

**KINGSTON DAY COMMERCIAL SCHOOL
ASSOCIATION**

**Incorporating the Commercial Section of Hinchley Wood
School**

MARCH 2010

EDITORIAL

As April approaches one particular day becomes uppermost in the thoughts of the Reunion Committee (and we hope in those of members) and that is, of course, the 24th April, the day of our SPECIAL EVENT. With barely a few weeks to go, it is hoped that members who propose to attend and have not already sent in their application forms, will reach up behind the kitchen clock, complete the form with the names of family and friends and send it off (with a cheque) without delay.

Although some people are slightly self-conscious of dressing up “a la mode” it is hoped that the idea of stepping back barely two or three generations, sartorially speaking, might have some appeal, especially as our Reunion commemorates the establishment of our School in 1910. With a little research and imagination, if members were to take this bold step it would make the Reunion a truly memorable occasion.

A plea then, from the Committee, to let us know you are coming, as soon as possible, to ensure a very successful occasion. Thank you in anticipation.

SATURDAY, 24TH APRIL 2010

COMMEMORATIVE REUNION

We are all looking forward to our Reunion celebrating the establishment of our School 100 years ago. If you have mislaid your application form, it is printed again at the back of this newsletter.

If you have transport problems, please let us know, or, why don't you get family members or friends to come along with you. All are welcome as we want to have as many people attending as possible.

It is also the 70th anniversary of Hinchley Wood School and with this in mind we are inviting the Headmaster, Mr Steve Poole and his wife to attend our Reunion. If you know of anyone who attended Hinchley Wood School, ask them if they would like to come along.

At the Reunion we hope to have some literature for you to read regarding the history of the School and Cynthia Chandler's "War-time Diaries of a Surrey Schoolgirl" will be available. Please bring along any photos and school magazines of your time at School for us to look at. Valerie Read is making up a large file about the KDCS Association. How it started with her advertisement in the January 1994 Saga Magazine which resulted in a phone call from John Crisp - the rest is history!

We thought, to gain funds, and do something different, we would have a Bring and Buy table. If you can bring an item (already priced if possible) it would be appreciated. It does not have to be new - it could be an unwanted Christmas present and hopefully, you will find something you would like to buy. We will also be having a Raffle.

We would like to continue having our Reunions so that we can keep in touch with old and new friends. The Reunions have always been a source of joy, fun and friendship and occasions when we can remember those who are no longer with us. This being our 100th Anniversary and Hinchley Wood School's 70th, we want to make it a double celebration so please feel free to bring your children and grandchildren and hope they will remember with pride, our heritage as schools used to be.

Do not forget to wear your name badges on the day. We are looking forward to seeing you all on the 24th and reminiscing about our school days.

John Frost is doing a marvellous job of running the KDCS Association website. Many of our generation are not familiar with computers but if you have sons, daughters or grandchildren with computers, ask them to let you have a look at the website. It is very comprehensive with information under headings Members/History/Correspondence/Magazine/and also has many photographs from the Reunions of 2006/07/08. The website address is kdcsa.co.uk

There is an Archive feature from the 1946 Bulletin with lists of Prize Winners, so if you were at school at that time, you may find your name mentioned

John is unable to measure how many people log on to the website, so if you have done so, he would be grateful if you could send a short e-mail to him saying whether you find the site of interest. If a member of your family accessed the website for you, perhaps you could prevail upon them to send the e-mail. John's e-mail address is john.frost@btinternet.com

LETTERS

We asked in the November newsletter “Does anyone remember attending the dances at Claremont Hall, Surbiton?”

MAUREEN PIPER (nee Marshall) 1952 writes: Yes, I certainly remember dancing at the Surbiton Assembly Rooms and remember the name “Claremont”. There was a wonderful band and lots of ex students were there.

I also used to attend Saturday night dances at the Wimbledon Town Hall, and remember turning out on cold winter evenings to catch the train there and back again, late at night, and walking through the streets of Kingston to my home. There were also ex students there and I remember Colin Patterson - he was a great dancer.

On warmer evenings I used to cycle to Epsom, with my dance dress in my saddle bag (yes we used to wear taffeta dresses in those days - well the girls did!) I seem to recall these dances were held in dance studios and I remember John Lipscombe used to dance there - he was also a great dancer. (I know he reads this magazine so I had to say that!)

There was always the end of term dance, but only very few boys could dance. Then there were old Students’ dances at the school and I seem to remember some were held at the Griffin Hotel, Kingston. When I married the only dancing I ever did was the annual company dinner/dance - are there any other “Heinz” wives out there? Now I only enjoy watching “Strictly Come Dancing”.

Unfortunately Maureen cannot attend our Reunion.

PEGGY PARLETT (nee Nunn) 1947 writes: I certainly remember attending dances at the Claremont Hall, Surbiton. I don’t remember any ‘booze’ - just that we offered each other Smarties! My friend Jeanette Goodwin and I attended dancing

classes at the “Peggy Spencer/Carl Bryant School of Dance. Has anyone news of Jeanette? I am also trying to trace Gladys Bray and have many happy memories of our school days.

BILL KAUFFMAN writes from France: I attended a few dances at Claremont Hall during my time at the school (1934-36) and after leaving. My only memories are that the band, 4 or 5 members, gave every impression that most of the time they would have preferred to be somewhere else and that for the last dance they always played ‘Goodnight Sweetheart’. There were also one or two dances held in a small hall in a side road off Eden Street.

Unfortunately, Bill is unable to attend the Reunion as his busy bed and breakfast business takes off after Easter.

JOHN T WRIGHT writes: I wish you every success with the Reunion. KDCS was by far the best educational establishment I ever attended. It made me Head Boy, headed me towards Bletchley Park during WWII and a full time career at Government Communications HQ, which included 10 years abroad in Australia and USA - A Great Life.

Unfortunately John is unable to attend the Reunion, due to his wife’s ill health.

BRIAN SHEPHERD writes from Australia: ‘IN OUR SEVENTIES AND STILL SWINGING’. Beth and I recently had a trip to Far North Queensland, beyond the Daintree River, very much in rainforest country. A new attraction has been set up at Cape Tribulation called ‘Jungle Surfing’. It involves climbing up a steep bank and then some steps to a fairly high tree. This is the first of five trees with a wire strung between them. One is then put into a halter and sent down each section. We thoroughly enjoyed it, the only thing preying on our minds was the knowledge that at some stage we were expected to turn ourselves upside down! By the time we reached the last section and had not done the upside down bit, we knew it was likely to happen now. For some reason I was sent down first and after

going about 10 feet I was stopped and asked to let go of the steadying rope. The result, I am hurtling, at what seemed to be many hundreds of miles per hour, down to the next staging post. The guide waiting for me hadn't even opened the gate and although I reasoned that it was all part of the act, there was still a niggling feeling that I could end up smashed against the gate! Needless to say, the gate was opened, I was slowed down and easily completed the last section. I had to ask the guide "Why was I sent down first for the last section?" The answer, "we always look for the least likely person to want to go upside down and choose them to go first. The others always follow - they do not want to be seen as wimps when you can do it". Well, we did it and have the photos to prove it.

Brian's letter in full, and photos, appear on our website.

BOB COLEMAN 1948 writes: I wonder if interest in future editions of the newsletter could be generated by inviting members to send in 'As we were' contributions, consisting of a photograph taken a few years after leaving KDCS, which would be easily recognisable by those at the school at the same time as the contributor, with a few lines telling what happened in the years immediately after leaving. It would be relevant to those who attended KDCS and interesting, I think, in the context of 'I wonder what happened to old so and so after we left?'

If you think this is a good idea, let us hear from you, giving details of 'what you got up to' after leaving school and a photo.

VALERIE READ (nee Kingsley) 1945 writes: "Where are you now?" I shared a lunch table with my friend HAZEL PIKE, EDWARD WOODWARD, JOHN BAGGE and two other students. Where are Hazel, John and the other two now? I would love to hear from them or, better still, meet them at the 100th Anniversary Reunion.

FINANCE

A bit of boring stuff next, but we thought we would put you in the picture regarding finance.

At a meeting with John Crisp on 30th June we completed a Mandate form arranging for Janet Steeples and Janet Creighton-Kelly to be signatories for the account. There were many problems in dealing with Barclays, London and we were unable to access the account, and had no idea of the balance. After many telephone calls and letters it was not until 30th December we were advised that the matter had been sorted out and the mandate was up and running and that the balance in the Barclays account was £47.76. (It had only taken six months!) Fortunately, we had several cheques for subscriptions, which John had not paid in, and it was with this cash that we were able to issue the November Newsletter.

In the meantime, as a result of the delay in accessing the Barclays account, we opened a new account at Lloyds TSB. The account at Barclays has now been cancelled.

We sent out over 350 Newsletters and on the basis of 3 issues per annum our expenditure will exceed our income. This fact was pointed out by Lloyds when we opened the account. I think John had a magic wand which he waved over the £3 subscriptions.

There are some members who have not paid their subscriptions for some time and in an effort to reduce costs we will be deleting their names from the distribution list. If you have a date written in red on the front of your newsletter, that is the year your subs expired, so please send a cheque if you wish to keep receiving the Newsletter. Many thanks to those who have been sending in their subs. Time does fly by and it is very easy to forget when you last paid.

Some members living abroad have asked if their Newsletter could be sent by e-mail, to save postage, and this will be done.

We are trying to keep the costs of printing down, by returning to Kallkwik in Sutton who always gave John a good deal, whereas a local Kallkwik is much more expensive. We propose to, either put the subscription up to £5 per annum, or issue only two Newsletters per year. Let us know what you think.

TIP: Postage is going up in April so buy books of 1st and 2nd class stamps before April, as they are not marked with a price and can be used after the increase.

SADLY

Ken Burgess passed away after a long illness on 4th August 2009. He was at KDCS 1941-42

John Woodland passed away on 22nd December 2009. His widow, Jill, wrote that he enjoyed many years of keeping in touch with KDCS.

Thelma Redknap (Wise) passed away just before Christmas 2009. It is thought she attended KDCS in 1949.

John Hunn. Patrick Packer wrote: I am sorry to say that John Hunn, a close friend of mine for nearly 68 years, died at the beginning of January this year. I know that some of our members will remember John, not only for his sporting prowess but for his leaning to be in trouble with the staff all too often! Our headmaster, Rev Charles Bray, however, must have seen some good in John because he made him School Captain. John joined the school with me in September 1942 and we finally left together after helping the staff with the evacuation party in Leigh. Happy Days. Patrick.

Evelyn Thiel (Hext). Evelyn's daughter, Marian Edwards, advised us that her Mother passed away on 18th February, at the age of 99, just a few months short of her 100th Birthday. She was the oldest member of the KDCS Association.

DENNIS'S DELIBERATIONS

One cannot be too sure these days where patriotism stands in the order of things; whether having emotional feelings towards one's homeland is now actually considered to be acceptable.

Is it, for instance, within one's rights to be indignant and angry when evidence of the industrialisation of our beautiful countryside with wind turbines, is thrust upon us with patronising and unproven advocacy? We are persuaded to believe that they are necessary in the politically fashionable campaign against global warming, (words not heard during the latest cold weather) although their long periods of inactivity are ignored.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

Cheques should be made payable to KDCS Association and sent to the address below.

KINGSTON DAY COMMERCIAL SCHOOL ASSOCIATION
c/o Janet Creighton-Kelly, 2 Maultway Close, Camberley,
Surrey GU15 1PP Telephone: 01276 25357
e-mail janet@jangeo.co.uk

Dennis Davey
Janet Steeples
Janet Creighton-Kelly

**KDCS COMMEMORATIVE REUNION
SATURDAY, 24TH APRIL 2010**

To: Mrs Janet Creighton-Kelly, 2 Maultway Close, Camberley, Surrey.
GU15 1PP Telephone: 01276 25357

Name(s)

.....

Maiden Name if applicable Entry Year

Address

.....Telephone No

.....

Number of persons attending Reunion Luncheon

Cost per head £18.50 Cheque for £ Enclosed (made payable to KDCS Association)

Number of meals required

Number of Vegetarian meals required

Number of Fruit Crumble & Cream

Number of Meringue Nests with fruit

Number of Cheese and Biscuits

NB PLEASE RETURN THIS SLIP WITH PAYMENT AS SOON AS POSSIBLE OR BEFORE 26th MARCH AT THE LATEST.

WE REGRET CATERERS ARE UNABLE TO ACCEPT CANCELLATIONS AFTER 9TH APRIL.

MANY THANKS

