



KOSA NEWS



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

Editor: Mike Bendrey, 26 Overndale Road, Downend, Bristol, BS16 2RT

Tel: 0117 956 5689 E-mail address: kosanews@tiscali.co.uk

www.kingsoakacademy.org.uk



EDITORIAL...

As we are getting ready to go to the printers, the media is regularly reporting that our new Prime Minister is planning to give the go-ahead for the establishment of new grammar schools in certain areas in the country. Obviously, this is set to become a political football all over again, after the battle to abolish them had been fought and won in the 60s.

I was interested in two letters to *The Times*. One pointed out that Germany had persisted with its *Gymnasien* (Grammar Schools), which may have contributed to its better social mobility than the UK. Another, which I tended to agree with, asked the question why did we get rid of a successful educational system. Why not keep it and concentrate on improving that part of the system which is failing?

Surely the key is to have a successful alternative to the grammar schools and a mechanism for transfers between the two at more ages than just eleven.

The Editor

DIARY DATES:

AUTUMN LUNCH:

This popular event is booked for **SATURDAY, 8th OCTOBER 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. This year we hope to celebrate those who left KGS in 1956, 60 years ago. 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'.

46ers REUNION:

The date for the December lunch at KATHLEEN HARDWICK (now FILER'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, 22nd APRIL 2017** at Lincombe Barn, Downend. Please book the date in your diary now. Your chance to question the Committee.

OBITUARIES...

BOB LEWIS (33-40) died on 10th December 2015, aged 92.

Bob was born in a house that was built by his grandfather. At the age of five he was enrolled at Samuel White School, Hanham but on his first day he was violently sick and sent home. On the second day he was caught trying to run away but was detained. On the third day he tried again, this time succeeding, being spurred on by a local workman calling out "Go to it kid". Luckily both of his parents were school teachers and they agreed to tutor him at home.

When he was ten years old he decided he wanted to go to school. Spending a year at Samuel White School was a requirement for entry to KGS which he subsequently attended. He was a studious pupil, showing a flair for languages,



obtaining first prize in Latin. It was here that Bob and EMILY JACKSON (36-40), his wife, first met and became friends, although they lost touch when they left school.

At the outbreak of WW2 Bob had already been accepted by Bristol University so his call up was deferred for two years, allowing him to partly complete his de-

gree. Upon call up he moved to Military Intelligence Signal Corps and he was posted to Delhi, a Bletchley Park outstation where Bob monitored Japanese signals until 1945 when he was sent to Singapore - to monitor the Russians.

Bob was demobbed in 1947 to return to Bristol University to complete his degree. From there he obtained a teaching post at Bristol Cathedral School principally teaching French and he was there until he retired. There he was heavily involved in setting up the Bristol Bordeaux exchange and sponsored an annual language prize. He rode to school on a motor bike and in one of the school magazines he was described as The Red Head on his Hot Rod!

He met his first wife, Doreen, when he went to post a letter and they were very happily married for 53 years. In 1995,

Bob met Emily again at a KOSA oak planting ceremony at Kingsfield to commemorate fallen scholars. Emily was already widowed and after Doreen's death Emily and Bob continued their friendship. They were married at St Peter's Church in Pilning in 2007. As KOSA were partly responsible for getting them together, your Ed attended the happy oc-

casion.

Recently Bob's health deteriorated and despite his strong will to live sadly he died, quickly and peacefully at Thornbury Hospital. He was a lovely man and will be greatly missed by his family and friends. The photo (above) is of Bob and Emily on a happy day out.

LIONEL HARRIS (52-57) has informed KOSA of his wife's passing: 'DIANE WOGAN (55-61) (later Harris) died on 1 July 2016 at St Peter's Hospice after a period in which she suffered from a rare form of leukaemia. Her funeral was held at Bath Crematorium. She was 71.



'Diane was born in South Africa in 1944, her mother was South African and her father Welsh, serving in the RAF. She came to the UK with her parents when she was a small child and lived in

Wales with her grandparents, but returned to SA due to ill health. When she eventually came back to the UK to settle with her parents her father obtained a job with BAC and she eventually settled in Kingswood.

'After KGS she worked briefly for the Inland Revenue, but then worked for Kingswood Council where she met Lionel. They married in 1965. Between spells of bringing up the family of two children, she stayed with Kingswood Council until she eventually retired as the Senior Housing Officer. She and Lionel bought a house in Cape Town where they spent many holidays.

'She loved travelling overseas and, being a well-organised and sociable lady, she organised her funeral service and the request that name-tags be given to those

who attended the reception afterwards, setting out the circumstances in which they knew her. Judging by the attendance at her funeral, she will be missed by many.' Lionel said that Diane was incredibly proud to have been educated at KGS and was never afraid to praise her time there to anyone who would care to listen.

RALPH RAWLINGS' (47-55) passing has been recorded by his wife, Sue: 'RALPH was born and brought up 57, Church Road, Soundwell. He went to KGS. when he was 10 years old, having been entered for the 11 plus a year early as he was considered to be 'bright', but he found it quite difficult to adjust, and would be the first to admit that he didn't apply himself to academic work, getting into several scrapes.

'Sport, especially rugby and cricket, was his forte and when he left school, he played rugby for Kingswood Old Boys and cricket for Bethesda CC. When injuries curtailed his playing career, he took up umpiring, and qualified to umpire at County 2nd XI matches.

'After National Service in the RAF, Ralph went to Borough Road Teacher Training College, Isleworth. The majority of his teaching career was spent at The Ridings High School, Winterbourne, where he became Head of Lower School. This involved a lot of administration, but he also managed to teach Geography. He took early retirement at 57 and afterwards enjoyed spending time with his family, listening to music and travelling, mostly in the UK, his favourite places being Cornwall, the Lake District and Wales. He died on April 5th 2015, aged 78.'

JANET LEES (45-50) (later Clark) has informed us of her sister's death: 'MARGARET LEES (41-46) (later Bamford and Tapsell), was known to me as Margot because Dad didn't want her to be called Maggie!



My first memories were when we were bombed during the Blitz when unfortunately Mum lost her leg during the raid, which changed our lives for ever. We had temporary accommodation with friends and lived on Warmley Hill for a time and eventually moved to a house in Pamall Rd Fishponds.

'We both went to KGS but Margot had finished when I started. After KGS she joined Fry's at Keynsham where on Friday nights she could have an allowance of broken chocolate, so this was when my sister was my best friend!

'We moved back to Kingswood when the house was rebuilt and Margot worked at Rolls Royce where she met Bob (Bamford) her first husband. They had a daughter Rhona before he developed MS and later died.

'Margot was always interested in politics and she joined the Labour party at 16 and about fifty years later she went to No. 10 and met Tony Blair, but cried when Tony Benn lost his seat. She served on Avon County Council and other local councils, and also helped with the South Glos Disability Group.

'Through the Labour party Margot met her second husband. They loved their camper-van and they would tour the con-

tinental for weeks at a time. She was an extraordinary woman and did things her way. She wasn't interested in housework, but was a beautiful seamstress and did the most wonderful embroidery; the flame on the back of the Bishop's cloak was sewn by Margot. In the 70s she built a Mirror dinghy in her back garden which she would put on the roof of her car and take to Poole harbour to sail. Her daughter still sails today.

'Another pleasure was singing. When she was a teenager she would sing in churches on Sunday afternoons and also folk clubs. The worst thing that happened to Margot was to lose her hearing and she could no longer hear music.

'She always called me 'little sister' and I shall miss her.

FRED WARD (54-61) has informed us of his ex-wife's passing:

'JUDY SKUSE (57-63) (later Ward) died on Easter Monday 2016 after a long illness.



She transferred to KGS from Hanham Secondary Modern when she was 12 years old and joined the first year intake but eventually caught up with her peers in the sixth form.

Her parents moved from Hanham to take over the post office and hardware store in Broomhill but Judy completed her schooling at KGS.

'She was an active member of Hanham Methodist Youth Club along with many others from school. She met FRED WARD (54-61), her future husband, after

a night out with her friend JUDY LASBURY (56-63) in a café on Park Street. It was a snowy night and Fred and a friend, TREVOR SCANTLEBURY (54-59) gave them a lift home in Trevor's car. Judy joined Fred at Bath College of Higher Education and they were married in 1966 and both taught in Bristol primary schools before going to teach in Santiago, Chile. Over her career in education, Judy taught across a wide range of age groups from nursery to secondary. She became an advisory teacher for special education in Wiltshire and was involved in in-service training both in the county and USA. Her final post was as head teacher of Easton Royal Primary School in Wiltshire.

'Judy and Fred were divorced in 1992 and Judy continued to live in Whitley near Melksham. Just after she retired she was diagnosed with kidney cancer and moved to Lyme Regis to be near her daughters, Sarah and Helen. Judy's legacy continues as Helen is head teacher of a very large primary school in Devon.'

MARJORIE ROBERTS (1941-45) (later SAGE) passed away in May 2016:



Marjorie was born at home in 1930 in Two Mile Hill, Kingswood, moving later to Moravian Road where she grew up. She attended High Street Primary School and then won a scholarship to KGS. She lived through the WW2 and although many children in Kingswood were evacuated,

Marjorie always felt fortunate that this did not include her. Not being evacuated had its drawbacks, as Marjorie and her parents often had to take shelter under their table during air raids when the bombs were falling.

Marjorie met her best friend Peggy when she was 12 at Kingwood Youth Club. When older, they would often go on holiday together. Over the years all the family regularly visited Peggy at Glastonbury, and frequently went to the Glastonbury Carnival together.

At school Marjorie considered being a teacher but instead joined The Atlas Insurance Company, in Bristol, where she worked until her son David was born in 1956. She was such a good employee that they wanted her to stay on after his birth.

Marjorie met DEREK SAGE at KGS and they married in 1953, starting their married life together in Staple Hill. They later bought a piece of land in Winterbourne Down and became one of the first to obtain a mortgage for a self-build home there.

Daughter Linda was born in 1960 and Marjorie spent a lot of time at her parents' house in Kingswood. However, buses to Kingswood did not run from Winterbourne Down so she would often walk to Kendleshire to catch the bus. Marjorie was an active member of Winterbourne Down WI, and for many years she worked on a voluntary basis at the office at Fromeside Youth Club. She later spent time inspecting residential and nursing homes and also working for WRVS.

Marjorie had many talents, from knitting, needlecraft, and being able to do beautiful smocking. After Derek died Marjorie

started painting in watercolours and attended a number of painting classes. She also became a founder member of Winterbourne Down Ladies Probus club, joined The Golden Circle and rejoined the WI, this time in Winterbourne.

She was also a generous supporter of many charities, which was how she continued to reach to the outside world once she became confined to living at home. Something that Marjorie thought important to do.

SUSAN ALLEN (now Harris) (58-65), describes herself as a school mate, friend and colleague of JOY MALLIN:

'It is with sadness that I inform you of the death of JOY MERILYN MALLIN a pupil at the school in 1958 - 65.

'Joy went on to train as a teacher of physical education at I.M. Marsh, Liverpool, returning to teach at Filton High School for many years. She had suffered with ill health for a long period and died in June 2016.'

Andrea, the wife of RICHARD BUTTON (56-63) has written to inform KOSA of his passing:

'Richard died on 29 June 2016 after a long term illness. He was born in Bristol in 1945 and lived in Staple Hill as a child. After leaving KGS in 1963 he spent most of his working life at British telecom (formerly Post Office Telephones).

'After taking early retirement in 1995 he devoted his time to his hobbies of steam trains and aviation and was well-known in various clubs and organisations in the Bristol area which specialised in those subjects.

'Richard and his wife Andrea moved to Devizes in 2013 and were members of

U3A (University of the Third Age) and Richard was able to pursue his hobby of aviation interest with their aviation group. Until his move to Devizes, he regularly attended KOSA lunches. He will be sadly missed.'

ROGER DONE (55-62), who was at Imperial College with MIKE CARTER, sends KOSA this eulogy (abridged) of his colleague's passing, prepared by Mike's brother:

'MIKE CARTER (55-62) was born in Thornbury, and after the war the family moved to Kingswood. Mike's love of adventure was satisfied by him joining the cubs and later the scouts at Kingswood Holy Trinity Church.

'At Junior School Mike showed himself to be a bright pupil passing the 11 plus and secured a place at KGS. Mike's contemporary was COLIN PILLINGER, the scientist responsible for designing the Beagle II Mars Lander.

'At KGS, Mike succeeded in passing his A Level exams a year early and headmaster RIDLEY, aware of his pupil's ability, invited his parents to his house with the aim of trying to persuade them to consider letting Mike go to university. The headmaster was successful since in the following year Mike passed the entrance exam for Imperial College, London and was accepted for a physics degree course. Mike always said that his University years were his golden years.

'After university Mike joined Plessey, a telecommunication firm, at baronial Taplow Court in Maidenhead. Plessey's financial situation worsened and they decided to close the offices at Taplow Court and move to new premises in Nottingham, so after only two months of marriage Mike and wife Marlin moved to

Beeston. Mike continued to work for Plessey who were subsequently taken over by GEC and Siemens, then Marconi and finally Ericsson.

'At 64 years of age, Mike was offered a good redundancy package which he decided to take. In his working life, he worked as a Design and Research Electronics Engineer and developed several patents connected with telecommunications.

'Mike was always interested in technology, and as a teenager, he would build crystal sets, which would necessitate wires leading from his bedroom window, around the side of the house to the apple tree – much to his mother's disapproval!

'Life for Mike and Marlin was good. They enjoyed many holidays in Europe and America. Marlin was a good cook and liked to entertain family and friends. Mike enjoyed walking and belonged to the Rambling Association. He also liked cricket and for a long time was the Treasurer and Scorer for Plessey's Cricket Club.

'In later life Mike studied French at evening classes which eventually led to a Final Diploma in French of the Chartered Institute of Linguists. He was also a blood donor and gave blood on a regular basis for over 25 years.

'On March 29th 2013, Marlin died suddenly. She had a stroke which she did not recover from. She was only 50 years old, and after 25 years of marriage, Mike found himself on his own. He later developed cancer.

Sadly just after Christmas, Mike's fight for life ended and he passed away peacefully in his sleep on 28th December 2015.'

ROBERT COTTERELL'S wife asks if anyone has information on his life at KGS: 'ROBERT COTTERELL (45-50), born in April 1934. He arrived in Australia on his own in March 1952 and passed away in Feb 2016. I am not sure of the year Robert attended KGS, he only spent one year as his parents could not afford the costs.

'Robert became a teacher and preacher of the gospel in Australia, Japan, Korea, and the Philippines. He used to subscribe to the newsletter and was in touch with JOAN STAMMERS and remembers NORA McKENZIE, if I remembered it right. If anyone remembers him, I would like to hear some stories to pass on to his 12 year old son, young Robert.'

DENLEY PERRETT (49-56), wife of JEFF FORD (48-56), passed away in December 2015 at the Sue Ryder home in Cheltenham after a period of illness, followed by a private family funeral in January.

However, friends and family were invited to honour Denley's memory at a remembrance event held at The Old Lodge, Minchinhampton, Gloucestershire on 14 January 2016. The room was packed with friends and relatives, a reflection of the regard in which she was held by all who knew her. Photographs of Denley's active life were arranged around the walls.

At KGS Denley entered wholeheartedly into the school's activities. In 1951 she was in the chorus of Major General Stanley's Daughters in the *Pirates of Penzance* and again later in 1955 as an alto in the production of *The Bartered Bride*. She was awarded the Choir Prize as an alto in 1956.

As well as singing, Denley was also keen on sporting activities. She was in the Junior Hockey XI and was also in the Senior



KINGSWOOD GRAMMAR SCHOOL
HOCKEY 2ND XI 1954-55

Hockey Team in 1955-56, as well as being Captain of Tennis for which she was awarded her Colours in 1955 for the First VI. She was also a Prefect whilst in the VIth form. She is shown (above) in the middle of the front row of the 54-55 2nd XI Hockey Team.

Denley left KGS to attend Teacher Training College at Newton St Loe (now Bath Spa University) and had a successful career as a teacher at schools in Gloucestershire. Denley and Jeff had two boys, Andrew and Miles.

Although the letter below from LAURA PALMER (40-47) (now Jones) includes an obituary, it also includes some interesting aspects of her time during wartime KGS and later university:

'Let me congratulate you on your production of *KOSA NEWS*. Thank you for all the time and effort you put into it. Your readers look forward to each edition: it's a good read and the quality of the contributions pay tribute to the standard of education provided at KGS.

'My brother, GEORGE PALMER (37-44), and I, both attended KGS after passing the 11+. George became Head Boy and was also Captain of the Cricket XI and the Soccer XI. Always athletic, he won three cups at his final Sports Day for High Jump, Long Jump and 100 yards Sprint. After completing his National Service as a Coldstream Guardsman, George went into Quantity Surveying and became very successful. He died after a stroke in 2008. I wasn't athletic but was Head Girl when I left.

'I am writing to report the death of one of my contemporaries, JOAN BRIDGES (40-47 (later Lee):

Joan came to KGS from Downend Junior School. We were part of the wartime intake and when we arrived in September 1940 workmen were just finishing Air-raid shelters that had been excavated at the bottom of the school field. Fortunately they were only needed on a few occasions and those were false alarms.

'The wartime shortages had not really



'In 1947 Joan and I were amongst those at our school who were awarded County Major Scholarships on the results of our Higher School Certificates (equivalent of today's A-level) and we both joined the English Dept. of Bristol Uni-

started and we had a strict uniform list: brown gymslips, cream silk blouses and brown cardigans or blazers in Winter and cream silk dresses in Summer. Hats were 'de rigueur' travelling to and from school. We had brown velour hats complete with school hat band or a brown cloth pull-on hat in Winter and a cream panama with hat band in Summer. We were expected to change into brown leather button-up house shoes on arrival! As shortages increased some of these regulations were relaxed, changed or removed. KGS was a happy place under the regime of MAJOR EATON (Headmaster) and 'FLO' POWELL, Senior Mistress with responsibility for girls' welfare.

'When we reached the Sixth form the girls had a small Common Room across the corridor from Flo's study. It was there that a grapevine was planted that kept a group of us in touch for the rest of our lives even though we lived in different parts of the country and MEGAN DAVIES (later Clive) who died recently, lived in Canada. We made an effort to meet up from time to time: sometimes at school reunions and in other places.

versity. We lived at home, had our fees paid and were given a small grant (mine was £90 a year) for expenses - books, clothes, lunches, transport etc. Fortunately our families continued to provide free board and lodging.

'Our year group was made up of other Bristol students; students from neighbouring areas like Stroud and Warminster who lived in digs during the week and went home at weekends; students from other parts of the country living in University halls of residence; and a group of ex-servicemen who were certainly older and probably much wiser than the rest of us.

'We made lots of good friends and Joan met her future husband who was in the group a year ahead of us. After graduating Joan and I went into the Education Department and entered the teaching profession, and when Jim had finished his National Service he too became a teacher. Joan and Jim were married, but sadly Jim died prematurely of cancer and Joan was left to bring up her family while working full time. When Joan retired she was Head of English at Burford. She con-

tinued to live in the area but later moved to Swindon to be near her daughter. After being diagnosed with cancer Joan died a few days before her 87th birthday in December 2016. She is greatly missed by her friends and family but she has left us lots of happy memories.

'The photo on page 9 was taken a few years ago outside the Francis Hotel in Bath. They show Kathleen Wilcox (now Palfrey), Jeanne Hicks (now Jones), Laura Palmer (now Jones), Joan Bridges (later Lee) and Megan Davies (later Clive), over from Canada. Members of the group who couldn't make it on that occasion are Esmie Ridge (now Britton), who lives in Marlow, Mary Brain (now Brazil), from Sheffield and Joan Hemings (now Green), still in Bristol. Sadly, Megan and Joan have since died, but the others are still in touch.

We have also been informed of the deaths of John Kidner, John Pool, and Phil Gibbs (all started in 1946), Reg Wotton (53-51), Joyce Tysoe (39-43) (later Mellowes), John D'Alessio (51-58) and Neville Knee (49-56) who was a Prefect and went on to read Chemistry at Queen Mary College.

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

MISSED OPPORTUNITY...

PHIL DARKE (47-52) was prompted to write by Brian's Beef from Brian Iles (45-50) in the last edition:

'GERTRUDE QUINTON (Senior Mistress and Divinity) was 'a miss but not amiss' and enforced a strict code of dress and demeanour on the spirited young females under her nominal control. Observant pupils knew that under a dignified façade Miss Quinton concealed a neurotic personality which was exploited to enliven Divinity or RE lessons.

'Our lecture usually commenced peacefully with Quinnie expounding some biblical theme. The bold and malicious elements in the class would then proceed to agitate the old girl by dropping pencils, rattling desk lids, shuffling feet etc. When these diversions succeeded in reducing Miss Quinton to a nervous wreck, she would fly into an hysterical rage, storm out of the classroom, and leave us to our own devices. To our immature minds this cruel goading was considered to be great fun.

'After 64 years I clearly remember one such lesson. The lecture progressed in the usual manner with Miss Quinton becoming visibly agitated as the petty annoyances became effective. For once, I was paying attention to an (unusually) interesting lesson. The moment came when Miss Quinton proclaimed "We all know that God is not a bewhiskered old gentleman watching over us up there in the sky. God is – " At this point someone decided to strike the clincher and slammed a desk lid. Our teacher exclaimed 'I cannot stand any more of this!' and flounced from the room in a huff.

'I now regret that she was tormented into terminating the lecture and often wonder if what she never said might have influenced my perception of religion.'

A REPLY TO 'LES AMIES'...

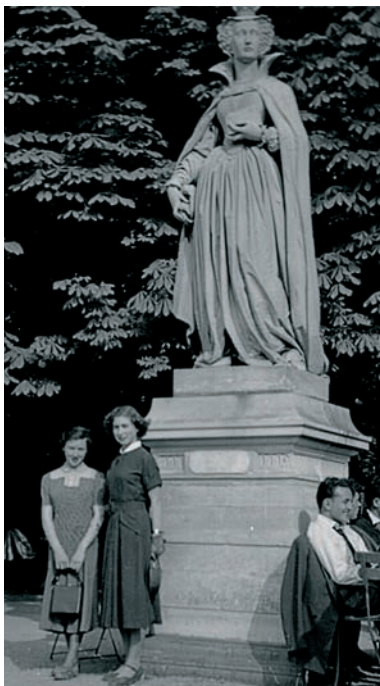
RUTH FISHER (45-53) (now Ryder) was prompted to write of a long-standing friendship:

'VALERIE HANDY (42-49) (now Routley) sent in an article in Autumn 2011 about her long-term French pen-friend. The friendship I had with my French exchange partner lasted nearly 65 years and ended in January 2015 with her death.

'It all started in July 1950, when an exchange with French students had been

arranged for pupils of KGS. There were four of us, ROSEMARY MORRIS, FLORENCE JOHN AND MYSELF, RUTH FISHER, all aged 16, who had just sat their First School Certificate Examinations, and HAZEL MOSLEY, who was in the Sixth Form and was to go to Oxford in the autumn. Rosemary and I were partnered with the twins Jacqueline and Janine Gauthier, who lived in Montlhery, a market town to the south of Paris.

‘Their father owned the local canning factory and we stayed in the large family apartment adjacent to it. Florence stayed with Marie-Cecile and her family near Paris. This was my introduction to life in France and to a ‘love-affair’, as you might call it, with Paris. Bear in mind that this was France 5 years after the end of the second world war. There was a £50 limit on money to take abroad. We travelled on the open deck of the small cross-Channel ferry from Newhaven to Dieppe. Dieppe was very much showing the scars of war as we walked down the road, literally, to climb up the steps onto a very basically furnished train to take us to the Gare St Lazare in Paris.



‘Paris at that time had a Metro that smelled of garlic, the streets were cobbled, with water running down the sides of the road, and a smell of tobacco that was typical then. There were the single-decker buses with

open balconies at the back that bounced up and down until you thought they might even fall off! The three weeks I spent with Janine and her family were unforgettable and then, of course, Janine came back to England with me and we tried to show her the main sights of London and as much as possible of Bristol and its surrounds.



‘Janine and I stayed in touch over the years – through further education, jobs, marriages and children and grand-children. It was an exchange of families – sometimes in France, sometimes in England, until, eventually, the children left home and only the original adults were left. Still visiting each other, going to art exhibitions, museums, theatres, chateaux and other places of interest. Then, on our visit to Strasbourg in 2007, Janine was already becoming ill.

‘How can you express your gratitude for someone who has been a best friend almost all of your life and introduced you to a different culture?’

The photo on the left shows Ann Morris and Ruth in Luxembourg Gardens in Paris in 1952 (see page 12). The photo above is of French pen-friend Janine and Ruth in Paris in 2008, still friends then after 58 years.

REPLY TO ANN MORRIS...

RUTH FISHER (45-53) also owns up to ANN MORRIS' (46-53) query in an earlier edition:

'I was the other girl who went to Paris at Easter 1952 for what I think was called a 'Cultural Holiday' at the Sorbonne.

'It was a 10-day course, including not only language but cultural activities. We actually stayed at the Lycee St Louis on the Boulevard St Michel only a few minutes' walk from the Sorbonne. It was a boys' boarding school and the facilities were Spartan, to say the least. We washed in cold water!

'It was a very hot Easter and I remember stewing in the top gallery of the Opera Comique at a performance of *'Cosi Fan Tutti'*.



'Guess who I came across at the bend leading onto one of the bridges of central Paris? My former Spanish teacher, MR TICKNER, (see above) leading a group

of pupils from his school in Hertfordshire!

'As we had some free time, there was an opportunity to meet my French friend, Janine Gauthier, one afternoon in the Luxembourg Gardens.'

1947 AND ALL THAT...

An interesting letter arrived from TONY FELTHAM (43-48) recalling the great freeze of 1947:

'Thanks for the latest *KOSA NEWS*...so many obituaries...! carefully looked to make sure my name was not there!

'I don't know if readers would be interested in some notes I made during the winter of 1947...this was a particularly bad one...with snow piled up in Kingswood's High street over 3ft. high. This of course affected every part of day to day living, including getting to and from school, food distribution and availability of fuel. I have got the dates as I recorded them in a small Boots diary:

Wednesday 29 Jan 1947:

More snow today... There has been a 25% air frost, roads are a mess/had to walk to school.

Friday 31 Jan:

Walked to school ...not many here today....anybody could have a cooked meal if they wanted.....ordinary classes have been disbanded.

Tuesday 11th Feb:

Everything is frozen up...roads are in a terrible mess. MISS PERRY (French) could not get in today. All food stuff is disappearing from the shops, there is little root veg to be had.

Thursday 13th Feb:

Very cold out / walked to school / could not ride my bike as normal but MAJOR EATON (Head) sent us all home as there was no fuel for heating or for cooking the lunch. Did not have to go back. All magazines have been stopped due to the fuel



crisis, only the daily papers and the *Radio Times* are to continue .

Friday 14 Feb:

Walked to school, but the canteen had no fuel for cooking so at dinner time we were all sent home to get something to eat, and then had to be back in time for afternoon lessons - a double journey in freezing conditions. Nearly all the shops are empty.....there are no vegetables to be had.

Tuesday 11 March:

Weather is really too bad to venture out unless it is necessary.....there are no potatoes at school and we have started having bread instead...the dinners are getting smaller and smaller.

'As I mentioned above I don't know if this is of interest, but anyway it gives a tiny snippet of life in 1947.

'I have enclosed photos which you might find of interest. A photo (right) which I took of our form room, VID, during the summer of 1948...the old style desks much in evidence with a groove for the pen and a china ink well for liquid ink.



Finally, my Form IVD photo taken July 1946 (above). Names are, reading L to R, starting at the back row, standing:

A. ASHLEY, I. SAVAGE, D. DAVIES, K. THORN, K.WATTS, C.PENNY, A. FELTHAM, K. MORTON. Middle row also standing: M.JONES, J.PULLEN, A. WOODMAN, D. WRIDE, M. WOTTON, M. MORGAN, (continued on page 16).



Left:
Lesley Butt; Frances Duffy; Neil Harden; Lorna Nash; Susan Doane; Phil Barnett.

Below left:
Mary Gray and her husband.



Above:
Bill Inwood; Kim Sherrington; Martyn Miles; Richard Vickery; Bob Ashton.

Also on page 15:
The assembled company.

Above:
David Burnham; Robin Anthony and his girlfriend.

Right: Some of the married couples from Kingsfield: Alex Massey and Hilary Morgan; Colin Jenkins and Sue Isaacs; Mark Thomas and Sue Brain.

On page 15:
Neil Harden, Frances Bond, John Bracey and Julie Johns





67-68 REUNION...

JULIE JOHNS and ALEX MASSEY (68-75) led another reunion of their cohort. Julie writes:

'On 21st May the 1974 and 1975 leavers gathered for their third reunion this century (although for several people this was

ple were continuing to work, retirement plans, travel, families, old and new relationships and, of course, a lot of reminiscing about their time at Kingsfield. It was interesting to hear what paths friends' lives had followed, some of the unexpected careers people had pursued (e.g. self-taught jazz trumpeter) and the new hobbies/jobs they were now exploring. This included a retired

senior HR manager who is now an artist and a retired immigration officer who gives coaching in fly-fishing. However, with a specially selected soundtrack of 1970s music those schooldays didn't seem so long ago. So let's end with the song (*Remember the Days of The*) *Old*



the first time they had met up since being at Kingsfield). Around 50 people attended the event at Kingswood Rugby Club. While many people were still Bristol-based, others travelled from all over the country to be at the event, and in one case managed to pop in while on a short visit home from China!

'With people reaching or nearing 60 there was much talk about whether peo-

Schoolyard by Linda Lewis/Cat Stevens, which captures the spirit of that time.

'Anyone who joined Kingsfield in 1967 and 1968, leaving between 1972-1975, can make contact with classmates via Facebook: **KINGSFIELD LEAVERS 1972-1975 (2011 GROUP)**

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/221350727919977/>

D. CHURCH, E. WESTLAKE R. JONES
 Front row sitting:
 M. BRIMBLE, M. CRESWELL, M. NEAL,
 J. STOCK, P. McKENSY, J. WATTS,
 M.NASH, A. PERRY, J. HOLDER, A.
 WAKEFORD.



...AND 1066 AND ALL THAT...

When WW2 broke out and a German invasion was expected, KGS pupils were required to attend School in the Summer of 1940. To keep some of them occupied, the play 1066 And All That was rehearsed in August and produced in September 1940.



JOHN BRIAN DAVIES (36-42), who died in 2005, took some photos and kept detailed notes and his daughter, Jill Baker, has sent these photos from Glasgow. The one above shows the cast and that above right is of the organising committee. This was made up of (standing) Williams, Mr Britton (English), Hale, Miss Quinton (Divinity), Mr Riley and seated Cullen K.

‘Has the tradition of giving nicknames to teachers died? Nowadays, most teachers don’t mind revealing their first names, so there’s no need for nicknames.

‘In my time many male (never female*) teachers had nicknames. Where the first name was known, it was used – so we had GEORGE BUTCHER (English), ERIC HILTON (Music) and HAROLD WATTS (Art). Otherwise, scholars just made up a name.

GORDON REMEMBERS...

GORDON JACKSON (55-62) raises the query of staff nicknames:

'Generally, there were three types of nickname: The first was the pun. So we had 'FISHY' SAMMONS (Chemistry) and 'FROSTY' WINTOUR (French). The latter was usually mispronounced 'WINTER'.

'The second was based on the teacher's appearance – 'BONEY' BRITTON (English), 'SCRUFF' MORRIS (Geography) and 'YAK' POPLE (Geography).

'The third was calling a teacher after a famous person. As the nickname passed from generation to generation the identity of the original was often forgotten. So we had 'JIMMY' WILDE (Sports), after a boxer of the 1920s, and 'BUNNY' AUSTEN (Physics), after a tennis player of the 1930s. The Physics teacher called himself HEE AUSTEN, which was similar to the tennis player HW Austen, also known as Bunny Austin. When I was at school, the name had morphed into 'THE BUN' and the Physics exercise book was known as the 'Bun Book'.

One nickname which I cannot categorise is 'BEN' HODSON (Maths). Who first called him 'BEN' and why?

*I'm not sure this is altogether factual. Some female teachers attracted nicknames – Fluff, Ma, Nellie and Polly come to mind.- Ed

A SURPRISE..!

Your Editor and friends made a June 2016 visit to Dyrham House and Gardens, a 17th Century National Trust property just off the Bath - Stroud road. We heard the sound of a harpsichord coming from one of the rooms, adding a period atmosphere to the occasion with a touch of Telemann.

To our surprise we came across MARGARET REECE (55-62) (now WILLS) playing



the harpsichord (see photo above) with a colleague on cello, making a beautiful duet.

Margaret regularly volunteers to play at the house, entertaining visitors. As does LINDA POPE (59-66), also a KOSA member.

CONGRATULATIONS...

To DAVID GIFFORD (53-60) who was awarded the BEM. David writes: 'In my last year at KGS someone (probably HEADMASTER RIDLEY) decided to award me the Public Service Prize.

'Presented in absentia in December 1960, I chose a book on Thermodynamics written by Stanley Bransom - a lousy lecturer. If you had the book you didn't have to go to his lectures. He could put things in writing better than he could explain! I could not get to the prize-giving at KGS as Birmingham University planned exams for 1st years up to and including the Saturday before Christmas.

'I hope I have justified their hopes in me as in the New Year's Honours list I have

been awarded a British Empire Medal for services to the Community of Kings Lynn and West Norfolk (Talking Newspaper, Lions and Scouts, Addenbrookes Liver Transplant Association).



'The award was presented by the Lord Lieutenant of Norfolk, Mr Richard Jewson. but we do get invited to a Garden party at the Palace. Also present at the presentation were the Mayor and Mayoress of the Borough of Kings Lynn and West Norfolk.'

RECOGNITION AT LAST...



To BOB GRAY (49-56), past Vice-Chairman of KOSA, and his wife Sherry, who used to do the catering for our KOSA

lunches. They have both done considerable voluntary work for the Scouts and the Girl Guide Association and as a consequence they were invited to Buckingham Palace in May to a garden party.

They were chatting to another couple when they were approached by a Royal Equerry and asked if they would like to meet the Queen. Bob told her how he had helped to raise £400,000 for the Guide Camping Centre and asked the Queen how she had enjoyed the Chelsea Flower Show.

I gather that conversations with Bob are now only by prior arrangement - ticket only affairs!

EXHIBITION AT KHM...

Currently (Summer 2016), Kingswood Heritage Museum in Tower Lane, Warmley. is running an exhibition of local schools and needless to say KGS and its successor schools is well represented. The exhibition also celebrates the work of COLIN PILLINGER (54-61) of Mars fame and it was opened by Colin's sister DOREEN PILLINGER (48-53) (now Lindegaard) Why not go along? A visit to the KHM is always worthwhile.

At the opening your Ed met JENNY GOLDING (61-68) (now Burgess) whose school hat is in the exhibition. Later, Jenny sent KOSA the story of the hat. Jenny writes:

'You know that my hat was on display in the cabinet at KHM but its story was not, so here it is. You never know, it may inspire some visitors to the exhibition. I never thought a personal item of mine would become a museum exhibit!

'I also mentioned the opera by David Gray *A Christmas Carol* which we performed in 1967. I have found the score but nothing

else, not even a programme. Would be great if anyone out there had anything about it. (Please let KOSA know if you have any photos etc of the opera - Ed)

MY HAT

As an 11 year old I remember being taken to 'The Don', an upmarket school uniform retailer in Park Street, Bristol. It held the monopoly on school uniforms and at great expense my mother proudly, in August 1961, took me to the glass fronted shop to purchase the uniform I was required to wear at Kingswood Grammar School.

The uniform a cream blouse, brown gym-slip, blue and brown horizontal striped tie (only 6th formers wore the diagonal version), long blue socks, brown brogues, brown gabardine raincoat topped with the brown felt hat finished with the school badge, sewn on and name tagged by my mum. I must also mention the two pairs of brown pocketed knickers. Yes even underclothes were stipulated as uniform in 1961.



The hat (on the right in the photo) was worn daily during winter which meant the first day at KGS in September 1961 saw me set off for school thus attired and carrying the required brown satchel purchased second hand, along with a hockey stick, from a former pupil.

The hat was worn to and from school. My journey being a bus ride from Downend,

and if at any stage you were spotted without your hat on your head by a prefect a detention was given for non compliance even if you were three miles from the 'Cowsheds' the nickname for KGS. I never received a detention and always behaved impeccably until the 4th year when fashion took over my existence and I challenged authority by wearing a maxi skirt. I was sent home for wearing a skirt which was too long! The opposite of 2 years earlier when girls were sent home for wearing skirts which were too short - the mini revolution.

At the end of the 5th year and 'O' levels in 1966 it had become a tradition for our hats to be thrown in the brook to disappear into oblivion as we transformed into 6th formers. Somehow I managed to secrete my treasured hat into my satchel, which I believe along with the hockey stick (which was never used by me incidentally) was passed on 3rd hand to another novice.

This little hat, although I did not know it at the time, was a tangible symbol of a rite of passage which has stayed with me throughout house moves and holds many fond memories. What would an eleven year old think of wearing this in the 21st century?

HERITAGE BOARD...

On 9th January 2016, The Chair of South Gloucestershire Council, Councillor Erica Williams, unveiled a Heritage Information Board in the Park on behalf of the Friends of Kingswood Park. The Board captures pictures of Kingswood's Heritage from coal mining to space travel and therefore features a section on COLIN PILLINGER (54-61). Colin's widow, Judith, and sister DOREEN (48-53) were also present.

The board is situated near to the amphitheatre and it's worth popping into the park for a look next time you are in the area.

MEMORIES...

REV JOHN 'TWEEDY' HARRIS has again written with some memories, some triggered by photos in *KOSA NEWS* 48:

'Another first class edition of *KOSA NEWS*, thanks. It has provoked a few thoughts and added to that an article about the retirement of 'Boney' Britton and 'Ma' Watters (both taught English), from a local paper in 1960 that you may be interested in. It comes from my sister ANNE BEST's (43-50) hoardings - glad she kept it.

'MISS WATTERS (English) was my first form teacher in those far off 1953 days and I remember my sister saying that I ought to tell her that Miss Watters' sister, a midwife, had brought me into the world. I duly did this, probably on my first day to gain some sort of favour, but she was not impressed! She had no favourites, but she was a good form teacher and having her take 1A through *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and *Lady Precious Stream* was a positive experience.

'On the back cover the *HMS.Pinafore* photo has JAMES BROKENBROW fourth from left. We shared digs throughout our first three years at Manchester University when Brocky graduated and I went on to do a fourth year – 3 Cronshaw Street, Levenshulme, Manchester 19 was quite an experience and we went there because MIKE HOLLOWAY (52-59) was already installed there.

'The other fellow student who is of interest to me is ROGER HOLDER behind the steps over to the right of the photo. His dad was our piano tuner from Mickleburgh's and we used to walk the area together during the holidays, quite often in the region of Mangotsfield Station. One of the little routes we found was in pretty thick undergrowth parallel with the main line between Shortwood and Mangotsfield

the other side from the line of coaches that seemed to line up beside the public footpath I think. It appeared to be an old line concealed in the hedges and grass we struggled through. (It was the old dram-road which transported coal from the pits around Ram Hill to the Avon near Keynsham – Ed). By the way, where is Roger Holder now?

'The other memory that came to mind arose from the news that M. LAPADU (French) had died. M.Lapadu ensured that our French pronunciation and language improved in the years he was there. I can't remember whether we were studying a text, or some sentences during this incident, but I have never forgotten it, nor had the opportunity to tell anyone either, except occasionally when the subject of being misunderstood comes up in a sermon.

'As I say, during the lesson the word 'deviner' came up. M.Lapadu invited the class to tell him what it meant. When no one was able, after a few suggestions, he said 'Guess'. From then on the suggestions came in fast and furious, becoming all the more stupid or unlikely or both, with the good M.Lapadu telling us with even more Gallic enthusiasm to guess, until the penny finally dropped and we realised that M.Lapadu was, after all trying to tell us the answer that all readers who have any French will know - 'deviner' means 'to guess'. Thanks for the memories and people it has reminded me of.'

FROM FRANCE...

WILSON BARRETT (48-55) also remembers Michel Lapadu. He writes:

'As I was in the 6th Form when Michel Lapadu was the French Language Assistant, I suppose he played some part in the fact that I now live in Strasbourg'

MARGARET RESPONDS...

MARGARET LOVELL (50-55) writes:

'It was a pleasure to have the *KOSA NEWS* 48 awaiting my return from 4 months in New Zealand last Friday evening. No, not all holiday but I work there in beautiful peaceful, (mostly sunny) surroundings, besides being near family. I'm also making arrangements for a sculpture exhibition at a very 'upmarket' gallery in Auckland later.

'It was good to read WENDY EDWARD's (51-57) snippets on page 21. Wendy was the girl next door that my sister and I played with. She had a little 'Fairy' bicycle which her Dad had sprayed silver.....the first 'two-wheeler' in the area, much to our envy! Wendy was always a 'good-looker' as can be seen from her picture on page 22 which seems to be sectioned with the information about my retrospective exhibition in St Ives last year.(Apologies - the gremlins must have taken over - Ed). I had to really study the photograph as I could not tell if it was recent or an old picture. I think from the fashion/sleeves, it must be an oldie but really Wendy has changed little and this must be due to a happy life of years of married to Tony in Australia before his more recent passing.

'I am back living in my late Mum's bungalow in Creswicke Avenue where I was born. Downsizing means cash released needed for travel whilst one can! With family scattered on three different Continents it takes funds (and energy). Almost met up with DEREK BAILEY (49-53) a few days ago as he was celebrating his 'big' birthday of 80, but he and his wife decided to go to California instead of New Zealand so....maybe next time?

'I am still happily involved with my sculpture and really working harder than ever, though less energy to share around! I get great satisfaction when walking in

Hanham and see a 'girl' or 'boy' I was at school with. I used to ride my bike to school and on my return journey would sometimes buy a 1p ice-cube with a dash of blackcurrant or orangeade on a splintered stick from a house in Grimsby Road which was so 'modern' to have a freezer. I could then suck the lolly pushing my bike all the way up Cock Road being too steep to peddle (no gears!)



'Many of us did not appreciate at the time, the great opportunities KGS presented for us. I know I owe my whole life's happiness in being a sculptor to MR HAROLD WATTS (Art) and his encouragement and practical help, both at school and afterwards. We always kept in touch and indeed I still meet up and correspond with his family and grandchildren even. What a legacy for a brilliant teacher!'

The photo (above) is of Margaret's sculpture of Handel Cossham, now at the refurbished Cossham Hospital, Kingswood.

NEWS FROM KOA...

Your Committee enjoys a good relationship with King's Oak Academy, our successor school on the KGS site.

As on previous years Chairman STAN BURRAGE (51-56) and your Editor attended the Year 11 awards event on 22

June 2016, when we presented four cheques of £25 to those students who were adjudged to have made a meritorious contribution to the life of the academic life of the school and to society generally. This year the awards were made to ROBERT HELSON-WHITE, CASEY BAILEY, GEORGE VAUGHAN and EMILY WORGAN.

We delivered a short introduction to KOSA and our experience of life after spending time together in the same form at KGS which ended 60 years ago this Summer. We were well received; an enjoyable and worthwhile occasion.

We were also able to meet the new principal, RICHARD CLUTTERBUCK, and we were able to tell him about KOSA and its aims and objectives. Richard and his wife live in Nailsworth and he comes to KOA from Bristol Free School, North Bristol which opened in 2011.

Richard made us most welcome, outlined the recent progress of KOA, the start up of the new Primary School built on the other side of Brook Road and the new 6th Form arrangements shared across the four sites of the group. Richard is keen to maintain and develop the KOSA connection and has accepted our invitation to become our next President. He plans to join us at the Autumn Lunch, introduce himself and bring us up-to-date.

Stan Burrage, has arranged a visit to the KOA site as a nostalgic trip and a tour of KGS grounds, guided by Tim Bush of the Academy. This will be prior to the Autumn Lunch on Saturday 8th October, meeting for refreshments at the old Canteen 10.00 for 10.30am. Numbers will be limited, so please phone Stan on 01453 832952 or email stanburrage@talktalk.net for a reservation by 30th September. Zimmer frames are not provided but we hope to prise open the Treasurer's chest for Tea/Coffee/ Biscuits.

Just a reminder about the Colin Pillinger Memorial Lecture which will be given at the Academy on Friday 25th November by Professor Monica Grady.

Professor Grady was instrumental in the Rosetta mission from last year but is also involved with the Mars mission which lands on 19th October, so it's quite topical. We can save 10 spaces for KOSA members as we did last year with refreshments provided. For more details contact Chairman Stan Burrage (see below).

AN AWARD...

Chairman STAN BURRAGE (51-56) writes:

'Our regular readers will know how much we all appreciate our Editor's sterling work in compiling the *KOSA NEWS*. MIKE BENDREY (51-56) is the anchor point and main reason for the continued success of our Association and I have felt for some time he was due some recognition in the wider world.

'Through the local Member of Parliament and Chair of South Gloucestershire Council, with the help of local Councillor Judy Adams, I nominated Mike for the South Gloucestershire Council Chair's Community Award 2016. This was successful and Chair Erica Williams invited Mike and his wife Eileen to the presentation at BAWA, Filton on 17th March this year.

The citation read:

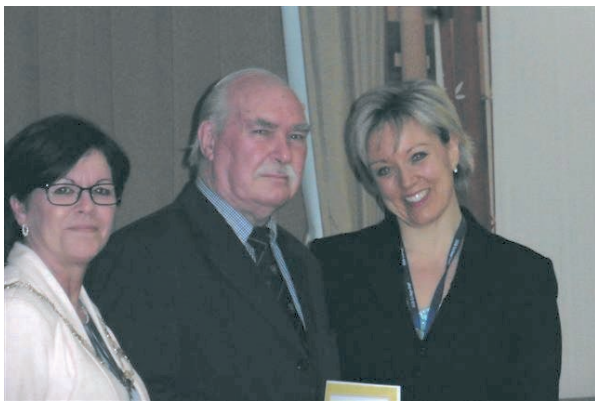
Michael Bendrey

Mike has taken an active role in supporting various local associations and charities. He has been involved in the Bath YMCA for almost 60 years as a member and has held the positions of Chairman and Treasurer. He has also volunteered for the Y's Men's Club in Kingswood for 40 years, taking on the role of President on three occasions and has acted as Treasurer for

the Association.

Mike was a founder member of a local Ten-Sing group and is currently involved with Probus and Masonic work. He is a founder member of Kingswood Old Scholars' Association (KOSA) formed in 1984 and has been editor of the KOSA newsletter ever since. The twice yearly magazine is circulated to approximately 1400 former pupils of Kingswood Grammar School and its successors, worldwide.

Mike keeps up his other interests with voluntary work at the Kingswood Heritage Museum and by supporting the railway enthusiasts at the Avon Valley Railway, located in Bitton.



'I hope you will all agree, Mike is worthy of everyone's thanks and support, and will all realise from his citation and range of charitable work, how lucky we are have him as our Editor, also for many of us, as a personal friend.'

The award was presented by the Chair of South Glos Council (left) and the Principal of Stroud College, who sponsored the event.

WHERE ARE THEY NOW..?

From time to time we are asked to trace some old friends of yore. JOHN HARRIS (53-60) has asked the whereabouts of his contemporary ROGER HOLDER (see John's letter). Others asked for are JOHN

GIBBS and MARY HUCKLE (48-54) (later Thorn) whose last edition of *KOSA NEWS* was returned from Queensland, Australia.

A NEW ONE...

DIANE CURTIS (66-73) (later Britton) has written from Aubonne, Switzerland:

'I have just discovered KOSA! My brother, GEOFF CURTIS and his wife, ELIZABETH KENDALL, and myself, Diane Curtis, all attended KGS. I was at the school when it became Kingsfield School.

'Geoff and Liz would have been at KGS from 1959 to 1967 or thereabouts. I was there from 1966 to 1973. My brother was a keen sportsman, playing football and cricket, and some rugby. Liz played hockey. I played some hockey, netball and tennis. Geoff studied pure and applied maths and physics at A-level and went on to become an architect. Sadly, he died unexpectedly in 2008. I studied A level maths, biology and chemistry and went on to do a BSc in Biology at Bath University. I moved to Switzerland in 1980 with my husband where we still live with our two daughters and have recently taken early retirement.

I have very much enjoyed reading the KOSA newsletters. I will dig into the family photographic archives when I am next in Bristol and hopefully may find something of interest for your members. Keep up the good work!

Someone like Diane who has ended up in a foreign country like Switzerland must have a very interesting story to tell. What caused them to transfer to that country during their working lives and how have they settled in. Let us know.

THE SECRET...

On the next page is a copy of an extract from the July edition of *Downend Voice*, a local free newspaper. We are to congratu-

late RUTH DENT(43-48) (now Rounsley) and her husband on achieving 60 years of married bliss. Ruth worked in the Civil Service and Frenchay Hospital before retirement. The secret of such a long marriage? According to Ruth and Allan it's compatibility, physical attraction and good food!



Above is a photo taken at their wedding in 1956 and below is an up-to-date one taken in 2016.



GEOFF'S APPEAL...

GEOFF COLE (55-60) asks if anyone has any photos of the classes he and they were in from 1955 to 1962 that they're willing to lend Geoff so that he can scan them for his own collection of KGS during his years.

He's happy to share those he already has and to send copies of any borrowed ones. Contact geoffcole44@btinternet.com. KOSA will also respond to any requests for copies from its extensive collection.

46ers - 10 YEARS ON...

The happy smiling group below is of the group who joined KGS in 1946, taken by TERRY GIBBS on 14 May 2016. For ten years they have been meeting together twice a year at KATH HARDWICK's farm in Clapton in Gordano, in deepest Somerset, where Kath provides a Summer buffet and a Christmas Lunch.

They are from the back row, left to right): Terry Gibbs, Bob Saunders, the Editor, Ron Britton, Ray Edwards, Mike Parry, Kath Hardwick (now Filer), Cynthia Underwood (now Hurdle), Eileen Matthews (now Bendrey) and KOSA Secretary Cilla Powell (now Maguire). The Editor and wife Eileen were guests.

The next get-together will be in December, date to be fixed. If you are a 46er and would like to join them, just contact Secretary Cilla, whose address and contact details are included in the list of KOSA Committee Members in the centrefold of this and every *KOSA NEWS*. You can also email Cilla on cillam@btinternet.com.

A POEM TO END ALL POEMS

*Do they only hear the pipes, do they only
hear the drums?*

*Or do they only hear the souls, of fathers
and of sons?*

*The silence in the cities, in villages and
the towns,*

*Stands testament to those who went to
serve the King and Crown.*

*The cause was right to cleanse the world
of open hate and greed,*

*But those who gave their lives for peace
the world ignored the heed,*

*For life went on as did the wars with
nothing ever changed,*

*The few still at the helm of might, their
minds stayed disarranged.*

*The very thought of those at home, who
grieved day after day,*

*Meant little to those, who at the top, still
sent them on their way,*

*Left to the brave who suffered things, but
carried on the same,*

*Gave life to those who should have
ceased and hung their heads in shame.*

*Many a mum or pretty young thing would
never see again,*

*The love of their world, away, away, in
nought but death and pain,*

*News of their men, received at home, in
tones of varied hue,*

*Made many a heart, miss many a beat,
depending on its view.*

*When, at last, the battle ends, but war
just as insane,*

*The men with muddled thoughts who
wish to start it all again,*

*Why don't they only hear the pipes and
only hear the drums?*

*Why don't they listen to the souls of men
and of their sons?*

ROY HUBBARD (53-60)

This moving poem, written by ROY HUBBARD (53-60), is very apposite in the year in which we celebrate the hundredth anniversary of the commencement of the Battle of the Somme which lasted 141 days from the 1st July 1916 and in which over one million men were killed or injured. Did we learn anything from such a disaster?

MORE 55ers' REUNIONS...

GEOFF COLE (55-60) has written to KOSA about his get-togethers:

'Following last year's successful reunion at the October lunch, a small group of my contemporaries have had a further number of very enjoyable 'mini-reunions' which have included two more friends who weren't at the main event – TONY COCKRAM and BOB DAVEY, on the left and right of the back row on the photograph on the next page. JOHN WINCHESTER is in the middle. On the front row are TONY DOWN, RICHARD CORDEY and myself. DIANE WOGAN (later Harris) had intended joining us, but her illness prevented this and very sadly she passed away before being able to do so.

'These get-togethers have been at the Avon Valley Railway Station at Bitton and have taken the form of a very informal chat and a light lunch. Much time has been spent looking back at a range of school photos I have managed to collect, including the 1958 panorama of the whole school. These have triggered a number of memories and anecdotes which have led to much mirth and often amazement. The phrase 'whatever happened to...' occurs frequently, which leads me to the reason for this missive.

'Through the good 'offices' of KOSA, the invitations were sent out last year via Royal (snail) Mail. However, I have been organising the above by keeping in touch via e-mail as I now have a dozen or so of these. If you would like me to let you know



of any further lunch-time gatherings or to keep you posted with any news, please e-mail me on either address (or both) geoffcole44@btinternet.com or geoffcole44@hotmail.com. I confirm no-one's address will be disclosed to anyone (including KOSA and the other members of the group) without your express permission.

'I will be delighted to hear from you and even more so if you are able to join us.'

MEDIA MENTIONS...

From time to time KOSA members get a mention in the media, and this is an occasional item reporting those spotted by your Ed. If you come across any, please let us know.

Debrett's 500 most influential people recorded RICHARD SCUDAMORE (70-77), Executive Chairman of the Premier League, under sport. After leaving Kingsfield, Richard went to Nottingham University to read Law. We will cover Richard's career in a later edition.

Richard was interviewed on the prestigious *Today* programme on Radio 4 on 10 August 2016 about the size of Premiership transfer fees and the weekly salaries of its players.

SIR BERNARD LOVELL'S house, *The*

Quinta, in Cheshire was advertised for sale after its renovation by internet millionaire from Malaysia, Joe Wee and his wife. The asking price? £2.95million.

DAVID HUSSEY (51-56) was included in the long attendance list of those attending the memorial service of Alan Lee, racing correspondent of *The Times*, held at Christ Church, Cheltenham in April. David has an active interest in horse-racing.

BRIAN ILES (49-50) has had several letters published in the Bristol Post. One was about the review of the play *After Miss Julie* by Patrick Marber, which was set in the mid-40s, after the war. The second letter seen was about the Bristol-L, something he's written about extensively in *KOSA NEWS* in the past.

NAMES...

A friend ROGER MAGGS, ex-KGS, handed me a copy of *KOSA NEWS* number 47 to have a look at the photo of 2G in 1963 on page 14. My name is TIM (Tiffy) COUSINS (61-65). Memories came flooding back of people that I had long forgotten. Some of the unknowns on that photo are probably HEATHER AMOS, SUSAN STRANSOM, CAROL HOLT, ALEXIS LANGHORN, and BRYAN HEPWORTH. Which is which on the photo I have no idea!

ALIVE..!

JOHN COLE (49-56) writes 'I recently had a telephone call from New Zealand somewhat hesitantly seeking information from my wife. The situation took a little unravelling with sincere apologies along the way. It would seem that some personal news in a Canadian accent was misheard.

'Therefore, alive and kicking, I would like to re-assure my friends with the witty quotation from American Mark Twain: 'The reports of my death have been greatly ex-

aggerated.'

What requires an explanation is that in a call to your Ed he misheard that John had passed away. Knowing that RICHARD DAVIES (49-56) in Auckland was a very good friend of John's, he naturally contacted New Zealand with the sad news. It was Richard who phoned with his condolences, only to be confronted with a John Cole very much alive!

Thanks to John for seeing the humour in the situation, and I'll take greater care in future when announcing deaths! - Ed

KOSA MATTERS... WELCOME!

To those joining KOSA since the last *KOSA NEWS*, maiden names, where appropriate:

Jeff Gay (now Martin) (51-58), Nigel Smith (56-61), Stephen Bryant (81-88), Sue Bryant (83-88), David Massey (66-71) Derek Whitchurch (53-61), Bob Davy (55-61), Linda Tanner (*Downend Voice*), Jean Bennett (56-60), Lynda Noble (61-68), Jenny Golding (61-68), Katherine Fewes (66-71), Diane Curtis (66-73), Heather Franklin (57-64).

To them, and all members of KOSA, your contributions to your magazine are always welcome. Just put pen to paper, or preferably, keyboard to email!

ANNIVERSARIES...

It's 21 years (1995) since KOSA planted an oak tree in the school grounds in memory of those from the School who were killed or injured during the Second World War. That was 50 years after that war's end and we're pleased to report that the oak is thriving, along with the old oak which we all knew.

It was 40 years ago, on the night of 7/8 August 1976, when arson destroyed the old building. If anyone has the story of how their education was interrupted, we would love to hear from them.

51ers...

It's 60 years since most of those who started in 1951 left school in 1956. The majority left after the 5th Form in those days. If you're one of those, why don't you make a point of meeting up with your contemporaries at the KOSA lunch on 8 October?

KOSA COASTERS...



Due to popular demand we've reordered the coasters (see pic). They're in packs of six at £15, and if you wish to order by post

please add a £1 for p&p. They will be available at the lunch in October or contact the Editor.

LINK...

DAVE MASSEY (66-71) has posted the school on *The Then & Now Group* on https://www.facebook.com/groups/bristolthenandnow/432851443586897/?comment_id=433646043507437¬if_t=like (phew!). Go have a look.

BACK PAGE...

The School in July and August 1973 showing the School, and the Gym from the girls' side. Remember those climbing bars, ropes and the equipment in the gym...and the showers? Was there ever any hot water in those showers?

