



# **KOSA NEWS**



## **NUMBER 45 - AUTUMN 2014**

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

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### **EDITORIAL...**

During my time at KGS in the 50s a tuck shop was opened using the room at the top of the stairs from the hall at break-times. MISS WYCHERLEY was in charge, but run by some of the pupils. In a *Times* report on 17 June 2014 the Government 'Closes tuck shops in the fight against flab'. Who would have thought that the Government would be interested in our little tuck shop!

In another report, the Government is concerned that 'Schools are not teaching enough RE', yet it reports that 'the subject has been edged out by Government's own reforms'.

Again, it is reported that one in five of the remaining grammar schools has bowed to Government pressure to give priority to children from poor backgrounds.

I sometimes wonder if our politicians know what education is about.

### **DIARY DATES:**

#### **AUTUMN LUNCH:**

This popular event is booked for **SATURDAY, 18th OCTOBER 2014** at LINCOMBE BARN, Downend BS16 2RW. We meet at 12.00 to 12.30 for a chat and a drink from the bar and sit down for lunch at about 1.00pm. This year we hope to celebrate those who started KGS in **September 1954**, 60 years ago. We also hope to welcome **V Remove of 1952-53**. 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'.

**NB: If as a 54er you have already booked with PAUL DAVIES in response to his letter, please don't use this form.**

#### **46ers REUNION:**

The date for the December lunch at KATHLEEN HARDWICK'S farm down in Clapton-in-Gordano has not yet been fixed. If you started at KGS in 1946 phone her on 01275 853180 or Mobile: 0783 7528427 or PRISCILLA POWELL (now MAGUIRE) on 01235 851966 to get the date. Always a very pleasant occasion.

#### **SPRING LUNCH & AGM:**

Already booked for **SATURDAY, 11th APRIL 2015** at Lincombe Barn, Downend. Please book the date in your diary now.

## **OBITUARIES...**

It is with particular regret that we record the death of COLIN PILLINGER (54-61) and we have received the following obituary by his sister, DOREEN PILLINGER (48-53) (now Lindegaard):

Professor Colin Pillinger, FRS, CBE, 1943-2014

'Colin died suddenly on 7th May 2014, two days shy of his 71st birthday, from



a brain haemorrhage.

'I am missing him terribly. To the world he was the rather eccentric boffin, an impression he played up to for all he was worth, but to me he was my little brother who I had to take to Sunday School and to Saturday morning pictures; who in his youth played football, both in the streets of Kingswood and as a useful left half for a local team. His preference was for the round ball, much to the disgust of Headmaster RIDLEY, and looking back, I realise that even then he resisted becoming "posh" and of course he never did. I do have a diary entry where I state he had turned out as wing-threequarter for his form, but that is the only time the oval ball is mentioned.

'He never lost his enthusiasm for sport, any sport, whether a Test Match, Olympic Games or something obscure like the World's Strongest Man. On our paternal side, we came from coalmining stock, but our mother's ancestors were farmers, and in addition to being a scientist, he returned to his roots, and became a farmer, with a spread in Hertfordshire raising cattle, pigs, poultry (we often received a Christmas turkey) and tending extensive greenhouses full of tomatoes, cucumbers, peppers and even some more exotic produce. We always came home laden whenever we visited. I never knew how he got so much done, but none of his enterprises, academic or otherwise would have been possible without the input of his wife Judith, also an accomplished scientist, who preferred the background but is/was in every respect his other half.

'KOSA readers may be unaware that he very nearly didn't pursue a scientific career. At the time, 'gurt' big boys (or girls) in our neck of the woods were supposed to be out earning their keep when they reached fifteen or so, and Colin planned to leave KGS at the end of the 5th Form. "A nice clean job", was our Mum's ambition for us both, and perhaps years of frustration may have been his fate, but 'Claude' HOCKING, who taught Maths, summoned our parents to the school and told them in no uncertain terms that he was capable of much more. Though somewhat bewildered, they agreed to give it a go, though Colin himself says in his autobiography *My Life on Mars* that he went reluctantly into the 6th Form, though once there he was in his element.

"I elected for Chemistry, (obviously),

Physics, and a mixture of Pure and Applied Maths. I could easily have done both kinds as separate subjects but it wasn't allowed. That first year in the 6th Form, I won a Maths prize, beating people nearly two years older. In Chemistry, we began to learn Organic Chemistry, 'chicken wire chemistry'. Lots of people hated it; I found it easy."

'Since KOSA began I have never seen another mention of the wonderful Mr Hocking to whom we owe so much. If ever there was a Guardian Angel, it was 'Claude'. He was not at the school (at least as far as I know) during my own time, and I wonder how long he was at KGS and if anyone else benefited from his prescience? (Ed writes: Indeed, GE-OFF HOCKING was a very good teacher, with a quiet, low-key, patient approach. I can vouch for the ability and quality of his teaching as I have always regarded him as responsible for my passing O-level maths).

'Everyone knows that I was very proud of my brother and never more so than at Christmas 2003 when in front of the world's media he bravely said "It's a little bit disappointing", for his "dog", Beagle 2, failed to bark when scheduled to arrive on Mars. The rest of us having been party to all the excitement at first hand were on the verge of tears. This heartbreak was followed almost immediately by another setback when he was diagnosed with MS. In his later years he needed a wheelchair to get around and again the mountain of work he still managed to get through would have been impossible without Judith's devoted care. Thankfully his intellect was not impaired and he and I, both being competitive, still 'argued the toss' usually in friendly fashion, just as we did throughout our childhood, though latterly it was "My memory is better than

yours!" I shall miss these exchanges so much.

'In recent years he always asked me for 'something to read' on Christmas morning, which had to be an original work, usually some skeleton in the cupboard unearthed about the family. He would ring up and say "Do you want to give me a heart attack?" about some particularly juicy piece. The last effort, for 2013, was a biographical history of all the inhabitants of our dead end street, Victoria Park, warts and all and included a historic murder. When we were young, life was lived 'on the street' and we knew all the neighbours by name, something that could never happen today.

'We had intended to meet soon, at Launton, Oxfordshire, where one of our farming ancestors lived in the mid-19th century, and where by coincidence a meteorite fell in 1830. We could not help marvelling at this lucky coincidence. The study of meteorites was Colin's latest project, one on which he lectured not long ago at the Royal Society and because of local demand, at the Wills' Hall in Bristol. The promised book, alas, will not now be written.'

Many copies of reports of Colin's passing have been sent to the Editor. As well as the British locals and nationals, the *Post*, *Western Daily Press*, *Times*, *Telegraph* etc, reports were in such varied publications as the *Washington Post* and the *Ottawa Citizen*.

The photo on page 2 shows Colin's generosity of spirit as it is taken with Kingsfield School pupils at his Bristol University FRS Award lecture. Later in this edition of KOSA NEWS we publish an article written by Colin which was published in the *Times Higher* in which he demonstrates that he had not forgot-

ten his roots at KGS.

KEITH CULLEY (51-58) passed away in the US on 28 February 2014 after bravely struggling through a long illness, and we are indebted to his sister, LYNN CULLEY (56-62) (now Ford), for the information.



'Keith was born in Staple Hill, the first of the three Culley children to pass through Kingswood Grammar School, the family later moving to Mangotsfield and then to Downend. They were:

Keith Culley (1951-1958)

Lynn Ford (formerly Culley)(1956-1962)

Paul Culley (1960-1966)

Keith would have been 74 on March 4.

'Keith was academically very intelligent with a dry sense of humour, certainly the brains of the family, and enjoyed football and cricket at school, also darts and snooker. Upon leaving KGS he attended Southampton University where he obtained an Honours degree in Engineering. He then joined the Bristol Aerospace Industry in Filton before emigrating to Canada in 1965 during the 'Brain Drain'. He moved to the USA to Akron, Ohio and later to New Orleans then to Houston, Texas.

'He joined IBM working for NASA as an Aerospace Engineer on the Shuttle Programme and later for Military Artificial

Intelligence in Colorado, visiting remote places such as Ascension Island in the Atlantic Ocean and Diego Garcia in the Indian Ocean. He was a well respected and popular member of the Aerospace team.

'Keith's funeral was held in Colorado, attended by Paul who spoke about Keith and his memories of his life at KGS. Paul says that Keith was good at everything. He had that natural hand-foot-eye co-ordination with a ball which meant he could play football and cricket with ease. He was an avid supporter of Bristol Rovers Football Club right until the end and enjoyed watching all the football (he called it soccer!) matches on satellite TV. One of his hobbies was car racing and he drove a Formula E car and won many trophies.

'Later in March Keith's ashes were interred in Houston, where he considered his home to be, attended by Lynn, her husband, daughter and granddaughter as well as his family.

'One of his sons wrote to me to say that thanks to Keith he always felt protected, supported and inspired. Most of the success he has is attributed to the education and firm upbringing that Keith extended throughout the years and he cherishes the memories of being raised by him as a father and the great moments he had with Keith as his friend.

'Keith last visited the UK in September 2012 and was hoping to be able to return to Bristol to catch up with some old school friends but unfortunately his illness prevented it.

'He leaves his wife Rose and 5 grown up children in Colorado and Houston and is sadly missed by all his family in the UK.

'If there is anyone out there who would like to tell me something about Keith then I would be very pleased to hear from them. I can't put in much about his time at school as I was only his little sister so probably didn't take much notice, even if I knew what he was doing! I still miss our Sunday Skype's at 7pm our time but I am pleased that we were so close and kept in contact in that way.'

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The passing of JOHN EVANS (37-42) was announced in our last issue. EDDIE HAWKING (37-42) has sent in some reflections on a long-standing friendship:

'John distinguished himself as a very fine all-round athlete, excelling in swimming, cross country running and cricket. He was very popular amongst his peers, both boys and girls, and was active in numerous extra-mural activities – swimming at Speedwell Baths, ballroom dancing lessons at 344 Fishponds Road and after school tennis.

'His good humour, sense of fun and adventure, together with others of us, sometimes led to misunderstandings with the school authority and John, on several occasions, was 'entertained' in the Head's study.

'An early member of the 1860 Squadron ATC, John was one of 10 or 12 cadets selected to open the Gliding School at Yate airfield in 1943. Others, I recall, were PETE MORRIS, ALAN COWLES, DEREK (Dex) GILLINGHAM, DES AMOS and myself.

'In due course John enlisted in the Fleet Air Arm with a view to becoming a pilot. However, because of a severe cutback in aircrew training, he finished up a writer\* serving a good bit of his time in Ceylon.

'After de-mob John returned to his job at the bank and played cricket. He was selected to play for Gloucestershire County C C but regrettably the bank would not grant him leave of absence.

'He married Brenda and throughout a long and happy marriage they travelled widely in France and visited friends in Germany and the United States.

'John was a good 'trencherman'\* and enjoyed the occasional pint. He enjoyed Trad Jazz and with maturity, like others of us, developed a love for classical music. He was modest, very good company and a man of integrity.

'John played a part in making our time at KGS an experienced which many of us so much enjoyed. He was very appreciative of what the School did for him and, until he was overtaken by ill health, regularly attended KOSA gatherings'.

\*Writer = clerk

\*Trencherman = one with a healthy appetite

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DINAH FOWERACRE has informed us of her mother's death at 94 years of age:

'ZENA RALPH (31-36) (later Foweracre), died on April 1st this year. She had been in poor health for several years and had almost completely lost her sight by the time she died.

'Zena came from a very poor family and was the youngest of nine children. She attended Staple Hill Primary School and won a scholarship to KGS. Her father, who wanted his children to leave school and earn their livings as soon as possible, thought he was being very generous in letting her stay on at school until the age of sixteen. Zena loved her time at KGS and excelled at arts subjects and

at sports, particularly tennis and hockey. She told me that given the opportunity she would have taken her education further, but as it was, she completed a commercial course while at school and after leaving obtained posts as a shorthand-typist. The Depression meant finding work was very hard in those days.

'Zena married my father Max in June 1939. War broke out in the September of that year and Max served in the Royal Navy for six years. As was usual in those days, Zena gave up paid employment upon marriage, but during the war she returned to work, and for some time she worked at the BBC in Bristol in the Schools Broadcasting Department, a job she absolutely loved. She left when she was expecting her first child, Tim, who was born in 1942. Joe was born after the war in 1946, and I followed in 1949.

'After the war ended, Zena devoted herself to her husband and family. She was a perfectionist, her home was always spotless (not easy with three young children!) and she was an excellent cook, gardener and embroiderer. Sadly, her life was beset by misfortune: I was very ill as a baby and then caught polio during an epidemic in 1954, Max died from cancer in 1964 leaving her a widow at 44, and Tim died from MS at the tragically young age of 32, leaving a widow and two young children of his own. Despite all this, Zena faced her misfortunes with courage and determination.

'After Max died, Zena slowly rebuilt a life for herself. She took up many new interests including ballroom dancing and became a keen Bridge player, going all around the country playing in tournaments. For a time, she worked as a part-time secretary in both paid and voluntary posts. She never remarried, but for near-

ly forty years she had a dear friend Roy who became her dancing and Bridge partner, and they went on many happy holidays together. She obtained much consolation in the arrival of four grandchildren, and somewhat to her surprise, accumulated seven great-grandchildren. My brother Joe, who is now retired, became a Professor at St Antony's College Oxford.

'Zena's funeral took place at Canford Crematorium on 15 April. At her request, it was a non-religious service reflecting her love of the countryside, birds and the sea. While she never had the chance to be a high-flier scholastically, KGS left a profound impression upon her and to the end of her life she never ceased to be grateful for the education she received there, and to her teachers, including the formidable MISS QUINTON. She recalled Miss Quinton pointing to her forehead and remarking, 'It's HERE you want it!' Zena remained friends throughout their lives with former KGS pupils ANITA-JO DUNN and RUTH SPRACKMAN.'

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Staff member, GILL EVANS, has written this obituary in memory of English Department colleague BILL LEIGH, who died earlier this year:

'I attended the funeral on 12th February 2014 of BILL LEIGH, who joined KGS. in September 1960 as Head of English. He later became Senior Teacher and retired from Kingsfield, as it had then become, in July 1983.

'I joined the English Department in September 1959 and knew the affection in which Bill's predecessors 'BONEY' BRITTON and his second in command, MISS WATTERS, was held and that Bill had a hard act to follow, but he did so in his own inimitable way. His strong Lan-

castrian heritage stood him in good stead so you could always rely on an honest, straight-forward response from Bill coupled always with that Lancastrian sense of humour and warm sympathetic understanding.

'Bill's studies at Pembroke College, Cambridge were interrupted for war service where he saw active service in Holland and N. Germany. He always considered being involved in World War II as one of the most formative experiences of his life. At Cambridge he also met Audrey, a fellow Lancastrian, whom he married in 1945.

'After teaching at Preston Grammar School, Bill came to KGS and settled in Bath with Audrey and his family of Hannah and Peter soon to be joined by Judith. They remained in Bath until his death on 26th January 2014, just after his 90th birthday. He and Audrey, who survives him, had been married for 68 years.

'Bill lead the English Department with a quiet strength, always open with a wise consideration to the constant innovations in Education but always mindful of his colleagues, encouraging, supportive and sympathetic. He showed the same approach to his pupils and in particular was an inspiration to the growing numbers of 6th form students, encouraging them to widen their cultural, interests and advising those who aspired to universally and further education. He fostered connections with Bristol Old Vic and enabled groups to attend their then Play Plus Days.

'Bill also took part in School productions and, in particular, put his musical talents to good use in several Gilbert and Sullivan operas.

'Unusually for a man of the Arts, Bill was also a connoisseur of cars and knew how they worked which enabled him to maintain his reputation of never failing to make the journey from Bath over Lansdowne to KGS, whatever the weather.

'Bill was a great contributor to life at KGS and was a wise head always during times of great change during his time there. I was privileged to have maintained my friendship with Bill and Audrey after his retirement. He never lost his sense of humour, interest in people and love of books, music and theatre. He will be much missed'.

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NIGEL PECKETT (58-64) has informed KOSA of his father's passing:

'My father, JOHN PECKETT, died at the age of 93 on 18th January this year. He taught at Kingsfield School in the 1970s and retired in 1980. He was in charge of what was then called 'remedial' pupils, I suppose now we would say 'special needs' pupils.

'He retired to a small cottage near Chipping Sodbury where he lived with his wife, who is still alive and will be 91 at the end of March this year. They were married in 1945 and would have been married for 69 years in March.

'I went to what was Kingswood Grammar School from 1958 to 1964, went to Leeds University to study chemistry. I left in 1970 with a BSc (Chemistry) and PhD (Textile Chemistry). I spent most the rest of my working life as a teacher and retired in 2005. I live north of Birmingham in a village called Little Haywood. My brother Mark who was younger than me also went to Kingswood in the late 1960s/early 1970s. He taught all his

working life and is now retired in Sutton Coldfield.

'Interestingly enough all three of us were teachers and we all ended up in 'special needs' schools or schools with 'special needs' provision. The area of special needs we all worked in was for behavioural problems.'

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PAT WALKER (56-62) (now Bryan) has informed us of the passing of MARY ASHLEY (34-38) (later SELMAN):

'Mary SELMAN nee ASHLEY passed away in June 2013 age 90.

Mary was born in Wick and was the second youngest of 6 children. She gained a place at KGS in 1934 but sadly had to leave at the age of 15 to go out to work. She married Tom Selman in 1948 and they eventually settled in Downend where their garden became their lifelong passion and pleasure. Mary is survived by her younger sister and older brother.'

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News has been passed to KOSA that JIM BURGESS (39-45) has died.

Jim passed away in July after a heart attack whilst at his doctor's and could not be revived at home. Jim lived in a 'granny flat' at Wick with his son and family. His wife KATH, who also went to KGS, died many years ago.

Jim, RON CLEMENTS and RAY DAVEY were all contemporaries at KGS and were born in August 1928. They were reunited at Kingswood Proboscis Club when Jim met Ron in Asda and asked him if he would like to join. Jolly glad he did, Ron enjoyed being a member of such a friendly group and they are so kind to the 'friends', the widows of members .

Jim was involved with the Golden Valley Conservation Group at Wick, although grew up in Hanham. A close friend of Jim's was TONY CURTIS (39-46) whom he visited a few years ago near Fairford. RALPH CRATES (39-45) attended Jim's 80th birthday at his house.

A memorial service in memory of Jim was planned at Wick Parish Church on 13th September at 11.30am as Jim had family in Australia who planned to attend.

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VERNON STOKES (38-43) has informed KOSA that his first wife, JEAN STEVENS (38-43), passed away earlier this year.

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

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### **COLIN'S ARTICLE...**

On the 50th anniversary of the launch of Sputnik in October 2007, COLIN PILLINGER wrote an article for the *Times Higher Education (THE)* about his early days at KGS and the boyhood wonder that helped mould his career. At the time Colin was professor of planetary sciences at the Open University:

'In the middle of a splash of green that used to be a playing field, at the not-so-fashionable end of Bristol, stands a giant oak tree. It is symbolic of the school I attended as a teenager. Indeed, it is all that is recognisable to me except for the 'temporary' classroom where I first hung my satchel in 1954.

'When I went there it was called Kingswood Grammar School (KGS to those of us inside and 'the cow sheds' to those who weren't). Going to grammar school was considered a bit soft. I was never sure why - the secondary modern school and the new technical college where most of my friends were had more desir-



able buildings, especially in winter, when compared with the long low hut with paper-thin walls. It wasn't surprising when the whole lot burnt down, except for the 'temporary' block that was made of asbestos.

'It doesn't sound much like an academic hotbed, does it? Nor the place to throw up a hero of the space race. Not me, I hasten to add, but in October 1957 KGS did just that. As the world listened agog to the 'beep, beep, beep' from Sputnik, the first artificial satellite, the pupils were encouraged to stare up, not just at the heavens, but at the Honours Board. Even after more than 30 years of the school's existence it didn't take long to read, but there it was, the second name - A. C. B. (Bernard) Lovell, the man in all the papers because he was tracking Sputnik with his telescope at Jodrell Bank.

'Just above Lovell was another name familiar to us: Brian Sammons, our chemistry master, aka Fishy. Surely he must have known this Lovell bloke? "Yes." So Fishy went up in our estimation. Our headmaster, who also taught physics, delighted in telling us Lovell was an old boy.

'My form, 3L1, occupied the classroom nearest to that Honours Board. It was only a few yards from the headmaster's study, with the chemistry lab just a little further on. So I probably got exposed to the part that our school played in Sputnik more than most. I was 14 at the time. I couldn't wait to be 15, when I could leave school. And I probably would have had it not been for Mr Hocking, my form and maths master, who summoned my parents to the school and told them I should stay on, even do science A levels and perhaps go to university.

'Nobody in my family had ever been to university, but chemistry, physics and maths A levels it was, and the rest, as they say, is history.

'I interrupted Sir Bernard, as he now is, the other day as he was mowing his lawn. I'm glad to say he is well at 94. We talked about his recollections. He hadn't intended to have anything to do with Sputnik, though he knew a satellite launch by the Soviet Union was imminent. "Yes," he remembered Brian Sammons - "older than I was". Then he went on to relate the story of how Sputnik saved his bacon. Jodrell Bank had run out of money. There was no means of 'driving' the newly constructed telescope to point it at what you wanted to observe in the sky. Nobody had been paid and the builders were on strike.

'Then came the call from the military. Khrushchev had launched "a weapon against which there was no defence". They had to know where it was. So back came the workforce, and the control room was finished in double-quick time. The giant telescope, which now bears Lovell's name and is in as good a fettle as the man who made it, locked on to Sputnik's carrier signal and the bills were paid. Lovell had saved the world.

'That's something else I share with Bernard Lovell - the experience of believing you are doing the right thing for science when the powers that be are reluctant to pay for it. It must be something in the Kingswood water!

'I will always be grateful for the role he played in Sputnik, even if it was, by his own admission, as an afterthought. I wish other kids could have the same inspirational old boys to encourage them to consider science careers.

'What did Sir Bernard want to ask me? "Are you going to have another go at Mars?" And that's the point. Beagle 2 had lots of people who were really peripheral to the main event but nevertheless there were all manner of local boy-makes-good stories all over the UK.

'We need more Beagle 2 projects that everyone believes they played their part in, and maybe there could be 500 stories like mine in another 50 years.'

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### **NEW MEMBER...**

VICTORIA CLARKE (61-64) (now Tearle) shares her introduction to KOSA and remembers her short stay at KGS:

'It was through a strange coincidence that I found myself reading some past editions of *KOSA NEWS* earlier. I was staying at a delightful farmhouse near Milton Keynes with my daughter and family, as my son-in-law was running in the MK marathon.

'Chatting with our hostess I discovered that we had both spent part of our youth in Bristol and had in fact both attended KGS! Our paths had not crossed since then. - I believe I was in the 6th form when she, then SUZANNE PHILPOTT (62-70), joined the school at 11, but we shared memories of some of the teachers. She then lent me a pile of the *KOSA NEWS* and it all came back to me!

'Although I was only at KGS for 3 years, these were the very vital years of 0-Levels and A-Levels and it brought home to me how much influence those teachers would have had on my life. As I went into the teaching profession myself, I can really appreciate their input.

'We moved to Bristol when my father (Mr Ken Clarke) became Headmaster at

Staple Hill Primary School. I came from a small all-girl convent grammar school up in Hull, so switching to a large co-educational establishment was rather a culture shock!

'Some of the teachers I remember very fondly: MR LARKIN, MR LEIGH and MISS BALLINGER were inspirational English teachers, as were MR WINTOUR (Frosty) for French, MR SHARPE for German and MR SYKES for Latin. I originally intended to apply for an English degree. but I think it was mainly due to Frosty's charming persuasion that I ended up studying French and German at Durham University.

'One of the highlights of my Sixth Form career was the production of *The Pirates of Penzance* in the Autumn Term 1963. I played Mabel and my friend VALERIE MARTIN played Ruth, with OWEN HAMMER as the Chief of Police and a very dashing Mr Wintour as the Pirate King. Many of my friends were in the chorus: IAN DAVIES, DAVID (Boggy) MARSH, ROGER WINCHESTER, LIZ CHARTERS and SHEILA YOUNG, to name a few. MR RENDELL was the Musical Director. It was such fun and set me on the path to many more amateur operatic and dramatic productions, singing, acting and directing - a hobby I still enjoy to this day.

'I look forward to more *KOSA NEWS*, perhaps reading about some of my contemporaries.'

On page 11 we have printed the report of the 1963 production of *Pirates of Penzance* which was published in the *Kingswood Chronicles* of that year, together with the cast. *Pirates* must have been a particular favourite of 'BEN' HODSON (Maths) as he put the earlier production in December 1951.

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## "THE PIRATES OF PENZANCE"

Once more Mr. Hodson's production of a Gilbert and Sullivan opera was a great success, playing to packed audiences for four nights in December. This time, Mr. Hodson's vast experience was directed to "The Pirates of Penzance" and the talents of both staff and school were tapped. The story of Frederic, wrongly apprenticed to a pirate, and his love for Mabel, the daughter of a Major-General, is one which all can appreciate.

The singing of the main soloists was excellent throughout. Mabel was rendered by both singers in a sweet melodious voice, and especially we would like to compliment Victoria Clarke, who received the Senior Choir Prize for her performance. The General's other daughters were a delight to listen to. N. Edwards gave a capable performance in the role of Frederic. Ruth was convincingly roguish, and together with the strong voices of the Pirate King and his lieutenant, the colourful atmosphere of the pirate band was effectively captured. The final humorous touches were provided by the timid Major-General and the pompous Sergeant of Police, whose comic scenes were the finest of the evening.

The chorus of disreputable, fierce pirates, yielding finally to the police because they are all noblemen who have gone wrong, gave a fine swaggering and full-throated performance. The police whose duty it is to capture the pirate were convincingly terrified before the gallant robbers. General Stanley's daughters presented a delicate and charming contrast to the male chorus.

Colourful costumes and scenery added vividly to the gay atmosphere of the comic opera. Success was, as usual, a result of vigorous team work, guided by the infectious enthusiasm of Mr. Hodson. Since this is unfortunately to be his last production at the school, we would like to thank Mr. Hodson for all the pleasure he has given, and to wish him all happiness in the future.

Finally our thanks are due to the cast, and to those countless people who helped behind the scenes. Particular mention must be made of the unlagging efforts of the accompanists in both rehearsals and performance. They were Barbara Hewson, R. Garland and Mr. D. J. Rendell.

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### CAST

Major-General Stanley ..... D. Forward  
 The Pirate King ..... Mr. C. A. E. Wintour  
 Samuel (His Lieutenant) ..... G. Marshall  
 Frederic (The Pirate Apprentice) ..... N. Edwards  
 Sergeant of Police ..... O. J. Hanmer

Mabel ..... Victoria Clarke  
 Edith ..... Lorna Jones  
 Kate ..... Heather Thomas  
 Isabel ..... Margaret Cordy  
 ..... Elizabeth Hoskins  
 ..... Jane Meredith  
 Ruth (Piratical Maid of all work) ..... Valerie Martin  
 ..... Jane Winchester

Daughters of  
 Major-General Stanley

### Chorus of Major-General Stanley's Daughters:

Miss Ballinger Pat Moore  
 Elizabeth Charters Rosina Norman  
 Nicolette Deavin Helen Organ  
 Marilyn Draper Julia Pain  
 Diane England Sheila Payne  
 Hilary Evans Jinnie Schiele  
 Heather Franklin Tessa Schiele  
 Wendy Hunt Judith Skuse  
 Susan Ind Susanne Swainston  
 Susan Jowett Sandra Tollerfield  
 Hilary Knight Elizabeth Whiteside  
 Judith Lasbury Jacqueline Williams  
 Grace Lewis Sheila Young

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### Chorus of Pirates:

G. E. Bailey Mr. D. G. Mellings  
 R. Crawford M. Pomphrey  
 I. Davies M. F. Robinson  
 R. Fudge R. A. Summerill  
 Mr. S. Griffiths Mr. S. Sykes  
 Mr. J. B. Humphreys Mr. P. Wheatley  
 M. James R. P. Winchester  
 D. Marsh P. Webb

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### Chorus of Police:

G. F. E. Cook D. Marsh  
 R. Fudge M. F. Robinson  
 M. James E. Thomas  
 R. W. Lengfeld P. R. Wheatley  
 Mr. W. H. Leigh

### ***MUSIC @ KGS...***

GORDON JACKSON (55-62) writes:

'My name has turned up so often in the last few *KOSA NEWS*, I feel that I have to reply:

'Let's start with MARGARET REECE (55-62) and the school orchestra. The picture was also in a back number of *KOSA NEWS*.

'Margaret has slightly misdated the photo. It cannot be more recent than around 1960 when MISS BEEKEN left KGS and got married. She was succeeded by GWEN HANVEY, well-known locally as a choir conductor, so ERIC HILTON took over the orchestra and Miss Hanvey ran the choir. Within a very short time Mr Hilton had filled the gaps in the orchestra – oboes, bassoons, horns – and organised long annual school concerts. But as a conductor he never had the sparkle of Miss Beeken.

'I wonder why I was one of the absentees in the photo. I could have been ill, I suppose, but it's more likely that I was taking a piano exam. I see from the Headmaster's Guidance to Parents (also in the last edition) that you were not supposed to be absent for music exams. However, my piano teacher, MISS GLADYS GARJULO, put me in for the exams of the Guildhall School of Music until 1959. How did I cope? I just bunked off school, taking the bus from the school to the centre of Bristol and back again! Neither Miss Garjulo nor HEADMASTER RIDLEY knew what was going on.

'Mr Ridley's priorities for absenteeism seem odd. Any modern private music teacher would automatically ask permission of absence from the Head and he would automatically give it, provided he or she knew beforehand. On the other

hand, no modern head would approve of a pupil taking a week or more off (not just a few hours) just because a parent had to take a holiday on a particular date. Mr Ridley seemed not to mind.

'I needed to take the piano exams. As I got high marks, I obtained free tuition from Miss Garjulo (paid by the Guildhall School of Music) at a time when my parents were short of money.

'Meanwhile Mr Hilton wanted me as a private piano pupil and stopped at nothing to get his way. He wrote several letters to my father, who told Miss Garjulo. Each music teacher bad-mouthed the other in front of me and I was caught in the middle. Eventually Mr Hilton kept me behind after class and asked me to list the pieces I was studying. Then he wrote a letter to my father saying what he thought Miss Garjulo was doing wrong! Eventually, my parents gave in. They thought they would have to keep in with him so that I would be helped in my musical career. Mr Ridley chose not to know what was going on!

'Both TONY DOWN and LYNETTE DAVIES mentioned our time doing O-levels a year early and then spending three years in the sixth form. (Incidentally, Lynette was never known as Lyn at KGS). How kind it was of Tony to say that I had 'a remarkable grasp of our history of the era'. He was right to say that several in the class took eight O-levels and passed with good grades.

'A few also took Art O-level from scratch in the first term of the sixth form and passed after one term. Some of the weaker students took a limited number, taking the rest either in the first or third term of the sixth form. This was also true of pupils who had failed one or more

subjects first time round.

'Despite what Lynette wrote, I don't think Mr Ridley intended all the class to apply to Oxford or Cambridge Universities (which usually took applicants after A-levels). Only three applied in my year and I was the only successful applicant, thanks to Mr Hilton's coaching. DIANA SMITH, who was as clever as any of us, did not apply, not only because it was more difficult for girls to get in, but because students in medicine (her subject) took three years at Oxbridge to do a course lasting two years at redbrick universities. Thus Oxbridge students were one year behind (two if they took A-levels at the normal time, and then applied) Diana tried London University and got a scholarship!

'I have written about the pros and cons of taking O-levels early in previous editions. All I will say now is that it boosted sixth form numbers without necessarily considering the individual needs of pupils, especially after A-level.

'Lynette's closest friend at KGS (as far as I could make out) was MARGARET SQUIRES. Not only did she become Head Girl, but she was extremely attractive! I knew her from our days at Hanham Abbots Primary School where we were in the same class. I was in the top stream while she was in the second, but she rejoined me in 4L1 (the fast-track O-level class. She went to St Mary's Teacher Training College in Cheltenham (now part of the University of Gloucestershire) and became a successful primary school teacher as well as a wife and mother. Sadly, Margaret died several years ago.

'MARY PRING was also promoted from a lower stream. She distinguished herself in 1961 by getting the school's top

A-level history mark. (In 1962 the SUJB switched from marks to grades).

'MARY PLASTER was always in the top grade. In MISS HORSEMAN'S (Latin) class (1H) we did a play *Pyramus and Thisbe* in Latin. I was Pyramus and Mary Thisbe. A year later the play was revived and I decided to act more amorously. Mary wouldn't have it!

'Lynette was kind to refer to me as a 'brilliant' musician. Despite my music degree from Cambridge I did not make music my career. Instead I did, among other things, computer programming and accountancy. I even got an MSc in Systems Analysis from the University of Aston – which gave me zero skills in Systems Analysis.

'However, I never abandoned music. In middle age I resumed piano lessons, first with JOHN LAMBERT, who was Head of Music at Kingsfield, KGS's successor school, and then with MARY CHADWICK. I got my ARCM Piano Diploma in 1981 at the age of 37!

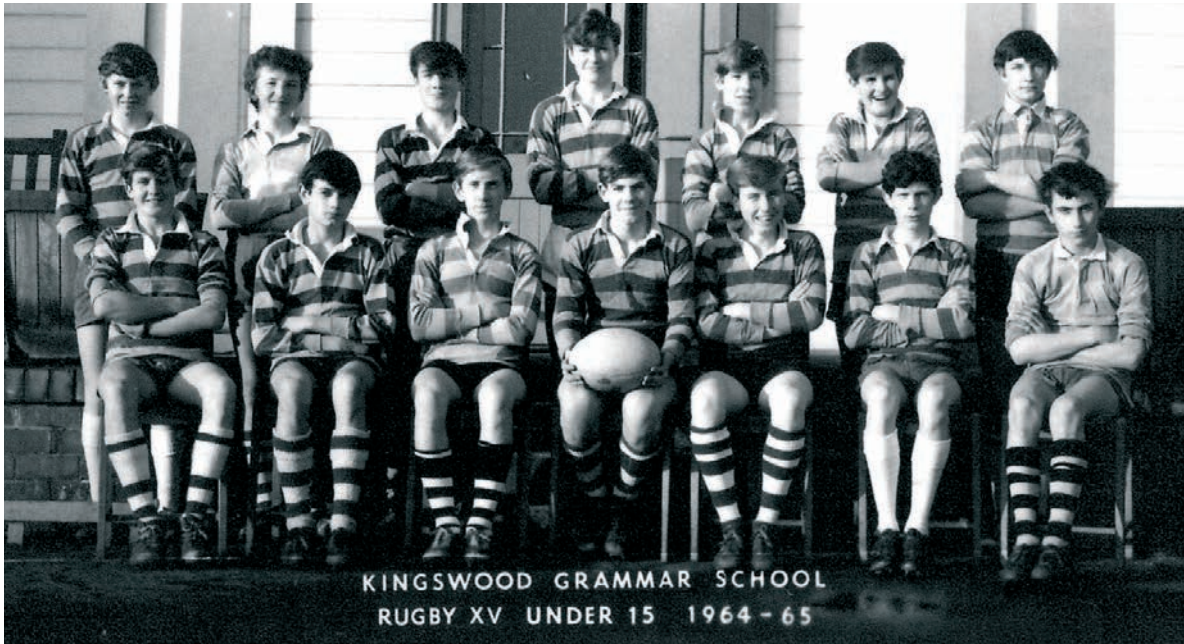
'In 1982 I left Bristol for good. I married my girlfriend (another Mary) who lived in Greenfield near Oldham, and I settled there. Unfortunately, Mary died in 1996. In retirement I play the piano for Saddleworth Sing for Pleasure Choir and (as a volunteer) for Holy Trinity County Primary School, Dobcross. I also also organise annual charity concerts, which are called *Gordon's Musical Evenings*.'

Gordon included a programme of his charity concert of March 2014. The concert ranged from Gershwin to Bach and Beethoven to Gary Barlow and Andrew Lloyd Webber. They even played The Teddy Bears' Picnic as a bassoon solo!

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***TWO FROM THE 60s...***

RICHARD MARSDEN (61-68) has responded to our appeal for shots of the 60s and 70s with two photos of the Rugby (64-65) and soccer (67-68) teams of that period.



RUGBY: Back: Steve Peacock, Peter Woofenden, Don Packer, Ian Dale, Harry Watkins, John Shield, Kelvin Trevelyan. Front: Neil Philipps, Richard Marsden, Roger Williams, Alan Bush, Mike Brown, Andy Nelson, Edric Allan



SOCCER: Back: Brian Dodd, Andy Warren, Kelvin Travelyan, Dave Jay, Mike Mason, Richard Marsden, Mike Price. Front: Richard Cains, Chris Hobbs, Steve Peacock, John Nicholls, Graham? Stevens.

**...AND TWO FROM THE 40s...**

1946 Girls' Hockey Team...



...and 1947 Tennis Team.



## **SCHOOL SECRETARY...**

thing was on stream for the new term.



She recalls that even today she is recognised by former pupils, especially those boys who had to stand outside the Headmaster's study waiting to be reprimanded for bad behaviour. They could see Miss Rogers in the office which was opposite the Head's door.

Doreen has many memories of the

When your Ed joined KGS in 1951 the School Secretary was MISS ROGERS. DOREEN ROGERS was educated at Clark's Commercial College and at the age of 18 was appointed by Headmaster MAJOR EATON in 1948 as the first full-time Secretary of the School.

school, pupils and staff and they were very happy but busy days and she regularly attends KOSA lunches at Lincombe Barn.

Doreen was Secretary until 1955 when, after marrying Old Scholar STAN CRUSE (41-47), she left to start her family. During her spell at KGS she saw the retirement of Major Eaton and the appointment in 1949 of the new Head C N RIDLEY, a whirlwind change of management.

## **A REUNION...**

An appreciative email has been received from RUTH WALKER (58-63) (now Hodgson):

The typewriter in the photograph was the machine that produced all the exam papers, reports, letters to parents and many scripts of all the school's stage productions - one memory is the *Pirates of Penzance*, which she learnt word-perfect.

'I finally caught up with my bridesmaid PENNY ENGLAND (59-64) (now Deverill). She and her husband came over to see us at home and we had a great time catching up. She brought over some old school photographs including a large one of the whole of our year when we left, many familiar faces. We reminisced, of course, about the old days and what has been happening since 1966 when I last saw her. I have her book which she told me all about and will be reading it very shortly.

In those days the School Secretary worked throughout the school holidays and she remembers well CNR calling her from Yorkshire, checking up that every-

'Thanks to you and the team at KOSA for getting us back in touch after 48 years.'

Just what KOSA is for - Ed.





Above is RUTH WALKER'S form in the Summer of 1959. Ruth is in the front row, 4th from the right and MISS WYCHERLEY is the form Mistress.

### **JANET'S JOB...**



Ex-KGS ex-MP  
ex- Labour minister JANET ANDERSON gave an interesting and amusing talk on Radio 4 on Friday, 2 May 2014 about her time as a Labour government junior whip when she was also responsible for reporting to the Queen on the daily business of Parliament.

Entitled *With Humble Duty*, the programme recalled when she was Vice-Chamberlain of the Royal Household in which post she wrote daily to the Palace. Janet decided to do this in her own way by including Westminster gossip in her reports. Apparently, the Queen was 'much amused' by the droll humour and the witty insights into Westminster gossip. 'With Humble Duty' was the phrase used in the introduction to Janet's daily reports to the Queen.

Janet was also held hostage during the state opening of Parliament, an action which historically was designed to ensure the Monarch's safe return to the Palace. After all, Charles I lost his head without such safeguards.

Janet's reports contained much humour about such events as the disappearance of Transport Minister, Glenda Jackson, the illness of Health Minister, Frank Dobson, the extensive slot given over to the government of Wales bill to accommodate verbose Welsh MPs, the foxhunting bill and much, much more.

Personalities she brought to the attention of the Queen in her reports were 'the man in the white suit' (Martin Bell), Harriet Harman and John Bercow, prior to becoming Speaker. She described Bercow as 'odious' and 'a tiresome little man'.

All this came to an end when Janet became Minister for Film, Tourism and Broadcasting in one of Blair's reshuffles, a post which she describes as one of the best ministerial jobs in government.

KOSA is not entirely sure when Janet

Anderson started at KGS. She was born in December 1949 so would normally have entered KGS in September 1961 but her entry in Wikipedia has her attending Trowbridge Girls' High School prior to KGS. She may therefore have been a late arrival at KGS. Any information, anyone - with forms and years, if possible?

### ***A RESPONSE...***

CHRIS BRYANT (54-59) expresses his views about education at KGS:

'Picking up on our editor's response to PHIL DARKE'S (47-52) letter in the Spring 2014 edition, I suppose I was one of those 'mediocre' students. Having passed the 11 plus exam, I was obviously not a first choice as I and a couple of others from Hanham Abbots School, were invited to an interview at the school with HEADMASTER RIDLEY. I think it was to pick 'the best of the rest'. I had many examples in my road in Hanham who were already attending KGS, including my sister, ANN BRYANT (52-57), so the pressure was on. Some from my road I remember, MALCOLM VEALE, JOHN GRUBB, DAVID HILLING, ELIZABETH HILLING, DAVID BALL, JOSEPHINE DAVIS AND COLIN WELLS.

'At the interview after a few questions, he asked what career I wished to follow. When I mentioned Engineering he retorted, "What, you want to tighten car wheel nuts in a car factory?" Nothing I could say after was of any apparent interest to him. That concluded the interview.

'My father was in Engineering and under his instruction I was helping to rebuild motorcycle engines at eleven years old. This was not for pleasure as machines were essential transport, but they demanded constant attention due mainly to age. From that moment I was intrigued by all things mechanical. At the rear of

our house was an access lane and I would spend many a time watching DAVE BALL (47-52) and CLIVE ROBBINS (46-52) endlessly pushing motor-cycles up and down the lane, willing them into life. It was a way of life for most teenagers. Clive Robbins and myself were among a small group of geriatric motorcyclists who met almost every Sunday evening to reminisce. The group still meet but greatly miss the dry wit of Clive who passed suddenly in May 2011.

'To my eternal surprise I was accepted and started at KGS in September 1954. Thus began a whole new experience. Over the next five years I was given probably the best education available, although I was not always the best of students. I enjoyed all sport and played rugby for Davis House and for the School. Cross country running was my Achilles heel as being six foot and twelve stones, could not match my classmate GEOFFREY LEAR who was short and wiry and always won! Could never understand his stamina.

'I too have memories of Games-master 'JIMMY' WILDE and his gym shoe, or should I say 'Dap'. He frequently used it to encourage reticent students into the showers after cross country or rugby. Summer term was always the best as there was the Triangular Sports Day as well as the School sports day in which to compete.

'MR. WILLIAMS 'the wood' I had much respect for in his efforts with me in Woodwork and Technical Drawing classes. Digressing slightly here, many years later in 1980, my son started at what was by this time Kingsfield, my wife and self visited the school at the end of his first term for a review. Not five paces were taken into the building when a voice said

'Good evening, Mr. Bryant' It was Mr Williams, who then turned and said to the Headmaster, 'MR HAXWORTH, we have a volunteer for the Parent-Teacher Committee' As if I had a choice! I then served seven years until my daughter also had passed through the School.

'I remember the school trip to France at Easter 1955; catching the coach from Hanham at 03.30hrs, an ungodly hour but wide awake in anticipation. The rough crossing of the Channel with many returning their early breakfast they had eaten in Fareham. I shared a room with ROGER FOWLER (54-61) and had my first experience of cheap French wine which did not end pleasantly. ELAINE HOPKINS getting lost on the Metro and MISS JACOB and M. LAPADU sent to find her. Some while ago you reproduced a group photo of the French trip. Both myself and Roger Fowler are missing. I think we were at the Boulangerie just around the corner buying cakes. I think the cost of the trip was £32 or £35 each.

'When it came to taking my O-levels, it was decided that myself and a few others had some of our exams deferred until Christmas due to our poor performance during the year - yet more mediocrity! I left KGS at Christmas '59 having obtained Maths, Physics, Chem, Tech Drawing and Music.

'It was at the start of my Design apprenticeship at Strachan & Henshaw in St. Philips, Bristol in 1960 when I realised I needed to get some qualifications if I was to be admitted to the Drawing Office. The office started work at 08.30hrs, the works at 07.30hrs. A good incentive to a young lad!

'My interview for an apprenticeship was undertaken by a MR. FRED BABER,

head of Personnel. During the interview he asked me what I thought of Mr Ridley. Strange question to ask I thought until he explained that he attended KGS in its first year and was a great friend and classmate of 'FISHY' SALMON, my Chemistry teacher. Small World. (Fred Baber was a leading light in KOSA in the 50s and 60s – Ed).

'I managed to pass my ONC, taking my English Language O-level again which I had failed at school. This was three years of day release and night school. (I should have worked harder at school.) Then followed two years further study for my HNC. I left Strachan & Henshaw in 1966 through redundancy. I was immediately offered a position with the Navy in Bath and British Aerospace, Filton in the Design Office. I took the British Aerospace position as it was marginally closer to home.

'My thanks to Miss Jacob for teaching us French. When it came to deciding options I dropped French, telling her 'When will I ever need French?' A very prophetic statement because ten years after leaving school, 1969, I was living and working in the South of France as part of a small design team from British Aerospace in Filton working on Concorde at Aerospa-tiale in Toulouse. I was there for six years during the development phase of the aircraft. Those first few years of French grammar and verbs came in very useful as at that time, not many French workers spoke any English.

'After a long and varied career split between aircraft and structural steel, I retired from Airbus at Filton in 2007 at 65 as an Engineering Group Leader of a team exploring ways of improving the design of the A330 aircraft which was, and still is, in much demand by the air-

lines. I rubbed shoulders with a few old KGS scholars during my time there.

'At that time I was not certain that I wanted to retire completely. I was approached by GKN Aerospace based in Weston Super Mare to work for them as a consultant on Airbus work. This I did for three days a week for three years doing the same work I did before I retired from Airbus. I finally retired in October 2010 as I was coming under pressure from my wife and daughter who thought the work was becoming too stressful. I sold my last motorcycle three years ago and am now very much a man of leisure, actually busier than ever.

'Going back to my time at KGS, my eternal thanks go out to MR HILTON and MISS JACOB for instilling in me a love of music which gave me a real appreciation of a wide variety beyond Elvis Presley etc., including the life and works of Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart and Corelli.

'Directly (but very delayed) as a result of my music appreciation, I have been singing with the Bristol Male Voice Choir for the past ten years. Last year another ex KGS scholar joined the choir, BOB "POLLY" PERKINS (52-57) Small advert here if possible; the choir is always looking for new members, raising money for charity. We have performed in Poland, Germany, Canada, the USA and last year a 12 day tour of South West France and Spain. We have a site on the internet, [bristolmvc.org.uk](http://bristolmvc.org.uk) I digress.

'A mediocre student that, at KGS, was taught far more than he realised but later managed to appreciate the value of the good education he received there.'

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### **ANOTHER RESPONSE...**

DOREEN PILLINGER (48-53) (now Lin-

degaard) responds to PHIL DARKE's views in the last edition:

'I refer to the sentiments expressed by my contemporary PHIL DARKE in the Spring 2014 edition. As one of the 'mediocre majority', I left school at sixteen with my GCE 'O' Level, and realised my horrendous mistake as soon as I started at Wick Ochre Works. The shock of being stuck in a chilly caravan with two fussy old ducks who entered stuff in ledgers and wore fingerless gloves was so great that I only lasted two days.

'After this setback, I had 23 different jobs before I found one to my liking – I was 56 by then, and stayed for 17 years! Once I even achieved the accolade allegedly anticipated by 'FROGGY' DAVIES: a stint at Woolworths, on, of all things, the china and glass counter which, as I am mildly dyspraxic, was a predictable disaster. Perhaps in this small way I contributed to that firm's downfall.

'I didn't mind trying anything legal, (as long as it didn't involve maths), and often had to, being usually impecunious (pecunia, -ae, *fem.* Thank you MISS DAVID). So far Phil may believe I agree that my academic ambitions were as limited as he suggests. No! I was sustained throughout my less than brilliant career by books. I was not 'educated' by KGS: education is a lifelong process which hasn't finished quite yet; what KGS taught me was 'how to learn' and I cannot be alone in this.

'Though I was personally not that happy at school, I deeply regret the passing of grammar schools in general. Many of those in public life, especially politicians on the Left, owe their start and upward mobility to a grammar school education, but have denied others a similar chance

by dismantling the system! This looks to me like wilful, blind madness. Comprehensive education, fairness for all, was a laudable aim, but it seems that sadly, the baby was thrown out with the bath water.

'The lives of the mediocre majority are not devoid of interest and brief research in back numbers of *KOSA NEWS* suggests that there is a fair division of high flyers and the rest of us 'also rans'. Our newsletter can only be as 'good' as the contributions provided, so if more of us write a few lines, our stories can be told. Get cracking, before you figure in the obits!

'Finally, if 'educational mania fosters childish frivolity far beyond adolescence', count me in. Guilty as charged.'

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### ***HUMBLE BEGINNINGS...***

In the last edition of *KOSA NEWS* we published a pen portrait of ROBERT WILLIS (58-65) who is currently The Very Reverend Dr Robert Willis, Dean of Canterbury Cathedral.



CHRIS BRYANT (54-59) has sent in a photo (below, left) taken in October 1958 as part of the Tri-Centenary Celebrations at Hanham Baptist Chapel celebrating the life of Andrew Gifford, who preached in the woods around Hanham three hundred years ago and was often chased by the Militia.

It depicts Andrew Gifford, disguised as a farm worker and being questioned by the Militia. The person acting as Andrew Gifford is one eleven year old ROBERT WILLIS. Chris is on the right.

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### ***ALSO OF THE CLOTH...***

Rev. JOHN LOXTON (39-47) has put pen to paper and sent the following to *KOSA NEWS*:

'Thank you for sending me a copy of *KOSA NEWS* redirected to my new address, with apologies for lapsing my financial contribution. Sadly my wife, who went to Chipping Sodbury G.S. during the same period, has Alzheimer's, although she had no interest in science teaching English Language and Literature. My link with KGS was recovered due to GORDON WICKENS (42-44) and ERICA IVORY (39-46), his wife, discovering my name in the *Chichester Diocesan Directory*!

'After graduating from Bristol University with a degree in General Science, (Chemistry Maths and Physics) I was accepted for the Methodist Ministry, as was my contemporary ALAN MERRITT a year earlier.

'As a graduate I was required by my college Principal to sit for the Birmingham BA in Theology. The Theology Department at Birmingham had been set up by an Oxford Professor and was heavily weighted with Hebrew and Greek but I

survived. After 27 years I migrated to the C of E and served in parishes at Haywards Heath and Turners Hill, West Sussex. I retired to the ancient parish of Worth, near Crawley, though Worth existed long before Crawley existed.

'On retirement, I returned to my original interest in science and combining the two subjects I began to read widely on the relationship between Science and Religion. In July 2013 I attended a week's course at Cambridge University organised by the Faraday Institute for Science and Religion. We had four lectures a day from Monday to Friday, tough going at the age of nearly 84! It was then that it occurred to me that I might qualify to join the Society of Ordained Scientists and discovered that I could become an Associate Member and was accepted as such.

'To be a full member you have to have taken your scientific work beyond that of a first degree. At the moment there are less than a 100 members including both categories, though there must be many more who would qualify. There is a Southern Region for meetings, known as chapters, and the first I attended was held at St. Mary Redcliffe Church, Bristol, so I was virtually back home! The next meeting is in London on multiverse theories and the religious implications.

'I have also linked up with Christians in Science, an organisation sponsored by the Faraday Institute. In November I attended a one day course at Southampton University when we had two lectures given by the Revd Professor Keith Ward of Oxford whose recent book *Why there almost certainly is a God* is a counter blast to Richard Dawkins book, *The God Delusion*, and particularly its chapter, 'Why there certainly is no God'. As my father lived to be 103 I hope I have a few

more years to explore the subject further!

Your Ed. Was able to lend John Headmistress QUINTON'S book *Scientific & Religious Knowledge* written in 1950. It seemed particularly appropriate to John's interests.

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### ***KATH'S QUERY...***

KATH. HAWKINS (33-37) (now Mountstephen) was prompted to write on hearing the news of the additional school to be added to the KGS site. Kath was Lord Mayor of Bristol from May 1989 to May 1990, so she must be regarded as one of the more successful old scholars to enter local government:

'As an old lapsed scholar of KGS I was intrigued to read of the massive project at the School. Will all be lost?

'I know there are older ex-scholars, but at 93 I feel sad that the happy days I had at Kingswood Grammar School may vanish. I'm not able to get around without help now, but I did see the exhibition at Kingswood Heritage Museum at Warmley and it made me feel proud. Now there are rarely any names I recognise, even in the obituaries!

'How lucky we were before the days of so much political interference! Thank you at KOSA for keeping the flame alive.'

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### ***THE ANSWER...***

As readers will know, Kingsfield School, the successor to KGS, is now King's Oak Academy and the proposal is for a primary school linked to the academy to be built by September 2015.

The plans have been made available to KOSA by Principal IAN FROST and the following information has been extracted from the detail appended to those plans.

The report states that primary schools across the Kingswood area have already expanded and reached their capacity. The provision at Kings Oak Academy will enable the Council to secure sufficient primary school places to accommodate rising numbers of primary school children.

The Primary Academy will cater for children aged 4 - 11 commencing with a 2-form entry of 60 foundation stage pupils. Acting as a feeder school to the existing academy will enable education to be undertaken on an enlarged site for the ages of 4 to 19.

The new primary school is planned to be built on what is currently a playing field to the left of Brook Road, immediately opposite the old KGS site. The existing Academy playing fields are 3.6 hectares, of which 0.8 hectares will be lost to the new development. However, access to an additional 3.1 hectares of community playing fields will more than compensate for this loss.

The cost? About £4 million.

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### ***ANOTHER QUERY...***

TONY FELTHAM (43-48) also has a query about the fees which were paid to attend KGS:

'I am trying to write about my youth, particularly during the war years, and, of course, KGS figures in this quite a lot.

'I have spent a few hours at the Kingswood Heritage Museum with Alan Bryant and he helped greatly. One thing I am puzzled about is did our parents have to pay a fee for their sons and daughters to go to KGS?

'I photographed a page from the archive book in the museum which states:

Scholarship Pupils: Free  
Half Scholarship: £9 if father earns over £3 per week, £4-10s if father earns less than £ 3 per week.

Would you know if this was just an enrolment fee? I don't remember my parents paying anything at the time.

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I believe annual fees were chargeable, payable termly, up to the 1940s. Early on in the School's life. Gloucestershire pupils paid £9 pa and others £12.35 (probably £12-6-3), but full and half scholarships were awarded. Some pupils were also awarded a maintenance grant where parents were in particularly reduced circumstances. I don't think that the figures you quoted are enrolment fees but rather annual fees.

Help! - Can anyone confirm the fees which were payable, the amounts in each case and the dates when the requirement to pay fees ceased? - Ed

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### ***APOLOGIES...***

Like all good publications we apologise and try to correct errors which have appeared in previous editions.

In the letter last time from DAVE KER-SHAW (48-56) concerning the Bristol 'L' he gave an example of once the 'L' is established, it is then left off, as in Carl and Car. Somehow it was printed 'once the 'e' is established...' which was nonsense!

In the same edition on page 21 the members of the School Orchestra in the photograph included MARGARET REECE, wrongly typed as REES. The angels on page 28 were identified in the wrong order - they should have been MARGARET SPARKES, MARGARET REECE and JANE HODDER. Apologies - I'll never get to heaven now!

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### ***MORE BRISTOL SLANG..?***

RICHARD STRANGE (54-59), who now lives in Nottingham, raises a query about the development of language:

'People here persist in using 'Brizzle' as slang for Bristol in my presence, as if I should have been using it all my life. Maybe I've been away for far too long. I persist – in turn – in saying that I cannot recall the slang word in use in my presence at any time during my 26 years living in Bristol. Or, come to that, when I lived in Reading, or here in the Nottingham area until very recently.

'An ex-Bristol friend up here says he thinks he read a learned treatise by someone many years ago, in which the slang word was said to have been in use as far back as the 1920s or 1930s.

'I suspect that either

- a) if it has long been in use by Bristolians then it was probably only by those living in a particular area of Bristol, or
- b) it is a fairly recent thing, sparked off and then spreading like wildfire through today's media, who love 'Brizzle born and bred'.

'I find not even a hint as to its origin anywhere I have looked on the internet, although there are some interesting websites which include lists of Bristol slang.

'I have several slang words of my own for such people! They are grouped in a broader arena, with those who have turned 'guest' into a verb. Is this what is meant by the fluidity/evolution of language? Or sheer ignorance, incompetence and laziness?

'Any ideas? Maybe a question to KOSA members, to spark discussion off?'

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### ***FROM DOWN UNDER...***

MARY MILES (42-47) (now Bentley) dropped KOSA a line:

Sorry to have missed the date of the AGM (understandable, living in New South Wales! - Ed) – it would have been a very interesting event and might have brought together the remaining Eatonians, of whom I was one who entered Grammar School without benefit of 11 plus.

'I was never sure if this had anything to do with my brother being a scholarship boy, or my father being a local philanthropist (Cossham Hospital and YMCA amongst his particular interests – also the Miles Prize for Poetry at KGS) – but I am grateful that I was allowed to 'follow a different drum' – being more interested in people-orientated pursuits than scholarship for its own sake.

'Possibly because we were the wartime students, we had the unusual benefit of teachers from a wider variety of backgrounds than would normally happen; and perhaps we were at the beginning of a new look at 'education' as a prelude to real life.... I know that the prizes I was awarded included acknowledging the ability to absorb books, organise events, and motivate people – skills which have been very useful throughout my life. Even when I failed my Higher School Certificate I felt I was ahead, as I had won the Parent Teachers Award for Community Service and chose a cookery book on the grounds that one can live without philosophy (just) but not without eating! I suppose I was at my best in the Dramatic Society and Games/Athletics departments.

'I was encouraged by Major Eaton to



follow my desire to 'serve all sorts and conditions of men', and this has taken me through nursing, broadcasting, family, and, for most of my life in Australia – working backstage with a number of community and pro/am performance groups. I am an inaugural Member of the Association of Community Theatres Hall of Fame, and well known throughout the Sydney area theatrical world.

'On a somewhat politically – and educationally - incorrect note, whilst struggling to come to terms with Racine, Corneille and Hugo under the guidance of 'Froggy' Davis – he remarked to me "You are a miserable student, not like your brother who is a SCHOLAR!" I knew even then that he was challenging me....but did not rise to the bait ! Incidentally, I have been involved with seven productions of *Les Miserables*...

'I imagine that there are not too many Eatonians at reunions now... but we were given the widest, truest 'education' regardless of the strange mixture of teaching abilities – even the war itself was part of the mix. I wish the next generations



similar opportunities to flourish.'

'Above is the sixth form girls of 1948. Oh, the memories! I am in the centre back

row of the photo, between Hazel Long and Pam Ball; in front – reading l to r: Barbara Higginbotham, Margaret Vagg, ?? and June Watkins (?); next – Damaris Jones, Pam Nash, Margaret Edwards, Jean Knight and Sheila Francis; front row – Ruth Stock (?) June Marriot, Joan Hemmens, Jeanne Hicks, Kath Wilcocks, and Megan Davis. I apologise for anyone whose name I have spelt incorrectly, but this was the VI form over 60 years ago and about the only one of the photos after I had cut off my plaits!

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### **UNE LETTRE...**

It was good to hear from MARION JACOB (now LAPADU) and her husband MICHEL. Marion taught French and Music in the 50s and Michel came over as a French assistant. They now live in Bordeaux. Marion writes:

'Clearing out a drawer, we found some pound notes, so I'm sending you some to pay for all the *KOSA NEWS* you so kindly sent us.

'It is such a pleasure to read and in every number we manage to find names and even photos of pupils we know (eg PETER SAUNDERS and FRANK DOBBINS), which is amazing considering that it was sixty years ago that we were at KGS.

'At 83 and 87, we are shadows of our former selves but even so, I wish we were nearer to attend some of your meetings.

'Best wishes to any who might remember us and many thanks to you.'

Marion was a popular teacher and clearly Michel saw her potential, married her and whisked her off to France. A sad loss to KGS!

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### **LATE ARRIVAL...**

New member ROB BRADLEY (61-63) has sent us a shot taken of 61S (above) during his short stay at KGS:

'Anyone in the photo may only remember me as the one with the 'funny', slightly Geordie accent, and the carrot red hair. I am at the back, in the centre, between BOXALL and TOLLERFIELD.

'The dates of my school years is best explained if I layout my education. Firstly, my father was in a job which required him to move throughout the country, every time he received a promotion.

'So, having attended two infants' schools, and one junior school, my secondary education was thus :-

1956 – 58 West Hartlepool Grammar School, in the then County Durham, then 1958 – 60 Abbeydale Boys' Grammar School, Sheffield, then 1960 – 61 Leicester City Boys' School and finally January, 1961 – 63 Kingswood Grammar School.

'I left the School in the summer of 1963, and started work at what was then National Provincial Bank, in Keynsham.'

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### **CONTACT...**

LIONEL HARRIS (52-57) and his wife DIANE WOGAN (55-61) visit South Africa regularly and on their last visit met up with ALLAN BANES (49-56) and his wife in Cape Town.

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VIV FELLOWS (56-61) (now Sherman) has been in touch:

'I never distinguished myself in any way at KGS (except in the swimming pool and possibly the netball court) although I would love to tell MISS MORRISON (Senior Mistress) and MRS GRIFFITHS (English) that I was a late developer, gained my degree at the age of 40 and went on to become deputy Head of English and Head of Drama at St. Mary Redcliffe and Temple School before retiring about 12 years ago.

'I see ANNE HUBBARD and RICHARD HAYES quite regularly.'

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### ***THANKS...***

Our thanks to JEAN WILLIS (50-55) (now Spriggs) who has given quite a number of *Kingswood Chronicles* to KOSA. They are always useful in looking up past events and we have copies in the archives which date from 1924 to 1970, although not all the years in between. If you have copies please let us know so that we can fill in the gaps by photocopying them and returning. Also we would be interested if you have copies after 1970. When did they cease publication?

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### ***WELCOME...***

To those who have joined KOSA since last time, using maiden names where appropriate:

Ruth Walker (58-63), Rob Bradley (61-63), Victoria Clarke (61-64), Jeanette Rogers (66-73), Joyce Cox (54-60), Tony Feltham (43-48).

If you know of anyone who would like to receive regularly *KOSA NEWS* just give us their details and we will do the rest.

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### ***WHERE ARE THEY...***

We no longer have the addresses of some members who have moved. They include Jill Fuentes (last heard of in Spain), John Britton (Plymouth), Mike Brain (New Jersey), Janet Williams now Farrington (Bournemouth), Jeffrey Neilson (Florida) and Mervyn Wring (Weston super Mare).

Please let us know if you have the new addresses of any of them and also let us know if you change your own address.

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### ***54 REUNION...***

We are making the Autumn Lunch at the Barn on 18 October 2014 a reunion for those who started at KGS in 1954. It's

60 years this September when they nervously entered the gates of KGS and we're commemorating the anniversary at the lunch.

So come along and meet your old friends; bring your old photos along and marvel how they have all changed and you haven't.

Individual letters have been sent out in August inviting the 54ers to reply to PAUL DAVIES who is organising that side of the event. If you have replied to Paul with payment there is no need to complete the form in the centre of *KOSA NEWS*, otherwise complete the form and send your cheque to the Treasurer as usual. Please only complete one form.

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### ***53 VR...***

DEREK BAILEY (49-53) is also hoping to encourage a get-together at the same of Form VR of 1953 vintage.

Derek is hoping to see old colleagues such as David Foice, Peter Williams, Mike Wilmington, Pete Hemmings, John Cridland, Dave Kershaw, Wilson Barrett, Gerald Kenwood, John Mead, Tony Lawrence, Janet Emms, Mary Townsend, Pat Harding, Brian Baish, Joyce Osborne, Derek Moody and anyone else of that era we have omitted.

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### ***BACK PAGE...***

We have not put the usual photograph on page 28 this time. As it's 100 years since the commencement of World War One we thought it appropriate to publish a moving poem written by ROY HUBBARD (53-58) of the Battle of the Somme in which so many lives were lost. Next year we celebrate 70 years since the end of WW2. Mankind never learns!

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At this time we think back particularly of the horrors of the Great War, and so a story has been penned in verse by ROY HUBBARD (53-59) which tells of what transpired between July and November of that year, when over 1,000,000 men were slaughtered - a humble tribute to all who fell.

### **July 1st 1916 - The Battle of the Somme**

What greater sacrifice than this  
When men walked through that black  
abyss,  
To give their lives for freedom fair,  
So homefolk once again might share  
The thought that peace was imminent,  
Only to find by strong intent,  
That summer's day began so free  
In those green fields of Picardie.

Towards the heavens in ignorance  
Of five long months of turbulence,  
When human life was thought so cheap  
To leave it rotting in a heap,  
When only flies and rotting things  
Enjoyed the death of human beings;  
A week, that's all it should have last,  
For Rawlinson's large khaki cast.

To overthrow the hated Hun  
Who had wiped out the French Verdun,  
So wrong the plans of aged men  
Were to be witnessed by the same,  
Entrenched along the saucered plain  
Men cringed like ants as they in vain ,  
Await the call to breach the top  
When no man was allowed to stop.

In fear of being left behind  
To face the steel from their own kind,  
In droves they slowly sauntered on  
Midst sheets of steel and lead and iron,  
To be mowed down like ripening corn,  
The Pals, the Chums, Oh! So forlorn,  
Twenty thousand in the first hour  
Lay young and old on earthly bower.

The rest agog in angered stupor  
Amazed how they had failed to conquer,  
What was supposed to be a game,  
Ended that day in utter shame,  
Perhaps the dawn would see the end,  
Before the fray would further rend  
The hopes, the fears, the plans, the  
dreams  
Of others waiting in the scenes.

To take the place of those who fell  
In death's black stench of living hell,  
No-one would sleep that very night,  
Or others yet, because of fright,  
Who knew their time had come at last  
To join the futile holocaust  
Goodbye, farewell, chin-chin my love,  
I hope my soul will as a dove.

Float high to God's wide open door.  
So I may live forever more,  
One million plus would never see  
An Earthly age of history.  
The gas, the shells, both took their toll  
Of men from town and village hall  
Who went to fight for good and right,  
To stem the tide of evil might.

From all the corners of the Earth  
Did men assemble without mirth,  
At home wherever that may be  
Were tears, so dry, as eyes did see  
The inhumanity of man  
For only seven short miles were won;  
When will we ever learn to grasp  
The nettle of such useless tasks.

For in the end the poppies came  
To gently hide that year of shame  
For those who grieved and wept at home  
They, at least, would remember Somme.

ROY HUBBARD 1953-59