



KOSA NEWS



NUMBER 48 - SPRING 2016

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

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'Getting Old Scholars back together'



EDITORIAL...

We have been accused in the past that *KOSA NEWS* has concentrated too much on the many successes that the Old Scholars have achieved since leaving School. And many they have been.

However, success is a relative term. It is not only measured by reaching the top in business, medicine, academia, the professions, local and national government, entertainment and the church but also achieving a happy family life and making a valuable contribution of time and effort to charities, hobbies and past-times, something not necessarily measured in cash terms. We therefore salute those who have successfully passed on the Kingswood Ethos to their children and grand-children.

Perhaps School wasn't just about education, important though that is. It was also about preparing us to make a valuable contribution to society as a whole, something I believe Kingswood was particularly good at.

The Editor

DIARY DATES:

SPRING LUNCH & AGM:

Booked for **SATURDAY, 9th APRIL 2016** 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 after the AGM. Don't let the fact that it's an AGM put you off - it's very short and is your chance to question the Committee. Please complete the form enclosed 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'.

67-68 REUNION:

Booked for 7.30pm on **SATURDAY, 21st MAY 2016** at Kingswood Rugby Football Club, Grimsbury Road. If you joined the School in September 67 or 68, or those year groups, contact JULIE JOHNS on 020 8543 4705 or email her on matherjohns@btinternet.com for more information.

AUTUMN LUNCH:

Already booked for **SATURDAY, 8th OCTOBER 2016** at Lincombe Barn, Downend. Please book the date in your diary now.

OBITUARIES...

MARION JACOB (53-57) (later LAPADU), who taught your Ed French and Music, has written to us with the sad news of the death of her husband, MICHEL LAPADU. Michel was the French *assistant* at the same time who came to KGS for a short time and left with Marion as his bride:



'I have to inform you very sadly of the death of my husband

Michel (French *assistant* 55-56) in July this year at the age of 88. He had increasing difficulty in

walking and needed knee replacements but seemingly the operations were excluded because of his weak heart condition. For him it was for the best, but for me and our two daughters, he leaves a great void.



'I was astounded to read of FRANK DOBBINS' (54-61) career in the last edition. I remember him as a very studious pupil and a stalwart cellist in the School Orchestra, and feel (quite unjustly!) a little

proud that the two subjects I taught him, French and Music, were the basis for his life's work.

'Always pleased to receive the 'NEWS.'

Michel Lapadu entered into the spirit of KGS in the short time he was with us. Many contemporaries will remember him striding out to bat in the Staff v School Cricket match. A Frenchman playing Cricket! I think he was out for a duck! - Ed.

The photo (left) shows Michel fielding in that very match in 1956 and the one below shows Michel with some members of his French groups.

ROGER CROMWELL (51-58) attended the funeral of GERRY BOND (46-51) and has given us this brief eulogy:

'Gerry was born in Birmingham 8th November 1934 moving, when he was quite young, to Kingswood then to Kingsfield Lane, between Hanham and Longwell Green where he happily tended the chickens and pigs when not at school.

'He went to KGS where his happy-go-lucky attitude didn't go unnoticed. His final school report had comments by Head C.N. Ridley including the description (paraphrased) "a Scallywag" and "I don't know how his attitude will go down with prospective employers but I like him".

'Following school, Gerry joined the National Smelting Company as a trainee chemist and after qualifying remained with the NSC and its subsequent identities as a senior chemist until taking early retirement.



'On the social side, in the mid '50s, Gerry was one of the founding members of Kingswood Old Boys Rugby Club (later

Kingswood RFC). He was also a member of Kingswood YMCA through which he met future his wife Sandra. From the YMCA, Gerry became a very early member of its off-shoot The Y's Men's Club of Kingswood in which he was a very active and enthusiastic member until he and Sandra decided to move to Thornbury.

'Once established there he and Sandra joined Thornbury Sailing Club where, once again, he became fully involved in their activities as an instructor, social organiser and work-horse around the club. As sailing skills developed, they progressed from basic dinghies to higher performance craft until later years saw them acquiring a sailing cruiser. A very illuminating tribute was paid by a member of the sailing club at Gerry's funeral and it was obvious that he was not just a member of the organisation but a very important 'cog' in their operation. Besides being very involved with the sailing club, an allotment was very important to Gerry and he spent many a happy hour tending his patch.

'Despite Gerry's 'cheeky chappy' and jovial public persona there was also a serious side to his character. He had a great interest in Nature and Geology which was imparted to his children and grand-children when out and about en-



joying the countryside. He and Sandra also loved to travel, visiting many corners of the world following the many years of camping holidays, both in the UK and on the continent, with the children.

'His funeral service, attended by many friends and acquaintances beside family members, demonstrated other aspects of Gerry's interests: music played included Shostakovich and Bach and one of his granddaughters recited Sonnet 116 by Shakespeare. Besides granddaughter Eleanor's contribution, grandson William paid a moving tribute to his grandfather as did both sons-in-law.

'Old Scholars were also represented by BOB GRAY (49-56) and GEOFF ANN (47-53), to whom Gerry was Best Man on the occasion of Geoff. and JUDY BEAVER'S wedding.'

Ex-Committee Member GORDON WICKENS OBE (42-44) passed away in September 2015. His wife ERICA IVORY (39-46) has prepared this brief eulogy: 'Gordon and I met at KGS when I moved from Cheltenham to Kingswood. From Kingswood he attended the West of England School of Architecture for two years before being called up.

'On demob, after four years in the army, he decided to work for the YMCA and went to university in London to study

Theology and was then sent to his first post in Bradford. From there he moved in quick succession to Hereford, Halifax and Cardiff where he covered South Wales working with youth in industry, giving lectures in colleges and counselling young prison inmates.

'After four years, on to Sussex as Regional Secretary covering Rye to Chichester. Then being on the national commission he worked in London and became the Deputy National Secretary, receiving the OBE in 1990 for his service to the YMCA movement.

'On retirement he did voluntary work for charities and the National Trust, among other things. When KOSA was resurrected in 1986 when we merged with the Eatonian Society, he served on the Committee for a number of years and was a leading light in putting together the Association's constitution.'

The *YMCA Retired* magazine also paid tribute to Gordon:

Barbara MacDonald was his secretary during 1980s. 'I knew Gordon to be a very kind and considerate person. As some of the Y professional staff have said he was dedicated to the YMCA in a quiet and caring way, while at the same time being extremely conscientious and meticulous in the work as legal advisor to the National Council.

'He just went very quietly about each day, giving time to me on personal matters when I needed them and was also sought out by other National Council staff when they needed a few quiet minutes for thoughtful advice. I remember him with much affection.'

JOHN MILES (42-46) has passed away in Australia and his sister, MARY MILES

(now Bentley) (42-49) has passed to KOSA this eulogy, written by John himself:



'John was born in 1929 in Bristol, in the West of England. the son of a local manufacturer who had inherited the family firm from its founder. His early education was interrupted by family moves and the advent of World War Two, but from a Church of England school he gained a scholarship to KGS. As a schoolboy during the war he fought fires in the Blitz and in 1942 was one of the younger recipients of a wartime decoration - a King's Commendation. He eventually completed his schooling at KGS where a visionary headmaster and staff introduced him to English and French poetry. At KGS he won an armful of scholarships, including an Open Scholarship to Corpus Christi College. Oxford.

After National Service with HQ British Troops (Egypt) he came up to Oxford and read Philosophy, Politics and Economics, with Philosophy as his principal sub-

ject. His tutors included JJC Smart and Michael Dummett in Philosophy, and the Australian Sir Kenneth Wheare in Comparative Government.

On graduating he got a job with Shell-Mex and BP in London, where he met Joyce. They were happily married for fifty-six years, in which they shared a varied and adventurous life. From Shell-Mex and BP, John moved to the aircraft industry, gaining experience which proved invaluable for his subsequent career move into further and higher education. After working in colleges in Walsall, Leeds and Oxford, he became the founder Principal of Bridgwater College, with the responsibility for establishing a new type of college combining traditional sixth form work with the vocational courses of a technical college. As part of this project, completely new buildings had to be established on a green field site. Organising and building this new college presented a real challenge, and John and the team he gathered around him found it immensely satisfying. Staff as well as students were encouraged to excel, and at the last count seven of John's former staff had gone on to become college principals.

In the course of time the College gained national recognition for its pioneering work in education. John became a governor of Bristol Polytechnic, while among the other honours that came his way were the Chairmanship of the Tertiary Colleges Association and the Presidency of the Standing Conference of Tertiary and Sixth Form Colleges in England and Wales.

He had begun publishing poetry while he was an undergraduate, and his poems continued to appear in magazines for

the rest of his life. In retirement his life-long interest in the poetry of the great American poet Wallace Stevens led to a Doctorate at Leeds and some contributions to the Wallace Stevens Journal. When a Philip Larkin Society was formed in Hull where Larkin had worked, John became a founder member.

The decision to move to Australia comparatively late in life was a bold one for Joyce and John, but they were delighted at last to see something of their large extended family, and as time went on, to share in many family occasions. They also found new friendships which meant a great deal to them. Life in Sydney, both musical and literary, had much to offer, and John was invited to join a poetry workshop whose encouragement gave his work a new dimension.

A few happy years went by in the Sydney suburbs and eventually Joyce and John moved to the Anglican retirement village in Castle Hill. It was a great shock when Joyce was found to be suffering from a terminal illness. After her passing, John was sustained by the love and support of family, friends and neighbours and the devoted care of village staff.

In a later message from his sister Mary she pointed out that both John and his wife had previous Master degrees from Oxford and Bristol respectively, and were able to pursue academic interests throughout their nearly sixty years of married life.

Another 'interesting' coincidence is that John and Gordon Wickens (see previous obituary) started at KGS on the same day, in 4C, and Gordon's funeral was on the same day that John died.....they had kept in touch over the years. In fact, in Gordon and Erica's newspaper report on

MANGOTSFIELD WEDDING

**Mr G. E. Wickens and
Miss E. G. Ivory**

The wedding took place at St. James's Church, Mangotsfield, on Saturday, of Mr Gordon E. Wickens, son of Mr and Mrs E. E. Wickens, with Miss Erica (Ricky) Gene Ivory, daughter of Mr and Mrs E. R. Ivory.

The vicar (the Rev. W. Beard) conducted the ceremony, and the bride was given away by her father. Mr John Miles was best man.

The bride wore a dress of white figured organza with a sweetheart neckline and a train cut in one with the dress. She carried a bouquet of white gardenias and pink carnations.

The bridesmaids were Miss Mary Moseley, who wore white moire taffeta, and the Misses Joan Gale and Eunice Edouard, who wore dresses of peach taffeta with net overskirts.



'From the age of 8 John spent many years at St, Mary's, Fishponds as an active member of the cubs, scouts, head choirboy and server of the sanctuary. He was also an active cyclist.

'After leaving KGS John joined the architects department of E S & A Robinson Ltd. It was at this time that John met Molly, his future wife, who was studying at Fishponds Training College. John changed occupation to Mangotsfield UDC, Rating Division and then moved to Molly's home town of Watford in a similar position.

'John and Molly were married in 1957 in Cockfosters, London. They set up their first home in Watford where John was proud to have achieved a Diploma in Management Studies (DMS).

'As well as being a devoted and active father to three daughters and later grandfather to four granddaughters, he still found time to create and tend the family 180 ft garden, turning half of it into a vegetable garden with soft fruit trees.

'He was always involved in societies both

their marriage, John was Gordon's Best Man.

It is with sincere regret that ROBERT WEEKS (43-48) has informed KOSA of the death of JOHN POWELL (43-48), at the age of 84 on 24 November 2015 whilst in hospital in Watford.

'John, who with his cousin Robert joined KGS during the war years, later became a stalwart supporter of KOSA and spent many years on the Committee as Secretary, travelling from Watford to meetings in the Bristol area.

in Bristol and Watford including the local Bushey Operatic Society. For twenty years he was Treasurer to St. Matthew's Church, Oxhey and later sang in the church choir with Molly.

'As a founder member of The Friends of Oxhey Park, the family has watched with pride and joy the transformation of a dreary piece of land into a widely used and loved open space. When the swathes of bulbs cover the park again, the children play on the new swings and walkers enjoy the new paths through the woods and the bridge over the river, this will be a fine testament and legacy to his friends and to him.'

As far as KOSA was concerned, John was a very able and committed secretary for many years and, in spite of living in Watford, attended Committee Meetings and other KOSA events in Bristol with a regularity which put to shame many of those who lived locally.

Rev. JOHN 'TWEEDY' HARRIS (53-60) has sent an obituary of Rev JOSEPH STEPHENS which appeared in the *Methodist Recorder*. We don't know for certain when he was at KGS, but we would guess around 1938-45 based on the reference to J Stephens as a Prefect in 1943-44, along with his brother PHILIP STEPHENS.

Joe Stephens moved locally from the family farm in Pilning and attended KGS with his brother. He joined the Royal Signals and was posted to the North-West Frontier Province in India in 1945, which is now part of Pakistan. After demob Joe worked in London, attending a Methodist Church where he met his future wife, Diana.

He initially studied at Edinburgh Univer-

sity and began training for the Methodist Ministry in 1957 in Manchester. His ministry began in South Wales, moving to Darlington in 1964, where he helped to found the Samaritans. He worked with alcoholics and campaigned to legalise abortion and homosexuality.

He held a number of appointments in Birmingham where, working with Asians, he learned Urdu and Punjabi. This helped him and his wife to establish ecumenical links. He retired in 1990 but continued his hobbies of painting, reading and poetry until he was diagnosed with macular degeneration. He died in 2015.

John has also commented on the last edition:

'I was surprised by the deaths of MIKE COKAYNE (52-58) and FRANK DOBBINS (54-61). I really should have known both very well, each for different reasons, but surprisingly very little comes to mind.

'Frank was always very confident in his ability and occasionally he came over as someone who knew better than ERIC HILTON (who taught Music). He obviously did very well in the music world.

'I have an abiding memory of Mike Cokayne. It was a House cricket match. I, batting for Fussell House, came into bat with six needed off the last ball. Mike was bowling for whatever house he represented and he hit an unhittable ball fast down the leg side. Why we remember such trivia, I haven't a clue!

'There is another obituary in the same edition of the *Methodist Recorder*. Alan J Fudge, although born in Bridgend, South Wales, his family came from Hanham where they were miners.'

ANDREW MARTIN (56-63?) passed

away on 18 November 2015. STEPHEN WALLINGTON (56-64) has written the following obituary:

'We regret to inform everyone that ANDREW (Tub) MARTIN (56-63?) passed away on 18 November 2015 at home in Kilcot near Newent. 'Tub' grew up into a thin lad from well fed beginnings thanks to Winnie, his mum, but the name stuck throughout his life.

'Before KGS some may remember Andrew as a cherubic choir boy at Christ Church, Downend and a drummer boy in the Church Lads Brigade where his brother 'Ginger' was also a drummer. Ginger died in South Africa in 2006.

'Post KGS, after a short period of work in a bank (which he hated), he went to Redland Teacher Training College in Bristol where he met his first wife Sally Maddern. Subsequently, he enjoyed a successful career in teaching, rising to Deputy Head, in the Longwell Green area, but was forced to retire through ill health in his early 50s.

'He married Frankie, the love of his life, in 1979. They met purely by chance at Sidmouth Folk Festival in 1977. Frankie is French and the French side of the family brought Monsieur Tubby great pleasure - skiing being one new pursuit and ribbing relatives being another. I remember he bought a piece of Nelson's flagship *Victory* and gave it to one of his in-laws as a birthday present. Fortunately he saw the funny side of it!

"Tub' was an outstanding craftsman - making, among other things: a rebec, a guitar, several harps and at least 2 dulcimers. He was probably influenced by his dad who was a tool and diemaker in Bristol. These skills he later turned to advantage, working alongside Frankie, in their 'Imagine Mirrors' business, number-

ing Princess Anne among their many satisfied customers. They have a son Mat (aka 'Doc Martin' after achieving his PhD in music) who has inherited his dad's love of music.

'Alas it all has come to an abrupt end, with an incurable illness. Your friends of 65 years will miss you, your good humour, your kindness, the beard, and the many fine meals shared together.

'Andrew was laid to rest on 30th November (St Andrew's Day) in Tytherington Memorial Woodlands, Nr Bristol under the shade of a Silver Birch.'

In the last edition of *KOSA NEWS* we briefly announced the death of DAVID NICHOLAS (NICK) (49-54) and we have since received a summary of David's life from his wife, Marjorie:

'David was educated at Kingswood Grammar School (49-54) and joined the Bristol Aircraft Company in 1957. He returned to education and studied Mechanical Engineering at Battersea College of Advanced Technology, winning the 1960 Wells Gold Medal as best Mechanical Engineering Student. In 1962 he completed an MSc in Thermodynamics at Birmingham University.

'He married MARJORIE BRYANT (53-58) in 1962 and they had two daughters.

'David joined Rolls-Royce in 1964. He is remembered as being different from the other men in suits - preferring to dress in a rather dog-eared sports jacket. His expertise earned him great recognition and he was appointed Head of Fan and Compressor Design.

'In the mid-1980s, David led the design of the V2500 Compressor. The initial de-

signs suffered a series of setbacks but with David's determination and skill, the project was saved and also Rolls-Royce's reputation. The V2500 programme has since become highly successful with over 5000 engines delivered to date.

'The immense strain of the work involved took its toll on David's health and he suffered a heart attack in 1989. He made a good recovery and returned to work leading the teams working on Fan and Core Compressors for the Trent 700 and Trent 800 engines. There are now over 2000 of these engines in service. David retired in 1995 but those early Trents, to which he made a great contribution, laid the foundation for Rolls-Royce's success. The Trent family of engines will, by 2020, power more than half the wide bodied passenger aircraft flying in the world.

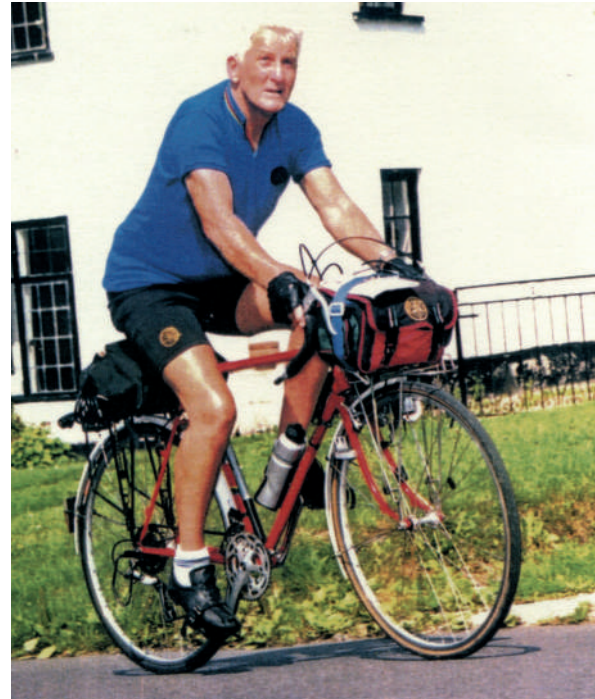
'As a person David was full of energy and enthusiasm - a great supporter of his staff and an educator of others. His innovations are flying in engines of aircraft all over the world. He is a great unsung hero of Rolls-Royce. As an engineer he has made a real difference to our world today and has left only friends and admirers. The Nicholas Spinner is the only technology named after its inventor that features in our engines today.

'David died of cancer, at home in the presence of his loving family.'

PETER BRAKE (46-51) passed away in September 2015:

Peter was born in March 1934 in his grandparents' house in Eastville. His grandfather was a lay preacher so the family regularly attended the Baptist Chapel in Downend. He attended Downend Junior School and spent 6 years at KGS, where he developed his love for sport, playing cricket and rugby

for the school. It was during these years that he began cycling, initially the 7 miles to school and back.



Peter left school and started working at Robinson's Waxed Paper Co and later he was conscripted into the forces in Germany, after which he resumed his job with Robinson's and stayed there for 5 years. He also joined the Paratroop Regiment of the North Somerset Yeomanry and the SAS, making numerous parachute jumps as part of his training.

Peter met his wife Margaret at a dance hall in Broadmead, and they were married in 1959. Peter had originally visited Pembrokeshire in 1946 in a group from KGS for potato picking. He became a rent collector for Pembroke RDC in 1960 and Peter initially camped at Freshwater East, Margaret joining him later. They eventually settled in Castlemartin where they bought a ruined cottage which they renovated and extended to become their family home.

Peter joined Texaco in 1968 as a berthing

master at Milford Haven until his early retirement in 1992. He joined Castlemartin Lodge of Freemasons in 1968, going through the chair in 1974. He would swap shifts at work so that he could attend lodge meetings. Peter became a founder member of Peddlers Cycling Club in 1990 and he cycled all over the UK and Europe, completing the 100-mile trip around Bristol in 8 hours when he was 79!

He made the most of his good health by taking flying lessons and also went on steam train trips to the West Country and Scotland. Holidays were taken on their canal boat, and the family holidays in the sun were to spend time with son Gwyn in Dubai, Cyprus and Saudi Arabia. In 2013, Peter was diagnosed with prostate cancer, and whilst undergoing radiotherapy in hospital in Swansea, he would go cycling around the area.

In spite of living in West Wales, Peter was an active member of KOSA, regularly attending lunches and the 46ers reunions. He will be missed by many this side of the Bristol Channel and seven members of the KOSA Community attended his funeral in October 2015.

JACK SANDOVER (45-53) has informed KOSA of his brother's death: 'I regret to have to inform you that my brother, BILL SANDOVER (36-42), passed away in Torquay on 5 December 2015. Bill and Barbara (Babs, nee Williams) first met at KGS and had many years of happy marriage until Babs' death in 2011. From KGS, Bill went to BAC and followed a career in engineering at Trowbridge, Loughborough and Torbay until Babs and Bill took over a hotel in Paignton where their family grew up. They leave two sons, Alan and Peter, grandchildren and great-grandchildren.'

RICHARD HALL (61-68) has informed Committee Member ALAN HIRESON (62-69) that COLIN FRY (60-67) has passed away. He lived in Kettering, Northants.

MARY MOSELEY (39-45) (now Rodgers) reports the death of MARGERY PHIPPS (39-44) (later Laws). Margery trained as a nurse and subsequently enlisted as an officer in the Queen Alexandra's Nursing Corps. She later married a doctor and moved to Prestbury, Cheshire after a spell living in Manchester. Survived by two daughters.

DAVID GIFFORD (53-60) has reported the death of his younger brother GEOFF GIFFORD (58-64) in Southmead Hospital on 7 December 2015: Geoff had an active career at KGS insofar as it's reported in *Kingswood Chronicles*. He was awarded form prizes for 1W in 58-59 and 2W in 59-60 and became a blue-star Prefect in 62-63. As the result of O-level results he was awarded the LV1 Science Prize and he played Sergeant of the Guard in the July 64 production of *Antigone*. In 1964 he obtained passes in Pure and Applied Maths at A-level.

It is with regret that we announce the death of Rev ALAN MERRITT (40-47) on the 1st March 2015 and his brother Rev ARTHUR MERRITT (40-47) on the 1st September 2015. Alan's son Michael has provided us with this brief sketch of their lives:

'Arthur and Alan were born and grew up at 16 Albert Road, Hanham. Their parents George and Cissie were both members of Hanham Methodist Church and this background obviously shaped their future lives. They both attended KGS together. Arthur joined the Army and served in India during the war, after which he studied to

be a Minister in the Methodist Church. Arthur married Iris Arscott from Hanham, they had 3 children Peter, Ann and Carol. After being ordained his first church was at Portland followed by Harrowgate, Northampton, Leicester and Weymouth where here retired. He died 6 months to the day after the death of his brother Alan whose death greatly affected him.

Alan left Kingswood at end of the war and went into the RAF and then followed Arthur into the Methodist Ministry. He was posted to Bilston in Staffordshire, Cheltenham, Swindon, Leicester and Staple Hill. Alan married Marion Millman from Sutcombe, Devon. They had three children, Michael, Stephen and Hilary. He retired in Staple Hill and spent many happy years there until the death of Marion. He then moved to Devon to be nearer his eldest son, Michael.

We have sadly also received news of the death of John Shellard (43-48) and Enid Whale (44-48) (later Hancocks). As we go to press, we have received news of the passing of Bob Lewis (33-40), husband of Emily Jackson (36-40) and Denley Perrett (49-56), wife of Jeff Ford (48-56).

To all those who have lost a loved one we extend our condolences. We are sure that our world is a better place from the contributions they have made.

BACK NUMBERS...

KOSA NEWS numbers 40 to 47 are now on the web and are fully searchable. Just go to www.kingsoakacademy.org.uk and click on the KOSA page. The back copies are listed in blue on that page.

Just left click on any particular edition you wish to search and it should open in

Acrobat software as a PDF document. If you don't have Acrobat already it can be downloaded free from the Web and can be used for many publications as well as the 'NEWS'.

To search a copy, press Ctrl+F and a box should appear at the top of the screen if not already there. Type your search term in the box and left click on one of the arrows to the right of it, depending whether you wish to search the publication forwards or backwards. Click again for the next occurrence of your chosen term. Replace the term in the box to search another term. Open another edition to search that one in the same way.

Sometimes it's useful to put in part or truncated terms for searching. For example, to search 'Pillinger' putting in 'Pilli' is often enough, but you can come up with surprises if an inadequate term is entered. For example, to find 'Hayman, 'Hay' would also find 'Haymarket'.

From now on we hope to add each edition to the list as it is published. But don't worry if you're not on the Web - we still plan to send out the usual hard copies by post. Good searching!

ADDRESSES...

We try to keep our KOSA database bang up-to-date on a regular basis. So when you change your address by down-sizing or moving to the seaside, please let us know.

If you know of anyone who would like to be added to the KOSA list, please let us know their address and years at Kingswood and we'll do the rest. They won't be pestered for money - all contributions are voluntary!

BRIAN'S BEEF...

BRIAN ILES (45-50) always has something interesting to say, and this edition is no exception:

'For me, No 47 was the best ever. Full to overflowing with good quality, worthwhile, and interesting stuff. And I'm not just saying this because several people acknowledged my article in No 46. Although, more about them later!

'Marking the achievements of Old Scholars (and thus paying tribute to the school's role) is one of the main things mags. like this are all about. It was great that JOHN HARRIS'S (53-60) letter (p 9) got into the *Guardian* to blow KGS' trumpet about the two most famous achievers of all. Not showing off, but just expressing local school pride in the national press. And what about FRANK DOBBINS (54-61) (obit p 4-5) and JOHN TIDBALL (56-59) (p19)! To me, they are just as remarkable; fascinating too - on account of the exotic nature of their academic pursuits. Old French music and poetry! Frank was a real whiz kid wasn't he, and as for John, I just think that translation of *poetry* is a step beyond clever.

'The reminiscences that took my eye were JOHN TIPPETT'S (53-59) (p8) DAVID FORWARD'S (61-64) *Pirates* (p11) and 'DOREEN PILLINGER's (48-53) (now Linear) *Remembers* (p16). I was interested in the 1951 G&S picture (p11), because it was near my time (45-50), and I wondered who the policemen were. In Doreen's piece, BILL KNIGHT'S (48-53) name jumped out. Being in his own clique (pronounced 'click' in local lingo) he never acknowledged me either, even in the school cricket team. He was a bit of a 'swinger' actually - a bowler that is - but I'm not sure whether the swing was in or out.

John's letter was of more immediate personal interest because of the paragraph about Roy Elliott at the Blue Bowl, Hanham. (He is captioned in the Blue Bowl book as D R Ellis). I got to know his sister JANET ELLIOTT (now Thomas) in 2014. She's an old scholar, now a Methodist deacon in Coventry, and came down to officiate at the funeral of George Elliott (co-author of the book) - who was their half-brother. All three lived at the pub.

Before getting on to the big stuff, I simply must thank JOHN BISHOP (52-59) (p17) for using the word 'football' three times, and 'soccer' not once in his rugby article.

And now for something completely different. One of my favourite features of the mag. in recent years has been the increase in the discussion of ideas. It's great to get news and gossip (indeed gossip is good for us if you believe the latest idea about its evolution!) but there is more to life. I think KGS was there to help us on the journey to seek its meaning, and it's interesting to check every six months to see how far they may have succeeded.

No.47 sported no less than three supporters of religion who responded to my take on it. Rev. JOHN HARRIS, to my surprise, commended it, but the other two were critical. Creationist DAVID ROSEVEAR'S (45-52) comments were predictable, but pleasantly expressed; however, me thought that Rev. JOHN LOXTON (40-47) did protest too much. 'Incredibly naïve' as a depiction of my (and the Ed's) atheistic contrasting of science and faith is a bit rich coming from the standpoint of Christianity. There are at least as many highly qualified people on 'our side' as the rev's. Dawkinists (as strident in their comparison of God with

Father Christmas as John is with his jibe) are in a minority amongst them. And they also include quite a few who have turned from religion, which is counter evidence to Alister McGrath's claims.

'The 'My dad's better than your dad' way of arguing doesn't get us very far. And however much scientists like David and John blind the likes of laymen like me with science, I could quote a whole bunch of experts using the same science to make an atheist case. In specific answer to David's denial of the impossibility of life without an intelligent 'originator' I think of Dan Dennet. I'm equally blinded by his algorithms theory. But (as far as I can understand) it seems at least as feasible as the creator theory which many Christians still hold to, and much more likely than Intelligent Design or Creationism.

'A final thought: John's admitting that Senior Mistress MISS QUINTON'S book *Scientific & Religious Knowledge* 'is hopelessly out of date now' is not much of a concession. Going by *Religion and Science*, Bertrand Russell (1936) and *Religion without Revelation*, Julian Huxley (1941) Miss Quinton's book was out of date before it was written.'

OLDIE ENTREPRENEUR...

ANN MORRIS (46-53) (previously Ridler, now Soutter) also seemed to like the last edition:

'No. 47 was another very enjoyable issue.

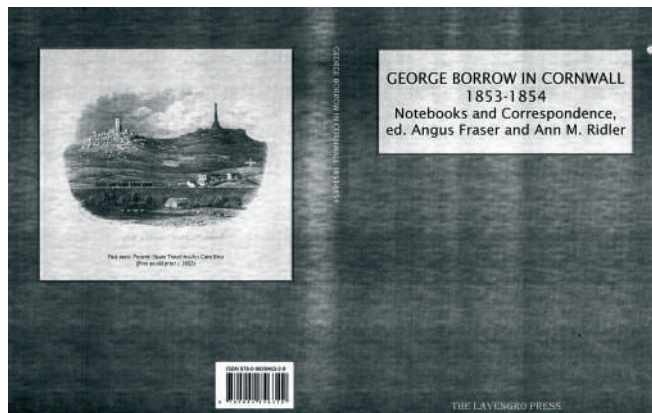
'Last year at the ripe age of 79 I established a modest publishing venture called The Lavengro Press, with a slightly younger colleague based in Norwich as a business partner. Having been founder-editor of the *George Borrow Bulletin* since

1991 and Chairman of the George Borrow Society since 1997, I was becoming frustrated with the general ignorance of Borrow amongst academics (with some honourable exceptions), and wanted to find some way of spreading the word about Borrow beyond the *Bulletin*.

'We are publishing three Occasional Papers a year, reprinting scarce existing material and commissioning new material, and have almost completed our second year. Publications are in paperback, well illustrated, in editions limited to 100 copies. As I do all the typesetting and design, and we have our programme planned for the next seven publications, I shall have plenty to occupy me in my eighties! Interested readers on the 'net should go to www.lavengropress.co.uk for further information and orders, or write to me at the address below. I attach a sample cover. The Press is independent of the George Borrow Society and the George Borrow Trust (see below).'

Dr Ann Soutter, St Mary's Cottage, 61 Thame Rd, Warborough, Wallingford OX10 7EA

e-mail ann@soutter.orangehome.co.uk
As Dr Ann Ridler, Editorial Director, The Lavengro Press; Chairman, The George Borrow Society; Editor, *The George Borrow Bulletin*. As Dr Ann Soutter, Chairman, The George Borrow Trust (Registered Charity no. 1114630)





57th BRISTOL SEA SCOUTS IN 1960 - for comments see DAVID HOLROYD's (57-61) letter on page 25.

THE GOWER...

The following is an extract from *Kingswood Chronicles - 54-55* on the Biology Expedition commencing on April 19th 1955.

Peaceful Horton was again invaded by the Biological Section. Although the party was considerably smaller than the previous year, it was far more successful in the collection of specimens. Luckily we were blessed with glorious weather, which in the holiday surroundings, enabled us not only to work with increased zest but also to enjoy the wonderful Gower Coast.

On the afternoon of our arrival we found the rotting carcass of a seal, and also started the specimen collection which we continued throughout the whole of our stay.....We made a belt transect on the west point of the bay, from the lowest mark of the tide up to the large rocks, but whilst we were having lunch, the tide swirled up to the spot we had reached

causing us to lose the middle section. It was then a race against the on-coming water to finish the upper part of the transect.

On our only visit to the East Point we found a vicious rock lobster and an eighteen inch dogfish, which although washed upon the rocks was alive, and so was returned to the sea. We made a line transect. That evening we were told to our utter amazement that we were to walk the next day, six miles by road, to Rhossilli. At Worm's Head we rested, had lunch, then continued work.

On Sunday we went to a service at the quaint old church of Port Eyon village, a mile across the sand dunes. It was on the sand dunes that we spent the afternoon studying the animal and plant life.

On the Monday night we had been promised a camp fire but for the first time it rained, and the camp fire was cancelled. However, we spent an enjoyable evening in the lounge. To our disappointment, the week was over.

Margaret Coleman & Margaret Hayes



MARY POWELL (51-56) (now Janes) has provided these photos of Gower '55. Above STAN BURRAGE (in school cap!), then BOB GRAY, MARY POWELL, with JILL WEST in front. Right shows BOB GRAY(left) and colleagues, just arrived or ready to cycle home?



KINGSWOOD GRAMMAR SCHOOL
FORM III L₂ 1959



KINGSWOOD GRAMMAR SCHOOL
HOCKEY JUNIOR XI 1960-61

Above is the Summer Term 1959 photo of 3L2. The form mistress is MISS RICHARDS, who taught Latin.

Left is the 1960-61 Junior Hockey XI supplied by MARILYN DRAPER.

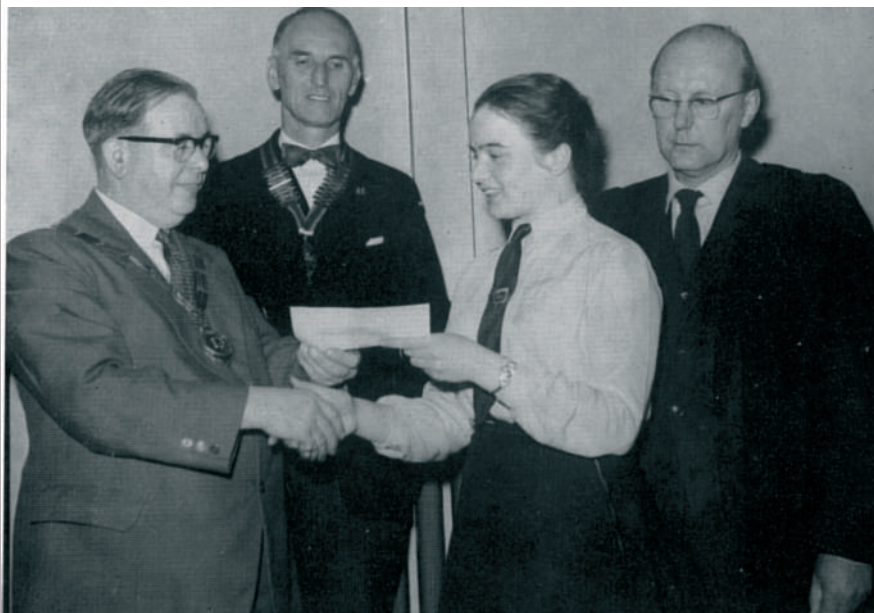
SNIPPETS...

From time to time we get brief but interesting snippets from the post.

CHRISTOPHER GREENFIELD (59-68) wrote of a spooky coincidence. Christopher is mentioned in the 1965-66 *Kingswood Chronicles* after taking part in the Mock Election. It opines 'Greenfield, the Liberal, spoke on Thursday; a wily old hand, who took part in the 1964 Election, he held forth with his usual eloquence and was well received.' In the 1968-69 *Chronicles* he is reported to have obtained a place at Leeds University after A-levels of English Literature, History and Geography. He writes:

'My son had an accident on 26 August 2015 and spent nearly a week in intensive care in Southmead Hospital. The bed he was in was donated by the musicians of Kingsfield School in 2004. A wonderful coincidence! Fortunately, he's now out of the Intensive Care Unit.'

JOSEPHINE CRITCHLEY (52-59) (now Turner) wrote a short card to KOSA. Jo, who was Head of School in 1959-60, was awarded the Senior Latin Reading Prize two years following in 1958 and 1959. In the photo (below) Jo is presenting a



cheque on behalf of the School to the Chairman of Kingswood UDC in aid of refugees. Jo writes:

'Many thanks to all concerned for your latest news-packed KOSA NEWS. So sad about some of the obituaries but I appreciate being kept informed.'

'The more I read about KGS the more I realise what a good school it has been.'

FROM FRANCE...

WILSON BARRETT (48-55), who has lived in Strasbourg for many years, corresponds from time-to-time with some pithy but apposite comments:

'Many thanks for the autumn 2015 issue of *KOSA NEWS*.

'It was interesting to learn that KGS 'produced' a specialist in French Renaissance music and another in Baudelaire's poetry.'

'Also of interest was the fact that King's Oak Academy (KOA) has been brought round 'from a failing situation, with low student numbers, to a strong recovery, as reflected in the latest Ofsted report. But can one be sure of the competence of Ofsted nowadays?

'I hope that you find a deputy editor (wishing to reside in the south of France!?)'

KOA has had a temporary Principal up to the end of December 2015. We look forward to meeting the permanently appointed Principal soon. - Ed.

OVERSEAS MEMBERS...

SHEILA PORTLOCK (44-49) (now Cor-rall) hopes to establish contact from the Iberian Peninsula...

'Greetings from Spain! You have very kindly been sending me the KOSA News for the past few years, for which, incidentally, I must owe a few shillings. (The news of decimalisation hasn't reached Spain yet! – Ed.) I have only just realised that it is available online (on www.kingsoakacademy.org.uk), so you could now remove me from the mailing list and save yourselves a bob or two!

'I have always been interested to read about the old school, although I'm afraid that I do not look back on my own time there with any great pleasure. I also get to read about the passing of my contemporaries (thank you), one of whom in the last edition was MAURICE BISHOP who I always rather fancied, so that was particularly sad.

'My reason for writing is that I often see BERENICE DYER'S (44-50) (now Robinson) name mentioned who was also a form-mate of mine and I have thought that it would be nice to get in touch with her. Would it be possible for you to give her my email address and she could contact me, or not, as she chooses? She would know me as Sheila Portlock.

'I note also, that there are other old scholars who live in Spain. Are there any who live in my area? If so, it may be nice to meet up. I am, as you know, in the Alicante/Valencia region, although we live inland, and do travel.

'I look forward to receiving a reply with your answers or comments, and wish you all the best in your search for a deputy so that you may gracefully (or should that be gratefully?) retire. Perhaps to Spain?

I can thoroughly recommend it!

Details requested have been sent to Sheila. We await news of the re-established contact between old friends! - Ed.

HELLO, MR PRESIDENT...

COLIN D. PENNY (43-47) has written to KOSA NEWS from the US:

'I attended KGS from 1943 to 1947. I had an accident on my way to school in June of that year and never returned. MAJOR EATON was the headmaster and I played football for the school, if I recall correctly the sports-master of the day was named WILDE, the only other teacher whose name comes to mind was MISS WHICHERLEY (English).

'Having a keen interest in chemistry I landed a job with Will's Paints in Bristol. I continued my studies at what used to be known as Merchant Venturers' College later to become the College of Technology. Having graduated I had to complete my service in the British Army. My fiancée and I had agreed to get married when I left the service, but things changed when I learned that there was a significant marriage allowance available. As the law required, my employer was obliged to employ me for at least six months after my service.

'During this period a product called Dis-temper was manufactured by paint companies in Britain. It was composed of coloured pigments dispersed in a glue solution. In Germany during the war, with a severe shortage of linseed oil, their chemists developed a product called Polyvinyl Acetate (PVA) emulsion. Following the war this technology became available in Britain and fortuitously for me this fact was to serve me well in future years.

'After the army we decided to try our luck

in Canada. I interviewed with a major paint manufacturer who had not started producing emulsion (latex) paint but was establishing a new lab for that purpose. I was hired and chosen to transfer the new lab formulas to the production facility, a step which has many problems and a good experience.

'I was then offered a job in Rhode Island by a company who was buying in their latex paints and was anxious to manufacture their own products. This too was a valuable experience. My next step was a company in Washington DC who were needing to update their products. In this country there was concern over a shortage of rubber. We developed styrene butadiene - synthetic rubber. The sap of the rubber tree is called latex, hence the term latex paint.

'During this period I learned of a manufacturer in Hampton, Virginia who was looking for technical assistance but who may have an interest in selling his company. Some months later having pulled together all of our financial resources we owned Hampton Paint Manufacturing Co. Hampton, Virginia is in the centre of the most militarized area in the US. Norfolk, nearby, is the largest naval base in the world; there are also major Air Force, Army & Marine bases. This obviously provided a major business base, for our products. Our sales personnel would be frequently asked for specialized products; instead of saying 'no' we would adapt existing products to suit the demands. We became the 'can do' company.

'Each year the National Business Association conducts a survey asking for recommendations from businesses for the most outstanding supplier for their needs. We were recognized as that com-

pany in the State of Virginia and later we learned that we had been recognized as the best company in the country! This meant a trip to Washington DC for a major banquet, luncheon with Senator John Warner (who, as he reminded us, had been married to a fellow countrywoman - Elizabeth Taylor) and the following day to the White House where I met and shook hands with President Ronald Reagan.



*To Colin Penny
With best wishes,
Ronald Reagan*

'Life returned to normal and I continued to run the business for many more years before deciding that the major paint companies were slowly squeezing out all of us smaller manufacturers. We closed the business but I continued to work as a consultant to the industry. During these years I was approached by the technical arm of the US Coatings Industry to ask me if I could assist in helping Columbia establish their own Technical Organization. With the help of some of my Technical Expert friends in this country we organized a technical conference in Medellin, Columbia. It was enormously successful. This was followed in subsequent years by similar events in Valencia,

Venezuela; Buenos Aires, Argentina; Guayaquil, Ecuador, and Lima, Peru. (During this period I learned Spanish, which was to serve me well with the many people I dealt with). I also worked with the Paint Industries in Mexico and Brazil. In each of these endeavours I was received with enthusiasm and courtesy and developed many friends. It was a wonderful period for my wife and me.

'I still continue to maintain an office to do the occasional consulting work. It would be most gratifying if there were people still around from my era who remember me and wish to communicate. My email address is paintek@cox.net'

Sorry to report that Colin's Presidential meeting is not unique for a KOSA member. JOHN GRAY (46-54) tells your Ed. that he has met both the Queen and the President of the United States. Any more famous meetings by KOSA members?

EXAMINATIONS...

In 'NEWS 46 we published one of the exam papers from the very first of the O-levels which took place in 1951. Prior to O-levels, the exam which was sat in the fifth year was the First School Certificate and MALCOLM HANKS (45-50) has loaned KOSA some of the very last papers which were set by the University of Bristol in July 1950.

The timetable for the exams shows them taking place over two weeks in July, from 3rd July to the 15th July. The exams took place on Mondays to Saturdays of both weeks, with exams on the weekdays set for the mornings and afternoons. Saturdays' exams were on the mornings only – a concession?

Mathematics was very intensively examined. The Mathematics papers were split

into Elementary Mathematics I and III (although far from Elementary by today's standards), and separate papers were set for Geometry and Algebra. There were also separate papers for Additional Mathematics (Algebra and Calculus) and Additional Mathematics (Geometry and Trigonometry). Presumably, a candidate would not be expected to sit all these papers, but to treat them as possible choices.

In Science there were General Science and Additional General Science papers, and separate papers for Chemistry. There was also a Physics-with-Chemistry paper and separate Biology and Botany papers.

On the practical side, there were papers in Handicrafts (Woodwork Drawing) and Handicrafts (Metalwork Drawing) and two papers in Geometrical and Machine Drawing. There was also a practical Woodwork exam. Malcolm writes:

'I was interested to read on page 24 the item from CILLA POWELL (46-51) about the introduction of O-levels in 1951. This means we '50 leavers would have been the last to take the Bristol University School Certificate.

'I am sure passing six subjects was required across three groups and with English Language a must pass.

'Cilla implied that a foreign language was required but this was not the case. There must have been some alternative in that group otherwise I and others would not have obtained our certificates.

Incidentally, PHIL DENT (45-52) would have been one of the last to take the Oxford University School Certificate in December 1950.'

ANOTHER HANCOCK..?

DAVID W COLE (51-56) writes:

'I read with interest your article in KOSA News regarding VIC YEOMAN's (55-60) 100th blood donation.

'First of all, many congratulations to Vic in having achieved this wonderful milestone. He will now be eligible to receive a whisky decanter as the award for this. The only problem is, it's empty when you get it!

'I first gave blood in May, 1961, and have continued to do so ever since, now having reached my 120th donation by September 2015. Over the last 54 years, I have witnessed many changes in the procedure, and the process is quite streamlined, and takes about 25 minutes from start to finish, and is relatively painless.

'I would encourage all who are able to commit themselves to this valuable effort to do so. My wife tells me that I risk boring people by talking about it, but over the years I have bored about 15 people into becoming donors!

COMMERCIAL...

MARION HARRIS (53-59) (now Biggs)



has sent in a photo of her group at KGS: 'I came across this photo of the Commercial 6th and perhaps you can use it.

'It was not my idea to go onto the Commercial 6th but my father insisted 'learn shorthand typing and you'll have a job for life' – I could also be of use to the family business! I'd wanted to go to Art College, but did find a good job I enjoyed and continued my interest in painting to the present day, passing this interest onto my daughter and now my granddaughter.

'I was another of HAROLD WATTS' (Art) pupils he kept in touch with by letter. Harold fought hard to get my father to let me finish the Art A-level course I'd started, but without success.'

The photo (below) is of MRS HIRST'S 6-Commercial of July 1959 taken in the Biology Lab. Garden, behind the gym. The members are:

Back row: Jennifer Bennett, Mrs Hirst, Gillian Brooks. Middle row: Sylvia Allen, Marion Harris, Mary Forty, Kay Aberly. Front row: Hazel Nix, Rosalind Dalziel, Tilly Hull, Hilary Whitlock.

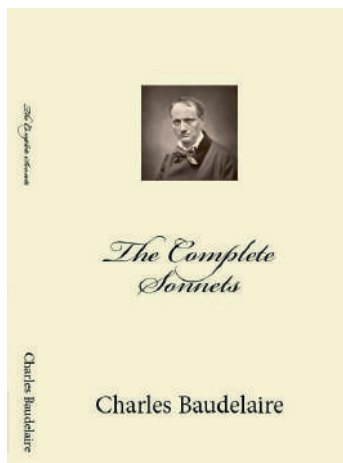
JILL RECALLS...

ROGER BISP (57-62) and his wife JILL MESSENGER (55-61) have now joined KOSA and Jill has memories of the end of term: 'I have very fond memories of my school days not least the fact that I was out of my front door, through a hole in the hedge and into the classroom. Also my mother always had a cup of tea ready at the end of term when she heard the sound of *Jerusalem* coming from the hall. Roger says his were not so good - something to do with HEADMASTER. RIDLEY!'

MORE FLOWERS...

JOHN TIDBALL (56-59) has produced an augmented edition of his work on Baudelaire. He writes:

'My latest (and probably last) edition of *Les Fleurs du Mal*. Now increased to 154 poems plus 8 additional poems, all with facing-page translations; 470 pages, 18 months work...



'Coming soon, my own 'definitive' edition of *Les Fleurs du Mal*, the posthumous 1868 edition rearranged and augmented as I imagine Baudelaire

might have done had he lived to oversee it. The editors at that time included poems which obviously do not belong, for example an adaptation of Longfellow's *The Peace Pipe* from *Hiawatha*. They also gave little thought to the arrangement of the new poems that they added and they were not able at the time to include the banned poems, which I have now restored to their original positions in the 1857 edition. This has been a long process but it is finally nearing completion.'

MORE FROM WENDY...

WENDY EDWARDS (51-57) (now Crookes), in spite of being a contemporary of your Ed. is not remembered by him. Wendy continues from her last email from Australia:

'If it makes you feel better I don't remember you either, the reason may be that I started off in 1B and then moved to 1C. I came bottom of the class that year because I missed the last two exams,

putting my arm through a glass door rushing out to play tennis, I still have the scar! MISS MORRISON took me to Cossham Hospital. One of the exams I missed was Music, so the outcome may not have changed! I was demoted despite many complaints by my mother.

'So....up through the Cs, until I was part of the division experiment, four girls and four boys. I think a rather sweet French teacher MISS WILTON? was a form mistress at some stage. I was a very keen theatre goer and had season tickets for the Bristol Old Vic from a very early age, and sat behind a very embarrassed Miss Wilton and MR PETE (Maths) on one occasion. In fact I met my husband on a blind date at the Bristol Old Vic, blind on my part not his.

'I remember MISS BAILEY was our form teacher in the sixth form, and she encouraged us all to talk about our hobbies. I gave a very enthusiastic talk about the theatre and persuaded the whole class to see a production of *Look Back in Anger* with Peter O'Toole playing Jimmy Porter. It seemed to be a great success, although a certain element were more keen on getting to the bar in the interval! The name BARRY BROWN springs to mind!

'I lived in Hanham, Creswicke Ave. next door to MARGARET LOVELL (50-55). Our photograph together appeared on page 22 of the last edition. For many years my father ran the garage on the corner of Moravian Road and High St Kingswood.

'Now I really must stop and take my dog for a walk. Don't know if you are familiar with Australia, but Apollo Bay is on the Great Ocean Road that runs from Geelong to Portland, a coastline of great

natural beauty and one of Victoria's great tourist destinations. Now really must stop and take my dog for a walk!

RETROSPECTIVE...



Porthminster Gallery in St Ives has published a booklet entitled *Retrospective - 50 Years On* containing photographs of MARGARET LOVELL'S (50-55) sculptures and selected drawings over the years.



It also contains a selected biography and a list of her public commissions and major solo and group exhibitions. Available from info@porthminstergallery.co.uk.

THE RIDLEYS...

We are indebted DEREK BAILEY (49-53) for information on two of HEADMASTER NORMAN RIDLEY'S (49-76) grandchildren

Marian Ridley is Director of the Executive

Team which runs Evelina London, the Children's Hospital which is part of Guy's & St Thomas' Hospital. You can Google her if you wish to know more.

Derek thinks that your Ed. will soon need the services of Dr Simon Ridley, who is engaged with Alzheimer's Research UK developing drugs for dementia sufferers. There's an interesting three-minute piece featuring him on You Tube. Go to <https://www.youtube.com/watch>.



Derek also sent this photo of Headmaster Ridley and his first wife Doris, taken in 1952.

Ridley arrived at KGS in 1949 in succession to MAJOR EATON, the same time as Derek Bailey. The Ridley family 'adopted' Derek as part of his family and we all wondered at the time what it must have been like to 'lodge' with the headmaster of the school which he attended. Since then Derek has given us snippets from time-to-time of life with the Ridleys, which are always interesting.

27-28-HOCKEY...

Dorothy and Eric.'



DOREEN PILLINGER (48-53) (now Lindegaard) has dug into the past with this photograph:

'I thought you would like to see this photo of the KGS hockey team, possibly 1927/8. My 2nd cousin once removed, MARGARET HAYMAN (23-28) (I think) is in the back row, fifth row, second from the right.

'I understand Margaret cycled to school from Oldland Common, often accompanied by another student called Bernie who eventually achieved world-wide renown as SIR BERNARD LOVELL of Jodrell Bank. She excelled at Sports and Music at KGS and won a scholarship to the Slade School of Art, but unfortunately her parents could not afford to let her take it up.

'Margaret was widowed three times and died aged 96 in 2009 when she was Mrs Hamblin. She is survived by two children,

REMEMBERING COLIN...

It is hoped that there will be annual memorial lectures in remembrance of space scientist COLIN PILLINGER (54-61). His wife Judith arranged with Kings Oak Academy for the first lecture to take place on 13 November 2016.

We were very fortunate to obtain Dr Matt Taylor to deliver the lecture. Dr Taylor was one of the lead scientists on the Rosetta mission which landed a probe on comet Churyumov-Gerasimenko in November 2014. He will be remembered as the spokesman on TV who always wore a colourful shirt. He didn't disappoint us with either his lecture nor his shirt!

Unfortunately, Dr Taylor was on a time constraint and was unable to stay to answer questions. KOSA were only able to obtain a photo in the taxi as he left to catch a train.



The other photo (below) is of JUDITH PILLINGER, Colin's widow, STAN BURRAGE (51-56), KOSA Chairman and DOREEN PILLINGER (48-53) (now Lindegaard), Colin's sister, taken after the talk at KOA.



An additional annual memorial lecture entitled *An Hour on the Moon* was held in the University of Bristol Great Hall on 25 November 2015. This comprised three short talks given by Dr Marek Kukula, Public Astronomer at the Royal Observatory, Greenwich; physicist Dr James Carpenter, European Space Agency and author Dr Peter Cadogan, Cotswold Astronomical Society.

...AND BERNARD LOVELL...

A repeat of the hour-long TV programme was broadcast by BBC4 in December 2015 about Professor SIR BERNARD

LOVELL's achievements in building the Lovell Telescope at Jodrell Bank.

The programme covered the period after WW2 when he and others from the University of Manchester occupied a field in Cheshire and used ex-war surplus equipment to build a radio telescope to survey the heavens.

The vision and construction of a large-dished radio telescope followed, accompanied by cost over-runs which encouraged the bureaucrats to question the sanity of the whole project with a stereotypical government enquiry.

Opinions changed when space exploration was entered into by the USSR and the US and Lovell's telescope was the only equipment able to track the space attempts. Lovell worked for both sides of the Iron Curtain and Lord Nuffield wrote a cheque to pay off the balance owed.

Bernard Lovell is portrayed as someone whose tenacity and vision put the UK in the front of space exploration, and it continues to do so today.

ALGERIA...

JEFF CHALK (53-59) is much-travelled and he has called on his experience to enter a *Sunday Telegraph* writing competition. Jeff won a £350 voucher with DialAFlight with this entry:

Our two children gazed in awe at the figure before them. The tightly wound indigo turban was drawn closely across the face of the tall Tuareg warrior leaning on his slim iron spear. His contrasting pale blue robe was cinched firmly around his waist by a belt securing a short hand-tooled Sudanese sword in a red leather scabbard. The traditional dress is displayed for the tourists visiting Pere de Foucauld hermitage at Assekrem, high in the shattered moon-

scape mountains of the Saharan Hoggar range near Tamanrasset. The desert journey to reach this fantastic landscape is a scenic switchback of flat stony plains, and truck trapping "fech-fech" sand basins, but the tribulations of the trail pale beside the exquisite, alluring dunes. Very high, and often crowned with a plume of wind-driven sand, they are a photographer's paradise at dusk and dawn when the swirling golden crests are etched with dark shadows beneath a cold azure sky.

PAULINE'S SUCCESS...

PAULINE WARR (57-63) (now Cole) has written:

'I have received my KOSA News today with my last 2 addresses on it and I am ashamed to say that I have not told you about my NEW address. It is Yonder Park, 3 Great Lane, Malborough, Kingsbridge Devon. TQ7 3SA.

'Every time the KOSA comes I hope to read about someone I knew at KGS and very rarely do. I am VERY aware now that I wasted my time and chances at KGS and I regret that now and have for many years. Still, I live in a lovely part of the country, have been happily married for 45 years and have 2 children and 4 grandchildren so I think I did the right thing! My sister Margaret and brother Tony Warr also went to KGS so if anyone wants a contact to them let me know.'

A SCOUTER...

New member DAVID HOLROYD (57-61) has dropped KOSA a line:

'My brother sent me a link from your website as he is now a Head Teacher in the Bristol area.

'I attended KGS from 1957 to 61 but left the area at the end of fifth year and moved to Cheltenham and then Dorset

and now live here in Essex. I did register on the Friends Reunited site many years ago and a couple of people did make contact but that now looks defunct .

'My Parents move away meant I lost touch with most people although a few of the former 57th Bristol Sea Scout Troop kept in contact until the mid-seventies. Would be very interested to hear from anyone who was involved in what was a lively troop.

'The picture of the 57th Bristol Sea Scouts is a real winner. As you look at Scoutmaster CHRIS WILKINSON I am to the right sporting my stripes with LES EVANS also a Patrol Leader at the time, next to me. Never heard what became of him. (Perhaps someone can let us know – Ed.)

'At the very far left as you look is BRIAN HODGES who was last heard of around 1975 in Salisbury. There was a film made by the Scout District and Brian was in the major role. That was where we met him and kept in touch for a year or two.

'Missing from this picture, I think is MICHAEL STEVENS who was an assistant scout master for some years. He lived in Downend and later in Keynsham and Sidmouth. He left the BBC early and was a doughty campaigner for disabled people. I met him late eighties here in Essex. I was then the local Director of Social Services, having earlier worked for a Social Services professional body. We lost touch in 2013.

'What a wonderful memory trip the picture provided.'

The photograph of the 57th Scout Troop taken in 1960 to which David refers is on page 14.



55ers REUNION...

GEOFF COLE (55-60) writes...

The annual Autumn lunch at Lincombe Barn on 10th October last was also the occasion when a small group of those who started at KGS 60 years earlier caught up with each other, many not having seen each other since leaving school.

Several travelled from parts of the West Country, GORDON JACKSON came from Oldham, and BEV (JOHN) SUMMERILL from France but special mention has to be made of TERRY ANSTEY who travelled from his home in Vancouver, Canada.

Class photographs from 1955 to 1961 were pored over, memories were jogged and stretched, stories told, absent friends remembered and a thoroughly enjoyable time was had by all, as can be seen from the photograph on page 26.

Those pictured (from the left) are TERRY ANSTEY, GEOFF FORWARD, ROGER WINDSOR, JOHN WINCHESTER, ALAN VEALE, GEOFF "WOOKEY" COLE, BEV (JOHN) SUMMERILL, VIC YEOMAN, DIANE WOGAN (now Harris), JOHN CLOTWORTHY, JANE HODDER (now Shewring), TONY DOWN and GORDON JACKSON. Also attending not in the photograph was JACKIE HILL.

Although not an 'anniversary' why not try to come to next year's lunch, either April or October, who knows who you might meet – see future KOSA News for details.

WELCOME...

To those joining KOSA since the last 'NEWS, maiden names where appropriate: Roger Bundy and Elaine Davis (56-?), Matt Millard (79-85), Janet Elliott (53-

59), David Holroyd (57-61), Jim Cousins (61-65), Roger Bisp (57-62) and Jill Messenger (55-61), John Clotwothy (55-62), Gillian Hull (49?), Kaye Thorne (50-53), Alan Thomas (64-71), 58-65). If you know of anyone who might like to receive KOSA NEWS just let us know - with their permission, of course.

BACK PAGE...

Features the motley crew from the 1960 production of HMS Pinafore. The photo was sent to us by TERRY ANSTEY (55-62) who lives in Vancouver BC. Terry came to the 55ers reunion which was organised with the last Autumn Lunch. Terry is the one seated in the dead centre of the photo, looking rather pensive...

KOSA HISTORY...

KOSA was originally formed in 1926 five years after the founding of Kingswood Secondary School, so 2016 is its 90th year. Headmaster MAJOR EATON was its first president and members of the school staff were vice-presidents. Initially, there were 56 members.

They eventually formed a Dramatic Club, a Cycling Club and Hockey and Football Clubs. It held reunions, mainly in the form of dances, rambles, excursions and treasure hunts. Cultural activities were also arranged in the form of lectures, debates, discussions and film shows.

Post-war, KOSA morphed into the EATONIAN SOCIETY which held an annual lunch mainly for those at KGS in the days when MAJOR EATON was Head.

After some informal reunions a group of us joined with the Society in 1986 which then reverted to the KOSA, with the formal Constitution and a Committee, which we have today.

