



KOSA NEWS



NUMBER 64 - AUTUMN 2024

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

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

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

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



EDITORIAL...

As we wind up KOSA, we share with you the potted CVs of the Committee members who devoted their time to bring you *KOSA NEWS* and to organise our lunches. Our thanks are due to them for their tireless work.

We also look back to question whether we have been successful over the 32 years of our existence; in my view the answer is yes and no. We have been successful in getting people together in reunions far and wide and we can boast many renewed friendships. In at least one case a marriage took place after a meeting organised by KOSA. Partnerships have also developed as a result of our activities and reunions have been organised independent of KOSA.

During most of its existence KOSA has had in excess of 1,000 members, but we have failed to ignite the interest of those who were at the Schools, particularly in the 70s and 80s, despite trying to do so. If we had been successful, it would have provided the seed-corn for the continuation of the Association. As a result the numbers attending our lunches has steadily declined.

KOSA NEWS itself may be regarded as a moderate success as we have had many letters expressing thanks for the memories it has generated and the friendships rekindled. Perhaps it was a tall order to produce a magazine which would satisfy all years, initially from 1921 onwards.

Our formula of not charging a subscription but simply asking for donations was a resounding success. We have never run short of funds, so our thanks go to all those who have contributed cash and articles to *KOSA NEWS*. We hope to give something back to those who attend our last lunch on 12 October by subsidising the cost, so please complete the form enclosed. Partners also welcome.

All 64 copies of *KOSA NEWS* can still be found on the King's Oak Academy website, but as we bow out we pass over the KOSA torch to the online Facebook page run by JULIE JOHNS called 'Kingsfield and Kingswood Grammar School'. If you join, you will find much of interest there. Although it is the end of KOSA, I am sure many of our members will continue to meet regularly. If anyone still wants the Editor's job, please get in touch!

The Editor.

A REPROBATE'S DIARY...

PAUL BAMFORD (59-66) comes clean after all these years:

'It was September of 1959 when I first entered through the hallowed gates of KGS having been fortunate enough to have passed the eleven plus and chosen to attend the best school in the area. Goodness knows how this happened!

'Anyway, we were shepherded to our various classrooms, and I found myself in a concrete bunker known officially as J2 under the auspices of our form master, MR BRISLEY. Arranged in surname alphabetical order, I found myself between two chaps who later became my best mates and partners in crime. Right from the outset I could sense that the years ahead were going to be hard, but we were determined that they were also going to be fun of the first order!

'This dissertation is a few anecdotes from those times which some people may find slightly disturbing and others amusing. I sincerely hope that the latter prevails. I will not mention any names but those of you who joined this school at this time will probably guess who we were.

'The first couple of years were relatively uneventful apart from the endless round of weekday evening and Saturday morning detentions for poor or missing homework, disruptions in the classroom and general insubordination. It wasn't until the third form that things really took off.

'There was intense rivalry between fourteen-year-old boys concerning what fashions of the day we could get away with by flouting the rigid uniform

dictat. On one occasion, I unfortunately happened to be in the front row near the door leading from the corridor during morning assembly in the main hall, right in the path of the entering staff entourage headed up by HEADMASTER RIDLEY, cloak billowing out behind. (I should mention at this point that I was in the habit of hiding outlandish fashion shoes in our garage at home and on leaving the house with a hearty "Bye Mum", would sneak into the garage, change the shoes and cycle off rapidly before I was spotted).

'The headmaster mounted the stage turned and paused for what seemed eternity and then boomed out in a very loud proclamation "Some boy in this hall is wearing black suede winklepicker shoes. He knows who he is, and he will leave the premises IMMEDIATELY and not return until appropriately dressed!" A very red-faced lad slunk out of the hall to the massed gasps and titters of the entire school.

'As everybody will know, the old school was built on two levels because of the sloping site. The two sections were divided by a small hallway with doors leading out both front and back. A small flight of stone steps led to the upper section, on the immediate right at the top of the steps was the door into the boys' changing room. After rugby the master in charge went off to the staff changing room, leaving the boys to their own devices for at least half an hour. What some of you may not know is that the floor of this section of the upper part of the school was supported on brick pillars some four feet high at the deepest end. This yielded an Aladdin's cave of discarded books, crisp packets, and rodent droppings, accessed by a trap door in the

floor of the changing room. Down we would venture armed only with matches and cigarette lighters to explore the darkest corners, crouched over like Cornish tin miners.

'We soon discovered that this haven, away from prefects and patrolling staff, was accessible at other times, including lunchtimes when we would sneak down under the room that was reserved for pupils who preferred to bring packed lunches. Now it happens that most pupils choosing this type of refreshment were girls. I make this point because the aging floorboards in this room were riddled with large knot holes and I can therefore state, with some authority, that the order of the day was not always navy blue!

'In those days it was not uncommon for your parents, especially men, to smoke. This generally and unfortunately filtered down to us boys who enjoyed a quick puff at break time. The favourite haunt for this activity was the lane that ran from Brook Road towards Syston Common where we would also play at matadors with the ram and our blazers in an adjoining field. On this one occasion we were playing "Embassy Tipped roulette" where one cigarette would be passed around a small group and the one puffing, if and when a prefect turned up, would get caught. (prefects usually deferred when threatened with physical retribution). On this day however, things were different. Around the corner stormed MR (JACK) DALZIEL!, the senior master, and guess who was holding the fag.

'Not to be singled out, we were all hauled up to the senior master's study and stood in silence before his desk

with hands behind backs and heads bowed, apprehensively awaiting the most severe punishment. The silence continued as Mr Dalziel, seated behind his desk, opened a drawer, produced a large tobacco pipe, and lit up! The sun streaming through the study window mingled with the copious wreaths of blue smoke until the haze engulfed us all. At last, the silence was broken as Mr Dalziel finally spoke "What on earth am I going to do with you lot" he said, still puffing furiously on his pipe. After a few moments he said with a wry smile " Go on, get out and don't let me catch you again". *Cometh the man!*

'It is with some regret that I recount an incident that occurred during one morning break while we were loitering at the woodshed, guzzling the free milk and seeing if we could get sticks of wood to catch in the rafters of the corrugated roof. A young tradesman appeared, armed with a bag of tools and appropriate paperwork. We all stared at him while he mounted the stairs to the old changing rooms to carry out some job on the school's aging infrastructure. He looked across at us and shouted, "What are you lot staring at!". Without hesitation, the largest member of our group that day stormed over and laid him flat at the bottom of the steps. We all scarpered in all directions.

'Now the old adage, "give a dog a bad name", was never truer than on one occasion I recall in the library, whose hallowed walls demanded absolute silence at all times. Poring over a musty copy of *The Conic Sections* to impress all around, my friend leaned over to me and whispered some irrelevance. With that, the member of staff on duty, who on that day was MR (SCRUFF)

MORRIS, boomed out "GET OUT!", pointing directly at me. I shambled out of the library with protestations of innocence which only earned me a detention for arguing with a teacher. In later life I reflected that, in the circumstances, I probably would have done the same.

'Christening first formers' trousers in the drinking fountain outside the biology lab, dubious "hormonal" activities in the bicycle sheds, pinching stuff from the physics lab, meeting my first love, whom I never actually quite got over and mercilessly mimicking the teaching staff all added to the spice of life. Anyway, I am sure that I am not alone in having stories like this to relate of life at KGS over the many years of the school's existence. I have many more to tell but that will have to wait for another day.

'At some point during the fourth form, I suddenly awoke to the fact that this kind of behaviour was not going to get me anywhere, so I decided to knuckle down and grasp the opportunities that I hitherto had been wasting. I somehow managed to bag ten O-levels, went on to take 'A' levels in the sixth form and eventually gained an engineering degree at Bath University. This was all made possible by this amazing school, my days at which I will always look back on with fond memories.

GORDON JACKSON (55-62) writes:
'I am sorry, but not surprised, that KOSA and *KOSA NEWS* are coming to an end. Since both the committee and the magazine's correspondents are ageing, closure was inevitable.

'I shall miss reading the articles and replying to them. My last reply was to

DAVID WHEATLEY (54-62) – the Maths teacher is spelled MR PEET and the Music teacher MISS BEAKER. - surely BEACON? - Ed)

'Since KGS became first Kingsfield School and then King's Oak Academy, the school got further and further away from the culture of KGS. This was not necessarily a bad thing – some of the policies of HEADMASTER RIDLEY and KGS were questionable - but it meant that recent pupils were understandably not interested in what happened at KGS 60 years ago.

'Thank you, Mike and all the KOSA committee, for keeping KOSA and *KOSA NEWS* going for so long. I shall miss you all.'

A welcome short letter has been received from ESME RIDGE (41-47) (now Britton) who used to be well-known in Kingswood for her Scouting activities:

'I hope this will be legible as my sight is very much restricted as I wanted to write to you to say how sorry I was to hear that the *KOSA NEWS* would no longer be produced. It has been a great pleasure over the years to hear about old friends and School news, especially when living far away from the area. I'm sure you will have had a lot of letters from appreciative readership.

'I want to say a big 'thank you' to the Committee for all the hard work done on our behalf. I believe it has been appreciated by the many old friends you have reached. I hope you will enjoy good health over the time now spent not having to work on the newsletter.'

PAUL BAMFORD (59-66) writes:

'It is with some sadness that I understand that the *KOSA NEWS* is to be wound up this year due to lack of volunteers for Treasurer and Editor.

'I find this rather surprising given the number of people who attended this school over the years. However, given the fact that many people have moved to the far flung reaches of the planet, perhaps this would explain the difficulty.

'Also I guess that many people already have commitments that preclude them from volunteering for these posts such as myself. If my circumstances were different, I would certainly consider volunteering given the pleasure and nostalgia this little publication has given me over the years.

'Anyway, many thanks for your efforts on *KOSA NEWS* and please find attached a short ditty (see page 2) that I have been meaning to submit for a long time so I guess this might be my last chance.'

FRED WARD (54-61) wrote a short note:

'Just a note to say a big thank you for helping remind us of our school days at Kingswood Grammar and giving us a glimpse of the lives of some of our classmates. Yours has been a tremendous contribution.

Fred Ward and on behalf of my deceased sister, JOAN WARD (later Wildgoose) (nee Ward) and JUDITH SKUSE (now Ward).'

MARGARET SHIPP (59-55) (now Almond) writes:

'We were very sorry to receive your

latest *KOSA NEWS* and to hear that the association would be wound up.

'You have done an excellent job as Editor of the newsletter over the years and we always knew that your professionalism would be a hard act to follow. Like us, many Old Scholars, must appreciate how much time and effort you have put in to your "labour of love".

'We will also miss the lunches at The Barn and the opportunity to meet old acquaintances that we would not normally see, having moved away from the Kingswood/Bristol area.

'We very much hope to be able to come to the October lunch and look forward to seeing you in October.'

CHRIS TOVEY (68-70) writes:

'Having just read the latest edition of , I was saddened to learn that it will be wound-up this October. However I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for all your time, effort and commitment in producing *KOSA NEWS* over the past years!

'I've enjoyed reading the newsletter and learning about the lives of former pupils, some more well-known than others.

'My time at Kingsfield was relatively short, coming from Stockwell Hill school and joining as a Sixth Former in 1968. Despite the short tenure, I have many fond memories of the school, teachers and fellow students, perhaps the most profound was that we were treated like adults and not like school children!

'It was during this time that I met other like-minded students interested in mo-

torcycling and would ride my bike, (initially a BSA Bantam then a Matchless 250) from my home in Cleewood to Kingfield instead of taking the school bus! We would park our bikes off Tennis Court Road, I think by the sports hall school entrance and meet-up lunch time to chat about bikes and our adventures, sometimes taking a trip to Clock Tower Fish & Chip shop in Kingswood – happy days!

‘Once again, thank you for all your hard work and wish you well for your well-deserved retirement!’

MARK ADAMS (51-56) writes:

‘It is very sad that KOSA is to end, but, sadly none of us is immortal. It seems to be a fact of life that people do not want to volunteer their services to keep really worthwhile projects going. I bow to your fantastic dedication to KOSA over the years, and the amount of time you have spent in producing the superb KOSA NEWS. We will miss reading all the news of ex-pupils and teachers.

‘Who would have thought that so much would have come from our chat all those years ago, when we decided to try to hold a Reunion Dinner. Thanks for all you have done,’

BRENDA CHALK (54-61) (now Ewins) writes:

‘I have just received my *KOSA NEWS* and I am so sad to read your ‘penultimate editorial’. You have done a marvellous job of keeping the ‘old school’ community in contact and it is such a shame that no younger person will take on that responsibility. Being only one year below you I am afraid I don’t come into the younger category!

‘I have observed that subsequent generations do not have the same nostalgia for the past or their school days. I think the invention of social media may be the root cause. We did not have mobile phones or instant access to everything and so we took our pleasure in the people and things around us. The sudden change to the site of the school and also its name seems to have disrupted that sense of history in the establishment. I know that it was an ambition of DAVID EWINS to get his name on the Honours Board that we walked past every day. I am so glad that you were able to give him that honour in the obituary that you published last year.

‘As a post script I would like to acknowledge that I was actually the tenth girl on the first Duke of Edinburgh’s Award Scheme. I was a year younger than all the others and as a consequence was chosen as one of the three girls to meet the Duke of Edinburgh at the Bristol City Council Offices and was in the foreground of the newspaper photo of the Prince talking with us. During the next term and before the expedition I succumbed to a serious case of glandular fever and was off school for the rest of that term, which meant giving up on the award scheme. I was too embarrassed to admit this sooner!

‘Now I must get on and read the rest of the magazine! Once again I must say a huge thank you for all your hard work over so many years and wish you a very happy and restful ‘retirement’.’

PETER WILLIAMS (52-57) writes:

‘Thank you for the latest edition and I am sorry to learn that KOSA may fold.

'In particular, thank you for all the hard work you have put in over the years. Sometimes just quitting is the only way to get people to take on these roles, so here's hoping. It seems that the next generation is loathe to take on these important jobs in our society. It is the same for Clubs, Rotary, Lions, Masons etc, they all are having problems.

'I do hope your health is OK and I look forward to seeing you in October.'

STEPHEN WALLINGTON (56-64) writes:

'Sad news, Mike, but well done you for producing *KOSA NEWS* so successfully for so long.

'Could you remind me please where I can see the online version? I have tried the http address on the magazine, but there is no mention of *KOSA NEWS*.

'Best wishes in your retirement and I look forward to seeing you at the final lunch.'

I've just looked and for those who still require the URL, it's:

<https://kingsoakacademy.clf.uk/our-academy/kingswood-old-scholars-association/>

Currently there are all 63 editions online, many of them searchable. The early ones, however, are PDF copies and regretfully cannot be word-searched.

We are grateful for the help given to us over the years by KOA, and CHRIS SAWYER in particular. She has been instrumental at putting each edition online so that it is available to all KOSA members on the Web. Thank you, Chris.

JOHN RAWLINGS (75-82) writes: 'My Mum, JANET EMMS (48-56) (now Rawlings), and a former pupil of Kingswood Grammar School, has just shown me her copy of the *KOSA NEWS* number 63 Spring 2024 and I note on page 13 that you have included an extract of the alumni boards showing some former pupils at what was Kingsfield Sixth Form back in 1982.

'I recognise the names of some of my peers at the time including PAUL BOWDEN, ADRIENNE DAVIS and ANNE DRINKWATER. I was just wondering whether I was also included on those boards since I was also in the Sixth Form at Kingsfield from 1980-1982 (having been in the main school from 1975-1980) and, if so, whether you would be able to send me a copy of the extract (similar to that shown on page 13) for nostalgia.

'I will be attaining the age of 60 at the end of May 2024 and looking to retire and my partner is looking to host a party with displays setting out what I achieved over my lifetime to date. Inclusion of where I went to school and subsequent further education will feature in them and it would be great if I could include a copy of the alumni board.'

We were able to send John an extract from the Honours Book which shows that he went to Imperial College to read Mathematics. Jon responded:

'I'm not quite sure where they got the information from because I actually read Chemical Engineering at Imperial College in London. Thanks again - I'm sure this will give rise to some discussion.'

Author JOHN GUTHRIE (64-67) who we featured in the last edition writes: 'First, thank you for the large piece about my books. It is very much appreciated.

'Second, I am sorry about the ending of *KOSA NEWS*. I have discussed this with some of the other old boys, and, understandably, their reluctance to try to continue it is the conviction that they could not do the job nearly as well as you have done it. You have set much too high a standard. I should be willing to have a go, but talented assistance would be required.

'I shall be meeting a few of the chaps in London soon, and I'll try to raise some interest. It would be great to keep it going. The writing side of it does appeal, but the technical side of it doesn't.

'Thank you again, and thank you for all the years of producing a wonderful magazine.'

DISTANT REUNION...

MARGARET CHELL (54-61) (now Gregory) of Canada writes of her visit to Australia. She had asked *KOSA* for the email address of MARY MILES (42-49) (now Bentley):

'A long overdue note of thanks for Mary Miles' email address.

'I reached her by phone and enjoyed hearing about her life in Australia, how she and her family ended up there, her memories of KGS,, the district, her nursing training, the Children's Hospital on St. Michael's Hill and extensive work in so many theatre productions. Given I was five when she last saw me.....not bad catching up!

'Another Sydney highlight occurred on the terrace of the Sydney Opera House where I was asked if I would take a pic of a foursome. No problem, I said and asked which part of Scotland they were from. When they asked me where I was from.....much further south, Bristol... another voice asked which school?

'It was BILL BARKER (53-60) who was a year ahead of me at KGS. I remembered him but no reason why he would remember me and 1960 was a long long time ago. However we are exchanging emails. Small world and to think I almost became a £10 Pommie but then wondered who on earth would want/need to learn French Down Under. I decided to try Canada first and I never got beyond Montreal. I think Bill will send you a couple of photos taken on the terrace on March 5.

'Do you happen to know if the class that entered KGS in 1954 is planning any kind of a reunion or meeting at or around the October lunch? (No, but good idea - Ed) PAUL LEAR, LIONEL MATTHEWS, CAROLE LOVELL, LINDA DAVIES...my vintage and 70 years ago this September since we started in 1W.

'I have fond memories of KGS. It gave us a good grounding and prepared us well for life in the big wide world. I am always happy to sit down and read *KOSA NEWS* and then feel guilty because I do not bother to write. One of these days...Many thanks,'

OUR VOLUNTEER...

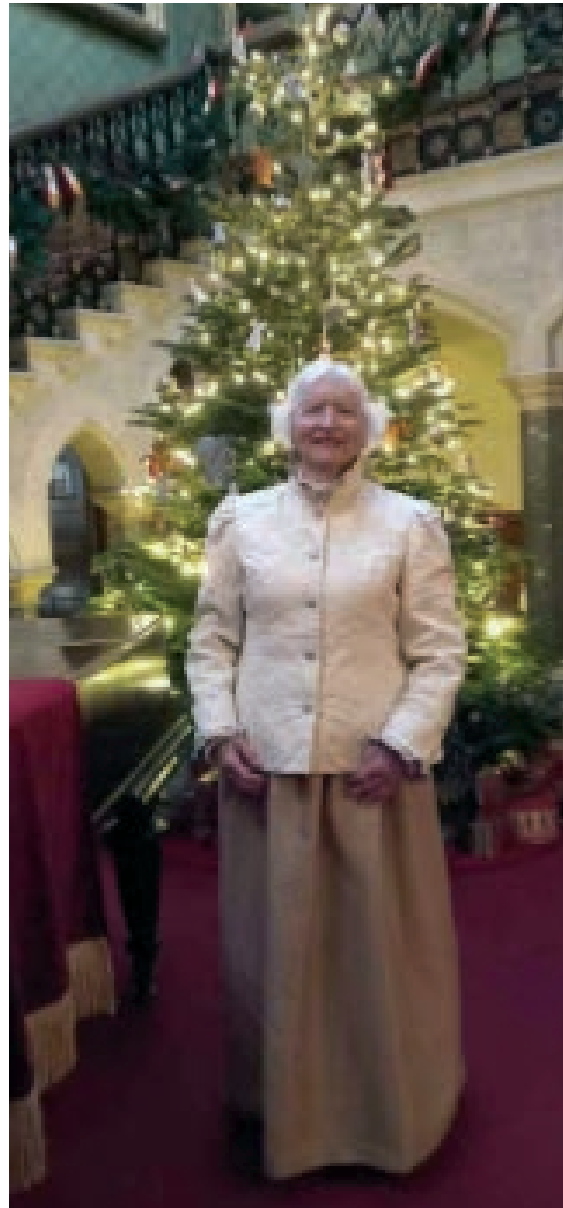
RUTH FISHER (45-53) (now Ryder) has sent some photos of her time at Tyntesfield:

'19 Years on and I am still a House

Volunteer at Tyntesfield. This photograph was taken in the Hall last Christmas.

'I am also attaching a photograph, which has never been seen before, taken in December 2014.

'I am sorry that the KOSA magazine has to come to an end.'



KINGSWOOD RFC...

Kingswood Old Boys' RFC, founded in the 50's, has morphed into Kingswood RFC when it became an open club. Its colours are still brown and blue and it maintains the KGS Shield as its emblem.

Ex-President JOHN BISHOP (52-58) updates us with its current activities: 'From little acorns do great big oak trees grow. When JOHN GRAY (46-53) and his school friends started up an Old Boys' Rugby Club in 1954 they

could not have dreamt that it would develop and lead to Kingswood RFC which is now at the end of its 70th season.

Over these years the Club has moved around the area and experienced many ups and downs and in 1979/80 settled at Church Avenue, Warmley. We built - more or less - our own clubhouse and spent the next 16 years making full use of that facility. In 1996 we moved to our present home at Grimsbury Road playing field, back to where it all began Deanery Road being

the old School's sports grounds.

'Nowadays the Club has developed into a proper Community Club with:-

2 senior XVs

A junior rugby section - boys and girls ages 7 to 17

A Colts XV Walking rugby group, mainly for those aged over 50, both men and women

An occasional vets XV and

A section dedicated to children with neurological problems

'The membership now exceeds 500 and work has commenced on an extension of the clubhouse.

'The 2023/24 season saw the Club achieve promotion and a very special day out at Twickenham. Selected as one of only 4 'Community Clubs', KRFC visited the home of rugby where they played 3 short matches, won 1, lost 1 and drew 1. For those taking part an unforgettable experience.

Those Kingswood Old Boys can be justly proud of what they started.

THAT REUNION...

MARGARET CHELL (54-61) reported her meeting with BILL BARKER (53-60) in Australia. (see page 8) Bill has now sent us his side of the story, with photo:

'Cathy and I and two of her Scottish friends, dating back to school days, were going to see an opera at the Sydney Opera House on the 4th March 2024. My first opera there! The Opera was 'The Magic Flute' (For the buffs!). The Scots had been on the cruise ship *Queen Mary 2* from Southampton.



'There was a lady standing by on the forecourt and Cathy asked her if she would mind taking a photo of the four of us. She answered in a Canadian accent – "no problem". Then she said "Where do you come from?" to which Cathy replied "We three are from Edinburgh and he is from Bristol". She said "Oh, I come from Fishponds, Bristol", and her accent had slipped into West Country.

'Long story, short. I said "Did you, by chance, go to Kingswood Grammar School?" Then it all came pouring out. She was MARGARET CHELL and was in the year behind me. What a remarkable event, bumping into Margaret on the forecourt of Sydney Opera House. 'Later we made contact by Email. She was staying with friends In Sydney. On holiday from Montreal, Canada.

'We've changed a bit, we were in our



teens then and 80s now, but once photos and stories were exchanged it all came flooding back. Small world, EH?!

'Hope you are well Mike. Pity that you have been unable to find someone to pick up the reigns of KOSA magazine but it takes a special person. Since I have been following you have done an excellent job to be proud of. Someone may still come along if only as caretaker. Hope your records are in a safe place!'

In the 1960s photo of the Prefects (above) Bill is seated in the front row,

second from the left.

Incidentally, on the right of Bill in the photo, third from the left, is seated DAVID EWINS, who later became Professor of Engineering at Imperial College, London. David became a Fellow of the Royal Society.

In the photo (below) of the 1961 1st Tennis Team, Margaret Chell is in the back row of the girls, standing on left hand side.

VISIT TO KHM...

DAVE WALL (54-59) paid a visit to the Kingswood Heritage Museum and writes:

'I was very impressed with the range of exhibits generally. By chance I got talking to one of the Museum's curators and discussed the model railway they are hoping to construct. It's a bit sparse at the moment so I offered him the late MALCOLM GAYTON'S (54-59) model of Mangotsfield Station which I have



held since his death and has been stored at my son's home for many years. Assuming it to be in reasonable condition he was delighted, so Ben and I are going to disinter it and check it over. It would be a fitting tribute to Malcolm to have the model as a permanent exhibit in the museum where everyone can see it, so I hope it is still usable.

By the way, I'm not surprised that you are winding up the Kingswood Old Scholars' Magazine. You have done an incredible job keeping it going, particularly after your health issues.

OUR PRESIDENT WRITES...

Ex-Head DAVID LEWIS and KOSA President has given us some reflections from the other side of the Head's desk:

'I joined Kingsfield School as Head at the start of the school year in September, 1990. My immediate predecessor, ANTHONY CLARIDGE, an Avon County staff head, had filled the post temporarily for one year following the retirement of BILL HAXWORTH. Before him there had been just two headmasters since the opening of the school in 1921. Heads tended to stay a long time. I finished in 2007.

'When I joined as Head, the student population was just under 1,000. In subsequent years it grew to just over 1,200 with more than 100 in the Sixth Form and more than 100 staff.

'The school budget in 1990 was managed from the county that used to be Avon (often recalled as CUBA); but that changed early in the '90s with the introduction of Local Management of Schools (LMS) and we were then run-

ning our own budget which rose quickly to £1 million and then more. That led to the appointment of a School Bursar, the first one being the invaluable and highly regarded MAJOR GEORGE KYLE.

'Since my retirement in 2007, the school's name has changed to King's Oak Academy and King's Oak Primary school has been set up on the site. The school is now a member of the Cabot Learning Federation. There is no longer an independent Sixth Form.

'The catchment area for Kingsfield (to use its previous name) has changed significantly over the years. In its early Kingswood Grammar days, girls and boys came from a wide area stretching into the countryside to the east of Bristol. The nearest county grammar schools outside Bristol were in Chipping Sodbury or towards Bath. Gradually the catchment area contracted and became more centred on Kingswood. Other secondary schools were established locally – The Grange, The Chase School for boys, Page School for girls, Sir Bernard Lovell School (named after an ex-KGS pupil, of course) and Hanham High. The arrival of the John Cabot City Technology College (CTC) in the early 1990s had a major impact on all the local secondary school. It's ironic that King's Oak now is part of the Cabot family.

'Over the years I was lucky to work with committed and resourceful colleagues in the classroom and beyond. Because of them the pupils' school experience was enriched. Music was a successful and popular subject with an annual inclusive Christmas concert at The Colston Hall (now Bristol Beacon). There was at least one drama

production a year for which the Hexagon Theatre was ideal. Sport was always a feature and in 1992 we installed one of the first all-weather sports pitches in the county. It made outside sports possible in all seasons and was also available for local clubs and teams.

'I was fortunate to be at Kingsfield at a propitious moment in the school's history and to work with colleagues who were committed to the progress and success of our students. Not everything went well, of course, but I only had to deal with a couple of fires – and not the big one! We enjoyed much goodwill and, I hope, served our students well helping them towards rewarding adult lives.

'I admit to being taken aback when KOSA came on my scene early in 1990s. I didn't quite know what to expect when it held perhaps its first large scale event - an evening in the Hexagon with supper and dancing to 1950s style music.

'One early KOSA related memory was when we had a contact from the BBC in 1990-91 with a strange request. FRED BABER had been one of the first pupils at KGS in 1922. His granddaughter was due to join Kingsfield's first year and she had written to the *Jim'll Fix It* programme to ask if her grandfather could join her on her first day at school. He did. The camera recorded it and it was eventually shown on BBC. In those days Jimmy Savile was a celebrity - odd - but not notorious. Fred Baber was subsequently President of KOSA.

'It has been my pleasure to have been part of KOSA over these years, initially

as an ex-officio guest and latterly as President. I have enjoyed the company, kindness and the reminiscences and I have looked forward to sitting with former KGS scholars at the spring and autumn lunches. I used to reflect that KOSA members had, at most, a seven-year sentence at the school; I can claim for my KOSA qualification that for 17 years I turned into Brook Road, came through the gate, past the old brick buildings, into the foyer, up the stairs and then looked out at that venerable and handsome oak tree.

'And each September, when the new school year started and we welcomed the fresh intake of 11 year old girls and boys, I held the first assembly and explained the motto, *Esse non Videri*, and what it should mean to them – *to be, not to seem* – or more intelligibly, *be true to yourself, be honest and truthful*. It's a motto that is really about integrity and honesty. Hopefully it has meant something to KOSA members over the years.

'Thank you, KOSA and those who have kept it alive over the years.'

YOUR COMMITTEE...

We have regularly published a list of your Committee members but in this last edition we publish pen portraits of those who have brought KOSA to you over the years:

SUE WELLS (59-64) (now Pullen):

'I was born and brought up in Hanham, the youngest of 8 children. I went to Samuel White's Infants, Hanham Abbots Juniors and then Kingswood Grammar School. Although not a great scholar, I achieved 4 O-levels and I enjoyed my time at KGS and made many great friends, several I am still in touch with. (Continued Page 16)

1960/1	Lovell Carole	Bedford College, London (French)
1960/1	Lyne P.	Loughborough College (Education)
1960/1	Nott A. J.	Chelsea College of Advanced Technology
1960/1	Peeling A. J.	Leeds (Chemistry)
1960/1	Pillinger C. J.	County Major, Swansea Chemistry
1960/1	Richards A. R.	Imperial College, London Engineering
1960/1	Roberts J. E.	County Major, Bristol Engineering
1960/1	Smith R. W.	Trinity College, Cambridge Natural Sciences
1960/1	Thomas M. A.	West of England College of Art Art
1960/1	Ward F. C.	County Major, University College of North Staffs. (Science)
1960/1	Wheatley D. C.	Bristol (Chemistry)
1960/1	White Freda	Bangor (Zoology)
1960/1	Woodington Molly	College of Sarum St. Michael, Salisbury (Education)
1961/2	Anstey T. K.	Birmingham (Civil Engineering)
1961/2	Becker Elizabeth	Reading (Modern Languages)
1961/2	Blake C. V.	Durham (Dentistry)
1961/2	Brown P. D.	Southampton (Physics)
1961/2	Brown Hilary	Worcester College (Education)
1961/2	Clotworthy L. J.	County Major, University College, London (Geography)
1961/2	Cockram A. J.	Leeds (Chemistry)
1961/2	Collinson Christine	County Major, Leeds Bio-Chemistry

19612 Cook R. H.	West of England College of Art (Art)
19612 Cordy A. R.	Liverpool (Electrical Engineering)
19612 Davies Lynette	Southampton (Zoology)
19612 Down A. R.	Reading (Modern Languages)
19612 Eales A. J.	Leicester (Mathematics)
19612 Forrester Eileen	Leicester (General Arts)
19612 Forward G. C.	Cardiff (Chemistry)
19612 Gough Esme	Worcester College (Education)
19612 Hayden Judith	St. Matthias College, Bristol Education
19612 Henry A. W.	County Major, Loughborough College of Advanced Technology
19612 Hilton F. B.	Manchester (Dentistry)
19612 Holloway R. J.	Manchester (Music)
19612 Hunt Jennifer	Bristol (Music)
19612 Jones M. R.	County Major, Bristol Veterinary Science
19612 Mealing M. R.	Leicester (General Arts)
19612 Plaster Mary	County Major, Southampton English
19612 Pring Mary	Exeter (Social Science)
19612 Puzey M. C.	Queen Mary College, London French
19612 Quartly A.	Birmingham (Physics)
19612 Read Jennifer	Nonington College, Canterbury Physical Education)
19612 Rees Margaret	County Major, Manchester (Music)
19612 Rogers P. D.	West of England College of Art (Art)
19612 Saunders C.	Sheffield (Architecture)
19612 Smith I. G.	Loughborough College of Advanced Technology

'I did well in my mock exams and these results gained me a job with Lloyd's Bank. I worked at Westbury-on-Trym, Kingswood and Stoke Bishop branches, leaving when I started my family. My husband Bob worked at Courage's in Avonmouth and we lived in Sea Mills with our two daughters Samantha and Joanne.



'In the 80s we decided we would like to go into business and bought a newsagents in St. George on

the Speedwell Estate. My brother Colin, also a former KGS pupil, had been a newsagent for several years and he helped us in our early stages. We ran the business for 21 years forming a group with my siblings, who had become newsagents, and in the main enjoyed it. When we decided to sell up, Bob was working for BT and I was able to help with our grandchildren - child care, school runs, cinema trips, bus trips, days at the seaside. Great times.

'I worked for Bristol City Council in the Electoral Services Department but as that was a sort of seasonal job I was able to have great family time as well. Now in retirement, we decided to sell our family home of 40 years and moved to Staple Hill to an apartment overlooking Page Park. Not an exciting life but a very happy one.'

HELEN LEWIS (74-79) (now Lippiatt):
 'Hi I am Helen and this is life during and after Kingsfield (as I knew it):
 'While at the school I gained my

Bronze Duke of Edinburgh award, and



gained several CSEs including English, History, Biology, Home Economics, French Studies and Typing.

'During my time at the school I was involved in a trip to France which was very enjoyable.

'On leaving the school in 1979 I got my first job as a Post Room Assistant for Parnall & Sons in Fishponds, from there I progressed to the Commercial Dept where I was responsible for processing customer orders, sorting queries and dealing with the many representatives we had. I also trained as a Switchboard Operator to cover holidays.

'I left Parnall's in 1985 and went to work at Welbeck Finance, I had a couple of jobs while I was there, first I was in the New Accounts Dept processing Credit Card Applications where I progressed to Supervisor After a couple of years I unfortunately lost my sight in one eye and on returning to work changed my role to a more Admin based one with not so much computer work. This was in the Agency and Tracing Dept where my job was to find people who had left outstanding debts.

'I left here in 1990 and went over the road to Interlink Express Parcels. Here I started in Customer Care dealing with national accounts, sorting queries and chasing payments, I was then made

Supervisor responsible for a team of 5 people. In 1996 I left this job and we moved to Corby Northants for my husband's work and we stayed 2 years during which time I looked after our two children and worked for Avon Cosmetics evenings, again sorting payment plans for people who had got themselves into debt.

'In 1998 we moved back to Bristol where I joined my brother's business in Bedminster where I am doing multiple jobs, currently as Accounts Manager and I also oversee the rest of the business on a day-to-day basis.'

MARGARET REECE (55-62) (now Wills):



'At KGS I gained A-levels in Music, French and English, played in the school and county orchestras, and played in the school chess team. I studied at the Royal

Manchester College of Music and Birmingham University, then had a career as a professional musician, playing as a freelance cellist and double bassist, and specialising in teaching double bass....including at Bristol & Bath Universities, Chetham's School of Music, and tutoring for many years for county youth orchestras and the National Children's Orchestra.

'I still teach cello and double bass and do piano accompanying for other teachers' pupils' exams. I socialise with a large circle of friends, belong to various societies, and also enjoy volun-

teering at Kingswood Heritage Museum, which followed 17 years as a room guide and harpsichordist at Dyrham Park. I have a son and daughter and 2 teenage granddaughters.'

EILEEN MATTHEWS (52 – 59) (now Bendrey), Secretary of KOSA:

'I was born in Kingswood in 1941 and went, first to Hanham Road Infants School then High Street Junior School. At 11 I went to Kingswood Grammar School.



'During my time there I became a Prefect and House Captain of Fussell House. I was in the

School Choir and in 1956 had a main part in "The Gondoliers". With the help of KEITH SHARPE, who was my German teacher, we set up the German Society. In the Sixth Form I and two others entered the Bristol University Classics reading competition and I am pleased to say that on that occasion we won! I loved my time at KGS and took my O-Levels in the Fourth Form, then spent 3 years in the Sixth Form. This gave me the opportunity to start learning German in addition to A-level French and Latin.

'After getting a teaching qualification at St Mary's College Cheltenham and then a degree in German and French at Bristol University, I spent most of my working life teaching German and French in various schools in the Bristol area. As I do not visit foreign countries unless I can speak some of the language, in 1976 I took A-Level Italian and in 1986

I took an Institute of Linguists exam in the equivalent of A-Level Modern Greek.

'I was lucky enough to spend the last 19 years of my teaching career teaching German at what started as Bristol Polytechnic then became University of the West of England. I finally retired at the age of 69 when the university closed down its Languages Department. In 1963 Mike and I got married and we later had 2 sons.

MIKE BENDREY (51-56), Editor *KOSA NEWS*:

'At the end of a rather inauspicious but enjoyable period of five years at KGS, I left with O-levels and the Chemistry and Form prizes, which I had to go back to collect at the December 1956 Speech Day. I had commenced work as an accounting trainee at National Smelting Company in September 1956 and qualified in 1962 with South Western Electricity Board.

'A number of jobs in Finance in the Bristol area followed and I ended my career as a lecturer at the University of the West of England (UWE). During my tenure there I was variously Head of School and Business School Faculty Chairman, and also external examiner for a number of universities and colleges. I was awarded an MSc in Business Administration from the University of Bath in 1981.

'Whilst at UWE I carried out a number of local consultancy assignments and developed a link with a firm which carried out studies in transport economics, mainly overseas. Consequently I was able to work on transport studies in Syria, Jordan, Yemen and Oman in the Middle East, Malaysia in Asia, and in Ethiopia, Zambia and Tanzania in

Africa. I also worked in Latvia and Russia. The whole of 1985 was spent working in Cyprus, together with my family. Since retirement from UWE I have run courses in the Universities of Bath, Bristol and Exeter, and for the University of Ballarat (Australia) I have run courses in Hong Kong and Beijing.

'I organised the first KOSA reunion in 1984 and MARK ADAMS (51-56) did the honours in 1985. At subsequent reunions we collected funds to provide the 'seed-corn' for a newsletter and in 1992 an 8-page edition of what became *KOSA NEWS* was born. It has been 28 pages twice per annum ever since. It's been 32 years of fun and enjoyment for me, and it's been a pleasure to bring so many people back together.

ALAN HIRESON (62-69) Chairman of KOSA:



'Early September 1962; two significant events in my life. As a local 'trainspotter, the two highlights of the day were the passing of the Northbound and Southbound passenger train between Manchester and Bournemouth - *The Pines Express*. On the 8th, this train made its last run via Warmley and Oldland Common.

'I also started at Kingswood Grammar

School, having previously attended St Anne's School, Oldland Common. Only two of us moved from St Anne's to KGS at that time, the other student being JULIE HUNT. I knew one or two other pupils from Oldland Common, RICHARD HALL being in the year ahead of me. It was very unfamiliar compared to what I was used to, however it soon settled into a routine. My first form (1W) teacher was MISS WYCHERLEY, who had been at the school when my father was there. Moving to the second form took us out of the "J" block into the main body of the school. The form teacher was MISS COCKROFT (2C) and, while I forget the room number, we were just a couple of yards opposite MR DALZIEL'S office. 'Jack' was the deputy head and deservedly enjoyed a great deal of respect from all in the school. The proximity to Jack's office meant a considerable amount of decorum on the part of 2C. One morning before lessons began, our classroom door opened and Mr Dalziel was in the doorway. We all stood, as was the custom in those days, and, as I was nearest the door he addressed me and asked - not told - me if I would go to his car to collect something he had left. He then asked my name, and I replied with my surname - again, the custom then. "Did your father play cricket for Stapleton?" "Yes, sir." "How is he?" I am pleased to say that Jack and Dad renewed their acquaintance later on during a Staff v Parents cricket game of which more later. Mr Dalziel, if memory serves correctly, obtained a Headship down Glastonbury way.

'The following year I was in 3H, (MISS HEAD) and we moved away from the vicinity of Mr Dalziel's office near the top of the steps halfway along the cor-

ridor. Here my memory gets a little hazy as to who my subsequent form teachers were. I seem to remember MR BLAKE, MR HUMPHRIES and the kind and considerate MR HOCKING (Maths). Anyone out there who can put me right? Sadly you will have to reply to me direct by e-mail as there will be no more *KOSA NEWS*. I definitely remember that in 6.1 and 6.2 the teacher was MISS TAIT, another very kind and considerate member of staff.

'As far as academia is concerned, I have no doubt that I was never one of KGS's brightest stars. I managed to obtain a few O-levels and stayed on for the sixth form for the lack of any guidance over what to do. After leaving in July 1969 (without any A-levels), I drifted for a few months and then succeeded in obtaining a position on the then British Railways in April 1970 at Bristol.

'Starting as the proverbial 'tea boy' I was able eventually to gain a management position, helped by a re-organisational move to Swindon. I was involved in many aspects of railway work, some humdrum and some more high profile, such as planning trains to the annual Cheltenham Gold Cup meetings in March and to Castle Cary for the Glastonbury Festival of Contemporary Performing Arts in June. Privatisation of the industry in 1994 meant that the number of subsequent re-organisations came thick and fast, and I faced the prospect of my job moving either to London Paddington or Birmingham - or redundancy. I'm glad I chose the latter as both Paddington and Birmingham Offices were later abolished with the work going to far-distant Milton Keynes. So I left Network Rail in 2005 but was pleased to say that I have been approached by vari-

ous parts of the industry to participate in a number of railway-related projects since.

'During the 1980s, I was introduced to the *Mangotsfield Railway Circle* where I met MIKE BENDREY, and discovered the existence of KOSA, and I am pleased to say have been associated with KOSA ever since. In parallel with my main-line railway career, I have been - and still am - a volunteer with the Avon Valley Railway, acting as a Signaller (they call them Signallers these days) and a Guard. So my local station which closed in 1966 sees steam trains again. Some things have come full circle.

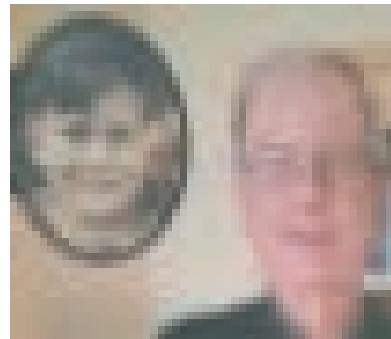
'I am in touch with only one or two of my contemporaries from my years at KGS. If any of you are out there and living in or visiting the old patch, please feel free to contact me at: oldlandstationmaster@yahoo.co.uk

'I have mentioned one or two staff names, but so far not the Headmaster, MR RIDLEY. I am afraid I could never quite come to terms with his personality. During the cricket match referred to previously, my father, who believed that any game of cricket should be entertaining for those watching as well as those playing, watched in mounting disgust at one of the parents batsmen ('batter' these days!) pushing and prodding to about three runs in about forty minutes. When out, he was applauded off the field enthusiastically by Mr Ridley. Dad went in and in his customary freewheeling manner stroked and shot his way to about thirty runs in as many minutes; when he left the pitch he was ignored by Mr Ridley. "Difference between a humble factory electrician and a Bank Manager, I sup-

pose" said my Dad.

'It is very sad that KOSA is to be wound up. Many thanks are due to many members over the years, particularly Mike Bendrey for sustaining the extremely high quality *KOSA NEWS*, ably backed up by Eileen. With very best wishes for the future to all KOSA members, particularly any of my contemporaries reading this.'

MARK ADAMS (51-56):



'After leaving school I worked as an office junior for a local engineering company. Seeing no prospect for advancement. I left to work for the South Western Electricity Board and after six years I moved into Local Government. I worked for several local authorities, gaining qualifications in Law and Finance.

'In 1984 I had a complete career change, leaving Local Government to become a Financial Advisor. I had been dealing with the public in my previous jobs and felt that I could put that experience to good use in my new career. I worked in the financial services industry for twenty years obtaining qualifications as I progressed.

'I became semi retired in 2004, and did several part-time jobs including carrying out surveys for Universities and Central and Local Government until finally retiring in 2014.

'Since I retired I have been fortunate

enough to return on a voluntary basis to what was KGS, now Kings Oak Academy, helping students with their reading skills. It is most satisfying and I hope, a constructive way to make use of my time.

‘When I was young I was glad to leave school and get into the world of work. I never thought that I would be happy to return so many years later.’

MARTIN HARRYMAN (51-56), ex-Treasurer of KOSA:



‘After leaving our Grammar School in 1956 I spent a period with Rolls Royce Engines before joining the Royal Air Force. My first interest was electronics and after nearly 2 years training was awarded my Wing as an Air Electronics Operator.

‘I was posted to 201 Squadron, Coastal Command (The Kipper Fleet) flying in Shackleton Aircraft and stationed initially in Cornwall and later in Scotland.

Using various sensors we located and tracked Russian submarines. The Shackleton was an ancient, piston engined and unpressurised aircraft that was laughingly described as ‘40 thousand rivets flying in loose formation.’ The aircraft was scheduled for replacement by Nimrod and in the interim period, after a 6 month conversion course, I was posted to 110 Squadron as a crewman on Whirlwind Helicopters based in Singapore and Borneo (Sabah and Sarawak) during Confrontation.

‘This was an exciting time with Service in Singapore, Malaya, Borneo, Hong Kong and Australia. I returned to the UK to convert back to anti-submarine duties and to the new Nimrod aircraft. I rejoined my old Squadron in Scotland. ‘After several happy years with Nimrod showing its age and no replacement projected, I changed Branches to Education Officer.

After a year at Garnett Teacher Training College in London, I started my new career teaching maths and electronics to radio and radar technicians on various stations. Latterly, after promotion to Squadron Leader, I ran my own training squadrons until my retirement in 1995.

‘During my Service I was lucky enough to be presented to the Queen and in turn I presented my wife, Angie, and 6 of my young officers to the Queen. I also met Princess Margaret, Prince Andrew, Princess Anne and Princess Alice of Gloucester.

‘I enjoyed a busy and fruitful life enabled by my attendance at Kingswood Grammar School and since retirement, through KOSA, have gained much

pleasure in rekindling old friendships and making new ones amongst old KOSA members. Thank you KOSA and thank you Old School.'

ROSEMARY DOGGETT (64-71):



'I went to Kingswood Grammar as it was then known in 1964 to the long low wooden buildings, I gradually progressed down the corridors till the sixth form when we were housed in brand new buildings, a Sixth Form college and the science block next door from where we watched the Apollo moon shot take off in 1969. I did English and History at A level, also studied French.

'I did voluntary work on Wednesday afternoons which involved going down to Warmley to take library books for two elderly ladies and going up the hill to Kingswood library. I was hoping to be a librarian but fate had other plans and I worked for a while in Post Office Telephones, Frenchay School of Nursing and for a few years working for a team of social workers covering the St Paul's district which gained notoriety in the riots of 1980.

'I went on to work for the Committee Services at Avon County Council and then I worked for 27 years in the Rent

Service which fixed rents between landlords and tenants.

'I am now enjoying retirement, belong to the u3a, the Bristol Old Vic Theatre Club as well as my local church. I belong to a book club and enjoy going on coach trips to places of interest. I also enjoy being a great aunt to three great nieces and a great nephew. I now live in Fishponds. Having lived in Bristol 63 years I think that qualifies me to be a Bristolian, even though I was born in London.'

BOB GRAY (49-56) KOSA ex-Chairman



'At KGS I played rugby for the school and for Kingswood Old Boys RFC, now Kingswood RFC, and when I left KGS in 1956 I started work as a Quantity Surveyor with a small company in Berkeley Square, Bristol.

'After completing my training I worked for two building companies and then for Imperial Tobacco Company as a Quantity Surveyor in the Group Technical Services department. This meant working on building projects all over the country for the many companies in the Imperial Group. In 1977 I went to

Reading to work on the new Berkshire brewery which was being built close to junction 11 on the M4 (it has since been pulled down and replaced by a Tesco warehouse). I worked on this project for 5 years concluding in 1982 when our department was closed and I was made redundant.

'This was quite a problem having a wife and 4 children to look after. Sherry and I decided we would like to start a career in catering, so we launched our Sherry and Bob Gray Catering Services. As we were unable to make a living straight away, we did a multitude of different types of jobs including putting two extra bedrooms in the roof to lodge university students I even took a job with the bakery delivering bread.

'I carried on Quantity Surveying part-time for several builders and we were offered the catering contract at the New Work Trust Co in Station Road Kingswood and by then we had built up a small number of outside catering jobs.

'In 1999 we got the contract for catering at The Freemasons' Hall in Park Street, Bristol. This was a very big contract working six days a week serving 500 meals a week, which we did for 9 years, after which we decided we had had enough, having worked 21 days without a break, bearing in mind we were in our 60s by then.

'After finishing at Park Street we still had our outside catering jobs, including KOSA lunches, Y's Men's dinners, wedding parties, funeral wakes etc. We didn't retire until about 5 years ago and we still do a few jobs, mostly charity work.

'On the social side I have been a Scout for nearly 80 years, initially joining the 28th Bristol (1st Downend) Cubs and then moving to 151 Bristol Fishponds Baptist Scouts in 1948 where I am still a member and Group President. I gained my *Queen's Scout Award* in 1954 and was awarded the *Silver Wolf* in 2015 (the highest award for scouting). I was in the cast of the Gang Show at the Bristol Hippodrome from 1971 to 1991.

'I'm a founder member of the Kingswood Y's Men's Club since 1960 and am currently Club President for the 5th time. I'm also a member of Redcliffe Lodge in Bristol and the 1904 Arts Club, formerly the Bristol Savages. I still had time to marry Sherry, my wife of 63 years, have 4 children, all married, 10 grandchildren, 4 married, and 4 great grandchildren.'

RETIREMENT...

PETER MALPASS (48-55) has written to us, updating his activities:

'I sincerely hope that someone comes forward to become editor of *KOSA NEWS*. A few editions back MARGARET LOVELL (50-55) paid tribute to your work, I fully endorse her sentiments. Through *KOSA NEWS* you have kept the KOSA family together – thank you. It would be a great shame if the Association should flounder. I enjoy reading each edition, although not knowing many of the personnel mentioned.

'It is a pleasure to read of the successes and achievements of former pupils of KGS and its successors – MP's, Bishops, Scientist etc. In edition 9 you published my letter outlining my career since leaving KGS until my retirement in 1993. I didn't completely leave ed-

ucation as I was appointed County Council Governor to a local Primary School, becoming its Chairman, and to the appeals board of a Comprehensive School. I also had a spell as Clerk to the local Parish Council.

‘Although Ridley on one occasion accused me of being idle, that has not been the case since retirement. Ann, my wife, and I have been active with charity work, community organisations and the local church. It was a result of these post retirement activities that we attended a Garden Party at Buckingham Palace in May 2022 – a very memorable occasion.

‘Our family and their offspring continue to thrive. Elder son Paul is domicile near Toulouse in France and is Director of the Commercial Department of the Satellite Division of Airbus. Our younger son, Andrew, is one of the senior partners in a firm of accountants. All three grandchildren attended University with Paul’s two sons gaining 2.1s and our granddaughter a first in Law and she has also represented England Under 20s at the 1500 metres.

‘Retirement has seen us travel worldwide, ocean and river cruises as well as guided tours.’

BOUQUET...

GRETA AMOS (49-51) (now Cooper) writes:

‘Just to say a huge congratulations and thanks for the amazing time and effort you have given over the years in producing the above. It has been wonderful to receive that certain size envelope drop through the letterbox. All chores set aside until the issue has been read.

‘It is a great shame that no one as yet

has stepped up to take over but there is a great air of apathy these days and lack of commitment alas.

Anyway you and Eileen will I am sure find plenty to do in filling the gap taken up by production of *KOSA NEWS*. Have fun, thanks again and best wishes,’

IN VERSE...

Our thanks to DOUG COATES (54-63) who, from down-under in New South Wales, has expressed his thoughts in verse. We can assure Doug that his Latin seems to have stuck, as it’s been checked by EILEEN MATTHEWS (52-59) who has A-level!

KOSA - Klose to Klosure

KOSA NEWS is in a quandary and its future is in doubt

As our editor Mike Bendrey has announced he’s bowing out.

Is there no-one who’ll step forward to fill the vacancy?

So edition sixty-four will be the last one we will see.

Mike’s many years of *KOSA NEWS* has kept us all informed

Of how we were and how we fared through Grammar days and later years,

Of classmates, teams and teachers and school operas performed.

You’ve recorded our achievements and noted those who’ve passed away.

Revived memories, shown old photos, told our tales of yesterday.

So thanks from all, for all you’ve done,

Much gratitude from everyone

Bona Fortuna et Vale.

ANOTHER PROF...

Another of our many professors has come to light. JAMES TOOLEY (70-78) is now Vice-Chancellor at the University of Buckingham and a truncated history of his career is taken from Wikipedia.

James holds a PhD from the Institute of Education, University of London, an MSc from the Science Policy Research Unit, University of Sussex, and first class BSc honours in Logic and Mathematics, also from the University of Sussex.

He began his career as a mathematics teacher in Zimbabwe (1983 to 1986), before moving to the National Foundation for Educational Research in England in 1988. He held short-term appointments at Simon Fraser University, Canada, and the University of the Western Cape, South Africa, while completing his PhD.

His first post-doctoral position was with the University of Oxford's Department of Educational Studies, under Professor Richard Pring. From Oxford he moved to the University of Manchester in 1995; at the same time he also created the Education and Training Unit at the Institute of Economic Affairs in London.

James was professor at the University of Newcastle upon Tyne, where he directed the E. G. West Centre. For his research on private education for the poor in India, China and Africa, Tooley was awarded the gold prize in the first International Finance Corporation / Financial Times Private Sector Development Competition in September 2006. From 2007 to 2009, he was founding President of the Education Fund, Ori-

ent Global, and lived in Hyderabad, India. He is currently chairman of education companies in Ghana (Omega Schools Franchise Ltd) and India (Empathy Learning Systems Pvt Ltd) creating low cost chains of low cost private schools.

He also holds an appointment as an Adjunct Scholar at the Cato Institute and serves on the Advisory Council of the Institute of Economic Affairs as well as on the Academic Advisory Council of Civitas: The Institute for the Study of Civil Society. He also serves on the Board of Visitors of Ralston College, a start-up liberal arts college in Savannah.

A REQUEST...

DAVID LUNN (60-67) is missing some photos of his time at KGS:

'I was sorry to hear that KOSA is being wound up. I am afraid that it seems to be a common problem these days. I was a member of a flourishing astronomy club in Tiverton, but the committee had been running it for about 20 years and wanted to retire. Unfortunately no-one was prepared to take on any of the roles and the club folded.

'Thank you for all of the work that you, and the rest of the committee, have put in over the years.

'I have been meaning to contact you for some time. I cannot find any of my school form photographs, and wonder if you have copies of any of the following?

1961 Form 1B
1962 Autumn term Form 2T, Spring and Summer terms Form 2G
1963 Form 3A



1964 Form IV B
 1965 Autumn term Form V G, Spring
 and Summer terms Form V Remove
 1966 Tutor Group 6 1 Ho
 1967 Tutor Group 6 2 Sy'

KOSA has been able to supply David
 with 1963/66 and 67, but if anyone can
 supply the others please send copies
 to KOSA and to David on:

david.lunn@btinternet.com

In the photo (above) of GEOFF
 HOCKING'S 6.1 of 1966, David is sec-
 ond left in the back row, in glasses.

MINORITIES...

At Committee member MARGARET
 REECE'S (55-62) birthday party
 (congratulations, Margaret!) your Edi-
 tor sat with ANN JAMES (53-58) (now
 Butterfield) who supplied him with the
 photo of 5M in 1958, together with
 some names on the reverse, as was
 the custom in those days (see right).
 The photo is on page 27. As you can
 see, the boys are in a distinct minority
 - four boys and 21 girls. Even the form

mistress is MISS SPILL! - How come?



TWICKERS...

Who remembers those coach trips to
 the Old Twickenham with Kingswood
 Old Boys' RFC to witness, (standing!),
 an international?

The early morning start, the stop-off for
 coffee before the M4 was built, the
 occasional trip to Harlequins' ground
 for a pre-match match and the trip to
 Soho afterwards. It's a good job what
 occurred on the Twickenham trip,
 stayed on the Twickenham trip.....



BIRTHDAY BASH...

GEOFF COLE (55-60) and ROGER WINDSOR (55-60) have sent KOSA the following letter:

‘We would like to invite you to join us at the next (final?) KOSA lunch on Saturday 12th October 2024 at Lincombe Barn, Downend together with as many friends as we can muster as we will, by then, have all achieved that magnificent milestone of our 80th birthday. This will enable us to remember those friends we have lost along the way, some recently and others a long time ago.

‘We organised a similar get together in 2015 when 14 were able to come along which re-formed friendships from a long, long time ago, many of which have continued since, so it was a great success.

‘It would therefore, be even better if we could get an even larger party together, not only to celebrate our birthdays but

to give Mike Bendrey and the rest of the KOSA team a rousing send-off for all their efforts over many years.’

The booking form is enclosed. As we hope to reserve seating for the 55ers, please indicate whether you wish to be with their party - Ed

WHAT COULD HAVE BEEN...



In the KOSA archives we have a beautiful metal blazer badge obviously made as a one-off example of what could be available to KOSA members.

At the lunch in October we hope to have available some keyrings on which will be the School coat-of-arms and the motto, so you won't forget KOSA!

WE REMEMBER THEM...

We are indebted to ROY HUBBARD (53-60) for the obituary of TONY DOWN (55-62) who passed away suddenly on the 14th March 2024. The typical photo of Tony was supplied by JANE HODDER (55-60) (later Shewring) taken at a 55ers get together in 2023.



Born and bred in Kingswood he was a real "Kangsurd" lad. As well as being particularly adept in languages his main early interests lay in scouting, sport and the outside world.

At KGS he was a Prefect from 1960 and became Head Boy in the Summer Term of 1962. He was captain of both the Haskins House Rugby team and was Captain of Rugby and of Athletics, as well as being picked for the Bristol Public & Grammar Schools Senior team. Tony also represented the school at cricket and athletics and was even a reserve for the newly-reformed Soccer team. On the academic side, he was awarded the German Prize, the Cotswold Prize for Public Speaking

and a County Major Scholarship to enable him to attend Reading University to read Modern Languages.

As an avid member of the Kingswood YMCA he was part of a group of boys who remained friends for the rest of their lives. It was through the YMCA that Tony achieved the Gold Standard of the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme. Tony spent many a Friday evening playing basketball in the Summer or table tennis and snooker in the Winter. Whitsun camps at Limpley Stoke, night time hikes, as well as silly Christmas pantomimes were other favourites at the YMCA.

On leaving Reading University, he engrossed himself into a marketing career, in the chocolate and food industries, before branching out and setting himself up in his own business, specialising in selling cheeses and allied high quality products to the commercial and public markets.

In later years of non-active sport, he loved following England Rugby, both at home and abroad, the Bristol Bears, Arsenal FC and England Test Cricket. His other passion was that of the world of nature, especially the study of birds and all things woodland, as well as taking many foreign holiday adventures. Tony was also generous in his support of those who were less fortunate than himself through his various charitable donations of money, food and other necessities. He also loved his colourful gardening exploits as well as helping others with theirs.

With more time available during retirement he loved entertaining as well as being entertained by his old friends. Those who come directly to mind are

the likes of ANDREW 'Olly' CROMWELL, PAT JONES, ROY HUBBARD; as well as other Old Scholars such as GEOFF COLE, ROGER WINDSOR and DAVID ANN, a few retrobates of the team of the 55ers. Everyone loved his company and he will be sorely missed.

In the last *KOSA NEWS* we reported the passing of DAVID 'Skipper' HOPKINS (49-53). JOHN BISHOP (52-57), a relative, gave Dave's Eulogy at the funeral at Westerleigh Crematorium in April 2024:



'David was born in 1937 in Kingswood, played on 'The Tump' and went to High Street School from where he passed to KGS. At KGS he was keen on sports and became Champion Boy on one occasion, being a quarter-mile runner.

'After KGS, David joined ES & A Robinson Ltd before doing his National Service in the RAF when he served two terms on Cyprus, which was then

in the grip of EOKA, which campaigned for union with Greece. He returned to Robinson's after serving in the RAF and he worked in the Chief Accountant's Department. It was here that your Ed met David after we had left School.

'He played Soccer in Cyprus, and throughout his life he enjoyed many sports – Athletics, Cricket (he was also an umpire), Table Tennis and Golf. He briefly played Rugby for Barton Hill, RFC which he later supported socially as a life-time member, although a non-drinker himself. David was a serious Table-Tennis player and played for the Page Institute of the Bristol League. He invested £90 in a bat (a serious sum in those days) with which he played Aubrey Simons, the England International, who won gold medals in the World Table Tennis Championships. He lost, even though Simons was in his 80s at the time!

'David was a family man who never married and regularly visited his mother when she was in a home until she died in 2008. David was described as a cautious man, who rarely seemed to get out of second gear when driving!'

The photo is of David in his RAF days,

We have received a note from her daughter, Jo Mir, to inform *KOSA* of the passing of her mother:

'We have recently received in the post a news letter from *KOSA NEWS* for my mum JANET BRAIN (56-62) (later Hawkins). Unfortunately my Mum passed away in October 2024 after suffering for a few years with an auto immune disease. I am unsure of the date she attended but her date of birth was Dec 1944.

'Mum went on to be a teacher spending most of her teaching career at Redfield Edge Primary school. She was also a Methodist Local preacher and was involved greatly with the Kingswood circuit.

'Your News letter was lovely and I know Mum always enjoyed reading it. I thought I would let you know of her passing.'

Michael Pearce has informed us of his wife's passing:

'A neighbour, CHRISTINE STENHOUSE (68-74) (now Rose) lent me her copy of *KOSA NEWS*; I noted that it's almost your last - which is always a shame.

'My wife, HILARY PROSSER (58-65), was Head of School at Kingswood School in 1964-65. Unfortunately Hilary died on September 26th 1973, after battling oesophageal cancer for 5 years. She brought up three wonderful boys (from her first marriage) and being a well respected child law solicitor and author of child law books, written in her prior married surname of Prosser.'

We have found that Hilary was in the chorus of *Pirates of Penzance* in 1963 when she was also awarded the Eaton Verse Speaking Prize. She also received the Parent Teachers' Association Prize in 1965 when she left KGS to go to Bedford College, London to read Sociology. Two books to which Michael refers were *Perspectives on Residential Child Care: An Annotated Bibliography* and *Born to Fail? (The National Children's Bureau reports on striking differences in the lives of British children)* (with Peter Wedge).



A letter from his wife has informed us of the death of TERRY GOLDSMITH (51-56). Terry was awarded the 5A form prize as a result of O-level results in 1956.

VIC YEOMAN ((55-60), (who recently made his 125th. donation of blood, aged 80) has informed KOSA of the death of his sister JEANNE YEOMAN (45-54) (later Crew):

'My sister Jeanne, 1945-52, died on 2nd May, aged 90 at her home in Chipping Sodbury with some of her family with her. She had 3 children, 7 grandchildren and 11 great grandchildren. She was extremely proud of all her family which when all together numbered 32!. All of them, except 4, lived within a few miles of her. Until the last couple of weeks Jeanne was still able to get out and about and enjoy a good conversation.

'I would like to pay tribute to my sister LINDA YEOMAN (53-60] who, for many years, had a daily phone call with Jeanne and also went to see her almost every Saturday morning. Also, thanks to Lin's husband, Mike (not ex-KGS) who, latterly, drove Lin to Jeanne's. Lin has her own health problems.'

We have also received the sad news of the passing of BARBARA WILLS (44-49) (later Ashley), PAT MORLEY (45-49) (later Lovell), STEVE HOLLEY (69-74), PAT HAYWARD (50-52) (later Hitchman) and BARRIE FILLINGHAM (51-57) and BRIAN 'Bert' YOUNG (57-61). Condolences to all their families.

KOSA MATTERS...

THE FUTURE

Although *KOSA NEWS* will no longer be published, we are still happy to provide a service handling queries about tracing old friends from school, as we still have quite extensive records. Just send your queries to the Editor (retired)!

We still hold duplicate copies of *Kingwood Chronicles*, the annual School magazine which we would be pleased to mail to anyone who would like to receive copies on a first-come-first-served basis. The spare copies we have (in reverse order) are: 1953-54, 1952-53, 1949-50, 1945-49, 1941-42, July 1939, July 1938, July 1937, July 1934, July 1933 (2 copies), July 1931, July 1930, July 1929, July 1928.

We also hold back copies of *KOSA NEWS*, too numerous to itemise. Just get in touch if you require a back copy to be posted to you.

WORLD-WIDE...

As well as being widely distributed throughout the UK, *KOSA NEWS* has been sent to Old Scholars in many other countries, viz Ireland, Canada, USA, France, Germany, Cyprus, Switzerland, Australia, New Zealand, Spain, South Africa, Gibraltar and no doubt passed on by members to many other countries. As we close, we still have over a thousand members on our database.

SUPPORT...

We are grateful for the support of all our members, particularly those who have contributed to *KOSA NEWS* both financially and literally, and those who have attended our reunion lunches. If

any prizes are to awarded for distance travelled, then it must go to DEREK BAILEY (49-53) our member from Colorado, USA.

Derek was a regular attendee at our lunches and he informs me that the shortest distance by airline between Denver and London is 4,685.71 miles (7,540.92 km). We have also had members dining with us from Canada and Australia, but they were not as regular as Derek was. Congratulations, Derek! Thanks for your support.

A suitable point to remind you that our final lunch is at Lincombe Barn, Downend on **Saturday, 12 October**. We hope you will make a special effort to attend. Form enclosed which should be sent to the Editor on this occasion.

THANKS...

We have sent a retirement gift of thanks to CHRIS SAWYER who, while on the staff of Kings's Oak Academy, has been instrumental in putting editions of *KOSA NEWS* on the Web so that you can access all editions. We wish her a long and happy retirement.

NEWS...

As we go to press we are sorry to read the news that BILL HAXWORTH, who was Head from 1972 and now lives in retirement in Bath, is accused of being involved in the death of his wife. The case will be heard later.

LAST WORDS...

The last words are contained in a poem by ROY HUBBARD (53-60) which we have featured on the back page instead of the usual photograph. 'Bye for now.....



Last night when I was dreaming
My mind on such a high,
I heard the tune Jerusalem
And thought of days gone by.

Of boys and girls in brown and blue
To K G S they came,
When schools were Tech or Grammar
And rugby was its game.

The outside world embraced them
And sent them on their way,
With minds that were so rounded
To live a decent way.

So to bond us all together
For those living here or there,
Mike started KOSA magazine
With diligence and care.

As we grow old and fewer
In the sunset of our years,
'Tis time to end our magazine
And dry away our tears.

Our gratitude is boundless
Our friendship ever strong,
We'll meet again no doubt one day
And sing with pride our old school song.

REQUIESCE IN PACE