



KOSA NEWS



NUMBER 40 - SPRING 2012

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

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DIARY DATES:

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING & SPRING LUNCH:

Booked for **SATURDAY, 14 APRIL 2012** at LINCOMBE BARN, Downend BS16 2RW. We meet at 12 to 12.30 for a chat and a drink from the bar and a quick AGM. 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.:

After their very successful reunion last year, IAN BRYANT and PAUL JOBBINS are organising another buffet lunch for all those who started in 1959. CHIPPING SOD-BURY TOWN HALL, Broad Street, BS37 6AD is booked from 12.00 to 4.00pm on **SATURDAY, 28 APRIL 2012**. Contact Ian on 0117 932 4053 or Paul on 01225 745839 (Note change of number).

46ers REUNION:

The next lunch at KATHLEEN HARDWICK'S farm down in Clapton-in-Gordano is on **SATURDAY, 12th MAY 2012**. If you started in 1946 and haven't yet attended, phone her on 01275 853180 or Mobile: 0783 7528427 or PRISCILLA POWELL (now MAGUIRE) on 0117 9593902.

ANNUAL AUTUMN LUNCH:

Already booked for **SATURDAY, 20 OCTOBER 2012** at Lincombe Barn, Downend. Please book the date in your diary now.

OBITUARIES...

KOSA has been informed by his brother Bryan of the death of DAVID ROWE (42-49) on 12 November 2011 at the age of 81.

'David arrived at KGS via Downend C of E School. He was a keen sportsman, gaining both his Association and Rugby Football Colours and playing occasionally for Cleeve RFC. Whilst at KGS he met his future wife BARBARA HIGGINBOTHAM and they both progressed through Bristol University where, in 1952, David obtained a First Class BA (Hons) in Geography. David then completed his National Service where he gained a commission, finishing as Captain.



'He started his working career in marketing with Pickerings (they of the pie fillings) and progressed up the ladder to Marketing Director. Pickerings were taken over by Fisons where David became Marketing Director of the food division. Fisons consolidated by asking David to sell the Food Division which he did to Heinz UK Ltd, where he was promoted to European Marketing Director. After many years he decided to downsize and joined Bowater-Scott, again as Marketing Director. His two

claims to fame were that he persuaded Heinz to reduce the salt content in their food products and he was head of the team for the now famous advert of a Labrador puppy dragging a toilet roll around the house.

'He will be missed by his three sons and his brother Bryan, who unfortunately did not make it to KGS.'

The photograph (left), which shows David second from the left in the back row, was taken in about 1949 outside the Art room, prior to David going up to university.

BILL SANDOVER (36-42) has informed KOSA of his wife's passing:

'BARBARA WILLIAMS (36-42) passed away on 14 August 2011, just a few weeks before her 86th birthday. She suffered from Myelodysplastic Syndrome affecting her blood cells.

'Always a supporter of KOSA, I think she was on the group of old scholars who initiated

the formation of the Association a little while after Major Eaton retired in 1949.

'We had two sons, the youngest Peter was at Bath University and took a degree in Architecture. At one of his breaks in the course he was employed by Bristol City Council and was sent, by them, to report on a fire at a school in Kingswood. He recognised the school as Kingswood Grammar. This was not good news to us, I'm afraid. This would have been in the mid-seventies.'

We have been informed by her husband, Roland, that JEAN TURNER (39-44) (later Wood) died on 25 April 2011.

‘Jean had very fond memories of her time at KGS and it was always of great regret for her that by reason of family circumstances she had to leave before realising her full potential to go to university.

‘She was 82 years old when she died having lived a full and happy life.’

We have also heard from our popular French and Music mistress of the 50s, MISS MARION JACOB (now LAPADU), that her contemporary on the staff, MISS KATHLEEN OWEN, who taught Domestic science, passed away in the Spring of 2011. Marion writes:

‘...We had been friends ever since she arrived at KGS as Domestic Science teacher in 1954, just a year after me. We shared a flat in Bristol and came to school on her Vespa every morning. When I left to marry MICHEL LAPADU (French Assistant 55-56) she came over to Normandy regularly and was Auntie Kathleen to our daughter.

‘Later, she married Gerald Waplinton and had a very interesting life. They lived in Colchester for a time during which Gerald designed and built a beautiful yacht. They sailed across the Channel, down the French coast, up the Gironde and the Garonne, laying up a few days at Cadillac where we were working, then cruised down the Canal du Midi to the Mediterranean and moored eventually at Estartit in Spain, where they lived for 18 years, making many friends and helping to create a Golf Club. ‘They were a widely travelled couple – Asia, Australia, America – making us feel real ‘stick-in-the-muds’!

‘Recently her memory began to fail and she was terribly worried by the threat of Alzheimer’s, but in the end she died of cancer after a mercifully short illness.

‘She was the best of friends and a very devoted wife to Gerald, who, I’m glad to say, was able at 94 to come over for his usual visit to the Pyrenees last August. Both he and I were delighted to see on page 22 of the last edition of KOSA NEWS the photo of the 6th Form boys cookery class and their guests, with Kathleen smiling in the front row.’ (Marion is also on the shot – on the left of the back row of the staff members – Ed.)

We’ve been advised by her son, Andrew, from New Zealand that Mona Williams (later Walker) has passed away:

‘She was born on 13 October 1919 so I guess would have been at the school in about 1930 to about 1935. She married her husband Percy Charles Walker in November 1940.

‘Mona died on 11 January 2011 peacefully in hospital after a slight fall. Her husband had pre-deceased her in December 1999. Mona leaves a son, Andrew, daughter-in-law Debbie and two grandchildren, Holly and Ellie.

‘She had lived in Bexhill on Sea, East Sussex for over 24 years until September 2010 when she moved to a residential home in Beckenham, Kent to be near her family.’

BRENDA TYSON (62-67) (now Higson) writes:

‘I am the sister of the late AUDREY TYSON (later Martin) and am always interested to see a copy of KOSA NEWS - Audrey used to pass her copy on to me. I was particularly interested in the most recent edition as it had a photograph of

Audrey's year (59-64) and also an obituary of her untimely death. I am unaware of the identity of the person who notified you but would like to thank them and just give a bit more information.

'Audrey had worked at Lloyds Bank in Bristol for 37 years full-time but took early retirement to look after her late husband who was terminally ill with lung cancer. At the time they lived in Clutton but after her husband's death she moved to be near me and my husband in Keynsham.

'Unfortunately within a short time at the age of 57 my dear sister developed dementia and we had little choice but to move her into a very caring home in Kingswood - the town where we grew up. She was very contented there but after only 10 months there she had a massive blood clot and died at the age of 59. To say we were devastated is an understatement.

'The publication of Audrey's class photo of 1963 1VR brings back lots of memories of her closest friends i.e. MAVIS BALL, SUE HART and VIVIENNE BURTON. I hope they do get to read this and I wish to be remembered to them wherever they are. I would also like to send greetings to anybody who remembers me from KGS.'

ALAN HIRESON (62-69) has informed KOSA of the death of his school friend: 'I was saddened to hear of the passing of IAN OLDS (63-70) last year. Although one school year younger than myself, it did not take too long for us to become acquainted due to our shared interest in railways. We had a number of very enjoyable trips out while still at school and afterwards. We kept in touch for many years through the kindness of the owner of a model railway layout in

Keynsham which Ian and I (and several others) used to help operate; at these sessions the odd collision or derailment only added to the hilarity.

'Increasing workload in the late 1980s and early 1990s meant that Ian could no longer attend and I regret to say we lost touch. I heard news of him once or twice from a relative living locally and heard that he was married, and later that he was not in good health, but the news of his death was a shock. I am sure KOSA members who knew him would wish to express our sympathy to Elaine and her children.'

JOHN WINCHESTER (55-60) has informed KOSA of his sister's passing: 'It is with sadness that I have to announce the recent death of my sister JANE WINCHESTER (58-65) (later POULTER), aged 64, after a long struggle with MS. Jane will be remembered for her participation in hockey and tennis (the former to county standard) and her sense of humour.

'Her sense of humour was always close to getting her in trouble and culminated in the 'Bubble Car Event'. This occasion marked the repositioning of MR PORCHMOUTH's economical car into a location from which it could not be driven. We understand the affronted teacher fortunately also had a sense of humour.

'She will also be remembered for taking the part of 'Little Buttercup' in the school's presentation of *HMS Pinafore* in, I think, 1964.

'Her bravery and refusal to give in to MS has been an object lesson to many of us. She will be greatly missed by family and friends.'

JOHN PLASTER (41-46) remembers his friend:

‘JOHN BROWN (41-46) sadly passed away on 23 November 2010 at the age of 80. His health had deteriorated towards the end of his life and he was suffering from Alzheimer’s

‘We went right through schooldays together, firstly at Downend Church School, then KGS – always in the same class. He was a native of Downend, having been born in North Street, opposite the cricket ground. He himself was always a keen sportsman and played cricket for the Downend team and football for various local teams. He left school in 1946 to join his father’s timber business in Downend, served National Service in the RAF and then rejoined the family business until he retired.’

We have also been notified of the passing of SYBIL WATTS (26-30) on 7 December 2011 at the age of 97 years, GEORGE THATCHER (31-36) at the age of 91 years after a fall at home, MARY GOODFIELD (48-53) (later Francis), TERRY HIBBS (45-50) (husband of PAMELA ROACH (52-57), BOB DENNING (39-43) on 6 April 2011, MIKE JONES (54-61), husband of PAT REE-SON (54-?) and MARY WATKINS (54?) (later TAYLOR) who was the long-time partner of MIKE REDGERS (50-57).

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

HUMANISM..?

BRIAN ILES (45-50) has joined the intellectual debate which was started by COLIN FELTHAM (50-57) and responded to by JOHN COLE (49-56) in the last edition. Brian writes:

Unlike John Cole’s, my memories of the KGS Cricket First Team are mixed. In 1949 I hit JIMMY WILDE, the sports mas-

ter, for four in the School v Teachers’ game. The next over he clean bowled me – and the next season I was demoted to the seconds.

But it wasn’t the vengeful sports master or the snobbish headmaster who’d made me an agnostic by then. I’d done that myself at fifteen, unable to believe any more what I’d learned at ‘Cong’s’ (Hanham Road Congregational). I had to wait over sixty years, however, to really learn my lesson – thanks to Sam Harris’s book, *The End of Faith* - and now at last I’m a full-blown atheist.

John Cole worries about the basis of Colin Feltham’s humanism, and implies that the aggressive antitheism of Dawkins and Hitchens is not based on reason and evidence. It most certainly is. Quite apart from the fact that they are no more fierce than many modern anti-atheists anyway, all their arguments are reasoned on evidence. That is why Dawkins, for example, is so hot on the *irrationality* of the creationists. (Pace DAVID ROSE-VEAR (45-52), a creationist, here. I’ve read his book and, scientist though he may be, I can’t accept his highly selective – and therefore, in my humble opinion, unscientific – evidence.)

Sam Harris contrasts the dogmatism of Faith with the continual questioning method of science. Some faiths are more modern than others, but whatever their monotheistic standpoint, they are all closed-minded in beliefs devised by ‘primitive’ thinkers, however well-meaning, from a pre-scientific age. Scientists must by definition be open-minded, changing and updating their views in the light of new evidence. Thus Science and Faith are fundamentally irreconcilable. Christianity is the nearest to becoming a ‘wise’ faith – and therefore capable of

alliance with science - only because it has abandoned most of its literalist fundamentals - to the extent that, in some quarters, doubt has even been cast on the existence of God.

As regards atheism and spirituality, there is no problem. To be spiritual, Buddhists don't need a God. And their spirituality is untainted by religious dogma. Harris, though, may be overdoing it when saying that the Dalai Lama v a Christian is like a physicist v a bushman!

Voltaire reckoned that if God didn't exist it would be necessary to invent him. And this is what I really take from the fact that so much good work has been done 'in the Lord's name'. An old joke from the 'Cong's' pulpit sums it up. With God's help, the old chap created a lovely garden, said the minister. But God on his own, the gardener replied, made a right mess of it.

Quite clearly humanism doesn't have a monopoly on doing good, and I applaud the many millions of Christians and their charitable work. But all that this shows is the existence of Good. It does not, and cannot, prove the existence of God.

Good men do good things whether or not they believe in God. However, once you start saying we need a supernatural being to tell us to be good, the way is open to all sorts of unsubstantiated beliefs governing human behaviour. And this lets the bad guys in.

Religious fanatics, past and present, have done all sorts of terrible things in the name of God. No such moral mistakes can happen the way Sam Harris tells it. Doing good is simply anything which helps and doesn't harm our fellow human beings. Neither Heaven nor Hell

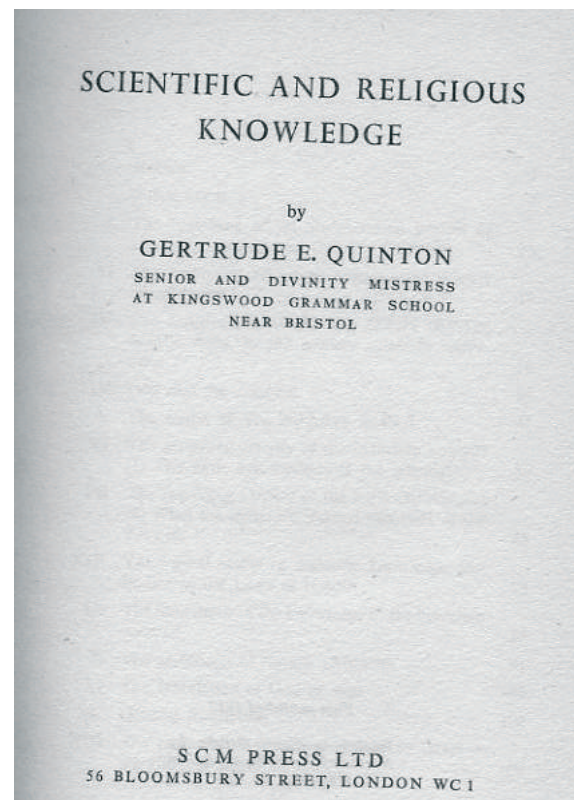
comes into it. In the secular world you get your desserts on Earth. And humanists don't need pie in the sky bye and bye, because for them virtue is its own reward.

COINCIDENCE..?

Your Ed received a phone call from BERENICE DYER (44-50) (now Robinson) asking whether KOSA was aware that Senior Mistress MISS QUINTON (Quinny), who taught Divinity, had written a book called *Scientific and Religious Knowledge*.

With the aid of the World Wide Web we were able to trace the book, which was published in 1950 at the extortionate price of 6 shillings (30p) and a copy was purchased (at a lot more than 30p!).

It's a very scholarly book which examines the application of inductive and deductive reasoning to religious and scientific thought. She was obviously a very bright lady, something not always appreciated

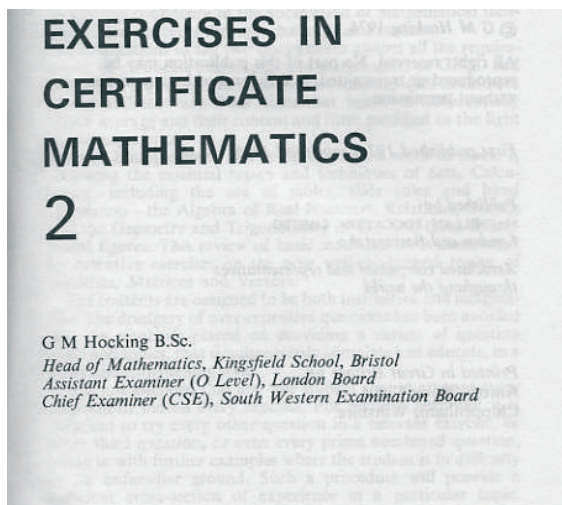


by us pupils who received her pearls of wisdom. As you might expect, because she was clearly a committed Christian the book is written with a strong bias towards the religious point of view. Brilliant stuff! The title page of the book is reproduced above.

MORE KGS BOOKS...

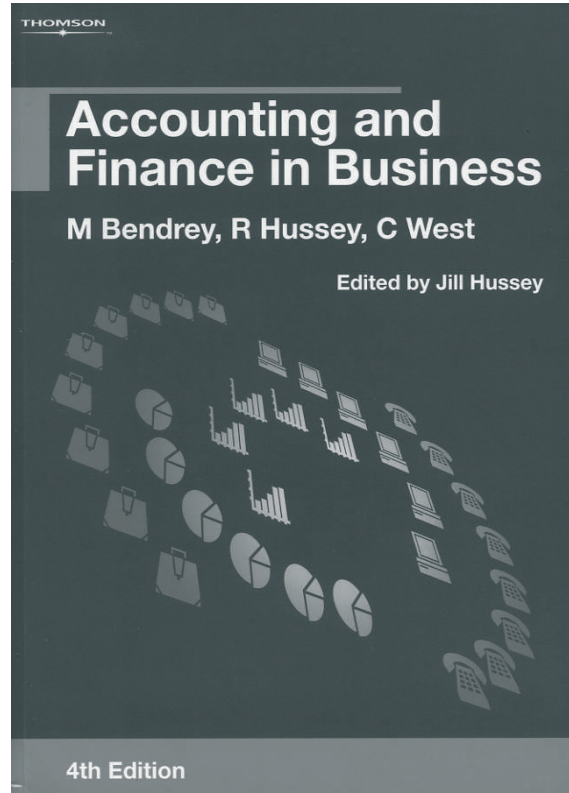
The Kingswood Secondary/Kingswood Grammar/Kingsfield School exhibition at Kingswood Heritage Museum which celebrated the school's 90th year and in remembrance of volunteer BUNTY JOHNSON (55-62) has now closed.

However, one of the books which came to light for the display was one by GE-OFF HOCKING, who joined KGS in the 50s (from St. George GS?) and by 1974, when the book was published, was Head



of Mathematics. Your Ed. particularly remembers the quality of Geoff's teaching as he was successful in getting him through 'O' Level Mathematics.

The book's title page from *Exercises in Certificate Mathematics 2* is shown below, from which we assume that there is also a Book 1 out there somewhere! With uncharacteristic modesty your Ed.



has never included any of his own publications when covering those produced by those connected to KGS. Above is the cover of the 4th edition of a boring book which financed a number of family holidays back in the 20th century. My co-authors were pupils of, respectively, Withywood Grammar and Bristol Grammar.

MORE DEBATE..?

A recent TV series encouraged JOHN COLE (49-56) to pose the question whether we should revert to the old grammar School system. John writes: '**The Grammar School: A Secret History**', a BBC 4 programme in January 2012, featured a number of well-known people like Michael Portillo, Sir Roy Strong and Neil Kinnock. All agreed that the experience of the local grammar school was formative and led to upwards social mobility. They agreed this was positive in teaching them 'how to live as

well as how to earn a living.'

They did however have mixed feelings about the grammar schools' effects on the meritocratic/egalitarian continuum. They reflected on their own degree of discomfort in social situations as 'scholarship boys' within the family and in peer groups. Kinnock and Strong were moist-eyed in describing their elevation from working class to something very different - all by virtue of passing the 11+ exam. Strong emotion was also expressed by Portillo in condemning the abolition of the grammar schools as "stupid, vandalism and a tragedy." It would be interesting to know how the experience of KGS has affected KOSA members' life chances and also how they feel about the 80% of pupils, perhaps including siblings, who were directed elsewhere to secondary or technical schools.

Such considerations may seem to be 'old hat'. However the advent of academies and free schools and the continuation of public schools registering for charity status, together with the current status change of our *alma mater* in Kingswood, surely justify rehearsal of the old arguments. These of course include educational purpose and content as well as the current focus on control and cost. Wikipedia offers an informative article on the Tripartite System 1944 – 1966. Would KOSA members bring back this system I wonder?

Chris Woodhead, ex Ofsted, in an earlier *Times* article expresses strong views: "I don't really understand the anti-grammar school argument. I think it is grounded in the belief, Utopian belief, that if everybody attends the same school [community/comprehensive] everybody, being more or less equal, will achieve

more or less equally." This, in Woodhead's view, is rubbish. He is known for telling liberals that it's good to have an educational elite; that many would be better off training as plumbers or mechanics than going to university; and that the marking system for secondary level exams has been corrupted. Strong sentiments indeed. So where do you stand?

CNR...

It seems that headmaster NORMAN RIDLEY, who came to KGS in 1949, encourages some extreme views about his headmastership from our members. An interesting response has been received from DEREK BAILEY (49-53) who now lives in Colorado. Derek writes:

'Your front page news about the latest name change for KGS was interesting - though from 5,000 miles away I guess I don't know what that means in terms of any changes to the school. One would hope that KOSA would get a more significant relationship to develop between it and the new principal at least.

'A few thoughts about comments in both the most recent KOSA News and past editions about Norman Ridley. Having lived at the Ridley household for the better part of five years - and having stayed in touch with them after I left England - including up to today with his children and grandchildren - obviously gives me a unique perspective. One thing probably not known by any KGS pupils but me was that he came from a very modest family background. His father was a men's clothing salesman in Sheffield - hardly an upper income career with a stay-at-home wife and two children.

'I travelled with the family to Sheffield on a couple of occasions to see his widowed



mother. This family home was a typical English duplex (Oops! you say semi-detached) on a very ordinary street in Sheffield. I assume that he made it to Cambridge on the strength of a scholarship for academic ability since it doesn't seem likely to me that his parents would have been able to afford the tuition.

'At Cambridge he got both an MA in mathematics and a wife. She was ultimately heir to a significant family inheritance based in part on land ownership in Lincolnshire. Her inheritance was clearly the source of money that enabled the family to live a much more affluent life style than would have normally been the case. In fact the Ridley family, kept ownership of one of the family farms in Lincolnshire until after Doris Ridley died in 1966.

'His brusque and often curt persona at school was not at all the person that he was at home at 27 The Park. And, finally to provide a home for a teenager like me who needed a home in the worst way, speaks for itself in terms of his personal generosity.'

Above is a recent photograph of the home in Sheffield where CNR was born.

THE COUNTER VIEW...

RON ILES (45-53) thoughts on CNR:... 'When I read COLIN FELTHAM'S and others writings about HEADMASTER RIDLEY I felt my negative memories screaming to be exorcised. I wrote tirades in support of the writings but each time I felt it was not right. For goodness sake, NORMAN RIDLEY is no longer with us and cannot defend himself so that we could understand the whole picture, fairly.

'Sad, I forgive him and me. Actually he threatened to expel me in the VIth Form, so I withdrew myself from lessons and went DIY, far quicker.

'In my 5-6 years before KGS it was wartime, my brilliant mother had died, I was isolated for TB by 7, moved from carer to carer, place to place, school to school, (including from prestigious QEH on free scholarship to a ghastly Victorian Village school), house to house, removed from Father and new wife and siblings. I entered KGS, then half way through the noble MAJOR EATON'S leadership changed to that of 35 year old (ex RAF) NORMAN RIDLEY, a teacher from Upper Class Dulwich College.

'After the change of Head, I rested most of the time, the pace was slow and mechanical. My first report in the 6th Form was a dry sardonic "Iles will do well after such a glorious term's rest". It was a form of schooling I rejected and I fed on only the interesting. Most seemed a waste product so I received a negligible education in the saunter through the park with a passive photographic memory and an IQ and a Right Brain, undiscovered by the mainly "exam rating" left-brained teachers. Exceptions were MR BRITTON (English) and SQUADRON LEADER

KEATS (Music?), both smiling, inspirational and appealing.

'KGS Colditz for me was a desert, lacking precious imagination and originality, an insult to broadband intelligence and largely demotivating. I was a caged Nature's Free Spirit and loathed it. How could 'FISHY' SAMMONS (Chemistry) not notice that DAVID ROSEVEAR and I had several times exploded a fiery purple brown concoction of lethal chemicals and painted the ceiling in the lunch hour and later almost blowing up the whole place and ourselves by lighting the hydrogen we'd made. His routine was to chalk our copy learning in perfect calligraphy each time. He'd spent his life from 11 to 65 at KGS in a classroom lab, apart from his time at College. He was ordinary, a few were catalytic, others were psychopaths and one kind chap tragically went into a mental institution.

'What an exciting wondering place it could have been, but mostly utterly demotivating for me it was. It was a miracle we survived "them" and they survived us, silent guerrillas. The sponge exam creeps thrived, I didn't. I remember my private thoughts but little what the mouths at the front said. Even one girl who was brilliant must have got bored. She was going to Oxford but apparently left quick and got married to a photographer. She wrote rude words under all the desk tops, in the lunch hour, of course. One thug teacher there smashed me across the floor when I tapped another lad on the head with a spoon. Yes, KGS was different when Norman came.

'Anyway one can surely only judge oneself fully, but not another Being with whom we may or may not react well. To harbour bad feelings is surely self-destructive. So I have tried to turn the resid-

ual loathing within me to the care and love I try to have for others. After so many years the negativity had remained inside. I did not like Norman's behaviour, for sure, but that was mutual because of mutual lack of understanding. When I had high marks in a Cambridge Open Scholarship (when my poor aunt had to pay the fee when he refused) and I was called with 8 Public School lads for a practical and interview he wrote "this boy is only fit to be a narrow specialist" so I went to Kings, London instead, not my preference. He knew me not at all, only my sad behaviour, not even knowing the reasons underlying it.

'KGS was truly brutal then and I still carry the physical damage. Someone in KOSA spoke of Mr. Ridley's great kindness, his not widely known benevolence. This was a cathartic revelation to me. Did I see only the "Headmaster" not the Man? Who knows, maybe behind the obvious public image was a lost spirit, desperate yearning, with a mighty unfulfilled need for something - Life Meaning, Love, God? He had his lop sided sardonic superior raised nose way, but was it a defensive front? Sad it now is to me. Did we think Norman WAS "The Headmaster" and saw nothing of the Man, maybe with inferiority issues like mine then? I know not.

'So - Norman to me was an enigma. I experienced him as the "Headmaster" with "behaviours" but did not know the Man, tragically, and vice versa. Anyway I could never judge the Man beneath his behaviours only he or his "God" might do that. Now, I choose to view him positively. I learned by default and "in spite of" and now seek to live only for Good of Life on Earth. Bless You Norman Ridley the Man and hope you are now at Peace.

'Let us not harbour embittered cries for him which might wake undead ghouls within us all and if you revere him because you knew his reality, it is good. Let us sing lullabies anyway and cry joyfully to Heaven for all those who learned at Colditz. For many of us there is only a short time left after the long ago times at KGS. When LOVE can BE it sets us free from SEEMING so there is never Hate. Major Eaton was ever my Headmaster. Bless you, Sir, for your *Esse Non Videri* way which became the Priceless foundation of my Life.'

GEORGE LOOKS BACK...

We reported in the last edition that GEORGE BUTCHER, who taught English in the 50s, and his wife Sheila, graced us with their presence at a small reunion last July at the home of KOSA Chairman, STAN BURRAGE (51-56) and his wife RITA. George, who joined KGS in 1952 and left to teach at Aylesbury Grammar in 1958, has reminisced in a missive which we had to hold over from the last edition:



'I had been in the Army, and at Cambridge, and then for a year at the Cambridge Institute of Education, so I was 25 when Sheila and I were married and Sheila was 23. That was in August 1952, and we came to live at the top of the hill in Warmley. It was down that hill and

across the railway line that I walked to Kingswood Grammar School at the start of the new term — and now we found ourselves, more than half a century later, greeted not by old pupils but by old friends, making new ones, like PEGGY OTLET (38-43) (now Bolt), and recalling the past with pleasure and indeed with gratitude. The Fifties are much disparaged by modern historians. They were for us a time of coming out of shadows into a shining future.

'In the Burrages' beautiful garden on a sunny afternoon we looked at a picture of the staff, and remembered particularly those who had seemed part of the fabric of KGS — MISS WATTERS (English), MISS WYCHERLEY (English), MR BRITTON (English), MR HODSON (Maths), MR MORRIS (Geography), MR SAMMONS (Chemistry), MR AUSTEN (Physics). MISS QUINTON had just retired as Senior Mistress. Incidents came to mind that the years had scarcely dimmed. One was Mr Hilton's terrible experience on his way to school one morning. A young motorcyclist died when he swung uncontrollably out into the main road and ran full tilt into Mr Hilton's car.

'We remembered the *Britannia* crash which occurred in Downend just before mid-day on 6 November 1957. The resulting huge explosion destroyed the aircraft and everything within it, and rained chaos forwards and downwards upon homes in Overdale Road. One of those homes was MR HOCKING's (Maths). His wife Pat ran desperately upstairs, everywhere the glass from shattered windows, and seizing her infant son from his cot hurried down and out of the house, avoiding the body that lay before her on the path.

'We looked at the photograph of my VMS



of 1956. How unsophisticated we were in those days. If by some magic we could all meet, I wonder what we would learn about one another's lives. We could not all be there: long ago we lost CHRISTINE SWEET, none of us knows quite how or why; more recently TREVOR WHEELER and DAVID PINE. The photograph on page 12 might have other gaps in it.

'But much of what might be said at reunions remains unspoken because the event takes over and the present becomes the past. Often a really distant past. Sheila remembers meeting a polite, blue-eyed youngster one Saturday in Kingswood. She said to me afterwards, 'Who is that lovely little boy?' The two have been very fond of one another ever since, and her faith in him has been more than justified. Our Chairman of KOSA was once more familiar with the inside of Headmaster RIDLEY's study than the staff were. How many of those who knew 'Buster' BURRAGE in those far-off days could have foreseen him on the platform of his old school presenting a prize.

'I am reminded that the Headmaster,

when we knew him, had still to find satisfying relationships with scholars on the one hand and staff on the other. I recall the interesting article by DEREK BAILEY (49-53) in an early copy of KOSA Magazine. Derek, who came to KGS in 1949, had been taken into Mr Ridley's home and found him a warm and understanding foster father.

'When we teachers look at Form Photographs we particularly notice those who sit next to us — our Form Captains. On Sunday we were taken out by Stan and Rita, and RICHARD PALMER (51-58) and his wife MARGARET BRAIN (53-58). I had last seen Richard almost exactly 53 years ago. We discovered that he had met Margaret not in school but at work in the offices of the Inland Revenue. Contemporaries will recall his enthusiasm for rugby, not to be diminished by tax collecting. There was time for talk now, and time for reflection.

'On the Monday morning we decided to return to Buckinghamshire by way of Cirencester, and just out of Stroud I saw a road sign. We have been in touch with

the Fords for many years but not met. I was always fond of DENLEY PERRETT (49-56), and JEFF FORD (48-56) and I, with HEATHER POMPHREY and MR WINTOUR (French), had been in *The Bartered Bride*. On impulse we went to find the village of Brownhill. It was the briefest of calls, but such a happy one, and it rounded off what had been a memorable weekend.'

MUCH ADO...

JOHN CULLIN (49-56) and his wife MAUREEN WALLINGTON (51-56) have identified those in the photo from *Much Ado About Nothing* in the last edition:

'Here goes, using the report on pages 8 and 9 of the Chronicles 1953-1954: From the left of the photo Watchman: Richard. Davies, Conrad: John Cole, Watchman: probably Tony Venn, Borachio: Peter Walters, Watchman: David Britton or Messenger: John Hiles, Watchman: Roger Greenaway, Verges: probably John Cruse, Sexton: John Cullin, Dogberry: Tony Vowles'

Our thanks are also due to John Cole and Jill Staples in helping to name the actors – Ed.

A CONFESSION...

ROY WILCOX (53-59) comes clean at last about an initiative which backfired all those years ago:

'As a pupil in Form 2A in the summer of 1954, the results of the end of term exams would determine whether Music or Geography would be pursued the following year.

'In the final lesson prior to the exam, the Geography master 'SCRUFFY' MORRIS, gave us 'hints' as to the subjects which would feature in the set paper. As he solemnly listed these weighty topics, it became increasingly apparent to me that I was in possession of the examina-

tion paper, which had been reset from the previous year and passed on to me by my sister, who had been in the same class a year earlier. Hardly able to believe my luck, but with a singular lack of foresight, I embarked upon the exam with some confidence but, even so, only managed to come 2nd, a result nevertheless described by Mr Morris in his end of term report as "very creditable". The top spot, as always went to DAVID (subsequently Professor) EWINS, who seemed to occupy some sort of academic stratosphere, which I could only contemplate in awe.

'The Music exam was a different matter. I came 4th on merit, but regrettably, the die had already been cast. I had to take Geography the following year, a subject in which I did not excel, whereas my continuation with Music, a subject in which I could claim some modest ability (indeed, rather ungraciously declining Music teacher ERIC HILTON'S invitation to take private piano/violin tuition, my predominant interests at the time being somewhat less academic), was abruptly curtailed.

'To summarise this sorry tale, I had been, as the Bard might have put it, 'hoist by my own petard'.

'During more introspective moments, I still occasionally ponder

- (a) whether I should have had the moral courage to confess my 'crime';
- (b) how many pupils, in identical circumstances, would have acted differently; and
- (c) what would have been the reaction of the staff to a 'confession'.

A POTTED HISTORY...

BRENDA TYSON (62-67) (now Higson) has given KOSA a potted history of her time at KGS:

'I failed the 11 plus the first time so stayed on an extra year at the Junior School



KINGSWOOD GRAMMAR SCHOOL
ROUNDERS UNDER 15 · 1962

ROUNDERS...

Kingswood Chronicles for 1961-62 reports that School rounders teams were first formed in 1961 in order to play matches against other schools. In 1961-62 four teams were formed - under-15, under-14, 2nd year and 1st year. Above is the under-15 team for that first year. However, no reports on rounders matches appear in subsequent editions of *Kingswood Chronicles* so does that mean that rounders lasted only for one season?

72 - 75 LEAVERS...

On 22 October over sixty former pupils who left Kingsfield between 1972-1975 gathered for a reunion at Longwell Green Community Centre, organised by JULIE JOHNS (68-75). While many people still live in the area, others travelled from all over Great Britain to attend the event - with CAREY DIXON and MARK NASH from Inverness travelling the furthest.

Guests enjoyed reminiscing about their memories of Kingsfield and catching up on the various paths their friends' lives

had taken since leaving school. Several people were now in semi-retirement or on second careers. Others were continuing to pursue successful careers in the field they had entered after leaving school/university. Occupations represented included: health services and medicine/surgery; building construction; banking; education; charity sector; hospitality and catering; military; public services; and agriculture.

One recent, notable achievement was that, earlier in the year, MARK LANSDOWN had cycled from Land's End to John O'Groats, raising over £2,000 for Action Medical Research. There were lots of smiles and laughter and several requests for Julie to organise a similar event in 5-10 years time. One guest described it as 'the best night out I've had in years!' More photos can be seen by joining: 'Kingsfield Leavers 1972-1975 (2011 group)' on Facebook.

On page 15 is a shot of the happy reunion of some early Kingsfield cohorts.



← from page 13
(Park School) so was nearly 12 when I started in September 1962. I didn't stay on at school (really didn't like it that much) but went straight from school to Soundwell Technical College where I was for a year - and I know I started work in 1968.

'I have noticed from previous copies of KOSA that there is a lack of input from 1960s students so thought you might be interested in my observations. I obviously followed my sister Audrey to KGS and as she was the scholarly one I did not meet up to expectations of her teachers. I always remember 'ERIC' SYKES saying to me "If you're like Audrey you'll be fine" - but I wasn't like Audrey!

'I really didn't like my time at KGS very much being very mediocre in most things apart from drama when I enjoyed reading leading roles in the English class of MRS. EVANS. My only claim to fame was a commendation card in the first year for Biology when JILL BRYANT was our tutor and coming 6th in the Cross Country race when all of the first year took part! How sad is that?

'The only good thing for me which came out of KGS was that I met my dear friend SUE MARSH (Gay) and we are the best of friends still. We have shared many heartaches and much laughter over our nearly 50 years of friendship and for that I can thank KGS. I have very little contact - apart from Sue - with former pupils of KGS but can still put names to faces and wish to be remembered to anybody who does remember me.'

EARLY YEARS...

EDDIE WHITE (55-61) responds to MARGARET REECE's (55-62) (now Wills) story of her first day at school – sitting next to Eddie:

'Re page 12 of the last edition and Margaret Reece, I have no recall of the double desk experience but some other memories and photos of New Cheltenham days which I would be happy to share with her if she would care to let me have her e-mail address. (Done – Ed).

'My parents ran a business in Regent Street and at the age of 3+ I was 'farmed out' to a private kindergarten called Amberley House in Apsley Road, Clifton. We were ferried from home by Primrose Coaches of Hanham every day, so when I arrived at New Cheltenham, age 5, I got quite a shock as I thought that all kids other than me were posh. Culture shock does not adequately describe it. It was a relief to find out that I was normal after all. Having had my feet held to the fire like that at such an early age, first days at school or work in future were a piece of cake for the rest of my life.

'My apologies to Margaret for forgetting our meeting, but I was scared to bits by some of the kids at New Cheltenham and don't remember anything of my first day there.

'The school reorganisation news sounds exciting. When I worked for an American company in the 70s and 80s we did this a lot and one day during a meeting with my personnel director he showed me this cutting which I thought I might share with you. Let's hope that MR FROST, the new Principal is as great a zealot for the high standards and proper behaviour that RIDLEY imposed' The cutting was:

"We trained hard....but it seems that every time we were beginning to form up into teams we would be reorganised...I was to learn later in life that we tend to meet any new situation by reorganising; and a wonderful method it can be for creating the illusion of progress while producing



confusion, inefficiency and demoralisation”

Petronius Arbiter, 210 BC

‘As a classical scholar you are probably aware that Petronius lived in the reign of Nero so could not have written this 200 years or so earlier. The correct attribution is to Charlton Ogburn from *Harpers Magazine* 1957. In the unlikely event that you pass this on I thought that I should remind you of the above.’

(Now I realise that’s what *all* governments do when they get into power; they have to do something to convince the electorate that they are making progress whilst at the same time producing confusion, inefficiency and demoralisation - Ed)

TRIPS TO PARIS...

BRENDA CHALK (54-61) (now Ewins) recalls some shots of two trips to Paris: ‘I have found these old photos and I thought they could go in the KOSA archives.’

‘In the photo of the large group in April 1956 (above), I think I am centre top, dutifully wearing a beret and being controlled by the member of staff – but I am not too sure because my memory is a little hazy these days and in old photos I often mistake MONICA JONES for myself!



‘It could be my brother, JEFF CHALK (53-59) sitting on the left in the second row looking miserable, but that would make it a trip for the year above mine, in which case you will find other students

that you know. I also cannot be exactly sure of the year.

'I am on the right in the other photo but I am afraid I cannot recall the names of my friends. I think it is possible that the group photo is my brother's trip; and the ferry crossing is mine a year later in 1957.'

A QUERY...

An old copy of the 'NEWS prompted ANN MORRIS (46-52) (now Soutter) to write with a query.

'Reaching the depths of an overflowing in-tray I came across No. 36, Spring 2010, and just wanted to thank DOREEN PILLINGER (48-53) (now Lindegaard) for her memories of MISS DAVID, pp. 7-8. I'd forgotten her Latin greeting but she was indeed inspirational. She was particularly good at comparing English translations of Latin texts and encouraging us to improve on them. She always made a note of especially good renderings and must have had the perfect translation in her own notes from generations of pupils. One that sticks in my mind is from Livy - *Elephantia inter se urgebant* = The elephants jostled one another (Hannibal's elephants crossing the Alps) - that has stayed with me for over sixty years!

'BONEY BRITTON (English) was another marvel. Do others remember him getting out his violin to play 'Chevy Chase' to the class and have us all singing along? He gave me a copy of selections from Shelley which I still have.

'Can someone remind me who was the History teacher who started us off with *Alaric the Visigoth*, straight from junior school? How lucky we were.'

THEN THERE WERE THREE...!

MIKE COKAYNE (52-58) is now the

proud owner of his third Rolls Royce. Fortunately, Mike lives in a village in Wales where he has room to house his collection. It seems that second-hand Rolls are a snip these days!



MIKE'S PLANS...

MIKE PARRY (46-51) has given us a fascinating story of his personal aims which were thwarted at KGS:

'During my last year at KGS, I absented myself from games each Friday afternoon, and went to Wick where a new pipe organ was being built at the Congregational Church. I had previously met Mr Fred Joynson at his home, and told him I would like to arrange to be apprenticed with him, upon leaving school. My mother knew and would have supported me during the 7 years apprenticeship, I also told Headmaster MR RIDLEY, who was unimpressed. My father was a Major in the army, and when I told him of my aspirations, he forbade me to mention the matter again. 'There is no future in pipe organs, they haven't built any since the war'. He was wrong on both counts.

'I was a church organist for well over 40 years, now retired, and although I am acutely interested in organ building and pipe organs in general, I only dream of them now. When Mr Ridley took over from MAJOR EATON in 1949, I asked to be transferred to Staple Hill Technical School, to equip myself for the various skills necessary for organ building. He hit the roof; did I not realise that through my

selfishness I had deprived some child of a grammar school education.

So I went on strike. I stopped doing homework, hoping this might change his mind; I refused to do PE and play games, but spent my time doing the school gardens, and later dug up virgin soil around the newly built canteen across Brook Road, and grew the flowers that I planted there.'

AN INVITATION...

It seems that many KOSA members are also members of Probus.

DAVID GIFFORD (53-60), who is in his Past Presidential year at Kings Lynn Rural Probus Club, would welcome members from the West Country, visiting West Norfolk, to his club's coffee mornings at 10.30 on Thursdays at the Knights Hill Hotel in Kings Lynn.

AN APPRECIATION...

KATHLEEN HAWKINS (33-37), who as KATHLEEN MOUNTSTEPHEN was Lord Mayor of Bristol in 1989, appreciated the last edition:

'It gave me great pleasure to read of contemporaries ALICE WEBB, ETHEL KIRK and GRACE HODGES. Ethel and I still correspond, she now lives in Lincolnshire. She was a little older than me and 'eased' my late entry into the school.

My years at KGS were, with memory, all happy. We had remarkable teachers and the curriculum was very 'modern'! The article from COLIN DEMMERY (53-59) gave me joy, too, so many memories. Our Geography teacher was MISS WYCHERLEY (she taught English later – Ed) who was beautiful with long blond plaited hair! MISS QUINTON was quite unforgettable, too. She had a remarkable

way of making Latin come alive (she taught Divinity later and was also Senior Mistress-Ed).

When you're as old as I am, now 90, it 'makes a day' to read of others' relevant memories. Thank you.

A WARNING...

WILSON BARRETT (48-55), who is an ex-pat living in Strasbourg, writes:

'I note that KGS has now turned into Kings Oak Academy (via Kingsfield – Ed). I hope that the decision to adopt academy status was a wise one and taken after full discussion with all parties concerned. Having read the opinion on academies in general of the Association of Teachers and Lecturers, of which I remain a member, I fear that the decision may well be a short-term solution turning into a long-term problem. Will former pupils of the Academy be known as 'Regal Oakies'?''

A WEB PAGE...

Internationally-known and award-winning sculptor MARGARET LOVELL (50-55) has her own web page on: <http://www.margaretlovell.co.uk>. There is also a short film of Margaret's work on <http://vimeo.com/31793038>.

Margaret, who now lives in Hanham, is a Fellow of the Royal British Society of Sculptors. After leaving KGS she studied at the West of England College of Art, Bristol and following her training at the Slade, London and at the Academy of Fine Art in Florence, she has carried out numerous commissions and exhibited across the UK, Europe and the USA.

Her works are largely in bronze and vary in size from miniature to monumental. They range from lifelike portraits to sculptures that express natural forms and soaring movement.

THE SPORTING 60s...

KGS was always a school keen on all kinds of sports and below are two photos of a 1961 Junior XI Cricket team and the 1962-63 Soccer side. Soccer preceded Rugby as the school winter game for boys until the late 40s when, under the headship of MAJOR EATON, Rugby was introduced. Soccer was then dropped under NORMAN RIDLEY'S initial tenure but was then re-introduced in the 60s. Does anyone have a date when Soccer was re-introduced?



KGS IN THE MEDIA...

Bristol Evening Post has featured LINDY MORRISON (64?) in their series on retiring teachers. Here's an extract from the article which appeared last August:



If there's a science to being a brilliant teacher, then LINDY MORRISON (64?) has the formula. After teaching thousands of students in her 37 years as a science teacher, she has decided to hang up her lab coat. Ms Morrison, 58, who teaches at the City Academy, started as a newly qualified teacher at St George School in 1974.

The daughter of a police officer, she was born in Gloucestershire but moved to Bristol in 1961, where she attended Hanham Abbots Primary School and Kingswood Grammar School.

She obtained a Teacher's Certificate in 1974 from Portsmouth and later completed a degree in technology, maths and engineering with the Open University. She has worked under six head teachers and for many years she coached the St George School volleyball team and was proud to have four girls selected for the England Under-16s team. Steven Richards, head of science at the City Academy, said: "Outstanding to the end, Lindy has been a colourful, inspirational character who has always gone above and beyond, not only in science lessons but also in all aspects of life at the academy."

A WAR HERO...

Our thanks to STELLA EVERY (29-35) (now Grandison) who's now 95, who spotted a story in the *Western Daily*

Press about a war hero whose medals were recently sold:

A SET of military medals belonging to a war hero from Bristol who charged a German tank to save the lives of his comrades has been sold at auction for more than £45,000.

Paratrooper and former Kingswood



Grammar School pupil ROBERT DENNIS GAY was dropped into Arnhem, as part of Operation Market Garden, on 18 September, 1944. His battalion, the 156th Battalion of the 4th Parachute Regiment, immediately

came under unrelenting attack from German forces based in the eastern Dutch city.

On the second day, as an enemy tank approached his battalion, Regimental Sergeant-Major Gay ignored flanking fire from a machine gun and charged the tank to detract its attention from Battalion HQ.

Desperately trying to put the tank out of action the Hanham-born hero was severely wounded in the leg by the tank's machine gun. A senior officer desperate for ammunition found him slumped against a jeep shouting at him:

"Bloody hell, can't you get to your feet and find us the ammunition we want?" Mr Gay replied: "I'm very sorry. Sir. I've been shot through both legs."

After spending time as a PoW in Stalag XIB, he was eventually commissioned, awarded the DCM and MBE and left the services with the rank of Captain in 1949.

Expected to sell for £20,000-£30,000, the medals were purchased by a dealer in Sotheby's saleroom for £45,600 bidding on behalf of a private collector. Included with the medals was a school report from Kingswood Grammar School.

Does anyone remember Bob Gay and can they give us any more information about him? There is a reference to him on the Web.

SKINNER'S DINNER...

PETE SKINNER (49-53) writes a nostalgic and humorous column in the local magazine *Downend & Mangotsfield Matters* in which he describes himself as one of the Lincombe Road Lads. In September 2011 he wrote:

School for me from the age of eleven was at Kingswood Grammar. I recall a group of us boys used to get to school early so we could play shove-ha'penny football on the big table at the front of the classroom.

Armed with a hair comb each we would take turns to push coins around the tabletop. A penny represented each player - a sixpence was the ball and the blackboard chalk came in handy to mark out the goalposts and the pitch. All was hastily removed before the form-master arrived at 9am and then we trooped to Assembly where a couple of hymns were sung, prayers were said and the Headmaster (MAJOR EATON and later MR. RIDLEY) would give out notices or quote school rules.

A gate near the Main Assembly Hall was our lunchtime escape route to Brook Lane and Warmley. The bakery there provided us with a hot loaf which we broke open and then bought some chips from the fish and chip shop. We enjoyed eating the chips and crusts of bread on

our way back via Brook Lane until one day we were confronted by Mr. Ridley..... Our little gang was summoned to his study where punishment for truancy was administered by means of the cane! Leaving school grounds was prohibited and our little lunchtime adventure came to an abrupt end.

Football on the tarmac between the Hall and the Gym was our pitch where about fifty boys grappled for a kick of the tennis ball . I remember breaking one of the windows when shooting high and wide. I had to pay for repairs from my paper round earnings.

Oh Come all ye Faithful was sung in Latin at the end of term before Christmas and *Jerusalem* rang out at the end of Summer term. I sang with special gusto in July 1953 when I attended my last Assembly before walking through the school gates - without my cap on! The feeling of sheer delight was only to be surpassed about four years later when I was demobilized from National Service but that is another story...

BRISTOL...

JUNE PICKLES (38-45) (now Birch), who now lives in Liverpool, remembers the city of her birth:

HOMETOWN
Hills, pubs and churches
That was my city
Christmas Steps, Cabot Tower,
Brunel's Bridge,
Medieval walls and gate,
Grey Cathedral,
Ancient rafters
Of the Lord Mayor's Chapel.
Leaning Tower of Temple Church,
King Street Theatre,
Mary Redcliffe, Queen Bess's
Fairest Church in Christendom.
Red Lodge of Merchant Venturers
And 'There and Back Again Lane'.

Planes were built in my city,
 Ciggies made by Wills.
 Chocolate Cream from Fry's
 Robinson's the Printers,
 Alfred the Gorilla
 Famous in the zoo in life
 Famous in the museum in death.
 Students flocked to my University.
 Day trippers to Hotwells
 For the paddle steamers'
 Cruise to Avon's mouth.

Then came the Blitz.
 Red was my city —
 A great glow in the sky,
 Desolate morn revealed
 The destruction of history
 But my city's people
 If tough, are "hardened",
 And hardened they were as
 They stood tall and saw
 My city rise Phoenix-like
 To glory again.
 Though I no longer live there
 A citizen, like Paul,
 Of "No mean city" am I
 Bristolian — and proud of it!

EARLIER SOCCER...

The photo below has been supplied by BRIAN ILES (45-50) and is of the



school soccer team of 42-43 season. Brian points out: 'GEORGE PALMER is in the middle looking very captainly. REG GAY (my mum's cousin's son) is third from left in the back row.

'He told me a great story before I knew of the existence of this photo. The KGS team - very likely the one photographed here - were playing Cotham Grammar School. At half time George moved Reg from right half to left half to cut their right winger down to size. He was Arthur Milton, later to become a double international. What a football CV for Reg! Yet ten plus years later Reg was playing with me for Hanham Mount in the 4th Division District.

'Reg was a cricket fan too, though I don't know whether he played for the school. In 1938 he followed all the Ashes tests, ball by ball, 'on the wireless' and compiled complete score cards. He gave them to me in the 40s. Bad move. I've lost them. It's so annoying. I normally keep everything: I'm such a bloody hoarder!'

HOUSES...

By the 60s there were four Houses - Davies, Eaton (the latest one), Fussell and Haskins. They all had mottos, respectively, *Per angusta ad augusta*, *Stet fortuna domus*, *Superabimus* and *Vincemus*.

Can a Latin scholar out there provide KOSA with a translation of each of the mottos?

No prizes!

REMEMBER THIS...?

Your Ed. retained some of his 'O' Level exam papers back in 1956 and the Chemistry II paper is shown on pages 20 and 21. Although he passed the paper at the time, the intervening period has erased virtually all understanding from his mind!

(32)

UNIVERSITY OF BRISTOL

EXAMINATION FOR THE GENERAL CERTIFICATE OF EDUCATION

JULY, 1956

ORDINARY LEVEL

CHEMISTRY II

Time allowed : 2 hours

[Answer four of the following questions. Credit will be given for correct equations and for accurate diagrams.]

(The gram-molecular volume of a gas is 22.4 litres at N.T.P.)

1. Describe an experiment for finding the volume of oxygen which is obtainable from 1 gm. of potassium chlorate by heating it until no further change occurs. Give details.

In such an experiment, 298 c.c. of oxygen (measured at 20° C. and 750 mm. pressure) were obtained and the residue from the 1 gm. of potassium chlorate weighed 0.608 gm. From these results calculate the molecular weight of oxygen.

2. What is meant by (a) the basicity of an acid, (b) a normal salt, (c) an acid salt, (d) a basic salt? Give examples.

How would you determine practically the basicity of an acid such as sulphuric acid?

3. In the preparation of pure substances the following processes are frequently used:— recrystallization, distillation, precipitation, and sublimation. Describe how you would purify (a) potassium nitrate by recrystallization, (b) dirty water by distillation, (c) ammonium chloride by sublimation. How would you prepare a pure sample of barium sulphate from a solution of barium chloride?

4. Name and give the composition of two ores of iron. Describe briefly, giving also a sketch, the usual method of obtaining cast iron from iron ore. How would you prepare ferrous sulphate crystals from metallic iron? Describe and explain the effect of heat on ferrous sulphate crystals.

5. Define precisely (a) a saturated solution, (b) "the solubility of a salt" in water. Describe one simple test in order to ascertain whether a given solution of sodium sulphate is (i) unsaturated, (ii) saturated, (iii) super-saturated.

How would you determine practically the "solubility" in water of a sparingly soluble substance such as calcium sulphate? What test, other than by evaporating to dryness, could you apply to the solution of calcium sulphate in order to distinguish it from distilled water?

6. How would you obtain from oxalic acid crystals, gas-jars of (a) carbon monoxide, (b) carbon dioxide? Give all practical details.

Contrast, tabulating the differences, **six** properties (either chemical or physical) of these two gases.

7. Describe, with the aid of a labelled diagram, how you would obtain a sample of dry atmospheric nitrogen. What impurities would you still expect to be present?

State only, giving also the equation, how pure nitrogen can be obtained from (a) ammonia, (b) nitrous oxide, (c) a salt or a mixture of two salts. In **one** case only, sketch and label the apparatus you would use.

VOLUNTEER...

Many KOSA members give their spare



time to helping charities and other organisations which require volunteers in order to carry out their activities.

KOSA Committee Member ALAN HIRESON (62-69) helps out at Avon Valley Railway whose headquarters are at the renovated Bitton Station. AVR is becoming quite a tourist attraction in the area and many KOSA members will remember getting the train to and from Warmley Station in order to attend School.

Alan is pictured on duty at Oldland Common Station supervising the activities of a visiting Stanier Class 5 locomotive which was on loan to the railway for a period in October 2011.

SCHOOL WITH NO NAME...

In the 1966-67 edition of *Kingswood Chronicles* the Head, NORMAN RIDLEY, included in his 'Headmaster's Notes' the news of the changes to the school's status. As part of the 'Consortium Plan' the Grammar School was to be abolished and KGS and Rodway would be in an equal relationship with other schools in the area. Furthermore, at that stage, no name had been agreed for the new school. We now know that Kingsfield was eventually chosen. Below is an extract from his piece:

'It may be generally realised that this is the end of one era of KGS. It is not the first time that the school has changed in character, since many years ago it had some fee-payers as well as free places, and, I believe, for a short time had a pre-11+ school. Now under the new Consortium plan for South Gloucestershire we are changing again. We had to change our name from Grammar School, and hoped to persuade the Home Secretary to be allowed to use the name 'King's School'. However, despite the support of the Rt. Hon. Wedgwood Benn. MP, our member, and the representatives of the Gloucestershire Education Committee, this permission was refused. We have, therefore, for 1967 onwards, temporarily no name! However, the Governors will be searching for a name, and any readers who have ideas would do us a service by sending in appropriate names to me before the middle of September.

'Parents will have heard a great deal about the Consortium plan and wonder what effect it will have upon the existing school. As I see it, the broadening of the curriculum will not affect those who are already in the school but will be tailored to the new intake starting from 1967. It

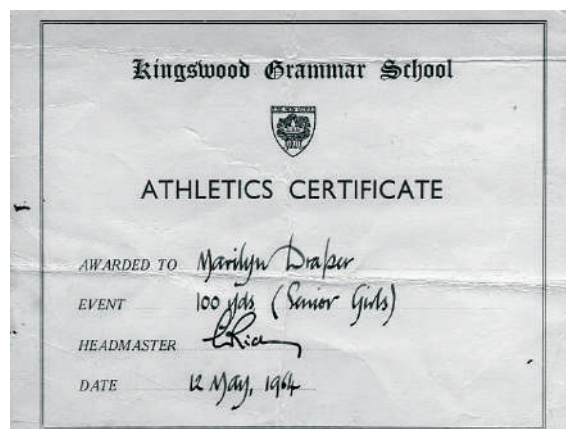
will have considerable advantages in that ourselves and Rodway will be in equal relationship with other schools in the area who have for many years been sending on to us at 6th form level pupils who have done well at the GCE., and a considerable number of these have gone on to the universities. I myself welcome every opportunity of interchange of ideas and common activities with the other schools of the Consortium, and I am glad that KGS. is able to take part and that we are having the 6th Form College, which will be fed not only from our own school, but from the other schools in the Consortium.'

SPORTS DAY 1964...

MARILYN DRAPER (58-65) wins in the 100 yards (Senior Girls) race - but who are the others?



And to prove it here is Marilyn's certificate:



KOSA MATTERS...

WELCOME:

We welcome the following new members who have joined since the last edition, using maiden names where appropriate: Bob Cook (59-64), Sue Arnold (71-?), Brenda Tyson (62-67), Alan Blower (64-71), David Piles (48-55).

If you know someone from KGS or Kingsfield who might like to receive KOSA NEWS then just let us have their details and we'll do the rest.

BITS & PIECES...

From time to time we produce mementoes which may serve to remind you of your time at the School.

Currently, we have a set of four *esse non videri* coasters and stand at £10, small framed prints of a painting of the School which we commissioned, at £5, and KOSA ties and scarves at £10 each all inclusive of postage and all in colour! The School painting is shown below:



A BIRTHDAY...



At the October lunch we celebrated the 90th birthday of the School with a birthday cake. The School has come a long way in those 90 years from Kingswood Secondary School in 1921, to Kingswood Grammar School in 1928, then Kingsfield School in 1967 and now King's Oak Academy in 2011.

The photograph on page 28 of the staff in 1973 was given by C N Ridley to Wyn (Woody) Williams on the occasion of his retirement. 'To Wyn, with all good wishes and my thanks over many years.' - CNR.



KINGSFIELD SCHOOL · KINGSWOOD
THE STAFF · 1973

To begin with all good wishes
admitted from the new year
L. M. P. R. D.