years, a governor at Pucklechurch School, a founding member of the Twinning Association, and a member of the Village Hall Management Committee that led to the building of the Community Centre. She was also actively involved with the Badminton and Hockey Clubs.

'Nancy was a woman of the highest integrity and was a source of sound and honest advice. She had great sense of fun and enjoyed nothing better than a robust debate about any topic you could think of. At a time when politicians seek to have a legacy at all costs, Nancy did not have to. Her legacy is all around us, and although we can no longer enjoy her company, we can thank her for what she has left to us by her work in the past.'

Nancy is in the photo of the 54-55 Junior



Tony lived for his family, having a son and a daughter and four grandchildren. He loved having them all around and

shared some happy moments with them all. Tony's wife, Margaret, told KOSA NEWS that they were beginning to enjoy his retirement together, being able to spend time at their flat in Dawlish Warren. Sadly, Tony developed heart trouble and although he had a by-pass operation he passed away from a heart attack in November. He will be sadly missed for his great sense of humour and kindness.

Son, JOHN WITHEY (70-77) has informed KOSA of his father's death.

'It is with great sadness that I write to advise you that my Father, JACK WITHEY (41-46), died on the evening of September 29th 2010. Dad had been ill for many years having been diagnosed with lung cancer in 2003 and suffering a heart attack in 2008. Dad declined further medical treatment towards the end of his life and died peacefully at home with members of his family present, as he wished.

'The funeral was held on October the 12th at Westerleigh Crematorium. It was standing room only and many people joined us at the pub afterwards to share happy memories of Dad's life. You may be interested to know that RON PLASTER was present, Dad and Ron knew each other from school days.

'Dad always spoke very warmly of his school days. His Father, my Grandfather, was away for four and a half years in the Army in North Africa when Dad was at school. I feel that the masters at school were good role models for him during these important years. Dad was always grateful that his Father insisted he finished school and gain his school certificate instead of leaving early as many did.

'Dad was a keen sportsman when young. I remember him telling me that he played left back for the first eleven when he was a fourth former. He also told me that he won the school cross country championship one year. He was tracking the leading boy until they entered the school grounds, which he told me used to be a running track. He then made his move to win the race, ensuring maximum applause from his house mates. I wonder if any one of your readers can remember this?

'Dad was not an ambitious man. He loved the simple things in life including being with his family and friends. When he was first diagnosed with cancer he was overcome by the outpouring of love, affection and support from his friends and family. Personally, I cannot think of any measure of achievement in life that can come close to this.

'As children, my sister and I remember him being the life and soul of the party in any social situation. Many of the messages and kind words we have received since his death have spoken of the fun and laughter he brought into people's lives.



'He enjoyed catching up with old acquaintances in KOSA and I am sure he would like me to thank you for your trouble in keeping the publication going. Above is a photo of Mum and Dad taken about three years ago.'

Jane Monks has written to inform us of her mother's passing:

'I am sadly writing to inform you of the death of my mother ELIZABETH MAY GREEN (41-47) (later MONKS). Although recently not very mobile, she always tried, with the help of my dad, to get to as many KOSA reunions as possible. I would like to say a big thank you to all the members who organise the meetings and the newsletter - it brought mum so much enjoyment to renew old acquaintances and talk about the past.

'On going through mum's photographs, I found these two pictures. My mum is the one in the goalmouth with a hockey stick (wearing white). I have no idea about the names of the other students, perhaps people would like to identify themselves. It was taken sometime in the 1940s.



'However, this is probably the only photograph of my mum doing anything sporting as she was not a keen sports-woman. This was, perhaps, partly due to the only hockey game she ever played for the school team. That week, they were obviously short of players and knowing that she didn't like running, put mum in goal. Not long after noticing a whole row of boys on the wall behind the



goal, watching the girls play, she felt her knicker elastic go. She spent the entire game trying to maintain her dignity and prevent her knickers from slipping down. I'm not sure what the eventual score wasbut she was never asked to play again!

CLOSE ENCOUNTER...

ALAN J SCADDING (36-41) has written to KOSA after reading BILL BROWN's (35-42) obituary:

'I was interested but saddened to read in the last edition of the passing of BILL BROWN. At school I remember him as one of those along with BOB DIDHAM who showed keenness and skill as a goalkeeper in the weekly Soccer matches.

'I remember him more clearly as the instructor-in-charge of Woodwork when I attended evening classes from September 1948 to March 1949 each week at the Senior School near to Page Park in Staple Hill.

'I did not know of Bill's involvement with the Andaman Islands on the Bay of Bengal until I read about it in KOSA

NEWS. In 1945 I was in the Royal Navy Auxiliary Reserve *Dewdale*, then sailing from Bombay to Singapore. The ship was diverted to the Andaman Islands (then used as a prison island for the British Empire in India) as a riot amongst prisoners was reported to be in progress. Luckily the rioters gave in just before our arrival, so we sailed back again en route to Singapore. The world is a small place indeed!

'The RFA ship *Dewdale* was a standard built container ship (Liberty Ship) but specially modified for 'Operation Zipper' (the re-occupation of Singapore and SE Asia). *Dewdale* operated as a floating naval base for landing craft and was fitted with cranes and gantries to house craft on board for repairs or away from rough seas.'

A TRIBUTE...

A tribute to Bill was also received from DAVID BULLOCK (37-43):

'Bill's great treasure was his smile - it said so much about him - the love, the laughter and, most of all, his generosity of spirit.' The photo (below) was taken at David's wedding when Bill was Best Man. David is on the left and Bill on the right.



IAN PEACOCK (58-65) has informed KOSA of the death of his father, MERVYN PEACOCK (27-33).

To all those who have lost a loved one we send our condolences.

MONICA'S RESPONSES...

MONICA JONES (53-59) (now McCulloch) responded to the photo in the last edition of the Under-14s Netball team:

'Re your request for rare netball team photos. On page 3 is one taken during my second year at KGS and I am standing on the right.

'Regarding DOREEN PILLINGER's (48-53) remark about dreading maths lessons with MR HODSON; it may be of some comfort to know that she wasn't alone. I used to feel physically sick as each maths lesson loomed. He took 4L in 1957 and the class included such brilliant mathematicians as 'DAI' EWINS, 'TWEEDY' HARRIS, and DAVID GIFFORD. Naturally, Hodson focused his teaching on the upper echelons in the class while I and no doubt others, were left floundering. Algebra and Geometry were anathema to me. GCE exams were imminent and towards the end of the lesson Mr Hodson looked at me and in his booming voice announced, 'You've a snowflake's chance in hell of passing maths. I would be wasting the country's money to enter you in the exam' How I wanted the floor to open up and swallow me!

'However, *nil desperandum*, I later redeemed myself somewhat. Following 'A' levels I applied to enter the BRI. School of Nursing. Unlike Doreen, I could understand decimals and fractions, passed the entrance exam, and started training in December '59. During my 35 year nursing career, I like to think that I didn't cause harm to those in my care when calculating intravenous fluids and

medications. I wonder if Mr. Hodson would be proud of me?

'Incidentally, my younger son gained a PhD in mathematical physics so perhaps I have a hidden gene - no doubt well hidden - which might have contributed in some way!'

Mr Quelch and other Stories - Part 2.

We've had several positive comments about the humorous element of DOREEN PILLINGER's, (48-53) (now Lindgaard) previous article. Here's part 2:

For Home Economics there was the School Flat where girls were taught to be good little housewives, to dust, clean and polish. Some also cooked for members of staff as well as the academics of the 6th Form, but not me. My Irish Stew was a legend in its lifetime. No boys were involved in these activities of course, any more than girls were allowed in Woodwork. I have forgotten the name of the Home Economics mistress but she was only too willing to dump me on poor Harold WATTS (Art). In one of his lessons I turned over my effort, a garish blue and white still life, before trying to slink out of the door but Harold spotted me. "Look at that girl!" he belated. "She's ashamed of her work!" It was quite true. It still amazes me that I passed Art as I can't draw for toffee.

Who else remembers the embarrassment of country dancing? Or shudders to recall life as a wallflower at the excruciating House Christmas parties in the Hall? Compared with such activities the Film Club, run by BONEY BRITTON, was a pleasant diversion despite most of the shows on offer. There was *Man of Aran*, a grim epic of dour Erse-speaking islanders, going out in shaky boats, shark fishing, with a lot of sea breaking

over the bows. Critically admired at the time though not by me, it was in black and white and went on for eternity. *Nanook of the North* was another bum number. One treat was Hitchcock's *The Lady Vanishes* which is still worth seeing.

"Ma" PERRY, stick thin, hair in a tight mousy bun, taught French in classroom A. She had *aides memoires* pinned up on the walls. Who could forget *le petit elephant* which dwelt *dans la foret Africaine*? Ma also advised on 'Careers'. Throughout my youth, along with "Have you got a boyfriend?" I dreaded the question "What do you want to be when you grow up?" For some unknown reason shorthand and typing were too common to be taught at KGS and consequently those girls not deemed 6th Form material were encouraged into the caring professions. Apart from striving for world peace, beauty queens at the time always expressed a wish to "work with children or animals". Neither beauty nor any such worthy sentiments applied to me. The time came for my 'Careers' interview with Ma. Shuffling some paperwork, she came up with 'Basketry - as a therapy', neatly combining a craft with 'caring'. Had Ma ever seen my craft? Deep sea-diving would have been more suitable. I almost cried but said nothing. Despair washed over me. Miss Perry waved a form and waited patiently for a response. "Yes, Miss," I said dutifully. I did not apply. So began many years as a square peg - see Scruffy Morris, above in part 1. But look on the bright side. At least I was never out of work and only 'retired' in my 73rd year. I would leave a job one day and step into another the next, a luxury no longer available to those leaving Kingsfield now without qualifications.

Here are a few questions....

When did teachers cease to wear their gowns?

Was there a time when 6th Form Boys sported a white tassel on their caps? Or am I dreaming?

Do girls still have to run naked through curtain-less cold showers and do games mistresses in pleated grey shorts and an iron perm still blow a whistle to signify the next quivering batch for this torture? Cruel and Unusual Punishment? Happy Days. Ha.

Did Cecil Day Lewis and Jill Balcon ever visit the school?

Does anyone remember the drawing of five Kingswood collier boys on the school wall? It depicted an incident in 1833 when they were rescued after ten days and nights underground.

Has anyone ever mooted a history of KGS, warts and all? I think it would be a good read.

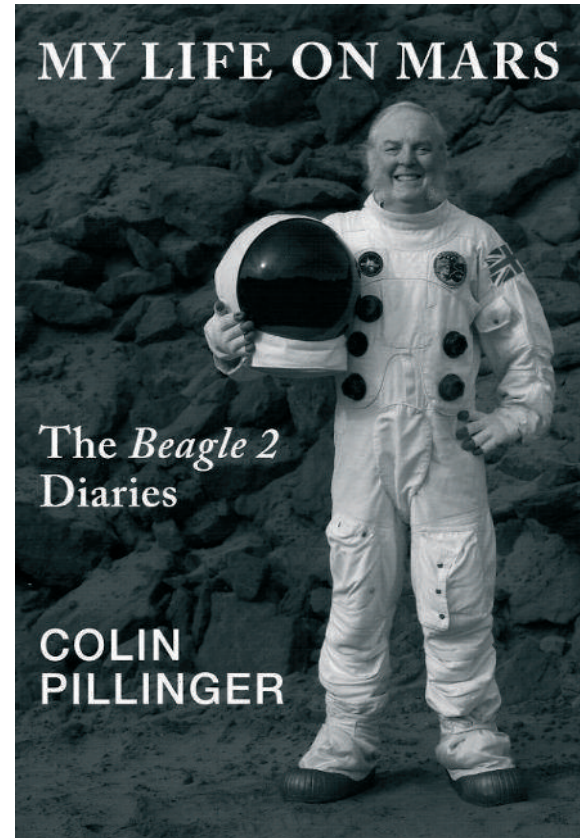
PS. I hope that those who were inspired by the teachers named above will not take offence. I can only speak for myself. The education on the whole did 'stick' but unfortunately I was cripplingly shy and one of the few who didn't quite fit into the system: my memories alas do not have the rosy glow of most KOSA contributors. If it hadn't been for NESTA JEFFERIS and JANICE WILLIE things would have been a great deal worse.

PPS. As for KGS being edited out of COLIN PILLINGER's *Desert Island Discs*, so was I - and I'm his sister!

ALL IN THE FAMILY...

Doreen's brother, COLIN PILLINGER (54-61), has now completed his autobiography *My Life on Mars*, in which he covers his life (so far) from his early days in Kingswood and KGS to his years at various universities and his struggles with Beagle2 and beauraucracy.

We have invited Colin to the next lunch in April together with a bootload of his book to sign and sell. However, he tells your Ed that due to health matters and a heavy schedule he cannot guarantee attendance.



However, you can obtain *The Beagle 2 Diaries* from the British Interplanetary Society at the discount price of £16.50 by going to www.bis-spaceflight.com and follow link to books. Alternatively, if you're not a techie then write to Colin at PSSRI, The Open University, Milton Keynes, MK7 6AA. A donation to KOSA is promised by Colin for each copy sold, so mention KOSA.

The blurb on the book's launch says: This autobiographical book by the leader of the Beagle 2 project tells the complete story about the British space mission which was sent to Mars in 2003 to search for evidence of life on the Red Planet. It captivated the public and stories about it appeared in the media all

over the World particularly in the United States as the following extract from the book's dust jacket reveals:

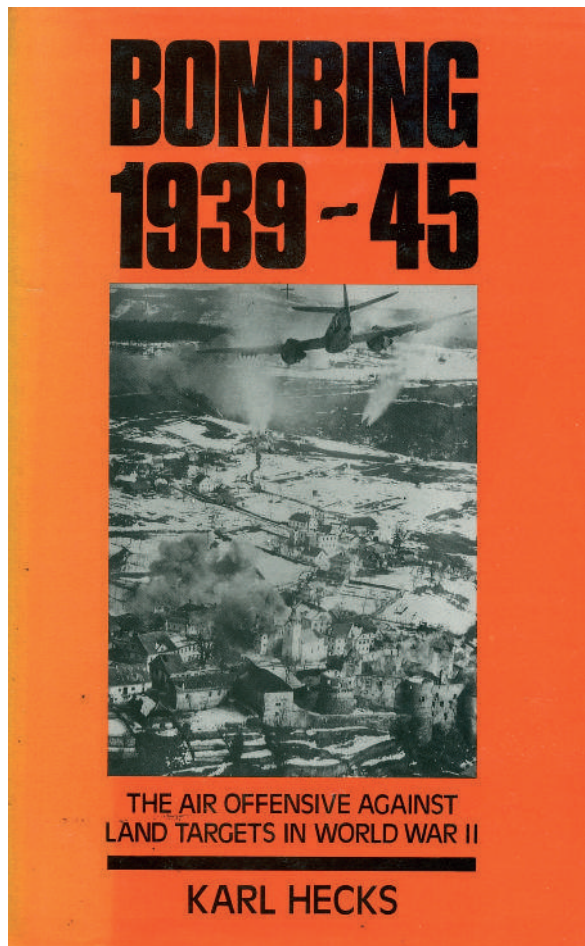
On 12 March 2010 Astronauts Neil Armstrong, the first man to set foot on the Moon, Gene Cernan, the last man to do so and Jim Lovell, who piloted the stricken Apollo 13 home, broke a journey back to the United States to attend an event at the Royal Society designed to encourage an audience of young people to follow careers in science and technology. Among the Fellows of the Society present was Colin Pillinger. As Colin got up to leave at the end of the afternoon, he was grabbed by a US Embassy official who said "The Astronauts would like to meet you." Of course Colin wanted to meet them but he wasn't prepared for the greeting he received from Neil Armstrong, perhaps the best known man on Earth, "You analysed some of my samples!" Being recognised by such a trio must make Colin, a man with a passion for telling the public about science, one of the best known scientists in Britain.

Colin owed Armstrong et al. a great deal. He had come from what can only be described as an under-privileged background, via the Apollo programme to lead the ill-fated Beagle 2 mission to Mars. In 1996 he gathered around him an unlikely team consisting of the Rock Band, Blur, the country's most controversial artist Damien Hirst, combined them with top University scientists and engineers from the satellite Industry, designed a spacecraft on the back of a beer mat, built it in a garage and set off 250 million miles to answer one of life's ultimate questions: "Are we alone in the Universe?" Colin's wife, Judith, named the spacecraft Beagle 2; it had the British Nation on the edge of its seat at Christmas 2003.

This then is Colin Pillinger's story and the full, previously undisclosed, account of the Beagle 2 mission.

YET ANOTHER BOOK...

In covering books written and published by Old Scholars, KOSA has overlooked KARL HECK's (49-52) authoritative book *Bombing 1939-45 – The Air Offensive Against Land Targets in World War II*. Karl's book was first published in 1990 and, although may not now be obtainable through usual bookshops, it can still be obtained on the WWW via Amazon, which is how your Ed. obtained a copy.



Karl traces in detail the multi-faceted story of air bombardment over six years of intensive development and growth. What began as much-feared but largely unproven concepts evolved into a variety of techniques, from precision low-level bomb and rocket attacks through to the

still controversial destruction of cities on a huge scale. The book deals with the aircraft, weapons, techniques and tactics used within every theatre of the war. It has a wealth of relevant photographs.

KARL, who was born in Chippenham, is a Chartered Engineer and a member of the Royal Aeronautical Society. After KGS he took a Degree in Aeronautical Engineering at Bristol University and served an apprenticeship with the old Gloster Aircraft Company. He has worked in both the UK and the USA on aspects of aircraft design and was latterly employed by British Aerospace on the design of space experiments and communications satellites.

EARLY REUNION...

ROGER BYE (56-61) writes from Pennsylvania, USA and covers an early reunion in 1969:

Thank you for the Summer 2010 (number 37) edition of the KOSA News. As usual, I thoroughly enjoyed reading it and, particularly, the references to pupils who were there during my tenure, 1956 to 1961. I notice on page 27 that you state as your major objective "to reunite friends and colleagues of our school days". You continue by stating that you "...encourage the free exchange of contact information..". How exactly is this accomplished? Is there a registry of KOSA members with current contact information - email or postal addresses, phone numbers, etc.? I have not lived in England for 40 years and unfortunately have not yet had the opportunity to attend any of the reunion lunches but would love to find out where some of my old friends are. Certainly, from my perspective, I have no objection to my contact information being shared with other KOSA subscribers/members.

My personal history at KGS was certainly not a distinguished one - at least not

distinguished in the academic sense. Somewhere in my possession I have a very large bundle of detention slips that I earned mainly in the third form (puberty kicking in!) but generally throughout my entire time at KGS. If I remember correctly, Wednesdays were for bad behaviour, Thursdays were for bad work and Saturdays were for all other heinous crimes. Most of the slips I signed on behalf of my mother (her signature was easier to forge than my father's) with detention attendance being under the guise of rugby or cricket practice - I'm not sure if she believed me inasmuch as this was most unlikely being that I was lousy at both. In addition to the detentions I also received the "whack" from C N (Chipper) RIDLEY on at least two occasions - although quite what the offences were escapes me. I left school with only four or five "0" levels including 45 in chemistry thanks to 'Fishy' SAMMONS (how on earth did 45 qualify as a pass?). I think my highest mark was 58 in history. Aside from my total lack of academic skills or inclination, however, I did make a number of good friends at school several of whom I remain in contact with to this day.

After leaving KGS I joined a Bristol firm of Chartered Accountants and, after gathering a few more '0' levels and several years of serious study, I qualified as a Chartered Accountant. Despite my best (worst?) efforts, I guess that KGS was not a total loss for me as it clearly gave me some sort of grounding for my career. As it happens, I served my accountancy articles with David Taylor and, although I knew little of him at school, we became good friends. He is still in the West Country, living in Bath with his wife. For a number of years after leaving school there was a gathering of mainly KGS pals at the Red Lion Inn in Mangotsfield on Tuesday evenings (see photo of one boozy occasion on page 11).



Those attending (some regularly, some occasionally) included Brian Plummer, Pete (Phred) Willis, Jim Knight, David Britton, Garth Womar (now sadly deceased). Tony (Bum) Richards, Nigel Carey, Rob Welch, Robin (Fido) Fidkin, Robert (Buff) Burford, David Wall and Steve Wallington. I remain closely in touch with a number of these old friends, many of whom are still in the Bristol area, and have visited others over the years in more remote corners of the earth. (By the way, to add to your RSA connections - page 26 of the latest KOSA news - both Dave Britton and Bob Burford are also in South Africa.) I am also occasionally in touch with another KGS alumni, my ex-wife Deborah Smith, who is now living in Ontario, Canada.

As mentioned, I have been away from England for about 40 years. I have lived in the Caribbean, Ontario Canada, Alberta Canada, San Mateo California, Allentown Pennsylvania and Singapore - finally returning to Allentown where I now reside. In all that time I have only ever once bumped into a KGS alumni by acci-

dent and that was Elaine Bush while I was in Barbados around 1972 (sad to read in KOSA News that she passed away a while back). I'm sure I must have been in or near a number of cities where fellow KGSers were living and I would have loved to have made contact with them. Although now retired, I continue to travel quite extensively and would still like to contact old school colleagues in England or elsewhere.

If you wish to contact Roger his email address in the US is rogerbye@rcn.com

...AND A LATER ONE...

Organised by PAT WALKER (56-62), she reports:

'I'm attaching the photo of our 3rd reunion of 2010 in the middle of September. The photo on page 12) shows SHEILA YOUNG, ANGELA WILLIAMS, LYNN CULLEY, myself (Pat WALKER) and JANET CHELL, (all maiden names. 56-62/3). We met up at the Folly Pub for a meal and a catch-up. I think they will start charging us rent as we took rather



a long time over our meal! Indeed, we did the last time when BRENDA GANE was over from Australia.

CLASS OF 67...

CHRISTOPHER GREENFIELD (60-68), who is the Principal of International College, Sherborne School, was sorry to hear of the death of RALPH HYETT. 'He made a good effort to teach me Chemistry' was Christopher's comment.

He also informs us of meetings held of a group in London known as the 67 Club.

'Should the 67 club let you have a note of their activities occasionally? The last full gathering was a lunch in a restaurant near Covent Garden in London in April 2010, but the organising committee (DAVID PANTON, ROB LARKHAM and me) met again a couple of weeks ago, (and will do so again on Dec 2) aiming at another lunch on Saturday March 11 2011, also at Carluccio's Covent Garden. The next big project is a reunion in Bristol in 2013, when we shall all be 64. This is designed for those who left in 67, but we have welcomed 'graduates' from the class of 68 as well!'

If you qualify for the 67 (or 68) Club, contact Christopher on principal@sherborne-ic.net or 01935 816863.

POETRY CORNER...

ALICE WEBB (30-35), now Johnson has reflected on her long life and remembers her old friends and contemporaries from KGS, GRACE HODGES (now O'Brien) and ETHEL KIRK (now Harding). All three are now 91 years young and Alice neatly weaves their initials into her poem:

ALICE'S MEMORIES: 1919-2010

When I think of "Teen-Age"
I think of School and Friends and Fun.
When I was nearly Grown-up -
And life had just begun!

When I think of "Middle-Age"
I can't believe how time can fly!
I know I'm getting older -
But I can't remember why?

When I think of "Old-Age"
I recall old friends as well -
And, suddenly I realise
What our initials spell.

Alice + Grace + Ethel = AGE

AN OLDSTER...

We are often accused of covering Old Scholars' lives only when we report their obituary. We are indebted to COLIN

DEMERY (54-59) who visits one from the 30s:

'My sister, JUNE DEMERY (49-55), now HOOPER and I recently met an old KGS scholar now residing in our mother's care home in Oldland Common. His name is SIDNEY WEBSTER (35-41). As befits a KGS former student, Sid is very knowledgeable, loves books and music and makes full use of his TV and laptop. We suggested to Sid that he might like to share his life story with other KOSA readers. Does anyone remember him?

'Sidney was born in 1925 and lived in Soundwell Road, Kingswood. He attended the High Street Junior School and passed the scholarship to KGS in 1935, eventually leaving in 1941. He remembers some of his fellow pupils as DENNIS and LES MONKS, VIC AMOS and someone with the surname PALMER. His teachers during his time were MAJOR EATON, MISS POWELL, BONEY BRITTON, BUNNY AUSTEN and someone WINSTANLEY? He has a vivid recollection of Major Eaton dismissing the girls from morning Assembly one day then caning two boys quite severely for copying homework in the toilets. He also

remembers being very annoyed by the headmistress (Flossie Powell) making him and other boys 'goose step' round the school to help keep their backs straight - this happening whilst Nazi soldiers were 'goose stepping' their way round Europe!

'Sid left school and obtained a Student Apprenticeship in Electrical Engineering at Newman's of Yate, qualifying in 1944. He told us that much to his annoyance, this also involved taking advanced French lessons during weekends but this was to pay dividends later. Sid did his bit during the war and served as a messenger-boy for the Ambulance Service at Soundwell. After qualifying, he did his National Service in Egypt and Palestine.

'After that Sid decided to take time out and, with his knowledge of French, had the onerous task of taking 8 girls from the Student Union in London to Paris. There he spent three months (not with all 8 girls!) in a flat in the fashionable Rue Saint Honore before moving on to Venice, subsequently returning to Paris then eventually home. I did suggest to Sid that as 'gap years' go, he certainly experienced the good life. His career over the

years included time back at Newman's, then joining Brookhirst Igranic followed by time at Bristol Waterworks, Hinckley Point Power Station and returning to Newmans. He retired at 55.

'Sid never married and hence has no children but found a partner after he retired - a German lady named Gertrude. They spent 25 happy years together until sadly Gertrude died of cancer. During his life he was involved with the theatre (Bristol Old Vic) and was something of a party animal, spending a lot of



This page of the list shows an impressive list of places achieved at the major universities, supported by a healthy list of County Major Scholarships awarded to both universities and colleges of advanced technology (CATs). The CATs were rather like a graduate-level alternative to the universities where degrees could be obtained in science-related

subjects. Indeed, many of them became universities later - the CAT in Bristol, for example, eventually became the University of Bath, itself a university nowadays often in the top ten. KGS has always sent many students to training colleges and the 1963 list continued that tradition. The list of scholars with 'A' levels far exceeds that of ten years earlier.

NAME	UNIVERSITY / COLLEGE	SUBJECTS
OPEN SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS 1961-2		
W. Knight	Open Exhibition in Biological Science, Magdalene College, CAMBRIDGE.	
G. Jackson	Open Exhibition in Music, King's College, CAMBRIDGE.	
Diana Smith	Open Scholarship, St. Mary's Hospital, LONDON.	
R. J. Carter	Entrance Scholarship in Physics, Imperial College, LONDON.	
UNIVERSITY ENTRANCES		
LONDON: Imperial College	P. J. Stevens (Engineering)	
Queen Mary College	M. C. Puzos (French)	
University College	L. K. Clatworthy (Geography)	
BIRMINGHAM:	T. K. Anstey (Civil Engineering)	
	A. J. Cockram (Chemistry)	
BRISTOL:	A. Quartly (Physics)	
	Jennifer Hunt (Music)	
CARDIFF:	M. R. Jones (Gen. Arts)	
DURHAM:	A. R. Cordy (Electrical Engineering)	
EXETER:	P. B. Hilton (Dentistry)	
LEEDS:	R. J. Holloway (Music)	
	Margaret Reece (Music)	
LEICESTER:	B. Young (Civil Engineering)	
	Elizabeth Becker (Mod. Languages)	
LIVERPOOL:	A. R. Down (Mod. Languages)	
MANCHESTER:	C. Saunders (Architecture)	
	Lynette Davies (Zoology)	
READING:	Mary Plaster (English)	
SHEFFIELD:		
SOUTHAMPTON:		
COUNTY MAJOR SCHOLARSHIPS		
R. K. Care	R. T. McBroom	Janet Chell
L. E. Claridge	R. A. Stone (CAT)	Christine Collinson
L. J. Clatworthy (U)	J. D. Taylor (CAT)	Noreen Crookford
A. R. Dawdall (U)	A. Treasure	Brenda Ford
P. G. Dowland	D. M. Willis	Eileen Forrester (U)
G. C. Forward (U)	T. A. Wiltshire (A.C.)	Rosemary Hunt
R. K. Garland	B. Young (U)	Mary Plaster (U)
A. W. Henry (CAT)	Elaine Bush	Margaret Reece (U)
M. R. Jones (U)	C. V. Blake (U)	Christine Templar (U)
A. M. Kinsey	Judith Burt	Ruth White
M. R. Mann		
U.—Taken up at University.	AC.—Taken up at Art College.	
TRAINING COLLEGES		
Hilary Brown	Worcester	
Esme Gough	Worcester	
Judith Hayden	St. Matthias, Fishponds	
Margaret Squires	Cheltenham	
Olga Vickerstaff	St. Matthias, Fishponds	
Jennifer Read	Nonington	College of Physical Education
WEST OF ENGLAND COLLEGE OF ART		
J. F. Whitlock	T. A. Wiltshire	
COLLEGES OF ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY		
R. A. Stone	K. H. Cook	P. D. Rogers
A. W. Henry		
I. G. Smith		
J. D. Taylor		
SOUTHERN UNIVERSITIES GENERAL CERTIFICATE OF EDUCATION		
Advanced Level Passes, 1962		
T. Abel	Geography	
M. Ann	Biology	
T. K. Anstey	Physics, Pure Maths., Applied Maths.	
M. H. Bast	Religious Knowledge, Geography	
C. V. Blake	Biology, Chemistry, Physics.	
G. F. D. Brooks	Chemistry, Physics	
P. D. Brown	Physics, Pure Maths., Applied Maths.	
R. K. Care	Biology, Chemistry, Physics.	
L. E. Claridge	Chemistry, Physics, Pure and Applied Maths.	
G. H. Coates	English Literature, History, French	
A. H. Cockram	Chemistry, Physics, Pure and Applied Maths.	
K. R. Cook	Art, Metallwork	
A. R. Dore	Physics, Pure Maths., Applied Maths.	
R. G. Dowland	Chemistry, Physics, Pure and Applied Maths.	
E. R. Dowe	Physics	
A. R. Eales	French, German	
A. G. Eales	Physics, Pure Maths., Applied Maths. (Dist.)	
R. J. Fidler	History, French	
J. J. Fisher	Religious Knowledge, History	
H. H. Fishlock	Biology	
C. C. Forward	Chemistry, Physics, Pure and Applied Maths.	
K. K. Garland	English Literature, Music	
R. J. Griffin	History, Geography	
A. W. Henry	Physics	
P. B. Hilton	Biology, Chemistry, Mod. Hist. and Contemporary Thought	
R. J. Holloway	Music	
M. R. Jones	Biology, Chemistry, Physics	
A. M. Kinsey	Physics, Pure and Applied Maths.	
K. R. McBroom	Chemistry, Physics, Pure and Applied Maths.	
M. R. Mann	Physics, Applied Maths.	
T. J. N. Phipps	History, Geography, French	
R. J. Price	Physics	
A. Quartly	Chemistry, Physics, Pure and Applied Maths.	
D. Rogers	Physics, Pure Maths., Applied Maths.	
C. R. Saunders	Art	
F. Scammell	English Literature, History, Art	
A. J. Smallwood	Biology	
G. G. Smith	Physics, Applied Maths.	
A. A. Stone	Physics, Pure and Applied Maths.	
R. D. Taylor	Chemistry, Physics, Pure and Applied Maths.	
A. Treasure	Biology, Physics	
D. J. Walling	English Literature, History	
J. D. F. Whitlock	Physics	
D. M. Willis	English Literature, Art	
T. A. Wiltshire	Physics, Pure Maths., Applied Maths.	
J. N. Winchester	History, French, Art	
B. Young	Physics	
Shella Bowler	Physics, Pure Maths., Applied Maths.	
Elizabeth Becker	Latin, History, French	
Hilary Brown	German	
Judith Burt	Art	
Elaine Bush	English Literature, History, Geography	
Janet Chell	Latin, Chemistry	
Christine Collinson	Latin, English Literature, French	
Noreen Crookford	History, Zoology, Chemistry	
Lynn Cley	English Literature, French, German	
Sydney D. Dales	Geography, French	
Stephanie Doddrell	Botany, Zoology, Chemistry	
Elaine Farrester	English Literature, History, French	
Esme Gough	English Literature, Music	
Pomela Greedy	English Literature, French	
Judith Hayden	Physics, Pure and Applied Maths.	
Elizabeth Hull	Music	
Jennifer Hunt	Botany, Zoology	
Rosemary Hunt	English Literature, French, Music	
Ruth Oldfield	English Literature, History, French	
Mary Plaster	English Literature, Music	
Mary Pring	English Literature, History	
Margaret Reece	Art	
Margaret Shaw	English Literature, French	
Diana Smith	Physics, Pure and Applied Maths.	
Margaret Squires	Religious Knowledge, History	
Christine Templar	English Literature, French	
Olga Vickerstaff	Botany, Zoology	
Patricia Walker	Botany, Zoology, Chemistry	
Ruth White	Botany, Zoology, Chemistry	

time at Frampton Court, the Grade 1 listed country house, as a guest of one of the family members - David Clifford.

'Sid has problems with his hands and legs and in 2009 moved into a residential care home in Oldland. It is always a pleasure to talk to Sid and reminisce about KGS and the earlier years in Kingwood and the surrounding areas. Sid is now on the circulation list of the KOSA magazine and I know he would love to hear from anyone who remembers him.'

We may not have a photo of Sid, but the photo on page 13 shows the 1931-32 soccer team of his era at KGS. No rugby in those days!

THE LINK...

Cowbridge House, near Malmesbury, has been many things in its 250 year history but none as interesting as its role in World War II. World War II was, it is said, as much a 'Radar War' as anything else. Radar was the invention of the moment, top priority and top secret. If radar was the invention of the moment then the ECKO factory was at its cutting edge when in 1939 it officially became a WW2 Secret Radar Shadow Factory.

It may have escaped World War II bombing but Cowbridge hasn't survived



20th century housing development plans and now, 60 years on, the original Shadow Factory buildings have all gone. In its place is a housing development of 120 new homes.

All that remains, to mark the site of Malmesbury's once top secret factory, is the name of the main road through the new development, Sir Bernard Lovell Road.

Named after the pioneer in the development of the H2S radar system that was manufactured at Cowbridge during the war, SIR BERNARD LOVELL (24-31) joined two former shadow workers of the factory (Marjorie Sandiford and Annie Gilmore) at the road's official opening. The photo below shows Sir Bernard at the opening and the one above the Cowbridge House he would have known during his days when he was involved in the

development of Radar.

Our thanks to WENDY HUNT (58-65) (now Stell) for supplying KOSA NEWS with this item.



A LINKED OBITUARY...

As we go to press an obituary has been received from BOB LEONARD (67-74) who has informed us of the death of his father JACK LEONARD (28-32) on 10 May 2010, aged 93.

'Jack was born in Kingswood in 1917 and went to KGS from High Street School on a part-scholarship in 1928. In his second year he won a prize for coming joint third. He left in 1932 and got a job selling curtain material at Barton Warehouse which entailed long hours for the 5/- per week. Fortunately he had always been interested in wireless and he became a radio and television engineer.

'During the war he tested radar at the ECKO factory at Malmesbury, the very same factory covered in the previous report on page 16! He then moved to London where he worked for EMI. In 1942 he married my mother, KATHERINE HILL (34-39). Later in life he ran a grocer's shop in Downend with his second wife, Gladys, and then a general store in Wookey, Somerset. They moved to Wells where he enjoyed a long and happy retirement.

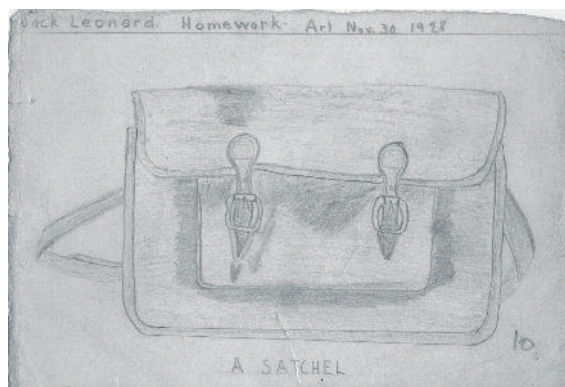
'He was very keen on cricket, being a life member of Gloucestershire CCC and he followed the fortunes of Bristol Rovers. Photography, classical music, jazz and the dance bands and big bands of the 30s, 40s and 50s also gave him a lot of pleasure.'

Bob also included some of his father's memories of KGS:

'CHUCKLES' HOWARD, who taught him Physics, supervised a school trip to Burlington House, in London. The art gallery did not impress Bob, but he was impressed by seeing the top restaurants lit up in neon!

The only Latin he could remember from MISS QUINTON'S class was *Caesar adsum jam forte, Brutus adarat*, but Jack was fascinated by the colours in her delicate opal ring as it caught the sunlight. A boy named VINCENT fell out with her and refused to go to her lessons. He studied by himself and, somewhat to her annoyance, passed the exam.

Mr SEARLE taught Art and I still have drawings which he did in 1928 and 1930. Below is a drawing of a satchel he drew in 1928.



In the early 1930s teaching methods changed and a system of assignments was introduced. (What's new? – Ed). He felt that this resulted in the teachers concentrating on a few, while others were allowed to fall back. He remembers BERNARD LOVELL who was a few years older and held up as an example to them.

In the Summer term they were allowed to wear daps, which he loved. He played cricket for the 2nd XI against St George GS on the field in front of the School, but suffered a painful blow on his hand when batting – there were no batting gloves available!

JUNE'S PROGRESS...

JUNE PICKLES (38-45) now Birch has written to KOSA about her days at KGS

'My Junior school had an enviable record of scholarships to the two local Grammar Schools. It was a two-term entry school, the second class being the 'also-rans'. I inhabited the same form throughout the school and at the end of the penultimate year I came top of the class. I should have moved upwards, but the second pupil's mother was a close friend of the Headmistress, and so I remained where I was. My mother protested, only to be placated with the promise to move me at Christmas ... but promises can easily be broken. I became aware that the scholarship class was doing different Maths from me: another protest, another broken promise, to give me extra Maths.

'Against the Headmistress's strongest wishes, I sat the scholarship and entered the magic portals of the scholarship class. On the great day, I well remember - indeed I will never forget - looking at a square with measurements on two sides with the instruction to give the area of the square. Never having been taught other than the four rules, I added the two numbers together. I did not pass a full scholarship, but on the strength of my English I passed a 'half scholarship'. This allowed children to apply for a Grammar School place as a 'fee-payer' (if their parents could afford £1.50 per term), and involved attending an interview at the school, in competition with other applicants. My parents decided to allow me to try. As I sat outside the interview room, the then Head Boy (trying to be helpful) said: "They will ask you what your favourite subject is. Say Arithmetic". I duly complied with his advice, in spite of the fact that my favourite subject was English and, to this day, can remember the look that passed between the Head and the Senior Mistress. Many years later I told all to the Senior Mistress, and we shared laughter tinged, on my part, with relief that the school decid-

ed to risk taking me on. She admitted that the strong liking for Arithmetic from the most unlikely candidates that year had them all puzzled.

'I had two gymslips between the ages of 11-16. Both were unpicked to make my Sixth Form pinafore dress - so as not to use my precious clothing coupons. I bought a 'best pair' of shoes in Bristol just before the Blitz - and they were still my best shoes in 1945!

'One morning part-way through my fifth year, I had to go to the office. The secretary asked me what I had been up to, as the Head had the Senior Mistress and a school governor in with him. I entered in fear and trembling to be asked if I liked a fellow-pupil called Shirley. She was fostered, and I came into contact with her on the odd days on which I used the bus to get to school. I said that I did, and they asked me if they thought my mother would foster her until she had taken her School Certificate. I knew her family had been with a lady, now getting on, who did not hit it off with Shirley. She had finally said 'No More!' and so a home was needed urgently if she was to continue her education until 16. I said that I would not mind Shirley living with me but that they would have to ask my mother. Poor Mother! She opened the door in her working apron to the three of them immediately jumping to the conclusion that I must have had an accident! Anyway, Shirley came and got her exams. Mother made us go to bed early. We swapped books and shouted questions and answers to each other - it certainly helped our revision. She went off to do nursing training. Clothes rationing made it difficult, but we managed to contrive some clothes to start her post-school wardrobe. We lost touch, but I wonder if she married or made nursing her career.

'When cycling to school I used to meet a younger pupil who was riding what, in

my eyes, appeared to be a very strange bike. It was an American model Her father was in the Merchant Navy and had brought it across. She was 14, I was 16, and we became friends. DAMANS told me of her mother who had a serious heart problem - no magic operations in those days. One day she told me that her mother was due to go into hospital and that her father was due to return to his ship in the Merchant Navy and was very worried.

'My mother offered to have Damans and her younger sister Vida - the latter was a case! One night she was mithering my mother and sitting up in bed. My mother said "Vida, your mother is in hospital." -"Yes, Mrs. Pickles!" "And you're doing your best to put me there!" mother added. To which Vida replied, "Yes, Mrs. Pickles!" I recall that whenever Damaris was in trouble at school, teachers would say 'Damn-aris!'

'In the Sixth Form just before the Easter holiday, when I was 17 years old, Headmaster MAJOR EATON called us together. Viscount Bledisloe, the new Lieutenant of the County, had decided to give a shield to the best essay on the Empire - we had one then - produced by the County Secondary Level Schools. Not a subject we studied, he said he would mark any work produced and forward one if he felt it deserved it.

'During the Easter holidays there was an exhibition on the Commonwealth and the Empire in Bristol. I went and gathered together a load of leaflets. It so happened that we then had three very wet days and, for want of something to do. I wrote an essay on the various kinds of governments from the Commonwealth nations to Islands such as Fiji. I doubt if many other pupils bothered. However my essay went up to be further judged and, later that term, I found my-

self attending, with the other short-listed winners an interview with a blind Professor at Bristol University, who conducted an oral discussion with me on my paper. The result was a tie, myself and a very clever younger boy from a public school where the subject was on the curriculum. Naturally, the Head was very pleased and announced it at morning service. I was not present, so he made a remark about my modesty in not coming in. Modesty nothing - I was simply late! When I went into the girls' Prefect Room my two best friends looked at me, and roared with laughter and said 'Oh she's so modest!'. An explanation came when they calmed down. My mother and I travelled to the meeting of the County Council where the two joint winners were presented with the shield. My mother was delighted to be allowed to watch the proceedings from the back of the Council Chamber.'

IN THE FAMILY...

ROY ELLIS (53-61) has written to bring us up-to-date on his and family news:

'MARION HARRIS (53-60) (now Biggs) gave me a copy of KOSA NEWS. Marion's son is married to my daughter. That is me in the pictures on pages 24 and 25 of issue number 36.

'When I was at KGS I lived at the Blue Bowl Inn in Hanham. Inspired by "Bunny" AUSTEN I became a Physics teacher. After a few years in Zambia, I taught at a comprehensive school in London for over 25 years. I am now living in Keswick, Cumbria.

My half sister JANET ELLIOTT (61-68) (now Thomas) joined Kingswood Grammar School shortly after I left in 1961. Janet is now a Methodist Deacon working in Daventry.'

NEW MEMBERS...

WENDY HUNT (58-65) (now Stell) has introduced two new members to KOSA. In the photo (below) which records a recent get-together, Wendy is shown (left) with her friends, both contemporar-



ies, MARILYN STOWEY (now White) and MARGARET CORDY (now Emuss).

YOUNGSTERS...

WENDY HUNT originally wrote in to help us identify the members of the 1960 under-14 Netball Team published in the last edition. Together with information supplied by RUTH DULBOROUGH (57-63) we are able to name the members of the team, as follows:

Back row: R Walker, Linda Tovey, Denise Nicholls, Wendy Hunt, Wendy Luffman

Front row: Ruth Dulborough, Julia Pain (capt.) Joyce Mallin

TWEEDY'S POINTS...

JOHN (TWEEDY) HARRIS (53-60) sends some bouquets and brickbats: 'Congratulations on yet another excellent edition of KOSA News. I don't know how you do it, but you obviously continue to have some good contributors. I was especially impressed by ALICE WEBB'S (30-35) evocation of Warmley Station. Happy memories and well written.

'I just wanted to enter in a minor way into this equally minor discussion about the first year of 1953. I have photocopied the autographs that appear at the beginning or end of my 'Kingswood Chronicles' for 1953/4 and 1955/6. You will see that IAN HULL appears clearly on both - I.M.Hull. That I think settles that, and I always remember him as Ian when we didn't call him 'Lance'.

The other point is that symmetry is great if you can get it, but surely DAVID EWINS' dates start at 1953, not 1954 (photo on page 12). I send you the photocopies to show you a Ewins autograph, not very clear on the 1953/4 edition, (I have ringed it), and clearer, in red actually, on the other one to identify his writing.

I mean to send David an e-mail sometime to thank him for making a considerable impact on my future by taking me to a concert in the Colston Hall in February 1956 to hear the mighty pianist, Solomon -I was looking at the programme the other day. It was first concert I had ever been to.

Thanks for putting in a request to contact JAMES WILLIAM BROKENBROW. No news yet, but by an amazing coincidence, not a KGS story, I have made contact with one of our digs mates when we were both at Manchester University 50 years ago.

MORE FROM DOREEN...

DOREEN PILLINGER (48-53) remembers Headmaster C N RIDLEY.

'I am delighted that others shared my view of the Headmaster and Music Teacher ERIC HILTON. Who was the chap who used to write in from Colorado, DEREK BAILEY, who I believe was The Head's 'ward'? I often wondered what

CNR was like at home. They lived somewhere in The Park, Kingswood. I went carol singing round that way once with MICKEY WILTSHIRE, DIANE POWELL (now Pearce) and LINDA GAY among others, and I think we got a contribution from CNR's house, probably for our cheek, but I don't remember if it was he who came to the door.

I wish I had kept some memorabilia for the proposed exhibition at Kingswood Historical Museum in March. On my last day I threw my school beret into a hedge somewhere on Warmley Hill. Unfortunately when I started work at Wick Ochre Works a few days later it was out of the frying pan into the fiery furnace.

MORE FROM THE PARK...

EDDIE WHITE (55-61) also remembers The Park:

'DOREEN PILLINGER'S musings on our beloved Headmaster amused me. I had the misfortune to live opposite CNR in The Park for my last few years at KGS. He therefore had me under constant surveillance as did my Father. Even worse, they were both members of Kingswood Rotary Club which gave them too much opportunity to discuss my under performance at school. If I fancied a game of table tennis or snooker at the YMCA instead of doing homework I had to crawl on my hands and knees along the back lane behind number 42.

'The 1924 photograph in the last edition is of interest to me as I think that I have spotted my Dad who was one of the originals at KGS. He is the chap sitting or kneeling in the second row from the front and to the right of the fellow in the strange horizontally striped tie, which makes him look like an interloper!'

GET TOGETHER...

ROBIN WELCH (56-64) updates us on some of his contemporaries:

'Just thought you might like info on other KGS pupils who have suddenly reappeared.

'We were in Downend at BRIAN PLUMMER'S (55-62) house on 30 Aug 2010 meeting up with a few old KGS friends. There was ANDREW 'Tub' MARTIN (56-63), now residing in the Forest of Dean and LIZ PAYNE (56-63), formerly of Hanham but now living in Somerset. Liz's sisters JULIA and SARAH PAYNE also went to KGS and still live in Bristol area.

'Liz is currently having trouble with her sight but still looks the same after all these years. Her son is a classical percussion player in London.'

Anyone wishing to get in touch with Robin can contact him on his Mobile 07920 188439.

AS IT WAS...

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.

REMINISCENCES OF KGS. (Part 2)

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

Headmaster MAJOR EATON used to encourage the older pupils to be self-reliant. Thus, the Games Secretary was given virtually a free hand to arrange the sporting fixtures, and was handed unopened the post addressed to him each day by Major or his secretary. On one occasion the Games Secretary felt the only way to sort out the fixtures with another school was a phone call, for which he was allowed to use Major's room and phone, on his own. At the other school, the Games Master dealt with the call, but had to fetch their Games Secretary and discuss each suggestion with him; when the KGS Games Secretary suggested it might be quicker if he spoke direct to the other Games Secretary, the Master replied "We would never let one of our pupils use the phone!".

Down the lane from the school was a stream, and a favourite pastime of those who arrived early was jumping across it. One wet morning, one boy slipped as he landed, and slid back to sit in the swollen stream. He dried out a bit in the boiler room, and for the next lesson, French with MISS PERRY, sat at the back, not on the seat of his desk but on the boiler pipe, until Miss Perry suddenly spotted steam arising around him, and suspected a leaking pipe!

The Sixth Form used to arrange hikes during the summer holidays; part of the fun was getting lost, which they often did. On one occasion, for instance they ended up three miles west of Cheddar instead of two miles east at the top of the Gorge; on another they walked all round a very large field only eventually to leave by the same gate they had entered, it being the only way in or out.

MISS EYRES used to arrange outings of biological interest for her Sixth Form pupils, one of which was to Portishead mudflats in Wellington boots, and it took the combined efforts of all the party to get

one sixth former out of his at the end of the trip. On one occasion she arranged to meet them at Cardiff Station during the summer vacation to spend a day looking at a special display in the University Library at Cardiff, and confirmed with a card which clearly stated 'Will see you at Cardiff unless I hear to the contrary'. The pupils duly turned up, but no Miss Eyres, so they went ahead on their own. Miss Eyres was for once flabbergasted on the first day of the next term when her card was produced - she felt sure she had said she would only go to Cardiff if she had a card confirming they were coming!

Miss Eyres also confessed, when she met one of her former Sixth Formers after the war, to having been dumbfounded on another occasion. One afternoon, it seems, the Sixth Form - about five of them - were busily occupied, each doing a dissection, while she got on with some marking, when she realised that one boy was gazing out of the window. She thought at first he was merely trying to visualise the details of his subject, but after ten minutes or so she felt she had to enquire whether anything was wrong, to get the totally unexpected reply "Yes, Miss, women, I don't understand them". She fled back to her desk, and buried her head in her marking, shaking with laughter and for once completely lost for words. In due course, the gazing ended and the dissection was resumed, but whether the problem had been solved she dare not ask. Incidentally, when she met this Old Scholar after the war she was living at Folkestone, where she was an Inspector of Schools.

Other events of the era. The annual sixth form tennis match, which included some of the staff, and for which everyone was paired off by a draw - the girls were allowed to abandon the standard uniform for this, much to the delight of the boys: MR BROWN, the Maths Master, once found his sixth form boys working out the

odds that each of them would get the partner he wanted from the draw - when he realised that this was in fact a problem with a mathematical solution he joined in the discussion.



Other memories:

POP SEARLE (Art), who if he was very struck with a piece of art would mark it 11 out of 10.....'CHUCKLES' HOWARD, who always appeared in a new suit shortly after the games subscriptions had been collected by him.....the group of Sixth Formers, five boys and a girl, who went to a Bristol University Theatre show and discovered at the interval that the couple who came in behind them as the lights dimmed was one of the younger mistresses and a local doctor - they mutually agreed to say nothing.....the occasion 'BONY' BRITTON walked into a noisy classroom and at once ordered a certain girl to leave, only to learn that she was away that day....the tall boy prefect on duty during the lunch hour on the first day of a new school year who stopped a girl with a hockey stick heading towards the boys' end of the school with the words 'Little girl, don't you know you are not allowed down this end of the school', only to get the withering riposte 'I am the

new Games Mistress' - she later became Headmistress....(That was probably MISS MORRISON - Ed.) the rather high dogfish which had been preserved in formaldehyde for several months which two of the Sixth Form girls did not dispose of as instructed but wired to the exhaust of the car of one of the young masters...Happy days!

JOHN BERRY was quite a sportsman and the photo published last time was of John in the Cricket XI. On the picture on the left John is the goalkeeper at the back.

THE LESSON...

COLIN FELTHAM (50-57) tells us of a life-long lesson which he learned whilst at KGS:

'I imagine many teachers hope that some of what they say or do will have a lasting influence on the lives of their pupils, but will never guess how this could work out. Let me tell you of one event that had a lasting effect on me.

'I quickly learnt at KGS that fairness was not a feature of all teaching, especially at the highest level, unlike my junior school, Mangotsfield, where all the teachers were fair yet firm.

'I had a tendency, especially in two of the years when I was form captain, to stand up for others quieter than me, who I thought had been unfairly treated. I had limited success, but on one occasion gave apparent pleasure to Ridley, the headmaster, as he applied the cane. However, the main unforgettable event took place when I was in the 5th form.



'With the school seated in the hall HEAD-MASTER RIDLEY, periodically, would pull out for public viewing pupils who he considered were not properly dressed in the school uniform. On this occasion I was one of them, the cause being that my father had been made redundant and was out of work, and my brown blazer, although new had come from a cheap source and was not quite the right colour brown. The public display did not worry me but I looked at the other boys, some of whom were very upset, and it was clear to me they also came from poor backgrounds with mismatched items of jackets and trousers. I never told my father of this, and I doubt if the other pupils did either, so Ridley's reprimand in the way intended was probably wasted.

'This was my first impression of how poor people were viewed, and the hypocrisy that went with it. I did not know whether Ridley could not see the effects of poverty or did not care, what I did observe was the hypocrisy of a so-called religious man who could treat others in such a callous, undignified and indifferent way.

'The longer term effect on me was as follows, in a way Ridley could not have understood. However I should thank him for opening my eyes. Firstly, as soon as I got to college I got elected to the Student Representatives Council; subsequently I became a shop steward in industry and later a union branch official even when working at Director level in the National Health Service. Years of tackling unfairness and hypocrisy together with my scientific training led me to humanism.'

Colin is in the 1956 Cricket 1st XI team above, second from the right in the front row. The others are:

Back row: John Breddy, Mervyn Powell, Terry Short, John Cole

Front row: David Hussey, ?, David Church, Bruce Carpenter, Mike Redgers, Colin Feltham, David Kendall.

CONGRATULATIONS...

To IRIS WILLMOTT (31 -?) (now Parsons) and her husband Will who celebrated their 70th (platinum) wedding anniversary on 1st October 2010. They



met when cycling past each other every day on their way to work. They married in Holy Trinity Church, Kingswood in 1940 and daughter SHEILA PARSONS (54-59) (now Williamson) also went to KGS.

57th BRISTOL SCOUT TROOP...

The Troop seemed to go from strength to strength in the late 50s and this report extract comes from *Kingswood Chronicles* of 1958. By 1960, however, the

Troop had become completely sea scout. Does anyone know why this change took place?

'This term a Senior Patrol was formed. In order to qualify as seniors Scouts had to take an extensive hike and survey. The conditions of the test were to proceed to Farringdon Farm, Somerset, camp the night, and return with a detailed survey of the farm.

'A particularly good log was provided by BROOKE R, MERLINS PL and his Second, CLUTTERBUCK, who made the journey on May 10th in conditions that worsened quite rapidly, though it is true that an awkward ford completed what earlier drizzle had begun. They travelled by bicycle, and including stops, took some seven hours to make the fifty mile journey in the head winds. Camp was pitched in an orchard, but the night actually spent in a Dutch Barn half full of hay.

'The size of the farm, crops grown, herds kept, and so on, were assessed and recorded, and a list made of the farm machinery and equipment. The farmer,



Mr. P. Merson, showed great interest and was very helpful in every way. Camp was broken early the second afternoon and the return journey made in good time. Some of the senior patrol had previously been patrol leaders and seconds. P. REYNOLDS and K. COOK, M. CAREY and R. BROMLEY, T. SLOCOMBE and D. WELLING are the present holders of these positions.

‘One of the most successful outings this year was an excellent day's hiking in the Mendips... to Goatchurch Cavern. Here we had some exciting climbing, in places using ropes, and working in teams under MR. WILKINSON and MR. HILLING in caverns studded with stalactites and stalagmites.

‘The three patrols then made their way independently to the highest point of the Mendips, Skip reluctantly following on a route which he did not believe to be the easiest one, but BROOKE R. was carrying his lunch!... An inspection was held at 17.40 hours before boarding the bus. We reached Prince Street at 20.30 hours after a very good day.’

KOSA MATTERS...

REUNIONS:

You will see from the front page this time that quite a number of reunions are planned for the rest of 2011. This is, of course, a good sign of an active organisation but it does need YOUR support.

For example, we've had an appeal from DAVID KERSHAW (48-53) for more of his contemporaries to attend the reunions. ‘It's no good any of them saying they'd come after reading an obituary of one of their school friends’ writes David.

As you know the usual KOSA reunions are at Lincombe Barn, Downend in April and October to which all are welcome, including spouses. This year is no differ-

ent, but we would appeal for support to all those who have taken the trouble to organise an event.

If you would like to organise a reunion for your years at KGS or Kingsfield, KOSA can help. You will see from the accounts below that we have funds which can be used to help with setting up meetings so that you don't have to risk your own personal funds.

We can provide names for the specific years from our database of over 1,100 which we have built up over the past 18 years of KOSA's existence. We are happy to provide stamped and addressed envelopes to help you in sending out circulars to your contemporaries.

There is a KOSA Committee which meets three or four times a year so a note to our Secretary or the KOSA NEWS editor will ensure that your case is considered sympathetically.

We look forward to hearing from you!

KINGSWOOD OLD SCHOLARS ASSOCIATION

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2010

	£	£
BALANCE AT BANK 1 JANUARY 2010		2,957.25
RECEIPTS		
KOSA News Subscriptions	2,112.00	
Expenditure	<u>2,023.41</u>	88.59
AGM	616.00	
Expenditure	<u>632.00</u>	-16.00
Annual Lunch	990.00	
Expenditure	<u>1,269.38</u>	-279.38
Sales and Donations	242.00	
Expenditure	<u>141.00</u>	101.00
Kenya Expedition	70.00	
Expenditure	<u>70.00</u>	0.00
		<u>£ 2,851.46</u>
PAYMENTS		
Postage, Telephone, etc		51.74
Donation to Kenya Fund		200.00
Audit		15.00
BALANCE AT BANK 31 DECEMBER 2010		<u>2,584.72</u>
		<u>£ 2,851.46</u>

11-Jan-11

M J HARRYMAN
Hon Treasurer
KOSA

WELCOME TO...

New members since the last edition, using maiden names where appropriate: Clive Wiltshire (50-57), Julia Davis (68-79), Wendy Hunt (58-65), Brian Plummer (56-62), Sydney Webster (35-41), Tony Richards (54-61), Margaret Cordy (58-65), Roy Ellis (53-61), Ruth Trotman (59-64), Alex. Lovell (60-67?), Marilyn Stowey (58-64)

COASTERS...

ROGER CROMWELL (51-58) has used his colours awarded to him at KGS to provide the basis for designing a coaster for KOSA. We have had them produced in full colour in sets of four complete with a stand.



A set of four is available from our Committee Member Alan Hireson, 95 North Street, Oldland Common, Bristol, BS30 8TP, Telephone: 0117 373 9578 or contact KOSA on kosanews@tiscali.co.uk. The price is £10, postage included. A great gift for any KOSA member.

FINANCE...

Our thanks to all those who have sent financial contributions to KOSA. Many of them have been extremely generous. In order to make things easier for you and our honorary treasurer we invite you to pay by standing order by completing the

enclosed form and sending it in the first instance to MARTIN HARRYMAN at 5 Brecon View, Bleadon Hill, Weston-super-Mare BS24 9NF who will present them to the bank.

Our costs, of course, continue to rise, in particular to our friends abroad. We are now spending in excess of £100 for our overseas postage. Our draft, unaudited accounts are shown on page 26.

90 YEARS ON...

In 2011 we celebrate 90 years since KGS/Kingsfield was originally founded as Kingswood Secondary School in 1921.

Kingswood Heritage Museum in Tower Lane off Tower Road North, Warmley, has already planned to feature KSS, KGS and Kingsfield School in an exhibition which celebrates our 90 years which should be open by March 2011. It will also be in memory of MARGARET 'BUNTY' JOHNSON (55-62) (later Hinder) who taught at Kingsfield School and worked as a volunteer at the Museum for many years. As Curator, Bunty was initially planning the exhibition when she died in March 2010.

If you're living in Bristol or planning a visit why not go along to the Museum. It's open every Tuesday 2-5pm and every Sunday from May to September, also 2-5pm.

We also hope to celebrate our anniversary at the Autumn lunch on 15 October 2011. Any ideas?

AND FINALLY...

Our end picture this time on page 28 is of the 1949 production of The Road to Bethlehem. Does anyone remember this production and can name any of the participants?



**"THE ROAD TO BETHLEHEM"
DECEMBER 1949**