



KOSA NEWS



NUMBER 39 - AUTUMN 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

EDITORIAL...



'The old order changeth...giveth way to new...'

Kingsfield School now has a new leader - a principal - who is Mr Ian Frost who has moved from Highworth Warneford School in Swindon where he was Deputy Head.

In September Kingsfield School will change its name to King's Oak Academy and will become the fifth and newest member of The Cabot Learning Federation (CLF) on 11 September 2011. The CLF comprises the academies of John Cabot, Bristol Brunel, Bristol Metropolitan and Hans Price of Weston-super-Mare.

This is the fourth change which has taken place over the 90 years of the School's existence - from Kingswood Secondary School, to Kingswood Grammar School, to Kingsfield School and now King's Oak Academy. We hope that as a result educational standards will be both maintained and improved. Naturally, KOSA will be hoping to forge links with the new Principal and King's Oak Academy. More news next time.

DIARY DATES:

ANNUAL AUTUMN LUNCH:

Booked for **SATURDAY, 15 OCTOBER 2011** 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. Maybe we can have a couple of tables this time.

46ers REUNION:

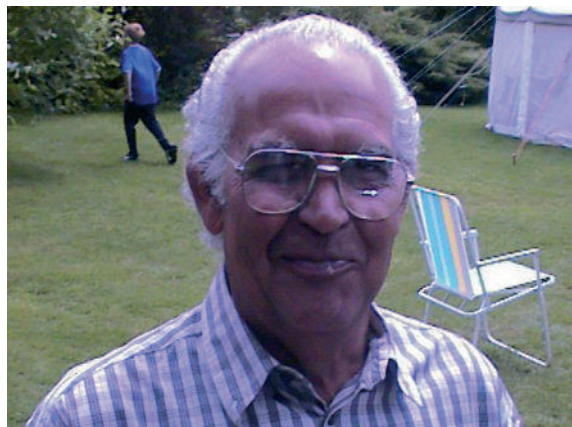
The Christmas lunch at KATHLEEN HARDWICK'S farm down in Clapton-in-Gordano is on **SATURDAY 3rd DECEMBER 2011**. If you're a 46er and haven't yet attended, phone her on 01275 853180 or Mobile: 0783 7528427 or PRISCILLA POWELL now MAGUIRE on 0117 9593902.

ANNUAL SPRING LUNCH...

Already booked for **SATURDAY, 14 APRIL 2012** at Lincombe Barn, Downend. Please book the date in your diary now.

OBITUARIES...

TONY BURGESS (44-48), a personal friend of your Ed., sadly passed away on 26 June 2011 after a lengthy illness.



Tony was well-known as the postmaster at Hanham Post Office, the third generation of his family to do so. He was an extremely popular man, known for his sense of humour and his inexhaustible supply of tales for all occasions.

On leaving KGS Tony joined Kingswood Old Boys RFC (now Kingswood RFC) where he was a mean front row forward. Indeed, Tony was quite a joiner. He was a founder member of Kingswood Y's Men's Club (a charity fund-raising club and service club to the YMCA), which he joined from Kingswood YMCA when he became too old for its membership; he was President on three separate occasions. He was also a member of Kings-



wood Rotary Club, Kingswood Probus and was a mason and a magistrate. He was also a regular player of snooker at Hanham Community Centre.

Tony's favourite past-time, however, was as a keen angler and the photo below shows Tony with a splendid catch in Canada, where he spent many happy hours fishing with his brother John. When he gave up the post office he and Ann moved to be by the River Avon, still in Hanham, where he could fish to his heart's content.

Most of all Tony was a wonderful family man and he will be sadly missed by his wife Ann, their children, Tim, Peter and Helen and their families and all his friends who attended the 'standing room only' funeral at Westerleigh Crematorium in July. A fitting tribute to Tony's popularity.

PETER BRAKE (46-51) remembers his friend CLIVE ROBBINS (46-52):

'It was with great sadness that I heard that CLIVE ROBBINS passed away after a heart attack on 23 May 2011. He was at the 46ers reunion earlier in May and appeared to be his normal self.

'I have known Clive since our first day at KGS, he was from Hanham Abbots and I was from Downend but we became friends from that day until the day he died. Neither of us were great scholars but when it came to sport, and in Clive's case, athletics, we excelled.

'Clive was the perfect runner, on the short side but with powerful legs and a tremendous stride, he could run short or long distances and always won. I cannot remember him ever coming second in a race all the time we were at KGS.

'My best memory of him was in year two when he entered the senior mile, much

to the amusement of the sixth formers who were expected to win. However, I am sure when they smiled at this upstart it was a nervous smile. They had a right to be nervous for Clive led the race from start to finish and won the cup, which he never received – the previous winner had left it home. Perhaps he thought he would win it again that year, a case of 'don't count your chickens'. Clive went on to run for Bristol Athletic Club and had many successful seasons with them.

'We both had an interest in British motor bikes, his speciality being *Velocettes*. He loved the thrill of riding a motor bike and in his later years when he was too weak to handle a bike he would spend time just looking at them, no doubt thinking of past years and friends.

'Clive had been ill but was making, it appeared, good progress. No one could say that his memory was failing as he could remember details of cross-country runs taking in Webb's Heath and Goose Green, which took place sixty years ago.

'I am sure Clive is back wearing his running vest, shorts and spikes in that great athletics track in the sky, no doubt lengthening his stride at the halfway mark and again coming in first! And then, as a change, trialling his *Velocette* in some field in Somerset.

'Goodbye, Clive, a LIFE'S friend.'

Clive's wife, LUCILLE WOODBURY (48-55), passed away in July 2008 after a sparkling school career during which she became Head of School. She taught in several local schools. - Ed

IAN PEACOCK (58-65) has informed KOSA of the death of his father: 'My father MERVYN PEACOCK (26-33) died on 17 November 2010 at the age of 94. He lived his entire life, except when



in the Forces during the War, in Norman Road on Siston Common within sight of the school. He was married to a Warmley girl, Evelyn, for 67 years and he was enormously

active in local organisations: Clerk to Siston Parish Council for 45 years; a long term member and latterly Secretary of Warmley Congregational Church and Secretary of Kingswood Band of Hope for over half a century.

'Yet he was anything but insular in his views. He loved travelling and in his later years he and my mother visited the Far East and the US. In the Royal Signals Regiment during the War he served in Germany, France and Belgium. And he always took an active interest in world events.

'He worked in the stationery industry before the War, then at Parnall's in Yate and finally as Company Secretary for a local housebuilding company, Drinkwater and Sons.



'He was a fine gardener and was still active in the greenhouse until a few months before he died. And he was an enthusiastic follower of Gloucestershire

cricket. He was there in 1930 when Gloucestershire and the Australians tied their match and also, 80 years later when, perhaps less gloriously, England lost to Bangladesh in the One Day International.'

FRANK STEPHENS (30-35) passed away on 5 March 2011, just short of his 92nd birthday. Frank, who was vice-chairman of KOSA for many years, was born in Staple Hill and as a lad enjoyed fishing, cycling and swimming (Frank's 1935 certificate is above right) and was a keen boy scout. Whilst in the RAF he trained in Florida as a pilot and served in World War II.



After the war Frank worked in the oil industry for what eventually became BP, initially in Hamble, then Staines and finally in the London office as a senior executive. He married his school sweetheart, EDNA POWELL (31-35), and they both enjoyed overseas travel to far-flung places such as USA, Russia and New Zealand and even advancing years didn't stop them travelling up the Amazon.

Frank and Edna retired to Wickwar where Frank was a keen gardener and a member of Probus, his Masonic Lodge and helped in the development of KOSA in the early years. Edna passed away in 2007 and since then Frank had lived



alone. Nine members of KOSA attended Frank's funeral at Westerleigh where he was described as a good neighbour, an interesting man and a perfect gentleman. He will certainly be missed.

JOHN BRODIE, (Staff 56-82), who sadly died in January this year, taught History at KGS, working with a number of Heads of Departments, first with CYRIL NELSON, until he became Senior Master in 1959, then GLYN MELLINGS, 'BOMBER' HARRIS and lastly JOHN DEARDON. He was House Master of Eaton House and as an enthusiastic rugby supporter he coached one of the school's rugby teams. He was also deeply committed to encouraging students to be aware of current affairs and spent much time and energy in organising conferences for 6th formers in the Bristol area for the United Nation's Council for World Citizenship.

John appears in the 1962 Staff photo (see page 5) in the back row, seventh from the left behind COLIN WINTOUR (French). John's wife, June, also taught French part-time at KGS before moving to Sir Bernard Lovell's School.

Memories of John Brodie were recorded by ENID EVANS (English Dept 63-82):

'It was with real sadness that I learned that John Brodie had passed away in January, while I was visiting my family in Malaysia. John and I retired together in 1982 and both volunteered for service in the Kingswood and District Citizen's Advice Bureau in Staple Hill where we served for a number of years.



'During the 90's, John moved to Cardiff to be near his son, Hugh and family. There he formed a special bond with his much-loved grandson, Thomas, now a research student at Oxford.

'With his lively personality, John continued to keep in close contact with friends in the Bristol area. He would drive from Cardiff, making a 'whistle-stop' tour of the district. He will be sadly missed by his family and friends.

Another ex-member of KGS/Kingsfield staff who passed away recently was BILL BLAKE and a tribute to Bill was given by his daughter Eleanor Blake at St Mary Redcliffe Church on 23 June 2011:

'I recently came across a quote by Rudyard Kipling which I thought was very apt for Dad. He definitely lived by Kipling's quotation:
'Live as if you are going to die tomorrow, garden as if you are going to live forever'.

'Bill was born in Devizes, Wiltshire in 1928, the younger son of a farming couple from Tilshead. Many of you will have seen him in his Moonraker tie. He went to Devizes Secondary School then to Bristol University to study French and Latin, despite barely having left Wiltshire before then. He spent a year at the Sorbonne University, lodging with a landlady on one of the grandest boulevards in Paris.

'For National Service, he became a Sergeant in the Education Corps starting out in Bodmin, Cornwall and eventually being transferred to Germany (although he had hoped for a more exotic posting!). He went on from there to teach in Llanidloes, Wales – a lucky break in many senses, when good teaching jobs were hard to come by and there he met our mum, Rita.

'After marriage in Wales in 1960 he moved to Southern Grammar School for Boys, Portsmouth and was also involved in running successful football teams.

'And so finally he came back to Bristol where he remained for the rest of his life and where my sister Margaret and I were born. He taught French at KGS/Kingsfield School – where, for reasons lost in the mists of time, he was known affectionately as “Budgie” and was a House Master of Haskins House and enjoyed helping out with football. Even after he retired, former pupils were forever saying hello to him in the street – a testament to how well-liked and respected he was as a teacher there.

'He was a member of the Wiltshire Archaeological and Natural History Society, Kingswood History Society, and the National Trust and he loved sport and music, was a keen theatre-goer and at St Mary Redcliffe he was Reader, Sidesman, Administrant, Magazine Contributor and Guide. With a name like William Blake (though no relation) it is perhaps inevitable he was into literature of all kinds.

'Many of his former pupils and colleagues recall his warmth and kindness particularly at dark or difficult moments in their lives. Pupils from his first class of 1955 said he was firm but fair at a time when the teacher's word was law and the cane was never very far away. He was regarded as a true gentleman.'

We have been informed by her son, Ian, that JOAN BLYTH (33-38?) (later Harris) has died in New Zealand.

'Joan became a teacher after leaving KGS, married (HENRY) GORDON HARRIS (also a KGS old boy), and moved to High Wycombe with their boys Ian and Paul in 1959, where Joan re-entered teaching part time. In 1966 the family emigrated to Wellington NZ. Joan found the break from family and friends a difficult adjustment and decided to leave teaching to spend the rest of her

career as a shipping office with the NZ arm of Unilever. She enjoyed this second career very much.

'After nearly 20 years in Upper Hutt (a satellite city in greater Wellington) they moved to the more benign climate of Waikanae on the North Island west coast for their retirement. Joan involved herself in charity work with the local church, Amnesty International, Red Cross, and being increasing hard of hearing, for the National Foundation for the Deaf. She looked after Gordon at home after he suffered a serious stroke in 1991 and after he died in 2005, Joan moved into a residential home where she died on her 89th birthday.

'A service of thanksgiving for Joan's life was celebrated at the Methodist church at Waikanae attended by many family and friends.'

We have been informed by his wife that TONY KIDNER (40-45) died suddenly on his farm near Bath on 11 March 2011. She said that in spite of his age he had never retired from farming – and he had never played golf! Tony's brother is JOHN KIDNER (46-51).

We have also been informed of the passing of EVE TARLING (41-46) (later Kimmins) who died on 31 March 2011 after a long illness and AUDREY TYSON (59-64) (later Martin) who died in February 2008.

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

A DIFFERENT LESSON...

JOHN COLE (49-56) responds to COLIN FELTHAM's (50-57) viewpoint in 'NEWS 38 in which Colin explained the founding of his Humanist beliefs at KGS:

'I have pleasant memories of playing for the KGS cricket 1st XI of 1956 as a colleague of Colin Feltham. I also experienced the Headmaster RIDLEY picking me out for wearing a sports jacket. However he accepted that as I would be within the liberal dress code arena of the sixth form some months later, a replacement for an outgrown blazer was not a realistic demand (I came also from a working class family relying a blue collar wage).

'Colin comments on 'the hypocrisy of a so-called religious man' (Ridley). He contrasts this with his own personal statement: 'years of tackling unfairness and hypocrisy together with my scientific training led me to humanism.' This inference that humanism has a monopoly of exercising fairness and compassion relating to those who are poor or in dire straits is something I find wholly debatable.

'Christians are about one third of the world's population and perform and organize a huge amount of social welfare and community work. Surely everyone is aware of the Salvation Army's work with the troubled and destitute, or the Christian foundation of the hospice movement, or the work of Christian Aid to help local partners out of poverty? The list, like the work, is endless but to add one personal example can I refer to Mercy Ships, a medium-sized Christian charity, serving medically 'the poorest of the poor' on the west coast of Africa? My elder son and his family have contributed a total of 24 years so far of entirely unpaid voluntary work, mostly on the

Africa Mercy, the largest NGO hospital ship.

'Matthew Parris, broadcaster, columnist of the year (writer for 'The Times'), former MP and avowed atheist concluded in 2009, on returning to his childhood country Malawi, that Christian evangelism is what Africa needs most! He wrote '.....the secular work of NGOs, government projects and international aid efforts. These alone will not do. Education and training alone will not do. In Africa Christianity changes people's hearts. It brings a spiritual transformation. The rebirth is real. The change is good'. He goes on to say 'Christianity with its teaching of a direct, personal two-way link between the individual and God, unmediated by the collective, and in subordinate to any other human being,.....offers something....to cast off a crushing tribal groupthink. That is how and why it liberates.'

'I trust that Colin uses reason and evidence on which to base his humanism and not the Dawkins and Hitchens aggressive antitheism. I hope equally that he can accept that the belief in God by so many is also based on reason and evidence. Alliances are essential between wise science and wise faith about the big questions facing humanity, eg ecology, biodiversity, conservation and a sustainable environment. Lord Rees, Astronomer Royal and atheist, is a positive contributor to 'the affirmation of life's spiritual dimension'; hence his recent award of the Templeton Prize. Sir John Houghton, a much honoured and awarded ex-boss of The Met. Office and an evangelical Christian, sees science and Christianity strengthening each other in the fields of environmentalism. His memorable quotes include 'Christians and other religious people believe we've been put on the earth to look after it'.'

ANALYSIS...

MALCOLM HENRY (52-59) shares with us his views of KGS and education, together with some statistical analysis:

'I always enjoy skimming through KOSA News, especially when there are stories or photos relating to the period 1952-58. Even outside of these years there are often snippets of information both interesting and surprising. The previous issue has for the first time roused me sufficiently to put fingers to keys, so here goes:

'COLIN FELTHAM's (50-57) account in the last 'NEWS of Headmaster RIDLEY's humiliation of non conformists (in the wardrobe department!) caught my eye. Much as I would prefer to think of this as a momentary aberration in R's behaviour, it does seem to have happened on more than one occasion. Presumably nowadays such vindictiveness would be considered inappropriate, but doubtless R had redeeming characteristics, which others will be quick to point out. To me it seemed that he projected an air of irritated superiority, gazing down his nose at us lesser breed of oiks. I guess that many of the teaching staff at KGS were from relatively privileged/comfortable backgrounds that led on to a university education. They may have had scant appreciation of what life was like for the less fortunate, who by the 1950s were entering grammar schools in increasing numbers, thanks to the 11+ and the 1944 Education Act. My somewhat hasty judgement about the staff may be wide of the mark, depending on events and their experiences during the war years. At this distance in time, does anyone know?

'The information about the 1962 A-level passes, pp.14/15 of the same edition,

would bring joy to the hearts of many if the data could be translated to the present day. Some would point out that grammar schools syphoned off the talent and therefore had an unfair advantage, but that apart, the high proportion of passes in scientific and language subjects 42 % (Phys, Maths, Chem); 13 % Biology; 13 % (French, German, Latin) is impressive. Whatever happened, how did we end up where we are today? I made a rough count of the data, but can't vouch for it being error free. The approx 82 students achieved an average of 2.2 passes:

'French 18, History 18, Engl Lit 16, Geog 9, Art 7, Music 6, German 3, RK 3, Latin 2, Modern History & Contemporary Thought 1, Physics 31, Chemistry 18, Biology 14, P&A Maths 10, Appl Maths 10, Pure Maths 8, Botany 5, Zoo 5, Met-alwork 1

'The controversy about A-level exams rumbles on. I can't understand why they aren't made more challenging so as to achieve a wider spread of results. It seems such an obvious thing to do. This is in no way a criticism of today's students, who I'm sure are just as capable as previous generations; it's more a question for the people who manage, and continually meddle with the system. Increasing the challenge could eliminate the unhelpful overpopulation of the A grade, and aid universities and employers with their selection processes. I have no experience of teaching in schools, so perhaps the experienced amongst you can point out the flaw in my thinking.

'Quite by chance, my brother Alex is on the 1962 list with passes in Chemistry, Physics and Biology. He did the first year of a food technology course at Wey-

bridge, then switched to Philosophy at Leeds and went on to get a 2:1. So much for careers guidance. I had quit four years earlier with A-levels in the same subjects, and went to work at Harwell - a very exciting time to be there. It was a steep learning curve, both at work and at day release studies, and a busy route to take. Once again, things might have been different had there been some guidance forthcoming at school. Eventually I went on to do post-grad at Bristol. The new students union building had just opened, complete with swimming pool, and the place felt more like a holiday camp. Following more post-grad in Liverpool and Leningrad (definitely not a holiday camp), and a brush with the invading 'comrades' in 1968 Prague, we settled on Merseyside. What was originally planned as a one year stint in Liverpool, has turned into over forty.

'I enjoyed most of my time at KGS and realised only later how much luckier I was than many others I had parted company with after the 11+. In my experience, KGS teachers ranged from the inspirational to the truly terrible. The latter I will skip over, such views in any case being partly subjective. Among the former, I especially remember 'Bunny' AUSTEN and his droll but helpful references to 'molten ice' during calorimetry experiments. If the A-level results are anything to go by, he achieved a lot for Physics. OK, perhaps not inspirational, but very good. Similarly, RALPH HYETT (he of the rusty bike: 'It's not rust chaps, it's ferric oxide') who sparked and fed my interest in Chemistry. Most of all, I remember MR WILLIAMS (did he ever have a first or nickname? - yes, Bio - Ed) and the enthusiasm with which he taught A-level Biology to our small group in the lab tucked away behind the gym. We cheerfully dissected our way through

some gruesome and sometimes smelly specimens, but they were happy times.

'There is one other teacher I want to mention: MISS QUINTON or 'Quinny', who often set verses of the Bible for us to learn by heart. Naturally, many of us didn't bother, and just prayed (how appropriate!) that she wouldn't call on us to recite them at the next lesson. One day we arrived in class before her and a chair which had fallen to pieces was rapidly re-assembled (by persons conveniently forgotten) and placed invitingly at the front of the class. Mercifully, Quinny tried to re-position the chair before attempting to sit on it, whereupon it promptly fell to pieces again. Understandably, she went bananas; it was a very stupid prank which could have resulted in serious injury. I can't remember the final outcome of this episode, but for the A stream to attempt such a thing must have been a very sobering experience for her. At a prize-giving, BERNARD LOVELL (now Sir) presented her with one of his books. Already drifting towards science, it struck me at the time what very different worlds these two people operated in. I wonder if Q ever read the book, and if so, whether it influenced her beliefs or views in any way. I'm sure that Q was well intentioned, and utterly sincere in her beliefs, but she really belonged in an earlier age - like certain other members of staff.

'To finish on a lighter note, what a plus it was to attend a co-ed school. I might have been more focussed on work without girls to distract me, but life would have been very dull. Thank you one and all.

CNR...

Much has been written about Headmaster C N RIDLEY, always known as Norman Ridley (although perhaps few

addressed him as such in those days). He took over as Head from MAJOR EATON in 1949 until the 1970s, a tenure of almost 30 years.



DEREK BAILEY (49-53), who now lives in Colorado, lived with the Ridley family for some years when he was at KGS and Derek has provided us with a photographic study of CNR in his early days.

We believe the photo was taken in 1935 when CNR graduated in Maths at Cambridge.

NOT ONLY A PUPIL...

DAVID HILLING (46-54, and summer 58) was reminded of his time at KGS – in various guises...

'Mention of my name ('NEWS 38) as co-leader of a scout group hiking and caving day in the Mendips certainly brought back memories.

'I left KGS in 1954, did a degree and teacher training and CNR then asked me to return to the school as a supply teacher for what was left of the 1958 summer term.

'So, I joined all my former teachers as their colleague in the staff room – an interesting change in relationships! Did some geography teaching for 'Scruffy' MORRIS and also took over a 'non-maths' 5th form – all girls as I remember and I can't think what I was supposed to be teaching them - 'non-maths' left things rather open to my initiative, but can anyone remember that class? As a qualified assistant scout leader I helped with the scouts and also went on their summer camp to South Devon. That the group later became all sea scouts I can only think was the influence of MR WILKINSON, the master in charge, who was himself a sea scout.

'At the end of the summer term and knowing I was returning to university to do research, CNR asked Gloucester to transfer me from the teaching to non-teaching payroll and I became Assistant School Caretaker. I picked up a lot of interesting information in cleaning all the toilets and that school had a lot of windows to clean. I was up a ladder on a day when pupils were coming back for exam results and one wanted to know if the teachers always had to clean the windows in the holidays – 'Of course' was my response. As things are going they may well find Mr. Gove asking them to clean the windows! Long hours on School Caretaker MERRYFIELD's motor mower helped the days along.'

There were others who left KGS as pupils and returned on the staff. ROSEMARY WILLETTS, who taught French, and JOHN PYLE (English) and PETE HEMMINGS (Maths), but any others? Where are they now? The photo on page 11 shows David Hilling on the front row on the right, next to MISS QUINTON.



MORE ANALYSIS...

GORDON JACKSON (55-62) also writes about those KGS results published last time:

'I read the lists of the school prizes and A-level results for 1961-2 and I would make a few comments:

The A-level pass list was swollen by re-sits from students who had already passed A-levels in that subject in the previous year. From the late 1950s to the early 1960s students in the top stream took O-levels a year early. Unless they had fallen out badly with the Headmaster they did not leave school at 16, but continued their A-level courses and took them at 17, one year early. However, they were not allowed to apply to university until after A-levels, so they spent a third year in the sixth-form!

'Those with provisional university places re-took their A-levels; those with unconditional places left school for temporary employment (to MR RIDLEY's strong disapproval), or hung about sitting in various lessons, or re-took their A-levels

anyway. Not all students improved on their original results – I knew some who did worse!

'There were a few complications: In my year, but not apparently subsequently, some top-stream students did O-level German from scratch in a year and followed this with a two year course in the subject, sitting it at the end of the third-year sixth. Also in my year (and in my year only) the top-stream students were taught A-level English Literature in three years, not two (presumably through some cock-up)*see page 12 - Ed. Thus those third-year sixth-formers with definite university places and who had been studying English or German took A-level anyway (and did not retake any others).

'The tradition for Science A-level was to attend classes in very basic German. MR NELSON (Senior Master and Head of History) devised an alternative plan. He persuaded students to do an extra A-level – History with Contemporary Thought. By 1962 the scheme was peetering out (Mr Nelson left to take up a

headship elsewhere) so only DIANA SMITH sat (or re-sat) the subject in 1962.

'The students in the second stream took O-level and, if they stayed on, A-levels at the proper time. Unlike those in the top stream, they were allowed to apply to university before A-levels and so if they obtained a place had caught up with the top-stream students.

'What about the students who came to KGS a year early and thus took A-levels two years early? They were not allowed to apply to university until they had taken their A-levels twice. They therefore spent a fourth year in the sixth and still Mr Ridley did not want them to leave school!

'The list of university scholarships also had its peculiarities. Why did it include W KNIGHT (48-55) a student who had left KGS several years before? Was it to stop my name heading the list? There were inaccuracies in the list of university places. RICHARD HOLLOWAY and MARGARET REECE did not go to Manchester University but to Royal Manchester College of Music (now the Royal Northern College of Music). I know that Mr Ridley (wrongly) thought music college inferior to university, but couldn't he have been honest? (MARGARET REECE tells me that, although it was a college, she and RICHARD HOLLOWAY actually did a graduate course – Ed.)

'The list of school prizes included some odd awards, presumably to prevent anyone getting more than one prize. BRENDA FORD, who won the senior orchestral prize, was a stalwart who played clarinet in the school orchestra for years and later became a headmistress. But surely the best instrumentalist was ROGER GARLAND, a violinist and future leader, in the crack National Youth

Orchestra. As for RICHARD HOLLOWAY, winner of the senior choral prize, he was a fine pianist and competent cellist, but no singer (as he would admit himself). He told me that his contributions to the college sight-singing classes were regarded as a joke!

'Incidentally, ELISABETH BECKER was mis-spelled twice, she spelled her name with an S not a Z. Also, why were the girls listed by first names and the boys by initials? Sexism anyone?'

*MARGARET REECE (55-62) (now Wills) responded to Gordon's 'cock-up' theory. She writes:

'Re the English Literature A-level. Mr. Ridley decided that the exam should take place after 3 years in the 6th form, not the usual 2. It was not, as Gordon puts it, 'through some cock-up', but an experiment in which the Lower Sixth year could be spent gaining a huge, comprehensive background knowledge of English Literature in general - of plays, poetry, novels, etc. before starting on the set works. I found that to be an invaluable literary education and have been forever grateful for that.'

THE PARK...

MARGARET REECE (55-62) also responded to EDDIE WHITE's (55-61) missive in the last edition:

'I was amused to read about EDDIE WHITE's exploits. The lane he mentions, en route from the Kingswood YMCA back to his house, was at the side of my house, yet I don't recall seeing someone going down there on hands and knees--how interesting! [Nasty lot of stinging nettles down there, too, as it was never a well-kept lane!]. The Park was a semi-circular road, with the other part formed by Southfield Avenue. Living in those 2 roads were quite a few KGS pupils--MARGARET SPARKS, DAVID MILES, BRENDA CADDICK, DAVID COTTING-

HAM, RUTH & FREDA WHITE, GILL, IAN and LIZ HULL, plus me [MARGARET REECE that was], and that's only the ones I can remember! No headmaster nowadays would live in such close proximity to his pupils!

Incidentally, I don't suppose Eddie will remember but we started school on the same day in 1949 at New Cheltenham Infants School. We were seated in the same double-desk together!

REUNIONS...

There have been several get-togethers since we were last in print. SUE WELLS (59-64) (now Pullen) reports:

59ers REUNION:

'A very enjoyable afternoon was spent at Chipping Sodbury Town Hall on Saturday 16th April 2011 by 25 former Kingswood Grammar School pupils who had started at the school in 1959.

'The event was organised by IAN BRYANT and PAUL JOBBINS who put in a lot of time and trouble trying to trace fellow classmates with help from KEITH MOSS and SUE WELLS).

'There was a display board showing the full school photo circa 1963, as well as several form photos brought along on the day. It was great to catch up with friends who we had spent all of our adult school life with but for some reason had lost touch with when we embarked on the big wide world. Some recognition was instant others took a little longer but the clock turned back almost instantly once we started talking about being back in the old 'cow shed' How we wished that we had done this years ago and perhaps some of the teachers could have attended. 'Holy' HUMPHRIES, 'Scruffy' MORRIS, 'Bunny' AUSTEN, 'Fishy'

SALMONS, 'Minnie' MORRISON and the well-loved 'Nellie' WYCHERLEY to name a few.

'Editor MIKE BENDREY (51-56) and his wife EILEEN MATTHEWS (52-59) kindly came along and gave support which was much appreciated. We were grateful to CHRIS JOBBINS and MARILYN DRAPER who, when they realised that they were actually 58ers, still remained with us and we hope that they enjoyed themselves. Unfortunately we let ANGELA KING 'escape' before she had time to meet up with some familiar faces. The buffet was gorgeous and could have done with some more help to demolish it. Hopefully next year we can organise another reunion and others reading this may be tempted to come along. We hope so.'

CONGRATULATIONS...

We subsequently found out that it was no accident that the 59ers reunion was held at Chipping Sodbury Town Hall. The current Mayor of Chipping Sodbury is none other than PAUL JOBBINS. Our congratulations to Paul on his appointment.

On the photo of the occasion on page 14 Paul is on the back row on the left and Sue is also on the back row, third from the right.

56-5MS REUNION...

As it's 60 years since most of Form 5MS of 1956 started at KGS, our Chairman, STAN 'BUSTER' BURRAGE (51-56) and his wife RITA RAYNER (53-59) arranged a get-together at his home in July, 2011.

Principal guests were form master GEORGE BUTCHER and his wife SHEILA and the photos on page 15 indicate what a happy occasion it was.



59ers Reunion

Paul Jobbins, Ian Bryant, Brian Gibson, Marilyn Draper, John Head, Sandra Tollerfield, Sarah Clotworthy, Bob Masters, Keith Moss, Sue Wells, Chris Jobbins, Heather Jones, Anita Fox, Sue Hart, Annette Clarke, Linda Goodenough, Kathryn Edwards, Jan Morgan, Linda Jeffrey, Val Lane, Ruth Trotman.



Some of 56-5MS (Modern Science):

Dave Hussey, Dave Kendall, Mark Adams, Mary Powell, John D'Alessio, George Butcher (5MS form-master in 1956), Stan Burrage, Phyllis Hanks, Martin Harryman



The 51 Starters:

Mark Adams, Phyllis Hanks, John D'Alessio, Maureen Griffin, Martin Harryman, Mike Bendrey, George Butcher, Dave Hussey, Stan Burrage, Mary Powell, Dave Kendall



1963 - IVR:

Top Boys: ?, ?, Christopher Gait, ?, Peter Hacker, David Small, Trevor Hawkins, Howard Nowell, John Griffin, Ian Burt, Derek Hoare **Next Boys:** ?, David Miles, Michael Davidson, Christopher Gribble, ? **Girls:** Janet Harding, Janet Hopkins, Elaine Griffin, Susan Hudson, Priscilla Carter, Annette Clarke, Ruth Trotman, Jennifer Taylor, Alison Hawkins, Kerry Shipley **Bottom Row:** Marilyn Dunford, Linda Pope, Valerie White, Mark Burnham, Miss J Roseveare, Penny Lake, Audrey Tyson, Vivienne Burton, Mavis Ball



1962 - IVG1

COUNCIL COLUMN...

In KOSA NEWS 37 we published a photograph of TERRY GIBBS (46-50) as Mayor of Hatfield, in Yorkshire. Terry regularly attends the 46ers Reunion at the farm owned by KATHLEEN HARDWICK and this May was no exception. PRISCILLA POWELL had expressed a wish to bear the Mayor's Consort's Regalia, but as she was unable to attend, Kathleen stood in for her. The photo below shows Terry and Kath in their mayorial gear.



On page 13 we congratulated PAUL JOBBINS (59-64) on his appointment as Mayor of Chipping Sodbury. The photograph below shows Paul in all his finery. The last time we featured Paul was when he was presented with the George Medal by the Queen.



IN THE FAMILY...

Back in 1966 MARGARET FORD (43-47) (now Heslop) was Captain of Knowle Golf Club and PAT YEOMAN (43-49) (now Murphy) won the *Western Daily Press* Annual Golf Cup that year. The photo of the presentation below shows Pat (left) receiving the cup from Margaret. They are second cousins and both went to KGS!



SOME NEW MEMBERS...

ALEX LOVELL (60-65) (now Smith) dropped us a line, with a photo of 63-3A (over). She informs us that during her final year they decided to introduce 5th Form Prefects - and she was a guinea pig! Their Prefects' Room was the old tuck shop at the top of the stairs leading down into the main hall.



1963-3A

Back: Ian Howell, Graham Goodhall, ?, ?, Ian Wrigley **Second Row:** Steve Mortimer, Chris ?, ?, ?, Kevin Moulder. **Girls:** Jennifer Hall, Gillian Powell, Gillian Burton, Linda Grey, Jennifer ?, Susan Saunders, Suzanne ?, Jennifer ?, June Coles, Janet Godfrey, Peggy Wilkins. **Front:** Sandra Greenhill, Cynthia Toghill, Linda Evans, Alex Lovell, Mr Avery?, Ian ?, Pauline ?, Yvonne White, Lyn Bailey.

BROTHER MIKE...

MIKE GIFFORD (50-58) is the brother of DAVID GIFFORD (53-60), but has only recently joined. Mike is still busily engaged in teaching English Literature as a private tutor, mostly at the weekends.

He enjoys writing and for several years he has been a prolific contributor to the Creativity weekly competition in *The Independent* and, thanks to the interest in plays fostered by 'Boney' BRITTON and 'Polly' WATTERS starting with visits to the Old Vic, he is now a theatre addict, taking full advantage of the various aspects of the Arts available in London.

...FRIEND DAVID...

Chartered Accountant DAVID TAYLOR

(59-61) has also just joined and by some coincidence has mentioned DAVID GIFFORD in his letter:

'ROGER BYE (56-61) and I are going to try to hook up for one of the reunions, but in the meantime I seem to recall that DAVID GIFFORD is encouraging former rugby team members (School and/or Kingswood Old Boys RFC) to get together, so I shall try to do that.

'Funnily enough, I found myself in a team photo with 'Giff' in the first magazine I opened - No: 37, page 10. I'm second from left on the front row.'

We're planning to have a rugby table at the next Autumn lunch on 15 October. Perhaps that might be a suitable occasion for those ex-players to get together?

LES AMIES...

Does anyone still have contact with their French penfriend? VALERIE HANDY (42-49) (now Routley) celebrated a remarkable friendship in April this year:

'In 1945, after peace in Europe had been established, MISS PERRY (Ma Perry), who was my French teacher at the time, asked if anyone would like to write to a French student. As our family enjoyed exchanging letters with distant cousins in Canada I thought I would like to write to someone in France.

'After some little time I received a letter from a 15 year old girl called Jeannine who was a pupil at an Ecole Normale in Lyon. I do not know what information had been sent to France but our backgrounds were extremely similar, Jeannine's parents kept a boucherie in Lyon, whereas my parents at that time kept a grocery store in Mangotsfield.



'The idea was to write part of the letters in French and part in English; from the beginning Jeannine's English was quite fluent

and far superior to my French so most of the letters were written in English. It was not until 1951 when I had completed Teacher Training that we were able to meet and I set out on what was then a big adventure to stay with her in Lyon. By now Jeannine had also qualified as a teacher.

'I spent two weeks with her parents, two sisters and two brothers, partly in Lyon

and partly a few miles away in the village of St Pierre de Boeuf where her grandfather lived. I cannot boast that my French improved but I had a wonderful time, as I hope Jeannine did on her reciprocal visit to Downend a year later.

'Since then we have enjoyed many visits and holidays together exploring France and England, regularly exchanged Christmas parcels, kept in touch by writing and phone calls and now we have updated to emails. We have shared our joys and sorrows through boy-friends, marriage, children, grandchildren and hopefully great-grand children.



'This April, sixty years after we first met, Jeannine came to stay with us to join the family celebrations for my 80th birthday. I enclose 2 photos the first taken in Lyon on my first visit and the second in April with my two sisters DORCAS and JOYCE, both former pupils of KGS.'

In the two photographs which span the decades, the one on the left shows Valerie on the left with Jannine in France in 1951. The photo above is of the reunion in the UK in April 2011 showing (from left to right) Jeannine and Valerie, and Valerie's sisters JOYCE and DORCAS, who are also Old Scholars of KGS.

KIWI BRANCH...

Welshman RICHARD DAVIES (49-56) and his wife Mary have recently emigrated to New Zealand, but they didn't expect to be tackled by JOHN COLE (49-56) who ran them to ground when he was visiting his family down-under:

JOHN writes:

Encounter with a Cymraeg Kiwi
'Many visitors to NZ will be aware of the conservation efforts that have been required to ensure the recovery of certain birds. The Kakapo for instance has been given sanctuary on a remote island, isolated from the predators introduced by Maori and European settlers. Equally dramatic has been the black robin raising in the Chatham Islands, whilst the national symbol, the Kiwi, is widespread but still in need of protection. On an ornithological but rather jocular note I'm claiming even more than a mere sighting of an absolute one-off, a 'Cymraeg Kiwi'. This bird, otherwise known as DICKIE DAVIES (49-56) was encountered on 15 March 2011 about an hour's drive north of Auckland.

'Images may be flashing into your minds of a cartoon Kiwi bird riding on a Honda motor bike, daffodils and leeks protruding from the pockets of his jacket that has 'Hell's Angels, Geriatric Chapter' (Dickie's self deprecating joke) emblazoned on the back. Due to a misspent youth I can further visualise him singing above the engine note 'we're off to see the wild west show, the elephant and the kangaroo-oo-oo-oo.....'.

'On the other hand you may have had enough of this nonsense and be simply pleased to hear that Dickie and his wife Mary are settling into their new lives in NZ, happily now close to their daughter and her family.

'PS Dickie still does a mean impression of Windsor Davies, the sar'n't major in the old TV series *It Ain't Half Hot Mum* '

WHERE, WHEN, WHO...?

The photo below is from JEAN LOVELL (48-56) (later Walters), a KOSA Committee Member. We know where it was taken (the school's in the background) and we know it was taken in 1954 - but on what occasion? We know most of those in the shot - the who - but who are those two in the front of the photo? And what's a child doing on KGS playing fields in what looks like the Winter of 1954 with other members of the School? Can anybody help?

Those in the background are PAT KINGSCOTT, ROY SMITH, DAVID ANGELL, TERRY SHORT, JEAN LOVELL, TONY VENN and PETE WALTERS, who was the late Chairman of KOSA.





1960-Girl Guides

Presumably the membership was taken from the whole school, so only a few have been identified: Barbara Cottle, Lynda Turner, Jane Christopher, Janet Headford, Jennifer Shire and Ruth Trotman, who supplied the photo.



1962-63 Under 15 Rugby XV

Back row: Alan Britton, John Head, Michael Davidson, Jon Crawford, Howard Nowell, Robert Whitchurch, Pete Cox, Robert Masters

Front row: Gerald Williams, Keith Davis, Andrew Bargery, Eric Lyne, David Harris, Philip Bright, David Miles



The Before...and After?

It's 1957 and some of the 6th form boys planned to inflict their culinary skills on some of the staff which included Misses Jacobs, Horseman, Wycherley, Morrison, Watters, Rehoj, Bailey, Spill, Owen and Mesdames Watson, Hirst, Morse and Brodie. It could have been the other way round, of course - smiling before the meal!



THAT L...

In 'NEWS 37 we published a poem by MERVYN POWELL (49-57) on the way Bristolians speak. BRIAN ILES (45-50) has also produced his view of this peculiar aspersion. This wouldn't apply, of course, to those from Kingswood!

The Bristol L

There's just one L in Bristol and that's the Bristol L
But it's hard to know how long the letter's had us in its spell.
Not quite so long as time began - though time alone will tell,
Nor quite so long ago as when old Jonah fed the whale.
But did Cabot think of 'Americle' before his ship set sail,
Or Chatterton want 'med-I-cine' because he was so pale?
And what about old Abbot John when Keynsham Abbey fell?
Was it from a broken windle that he cursed King Hal to Hell?
We know when Cromwell came to town to ring Prince Rupert's bell
That the name of our fair city already ended with an L
'Cos Bristowe changed to Bristolle, as historians know full well,
Before the Roundheads ringed the walls and rang the funeral knell.
Four hundred years at least then we've lived to tell the tale,
(While bouncing our idills around, and supping Bristol ale)
How peasants from this area-I so love their Bristol L.

TWEEDY RESPONDS...

JOHN 'TWEEDY' HARRIS (53-60) comments on the letter from MONICA JONES (53-59) regarding Maths in the last edition:

'I was flattered by Monica putting me in the same sentence as contemporaries DAVID EWINS and DAVID GIFFORD. I was not very good at Maths at all.

'When our O Level time came in 1956, at the end of Year 10 (Year 4) for the 'express class', I was bawled out of Assembly over in the canteen one morning - from the back came a voice that shouted: 'Is Harris Tweed here?' and went to sit my first Maths paper that I did not know I had been entered for! Not a good start, but I ended up getting 45 per cent, also wondering how 45 could be the pass mark.

'My exam experience since in both CSE.

and GCSE. has given me a better insight, but in those exams there was a sort of floating grade award which goes against the 45 mark every time.

'Fascinating stuff that reminded me of a priceless memory for me at least. The other by product of that year was that I turned up for Latin, only to find that I had not been entered. Fortunately MISS BAI-LEY got me through the next time it was possible to take it - Christmas retakes?'

1966 AND ALL THAT...

The *New Observer* of 12 November 1966 reported on the Kingswood OB RFC Annual Dinner at which the President of the club, C N RIDLEY, proposed the toast to Rugby Football. In his speech he reported that 'playing both football codes at the school was working out very well' but he said that for schoolboys 'Rugby is the finest game you can play - completely unaffected by professionalism'.



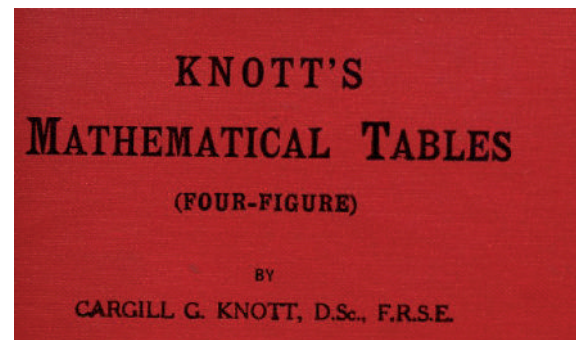
Responding to the toast of KOB RFC, ROGER BEESE (52-57), Club Captain, said it was pleasing that more clubs were wanting to play Kingswood OB 'because we play the game in the right spirit'. Tankards were presented to JOHN BISHOP (52-58) and GEOFF ANN (47-53).

REMEMBER THESE..?

In the days before scientific electronic calculators we had to use four-figure tables for our calculations. It contains logarithms of numbers (inc. mean differences), antilogs, logs of sines, cosines and tangents, natural secants and much, much more. Ring any bells?



The photos show the presentation to Geoff by Peter Storkey, chairman of Bristol Football Club Selectors, and a section of the enraptured audience! Nearest the camera, third and fourth from the right are BRUCE BENNETT (54-59) and RODNEY HARVEY (51-58).



DAVID'S TESTS...

DAVID ROSEVEAR (45-52) writes: 'Your readers may be interested in examples from these pages of *A Test a Week* by C J Ridout, used in the 40s and early 50s to prepare 10-11 year olds for the scholarship exam. Mental arithmetic, so no scrap paper, and certainly no pocket calculators. I'm just glad we went metric, even if it was after I left KGS.' A page of questions from the book is shown on page 25. Why not try them?

TEST 31

- (1) 5010 - 105.
- (2) $1\frac{1}{2}$ score + $4\frac{1}{2}$ dozen.
- (3) If $16 + 24 - x + 17 = 50$, what is the value of x ?
- (4) Divide 7248 by 6 and halve your answer.
- (5) 10 times $\frac{1}{5}$ of 5.5.
- (6) Three dozen books cost 16s. 6d. How much did each cost?
- (7) How many whole numbers of three figures could you write down in which both the hundreds and tens figures are nines?
- (8) If 12 tins of biscuits weigh 9.4 lbs., what should 18 such tins weigh?
- (9) $\frac{2}{3} = \frac{\cdot}{50}$. Name the missing number.
- (10) A girl in walking a mile took steps measuring 2 ft. Which of the following numbers is nearest to the number of steps she actually took—1760, 2000, 2500, 3000?
- (11) What does a dairyman gain by buying 40 eggs at 5 for 4d. and selling them at 4 for 5d.?
- (12) When a number of marbles were divided among 7 boys there were 4 marbles over. If five times as many marbles were divided among 7 boys, how many marbles would be left over?
- (13) By what have I divided 1.23 to get .0123?
- (14) I purchased some calendars, all the same price, for 2s. 3d. Were they $4\frac{1}{2}d.$ or $4\frac{1}{2}d.$ each?
- (15) A sheet of zinc 15' by 12' weighs 2 lbs. What would be the weight of a sheet of half the length and half the breadth?

24



is the second from the left.

SMALL WORLD...

DOROTHY ROSS (41-47) (now Scammell) writes:

'Having read the Summer 2011 edition of KOSA NEWS I saw mention of BOB DIDHAM on page 5. My husband and I met Bob and his wife Molly on the same touring holiday in Norway in 1997 and during the course of conversation Bob and I realized that we had both attended KGS at much about the same time.

'Back home, we visited Bob and Molly at their home in Swathling, Southampton and they returned the visit to our home at Trowbridge. Not long afterward we heard from Molly that Bob had died.

Incidentally, in the Summer 2010 copy of KOSA NEWS, in the picture at the foot of page 19, I'm in the 2nd row, second from the left.'

APPOINTMENTS...

It's good to see ex-KGS pupils taking positions in the community. PETER WHITE (43-48) will be taking over as President of his Probus Club in October, succeeding earlier presidents from KGS, ROGER EVANS (51-56) and STAN CRUSE (41-47).

JANET ANDERSON, one of our MPs who failed to get re-elected last time, has put herself forward for election to the Board of the Authors' Licensing and Collection Society.

MARY FORTY (now Prior) (53-?) continues in her role as Lord Lieutenant of Bristol and is reported in the University of the West of England magazine as visiting the Migrant Rights Centre Bristol (MRCB). In the photo on the right Mary

ROAD TO BETHLEHEM...

The photo on the back page of the last edition prompted BERENICE DYER and JEAN KENDALL to name names. Mary was played by JILL SINTON and the Angel Gabriel by COLIN BEACHAM. The innkeeper's wife (far left) was HEATHER TAYLOR and second from the right was GERALD TIPTON. The angels (left) were played by JEAN KENDALL (middle) and LINDA GAY (next to Joseph) and by RITA BRITTON (right).



MUCH ADO...

The following (unattributable) report on the production appeared in 53-54 *Kingswood Chronicles*:

'On December 10th to 12th, 1953, the School gave a performance of Shakespeare's comedy, *Much Ado about Nothing*. This is not an easy play to present, especially for young players, but in this case they acquitted themselves very creditably.

'MARLENE GAY gave a delightful performance and was a charming if somewhat youthful Beatrice, while the Benedick of BRIAN WILLIE suggested the adventure and romance of the days of Elizabeth. The Prince (DAVID HILLING), with his sense of deportment and gravity, made a good contrast to Benedick. The main characters were well supported by the rest of the cast. Perhaps special mention might be made of Dogberry (A VOWLES) and Verges (JOHN CRUSE), whose delightful Gloucestershire accents would no doubt have gladdened the heart of Shakespeare who, I daresay, would also have turned a tolerant eye on the antics of the watchmen.

'The dancing reached its usual high standard and it was evident that many people had worked hard in the art-room and workshop to provide the colourful and effective background.'



The photo of the Principals (above) include Willie Knight, David Hilling, Brian Willie, Pam Weeks, Jill Staples, Heather Pomphrey, Marlene Gay and Margaret Staples. Can anyone identify the actors in the top photo?

We are constantly referring to past editions of *Kingswood Chronicles*. We have copies up to 1969-70, but do copies exist after that date?

WELCOME TO...

We welcome the following new members since the last edition, using maiden names where appropriate:

David Taylor (59-61), Alison Walters (?), Michael Gifford (50-58), Mrs Margaret Brown (widow of Bill Brown), Anthony Hicks (39-45), Trevor Wiltshire (55-62), Sandra Tollerfield (59-64), Bob Masters (59-64), Linda Jeffery (59-64), Kate Edwards (59-66), Linda Goodenough (59-66), Sarah Clotworthy (59-66), Annette Clark (59-66), Keith Moss (59-66), Brian Gibson (59-64), John Kidner (46-51), Janice Iles (53-58), Karen Button (67-73), Judy Pearce (50-55) William Didham (34-38).

COASTERS...

Our set of four coasters in the *Esse non Videri* colours have proved to be very popular and have sold out. However, we are planning to re-order and they should be available at the Autumn Lunch on 15 October.

EXHIBITION...



In the last edition we announced that Kingswood Heritage Museum planned

to mount an exhibition celebrating 90 years of Kingswood Secondary School/KGS/Kingsfield School's existence. The exhibition is now complete and can be seen on Tuesdays and Sunday afternoons 2-5 from May to September. The KHM is well worth a visit anyway, and at £2 a go it won't break the bank!

The photo (below, left) is of MARY POWELL (51-56) (now Janes), EILEEN MATTHEWS (52-59) (now Bendrey) and MAUREEN GRIFFIN (51-58) (now Batten) at the KGS exhibition.

One of the exhibits at the exhibition is the very first register of the pupils of Kingswood Secondary School (as it then was) when it opened in 1921. The very first entry is HERBERT NORMAN AMOS LEAR who entered from Doynton C of E School, whose father was a postmaster. Entry No: 242 is ALFRED CHARLES BERNARD LOVELL (later Sir) from Oldland Common.

AND FINALLY...

The photo on page 28 this time shows an aerial view of KGS. We would guess that it is sometime in the late-50s due to the fact that there are two extra classrooms on the boys' play area in front of the gymnasium, down from the hall.

From the state of the foliage on the trees it was probably taken in the winter time and judging by the number of pupils and the shadows it was probably taken at morning break time as there's no one by the canteen.

