



KOSA NEWS



NUMBER 41 - AUTUMN 2012

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

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DIARY DATES:

AUTUMN LUNCH:

Booked for **SATURDAY, 20th OCTOBER 2012** at LINCOMBE BARN, Downend BS16 2RW. 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'. This year we hope to celebrate those who started KGS 60 years ago, so if you started in **September 1952** why not come along and meet your old friends? Partners are also welcome. We've also been asked by JOHN COLE (49-56) and JOHN BISHOP (52-58) to put aside some Rugby tables so that they can celebrate their victories (and defeats?) of yore! Just mark your form 'Rugby' so that we know the numbers.

63ers REUNION:

YVONNE HELLIN-HOBBS has booked a room at the Ring O' Bells, Widcombe, Bath for a reunion of the '63 cohort (with partners) on **SUNDAY, 7th OCTOBER 2012** at 12 noon. For more details get in touch with Yvonne on (hobbs66@btinternet.com) or Frances Arscott (frances293@btinternet.com) or Ann Marsden (ann.abraham@btinternet.com). The venue is close to the bus and railway stations - go to (<http://www.ringobellswidcombe.co.uk>) for details.

46ers REUNION:

The next lunch at KATHLEEN HARDWICK'S farm down in Clapton-in-Gordano is on **SATURDAY, 8th DECEMBER 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.

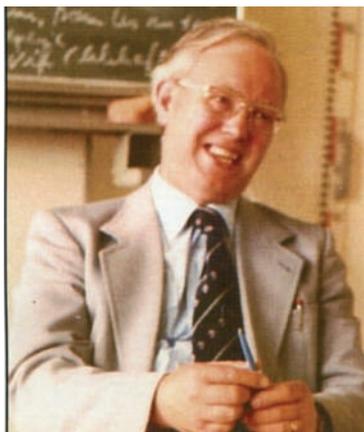
AGM & SPRING LUNCH:

Already booked for **SATURDAY, 13th APRIL 2013** at Lincombe Barn, Downend. Please book the date in your diary now.

OBITUARIES...

EILEEN MATTHEWS (52-59) (now Bendrey) has received from Germany the sad news of the death of KEITH SHARPE (56-63), who taught German at KGS. Keith died at the age of 80 on 22 January 2012:

‘Keith Sharpe studied German and Economics at Bristol University and joined



KGS in September 1956 to teach German, French and Maths. He and his wife Marlies had previously met in Mönchengladbach, Marlies’ home town in Ger-

many, and they came to live in Downend. In 1958 he was knocked down by a car and suffered severe head injuries but despite this he was determined to return to school as soon as possible and teach, which he so enjoyed.

‘After leaving Kingswood Grammar School in 1963 he moved to Kassel in Germany, where he taught in a Grammar School for 2 years, by which time they had 2 children, Caroline and Richard. In 1965 the family moved to Newcastle-under Lyme where Keith taught German at Clayton Hall Grammar School. A year later Marie-Luise was born. In 1972 the family moved back to Germany, to Hadamar near Limburg, where Keith taught English at the Marienschule Limburg/Lahn until his retirement.

‘Whilst at KGS he gave a lot of his time to the after-school German club, where one of the activities was singing German

folk-songs, which we sang in the summer on Open Day. He was a marvellous German teacher, whose love for his subject filled those of us who were his pupils with great enthusiasm for the language.’

RON CLEMENTS (39-46), who was a previous Treasurer of KOSA from 1995 to 2002, passed away in Frenchay Hospital on 19 June 2012 after a stroke.



After leaving KGS with his Higher School Certificate Ron read Economics and Politics at Bristol University and served his National Service in the RAF teaching numeracy. He later qualified as a Chartered Certified Accountant and worked in that capacity in the aircraft industry for Bristol Siddeley Engines and later for Rolls Royce. In 1972 he moved to Soil Fertility as Accountant, where he remained until his retirement. Indeed, he went back as a consultant until he was 67.

Ron had many interests. He was a member of Kingswood Probus Club, Hanham Natural History Society and Frenchay Tuckett Society. Ron was very much involved with family history visiting churches, records offices and different parts of the country. He was fond of Bridge which he played at Downend Folk House and he studied Italian to O level as a mature student. Ron enjoyed Opera and travel with Jane, his wife.

The arrival of grandson James a couple of years ago brought Ron much joy. His funeral at Westerleigh Crematorium was well attended, a tribute to Ron's popularity. The photograph (on page 2) was taken of Ron and Jane in November 2011 at James's 1st birthday party.

It is with regret that KOSA reports the passing of one of the oldest surviving KGS members, EVELYN DARDANELLE BATEMAN (26-31) (later SHIPP), who died peacefully at home aged 96 years.



Her almost unique second name was taken from a First World War campaign when her father was serving with the Durham Light Infantry.

The photograph (above) was taken in 1931 when she had already left the school but returned for the prize giving. She had won cups for Long Jump, 100 Yards, 220 Yards, Dribbling the hockey ball and Overall Champion.

The only event that she did not win was the High Jump and this she only missed by half an inch, which always rankled over the years!

Evelyn thoroughly enjoyed her time at

KGS and was especially grateful to her Aunt Mary (grandmother of MARY HAMSON 1949-54) who helped her parents with the cost of her school uniform, which was a major item of expenditure in those days.

Throughout her long life she maintained a great interest in sport of all kinds, politics, current affairs and, of course, her family.

She had two children including MARGARET SHIPP (50-55) (now ALMOND), seven grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren all of whom will miss her greatly.

SIDNEY JAMES MATTHEWS (55-60), always known as JIM, died on 23 May 2012. After being diagnosed with a brain tumour in 2007 he fought his illness for nearly 5 years.

Jim was born in Peache Road, Downend and went to KGS from Mangotsfield C of E School. Planning to train as an accountant after leaving school, he realised that an office career was not for him and spent 40 years as a floor layer.



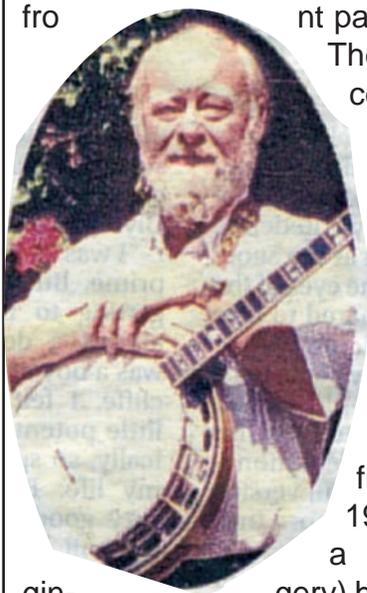
Jim played cricket for Carsons, Stapleton and Downend and also played soccer for Mangotsfield FC. He married when he was 40 years of age and he and his wife had three children but sadly his wife died at an early age and Jim brought up the children.

Joanne, Ben and Lauren regarded their father as an excellent role model.

REG QUANTRILL (44-47)

JOHN BRYANT (44-52) has informed KOSA of the death of REG QUANTRILL:

'I was reading the Western Daily Press on 11th June when I noted the passing of 'One of the original 'Wurzels'-fro



nt page and page 5. The man concerned was named as Reg Quantrill from Warmley, which intrigued me as we had a fellow student of that name, who attended KGS from 1944 to 1946-47. He was a sandy (almost gin-gery) haired chap who played in goal for the junior soccer team in 1946-47.

'He then left and despite attempts to find him, no one seems to have heard of his whereabouts when we had our 50 year celebration of the 1944 intake. Apparently he formed the Warmley Jazz Club many years ago with his partner, Margaret Sweet.'

It seems that Reg was, indeed, one of the group founded by Adge Cutler and played banjo and guitar until 1974, when he left a few months before the death of Adge. He played for other bands and was a friend of Lonnie Donegan and Acker Bilk. He also appeared in Casualty the TV series and the film Mrs Brown, with Judi Dench.'

KOSA members who are wired on the Web can see Reg singing the Pill Boat Song on:

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mgix_WUL4Q

He was well-known in the 1950s at the Shipp Inn, Redcliffe Hill, which was close to the old Shot Tower.

RICHARD BUTTON (56-63) reports the sad loss of his sister:

'I regret to inform you of the death of my sister HILARY BUTTON (60-67) (latterly Renkin) who died at Penrith on the 23 January 2012, aged 63. She had lived in the Lake District for over 40 years.'

MIKE WHITEFORD (47-54) has reported the passing of his sister:

'It is a very sad occasion when we report the passing of MARY WHITEFORD (50-53) (latterly Ledingham) in March 2012 after a number of years poor health. She spent her last 3 years mainly in hospital.

'Mary was a KOSA member for many years attending the twice yearly meetings with brother Mike until she became too ill to attend. When Mary left KGS it was due to the family moving to Aberdeen. As a hairdresser Mary worked for Marks & Spencer and met the sister of ELLIS PEET, who taught Maths and Sport at KGS in the 50s. Arrangements were made for him to visit Mike & Margaret Whiteford for a meal. Mr Peet had tried to teach Mike maths but found it much easier to share their love of rugby!

'When Mary returned to live in Bristol she renewed her friendship with old school friends, particularly MARGARET SHIPP (50-55), now married to Roger Almond. Mary leaves behind sons Gordon, Stephen and 6 grandchildren plus broth-

ers Mike, and Gerald who now lives in South Africa. Mary was always cheerful even when she was very ill. She will be sadly missed by all who knew her.'

We have also been informed of the passing of JUNE PICKLES (38-45) (latterly Birch). June trained as a teacher after leaving KGS and moved to Liverpool. She was well known on Liverpool local



Her daughter has informed KOSA of the death of MARGARET VAGG (43-50) (latterly Windsor). Margaret, who is in the photo of the 1948 6th Form girls (above) second from the left in the second row from the back, was the sister of JOSIE VAGG (47-53) (now Carmichael).

Others identified in the photo are:
Back row: Hazel Long, Mary Miles
Second row: Margaret Vagg, June Wride
Third row: Pamela Nash, Margaret Edwards, Jean Knight, Sheila Francis
Front row: Ruth Stock, June Marriott, Joan Hemmens, Jeanne Hicks, Kathleen Wilcox, Megan Davies.

radio for her poems and essays and we have published some of June's poems in past editions of KOSA NEWS.

We also published June's memories of KGS during the war, as well as her memories of family life in those days.

We have also been informed of the deaths of GORDON BURCHILL (32-37) and, in March 2012, TONY LUCAS (51-56).

To all those who have lost a loved one we extend our condolences. We are sure that the education they received from KGS contributed to their ability to live a full and useful life.

BERNARD LOVELL (24-31)

As this edition was in preparation, it was announced that PROFESSOR SIR BERNARD LOVELL OBE, FRS (24-31) died on 6 August 2012, just short of his 99th birthday. ALFRED CHARLES BERNARD LOVELL was born on 31 August 1913 in Oldland Common and entered Kingswood Secondary School, as KGS then was, from Oldland Council School on 4 February 1924. He was number 242 on the first register of the school, which also records his father's occupation as Proprietor of Oldland Cycle Company.

His interest in science was said to have been generated by a lecture by AM Tyn-dall, Professor of Physics at Bristol University, to which he had been taken whilst at KGS. Later, when he was arranging with BRIAN ILES (45-50) to contribute to the video *Kingswood Revisited*, he revealed that he had been taken to the lecture by CHARLIE 'CHUCKLES' HOWARD who taught Physics in those days but later taught Maths.

He received a first-class degree in Physics at Bristol in 1934 and by 1936 he had completed his PhD in research into the conductivity of thin metallic films. He then moved to Manchester University where, under PMS Blackett, he entered into the study of cosmic rays, which eventually led to the concept of the Lovell Telescope at Jodrell Bank, completed in 1957.

During the war he worked with distinction at the Telecommunications Research Establishment on radar interceptors for night fighters, radar for the detection of submarines and ultimately on H2S radar for British bombers. On returning to Manchester in 1945 he was appointed the world's first Professor of Radio Astronomy in 1951 and he developed the radio

telescope at Jodrell Bank into a world-class unit after surmounting many technical and financial problems. He was knighted in 1961.

His interests other than science were music – he played the local church organ for many years – and cricket. In the 1931 *Kingswood Chronicles*, when he was captain of cricket, he was described by his vice-captain: 'He has made an enthusiastic and energetic captain. His leg strokes leave something to be desired, but his consistent bowling has been a great asset to the team.' In the 1932 *Kingswood Chronicles* it was reported: 'Another old scholar, ACB Lovell, now at Bristol University, lectured a VIth Form Science Meeting on 'Television', a subject of special benefit to those enquiring minds who wonder how Television works.' He was also interested in gardening and planted many trees on his estate in Cheshire where he lived.

Sir Bernard came back to KGS for Speech Day on 16 December 1954 when he was the Speaker and presented the prizes. In his speech he said that his reports from the 3rd Form mentioned a tendency to giggle and those from the 5th Form suggested that he should pay more attention to Maths than to Cricket.

The photo on the next page shows DAVID HILLING (47-54) receiving his prize from BERNARD LOVELL at the 1954 Speech Day. Also in the photo are 'TOM' MOODY (Senior Master) and REV W J DOWNES (Chairman of the Governors), next to Headmaster C N RIDLEY.

The quality press and other media paid tribute the SBL's contribution to science during his lifetime and the *Times* published a leader, *Our Cosmic Conjurer*, as well as a very comprehensive obituary.



COLIN PILLINGER (54-61), being in the same business as SBL, has contributed the following to KOSA NEWS:

Sir Bernard Lovell

– science in a new light

For years whenever I was asked by a journalist where I went to school, I answered “KGS”, adding “Sir Bernard Lovell is our most famous old boy” hoping for a bit of reflected glory.

In October 1957, I was a member of form 3L1 . We lived in room F, opposite the Prefects’ room, next door to MISS MORRISON (Senior Mistress) and just yards from the Library outside which there was a wooden Honours Board with gold and red lettering. Right at the top of that Board was the name A.C.B. Lovell. With Sputnik, he was the man in the news. He was single-handedly saving the planet from the threat of nuclear holocaust. Such was his greatness that MR RIDLEY’S nose was raised a full 10 degrees (at least) higher above the horizontal with pride as he stalked the corridor.

I never expected to meet such a hero as Bernie Lovell, even less become a friend and certainly not to be writing his 99 year story in an obituary.

Alfred Charles Bernard Lovell was born on August 31st 1913 at Oldland Common, the only child of Gilbert and Emily Laura (née Adams) Lovell; his widowed grandmother, Emily Adams, kept the grocery store and general shop. Both the Lovell’s and the Adams’ family trees can be traced for decades in the St Mary’s, Bitton, Parish Registers.

The young Lovell showed little interest in academic pursuits other than a fascination with the new-fangled ‘wireless’ received via an aerial, 20 yards of wire, strung between two tall wooden poles in the family garden. He liked church, if he was allowed to play the organ, and was fond of cricket.

In his autobiography Bernie confesses he was a poor scholar but, his days at the primary over, he migrated to the new-

ly opened Kingswood Secondary School at Warmley, cycling the two miles there every day. He says he was near the bottom of the class, destined to leave as soon as he was allowed, his ambition to sell radios to the locals at the shop. Major Eaton, however wrote on his school report 'has some ability in Maths' and his father was persuaded to let him stay on to obtain a School Certificate. Helped with his Maths homework by a family friend called Champion, he was the only pupil to solve a problem and found himself continuing to the Higher Certificate. Soon after he was taken to the University of Bristol's Physics Department to see the famous Professor Tyndall give a lecture on electricity with lots of flashes and sparks. His interests ignited, Bernie became KGS's first undergraduate entry to the recently opened Royal Fort with his name on that Board for posterity and me to read.

From Bristol, Lovell was recruited to the University of Manchester by another famous Physicist, Patrick Blackett, to study cosmic rays, high energy atomic particles that fly around in space. In the late 1930's Blackett had a habit of disappearing to London without explanation. All was revealed in a telephone call to Lovell at the end of July 1939 when the Professor told him to forget about cosmic rays, he would be needed to pioneer developments in radar.

On September 3rd war on Germany was declared. A six year hiatus in Lovell's academic career followed during which time KGS's most famous old boy helped protect the country's cities, guided bombers to the enemy's and most significantly worked out how to detect the submarines that were trying to starve us to death by sinking more than half a million tons of ships every month in the Atlantic. His

most vivid memory however was on the first day of the war watching for the first waves of German bombers, realising that radar, like radio, could be bounced back from the top of the atmosphere, the ionosphere, perhaps giving him a new technique for researching cosmic rays when it was all over.

So it was towards the end of 1945 three trucks of army surplus: a radar transmitter, receiving equipment and a diesel generator, set out from the centre of Manchester to a slight rise in a field in Cheshire purchased by the University's Botany Department from the descendants of the Jaudrell family who had owned it since their ancestor received it as reward for his ability to shoot arrows at the French at Poitiers.

Frustrated by interference from the city's electric trams, Lovell had negotiated a two week loan of the site. With the help of two gardeners and a friendly farmer, needed to start the diesel engine, Lovell's experiments began on December 14th, coincidentally the day of the annual Geminid meteor shower. The radar reflections he saw that night were not continuous but sporadic. Instead of cosmic rays he was detecting sugar grain to sugar lump-sized particles from the comet Phaethon. Now Lovell was not only seeing shooting stars but he had a way of investigating previously unobserved daylight meteor streams. He never left the field.

Like any good scientist, Bernie immediately had ideas for bigger and better aerials to receive the data. More trucks of war surplus, destined to be dropped down disused mine shafts, were purchased at ten quid each (the price agreed to keep the MoD's books straight). An amazing spider's web, 218

feet in diameter, was built using scaffolding poles and galvanised wire. It too failed to realise its primary purpose to measure cosmic rays but instead could see much further than any optical telescope and began to detect sources of radio waves beyond the galaxy. These had to be coming from stars that created more energy than anything we yet knew about.

Still this didn't satisfy Lovell, his radio-telescope was set in concrete and could only look straight up. He wanted it to be like a search light, to point anywhere in the heavens. And so began the crusade to build what is now called the Lovell telescope, a 250 foot diameter steerable, wok-like, dish. Of course they said it couldn't be done – you don't say that to people like Bernard Lovell, it's like a red rag to a bull.

Off went Bernie to prove them, the engineers, the funding committees, the politicians, everyone, wrong. It wasn't easy. In fact it would probably not have been achievable if it hadn't have been for Sputnik. On October 2nd 1957 Lovell recorded in the diary he had kept for five years his dismay/anger about his dream telescope. The contractors hadn't been paid, they were on a go slow if not on strike, the chief engineer was definitely refusing to work with academics looking over his shoulder and the cable connection promised to drive the telescope from the control room hadn't been installed. He'd chosen to move the telescope to another field requiring deeper foundations and the bill had risen alarmingly from an original guess of £50-100,000 to £120k, £150k, £252k, £335k, £439k and now stood at £630k with £260k owing, equivalent of a hundred times more these days.

Then a miracle happened, on October 4th the Soviets launched the world's first artificial satellite. Everyone, particularly the media, was clamouring to hear Sputnik's 'bleep, bleep'. The Military and the Government suddenly woke up; what the Lovell's telescope could do, that the others couldn't, was to find the rocket that carried Sputnik into space. A few weeks earlier the Soviet leader, Mr Khrushchev, had announced his nation had successfully tested an Intercontinental Ballistic Missile (ICBM) – nobody was out of range of their atomic bombs. The Americans hadn't believed him because they weren't ready to do likewise. There's nothing quite like a bit of fear to concentrate the mind and those needing it remembered a few years before that Lovell, leaving no stone unturned in the search for money, had told them his telescope would be able to track ICBMs. Not stop them, but at least give the politicians time to dive into their nuclear bunkers.

Work that had been said would take months was completed in 48 hrs as the engineering company was persuaded to forget its antipathy to University Professors. On the 10th October nobody knew what a rocket's radar echo would look like but they were detecting meteors; on the 11th they thought they had it; by the 12th the western world knew where the spent missile was. A month later, with the lady dog Laika as the first creature in space, the telescope had proved it was no fluke. Lovell in fact provided the data from both tracking episodes to the Soviet Academy of Sciences and was duly thanked for it.

Now one might think that all Lovell's nightmares were over. The funds would come rolling in. They weren't and they didn't – the Parliamentary Public Ac-

counts Committee (the PAC, I've meet them, nice bunch of people who like nothing better than a good execution to give them an appetite for lunch) had published a report saying derogatory things about the Contractors. The Company's boss was threatening to sue the University of Manchester, and that meant Lovell, for damages of a £1 million. If they won, and they would, it meant prison for our Bernie, who couldn't have paid. Indeed he still owed £135k on the contract even after the PAC, grudgingly, apologised – "they must have been misinformed". Incidentally it was March 1960 before Lord Nuffield finally paid off the arrears and Jodrell Bank's full name became the Nuffield Radio Astronomy Observatory.

There have been many more rocket tracking successes for Jodrell – the first flights to the Moon and thanks to the telescope the first pictures sent back were published in the west before Moscow released them. When the paperback edition of Lovell's Autobiography was printed in 1992 the Observatory's research students had written 400 theses, occupying forty feet of shelf space, using its results.

I first met Sir Bernard in the mid-1980s. I was on a Committee to decide the grant Jodrell should receive as its running costs. He probably didn't like me at first – he hated Committees who sat around second guessing what research might be profitable. He would find life intolerable now when you are supposed to know the answers before you've asked the questions and show there will be an economic return from fundamental research in advance.

During Beagle 2 he was a fan coming to various events where his appearance

was as popular as the mission itself. Just before Christmas 2003 I was given the special VIP treat – allowed to walk in the upturned telescope dish. I last saw him on the fortieth anniversary of the Apollo 11 landing in July 2009. We gave back-to-back talks at Jodrell about our reminiscences. He told the audience the Soviets tried to assassinate him, or at least damage his brain, with radiation from one of their telescopes. The full story is deposited in the University of Manchester's Library to be published now he has died.

Afterwards, I was giving an interview to the local Cheshire media, over my shoulder, I heard him say to another journalist "I went to the same school as Colin Pillinger, you know" - the ultimate accolade from a great man.

TOO LATE BUT...

JIM WHITLOCK (55-62) hopes to arrange a personal reunion with MARGARET LEES (now Morse), who taught in the Art Department in the early 1960s, when she visits the UK from Australia where she now lives. Jim writes:

'Margaret influenced a good number of us into careers in Art and I am happy to say that over 50 years later celebrating her 80th birthday she is returning to Bristol for a week in September. BETTY JONES (Elizabeth), a former English teacher, TREVOR WILTSHIRE, PAUL (Gus) WILLIAMS and KEN COOKE are all students who went to the West of England Academy of Art'

Artist and Church of England priest JIM WHITLOCK can be contacted on jim.whitlock@talktalk.net and his website is <http://www.jimwhitlockartist.co.uk/> if any of this rings a bell!

IS IT CRICKET..?

Ex Deputy Head STUART SYKES (60-74) has contacted KOSA with a comment, a staff photo and an invitation:

'I feel quite strongly about the recent reports and opinions about Headmaster C N RIDLEY.

'I was delighted to read the article from DEREK BAILEY (49-53) to counter much of the bad press which CNR has had in recent editions. Much of the criticism seems to stem from the fear of change and memories of our younger years. I came to KGS in 1960 when our children were 4, 2 and 2 months of age. CNR was a great help in advising where the good infant and primary schools were. We also had problems in the development of our youngest son who had suffered brain damage at birth. Both Mr and Mrs Ridley gave us tremendous support.

'We were also grateful to the 6th Form students who used to baby-sit. They will be pleased to know that Robert, now 51, has completed 31 years at John Lewis Partnership despite having no formal education.

'On the professional front, CNR brought change and development to the school – some of it because it was forced on him by the politicians. Following on from the founder head had already presented a challenge. During the early 1970s the 6th Form had approximately 300 students.

'In fine CNR showed a caring, conscientious and humane interest in pupils and staff which can easily be overshadowed by the other recollections.'

Stuart's photograph of the staff cricket team (below) from the mid-60s are: Messrs Salmon, Reid, Astbury, Sykes, Griffiths, Hyett, Wilde, Hilton, Hodson, (whose dog had his own chair in the staff room!) Trott, Glenn

KINGSWOOD ROTARY CLUB

Kingswood Rotary Club has existed for more than 70 years. Ex-KGS and Kingsfield scholars and staff have been members throughout this time and have given valuable service as officers of the Club.



Today there are four such members – TREVOR JONES (39-44), ROGER FOWLER (54-61), STUART SYKES (60-74) and DAVID LEWIS (89-2007). We meet at 1pm on Tuesdays at the Queen's Head, Hanham for a good meal and a social gathering for just over an hour.

We would welcome KOSA members to join us for a FREE lunch to find out more about us with the possibility of joining the club. Several years ago we became a dual gender club and two years ago we had our first Lady President. Please bring along another KOSA friend to keep you company.

To book a date for a lunch meeting please ring Roger Fowler on 0117 960 2999 or Stuart Sykes on 01454 615139

THIS IS CRICKET...

LIONEL HARRIS (52-57) has written about how sport at KGS had an influence which far outlasted the schooldays:

'The reference in the last edition of the 'NEWS to KGS sport and Arthur Milton (the last of the double internationals – cricket and football) reminded me that there was another ex-KGS pupil who was a professional with The Arsenal at the same time as Arthur. He was DON OAKES who left KGS in 1946 and joined The Arsenal from school. With them both coming from Bristol they became great friends and Don was best man to Arthur when he married. Sadly Don died in his late forties.

'It is quite correct to say that KGS was strong at sport, especially football, and Arthur Milton, in his biography, is quoted as saying that KGS "was about the only school side to beat us (Cotham Grammar School)". Of course, a certain CNR changed all that and we played with a

different shaped ball.'

In fact there is evidence that soccer was planned and introduced before NORMAN RIDLEY arrived in 1949.- Ed.

Lionel, in reporting the death of 'JIM' MATTHEWS (see earlier), mentioned that Jim was one of those who played club cricket after leaving KGS. Others Lionel remembers were DAVID KENDALL (Downend), JEREMY REICE (Downend), DAVID HUSSEY (United Banks), KEITH YOUNG (St George), ALAN MARSH (Frenchay) and Lionel himself, who played for Bristol YMCA. There must have been others, both earlier and later?

These pieces about cricket have given us an excuse to publish on the next page another cricket photograph supplied by STUART SYKES. It's of the First Team-Cricket XI of 1967. Can anyone provide us with names?

FROM A DESERT ISLAND: (or Who Remembers Wookey?)

GEOFF COLE (55-60) reflects on what has passed over the years:

'It was one of those occasions when you look round the pub and a (semi) familiar face looks back at you and, after a few moments, the old brain cells click into place and a name 'from the past' surfaces from the deep recesses of the memory.

"Hello, Roger" I said; "Hello Geoff" was the reply. And so a bridge was re-built over the last 50 years in an instant. It was during our reminiscences that ROGER WINDSOR (55-60) mentioned the Association and KOSA NEWS – the existence of which I was totally oblivious.



‘From that “brief encounter” it was a short hop to contact the Editor, sign up (and contribute) and pick up some back issues to keep me interested over the ensuing weeks. I even decided to attend the AGM to (hopefully) meet up with some other contemporaries. Alas, I found none present.

‘It occurred to me that, since leaving in the Summer of 1960, I had had little or no contact with the school or any of its ‘inmates’. The only time I revisited was in approximately 2005 when a friend wished to deliver some documents and I ‘went along for the ride’.

‘My, how things had changed. I knew about the fire, of course, but hadn’t realised how much of the ‘old’ school had been rebuilt. Even the name was no longer Kingswood Grammar School but was now (at the time) Kingsfield School (and is now King’s Oak Academy, with a Principal rather than a Head Master).

‘Enough of that topic, reading through

the NEWS, it was good to read a few familiar names – EDDIE WHITE and MARGARET SPARKS. Sadly I also learned of the deaths of two school friends – ANDREW (Andy) RADFORD and MICHAEL (Mike) JONES.

‘Which brings me round to the reason for writing – after leaving in 1960 I have lived virtually all of the ensuing 52 years *in the middle of Kingswood!* Having moved from the family home in Blackhorse Road through brief stays in Regent Street and Lodge Causeway, I ended up buying a house in Gilbert Road - where I still live – 44 years ago.

‘You would have thought that the chances were fairly high that I would have bumped into an old friend or two in that time, but no. It occurs to me, therefore, that I must have been living in my own small world *on a desert island!*

‘If this short missive stirs any memories from those others from Class VL, perhaps you would like to get in touch (The

Ed. has my details). Who knows, someone may even remember how I came to be nicknamed *Wookey!*

FORGERIES..!

ROGER BYE (56-61) recalls past misdemeanours:

'Thought this may be of interest to a few reprobates from KGS in the 50's and 60's. I recently found several of these dating from 1961, although I think I had my main haul in the third form, 1958-59. None of the ones I found have my parents' signature on them – although I always felt that I signed my mother's name somewhat better than she did!'

KINGSWOOD GRAMMAR SCHOOL.
DETENTION SLIP

Name: Bye
Form: 5s
Offence: Failure to produce work.

Wednesday 17 May 3.45—4.45 p.m.
Detention on: Thursday 3.45—4.45 p.m.
Saturday 9.00—12 noon.

Form Master/Mistress: Heath
Parent's Signature: [Red Signature]

Roger is a Chartered Accountant now living in the USA and it might be said that his activities of forging his mother's signature proved to be significant training for his ultimate profession - Ed (also a qualified accountant)

ANN'S VIEWS...

ANN MORRIS (46-52) (now Soutter) has been looking through some past editions of the 'NEWS:

'This may seem odd but I'm often very late catching up with magazines I receive, and have just read No. 35 for Summer 2009. As an editor myself (*George Borrow Bulletin*) I'm full of admiration for the work you do on this and in fact earlier numbers of the 'NEWS don't date.

One question I have concerns DOROTHY CHELL who went up to St Hugh's College, Oxford in 1929. Last year, after 20 years' work, I completed my compilation of *St Hugh's College Register 1886-1959*, and between those years it seems I was only the second KGS pupil after Dorothy to go to St Hugh's (in 1953). Were there any others? The book is available from St Hugh's at £9 + postage and in case it's of interest I attach a picture of the cover. I compiled, designed and typeset the whole thing myself, the front cover showing the 1886 students with the Principal and the rear cover the jubilee photo of the 1959 vintage. It gives vital data and a career/life outline for 2643 students.



'I expect many of us have got fed up with all the sniping at grammar schools in the current correspondence in newspapers in connection with social mobility - I think publications like KOSA NEWS really give the answer and deserve a wider public!

In the end social mobility doesn't matter nearly as much as the fact we can rejoice in the huge variety of outcomes from our school days, brilliantly exemplified in the NEWS.

'My parents were desperately poor and I think I had a local authority grant to go to Paris in 1952 when I was 17 - I had a fellow feeling with ANNE BROWN's account under the 'Paris Mystery' heading on pp. 10 and 11. I actually won a UNESCO prize and bronze medal, which I still have, in an essay competition at the end of our trip (we were asked to write an essay in French giving impressions of our stay). Anne asked about passports - I'm afraid I don't remember, and don't even remember where we stayed. My clothes were all home-made.

'I still remember attending communion in Notre Dame (though I am not a Catholic!) and the rough taste of the wine - probably my first introduction to red wine, never regretted! As for social mobility, how I would have hated it if I had only got to Oxford as some sort of token lower middle-class entrant instead of on my own merits.'

In answer to Ann's query. We are not aware of anyone else attending St Hugh's from KGS. There is a charming photo of DOROTHY CHELL (right) and ELISE BIRTILL from the 1929 edition of *Kingswood Chronicles*. (see top right).

Elise was awarded an Open Scholarship of £80 per annum to finance her time at Oxford, together with a further sum of £60 per annum from the Drapers' Trust Scholarship. Assuming three 8-week terms at the University, that averages less than £6 per week. She also read French.



OUR OXFORD SCHOLARS, 1929.
E. M. BIRTILL (SOMERVILLE COLLEGE)
D. CHELL (ST. HUGH'S COLLEGE)

FAME AT LAST..!

KOSA Chairman, STAN BURRAGE (51-56), recently took part in the introduction of Matt Baker, from the BBC programme *Countryfile* team, to the very English art of bellringing at Painswick, Gloucestershire (see photo on page 16).

The TV crew spent over 2 hours filming Matt's initiation. He had no previous experience but really entered into the spirit of the occasion. Alan Hodges, a local ringer, took on the task of showing Matt the ropes. Everyone was impressed by his enthusiasm and keenness to make a fist of the occasion. The programme was screened on 3rd March 2012.

Stan is also Chairman of the Stroud Branch of the Gloucester and Bristol Diocesan Association of Church Bell Ringers, having learnt to ring, with his wife



RITA RAYNER (53-59) at Warmley Church whilst teenagers at KGS. Stan is still in regular contact with ringing friends at Bristol.

REV'S RESPONSES...

Rev JOHN (Tweedy) HARRIS (53-60) has responded to a number of points made in the last copy of KOSA NEWS:

'Without wishing to overdo the dissection of Headmaster C.N.Ridley's character and headship. may I make one or two comments.

'Firstly we ought to be grateful that he was not either of the extremes - neither the violent despot or the 'kind' woolly-minded liberal.

'Secondly, schools, particularly grammar schools all over the country in that generation, had CNRs of varying degree. Most of them had a public persona and a private one too. In that regard, I appreciated DEREK BAILEY's (49-53) very personal observations. For all the public

side of him, of which recent contributors have made much, was I one of the only ones fortunate in witnessing the 'real Mr. Ridley', the person on view in his public setting?

'It must have been early 1960, my last year at KGS. I was due to go to Manchester University for interview in the next few days. I was either waiting for a bus after school that would take me up Kingswood Hill or walking up it when Mr.Ridley stopped and offered me a lift which I accepted. In our conversation I summoned up the cheek to ask if the school gave grants to help pupils financially in getting to interviews. He assured me it didn't, but as I got out of his car, he opened his wallet, took out a £5 note and handed it to me. A far cry from the person we have been only too keen to vilify in recent editions.

'Part of all of this I seem to remember led to an existence of God debate. I cannot add to JOHN COLE's (49-56) brilliant article and thoroughly enjoyed everything that has been written on the subject since. Looking at all of us who espouse Christian faith, including CNR, it is probably best to reflect on the founder of the faith than its followers. If in Christ, as I believe, we have the human face of God, then we are on better ground than trying to sum up the faith by judging us. We all have 'feet of clay' but we also have the best example.

'If I didn't believe on the other hand, I would find it difficult to explain away the amazing change that takes place when people become Christians and I think of my experience as a prison chaplain in saying that. In no other context do I read of similar change, conversion, call it what you will. Belief in God, humanism or atheism is nothing if it does not lead to some-

thing good and I trust that all of those who have written to explain their reasons for non-belief have their own purpose for living and are following it.

'It was great to read ROY WILCOX's (53-59) article about Geography or Music at the end of the second year. I remember all of that well. I also remember ERIC HILTON (Music) coming into 'SCRUFFY' MORRIS's Geography lesson one day in 1954 and reading out a list of those who would be taking Music the following year instead and giving up Geography. Having been in education 29 years, I now wonder what Mr. Morris thought of that?

'Just as he rightly regarded DAVID EWINS (53-59) as coming from what he calls 'some sort of academic stratosphere', so I thought of Roy as coming from another race of humans - he was to me some sort of superman whom I regarded with awe - he had bulging muscles where I had only straight lines!

'Does he remember the day when we were playing rugby and Roy was on the other side? I had the ball near our line and Roy was bearing down on me.....fast. Completely terrified and cowardly to boot, I turned round and took the ball over our line and placed it on the ground as though I had scored a 'non-try'. 'JIMMY' WILDE (Games Master) laughed and gave a five yard scrum! Happy days!

LAST LINK...

JOHN BISHOP (52-58) has updated us on the passing of an era at Kingswood RFC:

'On one or two previous occasions I have informed those who may be interested about the life and times of Kingswood RFC, the rugby club which evolved from

Kingswood Old Boys RFC.

'Best to remind you all that the club was founded in 1954 by JOHN GRAY (47-54) and friends and began life using the school pitches behind the Tennis Court Pub. So the 2013/14 season will be our 60th.

'Many changes have taken place along the way, some directly involving the club and others the game of rugby itself. One of the major changes occurred during the nineties when leagues were introduced. Kingswood naturally entered the Gloucestershire County leagues and found ourselves allocated a place in Division 2. Bear in mind that there are 4 county divisions (Premier/1/2/3), several regional leagues/divisions, then the National leagues and it will be realized that we had a long way to go!

'In 2010 we achieved promotion - at long last - to Division 1 whence we have become established over the past 2 seasons. The club just about fields 3 teams and there is a thriving mini/junior section.

'The connections with KGS have been maintained, until now, with at least one Old Boy holding a position of authority. However, that is about to change, bringing about the end of an era. The present Club President is ROGER WINDSOR (55-60) but with his end-of-season retirement from this post the club's last remaining link with KGS will cease.

'Besides being a fine player and Club Captain, Roger has been a significant and influential KRFC member for well over 40 years, one of a large number who have dedicated a great deal of their time to off-field activities, coaching and administration. Whilst his contribution has been exceptional it is worthwhile remembering



that volunteers of all shapes, sizes and abilities, keep amateur sport, Scout/Guide groups, choirs, etc. up and running. Certainly KRFC would not be alive and kicking (literally!) today without the efforts of a large number of KGS Old Boys. A legacy to be proud of, methinks.'

Roger in action is captured in the photo above.

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 as 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.'

To remind Kathleen of her days as Lord Mayor we publish (below) a press cutting from *Clifton Digest* of 30 June 1989 found by the Ed. in a loft clear-out.



Cutting red ribbon
BRISTOL'S LORD Mayor, Mrs Kathleen Mountstephen, is pictured here cutting the first red ribbon of her year of office when she opened the new Mandarin Wine Bar in Baldwin Street on 15 June.

Owner Mr Wong recently staged a gala charity dinner and cabaret at his adjoining restaurant, the China Palace, which raised £2000 for the Babycare Unit of Bristol Maternity Hospital.

FARADAY LECTURE...

COLIN PILLINGER (54-61) gave his Michael Faraday Prize Lecture in the Great Hall of Bristol University on the evening of 22 March 2012 to an audience of over 900. Colin's very prestigious award follows in the footsteps of the likes of David Attenborough and Richard Dawkins and other TV pundits such as

Marcus de Sautoy and Jim Al-Khalili. The Wikipedia website information on the prize says:

The **Michael Faraday Prize** is awarded by the [Royal Society of London](#) for "excellence in communicating science to UK audiences". Named after [Michael Faraday](#), the medal itself is made of silver gilt, and is accompanied by a purse of £2500. The prize was first awarded in 1986 to Charles Taylor for "his outstanding presentations of physics and applications of physics, aimed at audiences from six-year-old primary school children to adults", and has since been awarded 25 times. It is awarded annually and unlike other Royal Society awards such as the [Hughes Medal](#), it has been presented every year since its inception. The most recent recipient was [Colin Pillinger](#). The winner is required to present a lecture as part of the Society's annual programme of public events, which is usually held in January of the following year; during the lecture, the President of the Royal Society awards the medal. Unlike other prizes awarded by the society, the committee has not always publicly provided a rationale. This has occurred five times—in 2004 to [Martin Rees](#), in 2006 to [Richard Fortey](#), in 2007 to [Jim Al-Khalili](#), in 2008 to [John D. Barrow](#) and most recently in 2009 to [Marcus du Sautoy](#).

Colin told your Ed afterwards that he was concerned about filling the place after he was told that his lecture would be in the University Great Hall. 'Thanks for coming. I was really worried when they said they were booking the Great Hall. I had visions of my sister and her family plus a couple of bag ladies who came in out of the rain' he said. He needn't have worried.

Colin's lecture was entitled 'Stones from



the Sky: A heaven-sent opportunity to talk about science' and in the audience were some science students from Kings Oak Academy, a successor to KGS. Colin met them at a reception afterwards, together with their Science Teacher, TIM BUSH.

Just to demonstrate that Colin has 'arrived' his caricature was featured in a *Times* supplement asking: *Where would the world be without British Science?*



...and his birthday was mentioned on the day along with Glenda Jackson, Albert Finney, Candice Bergen et al..... Fame indeed!

HANDEL'S BUST...

DEREK BAILEY (49-53) has passed on to KOSA NEWS photos of the sculpture completed by MARGARET LOVELL (50-55).

'Below is a photo that Margaret Lovell shared with me of her bronze of Handel Cossham, with his picture. She was commissioned to create this in connection with what I understand is a comprehensive renovation and upgrade to this historic Kingswood Cossham Hospital.'



HAROLD'S PROTÉGÉ...

HAROLD V WATTS (Art) taught Margaret at KGS and in an earlier letter to the 'NEWS she expressed the debt which she owed him. An extract follows:

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

'However I worked so hard at my art, that my parents relented and agreed I could go to art college after a year. But in order to get a grant I needed an 'A' Level. So



with unstinting generosity, Mr Watts helped me with the syllabus for 'A' Level and History of Art. I would go to their house for tuition and help. I remember having

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

'Anyway, I returned to KGS to take the actual exam, the outcome of which launched me into a lifetime of sculpture. Apart from a couple of post graduate years in London whilst attending The Slade School of Fine Art, and a year in Italy on a scholarship, and another in Greece, I have always lived locally.'

CONGRATULATIONS...

Are also due to MARGARET who was awarded the degree of Doctor of Letters *Honoris Causa* by the University of Leicester in July 2012.

The PhD was awarded for her work as a renowned sculptress who 'has taken deceptively simple forms of nature, and translated them into abstract works of bronze, slate, stone or granite.'

SPOT THE OLD FOSSIL...!

The photo below was sent to KOSA by JOHN COLE (49-56), taken when he was visiting contemporary RICHARD DAVIES, who now lives in New Zealand.

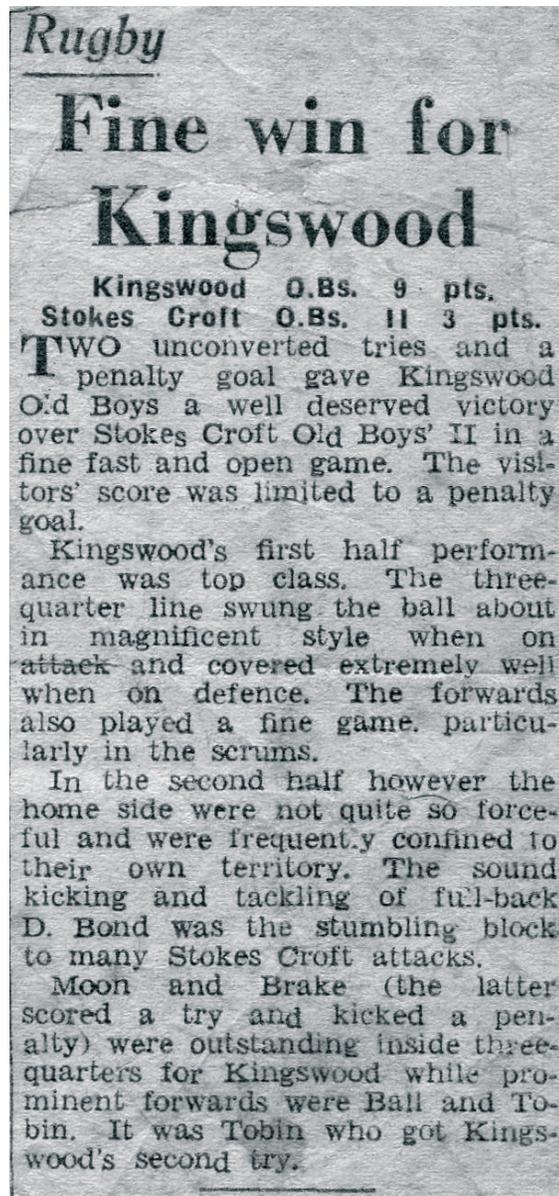


Wrong! This shows Richard and John sitting inside a section of a New Zealand Kauri tree (*agathis australis*) that had been preserved in swampland for 50,000 years.

John and Dickie in March were visiting the museum in the North Island dedicated to these giant trees that can grow to 50m with a girth of 16m and live for 2000 years. Now protected, they were eagerly sought for building material and (immature ones) for masts and spars especially in the 18th and 19th centuries. The development and subsequent shedding of their branches is one of the many evolutionary examples in the flora and fauna of NZ.

PAST RUGBY...

Two old press cuttings sent in by PETER BRAKE (46-51) from the days when the local newspaper would publish match reports. We believe that they date from the early 1960s.



The one above, as well as mentioning Peter himself, also mentions MIKE MOON (48-52), DOUG BOND, DAVID BALL (47-52) and JOHN TOBIN (47-54).

The report on page 22, mentions PETER BRAKE, DAVID BALL, ROGER CROMWELL (51-58) and RON PARSONS (45-50).

THIRD DEFEAT FOR KINGSWOOD

Fry's 11 pts.
Kingswood O.B. 3 pts.

AT SOMERDALE on Saturday the Kingswood Old Boys lost their third match of the season—being beaten by Fry's.

The home side commenced with a forward rush and caught four visiting forwards offside. Carter scored from the penalty kick. The visitors equalized when three forwards started a grand handling movement and Peter Brake side-stepped the full back and went over wide out. His kick narrowly failed.

An unfortunate accident occurred ten minutes from the start of the second half when D. Ball had to leave the field for the remainder of the match with an injury to the nose. This meant re-organising the team, Cromwell taking the scrum-half position and R. Parsons going on the wing.

Kingswood fought hard but Fry's went further ahead when their centre-forward broke through the three-quarter line and scored under the post.

Fry's three-quarters always made use of the ball and victory was deserved.

PETE'S PEDALPOWER...

PETER BRAKE (see above) has lost none of his energy. He reports that at the age of 77 he took part in the CTC West Veterans 100 miles in 12 hours activity on 10 June 2012.

Peter actually cycled 101 miles in 8½ hours from Winterbourne Community Centre through Tetbury to Cricklade and back to Winterbourne via Malmesbury, Hawkesbury Upton and Iron Acton.

Well done, Peter!

CONSEQUENCES...

There were consequences for DAVID GIFFORD (53-60) as the result of the ROY 'Josser' WILCOX (53-59) *Confession* in the KOSA NEWS 40. David writes:

'At long last I have a possible explanation why, in the third form, I was assigned to take Music rather than Geography – 'Josser' Wilcox had hijacked the remaining place.

'It was remarkable that someone as tone deaf as me had to spend the next two years singing pieces from sight and trying to notate what ERIC HILTON (Music) was playing on the piano. I am sure that my oral tests at O-level were probably given a minus score, so it is even more remarkable that I managed a pass.

'My knowledge of the set works, Beethoven's *4th Piano Concerto*, Schumann's *Papillons* and a Bach motet, must have been remarkable to counteract my lack of ability to differentiate notes.

'During our O-level year the Paragon Orchestra from Bournemouth gave a concert at the Colston Hall at which the *4th Piano Concerto* was being played, so Eric Hilton got some tickets for us. The other music played at that concert, *The Wasps Overture* and Dennis Brain playing a Mozart Horn Concerto left an everlasting impression on me and I am sure Eric Hilton would be amazed as to how much Music has played a part in my life.

'Perhaps my fondest moment was coming upon an open air concert one night in Parma in front of the Jo Green (Giuseppe Verdi) memorial on the anniversary of his birth. To hear hundreds of

Italians singing the unofficial Italian Anthem *The Chorus of the Hebrew Slaves* was spine-tingling.

‘Josser, those two years of music were pure purgatory. However, they have proved a benefit for the rest of my life.’

ALAN’S MEMORY...

ALAN J SCADDING (36-41) writes:

‘I was sorry to read in the last edition of KOSA NEWS of the passing of BARBARA WILLIAMS (36-42). At school I remember her well as a cheerful, friendly girl always in the same class as me during my 5 years at KGS.

‘During 1948 I attended a 6 month course at Beasley French Engineering, Bristol full-time and on Friday evenings I attended a Badminton club at KGS where Barbara and her husband BILL SANDOVER (36-42) also attended. They were such a friendly couple. I wish him well.’

Beasley French was a company which made bag-making machines which eventually became a subsidiary of the Robinson Group, later to become Dickinson Robinson group (DRG). The company has long since gone along with many of Bristol industries. – Ed.

HOUSE MOTTOS...

DAVID W. COLE (Dago) (51-56) has given us the translation of the Latin mottos adopted by the four houses by 1964. He correctly questions the Haskins motto which appeared in that edition of *Kingwood Chronicles* and we believe it was an error either by the School or the printers. Those Latin prizes certainly come in use, albeit after over 60 years!:

‘In #40 of KOSA NEWS on page 23 you

have reproduced the mottos of Davies, Eaton, Fussell and Haskins houses. Relying on my "O" Level Latin, (now over 50 years old), my translations would read:

Davies: *Per angusta ad augusta* - Through narrow ways to high acclaim, or through trial to triumph.

Eaton: *Stet fortuna domus* - Let the fortune of the house stand.

Fussell: *Superabimus* - We shall overcome.

Haskins: *Vincenus (Vincemus?)* - We shall excel.

‘These may be rather rule of thumb, since a word in Latin can have several similar meanings, as I discovered on looking up the words in my old 1951 form prize, a Latin dictionary!’

SOCCER AT KGS...

The photo of the 42-43 Soccer side in the last edition has been named by the joint efforts of VERNON STOKES (38-43) and TONY CURTIS (39-46). Vernon writes:

‘The photograph on page 23 brings back many memories to me as I am included in the front row (first left). DICKIE HAYCOCK, whose father owned the old ABC Dry Cleaners on Siston Common, is on the right of that row.

‘After being in the 1860 Air Training Corps (ATC) at KGS, I initially joined the Fleet Air Arm as a telegraphist/air gunner and on leaving the Royal Navy in 1947 I played for Warmley in the Bristol & District League. In 1987 I joined the Board of Bristol Rovers FC until 2001 when I became Honorary Vice-President of the Club until the present day.’

The named members of the team on page 23 are:

Back: Sandars, Lloyd Gay (cousin of

Reg Gay. His sister, Molly, ran a dance academy in Kingswood)

Middle row: John Bailey, Reg Gay, Mervyn Lovell, Cyril Griffin?

Front row: Vernon Stokes (whose family kept the Anchor Pub in Made-for-Ever), Roy Tippet, George Palmer, Maurice Gilvear (who, after the Royal Navy, worked for the Foreign Office and GCHQ in Cheltenham) and Dickie Haycock (whose family came from Boston, Massachusetts and who, as an American, went to the USA after leaving KGS).

FRENCH CONNECTION...

SUE HANDOLL (54-61) (now Withers) recognised some photos on page 17 of the last edition:

'I enjoy catching up with the KOSA NEWS very much. It is great to hear about old schoolmates, especially since I have lost touch with everyone.

'I was interested in the photos sent by BRENDA CHALK (54-61) (now Ewins) as we were part of the same group. The photos, taken on a school trip to Paris in April 1956, are ones that I have myself, I think I may have taken one of them. The three girls at the bottom were, Brenda, JILL PLUMMER and ANDREE and Andree took the picture of the group.

'Andree was a student from Bordeaux who came to KGS every summer for many years. I believe she stayed with SUSAN BIRCHLEY. I was among the group somewhere but cannot spot the place!!

'We have just moved after 46 years in Somerset and live closer to our son and family. Maybe during the winter, when I have more time to sift through photos, I will find some to send you.'

What was ANDREE's family name and

is anyone still in touch with her? It might be nice to add her to the KOSA circulation list. - Ed.

NEAR MISS...

KOSA members may recall the serious forest fires which ravaged parts of Colorado earlier this year. KOSA is pleased to report that no one from our Colorado Branch was seriously affected.

KEITH CULLEY (51-58) who lives in Colorado Springs had to evacuate his home for a few days during the recent fires. Fortunately, his home was never really threatened and both it and Keith are safe. DEREK BAILEY (49-53) from Denver just sent your Ed pictures of the smoke on the horizon!

A CELEBRATION...

Eight of the girls from 1953-58/9 realised that this year they reached the milestone of 70 years of age. They decided to get together at a local pub in Pucklechurch to celebrate, complete with a cake on which was the old KGS *Esse non Videri* coat of arms.



They were MARLENE HAYWARD, JUDY BROWN, VALERIE BOLWELL, TILLY HULL, JENNY BENNETT, ROSALIND DALZIEL, CAROL HALLETT and JILL BROOKS. The happy group are shown on the next page.



59ers at SODBURY AGAIN...

PAUL JOBBINS (59-64) reports on another successful reunion:

'Saturday 21 April 2012 saw the second 59ers' reunion at Chipping Sodbury Town Hall. It all came about after a phone call from IAN BRYANT suggesting we had another get-together. A quick meeting in a pub with our Mum, SUE WELLS (59-64), who knows all whom there are to know, gave us the thumbs up.

'Using our Mum's Google-like memory and the contact details gathered at the first reunion; everyone we could was contacted. The new Friends Reunion messaging service, once understood, proved a valuable last-minute contact tool.

'In the event 20 59ers turned to, a half-dozen less than last time. But you would not have guessed given the volume of the excited chatter and chuckles - not surprising considering over 46 years have elapsed since some have seen

others. For me it was a wonderfully relaxed afternoon with the intervening years washed quickly away. ANITA FOX (59-64) ensured everyone went home with a supply of rhubarb from her Downend allotment. End of glut.

'There were a number of fresh faces: JILLIAN BARNES (59-66); MARILYN HUDD (59-64); HAZEL LISMORE (59-66); JOHN WILSON (59-64) and LINDA WINTER (59-66).

'Thanks to all involved in organising the event especially the lovely SUE WELLS (59-64). From those asked should we do it again there was a unanimous yes. So to all 59ers, please wait for the next call.

'On a personal note, a previous conversation with BRIAN GIBSON (59-64) revealed that in 1982 we had both served on Operation Corporate, the re-taking of the Falkland Islands. This leads me to wondering how many others from KGS served on that operation. It would make an interesting roll-call – let KOSA know.'

KINGSWOOD BOOKS...

GORDON JACKSON (55-62) has written referring to other books written by Kingwood folk over the years:

'Mention was made in the last edition of KOSA NEWS of the textbook written by Head of Maths GEOFF HOCKING in the 60s. I remember textbooks written by his predecessor 'BEN' HODSON. The O-level books were *Introductory Comprehensive Mathematics* and *Comprehensive Mathematics*. There were also A-level books.

'They weren't just used by the oiks of KGS; I know from a neighbour that the posh girls of Colston Girls' School used them as well!'

		Book Number	44
Kingswood Grammar School.			
NAME	FORM	DATE	CONDITION
G. HOPKINS	VA	18/10/55	V. good.
C.J. Adams.	VI	14/9/56	Good.
A Harris	VII	25/1/57	quite good.
MARY GIBBONS	VI 2		

Your Ed has obtained a copy of *Comprehensive Mathematics* published in 1955. According to the inside form which appeared in all KGS books in those days the copy (No. 44) was used by GEOFF HOPKINS, C J ADAMS, A HARRIS and MARY GIBBONS. Please don't ask how your Ed obtained his copy, but he was a contemporary of GEOFF HOPKINS, now sadly passed on.

Also in the last edition, BRIAN ILES (45-50) mentioned in the religious debate the book written by DAVID ROSEVEAR (45-52). This was *Creation Science: Confirming that the Bible is right* published in 1991 by New Wine Press. Brian, in his direct way, describes the book as 'well-

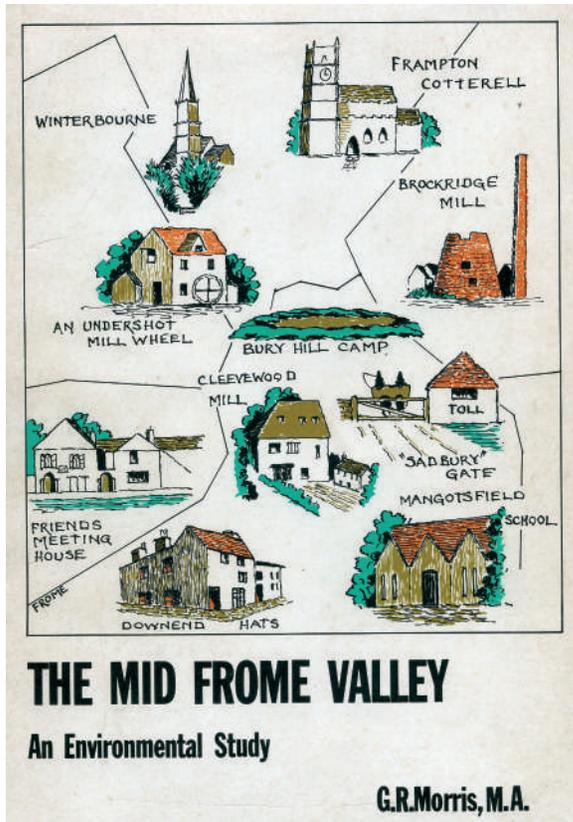
written...effective propaganda for the ignorant and gullible...'



Referring to the Web, Dr David Rosevear has a PhD in Organometallic Chemistry from the University of Bristol. He has previously lectured at the University of Portsmouth and has authored many science papers, working on occasions with two Fellows of the Royal Society. For many years he has been Chairman of the CSM Council and from 1995 to 2000 project managed the establishment of the Genesis Expo. He has been chair to the European Creationist Congresses on 5 occasions and lectured on creation in many countries from Los Angeles to Moscow. He edits the CSM Journal.

A book was written and published by GEORGE 'SCRUFFY' MORRIS (Geography) in 1974 on *The Mid Frome Valley: An Environmental Study*. George, who taught Geography at KGS in the 50s

and 60s, did the research, drew the illustrations and typed the manuscript himself in a self-financed publication which is still probably available to borrow in many of the local libraries.



George is described as an Honours Graduate in Geography of the University of Liverpool who had taught the subject in Grammar schools in Cheshire and Kingswood. He specialised in the teaching of local Geography, believing that children should know and understand their own district because it is within their own experience.

George's book is a comprehensive study of the area up to 1974 ranging from Place Names and History, to Industries and Transport, and Population, Villages and Biographies. It's an interesting book but written in typical teacher's style for children.

CHAIRMAN'S COMMENT...

'Firstly, thank you to all those concerned over my recent health, I am happy to say that recent tests have been fine and my KGS wife, RITA RAYNER (53-59) and I are looking forward to our 50th Wedding Anniversary

'GEORGE BUTCHER, who taught us English 52-58, in the last issue on page 12 passed comment about my relationship with HEADMASTER RIDLEY and the irony of you all being landed with me as your Chairman.

'The fact is that there was a complete clash of ideas between us, emanating from my wish as a 12 year old, to be an Engineer and to transfer to Rodway Technical School . His opposition to his Grammar School boys going 'downmarket' was total and I was told he had 3 years to change my mind. That did not happen, and we finished up with a stand-off but, I suspect, a mutual respect for each other's unbending attitude. In retrospect, bearing in mind the way Engineering in this country was allowed to fall into decline, he was probably right and my life could have been a lot easier. I lived close to Ridley in Kingswood and I remember working with his wife on some of her projects, a kind lady.

'George Butcher, who was also our Form Master, had to put up with the flak, but he did us proud, considering this was his first teaching job. His army training and deadly aim with the board rubber has left a lasting impression. It proved his effort was worthwhile as I got both English 'O' Levels which stood me in good stead. He and his wife Sheila are still our good friends.

As promised, four of your Committee

have followed up the new Principal of King's Oak Academy, IAN FROST'S, invitation to visit and re-establish a link between KOSA and the Academy. We were met by three of the leading girls who had just completed GCSE exams prior to moving on to the sixth form.

'Ian gave us a comprehensive up-date on progress at the Academy and the re-organisation which had resulted in 13 redundancies and a total of 21 staff re-



placements. The Academy was actively engaged with primary school parents to promote the new emphasis on teaching and required behavioural standards, including

reintroduced uniforms. We were given a tour of the newly-established central green area, outdoor seating, tree planting and improvements towards the old oak.

'We were able to locate and identify the Memorial Oak planted in 1995 commemorating those from KGS who served in WW2 and will arrange for suitable plaques to be installed. Ian will arrange for the KGS plaques and photos to be re-established in the Foyer. STEVE SOUTH took photos of the visit and we will now move on to make further links. We'll provide details as they develop.

'Many thanks to IAN FROST, now officially appointed at the last AGM as President of KOSA. We welcomed DAVID LEWIS, the past Head as our new Vice-President.' A photo of Ian addressing the last AGM is shown left.

TREASURER'S APPEAL...

MARTIN HARRYMAN (51-56), our Hon. Treasurer has asked for the following to go to our members world-wide:

'KOSA is a self supporting Association that is quite unique. We have no means of finance, other than our individual contributions. Our existence is very dependent on the twice-yearly KOSA News that helps bring old friends together and disseminate news and information.

'Over many years the cost of printing and postage has steadily increased whilst we have only proposed a £5 annual contribution. Unfortunately, we must now propose an increase in your contribution to £10 per year.

'This proposal was adopted at the AGM to appear in this issue. Additionally, despite the dire economic climate, we encourage those members who have recently forgotten their contribution to resume payments.

'For the last 2 years our funds have decreased at the rate of £400 per year and currently the fund stands at just over £2100. The 30% increase in postal charges means the cost of posting the 'NEWS will increase by £300 per year. Clearly, if this trend continues, a loss of £700 per year will deplete our funds to zero within 3 years. Please help us to sustain our unique constitution for future generations of 'Old Scholars' of our *Alma Mater*.'
