



KOSA NEWS



NUMBER 57 - AUTUMN 2020

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

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EDITORIAL...

We live in strange and difficult times. We were obliged to cancel the Spring Lunch last March, and because of the current limit of six in a group, we have been unable to hold planned KOSA Committee meetings. The reunion planned in September for the class of 67 by Chris Greenfield, Neil Matthews et al was also necessarily postponed, and also the 63-70 get together by Steve Garnon and Tony Pattemore planned for November. Both under review. Everything has been put on hold and severe doubts remain about when we can get back to 'normal', whatever that will be!

However, we are pleased to produce yet another *KOSA NEWS*, mainly because of the contributions you have made, for which we extend our thanks. In fact we have had to hold over a few contributions until next time. I hope you will understand the number of obituaries we have included this time. It is surely right that we remember them and in many cases review the contributions and experiences of their lives. I have tried to compensate by including some other life stories and increasing the number of pages to 32. A bonus!

For those wired ones, access to the back copies of *KOSA NEWS* is on the WEB. However, I would appeal to everyone to maintain their entry on our database and receive the hard copy by 'snail-mail'. It is only by maintaining the database can we put people together, and we would otherwise have no knowledge of your interest in matters KOSA.. Remember, the existence of *KOSA NEWS* on the WEB pages depends on donations made by those who receive the magazine. Our policy is to only reveal contact details to KOSA members, but if you don't wish them to be given, please let us know.

No forms are in this edition, so if you still wish to make a voluntary donation to the work of KOSA you may either make a bank transfer to Lloyds, 30-98-06, #00746093 or send a cheque to our Treasurer, Martin Harryman, 5 Brecon View, Bleadon Hill, Weston super Mare, BS24 9NF. However, we still never chase for money! Finally, stay safe and well!

The Editor

GORDON JACKSON (55-62), a regular contributor to *KOSA NEWS*, has responded to the last edition:

'No fewer than three articles in the last *KOSA NEWS* have caught my attention. May I make a few comments?

'GEORGE WILLIAMS (46-53) (see JULIE JOHN'S (68-75) on page 20/21) was a near-neighbour of mine. My family lived at 30 Abbots Road (in Hanham Abbots) while his family lived (I think) at 48. George's main talents were in Arts and Crafts. I believe at one time he taught Woodwork. There were three generations living in George's house – his grandfather, his father and George himself. They were all named George Williams!

As for details of some of the cast of *Pyramus & Thisbe*, I can help you with two of them. JOHN HUGGETT (55-56) was one of several siblings (I don't know how many) at KGS at the same time. One day we learned that all the family had disappeared! Where and why they moved we were not told.

MICHAEL PUZEY (55-62) stayed longer at the School. He started off in the fourth stream, but after one term he was promoted to the top stream where he flourished. I believe he was privately educated before he came to KGS. Certainly he seemed a little posher than the rest of us. I don't know what his parents did for a living, but I know that they had a smallholding and kept chickens. He went to Queen Mary College, which was part of London University before itself became a university in its own right, to study French and Spanish, the latter from scratch.

Only on one occasion did he do anything naughty. This was in the sixth form when

Mr NELSON (Senior Master and Head of History) and his assistant Mr ARMSTRONG were teaching us History. Mr Nelson dictated a sample answer to an A-level history question (I forget on what), and Michael presented this to Mr Armstrong as Michael's own work. The essay came back littered with adverse comments! Michael confessed and Mr Armstrong confiscated the essay! Soon after the history teachers went their own ways. Mr Nelson became a headmaster and Mr Armstrong got a post in a teacher training college.

MATTHEW THOMAS (53-60) wondered why Mr HILTON (Music) retired early. I have no inside knowledge, but I know that KGS became a comprehensive school, eventually with the name Kingsfield School. Since grammar schools and comprehensive schools require different teaching skills perhaps the older grammar school teachers decided to call it a day. Certainly at about the same time 'Fishy' SAMMONS, Head of Chemistry, also decided to go.

I slightly knew Mr Hilton's successor, Mrs TOWERSEY, and in the 1970s attended a Gilbert and Sullivan show organised by her – *Trial by Jury*, performed by the staff, and *HMS Pinafore*, performed by the pupils. There was a link with KGS's production of *'Pinafore* back in the 60s. MARGARET REECE (55-62) (now Wills) who was Cousin Hebe in the earlier production played double-bass in the small orchestra in the later production.

I also knew Mrs Towersey's successor, JOHN LAMBERT, because I had piano lessons from him. Mr Hilton had also given me piano lessons years before. Mr Lambert also invited me to a G & S show – *Ruddigore* this time – which he conducted. As it was the end of the run there

were after-show speeches, when the scenery fell down! The girl playing Mad Margaret was in hysterics, which was more or less in character!

JANET'S JOB...



In *KOSA NEWS* 45 (Autumn 2014) we ran a piece about a radio programme broadcast by JANET ANDERSON (62-68). It

was about her time in Parliament as an MP when she was a Labour Minister and Government whip and served as Vice-Chamberlain to the Household. In that role she was responsible for nightly reports on Parliamentary business to the Queen. We reported her interesting and amusing talk on Radio 4.

Since then, Janet has written a book which is a collection of some of those daily reports to the Queen, appropriately titled *Dear Queen*, and a copy has been

sent to your Editor by Janet. Janet writes: 'At the outset, I decided to make it chatty and humorous where I could. I had sensed ...the Queen herself had a pretty good sense of humour.'

And humorous and chatty many of the reports are. A no-holds-barred approach on reporting on how some of her fellow-MPs are generally regarded is adopted, from Michael Howard's 'cheap jibes' to Glenda Jackson's failure to appear as a Junior Minister. The book can be recommended as a good, easy and interesting read, with the veil of secrecy opened a little to reveal what goes on in Parliament and the Palace.

Although Janet was born in Newcastle, her father was a Labour Party organiser so she moved around, hence her move to KGS. After School (by then Kingsfield), having obtained A-levels in English Literature, French and German, she went to the Polytechnic of Central London and the University of Nantes.

After spells as PA to Barbara Castle MP



and in the European Parliament, Janet unsuccessfully fought the seat of Rosendale and Darwen. In 1992 she entered Parliament and became PPS to Margaret Becket, Labour's Deputy Leader. In Tony Blair's government she became junior whip and Vice Chamberlain, becoming Minister for Tourism, Film & Broadcasting after a year, in which role she brought in free TV licences for the over-75s.

During her spell in Parliament she served as chair of a number of committees, including the All Party Writers Group, the Intellectual Property Group and the Performers Alliance Group. She lost her seat in 2010.

In the 1965 photo of Form 4C on the previous page, Janet explains: 'PENNY STAPLETON is at the end of the front row, next to our teacher, MRS COCKCROFT, who was the most brilliant maths teacher. Immediately behind her in the second row is VALERIE EDWARDS, and I am to the right of Valerie in the second row.'

ANOTHER AUTHOR...



A welcome email from JULIE BARBER (63-70) (now Maclean) from Australia gave us a clue that she was also a published

author, but of poetry. Julie writes:

'I've been so saddened by the passing of my old school mate--ANNE MANNERS. She was my buddy in Home Economics where we giggled our way

through flat Victoria sponges and burnt saucepans. She was in love with PETE (WOFFENDEN) from a very early age. My heart goes out to him. (I remember his red hair). Anne only ever wanted to be married and have a family. I remember her lovely fresh face and open smile. It's also been shocking to hear of the passing of DINGER BELL and Clanker - STEVE LANGHORNE. They were such characters.

Steve had a wicked sense of humour. I remember one Saturday traipsing around Bristol going into Jones music dept where he'd ask to listen to the latest single by The Jackdaws. Then he'd go to the clothing department and ask for the new jacket with the Jackdaw label, then the book department where he asked for the latest issue of The Jackdaw. He had the whole place in an uproar.

'I have very fond memories of KGS. First year was daunting with such an emphasis on wearing the terrible hat in and out of school, those Latin translations of old myths involving extreme violence, and algebra. But once friendships were cemented and a certain camaraderie established against the oppressors, then it was a lot of fun.

'We were badly behaved in some classes but in others we were lambs. When we sensed that a teacher cared about us and showed passion for their subject we were hooked. I loved Bio Bill and MISS PITTAWAY.

'One of her comments on a poem of mine set me on a trajectory. I became an English teacher with a lifelong love of literature, poetry in particular. Bio Bill was so kind. In an exam he tried to help me by pointing to a blotch on a leaf that we were

supposed to identify as fungus or some infestation. I couldn't see it. He tried so hard. We were so lucky then to have teachers who would take after-school clubs and societies. My picks were Drama and Natural History. Nothing like that happens now as far as I can see.

'They were great days. I loved the cross-country over Siston Common and the sports days, but not so much the Saturday morning detentions for being caught smoking in the girls' toilets. One of the best things was the 6th form college with a common room that was separate from the main school where we were suddenly treated like adults and then started behaving like adults. My then boyfriend and I were invited to take afternoon tea with two of our teachers. We were subjected to classical music and conversation. That wouldn't happen now without a major drama or enquiry.

'The day I flew to Australia for the hell of it, and because living and teaching in England in the seventies had become dire with power cuts, three-day weeks and endless debates about whether we should join the Common Market, the old school burnt down. I was devastated.

'My father broke the news to me. He'd completed his matriculation at KGS so was invested in the school. I still have his Complete Works of Shakespeare. He lived in Tenniscourt Road. My mother at 94 is now looking at Aged Care in Tenniscourt Road. I suppose we all think that *our* years were the best years.

'I would love to attend the 63-70 reunion next November and will be in touch with Steve or Tony. I come back twice a year now and if anyone would like to make contact I'm at bokoboko52@gmail.com and on Facebook. I often wonder what

happened to CAROL BROWN, LINDA BURROUGHS and JAN GREEN.'

Given Julie's clue about writing poetry, we went on the WEB and found that she has published many books of poetry and received many awards. An extract reads: Born in Bristol, UK, Julie Maclean now lives on the Surf Coast, Australia.

As joint winner of the Geoff Stevens Memorial Poetry Prize her debut collection *When I Saw Jimi* was published in 2013 by Indigo Dreams. After the publication of her Poetry Salzburg pamphlet *Kiss of the Viking* she co-authored *To Have To Follow* (Indigo Dreams, 2016). In 2017 she launched her new chapbook *Lips that Did* (Dancing Girl Press).

Her poetry has been widely published in anthologies and in magazines such as *Australian Poetry Journal*, *The Bond Street Review*, *Cordite Poetry Review*, *Ink Sweat & Tears*, *Mslexia*, *Obsessed with Pipework*, *Orbis*, *Overland*, *Poetry Salzburg Review*, *Shearsman*, and *Wet Ink*. Julie blogs at <http://juliemacleanwriter.com/>

ANOTHER POET...

We welcome back DR TONY LAWRENCE (48-56). Tony is a member of the Edinburgh Poets and examples of his work may be found on the WEB at tiplawpress.com. He is described there as having studied Chemistry and taught Biological Sciences at Glasgow University from 1968 to 2001. (See below for his experiences in Biology at KGS!). Tony writes:

'The photo on page 22 in No. 56 is full of memories for me. The attached couple of poems, one for PAMELA WENDON, heartfelt and written shortly after her death and the other for BRIAN BAISH who was a close friend in my last two years at KGS, although we never kept in

touch after that. I remember his chess, but not the horse riding or fencing. Like me at that time he was small but unlike me, tough in accord with the moniker 'Basher' Baish. We had long talks in the cloakroom after school, probably of a metaphysical nature.

'Pamela was in my science group as was PAT HARDING. Unfortunately my academic history meant that I (far left, back row, no tie) was two years younger than most, but not all, of the others. DEREK MOODY (far right, front) for one, was my age, but with a more sophisticated maturity. All of this meant that Pamela was regrettably, out of my reach!

'The picture is not characteristic of MISS BAGSHAW, the form-mistress. I see her still patrolling the corridor, knitting with light green wool.

Old School Tie

*She lived with all the love she required
and enough to pass on.
She knew she was mine,
cherished, but not yet desired as though
our time together had not then begun,
but hoping one day to walk
hand in hand in the park for an hour to
talk of all the things we had done,
but that will not now come to pass.*

For Brian Baish
Colourblindness

*He was colourblind and lived in a world
of grey and light,
but he dreamed of the apple orchards of
Italy.
I think he thought that if he went there,
The light would show the mystery of
green.*

*I never thought that if I went there
and walked in the olive groves,
in days full heat,*

*or evening light,
I might see things that I had never seen.*

'I was in V Remove in 1953 and remember this as a happy and successful year. We took our O-levels at the end of it and continued into the second year of our A-levels. I confounded expectations by getting such a good mark in English Language that HEADMASTER RIDLEY made a public announcement of it (or so I remember).

'The next year my A-levels were a disaster. Pass in Chemistry, fail in Biology - I had forgotten to revise any Botany! - and a more distinguished Z-ruling for Physics. ie a notional pass at 50+%, but an awarded fail for the English. This highlighted me in Senior Mistress MISS QUINTON'S sight!'

DINING AT KGS...

The reports on Brook Road Bistro prompted BRIAN CUFF (46-51) to write: 'I read with great interest the experiences of former pupils attending the Brook Road school canteen (KOSA NEWS No. 56 Spring 2020) and these brought back one particular memory which I share with you.

'The period was late 1940s; post war Great Britain was living with strict food rationing but school dinners were supplementary to the weekly allowance. These dinners were set, I believe, by the Ministry of Food and whilst nutritious were not always appealing to the eye or palate, in spite of the school cooks' hard work with the food resources available to them.

'There was a discipline in the school canteen whereby you were given a set table (with seven others), three upper school pupils and four juniors known as

'fags' and a dinner prefect (a school prefect). Our dinner prefect was BRIAN TERRY GIBSON (known as Terry 44-49) and one of the juniors was 'Frisby' DYKE nicknamed after a character in the Radio ITMA series. He was a very clever pupil who I am sure achieved a very successful career in life.

'On the occasion to which I refer we had been served the first course and were waiting for the pudding. When the serving dish arrived we all stared at it in stunned silence as it was tapioca pudding, commonly referred to as 'frog's spawn', with a thick skin on top. The silence was broken when 'Frisby' Dyke made a choking noise in his throat which, to be fair, expressed our feelings perfectly. Our table prefect, Terry Gibson immediately gave him one hundred lines:

- 'I must not express my disapproval to the dinner prefect by making idiotic clucking noises in my throat'. The rest of us on the table were given permission to assist 'Frisby' Dyke in the writing of these lines.

'After I left school to embark on a banking career I joined Kingswood YMCA, where who should I meet and become very friendly with but Terry Gibson. Our friendship lasted until Terry died and in that time I often reminded him of the 'tapioca incident'.

'After Terry's National Service in the Royal Air Force, based at RAF Filton he went on to study at Goldsmith College where he achieved not only a degree in music but represented his college in tennis tournaments and became Singles champion on two occasions.

'It was whilst at Goldsmith College that Terry met and married Sybil. After several teaching appointments in London

they moved to Colchester where he eventually retired. He died in 2003 and Sybil in 2013 - their son David survives them'.

MEMORIES...

JOHN BRITTON (52-59) wallows in memories of his contemporaries at KGS: 'Thank you again for the ongoing work that you carry out in connection with *KOSA NEWS*. I must say that for me, that little brown envelope is instantly recognised and I immediately hive off somewhere quiet to devour the relevant bits. It's remarkable how the memory banks are stirred to the depths. I'm not sure if it's particularly healthy, but enjoyable, all the same. I feel a bit like old Scrooge being taken back to his school days and watching various well-loved scenarios being played out, with all sorts of characters suddenly coming to life.

'I see ROGER BEESE hitting a sublime off-drive straight through a classroom window down beyond the gym and then another time watching in wonder as one of his rugby conversions sailed majestically high over the posts, dead centre.

'Then, being transfixed as GEOFF MACKAY's magical dribbling skills sent mere mortals into outer space on the tarmac above the gym, much like Johanne Cryff's turn bamboozled that unfortunate World Cup full back some years later.

'I see GEORGE BUTCHER (English) picking up our stray football as he strolled along the terrace in front of HEADMASTER RIDLEY's window and hoofing it across the field to us. He never lost the respect that that one act conferred on him, and I guess he never realised how much he'd gone up in our estimation.

'I find myself hiding in ERIC HILTON's weekly Music lesson and being called to the front to, 'sing' a tonic sol-fa to clapping accompaniment. I hadn't a clue what it was all about (I still haven't !) as my legs clapped in time with my hands. Somehow - it all came out, Ta effi tafat-effi, tafateffi ta, tafateffi ta, tafateffi tafat-effi tafateffi taetc and at the end, Eric's "Well done, 10/10 !" left me speechless as I simply floated back to my seat.

'KEITH DUGDALE's amazing Black & White photography - whatever happened to Keith?

'All of a sudden, I'm in the gym with Sportsmaster JIMMY WILDE and a class of boys standing under the ropes that were hanging from a bar across the ceiling. After JOHN (Willy) WILMOTT with the powerful arms pulled himself up two ropes, one hand holding one rope and one the other, Jimmy challenged us all with '2/6d for anyone else who can do that' I reached the top to tumultuous cheers from the boys, but I am still waiting for my half a crown!

'And last, but not least, ANTHONY (Ernie) HOOPER, an amazing soccer player (and KGS cricketer) with dribbling skills that left many excellent defenders in his wake before unleashing that remarkable right foot to score in many a top corner from distance - unbelievable, especially when you remember that he was playing for Bitton Juniors at the time. They only ever won two matches in any season and that against the bottom club. Anthony Hooper had to be pretty special to get anywhere near the opposition penalty area in the first place. Where are you now Ernie ?

MORE MEMORIES...

ROGER COLE (51-56) (aka Alfie), a new

member, writes:



'Some from my class may remember me as Alfie – it's my middle name. My brothers always called me this to annoy me, referring to the gorilla (Alfred) at Bristol Zoo at that time.

I can be seen on page 9 of *KOSA NEWS* number 53 (Autumn 2018) standing next to STAN BURRAGE on the right second row down. MR BUTCHER was our form master.

'My twin brother David and I entered KGS in September 1951 with a mixture of excitement and nervousness not knowing what to expect. My first impression was a lot of pupils scurrying along the corridor to their classrooms. I soon settled down and through the five enjoyable years and knowing what type of job I wanted to do, I left to join the big wide world.

'My main interest was orientated towards scientific subjects such as Chemistry, Physics and Mathematics, but I knew I had to study English, History, Geography French etc – I wasn't too keen on Latin though – that was dropped in the second year!

'The teachers whom I mostly remember were Mr Sammons (Fishy) (Chemistry) who seemed to talk about anything with a bit of Chemistry thrown in at the end of the lesson. However, sometimes we did experiments which we all enjoyed. In later years, MR MOODY was our French teacher who was strict and took no nonsense from us. I remember taking my

oral French exam at Bristol University and some time afterwards he gave us our results. I passed but apparently I spoke French with a Bristolian accent!

For Physics, we had MR AUSTEN (Bunny). Physics was my favourite subject as I was interested in electrical apparatus and he recognised my enthusiasm for the subject. He encouraged me so much so that I knew then what type of job I would like when I left school. I obtained a distinction for my O-level exam and won a prize at the end of term prize giving.

'MR HILTON our music teacher for the first two years always played some heavy classical music that (probably) none of us pupils enjoyed or understood. It's a wonder that now I love classical and I have a whole eclectic of styles from the 1920s to the present.

'School open day was again a favourite of mine when parents were invited to see around the school to see their children's work. Mr Sammons asked me to operate and display a coal gas experiment where coal was heated in a steel container and the gas produced was cooled and was seen burning at the end of the pipe. On another occasion, I helped Mr Austen in the Physics lab with a few magnetic and electrical experiments.

What I didn't like was cross country. I was no good at long distance running but we had to do it in rain, and sometimes snow. I was always glad to get back to school for a hot shower. Mind you, if you didn't get in quick enough you had the dap across your backside by JIMMY WILDE. Sport wasn't my thing, although I enjoyed Rugby and 100 yard sprint at sports day – I wasn't the fastest – that went to COLIN TICKTUM – he

went like a greyhound! Then of course there was Cricket. Again I was useless at the game and usually ended up with a couple of others watching the match.

I left school from my class (5MS) and joined Bristol Aeroplane Co (BAC) as an electrical apprentice. I worked in various electrical and electronic departments and soon the managers realised I had a aptitude for electronics and I ended up in the guided weapons department working on the ground equipment for the Bloodhound ground to air missile. Sometimes that meant going to Aberporth in west Wales for live firings.

'Sadly the government contract ended and after a year or so of odd jobs, I left BAC and joined GCHQ in Cheltenham as a radio technician. That was the start of a fantastic career that lasted over 30 years, working on various 'state of the art' equipment. It was a job I loved and I got paid for it! I spent about 8 years overseas together with my wife (Chris) and 3 daughters and ended my career as the senior technical manager of the satellite ground station in Cheltenham.

'After retirement Chris and I travelled extensively in California staying at our middle daughter's house in Torrance near LA. From there we visited sites of interest such as the Grand Canyon, Monument Valley, San Francisco, etc.

'In my spare time I converse with people all over the world as a Radio Amateur, my call sign is G3REB which I have had since 1962. I also teach radio theory and electronics to those wishing to obtain an amateur radio licence.

'Overall, I feel very fortunate having the career I dreamed of and I put my success down to the teaching and discipline

of KGS, with a special mention to Mr Austen (Bunny).

ANOTHER NEW ONE...

We welcome BILL BARKER (53-60) to KOSA. He writes:

'My name is COLIN WILLIAM BARKER, known as Bill or to some of my classmates as 'Debussy. The reason for this is that my parents decided, at the last minute, to switch my first names around otherwise I would have been known as WC Barker!

'I was Deputy Head Boy and head boy of Davis House (The Reds) for the year 1959/60.

'My first job for a year after leaving school was as a management trainee with Schweppes in Brislington. While there I was doing a course in Production Engineering at Technical College.

'During that year I played rugby for KGS Old Boys RFC and we did well. I decided to join Cleve Rugby Club at the end of the season as I had some ambition; my Grandfather was a founder member and my father also played for them.

'Unfortunately I failed part of the Tech course and was told I would have to do the entire year again. That was enough incentive for me to follow up the advice of a neighbour who said 'There are people who apply and are accepted for University but then fail their A-levels.' I applied in August and was accepted by Leeds University to do a degree in Mechanical Engineering.

'These changes collectively resulted in a separation from former comrades. You tend to take relationships for granted until you move apart and unlike today

with modern communications I found difficulty in maintaining contact with people. I guess that's inevitable to some extent but sad nonetheless, looking back.

'During a break in studies I had moved to London and was living in a house full of Australians. One of them worked in Australia House and suggested I apply to emigrate. It would cost £10 but I would have to stay for two years or repay the airfare. They could help me by moving my files about!

'My father was stationed in Sydney, Australia for the final year of the war as an officer of the Royal Naval Voluntary Reserve, looking after rest and recuperation of British Naval personnel. I therefore had contacts to call on when I arrived if I chose to. I emigrated in December 1966. My Scottish girlfriend in London also got assistance and moved out the following March. We got married in the July.

'By the time the two years were up we were buying 25 Acres (10 Ha) of land 40km from Sydney CBD and had a son. Shortly after we had a second son. We remained on that property for 46 years working on the philosophy of having to travel to work rather than move around seeking work. As the property was rural we knew we could always live off the land if the worse came to the worse. It didn't and we had an enjoyable life at Kenthurst. I have dual nationality, UK and Australian.

'In 2002 while visiting Australian friends who had bought a partly restored burnt out shoe shop in Brittany, France, we found a property ourselves down the road in dire need of repair and bought it. We have been over to Europe for 3 months of every year since then to do restoration work and also to take trips

from our base in Brittany. The property was cheap and we saw it as an enjoyable form of work, not as lucrative as before but with potential to make a capital gain if needed.

'We were very disappointed, as were most ex-pats we know, when the UK decided to proceed with Brexit. We are very well informed here in Australia and I understand the arguments for and against. We couldn't find any logic which would stand up to scrutiny for such a move. It seemed such a retrograde step brought on by people basking in past glories. Britain is highly respected overseas but this has done a lot of damage to its reputation. It seems so introverted. Australia, for example, is nowhere near as emotionally tied to Britain as it was when we arrived. Large numbers of people have come from all European and many other countries. For all that it is a very cohesive populace based on tolerance and a fair go.

'I have to thank Kingswood Grammar School for providing the launch pad for all of this. The French did eventually come in useful!'

RESPECT...

A comment has been received from BOB PERKINS (52-57):

'We had the greatest respect for our teachers in the 50s but recently this I fear is not so. Our parents reinforced that respect and we were punished at home if we ignored it. Nowadays a teacher is challenged by parents for telling a child off if they do wrong.

'It was the talk of the school when GEORGE BUTCHER (English) hrew a blackboard rubber at a pupil and the pupil promptly returned it in the same manner! We didn't live in fear of our teachers.

'I recall meeting 'WOODY' WILLIAMS (Woodwork) on two occasions in later life and being given the same respect and being treated as an equal. COLIN (Frosty) WINTOUR (French) and I used to see one another frequently when walking our dogs in the fields in Longwell Green and we became quite good friends.

'The same with RALPH HYETT (Chemistry) who lived across the road from me. He was suffering with cancer and I used to sit and talk to him a lot, about old times and my family and interests. I gave him COLIN PILLINGER's *Space is a Funny Place* which helped to cheer him up!

'His wife asked me to stop calling him 'Sir'. 'Please call him Ralph as you are now his friend and not at school any more.' she asked. I found it difficult at first but it enhanced our friendship quite considerably. I was with him a few days before he died.'

REPROBATES' CORNER...

The secret of the 6th form art studio has ben revealed by BERNARD CLARK. We don't have the years of this reprobate!

'The recollections of ROS DALZIEL (53-59), (*KOSA NEWS* Spring 2020), concerning the loose floorboards in the art room made me wonder if the under floor secret of the 6th form art studio was about to be revealed. However, it appears this means of access to the 'underworld' did not encourage further exploration. I assume this must have been due to it being a somewhat claustrophobic experience.

'On the other hand the 6th form studio contained a much more commodious

access in the form of a trap door largely hidden (deliberately?) beneath a large desk. This trap door opened into a large, very dark void leading on to a subterranean 'corridor' beneath the main corridor. This feature is clearly visible on the aerial photograph of the burnt out building on the back page of *KOSA NEWS*, Autumn 2019.

'This underground 'corridor' extended from the steps outside the hall to the crossing point just beyond the science room (K?), again clearly visible in the aerial photograph, as can a similar 'corridor' in the upper level of the main building. Presumably there was another trap door access to this in the school office or the deputy head's room. These locations would have kept it out of reach of the creative minds who unearthed the secret of the art studio and who carried out disappearing acts similar to those described by Ros Dalziel, although usually involving larger numbers of miscreants.

'Many happy hours were spent in the studio and on one memorable day extra-curricula activity involving domestic science, disturbed our slumbers. More of that another day.'

RELATIONS...

The last *KOSA NEWS* prompted VERNON STOKES (38-43) to write:

'I was very interested in two of the entries in the Spring 2020 *KOSA NEWS*. MARGARET LOVELL (50-55) wrote of her Pop and Nan, as those two are, in fact, my Uncle and Auntie. They spent much of their working lives in Bangalore, India in the employ of WD & HO Wills, cigarette manufacturers. They had three children, two daughters and a son and one of the daughters was Margaret's mother

and hence she is my cousin.

'With regards to the boundary with KGS; the garden during the war housed an Air raid Wardens' Post and Uncle was in charge. My own experience was that I was attached to this post as a boy in the ARP Messenger Service, but I left in 1944 to join the Royal Navy as a volunteer.

'The other entry was by JULIE BABER (63-70) and her mention of Tenniscourt Road. Of Mr and Mrs Baber's sons, Cyril was my boyhood friend and Roy was a commissioned officer in the RAF during the war. Roy was a KGS scholar, slightly older than myself, and was either a pilot or a member of the flying crew.

'Nowadays, I can look out of my kitchen window and can see their house as I've lived in the village of Made For Ever for most of my four-score-years and ten and some more!'

A RESPONSE...

Sculptress MARGARET LOVELL (50-55) responds from New Zealand:

'What a delight to have your message regarding Vernon Stokes.

'I did indeed receive the magazine earlier in week. I drive to the post box as it is 'up hill and down dale' to get to - no front door deliveries here! So when I saw it was the old school mag. I was parked there by the box until I had read several articles and skimmed through the rest before driving back....just couldn't wait to read it!

'Yes I recall Vernon was my late Mum's 1st cousin, and youngest - and we always thought he was good looking! Mum used to refer to him as R. Vernon in true



Bristolian fashion - as to us children everyone related had the initial "R" before their name, which later was understood by us children as being "Bristol" or "Kingsud" for "our"! His Mum was my grandfather's youngest sibling and I think, the only girl. Auntie Clarice owned the pub "Made Forever" and my Mum always liked spending time there with Vernon when she came back from India, I think they were good friends besides being cousins. My mum also used to enjoy being in the pub for company and I think she helped at the bar sometimes.

'Vernon mentions ARP days and I remember them too, as his uncle, (my Pop Newman) used his lock up garage at end of lane behind his allotment adjoining KGS, as their 'office'. In fact I was recently looking at a photograph of the ARP 'boys' with their tin helmets and water siphon things I suppose all sitting 'to attention'!

'I'm also adding a picture of me at opening of sculpture show with my big (6' tall) bronze sculpture 'Nova Head' which was on show until March 2020, in the Atrium of Auckland Botanical Gardens. (see photo above).'

GENEROSITY...

We find KOSA folk very generous and we have had several substantial donations to KOSA recently, for which we are grateful.

In addition we had to cancel the Spring Lunch in 2000 and several members have refused a refund and asked us to donate their dining fees to Kingswood Food Bank, which we have done.

FROM CANADA...

My full name was KATHLEEN WORMALD (66-70) (now Shave), although I was called Kate at KGS. When I left, I moved to Canada, following my brother DAVID WORMALD (62-68), who went to Leeds University after KGS. Sadly, he passed away a number of years ago and I find myself at an age where I am reflecting on my past and wondering what road life took old friends down.

If you were friends of Kate and wish to correspond with her, KOSA will put you in touch - just email us.

CONTACT...

We've had a postcard from RUTH HANMER (59-66), who lives in London, thanking KOSA for the contacts she has made. She has renewed contact with three old school friends who are still living in Bristol.

FACEBOOK...

On page 31 we have announced details of the new Facebook page formed by JULIE JOHNS (68-75).

On the next page is an example of the interesting stuff to be found there. It's a photo of ERIC HILTON conducting the School Orchestra in the Hall in 1965. The



picture was posted by ELIZABETH WICKENS. Accompanying it are some entertaining comments; Elizabeth says she is 'scraping the violin' under Eric's arm and LESLEY ALLSOPP wrote 'Oh, Lord! How I hated Orchestra! When I went to university I didn't let on that I could play as I didn't want to be coerced into an orchestra again. No Music faculty.

MAUREEN'S CAREER...

Some extracts from correspondence from MAUREEN GRIFFIN (51-58):

'I was certainly not disappointed by the last KOSA NEWS - full of interesting stuff. For me, I was particularly interested to learn about the COLIN PILLINGER (54-61) 'Shed' in Bristol. I await 2024 and a return to the Moon possibly. Also MARK ADAM's (51-56) listening to KOA pupils reading and the new 'passport' incentive backed by the award of vouchers made available by KOSA - what a great idea! My own grandsons would

benefit from such a scheme.

'Interesting to read of references to the BRITTON brothers who lived near me off Cleevewood Road, keen Baptists growing up, as were the GIFFORDS and LYNES, who lived near Page Park. I was forced to attend Downend Baptist Sunday School when young to give my parents a few hours' respite on Sunday mornings.

'ROBIN FIDKIN (55-62) is the young brother of Carole Fidkin who was a good friend for a while as she lived in Bromley Heath Road. We both caught the bus to Kingswood, then she caught another to St George GS. After which we were both given places at Secretarial Training College in Filton, paid a small salary to go anywhere in Bristol Aeroplane Co or Aero-Engines, eventually to gain on-the-job experience...excellent training. Then day-release to Brunel for an HND Course, such that it wasn't too many

years before I got posts as Secretary to the Managing Director of Colodense, then the same role at Gloucester Engineering, those were the days!

'It meant that with the advent of computers proper I could supervise a team of word processor operators producing highly technical documents. So now you have a picture of my career.

'The 1928 photo of KGS staff made quite an impression, as apart from BUNNY AUSTEN (Physics) most of them were teaching when both my parents were pupils and also taught us in the 50s. FISHY SAMMONS (Chemistry) was himself a pupil earlier.

'It was fascinating to see what the MISSES Quinton, WYCHERLEY and WATERS looked like in their younger days. I then went on to think that I am in my 80th year and that there has been a connection for me with KGS a good many of those years one way & another, and a good many of the 100 years too! Both parents met at KGS and I was always told that I was one of the first children of ex-pupils - ANTHONY STRUGNELL was another. Two aunts, an uncle, and four cousins also went to KGS, as did my Canadian brother in more recent times.

'KGS benefitted from two excellent and long-serving headmasters during those hundred years, its ethos being a stand-out feature among any of the grammar schools for miles around, echoes of which are what largely make up the memories of most ex-pupils still living, whether or not they are members of KO-SA.'

A DIVINE MOGGY..?

MARGARET REECE (55-62) (now Wills)

spotted this photo of The Very Rev ROBERT WILLIS (59-65), Dean of Canterbury, whose cathedral cat became a sensation on the social media of Facebook and Twitter, with over 100,000 hits.



Leo the cat wandered into view as Robert was giving his sermon and disappeared beneath his robes. Apparently, Robert, unmoved, continued with his sermon and prayers. Leo is one of no less than four cats kept by the Deanery!

MOVED TO FRANCE..

JULIE JOHNS (68-75) has informed us of TIM BEEDELL (68-75) who became a farmer in France and because of Brexit has become a French citizen. His father was a Governor of the School in the 1970s.

Apparently, he was a budding entrepreneur at School, fattening up geese and turkeys to sell to people's parents at Christmas, and keeping a some livestock at various places in the area.

Tim and his wife Mary have an interesting story of the trials and tribulations they incurred when they applied for French citizenship.

More next time.

OBITUARIES...

KOSA CHAIRMAN:



It is with particular regret that we report the death of STAN 'BUSTER' BURRAGE (51-56), Chairman of KOSA for the past 15 years. He was a contemporary of your Editor and we were together throughout our careers in KGS. In 1956 Stan could not wait to leave KGS and started an apprenticeship with Thrissell Engineering in Easton, Bristol. After his apprenticeship he had a long career in engineering, initially with the family business, Kelston Engineering Ltd, and latterly as a mechanical engineer, project manager and in project quality assurance.

In the 1970s, as an acknowledged expert in the field of pump design, he worked exclusively in the development of off-shore refuelling systems for the oil industry worldwide and specialist units for military purposes from drawing board to commissioning.

Although Stan was born in Tenniscourt Road, he had moved around in his early days to Easton, then Ashton, near the City Ground, and then to Spring Hill where he passed the 11 plus at The Park School to transfer to KGS. He had also sat for QEH, but he says 'he was put off by the uniform'. At KGS Stan was known for his bad behaviour, and in his autobiography he admits that he was only interested in subjects appropriate to an engineering career, which from an early age he had decided to pursue. He also admits smoking Woodbines in the boiler house and having been caned frequently for many other misdemeanours!

Stan's particular mates at KGS were MARTIN HARRYMAN (now our treasurer), JIMMY BRITTON and MARK ADAMS and despite a request to HEADMASTER RIDLEY, was refused a transfer to Rodway Technical School and he left KGS with 4 O-levels. These included English Language and English Literature (separate subjects) and English Master GEORGE BUTCHER was so impressed that he went to Stan's home to congratulate him!

Stan married RITA RAYNER (53-59) in 1962 and they had three children, all who survive him. He was a keen bellringer and he rang most of the churches in the area and he became church warden at Horsley Church, near Nailsworth. He steered it through a church renovation to create a church which became the centre of the local social scene. This resulted in an award by the Council for the Preservation of Rural England (CPRE) and provided a benchmark for the development of other churches. He was buried there in May 2020.

Stan took over as Chairman of KOSA when PETER WALTERS (48-56) passed

away and during his period as Chairman KOSA went from strength to strength. He presided over committee meetings and chaired lunches twice a year. He had some ideas to celebrate next year as the centenary of the founding of the School at Kingswood, initially as Kingswood Secondary School in 1921. However, it was not to be. He will be a hard act to replace and our thoughts go out to Rita and her family.

Your editor regrets to report the death of RICHARD STRANGE (54-59). Richard had been ill for some time with COPD and he moved from his home in Nottingham to be near one of his daughters in Bournemouth. He suffered a stroke, was transferred to hospital, but passed away on 8th March 2020.



I first got to know Richard when he contacted me as a past trainspotter of Mangotsfield Station when he was setting

up Mangotsfield Railway Circle (MRC). That was over 40 years ago when Richard got together a like-minded group and his energy and enthusiasm has kept MRC going ever since, meeting regularly at the Bridge Inn, Shortwood for chats, films, slides and talks about the days of steam railways.

Richard loved everything to do with railways in the days of steam, and he made that interest into his life's work. As well as virtually starting MRC, he also set up

and was a driving force in Steam Railways Research Society (SRRS) which ensured that records, photographs and memorabilia of the steam age were preserved for posterity. He was in regular contact with the National Railway Museum to both collect and supply information of steam operations under British Rail.

His knowledge grew to encyclopaedic proportions and he was retained as Historical Advisor to both *Steam World* and *Steam Railway* magazines in which he checked the veracity of information before publication. His collection of railway memorabilia was extensive.

Richard was a stickler for accuracy, both of the written words in English and the facts they conveyed. He was the scourge of authors of railway books who got their facts wrong. That would elicit one of Richard's letters taking the author to task. His view was that the transmission of false information only served to be replicated and became written in stone, and he was out to ensure that this practice was minimised.

Richard worked for British Rail in computers, but some differences between Richard and the BR bureaucratic machine caused him to submit his resignation. This only served to give him the time to pursue his interest and hobby of railways, and this he did, with the support of Sue his wife, for his remaining years.

Richard will be missed, not only for his depth of knowledge, but also for his, often irascible, personality. He never suffered fools gladly, but he was known as a great source of knowledge throughout the country through the correspondence he entered into in his roles in MRC and SRRS. He was a good friend with a great sense of humour and great energy and



organisational ability, but often with fixed ideas.

Sue predeceased him, but he leaves two daughters, Sally and Katie.

As a measure of how highly Richard was regarded in the steam community, the photo above shows a tribute by the Keighley & Worth Valley Railway on one of their preserved locos. They had never met Richard but had benefited from his extensive knowledge. Appropriately, 43924 was a Barrow Road, Bristol loco.

DAVID OTLET (46-53) has advised KOSA of the death of his brother:

'DR BOB OTLET (42-48) passed away peacefully at home after a very brief illness on the 30th January this year, two months short of his 90th birthday.

'Bob will be greatly missed by his family, his wife Jill, three children, four grandchildren and two great-grandchildren plus myself and the rest of the Otlet family, his work colleagues and his many

friends.

'At KGS Bob excelled in Maths and Physics and in 1950, after his National Service, accepted a position at the Atomic Energy Research Establishment at Harwell where he stayed for the next 40 years! He played a key part in pioneering the use of high-level isotopes in medicine and industry and Carbon 14 dating purposes such as King Arthur's Round Table hanging in Winchester Great Hall and other high profile archaeological studies.

'In 1951 Bob married his girlfriend from KGS, MARIAN OSBORNE, and set up home first in Didcot and then Harwell village.

'When Bob retired from Harwell in 1990, he continued to do similar work setting up his own business (RCD Lockinge) with his colleague Jill Walker and up to the time of his death was still active in this very successful venture.

'I remember Bob as a modest man who never made much of his accomplishments but was known internationally for his work. Whatever Bob did he worked hard to become proficient at, whether work or hobbies. In 2003 he purchased a house in a small village south of Calais. Here he became known as "The Bricoleur" (Do It Yourselfer) using his building and carpentry skills to continuously improve and expand the property.

'Bob was a very generous, fun loving person who enjoyed involving many of his friends and family in his pursuits, from playing squash, sailing, skiing (which he only took up age 60) and learning to fly, camping and caravanning (England & Europe) and boating on the Canal du Midi in later years.

'I could add much more information and anecdotes of his interesting life from myself and everyone who came in contact with him, but suffice it to say we were all enriched by the experience and will greatly miss his fun loving, generous and hard working example and spirit.

ELIZABETH HILLING (53-60) (now Strong) has informed KOSA of the sad death of her brother, DR DAVID HILLING (47-54):



'David arrived at KGS in the Summer term of 1947 when our family moved to Bristol from South Wales. He was immediately dubbed 'Taffy'. His years at KGS were happy, informative ones and he made some lifelong friends. In 53-54 he was made Head of School. It seems as if he couldn't keep away from the place as he returned for a brief spell as a teacher and immediately afterwards spent his Summer vacation working as assistant caretaker. David was at the top of a ladder one day when a boy he was teaching a few weeks before turned up at the school and was amazed to see his erstwhile teacher wielding a bucket and wet cloth. He remarked that he hadn't realised that teachers were made to clean the windows while on their break!

'In 1954 David became a student at Aberystwyth University reading Geography. This was followed by a post-graduate degree at Sheffield University and teacher training at the Institute of Education in London. In 1961 he travelled to West Africa to take up a post as lecturer in Geography at the University of Ghana which was then part of London University. It was in Ghana that he met his wife, Wendy, also a lecturer.

'They returned to the UK in 1966 and settled in Berkhamsted, with their two sons. David joined the staff of the geography department at Bedford College which was soon to be amalgamated with Royal Holloway College in Egham. He taught here until his retirement, gaining a doctorate and being awarded an Honorary

Fellowship. His special academic interest was in cargo handling and port development and he travelled widely. He had several academic books published.

'David had many interests and he continued to lead a very active life after he retired. He worked for several seasons as a lecturer on the Saga cruise ships and once on the QE2. These were times he thoroughly enjoyed as he was never happier than when on water. For some years he was vice president of the Inland Waterways Association and represented it on several government groups concerned with the promotion of waterborne freight. For this work he was awarded an MBE.

'He never forgot his Welsh roots and he and Wendy belonged to the Berkhamsted Welsh Society. And, of course, he always cheered for Wales in Welsh/English rugby matches! He was a keen member of KOSA and looked forward to meeting up with old friends at the lunch get-togethers.

'In his final years David suffered very poor health but he was always cheerful, positive and interested in life. He died peacefully in his sleep at home and will be sadly missed by all those who were privileged to know him. He is survived by Wendy, his two sons, Hugh and Christopher and me, his sister Elizabeth.'

The photo on the previous page is of David receiving a prize from SIR BERNARD LOVELL on Speech Day 1954.

JOYCE MIZEN (49-54) (now Jay) writes to inform us of her sister's passing: 'Thank you very much for your continuing work with *KOSA NEWS*, an extremely valuable publication. I scan it thoroughly as soon as it arrives as I find it so interesting to know of the fantastic achievements of past pupils, especially those in my years.

'I am sure none of the staff who had the pleasure of teaching me would remember the girl who was always in trouble for talking, and being sent to stand outside MISS QUINTON'S door, which my sister delighted in telling my parents.

'I remember with great joy my days at KGS and the sadness of standing at the gates with our children on the morning following the devastating fire. Dreadful sabotage of pupils' records.

'It is with great sadness that I now wish to inform you that my sister SHEILA MIZ-

EN (48-53) (later Langdon) who passed away on the 18th February 2020.

'Sheila had not enjoyed good health for many years and this time the wonderful doctors in the BRI decided her body could not take any more, and she passed peacefully the following morning. Unfortunately the funeral wasn't arranged until the 20th March by which time we were starting lockdown and in view of my medical history my children laid the law down and we did not attend, very upsetting.

'Unfortunately so many stricken families are now in an even worse situation. We must keep on 'smiling through' as Vera Lynn sang and have faith we will move into happier times soon.

We have been informed of the death of JOHN TIPPETTS (53-59), whose funeral took place at Haycombe, Bath on 6th May 2020. Attendance at the service was limited, but it was broadcast on the Web.



John was a lifetime member of Hanham Methodist Church, having been a member of the youth club as a young man and later as a steward. He also re-

ceived an award for his contribution to the activities of Wesley's New Room in Broadmead. John became a Chemist with Bristol City Council after leaving KGS and in the tribute given by his nephew Chris he was described as a keen sports fan, supporting both Bristol Rovers and Gloucestershire County Cricket

Club.

John loved to travel, and he visited countries from Scandinavia in the North to Croatia in the South, but perhaps his highlight visit was to the Holy Land. He was a founder member and Past President of Hanham Y's Men's Club. John never married, but looked after his aged parents in later life. A real gentleman.

The obituary of ANNE FENN (42-46) (later Hill) has been sent in by her daughter, Catherine:

'Mum regularly received a copy of KOSA and was always interested in its news. She went to a reunion of her year's form about 10 years ago, so there may be quite a few people still around who remember her.

'She married my father, Rowland, in 1951 and they spent most of their working lives in Wolverhampton. They had 2 children - me (Catherine) and my younger brother, Russ. When Dad took early retirement, they moved to Dulverton in Somerset. They had just celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary when Dad died.

'Although Mum didn't do paid work, she qualified as a massage therapist and reflexologist in her 50s. (She was a very talented one, too.) After retirement, both she and Dad took up art and produced some lovely work. She was always very artistic and creative, doing a lot of sewing projects and crochet.

'Mum was widowed for 18 years. She was still very active and in good health right up until 5 years ago, when she had a series of strokes that made it difficult to live without support on hand, so she moved into a lovely care home near Taunton where she was very well cared for and spent her last years happily.

'Mum got a chest infection very suddenly and died on the 14th January 2020. She was born in 1930 and had celebrated her 89th birthday last autumn.'

DICK GERRISH'S obituary has been sent in by his son:

'RICHARD (DICK) GERRISH (37-41) was born with his twin Jim in October 1925. When their father was given the news, he was carried about on the shoulders of his mates as he had twins. Jim was always the sporty one and full of mischief, whereas Dick was quieter, a man of few words. But Dick always knew what he wanted. His main saying was "Get your priorities right".

'In his early years Dick contracted polio which stunted some of his growth resulting in two different sized feet. But this may have been where he got his determination from in later life. He went to the local Redfield Edge Primary School in Oldland and, passing his 11+, went on to KGS, where daughter JANE and son ROBERT were to follow many years later. Richard did well at school and gained a scholarship from the Merchant Venturers' College gaining an HNC in Mechanical Engineering and joined his father working at Frys' at Somerdale.

'He worked as a draughtsman before progressing to management, looking after a team of draughtsmen and ancillary staff responsible for the mechanical design and maintenance of the chocolate making machinery. At one point he had over 40 people working for him.

'It was as a draughtsman he met his wife-to-be Peg at Somerdale, who was working in the general office. Deciding he wanted the house of his own choosing, he designed his own and had it built. He did not move very far as it was built next

to his parents' house. To fund his mortgage he worked additional hours teaching Frys' apprentices evening classes to boost his pay. Many Frys' tradesmen look back to when they were in Dick's classes.

'Dick was also a keen gardener, particularly of vegetables, fruit trees and roses, and not long after getting married, he tried the new hobby of beekeeping, but had to give it up when badly stung. He was also keen on photography.

'Dick was always a family man, always wanting to stay at home with his grandchildren, spending hours playing board games and building houses with Lego. As they grew older he was proud with their achievements.

'As Dick's health deteriorated he spent his last 18 months in St Monica's in the Chocolate Quarter. It was ironic after years of designing chocolate machinery, his room in the Chocolate Quarter was situated on the same floor as the moulding plant where they made the Cadbury's caramel bar. Rest In Peace, Dad.'

'We have received the sad news from NESTA JEFFERIS (45-50) (now Chalcraft) that her brother, COLIN JEFFERIS (41-48) died on 11th August 2020 in Leicester. He had been ill in a retirement home with a bad heart condition.

'Colin went to High Street School before going to KGS, after which he went to Cheltenham Teacher Training College, St Paul's. From there he taught in Leicester, eventually becoming headmaster. Before going to college, however, he spent two years in Austria for the Intelligence Corps.

'At KGS he enjoyed sport, always going in for the javelin, long jump and throwing

the discus, winning quite a few times. Although he came from a large family of two boys and six girls, Colin and his wife never had any children.' Nesta comments that he probably had enough whilst teaching, his wife Eunice also being a teacher!

JOHN BROOK (53-58) has informed us in March 2020 of his twin brother RICHARD BROOK'S passing and at the same time has partly solved a query:

'My wife Anne and I escaped our Spanish home a week ago and found the latest edition of the excellent *KOSA NEWS* amongst our two month pile of mail. Having read it yesterday I was surprised to see the photo of the 'Informal Shots' asking 'but who were the boys?'

'Well, I can tell you that on the left is either my brother Richard or myself, however being identical twins even I do not know which one of us is depicted in the picture. As to the other two, I regret that I cannot remember and I am unable to check with Richard as he regrettably died in April last year from renal failure.

Richard lived in Perth Australia since he emigrated as a £10 POM in his early 20's having qualified as a surveyor at the Building College in Cheltenham. When he arrived in Perth it was little more than a small habitation on the West Coast with a population of emigrant adventurers. He started a building company and was responsible for a large part of the housing development in Perth. His whole career was centred around building and surveying houses, also lecturing young people about standards of building. He was also responsible for the introduction of Building Standards and Building Contracts which were largely ignored in WA at that time. He enjoyed a very successful career

and had a family of two boys, and a daughter from his first marriage to a young lady from Hanham, who still lives in Perth.

'I went on from KGS into the hotel business from which I retired some 20 years ago. I also suffered from renal problems however I received a transplant 11 years ago and am fortunate enough to enjoy a life split between our home in sunny Spain near Alicante, and Cornwall. Life has been very good to my wife and me with two children, one an electronic engineer and our daughter a family lawyer in Leeds.

'Enough rambling I think, at least I was partially able to answer the question and, who knows perhaps someone can identify the other boys.'

TONY RICHARDS (54-61) has written some pieces about himself and also his friend TERRY ANSTEY (55-62):

'Terry died 23 March this year in Vancouver. I met him at KGS where he was in the year below me, probably through rugby or at Kingswood YMCA, and we remained friends since then.

'You soon realised he was a go ahead/get noticed person but he did get on and do things. He often had photos in the local press, one of him getting his Duke of Edinburgh Gold badge at Buckingham Palace, making me get on with mine and I did the same. We had a friendly, healthy kind of rivalry. He had a flair for Art and was also a bit of a musician.

I recall one Christmas on my bike holding on to the saddle of his mother's moped and being pulled by him at 30 mph or so through the dark back-lanes of Bitton to get me home as I was late. We were in *HMS Pinafore* together and we realised

that if we learned to dance we would meet more girls. He was a globetrotter, I have a photo of him in the Solomon Islands with a young naked local girl!

'We went our ways but did see each other regularly over the years and when I was in a flat in South Kensington he would come up each weekend from Ashford where he was working. I often played rugby on a Sunday for a team called 'ffagins' (see later) so he came along and formed a lifelong friendship with its players, going on Easter tours with them and becoming a regular player. He met several of them in North America and kept in touch with many others .

'He married Julia and they moved around before settling in Vancouver and we met them there in 2012 when we were about to do an Alaskan cruise. His lungs were not good but an operation improved the problem. They came very regularly to see her mother in Malvern, stayed with us a few times and at other times we met for lunches somewhere. We stayed with them in an hotel last year and he seemed a lot better and were expecting to see them this June.

'When told he was in the Scouts' display at the Museum he quipped 'I knew that I had reached old age, but I never thought that I would become a museum exhibit!'

'As for my journey after leaving KGS I first want to inform those who knew my sister VALERIE RICHARDS (50-55) that she died in 1986 age 47 from an aggressive cancer. She had 3 children.

'I went on to Imperial College, London to do a physics degree which I somehow got despite being captain of athletics in my last year and often playing rugby three times a week. I played for a team called

'ffagins', named after the first captain Bill Sykes. We were the 14th team in the College list but had county tennis players, basketball players etc and I once was dropped to the College 2nd team and nearly the 1st team!. The team was due its 60th Anniversary this year but it had to be cancelled although people were coming from worldwide. I met CAROL LOVELL (54-61) (now Pitson) a couple of times; we were Heads of Eaton House together at school. ROY ELLIS was also there at the same time.

'I went on to Guys Hospital to do an MSc in Radiation Biology and Radiation Physics and my first job was at Berkeley Nuclear Power Station in Health Physics. I did play for KGS Old Boys RFC before DAVID TAYLOR (59-61) asked if I would like to join Bath, but it was not my best playing year by far. Then GARTH WOMAR, who played at Chipping Sodbury, suggested I went there and I enjoyed several years of playing.

'I used to meet ROGER BYE (56-61) (still in touch with him – lives in California and still a very keen motorcyclist) and JIM KNIGHT each Tuesday and most Saturdays in the *Red Lion* at Mangotsfield.

'I realised my job was not for me and moved to Medical Physics in Hammer-smith Hospital, working with radioactive pharmaceuticals in function tests and imaging (Nuclear Medicine) when it was a very progressive period of development. The work was all patient-orientated and included attending operations and a couple of post mortems!

'I married, had a son, who is now Professor of Surgery in Perth, and moved on to Cardiff to a new university hospital. I remarried a few years later and had another son who lives in Birmingham with 3 very young children, and a daughter who is in

Singapore, therefore all my children are dispersed worldwide. One holiday in France we stayed near Huelgoat with ALAN NOTT and his wife and very new baby, but have since lost touch. I played rugby a bit - in one match DAVE WALL (54-59) was in the opposition - but injury stopped that, although I could play squash and progressed to be a coach at the National Sports Centre, a referee and Honorary Secretary of the Welsh Association.

'At work I moved on, finally becoming Head of Medical Physics besides Radiation Adviser to the University of Wales College of Medicine and also sat on many Welsh Office committees. Was on the Wales Environmental Advisory group, NHS Emergency Planning Group beside many society, HSE and Environment Agency ones, including Honorary Secretary of the then called Hospital Physics Association (later called IPPEM - became a Fellow). Also received Honorary Life Membership of the AURPO (University Group) and Honorary Fellowship of the Society for Radiation Protection.

'I Attended as one of the British delegation to an international meeting in Hiroshima in 2000 and again in Madrid in 2004. I was contactable by the police for any call outs under the national scheme, did a few locums in Saudi Arabia and taught radiologists in Beirut. My final committee was a government one to dispose of the UK's legacy of radioactive sources as the 'Users' representative for hospitals, universities and schools, the only time I was in the Cabinet Office for a meeting. My career was varied and enjoyed it until the latter years and retired in 2007.

'I had an allotment for over 40 years but now given up as my garden at home is plenty big enough and I play golf or go to the gym if raining. Sport has had its toll,

both knees being replaced. As we both had health scares in 2000 we decided to see as much of the world as possible which has been quite successful! Keep promising to attend the KOSA Summer lunch but something always seems to crop up, maybe one day?

'When we watch various quiz shows and I come up with something from the depths I realise what a good education I was given and depth of knowledge and thank KGS for that. I did enjoy my time there.'

GORDON LEE (39-44) died in April 2020, his funeral taking place on his 92nd birthday. A lifelong resident of Staple Hill, after KGS Gordon worked for the Civil Service and apparently retired at 60, some 32 years ago. He almost certainly worked for the MOD and at one stage his office was in Oldbury Court. His job was in Admin but he did occasionally go out on inspections.

Gordon spent much of his spare time cycling. He joined Severn Road Club in 1948 and the Veteran-Cycle Club in 1955. He was one of the original members of the Vets and became the longest serving member a few years ago.

In his younger days Gordon competed in Time Trials and Road Racing. He excelled riding his Penny Farthing to such an extent that no one remembers him losing a PF race! Those were the days when cycle racing events took place at Fry's and Douglas' Sports Grounds. In later life Gordon rode out with Bristol Thursday Old Time Cyclists (BTOTC) and for many years was President of Severn RC. He retired from that post in 2018. Much loved and much missed.

JACK SANDOVER (45-53) confirms:
It was good to see the photo on page 18 in the last edition of the (45-52) ladies'

visit to Oxbridge.

'I can confirm that it's JOAN REDFORD at the back. The pair of us spent many an intensive lesson doing advanced maths alone with MR RIDLEY in his office. Naturally Mr Ridley was aghast when I said that I wanted to study engineering at university (greasy overalls?).

All the best. Jack Sandover (45-53, I think)'



Sadly, shortly after this letter to KOSA NEWS, Jack died. His family have provided his obituary: 'We're sorry to have to let you know that our Dad,

Jack Sandover, passed away in July this year at the age of 86. Following his time at KGS, he studied Mechanical Engineering at King's College, London. After graduation, he registered as a conscientious objector and for two years worked at Ravenswood School, Crowthorne (a school for children with learning disabilities).

'His first professional engineering job was at Rudolf Scheffuss in Brunsbuttelkoog, Germany, but after breaking his neck in a road accident he returned to the UK to work for Reed Paper Group as management trainee and, later, as project engineer.

'In 1966, Jack was appointed Research Fellow at Loughborough University. After various appointments in the Department of Human Sciences and a PhD in 1983, he retired early from his position as Senior

Lecturer and carried out private consultancy on human responses to noise and vibration. He retired fully in 1999. For some time Jack was active in the Ergonomics Society as Chair of the Honours Committee and was awarded an Honorary Fellowship.

‘From 1986, Dad’s hearing deteriorated rapidly until he became totally deaf without hearing aids.

‘In retirement he was active with the Loughborough Hard of Hearing Club, the Leslie Edwards Trust (of which he was one of the three founding trustees) and Hearing Link (as Chair of the Communications Working Group).

‘Dad married our Mum, Shirley, in 1963 and together they followed their love of nature and, in particular, birdwatching. His other hobbies included wood turning and genealogy. He leaves his two children, Bridget and Mike, and two grandchildren.’

CLIFF HENNEVELD (47-53) passed away on 9th September 2020 and his funeral service was partly officiated by his wife Revd MAUREEN CURRY (47-53), who is a Reader with the Church in Wales. The following is an extract from the address by Revd Jonathan Copus:

‘After a short stay in Glangwili Hospital, Llanglydwen, Church stalwart Cliff died at the age of 86.

‘Cliff was a prefect at KGS eventually becoming Head Prefect in 1952-53. At school he met Maureen, and soon they were hanging around together, and even going cycling. One of their favourite routes took them through a shallow ford where a stream ran across the road. Maureen and her Head Boy were in the habit of pedaling through this ford without stop-



ping: until one day Cliff suddenly decided to pull up and investigate the stream more closely. And of course, Maureen

cannoned into him – and literally fell for him. It just shows you should never trust a man who pulls up in a Ford – especially a Prefect and on 3rd November 1956 the pair were married. The marriage produced two talented daughters: Nicola, who’s a prizewinning author of short stories; and Petra, who’s Office Manager for a private international school in the Netherlands.

‘Cliff was an engineer, and spent pretty well all his working life in Bristol with WD and HO Wills. When they sold off redundant plant to the Chinese, it was Cliff’s job to go to China and make sure it was installed properly.

‘Those of us who attended Llanglydwen Church know what a pillar Cliff was of that worshipping community – playing in the hymns, mending the electrics, being a constant source of wise counsel, there whenever he was needed on a material or spiritual level. And of course, so supportive of Maureen in her role as a Reader.

‘Maureen and family would like to thank everyone for the sympathy and kindness extended to them in their bereavement, and for the practical help and support so freely given by so many friends.’



JOHN COLE'S (49-56) wife, Elizabeth, has informed KOSA that John died on 24th July 2020. John had been in hospital for 6 weeks following a fall and then developed pneumonia twice, which accelerated his Parkinson's. John died at home.

John was awarded a Gloucestershire County Major Scholarship in 1956 after obtaining his A-levels in French, History and Geography and he went to Birmingham University to read Geography.

After university, John remained in the Midlands and joined Dunlop as a management trainee and travelled to India to manage some of their operations there. He and his wife had links later with New Zealand with some of his family moving there.

John was a keen rugby player, and the photo (above) showing the 1st XV of 1955-56 in which John is on the left of team captain DAVE CHURCH, who's holding the ball.

We have been informed of the death on 18th April 2020 of JOHN CLOTWORTHY (55-62) who was in a care home in Taunton.

John was born Clifton, Bristol in June 1944 but grew up in Kingswood. In 1955 he started at KGS, as previously had his father and was subsequently followed by his younger sister, Sarah, at the time when they were living in Champion Road, Kingswood.

Whilst at KGS he joined the newly-formed Boy Scouts troop – he's on the far right in the second row of the 1958 photo on the next page. One of John's hates was the cross country run! He and GEOFF COLE (55-60) would drop out after a short distance, walk to near the end, using a short cut, and then rejoin the last of the runners. However, John enjoyed playing tennis with his friend BOB BANE (55-62) for which they always booked public courts. In due course, John's father decided to create their own tennis court at the rear of their house. Unfortunately, they ran out of



time (and enthusiasm!) before the end of the Summer and then, shortly afterwards, the family moved to London Road, Warmley although John and Bob continued playing until John left for university in the Summer of 1962. He had achieved 'A' level passes in History, Geography and French and won a County Major Scholarship to go to University College, London to study Geography.

Upon graduating he took up a career in town planning which resulted in living in various places, during which time he married and started a family. John progressed very quickly. In 1976 he returned as Deputy Chief Planning Officer for the Kingswood UDC and in 1978, whilst in his mid-30s, he became the Chief Planning Officer. Shortly afterwards (1982) he moved to Crewkerne, working for Yeovil DC and eventually became a Director of South Somerset DC.

In the late 1990s he took early retirement which enabled him to spend more time

in his many interests, including being an active member of St. Bartholomew's Church, Crewkerne where he held numerous voluntary posts during the 38 years before he died. He was a keen fan of Yeovil Town FC and often went to games, eventually taking his son, Roger, and lately his grandson, Jude.

His love of music of all kinds led to him joining the Stanchester Community Quire (not choir), including performing at the Sidmouth International Festival and elsewhere. John leaves a wife, two children and four grandchildren and will be missed by everyone who had the fortune to meet and know him – a true gentleman.

ROB SHERRINGTON has reported the passing of DAVID GINGELL (64-71).after a short illness. He had a career in engineering and public highways and enjoyed painting, golf and tennis. His friends at KGS were Rob himself, DEAN FRENCH, STEVE GAPPER, PHIL SMART, RICH GREY and the late ALAN BATEMAN.

JOHN TUCKER (62-69) has informed KOSA of the death of MOLLIE WILLIAMS (35-40) (later Mitford):

'Mollie Williams was born on ANZAC Day, April 25th 1924 in Longwell Green. She was educated at Samuel White's School, moving to KGS on a scholarship.

'Mollie left KGS in 1940 and Mollie became employed in Bristol as a bookkeeper. Until the tramway system was destroyed by the bombing, Mollie used the tram to get back to Hanham and walked to Longwell Green where she acted as a runner for the air raid wardens at night.

'In 1946 she made her first trip, of many, to Switzerland, with 5 friends, and spent 2 weeks travelling around which cost, in total £35, a bargain we would think of today!. Mollie then moved to Poole and worked in that area until she met and married Peter Mitford who later became an electrical engineer in the West Midlands area for the National Grid. Mollie and Peter first lived in Portsmouth then moved to Solihull in 1959, where she stayed for 46 years.

'Mollie joined many organisations, such as the RNLI, for which she worked tirelessly. Over the years, they travelled to many European countries for their holidays, enjoying many times in Switzerland. Peter died in 1994 and Mollie then extended her travelling to Oregon, to visit her sister in law, and to New Zealand, Australia, and Russia - a well-travelled lady.

She moved back to Box in 2005, wishing to be in her home area and there she joined the Methodist Church and the Corsham Civic Society where she was an active member. She died in January 2020 and apart from one small personal

bequest, has bequeathed all her estate to charities, the RNLI, her favourite charity, receiving over £700,000. Mollie was a generous and kind person who will be sadly missed by all her friends and surviving relations.

ANDREW HAMBROUGH (??) has informed KOSA of the death of BRIAN ALLEZ (65-67):

'We regret that we have learned of the sad death of Brian Allez. His widow, Glyn, informs us that he passed away as a result of pancreatic cancer in early December last year. He had been diagnosed in the August.

Many of us will remember Brian joining KGS sixth form, along with his Lambretta scooter, in 1965. He then went onto Cardiff University where he graduated in Civil Engineering, leading to a very successful career. Eventually he took early retirement and moved from the Bristol area to mid Wales, near Llandrindod Wells.

He and his wife rebuilt the shell of an old cottage on a mountainside into their dream home. He spent much energy creating a wonderful four acre garden. His intention to open the garden as a part the National Open Gardens Scheme, was fulfilled posthumously, raising a large sum for cancer research. We will raise a glass to Brian when we next meet, RIP.

PAMELA JEFFERIES (54-59) (later Ellis), – Pam to all who knew and loved her - passed away on 16th January 2020 at the Marie Curie Hospice in Solihull after a prolonged illness. MADELINE ELVINS (54-59) (later Wilmott), friend and in the same class for 5 years at KGS, was honoured with her husband to join Pam's family and friends in Coventry for her

funeral, which was filled with happy memories to celebrate a life lived as the heart of a loving family.



Pam grew up in Church Road Kingswood and met her husband David Ellis when, at 16 she

started her first job with the Inland Revenue straight after she left KGS. They married when Pam was 20 and lived initially in Fishponds. Following David's internal promotions they moved to Worcester and then Coventry.

Once she became a mum Pam focussed on her 4 children, their pets, her garden and charity work, not forgetting supporting Dave and his business. She will be sadly missed by her large, extended 'family'. RIP Pam.

We have also received news of the passing of DEREK HARVEY (49-56), CAROLE ROBINS (55-60) (later Mair), LYNDIA JEFFERY (59-64) (later Dunn, YVONNE WESTERN (47-52) (later Dymond), ANN HARRIS (43-48) (later Best).

We send condolences to all those who have lost a loved one.

FROM DOWN UNDER...

WENDY EDWARDS (51-57) (now Cookes) writes again from Australia: 'Many thanks for another great edition Mike.

'I was very interested to have news of

GEORGE WILLIAMS (46-53?), included in obituaries on pages 21 and 22 in the last edition. I can add a little to that information.

'My father and his father were good friends, and he did indeed live in Hanham as I did. He was a few years older than me but we both attended the West of England College of Art at the same time. I don't believe he was ever at Bristol University, but may be wrong about that.

'He did woodwork, and was very good at it, and according to my father ended up being a woodwork teacher. On a personal level we were good friends and although we were never a 'couple' we did go out together a few times, mainly to BBQs.....sausages, cider and guitar music on the banks of the river near the Chequers Pub in Hanham. He was a lovely man very kind and the perfect gentleman, being a few years older looked after me and made sure I didn't get into trouble. I seem to recall he was a friend of Acker Bilk, but that might be a 'mis' memory.

'BROOK ROAD BISTRO: Was the Ken Williams the same Ken Williams who was head boy about 1957? I always had a soft spot for him and wondered what had happened to him. He also was a very nice bloke and was very kind to me.....does the name Williams have some effect on people? All the best from a much cooler and rain soaked Australia!'

Apart from the brick buildings to the right of the old girls' entrance ('old' being the entrance, not the girls!), the Bistro is now the only part of the original KGS buildings which still exists. Perhaps a reunion lunch there could be fun? - Ed

KOSA MATTERS...

GENEROSITY...

We find KOSA folk very generous and we have had several substantial donations to KOSA recently for which we are grateful and express our thanks for those and all your contributions.

In addition we had to cancel the Spring Lunch in 2020 and several members have refused a refund and asked us to donate their dining fees to Kingswood Food Bank, which we have, of course, done.

WHERE ARE THEY NOW..?

If you're changing address, please let us know. We've lost contact with Owen Le-leu (63-70), Jenny Taylor (59-66) (now Cunningham), Janice Maynard (64-71) (now Thomas), David Herod (46-50), and Sandra Jerwood (63-70) (now Barton). If you know the whereabouts of these lost members, please let us know.

WELCOME...

The following have joined or rejoined KOSA since last time:

Lindsey Davis (63-70) (now Jones), Jane Gerrish (65-72) (now Bradley), Roger Cole (51-56), Adrian Groves (55-60), Tim Beedell (68-75) in France, Bill Barker (53-60) in NSW, Kathleen Wormald (66-70) (now Shave), Tony Lawrence (48-56) and Bob Petty (64-71).

Welcome to all.

FACEBOOK GROUP...

JULIE JOHNS (68-75) has resurrected a Facebook Group now named 'Kingswood School and Kingswood Grammar School' on the WEB. It's a private group but you just request access with evidence of your links to the Schools and approval is virtually automatic. The

URL is:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/2221007770/about/>

Why not add your name and post a memory? It already has almost 500 members.

50 YEARS YOUNG...

The photo on the back page is of the celebration of the School's 50th anniversary in 1971, having opened as Kingswood Secondary School in September 1921. It's a reminder that the 100th anniversary of secondary education on the site takes place next year.

Amongst the celebrations by Kingsfield School in 1971 was the publication of a special edition of *Kingswood Chronicles* named *Kingswood Jubilee*. It contained not only the usual reports of school activities, but also poems and art-work by the pupils themselves.

We hope that King's Oak Academy, the current school will wish to celebrate this anniversary in some appropriate way. KOSA, too, wishes to do something to mark the event. We have already had a few suggestions, but if you have any practical ideas on how we can celebrate, please let us know.

We understand that Kingswood Heritage Museum are planning an exhibition in 2021 to celebrate the founding of the School, and they particularly wish to highlight the men and women who have made a memorable contribution to the life of our nation.

We hope to be giving the Museum a list of names and their achievements taken from the KOSA records for inclusion soon, but if you have a view about someone who should be included, please let us know.

