

KOSA NEWS

NUMBER 42 - SPRING 2013

The Magazine of the Old Scholars of Kingswood Grammar School and its successors

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EDITORIAL...

As a regular subscriber to *The Times*, the letters pages and the obituary sections are those parts which tend to be scanned avidly by me. It has struck me that, when tracing the lives of those that have passed on, quite a number have achieved high status having been educated at the country's grammar schools, despite having started out life in humble circumstances.

At a time when the UK is being marked down as a country whose ability to encourage social mobility compares very unfavourably with our competitors, we seem to have done away with the very mechanism which in the past has proven to be a good method of creating it - the grammar schools.

How can we encourage social mobility whilst at the same time being fair to those who fail any discriminatory examination? This seems to be the problem which we have failed to address satisfactorily.

DIARY DATES:

SPRING LUNCH & AGM:

All good organisations must have an AGM and we're booked for **SATURDAY, 13th APRIL 2013** at LINCOMBE BARN, Downend BS16 2RW when you can have your say. We meet at 12 to 12.30 for a chat and a drink from the bar, a short AGM at 12.30 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'.

46ers REUNION:

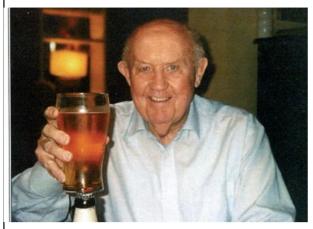
The date for the next lunch at KATHLEEN HARDWICK'S farm down in Clapton-in-Gordano is not yet fixed at the time of going to press but will be in <u>MAY 2013</u>. If you started in 1946 and haven't yet attended, phone her on 01275 853180 or Mobile: 0783 7528427 or PRISCILLA POWELL (now MAGUIRE) on 0117 9593902 to find out the date and book a meal.

AUTUMN LUNCH:

Already booked for **SATURDAY**, **12th OCTOBER 2013** at Lincombe Barn, Downend.

Please book the date in your diary now.

OBITUARIES...



BRIAN JACK LOVELL (38-43) passed away in Clifton on 28 December 2012 and his funeral was held at Westerleigh Crematorium on 14 January.

Brian was a Downend boy who loved all sports, but particularly cricket and fishing. On leaving KGS he became a dental mechanic and after their marriage at St Mary Redcliffe he and his wife joined the staff of a large local house, Brian as a chauffeur. This lasted about six weeks, as Brian was no handyman! After training as a nurse in the Royal Army Medical Corps he joined Bristol Aeroplane Co. Ltd. and then moved to Bristol City Council's Education Department.

Brian's wicked sense of humour and his sociability were legendary, which your Ed experienced when Brian attended the KOSA lunches on a regular basis. He also liked a pint, as evidenced by the photo on his service sheet (above). He was a great lover of Jazz and at his funeral service were played Glen Miller's Moonlight Serenade and Kalamazoo and Now You Has Jazz with Bing Crosby and Louis Armstrong. Fitting tributes, even if not altogether grammatically correct!

JOHN MARCHANT (47-52) reports the sad loss of his wife YVONNE 'VONNIE'

(NEE YEOMAN) (49-56) on 7th July 2012 after a terminal illness which had been diagnosed in August 2011. Vonnie's passing brought to an end a loving relationship which had started at KGS in 1951 and lasted some sixty years.

She joined Form 1A at KGS in September '49 (photograph below, where Yvonne is third from the left, front row) after attending High Street School in Kingswood. Both Ordinary and Advanced level studies were successfully completed with emphasis on languages. At school and afterwards she was a keen sportswoman, especially enjoying hockey and tennis representing the school in both sports throughout the years.

Vonnie and John were married in 1958 and daughter Karen and son Andrew arrived in 1962 and 1963 respectively. In 1968 Vonnie, John and the family left Bristol to relocate in the East of England and subsequently went to Iran from 1973 to 1979; an exciting and enjoyable experience brought to an end by the overthrow of the Shah during the Iranian revolution. During those six years Vonnie worked at an International school where Karen and Andrew were being educated. She balanced the requirements of the job with family needs and was always caring and supportive to John, Karen and Andrew. On return to England in 1979, she continued to work in education at The Thomas Alleyne's School in Stevenage. At this time Vonnie's interests beyond her family were playing piano, singing, choir work and ballroom dancing.

In 1988/89 Vonnie and John returned to Bristol but by 1990 were back in East Anglia, relocated again for John's work. Over the last year, and always, Vonnie has battled bravely against her illness, enduring numerous complications with



strength and dignity. She passed away peacefully on 7th July, 2012 at the Garden House Hospice in Letchworth, Hertfordshire.

She always held fond memories at her days at KGS and of her early life in Bristol. Vonnie's life has been one of devotion to and sacrifice for her family. She is deeply and sadly missed but will forever be held in the hearts of those who knew her.

CLIVE LOVELL (53-60) has informed us of the passing of AUDREY MARTIN (32-36) (later Denning):

'I regret to inform you of the death on 18th September 2012, of my aunt, Audrey Denning (nee Martin) (32-36?) at the age of 91. She was also the aunt of my sister CAROLE LOVELL (54-61) now Pitson. Audrey spent 2008-2010 in The Chase residential home where she would watch the present scholars of Kingsfield School, and 2010-2012 at Kingswood Court Nursing Home, a few streets from where she was born'.

MARGO FORD (43-48) (now Heslop) has informed KOSA that her school contemporary SHEILA SHEPSTONE (later Dorgan) passed away in August 2012. Below is a photo of Sheila (right) at school with JEAN SIMPKINS in 1947.



TERRY SHORT (49-57) passed away on 12 January 2013. At KGS he was a keen sportsman who took part in KGS sports days and Rugby and cricket teams. The photos below show Terry in the high-jump on sports day in 1955 and as captain of the 56-57 Second Rugby XV.

On leaving KGS, Terry read History at

Birmingham University and after gaining his PGCE went into the teaching profession, firstly at Hengrove School and afterwards lecturing at South Bristol College. After a spell as a doctors' practice manager, he became Administrator for Downend Folk House Association at Lincombe Barn where KOSA currently holds our lunches.

Terry enjoyed music of all kinds, enjoyed going to the cinema and played golf.

We have also been notified of the deaths of MAY DAVEY (40-45) (later Harding), SYDNEY WEBSTER (35-41), NORMA LEWIS (36-41) (later Holtom), ALAN PLENTY (52-57) and LEONARD POWELL (29-34?). Leonard had memories of BERNARD LOVELL playing cricket at KGS.

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



1956 - 57

KINGSWOOD GRAMMAR SCHOOL

RUGBY 2ND XV

PUBLIC ACCESS..?

LIONEL HARRIS (52-57) has told us that MARGARET LOVELL (50-55), our celebrated sculptress, provided a piece of work in bronze called *The Field* to Kingswood Council some years ago. Some



detective work by Lionel found that when the office building Kingswood was being renovated recently sculpture the found its way to South the Gloucestershire Council offices Thornbury.

The sculpture has been returned to Kingswood where it now resides in the offices on the first floor. Whilst it was originally in an area to which the public had access, it is now in a position where it cannot be seen by the public.

Shouldn't it be restored to a position where the public can see this important piece of work by a noted local artist?

BUSY CELEBRITY...

ROGER GREENAWAY (49-55), our KGS songwriter, appeared on *Celebrity Eggheads* on BBC2 in December 2012 along with others such as Tim Rice. Sadly, your Ed was unable to catch the programme and subsequent efforts to view it on iPlayer have proved fruitless – it doesn't appear to be there.

On New Year's Day Radio Bristol's Richard Lewis devoted a 2-hour programme to Roger's songs, many of them composed with Roger Cook, also a Bristol

boy.

Roger's compositions have been recorded by such well-known artists as Andy Williams, Deep Purple, Cilla Black, The Fortunes, Gene Pitney, Cliff Richard and many, many more. In 2009 Roger was inducted into the internationally recognised and renowned *Songwriters' Hall of Fame*.

1 EX-KGS = 4 OTHERS...

Steam-buff RICHARD STRANGE (54-59) has decided to suspend his critical faculties – at least those for the benefit of railway magazine *Steam World*. The announcement (below) appeared in their October 2012 edition. It appears the magazine is appointing 4 others to replace Richard's expertise!

Farewell, Richard...

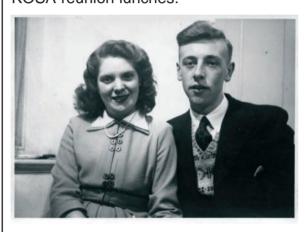
Steam World's historical consultant, Richard Strange, has decided to call it a day after some 20 years of fact-checking on the magazine. His support with locomotive allocation information and his eye for a throw-away line, or a lapse of accurate memory, have been much appreciated by the editorial team, of which he was a part. Though we have not always seen eye-to-eye, particularly regarding my interest in certain overseas railways and in trains built to less than 12in to 1ft scale, I shall certainly miss his input, and I wish him well.

Richard has been a stickler for historical accuracy over the years, especially as far as railway history is concerned. Many authors of railway books have gone weak at the knees as they opened a letter from Richard taking them to task for sloppy research and getting their facts wrong. Richard always advocated that these calumnies only served to be repeated and perpetuated in later publications.

He's done a stalwart job at keeping Steam World on the straight and narrow for around 20 years – Ed, (a subscriber).

CONGRATULATIONS..1

To STAN CRUSE (41-47) and DOREEN ROGERS (48-53) who celebrated their Diamond Wedding Anniversary in September 2012. Doreen was known to many of us as 'Miss Rogers' when she was the School Secretary during Headmaster NORMAN RIDLEY'S reign and Stan is well known locally as a Magician who performs at many children's (and adult) parties. They both regularly attend KOSA reunion lunches.



The engagement photo of the happy couple (above) was taken at Christmas 1949.

CONGRATULATIONS..2

To our Chairman STAN (BUSTER) BURRAGE (51-56) and RITA RAYNER (53-59) who celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary in August 2012.

They were married in Siston Church in 1962 and a photographic record of the happy occasion is shown above right.

Just in case many of Rita's contemporaries may not recognise her from her wedding photo, we also include Rita in a less distinguished pose when she went paddling on a school trip to Salisbury about 1956.

Rita is on the left and CAROLINE WH-ITESIDE (53-60) is third from the left.





RUGBY SCRUM...

JOHN BISHOP (52-58) wants to celebrate a milestone on Kingswood Old Boys RFC, now Kingswood RFC, and gives this advance notice:

The next 2013-14 rugby season will be the 60th for Kingswood RFC. The club was formed in 1954 by a group of KGS Old Boys and evolved into KRFC in the mid 70s. I would like to celebrate this milestone by gathering together as many Old Boys who played for the club in those

first 20-30 seasons.

'Some of us have met up occasionally at the KOSA Autumn Lunch. This year it takes place on Saturday 12th October 2013 so this early notice ought to allow you time to make arrangements to attend.

BRISTOL'S UNIQUE L...

BRIAN ILES (45-50) is researching The Bristol L and is in correspondence with the Bristol Linguistic Centre of the University of the West of England (UWE) about its origins and extent. Brian has turned to KOSA NEWS to ask if any of our readers can assist in his research.



'I reckon that there are at least 30/40 of you reading this item who qualify as ex-Kingswood Old Boys rugby men. Many live locally or within a short distance of Bristol, but even if it means a significant journey you may like to give it a go. Let's face it, this could be our last opportunity to have an excuse to organize a major reunion!

'So, mark your diaries and calendars and when the next issue of KOSA News arrives (August) book your place.'

A reminder of how the KRFC looked in days of yore is published above. ROGER FOWLER (54-61) is holding the ball and is therefore presumably captain. We think it was taken in the 1970s.

Can you help? We will report progress in later editions. Brian writes:

The Bristol L is a unique freak. Even linguists have no idea of its origin. Neither do they know why Bristolians are the only people in the world ever to have said 'No idea-L' or 'No idea-L-of'.

Experts know plenty about the other well-known 'intrusive' letter - R (idea-R and 'idea-R-of) which, probably originating from Cockney, is spoken so widely these days that one top linguist, John Wells, considers it RP (received pronunciation). Yet, even though we now have the Bristol Linguistic Centre on our doorstep, an intriguing local linguistic puzzle is nowhere nearer solution.

I think it's about time locals did something about the mystery. And who better than us ex-KGS scholars to start the ball rolling. Educated at a grammar school, in a hotbed of the Bristol L – because Kingswood is just that - we should be its ideal researchers. The evidence is still out there. I myself have many examples of the intrusive L, and, as recently as January, John Darville on the Radio Bristol phone-in, said he was 'hearing it all the time' Linguists attest to its continuing existence, and I'm sure that some of you must have come across it too. So, why not contribute to a dossier and get some action?

To be fair, the Bristol L has been touched on in two academic studies. John Wells's *Accents of English*, Volume II, pages 344-5 (1982) and Peter Trudgill's *Dialects in Contact*, pages 78-81 (1986). However, they were mere drops in an ocean of more wide-ranging research by non-local linguists. From my own knowledge when studying the few relevant pages, I felt that the Bristol Broadsides tapes (quoted by Trudgill but now lost) of locals talking were not comprehensive, or perhaps representative, enough to give a full and accurate picture.

Researchers should have local experience, and must have proper evidence. Many more examples of the intrusive L as spoken by Bristolians with a working class background are required.

I'm probably such an obsessive about the Bristol L because when I worked in Worcester for eighteen months in my late teens in 1951-2 I was teased rotten for it. So when I read Professor Trudgill's conclusion, on the evidence of the 'dodgy dossier', that the Bristol L was only sounded after 'schwa' - the neutral vowel 'a' (as in 'idea') - I knew he was wrong.

It has also, quite definitely, been heard following 'aw' (as in 'draw-L-ing'), after 'u' (as in 'mum') 'a' (as in 'bra'), and even after 'ye-' (short for 'yes'). Moreover as most of these examples are recent (see the list at the end) the forms must have been around in Trudgill's day.

Equally due to paucity of evidence was the conclusion of both Trudgill and Wells that the L was only sounded after a vowel-ending word at the end of a sentence (eg idea-L). As my list shows, nowadays the Bristol L is predominantly a link between vowels (eg idea-L-of).

There's a dearth of knowledge about its origins too. Some people think that the quirk influenced the modern spelling of our city's name. This would put the L's first-ever pronunciation round about the 1620s when 'Brestol' evolved from 'Bristowe'. A key academic dates it back much further, but can't be sure until it is confirmed that earlier words spelt with end-L are in fact English (and not Latin or French).

After my Worcester experience my ear was always tuned in for the Bristol L. Sixty years of experience and plenty of retirement reading have given me a pretty good idea of what it's about. Consider that last phrase. The L-user would say 'idea-L-of' - often sounding like 'idill-of'. Crucially, this all smacks of working class speech. The 'vowel shift' from 'eel' to'ill' a Cockney import - certainly is. More importantly, the 'intrusive' L is also working class. A lay definition of the Bristol L might be: 'Used by Bristolians of working class background of an L- sound in pronunciation following a vowel-sound; with a modern emphasis on its use as a link between vowels'.

No less a personage than your Editor,

Mike Bendrey, himself has questioned whether there even is a Bristol L. And several Post correspondents have written likewise. All sorts of vowel endsounds have been mooted instead, such as 'a', 'ugh' and 'aw'. I think that this is simply confusion caused by the wide range of L-pronunciation; this grades from a very 'clear' L with the blade of the tongue pressed firmly against the teeth ridge and the front of the rest lifted up towards the hard palate - to a very 'dark' L when it is curled right back to the soft palate. With this swallowed L we're back to typically working class speech, expressed as 'be-ugh' for 'bell' (in the absence of the phonetic alphabet). It can seem more like a vowel than a consonant, leading to comments like Mike's above.

The Bristol L and the London R are technically 'intrusive letters'. They are called 'terminal' if sounded on the end of a word or phrase, eg 'idea-L.' and 'idea-R.'; and 'linking' when followed by a vowel as in 'idea-L-of' and 'idea-R-of'. The London terminal R is common-place, the Bristol terminal L is not. I do still hear it, as shown in my examples, but the 'unbelievers' have a good excuse for not picking up L at the end of a word terminating a phrase or sentence. For example, in the phrase, 'A good idea-L' ending in a full stop the L can seem 'dark' to the point of being almost unsounded. (You can't swallow the R sound though, which could be a reason it has survived and flourished as an intrusive sound).

With the *linking* L it is quite different. And this is where the Bristol L comes into its own as a legitimate linguistic device. In that phrase 'idea-L- of', a vowel follows 'idea', and the L sound can be very clear. This is the same with the London R; also with other letters in other languages.

Some of you must remember the likes of FROGGY DAVIES at KGS teaching 'Y a-t-il?' – the interrogative of 'II y a'. The Bristol L is working class, so is the London R, historically. But the French intrusive 'T' is written into their grammatical rules. (And, similarly, so is 'N' in ours, as the spelling of the indefinite article when followed by a vowel). These linking consonants are a way of easing the pronunciation of adjoining awkward vowel sounds. They belong to the process known as 'sandhi', which is a word from India where there are all sorts of such devices in Sanskrit and other languages.

Modes of pronunciation arise and change in lots of ways, and it's not always a filtering downwards from 'good' speech, as the spread of the Cockney R clearly shows. But it seems very likely that the Bristol L – however legitimate its sandhi credentials – started, remained, and still hangs on as a working class habit. This linking L (eg 'idea-L-of') seems hard to avoid for those from a certain background who still harbour the incipient Bristol L in their sub-conscious minds. As defined above, it eases the pronunciation of adjacent vowels. Try an empathetic leap, those of you, working class or not, who either deny, look down on, or couldn't care less about the Bristol L. If you say 'Is there?' in French you've got to say 'Y a-t-il?'- it's official grammar. If you speak RP you're quite likely to say 'idea-r-of'. And if you speak any old way you're sure to say 'an idea'. So now think of L in the same way. 'Idea of' is easier to pronounce if you sound 'R' or 'L' between the two words, one of which ending with a vowel, the other starting with one. If this is hard to swallow because it seems to be just slovenly and plebeian, remember English RP 'idea-r-of' and French grammatical 'Y a-t-il?' All three, including L, are examples of 'sandhi'.

Make no mistake, the Bristol L is still with us, in parts of Greater Bristol. It is more easily heard as a linking letter, because between vowels it doesn't serve its 'sandhi' purpose, unless made 'clear' by tongue against teeth ridge. But you can still hear it terminally if you're tuned in. It'll usually be a dark L, as there's no following vowel, but real die-hards may still say it fairly clearly, even when no vowel follows. This, for me, is one of the most intriguing parts of the mystery. By definition, sandhi explains the *linking* L. It can't do the same for the terminal L.

Now at last I come to a selection of the examples I've recorded since 2009. Bearing in mind what I've said, I hope some of you can add to the list. If so, give me a ring on 0117 960 7425 or email me (brianiles@btinternet.com). I really do think that, considering all the arguments about the value of grammar schools, our great old school would really come into its own if its old scholars could help encourage the academic study of the Bristol Obsolescent. slovenly, plebeian speech it may seem now, but it is nonetheless a real phenomenon, not something made up (like 'gert lush' for example - or the execrable 'Bristle'). As such it must have evolved from linguistic causes which may or may not have something to do with the evolution of the word 'Bristol'. It is therefore of both linguistic and heritage importance.

Then one day the ultimate question may be answered: Why has it always been confined to such a tiny area of the globe – why is it The *Bristol* L?

LIST OF EXAMPLES OF THE BRISTOL L SINCE 2009

Linking Ls

Sparra-L-'awk.

Man, 65, artisan, Kingswood.

Schwa-ending of sparrow, when followed

by vowel (due to dropped 'h') invites L which 'ow' vowel-diphthong wouldn't.

I gotta-L-'ave.

Man, 50, MA, born w/class, Filton. Slovenly Gotta schwa-ending invites linking L. MA wasn't in English!

A lotta-L-people.

Man, 75, phone-in. (Me! – I heard a tape) This is a brilliant example of overpowering habit – difficult to suppress. Here slovenly 'lotta' produced an L (admittedly very dark) even though it was a consonant not a vowel following.

*I draw-L-out once a week.*Man, 70, working class, Bristol East.

Draw-L-ing was my favourite subject. Lady, 50, Warmley.

I got no bra-L-on.

Teenager at Bristol club (second hand report)

Our mu-L-ain't comin'.

Boy, 10, Keynsham.

Another striking example of the strength of the Bristol L. Here the slovenly-dropped 'm' invited L. Very unusual too after 'u'. NB also, these last two show the tenacity of the L, being examples of *young* people using it.

Ye-L-I know

Hanham woman, 60s.

Another slovenly letter-drop. Such speech creates novel vowel-endings which encourage the linking L. Only real die-hards would sound any L in the above instances if the word (eg area, sparra) wasn't followed by a vowel.

Now to end with, a few 'terminals' still to be heard, though usually with a dark L, sometimes to the point of being difficult to pick up.

Terminal Ls

That's a good idea-L.

Old man phoning-in from Nailsea 2013.

A good idill.

Lady, old, phone in; also lady, 50, Hanham.

Terminal L, plus vowel-shift similar to Cockney 'mill' for 'meal'. This is the most common example of all terminals, and a double indication of working class background.

He lives in America-L (sounds equally like Americle).

Lady, old, Hanham.

Reception is poor in this area-L. TV engineer overheard by linguist from UWE. Nowadays there are far fewer examples reported of the terminal L than of the linking L. One reason could be that they are harder to pick up because they are usually very dark ie almost unsounded.

OUR PRESIDENT...

IAN FROST, the Principal of King's Oak Academy and our new President, has given KOSA some facts about himself from which we have been able to draft a pen portrait:

Ian was born in 1966 in Barking, London. He tells me that his father was a minister – of the Church, not in politics. His secondary education was obtained at St Peter's Collegiate CE School at Wolverhampton. Founded in 1847 the school is the oldest state educational institution in Wolverhampton and has a tradition of academic, cultural and sporting excellence, nourished by Christian spiritual and moral values.

The school is situated in a parkland site on the western borders of Wolverhamp-

ton and Staffordshire and the school has extensive on-site sports facilities, a technology college with links to industry, a new chapel, sixth form centre and theatre and successful art and music. A caring and purposeful Christian community, the school seeks to uphold the highest academic and cultural standards.



Ian then went to the University of Durham from 1985-88 to read for a BA in Geography and did his Post Graduate Certificate in Education (PGCE) at Leeds University. A period teaching for a Christian voluntary organisation in Zimbabwe followed.

Back in the UK Ian taught for 6 years at Twyford CE School, Acton, London, 6 years at Wootton Bassett School as Assistant Headteacher and 6 years at Highworth Warneford School as Deputy Head. He now lives in Cirencester with Amanda, who teaches Science at Farmors School, Fairford, and their two sons Harry (15) and Sam (13).

lan's interests are playing and coaching

cricket, painting, reading and involvement in the local church in Cirencester.

The photograph is of lan addressing the KOSA lunch on his first occasion with us.

ANOTHER KENYA TRIP...

KOSA members will remember that we raised over £400 to help what was then Kingsfield School's trip to Kenya in their link in helping schools in that country.

The link continues now under the King's Academy banner and we were privileged at the last October lunch to be given a talk by two 6th Form students from the school, KAYLEIGH CROUCH and LUCY MORRIS (see photo, top right), both of whom plan to go on the Kenya trip this coming July.

They covered their itinerary which will cover a number of secondary schools - but not forgetting a visit to the Masai Mara. Funds for the trip are being raised by the students by such activities such as a car wash, cake sales, football matches, sponsored walks and supermarket bag packing.

Apart from the cost of the flights they need to raise the following funds:

- £200 for resources for us to run the workshops over three days.
- £300 for sports equipment, stationery and text books for Ntugi Secondary School.
- £300 for sports equipment, stationery and text books for Ntugi Primary School.
- £800 for the annual water supply for Ntugi Secondary School.
- £1,200 for a year's supply of sanitary wear for the girls at Kalalu Secondary School.
- £1,500 to build a classroom at Kalalu Secondary School.



We had a collection at the lunch and raised £140 for the trip, but if you think you can help this worthy cause just send a cheque to our KOSA Treasurer (payable to KOSA) marked for the Kenya Project and we'll see that it's passed on.



Here are a couple of photos from the last trip showing the Kingswood students taking a couple of classes in the schools in Kenya.



We hope to invite the girls back to the Autumn Lunch to report on their Kenya Trip.

46ers REUNION...

A good time was had by all at the 46ers Christmas meal at KATH HARDWICK'S farm in Clapton in Gordano. They were: Left to right: Peter Brake, Kath Hardwick (now Filer), Brian Cuff, Bob Saunders, Janet Crew (now Bees), Ray Edwards, Priscilla Powell (now Maguire), Joan Peeling (now Toogood), John Gray, Mike Parry, Cynthia Underwood (now Hurdle) and Gordon Jones.



63ers REUNION...

This was organised at the Ring 'o Bells, Widcome, Bath on 7th October 2012. YVONNE HELLIN (63-70), who helped organise the event said 'It was a great event, everyone enjoyed themselves and we had a turnout of about 40 people. It was wonderful to spend all afternoon catching up with friends some of us

hadn't seen in 40 years. The general feeling is to keep in touch and maybe do this again in about 5 years time!

The photos on pages 14 and 15 are of what was obviously a very pleasant occasion. Apart from the group as a whole, the names of those on the other photos are given on page 15.



63ers NAMES...

On page 14, from the top clockwise: The group; the organisers - Yvonne Hellin, Frances Arscott and Ann Marsden; Christine Wells and Elaine Packer; Julie Roman, Yvonne Hellin, Jane Willison and Julie Harris; Kathy Fry, Sylvia Goodenough, Susan Smith, Gillian Farnsworth and Julia Parr.

On page 15, also clockwise from the top: Julie Harris and Philip Herlihy; Paul Gunter, David Drew and Anthony Farr; lan Fury-King and Lynne Mann; Tony Pattemore, John Gould and Yvonne Hellin; and Ian Fury-King and Pauline Shute.

Others who attended and appear on the group photo were Gordon Lack, Steve Garnon, Martin Painter, Steve Allen, Marilyn Connor, Suzanne Philpott, Nigel Parsons, Lesley Waters, Kathy Fry and Sandra Davey.

If there's anyone else out there who would like to organise a reunion for their year, KOSA would like to give you every assistance - postage, addresses etc. Just let us know.



TRICKY MEMORY...

PETER MALPASS (48-55) has contacted us with some thoughts:

'Re-reading some of the recent back copies of KOSA News, I note on page 24 of number 38, the Summer Edition of 2011, that there is a name missing from the list of members of the 1st X I Cricket photograph, second from the left in the front row is GRAHAM GILES. After National Service, Graham gained his teaching certificate in 1960 at St. Paul's College, Cheltenham. I know that he spent some time teaching/lecturing in one of the Arab countries, possibly Saudi Arabia, but there my knowledge ends. (Anyone know of Graham's whereabouts? – Ed)

'It was sad to learn of the death of KGS's most famous pupil, PROF. SIR BER-NARD LOVELL who was a devout Christian to the end. Some years ago Ann and I visited Jodrell Bank, it being a fine sunny day we decided to stroll around the Arboretum first. During our time in the visitors' centre I enquired if Sir Bernard still visited the centre and was told that he had left about an hour before. The member of staff was interested to learn that I had attended the same Grammar School and that he had presented me with a prize when he was the Guest of Honour at Speech Day. If only we had reversed our itinerary I might have had the honour of shaking his hand for a second time.

'I've enjoyed reading the intellectual contributions of JOHN COLE (49-56) and COLIN FELTHAM (50-57), and latterly BRIAN ILES (45-50), on Christianity and Humanism. I am reminded that the 'Atheist' Prof. Dawkins is on record as describing himself as a 'Cultural Christian'. Perhaps John, Colin or Brian could define what this means. I wonder if John,

Colin and Brian followed, or read the report, of Prof. Dawkins debate earlier this year with the Archbishop of Canterbury when Prof. Dawkins acknowledged that he was less than 100% certain of his conviction that there is no Creator. When asked by the chair of the debate why he didn't call himself an Agnostic Dawkins answered that he did!

'I write this following the Olympics and as the Paralympics are in progress and my memory goes back to my visit to the 1948 games at the old Wembley Stadium - the era of Fanny Blankers-Koen, Emil Zatopek and Jim Peters. I'm sure that many more KOSA members attended the 'Austerity Games'. No ticketing problems, we bought them from Lyons Corner House in The Strand. Jessica Ennis's wonderful performance conjured up memories of standards in track and field events. Did we have these at KGS or am I confusing them with an activity when I briefly taught Secondary School children?'

A subsequent message from Peter confirmed that his memory had been playing tricks:

'On re-reading the last edition of KOSA News I realise that for many many years I have been under a misapprehension (or deluding myself) that my one and only prize from KGS was presented to me by Sir Bernard Lovell. Sir Bernard presented the prizes two years before I received mine, from whom I know not. So to the earlier communication from me you had better use your Editor's Red Pencil and remove my false memory relating to the prize presentation, although the reference to my visit Jodrell Bank is authentic.

'I must visit Downend Library when next in the area to see if I can trace a copy of George Morris's book. A friend of ours son & his partner own the property which once housed Downend Hats.'

Your Ed was able to confirm Peter's memory lapse with the message to him: 'I know that memory plays tricks, but I'm pretty sure that SBL only presented prizes at KGS on one occasion and the photo in the last edition is the record of when it was done. I've checked in Kingswood Chronicles and SBL presented the prizes on 16 December 1954. Professor Roger Wilson, Professor of Education at Bristol presented the prizes on 14 March 1956 and Lady James (whoever she was!) presented the prizes in December 1956. 1956 was when I received my only prizes awarded at KGS, or rather after KGS, because I had to go back to pick them up after already having started work at 16. So Peter and I must have gone up at the same event, Spooky!'

BACK IN THE USSR...

Following on from Peter's reference to SIR BERNARD LOVELL, since his death papers have been released which refer to his treatment by the Soviets on his visits to the USSR. This extract is from *The Sunday Times* of 19 September 2012:

In 1963 Lovell went on a scientific visit to the Soviet Union. On his return and for weeks afterwards he felt inexplicably exhausted. Doctors did not know why. But he believed until his death this year that someone just might - the KGB.

Yesterday the diaries that Lovell requested should be published only after his death have set out his suspicions. The KGB, he claimed, had tried to wipe his memory with a beam of focused radiation. The diaries are an account of his visit, as part of the British delegation, to observatories in the Crimea. His visit included a surprise trip to an unexpectedly advanced radio telescope at Yevpatoria - after which, he claims, Soviet officials tried to persuade him to defect. He refused.

But that was not where it ended. After a few days home he became mysteriously ill. Debriefed by MI6 he heard an incredible theory. MI6 thought that by some means - probably radiation - 'the Soviets tried to remove from my brain all memories of my visit to Yevpatoria'.

So thrown was he by the event that he considered quitting astronomy entirely and going into the Church. His family dissuaded him from taking this action. The rest is history. Sir Bernard's son, Bryan, pointed out that at the time Jodrell Bank was at the centre of the Western defence at the height of the Cold War, although it started life as a scientific endeavour.

However, SBL's son thinks that a more likely explanation of his illness could be the stress of maintaining the secret and the responsibility he carried for Britain's safety during the period of the Cold War when Jodrell formed part of Britain's early warning system.

WHOOPS..!

JOHN BRYANT (44-52 has written with a dollop of humble pie:

'My memory must be fading! NANCY LEONARD (44-49) (now Powell) has phoned to say that the Quantrill in the 1944 intake was ALAN QUANTRILL. My unreserved apologies are tendered for any hurt or distress caused to the family. Boys of course, only referred to each other by surname and I had forgotten our fellow student was called Alan and he must have been an older brother to Reg. Again with sincere apologies.'



PRESS CUTTINGS...

At KOSA we are always interested in relevant press cuttings from the past. Above are some photographs from Speech Day, 2nd October 1952 which appeared in the *New Observer*, which described them as 'Two happy pictures of Kingswood Grammar School boys and girls taken by our photographer at the school's speech day in the School Hall'

SOME APPEALS...

MARGO FORD (43-48) (now Heslop)

has pointed out that it is 70 years since her cohort started at KGS and she makes an appeal to all her contemporaries to attend the KOSA lunch next Spring so that they could all sit together.

We are happy to set up tables for those contemporaries who wish to sit together.

When you send in your booking just indicate which group you wish to sit with and we will do our best to set up a table, Just as we regularly do for the Rugby players.

DIANE WOGAN (55-61) (now Harris) writes:

'I, like most KOSA members look forward to opening each new magazine and seeing articles from pupils from the same era and I am pleased to say that there are frequent contributions from the 1955 intake. I am therefore very surprised at the lack of support from this particular group for the Annual Spring and Autumn lunches.

'LIONEL HARRIS (52-57) and I are usually at our home in Cape Town in October and April but the arrival of a new grandchild in late October 2011 meant that we were still in the UK and able to attend the Autumn lunch for the first time. It was most enjoyable with good food, wine and company. I played Badminton at the Grange School for many years at the same time as the Kingswood Old Boys RFC played Squash there and it was good to see so many familiar faces from that group, to the extent that they can even have their own 'Rugby' tables. I was, however, disappointed to find that there was no-one else from my era although the event was well supported by Lionel's age group (1952), some of whom had travelled long distances and apparently do so each year. Despite the fact that there were no other 55ers present I was still able to catch up on information on fellow pupils from older siblings who were in attendance although, sadly, it is not always good news.

'Lionel and I were sorry for hear from MALCOLM HENRY (52) that his brother ALEX (55) had passed away in 1975. Alex and I were in the same form and I always remember him as a happy, lively lad whilst Lionel, although 3 years older, remembers Alex being on his dinner table and always sending him up for seconds as he was the 'cheeky charmer' of

the group.

'I was quite interested to see an article from GEOFF COLE (55-60) in the Autumn 2012 KOSA NEWS saying that he had only recently discovered the existence of KOSA and had attended the April AGM and lunch. He too had hoped to meet up with some contemporaries but found none present.

'As Lionel and I are now delaying our Autumn trips we were once again able to attend the 2012 lunch where I am pleased to say I met up with Geoff. It is gratifying that we recognised each other and I am sure that may be something that concerns many people before they attend one of these functions.

'Geoff and I discussed the absence of anyone else from our year and both felt it would be worth contacting KOSA NEWS and urging some of those who take the time to read and write to the magazine to spread the word to any old school contacts and also try to attend the Annual lunch. We are sure they will find it very enjoyable and it would also go some way to ensuring that the next age groups will keep the organisation running in the future.'

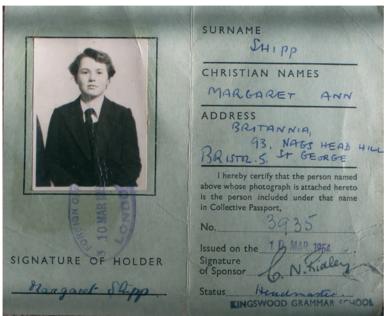
WHY COWSHEDS .. ?

RICHARD STRANGE (54-59) has posed the question 'Why was KGS known as The Cowsheds?' It seems to have been an epithet which was applied to KGS by those who went to the other secondary schools in the area, taking into consideration the wooden construction of our school.

Your Ed like to think it's a badge of honour, rather like the 'Old Contemptibles' name applied to the British Army by the Kaiser.

PARIS IN THE THE SPRING...

MARGARET SHIPP (50-55) (now Almond) has been searching through her souvenir box and her memories of the April 1954 School trip to Paris:



'Above is my Identity Card that served as a passport for the KGS visit to Paris. Numerous memories from the visit are included in my souvenir box and I remember that the cost for the trip was £16 including a hotel stay in London and 7 nights staying at a boarding school at Les Lilas in Paris, with a very full itinerary of visits.

'It was suggested that £3.10s was a reasonable amount to take to convert into Francs for spending money. Final Instructions included 'it is advisable to take a good supply of soap which is often scarce and poor abroad'! School uniform, including caps for the boys and berets for the girls, had to be worn at all times but girls were allowed to take one dress for the evenings.

'Senior Mistress MISS QUINTON made the journey from Bristol to see us off at Victoria Station. The teachers accompanying the 50 pupils were MR MOODY, MR. WINTOUR, MISS MORRISON, MISS VINCENT and MISS JACOB, who were noted in my souvenir write up as being 'brilliant' for their helpfulness. Mr Ridley and his family travelled at the

same time and were by coincidence met one day on the Champs Élysées - or was he just keeping a check on us!

'It is to the School's credit that the senior girls even had a visit to the fashion house, *Nina Ricci*, with a full 'mannequin' parade. After visits to all the tourist sites in Paris and a full day at Versailles, the last Saturday included a reception at the Hotel de Ville, the Town Hall. 'Hopefully this information will bring back many happy

memories to any of the other pupils on the visit who enjoyed it as much as I did.'

We also include a couple of photos taken by others on that trip. It's difficult to rec-



ognise anyone except for ANDREW JELFS on the this page, taken on his own. Whatever happened to him?— Ed.



A GAME PAIR...

BOB LEWIS (33-40) and his wife EMILY-JACKSON (36-40) turned out from their Hanham home in last Summer to cheer the Olympic Torch through the district.

Bob and Emily renewed their friendship after many, many years by attending KOSA reunions and were married a few years ago in Pilning. KOSA likes to think that we brought them together.

APPRECIATION...

JOHN PENNY (40-47) has appended a note to his contribution to KOSA:

'I would like to tell you and your colleagues on the KOSA Committee how much I look forward to receiving KOSA NEWS which I promptly read from cover to cover and to thank you for the considerable effort you make to continue its publication. Much appreciated.

'I was born in Weston but my parents moved back to their home in Warmley before school days for me, Warmley Primary and KGS where I followed my uncle HARRY WILLIAMS. In due course my brother MIKE PENNY AM (Member of the Order of Australia) (46-51) and two sisters RACHEL (47-52) and CHRIS-



TINE (55-61) continued the KGS tradition with Headmaster MAJOR EATON, to whom we owe so much.'

CONGRATULATIONS..!

A note from MURIEL HILL (34-37) (now James) informs KOSA that she recently completed the St Peter's 'Walk to Remember' for charity and had raised in excess of £85 - at the age of 90! They don't breed 'em like that any more!

Muriel reflects that there would be few of her class-mates left now. In January 2011 her school-friend VERA HALL passed away and in July her son-in-law TOM SLOCOMBE died. He was the husband of CAROL KIDD, Vera's eldest daughter. They were all ex-KGS.

VALUE OF THE 'NEWS..?

MARGARET LOVELL (50-55) kindly sent an email to your Ed when she was in the depths of California. She wrote:

'I am writing from San Francisco. I think it is about 19th? Octobera Thursday! Has anyone ever weighed the KOSA NEWS magazine?

'Finding myself here in San Francisco, alone evenings in a hotel room for several days, I can't watch TV or go on PC evenings due to electro sensitivity, I've read all the vineyard magazines and tourist leaflets, THEN... I remembered the latest copy of the KOSA News which I brought with me to show family members due to the article Derek Bailey had written about me. I have devoured every word of that copy, with relish. Yes, even the cricket news!

'Whilst generally everything in America is huge; the highways, huge portions of food etc., hotels baths are miniature, but

still conducive to a sitting/half-soaking whilst reading the magazine. I even rationed it out over a few sessions!

'There are so many connections in this particular issue. It was great to learn more details in the very informative articles about 'our BERNARD LOVELL', although we are not related as far as I know.

'I had not realised that my best school friend, MARGARET SHIPP's (50-55) Mum, EVELYN BATEMAN (26-31) (obituary issue 41), had gone to KGS, nor that she was such a great sportswoman. Margaret and I became reunited several years ago through our mothers' friendship, both born 1915 and died 2012.

'Then I did not know that Margaret was a close contact of MARY WHITEFORD (50-53) (again recently died). I used to go to a *Girl's Friendly Society* with Mary at Hanham Church, until we got fed up because all the girls were quarrelling so much!

'Then there was news from VERNON STOKES (38-43). He was my mother's first cousin and they spent a lot of time together as youngsters at the family owned pub, *The Anchor* at Made For Ever.

'In conjunction with Vernon, I see ROY TIPPETT (39-46) mentioned as a soccer team member. I had no idea he was an 'old boy'. I have had the pleasure of working with him as the Chairman of League of Friends of Cossham Hospital, who recently commissioned me to make the portrait bust of Handel Cossham for the refurbished hospital - yet to be reopened.

'Then I noticed JOHN COLE and DICKIE DAVIES (both 49-56) were in New Zealand... I spend a couple of months working there each year but didn't see them! I even hugged that same Kauri tree. These boys were my heroes at school because they were one year ahead of me!

'DEREK BAILEY (49-53) always finds something interesting to report on and he is the only 'old' (young) boy I am in contact with - despite the fact he lives in Denver..... small world! Yet I see the information that a group meet for lunch at the *Queens Head* - a two minute walk from my house! Perhaps I could join in one Tuesday?

'So that's the reason for my original question - this issue, at this time, has been worth its weight in gold!'

BOOK REVIEW...

A few editions ago we reported that Senior Mistress MISS QUINTON (who also taught Divinity) had published a book in 1950 called *Scientific and Religious Knowledge* (SCM Press).

BRIAN ILES (45-51) has now read and reviewed her book - over 60 years after its initial publication!

'Miss Quinton starts with a parable about the limitations of scientific knowledge. As a KGS pupil from 1945 to 1951 I couldn't help wondering who were those 6th formers to whom the headmaster demonstrated the necessity of religion to give a full picture of personality? Then I thought that the author, like Christ, might be simply making up a tale to prove the point.

The weakness in the position of a 'person of Faith' discussing science in this way

is that their mind's already made up. Scientists hold theories until they're proved wrong. Religionists (ugly word but necessary now that believers in our country aren't all Christian as in Q's day) have hermetically sealed minds. To be fair, Miss Quinton has a stab at opening hers a bit. Obviously of encyclopaedic knowledge, she starts off with a nice history of science from Greek times. Deduction was the name of the game with the philosophers. Taking a 'known' truth or axiom, thinking logically or mathematically about it, then, with the likes of Aristotle, came the first inklings of the inductive method which led to modern science. You observe something, notice features, form a theory, test it, and arrive at a law, which you stick to until it's disproved by a repeat of the process.

So far, so reasonable. And then you go and spoil it all, Quinny, by trying a trick that doesn't work - juggling with the 'faith' word. You say that the scientist's leap of faith (what we'd now call the eureka moment) is the same as seeing the light and accepting a belief in God. Even a layman like me can see this isn't so. The scientist's leap of faith has a very small F spelling out merely a sudden insight which is then subject to induction: forming a theory and testing it.

Religious Faith is beyond research. In a more precise language there'd be separate words; in lovely old English it's simply a different case, as it were. But lovely old Miss Quinton proves, to her own satisfaction at least, that scientists are just finding out more and more about God and his works.

It may seem unfair to judge the opinion of a mid-century Divinity teacher in hind-sight. But already by 1941 biologist Julian Huxley had published *Religion*

without Revelation about a sort of agnostic Christianity minus God - not all that different from the science of morals which Sam Harris has recently suggested in The End of Faith. On page 47 of her book, Miss Quinton criticises Huxley for his old-fashioned reductionist beliefs: perhaps she chose to ignore his more enlightened modern take on religion. I don't suppose it matters. From my point of view, it is only by false argument she can conclude that scientific and religious knowledge go together. Conflating two meanings of the word faith leads inevitably to the other mistakes in the last chapter.

'Reason is impossible without faith'. 'The logical status of scientific and theological knowledge is the same'. No No, Miss Quinton. But I wonder what those 6th formers, if they ever existed, would now think.

NAMES ...?



Ex-Deputy Head STUART SYKES (60-74) queried the members of the 1967 1st XI Cricket team in the last edition, reproduced above.

JOHN BRACEY (60-67) has sent in some of the names: Back row: John himself, nk, nk, ? Packer, John Williams, nk. Front row: ? Peackock, Geoff Curtis, Roger Hind, Neil Coles, nk.

ALAN BUSH (61-67) has forwarded the

photos which appear on page 25. In each case Alan himself is in the centre of the group, presumably as captain of the Rugby side and as monitor of IIIM.

Alan asks if our members can name any of the others. I'm sure you can oblige.

ONE FROM DOWN UNDER...

JENNY READ (55-62) (now Wood) has dropped us a line with her contribution: 'Enclosed some more money for KOSA NEWS. Thank you for keeping faith that I would eventually come through. (No problem, we never drop people from our list unless they request it - Ed). It's random whether I have British pounds but this Summer I stayed with VAL BRYANT (KGS?), a relative of ROBIN FIDKIN (55-62).

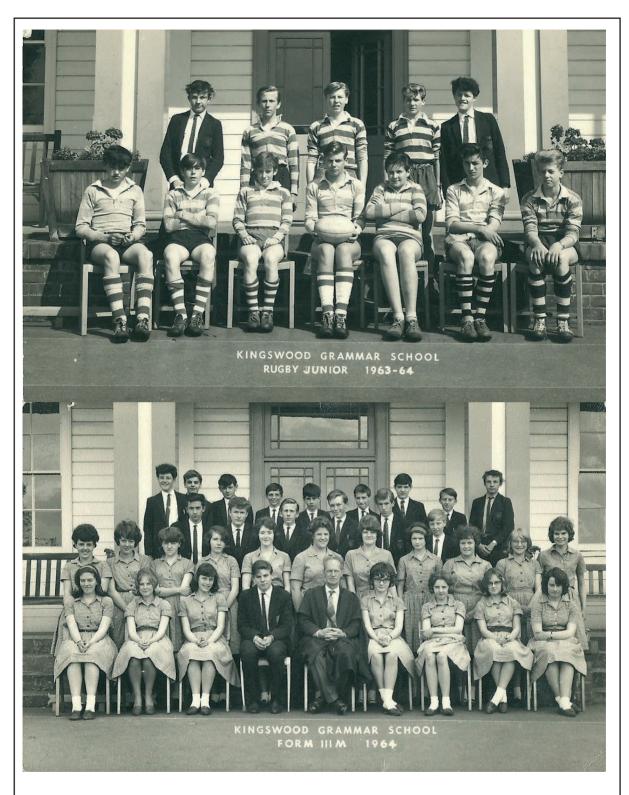
'Having left the West Country when I finished School in 1962, I have maintained contact with very few class mates. However, KOSA NEWS has given me much pleasure in recent years. Sitting here in sunny Queensland, the UK can feel a long way off, but it takes only a tiny prompt to remind me of my happy time at KGS'.

...AND ONE FROM USA...

KEITH CULLEY (51-59) has written from Colorado:

'I'd been hoping to make it over to the reunion this year but the timing didn't work out. Southampton University had a 50th reunion this year which I also missed.

'I was actually in the UK last September, but only for a week. My sister LYNN CULLEY had suggested we call you for an informal lunch, unfortunately I got sick on the flight over which is why I stayed for only a week.



'The newsletters are always interesting, it's remarkable how much some people remember. I do recall a meeting with Mr. Ridley where he encouraged me to pursue an apprenticeship/scholarship offer from Bristol Siddeley Engines whereby I would work for 1 year, go to Southamp-

ton University for my degree and then finish another year with Bristol Siddeley, there was no way I could have afforded to go to college otherwise. I also remember MR PEET (Maths) who claimed that there was no such thing as centrifugal force, only a lack of centripetal force. Still

not sure what he meant exactly!

'I always enjoyed sports, we used to play table tennis in the KGS meeting hall. I must have played my friend ROGER COLE (51-58) a hundred times, but managed to beat him only once. Other friends I remember from that time were DAVID KENDALL (51-56) and MIKE REDGERS (50-57). I never played sports for KGS, not being a Rugby type. Somehow I never got a chance in cricket, maybe because MR WILDE (Sports Master) didn't seem to like me.

'I was walking down the lane from the school to the playing fields one spring day with him coming in the opposite direction. As we passed he said something like 'it's amazing what the warm weather brings out'. Nice guy!'

MARILYN'S ALBUM...

Some time ago MARILYN DRAPER (58-65) kindly lent KOSA her photo album containing many of those informal shots which capture the essence of those far-



off days. Above is V1 form room in 1963 and below is the record of some of the 5th form on a trip to Coventry Cathedral, also in 1963.

Left to right are ROSEMARY SMITH, WENDY SUTTON, JACKIE WILLIAMS, JACKIE EMERY, MARILYN DRAPER and SUE ALLEN.

More photos next time.



TREASURER'S THANKS...

As Treasurer I wrote to you in our last KOSA NEWS to explain that I was very worried about the deteriorating state of our finances. We are 'non profit making' and all our funds are used to run the Association with the major cost being printing and postage of our magazine. Our main income is our annual contribution, whilst we achieve a small profit from the AGM and Annual Luncheon through raffles run by the committee.

Well, I have just passed our accounts to the accountant to be audited and you will see from the 'Receipts and Payments Account', included with this copy of KOSA NEWS, how well you have all risen to the problem. I am overwhelmed by your generosity. At the AGM I requested an increase in our annual contribution to £8; however, you proposed and passed an increase to £10. This was generous and should ensure that our accounts stabilize for the future.

I must report that in addition to all your contributions of £10, we have also received 3 contributions of £100, 3 of £50 and several of £20 and £15. At this time of financial austerity, I feel we must offer special thanks to these members who hold our Association in such high regard. As I have mentioned KOSA NEWS, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Editor, Mike Bendrey, for his diligence in preparing 2 copies of the magazine each year that enable us to keep alive the memories and friendships from Kingswood Grammar School and its derivatives.

Finally, my thanks to you all for your quick response and your generosity that has ensured the perpetuation of our splendid and unique Association.

WELCOME:

We welcome the following new members who have joined since last April, using maiden names where appropriate. Apologies that pressure of space in the last edition has meant we have held some of the joiners over to this edition:

Fred Ward (53-61), Yvonne Draper (54-59), Geoff Cole (55-60), Marilyn Gregory (55-60), Jill Barnes (59-66), Keith Davis (59-66), Marilyn Hunt (59-66), Del Lock (47-51), Jane Denning (64-71), Shereen Stevens (59-65?), Audrey Clements (47-52), Ann Johnson (51-56), Beth Thomas (63-70), Janice Maynard (64-71), Colin Penry (42-47), Margaret Dando (54-59), Alan Bush (61-67), Linda Stowe (?-?), John Brooks (53-58), Susan Birchley (54-61), Christine Lock (54-59), Geoff Lord (63-?), Gordon Lack (63-?), Sue Putley (63-?), Christine Wells (63-?)

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.

PHOTO SERVICE...

Over the years we have built up quite a collection of form photographs. If you have never possessed or have lost your form photo we are happy to send any copies we have by email free so that you can print out your own copy. If we have to print and post copies there will be a small charge. All proceeds to KOSA. Remember that the photos were generally taken in Summer, so if you started in 1A in 1955 you would require the 56-1A photo.

AND FINALLY...

The photo on page 28 is to remind you of those hazy, lazy days of Summer when we watched the girls' tennis......

