



KOSA NEWS



NUMBER 9 - SPRING 1997

The Magazine of the Old Scholars of Kingswood Grammar School

EDITORIAL:



My thanks to all those who have been in touch since the last edition of KOSA NEWS. We have received many interesting letters, all demonstrating that the spirit of Kingswood Grammar School is alive and well. Please pass the word around to all those you know who were at KGS. At present we have over 600 names on the list to whom copies of KOSA NEWS are mailed regularly, but let's make it a thousand by the end of the year! Just let the Editor know any ex-KGS members who would appreciate receiving a copy of KOSA NEWS and it's as good as mailed. Get cracking, and pass on the 'NEWS!

In the next edition I plan to publish an article on the Old Scholars who have found their way into print. Please let me know of Old Scholars who have published in books, articles, magazines and newspapers, and if you can send copies, so much the better. I am also planning an article on sport at KGS, so your stories and photographs would also be very welcome.

I hope you enjoy reading the 'NEWS, but if you have any bouquets or brickbats please let me know. Keep those letters coming!

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DIARY DATES...

SPRING REUNION...

The next reunion will be on FRIDAY, 11th April 1997 at Kingsfield School. There will be a short AGM at 7.30pm, followed by a reunion, buffet, bar, 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 ASAP to Treasurer FRANK RAWLINGS. Frank's address is 74 Oakdale Road, Downend, Bristol, BS16 6EA Tel: 0117 956 1050. The accounts for the year are also presented for your approval at the AGM.

AUTUMN LUNCH...

Lincombe Barn in Overndale Road, Downend has been booked for SATURDAY, 11th OCTOBER 1997 for the regular Autumn Lunch. The application form will be included with the next edition of KOSA NEWS which will be out in the Summer, but put the date in your diary NOW!

IN THE NEWS...

KGS Old Scholars are everywhere. BRIAN ILES (1945-50) has been reported in the past year campaigning against the change of name of the BLUE BOWL hostelry in Hanham. His song against the change of name has been published in local newspapers. Another Hanhamite, ALAN PHIPPS (1944-49?), Secretary of the Bristol Cactus Society, was photographed with his cactus collection on the occasion of the Society's 43rd Annual Show in May 1996. PETER BRAKE'S (1946-51) sentiments on the Bundeswehr's withdrawal from the tank training ground in Castlemartin where Pete lives were published in a national magazine 'Night & Day' in September 1996. RITA REES (nee DAVIS) (1939-45?) of Headway, the head injuries charity, was reported on what the organisation was doing for 'Make a Difference Day' and GLADYS NELSON (nee ANSTEE), at 86 an original 1921er (1921-28), was reported to have attended the reunion of Warmley Church of England School last August.

In December 1996, PROFESSOR COLIN PILLINGER (1954-61), now with the Open University, was interviewed on the prestigious Radio 4 'PM' programme. There has been a lot of discussion recently about rocks indicating life on Mars, and Colin was consulted about the analysis and research which he had carried out in this area.

IN THE AIR...

PAUL DAVIES (1954-61) treated his wife in August 1994 to a BA Concorde trip from Filton to the Bay of Biscay (and back, presumably!). On a guided tour of the flight deck he asked the crew whether they knew of ALAN QUARTLEY, a contemporary of Paul's at KGS and who had joined BA from the RAF. 'Certainly,' replied the guide 'He's the First Officer sit-

ting in the co-pilot's seat there!' They had a good natter, of course.

In 1996 Paul and his wife spent a three week holiday in Canada and on board the BA flight waiting to take off from Vancouver who should welcome the passengers over the address system but CAPTAIN ALAN QUARTLEY, ex KGS, RAF etc. Paul again made himself known, and spent quite a bit of the flight, and the landing at Heathrow, on the flight deck of the Jumbo.

...AND ON THE GROUND...

On holiday in Cyprus in August 1996, the Editor and his wife EILEEN nee MATTHEWS (1952-59) were invited to dinner by some friends and he found himself sitting opposite DENNIS LOVE (1935-39), who has now retired to Cyprus to live. It's certainly a small world!

RUGBY CLUB NEWS...

JOHN COLE (1949-56) writes:

'JOHN BISHOP (1952-57) wrote in the last edition of KOSA NEWS about the Rugby Club and mentioned some of the KGS Old Boys "who have done sterling service over the years". As one who played a minor part, I would like to pay a tribute to the said JOHN BISHOP, who has played the major part in the Club's history. He has filled every responsible role as player and honorary official and his dedication has been instrumental in the Club's survival as well as development. Many will know his wife, MARY (nee GIBBONS) (1952-58) has supported him with tolerance and practical help.

'John's current role is that of President and his focus is to attract school boys into playing rugby. It was fitting that the Rugby Football Union wrote to him to congratulate the club on its 40 years existence in 1994.

'John was wing in the all-conquering (except Lydney!) KGS 1955-56 team, as was COLIN REES of the dazzling attack and deft defence (where is he now? - Ed). Other backs were ROY KING, seller of dummies so outrageous one looked for his opponent on the adjacent pitch! DAVE CHURCH, cool, calm, collecting high balls as full back and never breaking into a canter let alone a sweat; DEREK HARVEY, scrum half, often taking on the opposing pack rather than releasing the skills of MIKE REDGERS (1950-57), side-stepping like a politician, or the mesmerising outside break of DAVID PAGET (1952-56). I'll leave the forwards, including JOHN BREDDY, DEREK MOODY and BRIAN BUTLER (still playing!), to speak for themselves. As for me, my speciality seemed to be getting concussed and trying to score against my own team. Happy days!

JOHN COLE (1949-56, as are all the above except where listed)'

Some of the names mentioned by John are certainly on the old photograph sent by PETER BRAKE (1946-51) on the back page. It's believed to have been taken before an Old Boys match against BAC Aces around 1957/58.

FOUND...KEN POPLE OF THE 50s...

JOHN COLE (1949-56) writes:

'The reference to the Gower field trip in an earlier edition of KOSA NEWS reminded me of KEN POPLE and of the interesting life he has led outside KGS, having better things to do than teach Physical geography to pupils like me!

'I was aware that he went into television

work and that he wrote a well-received biography of the painter Stanley Spencer for his centenary in 1991, published by Collins. As a documentary writer and producer he was instrumental in the creation of over 100 films. One local research project related to Spencer in the Great War at the Beaufort War Hospital (later Fishponds Asylum, subsequently Glenside College of Nursing). Although not screened as a documentary, it led MR POPLE into writing the biography and continuing to lecture as an authority on Spencer's life and painting.

'The book is even impressive at a cursory glance, 576 pages long, divided into 48 sections and using over 150 illustrations of paintings. Pupils who knew KEN POPLE will not be surprised to know that there are a couple of fine hand drawn maps, and with no reference to the Ordnance Survey! MR POPLE modestly states that the book came about by sheer chance and that Spencer's daughters kindly gave him the facilities he needed to understand this complex man whom many regard as the greatest English 20th Century painter.

'In October 1996 I was in touch and am pleased to report that KEN is "alive and more or less kicking" in retirement in Stoke Bishop. He comments that KGS was a most happy school, especially being co-educational and that our generation of the '50s was one of the more fortunate of the post-war years.

'He asked to be remembered to his former pupils and would do his best to attend a reunion that involved them. Here's hoping that it may happen'

IN SAUDI?...

GEOFF HOPKINS (1951-57) is in Riyadh and would welcome contact with ex-KGS bods there. His contact numbers in Riyadh are Phone 4767193, Fax 4763947.

OBITUARIES...

It is always sad to have to report the passing of those associated with the School. The following was submitted by ENID EVANS, Deputy Head of English Department, 1963-82:

'Ex-students and staff of Kingsfield School will have been saddened to learn of the death of MRS JEAN FLOWER in June 1996.

'Jean joined the teaching staff as a member of the English department in 1973 and remained until her retirement in July 1987. She was responsible for teaching English and Drama classes throughout the School up to sixth form level

'Jean proved to be a most energetic and versatile staff member, producing valuable teaching aids in the form of booklets illustrated, often humorously, with her own original cartoons. She enjoyed particularly being 'backstage' during dramatic productions, where she was responsible for 'props'. Here she came into her own, ingeniously producing 'splurge guns' which fired foam for 'Bugsy Malone', blood, cut-throat razors and realistic meat pies for 'Sweeny Todd', for example, as well as publicity posters.

'Additional interests were choral singing and art in which she excelled. A number of pictures have been displayed in local exhibitions and reveal her artistic gifts. Her poetry, too, reveals insight and wit, as for instance in these two poems:

HAPPINESS

Sweet happiness, elusive flower
For those who search too hard,
May bloom some unexpected hour,
Inside your own backyard.

CURRENT AFFAIRS

My husband's a talker
With definite views -
What I say is gossip,
What he says is news.

'Jean will be sadly missed by her sister, her family, her husband JOHN, who was at KGS (1938-45), sons Richard, Paul and Stephen who live locally, her daughter Rachel who works in Thailand, and Jean's many friends'

ENID EVANS (1963-82)

(We hope to be featuring more of Jean's poetry from time to time in KOSA NEWS.-Ed.)

STAN BILLING passed away towards the end of 1996. Stan was a founder member of Hanham Folk Centre and a keen cricketer and umpire.

Another sportsman, FRED CHURCHILL (1929-34), passed away in November 1996. Fred had a triple by-pass operation some time ago and had been in poor health for some time. Fred asked in the 'NEWS No. 4 how many Old Scholars remember the Kingswood Grammar School Old Boys Association Football Club (KGSOBAFC), of which Fred was a player member 1935-39. Our condolences go to Fred's wife Mary and family.

Our condolences and best wishes also go to ESME BRITTON (RIDGE), whose husband BASIL (1940-47) passed away on 18th August 1996 after nearly 3 years of illness following his first stroke, and to all those who have lost loved ones in the recent past.

CUTS FROM BUTCHER...

GEORGE BUTCHER dropped a line, mainly to take the Editor to task for describing him as Head of English. Apologies, but even if he wasn't, he should have been! George writes:

'Can I correct your flattering reference in News No. 8? I must have impressed you all a good deal more than I recall at the time!

'I came straight from Cambridge in 1952 to be the youngest in the English Department under genial MR BRITTON, and was very much in awe of MISS WATERS and MISS WYCHERLEY. It was a long time before I became Head of anything!

'MISS QUINTON appointed me, really. MR RIDLEY may have thought he did. I remember MISS QUINTON'S final address to the School when she retired. She said that one complaint she had heard much too often: 'It isn't fair!'. 'Alas - it isn't meant to be fair,' said MISS QUINTON - thinking as much of life in general, I suppose, as of being Senior Mistress.

'I have exchanged letters with MARTIN HARRYMAN (1951-56), and was delighted to see the photograph of both BURRAGE (1951-56) and HARRYMAN in the last edition. Several names I recognised - in particular JOHN CULLIN (1949-56) and BRENDA WOODMAN (1949-53)(now FROST). I have heard that COLIN WINTOUR (Head of French) has been unwell, but is on the mend and was also pleased to read about HAROLD WATTS (Head of Art) in the last edition of the 'News.'

ANOTHER CORRECTION...

MRS ALICE BRITTON, wife of our very popular English Master, 'BONEY' BRITTON, writes to correct ALAN SCAD-

DING'S article in the last edition. Alan mentioned a meeting in 1941 with MR and MRS BRITTON and their small child at the first of the wartime Harvest Camps. He described MR BRITTON as 'approaching 50, he arrived on his sports cycle with his very young wife.....'.

MRS BRITTON points out that in 1941 he was 41 and "this very young wife" 30! She also points out that she was aware that he was very well liked. Yes, indeed, and apologies for the unintentional error.

POWER FROM WATTS...

Some more reminiscences
from Art Master HAROLD WATTS:

HELLS BELLS

'It was a very happy day when the men moved from their original staff room, a little, so to speak, off the beaten track. For it was soon afterwards that HEADMASTER RIDLEY noticed that the men were often late at the end of morning break in returning to the field of battle. Several times he arrived at the door, consulted his watch, to announce with a kind of menace in his voice "Gentlemen, the bell has gone!" Admittedly the ordinary bell could hardly be heard above the intellectual chatter which filled the men's staff room. However, such a state of affairs was abruptly to come to an end.

'One morning, the end of 'break' was announced by the ringing of a bell, the clamour from which would have done justice to an old fashioned fire engine bell! Those standing were rivetted to the spot; those seated jumped to their feet in a state of great shock. Someone had invaded our privacy by actually fastening a bell inside our room. A clanger had not been dropped, but fastened to the wall.

'It was soon located. I don't suggest that there was a council of war, but I know that it was MR HODSON who came up with the simplest of solutions. Climbing with alacrity (?) on a chair, he inserted a large wedge of paper (carefully folded) under the clapper.....However, it soon became clear to MR RIDLEY that the bell was not functioning as it was intended to.

'So! On the staff room he descended like an avenging angel. As he opened the door, everyone froze. Slowly his eyes traversed the room. with measured steps he took a chair, and with great deliberation removed the offending wedge of paper. Slowly and carefully he descended from the chair. slowly and silently he made his way to the door. He opened the door, turned, and with a sad, sad look at the silent crowd, very quickly and with a great sense of timing he said "Childish, gentlemen, just childish".

'Like shadows the men drifted away, heads hung low. The bell remained, waiting, urgently to ring the changes in the future.'

OUT OF THE BLUE...

PETER MALPASS (1948-56) writes:
'After 40 years the power and influence of SAGA has returned me to the fold. Perhaps my absence arose from the summing up of one of my school reports, which I dug out a little while ago, by MR. RIDLEY "Still cheerful and idle. Long live the former, but we are tired of the latter". You can take your pick of the reason for non contact, either idleness or too busy owing to MR. RIDLEY'S comments achieving their desired effect.

'I've read with great interest editions 7&8 of the KOSA News and was pleased to see that many of my era are still active.

'BRIAN WILLIE lived in Central Avenue,

Hanham and I remember him as a teenager fanatically supporting Hanham Athletic. He had a sister JANICE, who also attended KGS.

'JIM WITHEY is mentioned more than once. I remember Jim appearing in a school Christmas production with his dog. I also remember the production of The Pirates of Penzance mentioned by ROLAND HUMPHREY-not as a member of the cast, but because my note excusing me from games earned me the privilege of painting (with others) the back wall of the stage.

'ROLAND, whose father was organist and choirmaster at Christ Church Hanham where I was a choirboy, mentions remembering WILSON BARNETT I think he means WILSON BARRETT. Wilson corresponded with my father, a former Headteacher of Hanham Church and Downend County Primary Schools and now approaching his 90th Birthday, and lives in Strasbourg. He works for the European Cultural(Not Common Market)Organisation and was Editor in Chief of the Educational Publications.

'I believe that GEOFF. & DENLEY(nee PERRET)FORD are living in the Chalford region of Stroud. Geoff taught for some time with a cousin of mine in a Special School.

'I'm enclosing a photograph of the Upper Sixth in 1956. You may wish to use it, but I would like it back. Apart from a 1953 whole school photograph, with HENEVELD as Head Boy, and school reports (all doubtful souvenirs) I have no other memorabilia to grow nostalgic over as short-sightedly I failed to collect the half colours awarded to me for Cricket and Rugby in my last year. However I was forward thinking enough to write the names on the reverse of the photograph.

'Many of my memories of staff and pupils have been recalled by others in the two editions of the KOSA News which I have read. It was almost a coincidence that news of HAROLD WATTS arrived when it did, for I painted my first picture this year since taking "O Level" Art in 1953. Unless the standard has dropped drastically I fear that I would not pass now.

'What of my progress since leaving KGS in 1956? After leaving I spent a year as an unqualified teacher in the Secondary School at Bourton on the Water. This was followed by 2 years teacher training at St.Paul's College, Cheltenham and after gaining my piece of paper I continued for a further supplementary year at the college, gaining a further piece of paper. Graham Giles also attended the same college.

In 1960 I commenced teaching in the Primary sphere of Education in the City of Bath and moved on to Soundwell Primary School where I worked for DAVID KER-SHAW'S father.(DAVID married and was teaching somewhere in the Midlands),1967 saw me move to Shropshire where I was appointed a Headteacher. I spent 26 years as a Head before taking early retirement in 1993.I was seconded from school for a while by the LEA to look after two Teachers' Centres and run In-Service Training in these establishments. I also played a part in union life as County President and County Secretary of the NAHT. I also found time to gain a Second Class Degree from the University of Wales.

'Whilst a student in Cheltenham I met Ann my wife. We have two sons Both of them having gained Degrees. One from Manchester and the other from Loughborough. Both have a charming wife, one of them presenting us with a grandson earlier this year. Paul is based in UK, but

Andrew's firm sent him to Sydney for 2 years and this afforded us the opportunity to make a memorable trip Down Under.

'I hope this missive will be of some use to you, if not don't hesitate to file it in the waste paper basket. I've rambled on, but that's the prerogative of the Teaching Profession (experienced by all of us at sometime at KGS!) and also those basking in Nostalgia.'

NEWS FROM MURIEL...

MURIEL JAMES (nee HILL) (1934-37) writes:

'My friend Mrs. VERA KIDD (nee HALL) has kindly sent me a copy of 'NEWS No. 8 which I found most interesting. I confess I am not a member of KOSA - I belong, to several organisations and find it difficult to keep up with all the activities as I get older.

'I found CHARLES BROWNE'S observations of Staff during our years at KGS very apt - I too fell foul of Miss QUINTON and partly because of this I left at the age of 15 - my time dated from September 1934 to July 1937. The photographs on Page 19 were of particular interest especially the Form group - the year would be 1937 and not 1939 as suggested. I have been able to name all of those present except the boy second from the right in the back row, and for some of the others I am not sure of their Christian names - my apologies to them.

'The section of the large photo is possibly 1938. Certainly there are some of my classmates on it. Some time ago I met SYDNEY THOMAS (also an ex KGS) and he had a long roll photo which we studied at some length but I could not be sure if I had been on it. If memory serves aright, these photos were taken at two-year intervals so that my brother LEONARD HILL and myself would both have been on one taken in either 1935 or 1936.

'I was also pleased to see an article by my long time school friend DORA BOWYER (nee DUNN) - we were inseparable at School but have lost touch over recent years especially after both of us married. DORA produced a son and a daughter, and I also have a son, now 33, and a nurse at the Royal Surrey County Hospital. Like many others of our vintage, I had war service in the WRNS when I was stationed at Roedean School, Brighton, and later in the WRNVR 1952-57.

'My most recent "claim to fame" is that I walked the Severn Bridge along with 15 others from this area, and we raised £750 for the "DAISY" Appeal for the Bristol Eye Hospital, and just a month ago I swam One Mile again to raise money for Charity.

'I am now 74 years old, but still remember the open-air swimming pool at Warmley - fed by a natural spring it was always bitterly cold even on a hot day - it has long since vanished under the Community Centre - does anyone else remember it?'

KOSA No.8 Summer 1996.
Form Photograph Page 19.
The form shown was 4A, Form Mistress Miss Quinton - year 1937
Back ROW from the Left:
Jack Fry, Jack Clapham, Jim Bailey, Peter Gay, George England, Reginald Smart, John Fletcher, ???, Richard Maggs
Second Row:
Barbara Robinson, Mariorie Powell, Muriel Hill, Kathleen Hawkins, Jean Wrenford, Mae McIlraith, Mary Hicks, Joan Ellis, Marjorie MacFarlane, Mary Ashley
Third Row (seated):
Charles Nunn, ? Iles, Stanley Woodman, Hedley Organ, Charles Browne, ? Dovey, Walter Palmer
Front:
Esme Every, Joan Bateman, Dora Dunn, ??? The name Roy Smith comes to mind, but I cannot be sure!

ANOTHER FROM THE 50's...

MAUREEN FORD (GRIFFIN) (1951-58) writes:

'On a very recent visit to Knutsford in Cheshire I found the latest issue of KOSA NEWS held many memories. Readers may be interested in some of them:

'In 1951-58 I was MAUREEN GRIFFIN, proud to be an 'A' stream pupil and even managing to beat VALERIE HILES to top in Maths. one memorable year when MR RIDLEY took us. Proud also to play a principal part in 'The Gondoliers' (whilst feeling sure my costume would descend from my shoulders at any given moment!). Was it MR HILTON who saw that I had a love of Music and gave me not a few opportunities, this being one of them, to explore that love?

'What is generally not known is that I come from a family of ex-KGS pupils. Two aunts and two uncles were also pupils (one of the aunts I was visiting in Knutsford), three cousins, my brother BOB GRIFFIN (living in Canada for the past 20 years, he travelled worldwide for IBM before retiring early and still earns a crumb with all that expertise). My parents believed that I was the first pupil to be born to ex-KGS pupils! (Any other cases? - Ed.)

'I married JOHN SALTER (1949-56), who still meets with JOHN POOL, RALPH RAWLINGS occasionally (the latter taught our daughter, Marie). My step-daughter, MARION FORD, also went to KGS.

'It was amazing to see a photo staring up at me of VALERIE FOX and MARION LONG (1951-58) as they are now. I was in Staple Hill Junior School with them before going through KGS alongside them.

Would they recognise me, I wonder?

'Where am I now? Living in East Brent on the Somerset Levels with an Architect who has 3 daughters to complement my own. All 4 are doing very well in their chosen fields, one with 2 offspring, 2 more on the way - as, I like to think, am I.

'Does anyone remember IDA TIDDER who was Chairman of the Governors in my time? 85 now, I have met up with her in recent years through the care of young people with learning difficulties. On occasions I still help out in the Frenchay Manor House she helped found, but now I am often to be found caring for young adults who are autistic.'

NEWS FROM THE SANDOVERS...

'Thank you for sending past copies of KOSA News and for sending on No.7, we have found them most interesting, especially No.7, with ALAN SCADDING'S article about fire watching. When the Duty Fire Officer was one of the Mistresses two girls were on duty as well as the boys. The girls slept in Miss Powell's Office because there was a carpet on the floor - there was no sexual equality in those days! I remember getting up at 5.30a.m. to pick mushrooms for breakfast from the hockey field with JOYCE FLOWER.

'I left School in 1942 and after a short spell in the PO Telephone Accounts Office I joined the Wrens as a Radar Mechanic, I must have learnt some Physics from CHUCKLES. Bill was doing his engineering apprenticeship at the time and we didn't meet up again until after the war in 1946. We were on the KOSA Committee when BRIAN SAMMONS was President, with EILEEN BEECHAM,

LAWRENCE WILTSHIRE and PETER HALE, we helped to organise MAJOR EATON'S retirement celebrations and also started the Badminton Club in the Hall in 1948. 'We have just given up playing Badminton at the ripe old age of 70.

'Bill left Bristol to go to Loughborough in 1949 and we were married in 1950. After various career moves we arrived in Torquay in 1956, I met Miss Powell several times while she lived in Nut Bush Lane, I usually had two small boys in tow. The younger boy is now an architect and while working for Avon County Council had the unpleasant task of surveying the damage at the School after the fire.

'After reading the copies of KOSA News and becoming nostalgic about days of the ATC and WJAC I decided to turn out a box of old Magazines, etc., so I spent another few hours reading them. If you would like to have them to add to the collection of memorabilia I will send them.

'I have Kingswood Chronicles for July, 1938, July 1939, 1939-41, 1941-42 (with commemoration service sheet for School's 21st birthday and photograph of the WJAC. parade) and 1949-50. We also have a long photograph of the whole School in 1941.

BILL and BARBARA SANDOVER,(nee WILLIAMS) (1936 - 42)'

A SHOT FROM COKAYNE...

MIKE COKAYNE (1952-58) writes to offer his services and to add some comments to FRED WARD'S (1953-61) Britannia crash story published in an earlier edition. The Editor has already discussed with Mike the ways in which he can help. Incidentally, the local children still call the woods 'Britannia Woods', although they may not know why.

'My principal reason for writing is that if at all possible I would like to become involved in some way with the archival aspects of KOSA. I am not so concerned with where everyone is now but rather where they were. You might recall that I have a PC and use a Database similar to yours.

'Seeing reference to the crash of the Bristol Britannia airliner at Downend and mention of the Maths teacher Geoff Hocking, I think that I am correct in recalling that there was quite a dramatic link between the two. On the morning of the crash, at about midday, I and others were in a Maths lesson in a small room near the Domestic Science facility. The door opened and I think it was the school Secretary who came in and spoke to the teacher. Whatever was said his face went absolutely white; he mumbled something to the effect that we should carry on reading our textbooks and left immediately.

'I seem to recall that he lived in one of the houses adjacent to the crash site, many of which were damaged by lumps of wreckage of varying sizes, some smashing through roofs into upstairs rooms. I do not know to what extent our KGS teacher's home was affected but his anxiety was clearly understandable. I knew the details of the crash by 1.00pm as I was at the time cycling home for lunch, and listened to the radio news. Even as I prepared my lunch I was looking from our kitchen window at a continuous line of light aircraft circling over the crash site presumably taking photographs for press or investigation purposes. Although I knew what it was and where it was I had a strong resistance to morbid curiosity and had no intention of going there. This was further influenced by the fact that through my ATC membership, (1860 Squadron, I had until the recent

KOSA news no idea of its KGS connections!), where a couple of officers were involved in the Britannia project, as was a close neighbour of ours. One crew member who died had recently bought a house at the bottom of Richmond Road, Mangotsfield, and used to come into the village shop, where I worked on Saturdays, with his attractive wife and young baby just before the crash.

'By the end of the day however, with endless radio news broadcasts aircraft flying round and round overhead, I was trying hard to work out exactly where the accident had happened, and my curiosity got the better of me. At dusk I climbed aboard my velocipede and went to Downend. I did no more than see where it had happened, the whole area was absolutely soaked in, and reeked, of kerosene. One match and ????. I left immediately.

'I was glad that I had not ventured into the woods as others did. My Bristol Aircraft Co. and ATC friends were typically technical, factual and dispassionate about the whole thing and told me that the crash investigations were hampered locally in many ways. It had been a plane load of heroes, I was told that they had been fighting to gain height against technical failure right the way across Mangotsfield and Downend and realising that they would not get back to Filton airfield had deliberately turned into the Downend Wood to minimise the damage to people and things on the ground.'

FROM COKAYNE THE ELDER...

By a coincidence we have also received a letter from JIM COKAYNE (1929-34), MIKE COKAYNE'S father. Jim writes: 'Until Michael showed me KOSA NEWS I had no idea such a publication existed;

mind you as one of the more outstanding pupils (having achieved nothing) they have probably forgotten that I existed. In KOSA NEWS No. 4 under 'Who's Who' someone has listed my fellow sufferers in a photograph of IV Classical taken in September 1932 printed in the previous edition, but I'm not there, so that appears to prove my point!

'It must have been 1929 when I arrived with 'BABS' SAMMONS as head girl and BERNARD LOVELL as head boy, and of course JOHN VINCENT, who thought that every new boy needed his head washed in cold water!

'If I am at the moment approaching my 79th birthday I suppose few of the teachers I knew are still around. Dear old MISS POWELL was the Headmistress (surely the inspiration behind the invention of the ladyshave!), MAJOR EATON, of course, MISS QUINTON, MISS PERRY, MISS WATTERS, MISS AGNES, the biology teacher, who seemed to prefer the frog she was dissecting to me, if looks meant anything, BUNNY AUSTIN, MARCUS BROWN (who I once saw eat a caterpillar on his cabbage MRS MOSS had cooked for him), 'BONEY' BRITTON, MR HOWARD, and dear old MR JONES, the Chemistry Master who appeared occasionally from behind a cloud of Woodbine smoke. I suppose I learned more from 'POP' SEARLE than most, because Art was the subject which mattered to me. He was not only an understanding teacher, but also a fine artist in his own right. Strangely, I have only seen one of his paintings in a gallery, in Bath, and is a water colour of the 'Severn Saltings'.

'In the photograph of the 1st XI cricket team the unnamed members are far left JACK GRADY, ? JELFS and wicket keeper HARRY WILLIAMS, but I expect by now someone has supplied those

names. Looking at this photograph, I cannot help thinking that apart from JACK HOLLISTER none of them look like schoolboys. Maybe it was the homework!

'As you can see I still haven't learned to write, but console myself that a friend of mine who is a Professor of Political Philosophy can't write or spell! I think the years I inflicted on the poor teachers at KGS must have been 1929-34 because I left to go to the Bristol School of Art'

A GOOD SUGGESTION...

TONY PERDUE (1940-48) has dropped us a line with the following suggestion:

'At the recent KOSA Lunch on 12th October last reference was made to the loss of the Honours Boards recording past scholastic achievements so that there is now no visual record of past honours.

'Are there any readers of KOSA NEWS who could give names of friends or relatives whose names were on the boards so that a new list could be compiled?

'Three names which I give are of my brother and two of his friends who left in 1937 to go onto the University of Bristol. Sadly, two are now dead. They are:

S BRANSOM - Chemistry (died 1965)

B. MARTIN - Engineering

D. PERDUE - Engineering (died 1964)

Can any other names be added to these to form a new record?'



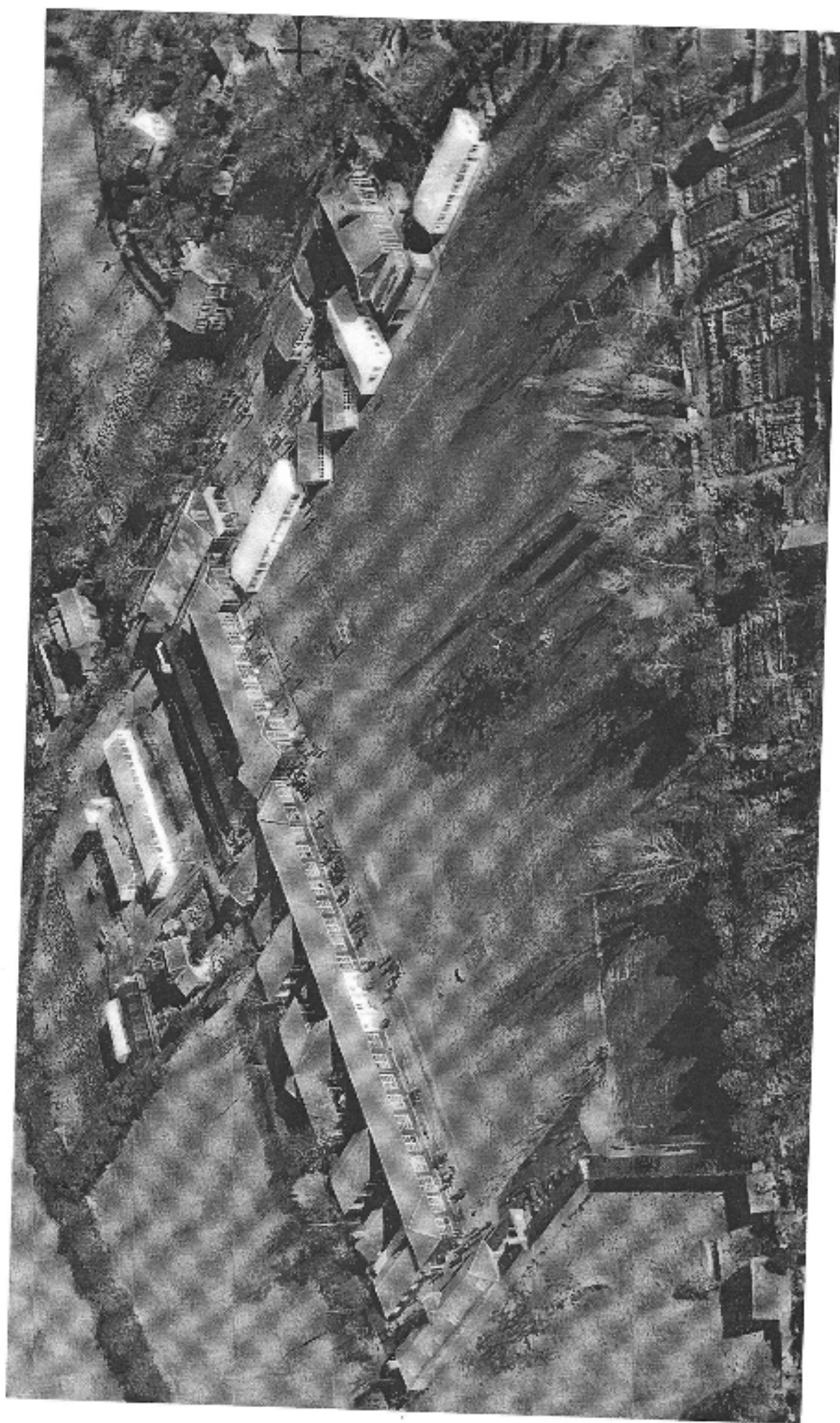
V2C 1941?



VI2 1952



VMS 1956



WHERE ARE THEY NOW...?

VALERIE PRETLOVE (nee FOX) still wishes to trace the whereabouts of MARGARET SMART (1951-58?). She was last heard of in Pucklechurch where her father was headmaster of the village school.

At the last reunion in October 1996 JOHN CULLIN (1949-56) and his wife MAUREEN (nee WALLINGTON) (1951-56) expressed a wish to trace KEN GAY, who came from Bitton and read Medicine at Bristol University (or did he come from Bristol and read.....No!), KEN R WILLIAMS, WENDY HULBERT, ALAN SUMMERHILL, ANN SLATER, MIKE WHITLOCK (who milked cows before he went to school and was last known at CEGB), VALERIE HILES, MARY HAMSON (from Kelston), MONICA SCREEN, MOLLY THOMAS (nee WOOD), DAVE FUDGE, ANDY KERSHAW, CHRIS GANE, MICHAEL COLLIER, PETER HEMMING, MARGARET COLES, and ELIZABETH FOULTON.

If anyone knows their whereabouts please let the Editor know who will pass on the information. We would also be pleased to add them to the KOSA list.

'ESSE NON VIDERI' - TO BE AND NOT TO SEEM...

REG HUNT (1933-38?) writes:

'We hear quite a lot of the few who obtained fame and achievement at KGS. Well done, and so be it. But there were a whole lot more who did their best and were not endowed with the ability to achieve 'greatness'. These were those who I remember well as 'schoolmate pals' who seemed to be what they were, and not anything more. P MOUNTFORD, for

example was one of these and I believe one of the first, if not the first, scholar of KGS to lose his life for his country.

'Further information re KOSA NEWS No. 7 page 18:

'FROGGY' DAVIS. I read that he was 'off the mark' quite promptly at the end of the school day. This was because (as I understand) he lived in Cardiff and had to catch that particular train to get home at a reasonable hour. My French is still not good, but I can remember well 'FROGGY'S' support (unstinted) for Georges Carpentier, the then French Heavyweight Champion 1930-35!

'My remembered recollections of 'BONEY' BRITTON is 'Psalm 139' and the 'Hound of Heaven' as part of our English lessons. The memories of these poems have hounded me down the years! 'JONES, the Chemistry teacher, died on a train in Europe in the late Summer, early Autumn of 1935. MISS POWELL - 'Pronounce properly, speak correctly, and act with due decorum' The last statement was really hilarious when we had a JUDY CORAM or ORAM as a pupil. MAJOR EATON was a great headmaster, but made a mistake with me. He forecast that I would make a name for myself in insurance, but I lasted a week in Clare Street and went into engineering! I also remember MISS HISCOX. She took shorthand and typing after school on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

'My daughter, JANICE HUNT, went to KGS in the early 1960s. Despite being told that she could only train in a Bristol hospital, she was admitted to Guy's in London and was the youngest Staff nurse to be trained in kidney dialysis. She is still in Addenbrooks Hospital (Cambridge) in intensive care.'

REMINISCENCES FROM FIDO...

NORMAN (FIDO) BRACEY (1944-49) writes:

'I was at KGS 1944-49, and have just re-read my school reports to prove it... yes, it's all there, from 'Poor', the classic "Could do better", 'Inclined to talk too much', through to the more favourable comments which were obviously more acceptable to my parents. However, the combination which still amuses me was, in PT, 'shows promise as a cricketer' and "conduct rather excitable at times" must have coincided with the despatch of a cricket ball across 'BONEY' BRITTON'S classroom in the direction of the late BRIAN MOULES from Marshfield, who did the unthinkable - he ducked - tinkle, tinkle...sweep up the glass!...I think it cost me 3/6!

I did progress to play cricket and soccer for the 1st XIs and was even elected captain for the end of term cricket match against the 2nd XI. You should have heard the roar in Assembly next day when MAJOR EATON announced a victory for the 2nd XI...I did not like that at all!

There was a form photograph taken about 1946, DON BREDDY may well have a copy. BEARD, BRACEY, BREDDY, BURGESS, CARTWRIGHT, GARLAND, GOWING, HAYCOCK, HULSE, LEWIS, MOULES, WILLIAMS.....Was it really that long ago? I wonder if JANET HOBBS has still got 'our' tennis racket?

DOT'S QUERY...

In the last edition there was a query by DOT HOLMAN (CLARKE) (1951-56) about the old aircraft wreck in the playing fields. DERRICK BLAXILL (1940-43)

responds:

'As I remember it, it was the remains of a Beaufighter that had "downed" in the Severn, I believe due to engine trouble or something similar. It was given to us for the ATC (I was drum major) and the WJAC for familiarisation. My sister SHEILA (1940-43) tells me she has a photo of her and several other WJACs grouped around it and I'll try and find it for me to bring to the Social in October.

'Sheila was also interested in the short comment about REX CHURCH (1939-45) as she worked for him as a secretary in his London office for a while.

'The highlight for me was seeing three of my old 'mates' together - JOHN EVANS (1937-42), RON CHURCH and EDDIE HAWKING (1937-42) - I hope that I will be in a picture with them next time to make a foursome.

'I am a little surprised to find no mention of Sir Bernard Lovell of Jodrell Bank fame - he must be one of the most celebrated ex pupils and I would have thought that he would have been a good choice for a speech on the 75th Anniversary'

We also had a note from ANTHONY CURTIS (1939-46) who clarified:

'This was the nose section of a Bristol Beaufort which arrived at the time of the formation of 1860 Squadron ATC. I believe Dot's memory is probably partially correct since at least part of the cockpit remained, minus most of the canopy. The aircraft was reputed at the time to have been deposited somewhere in the Severn mud, there was still a lot of sand lying around within it, and in the process it became unserviceable. Someone probably showed enterprise in getting the thing to us, but I never knew of it being used for training!

'Aircraft details:

Bristol 152 Beaufort, designed 1937 to Air Ministry spec. calling for a general combined reconnaissance and land-based torpedo bomber. Prototype flew October 1938, the first production model I flew a year later. There was a production Mk II. Mk I had 2 Taurus engines and the Mk II 2 Pratt & Whitney Twin Wasps. 4 years in active service.

'Very full details in 'Jane's Fighting Aircraft of WW II', but if Dot requires more details I suggest a letter to the local press which might turn up a former BAC employee or KGS pupil who remembers the original crash in more detail.'

BETTY'S NEWS...

Some people are unable to attend reunions for whatever reason, but we are still happy to make sure that they receive their 'NEWS from time to time. BETTY WILLIAMS (1926-32):

'I am 81 years old and don't drive far these days, so don't attend reunions, but I do enjoy all the news. When I retired 21 years ago I had been Deputy Head of Chandag Junior School, Keynsham for 16 years. I see ALICE BRITTON (BONEY'S WIDOW) sometimes, and I was talking to MRS DYKE, who told me that BOB DYKE (1930-35) passed away suddenly last March. (We announced Bob's passing in the last edition of the 'NEWS - Ed.)

'When I started at KGS there were two boys there who were my cousins, CHARLES WITHEY and NORMAN TROTT, both of Salford. Charles was killed in Florence during the War - an air crash as he was coming home on leave. Norman died some years ago. My late sister, LORNA WILLIAMS, also attended KGS about 1931-35, about the

same time as JOYCE FUSSELL and JOYCE IVORY.

'I see MARGARET MORRIS (mentioned in KOSA NEWS No. 7) quite often, and she and her friend EILEEN SUTHERLAND would be able to give you some help with folk dancing at a reunion if you needed it.

'With warmest good wishes and many thanks for KOSA NEWS.'

THEATRICALS AT KGS...

Readers will know that we have traced MISS MARGARET DAVID (Latin 1944-52) to her retreat in the Cotswolds. She has problems with her eyesight, but MARY DOWNE (nee JONES 1943-50) and NANETTE MILLINGTON (years?) visited her in August 1996 and took down her memories of drama during her time at KGS. She also sent me a letter and expressed the sentiment that she would be pleased to hear from anyone who remembers her.

'While I was teaching at KGS the Bristol Old Vic opened a school of drama and I was fortunate enough to be accepted as a part time student during the first year. Part time meant almost every evening and weekends. Apart from rehearsing plays there were privileges such as attending first nights at the theatre and the opportunity to discuss productions with the director. In addition there were classes about everything - stage movement, voice production, make-up, costume - the list is endless and as I wanted to produce rather than act, I did not want to miss any of them. KGS provided me with a splendid opportunity to try out my new knowledge and when I look back on these years, my most vivid memories seem to be connected with the school stage.

'There were the nativity plays - I too have a photograph of COLIN BEACHAM (1943-51) as the pinnacle of a pyramid of angels with pious, but suitably stern expression, appropriate for the Archangel Gabriel.

'Then there were annual House plays. These aroused great enthusiasm and were very competitive. As each House could choose its own one act play, it became almost impossible to judge between them and so one year it was decided that all the Houses should do the same play. One of the Chester miracle plays was chosen - 'Noah's Flood'. The woodwork department was pressed into building the side of the ark on the school stage, with a doorway for the animals, and an upper deck for Noah to release the raven and the dove. Rehearsal time on the stage was very carefully allotted and the House staff helped with the production. I do not remember swearing my cast to secrecy, but I did not hear anything about anybody else's production. The great day came and my House was to play last. The preceding House staged a beautifully spoken and dignified performance which would have graced any cathedral and I began to have qualms about my somewhat rollicking interpretation. I knew that historically these plays had been enacted from carts in the streets, to inform and teach an illiterate public the stories of the Bible, but that they had to be entertaining in order to draw the crowds. A certain quarrelsomeness in the dialogue supported this, but we had a secret weapon. We painted a strip of cloth with blue waves, long enough to stretch right across the stage. At the beginning of the play, this lay flat on the stage floor, but as the waters rose, so the cloth was shakily raised by the stage hands, hidden behind the curtains on each side. Its appearance was greeted by a burst of laughter and applause which

lasted until the flood subsided and lay flat on the stage floor again. We won, of course, but the sound of that laughter was the real prize!

'On one occasion I asked the principal of the Bristol Old Vic Drama School if he would like to bring to KGS a production of a Greek play - 'The Trojan Women', which was being rehearsed by the full time students. He was delighted, as it would give them experience of an audience, and one summer afternoon the scholars sat in a big semi-circle on the field facing the school, which was raised from the field by a fairly steep grassy bank. This was to be the back cloth of the stage. As no violent action was allowed on stage in a Greek play a chorus of old men narrated events which had taken place before the play began and also between the scenes. There are always more women than men in drama schools, so the chorus was made up of girls draped in sheets and as there were no exits for them to disappear, it was arranged that they should lie on the grassy bank, moving as little as possible so as not to distract the audience from what was happening on the stage. I did not think that they did this well and went into the school in the interval, but could find them nowhere.

'I finally ran them to earth in the girls' cloakroom in a distraught condition and shaking out their sheets. Apparently the bank was seething with ants. 'You will have to file out,' I said, but they were dedicated and said 'The play's the thing' and endured to the end. Another unexpected problem was that some of the men's voices reverberated from the bicycle sheds and sent back such a loud echo that we heard everything twice. You never can tell what will go wrong, but it was a rare opportunity for the school to experience a Greek play - as indeed it would be now.

'I started a play reading group with the sixth form and in no time at all they wanted it to take place on the Hall stage. This was usually on Friday afternoon after school and gradually members of the school would trickle in to watch. Television sets were few and far between at this time and the pupils were prepared to accept quite unpolished performances. The whole thing snowballed. We charged quite large audiences 3d each and we used this money for hiring sets of plays from the Bristol Drama League. It was also used to buy make up and other small things as needed. A group of girls began to collect costumes which they kept in two large cupboards. With these they were able to dress just one or two characters in order to give an idea of how the play should look. A group of boys climbed up the rough wooden steps to a platform - the light gantry - and we could hear them muttering as to how they could get the best effects. I remember they approached me to choose a play which would be really demanding.

'Being a repertory company the Bristol Old Vic produced a new play every three weeks and it was possible to buy a season ticket which ensured one the same seat for each production. Once, when I was unable to use my reserved seat, I went to the box office on the last Saturday night in the hope of getting in. I had to wait until the very last moment before the lights went out and then was told there was a seat in the gallery. I rushed up and got in just as the lights went out. I could see nothing, but I heard whispered 'Miss David, Miss David' all around me. It was rather like a dream. Then I realised that I was surrounded by my own sixth formers. In the interval I was piloted along to the refreshment room and plied with coffee as I listened to them vigorously discussing the play. This pleased me more than anything I can remember in connection

with drama. I had no idea that they were season ticket holders and I felt that I had helped them to put their feet on the first rung of a ladder which could lead them to a life long interest and delight in the theatre. I feel that especially now, when live theatre has to struggle so hard to survive, in competition with television.'

NEWS FROM ABROAD...

AUSTRALIA:

ANN KINGSBURY nee TOWELL (1952-57) has brought us up to date with her family news. Her son Nigel, having completed his degree in Economics at university, married in January 1996, and daughter Alison is now working in England. ANN is hoping to attend the October 1997 luncheon when she plans to be back in the UK later this year, but in the meantime would welcome news of the whereabouts of PAULINE GERRISH who was at KGS with her. Can anyone help?

CANADA:

We were hoping that ANN WITHEY nee SUTTLE (1951-52) would have been at the October luncheon, but was unable to do so because of husband JIM WITHEY'S (1944-52) stroke. Very pleased to report receipt of a couple of letters since Jim's illness, and he's on the mend giving as evidence that his typing speed is gradually increasing!

SCOTLAND:

A letter from NESTA CHALCROFT nee JEFFERIS (1945-50):

'Further to my comments about sports in KGS, I have often wondered about a good 100 yards runner PAT WINSTANLEY. A form above me, but she was so outstanding! Her feet seemed to leave the ground.

Thanks for printing my letter on 'NEWS

No. 8. It may bring other people forward with their appreciation of KGS's respected reputation. I must mention, however, that secondary schools also had high standards, and I believe that the comprehensive school was a further help to them, to enter, if they achieved high results in the secondary schools. The three sorts of education would have been good, but it seems the middle schools - grammar schools were deleted which I think caused chaos then and now. At least one could be moved to a grammar school if places were left, and this should have happened the other way. Just my belief. KGS also had a good system of separating the boys from the girls during breaks, which was a sort of freedom from each other's different personalities.'

THE HARRISES...

Letters received from ANNE BEST nee HARRIS (1943-49) and her younger brother REV JOHN HARRIS (1953-60). Anne writes:

'Although I did not keep in touch with school friends, I did keep in touch with one old boy, KEITH THORNE, who was in the same year as I was. We married and had two children, but Keith died when he was 50 and I have since married again.

'There are lots of familiar names - NANETTE MILLINGTON, MARY BENTLEY nee MILES (1942-49), MARY DOWN nee JONES (1943-50), and many staff, in particular MR HAROLD WATTS. It was so good to hear he was in touch. He helped Keith through the West of England College of Art and after, teaching in Leicestershire, the Isle of Wight, and Rendcombe College, near Cirencester. I was at the same time appointed to be Assistant Bursar of Cheltenham College, after a very ordinary office career.'

JOHN 'TWEED' HARRIS writes:

'I spent an evening with MIKE and BRENDA HOLLOWAY nee SEALEY (1952-59) in Huddersfield and was enthralled with their copies of KOSA NEWS. I probably have some items which may be of use to you for future issues - old Kingswood Chronicles magazines (the complete set for my time at KGS), old photos. (the setting never changed did it!) of forms, orchestras, cricket teams etc.

'The photos which I have are:

Form IJJ - 1955 - MISS JACOB'S Form
Form IVL - 1957 - 'PIGGY' NELSON'S form

Form VI2 - 1959 -

Form VI3 - 1960 - 'PIGGY' NELSON again
The School Orchestra - probably 1960 - with JUDY BEEKER

CRICKET - JUNIOR XI - 1956

- 1st XI - 1959

- 1st XI - 1960

'My nickname was 'Tweed' or 'Gusto'. Like MIKE and BRENDA I did music with ERIC HILTON and you may not be aware that he is a rock garden specialist and had his garden near Thornbury open to the public up to a couple of years ago. I usually get an annual letter from him. I also played football in that awful space between the protecting wire and the boys' gym! I followed MIKE to Manchester University and we were in digs together.'

COMPETITION CORNER...

KGS School Secretary DOREEN CRUSE nee ROGERS (1948-55) recognised the drama photos in No. 8 as the 'Pirates of Penzance' because she was responsible for typing the scripts in the Summer of 1952. Sorry, Doreen, nowhere close! From top to bottom: 'Dido & Aeneas', 'The Gondoliers' and 'The Bartered Bride'. Photographs were provided by HAROLD V WATTS - and he should know! - Ed.

A LETTER FROM DEEPEST FRENCHAY...

MARJORIE HOBBS nee POWELL (1934-38) was encouraged by CHARLES BROWNE'S letter and photograph to dust off her typewriter (or was it computer?):

'Recently a friend gave me a copy of the KOSA NEWS No.8 to read and it was with interest I read the letter from CHARLES BROWNE (1934-41) together with the form photograph of 1939. I also attended KGS 1934-38 and like him have not found anyone of our year when attending past reunions, I believe some would have been casualties of the war. I would say the year of the photograph would be 1937 or 1938 Spring as the girls are still in winter uniform and I left KGS at the end of 1938. I am able to name most of the class and as far as I recollect starting with the back row from left to right are the following:

FRY, PACKER, BAILEY, ?, ENGLAND, SMART, ?, ?, 2nd row: BARBARA ROBINSON, MARJORIE POWELL, MYSELF, MURIEL ?, KATHLEEN HAWKINS, JEAN WREFORD, ?, MARY HICKS, JOAN ELLIS, MARJORIE McFARLANE, MARY ASHLEY. 3rd row: NUNN, ?, WOODMAN, ORGAN, BROWNE, DOVER, PALMER. Front row: ESME EVERY, JOAN BATEMAN, DORA DUNN.

'I can tell you that ESME EVERY went on to St. Margaret's Hall Oxford and gained her degree in French. JOAN BATEMAN (now HOGAN) tragically widowed twice before the age of fifty gained her degree through the Open University and was presented with it at Exeter University after six long hard years of study, a tremendous effort as she was obliged to find employment to support herself and her two children at the same time. They themselves also obtained their degrees,

one a BSc and the other a BA in Law, French and Spanish, a very talented family, indeed. Joan and I have been close friends since we rode our bikes to school at the age of 11 and 12 years. We usually meet once a week for a welcome chat and coffee and invariably "The school" comes up in conversation. I myself never reached great academic heights. On leaving school I worked for the GPO then a wholly governmental department and later, 23 years for the NHS, both of which I thoroughly enjoyed.

'I live happily in Frenchay with my husband, we have just celebrated our golden wedding, how the years have flown, and our three daughters and their families are a real joy to us. The years dull many memories but will never dull those of KGS, those years left a lasting impression and the standards taught there guided me throughout my life. MAJOR EATON was a gentleman who commanded respect and got it. I loved English and Latin but disliked French, although MISS PERRY tried so hard to teach me. I hold all my teachers in affectionate memory. They truly did 'Serve us well all their days'.'

NEWS FROM DAVID ROWE...

DAVID ROWE (1941-49) reports from sunny North Devon where he is enjoying his retirement:

'...We retired to Devon from Sussex, my last job being with Bowater Scott in the East Grinstead office - Andrex and all that. Before that I was with Heinz until 1979. Beans to toilet rolls - one end of the FMCG market to the other!

'Thanks for the copy of the book 'We Were There'. I've read it and the nostalgia flows out of it. I'm glad that I've made contact after all these years as I always look back on KGS with affection and gratitude.

BOB LOOKS BACK...

BOB LEWIS (1933-40) writes:

'The last KOSA NEWS has prompted a few reminiscences of my own.

'I agree with KEN COWLES (1932-38) regarding two former members of staff, MESSRS FUSSELL and JONES. The Music master was indeed BEN FUSSELL, who also taught junior maths and science. A very fine musician and an MA(Ed), he left in July 1937 to become Head of Ealing Modern School. The Chemistry master was BEN JONES, who died in 1936 while on holiday in Switzerland. His replacement was ARTHUR BATCHELOR who was, I believe, on a year's leave of absence from teaching in Singapore. I wonder what his fate was in February 1942, following the Japanese invasion of Malaya and Singapore.

'Ken lists MR TICKNER as a war casualty. He may have been injured, but he was certainly not killed, for in December 1948 I had the pleasure of meeting him once again, at an end of term reception at Bristol University, where he was paying his respects to a woman undergraduate studying French! I gather that he eventually gained the headship of a grammar school in Wiltshire.

'Returning to the pre-war years: I remember going with MR TICKNER one afternoon in November 1938 to the Theatre Royal in Bath to see the performance of Molière's 'L'Avare'. We went in MR TICKNER'S 'matchbox' Austin Seven. It was quite an ancient vehicle and as we approached the pub at Kelston, the engine passed out - icing up in the carburettor was probably to blame, but after a short while it was revived and we managed to arrive at the theatre in time for the performance. Parking in Bath in those far-off days did not present the problems that it does now!

'Some words about rugby. According to DAVID PETERS (1946-51) the game was introduced by Headmaster NORMAN RIDLEY. Under MAJOR EATON'S headship, soccer was, of course, the winter game for boys; yet rugby was played at KGS during this period, but only once, as far as I know. One senior games afternoon in the Spring Term 1939. MR KYTE arranged a scratch game for members of the fifth and sixth forms. We had to make do with the main soccer pitch and goal posts, but MR KYTE miraculously produced an oval ball and after giving us a brief résumé of the laws, started the game. Everyone was enjoying the novel experience tremendously, when one of our three-quarters, my namesake C J LEWIS of Marshfield, suffered a heavy tackle by our opponent's full-back and received a broken thigh. The game was abandoned and CJL spent the following few weeks in Cossham Hospital! And that, I believe, was the end of rugby until after the war! However, it is good to know that it is now firmly established on the school sports programme, for it really is a great game.'

POINTS FROM THE POST...

Some readers just drop a short note. Always very welcome, and none the less interesting for being short. Here are a few extracts:

JOHN PENNY(1940-47) recounts that calls to ESME BRITTON nee RIDGE (1941-47) and MARY RODGERS nee MOSLEY (1939-46), who lives in Norwich, have awakened many memories of life at KGS, and a line from RON CLEMENTS (1939-46) further enhanced his need to catch up with his peer group after 50 years.

A note from SYBIL REED nee JERRIM (1937-42) identified several faces in the

1938 (or 1939) photograph published in the last edition. In the front row, second from the left is GWEN ROBINSON. In the middle in the gymslip in front of MR SEARLE is IRIS WINSTANLEY. In front of MR HOWARD is SYBIL TURNER and in front of MISS POWELL is DOREEN MITCHELL, next is MARY FRY then SYBIL herself, then HILARY BLAND-FORD.

ALAN SCADDING (1936-41) writes:

'I was sorry to read about the passing of MORWYN BURGESS (1936-41) who was my fire watching partner at KGS from October 1941 to Spring 1943. He was always so smartly dressed for his duties at the bank next day. I used to call at his home on my way back from KGS to practise Morse Code for the ATC tests and I was always intrigued by his number of brothers and sisters, the 'Burgess Tribe' as he called them. Also, I much enjoyed reading CHARLES BROWNE'S letter and studying the photos. I seem to have crept into the 1938 photo, back row, second left - open neck shirt. FROGGIE looks very subdued, second from left.'

EDNA STUBBINGS nee HELE (1930-38) was kind enough to donate two school photographs to the archives on moving further away to Cornwall. One is possibly the summer of 1936 and the other February 1934. Many thanks, Edna. She writes:

'After I went up to Oxford in 1938 I never returned to live in Bristol (Staple Hill), although I still have two very old cousins living in Brislington...The only person I have kept in touch with is JOHN BERRY (1932-38), and even that is a bit spasmodic!

'I was, however, very pleased to have made contact with MAJOR EATON when he came to live in Poole. Old, by then, of

course, but the same urbane man of my memory. A wonderful headmaster for a developing school. Ask FRANK STEPHENS (1930-35) if he remembers a small girl who recited 'Un deux trois' with him for MISS PERRY when we were in 2C! (I did, and he does! - Ed.).

TANNER'S SIXDENN'TH...

ALAN TANNER (1944-48) writes from sunny Torbay:

'It was pure chance seeing the reunion notice in a copy of SAGA magazine. Curiosity prompted me to find out whether 'Kingswood School Reunion' was Kingswood School, Bath, Kingswood School for naughty boys which used to be at the end of Britannia Road in Kingswood or indeed KGS!

'Reading the 'NEWS certainly started the memories flooding back - no names of scholars from my intake year but I remember MR WATTS joining the school with his arts enthusiasm, 'BUNNY' AUSTEN with his backhanded head slap attention getter (not permissible these days), MISS FRY with more than a passing interest in American soldiers than teaching French, MISS WYCHERLEY - why were the fronts of her legs always brown and the backs white? (long holidays lying face up in the sun?) 'BONEY' BRITTON - I can see him now flailing at several misbehavers at the rear of the class, and piles of at least 60-70 red Shakespeare texts falling all about him, MR. HOWARD telling the same 'jokes' year after year - remember the one about water being a constant element, therefore water made you drunk? The return of MAJOR SEFTON and CORPORAL JONES after the war. And remember 'FROGGY' DAVIES sat on the lockers at the back of the class throwing chalk at misbehavers? I have always had a suspicion that FROGGY set the homework mark at the beginning of term and it

remained, mine was 6 or 7 out of 20 (MISS FRY lacked teaching discipline) and IVOR POWELL'S was 5 or 6 and he was better than me - even if I copied his homework he received at least 1 point less than me! Stop the memory banks I shall never get to sleep! Oh and I bowled out JIMMY WILD first ball one match and he would not leave the crease! What happened to, and where are, some of the particular friends I remember - NORMAN BRACEY, JIM HULSE, BOB LONG, IVOR POWELL, CLIVE WHITTOCK, EDGAR LEWIS, and not forgetting some of the very attractive girls NANCY LEONARD, JUNE FRY and JEAN WATTS.'

WHERE WERE YOU???

We had over 120 to the 75th Anniversary Celebration Lunch at Lincombe Barn last October, just about the maximum the room could handle. Caterer BOB GRAY (1949-56) produced a birthday cake, and the Spirit of Kingswood Grammar School was toasted. It certainly lives on! We hope to see you next time.



Below:

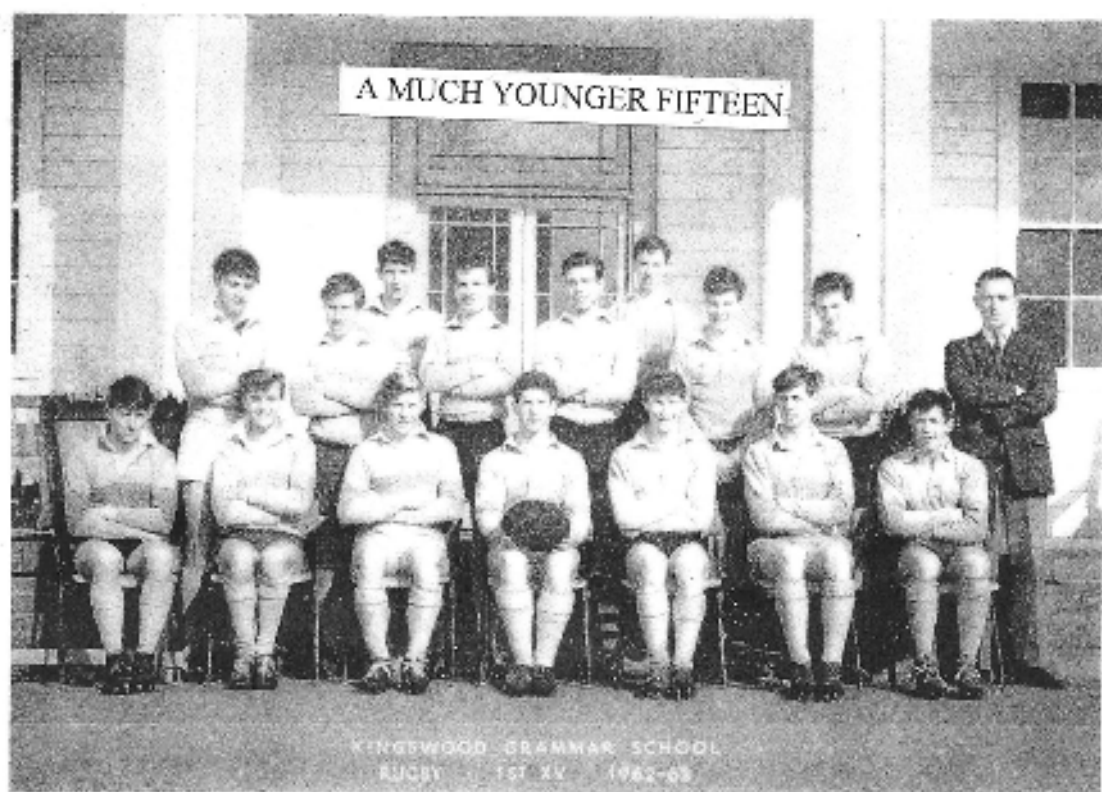
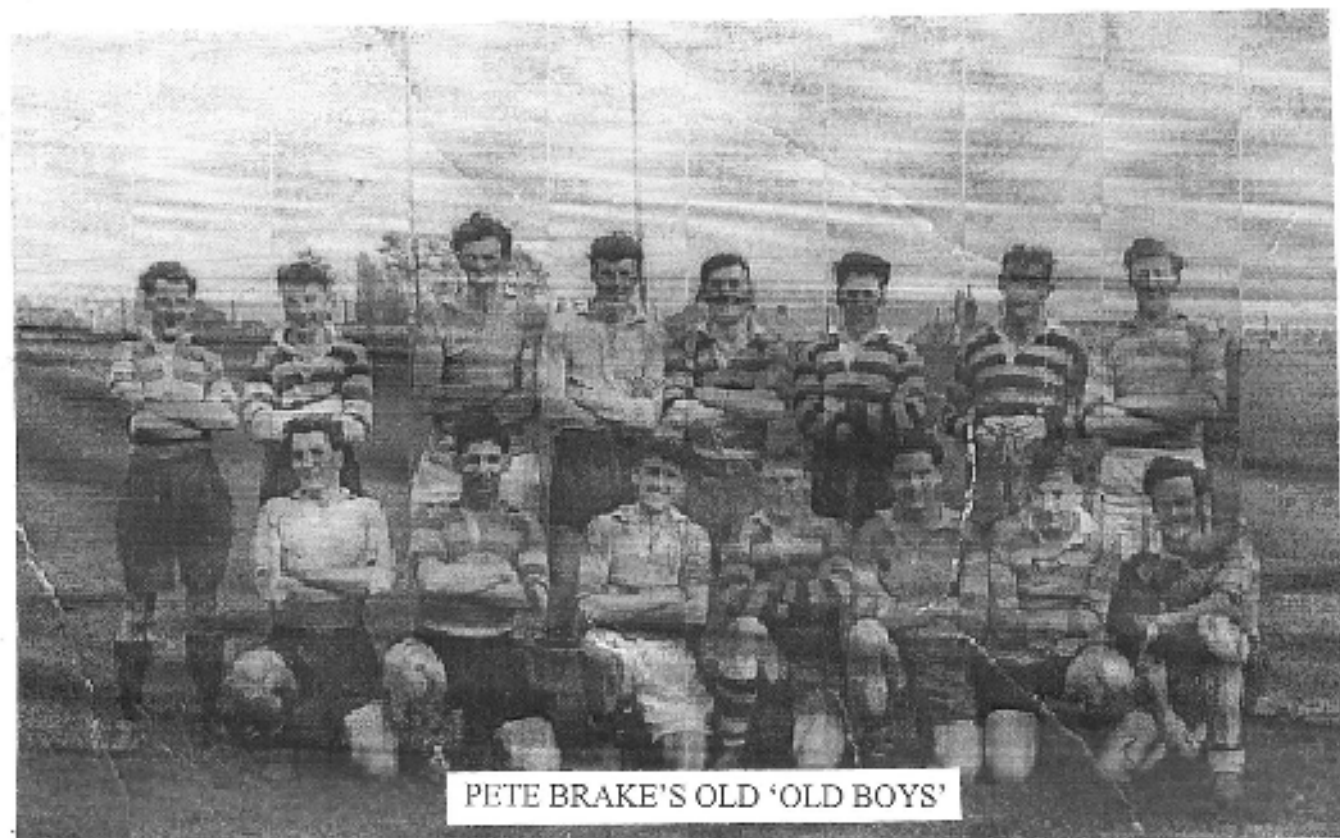
JENNIFER ANGELL (BENNETT) (1952-57), JOHN D'ALESSIO (1951-58), VALERIE PRETLOVE (FOX) (1951-58) and MARION COOK (LONG) (1951-56)



Left:

EILEEN BENDREY (MATTHEWS) (1952-59), JOHN TIPPETT and MARION HARRIS (BIGGS), (both 1953-59)





Back Row : M. Mann, M. Clewes, R. Welch, M. Lewis, N. Bailey, M. James, R. Winchester,
D. Ann, Mr. Griffiths.
Front Row: M. Burnett, D. Mitchell, D. Brown, N. Carey (Capt.), I. Davies, J. Winchester, R. Fuller.

THE NEXT REUNION

This will take place at KINGSFIELD SCHOOL, which is on the site of KGS, on FRIDAY, 11th APRIL 1997. The AGM will take place at 7.30pm, followed by the Reunion at 8.00pm. 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 11th April 1997, followed by a Reunion at 8.00pm

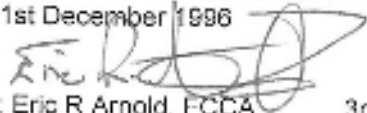
AGENDA

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

KINGSWOOD OLD SCHOLARS' ASSOCIATION RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 1996

BALANCE AT BANK 1st JANUARY 1996		1,820.11
RECEIPTS:		
KOSA NEWS Subscriptions	929.51	
Costs	<u>779.36</u>	
Surplus		150.15
Annual Lunch	1,539.50	
Expenditure	<u>1,494.50</u>	
Surplus		45.00
AGM & Reunion	829.40	
Expenditure	<u>675.64</u>	
Surplus		153.76
Interest Received		40.24
Unpresented Cheque		25.00
		<u>2,234.26</u>
PAYMENTS:		
Postage and Telephone		50.72
Photo Album		13.99
Donation to Kingsfield School		150.00
BALANCES AT BANK 31st DECEMBER 1996		2,019.55
		<u>2,234.26</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 1996. The balance carried forward of £2,019.55 is represented by funds held at Lloyds Bank Plc as at 31st December 1996


signed: Eric R Arnold, FCCA 3rd February 1997

COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

Here are your Committee Members after the March 1996 AGM who will be pleased to answer any queries or will be happy to hear your suggestions for the future of KOSA:

Peggy Bolt (1938-43) Madam Chairman, 293 Badminton Road, Downend,
Bristol, BS16 6NU Tel: 956 4020

Frank Rawlings (1939-43) Treasurer, 74 Oakdale Road, Downend, Bristol,
BS16 6EA Tel: 956 1050

John Powell (1943-48) Secretary, Park End, Deacon's Hill, Watford Herts,
WD1 4HN Tel: 01923 232472

Bill Cox (1927-34), 45 Downend Road, Downend, Bristol, BS1 6 5UF
Tel: 956 7019

Esme Rawlings (1941-45) 74 Oakdale Road, Downend, Bristol, BS 1 6 6EA
Tel: 956 1050

Ron Clements (1939-46) 5 Rangers Walk, Hanham, Bristol, BS15 3PW
Tel: 967 2328

June Long (1939-45) 5 Clevedale Court, Downend, Bristol, BS1 6 2SG
Tel: 956 7910

Frank Stephens (1930-35) 44 Amberley Way, Wickwar, Glos. GL12 8LP
Tel: 01454 299221

Miike Bendrey (1951-56), Editor, 26 Overdale Road, Downend, Bristol
BS16 2RT Tel/Fax: 956 5689

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 and Buffet to be held at 7.30pm on Friday, 11th April 1997
at Kingsfield School.

Name _____ Guests' Names: _____
Maiden Name _____
Address _____

If you have any special dietary
requirements please inform us

Years at KGS _____ to _____

1 enclose £3 as this year's contribution towards the cost of KOSA NEWS

*delete if not applicable

Please make cheques payable to 'Kingswood Old Scholars' Association'

[form.doc]