



# KOSA NEWS



NUMBER 7 - SPRING 1996

The Magazine of the Old Scholars of Kingswood Grammar School

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## EDITORIAL:

Thanks to all of you who have been in contact since the last edition of KOSA NEWS. The turn-out to the tree planting and the subsequent lunch on 14 October 1995 was marvellous and seemed to be enjoyed by all. We were delighted to see everyone, but to particularly welcome Old Scholars from abroad such as DEREK BAILEY (1949-53) from Colorado, USA, JIM WITHEY (1944-53) and his wife ANN (nee SUTTLE) (1951-52) from Ontario, Canada, and EILEEN CASTERA nee (BEECHAM) (1934-39) from Capbreton, France. Eileen, whose home is called 'Villa Willsbridge' (I wonder why?), told the Editor that she is more used to writing in French, so when we get her promised letter there could be yet another competition in KOSA NEWS - a French translation....!

My apologies to LEE (LENA) LOADES (nee AMOS) (1929-35) whose reminiscences I mentioned in the last edition, but failed to print her letter. I have tried to correct this in this edition, but I now know how the editor of the 'Grauniad' feels! I now have a scanner, so can now scan letters and photographs for future editions, so please keep those letters and memorabilia coming, and do let us know if we have been a help in reuniting old friends!

Mike Bendrey, 26 Overndale Road, Downend, Bristol, BS16 2RT Tel/fax:9565689

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## DIARY DATES...

### SPRING REUNION:

The next reunion will be on FRIDAY, 29TH MARCH 1996 at Kingsfield School. There will be a short AGM at 7.30pm, followed by a reunion, buffet, chat, a chance to meet old friends and (we hope) some entertainment. There is a form enclosed with KOSA NEWS, so please fill in the form and get it to TREASURER FRANK RAWLINGS as soon as possible. Frank's address is 74 Oakdale Road, Downend, Bristol BS16 6EA. Tel: 0117- 956 1050.

### AUTUMN LUNCH:

Lincombe Barn in Overndale Road, Downend has already been booked for SATURDAY, 12th OCTOBER 1996 for the regular Autumn Lunch. We expect to produce another KOSA NEWS before then, but please put the date in your diary NOW!

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## **THE TREE PLANTING...**

The planting of an English Oak took place in the grounds of the Old School on the morning of 14th October 1995 in memory of those Old Scholars who served in the Second World War. The tree was ably planted by the combined efforts of KOSA Chairman PEGGY BOLT nee OTLET (1938-43), Kingsfield Headteacher and KOSA President DAVID LEWIS, and former prisoner-of-war JOHN BERRY (1932-38) whose interesting story has been told in previous copies of KOSA NEWS.

There was tremendous support from many old scholars, some of whom were wearing their war medals which added to the sense of occasion. We hope that the photos in the centrefold will give those of you who missed the occasion a flavour of the event.

Our tree is as yet small compared to the Old Oak, which still dominates the grounds in which it stands. However, we have high hopes that students in the future will be as eager to pore over their books under its branches on a warm summer's day as we were under the Old Oak in our day.

The ceremony was rounded off when Peggy unveiled a plaque in the Kingsfield School Octagon reception area. The plaque reads:

"KINGSWOOD OLD SCHOLARS' ASSOCIATION"

"AN ENGLISH OAK TREE WAS PLANTED IN THE GROUNDS OF THE SCHOOL IN OCTOBER 1995 TO COMMEMORATE THOSE OLD SCHOLARS AND STAFF OF KINGSWOOD GRAMMAR SCHOOL WHO WERE KILLED AND INJURED DURING THE SECOND WORLD WAR AND THOSE WHO SERVED. THEY HELPED TO MAKE VICTORY AND PEACE POSSIBLE"

"THIS PLAQUE WAS UNVEILED BY MRS P. BOLT, CHAIRMAN OF THE OLD SCHOLARS' ASSOCIATION ON BEHALF OF ITS MEMBERS AND IN THE PRESENCE MR D. LEWIS, HEADTEACHER OF KINGSFIELD SCHOOL"

"ESSE NON VIDERI"

It really was a day to remember them.

## **ADDITIONS TO THE LIST...**

In KOSA NEWS No.6 we published a list of those Old Scholars and Staff who had lost their lives during the war. As we thought, the list was incomplete and many members have been in touch to add to the list. JOHN BAILEY (1937-43) informed us of his brother, RICHARD BAILEY (1921-?) who was shot down over France in 1943, and GEORGE BRERETON wrote to tell us about his good friend P. MOUNTFIELD, who was in the Royal Navy, who also lost his life.

## **MORE ADDITIONS TO THE LIST...**

BOB DYKE (1930-35) was kind enough to write:

'During my time at KGS I lived at Mangotsfield, and two other residents of the village who progressed to KGS were DONALD ROBINETTE (1930-34?) and RICHARD MAGGS (1931-36?). Donald was in the Army and Richard in the RAF, both were killed during hostilities, but where, when and how I do not know.

'Regarding the letter from JIM WITHEY (1944-53) about the Naval Cadets. In about 1943 I was home on leave, soon after assuming command of a motor torpedo boat and met MR (POP) SEARLE who persuaded me to give a talk to the cadets. I think I chuntered on and the 'boys' were probably bored stiff. Shortly before my talk the Unit received a visit from JOHN VINCENT (1928-33?) of the Royal Marines, and I believe he was also killed later, but I could not be sure. Perhaps an Old Scholar could confirm. MR SEARLE and BONEY BRITTON were the two masters in charge, so I assume that BRIAN SAMMONS took over in late 1943 or 1944.

I enjoyed the 'Frampton Footwarmers' at the Reunion, and I would be all in favour of something similar at a future event'

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RACHEL HARDING (nee PENNY) (1947-52) writes:

'I notice in KOSA NEWS NO.4 that BRENDA MILLHOUSE (nee ANSTEE) (1928-34) mentions some names, one of which is HARRY WILLIAMS. He was my uncle, my mother's youngest brother. Sadly he was killed whilst flying in the early part of the war. I was rather too

young to remember him, but my brother, JOHN HARDING remembers him well as an exciting young man dashing around in a red sports car.

(HARRY WILLIAMS was included in our list of those who lost their lives in the last edition. He is also referred to by Maurice King from Oz. A real coincidence! - Ed.)

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## **EARLY REMINISCENCES...**

LEE (LENA) LOADES (nee AMOS) (1929-35) writes:

'I was one of the notorious Downend gang which included PHYLLIS WATTS, RUTH and JUDY SPRACKMAN, PEGGY SALTER, EILEEN LONGDEN and JOYCE IVORY. We used to cycle to school and were invariably escorted home by a caravan of boys!

'We were all in the 1st hockey team and therefore in the MAJOR'S good books and we continued to play for the Old Girls' Team for several years. I went to Cheltenham Training College, taught at Downend Junior School for 3 years, married, moved to Bury St Edmunds, produced 2 sons (one in Bristol), and settled here in Sudbury, Suffolk in '45 and taught in various schools with my husband.

'I loved KGS - I remember reading plays under the Old Oak Tree, the staff hockey matches (even FLOSS POWELL took part), hot Sports Days - languid tennis matches - Speech Days at Kingswood - bitterly cold plunges at the Warmley Swimming Pool (what a travesty of a name!). We all turned blue, especially if the pool had just been filled with spring water, but we were tough! Most of our gang survived riding pillion on NIGEL TRANTER'S bike, and RENNIE DUNN sometimes drove a car into which at least 20 people crammed.

## **A MESSAGE FROM OUR CHAIRMAN, PEGGY BOLT:**

A visit down Memory Lane - is nostalgia a thing of the past ?

The wonderful attendance at the tree planting, the unveiling of the Commemorative Plaque and the annual celebratory luncheon afterwards, showed us otherwise. The Lincombe Barn was bursting at the seams with 104 members and friends - filled to capacity!

We may have been commemorating 50 years since the end of World War 2, honouring those staff and pupils who served, many being injured and some killed but who made victory and peace possible, for us to enjoy, but I am confident that by honouring them, we honoured each other with comradeship, friendship and many, many, pleasant memories of our own schooldays. I think it's called nostalgia.

The co-ordination, collaboration and goodwill of our President, David Lewis, together with the able support of the Committee and a number of "co-opted volunteers", made possible the success of the events of Saturday, 14th October.

Among the many aspects of the Annual Luncheon, a significant one was the presentation of a £100 cheque to David Lewis (Head Teacher), as a token of our regard for Kingsfield School.

KOSA is going from strength to strength and as the membership grows, we look forward to many more happy events. Our editor, Mike Bendrey, will enlighten you about them through future Newsletters.

Please continue to support KOSA, and we look forward to seeing many of you in 1996.

The next date to remember is that of the Annual General Meeting AND Social Event at Kingsfield School on 29th MARCH 1996. The AGM is the time when your Committee has to be re-elected, so any KOSA members wishing to stand for election should put their names forward.

A belated but nevertheless sincere Happy New Year to you.

**PEGGY BOLT (nee OTLET) (1938-43).**

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## **THAT PROBLEM...**

The maths. problem taken from DOUG. EDWARDS' University of Bristol First School Certificate Examination of July 1950 created a lot of interest. GRAHAM WINDSOR (1948-53) was the first answer received with full workings, and therefore Graham won the free meal and we were pleased to see him at the October lunch. The correct answer was 70 boys paid 120d each (10 bob in real money!), and was subsequently submitted by PEGGY BOLT nee OTLET (1938-43), JOHN DAVIES (1938-43), DOUG EDWARDS (1945-50), JOHN FLOWER (1938-45), ANDREW TROTT (on the STAFF in the 1950s), VIC YEOMAN (1955-60) and many others!! Thanks for your interest.

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## **LEE LOADES (continued)**

In the original wooden building there was a trap door in the ceiling of the Boys' Prefects' Room and on one memorable occasion, when we were innocently learning shorthand in an after-school session, the boys crept along the rafters and tapped on the ceiling of our room. MISS HISCOX fluttered madly! Incidentally, I shall always remember the 'foof' smell from that room and also the clouds of smoke which billowed out from the Men's Staff Room. I really could go on and on with such happy memories....'

## NEWS FROM OZ:

MARY BENTLEY (1942-49) writes:

'The NEWS is getting fatter - like many of us Old Scholars ! How delightful to read of the 'doings' of so many familiar names, I was particularly pleased to see GORDON and RICKY WICKENS were still stretching the horizons of the Old School; I remember that Gordon, who started at KGS on the same day as my brother, 'Oscar', attempted to introduce Rugby football to the lunch hour games menu - and had to elect himself referee to escape damage.

'I was also pleased that it had been decided to plant an oak tree to commemorate the men and women who had been sacrificed during 'our' war. As you say, future generations can sit beneath its spreading branches, and hopefully feel secure in knowing that, through obedience to what was seen as a worthy cause, they may escape that fate, and perhaps build a fairer world.

'I knew the KIDD twins GEOFF and JOHN, living next door to them at Mangotsfield. They joined the RAF together, went to Canada to train together and, like most twins, had a lot of tales to tell of mixed identities - some deliberate. Because they were identical in physical appearance, even their air crews needed the embroidered names on the flying suits to recognise their captains. They both came through many hazards, but remained together despite the concerns of senior officers about having them on the same operations. They were supporting the Maquis when John's plane failed to return one morning: for a long time he was 'missing', and 'the eventual presumption of death while a secret mission' had to be accepted. Geoff continued to fly, even after he was demobbed at the end of the War - piloting for BEA as it was

then. The last address I had for him was at 1 Brympton Close, Dorking, Surrey - you might like to try and contact him. The Twins were also members of the KGS 1st XI, and their photos were part of that long gallery of teams that used to line the long corridor.

'Regarding the activities at Reunions - I hope to be present in 1996 if your dates remain much the same. It would bring back many memories for the folk of the 1940s if you included some country dancing in your programme. We might have to go half speed, but I think most of us would be game to try. Progressive dances are always a good way to get things moving, anyway.

'Thank you again for sending KOSA NEWS 'down under'. I am trying to wrack my brains to recall the content of the mural in the Prefects' room, but it escapes me.'

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Also 'Down Under' lives MAURICE KING (?-1952) who writes:

'I enjoyed the letter from HAROLD WATTS very much and remember my brother PAUL KING playing one of the pirates in 'The Pirates of Penzance' in which Harold took the lead....I also remember being outside the staff room during the lunch hour and hearing MR HODSON and MISS QUINTON rendering some G&S duet accompanied by BONEY BRITTON on the violin....also the Roll of Honour Board in the cross corridor and being shown the names of two brothers who lost their lives in Bomber Command, and won the VC. Can anyone confirm if my memory is correct?

'I believe the H WILLIAMS mentioned in your list of those who lost their lives was

my uncle HARRY (SAM) WILLIAMS. He would have been at KGS 1928-33 as he had a sports trophy awarded to him when he was in the Metropolitan Police in 1934. He had a front-wheel drive open sports car in which he drove like a maniac!

'May I express my best wishes to everyone.'

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### **MORE NEWS FROM OZ...**

ANN KINGSBURY nee TOWELL (1952-57?) writes from Perth, Western Australia:

'IRENE FEWS nee LUFFMAN (1952-57) sent me KOSA NEWS NO.5 and I spent an hour or so reading it from cover to cover, trying to identify the people in various photographs...I was disappointed at being unable to attend the reunion in April 1991... but I really enjoy reading the magazine...and, yes, I still have my 1953 Coronation Commemorative Medallion, complete with box!

'Seeing the form photographs, I spent a month or so going through various boxes trying to track down my Form IVA photograph of 1956. Our form teacher was MISS SPILL, I think, and after all these years I can name all the girls except for one girl on the second row on the end (left facing). I would love to hear from PAULINE GERRISH of Cadbury Heath (on extreme left front row). I haven't heard from her since we left KGS and we were good friends right from Primary School at Cadbury Heath and then High Street, Kingswood. I'm still in touch with PAULINE HARMER (4th from left, 2nd row), and see BRENDA SARGEANT (3rd from right, front row) when I go to church when I am in England.' (See photo on page 21)

### **COINCIDENCES...**

A week or so after the October Luncheon your editor had lunch with JIM WITHEY (1944-53) and his wife ANN (SUTTLE)(1951-52) who were visiting the UK from Canada and just managed to work in the KOSA events! There was much reminiscing and Jim mentioned a rugby head injury he had received at school. A couple of days later the following letter was received from DAVID PETERS, a contemporary of Jim's:

'JIM WITHEY I remember out cold with a nasty head wound on the rugby pitch - "C\*\*\*\*t, you can see his brains!" said someone, sadly unrecorded. Among those I know well but failed to recognise in the team photo were JOHN SALTER, GEOFF ANN and DON BREDDY. We played for the YMCA on leaving KGS until someone said "Here, we're all old boys, why don't we play as Kingswood Old Boys?" So we did. I was always grateful to Mr. Ridley for introducing rugby to the school: the exact location of the ball, which I could not see distinctly, did not matter as much as in soccer. Thanks to KGS and the encouragement of JIMMY WILD I went on to play for the Army and the Combined Services in Malta. Headmaster CN RIDLEY was a very good rugby referee, though frequently moved to utter "Offside by a MILE, Peters".

'I don't know about motorcyclists allowed to ride to school but PETER WALLINGTON, with me on the pillion, certainly rode out of the school probably without permission on our last day in 1952.'

'Sad to say, I have never come across any ex-KGS in my travels, though GORDON JONES turned up on my doorstep this year after about 36 years.

## OBITUARIES...

It is always with sadness that we announce the passing of KOSA members and those who were associated with the KGS in whatever capacity. Our sympathies go to their families and friends.

ALAN DREW (1953-58) appeared in the photograph which appeared in the last edition which recorded the 40th Anniversary of Kingswood RFC. His sister CHRISTINE DYER (nee DREW) (1945-50) writes:

'My brother, Alan, died on October 3rd 1995 aged 53 after only six weeks illness. Having recovered so well, and with such courage, from a cancer operation three years earlier, it was a great sadness for his family to see him struck down again.'

'Neither Alan nor I were academics at school - I played tennis and hockey - but Alan has always taken a keen interest in everything from world affairs, to the history and changes in Bristol, and was always a good source of information. He worked for the Bristol Evening Post and for many years was a leader of youth clubs and specialised in encouraging youngsters in sports activities. He was an enthusiastic supporter of Keynsham Lions Club and loved walking, photography and had a great interest in steam trains.'

'Alan was a 'larger than life' character and will be greatly missed by his wife and two sons, his family and his many friends. Thank you for KOSA NEWS and the pleasure it gave Alan in recent years.'

EDITH BAILEY (1953-78), wife of JOHN BAILEY (1937-43), passed away on 3rd September 1995. John writes:

'We met in Germany early in 1947. Edith was a typist/interpreter in my unit office, and she always said that my fate was sealed on my first meeting.'

'After coming to this country she obtained the position of secretary to HEADMASTER RIDLEY, a post which she retained from 1953-1978. She was the eleventh member of the Bailey Family who either worked or attended KGS, including RICHARD, who started in the first term of 1921 and was shot down over France on 25th September 1943.'

'Edith always enjoyed her years at KGS, especially watching her son PETER pass through the school, although this was not always to his liking!'

GEOFF HOCKING, who taught Maths from about 1954 until his retirement, and was largely instrumental in getting the Editor through 'O' level, passed away towards the end of 1995. Geoff's wife, PAT, writes:

'Thank all the old scholars for their condolences. We had a wonderful funeral service, the church was full, and one of our sons, Chris, gave a eulogy on his father, and our daughter, Teresa, read the lesson. A former pupil whom Geoff had taught at KGS, DAVID WHEATLEY, played the organ as our church organist was on holiday. It was a very 'Blessed' Service'

IRIS SMITH (nee BENNETT) (1931-35) passed away on 2nd January 1996 aged 76. IRIS and EDNA STEPHENS (nee POWELL) were friends at the age of 5 years and remained friends ever since. They met frequently together with EDNA'S husband FRANK (1930-35).

## STAFF REDISCOVERED...

MARY DOWN nee JONES (1943-50) has discovered MISS MARGARET DAVID, who taught Latin at KGS from 1944 to 1952, living in retirement in the Cotswolds, and Miss David was kind enough to write a long and interesting letter to KOSA NEWS:

'MARY and NANETTE MILLINGTON visited me here in Chipping Campden where, after leaving KGS, I spent 21 happy years as Deputy Head and another 22 years of retirement in this lovely Cotswold town....During the last two years I have lost my sight and everything has to be read and written for me which rather slows things up.

'I shall always regard KGS with affection. From the beginning I was aware of its warmth and friendly atmosphere. MAJOR EATON was driving me to the station after interviewing me and he said 'May I ask if you intend to accept the post?' 'Oh, I do' I said enthusiastically, and I added 'Do you intend to offer it to me?' and he replied 'Of course!'. What an auspicious beginning for any job! I liked him very much as a headmaster. He had the inestimable gift of being able to administer a rebuke without causing offence. One day I found a note in my pigeon hole to the effect that he expected attendance at Prayers to be habitual and absence occasional and he was sorry that I had reversed this. It wasn't that I disliked Prayers, but I was always busy with theatricals. I hastened to correct my priorities.

'MAJOR EATON often had a querkish humour which often led to unexpected replies. Once at a Christmas Party a game of musical chairs was arranged for the staff, with the masters sitting on the chairs and the mistresses tripping round ready to flop onto the nearest lap when the music stopped. I landed on Major

Eaton's and with a slight grin he said 'Something sticking into my leg!' 'It must be my suspender' I replied 'I am awfully sorry, but I can't do anything about it' 'Neither can I' he said. I was very sorry when he retired.

'I also liked CHARLES HOWARD (CHUCKLES), the Senior Master. He did something which I had never known any other Maths Teacher do. In his first lesson with a new form he gave a basic explanation of stocks and shares and told the pupils to bring a newspaper to the next session. He then guided them into making imaginary investments of £100. Each week after that he arrived with the 'Times' and they recorded their progress. I wish someone had done that for me.

'He was in charge of the School Fund and if you wanted anything not provided by the LEA you had to try to wheedle something out of him - and his handouts were considered very mean. He lived 8 miles from the School and MISS PRICE and I had a flat quite near him so he gave us a lift to School. One day I said that I had been asked by some friends to spend Easter in Paris but I couldn't afford it. 'Do you want to go?' he asked, and when I answered 'Yes' he said 'Borrow the money'. In view of his hard-fisted reputation I was scandalised. Then he said something rather sad. 'All my life I have promised myself that when I retired I would go round the world. I am retiring at the end of this year and have the money but no inclination.' He never went.

'I took over the teaching of Latin from MISS QUINTON who had decided that she preferred to teach Scripture or, as she called it, Divinity. She was always most helpful and encouraging.

'MISS PERRY was a gentle and endearing mistress who taught French, mainly in



the Lower School. On the first morning of a school year she came into the staff room at break with a very amusing story. At that time the desks were flat with no place for books which had to be kept in the stout wooden lockers with double doors which were fixed to the wall at shoulder height all round the classroom. The pupils had to share each locker and MISS PERRY wrote the names in chalk on the doors. One boy's name was VEAL and she asked who would like to share with him. A hand shot up and when she asked his name he said 'HAM!' 'That's quite enough of that' she said 'I can see that you are one of those boys whose name I shall write in my little black book' This was like a police record, and at that time veal and ham pie was very common.

'I did see MISS PERRY once again after I had left KGS when I went down to a reunion dinner, the year after MAJOR EATON had died and when MISS QUINTON presided so charmingly. I was very sorry to find that MISS PERRY was quite unhappy. She had retired but her brother had died and she was living alone in the suburbs of Bristol. She felt it was very unsafe to go out at night and taxis were very expensive and unreliable and so she was lonely and rarely went out.

'MISS PRICE, with whom I shared two flats left to teach first in Cardigan and then in the Isle of Man. I had two happy holidays with her there. She is now retired, but is troubled with arthritis.

'My closest friend on the staff was WATTERS. She came when the school began and stayed all her teaching career. She lived in 'The Little House' in Frenchay with her sister Eileen, who was a kind of 'universal aunt' to the mistresses and came to their help in time of trouble. She twice helped us to move houses, she was a marvellous cook and we had many

happy Summer Teas in her garden and cosy Winter ones indoors. When MISS WATTERS retired they decided to go back to their native Scotland. They sent their furniture ahead and drove up themselves in a leisurely fashion, spending the first night with me in Chipping Campden.

'They brought me a marvellous Chinese tea set, with eggshell cups and adorned with rich colours and gold. Their uncle, a sea captain, had brought it out of China at the Boxes Rebellion at the beginning of this century. It is one of my treasures and comes out to add to the splendour of Christmas.

'I went up for several holidays to see her and in later years when Eileen had died I drove up with a friend and stayed with her for a week. She always thought of lovely things to do like going to the theatre at Pitlochry or over the mountain to Deeside, Balmoral and Braemar. We went up the lovely glens which ran from Kirriemuir like the fingers of a hand towards the Cairngorms. In the evening we did crosswords and played Scrabble and she lost none of her alertness. She said the week was the peak of the year for her and it was for me too. She died a few years ago on Christmas Day. It was a great privilege to have known her.

'MRS DAVIES left to go to Rhodesia where her husband took up a post of headmaster at a boys' school in Plumtree. On their return they settled in Bassett near Southampton as her husband was in the English Department of the University. She was not allowed to read for five years, and her husband also had trouble with his eyes which they were told was caused by the brilliant sunshine of Rhodesia. She is now a widow and has a son, Gavin Davies, who is a well-known financial adviser in London and can

sometimes be seen on television giving reports on money trends.

'MRS INCE (BAGSHAW) had a very chequered life. She left to get married and went to Bermuda for a year where her husband was stationed. Immediately on their return he died quite tragically and she returned to teaching, first in Newton Abbott and then in Alcester. She retired for health reasons but recovered sufficiently to exercise her great skills in calligraphy, carpentry, jewellery, and beaten copperwork. She was able to take her beloved vintage Austin 7 to rallies. One year she took it to Denmark and drove up into Norway and was given the woman rally driver of the year award, a huge twisted crankshaft mounted on a long board. I think she was relieved to hand it over at the end of the year to the next winner! In July 1995 she heard quite suddenly that she had terminal cancer and died a month later, a great loss to all her friends.

'MR BRITTON (BONEY) was a delightful, kindly, vague man and an inspired teacher of English, although he made no attempt to gear it to examinations. His 5th forms realised that they were not going to be spoon-fed and that they must do something about it themselves, which was both good for them and very successful. He once astonished and delighted the school by appearing on the field for a staff hockey match with a pair of shapely legs clad in immaculate purple knee-length socks. Who would have imagined that such a dandy lurked beneath that shambling, casual exterior?

'MISS MARRISON was another inspired teacher. I once had a 14 year old French boy staying with me who spent all day for a week listening to her lessons. When she retired she returned to her native Gower Peninsula and devoted her life to

raising money for the Save the Children Fund with such outstanding success that she presented a purse to Princess Anne and was invited to a garden party at Buckingham Palace. She is now in a residential home and was not well enough to go up to Westminster Hall to receive one of seven awards from Princess Anne. Last year she produced a book called 'A Childhood in Mumbles & Gower' and, in a few weeks, over a thousand copies were sold, all the profits going to SCF. Princess Anne accepted one with the words 'She seems a very interesting person. Give her my best wishes'

'This is mainly the news from a staff point of view. I thought that you might be able to pick out a few snippets.'

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### THE ART of H V WATTS...

As readers will know we managed to trace HAROLD WATTS in deepest Cornwall last year and were pleased to welcome him and his wife MARJORIE to our March 1995 reunion. Since then Harold has supplied us with a host of reminiscences and photographs which we will be including in future editions of KOSA NEWS. By way of introduction:

'I am not certain in my own mind that news of the Beast of Bodmin has reached the ears of folk living in the Kingswood District. It was with trepidation, therefore, that I entered the portals of Kingsfield School to attend the Reunion and AGM of KOSA. However, the organisers must have known that I was quite harmless as I was told that KOSA might (at a stretch of the imagination) be interpreted as OK Self Assured! All then was well.

'Here are some facts about myself and a few thought about the subject I taught. I am a Bristolian by birth, attended Fairfield Grammar School and proceeded from

there to the West of England College of Art where I was awarded my ATD (Art Teachers Diploma). My first appointment was at Buxton College, my second at Tiffin School (Kingston upon Thames). I was then appointed to KGS by MAJOR EATON as Head of the Art Department, and left after about 12 years service. I taught for thirty years, and had to retire on the advice of my doctor on health grounds.

I found, generally, when asked what occupation I followed, people would reply, 'Oh, how nice!' I have an idea that what they thought was, 'You have a nice cushy job, you get money for jam.' Perhaps on reflection they were quite right, but I do not know that I would quite agree with them! It is not my place here to defend the place of Art (and other cultural subjects) in schools. I will however say that at KGS I found a wealth of talent, and am proud that many pupils went on to gain high honours and pursued rewarding careers. I hope that many of the less gifted students enjoyed working in the Art Room and found it had value for them. To those who think that to study Art is a complete waste of time, 'Just open your eyes and look around you.'

'I was interested to read recently in a copy of the 1964-65 'Kingswood Chronicles' a passage written by HEADMASTER RIDLEY (a few years after leaving the school), 'It is good to remember that the School has a high reputation in Art and Music as well as academic subjects and the present members will have to work hard to maintain the standards of their predecessors.' (How true - Ed.)

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## WAR MEMORIES...

VIC AMOS (1937-42) writes as a result of our list of war casualties listed in KOSA NEWS NO.6:

'I look forward to reading ALAN SCADINGS'S notes on firewatching as I was a 'regular' from late 1942 until mid 1944. Our original base was in the old Domestic Science room but we later moved into the main school to the form room next to MAJOR EATON'S study. Sometimes a master would also be on duty, usually either MR. MORGAN or DOC. BLOOM, which was a nuisance as DOC. BLOOM especially liked to keep us talking until all hours about the war, politics, in fact every subject under the sun, presumably in the hope of improving our minds. All we wanted to do was sleep - it was bad enough being woken up at three o'clock in the morning to sign for our nightly stipend of three shillings. That amount, small as it was, was very useful In those days when my weekly pay from Lloyds Bank was only £1. 5s. 6d. I cannot say that it was the basis of any great fortune in later life, but it kept me solvent at the time.

'There were no incidents during my time as a firewatcher which was probably just as well. What two of us could have done if a plane load of incendiaries had descended on the school I cannot imagine. I suppose it would have saved some future fire-raiser the trouble! I do remember, however, being on duty on the night of one of the 'Baedeker' raids on Bath - very spectacular when viewed from the front of the school but not, I imagine, to the citizens of Bath.

'In the 18 months that I was a firewatcher several friends from our then recent school days shared the duty with me, most frequently DICK BLAXILL in the earlier days and ROY TIPPETT later. Towards the end of my 'stint' volunteers were in short supply and some of us were doing as many as three nights a week at times. All this came to an end in mid-1944 when I exchanged the 3/- per night for the army conscripts 3/- per day -

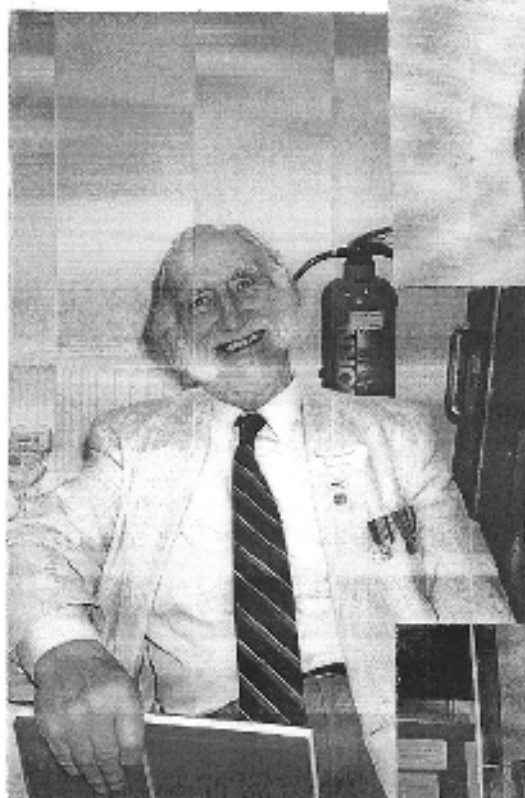


THE PLANTING  
JOHN BERRY (1932-38), PEGGY  
BOLT (OTLET) (1938-43) AND  
PRESIDENT DAVID LEWIS  
PLANT THE ENGLISH OAK  
IN THE SCHOOL GROUNDS



A COUPLE OF 1921ers!

JOSEPHINE SCUDAMORE  
(WHITERN)  
AND GLADYS NELSON  
(ANSTEE)  
Both 1921 to 1928



COMPLETE WITH MEDALS!  
WAR VETERAN JOHN VINCENT  
(1927-34) TAKES A WELCOME  
REST AFTER ATTENDING THE  
TREE PLANTING IN MEMORY  
OF HIS COMRADES.

THE UNVEILING  
CHAIRMAN PEGGY  
BOLT (OTLET)(1938-43)  
UNVEILS THE PLAQUE



OLD FRIENDS!

VALERIE PRETLOVE  
(FOX)(1951-58), DEREK  
BAILEY (1949-53)  
FROM COLORADO  
AND MARION COOK  
(LONG)(1951- 56) POSE  
BEFORE THE  
AUTUMN LUNCH

I was expected to actually earn that too!

'A name to be added to your list of those to be remembered in this 50th anniversary of the end of the war is FRED LLEWELLYN (1937-42), a very good friend and sometime fellow firewatcher, who gave his life for his country in the so-called Corfu Channel Incident in 1946 at the age of 20.

'JIM BURGESS (1939-45) wonders what happened to MR. RILEY. A few years ago (I would guess 5) I saw a notice in the Deaths column of the Daily Telegraph which I assumed related to him. Lifetime at Cheltenham Teachers Training College, sports, etc - everything seemed to fit. He was well into his 90s. No one who saw his '1066 and all That' will ever forget it. He was also the only master who got me interested in football, an interest which I regret to say did not survive his departure.'

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## **FIRE WATCHING AT KGS 1941 - 43...**

In KOSA NEWS No.6 ALAN SCADDING (1936-41) gave us the first of three articles on KGS in wartime. Here he covers the fire-watching days:

'Among the many duties performed in World War II, I think I must rate fire watching at KGS amongst the most unusual.

'Some of us in the V and VI forms had visited the Warmley Fire Station with MAJOR EATON at the time of Dunkirk in May - June 1940, to receive about 20 minutes instruction in the use of stirrup pumps and other methods to deal with incendiary bombs.

'Our names must have been retained in

some secret file, because when I left school in July 1941, I received a note from the Headmaster's office, inviting me to become a fire watcher at KGS for one night a week. I did not rush to accept the new honour, as I first attended the 7-day ATC. Camp at Coleme and then the 3-week KGS Farm Camp at Berkeley. I was also supposed to be choosing a career and seeking an employer.

'By October I was settled down in an engineering apprenticeship at Fry's Somerdale, but the wages were decidedly low at 12s.6d. per week (63p). I made enquiries and found that fire watching for one night at KGS paid about 15s.0d. (75p). Moreover, rations left out for supper and breakfast were quite generous. KGS was also nearly half way between Downend and Keynsham and so I could get up later than usual. The Luftwaffe were also, by Autumn 1941, paying much less frequent visits to the Bristol area, as they were now concentrating on the Russian Front and Atlantic shipping. All these factors encouraged me to join in the fire watching duties.

'I turned up at the School at about 8.30pm on Thursday nights. One of my school colleagues, MORWYN BURGESS, was my duty partner. Occasionally, one of the temporary teachers was on duty with us, usually a sports teacher (name unknown) with a Welsh dialect and wearing a track suit. We had no instructions and no list of fire appliances, just a telephone, a few stirrup pumps and buckets of water. Food was left out on covered plates and pay in envelopes. We wandered around the school buildings with dimmed torches and generally slept on camp beds in the offices of either MAJOR EATON or his secretary. A telephone call woke us on time in the mornings, and having toasted the bread on the office electric fire, we departed by bicycle at 7.00am to our

various employment locations.

'MORWYN BURGESS departed for the R.A.F. in early 1943 and so I continued mostly on my own for a time. I developed a technique of cycling round the school on my pushbike to check all was in order. Only once was there an air-raid warning and that only lasted about 20 minutes. What would have happened if a serious raid or fire had occurred I try not to think about. I do not know who was on duty on other nights of the week and what took place before 1941, or after I left in Autumn 1943.

'In Spring 1943 there was a big drive nationally for everybody to do some Civil Defence function or other duty. Local people from Warmley were conscripted to do fire watching at KGS and about half a dozen turned up each night and slept in the Library or the Biology Lab. They did not seem to receive our privileges in the way of food or pay. I now received a note to say that as an ex-KGS person, I was to be in charge when on duty, the Welsh-dialect teacher having now disappeared from sight. Drunk with power I had to conduct a type of Duty Officer's rounds at 9.00pm. I sensed a certain lack of enthusiasm from those conscripted local persons.

'These routines continued, as far as I was concerned, until September 1943. My employers then sent me away on a full-time course to Manchester and later I joined the Navy.

'I remember one incident particularly well - with slight guilt. Just before my partner's departure for the R.A.F. in 1943, we played football in the Masters' Common Room at dawn, and broke a window. Showing considerable maturity, he declared that the new young temporary teachers would blame each other for this

damage. We never heard another word.'

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## WHERE ARE THEY NOW...?

DAVID ROSEVEAR (1945-53) is living in Portsmouth and is chairman of the Creation Science Movement, which as the Evolution Protest Movement was founded in 1932. As you can see from the following letter, he speaks regularly across the UK on the question of origins, and is the author of the book 'Creation Science'. David writes:

'Thank you for getting in touch this summer. The KOSA News 6 was, of course, most interesting, and I particularly enjoyed receiving news of ANNA BLENKINSOP (1952-1952)...

'Please excuse me from attending the October Luncheon. I'm afraid I am lecturing in Letchworth, a date arranged last year. I enclose a notice about it in lieu of a note from my Mum (as tendered most weeks to Jimmy Wilde to get me out of games.) We would love to have come if we had been free. Hopefully we can make it on another occasion. It will also be a chance to visit my brother and sisters in Bristol.

'My friend DOUGLAS EDWARDS has written that mutual class-mate JIMMY WITHEY would like a copy of my book on Creation Science. Please pass it on to him with my best wishes.

'For your interest, I was at KGS from '45 to '53 before doing national service with the RE in Egypt. I married JOAN WHITTLE of Downend in '54, and I think we shall make a go of it. I got my first degree part-time while working for ICI at Welwyn, and did the doctorate at Bristol. Since then have lectured at Portsmouth, taking early retirement 5 years ago. I now average more than one lecture a week on

Creation Science in the UK and Europe. We have 3 sons for whom we would like to find good homes.

'I was sorry to see on a visit a few years ago that they have filled in the quarry where we used to swim near the school. The trains don't run by Siston Common either. Even nostalgia is not what it used to be. Do any of your members recall the lorry driver who daily took us from Weston Zoyland harvest camp in 1948 to Bath Racecourse to pick flax ? He would weave over the little roads to prevent other traffic passing. We would pick our way into the middle of the flax field, do a right angle bend and clear a space to lie down, hopefully unobserved, until tea-time.'

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MAUREEN JONES (1947-53), now living in exotic Hanham, has sent KOSA NEWS a potted history of her career since leaving KGS:

Born in 1936, she made her first public appearance at the age of three at a concert organised by her mother at Paul-ton, where she sang "Mighty Lak' a Rose". Her mother, Doris Mogridge, was a well known professional singer and teacher. Doris was to guide and help Maureen all through her professional career. Becoming busier than ever, she decided to put Maureen, at the age of 12, with another teacher, Elsie Blakeborough, to ensure that she had a lesson every week. Through the guidance of them both Maureen went on to win hundreds of first prizes in Eisteddfods all over the country, including the Championship Class in Wales twice.

At the age of nineteen, Maureen auditioned for the well known broadcaster Jack Leon. A season at Southsea followed with Jack and his Light Orchestra.

Here she sang Grand Opera, Light Opera, Musical Comedy, popular ballads and had to keep up with the Top Twenty of the day! She sang 150 songs a week and was not expected to repeat a song within a fortnight. A vast repertoire was needed and thanks go to her mother for making her learn all those songs! They were booked again for the following summer having broken all records in the first six weeks. The audition that Maureen did for Jack Leon proved to be the only one she ever did - the premise being that if Jack asked you back for another season, you must be able to sing! He was a hard taskmaster! In the winter break Maureen worked and studied hard for her LRAM, which she attained at the young age of nineteen.

During this time she also won a Sain-ton Dolby Scholarship to the Royal Academy of Music, where she studied under the well known singer and professor Henry Cummings. She won many prizes and in 1958, at the age of twenty-two, the coveted Kathleen Ferrier Award. This proved to be a busy year for Maureen. She represented Great Britain in the Commonwealth Festival of Youth and deputised for Maria Callas on television. In 1959 she became an Ann E Lloyd Exhibitioner at the RAM and in her final year gained her Recital Diploma. During her time at the RAM she represented them on many occasions in concerts and oratorios, singing with the London Symphony and the Royal Philharmonic Orchestras and with the London Mozart Players.

Being a Dramatic Coloratura, with a range of three octaves, Maureen was soon in great demand for singing the "lighter side" of music. Her repertoire ranged from Grand Opera and the Queen of the Night's Aria to "Love is Where You Find It!" Concerts, cabaret and broadcasting followed. She travelled to Scotland many



times to renew her friendship with Jack Leon, who was now Conductor of the BBC Scottish Variety Orchestra. Her work with the BBC continued with recital programmes and the experience gained from her early work with Jack Leon proved to be invaluable when she had her own series with the Peter Martin Light Orchestra and the Arthur Parkman Trio.

Summer shows continued during this time, working with the late Tommy Trinder, Arthur Askey, Arthur English, Mike & Bernie Winters, Harry Secombe, Frankie Vaughan, Russ Conway, Ronnie Hilton and Norman Collier.

Maureen is now a Teacher of Singing and Voice Production and is a member of the Association of Teachers of Singing. She is the Vocal Secretary of the Kingswood Arts Festival. The vast knowledge and experience gained over her career is now being passed on to her students.

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### A FINE BUNCH...

THE FLOWERS, JOYCE PURVIS nee FLOWER (1936-41), JOHN FLOWER (1938-45) and NANCY BOWDEN nee FLOWER (1942-45) have all been in touch. NANCY writes...

'I left KGS in 1941, after taking the School Certificate, and went to work in the laboratory at Magnal Products in Warmley. The following year I joined the WAAF, but was discharged after a year with eyesight problems and then joined the Observer Corps at the HQ in Clifton. MARGARET MORRIS of Hanham, who was a couple of years older, was there at the time, but I think she later went into teaching and became a headmistress.

'After a year I left and went into uncertificated teaching, intending to apply for a college place. Instead I met an airforce

officer, got married and started a family up here in Northumberland. We celebrated our Golden wedding last year.

'I kept in touch with MISS WATTERS right up to her death, and scholars of KGS I remember are BARBARA WILLIAMS, MARGERY WINWOOD, EILEEN GROVE, MURIAL HICKS (who went to Girton College to read Maths), BILL SANDOVER and BILL BROWN (another teacher, I think).

'Does anyone remember the dancing classes MR KEATS and MISS MORRISON used to take in the Hall at lunchtimes? I also remember very clearly the day when MAJOR EATON announced the first war casualty - McILWRAITH. It was quite a shock to most of us, as it was the first person we had actually known to be killed'

JOHN FLOWER, JOYCE'S brother who lives in Mangotsfield, writes:

'My years at school covered the whole of the war, and memories abound. Some teachers joined the forces, others came from schools that had been closed. (I remember MR MORGAN in particular) or were drafted in. As with most schools at that time, most had nicknames - POP, MA, QUINNY, CHUCKLES, BONEY, BUNNY, FROGGIE, but I also remember some irreverent verses composed about them possibly by some of the upper fifth in 1941. I remember two of the verses:

'Of MISS QUINTON, a dedicated teacher, a thoughtful and caring person who unfortunately taught the most unpopular of subjects - Latin:

Quinibus satisbus at the deskorum

Descibus collapsibus - Quinny on the florum.

'Of DR BLOOM, an excellent chemist, who should have been in a research laboratory. Teaching did not come easily to him:

'At school we'd a Chemistry master  
Of his job he'd not got the hang,  
One day we'd a sort of disaster  
When something went off with a bang,  
When the smoke cleared away we said  
brightly,  
There's nothing been damaged at all,  
Not a mark has been left save that  
slightly  
Conspicuous splash on the wall.  
We were utterly wrong  
For we found before long  
That our master had gone - do you see,  
That mark on the wall  
Was no mark at all,  
As a matter of fact it was he.'

---

### CATCH UP WITH WILLIE....

BRIAN WILLIE (1947-54) now lives in darkest Devon, and in spite of some recent heart trouble he took the trouble to write to KOSA NEWS:

'Since leaving KGS in 1954 to 'do' Geography at Liverpool University (yes, 'SCRUFFY MORRIS' achieved other things besides accuracy with a blackboard-rubber!) I have had little contact with Bristol...For the last 40 years or so, life as a student, YHA warden, mountaineer, unemployed layabout, horticulturalist, husband (now widower), parent and teacher (30 years) in London, Wales, the Midlands and Devon has afforded little time for indulging in school days' nostalgia - until now, that is!

'Here in the calm serenity of my Devon bungalow fate decreed that an unheard publication, KOSA NEWS No.4, should fall into my hands, followed by 5 and 6.

Suddenly there they all were again - MAJOR EATON, CHARLIE HOWARD, QUINNEY, BONEY BRITTON, JIMMY WILDE et al! May I offer you a few personal snippets?

'MOGGY' MORGAN - rumoured to be a communist and yet another projectile man. I swear to this day he nearly decapitated TERRY MINCHIN with the inevitable blackboard rubber in 1948!

'FROGGY' DAVIES - his hat and overcoat were always on by 3.58pm and by the time the bell had stopped ringing he was half way to the gate by the gym.

'FISHY' SAMMONS - the aesthetic appeal of his handwriting inevitably palled by the time one copied the third blackboard-full! Chemistry and I parted company by mutual agreement at the earliest opportunity!

MISS (ESME?) VAUGHAN - Bless you! 'A' level English was one of the greater pleasures of life. I still enjoy the metaphysical poets and Thomas Hardy. As for the time, effort and good humour you put into that school production of 'Much Ado' (I played Benedick!) my admiration remains unbounded.

'JAKE' SPEAR - 'Please sir....speech training....sir....please sir!' 'All stand!' All windows flung open....'Breath deeply.... deeply....The Leith police dismisseth us....She sells sea shells on the sea shore....' And of course those junior Art lessons....' Draw large and bold! Fill the page!...' What? On a piece of paper the size of a postage stamp??? Still, paper was in short supply in 1947.

'There are of course a million memories, but let me move on to the fellow pupils. A significant part of my teenage years was spent planning the seduction of SHEILA

BENSON. Sadly I was severely retarded in that department and a stroll on Syston Common and a visit to the Ambassador Cinema was about as far as my technique and finances went. To my horror I discovered that she had her eye on a certain Tony, not even a KGS man! Unfortunately, I rather liked him when I eventually met him and they later came to my own wedding as Tony and SHEILA POW. Where are they now?

'Many more names come to mind...' SPIV WILLIAMS, 'SPOOKY' COLE, DAVE KING, BARRY RATCLIFFE, BRENDA AMOS, KATHLEEN VANN, MIKE WHITFORD, MICHAEL 'STICKLE' BRITAIN, KEN LANGDON, LAWRENCE MERRICK, PETE 'SKINNY' WALTERS, JEAN LOVELL, HEW PARRY, PADDY YEOMAN, JUNE HOLDER, DAVE HILLING.....and on...and on!

'Such talent as I possessed during my years at the 'cow-sheds' lay in the cerebral and verbal, rather than the physical fields, although I was once 12th man for the school second XI cricket team and came 5th in a field of 5 in the shot-put on Sports Day when Fussell came bottom yet again! There are many fond memories of 'Dido and Aeneas', 'Pirates of Penzance' and 'Much Ado', the choir concerts at the Colston Hall, and the Geog/Bio, field trips to the Gower. Does anyone remember the thousands of coloured glass marbles we placed in neat piles along the beach at the behest of MR POPLE? Their location the following morning was supposed to illustrate the extent of the geographical phenomenon known as 'longshore drift'. Never found a single bloody marble!

'The Good Old Days? Yessir, The Good Old Days!!'

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## IN THE NEWS...

Sometimes KOSA NEWS is notified of Old Scholars in the news, or mentioned in publications.

FRED WARD'S (1953-61) memories were quoted in a booklet on the 'Britannia' 'plane crash in Downend in 1957, 'Death of a Giant' by Richard Randall. Do you remember this?

'I was a pupil at Kingswood Grammar School, affectionately known as the 'cowsheds' at the time. As a 14 year old the whole event brought excitement and adventure right into my neighbourhood. Details of the crash leaked out and rumour spread around the school. I remember being somewhat fearful myself as I lived in Heath Walk, only a stone's throw away from Overndale Road. After school, I rode my bike home, but encountered Police blocks at Cleeve Hill and the emergency vehicles parked everywhere. We couldn't get very close then, but in the evening my friend and I set out to try and see what was going on. We often played in those Woods and knew the paths and entrances. So we easily got through the Police cordon by using the disused lane alongside the Tennis Club in Cleeve Hill. Once in the Wood we soon became terrified by the changed environment. The force of the crash had altered the ground contours and trees had been felled, there were heaps of buckled metal and strange smells and noises. I am sure our imaginations played havoc with our senses, for my memory seems like a nightmare. We didn't stay long, as we had become overawed by our daring. The game of adventure had become the reality of tragedy. At last we saw the havoc and destruction and knew people had actually died in those familiar Woods. I didn't sleep that night, and blocked out much of the experience. Both my friend

# TOGETHER AGAIN!

## Family meets up after 30 y

**TWO sisters have had an emotional reunion with the little brother they adopted during the Second World War.**

Eileen Whittern from Dawpend and Rita Cockram from Kingswood, lost touch with Derek Bailey after they last met up 30 years ago.

But the pair, whose parents took the war evacuee under their wing after he fled London in 1940, immediately set about making up for lost time when he

returned to see them last week.

Derek, 59, who now lives in the United States, was just four years old when the Sanford family saw him in a Kingswood children's home and took pity on him.

For several years, the little boy lived with Eileen, Rita and their parents at their home at Siston Common, Warmley, and

was treated like one of the family.

He explained: 'Here I was living in this strange city with a family I didn't know and yet they treated me like their own.'

'Who knows who I might have ended up with if the hadn't taken me in - it would have been with another family who I might not have done so well

with or it could have even been an orphanage.'

Fondly looking back at old family photographs Rita said she was seven years older than him but they still got on quite well.

'He used to go everywhere with us and was quite a good little boy - very helpful and willing and mad on model planes.'

Derek, who recently retired from his job with a Denver oil company, decided to drop in on the sisters when he returned to Bristol for a reunion at Kingswood Grammar School, where he was a pupil for several years.

'It was sort of a roots thing,' he said. 'I was beginning to think, did these folks really exist or was it all a dream?'

Rita and Eileen plan to introduce Derek to the rest of their family before he returns to America next month.

## Charity pilgrimage -by bike!

**AN AVID cyclist has launched an appeal to raise £1,500 for a sponsored bicycle ride in Israel.**

Vic Yeoman, 52, of Chandag Road, Keynsham, plans to raise the money for SCOPE, formerly known as the Spastics Society.

He plans to cover a gruelling 350km over five days in March - but is confident the challenge will not pose any difficulties.

'I cycle as a hobby for exercise, so it won't be a problem. It's only 60km a day - a piece of cake.'

'But I want to help SCOPE as they are the biggest national charity which helps people with cerebral palsy.'

Mr Yeoman hopes that 150 volunteers will support his money raising drive, which starts in the Mediterranean and ends in Jerusalem.

If you would like to sponsor Mr Yeoman write to him at 97 Chandag Road, Keynsham, Bristol, or phone him on 0117 986 2814.

**ON YER BIKE:** Vic Yeoman, of Keynsham, hopes to raise £1,500 to help cerebral palsy sufferers from a bike ride in Israel

# Le Club est magnifique!



TODDLERS will be dancing Le Gouzi-Gouzi - otherwise known as the Hokey-Cokey - as they learn French with teacher Paddy Millward.

She teaches children as young as three, copying the way children learn English at their mother's knee, in Le Club Français.

Paddy, 58, of Sally Barn Close, Longwell Green, study French at Bristol University and at the Sorbonne in Paris. Later she worked in public relations at Bristol City Council.

She says she tried to teach her three children French, with no success.

But now she realises her technique was wrong - all nouns and verbs.

Learning at Le Club Français is fun, with lots of singing and hardly any writing.

"When you start teaching children at 11, they are inhibited and don't want to make a fool of themselves. They're too frightened to speak.

"If you start younger, they get an enthusiasm for it," she says.

Le Club Français was founded in 1987 by linguist Linda Ellis. Paddy has a licence to teach under its name.

From September, two clubs will meet at Longwell Green Community Centre and another two at Cherry Garden School.

If you are interested, telephone 923467.



and I haven't been back to those woods since.

FRED WARD - WARMLEY'

The local press reported DEREK BAILEY'S (1949-53) visit to his roots last October when we were also pleased to see Derek, all the way from Colorado, USA, at the Autumn Lunch at Lincombe Barn.

VIC YEOMAN (1955-60) is planning a charity bike ride in aid of SCOPE, formerly Spastics Society, in Israel in March 1996. If you wish to contribute to the £1,500 Vic is pledged to raise, then phone 0117 986 2814. He would be pleased to hear from you.

VIC YEOMAN'S sister PADDY MILLWARD (1945-54) was also in the news some time ago when she ran 'Le Club Francais' at Longwell Green Community Centre.

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### **KEN'S CONTRIBUTION...**

KEN COWLES (1932-38) remembers the war casualties listed in the last edition, and adds to them the name of McILWRAITH. Ken writes:

'Thank you for the KOSA news sheets. I found some of the information most interesting. I became positively nostalgic.

'I remember with some sadness several of those listed as war casualties, DUNN, HURLEY, MR.JONES, KIDD (there was a twin brother) JACK STONE, McILWRAITH and MR.TICKNER who, like myself, was in the Royal Artillery. I met him on a "GAS Course" at Larkhill Army Camp. I remember it well because I had not seen him since leaving school and although we were both of equal subaltern rank I had the greatest of difficulty in not calling him "sir", such was the ingrained

discipline of school in those days. The next time I saw him was in northern France. I think it was as my Column was moving into the "Falaise Gap". His Column had halted and he was "doing a leg" against a Telegraph pole.

'I suggest that the MR. "BERT" JONES, music teacher, who obtained a headship was in fact MR."BEN" FUSSELL. I recollect Mr. "BEN" JONES as a rather fierce(to a junior's mind) Chemistry master who died of a heart attack whilst on holiday in the Alps.

'PS. I used to ride an old James 250 two stroke motorbike to school about 1936-7.I remember being rebuked for offering Miss Eyres a lift.'

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### **HARRY WATKINS:**

As this KOSA NEWS was being completed news came through of the sad passing of HARRY WATKINS Jnr (1961-66). Both HARRY and his father, whose passing was announced in KOSA NEWS some time ago, were stalwarts of Kingswood Old Boys Rugby Football Club, now known as Kingswood Rugby Football Club. Both HARRYS will be sadly missed.

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### **MEMORIAL...**

Kingswood Borough Council maintain a Memorial Book at their offices in Kingswood. An entry has been made in the book, a copy of which appears on the back page of this edition of KOSA NEWS.

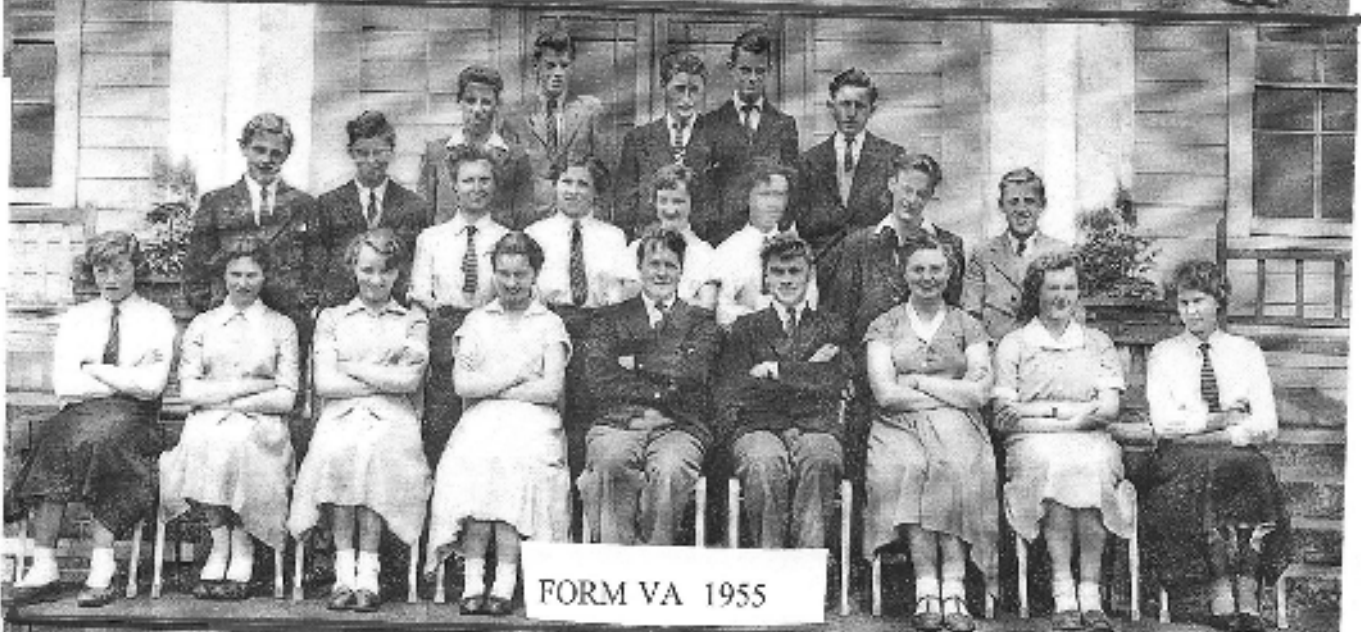
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### **GUESS WHAT...?**

Some form photographs are shown on page 23 from 1951, 1955 and 1959. There is something common to them all. What is it? The correct answer gets a free buffet at the Reunion on 29th March. See you there!!



FORM IV? 1951



FORM VA 1955



KINGSWOOD GRAMMAR SCHOOL

FORM IIV 1959

*To commemorate those  
Old Scholars and Staff of  
Kingswood Grammar School who  
were killed or injured during the  
Second World War 1939 to 1945  
and those who served.*

*An English Oak was dedicated  
at Kingsfield School on October  
14th 1995 by the Kingswood  
Grammar School Old Scholars  
Association.*



### **HANHAM FOLK...**

BRIAN ILES (1945-50), whose wife ANN nee COLES was also at KGS (1949-54), has produced a video, Hanham Folk, which includes songs about Hanham Hall, Willsbridge Mill, Hanham River and many other well-known spots, and featuring the people and places of Hanham. If you are an old Hanhamite and would like a copy, then send a cheque for £8.75 to Brian at 20 Northfield Ave, Hanham, Bristol, BS15 3RB, telephone 0117 960 7425. A £1 goes to the Cancer Research Campaign.

### **POSTSCRIPT...**

As you can see we have increased the size of KOSA NEWS yet again to 24

pages but apologies to those who have been kind enough to write and we have been forced to hold over their letters until the next edition. From GEORGE THATCHER (1930-36)...STELLA GRANDISON (EVERY)...ROLAND HUMPHREY (1948-?)...DOT HOLMAN (CLARKE) (1951-56)...BRIAN PERRY (1945-50)...DORA BOWYER (DUNN) (1933-?)...CHARLES BROWNE (1934-41)...RITA REES MBE (DAVIES)...JOHN DAVIES (1936-43) and sister KATHLEEN DAVIES (1939-43)...LIZ STRONG (HILLING) (1953-58)...REX MONTGOMERY (1941-43)...and many, many more. More news next time.



## THE NEXT REUNION

This will take place at KINGSFIELD SCHOOL, which is on the site of KGS, on FRIDAY, 29th MARCH 1996. The AGM will take place at 7.30pm, followed by the Reunion at 8.00pm. It's the 75th Anniversary of the founding of KGS, so if you know any Old Scholars please photocopy this page and pass on. All Old Scholars welcome!

Notice is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting of Kingswood Old Scholars' Association will take place at Kingsfield School at 7.30pm on Friday 29th March 1996, followed by a Reunion at 8.00pm

### AGENDA

1. Minutes of Last AGM
2. Chairman's Report
3. Treasurer's Report
4. Election of President
5. Election of Chairman
6. Election of Officers
7. Election of Committee Members
8. To fix the Subscriptions for the ensuing year

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### KOSA REUNION AND BUFFET

To: Frank Rawlings, Hon. Treasurer, KOSA,  
74 Oakdale Road, Downend, Bristol, BS16 6EA Tel: Bristol 956 1050

I enclose £ \_\_\_\_\_ for \_\_\_\_\_ places @£8 each for the KOSA Reunion & Buffet to be held at 7.30pm on Friday, 29th March 1996 at Kingsfield School.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Guests' Names \_\_\_\_\_

Maiden Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ If you have any special dietary requirements please inform us

Years at KGS \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_

I propose \_\_\_\_\_ to serve on the Committee

I accept the above nomination \_\_\_\_\_ date \_\_\_\_\_

\*I enclose £3 as this year's contribution towards the cost of KOSA NEWS\*  
\*delete if not applicable

KINGSWOOD OLD SCHOLARS' ASSOCIATION  
 RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED  
 31st DECEMBER 1995

BALANCE AT BANK 1st JANUARY 1995	1,669.87
<b>RECEIPTS:</b>	
KOSA News Subscriptions	686.39
Costs	<u>509.12</u>
Surplus	177.27
Annual Lunch	1,228.50
Expenditure	<u>1,136.50</u>
Surplus	92.00
AGM & Reunion	997.20
Expenditure	<u>902.21</u>
Sales of Books	94.99
Interest Received	147.64
	24.32
	<u>2,206.09</u>
<b>EXPENDITURE:</b>	
Sundry Expenses	27.48
Deposit Downend Folk House Association for 1996 Lunch	45.00
Purchase of Oak Tree	128.50
Purchase of Plaque	85.00
Donation to Kingsfield School	100.00
BALANCES AT BANK 31st DECEMBER 1995	1,820.11
	<u>2,206.09</u>

I have examined the books and vouchers made available to me and in my opinion the accounts set out above form a true and fair view of the affairs of the Kingswood Old Scholars' Association as at 31st December 1995.



signed: Eric R Arnold, FCCA

5th February 1996