



# **KOSA NEWS**



## **NUMBER 60 - AUTUMN 2022**

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

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### **EDITORIAL...**

We hope to get back on track by having an Autumn Lunch and Annual General Meeting at Lincombe Barn Downend on **Saturday, 15 October 2022**. Please book that date with our Treasurer, Martin Harryman, 5 Brecon View, Bleadon Hill, Weston super Mare, BS24 9NF now by completing the form in the centrefold. We hope to combine the lunch with a reunion for the 53ers (see below). If you would like to arrange a meeting for your year at a future lunch, just let us know.

A short AGM is well overdue, having been sabotaged by the period of Covid-19 when meeting was out of the question. Unfortunately, age combined with the grim reaper have robbed us of a number of active Committee members, so we need to strengthen the KOSA Committee with some new members. It's not too onerous, a couple of Committee meetings a year and a Christmas lunch(!), all to ensure the smooth-running of KOSA. If you live within the Bristol area, or can get there easily, why not put yourself forward as a Committee member? We are in need of a Chairman and a Secretary, but we do spread the work amongst the Committee members.

I hope to see you at the Lunch and welcome some new Committee members.

**The Editor**

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### **53ers REUNION...**

JILL BROOKS (53-59) (now Hayden) suggests a reunion:

'Many of you who started at KGS in 1953 will realise we are 80 this year! Could we meet up on 15 October 2022 at Lincombe Barn in Overndale Road, Downend for a meal together and a chat about old times. If you would like your name included on a list please ring JILL BROOKS (I'm now Jill Hayden) on 0117 9373344 or 07968 508 855. Here's hoping for a big turnout!'

We'll arrange separate seating for the 53ers, so please mark your form accordingly if you wish to be seated with the group.

### **DEMOLITION...**

In the last edition a shot of the remnants of the satellite classrooms on the boys' play area clearly demonstrated the tardy nature of your Editor's visit to the site.

Fortunately, we can thank GEOFF COLE (55-60) for getting to the site early enough to record phases of the demolition. On page 3 we publish the passing of the classrooms in which so many generations received their education.

Your Ed remembers very clearly receiving his first French lesson in one of those classrooms, given by MISS ROSEMARY WILLETTS in September 1951. Rosemary was an ex-KGS pupil who returned to teach after university. Whatever happened to her?

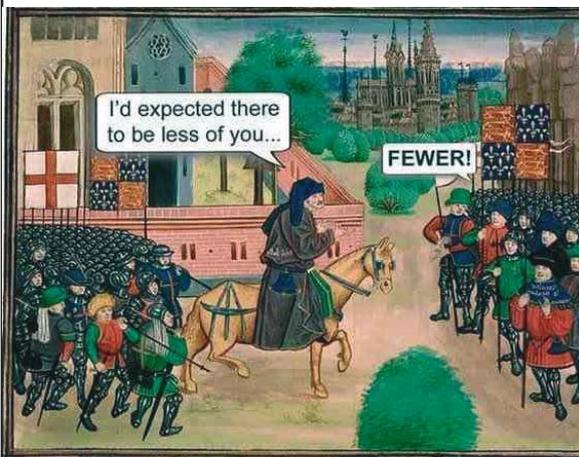
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### **A PEDANT'S RESPONSE...**

Our first pedant in Pedants' Corner in the last edition was DAVE MASSEY (66-71) who waxed lyrical about whether the British were citizens or subjects.

Dave responded to our bit of fun by sending a cartoon illustrating an aspect on which many pedants exercise their concern (including your Ed!).

A great response, Dave!



**The Pedants' Revolt**

### **VERNON RECALLS Pt 2...**

We left Vernon in *KOSA NEWS* #59 entering KGS in 1938 and at the age of 17 in 1944 he volunteered to join the Royal Navy serving for 3 years as part of the crew of HMS IMPLACABLE, based in Scotland. The photo is of Vernon in uniform in 1944. Vernon continues:



'In 1942-43 there was a huge upheaval in the village when the Yanks entered the village and set up an American Medical Corp camp opposite the "house". Their billeting crew and stores were kept at the Packers' chocolate factory at Greenbank where they were trucked there everyday. Quite a few of the soldiers became regulars at the "house" and we got to know them very well especially the Head Chef.

***GOING...GOING...GONE...!***



'I was the only civilian allowed on the camp, but their way of life was so different from ours. Their meals of beef, ham and pork were not rationed and it was my first experience of hamburgers plus plentiful supplies of Camel, Lucky Strike and Chesterfield cigarettes - I was always given a packet of 20. There were plentiful supplies of Hershey chocolate bars plus Planters peanuts, bananas, pineapples, peaches and, of course, the nylon stockings which the female inhabitants would die for, or almost did anyway!

'Ordinary life was still going on much the same as in the 30s. Local fish deliveries were made by "Fishy Britton" who delivered twice a week after picking up his supplies from the Bristol fish market. He had a problem when he neared the pub as the horse would automatically stop outside. He knew his master needed liquid refreshment but the horse would continue the round, even if his master had over indulged.

'There was a right fuss when in the "house" the local shoe repairer came in with raging toothache in his Gloucester accent said to dad "'Ere Fred cus thee take this tooth out for I". Dad told him to go to the dentist but Tom replied "No thee cus take it out cussant". So Dad gave him a couple of whiskys and with his pliers and a fight managed to extract the bad tooth; Tom even paid for the whisky - they were tough in those days.

'Sunday lunch time in the "house" was very busy. One Sunday "Fishy Britton" was having his pint and passed away in the bar. One of the customers had seen some beer left in his glass and Riply said "He's gone before his time -

and he hasn't finished his drink."

'In those days, the bar floor was covered in sawdust to help soak up any spilt beer. Dad would get this from Tommy Burnham's wood mill in Bank Road, Kingswood. Tommy was a well known local councillor and chairman of Kingswood DC for many years.

'During the 30s Dad told me you could purchase a pint of Bristol United Bitter, packet of Woodbine cigarettes, a packet of England's glory matches and get change out of 2 shillings old money (10 pence new money). A pint of bitter would cost five old pence, Smith's crisps cost one old penny and I can remember they had twice as much in them then. They were delivered in 24 packets per tin from the factory in Brislington.

'After the war finished much alteration to what we encountered in years gone by had started to change the green fields. They were disappearing as major building and construction of housing and roads began. The Anchor was no longer the hub as the motor car, travel, TV, clubs and shops had become booming businesses, although the "house" benefited from the surge of people taking up residence here. Even the old Anchor was up for enlargement.

'The pub went under alterations and our ground floor living room became the pub lounge and the beer was pumped straight from the barrels in the beer cellar to the bar. We also became fully licensed to sell wines and spirits. It was Dad who said he wanted me to take charge of the alterations and I should serve in the lounge at other busy times such as Bank Holidays, Christmas and New year, high days

and holidays.

'I forgot to mention that before we were granted our wine and spirits licence we were just a beer house where the beer was served straight from the wooden barrel located on a very strong wooden framework called a horse. The barrels contained 36 gallons. This structure meant that each empty barrel would be replaced with a full one, and to get this onto the horse took three of us in three movements to do so. The location of smaller barrels of less than 36 gallons was done by only one person. Dad had to get the tap in through the cork at the bottom of each barrel and if this wasn't employed correctly you could lose the whole contents of that barrel - and no profit! In all my time working this operation, Dad never lost a drop.

'Another war time memory was the mobile Bofors gun which during the Bristol air raids would pull up in the front yard and fire off 12 or more rounds at the enemy aircraft. This could be any time of the day but usually happened in the middle of the night - quite an awakening moment. Dad did ask the sergeant in charge why they were so mobile and he replied that the exploding fire might giveaway their position to the enemy aircraft.

'By the late 40s the village became a suburb of Kingswood and joined it as part of one entity. The main bus routes were also beginning to start up and taking shoppers to the main shops in Bristol.

'Dad and Mum retired in 1965 and moved to the detached house next door to the Anchor. My grandmother had this house built in 1936 on part of the land that belonged to my family;

this became my home in later life.

'I was asked to take over the Anchor by the brewery who were by now George's then Courage but as I was building up my own leather goods distribution company and knowing what ties the licensee would demand, I decided this was not for me. And to this day I have not moved far away. I can look out of my kitchen window and see my old bedroom window in the pub and where I have very special memories, many more than I have spoken about.

'Sometimes emotions bring those memories flooding back. Even now as I write this they are still there, and it will always be something I was proud of, being part of something that is invaluable to my life at the old home, something that alas can never be replaced and something I would not want to anyway, because they belong to me and are very special. I hope this gives an interesting insight into my life.'

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Vernon is now in his 95th year and we hope you enjoyed Vernon's reminiscences. One who certainly did was DAVE WALL (54-59) who we were able to put in touch with Vernon. Dave writes: 'I was staggered to read Vernon Stokes contribution. Having grown up living next to Made for Ever Methodist chapel, almost next to Anchor Stores (which I never knew was a fish and chip shop), I never thought that I would come across a former resident of The Anchor, and certainly not one who had been to KGS. He would probably have known my family particularly as owners of Syston Hill Farm , a former colliery.

I was also very pleased to see news of my old friend ANTHONY RICHARDS

(54-61) in a recent edition. We had more than a few memorable times, particularly at New Year in Llanelly with a visit to the brewery. Also at his first wedding in Cardiff. His nicknames I will pass over!

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### ***THE EDWARDS CLAN...***

We are pleased to welcome VAL EDWARDS (61-68) (now Scott) to KOSA and she has told us of her KGS family:

‘All my siblings went to KGS – NIGEL EDWARDS, CATHERINE (Kate) EDWARDS (now Kaye), HILARY EDWARDS (now Bateman) and HELEN EDWARDS (now Hamilton) all or some of whom subscribe to *KOSA NEWS*. Also, my mother MARGARET PEACOCK (later Edwards) (now deceased 2014) went there. Mum was a friend of KATHLEEN HAWKINS, who as Kathleen Mountstephen became Lord Mayor of Bristol, who was mentioned in a recent issue of *KOSA NEWS*.’



Val is a friend of ex-MP JANET ANDERSON (62-68) and PENNY STAPLETON (61-68). Penny is sadly recorded in this edition’s obituaries. They met in happier times on the terrace at Westminster when Janet was an MP and Janet has kindly supplied

the photograph. Penny is on Janet’s right on the photo and Val is on Janet’s left.

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### ***GORDON’S COMMENTS...***

GORDON JACKSON (55-62), a regular contributor writes:

‘I’m glad that *KOSA NEWS* has started again. It never fails to interest me. I’m sorry to hear of the death of ALAN QUARTLY; it must be a special blow to his widow, Jennifer (nee Hunt). Although Alan was a conscientious student, he had cynical views on the way KGS was run. I believe HEADMASTER RIDLEY wanted to make him a prefect, but Alan refused!

‘Jennifer was one of the four musicians in the same class. The others were RICHARD HOLLOWAY, MARGARET REECE (now Wills) and myself. We all studied Music at university, Richard and Margaret went to the Royal Manchester College of Music (now the Royal Northern School of Music) and I went to Cambridge University and afterwards did several jobs outside music.

‘As far as the Remove Class, I was under the impression that in later years it was called 5CR (ie 5 Christmas Returns). 5CR was for students who in their first five years hadn’t enough O-levels. As all O-level boards had exams in December, the idea was that the students could re-sit their O-levels then. After Christmas, 5CR was liquidated.

Those who had enough O-levels (and those who were fed up) left the school, while the rest went into the bottom stream of the 5<sup>th</sup> form and sat their O-levels in the summer (for the third time!).

'In contrast, the top fourth form stream did their O-levels a year early, then went straight into the sixth form. In my opinion this was not a good idea, but that's another story.

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### **A TASTER...**

HILARY BERROW (56-61) (later Dr Robinson) has notified us of a change of address to be nearer to her daughter and family. At the same time she informs us that she started at St George Grammar School, but a move over the border from Bristol to Gloucestershire meant that she was required to transfer to KGS. Hilary writes a taster of her academic life:

'I love reading *KOSA NEWS* and will write my memories one day if you think they would be of any interest. I have a PhD in English Literature and taught most of my working life at University College, Dublin.'

Of course we would be interested in Hilary's and any KOSA member's memories. We would rather know of your life experiences after KGS when you are alive rather than incorporating them into an obituary, which so often happens!

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### **ANOTHER AUTHOR...**

Rev. JOHN 'TWEEDY' HARRIS dropped KOSA a line after the last edition:

'I was thrilled to see a reference to KEITH THORNE on page 12, my late brother in law (who taught at Rendcomb College) and the inspiration of his teaching. I know you won't mind - I have copied that and the saw mills bit to my nephew and niece in Cheltenham. It will mean a lot to them - my niece in particular is struggling with

cancer at the moment and is about to retire from teaching. Just to say that Rendcomb is near Cirencester by the way, and not on the Isle of Wight.

' My book is now in print and I will send you a copy when I get time - obviously I am prioritising the eldest of the people mentioned to make sure they get a copy as soon as I can.'

We will review John's book in a later edition. - Ed

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### **CONTACT...**

We were pleased to be able to put CHRISTOPHER GREENFIELD (60-68) in touch with JANET ANDERSON (62-68) and Christopher has dropped KOSA a pleasant note:

I cannot explain how delighted I am to receive the KOSA NEWS number 59!

I was gradually getting more depressed, fearing that despite your brave words when we spoke a few months ago, that the Grim Reaper had crept up on you..... How wonderful it is to have the proof that you have indeed escaped his unwanted clutches!

Thank you, and the NHS or whatever agency (Tweedy's Pal the Big G, maybe...! OK, I won't tease you on that point!) has helped you beat the challenges which had a weaker you when we last spoke. The implications of the postman's delivery are much more than just another good read and a trip down memory Lane!

A quick glance shows satisfaction that JANET ANDERSON does remember our House of Commons encounters, which were not eclipsed by her later friendship with Her Majesty!

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### **VISIT FROM OZ...**

BILL BARKER (53-60) visited the UK this Summer from Australia, where he now lives. He also has a home in France. However, he found time to drop us a line and send a couple of photographs:

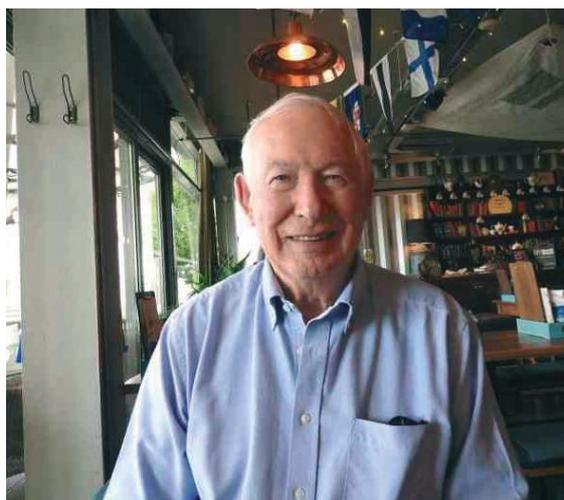
'We are currently in Bristol until Sunday, flying up to Edinburgh and then back again on Monday week (11th July) for a couple of days before heading back down to Plymouth. We sail back to France on 14th. As I expected the week has been full on.



'I've been with ROY HUBBARD (55-60) and TONY DOWN (55-61) to have lunch at the Container Pub on Portishead Marina. The three of us played Rugby together (for Kingswood Old Boys RFC? - Ed)

Roy brought along the extract from the last KOSA NEWS magazine that I sent you showing the netball team from Kingswood YMCA. A few people may be wondering why I was still in possession of the photo. Must have fancied someone in there. Maybe all of them!

The photo (above) shows Bill (left) with Roy and top right shows Tony on the same occasion in a typical pose, propping up the bar!



### **OVER 50 YEARS AGO...**

In 1970, Senior Mistress and Deputy Head MISS MORRISON retired and Head C N RIDLEY wrote a farewell piece in Kingswood Chronicles when she retired.

I am sure many of us remember Miss Morrison and we have resurrected some of what Mr Ridley wrote:

*Miss E. Morrison, Senior Mistress and Deputy Head of this school, will be retiring at the end of this term after 34 years of service in the school, of which 14 have been as Senior Mistress.*

*Such long service to one school is in itself most remarkable, and shows a quality of faithfulness and commitment which is rare at any time, and particularly in these days of rapid movement and change.*

*Miss Morrison came to Kingswood Secondary School as it was then called after holding posts as games mistress in Hull, Maidenhead, and Donington, Lincolnshire, having previously trained at Liverpool Physical Training College. It is difficult for present day pupils to realise how sparse were the facilities for P.E. in*



*those days, and the amount of time which Miss Morrison gave on her own for coaching teams, and teaching skills, and how few weekends she had free from match commitments..... She was primarily occupied with Physical Education....and she gave a hallmark to girls' Physical Education in the school. As well, Miss Morrison taught dancing, and was responsible for the dances of many operatic and dramatic productions over the years.*

*In the classroom, Miss Morrison has taught Latin, History and English to countless generations of Lower School pupils, and they have enjoyed her individual approach.*

*....When Miss Quinton retired I had great pleasure in recommending Miss Morrison to the Governors for the post of Senior Mistress, and they in turn received the nomination with enthusiasm since they knew her quality. In due course Miss Morrison became Deputy Head.*

*...Miss Morrison has always lived nearby the school, or hereabouts, and we are glad that in her retirement she will not be far away. Also, she will live conveniently for the golf course, which has been her great outside interest of recent years, and given her an opportunity of maintaining her skill in games.*

*So, at the end of an era, we have to say goodbye to Miss Morrison as a member of the staff of the school, and give her our warmest thanks, and our very best wishes for a happy and healthful retirement.*

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### **TEN TORS...**

In the last edition we featured the presentation of the Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award to DAVID EWINS (53-59) and ROY HUBBARD (53-60), who gained their awards through a scheme run by Kingswood YMCA.

The School was no less enterprising and we have come across a report of a Ten Tors Trek in 1970 written by JULIA PARR:

'By six o'clock in the evening of Sunday, May 18<sup>th</sup> 1970, the long-anticipated 'Ten Tors' was over except for the coach ride home. Feet were patched up, clothes changed, and the famous NAAFI stew sampled and rejected by those of us with more delicate tastes.

'We had volunteered for the exercise months before, when Dartmoor seemed very remote. Finally arriving there on Friday in the mist and rain, the atmosphere of adventure notably dwindled, faced with the actual reality of crossing the moor.

'However, apprehension was overcome, and after an address from the

Mayor of Okehampton and well-wishes from members of the staff, at 7 pm we started the long trek.

'Close contact with the moor showed us another side of nature. The sweeping valleys were wet and boggy, the Tors, so magnificent from afar, were rather more steep and rocky than expected. Some of us learnt the hard way. After tramping confidently along the solid ground, we found the earth would sway mysteriously, and we were waist deep in a mass of moving mud. After the exasperating experience of struggling through a bog, stepping stones across the rivers were no longer necessary, and patrols plunged through the fresh clear water heedlessly.

'Encouraged by Miss Tate, Miss Holman, Mr. Hyett and other members of staff all teams made a tremendous effort. Philip Powell, saved by his own initiative, was the sole survivor of his team. Others to complete the course were Dean French, Richard Grey, Philip Small and Stephen Wiltshire. The best of British luck, as expressed by an enthusiastic army officer, was certainly with the girls, when the full team completed the course Susan Brisland, Kathy Fry, Jenny Hayes, Julia Parr, Janice Maynard and Alison Watkins.

'Ten Tors' is a great experience whether completed or not. After the energy and stamina have worn thin it is the team companionship that lasts and reaches the finishing post, and that is the greatest aspect of the exercise. We hope the 'Ten Tors' tradition will carry on and wish success to future Kingsfield teams.

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### **A CORRECTION...**

JOHN TAYLOR has spotted an error and remembers 'The Dig':

'On page 14 of #59 you have three photos submitted by LIONEL MATTHEWS (54-61) showing an experiment with an electric shock machine. The top photo shows me: JOHN TAYLOR (54-62 Group) on the far right not Dave Taylor. DAVE TAYLOR (59-61) is correctly identified in the bottom photo (I think we look reasonably different).

'I have only a vague recollection of the event, however, I well remember a cycle ride with ANGUS CHALLINOR to Southsea and Portsmouth during one of the school holidays. At school he was a particular friend of mine and I was very shocked to hear of his death at least 28 to 30 years ago. During our ride we made various detours so Angus could collect platform tickets at railway stations en route. I think platform tickets rather like train numbers was something that was done then but Angus was the only one I knew who did this.

'I also went on a cycle ride with Dave Taylor. Towards the end of one of the VI form terms, MR NELSON (History) organised a group to work on an archaeological dig in the Vale of Pewsey near Marlborough. I cycled up with Dave. I think Mr Nelson carried some of the girls in the group in his car. We dug trenches in the side of an earthwork called a 'neolithic causeway camp' as part of a project by some Cambridge Professor. Not a great deal to see in such ancient works (only 'windmill hill pottery' I seem to remember, looks like bits of charcoal).

'The only real interest was a skeleton, at least the feet and lower leg bones



of a body sticking into our trench quite close to the surface. These were left on a plinth of chalk/soil as we dug down. There were signs of iron, probably from nails around the feet (therefore not Roman). It could have been Saxon or even more recent but of no interest to the archeologist. He said we could dig out the rest of the body when the trench was finished. However, when the aerial photos of all the trenches were taken, they just filled them in. I believe this was done after we had gone and we had no sight of the rest of the body.

*KOSA NEWS* certainly brings back memories. Thank you!

The photos on the left are of the 'Diggers of 1960'. As John does not remember any of the people, is it possible that there was another dig in another year?

Please let us know if you can identify any of the groups.



### **A VISIT...**

DEREK BAILEY (49-53) originally came to KGS from the East End of London after being evacuated from the bombing during the war. Whilst at KGS, he lived with Headmaster RIDLEY's family, after which he emigrated to Canada and finally settled in Denver, Colorado.

Derek is now an American citizen, but is a regular visitor to the UK. Indeed, he has seldom missed one of our KOSA lunches in recent years. Above is a photo of a visit by Derek and his wife to C N RIDLEY back in the 1970s.

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### **AN APPEAL...**

As we go to press with this edition a request has been received from JOHN

BRITTON (52-59). John has asked for the current location of ANTHONY HOOPER (52-59), who possibly lived at Hooper's Farm, near Bitton.

'Tony was a remarkable footballer who played for Bitton Juniors, not a good team, but Tony always managed to score after dribbling through and cracking a thunderous shot, usually from well outside the penalty area. Terry Box, who was the captain, will remember those halcyon days. Tony was also a member of KGS 1st Cricket team and the 2nd Rugby side. John believes Tony may have become a Methodist Lay Preacher.'

John would also like to know the whereabouts of BRUCE PERRY (52-59) as he would also like to contact him.

If you know anything about these two old scholars, please let us know.

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# KINGSWOOD SCHOOL

opened in 1921 and served this district for many years as its Grammar School. In 1969 Kingsfield School became a broadly selective school with a large Collegiate Sixth Form. In 1976 Kingsfield School became fully comprehensive in the 11-16 main school.

In 1976 a fire destroyed the permanently temporary wooden building in which the school's honours boards were placed. This academic register replaces the old honours boards in a form more suitable to the Core Building which opened in December 1978.

In the last edition of *KOSA NEWS* we published some extracts from the Awards Book which replaced the Honours Boards which were situated in the entrance hall and therefore were lost in the fire.

Above is the introductory page to the book which contains entries from 1921 to 1983. This time we publish on pages 14 and 15. entries from the 1958/60s and another from the 69/70s

The introductory page suggests that the school was a grammar school from the start in 1921, whereas it started existence as Kingswood Secondary School. It also suggests that the building which was destroyed in the fire was a temporary one, whereas when constructed there was no suggestion that it was a temporary structure.

If anyone would like us to publish particular pages covering a period between 1921 and 1983, just let us know.

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## **CONTACT...**

Stemming from the last edition, we have been able to put many old scholars in touch with their long-lost friends; after all, that is one of the major reasons for the existence of *KOSA*. A typical letter from ALAN THOMAS (64-71):

'KEN NICHOLS (69-71) and I played in the same school football team (see my article in *KOSA News* 58) and also after we left Kingsfield. After 'retiring' from the game I lost touch with Ken.

'It would be good to meet up with him again as I believe he is still in the Bristol area. and I was wondering if you had an email address for him that you could share with me?' Done!

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1958/0 Holloway M. L.	State Scholarship, Manchester Music
1958/9 Jay K.	Redland College (Education)
1958/9 Knight D.	Fitzwilliam House, Cambridge Law
1958/9 Matthews Eileen	County Major, St. Mary's College Cheltenham (Education)
1958/9 Redgers M. R.	County Major, St. Andrews Engineering
1958/9 Sealy Brenda	St. Mary's College, Cheltenham Education
1958/9 Tidball J.	Manchester (German)
1958/9 Thomas Jill	College of Sarum St. Michael, Salisbury (Education)
1958/9 Warr A.	Torquay College (Hotel Management)
1958/9 Williams K. C.	County Major, Birmingham Chemistry
1959/0 Angell B. M.	County Major, Bristol College of Advanced Technology
1959/0 Chandler R. J.	Bristol
1959/0 Critchley Josephine	Homerton College (Education)
1959/0 Davies Josephine	Neville's Cross College, Durham Physical Education
1959/0 Ewins D. J.	Royal and State Scholarship Imperial College, London
1959/0 Fudge R.	County Major, Bristol College of Advanced Technology
1959/0 Gifford D. R.	Birmingham
1959/0 Harris J. K.	Manchester
1959/0 Hugget S.	Royal West of England College of Art (Art)

1969	Taylor D.	Margaret McMillan College Education
1969	Thompson M.	Wales
1969	Tucker J.	Bath
1969	Turner R.	Gloucester College of Art (Art)
1969	Watts M.	University College, London
1969	Webb J.	Southampton
1970	Aitchison Anne	Breton Hall College (Education)
1970	Allen Stephen	Manchester (Medicine)
1970	Armstrong Muriel	Avery Hill College (Education)
1970	Arnold Gillian	Norland Nursery College Education
1970	Arscott Frances	Cardiff
1970	Atcheson Christine	Cheltenham Art College (Art)
1970	Baber Julie	Worcester College (Education)
1970	Beese P.	Hatfield Polytechnic
1970	Bennett Pauline	Birmingham
1970	Bruton D.	North Staffs. Polytechnic
1970	Brown Carol	Guildhall School of Music (Music)
1970	Clapham R.	Cardiff
1970	Close Joy	Bedford College, London Psychology
1970	Clutterbuck D.	University College, London (Civil Eng)
1970	Downes Verena	Dartford College (Physical Educatu
1970	Evca Veronica	York (English)
1970	Farnsworth Gillian	Homerton College (Education)
1970	Farr A.	Birmingham
1970	Flew G.	U.W.I.S.T. Cardiff
1970	Foley Christine	Kent
1970	Gawen James	Brunel
1970	Gullett Alison	Royal Holloway College, London Mathematics

## **OBITUARIES...**

In the last edition on page 21 we published a picture of the 1957 Arts Group sent in by WENDY EDWARDS (51-57) from Australia, which included her contemporary SANDRA LEWIS. We published the next step in Higher Education for each of them, with the exception of Sandra.

We have since been contacted by Sandra's sister, Margaret Nolder, who has informed us that Sandra went to Cordwaine College where she studied Shoe Design. She subsequently set up her own shoe design and sales business with her husband and afterwards travelled extensively after the business was wound up. Sadly, she passed away at the age of 52.

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We have received a letter from John Thorn in Australia to inform us that his wife MARY HUCKLE (48-54) passed away on 12th July 2021 at the age of 84. Mary's photo is shown below.

John's sister, ROSEMARY THORN (later Larkham), who was a contempo-



rary of Mary's, has also passed away.

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DAVID FOICE (49-56) died in February 2022. David was an engineer very much concerned with the construction of the Second Severn Crossing, the bridge which now carries the M4 motorway across the River Severn. It's believed David managed the operation of both Severn Bridges until his retirement.

David was awarded a Gloucestershire County Major Scholarship after A-level results in Pure Maths, Applied Maths and Physics and after KGS he read Engineering at Queen Mary College, University of London. In 1956 he was also awarded the 'Parent Teacher' Prize at KGS.

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VAL EDWARDS (61-68) (now Scott) has informed us of the passing of her schoolfriend PENNY STAPLETON (61-68) (later Smurthwaite), who died from cancer on 24th June this year.

Both Val and Penny were also friends with JANET ANDERSON, who was a Labour MP and who published a book of her conversations with the Queen. In happy times they both met with Janet at the Houses of Parliament when Janet was a serving MP. A delightful photograph of the three friends appears on page 6 of this edition.

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Rod Eley has informed us of his mother's death:

'My mother EILEEN JESSIE COVE (later Eley) (37-43) who was born in October 1925, died peacefully on 11th May 2022.

'Until recently she enjoyed receiving her copy of KOSA NEWS so thank

you for continuing to send it.

'She was lifelong friends with MARION HENDY and JEAN BARRELL, both of whom predeceased her.'

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Elizabeth Moore has kindly sent us the sad news that her husband, Rev. ROGER MOORE (52-58) is now living with Alzheimer's disease.

'Although they say that people remember things from long ago, he doesn't remember Hanham Church or school, and if I talk about people from his youth he usually says he remembers the name, but that is it. Unfortunately he reads very little, probably because he doesn't retain it, so won't be reading the KOSA NEWS. I though, enjoy reading it though I'm not even a Bristolian!

'Roger's sister, PAULINE HELEN MOORE (45-49) (later Poole) also went to Kingswood Grammar School died last year having been house-bound for about 3 years.

'Pauline qualified as a nurse and was lived near Reading (Woodley) most of her married life, Unfortunately her younger son (David) died only 9 months later. Her elder son (Robert) moved to the States some 20 years ago.'

---

KOSA is sorry to announce the death of MISS ELEANOR SPILL, who taught French from 55-82 at KGS and later Kingsfield School. Miss Spill died on 13 July 2022 in Keynsham where she lived for many years and where she sang in the choir at the Parish Church of John the Baptist. Her funeral took place there on 11th August.

Miss Spill was a very private person

and she lived with two of her sisters for many years. Her French degree was from Bristol University, and she taught in Leicestershire and Birmingham before joining the staff at KGS. She was a very popular teacher, described as 'excellent' in correspondence received by KOSA from a number of her pupils, many of whom went on to read languages at university.

She was form mistress of a number of forms throughout her years at Kingswood, including VG1 in 1959, an all-girls class. Our photo (at the top of page 18) shows her as form mistress of 4A in 1957. She was also Senior House Mistress of Fussell House in 1961, when she also went on the school trip to Austria.

The photo below shows Miss Spill (second row, centre), with the other members of staff who tasted the 6th Form boys' cookery proceeds back in 1957 when the boys were let loose in the kitchens for cookery lessons.



Clearly no harm was done to the staff as Miss Spill was 96 years of age when she died!

We are sure that many scholars will remember her with affection.

---



We have been informed by MARLENE HAYWARD (53-60) that ROBERT SOUTHGATE (56-?) has died. Robert's career included teaching in a girls' boarding school in Hampshire.

brated her 100th birthday on 4th January 2022.

**CONGRATULATIONS...**

Queenie, who still lives in her own home in Downend, received many presents and wishes of goodwill as well as the usual birthday card from the Queen.



Amongst the gifts she received were those from her brother in the USA. Her sister was also present at the celebration. Queenie still lives an active life and is a well-known as a member of a number of local organisations.

During her teaching career Queenie was Headmistress of a special educational school at The Tower in Tower Road North, in Warmley.

The photo on the left shows Queenie receiving a gift from Downend Masonic Widows Association, of which she is a member. It is being presented by Mr Richard Birkwood.

Rather belatedly to QUEENIE YEO-MANS (33-39) (now Coles) who cele-

Many happy returns from KOSA, Queenie!



### **NEIGHBOURS...**

Sculptor MARGARET LOVELL (50-55) has found a photo from the past (above): 'Thought you may like to see this pic. I found of me with WENDY EDWARDS 51-57) (now Cookes) who was our next door neighbour, 'almost' my sister, being a year younger than me. I guess I was about 12 years old in this picture with our Pekingese dogs/puppies.

'The other photo (right) is a recent one of me 'tackling' a big bronze I had cast in England and shipped, getting ready for a solo sculpture exhibition here at Auckland gallery in June.'

Little did they know all those years ago that Margaret would eventually move to New Zealand and Wendy would emigrate and spend much of her life in Australia. Still practically neighbours!

### **POETRY CORNER...**

Some time ago, BRIAN ILES (45-50), together with a colleague, published a small booklet of poems for sale to raise funds for the Cancer Research Campaign. Below is a poem which recalls his mis-spent youth in the brickyard quarry:

#### **THE LOST WORLD**

*'The 'brick' was short for brick-  
yard quarry.  
In the holidays, weekends and  
after tea  
We spent our lives there  
All of the kids in Hanham Road and  
me.*

*There was a war on:  
Round behind the brick  
kilns Ranger B,  
The owner, lurked to spoil  
the fun  
Of the kids in Hanham Road and  
me.*

*But we were hidden down below  
in dens  
Or on the other side in our own  
territory,  
Allotments, which belonged  
To all of the kids in Hanham Road  
and me.*

*Where, dirty-mouthed from black  
potatoes baked  
Beneath the Palmers old pear tree,  
We giggled jokes, smoked gutter-  
shag,  
Some of the kids in Hanham Road  
and me.*

*Or fished the ponds for tiddlers, frogs  
and evats,  
The greater-crested, palmate, smooth,  
to name but three,  
With worms on cotton,  
Most of the kids in Hanham Road  
and me.*

*We trawled for spawn and tadpoles,  
Spoiled the rides of mating frogs,  
Then left the tapioca on our  
plates for tea,  
Sick to our stomachs,  
Half of the kids in Hanham Road  
and me.*

*Jumped to our playful deaths  
from 'curly-stuff',  
Poled rafts across the pond,  
Pinched old men's carrots, all the best  
was free.  
And in the end the war was won but  
not by Ranger B  
Nor by the kids in Hanham Road and  
me.*

Brian Iles

---

### **FROM MALLORCA...**

JILL ALEXANDER (now Fuentes), the staff member who organised the Avening House trip reported in the last edition has sent greetings from Mallorca.

'I confess to being the teacher in the 'unusual' informal group photograph of 4H in July 1971 on page 26 of #59. It

was taken with my camera and not meant for publication at the time.

'I think that it ended up in a pack of photographs that I gave to BOB MEAKER some years ago, for him to use as he wished. (Those photos may have ended up with me! - Ed)

'I do not believe that Headmaster RIDLEY would have approved - especially as the behaviour of one or two of the pupils in the photograph was not exactly exemplary!

'However after 51 years it is time that it has surfaced! They were happy days for me! I do have photographs of my Haskins groups for summer 1964, 1965, 1966, 1967, 1968, 1969 and 1972. I am missing the formal Arthur G. Hancock photographs for 1970, 1971, 1973, 1974 and 1976.

'Thank you to MARTIN SCOLLARS (70-76) and WENDY DODD (71-76) for their comments about the trip we had to Avening House. I remember them both very well. I left KGS Easter 1977 to go to Hanham High School.'

---

### **DID YOU KNOW..?**

When Kingswood Grammar School became a comprehensive there was, of course, much discussion about the name which should be adopted by the new School.

It seems that there was some support for the name 'Kings School' and, in retrospect, the name 'Kings' does have a certain cachet. Consequently, a School Prospectus was produced in July 1967 on which the name 'Kings School, Kingswood, Bristol' was proclaimed. Unfortunately the name was rejected by the suited and booted ones in Westminster, so 'Kingsfield' it was!

---

# HEAD'S 4-LETTER WORD ON BOARD

By NED GRANT

**THE headmaster was shocked by some of the words he saw traced in the dust on teachers' cars outside his school.**

How he dealt with the matter

shocked the parents of some of his pupils.

The headmaster, Mr. Charles Ridley, called together the 750 boys and girls at Kingswood Grammar School, near Bristol. Then he wrote one of the offending four-letter words on a blackboard and said:

"This is childish behaviour and has got to stop."

One father told me: "I nearly fell out of my chair when my daughter mentioned this word and said the headmaster had written it on the blackboard. I may protest to the Parent Teacher Association."

**THE headmaster was shocked by some of the words he saw traced in the dust on teachers' cars outside his school.**

How he dealt with the matter

The headmaster, Mr. Charles Ridley called together the 750 boys and girls at Kingswood Grammar School, near Bristol. Then he wrote one of the offending four-letter words on a blackboard and said:

"This is childish behaviour and has got to stop."

One father told me: "I nearly fell out of my chair when my daughter mentioned this word and said the headmaster had written it on the blackboard. I may protest to the Parent Teacher Association."

### Unusual

The mother of another pupil said:

"I am in favour of anything the headmaster thinks will curb the use of foul words by school children."

Mr. Ridley said: "The method I adopted to curb this offensive conduct may have been unusual, but I think it has borne results."

### THAT WORD..!

The two press cuttings (above) are national newspaper reports of Headmaster C N RIDLEY's attempt to eradicate the use of The Word throughout the School by writing it on the blackboard in front of the whole School.

Apparently, it was found to have been traced in the dirt on teachers' cars. The top report appeared in the *Daily Mirror* of 8th March 1966. We do not know in which newspaper the second report appeared



**JUGENDFERIENWERK SALZBURG** GES. M. B. H.  
STUDIUM / ERHOLUNG / FREIZEITEN / WINTERSPORT

ARBEITSGEMEINSCHAFT FÜR FREIZEIT UND INTERNATIONALE JUGENDBEGEGNUNG

" ONE WEEK IN SALZBURG " - 8th to 14th August 1971

Name of the group : Kingsfield School / GALLOWAY Travel Ltd.  
Name of the group leader : Mr. Humphreys  
Name of the guide of JFW : Mr. Karl MÖSENER  
Accommodation : Jugendgästehaus WALSERFELD, 5071 Wals, Tel.: 84 5 53  
Group number : S - VIII / 8

PROGRAMME :

- 1st day:  
August 8th
- 17.30 h Arrival of the group by special bus in Salzburg, Jugendgästehaus  
Walserfeld, 5071 Wals, Tel. 84 553.  
Welcome through the austrian guide Mr. Möseneder .
- 18.30 h Dinner at the youth centre.
- 2nd day:  
August 9th
- 08.00 h Breakfast  
By coach into town
- 09.00 h Sightseeing : Mozartplatz, Fortress Hohensalzburg, Nonnberg  
Convent, St. Peters Church, Catacombes, etc.
- 12.30 h Lunch at the youth centre.
- 14.00 h Sightseeing : Franciscan Church, Sigmundplatz, Getreidegasse,  
Mozarts Birth Place.
- 18.00 h Dinner at the youth centre.  
Free evening.
- 3rd day:  
August 10th
- 08.00 h Breakfast
- 09.00 h Departure by coach for the Salzkammergut - Salzburg- Upper Austria  
Lake District. Route : Fuschl - St. Gilgen - (trip up to the  
"Zwölferhorn" by cable car) - St. Wolfgang (shrine by Michael  
Pacher ) - Mondsee - Autobahn Salzburg.  
Packed lunch en route
- If the weather is bad the trip continues to Bad Ischl - visit  
of the Imperial Villa, instead of going up the Zwölferhorn.
- 17.00 h Approximately return to the youth centre.
- 18.30 h Dinner at the youth centre.  
Free evening.
- 4th day:  
August 11th
- 08.00 h Breakfast
- 08.30 h By coach to Hellbrunn. Visit of the castle, fountains, Monats-  
schlößl.
- 12.30 h Lunch at the youth centre.

A-5020 SALZBURG, GETREIDEGASSE 21/IV, TELEFON 85353

- 2 -

Afternoon free - or walk up to the Gaisberg mountain (wonderful view all over Salzburg).

17.30 h Dinner at the youth centre.

20.00 h Folkloristic evening : with dance and meeting with young people from Salzburg, at the " Haus der Jugend", Franz Hinterholzerkai 8, 5020 Salzburg.

22.00 h Return to the youth centre.

5th day:  
August 12th

08.00 h Breakfast  
By coach into town

09.00 h Sightseeing : Kapuzinerberg, St. Sebastian Church (cemetery, Paracelsus tomb), Mirabell Castle etc.

12.30 h Lunch at the youth centre.

Afternoon free or visit of the biological museum " Haus der Natur", or if so desired ride by cable car up to the " Untersberg" 5400 feet ( this trip goes to the expenses of the participants).

17.30 h Dinner at the "Auerspergstube", Auerspergstraße 16, Tel.: 72 95 34.

18.30 h Attendance of a " Mozart Serenade" in the Marble Hall of the castle Mirabell.

6th day:  
August 13th

08.00 h Breakfast

09.00 h By coach to Berchtesgaden and the Königssee. Walk to the famous " Malerwinkel".  
Packed lunch en route.

On the way back visit of the Salt Mines in Berchtesgaden. Return to Salzburg via the Obersalzberg.

17.00 h Approximately return to Salzburg.

18.30 h Dinner at the youth centre.

Evening free for further walk through the illuminated town, or meeting of all participants at the " Sternbräu" or any other suitable place for fare well evening from Salzburg (all expenses to participants).

7th day:  
August 14th

08.00 h Breakfast

10.00 h Departure by coach from Salzburg / end of programme.

And now we wish you a very happy and interesting stay in Salzburg and sincerely hope, you will fully enjoy it !

Salzburg, 27th July 1971  
- Tour Department : re -

JUGENDFERIENWERK SALZBURG

### ***WERE YOU THERE..?***

On pages 22 and 23 we have published the itinerary/programme of the 7-day School visit to Salzburg, Austria in August 1971. A busy programme.

It's been prepared for MR HUMPHRIES, who was the Group Leader, but we presume that other staff would also have travelled with the group. Arrival in Salzburg is by 'special bus', but the travel

from the UK was probably by plane, the bus being employed from the airport to Salzburg.

Visits of note appear to be Mozart's birthplace, Hellbrunn Palace (notable for its fountains) and Berchtesgaden, where the group visited the famous salt mines. Berchtesgaden is also the site of Hitler's Bavarian retreat, which is in Germany.



Left:  
Discussion Group:  
?, Roger Fowler, ?,  
Angus Challinor,  
Maurice Meeling,  
John Stanton, Atkins.

Right:  
Lionel Matthews and  
Ken Care  
(Note the 50s  
record player  
on the left)



Left:  
At Lugano:  
Paul Lear, ?,  
Alan Peeling,  
Alan Dulborough,  
Dave Wall, Derek  
Whitchurch,  
Dick Hayes.

### **ENTREPRENEUR...**

LIONEL MATTHEWS (54-61) has told us of his photographic activities in the 6th Form:

'I have a load of 'mug shots' of my fellow classmates in the sixth form. These came about at the time we were all applying for university places. We were required to provide a passport-style photo with the application. Of course there were no photo booths in existence then, you had to go to the local photographer.

'Apart from the hassle of fixing up an appointment to go to him, he charged, I think either 2/6 or 5/-, I can't remember which. So, knowing that I was keen on photography they came to me for the photos. I charged them 3d (3 old pence) each which covered the cost of materials.

'I am sending them to you as the de facto archivist for KOSA. I am not bothered whether you publish them or not, but if you have them for the record then you can do what you wish with them. They were, like me, the 1954-1961 intake I don't know exactly when they were taken, but it would have been late 1960 or early 1961. Their names are given in the file name. I don't remember a couple of their Christian names, except Challinor is Angus Challinor

'One thing that strikes me, being a co-ed school they are all of boys, because in the sixth form we were segregated. I know from reading past issues of the Newsletter, others have made the same observation and nobody seems to know why the segregation. My sister who was six years behind me tells me there was no segregation when she was in the sixth form.'

Opposite and on page 24 are some examples of Lionel's passport work.

### **MUG SHOTS...**



Above: Bert Young



Above: Colin Pillinger



Above: Alan Peeling



Above: Dick Hayes and Cairns

### **A RESPONSE...**

Photographer LIONEL MATTHEWS (54-61) latest missive has arrived:

'This is a friendly response to DOREEN PILLINGER's (48-53) (now Lindegaard) comments about me in the last, Spring 2022, issue of the newsletter.

'I see that Doreen Pillinger has let the cat out of the bag and revealed my nickname at school. I don't mind in the slightest, after all it was over half a century ago. I have read that being given an innocuous nickname like that is a sign of popularity, but I will leave others to judge that. What I don't quite know is why I was given a nickname reminiscent of an American gangster, I wasn't that bad!

'Doreen was right, of course, about the Demmery lads. The Demmery on our D of E expedition, had parents who ran the pub in Kingswood. So Doreen was right in that it was BOB DEMMERY on our expedition. I did not know him very well, but he was a lively member of the expedition and it is very sad that he has passed away.

'I also noticed in the same edition of the *KOSA NEWS* that ROGER FOWLER (54-61) had also passed away. He was one of my classmates and therefore a friend and I was sad to hear of his demise. Ironically he is featured in one of my 'electric shock' photographs shown in the last edition.' A shot of Lionel at School appears on page 24.

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### **ADDENDUM...**

We've had a note from ROGER DONE (55-62):

On the middle photo on page 14 the unidentified person next to PETER HILTON must be ALAN QUARTLY. Alan was always taller than the rest of us.

---

### **PAST LETTER...**

Two copy letters from KEN POPLE, who taught geography in the 50s, to JOHN COLE have come to light. Both are now sadly deceased.

Ken was instrumental in running the Photographic and Film Society when he was at KGS, and he left to become a professional with TWW, then the local TV company. In one of his letters he mentions the filming of the Britannia airliner crash near Overndale Road, Downend in November 1957.

'I was one of the first newsreel cameramen to reach the scene. This was in my interim period of freelancing, shortly before leaving KGS. I was at home at the time and got a telephone call from TWW (precursor of HTV). I rushed there and found that the only other cameraman on the spot was a colleague with whom I later formed our film company. He was filming it on 35mm film for Movietone News, while I was using 16mm, the TV news transmission gauge then.

The police had not yet cordoned off the area and no-one queried me, no doubt because of the movie camera. It may sound ironic in the face of such a disaster to say that really it was unfilmable - an incoherent scatter of fragmented debris, shattered trees, with broken roofs and windows on the adjacent houses, not long built then.

'I came across a rescue party recovering a body, and filmed them, expecting every second to be told to 'f-- off', but they ignored me and worked in silence, I suppose from their Civil Defence experience during the War, when silence was needed to listen for trapped victims. Of course that scene was not televised, except for short section in long shot.

'An unforgettable feature was the strange smell. I had noticed it from newly-crashed aircraft during the War, and learn that it is a very usual experience. I suppose it is a combi-

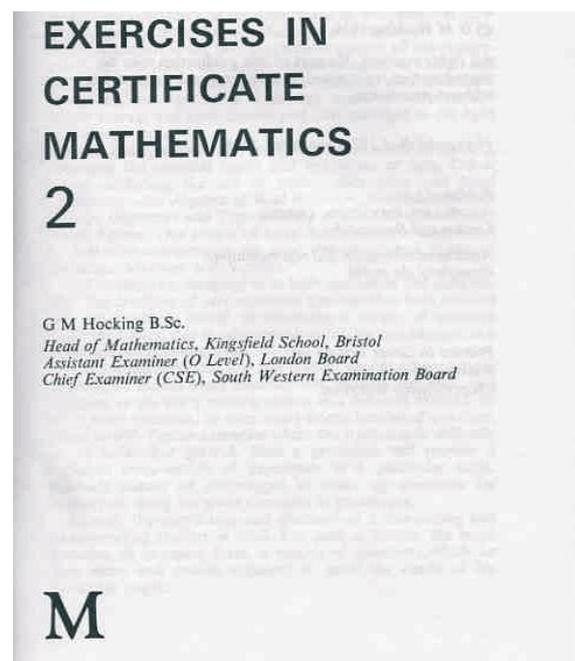
nation of spilled aviation fuel and the cooling down of stressed aluminium.

'The film was, I gather, used by ITN and overseas news broadcasts, as well as TWW.'

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There is another link to that sad occasion when all on board the aircraft lost their lives. GEOFF HOCKING, who taught Maths at KGS, lived in Overndale Road, Downend and his home became part of the crash site. His was amongst the houses which sustained various levels of damage, with one property having a Britannia engine ending up in its garden.

The photo on page 28 is of Mr Hocking's 3L1 class of 1957, taken many months before the air crash. Geoff was a very popular teacher who eventually became Head of Maths. He wrote several textbooks, including:



Amongst Geoff Hocking's admirers is your Ed. It was Geoff's quiet patience and diligence which was instrumental in his passing Mathematics at O-level. That, coupled with GEORGE BUTCHER'S English Language tuition enabled your Ed. to study for an Accountancy qualification on leaving KGS in 1956.

---

## **KOSA MATTERS...**

### **WHERE ARE THEY NOW..?**

Sometimes we get copies of the magazine returned where members have failed to let us know that they have moved. If you know the current whereabouts of the following, please let us know: Pam Guest (52-59) (later Hanks) last known in Hambrook, Terry Plenty (55-63) last known in Frampton Cotterell and Mervyn Wring (46-51) of Weston Super Mare.

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### **WELCOME...**

Joining us since the last *KOSA NEWS*: Sue Taylor (55-60) of Downend and Val Edwards (61-68) (now Scott) of Hanham.

If you're in contact with someone from the School, why not invite them to join KOSA? Just send their details, with their permission, of course, and we will do the rest. We never chase for money, simply inviting them to make a voluntary donation towards the costs of printing and mailing KOSA to all corners of the circular globe! We have members in Canada, USA, France, Germany, Switzerland, Australia, New Zealand and many other countries, so being overseas is no bar to membership.

Under the UK GDPR arrangements, only KOSA Committee members have access to the lists of members and their computerised details which are retained by the Editor. We record for each member the name, (unmarried name where appropriate) address and the years at the schools.

As our aim is to bring old scholars together, we give contact details only to other members on request. Should you not wish your details to be exchanged without prior permission, just let us know.

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KINGSWOOD GRAMMAR SCHOOL  
FORM III L1 1957