



KOSA NEWS



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

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<http://kingsoakacademy.org.uk/our-academy/kingswood-old-scholars-association/>



EDITORIAL...

As this edition goes to press, the lockdown continues, although Boris has given an indication of circumstances progressively easing over the next few months provided the evidence allows us to do so. Consequently, we have avoided arranging any events such as lunches and reunions until we are sure that we are safely allowed to do so.

It's unfortunate that we are in this situation in what is an auspicious year for the Schools. It is 100 years since Kingswood Secondary School was opened as the precursor to Kingswood Grammar School, Kingsfield School and King's Oak Academy in September 1921 and we were hoping to have a number of celebratory events. However, we may still be able to arrange some events towards the middle and end of the year.

One celebratory event which is already organised is the exhibition of 'The Schools of Brook Road' by Kingswood Heritage Museum which is an extensive exhibition of photographs and artefacts from the schools. The Museum is planned to open on 18th May 2021 and I can recommend a visit just for the exhibition, although the rest of the Museum will also prove absorbing if you are interested in local history. A good trip for a wet afternoon, or to the gardens when it's fine.

No forms are in this edition again, 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.

As you are aware, we never chase for money so if you know anyone who would wish to join the KOSA list, just let us know and we will do the rest. You know you won't be committing them to spending megabucks but giving them the opportunity to join some old friends.

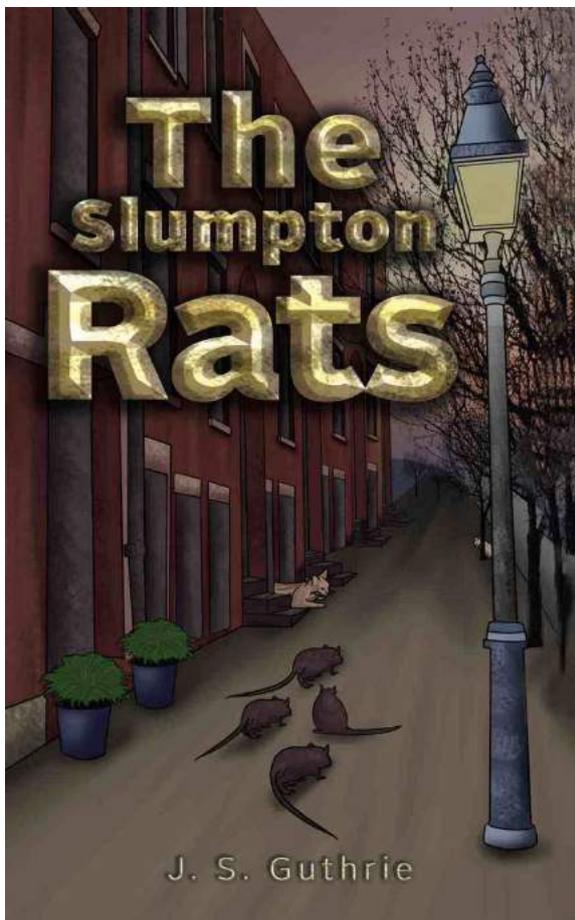
Finally, stay safe and well!

The Editor

A NEW BOOK...

JOHN GUTHRIE (64-67) has been writing stories for many years and done nothing about it until he spoke very sternly to himself. He loves writing, animals and all underdogs and he is currently the underdog to a Staffordshire bull terrier called Rosie and a guinea pig called Elsie.

His story for children of all ages of *The Slumpton Rats* was published in January 2021:



In the Old Dock, bad things are happening in Rat City. Slither, the leader of the rats, and old Dross, the Nightwatchman, are running the Market for their own ends, not caring what harm comes to Rat City. Only the Ditchpole family will oppose them. But first, they must escape...and survive but they soon learn that life outside the Dock is just as

dangerous. Even other rats can't be trusted. They need help, they need friends and Slither wants them back.

Now buy and read on.....

NEWS FROM EX-STAFF...

DAVID BENNETT, who taught English from 1974, updates us on his life at and after Kingsfield:

...from up a Welsh mountain.

'I joined Kingswood School in January 1974 to teach English, but by Easter I was asked to run the main school Library as well. My colleague GILL EVANS (English) ran the sixth form library. Just to think, 12 year-olds then are now in their mid-fifties and the 16 year-olds scaling their sixties.

'I had an interest and growing enthusiasm for Children's Literature so it was an ideal opportunity for me to try to encourage an interest in reading for information and pleasure amongst the pupils. To this end I set up themed exhibitions in the library, even persuading the Headmaster (BILL HAXWORTH) to display some of his paintings.

The next step was the Egress Bookshop, one of the first school bookshops in the country, which was situated on the main corridor and manned by pupils and parent volunteers. A stuffed barn owl was our mascot and the Art department painted an inn-style sign to hang from the ceiling in the corridor.

'Then came the fire of 1976 when we more or less lost the lot, including my stuffed owl!

'It took about three months to re-establish the rudiments of a library and bookshop in a terrapin building right at the heart of the temporary school compound. Books on loan were unsalvageable.

‘Spacious pin boards gave me the opportunity to display pupils’ work from all departments in the school and the new beginning meant that the stock was geared closely to the curriculum. One memorable project was a magazine created by one of my classes, which, for reasons unknown, they decided to call *Paper Slug*.

‘That is not to say that there was not a very full stock of current fiction, including some popular picture books and plenty of general interest material. I didn’t bat an eyelid when one lunch time a small boy asked me for a book on putting ships in bottles. Amidst a widespread, disbelieving hush I confidently located *The Book of Crafts Sailors Did*. How I recalled glimpsing ships in bottles in the contents I’ll never know!

‘By now I was reviewing Children’s Literature for a national magazine and had a growing reputation for being a bit of a single-minded nutter for getting kids into reading. A denim-clad Michael Morpurgo, no less, visited after the publication of a very early book in the Topliner imprint. I think the title was *Soldier and Me*.

‘The time came when I felt I needed new horizons. I started applying for Head of English jobs and eventually secured a post in Nottinghamshire, where my family of 3 boys grew up. As well as the day job I was lecturing and running courses on Children’s Reading and Teaching Poetry, plus putting on plays in school. When I became Senior teacher some of these activities fell away but I still opened my garden to the public on the NGS scheme.

‘I retired in 2003 but was lured back in to teach English and Sixth form in a Special Needs School, which I did part time

until I re-located to our holiday cottage/barn conversion in Mid-Wales in 2008.

‘I am kept busy by volunteering at Powis Castle, acting as a trustee for a charity that gives advocacy to people with learning difficulties, tending my garden which is 850 feet up a mountain and performing in the local pantomime. Oh, and there are eight grandchildren, two Great Grands and a demanding dog! The surrounding woods are full of live, very noisy owls now.’

REMEMBERING COLIN...

Every year COLIN PILLINGER’S (54-61) family arranges a memorial lecture in Colin’s memory concerning a space topic. This year’s lecture, the 6th in the series, was given on-line by Dr J Andy Spry on the evening of 9th December 2020 and was introduced by Suzanna Pillinger, Colin’s daughter. Dr Spry is a consultant with NASA as an expert on planetary protection, which is concerned with protecting space from earth contamination and earth from contamination materials from space. He was the Planetary Protection Manager for Colin’s Beagle 2 spacecraft, a role he started over 20 years ago.

Avoiding contamination in space is required under an international agreement as part of the Outer Space Treaty of 1967 and is maintained by COSPAR, The Committee on Space Research. It ensures, for example, that any life discovered on Mars is Martian and not from elsewhere. Even an orbiter which may not touch Mars must be sanitized in case of a crash onto the surface.

A number of approaches were applied to Beagle 2 to ensure it was contamina-

tion-free. Dry Heat, Gamma Irradiation, Gas Plasma and Solvent Wipes were applied to different parts of the module depending on the characteristics of the part. For example, Gamma Irradiation was applied to the parachute and Gas Plasma to the Electronic Assembly and the battery.

The Beagle 2 module was built in an aseptic assembly unit constructed by the Open University at Milton Keynes and was sent to Kazakhstan to be included in a rocket launch to Mars in 2003. Its level of spore contamination was less than that planned. Sadly, the module failed to open and was considered lost until detected by a later mission, not far from the planned investigation site.

Dr Spry went on to explain that, apart from the Moon, Mars is our nearest neighbour and it may be too cold for life to exist, although water has probably existed there in the past. Other candidates for life are Venus, which is probably too hot, Europa, which may have suitable conditions and Enceladus, which is a moon of Saturn.

We are learning more and more about Mars, sometimes by accident. For example, a wheel dragged on a Mars vehicle revealed a white substance below the well-known red dust. Subsequently, water has been discovered as have dry river beds with rounded pebbles, as found on Earth. However some equipment tested on Earth fails to work on Mars, indicating conditions there which are not fully understood.

The Apollo Moon Landings have risked contamination from the Moon as astronauts were mixed with other humans before moving to an isolation chamber – not a recommended practice. Future

trips may be more commercial as renting rocket space from entrepreneurs such as Elon Musk become a possibility. It is planned in future to bring Mars samples to earth rather than simply analyse only particles and meteorites which land on Earth. This has the advantage of knowing the location from where they emanate.

There is probably microscopic life on Mars and by the late 2030s exploration trips from the Moon to Mars may take place. They may take a two-phased approach, with equipment being delivered to Mars first, followed by humans on a lander. The problem, of course, is to keep humans alive on such a trip.

A most interesting lecture was ended by the showing of an imaginative painting of Colin in a space suit on Mars - together with Beagle 2, of course!

KGS on BBC...

In the week of Monday 7th December 2020, BBC Channel 4 ran a series of three programmes called *The Sound of TV* by Neil Brand. The series covered the use of jingles, idents and advertisements on TV. In the second of the programmes he covered the Coca Cola advertisement and the very popular and successful jingle, *I'd Like to Buy the World a Home*, composed by ROGER 'NOBBY' GREENAWAY (49-55) and Roger Cook.

Neil Brand interviewed Roger who sang the song and gave a background to it and the advertisement it supported. The song was composed as a response to a successful 1969 Pepsi Cola advertisement and featured 500 singing teenagers of the Woodstock generation on a hillside, drinking Coke. Three cameras

were used on the ground and a helicopter in the air, shouting instructions.

At the wrong moment the crowd of teenagers ran down the hill, damaging one of the cameras and the subsequent helicopter landing damaged the aircraft. The whole occasion cost in excess of €250,000 and the director was sacked.

The advertisement was run in America in 1971 and was an immediate success. Coca Cola received over 10,000 letters enquiring where the record could be bought. A hasty recording by the *New Seekers* was made which went immediately to No 1 in the US and the UK and was a hit world-wide. The advertisement itself became a landmark of TV advertising and was a great success. The song was subsequently used in the TV series of *Mad Men*, which was about the advertising industry. The director of the Coca Cola ad was reinstated!

MORE MEDIA...

Radio 4

In the *Sunday Worship* programme on Radio 4 on 27th December 2020 the Christmas sermon was given by the Archbishop of Canterbury. However, the service was led by The Right Reverend ROBERT WILLIS (58-65) during which he gave the history of the massacre of Archbishop Thomas Becket, 850 years previously. He quoted from T S Elliot's *Murder in the Cathedral*.

Robert Willis has been Dean of Canterbury since 2001 after a spell as Dean of Hereford from 1992 to 2000. After leaving KGS, where he was a Prefect, he played The Earl of Loam in *The Admirable Crichton* and was awarded a prize based on his A-level results of English Literature, History and Music. He went

to Warwick University to read Politics and History. He then went to the Church of England Training Centre at Cuddesdon and afterwards to Worcester College, Oxford. Amongst his many appointments he is currently Chairman of The Deans' Conference and Deputy Lieutenant of Kent. An accomplished pianist and an opera-lover, he has written a number of hymns.

Robert can also be seen on YouTube conducting prayers during lockdown from Canterbury.

BBC 2

Andrew Marr broadcast a series of three programmes about those who have influenced the direction of the country under Elizabeth II. In the last programme he featured James Dyson of vacuum cleaner fame. Apparently, Dyson went to a sawmill 'near Bath' to investigate the vacuum process of dealing with sawdust and he used the system as the basis for his bagless vacuum cleaner.

Marr is shown at Bendrey Brothers' sawmill in Bridgegate, sketching the process which Dyson observed, and Bendrey Brothers are listed in the credits for their assistance they gave in the making of the programme. RICHARD BENDREY (64-71) is a Director of the company and is in the U15 Rugby XV on page 30.

SOCCER REPORT...

ALAN THOMAS (64-71) was prompted to recount his Soccer career at School: 'For the first five of those years we were a moderately successful football team but were better known as a rugby playing school. However in 1969 and 70 the 6th form saw an influx of very good players from other schools and of equal importance the new RE master, MR PEETS,

also had a football coaching qualification and took over responsibility for the 6th form team.

'Results improved in 1969/70, these included beating both Dursley and Merrywood Grammar schools, who subsequently complained about our 'vigorous' approach! At the start of the 1970/71 academic year Mr Peets announced that he had entered the team into the English Schools Cup and that he would be holding weekly coaching sessions for the team. Serious stuff!

'We began our cup run, more in hope than expectation, with a match against Katherine Lady Berkeley's Grammar School of Wotton-Under-Edge and listed below are details of our exploits:

Katherine Lady Berkeley's Grammar School W 10-2 (I scored one of my only two goals for the school in this match)

Rodway Technical School W 3-2 (To become South Gloucestershire champions), Cheltenham Grammar School W 4-0 (To become Gloucestershire champions). This last victory put the school into the last 16 of the English Schools Cup - this was getting serious!

'For the next match away to the Devon schools champions at Devonport we travelled by train, courtesy of the school who hired a number of carriages for our use. In a fiercely contested match we overcame our opponents 2-1 after extra time, our goals being scored by our two outstanding players, NICK MILSOM and LES BARNARD. The return journey was memorable for the amount of canned beer we drank, thanks to the teachers who turned a blind eye!

'The quarter final draw pitched us against the Cornwall schools champions and another rail trip, this time to St Austell. Here

our march to glory takes on a sinister twist. We were met at the station by masters from St Austell school who escorted us through the town to a fish and chip restaurant and exhorted us to 'eat as much as you want boys'. Showing a distinct lack of what would now be termed 'professionalism' we did as we were told and emerged from the restaurant significantly heavier than when we went in! On the walk to the school there could be heard a number of sounds of regret and to this day I am convinced we were 'nobbled'. When their 3rd goal went in it was clear our cup run was over and we returned to the dressing room to find a tray of Cornish pasties waiting for us, they remained uneaten.

'Back on the train our spirits were lifted by more British Rail canned beer and I have no recollection of getting from Temple Meads station to home! They were happy days, the team remained unbeaten against local opposition until the final match of the season.

'After leaving school I played for Abbotonians in what was then called 'men's football'. Turning up for the first pre season friendly I was delighted to see my best friend from school, Les Barnard, in the dressing room. I thought 'If Les plays for this team they must be good' and we were for a few years afterwards. Tragically Les died in an automobile accident in October 1973. I attended his funeral, it was, and remains, one of the saddest days of my life. A great friend and wonderful footballer taken far too soon.'

I continued to play football until I was 35 as well as other sports and joined Bitton Road Runners after retiring from football to keep fit. I enjoyed running (ironic since I was a poor cross country runner at school) eventually becoming a coach

and I've coached a number of national age group champions and a GB international.

'Career wise I qualified as an accountant and worked in the NHS, British Gas and both Avon and South Gloucestershire Councils. My most interesting time was as Assistant Principal at a Further Education College for 8 years, very challenging and different!

'I am aware that some of my former 64 to 71 colleagues are members of KOSA, it would be good to meet up if the lunch is held in October 2021.

last edition. Tony writes:

'I recall the incident; I think I had repeatedly, accidentally stepped on a few of the opposition. The attached photo shows Rob in the centre of the photo with the thin headband. MICHAEL WATTS (62-69), who wrote in to the last issue, has his back to the camera, his father took the picture.

'They say the camera never lies but this photo disproves this. ANDY WARREN (61-69), who is possession of the ball, wasn't at all as good looking as the picture suggests. Yours truly was on the touchline having had to go off injured. I



The names of the players and teacher in the photo in the order shown are:
Back Row: Mr Peets. ? Nick Milsom
Steve West Richard Bloodworth ?
Manley Headley Powell
Front row: Tim Forward Les Barnard
Pete Millet Mike Brain (Capt). Ken Nichols Alan Thomas Geoff Wake

...AND RUGBY...

TONY PATTEMORE (63-70) responds to Rob Sherrington's recollection in the

have more photos if Rob wants to call me – 07720 599223'

The picture to which Tony refers is printed on the next page.

ROB'S RUNS...

ROB FIDKIN (55-62) was prompted to write by the last edition:

'It is some while ago that I sent in an article for our KOSA NEWS production and I recently received the latest edition,



which was, for myself and I am sure many more people, a most interesting and enjoyable read. I presume your time spent on it was very significant and on behalf of all contributors and readers may I offer our sincere thanks for an excellent edition.

'In these ongoing troubled times, for obvious reasons, our 1955 to 1962 get-togethers have, of course, not taken place and we can only hope that we shall, sometime sooner than later, meet each other for a drink, snack and, of course, a good old chin wag! Our commander and chief is GEOFF COLE (55-60) who does a great job in organising everything and hopefully, long will he continue to look after us.

'In the recent issue of *KOSA NEWS* reference was made of the cross country races which took place over Siston Common. This annual event is one in which

I enjoyed the challenge against some very good runners and ROGER WINDSOR (54-59) especially always posed problems for me. Shall we say honours were shared between us.

'I was very interested in MAUREEN GRIFFIN'S (51-58) reference to JOHN and DAVID BRITTON in the latest edition of our magazine. She refers to my sister Carol, who sadly passed away at the youngish age of 53, and they became close friends in their daily bus trips to KGS for Maureen and St George Grammar for my sister. My wife Carol and myself have remained in contact with both John and David Britton; John and his family live in Wales and we regularly exchange emails, and try to meet up once a year, and Dave (who was Best Man at our wedding in 1966) has lived in South Africa for many years.'

ROLAND'S REQUESTS...

ROLAND FUDGE (58-65) remembers the School Orchestra of 1965:

'Thank you, as always, for a delightful Autumn 2020 *KOSA NEWS*. Two photos jumped out at me on pages 14 and 15. There is me leading the orchestra, and, on the opposite page my old school friend ROBERT WILLIS (59-65). I think he left KGS a year before me, so he would not be playing cello in that concert. The year before that he and I played together in a Haydn String Quartet, unless my memory deceives me.

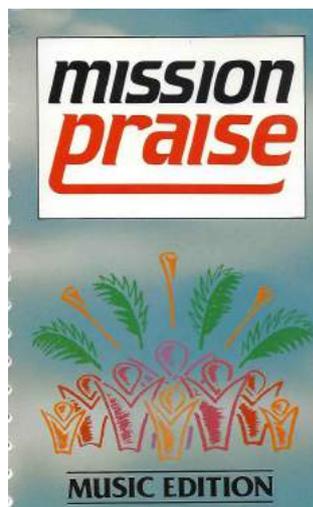
'At the concert being rehearsed in the photo we played, I think, all four movements of a Haydn symphony. I remember thinking at the time that it was crazily ambitious, and in the concert, after one of the movements (not the finale!) a parent applauded very loudly, as if to say 'That's enough, thank you; please may we go home now?'

'I think that was also the concert when I had injured my left wrist playing in a hockey match (prefects versus non-prefects; the only time in my life when I played that sport) and told ERIC HILTON (Music) that I could not play the violin solo planned for the concert. His response was not sympathetic; he advised me to soak my wrist alternately in hot then cold water then do the performance anyway, which I did.

'I have two requests:

Please is it possible for me to be sent a computer file of that photo? I would be hugely grateful to the photographer (who was it?) because it very clearly shows details of my posture etc at that formative time in my life as a violinist. Having played and taught over the next 55 years, and still analysing the mechanics of fiddling, the information will be invaluable to me.

Also, is it possible for me to be put in touch with The Very Reverend Robert Willis? The time I spent with him was very special to me and I don't know if he realised that, because my personality was a bit locked in at that time of my life.'



We were happy to accommodate both Roland's requests. Roland is now a composer/conductor and he was jointly responsible for the hymn book probably well-known to churchgoers - *Mission Praise* - Ed

MIKE'S MEMORIES...

MAUREEN GRIFFIN'S (51-58) comment in the last edition prompted MICHAEL GIFFORD (50-58) to write:

'Maureen Griffin pointed out that the Lines and Giffords were keen Baptists. Downend Foster Baptist Church provided a considerable number of pupils to KGS: PETER BRAKE, CONWAY HENDY, CLIVE HALL, GWYNETH KNIGHT, MARGARET GODBY, GERRY CONNOCK and CHRISTINE and ALAN DREW are a few who spring to mind. I recall Maureen in Sunday School as a girl with long hair.

'Nostalgic memories include the penny apples available at a neighbouring cottage as you left the dining hall (MR MERRIFIELD'S cottage). 'SCRUFFY' MORRIS (Geography) displayed posters which were never changed in the Geography room - Spain with monuments as old as the hills and hills as beautiful as monuments. 'FISHY' SAMMONS

(Chemistry) gave interesting talks on the School's history, MR PEET'S (Maths) standard reply to excuses 'I shall have to let you off as it's such an interesting story, but I'm afraid I must punish you for telling lies'. The sheer boredom and waste of time in ERIC HILTON'S Music lessons as 29 pupils listened to each unfortunate one-minute performance, as homework was demonstrated. Such a sheer waste of time would not be tolerated by OFSTED.

'The delightful introduction to Jacques Tati in the after-school cinema shows was an unforgettable experience. When facing a difficult task of an endurance nature, I drew on the memories of the last stages of the cross-country run as I generally finished second to the star runner, BARRY LEWIS, in Games lessons. Was it worth it to struggle over the bridge or run straight through the brook?

'At 82, I am the last surviving Gifford brother; DAVID, GEOFF and KEITH, all younger than me, have passed on.'

MUSIC AT KGS...

SANDRA BLAKEN (58-63) (now Woodruff) was reminded of Music, her lessons at KGS and her introduction to serious music:

'MATTHEW THOMAS' piece on Page 2 of KOSA NEWS #57 in which he mentioned MR HILTON (Music) prompted me to share my overriding memories of Mr Hilton. Firstly his very bushy eyebrows and secondly that during one lesson he threw the board rubber at me. I can't remember exactly why he did it but I do recollect knitting a chunky jumper during a lesson or two so maybe he caught me at it!

'Despite that, since my late 30s I have been very involved in playing guitar and mandolin in fretted instrument orchestras and groups. I also discovered a liking for classical music and on hearing on the radio Wagner's Mastersingers' Overture, I instantly remembered listening to it in Mr Hilton's class. I certainly hadn't appreciated it at that time but after hearing it on the radio I rushed out to buy a recording and still today it gives me goosebumps - the opening ceremonial accompaniment to the procession of the Master Singers, followed by several short themes and concluding with the triumphant finish of the opera - certainly a masterpiece!'

MARGARET'S MUSINGS...

Comments from MARGARET SHIPP (50-55) (now Almond) on the last edition: 'Very interesting magazine as always, thank you. So sorry to hear about the death of KOSA Chairman STAN BURRAGE (51-56); such a lovely man.

When I read about Headmaster RIDLEY refusing Stan a transfer to Rodway Tech it reminded me of when I refused to do A-levels, he said I obviously preferred to wash dirty nappies. I loved every minute in nursery schools and day nurseries whilst Nursery Nursing, so he didn't always know what was best for you.

'ROGER COLE'S (51-56) comment about 'Fishy' SAMMONS (Chemistry) brought to mind him saying to us one day that in the future we shouldn't fear Russia but that China would be a bigger threat. I think he was a brilliant teacher who made you feel grown up and probably was instrumental in me choosing the Sciences.'

'I Hope we'll be fit enough to get to the next KOSA get together.'

LIFE IN SEASONS

*Although the Winter period of my life has
just begun,*

*I will endeavour to rise triumphantly,
In spite of the darkness and brevity yet to
come; for*

*You do not stop laughing, because you get
old, but*

*As they say, you get old because you stop
laughing, so*

*Into the Springtime we go where the blos-
som reigns*

*And as a new freshness leaves its winter's
sleep,*

*With the birds now alive, nest building for
their future young,*

*The sun playing its part from a different
horizon,*

*Leading us into a bright dawn with thoughts
of*

*The Summer months of a new found free-
dom, thus*

*Greeting us all with open arms and the
sound of happy voices with*

*Laughter and merriment for all to hear, that
Make this season stand proud of the rest,
although*

*Everyone has a different point of view, lead-
ing itself to*

*The Autumn hues, when I was born of
dragons and of daffodils, albeit*

*Within the sight of those Snowdonian hills,
Through the circle of life, with all its joys
and sadnesses, has been
captured and*

*Where my existence of a joyful family life
and friendships founded*

*On trust and honesty, I now leave, for some
distant shore.*

Roy Hubbard

The poem on the left has been submitted by ROY HUBBARD (53-60), one of many over the years we have published from KOSA members. Perhaps our English teachers of bygone years would be proud of their legacy.

TRACING MIKE...

It's always good to know what varied careers people pursue after School. MIKE TRACE (72-79) left to go to Bristol Polytechnic and he's given us his journey since:

Mike has had a wide range of experience in the field of drug and alcohol treatment and policy, from direct work with problem drug users, to senior positions in national government and international agencies.

Following a period of 12 years working in and managing projects that provided care and support to the homeless, drug users and offenders, Mike was offered the post of Deputy UK Anti-Drug Co-ordinator (National Drug Czar) in 1997, and held this post until 2002. His duties included the creation of the UK National Drug Strategy – Tackling Drugs To Build A Better Britain – and the oversight of the first 4 years of its implementation.

From 2000 to 2003, he was the Chairman of the European Union drugs agency, the European Monitoring Centre on Drugs and Drug Addiction (EMCDDA). In this role, he had responsibility for steering the 3 year workplan of the agency on behalf of the EU Member States, which involved the collation and dissemination of research and analysis on drug use, problems and responses across Europe.

From January to November 2002, Mike held the post of Director of Performance at the UK National Treatment Agency,

set up by the UK government to oversee the rapid expansion of the drug dependence treatment sector. In November 2002, he left to take up the post of Chief, Demand Reduction Section at the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime in Vienna.

Since leaving his United Nations post, Mike has returned to the UK, and the non-governmental sector. Following a short stint as Chief Executive of the Blenheim Foundation, he combined two leadership roles in the field of drug policy and drug dependence treatment for the following decade:

As Chief Executive of the RAPt, the biggest provider of drug treatment services in the UK prison system, and as Chairman of the International Drug Policy Consortium (www.idpc.net), a global network of NGOs with an interest in the promotion of humane and effective drug policies.

Mike stood down as IDPC Chairman in late 2016 and, following the merger of RAPt with two offender rehabilitation charities, he remains as CEO of the merged entity – The Forward Trust – forwardtrust.org.uk.

LIONEL'S MEMORIES...

LIONEL MATTHEWS (54-61) has shared his memories (and photographs) of KGS and after:

'At school I had a nickname, by which I was better known in the lower forms of the school, but I will not divulge it unless really pressed for confirmation, as a clue it sounded a bit like an American gangster.

'When I first started at KGS at the age of 11 I knew nobody; some of the pupils had friends who had come with them from primary school. However, my family

had just moved from Bath and my primary school was over there. Our first encounter with our form mistress, MISS WATTERS (English) when she called the register. I heard that a boy next to me in the register was a COLIN PILLINGER, I tapped the shoulder of the boy in front and said 'Who is Colin Pillinger', 'I am' he said. Thus establishing a friendship lasting throughout the school.

'My memories of school were very similar to the other pupils, it was, by and large a happy school. The teachers under MR. RIDLEY were firm but fair and did their best to instil some knowledge into us lot. When we were old enough to be let out in the evening by our parents we tended to congregate at the local YMCA, within walking distance of the school which became our unofficial youth club. The crowd that I went around with were: COLIN PILLINGER, KEN CARE, TERRY BLEAKMAN, DICK HAYES. ALAN PEELING and I am sure that there are others whom I do not remember. The YMCA had two excellent billiard tables and so we spent quite a lot of our time playing billiards and snooker (even in some free periods!).

'One of the abiding memories that I have was a very polite argument between Mr. Ridley and my father. I wanted to be an engineer, my father was an engineer and that was what I wanted. My father made enquiries amongst his friends who were senior men in the Bristol aircraft industry and the recommendation was an undergraduate apprenticeship. I do not know how my father and I ended up in Mr Ridley's study, the careers master must have told him of my intention. However my desire to undertake an undergraduate apprenticeship did not go down at all well, pupils from KGS did not join companies to do engineering, according to

Mr Ridley. It was not quite nice, KGS pupils went to university and did not get their hands dirty in nasty engineering jobs. Fortunately my father was strong willed and not at all intimidated or cowed by Mr Ridley and told him what was going to happen and if he didn't like it he could lump it.

'My father was right and I had an excellent engineering education. I joined the British Aircraft Corporation at Filton and they sponsored me at Bath University. I then went on to get an MSc in Aeronautical Engineering at Cranfield University. After Cranfield I worked on the Concorde design team for five years.

'I then looked around for another job and joined the CEGB (Central Electricity Generating Board) to work on the design and construction of nuclear power stations. I eventually became head of the group carrying out the design of the nuclear safety pipe work on the Sizewell "B" power station. When Mrs Thatcher cancelled all the nuclear stations to follow on from Sizewell "B" I stayed on at the CEGB (by now called British Energy) in a consultancy capacity.

'I have to say that I found my work fun. There were times when I actually looked forward to Mondays to finish off some problem I was working on. In how many jobs can you say that? In my work for the CEGB I moved around the country living in Sutton (Surrey), Market Harbourough, Northwich and now Worcester.

'My leisure interest from my early teens was sailing. When I reached the fifth form in KGS, my friends knew that I sailed and some asked if they could come for a sail. My family sailed in Poole Harbour, but we brought the boat (a sailing dinghy) up to the Bristol Avon Sailing Club at Salt-

ford in Autumn and Winter and I took one or two of them sailing there. I am pleased to say that a couple of them got the sailing bug and bought their own boats after they left school. I sailed over a period of about 35 years in high-performance sailing dinghies and offshore yachts.

'I completed in Cowes week races and the Fastnet race over to the south coast of Ireland. I had some success over those years one of which was winning my class in Poole Yachting Week.

'When the family came along and we moved too far from Poole I gave up sailing and my wife and I took up skiing until my knees started to play up in my 60s, when we stopped skiing.

'In my retirement I concentrated on my photography, in which I had always dabbled and joined the local camera club. Unfortunately, I have had to give that up as well because I have had trouble with my eyes and I am only partially sighted.

'In *KOSA NEWS* 57, GORDON JACKSON (55-62) speculates that disenchantment with the comprehensive system may have triggered Head of Music ERIC HILTON'S early retirement. I think not; the rush for the exit occurred twenty years later, when GCSE replaced O-level, and disquiet about the restructuring of courses, and the wholesale revision of the music syllabus, resulted in many teachers retiring when they still had much to give. In fact, Mr Hilton told me just after he retired that he thought the comprehensive model superior to the grammar school system. It would be interesting to hear his views on the current melting pot, but, as was said of Sir Thomas Beecham, he is 'uncontactable at his present address'.

We are indebted to Lionel for sending us examples of his photography of contemporaries at KGS. We have dedicated the centrefold of this edition to feature some of examples of his work. More to follow later.

MARGARET FROM NZ...

Sculptor MARGARET LOVELL (50-55) writes from 'down-under' with a generous offer:

'Thanks so much for the magazine. It is so rewarding to hear of so many very successful people who were pupils at KGS. We all have a lot to thank you for with your untiring continuous work with *KOSA NEWS!*

'Regarding the 'heritage' 100 years exhibition, I may be able to arrange some loan work for the show if needed. (Sculpture or prints from galleries in UK).

'I think one story is significant, as after a few years from leaving KGS at 16 years old, (I did my A-level Art with MR WATTS' help after leaving, so I could get a scholarship to the art college.) But I was beginning to get a little success with sculpture exhibitions in London and I felt I would like to 'repay' the school with an 'art contribution'. So although I was not very well off at all, I told Mr Ridley I would like to give the school a large piece of sculpture (a bronze leaf form 6' tall) if the funds could be found just for the bare casting cost, which I think was about £80 at the time.(approx. £1,300 in today's money) Eventually I was told the 'Friends' could not fund the casting, but Mr Ridley said he wouldso that when he retired HE would give it to the school! This was not what I had in mind as it was worth far more than the casting cost alone! (It was ME who wanted to say thank you!).

'Anyway, in the end I gave them one of my unique framed etchings, which got burnt to ashes in the fire..... The big bronze sculpture would have still been standing there, maybe needing a dust off - but that's how it was! It would have stood its ground well. Incidentally that same sculpture (long since sold) brought me in some royalties a couple years back when I learnt it has been bought by someone from a gallery for £16,200!

'But back to the magazine...So many success stories and hearing about the vast majority of 'our era' who have done interesting, valuable work. What a magnificent legacy for the school? So many ex pupils who are scattered around the world, too.

'So I was very intrigued to find WENDY EDWARDS' (51-57) (now Cookes) missive in this latest edition.....She is now (sadly a widow) in Australia, and I am, I suppose 'down under' in New Zealand.....BUT as a sweet little friend/almost sister living next door in Hanham I never knew of all these boy-friends she mentions! Actually it is quite sad to read the obituaries of boys we had 'crushes' on. All part of an innocent era. as it was then, in comparison to nowadays!

'But do you think we have a lot to be grateful for in building character due to the fact that many of us mentioned in the magazine were 'war babies'? We grew up in an age of need and innovation to 'make do'. As far as I am concerned and my family, this has made us all much more careful and thrifty and majorly grateful for what we have. That is a joy in life. Plus - it can rub off on others....Thank you!

By the way, do you think there is any way

that Mr Harold Watts could be brought into the Heritage Museum Exhibition as so many who became quite well known artists did pass through his enthusiastic care at school. Derek had one of his prints and I could put you in touch with his son (David Watts) if need be. He was a most dedicated teacher, and certainly my first big 'stepping stone' into a lifetime of enjoying being a sculptor!.

I'm sure he will be included with many other staff who contributed to our education. - Ed

In the obituaries reported later, we report the passing of PETER PERRY (48-51).

In the Summer 1951 photo of Form 5b shown below, Peter is in the second row from the front standing second from the left. We believe the Form Master was DR TREVELLION, who was originally recruited to teach Economics but eventually taught Maths, offering 'Sporting offers' when marking your own work.

PERKINS' POINTS...

BOB PERKINS (52-57) has shared some memories:

'Just looking at the web site and reading about the fire in August 1976. A 'friend' of mine knew I had attended KGS in the 60s and asked if I knew anything about the fire. For the record I was hospitalised in Frenchay at the time suffering (and how!) with a perforated ulcer. I think we always knew that if a fire occurred it would spread quite rapidly.

'We had the same concerns at Hanham Hall Hospital where I worked as a Nursing Officer. An old rambling building where if a fire broke out at night the fire officers estimated we could lose the majority of the 220 residents.

'I lived very close to RALPH HYETT (Science) and frequently sat and chatted with him when he was dying from cancer. COLIN WINTOUR (French) was also living in the village and we frequently met whilst walking our dogs. I met 'WOODY'



LIONEL'S D OF E...

LIONEL MATTHEWS (54-61) took these photos of a 2 or 3 day hike in 1960 for the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme.



'You can see we were all a bit weary, and there are no expressions of joy and happiness on the faces' writes Lionel. 'I think we started in Marshfield and ended at a camp (YMCA Whitsun Camp?) at Limpley Stoke, just outside Bath.

'We all completed the Silver Award and started on the Gold. However, by that time we were all getting bored with throwing cricket balls etc, and never finished it.'

On the left, TERRY BLEAKMAN and COLIN PILLINGER rest their tired feet.

Right:
KEN CARE and DICK HAYES take a well-deserved breather part-way around the course.

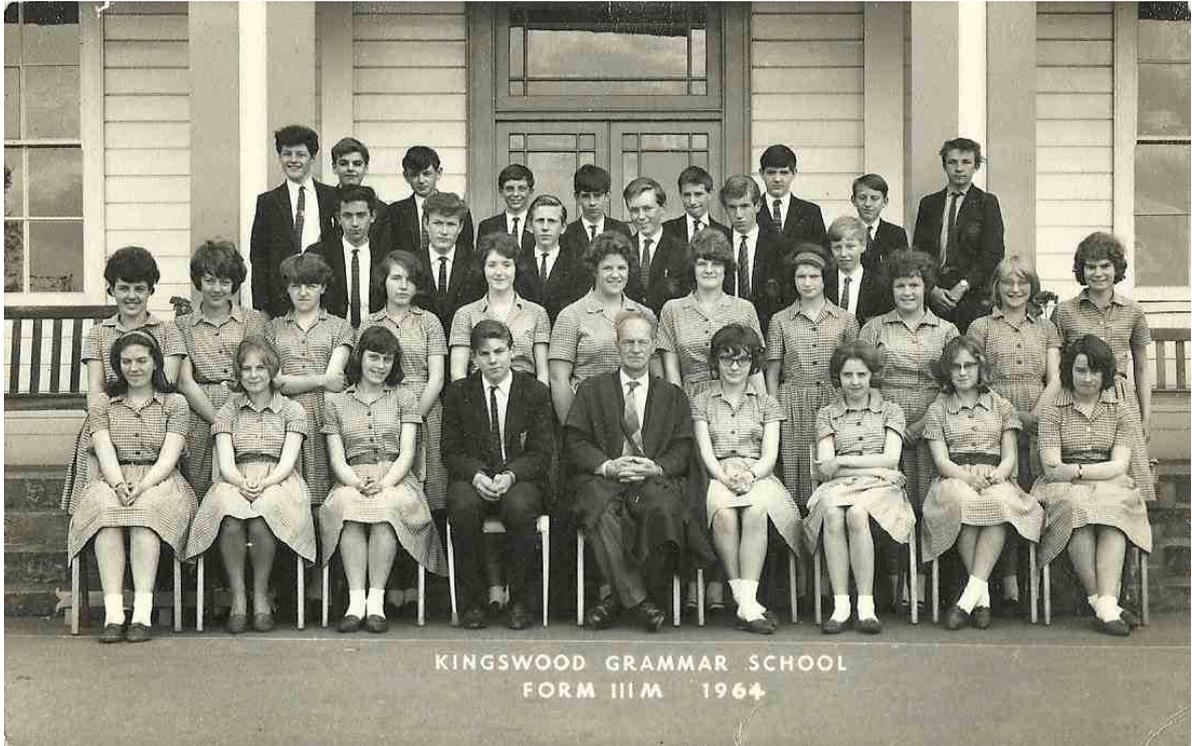


Left:
Fresh at the start of the hike at the War Memorial in Marshfield.

L to r: DICK HAYES?, COLIN PILLINGER, KEN CARE, COLIN DEMMERY and TERRY BLEAKMAN.

All were contemporaries of Lionel (54-61)

A DECADE APART...



Above is MR MORRIS' 3M of 1964 with 34 pupils. Below is MR MOODY'S 1954 3B with only 29 pupils: the boys along the back: Clark, Skey, D'Alessio, Bendrey, Burrage, Pine, Lyne, Evans, Sheppard, Palmer and Wheeler. Middle row:

?, ?. Christine Biggs, ?, Avril Middleton, Margaret Coles, Gillian West, Christine Sweet, Lorraine Lamble, Elva Forward, Front row: Brett, Mary Powell, Keith Jay, Christine Copping, Mr Moody, Paget, Jill Bennett, Allan and Sally Podmore.



WILLIAMS (Woodwork and Senior Master) some years ago and was amazed when he recognised me. As Community Psychiatric Nurses we always had a student attached to us and we always met together at the Chequers Inn at Hanham at the end of their placement to chat about their experience with us.

It was there that Mr. Williams had lunch on Fridays. He was very interested in our work with handicapped children and adults. I still have the large walnut wooden fruit bowl he helped me to turn on the lathe!

'Lots of good memories. I've compiled a list of those whom I remember in our class and there were 15 altogether but I am in contact with only two of them, MIKE BENCE, just around the corner, and JOHN DICKS in Canada. I would be very pleased to make contact with any others if they would like to.' Just contact KOSA NEWS and we can put you in touch with Bob. - Ed

CHRIS' CONTACTS...

CHRIS GREENFIELD (60-68) writes about future reunions and contacts with other members:

'Thanks for another excellent edition of KOSA NEWS. And thanks for putting in the note about BRIAN ALLEZ (65-67). And for the note about the postponement of the 67 reunion although we are aiming at having something in the centre of Bristol on the 19 June 2021, but that of course depends on 'Coronavirus and crew'!

'Incidentally you might be interested to know that I contacted and got a reply from JULIE BABER (63-70) (now Maclean), currently living in Australia, who was featured in your last edition. I have also bought JANET ANDERSON's (62-68) book *Dear Queen*. Janet also fea-

ured in your last edition. I was at KGS with them both, but in different years. I think you will be interested to know that Julie has confessed to being in love, from afar, with your late work colleague, PETER TAYLOR! I wonder if he ever knew? Best keep this confidential! (Peter was a valued colleague at Bristol Business School, University of the West of England who died far too soon. Janet's secret is purely between us – Ed.)

'Curiously, when Janet Anderson was working for Barbara Castle, I was working as a Parliamentary Assistant to a Yorkshire Liberal MP, and occasionally bumped into her in the Commons. Our different Party affiliations and our heavy workloads meant that we never got around to forming a Commons branch of KOSA!'

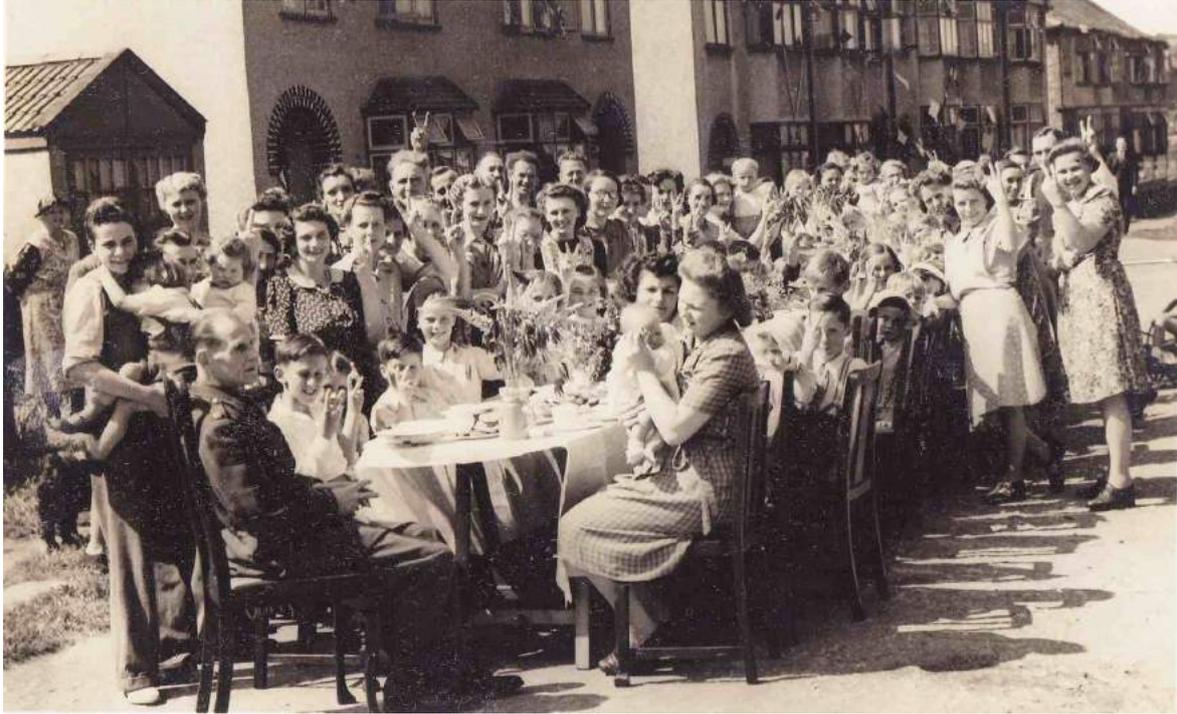
VE DAY...

RON WILLIAMS (50-58) sent a donation to KOSA Treasurer MARTIN HARRYMAN (51-56) mentioning the Riviera Crescent/Crossfield Road VE Day party in Staple Hill. Martin sent a copy of the party photo (see page 19) to Ron, who immediately recognized himself. Small world!

Ron wrote to Martin:

'Thank you for sending the photograph - you have made a number of my family very happy. I am the little boy seated at the table facing the camera, third child from the left with a v sign in front of my face - a gesture I seem to have carried throughout my life.

'My sixth birthday was 31/05/45. my mother is the lady immediately above my head dressed in a pale dress, and we believe my sister is the second girl to my left hidden behind the flowers. Peering



over my mother's shoulder is a dark haired lady who may be my Auntie Ivy and her husband. My uncle Will Carpenter may be in the back row two heads to the right of the prominent v sign.'

FUND RAISER...

ANDY MARSHALL-AHERNE, who is an Assistant Principal of King's Oak Academy, lost his mother to Covid-19 after she

developed a lung infection and secondary pneumonia.

Andy was so impressed with the exemplary care and compassion he and his family had received from Southmead Hospital that he decided to raise funds for them. Although not a regular runner, he vowed to run 10 k every day until she was discharged.



By the time she had sadly passed away Andy had run over 100 miles and had raised over £5,000 for the hospital. Andy's fundraising page for donations is:

[Justgiving.com/fundraising/andrew-marshall-aherne](https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/andrew-marshall-aherne)

Left:
Girls' 1st Tennis Team 1961

OBITUARIES...

In the last edition of *KOSA NEWS* we recorded the passing of ANNE HARRIS (41-46) (later Best) and her brother REV JOHN HARRIS (53-60) has written to fill in a few details of his sister's life:

'Anne was born to Sidney and Elsie Harris at Portishead in 1932. The family moved via Coalpit Heath to Mangotsfield, where we grew up on Blackhorse Road. She attended Mangotsfield C of E Junior School before going to KGS.

'On leaving school she worked as a secretary at the offices of Mangotsfield Urban District Council (this was a time when the initials of the Council gave it its nickname of 'Mud Company', due to the amount of mud-slinging that went on at their Council Meetings!).

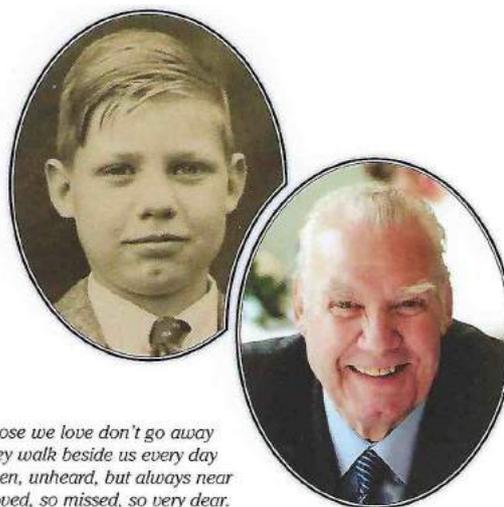
'Whilst at KGS Anne had met KEITH THORNE from Hanham, and they were married at Downend Parish Church in 1955. Keith trained as an Art Teacher at the West of England College of Art and Anne followed Keith's career path, first to Birstall, just outside Leicester and then to Bembridge Public School on the Isle of Wight. Meanwhile, they had two children Simon and Sarah. Keith's final teaching post was as Head of Art at Rendcomb, the school originally set up by the family of W D and H O Wills.

'On Keith's early death, Anne married again, this time to Arthur Best. Arthur was Clerk of Works at the University of Gloucestershire, with property around Cheltenham, where the whole family now lived. Anne now forged a career of her own when she became a Domestic Bursar at Cheltenham College under the headship of the rugby great, Phil Davies of Harlequins, England and the British

Lions (remember Butterfield and Davies, the England centre partnership in the 1950s?).

'Arthur died and Anne moved to Minchinhampton near Stroud. Here she had some happy final years with her partner Derek before the onset of vascular dementia made going into a home back in Cheltenham inevitable. She died just before both her 88th birthday and the first lockdown in March 2020. As only five people were allowed to attend her funeral, we are hoping to celebrate Anne's life later on, government and pandemic permitting.'

TONY MOMBER'S (51-56) wife, Carol,



*Those we love don't go away
They walk beside us every day
Unseen, unheard, but always near
So loved, so missed, so very dear.*

has kindly written to record the passing of her husband, who died on on 30th November 2020. Tony was a contemporary of your Editor, in the same class:

'Tony enjoyed his years at KGS, where he obtained O-level passes in Maths, Science and Art. On leaving KGS he became a paint technologist, but his first love was always music. From first joining the Church Lads Brigade as a drummer, he was later a member of several groups and bands in the 50s, 60s, 70s and 80s.

'Tony taught himself to play piano, vibraphone and saxophone and became a very good lead singer. He appeared on the same bill as many of the popular groups of the day, such as The Hollies, The Moody Blues and James Brown, and we have photographs of Tony playing alongside Roger Cook (of Cook and Greenaway fame).



'Tony loved most genres of music and says he was introduced to classical music at KGS, especially to Beethoven's Egmont Overture, which he loved all his life. During the 60s and 70s he mostly played in Soul Bands, which was another great love of his.

'Sadly, Tony suffered poor health during the last few years which affected his mobility, but he wasn't bitter and loved being at home with his family, our two granddaughters, Francesca and Emilia, who are both good singers in their own right, Emilia being a promising clarinet player. Tony encouraged them both with their

Music and it gave him a great deal of pleasure to watch and listen to them.

'Tony always told us that if he died tomorrow that he had had a 'ball' with his involvement with music; what more can you ask than that? He is loved and missed by us all and his music goes on. Tony loved reading his KOSA Magazine and looking at the photographs and I would like to continue to receive it.'

PHYLLIS HANKS (51-56) (now Messenger) has shared with us the passing of her brother, MALCOLM HANKS (45-50): 'We had a wonderful childhood and we three sisters thought the world of Malcolm.

'Malcolm passed the 11 plus for Kingswood Grammar school when Major Eaton was there, when he left he went straight to Robinson's until he was called up for National Service; I remember as a 12 year old always meeting him at Temple Meads station when he came home on leave. Thinking back it could have been embarrassing for him but he never said not to come!

'After 2 years he went back to Robinson's became a surveyor and stayed there all his working life. He married Margaret in 1957 and they had three sons Tim, Nick and Simon who all went to Kingsfield. In fact Malcolm chose to live in Kingswood so that the boys could attend the school he went to. Malcolm and Margaret had many lovely holidays abroad, especially in France with Malcolm doing all the driving.

'Malcolm and Margaret became involved with Kingswood Heritage Museum and they were stalwarts of the Museum for many years, Malcolm being a long-term Treasurer of the Friends of KHM.

The obituary of DR RICHARD HAYES (54-61) has been sent in by his brother-in-law ROY HUBBARD (53-60) :



'Richard, born August 1943 in Kingswood, went to KGS where at an early age he developed an interest in the world of nature. His particular passion was that of the world of birds and at one

stage even considered pursuing a career as an ornithologist.

'It was at school where he met my sister ANNE HUBBARD (55-60) and they were eventually married in 1965 at St Stephen's Church, Soundwell.

'He left KGS in 1961 having been awarded a place to read medicine at the University of Bristol. Having at first specialised in anaesthesia at St Martin's Hospital, Bath and Frenchay & Cossham Hospitals, Bristol he decided to alter course and began working as a GP in a Practice in both Downend and Yate.

'Richard not only managed but also developed the practice, and he became a local leader in promoting GP fund-holding and a key founder of the local PCG. He was well respected by his patients and professional peers in equal measure and always put the care of his patients above everything else.

'He was a family GP at a time which might be considered to be the golden period of General Practice, when GPs delivered their patients' babies, knew all their pa-

tients intimately and generally caring for families from the cradle to the grave. He retired as planned in 2003 at the age of 60, although this was accelerated slightly by a serious back condition requiring surgery.

'One of his main interests outside of family and friends was that of Freemasonry in which he received many high offices in several side orders of the Organisation. Unfortunately he was diagnosed with prostate cancer in 2018 which was already at an advanced stage. Even when the cancer spread throughout his system he remained cheerful and resolute until he died peacefully at home on 5th January, 2021.

'Richard will, as a good man and a real gentleman, be sorely missed by his family as a loving husband, father and grandfather as well as by his friends and the community as a whole.'

We are informed by her son, Nigel, (a fellow Editor) that PAULA McKENZIE (44-48) (later Powell) has died:

'Sadly she passed away on 2nd December 2020 after a short illness, aged 89, thankfully not Covid related. My mother was very well looked after by a care home local to us just over the border in Herts. Her sister, NORA McKENZIE (45-52) is two years younger than Paula and was Head Girl late forties or early fifties.

'Thank you for a very well-produced Newsletter. I know how much dedication these publications take. I look after the Old Rendcombians OR Website at oldrendcombian.org.uk (You might like to search for the story on Wimbledon Jam in the recent newsletter if you have the time).

'From the short obituary (adapted):



Paula was born Paula Mary McKenzie and grew up in Derby. The eldest of three sisters Nora and Sylvia, Paula remained close to and valued the contact she had with

her two sisters. She particularly enjoyed her 85th birthday when the three sisters had lunch together.

'Paula moved to Warmley in Bristol and attended Kingswood Grammar School in her teenage years. At school, she excelled in art. A love of painting, craft, sewing and knitting stayed with Paula throughout her life. She made wonderful clothes for all members of the family. She was also an excellent homemaker, cook and was proud of winning a cooking competition.

'Undoubtedly, Paula worked hard throughout her life, juggling family life with employed work in a Bristol art gallery, then later at Rolls Royce as personal assistant to Sir Stanley Hooker and other directors. In 1953 she married Ivor to whom she was devoted. Together they had two sons, Nigel and Brian.

'The family and then more recently Paula and Ivor enjoyed many holidays in their favourite locations, the Lake District, Yorkshire and the south coast around Salcombe. Paula will be remembered for her cheerful nature, dealing with whatever she was presented with and her commitment to doing what was right for Ivor and the family. She will be greatly missed.'

The death of JEAN SPILLER (38-43) (later Le Cheminant) has been notified to KOSA by her daughter Anne:

'Jean was brought up in Staple Hill and went to the Council school there and after passing the 11+ went to KGS. She absolutely loved school and always talked about it and in fact was very disappointed when neither of her children went there. Jean made a circle of friends there who remained in contact for the rest of their lives, including MARGARET JEFFERIES, JEAN LAURIE ROBINSON and RUTH EDWARDS.

'Jean remembered everything about her school days and even the names of many of her teachers, even a very fearsome lady teacher called MISS MORRISON who sent her to the sick room for daring to yawn during the morning assembly! Also a teacher called MISS WYCHERLEY, who Mum said was very glamorous.

'Jean passed her School Certificate and left school at 16 and then went to work in the office of WD & HO Wills until she married - when as was the custom then, married women weren't allowed to work there. Jean married Ron Le Cheminant - literally the boy across the road! They set up home in Grace Road, Downend and lived there all their married life. They had two children, Ron worked for the Western Daily Press and Jean worked part-time when her children had grown up. They had a very long and happy marriage enjoying many foreign holidays and making new friends all over the world.

'After Ron died Jean moved to a retirement flat in Downend where she was very happy and enjoyed meeting a new circle of friends. Jean was extremely fit until her late 80s and sadly died in January 2020 at the age of 92. We all miss her very much.'

BRIAN ILES (45-50) has informed us of the death of DAVE COLES:

'DAVID ROBERT COLES (52-58) died on 12th December aged 79. And his funeral service took place at Westerleigh Crematorium. David's family moved to Hanham when he was five. He graduated from Hanham Abbots to KGS in 1952. He was a keen footballer, and played for Hanham Mount in the Bristol and District League. Once described as an educated right back, he was a perfectionist in everything he did.

'The most important thing in his life was his family. His career and interests were influenced by his engineer father, and brother Peter. This led to an apprenticeship at Douglas' Kingswood, becoming a design draughtsman. At Douglas' he met Valerie, and they married in 1967. They moved to Frampton Cotterell where son Christopher was born. He worked in the local aerospace industry for 40 years, working on Concorde and many other commercial and military projects. An interest in everything mechanical produced a garage full of items ready for the next project, some of which were completed. Others remained work in progress with an interest in building and flying model aircraft.

'Val remembers trips to the Cotswold Water Park, Chew Valley Lake and the Somerset Levels. They holidayed in Devon, Cornwall and Wales. Birdwatching along coastal paths was a favourite pursuit and also visiting aircraft and motor museums. Fond memories too of aircraft events. Dave's glider course, the Fairford Air Tattoo and the Yeovilton Air Day. The ambition of a lifetime was achieved in 1994 when Dave and Chris flew over the Bay of Biscay on Concorde. Mach 2 at 58,000 feet was recorded on his camcorder.

'His favourite location was the Isle of Man TT Races and the Manx Grand Prix. The younger Dave used to go solo, but later Val went with him. The main interest of Dave's life was motorbikes, riding, maintaining and restoring predominantly Douglas bikes. He was an active member of Douglas and Vintage MC Clubs and attended meetings, rallies and classic motorcycle racing events. Dave valued help from members during restoration projects and was proud of the recognition, after all his hard work, at rallies and shows.

'Dave's biggest challenge however was Parkinson's Disease. Despite his determination and independent spirit, in the end he had to become a resident of The Grove, then Blossom Fields, at Winterbourne. With the added affliction of Lewy Body Dementia, he still survived two broken hips. He was very grateful to the caring staff and with his dry sense of humour to the last kept them on their toes. He will be sadly missed.'

SUE HANDOLL (54-61) (now Withers) has written and included some photos:

'I was sorry to read, in the Autumn 2020 edition of so many obituaries. It has, indeed, been a sad year for many. Unfortunately I lost touch with most of my KGS friends when I moved to Somerset. However, I like to catch up with them through the magazine.

'One obituary, in particular, caught my attention, that of PAMELA JEFFERIES, a friend and classmate of mine through several years. I remember her as cheerful and friendly, with a lovely smile, which, judging from the photo in the magazine, she never lost. Sadly, our lives went different ways once she left school. It was so good to read of the full and rich life she went on to live, surrounded by her



family and friends. I remember her particularly because she, along with another contemporary, EILEEN MATTHEWS (52-59) and myself, did a mammoth cycle ride to Weston-Super-Mare and back, one summer. It was good to read that her friendship with MADELINE ELVINS continued right through her life.

'I am enclosing a photo from our times at school in VG1 in 1959 (above). Pamela is in the second row, far left, with Madeline standing next to her. I am in the back row, third from the left. MISS SPILL was our form teacher.'

We have been additionally informed of the passing of VALERIE HANDY (42-49), PAUL BROWN (57-62), SHIRLEY PARDOE (50-55), MURIEL HILL (34-37), ERICA IVORY (39-46), ROY GORE (49-54) and PETER PERRY (46-51). We express our condolences to all who have lost a loved one.

As we go to press we have had the sad news of the passing of MAUREEN CURRY (47-53) (later Henneveld) in hospital in Wales. We reported the death of her husband, CLIFF HENNEVELD (47-53), in the last edition.



Maureen and Cliff had moved to Wales several years ago and Maureen subsequently became a minister in

the Church of Wales, officiating at her husband's funeral.

Maureen was a regular at our reunions. We hope to have more on Maureen's career next time.

BREXIT RESULT...

We reported in the last edition (page 15) that TIM BEEDELL (68-75) and his wife Mary, who were farming in France, have become French citizens as a consequence of Brexit. Below are extracts from their experiences of the process translated from a French newspaper report:

British nationals living in France do not see Brexit very favourably. Tim and Mary Beedell, a farmer in Tendu, fundamentally against, decided to apply for French nationality.

'Without Brexit, we would not have asked for French nationality. You really have to be very motivated to embark on these tedious steps,' explains Mary Beedell.

After spending the past 30 years at Tendu as polyculture breeders, and approaching retirement, the Beedell couple had no intention of returning to England. 'We decided to stay here, to keep our travel habits to the United Kingdom,' says Mary Beedell. But Brexit changed the game. 'This is monumental bullshit,' said Tim Beedell. Indeed, the couple sees no advantage for the United Kingdom in this divorce, "why break positive agreements both for the British population, and for its economy. Everyone is stuck in their positions, not to mention the financial waste that all these negotiations induce,' says his wife.

'For us British people living here, we have all our ties in France and in India, the consequences announced by Brexit were the engine so that we embarked on the steps to become French' they explain. At the end of 2017, the Beedells began what they defined as the obstacle course to acquire French nationality. Almost two years of work.

At first, the Beedells had to compile a very full file retracing their professional career, book of accounts of the exploitation in support, their heritage and rural leases, their birth certificates as well as those of their respective parents, their marriage certificate and those of their ancestors. 'We sent a directory-sized file to the foreign ministry,' Tim quipped.

The couple then passed a French exam, with two oral exams and a multiple choice quiz based on one-minute skits seen on computer. 'The oral was 10 minutes long, on a subject chosen by the examiner, it was the most difficult test for me,' admits Mary, who is fluent in French. I'm an introvert, and this kind of exercise is stressful for me, whereas Tim, who is an extrovert in nature, did not find the exercise complicated.'

Since then, the subjects of Her Majesty have been summoned by the gendarmerie of Saint-Benoît-du-Sault, they have also had multiple visits by the police in an unmarked car, 'To check if we were who we claimed to be, check the information given in our file on site,' notes Mary.

Last step, last May, go to Tours, 'As for the other interviews, we were taken individually,' says Tim. On the menu: knowledge of French history, knowing their attachment to the country's values, evaluating their integration into the country thanks to their involvement in local or other associations. 'We were asked what freedom, equality, brotherhood meant for us, how can we define French-style solidarity,' explains Mary. 'Destabilizing questions at the beginning. Come to think of it, I don't know if a Frenchman can answer them without being surprised by the questions.'



I was pictured twice. Page 10 showed a photograph of Form IVL1 1958. I am standing in the back row on the right of the picture. On page 15 I am one of the three unidentified boys; I am standing in the middle against the famous oak tree in the centre of the field.

'As we were all in short trousers this must date from either 1954-55 Form 1D MRS DIPROSE or 1955-56 Form 2B

At the end of this meeting, the person who received them drafts a document for the prefect of Indre, 'Who issues an opinion favourable or unfavourable to our application for French nationality. Notice going back to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Since then we are waiting for an answer ', specifies Tim. Indeed, between their last interview and the final validation of the request for French nationality, there is a 6-month delay. 'Without Brexit, we would not have done it. You really have to be very motivated to embark on these tedious steps,' admits Mary.

MR BOWIE. The Form IVL1 picture also shows my wife-to-be ANGELA CHARTERS, in the front row, third from the left of the picture.

Today, the Beedells are awaiting their new French papers, which could arrive in December ... a few weeks after the announced exit from the United Kingdom scheduled for October 31. Nice Christmas present - a new nationality.

'In the page 15 photo (see below) the boy on the left of the picture is ALAN PEELING. I have no recollection of the photograph being taken and am not sure of the identity of the lad on the right. I have some ideas, but perhaps somebody else knows. Alan Peeling is second from the left with his arms crossed in the Form IVL1 photograph: often the surnames 'Mealing, Nott, Peeling' caused amusement when they were read aloud during registration.

ROBIN'S RAMBLINGS...

'Professor ROBIN SMITH (54-62) has shared some thoughts with us:

'We are always pleased to receive the *KOSA NEWS* and find things and people we recall. Concerning the unidentified boys in *KOSA NEWS* 56 on page 15 I attach details for you.



'Alan Peeling went to the University of Leeds to read Chemistry. I am very sad to report that Alan died in a motorcycle accident before completing his degree.

'I was re-reading the *KOSA NEWS* number 56, Spring 2020 when I realised

'After A-levels I went to Trinity College

Cambridge to read Natural Sciences. Angela went to Kings College London to read French. We married as soon as I graduated. I then did a PhD in Applied Physics at Imperial College London where I became a Lecturer and eventually a Professor. I supervised many PhD students before I retired several years ago. Our two sons both read Physics at Oxford and our daughter followed me to Trinity College Cambridge to read Natural Sciences.

'Most of the people shown in Form IVL1 went to university or training college. FRANK DOBBINS, furthest left in row three, read music at New College Oxford and SUSAN BIRCHLEY, fourth from the right in second row, read Economics at Girton College Cambridge. MARGARET CHELL, next to Alan Peeling, went to Reading University and was later a bridesmaid at our wedding. TONY RICHARDS, far right of third row, read Physics at Imperial College and was an usher. DAVID WHEATLEY, middle of row three also at our wedding, read Chemistry at Bristol University. His mother and mine were at KGS together.

My two sisters and Angela's sister all

went to KGS. There have been lots of family connections. I also knew DAVID EWINS (53-59) well. He did his first degree at Imperial and his PhD in Cambridge. Whereas I did it the other way round. We both finished up at Imperial.'

Robin's identification of the boy on the left as Alan Peeling raises a mystery as JOHN BROOK (53-58) wrote in the last edition (#57):

'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, they have been identified as IAN (not ROBIN?) SMITH (centre) and JOHN BRITTON (right). Who's correct?-Ed

BILL'S SUMMER...

BILL BARKER (53-60), now living in Australia, has sent a shot of the prefects of the Summer of 1960 (below):

There are 24 students in the picture and 22 signatures on the back. Elizabeth Hilling was one of the missing signatures. I'm not sure of the other.

I think I am right with the following:



Back Row boys L to R: Anthony Richards, Chris Taylor, Roy Ellis, Alan Nott, ?, Peter Martin, Michael Mealing, Robert Fudge, Stewart Huggett, David Gifford. Girls middle row: Carole Lovell, ?, Paulette Viney, Diana Williams, Josie Davies or David?, Marion Sage, Susan Birchley, Freda White.

Front row: Jeff Bridges, Bill Barker (dep. Head Boy), David Ewins (Head Boy), C Nelson (History), C N Ridley (Head Master), Morrison (Head Mistress), Josephine Critchley (Head Girl), Caroline Whiteside, Elizabeth Hilling.

Names to be put to faces: B J Chandler plus one other.



The photo (above) shows Margaret in her studio working on the bust of Handel Cossham which is now in the hospital.

BBC SOUNDS...

There is much to go back to if you check on the BBC Sounds app on your iPad or computer. A quick check showed that there are no fewer than six interesting programmes featuring COLIN PILLINGER (54-61) preserved by the BBC online:

Out of this World, Inside Science, The Life Scientific, Last Word, and Science in Action are all available at the click of a button, as is Colin's choice of eight records when washed up on an island in *Desert Island Discs*. *Out of this World* was re-broadcast on Radio Bristol recently when the American Mars Mission landed and rekindled interest in Colin's earlier attempt once more.

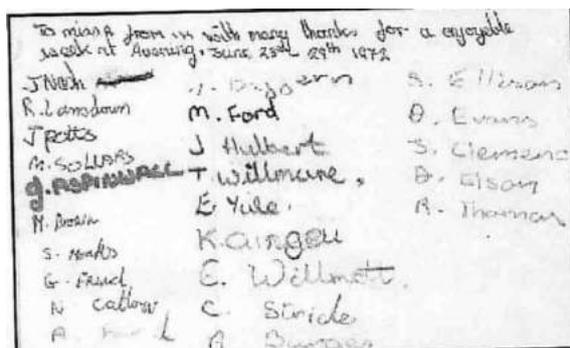
WELL SPOTTED...

GEOFF COLE (55-60) visited Cossham Hospital a year or so ago and he spotted a sculpture by MARGARET LOVELL (50-55). Geoff writes: 'This bust of Handel Cossham is in the family area, just of the main reception/corridor to Audiology'

AVENING - 72...



Biology teacher JILL ALEXANDER (61-77) (now Fuentes) took a group of 1H pupils to Avening House from 23rd to 28th June 1972. Below is a list of signatures on the back of the photo showing those who attended thanking 'Miss' for an enjoyable stay. Were you there?



THE YOUNGSTERS...



	Teacher Mr. Bowden	Richard Bendrey	Phis Doswell	Richard Grey	Geoff Hutton
Chris Hopper	Nick Harris	Phil Smith	Terry Scouse	John Budden	Aland Round
Richard Beake	Chris Darch	Robert Sherrington	Leslie Barnard	Doug Ward	Peter Millett

The 1967-68 U15 Rugby 15, with names is shown above.

1952-V Remove (below) includes MAUREEN CURRY (47-53) on the right of the front row. Sadly, Maureen features in our obituaries this time.

THE OLDSTERS...



KOSA MATTERS...

100th ANNIVERSARY:

September 2021 will represent 100 years since the founding of the School as Kingswood Secondary School. We are hoping to celebrate this occasion and initially Kingswood Heritage Museum has set up an exhibition of The Schools of Brook Road, in which KGS and Kingsfield feature extensively. KOSA has had a considerable input into the exhibition which includes many photographs, and artefacts, a timeline and lists of staff and achievements of many pupils.

Currently, KHM is closed but is expected to open again on 18th May 2021. Why not put that date in your diary now? The volunteers at KHM are to be congratulated for the effort they have made during the Museum's closure to get the exhibition ready for the opening. We are also hoping to negotiate the loan of one of MARGARET LOVELL'S sculptures to be included in the presentation.

We also hope to hold a lunch next Autumn on a date and venue to be fixed. Details will be announced in the next *KOSA NEWS*.

WELCOME...

The following have joined since the last edition of *KOSA NEWS*:

Jenny Taylor (59-66) (now Aspin), Jackie Matthews (60-67) (now Saville), Lionel Matthews (54-61), June Coles (60-67) (now Bennett), Mike Trace (72-79). Welcome to all.

If you're in contact with someone from the School why not suggest that they join KOSA? Just get their permission and send us their details and we will do the rest. Remember we never oblige KOSA Members to pay subscriptions. We invite

members to make voluntary donations in order to finance the two annual editions of *KOSA NEWS*.

BACK PAGE...

In the 50s there were regular Easter trips to Paris, presumably as French was regarded as the major foreign language at the School in those days. Everyone took a language into the fifth form, although Latin (which was taught to A and B forms only) could be given up after the 3rd form.

Many universities then regarded O-level Latin as a requirement of entry, whatever the course to be studied. This necessitated many cramming for O-level in the 6th form by those who aspired to get to university but did not have the required Latin. This requirement was subsequently abolished for most courses.

Nowadays the Government in its wisdom has decided that languages are much too difficult for English students to master. Consequently they have stopped the language requirement throughout schools after year 9.

In view of European students' ability to master English, this probably says much about how our politicians regard the intellectual abilities of our students. This decision also means that foreign language faculties at universities are closing fast, exacerbated by our withdrawal from the European Union. Soon there will be no one to teach foreign languages at an advanced level in this country.

The photograph on the back page is of the School's Easter visit to Paris in April 1956, when about 35 pupils went on the trip, supervised by four staff. It is believed to have been taken on the steps of the Hotel de Ville, the Town Hall.

