



KOSA NEWS



NUMBER 54 - SPRING 2019

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

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EDITORIAL...

In my last Editorial I was critical of the current education system and attempted to make a comparative analysis of the results of King's Oak Academy and some of the other institutions in South Gloucestershire. A response from the Principal of KOA is printed on page 20.

I also reported that post-16 (A-level) education has now ceased at KOA. Many members have written to say how disappointed they are at this unfortunate decision. A 6th form building was opened specifically to carry out this activity in the 70s and now the brightest students who aspire to a university education have to go out of the immediate area for their tuition.

We hear of many schools which are forced to reduce the breadth of education by withdrawing subjects such as Music, Art and Languages from the curriculum due to the government's austerity measures. Surely, if these subjects were made available to us in the 1950s when we had real austerity after the war, then funds should also be available to give our own children and grandchildren the opportunities made available to us. Are we not short-changing them? They only go through secondary education once in their lifetime.

The Editor

DIARY DATES:

SPRING LUNCH & AGM:

Please set aside **SATURDAY, 13th APRIL 2019** at Lincombe Barn, Downend BS16 2RW when you will have a chance to sack the Editor and the rest of the Committee! We meet at 12.00 to 12.30pm 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 to our Treasurer (address inside). After lunch DAVID EWINS (53-59) will tell us how he got from KGS to NASA via Temple Meads. (see page 27 inside)

AUTUMN LUNCH:

Already booked for **SATURDAY, 12th OCTOBER 2019** at Lincombe Barn, Downend. Please book the date in your diary now.

OBITUARIES...

PETER WHITE (43-48)

Peter was born on 10th September 1931 in St Peter's Port, Guernsey. He was an only child and his father worked on the railways as an engineer. In June 1940 his family was on the last boat out of Guernsey before it was invaded by the Germans and they came to Bristol as it was his father's home town.

Peter enjoyed KGS and chose a career in engineering, initially as an apprentice at Fry's, Keynsham and later with Midlands Electricity Board, where he worked as an electrical engineer until he retired. Peter did his National Service in The Navy and played rugby for them, on one occasion breaking his jaw during a game.

Peter had a lifelong passion for rugby. He joined Keynsham Rugby Club in 1957 where he played as a forward for their first team. In 1964 he was elected Club Captain, holding the post for two seasons. He played until his 40s and in his later years he trained the Juniors and was a referee. He went to Twickenham several times with his MEB friends, giving his daughter a love of rugby.

Ruth and Peter were married in January 1969 and the family moved to Downend to look after Peter's mother, his father having died several years before. In his apprenticeship years Peter was keen at flying model aircraft. He would ride his bike to near Bristol Airport to fly the models he had made.

Later on he took to making models with his son - military soldiers mainly. He joined the Model Club in Kingswood and throughout the years he made some amazing and breathtaking models which he loved taking to shows.

After retiring he joined Bromley Heath Probus Club which he enjoyed very much where he also served a term as President. Another of Peter's loves were his dogs. Peter was very much a home bird and enjoyed gardening with Ruth and they liked browsing round the local garden centres. He enjoyed their trips out to the Arboretum each week.

In later life Peter had a number of health problems and Ruth looked after him for a long time until he moved to Yate into a home.

STAN CRUSE (41-47) and GORDON LEE (39-44) have supplied us with information on the funeral of HAZEL CANARD (35-40) (later Roberts):



'Hazel, who lived in Downend all her very long life of 95 years, died on 23rd September 2018. She left a legacy of a very active and fruitful life both in the community and in her involvement in the life of Christ Church, Downend.

'Hazel married husband Philip around 1945 when he was secretary of the Severn Road Cycling Club. As a result Hazel

became a cyclist. In later life Philip became an ordained minister in the Church of England and became curate at Christ Church. Her support and commitment made many important decisions in the Diocese and the Deanery, and her support of the church continued after her husband's death.

'Hazel had the gift of a very quick wit and was outspoken on many topics, often raising a few eyebrows, but she was respected for her frankness which often had good results

'They had no children of their own but she became godmother to numerous children of the many curates who served at Christ Church.

'In, her early years she worked in the advertising department of the *Bristol Evening Post* and her secretarial skills were used extensively on all the various committees she served during her life time.

'Hazel was a very keen gardener, who grew her own vegetables and flowers, and it was very apt that her coffin was adorned with cabbages, carrots and flowers from her own garden. Her funeral was the first to take place after the £1 million spend on the refurbishment of the Christ Church building.'

In the photo on page 2, Hazel is on the right. Can anyone identify her friend?

NESTA JEFFERIS (45-50) (now Chalcraft) has informed us of the death of HAZEL KEMBREY (45-52) (later Woodman) on 23rd October 2017 at Gracefields Home in Downend.

'I knew Hazel since 1945-50 and in the same class, 4D, when I left and Hazel

stayed on to qualify for further education. I only re-connected with her at KOSA reunions in, I believe, about 1998 or 99. She told me that she was a retired headmistress at Kingswood High Street School for Boys, the first woman in that position; this was a credit to womenfolk.

'Many times she invited members of our form to a pleasant meal at her home, including PAT WALDRON, BRENDA RICHINGS, RUTH FISHER, PAT NORLEY, JUNE and JANET CRANE and MAUREEN CLENCH. We also met at KOSA events.

'Hazel was a very easy-going person and sad that she has left us. In August I made a visit to her in the home and she was in a restful position, which enabled us to talk.'

Bri Plummer passed away at his home in Downend on September 17, 2018 after a short period of illness and ROGER BYE (56-61) has provided *KOSA NEWS* with the following:

'BRIAN CLIVE PLUMMER (55-62) was born 20th February 1944 first son of Reginald and Kathleen Plummer. They lived in a large house in Fishponds with his grandparents and aunt.

'When Brian was 12 years old his parents bought their own house in Grace Road, Downend. From here Brian attended KGS and then did an engineering apprenticeship with Bristol Siddeley Engines and went on to be a Development Electronics Engineer after the takeover by Rolls Royce in 1966. His mother died when he was only 23 so he was left to do his own cooking, washing and ironing and help look after his father and brother. In 1976 Brian bought 38 Grace Road and lived there for the balance of his life. He

loved his house and his garden and put in many hours to turn them into a beautiful home. He always said that he was not going to leave No. 38 other than in a box, so he got his wish.

'In 1994 Brian was made redundant in February but got married to the love of his life, Ruth, in October. They went to Madeira for their honeymoon, found a favourite restaurant and being a person who doesn't like change they have been back to Madeira 20 times since.

'Friends were always important to Bri and many go back more than 60 years and include a number from his days at KGS. He was very good at keeping in touch and enjoyed getting together to reminisce about old times. Brian had a fantastic memory and could remember names and situations right back to his early school days.

'Brian had a large collection of tools - it was a standing joke that he would not only have the right tool for any job but would probably also have a spare! He was also a great source of advice on many subjects and as one friend said "Brian usually had the answer but if he was not sure he would say "I don't know but I think" and even then he was nearly always right!

'Brian was always ready to help anyone, whether it was with car mechanics, building, plumbing, electrics or computer repair and he never wanted anything for his trouble, saying they would be there when he needed them, and the many visitors who came when he became unwell is a great testament to that. He lived the life he wanted and left it the same way. We'll miss him greatly.'

DEAN FRENCH (64-70) has reported the

death of his friend and KGS schoolmate ALAN BATEMAN (64-70). This occurred sometime in Spring 2018. Alan's friends and schoolmates included the twins MARK and CLIVE WILTON and STEVE GAPPER, all 64-70.

RITA DAVIS (41-47) (later Rita Rees MBE) passed away on Friday 29th September, 2017 at Begbrook House Care Home in Frenchay, Bristol. She was 86.



Rita formed Headway Bristol in 1977 on a site at Frenchay Hospital, after her daughter Jane suffered a traumatic brain

injury. Rita led a group of people who were also relatives of those with traumatic brain injuries, who recognised the need to share experience and knowledge.

From humble beginnings in a room at the hospital, they expanded to fantastic facilities. Over the years Headway Bristol have gone on to support thousands of individuals and families. As time passed and the demand for day services grew, Rita and her dedicated team began the colossal task of fundraising in excess of over £200,000 to build Headway Bristol's very own premises. In May 1996 Sir Harry Secombe joined to officially open 'Headway House'. None of this would have happened without Rita. She served on the Board of Headway Bristol as Chairman and also as a Board member of Headway UK.

Rita is survived by her daughter Jane Rees and her memory will live on forever in the hearts of everyone at Headway Bristol.



Rev. JOHN 'TWEEDY' HARRIS [52-60) has written to inform us of the death of Rev JOHN STEPHENS (41-46?) which was reported in the *Methodist Recorder* in

September 2018.

John was born in Pilning in 1930 where his father was a farmer and his mother was a cheesemaker. The family moved to Pucklechurch and then to Downend where John went to Christchurch Junior School and then to KGS.

John was interested in Cricket and became a cub reporter on local cricket matches on Saturdays for the Green Un. On leaving KGS John went into insurance and then during National Service served in the Education Corps. John's religious influence came from his Methodist mother, but he joined Foster Baptist Church when his own Methodist chapel was destroyed during the war.

Returning to the Methodists after the war, John went to Handsworth College in Birmingham from 1953 to 1956 and then to his first circuit in Beverley, Yorkshire. During his career he moved to Hinkley, Reading, Eastleigh, Bournemouth, Reading (again) and Plumstead in South East London. He also had a spell in Ghana.

He died peacefully after giving 65 years service to the Methodist Church leaving his second wife Agatha and step-daughter Stephanie.

ALICE WEBB (30-35) (later Johnson), who died in January 2017 was well known for her book of poems *A Variety of Verses* and her autobiography. We have featured some of her poems in earlier editions of *KOSA NEWS*.



Alice was born at Lodge Farm, Siston in 1919, the youngest but one of nine siblings. She lived and worked on the farm both indoors and out until after WW2. In 1951 she married fellow youth club leader, Ambrose, who also lived to a very great age. They lived in Tytherington until their deaths.

We have also received notifications of the passing of the following ex-KGS folk: Dr Ann Morris (46-53) (later Soutter), Chris Jobbins (58-63), Muriel Land (32-35) (later Brain), Keith Harris (41-46), John Wembridge (40-45), June Marriott (41-48) (later Evans), Keith White (43-48), Gordon Brain (22-27), William Didham (34-38), Brian Harding (45-50), Alan Brain (37-44), Marian Osborne (40-47) (later Otlet), Peter Skinner (48-53), Catherine Fewes (66-71) (later Berry).

We published the memories of JUNE MARRIOTT (41-48) and MURIEL LAND (32-35) in recent editions of *KOSA NEWS*.

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

MASSEY'S MISSIVE Pt. 2...

In the last edition we published a long letter of the memories of DAVE MASSEY (66-71). We now publish the conclusion:

'My music career also brought me into contact with another ex-Kingsfield old boy, SCOTT DAVIDSON (75-82). When a music journalist I got a tape of songs that had impressed me greatly by his then pop band, *Hey Belaba*. I ended up managing the band for a while and with both Scott, who played keyboards, and singer, Andy Oswin, coming, like me, from Kingswood and being City fans, we got on well!

'Scott went on to tour and play keyboards with major 1980s acts, *Pet Shop Boys* and *Bros*, and those experiences led him to set up a magazine in Bristol, which he later sold for a tidy sum. That helped get him a seat on the City board, and he subsequently became Chairman.

,The 'beautiful game' was good to him in his first full season in charge when the Reds got promoted out of the old Second Division, but it turned cruel the following season when the club was relegated!

Soon after, a boardroom power struggle saw Scott ousted, but he bounced back in his inimitable style and has built up new, profitable businesses, as well as recently becoming a grandfather!

VERNON RESPONDS...

The last edition prompted VERNON STOKES (38-43) to write:

'I was saddened to hear of the death of TONY CURTIS (40-47) as we were both good friends. The photo in the last edition was of Tony with myself. Our fami-

lies were also friends; his father, George, held a high position with the then Kingswood Council. My aunt looked after both Tony and his sister, Audrey, in their infant years and they knew her as 'Nan'. Tony and I were in the 1860 ATC together and we kept in touch over the years – I'm in my 92nd year.

'I was interested in some of the entries in the Autumn edition. RUSSELL TOLLERFIELD (56-61), although much younger than me, lived in a house that was built onto my family's house. I knew his brother Peter and their mother, known as 'Mrs T' to me, would talk regularly as we shared a border.

'I often wondered what Russell did in life and it was obviously to a degree that he could be proud of his achievements. When at home he seemed to keep his own council, but it was nice to know that he was held in high esteem in his commercial work. I was most enlightened.

'On page 22 was the article on the 111th Scout Pack at Holy Trinity Church in Kingswood. I was a member in the late 30s when Don West was Scoutmaster. He had a newsagent's shop opposite the church, now long gone.

'I refer to page 23 and the name Ian 'Ollie' Holloway. I have known him for more years than I care to remember as I was for 15 years on the Board of Directors at Bristol Rovers. When he was our manager he was given his first professional contract with the Rovers.

'He was a huge character who never forgot his local upbringing and with his tenure in the football world became a nationally known person in the game, and later a TV personality. I deem it a pleasure to call him a friend.

'No matter what, Ollie will always be a 'Blue' – it's in his blood. It's not too often we have a chance to chat, but I did speak to him at the end of last November when many old memories were recalled and that dry wit of his came to the fore. He will always be popular with those of the old regime, both staff and fans.

'Because of my disability I can no longer attend matches but I keep in touch with the staff. I am still a life vice-president of the club – I can safely say the oldest!'

VERNON'S MEMORIES...

VERNON STOKES (38-43), who comes from the village of Made-For-Ever, gives us some of his own memories from his youth:

'I was born in the village inn, 'The Anchor', in the late 20s. It was said that the name came from the earlier days when prospecting for coal a large seam was discovered, the prospector shouted he was 'made for ever!' I cannot confirm this, but that was how it went. My family was the licensee from 1919 to 1967, when my parents retired.

'In those days the village was lit with two gas lamps. There were only two residences in Anchor Road. To the left was land owned by my family which stretched along Anchor Road to the boundary of Champion Road which had about six or seven cottages to the left and Powell's Farm to the right.

'The land at that time was the football pitch which was home to Kingswood AFC, who played in the first division of the Bristol District League. They played against such clubs such as Bristol St George, Warmley, St Phillip's Adult School, Hanham Athletic and Cadbury Heath.

'The Kingswood Club HQ was the village pub and the club was run by the family. I have a letter when the then Prime Minister's brother, Malcolm Macdonald (1929), was visiting the area and came to watch a match and signed the players' form as a Kingswood player. The letter is from No. 10 Downing Street, and he was made a vice-president of the club.

'There were only about 50 or 60 homes in the village then, everyone knew everyone else, who they were, what they did and where they lived. The pub was the social centre of the community, every activity sprang from it. Each day the milk was delivered straight from Powell's Farm by horse-drawn cart in metal churns and poured into milk jugs on the doorstep – no skimmed or semi-skimmed in those days! Bread was delivered by horse-drawn van from Attwellin Warmley Hill, Stiddard in Hanham or Ted Fry in Hanham Road.

'My father was serving a pint of Bristol United Brewery bitter, a box of matches and 10 cigarettes and the customer was getting change from 2/- (2 shillings or 10p). Smith's crisps were 1d (one penny) a packet, delivered each week from their factory in Brislington. There were no washing machines, fridges, freezers or vacuum cleaners.

'The main employment for girls in the village was at Carson's Chocolates. They would more or less start the village life off with their chatter as they made their way over Syston Common to Carson's – no buses, just shanks' pony!

'There were many tales I knew about the pub. The village fish-man, 'Fishy' Britton, would pick up fish from the fish market about twice weekly to deliver around the village by horse and cart. As they arrived



A RESPONSE...

JULIE JOHNS (68-75) was prompted to drop us a line by the names in the last edition:

'I was interested to see some familiar names in 'Massey's Missive' and thought readers might want to know that in later life JOHN HOLLOWAY has pursued his acting ambitions, including appearing as Sir John Seymour in the film *The Other*

outside the inn the horse would stop as he knew his master would be thirsty by then. Once he left the bar the horse would move on. Fishy was having his regular Sunday lunchtime drink in the kitchen room when he passed away. It was said the way he wanted to go!

'One evening, the village shoe repairer, Tom Flowers, made his nightly visit, but wasn't at his best. Dad remarked on this, and was told that his tooth was giving him hell. Could Dad take it out? Dad told him to go to the dentist, but he kept on, so in the end Dad gave in, gave him some whisky, got his pliers and after quite a fight took the tooth out. Tom was so pleased, he even paid for his whisky! They were tough in those days.

'There are dozens more stories that could be told, but this is just a taste of village life, leisurely, no rushing, time seemed not to matter and I must say, I was happy to be part of it.'

The photo above shows Vernon outside the pub with his uncle.

Boleyn Girl. The name NICKY YUILL was also familiar to me as her sister SALLY was in my year at Kingsfield. Sally is now a sculptor in the west country. I can remember Sally being the lead singer in a band when I was in the 4th or 5th year and her performing in late night gigs alongside studying for 'O' levels (I think they performed in the school hall, possibly at a school disco on one occasion).

'For any readers who were contemporaries of ours, we have a Facebook Group for those who were at Kingsfield from the late 1960s to mid 1970s called: KINGSFIELD LEAVERS 1972-1975 (2011 GROUP). This is not a general Kingsfield group because we don't want it to become too large and impersonal, but there is a generic one called Kingsfield School (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/2221007770/>).

If you are a Facebook user, I would encourage you to set up a page for your particular year group.' (An excellent suggestion – Ed)

THAT 1948 STRIKE...

GEOFF COLE (55-60) has been carrying out some detective work in tracing the reports on the Great KGS Strike...

'I've been happily reading the latest NEWS and the above story on page 13. As I have access to the "Find My Past" family history programme I had a look at the actual newspaper (*Daily Mirror*, Friday 4th June 1948) and the story printed is exactly as shown by you but I thought you might be interested in seeing the attached. The newspaper at that time was a 'broadsheet' so it has been downloaded in 2 parts so you can see the whole page even though both parts show this story.

DAILY MIRROR JUNE 4, 1948

NO POTATOES FOR LUNCH SO THEY QUIT SCHOOL

WHEN they found they had no potatoes or bread with their school lunch yesterday forty pupils of Kingswood Grammar School, near Bristol, marched from school and stayed away all afternoon.

One of the girls who went "on strike" told the "Daily Mirror": "We were almost as hungry when we got up from the meal as when we sat down."

Day baking "won't mean stale bread"

THE fact that the day-baking of bread is being introduced in the schools is being hailed as a step towards the solution of the problem of stale bread.

"We had a jam-jar in the playground and decided if the school could not satisfy our appetite we would have a real meal at home. All of us live too far away to get back for afternoon lessons so we stayed away."

Mr. M. J. Eaton, headmaster, said: "We have not a single potato in the school kitchen."

The result is that we have to rely on our old supplies of bread which are not sufficient to cook lunch for the children, as is apparent from the fact that some of the children have had to go home for their lunch.

Mr. Eaton said that the school would have had a similar problem last year when the Government introduced the day-baking scheme.

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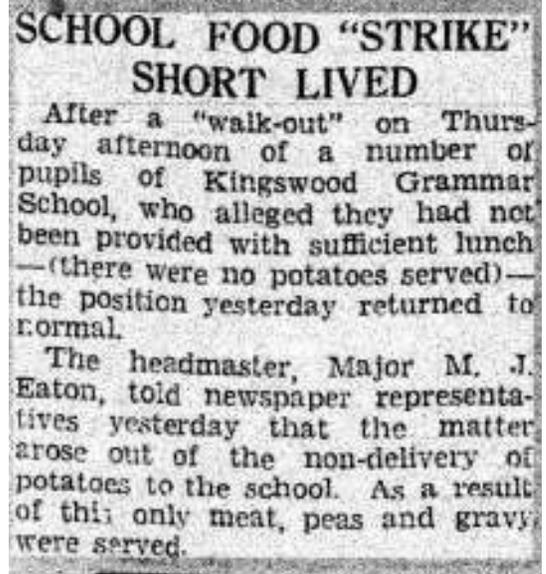
'THE WORST U.S. SCANDAL'

Considered as Britain's America's worst scandal, the British Government's handling of the U.S. Atomic Energy Commission's investigation of the former spy-ring headed by Klaus Fuchs, was criticised today by the U.S. State Department.

'Hazard's' voyage in wrong

IT WILL FINISH THE WORKHOUSE TYPE OF SPEECH. Mr. George H. White, Secretary of the United States Chamber of Commerce, said today that the Government's scheme for obliging workmen to use their own tools was a mistake.

Extract from 'THE WESTERN DAILY PRESS' of Sat 5th June 1948



'As a follow-up, *The Western Daily Press* on Sat 5th June printed a short paragraph (item 6 in Column 3) - above is an enlarged extract of that piece.' The whole event is dismissed in a couple of paragraphs! Acknowledgements to Trinity Mirror for permission to publish.

MEMORABLE FIRST YEAR...

BRIAN DODD (62-69) recalls his first year at KGS:

'After leaving Hanham Abbots Junior School in the summer of 1962, having somehow managed to pass my 11+, I arrived at KGS in the September with a great deal of fear and trepidation. For me, moving away from the cosiness and comfort of my junior school days and starting the 'Big School' was very traumatic. No pre-school orientation visits in those days! I knew little about the school except that it was miles away. It was a step into the unknown and it didn't help that on the first day we were all herded onto the school bus in Hanham for what seemed a very long ride via Longwell Green and Were it not for the fact that I was accompanied by a number of friends I'm sure I would never have even



occasion I was sat outside of the glass door of another annexe and, messing about with friends, leaned back heavily against it. The whole pane came loose and crashed to the floor (obviously very weak putty!) And finally, I will never forget the

entered the school gates!

'I was placed in class 1N (Miss Nicholls if I remember rightly), the classroom being an annexe block near the bottom of the school yard. For most of that first term I found it hard to settle, and often didn't want to go to school. I wasn't coping with much of the work and found getting my head around 'amo', 'amas', 'amat' etc . a struggle. My mother had to discuss my 'morning sickness' with the staff on more than one occasion and probably told them things like, 'Brian's not able to understand his homework'!

'However by about half way through the year things had certainly changed, though I'm not sure for the better! The miscreant within me , which I'd kept well under wraps, began to come to the fore and the dire consequences of my behaviour soon followed. By the end of that first year I'd been responsible for breaking three school windows! Window 1 was smashed whilst myself, together with a small group of others in class, started to tease one of the other boys. He flew into a rage and, as we ran away, actually smashed a window with a punch which I think was aimed at me! On the 2nd

demolition of window 3. I was playing cricket in the yard with a bat and tennis ball, as we often did, and fancying myself as a budding Tom Graveney, I hit a glorious 'six' right through the centre of yet another classroom window. The sound of shattered glass must have echoed around the hall nearby where I saw a large sign saying 'Silence, Exam in Progress.'! The hall door immediately flew open and JACK D.L (MR DALZIEL) the deputy head , came marching quickly down the yard, demanding in no uncertain terms who had broken the window. My face red with guilt and with friends suddenly deserting me, it must have been all too obvious who the culprit was. Often the punishment for these sorts of crimes was the cane and a fine but luckily on this occasion it was just a fine (the money to pay for a replacement pane of glass and always faithfully recorded in the 'book'!)

'Explaining these things to my parents at the end of the day was another big embarrassment. I can't remember if they stopped my pocket money but they always trumped up the money each time. And so I survived Year 1. In the photo of the Rugby 2nd XV 67-68 (above) I'm in the 2nd row extreme left.'

REMEMBERED...

PHIL WHITCHURCH (58-63) remembers Russ Tollerfield:

'I've just finished reading the obituary for my very old friend RUSS TOLLERFIELD. He was better known as 'Tappy' in the early 60s, as he would hammer out Morse code on his desk top with a pencil. He was largely responsible for my own (continuing) interest in amateur radio and taking a career at sea as a Radio Officer.

'We lost touch over the years but I did manage to track him down in Portsmouth a few years ago and we had a long telephone conversation but never did manage to meet up again.

'Please be good enough to pass my condolences and sympathies to his sister. (Phil Whitchurch is G3SWH and AD5YS)'

ROBIN WELCH (56-64) has also expressed his regret of Russ' passing. Robin writes:

'Just received the above down here in France. With sadness I note RUSSELL TOLLERFIELD has passed away. He is another KOSA man I have been thinking about. I knew him as 'Tappy' Tollerfield because he had learnt Morse code and was always tapping messages on his desk. In fact he and his friend RAYMOND PATRICK, used to tap answers to each other during exams. Teachers never twigged it. I was friends with both Russell and Raymond, who lived in Downend.

Raymond before Russell was an illegal radio amateur. In fact one night they blocked out the whole of the BBC Light Programme, as it was, in Downend and Fishponds. They were traced by the GPO and given a severe warning but nothing else as they were under 16 years of age. Oh happy days!

JOHN, TOO...

JOHN CARTER (56-63) also remembers: 'I read with interest and sadness the article in the last edition of KOSA News by SANDRA TOLLERFIELD (59-64) concerning the death of her brother Russell.

'I was a great friend of Russell whilst we were at KGS and we shared a keen interest in amateur radio with both of us obtaining transmitting licences whilst still at school. I became G3RPH. Sadly, after Russell left school to pursue a career in broadcasting we drifted apart. I remained at KGS for a couple of years in the sixth form before taking an apprenticeship at Bristol Siddeley Engines, later to become Rolls Royce. With their sponsorship I went on to attend Southampton University graduating with a degree in electrical engineering.

'Subsequently, I married another ex-KGS pupil, JEANETTE JAY (54-59), although to this day neither of us has any memory of the other at school. I remained in the aero industry until I was 27 spending some time undertaking research with British Aerospace Guided Weapons Division before taking a complete career change. I trained to become a probation officer and for the next thirty plus years worked in the Gloucestershire Probation Service, finally, retiring from my position as Chief Probation Officer. There then followed a number of part-time and voluntary roles in Her Majesty's Court Service, social services and other agencies.

'Jeanette and I now live in Stroud, Gloucestershire but still, frequently, visit the Kingswood area as my 97 year old mother still lives in Hanham. We like to think we are still active and young for our age helped by having four grandchildren with an age range from 7 to 21 years. As well as voluntary work we both dance

and have undertaken many walks including the 630 mile South West Coast Path. I have fond memories of the support and encouragement I received from "Bunny" AUSTIN (Physics) whilst at KGS.

WITH SADNESS...

TONY PATTEMORE (63-70) reports: 'A very successful 63-70 reunion was held 27th July 2018 at Tracy Park Hotel (see below). Arranged at somewhat short notice, the brainwave of STEVE GARNON (words rarely seen in the same sentence) with background music appropriate to our vintage organised by LESLEY WATERS (now Ramsay), it was universally said to have been a great success. All agreed another should be arranged before too long, not in the hol-

idays will be much the lesser without him.

APOLOGIES..

Occasionally we get things wrong, for which we apologise. Sometimes this arises from our contributors, and in the last edition TONY PATTEMORE (63-70) threatened legal action as he was identified by GEOFF LORD (63-70) as Alex Patterson in a cricket team photograph. Geoff has graciously dropped us a line: Geoff writes:

'Please convey my sincere apologies in the next KOSA NEWS to Tony Pattemore for quoting his name as Alex Patterson. The surnames are familiar? Well, that's my excuse. I hope his wife has stopped calling him Alex. I accept full



iday period and with longer notice. 'Very sadly, one of our number, JOHN "Dinger" BELL, passed away shortly following in September, suffering from cancer. Dinger was married to MARILYN CONNOR, known to all as Connie. They left KGS in the mid 60s and were wed for forty-eight years. Dinger was a very popular, larger-than-life person. Our re-

responsibility for this and obviously I will cover all costs and damages should this end up at Bristol Crown Court.

- Geoff Lord (or whatever Tony might like to call me).'

NORMAN GODFREY (69-76) has written to correct an error we perhaps made of accepting the details on the photo-

graph we published on the back of the last edition. He writes:

'Just a short note re the latest KOSA NEWS. Always enjoy reading about the old school and sorry to hear that there is no longer a 6th Form. The reason for my email is regarding the 6th Form picture on back cover which is NOT the lower 6th in 1970 - it's actually of the 1st formers who started in September 1969 - I am in the back row not smiling (4th left from left pillar).

'I'm as positive as I can be as I definitely recognise my peers and we are in uniform. I don't believe sixth form did.'

We always try to maintain the highest standards of English grammar in the magazine. In fact, your Editor always has his old English 'O' Level teacher in mind when writing the text. What would GEORGE BUTCHER (52-58) say about some of the bad grammar nowadays in newspapers and even on the BBC?

The next apology goes to ESME RIDGE (43-47) (now Britton) who sent in the obituary of TONY CURTIS (40-47) in the last edition. Esme writes:

'I am always glad to get my new copy of the KOSA NEWS, in spite of the lengthy list of deaths! I noted this time, that in my piece of impeccable prose, there is now an apostrophe moved to the wrong place! It has found its way before the S at the end of Crates, from its place after the S!

'The news of the present school's academic results is a bit of a shock! Hope that will pick up again!

'I love the picture of TERRY ANSTEY (55-62) getting his Queen's Scout award! He and all those other names were our Cubs at 111th, in my day, as well as

several of the names I see in the articles about Rugby! Happy days!'

THE VISIT...

Back in the Autumn of 2018 a small group of KOSA members visited GEORGE BUTCHER (English - 52-58) who is living in retirement in Aylesbury with his wife Sheila.

Your Editor, together with MIKE REDGERS (50-57), MARGARET REECE (55-62) (now Wills) and EILEEN MATTHEWS (52-59) (now Bendrey) were made very welcome and we had lunch together at a local hostelry.

George moved to Aylesbury Grammar School when he left KGS and subsequently had spells in Further Education and the training of business people. He has lived in the vicinity of Aylesbury since leaving KGS. We are pleased to report that both George, who is 92, and his wife are well.

A MYSTERY..?

You will have (probably) read above how we have been taken to task in mis-identifying the 1970 photo on the back of the previous edition. However, we are indebted to CHRIS DARCH (64-70) who has attempted to identify as many faces as possible on the photo and who maintains that it is indeed the Lower 6th. Chris' attempt is shown on page 13.

Chris also points out that he and STEVE BATEMAN are now brothers in law, PETE MILLETT and JANICE MAYNARD married, MARK and CLIVE WILTON were twins who were often scrapping in their early years at KGS, and teacher NICK OTTY later went to Newton Park College to teach student teachers. He wrote a book *Learner Teacher* in which was included a poem by Chris himself.

VIEWS FROM THE 60s...



CYCLING TO KGS...
L to R SUSAN WELLS,
ELIZABETH CARTER,
LYNSEY ILES and HI-
LARY BOND in Anstey's
Road, Hanham in about
1961.

Right:
Fencing in 1965 under the
old oak
Below:
GEOFF LORD (63-70)
was busy with his camera
on a 1964 School trip
when he snapped (left)
CLIVE GARDENER, LIN-
DA HASKINS and PHILIP
BAILEY on the train and
(right) MICKEY MASON
and SIMON JENNINGS.



IN THE MEDIA...

From 1997 to 1999 RICHARD SCUDAMORE (70--77) was Chief Executive of the Football League and from November 1999 he became CEO of the Premier League. In 2014 he became Executive Chairman.

In June 2018 Richard announced he was leaving from his Premiership position and it was subsequently announced in the media, to much comment, that he would receive a payoff of £5 million on his retirement.

Richard has had a stellar career. Early in 2016 *The Sunday Times* published *Debrett's 500* most influential persons in the UK and Richard was listed under Sport. It quotes him as having negotiated the multi-million pound broadcasting rights to the Premiership which is broadcast to over 600 million homes worldwide. During his period with the Football League its rights income rose from £1.2 billion for 2001-05 to £5.134 billion for 2013-16.

At Kingsfield School Richard was Head Boy in his final year and he left to read Law at Nottingham University.

Many congratulations to Richard on being appointed a CBE in the 2019 New Year Honours list for services to football.

Also in the news in June 2018 was DAVID DREW (63-70), MP for Stroud. David simply said that, in his opinion, wearing real fur is like sporting a swastika. Of course, the media made a meal of this statement and David later agreed that it was probably an unfortunate analogy.

After leaving KGS, by then Kingsfield School, David read Economics at Nottingham University, attended Birming-

ham University and the University of the West of England, where he taught in the Faculty of Education. He is currently Shadow Farming and Rural Affairs Minister.

On 16th December 2018, a repeat of a programme in the *Timeshift* series on BBC4 featured the development of SIR BERNARD LOVELL's telescope at Jodrell Bank in Cheshire, now renamed the Lovell telescope.

It traced the story of Sir Bernard and the telescope from the earliest times when questions were asked about the waste of government money, to the time when it was heralded a great success as it tracked space explorations by both the Russians and the Americans.

It is said that Sir Bernard was the icon for the leading character in the BBC sci-fi serial of the 50s, *The Quatermass Experiment*. Professor Quatermass was also named Bernard.

THE CHRONICLES...

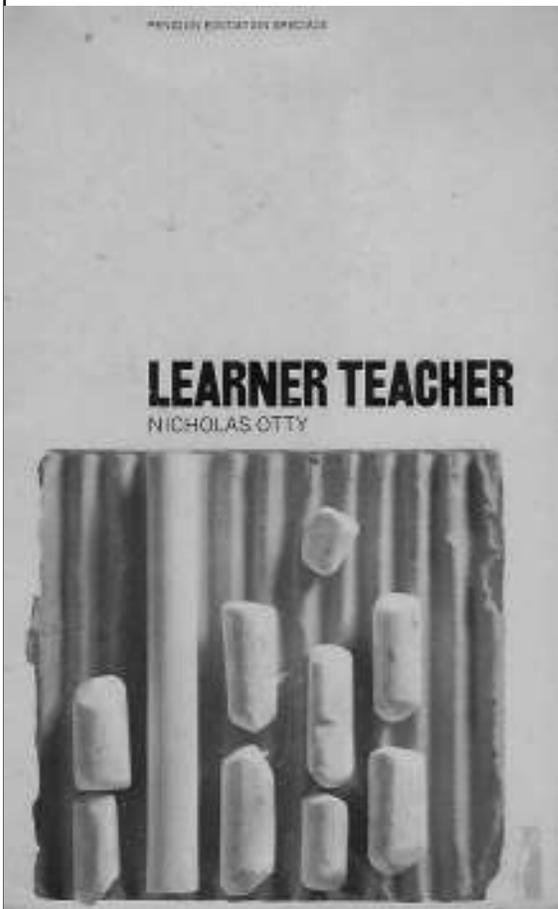
From time-to-time we consult copies of *Kingswood Chronicles* in order to verify an individual's contribution to the life of the School or things that have happened in the School's past. We have copies which date from July 1924, which we believe was the first year of publication.

In 1971, a special edition of *Kingswood Chronicles* was produced to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the founding of the School, a copy of which we have in the KOSA Archives. However, we do not have any copies after that date.

Is anyone aware of copies made after 1971? And, better still, could they be lent to us to photocopy in order to complete our collection?

NICK'S BOOK...

In his contribution on page 12, CHRIS DARCH (64-70) mentions the book written by English Master NICK OTTY (67-72). Thanks to Amazon, KOSA has obtained the Penguin paperback entitled *Learner Teacher*, first published in 1972. In the book Nick traces his early teaching career from Cambridge via a spell in Switzerland to his probationary year at KGS. In order to protect the innocent (and perhaps the guilty, too) he has changed the names of the both the school and the pupils mentioned in the



book. Consequently, it is difficult to identify the poem which Chris Darch maintains was his and is used in the book. However, many poems are mentioned as examples of the progress or otherwise of the pupils in Nick's care during that year.

As you would expect, the book is well written with a careful analysis of his experiences, frustrations and achievements of that year at KGS. It is an easy, humorous and entertaining read about KGS, renamed Grove End School for the book. Some of the staff are easily recognised such as HEADMASTER RIDLEY (see below in 1973), SENIOR MISTRESS QUINTON and Music Master ERIC HILTON and it's possible that KOSA members who were contemporaries may recognise their fellow-pupils.



Many of us look back on KGS as a relatively tranquil seat of learning where its inmates were engaged in soaking up the knowledge imparted by a dedicated staff, well-prepared to take on the world when we were released to the workplace or a seat of higher learning. The book, however, paints a different, more realistic picture.

It records a badly-disciplined school, inhabited by rude and rebellious pupils not terribly keen to learn in many cases, some of them poorly educated. Nick questions the ethos of the school and many of the petty rules and regulations set up by the Headmaster. He is open about the struggle to maintain order in his classes, and he traces a steady contempt for authority as the pupils progress from the first year of relatively good be-

haviour to the chaos of later years.

You may get a flavour of Nick's style from the following extract of his introduction in the Autumn Term:

In the lower school I have four groups to teach, a First, a Second, a Third and a Fourth. First impressions are as follows:

1E. This is an unstreamed group of twenty-nine very diminutive and very polite and respectful people. Tim is a Biggles enthusiast, which surprised me, and Geoff has a father who teaches at the school.

2B. A huge group of quiet but so far very wary kids. Thirty-seven of them, and they don't do Latin or German. I teach them five lessons a week, each time in a different room, and in none of the rooms is there ever enough chairs for them all to sit down! We always start by breaking the spirit of 'General Information no. 12', when we disturb other classes in search of chairs and forgotten books and pens and so on.

3A. Another much smaller non-Latin-or-German group with a heavy male majority. This lot has shown me that they already have the blues. They already say 'poetry and all that rubbish', and 'we are the worst behaved group in the school, everyone tells us that'. Peter Langland stands out straight away by means of a consciously caricatured bumpkin repartee full of 'bloody gerts' and 'Us casn't do that's'. This is surely offered as a challenge. 'Us and them' is already well developed here.

4E is the jet set. They will take the a-level in four terms from now. Marvellously quiet and attentive, with a large majority of girls - twenty-one to eight boys! In this situation the boys are understandably

rather subdued.

3A: So far I have simply asked people to write on subjects of their own choice. I want to see how they react to that idea, and to see what they choose. Chris's piece, called No Suitable Title, gives an impression of well ordered industry about the lesson which was certainly not there in my perception of it.

In identifying the forms, taking into consideration that Nick started in 1967, the first year would have started in 1967, the second in 1966, the third in 1965 and so on. Recognise anyone?

HONOURS...

When the disastrous fire destroyed the old wooden buildings in August 1976, the Honours Boards which graced the entrance hall were also destroyed. They had recorded the members of the Schools who had been successful in moving on to Further and Higher Education since their foundation as Kingswood Secondary School in 1921.

Someone had the foresight to search other available records and circulate ex-pupils to collect the information that had been lost when the Boards were destroyed and also bring the records up-to-date at that time. We are not sure who carried out this activity, but it was be-



PRIZE DAY, 1962.
Miss Braddish, The Chairman of Governors, and Margaret Spinks (Head Girl)

lieved to have been 'Scruffy' MORRIS, who had been the Geography master.

The information collected was entered into a large book in beautiful calligraphy, and also kept up-to-date as far as 1983. In the Kingsfield years, the book was kept in the entrance hall of the new building in a locked glass case, the pages being turned from time-to-time to reveal successive honours.

It is a splendid record of the Schools' successes from 1921 to 1983, but as it records only those who went directly from the Schools to Further and Higher Education it is only a token of what academic attainments the Old Scholars achieved. Many went to College and University much later in life; many would have passed difficult professional exams in Law, Engineering, Accountancy, Marketing and many other professions, many, through apprenticeships, would have obtained ONC/Ds and HNC/Ds and many would have been awarded degrees from the Open University. Unfortunately, all these will remain unrecorded.

Kings Oak Academy has kindly made the Academic Record available to KOSA. Unfortunately, the book is far too large and heavy to be photocopied. However, we are in the process of photographing it page-by-page so that we have a record of its contents which we will eventually copy to Kingswood Heritage Museum where it will be available for consultation for research purposes.

In the 1962 photo on page 17 is Head Girl MARGARET SQUIRES welcoming Miss Bradshaw, who awarded the prizes that year. Rev. Downes was Chairman of the Governors. The old Honours Boards are in the background.

NEWS FROM OZ...

BRENDA GANE (56-61) (now Kinkead), who now lives in New South Wales, has sent us some details of her latest trip around Australia.

'We have just returned from travelling all around Australia, 6 weeks on the road and over 14,000 kms covered, our last big outback trip as we are selling the old Nissan now, she has been a very faithful vehicle to us with Stephen's expertise, but we aren't getting any younger! Enough is enough.

'We have seen most of Australia including the really remote regions like the Simpson Desert, the Canning Stock Route, Cape York, the Kimberly's, plus we have been on all the Len Beadell Roads.

'We re-visited the Plenty/Donahue Highways, the Tanami Highway and part of the old Eyre Highway, all dirt roads we have been on before. Only the Donahue Highway in Queensland has improved.

'We didn't complete the road into the Bungle-Bungles, 50 kms of really corrugated dirt. I think Stephen had had enough by that time, also there wasn't much walking to be done once actually there. We have flown over them at any rate.

'This time our goal in WA was to climb Mt Augustus which we did, it was a very hard 6 hour 12 km climb up and back, grade 4. Stephen was exhausted coming down and fell over several times but didn't hurt himself. Mt Augustus is twice as high as Uluru and 50 kms around its base.

We visited with my sister and family in Townsville and also caught up with more family in South Australia.

LOST ANYTHING..?

GUY FEATHERSTONE (50-58) has sent some 'Ridley Circulars', sadly too voluminous to reproduce here, but added to the archives. However, we publish one on page 21:

'I found these old notices signed by Headmaster C N RIDLEY when I was clearing things out the other day. They date from 1952/3/4.

'I was saddened to see your *Editorial* on the front of the last edition. But what do you expect with the way this government's running things? They couldn't manage a piss-up in a brewery! I did once - at Theakstones in Carlisle, with a bunch of my adult students (they were Libyans, training to be TV producers!). It was a disaster - so now you know just how bad this so-called Government is!'

Perhaps this might be a good time to print a disclaimer: The views of our correspondents are not necessarily the views of KOSA, *KOSA NEWS* or the Editor. However, they do sometimes coincide! - Ed.

WOT NO 6th..?

Many members have expressed their sadness at the removal of the 6th Form from King's Oak Academy after nearly 100 years of the highest level of secondary education on that site, from Kingswood Secondary School in 1921, through KGS and Kingsfield, to KOA.

My Editorial last time was meant to express disappointment at that move, to criticise the English education system generally and to try to assess the results at KOA relative to other schools in the area.

The results quoted were from *The Times*

and not from the *Bristol Post*. However we do apologise for the mistake of describing the A-levels as GCSEs, which they are not.

KOA Principal RICHARD CLUTTERBUCK kindly responded to my comments: 'Dear Editor,

I was saddened by the tone and content of your editorial in Number 53's edition on the front page of the KOSA NEWS. The final paragraph is factually wrong. Michael Yong, when reporting in the *Bristol Post*, used the 2016 league tables for South Gloucestershire when reporting the position of the schools. In 2017, with King's Oak's best ever results, we were the 5th ranked school on progress out of 17. (Also, pupils do not sit A-Level GCSEs, these are two separate qualifications, the pupils sit GCSEs, A-Levels are sat as 6th form pupils.)

'Clearly I would like us to be top of the league table but I find your final sentence particularly disappointing.

Best wishes
Richard Clutterbuck'

We replied to Richard and invited him to respond in more detail if he wished.

AIDE MEMOIRE...

JOHN HARRIS (53-60) sends the *aide memoire* learned in MR NELSON's A-level History lesson in 1958 or 1959. 'The Duke of Marlborough's telephone number is BROM 4789 because it's a mnemonic for his battles in the early 18th century:

Blenheim - 1704
Ramillies - 1707
Oudenaarde - 1708
Malplaquet - 1709'

Has anyone else learned any tricks of memory to remember facts for exams?

LOST ANYTHING..?

Kingswood Grammar School,
Kingswood.

17th December, 1952.

NOTICE TO PARENTS.

(1) With the growth of the School it is becoming increasingly more difficult for the staff here to maintain a high standard of supervision of children's property. I have in my possession two or three mackintoshes, a large number of pairs of gym daps, and an equally large number of fountain pens, pencils, and geometrical instruments. I am appealing to parents to inspect every item of equipment, books, clothing, and sports clothing and make sure that they are the property of your child. Among you there must be several who know their children have "acquired" a new mackintosh, a fresh fountain pen, someone else's gym daps, shorts or vest, and other items of this nature.

The only effective way of combating this sort of casual behaviour on the part of the children namely by seeing that every item of a child's equipment is marked clearly with its name, and by having periodical checks of the equipment your child possess. I have no doubt that there are some children whose carelessness is beyond all reason, but I do appeal to you as parents to see to it that your child is not in that category.

(2) We have had a number of cases this term of children being sent to school who were obviously unfit to be anywhere except in bed. I would remind parents, especially those who both go out to work, that ultimately the responsibility of a child's health lies with them and not with us. I know that sometimes it is difficult to assess whether a child is actually ill or making the most of a little, but I have no facilities here for dealing with children who are ill and in need of nursing and medical attention. If your child is taken ill during the day we shall send the child home with escort or in a taxi at your expense. If you are in doubt about your child, keep it at home. I am sorry to be so strong on this subject but we have been very distressed this term over a number of cases where mothers have gone to work knowing that the child was ill and sending the child to us at school. We have put children to bed at 9.15. in the morning and had to keep them there until 3.45. because the house was closed and no arrangements had been made for the child to go home. I know that this does not apply to the large majority of parents, but the minority to whom it does apply has been on the increase over the last year. I would remind parents that it is an act of courtesy and helpfulness to us if you can send a note when your child is ill and is likely to be away for several days, and it is a school rule that a child returning must be accompanied by a note.

(3) I would like to thank all parents who have given us their support this term with the Opera and the various activities including House Parties. Without you we could do very little and with your assistance we have been able to achieve a great deal. My staff and I are deeply grateful for your co-operation.


HEADMASTER.

THE HANMER FAMILY...

or how KGS affected the Hanmers – and vice versa.

KGS was central to the life of the HANMER family for fifteen years, between 1957 and 1972 when OWEN (57-64), RUTH (59-66), FRANKIE (61-68) and PATRICK (65-72) attended. They've each given their memories of KGS:

'Much to everyone's embarrassment our mother – JEAN HANMER, who died on her 100th birthday in 2018, was Chairman of the Governors during the 1960s (later she devoted herself to helping establish Lincombe Barn in Downend in 1972'.

Owen writes:

'Old photos, concert and play programmes and other mementos have brought memories flooding back. In no particular order I remember with great pleasure the inspiring teaching of MR WATTS (art), MR WILLIAMS (biology), MR HILTON (music) and MR LARKINS (English) among many others. We had 6th formers in those days who we looked up to and admired when we were younger. I have many odd memories too: the headmaster's secretary would spend her break reading *Vogue* in the library; the girls would bring in their covered baskets for home economics; new pupils would arrive from secondary modern school or faraway places such as Yorkshire (where they played rugby league!).

'While not a natural sportsman I enjoyed playing rugby (the shortest second row forward by the time I was 18) in House and School matches with IAN DAVIES and ROGER WINCHESTER. England's test matches came alive as we watched them in black and white with MR HODGSON (maths) and savoured his expert comments. He was a giant of a man in many ways...but even he was unable to

help me master additional maths.

'Music and drama provide the most cherished memories, with performances of G&S, Moliere, Anouilh, House competitions, and School and County youth orchestras. ERIC HILTON is to be thanked for encouraging me to play the bassoon and help inspire my passion for music. ROGER GARLAND, GEOFFREY PLENTY and many others made music-making a very great pleasure.

'But I remember: with no pleasure, as a Prefect, the refusal of my youngest sister, Frankie, and her friends to leave their classroom at break; being 'dapped' by the PE teacher for some reason and feeling an overwhelming sense of injustice; struggling to make dovetailed joints in woodwork (mother kept my imperfect letter rack though); lingering too long in the National Gallery, then finding the rest of the school party were already making their way to the Tate!.

'After an eventful and happy time at KGS I went to study Medicine at Manchester. Then worked in the Seychelles for a few years before finally settling down as a paediatrician in London where, now retired, have a great interest in the London Symphony Chorus.

'Sadly, have lost touch with my KGS friends, but owe them all, as well as the staff, my enormous gratitude'.

Ruth writes:

'The night KGS, or 'Cowsheds', burnt down is emblazoned on my memory. I happened to be staying in Bristol and Mum, still Chair of KGS Governors, was phoned in the night about the fire, and drove straight over there. It was devastating: all the classrooms, that long, long corridor (see p 23), all the records—gone.



'What I wish I'd done at KGS? Art rather than Latin! After KGS I read sociology at Edinburgh, travelled & taught in West Africa, then married and had 3 kids. Meanwhile my interest in art had been re-kindled, which led to art college and many happy years as an art teacher in London.

'I am still good friends with BETHANN ROCH (59-66), who became an anthropologist, then did medicine, and became a consultant in Public Health in Ireland. Now retired, she is involved in medical anthropology.'

Frankie writes:

'I was at KGS 1959-66, and remember a lively, un-stuffy school, with 'Chipper' and 'MINNIE' MORRISON (Deputy Head) being slightly scary. There were many really good and inspiring teachers, among them MR LARKINS, MISS EVANS, MR WINTOUR, 'ERIC' HILTON (also slightly scary!).

'Being out of the classroom was the most fun though: netball, tennis, English trips to Stratford and the Old Vic, mooching around the old oak tree, singing in *Dido and Aeneas* (see back page) acting, probably badly, in *The Importance of Being Earnest*.. My worst memory? Having to jump into freezing, murky water in Warmley open air pool.

life-long love of languages and tennis. But one of the first things I remember, apart from our hats, was MISS WYCHERLEY (English) coming in and greeting us with "Good morning little people." One day she spoke about having heard the chiff-chaff that morning! MRS EVANS (English – and still going strong in Downend) I met about 10 years ago. She was sitting at the next table in a Llangollen hotel; we both recognised each other, after 45 years! She was very friendly but said I'd been a naughty pupil!

'ERIC HILTON (music) scared me quite a bit (great bushy eyebrows) but has been a lasting influence in my life; initially being part of the school orchestra I then

went on to join a college orchestra; now, in the west of Scotland where I live, play my double-bass with our local orchestra, also the saxophone with a group and my recorder with another group. I often thank Eric Hilton despite remembering in class him insisting we listen to LPs (remember those?) in silence ...we were too scared to giggle or whisper... but years on, I remember the music well. He also told us that *Wuthering Heights* was the best boook ever written (he had a Lancashire. accent).

'Clearly remember MR DAZIEL telling me I was so bad at physics that I could not sit the O-Level and waste the school's money as I was bound to fail. Perhaps due to that, I'm really interested in science now and even took an over 50's science course at Strathclyde University.....and moreover stayed awake during it.

'Have fond memories of 'MINNIE' MORRISON (deputy-head). She was very fair and kind. She once tried to get me to persuade my friends to stop smoking at the breaks (I couldn't stop them of course, they were busy being cool!) Looking back, the language teachers and the games staff were very good. I wish I could remember their names.

"Chipper" (MR RIDLEY, the Head) once used a very good method of dealing with secret graffiti artists. One afternoon we were all called to the big hall as something had happened and we were to be 'spoken to'. We filed in silently, filling the hall, on the platform was a blackboard on which the word FUCK was writ large. We couldn't believe our eyes. Chipper then asked what the big deal was about this word (words to that effect); he knew it and that it was not to be written on walls etc. There was total silence.

'I have remained friends with MARGUERITE WILLIAMS (61-68). Five years ago LINDA NOBLE made contact, as did MARIAN HASELL and VAL EDWARDS. Another of our group, JANET ANDERSON, became a Labour MP under Blair but I lost contact with her, though read about her occasionally'.

Patrick writes:

'It was a bit difficult following my three siblings. In my 'fag' year three of us were still there, Owen (the eldest) having left and gone to Manchester to read medicine. Of course, we took separate ways in getting to school – I usually cycled to save the bus fare, and have continued doing so since!

'In 1965 KGS was still pretty formal; Chipper and some staff still wearing gowns, even the odd mortarboard. Later, coinciding with KGS going Comprehensive – and with flower-power – things became more relaxed. PHILIP PHILIPS, my Physics master, must have despaired at my struggles to understand how things worked (I now love it) but he managed to inspire me in his productions of G&S – which got me out of a hole, I suppose.

'From an early time I was interested in languages but when I voiced a wish to study them, particularly German, I was discreetly advised not to (presumably because I was too thick – or it wasn't timetabled) but to study the sciences instead – and become a doctor like my brother! So German was out, and medicine was out as well as I didn't envisage myself wearing a tie or jacket. Instead, after seven very happy years at KGS I realised I was actually interested in plant ecology (thanks partly to MR WILLIAMS), so trained as a tropical forester – and subsequently worked around the world for many years.

'Ironically, being unable to study German as school I now live in Germany!'

JOHN'S MEMORIES...

Some of his memories are included in the letter from JOHN GRIFFIN (59-66):

'Looking back I actually enjoyed my time at KGS. I also appear to have been quite 'sporty' though I am not the sporty type at all. I played for the 1st XV rugby team for a while, which I did not enjoy, they were too enthusiastic for me and I was demoted to the 2nd XV which I did enjoy.

'I didn't like or understand cricket and still don't. Eventually MR RIDLEY reluctantly allowed a small group of us boys to play tennis instead of cricket, at first as an experiment, and when he saw that we were keen players he made it permanent. Instead of football some of us played Hockey. The teams were mixed, boys and girls and MR WILDE, the games master, joined in. Rumour had it that he had played hockey for Wales. This was the most vicious sport that I have ever played. At athletics I was very mixed; sometimes brilliant at other times a complete disaster.

'My favourite sport was swimming. A lot of it was outside school at Speedwell Baths and later at Soundwell Baths. For a short time there was a sort of pool in Warmley which the school used. I think it was fed by springs and was icy cold at all times of the year. It also developed a slimy green weed. All in all it was very unpleasant and the school did not use it for long. I have maintained my enthusiasm for swimming and now swim every weekday morning at Barnet Copthall pool.

'Thank you very much for the back copies of *KOSA NEWS*. which I enjoyed reading. and recognising some of the

people in the photographs. The obit for KEITH DAVIS was sad, he was one of my swimming friends.

'From the earlier issues I enjoyed reading about the Bristol L. In the Leisure Directorate of London Borough of Enfield there were other Bristolians, two from Downend and one from Hanham, none of whom went to KGS, but we all remembered with amusement and nostalgia the Bristol L. My favourite overheard uses of it was hearing about the operal *Aidal* and several years after leaving Bristol hearing someone talking about their holidays where they had been "dancing the flamingal in Espanial".

'I also had a colleague and close friend at Bristol City Museum who was from Southgate in North London and Cambridge educated. She asked one of the security guards what was the significance of the three female figures in the pediment at the entrance to the museum and was told they were Normal, Idle (Idal) and Evil (Eval). For years she told visiting scholars that the figures were the personification of normality, idleness and evil until one visitor took her aside and told her they were the three nymphs Norma, Ida and Eva. I still have two daughters and three grandsons living in South Bristol so I still hear the Bristol L quite often.

'Enough of my memories, I look forward to seeing the next *KOSA NEWS*.'

DID YOU KNOW..?

That 2021 will represent the 100th anniversary of the founding of Kingswood Secondary School, the forerunner of Kingswood Grammar School. It opened its doors to the first pupils in September 1921.

TEN YEARS APART... Below are photos of 1948-6H, 1958-4G2 and

1968-5D showing the changes of styles over a period of 20 years.



KOSA MATTERS...

WELCOME

Since the last KOSA NEWS the following have joined the Association:

Ruth Hanmer (59-66) in London, Christopher Head (51-56) in Victoria, Australia, Victoria Ann (77-84) (now Money) in Hungerford, Berks, Dulcie Brewer (64-71) (now Simpkin) in Chepstow, Michael Brain (69-71) in Florida, USA, Sue Brain (68-74) (now Thomas) in Bath.

We welcome all new members and hope that they will pass on the KOSA message.

WHERE ARE THEY NOW..?

Occasionally people moving forget to give us a change of address and the mail containing KOSA NEWS is returned. We have currently lost Janice Thomas (64-71) (previously Maynard), Athene Orchard (previously Bates), and Owen Ce-leu (63-70) Can you help us re-instate these lost members? If you know where they are, please let us know.

OUR LUNCH & AGM...

Like all democratic organisations, we have an Annual General Meeting, in our case on April 13th this year. We try to keep it light and quick, but it's your opportunity to have your say in the running of KOSA and the election of your Committee.

We now have an excellent caterer for the following lunch and this year we will have a speaker. FRS member DAVID EWINS (53-59) has kindly agreed to give us a talk of his career which will be entitled *From KGS to NASA via Temple Meads*. David went to Imperial College, London after KGS, became Professor of Engineering there and did much work advising Rolls-Royce and others on vibration

problems. It will prove an interesting occasion, so why not come along? The calling notice and agenda for the AGM are enclosed in the insert, together with the unaudited accounts for the past year.

BACK PAGE...

Our photograph on the back page this time is of the 1965 production of Purcell's *Dido and Aeneas* in which RUTH HANMER (see earlier) sang as an alto before going up to university.

Apparently, according to Kingswood Chronicles, it suffered from all sorts of production problems. 'The stage was too small to accommodate the ranks of courtiers and the cringing rabble of witches, the effect of the lights on the painted costumes produced an outbreak of uncontrollable sneezing during rehearsals and the marked inability to coordinate acting and singing gave rise to a frustrated producer and disturbed conductor', reported HEATHER THOMAS and PAULINE REEVES.

However, by the time of the actual performances the soloists and choruses had reached an extremely high standard. The energy and the determination of the cast was demonstrated when a leading soloist, ANNETTE CLARK who played Belinda, was replaced at short notice by LYNDIA TURNER. Dido was played by ELIZABETH WEBB and Aeneas by N. LACEY.

Interestingly, this was not the first time that this choral work was produced by KGS. It was previously produced in March 1951. In that production Dido was played by ANNE SLATER and Aeneas by teacher W A TICKNER. Belinda was played by MAUREEN JONES, who became a professional singer. By all accounts, another successful production.

