



KOSA NEWS



NUMBER 52 - SPRING 2018

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...

We have now been producing *KOSA NEWS* for over 25 years and twice a year it is posted to over 1,100 Old Scholars. We already have past copies of editions 37 to 51 on the World Wide Web as a page on the URL address for Kings Oak Academy above, and by the time you receive this copy we hope that numbers 1 to 36 will also be available on the web. They will be all PDF files, but due to technical constraints the earlier editions will not be searchable in the same detailed way that the existing ones are. Nevertheless, we hope you will enjoy them as an addition to the historical record of the school.

You will see in this edition we have been able to include contributions from the later period of KGS's existence. We try to cover as many years as possible and you will also be able to read two contributions from ladies in their 90s, one from an ex-member of staff and one from an old scholar.

With a view to securing the future of *KOSA*, we still need a Deputy Editor to come forward (see the last Editorial) and you will see on page 27 that our committee requires a Secretary. Committee members are also welcome. Any volunteers?

The Editor

DIARY DATES:

SPRING LUNCH & AGM:

We've booked for **SATURDAY, 21st APRIL 2018** 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 a short AGM. Please complete the enclosed form and send it to our Treasurer, MARTIN HARRYMAN. (address inside).

46ers REUNION:

The date of the May lunch at KATHLEEN HARDWICK'S (now Filer) farm down in Clapton-in-Gordano for 1946 starters has been fixed for **SATURDAY, 12th MAY**. 46 starters should phone PRISCILLA POWELL (now Maguire) on 01235 851966 to book.

AUTUMN LUNCH:

Already booked for **SATURDAY, 13th OCTOBER 2018** at Lincombe Barn, Downend. Please book the date in your diary now.

OBITUARIES...

TED YOUNG (52-59) has informed us of his older brother's passing:

'DAVID STANLEY YOUNG (50-55) David died peacefully at the BRI on 21 November 2017 following a severe heart attack.

'When he left KGS he took up an apprenticeship with E S and A Robinson's as a printer and bag tackler. He remained in the printing or allied trades for the rest of his working life. David was born in Kingswood and, apart from his National Service with the Devon and Dorset regiment, remained there until his passing.

'Coming from a musical family it was no surprise that he became champion bugler for the Bristol battalion of the Boys Brigade. Whilst in the forces he learned to play the guitar and used it to entertain friends and family particularly at the Tennis Court Inn on a Saturday night. Apart from the music David's great passion was fishing which he carried out in local rivers and lakes and in the sea at Swanage, where for many years he had a static caravan.

'David leaves a wife Valerie, two sons, Martyn and Kevin (both ex Kingsfield) and three grandchildren.

He will be sorely missed by all his family and friends.'

ROSEMARY GIBSON (51-57) (now Church) has passed to us the sad news of her husband David's death:

'DAVID CHURCH (49-56) passed away on June 29th this year. He passed the eleven plus and went to KGS much to the pride of his family. He was interested in sport and played rugby and cricket for the school, being captain of the Rugby first XV in 55-56. He was also in *The*

Bartered Bride in the February 1955 production and a School Prefect from 1955.

'His academic career went well and he obtained three A levels and then went on to Sheffield University where he graduated with a good honours degree in History. He began his teaching career in Slough and became head of department.

'In 1966 he moved to Rotherham where he became an Education Officer and where the family bought their first home. In 1967 they moved to Swindon, again as an Education Officer. His final move was to Oxford where he remained until his retirement in 1993.

'He was interested in History, France and also its wines, railways and gardening. The latter two were expanded during his retirement. Unfortunately in 2004 he was struck by the illness Guillain-Barre Syndrome which left him with little stamina and difficulty in getting about. In 2016 he showed the beginnings of dementia and by March this year when Rosemary was unable to continue looking after him, he moved into a care home where he died of a heart attack. He is survived by his wife, Rosemary, sons Stephen and Colin, and grandsons Sam, Fred and Ben '

The photo on page 3 shows captain David holding the ball in the 55-56 side.

OLIVE WHITE (43-48) (now Selway) has written to inform KOSA of the death of her husband:

'My husband, the Rev. IVAN SELMAN (43-50), died aged 83 sometime ago. His unexpected illness was short but distressing.

'After leaving KGS, he read History at Bristol University, obtaining a BA, and then went on to Manchester University



and Theology College, obtaining a BD. He then became a Methodist Minister and we were married. I was also KGS as OLIVE WHITE (43-48). We had four children and have many grandchildren. Ivan took an MA when he was 75 at Lampeter University!

‘He loved receiving *KOSA NEWS* and was most interested in its contents. Thank you so much for editing it and for the pleasure it has given him and me over the years.’

KOSA very much regrets to announce the death of MARGARET OTLET (38-43) (later Peggy Bolt), who died on 26 September 2017 at the age of 90.

Your Editor first met Peggy at an Old Etonian lunch in 1986. The Old Etonians was the organisation for the ex-

scholars of Headmaster MAJOR EATON’S regime, which preceded the current KOSA formation. We both realised that the OEs was in terminal decline, so we agreed to merge the two organisations under the KOSA banner. Peggy became its first modern Chairman.



Peggy was a great supporter of KOSA for over 25 years and only ceased to attend committee meetings and lunches when her health began to fail. After she gave up as chairman she arranged for her

husband Gordon to take over – the only non-KGS chairman KOSA has had. We had many happy committee meetings at

the Bolts' house, more social than business!



When Peggy left KGS she worked for a spell as a librarian, but on her marriage she became a full-time housewife, although she and Gordon never had any children. Gordon

was head of the Business Studies Department at Bristol Polytechnic (later the University of the West of England), and Peggy was a regular supporter of Gordon at the degree ceremonies held at the University and later at Bristol Cathedral. She was also an active member of Leap Valley Ladies' Club in Downend before its dissolution.

A celebration of Peggy's life took place at Westerleigh Crematorium on 11 October 2017 and KOSA expresses its condolences to brothers DAVID and BOB OTLET, who both attended KGS, and her sisters.

DEREK BAILEY (49-53) has informed KOSA that GILLIAN HULL (50-57) (later Hull-Porter) died in the US in November 2017. Gill was born in Uxbridge, Middlesex and her family moved to Kingswood just after the war.

Looking through *Kingswood Chronicles* Gill had an outstanding academic and sporting record at KGS. In 1954 she was awarded the English Junior Prize and received her



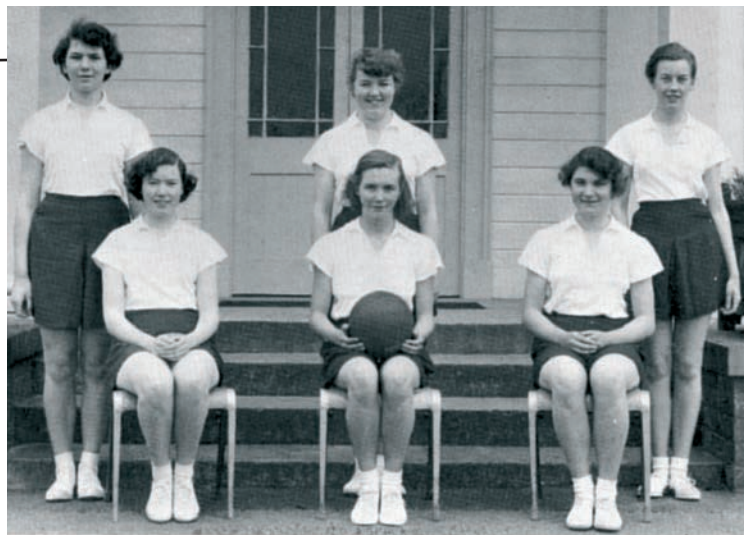
School Colours for Netball, presumably for Junior Netball. She received her Senior Colours in 1956,

when she was again in the Netball side (see photo below; Gill is on the right of the back row) which won five out of the seven games played.

By 1955 Gill had become a Prefect and performed as a soprano in the Chorus of Villagers in the opera *The Bartered Bride*. She was awarded both the Latin and the French Prizes based on her O-Level results.

In 1957 she completed A-levels in English Literature, French and Latin and received the Upper VIth Latin prize that year.

Gill emigrated to Canada in September 1957, worked in a variety of auditing roles, and married DEREK BAILEY in August 1960, moving to Colorado in August



NETBALL
 Susan Jefferies
 Delphine Woodman
 Iris Mountstephen
 Rosemary Gibson
 Gillian Hull
 Edith Ashley
 Photo: Hancock, Kingswood



1961. In December 1963 they divorced. The following year in August 1964 she married Jim Porter, their only daughter being Tracy. Gill's husband died in 1983 at quite a young age, about 54. It was after his death that Gill and Derek resumed their friendship which lasted until her recent death. In the US Gill was highly regarded in the workplace and received awards as the result of her contributions.

We also report the death of STEVE 'CLANKER' LANGHORN (63-70) who is second from the left on the back row of the 1967 Junior XI Cricket team (above), who passed away in August 2017.

Also ROGER TICKTUM (50-?) who passed away in August 2017, and RALPH 'TOFFEE' CLARK (51-56) who died in December 2017 from a heart attack while exercising his dog. To all those who have lost a loved one we express our condolences.

KOSA BLAZER...

We have discovered that at one time there was a KOSA blazer which sported an attractive KOSA badge. One was discovered in the effects of the late MARIE HARRIS (27-32) when she passed away several years ago. It was passed onto TERRY OSBORNE (49-55) and was modelled by CILLA POWELL (46-51) (now Maguire) at a recent KOSA lunch.

No, they won't be made available for purchase in the future. Times change, and it appears that blazers are no longer in fashion - except perhaps at Lord's!



ENID'S MEMORIES...



We are fortunate to have received memories of KGS from former staff member, MRS ENID EVANS (63-82). Enid is a formidable lady of 95 who flew to KL with her grandson to spend Christmas 2017 with her family in Malaysia. In addition Enid is a regular at Llangollen International Music Festival where she was made Honourable President. The photo is of Enid there in 2017:

'I arrived at Kingswood Grammar School to join members of the English Department on a very chilly January morning in 1963 following a somewhat daunting interview with MR NORMAN RIDLEY, the headmaster, in December. He was a strict disciplinarian and a number of staff were in awe of him at first.

'It was not a particularly favourable time to take up a new post as the winter of 1963 turned out to be one of the coldest

on record. I was also due to replace MISS WYCHERLEY, a very popular member of staff, who was also in charge of the Tuck Shop, a duty I was not expected to take on. However I soon settled in as a Staff member of Haskins House, with MR BILL BLAKE, and as Form Teacher of 1H.

'As a student at Aberystwyth University, I had specialised in English, but having been brought up in a Welsh musical family, music was also included in my curriculum and in my timetable. Soon I formed a Junior Choir, and a recorder group at lunchtimes. The Music Department was under the direction of MR ERIC HILTON, also a very strict disciplinarian. He was insistent that all pupils should be musically literate both in Sol-fa and the standard notation – and many of them were!

'Mr Hilton had created a splendid orchestra and I still have an unforgettable memory of a wonderful concert which took place soon after my arrival at the school when ROGER GARLAND, a most gifted young violinist, gave a thrilling performance of Mendelssohn's Violin Concerto. Schumann's Piano Concerto was also beautifully performed by a girl pupil, whose name I have forgotten!

'While a student at school, I believe that Roger became the Leader of the National Youth Orchestra. I was very interested to read in a recent KOSA magazine of his continuing splendid career worldwide.

'Although, in the first year, I taught only in the Lower Forms, I moved gradually up the school and included in my schedule O and A Level classes. In the meantime, I had also been appointed Deputy Head of the English Department.

'Entertainment-wise, school productions and concerts continued during this period. MR COLIN WINTOUR, Head of the French Department, took the lead in several Gilbert and Sullivan performances, while MR BILL LEIGH was the Judge in *Trial by Jury*. I myself took over the roles of Assistant Producer and of the wise queen in *Dido and Aeneas* (see photo below -1965?) while other roles and choruses were taken by staff and pupils.



'During the early seventies major developments were about to take place. KGS would undergo an important role change and would become Kingsfield Comprehensive School. No longer would its pupil intake be governed by the eleven-plus examination system, but by the local catchment area and the number of places available for pupils.

'MR RIDLEY retired and a new Headmaster, MR BILL HAXWORTH was appointed. These changes, of course, meant alterations and adaptations in the curricula. I decided after thirty or so years in the teaching profession, I required a refresher course, and I was granted a year's sabbatical in 1975 to study for an Advanced Diploma in Education at Bristol University. Having achieved this goal, I was on holiday in our caravan on the

South Dorset coast during one of the hottest summers, in August 1976, when I was alerted by an early news item on the Monday morning. It announced that Kingsfield Comprehensive School, Bristol had been virtually destroyed apart from the Sixth Form and other outer buildings of brick by a raging fire during the night. It was well known that the main buildings had been "temporary" for many years and constructed of timber. The

flames roared down the corridors, it seemed, engulfing the rooms on either side.

'All the staff who were available, together with other helpers were asked to return to the school location, as soon as possible. I arrived by lunchtime, to survey what was left of the school among the cooling embers. Over many years hundreds of students had walked or run along its corridors and been educated between its walls.

Little remained. These were sombre and emotional recollections, but there would be work to do if the school was to re-open in September.

'As I was responsible for re-ordering text books and readers for the English Department, I was able to muster groups of local pupils, mostly girls, to sort out the new books as they arrived, stamp them, and cover the readers, in readiness for the new term. This we succeeded in doing for most classes as temporary buildings were erected.

'Gradually during the following months new school buildings began to emerge, including The Hexagon Theatre, in which some splendid plays and concerts would be staged such as *Sweeney Todd*, *A Christmas Carol* and many others.

'In July 1982, it was time for me to retire and I decided to volunteer for the Citizens Advice Service, where I served for thirteen years.

'I am still in contact with several ex-pupils, such as KATHY FRY (now Sweet), Sue (SMITH), IDA KAM, born in Hong Kong (now a member of British Airways Cabin crew). Also staff MRS JACKIE BARROW, MISS GILL EVANS, MR & MRS GEOFF AND HAZEL WICKHAM.

'I enjoy travelling, especially to visit my family in Malaysia. I have many happy memories of my time at Kingsfield School, and I found teaching a fulfilling and rewarding profession. Meanwhile Kingsfield School has undergone further transformations and is now called King's Oak Academy. I wish all the staff and pupils every success in the future.'

YET ANOTHER 90+...

KOSA Chairman, STAN BURRAGE (51-56) has been doing some visiting and has reported back to *KOSA NEWS* of his interesting talk with perhaps one of KOSA's oldest members. Stan writes:



'In the 1933 KGS photo of her class (on page 9), MURIEL LAND (32-35) (now

Brain) is second from right, front row. Muriel is now 96 and started at KGS in 1932, under MAJOR EATON, its first Headmaster. I spent several hours yesterday at her home in Church Avenue, Warmley, accompanied by her nieces, our 5MS school classmate, MARY POWELL (51-56) (now Janes) and Mary's sister MARGARET POWELL (63-69).

'Muriel remembers MISS QUINTON, MR BROWN, MISS WYCHERLEY, French Teacher MISS CHELL and PEGGY LOMAND, amongst others. She suffers with hearing difficulties but recalled EILEEN HARRIS as a classmate and a Lovell in her form who was related to Sir Bernard, but not the name of the Master who died in a train accident.

'Muriel went to Warmley School, then transferred to High Street before passing for KGS. She left school to take a 3 year apprenticeship with local drapers Shepards and met her husband Clifford Brain in the shop. He was a commercial traveller for a drapers' supplier and they were introduced by Miss Walford, the shop Manageress. Shepards was bombed out early in the German air raids. Muriel and Clifford were married in St. Barnabas Church, Warmley in 1943 by Reverend Say and raised three children, MALCOLM, MICHAEL and SUSAN BRAIN. They all went to KGS or Kingsfield.

'Muriel's parents were Mr and Mrs Land and Muriel was 4 years old when they moved to Church Avenue in 1927 when the first houses were built by Hemborough's. Her father was manager of the Co-op at Cadbury Heath and she recalled the ritual of him locking up the shop in the evening, walking 100 yards towards home, then always retracing his steps, just to make sure the shop was fully secure. Warmley Church was known at that



time as 'Tilly's Church' and Church Avenue as 'Tilly's Lane'

'Muriel has several faint recollections from KGS, one being a performance of *Trelawney of the Well*, followed by a presentation to one of the company of a cauliflower. Apparently as the recipient leaned forward to acknowledge the audience, a host of fags (cigarettes) fell out on the stage. Muriel can also recite, word for word, *The British Grenadier* although her final line is of dubious extraction. She would like to know if WINNIE FORGE or FORD, her classmate, is still alive.

'My connection is that Muriel lived in No. 4 Church Avenue, moving to No. 9 with her family, in 1953, when my father bought the house and we moved to Warmley from Spring Hill, New Cheltenham. We were able to reminisce about my family of 6 children at that time and the impact they had on a quiet cul-de-sac. Apparently quite a lasting impression.

'It was a pleasure to spend some time with Muriel. I recognised her instantly over a gap of nearly 60 years. A kind lady, much loved and cared for by her family.'

DETENTION KING...

GEOFF LORD (63-70) recalls how detentions can lead to greater things and stardom. Geoff writes:

'Here's the version of events as I remember it leading up to me appearing in two school plays while attending KGS.

'1964... Whilst in year 2 and class 2J I was kept in for detention. Whilst in detention I was approached by a master (cannot remember who) who told me that they required a small lad for the 6th form Christmas play *The Admirable Crichton*. If I was willing to put myself forward the detention would be quashed. Aha, a chance to get out of boring detention, so I took it willingly. I therefore appeared in the small non-speaking part, my first step to later stardom! You have the photo of this that I supplied to you, with me in the background in some tall lads arms (see page 10).

'1966... Whilst in year 4 and class 4D I was unfortunate enough to end up in detention again, a common occurrence at that period of my schooling. I believe it was MISS BRYANT who approached



me and asked me if I would be prepared to audition for the Christmas play as opposed to doing the detention. Once more, seeing a way out of detention, I agreed. I passed the audition and became Puck in the play *A Midsummer Nights Dream*. This was a much more challenging role than my earlier venture, but I did it and ended up as one of the main characters, with the play culminating in a solo speech by myself under the spotlights dressed in a green tutu with green tights and sequins and little pointed green boots. Still better than detention I guess?

REV'S RAMBLINGS...

Canon JIM WHITLOCK (55-62) requested a copy of the 'NEWS and responded with this missive:

'Thank you so very much for the 50th edition. I was away overseas in the Spring and somehow this copy got lost in translation! It's always so good to read snippets of memories which come flooding back.

'For my last two terms at KGS I was Head Boy- rather by default I think I was an

exact contemporary of GORDON JACKSON (55-62) - we were previously at Hanham Abbots School together before moving to KGS. He composed and performed some very moving clarinet interludes for a play I produced of Clemence Dane's *Granite*, set on a bleak Lundy Island.

'The photograph of the steps in the school corridor reminded me of a reprimand I was receiving from HEADMASTER MR RIDLEY as he marched me towards his office. He angrily said to me "The trouble with you Whitlock is that you always have to be different". With that he stepped on the hem of his academic gown and fell flat on his face on the steps...he made no further comment! I suppose I have been different ever since! Funny how a single photograph can evoke such memories.

'Here in Cornwall I regularly attend the Minack Theatre on the cliffs near Lands End and was delighted to find myself quite by chance sitting next to my "wife" (or was she my mistress?) from a KGS production of a Moliere classic, ROSEMARY HUNT (54-62) (now Adkins) and

her husband Rupert, who also live in Cornwall. We now meet up quite often.

'I also have great memories of the late BISHOP ANDY RADFORD (54-?). Neither of us knew in those days we were heading for Ordination (although his father was Vicar of Kingswood). We had long talks sitting watching cricket on the school field.

'I am still regularly in touch with MISS MARGARET LEES (?-?) (who became Morse). She was, and still is, an inspirational art teacher living in Australia and now celebrating her 85th birthday. Memories! Many thanks.'

CHARLES' RESPONSE...

CHARLES BUCKLEY (47-53) writes:

'Whilst reading through the 51st edition of *KOSA NEWS* I noticed that there were several points on which I could contribute, so here goes:

'The pupil "strike" first. As I recall it the canteen boilers failed so at lunch time we were only served salads. A small group of about 6 pupils went home to get something warmer. One lived next door to a cub reporter for a national daily which resulted in the press report of a school on strike! This was a complete surprise to the rest of the school!

'MR HODSON (Maths), later known as BEN. In my time he hadn't become familiarised as Ben. He was writing his text books in 1952. At that time he would ask us to work the examples to produce the answers section. I recall him saying he was a Cambridge Wrangler which if correct meant he was the highest marked maths graduate for his year. He had a passion for making complex geometric 3D figures, such as an icosadodecahedron.

'The staff cars rang a bell. They were parked in the boys' entrance near the canteen. SCRUFFY MORRIS'S (Geography) highly polished black and green Morris 8 had the undercoat showing through the polished green panels.

'HEADMASTER RIDLEY was concerned about cyclists speeding down Kingswood Hill so he ordered that all cyclists must dismount at the last house on the hill and walk their bikes round the corner. My twin brother, Richard, didn't obey this and sped round the corner, to hit Mr Ridley's car!

'The school bell; in my time the bell push was just inside the door of the classroom next to Senior Mistress MISS QUINTON'S office, room F. A prefect was responsible for ringing it so, on time, the door would open and a hand slip in to ring it.

'There were three teachers who caught a train home just after 4 o'clock, BUNNY AUSTEN (Physics), FROGGY DAVIES (French) and JIMMY WILDE (Games). They could be seen rushing down the field to the bottom gate 30 seconds after the bell. We were in a FROGGY DAVIES class in the aforementioned classroom when someone near the bell decided to end the day. Froggy was halfway down the field when Mr Ridley came in asking who rang the bell.

'I recall prefect duty on the top of the flight of steps controlling left side down and right side up. Boney Britton (English) in my time was associated with the jingle "Boney was a warrior, fought at Waterloo.....".

'My time at KGS spanned the Headships of MAJOR EATON and NORMAN RIDLEY. Major Eaton was very affable and easy going while Ridley had high ambi-

tions for the school. Although very strict there were many instances of his caring nature. Another anecdote was that being a twin presented a problem as it was school policy not to allow twins in the same class. I started in 2b while Richard was in 2a and we were kept apart throughout our time there. My sister, Patricia, followed from Downend School a year after me. She is retired in Ottawa now. Richard passed away 3 years ago in his retirement estate in Normandy

‘My recollection of the teaching standards of the academic staff is that they were outstanding across the board and I am grateful for such a good start.’

DISCOVERED...

WENDY EDWARDS (51-57) (now Cookes) has written again from Australia: ‘Just received my copy of *KOSA NEWS*



51, thank you, always look forward to it. I noticed a comment about Maths teacher MRS DIPROSE, who was BARBARA MITCHELL. I recall a very odd set of coincidences.

‘I was hopeless at Maths...6 out of a hundred for O-level algebra....really! And I married a mathematician! In Australia my

eldest son changed schools, and a friend of his called in and asked him if he would like to come to a farewell for the maths teacher who was retiring, a Mrs Diprose. My ears pricked up - an unusual name, and I asked if her first name was Barbara, and did she have a north country accent....yes! She had been teaching at East Doncaster High in Melbourne, Australia.

‘But even more odd, was telling this story to an English friend, he said he had applied for a job lecturing in Maths at Bristol University and was passed over for a Dr. Diprose ...her husband.

‘We had been taught binary in form 3 by Mrs Diprose. All very new. My then boyfriend who was doing one of the first degrees in computer science, was disbelieving until I showed him my algebra book!

‘Looking forward to the Ashes this year.’

...and RE-DISCOVERED...

‘For some time we lost the whereabouts of MARY HUCKLE (48-54) (now Thorn) after she moved without a forwarding address. We’ve now re-established contact and Mary has updated us:

‘So you are still Mr KOSA, well done! Glad you managed to find me as we are now living in Australia. Our two sons who live here on the Gold Coast decided it was time we came to live by them where they could keep an eye on us. John was over the moon as he hates the cold. I was the other way around but it was his turn I guess so I had to give up our home of over 40 years and my daughter! But we are all settled and quite happy.

‘Unfortunately things have not been too kind to me health wise and a few years back I contracted multiple myeloma but fortunately am now in remission. On top

of that I contracted type 2 diabetes which has affected my walking. It can be a little difficult, but hey think of the 100's worse off and I'm still smiling but had to give up dancing!

'Have 9 grand children and another on the way due to a second marriage, so that will keep the knitting needles busy, my eldest is 28 and the youngest 19 and a doctor and an aeronautical engineer amongst them. Last April 2017 was my 80th birthday and all my family was able to help me celebrate it, which gave me great joy.

'Do please pass on my best regards to



DAVID KERSHAW (48-56). I remember he and his wife came to visit us whilst we were living in Wanaka in New Zealand which was a joy and much catching up was done' (See photo of David and Mary above.)

VOLUNTEERS...

Many of our members volunteer for all kinds of charitable work. RUTH FISHER (45-53) (now Ryder) is a volunteer guide at Tyntesfield, south of Bristol and she has told us a little of her work there:



(photo courtesy of Clive Greenland LRPS, QGPP)

'In the summer of 2004 I volunteered to be a guide at Tyntesfield, starting in March 2005. I was fortunate as I came in on the last few months of guided tours. Visitors arrived in groups of twenty on small buses from the Tesco car-park in Nailsea. At that time we were two guides to a group – we greeted the visitors outside the house and gave them details of the four generations of the Gibbs family who had lived there, who acquired the house and some information about the business that provided the funds.

'Then, alternately, we described each room and its history as we toured the ground floor of the house. We exited into the courtyard and led our visitors into the base of the chapel building, up the spiral staircase, concrete steps, no handrail and no lighting (we used torches) and out through a door into the back of the Chapel. This route is never used by visitors now. After admiring the chapel, we led our group down to the south terrace to view the house and then round to the west end to see the exterior of the oratory. The visit ended with a walk back along the terrace. With the creation of a temporary car-park at the top end of the estate, things obviously changed a little.'(p 16)



1959...

Above is 3G3 in 1959. And on page 15 is a copy of the signatures from the back of the photo, as was the practice in those days!

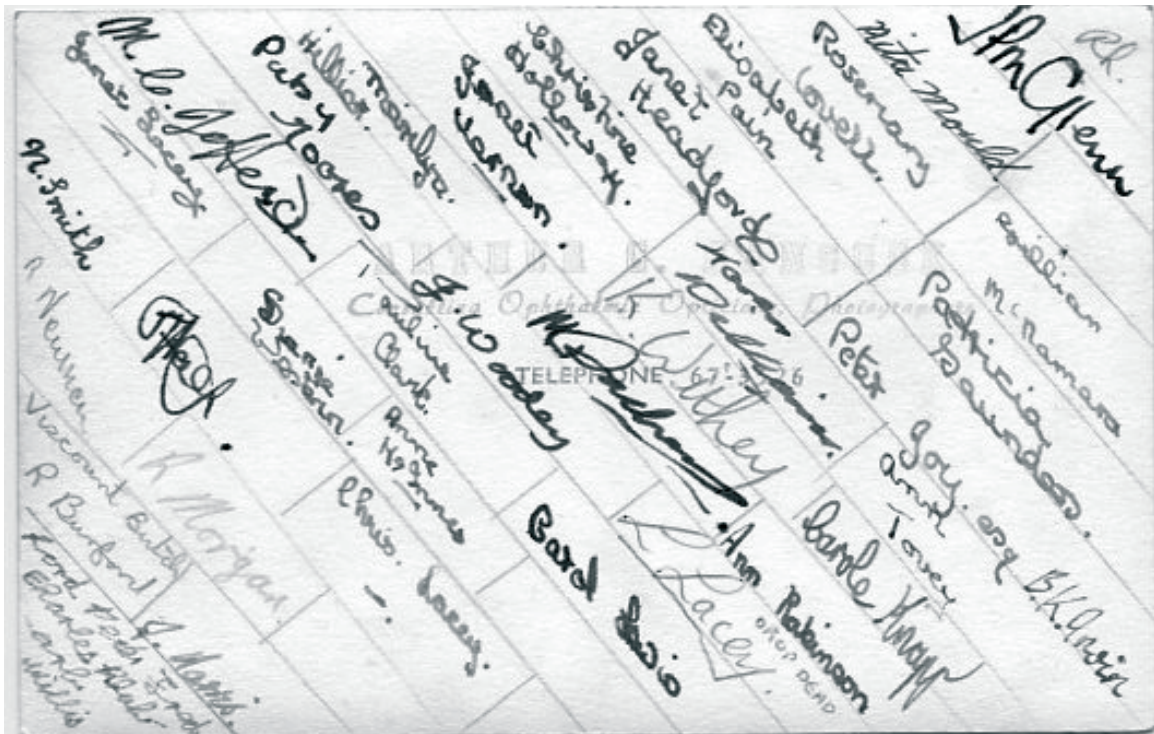


CHRISTMAS CAROL...

The other photos on this page are from the December 1967 production of Dickens' *A Christmas Carol*. Bottom are DAVID BATT, NIGEL HOWARTH as the Undertaker and RICHARD SHEAN as Bob Cratchit, the Clerk.

The top photo is from DIANE CURTIS (66-73) (now Britton) who lives in Switzerland. Tiny Tim is played by JOHN HOLLOWAY. Diane is opposite him as one of the Cratchit children. We have not identified those on the photo in the middle, but we're sure that their names will be forthcoming from someone. Any offers?





50 YEARS AGO...

In the last edition we congratulated DAVID DREW (63-70) on being elected to Parliament in 2017 for the second time. Turn the clock back 50 years (below) and David is shown on the left of the front

row of the Junior XI Cricket team. Others on the front row are MIKE PRICE, ALEX PATTERSON, GEOFF LORD and FARR. On the back row are n/k, STEVE LANGHORN (see obituaries), GORDON LACK, SWINDLEHURST and n/k.



'As time went on and the same visitors returned to the house, there was no need for the detailed information that we had given out earlier on. Eventually, instead of touring the house with groups of visitors, the guides became 'Room Interpreters' and were stationed in each room, changing rooms three times in the course of their session. With the introduction of 364 days a year opening, winter hours were introduced – 11 am to 3 pm as there is no lighting in the grounds of Tyntesfield.

'Tyntesfield has several hundred volunteers – house, conservation, cleaning, gardening, shop, restaurant, cafe, office and so on. Each area has its own place for briefings and refreshments. The house volunteers use the former servants' hall in the house.

'Things have changed over the years. One of the interesting events started in 2009, when C. R Williams, a firm specializing in refurbishing old buildings, started work on Tyntesfield. There were literally miles of scaffolding encompassing the whole building, with a white cover over the roof that could be seen along the A370. The whole roof was redone, tiles, stone and lead. Visitors were able to go up a scaffolding tower to view the work in progress. It was fascinating to see how quickly the tilers could fit three colours of tiles into a diaper pattern. Visitors entered the house through a tunnel of scaffolding. Everyone saw the plumbers running in and out with radiators under their arms and electricians lifting the floorboards to expose the metal tubes containing the wires as they worked on the re-wiring. All this was funded by a very large Heritage Lottery Grant.

'The Home Farm buildings were refurbished, toilets were installed and the Cow Barn became the present shop and restaurant. A cafe was established near the

kitchen garden. Several play areas for children have been created.

'These days there are plenty of events taking place all year round in the grounds, the sawmill and the chapel. Among the events are concerts, plays and exhibitions, and 'Queen Victoria' visits. There are Easter Egg hunts and other trails for children.

Over the recent Christmas periods there have been Victorian events in the house. In 2014 those house volunteers taking part wore Victorian costume, the men looked elegant in their frock coats and the ladies wore crinolines. It was easier than one might think to go up and down stairs in such a garment. My crinoline cleared the upper bedroom corridor by an inch on either side! In 2015 I was a maid in the



dining-room (easily the best decorated room – all silver and white, with ostrich feathers and Venetian masks).

I wore a grey dress, with a large white apron and a frilly cap with streamers. In

2016, I was actually a named character, Charlotte Yonge, a prolific authoress and a cousin of the family. The year, as previously, was 1891. I was based in the library (see photo) and it was fun talking to the visitors and trying to convince them that I didn't know anything after 1891. I learnt a lot about the real Charlotte Yonge.

'If you had asked me in 2005 whether I would still be volunteering at Tyntesfield

twelve years later, I should have said 'No'. It is always interesting – in the house you meet many people and there is always something new to be learnt.'

EVACUEE...



DEREK BAILEY (49-53) was born in the East End of London and evacuated to the Warmley area for five years during the hostilities of the WW2. It was fitting, therefore, that Derek attended the dedication by the Duke of Gloucester of the Evacuees' War Memorial at the National Memorial Arboretum, Staffordshire on 25 July 2017. Derek's younger brother was also evacuated but they were not reunited until after VE Day.



Whilst there, Derek met TV personality Michael Aspel, someone he first met some years ago at St Paul's Cathedral on the occasion of the kick-off meeting for the fund raising effort to launch the Evacuation Memorial. Both Aspel and Henry Sandon, the ceramics expert from the *Antiques Road Show* were evacuees and were there,

QUERY ANSWERED...

Many school events of the 1930s, such as the Speech Days, were held at the British Schoolroom in Kingswood. This was probably because of the limited space in the old School Hall before the new hall was added later. Consequently, on page 26 of *KOSA NEWS 50*, we asked the question: where was the British Schoolroom?

GEOFF COLE (55-60) did some research:

'I have no firm ideas but did a bit of Googling and came up with the Kings-

wood Congregational Church web site (<http://www.kingswoodcongregational.org.uk/About%20Us.htm>) which makes reference to the building of a Sunday Schoolroom which was used "as a British and then Infant School". Could this have been the British Schoolroom?



Interior of Whitfield's room (The British Schoolroom) (1741)

'I've also been reading a *Kingswood & Hanham Official Guide* from about 1964 (compliments of ROGER WINDSOR (55-60), who else?) and on page 24 there is the picture below which suggests it was Whitfield Tabernacle and not Kingswood Congregational that was the school's location.'

A SOLUTION...

TERRY ANSTEY (55-62) has been encouraged to write from Canada about our problems over Brexit:

'I am prompted to write because I have been following, from my home in Canada, the tortuous Brexit fiasco with interest and not a little dismay. And I have a solution which you might consider for *KOSA NEWS* or even to propose to your parliamentary representatives:

'The UK should become a Province of Canada. That way it would have visa-free travel in Europe, already-existing trading agreements with the EU and USA (+many others), a parliamentary system of government while maintaining provincial autonomy, and you would get to keep your queen. Simple.'

THE MUSICIANS...

In *KOSA NEWS 50* we featured a pen-portrait of conductor/composer ROLAND FUDGE (58-65). Roland has sent *KOSA* a photo of the Prefects of 1965. Roland

writes:

'In the photo below. I remember all the faces but only a few of the names: Boys (l to r): MARSH, FUDGE, FOSTER, PARKIN; Girls (2nd row): I think the second girl was known by us all as "Buff" - short for Elizabeth; then Joy? Front row: HEAD-MASTER RIDLEY in the middle (our nickname for him was "Chips"), on either side of him are "Min" - Senior Mistress MISS MORRISON and JACK DALZIEL. The boys are IAN PEACOCK, JAMES and ROBERT LEWIS.

'JEFFREY PLENTY is not there because he was already in his first year at the Royal College of Music. I thought the head girl at that time was HILARY EVANS but I do not see her in the picture.

'Stephen Foster played the oboe, Ian Peacock played French horn, James played violin and Robert Lewis played cello. That's probably why I remember them more clearly than the others. Thanks for the *KOSA NEWS*. I am fascinated by the memories it triggers.'



IN MEMORIAM.

The 3rd lecture in memory of COLIN PILLINGER (54-61) who, amongst other things, is well-known for his work with the Beagle 2 Mars probe, was delivered on 10th November 2017 in the Great Hall, Bristol University by Dr David Parker, Director of Human and Robotics of Space Exploration at the European Space Agency (ESA).

The lecture, entitled *Once Explorers, always explorers – Europe's role in space exploration*, was, as in earlier years, sponsored by Colin's wife Judith Pillinger and the Pillinger family who were present. Members of KOSA were also there in support.

Dr Parker gave a very interesting and informative talk of the work of the ESA, past, present and future, in which the UK plays a very prominent part, replicating the spirit of Colin Pillinger. The ESA employs 2,300 staff on 8 sites and is supported by 22 member states and has created space technology which benefits us all when we use GPS on satnavs, our mobile phones, travel in planes and watch the weather forecast. Their budget is for €5.75 million.

In the past, the ESA has been involved in the Huygens mission to Titan in 2005, so far the furthest distance achieved in space from mankind, and *Rosetta*, the first mission to land on a comet. A Mercury satellite manufactured in the UK will be launched in 2018 and a mission to Jupiter will be launched in 2022. *Orion*, 50% of which will be made in Europe, will eventually take four astronauts into deep space after an initial unmanned mission and Deep Space Gateway will use electronic propulsion to re-visit the moon to test for water.

There was more, of course, from a fasci-

nating talk. Why not get a ticket and attend yourself next year?

REMEMBERING COLIN...

The second memorial lecture this year took place at King's Oak Academy on Friday 24th November, It was given by Professor Tim O'Brien from the Jodrell Bank Centre for Astrophysics.

KOSA members will know that the radio telescope at Jodrell Bank was built by Sir Bernard Lovell of KGS and Tim traced a brief history of what is now the Lovell Telescope, with some interesting early photos of Bernard Lovell during his schooldays.

Tim traced the development of telescopes from the early ones using visual methods of 39 metres in diameter to the Extremely Large Telescope (ELT). The Jodrell Radio Telescope is 76 metres in diameter, the height of Big Ben's Tower and is located on WW2 battleship gun turrets. It came to the fore on 12 October 1957 when it traced the rocket from Sputnik by radar. It is now linked to seven other telescopes across the UK to provide greater coverage.



Other telescopes are in South Africa, Australia, Arizona, South America and there is even an Ice Cube telescope beneath the South Pole. Tim went on to describe gravitational waves, ripples in space, colliding black holes and dark matter. A thor-

oughly interesting lecture followed by many questions asked by the young people in attendance. A fitting lecture in memory of Colin.

The photo on page 19, taken outside the KOA, is of Professor Tim O'Brien with KOA pupils KELSEY NOCK, TIM WILIAMS and JAMES LOUGHLIN. James has a keen interest in Astronomy.

BIOLOGY TRIP...

What follows is a report of the Easter Biology field trip to South Wales taken from the Kingswood Chronicles written by Margarets Coleman and Hayes.

On page 21 is a copy of the instructions to each of the members of the trip. The whole week cost £5.15.6d (just over £5.77 in today's currency), including travel. A bargain! Amongst the instructions were lights out by 9:30pm for 4th formers, later for older pupils, then silence until 7:30am and smoking and pub visits forbidden. Also nobody is to enter any other person's room for ANY REASON WHATSOEVER.

On April 19th 1955 peaceful Horton was again invaded by the Biological Section of KGS. 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. The following day we were followed by a black and tan mongrel which we christened "Merv". Every morning he was waiting, and accompanied us for the rest of the day until we returned for dinner. 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.

Our only visit to the East Point proved to be much more successful than we had hoped, for we found for the first time a vicious rock lobster (now in a marine tank), and an eighteen inch dogfish, which although washed upon the rocks was still very much 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. On arrival we wearily took our way towards Worm's Head, 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.

AN APOLOGY...

Due to confusion on the part of the Editor in mixing up photographs, the shot which purported to be MICHAEL MOSLEY (39-44) and his wife on page 5 of *KOSA NEWS 51* was in fact of contemporaries JIM BURGESS, RON CLEMENTS and TONY CURTIS and his wife. Profound apologies for the mistake.

BIOLOGY TRIP 1955 - INSTRUCTIONS...

BIOLOGY FIELD WEEK.

April 1955.

Horton, Gower, S. Wales.

DATES. April 19 - 26th.
ACCOMMODATION. Boarding House. (Talbot Lodge, Horton, Swansea)
MEALS. Cooked breakfast at 9 a.m.
Packed lunch and tea.
Cooked dinner at 7 p.m.
COST. Accommodation. £4.14. 6d.
Travel £1. 1. 0d.
Total. £5.15. 6d.

PROGRAMME. The day is spent on out-door field studies, weather permitting, and the evenings on making of records etc.,

KIT. (which should be marked with owners name)

1. Towel and washing kit.
2. Old warm clothes suitable for field work. Pullovers are essential and a wind proof jacket invaluable.
3. A COMPLETE change of clothing.
4. WATER-PROOF Mac. and Mac. hat.
5. Rubber boots and wollen socks to wear with the boots.
6. Stout water proof shoes and woollen socks and spare laces.
7. Shoes to wear in the house.
8. Sandwich tin and bottle or thermos flask.
9. Satchel or haversack.
10. Elastoplast.
11. Cardboard to rest papers on out of doors plus a clip.
12. ISSUED BY SCHOOL: Paper, dissecting instruments, hand-lens. Each member is responsible for these until they are returned to the School on first day of term.
13. Binoculars are useful but must be brought at the owners' risk.

RULES.

- A. Everyone must be punctual for meals.
- B. Lights out at 10 p.m. - Vth and Vith formers.
9.30 p.m. - IVth formers. Silence until 7.30^{a.m.} p.m.
No member of the party is to switch on the wireless before breakfast.
- C. There is hot and cold water in each room and a bath list will be put up.
- D. Beds must be opened and the rooms tidied before breakfast.
- E. Nobody is to enter any other person's room for ANY REASON WHAT-SO-EVER.
- F. Sandwich tins and flasks to be put on the chest behind the stairs in the hall before breakfast.
- G. Instructions for the day will be given out at breakfast.
- H. All specimens to be left on the veranda and boots in the front porch.
- I. Smoking and visits to Public Houses are forbidden.
- J. No members are allowed to go off on their own pursuits.
- K. Swimming and cliff climbing are forbidden at all times.
- L. All accidents must be reported to a member of staff immediately and any case of illness to Mr. Williams. The First Aid box is kept in his room.

IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT THESE RULES ARE KEPT AND ANYONE BREAKING THEM, OR DISOBEYING STAFF WILL BE SENT HOME IMMEDIATELY.

R.N. Williams.
.....

SWISS MEMBER...

DIANE CURTIS (66-73) (now Britton) has sent KOSA a number of photos from Switzerland, and in response to the que-



ry of how she came to settle there, has a given us the following story:

'In the late 70s, my husband, also from Bristol and a chemist by training, was working for Du Pont, a US multinational chemical company, in the UK. When the company set up European headquarters in 1980, my husband, with me in tow, was transferred to Geneva.

'The restrictions on foreigners working in Switzerland were quite strict then and I only had a permit to live in Switzerland but not to work. Undaunted I put my energies into making friends in the international community and learning French. My husband became a keen skier and although I love the mountains and the snow I never really became a competent skier (and have torn, twisted and broken ligaments to prove it!).

' In 1984 I was granted a work permit

and I began work as a statistical analyst for IATA (International Air Transport Association), which was quite a departure from my training as a biologist. We loved our life in the land of cheese and choco-

late and decided to make it our permanent home - my husband's 3 - 5 year transfer became permanent. Now, nearly 40 years on, we we live in the charming village of Aubonne in the canton of Vaud, nestled among the vineyards on the edge of Lac Léman, between Geneva and Lausanne.

'We have 2 daughters, a dog and a horse, and have acquired Swiss nationality (a long process, culminating in a rather terrifying interview with the Naturalisation committee of the local commune!). My husband recently retired from Du Pont and I decided to do the same, and left my job as a Membership Relations Manager with ISO at the same time. We still love our Swiss life, although we appreciate being able to spend more time in the UK, as well as travelling the world - now for pleasure instead of business!'

Diane's family is shown in a recent photograph. Husband Phil, Diane, daughter Claudine and partner Charles, with younger daughter Nicole in the front.

An earlier photo of Diane is on the 1968 photo of 2H on page 23. She is on the far left of the front row.



Above is Diane Curtis' form 2H of 1968. Diane has also sent us the photo below of 65-66 1st XI Soccer team.

It seems that some time during the 1960s Soccer was re-introduced into the sports curriculum after it was ceased in 1948,

the last year of Headmaster MAJOR EATON's reign, and rugby was introduced. It was possibly run concurrently with rugby as is evidenced by the virtually contemporary photo of the 67-68 under 15s Rugby XV on page 24.





FACEBOOK...

There are two groups on the Web that many KOSA members may wish to subscribe to, especially if they are far from home and wish to recollect memories of Bristol.

The two sites are virtually identical, but often have different content. Join *Facebook* - you don't have to reveal any of yourself if you do not want to - and subscribe to the following groups so that you can access their contents. They are constantly being upgraded and added to, so popping onto these sites from time to time is probably worthwhile. The two Facebook URLs of Bristol past are:

Staple Hill and around Bristol photos and pictures past and present

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/948306545215159/>

Old Bristol Schools photos and memories

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1415733348693321/>

You may download photographs by clicking on the photograph and then loading it into appropriate photo software such as *PhotoShop*, and you may also read and leave comments on the site, which often initiates a correspondence.

The photo (above) of the 67-68 Junior Rugby XV has been taken from one of the sites, as has the photo on page 25 of the 1970 production of Gilbert and Sullivan's *Mikado*. The blurb which goes with it cite MARTIN RADFORD and LINDA MORRISON, also MIKE COX, ANN LAMB DEN (65-72) (now Warren) and JOHN BUDDEN.

Martin posted the comment:

'I remember this production well. MATTHEW THOMAS there in the back looking fierce...it was directed by the late PHILIP PHILLIPS, the slightly batty Chemistry teacher who loved G & S. It was his idea that I should enter on a child cycle. Such fun and such great memories.'



THE MIKADO (1970)

HELP GIVEN...

DOREEN PILLINGER (48-53) (now Lindegaard) has responded to the request for help with her family tree by MARY MILES (42-49) (now Bentley) on page 24 of the last issue of *KOSA NEWS*: 'At the late EDDIE WHITE'S (55-61) request I researched his family tree in 2008. According to my research Mary Miles and Eddie White are 3rd cousins once removed. The following info is a much simplified version and if Mary

would care to email me direct (dplindegaard@gmail.com) I will put her in touch with Eddie's widow. I believe he had the family tree professionally drawn and framed; sorry to say we did not pursue the Miles line downwards beyond Jessie Bolwell, Eddie's mother.

'William Miles (born Llandaff, ca1811) and his wife Margaret, nee Morgan, bca1818 had children, Morgan and Jessie, (the youngest) bca1864, among others. Presumably Thomas was one of the older children of William and Margaret and Thomas, according to Mary's brief details, had a son Arthur Henry Miles.

Arthur Henry was Mary's father.

'Jessie Miles the daughter of William and Margaret married Frank Bolwell. Their son, Morgan Bolwell, married Florence Bowler who were the parents of Jessie Bolwell. Jessie Bolwell married FRANCIS JAMES WHITE and they became Eddie's parents.

'I am puzzled that "Jessie and Jim had draper's shop in Kingswood....." This is news to me and I wish Eddie was still alive so that I could ask him. I knew his Mum and Dad, FRANCIS WHITE (also a KGS Old Scholar) and his wife Jessie all my life. I never heard that he was known as "Jim", as I always called him Mr White as one did in those days. They had a newsagents and stationers in Regent Street next door to Zahringer's the jewellers. F.J White's father Harry James White was a compositor/printer.

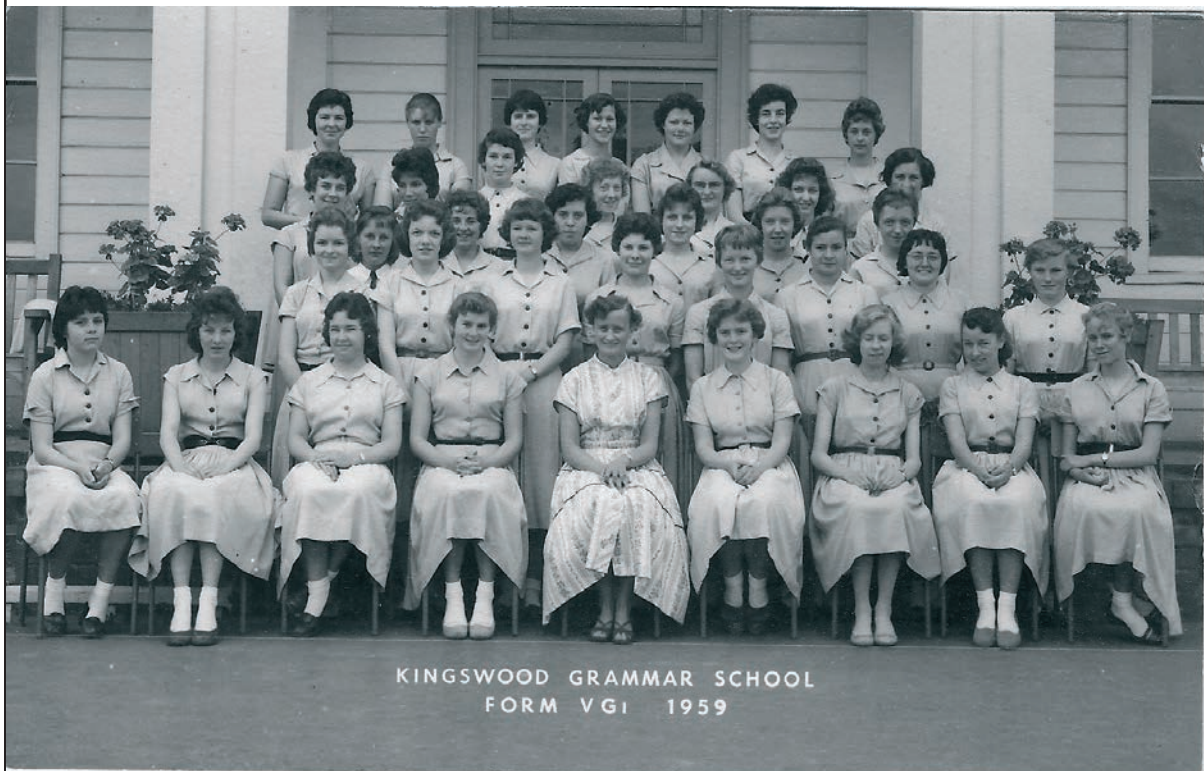
'On another topic, I was sorry to hear of TESS DENNING'S (42-46) (later Weav-

er) death. (Page 8) She used to live in Worcester Road opposite some children called Garland who I played with. She was a few years older than us, very pretty, and always neat and tidy, "lady-like" my Mum said, and I remember being very envious of her velour hat. Could this have been a KGS hat?

She also went to Hanham Road Congregational Chapel as I did and married Rex Weaver who was the son of the Superintendent there. We were both in the dramatic society and I remember a play called *My Aunt's Heiress*, in which I was "Queenie", one of the nasty sisters, Tess played the nice sister, much put upon by the rest, who in the end copped the rich aunt's money.'

CO-EDUCATIONAL..?

The photo below is of MISS SPILL'S 5Gi of 1959 which is an all-girls' class. It was sent to KOSA by JANICE MARTIN (53-59) who is on the end of the second row from the front. Why no boys?



KOSA MATTERS...

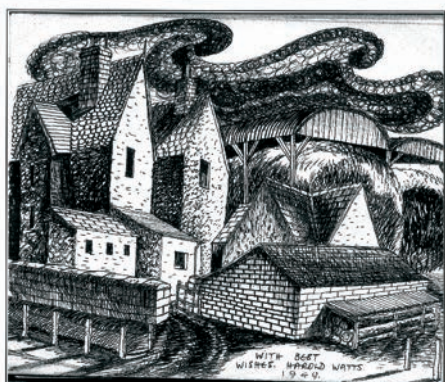
WELCOME...

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

Keith Wilcox (50-55) and wife Pauline Burgess (50-55), Sue Hudson (62-66), Mary Huckle (48-54) (rejoining), Paul Thomas (66-68), Mary Plaster (55-62), Martin Sollars (70-76), Gareth Cooper (74-78).

WATTS' DRAWING...

Copies of the line drawing by the late HAROLD V WATTS, the Art Master from the 50s are still available. They are about A4 size on art paper and have been supplied by DEREK BAILEY (49-54) and are a fitting legacy of a well-regarded member of staff. £10 secures, payable to KOSA.



A VACANCY...

CILLA POWELL (46-51) (now Maguire), who has been our Secretary for some time and has been travelling down from Berkshire for committee meetings, has resigned.

At the AGM in April we would like a volunteer to come forward. We have a couple of friendly committee meetings a year (more social events, really) for which minutes are taken and an AGM. Most

other duties are carried out by the Chairman or Editor. Attractive salary - double what was paid to Cilla!. Why not join us?

WHERE ARE THEY NOW..?

For every edition we have some returns where our member has moved and not given a forwarding address. We hate losing contact, so don't forget to let us know when you move to pastures new, We are also pleased to post requests to find past friends so that a friendship may be renewed.

Does anyone know the whereabouts of Keith Parry (58-63) (ex-Marine), John Burcombe (49-56) of Canada, Jacqueline Burchill (57-63) (now Patchitt) and Nigel Carey? If you know their current address, please let us know.

YOUR COMMITTEE...

KOSA cannot operate effectively without an active committee. The passing of ex-Chairman PEGGY OTLET (later Bolt) (see Obituaries) has released a position on the committee for at least one new member. At our AGM in April, why not consider joining the committee? We would particularly welcome new members from the 60s, 70s or later in order to progress the future of KOSA. Even if you cannot attend the AGM, just let the Editor know your interest and we can propose your membership for election at the AGM. The committee meets about 2/3 times a year.

BACK PAGE...

By 1970 KGS had morphed into Kingsfield Comprehensive and a departure from the practice of photographing individual forms meant that whole years were taken. The back page is of the whole of Form V in 1970, another shot taken from the Staple Hill Facebook site referred to earlier on page 24.



KINGSFIELD SCHOOL · KINGSWOOD
FORM V 1970