



STRENUÉ

**KINGSTON
DAY
COMMERCIAL
SCHOOL
ASSOCIATION**

MARCH 2015

KINGSTON DAY COMMERCIAL SCHOOL ASSOCIATION
Incorporating the Commercial Section of Hinchley Wood School
MARCH 2015

I hope you all had an enjoyable Christmas and are looking forward to Spring. I am sorry that the November newsletter was so late but this one should arrive in good time.

We are holding our final REUNION on Saturday, 25th April 2015 and we hope that as many of you as possible will be able to attend, as we wish to make it a most enjoyable event. If you would like to come, please fill in the form at the back of this newsletter and send it to us as soon as possible. Don't forget to wear your name badges and bring any photographs you may have. If you have transport difficulties, mention this on the form and we will try to organise a lift for you with someone coming from your area. Friends and family are also welcome to attend as sometimes they can help with transport.

The REUNION is being held, as before, in the Leisure Complex at the school. Doors open at 12 noon and a sit-down three course meal will be served at 1.00pm. We will be having a raffle and any contributions for prizes will be greatly appreciated. Tea/coffee will be served after the meal. We are pleased to say there is a slight reduction in the cost, which will be £20 per head.

Although this is our final Reunion, we will still be issuing the three newsletters a year. Many of our readers have said how much they enjoy reading about the 'old' school and items relating to ex students, so please keep your letters coming, they are very important. Should you wish to keep in touch with your group, the Reunion may be a good opportunity to arrange a get-together for some future date.

As the price of petrol is in the news at present you will be interested to read the article sent in by Peter Daniels which mentions petrol being 8¾ pence (old money) per gallon!!!

Pat Thomas (Jackson) in Bermuda has sent in another extremely interesting article in response to William Crisell's letter in the November 2014 newsletter regarding the second U-boat and a second Enigma machine captured by the Allies. Pat has also been very helpful in obtaining information for Peggy Parlett about her brother's rescue from the Atlantic in 1943 and for improving our knowledge of Bermuda's history. We thank you Pat.

We have had contributions from John de Lannoy and Alfred Solomon about their war experiences and I am sure many of you have stories to tell. Please do send in your memories, good or bad, we would love to hear from you. I will be continuing with the newsletters, but cannot do it without your input.

We are receiving a few letters from ex students who attended Hinchley Wood School in the 50's and we are very keen to recruit more of these "younger" ex students. We would love to hear details of your school day and the changes that came about when the two schools were amalgamated.

I look forward to receiving your letters and to seeing as many of you as possible on the 25th April.

JCK

E-mail janet@jangeo.co.uk

SUBSCRIPTIONS £5 per annum payable in July. Cheques should be made payable to KDCS Association and sent to KDCS Association, c/o Janet Creighton-Kelly, 2 Maultway Close, Camberley, Surrey. GU15 1PP
We are very grateful for all the subscriptions received.

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EDNA HOLT (Mitchell) 1943/45 Formerly Chown prior to 2005, writes from Woking I joined KDCS at Hinchley Wood in September 1943 from Brockham Green Village School, as we are all aware this was when the War was at its height. My journey to School started at 7.30 am - bus to Dorking - bus down Deepdene Avenue to Dorking North Station - train to Leatherhead - 65 bus to Hook Ace of Spades and then the 152 or ? down the Portsmouth Road to School - just in time. Unfortunately I fell foul of Miss Adams on the first day - wearing white socks with the then winter uniform instead of black stockings! An Aunt in the Wrens had failed to produce the promised black stockings and was I in trouble!! Everything was then on coupons.

I feel I was a good student, remembering Mr Britton, Mr Weaver, Mr Rose, Dr Appeligan etc and ended my two years with a good Diploma. I did not “qualify” for the evacuation to Leigh, being outside the catchment area but having to go into it every day! Mr Bray was our Headmaster and on VE Day (or the day after) he appeared at Assembly clean shaven! Some bright pupil near me said quite loudly “Victory over the razor blade”. Hysterical giggling of course, thrown out of assembly and consequences I have forgotten. With the mention of Mr Bray in the last Magazine triggers memories and perhaps made me write this.

Too many of my former Classmates have had their Obituaries written over the last few years including Dennis Davey, Tony Budd, Reg Upton etc - I thought I had better write while I can!

I am still able to drive, a bit slow on walking but at 85 I keep very well. I have recently been to Australia to see distant relatives - I still do what I can in the Village particularly at our Parish Church. For 17 years I led the Girl Guide Company.

I would like to know - has anyone a “collection” of school memorabilia? I have my School hat band - the original design with the badge embroidered in it. I should have liked to come to the last reunion - I was at the first few, but driving towards London is not now for me.

JOHN COOMBS e-mails..... I am currently living in Spain helping my daughter and her partner to run a tapas bar in La Florida near Torrevieja.

My shambolic lifestyle has now settled down again and I plan to be back in England in April/May and will be moving back and forth quite regularly. I was saddened to hear that there is a chance that the reunions may come to an end, none of us are getting any younger, although I have to say that at nearly 82 my new lifestyle has given me a much needed kick where it matters, and I feel much younger and more alive than I have for some time.

At last I have found my true vocation - mopping floors,, clearing tables, peeling spuds. You name it and over the past few months I have probably done it. Hopefully there will be another reunion in 2015 and I will certainly be there.

We were not aware that you were in Spain, so your newsletters have been sent to your Lancing address. Now we are in touch by email you will know that our final Reunion will be held on 25th April and we all hope very much that you will be able to attend.

KEN GREEN 1953-57 writes from Cobham I always enjoy reading the newsletters, even though the majority of letters relate to the 30's and 40's - before my time. Sorry to learn about the last reunion lunch and I understand the reasons - However, I do hope that the newsletter continues as there are many who, for whatever reason, cannot attend the lunch but keep in touch via the written word. Please do keep on with your excellent and worthwhile work. Here's hoping!

We are certainly continuing with the newsletters Ken, perhaps you can introduce some new members to the Association from your years at school.

BETTY SUTTRON (Murray) 1942-43 writes from New Zealand in her Christmas Letter I am still gadding about in my campervan "Sutts Hut" as much as I can despite being 87 now. My big trip this year was to the Dunedin area in the south of the South Island where the Motor Caravan Association was holding an Easter Rally. I left home towards the end of March and spent a couple of days in Wanganui visiting some friends and

then took the ferry to the South Island. I caught up with some old Timaru friends who now live in Blenheim and decided not to travel directly to Christchurch. Instead I headed west and stayed in a very small town called Murchison. It is the sort of place where you either drive through or you may stop for a coffee but Murchison was the first place I visited in the South Island when I first came to New Zealand in 1955.

After a couple of days I went south to Canterbury and stayed a couple of nights at Hanmer Springs where they have natural hot pools in which I thoroughly enjoyed a good old soak. Christchurch was the next stop. Christchurch is special to me because we built our first home there and it is good to see it slowly, very slowly, recovering and rebuilding since the earthquake, although it won't look a bit like it did before. Then on to Timaru for a couple of days catching up with more friends. I enjoy going back to see them even after over 30 years living in Whakatane. Another stopover before reaching Otago often known as the Scotland of the south and definitely the further south the more Scottish it became.

After another couple of stops I reached Mosgiel showgrounds where the rally was to be held on the Wednesday before Easter and got settled in. Unfortunately, that area had had a lot of rain just a few days before so you can imagine, when 700 motor homes drove in there was more MUD than grass. Fortunately I was parked on grass but to get into the big marquee, where all the entertainment took place, was still a muddy exercise. It didn't make any difference to our enjoyment of the rally, as we all took it in our stride, the town did a good trade in boots though. I was very honoured on the last day when the President of the Club called me up in front of everyone and presented me with a huge bouquet of flowers mentioning my age and that I had attended every Easter Rally for the last 11 years, and had travelled so far for this year's one.

On the Tuesday after Easter I headed north again. So far "Sutts Hut" had performed well, however I got about an hour north of Dunedin when she got slower and slower. So I pulled in and rang the AA and with the help of a friendly police officer "Sutts Hutt" and I were transported to a garage where the clutch needed replacing. By the next afternoon I was on my way again. A couple of nights in Christchurch before heading north with a

couple of stops on the coast road which were new to me. After a few days with family I then headed for home. I was away 7 weeks in all and had a great time.

In January this year it will be 60 years since I sailed to New Zealand, originally for 2 years only, but I've had no regrets. Tom and I have lived in some lovely parts of the country and made some wonderful friends.

What a lovely trip Betty. I had to get out the map of New Zealand to follow your journey.

PETER DANIELS 1939/40 writes from Tolworth There was only one of my class of 1939/40 who came to the Reunion (2014). However, despite the low numbers attending, we do look forward to a Reunion next year (2015).

I am the editor of the Surrey County Council Union Retired Members (700 of us!) and I am wondering if the following will be of interest to the readers of the KDCS Association newsletter. This is my editorial written in 2011 concerning the operation of the first bus operator in the World - started by the Borough of Eastbourne.

“In one of last year’s Newsletters I related to the happenings of fifty years ago, in 1960. This time I am going back to 1903. The reason is that Eastbourne Council were starting the first local authority bus service in the World (their claim). These were “internal combustion” buses, not horse drawn buses as one would expect in those days. There were only two buses at first, which held only 14 passengers, but four could stand on the platform! I have a copy of the 1963 brochure of Eastbourne’s Transport Department, from which I am quoting some of the items from the minutes from 1903 to 1905.

“The two buses ran from 10 am to 1 pm and 2.30 pm to 8 pm. The drivers were paid 35 shillings per week and conductors 18 shillings - a good pay for 1903 but it was a 60 hour week. Petrol was eight pence three farthings per gallon delivered in one ton lots! In September 1903 a driver was cautioned for “furious driving” for exceeding the 6 mph limit. In October 1903 a driver was dismissed for smoking on duty. Conductors were

warned that if they permitted a passenger to ride without paying they would be liable to a fine of one shilling. Petrol was reduced to sixpence halfpenny per gallon in April 1905.

“On 19 June 1905 a bus failed to run in the afternoon, as the driver and conductor had taken their bus to Hampden Park! The Traffic Manager was not aware of the missing bus until it was returned to the depot at 7 pm. The driver and conductor were only reprimanded for the offence. However, if a bus ran out of petrol whilst in service the driver would be suspended for one day.

“The public had complained about the noise caused by “the machinery” of the buses working while they were stationary at a stopping place. Drivers were accordingly instructed to stop “the machinery” when the bus had five minutes or more to wait.”

I hope some of these notes are of interest. Eastbourne’s buses used to be painted blue and yellow but since “deregulation” that is no more and Eastbourne has lost control of its buses.

I wonder what the bus fare cost?

ROGER MANN writes from Wokingham On reading through the KDCSA November 2014 magazine I noticed the comments highlighted from Derek N Jones who attended Hinchley Wood through 1952/56. I was there too during this period and remember Derek and Ron Brooks both of whom were classmates through to July 1956.

Recently I have been in contact with Peter Banham, Malcolm Ings and Ian Valder. Many others who attended the school I also meet periodically, particularly those who were associated with the Old Boys’ football and cricket teams. Derek may remember some or recognise their names from the past. No doubt Derek’s revived memories will produce some telling tales and to help him reproduce those of interest perhaps Derek could make contact with me and I will see what I can add. Perhaps we could even arrange a table for the reunion lunch on Saturday, April 25, 2015.

Unfortunately, any of my old school memorabilia has been despatched via the dustbin including my old boy ties introduced many years ago by Bert Downing. My wife, Rosalie, unfortunately failed to recognize the latter's significance!! I am pleased to report, however, that I am the proud possessor of a blazer badge that encompasses the Coronation Stone only.

It would be marvellous if there could be a table at the Reunion for the ex KDCS/Strenue footballers. A few members who were at school in the early 50's have attended in the past, but we would love to welcome a few more of you "younger" ones.

SADLY

GWEN JOHNSON (nee Jackson) passed away on 12th December. Her son Don advised that she died in hospital following a Stroke. She leaves a son and daughter, two grandchildren and four great grandchildren and will be sorely missed. Gwen attended KDCS in 1937/39 and was at our Reunion in 2013.

JO TREPTE (nee le Maitre). Beryl Spring advised that Jo Treppe passed away on 30th December after a long illness. Jo's real name was Sheila but she was always known as Jo. She leaves a daughter, Georgina, a stepson and two grandchildren.

JEAN HANCOCK (nee Vinall) 1940 writes from Claygate So far I have not met anyone I knew from school, but I was interested in Evelyn Willis's letter, mentioning Erica Frost. After I left school I went to work at the Milk Marketing Board in Thames Ditton but after my marriage in 1949 I spent a year at Hawkers in Kingston. I was quite friendly with the secretary in our office, and her name was Erica Frost. I don't recall talking about our school days, but I think she would have been the right age, and I wondered if this could have been Evelyn's friend? I left Hawkers at the end of 1950 to start a family and I have not seen Erica since. I am looking forward to the 25th April.

PATRICIA THOMAS (nee Jackson) 1950 writes from Southampton, Bermuda A very recent article in Bermuda's daily, The Royal Gazette relates to the German U-boat captured just off Bermuda in 1944 and I am sure this article will be of great interest to William Crisell in Ontario and possibly a lot of Strenue readers. (*William Crisell wrote in the November 2014 newsletter that he could not recall any mention of the capture.*) Because of the total black out of news during the war very few people knew of the capture and it is no wonder that Mr Crisell had not heard of it. Even Bermudians living here didn't know of it.

Printed in THE ROYAL GAZETTE on Monday, December 29, 2014 under the heading SECOND WORLD WAR Seventy years on from key moment in Bermuda's history.

My Wife and the U-boat secret

Jim Humphreys can still vividly recall the summer of 1944 and the role his wife, Shirley, played in arguably the most pivotal moment of the Second World War. The arrival of the German submarine, U-505, in Bermuda in June was top secret because its capture provided the Allies with unprecedented access to the German code books and the famous Enigma machine.

The press were prohibited from reporting the capture or the imprisonment of the crew at the former Naval Operating Base and anyone who knew about their presence was sworn to secrecy. Mrs Humphreys, a Red Cross volunteer, was one such person. She was tasked with caring for the U-boat's commander, Captain Harald Lange, for nine months while he was held in Bermuda.

Now, 70 years on Mr Humphreys has spoken of his wife's unique friendship with the German captain and her efforts to keep in touch with him after the end of the war..... "My wife volunteered at the Naval Base and had been a volunteer with the US Red Cross. Because of that training and because she was American she was able to get into the base. In June 1944, she was assigned to the captured German U-boat commander, Admiral Lange, who had been shot in the legs by the US Navy when he tried to scuttle the ship. For the next nine months Shirley was his assigned nurse.

“The crew of U-505 remained at the Naval Base in Southampton for six weeks before they were secretly taken to a prisoner of war camp in Louisiana until the end of the war, while Captain Lange remained in Bermuda.

“Mr Humphreys added - Shirley got to know Captain Lange very well. She thought of him as a very considerate man and had great respect for him. After the war Shirley tried to write to Captain Lange and even travelled to Germany to try and make contact with Captain Lange and his family, but she was never able to meet him again.”

Mrs Humphreys kept her secret from all but her closest family until 1992 when she told her incredible story to The Royal Gazette for an article and a television programme. She passed away in 1999.

Bermuda National Museum Curator, Elena Strong, adds “The capture of the U-505 helped change the course of the Second World War. It put an end to a terrorising and destructive weapon attacking Atlantic Convoys and put two Enigma machines and top-secret Nazi code books in the hands of the Allies“.

Pat has volunteered to obtain a back copy of this story and mail it to William Crisell should he like a copy.

Pat, thank you for sending this very interesting article. I am sorry you will not be in England when our final luncheon is planned but glad that you were able to attend the reunion in 2014.

ROY WESTON 1945 writes from East Yorkshire..... I was rather surprised to read the item by Joan Gibbings (Bedford) in the November 2014 magazine, as she seems to have forgotten that many of her classmates such as Harry Stanley, Mary Thomas (Dudley), Patricia Potton (Symondson) with others, have attended many of the lunches from the outset - this apart also from mentions in the magazine.

MIKE MURRAY sent the following poem to me some time ago and with the coming of our final reunion it now seems the appropriate time to print it. He received it from friends in America hence the American expressions:

THE CLASS REUNION

Every five years, as summertime nears,
An announcement arrives in the mail,
A reunion is planned; it'll be really grand;
Make plans to attend without fail.

I'll never forget the first time we met;
We tried so hard to impress.
We drove fancy cars, smoked big cigars,
And wore our most elegant dress.

It was quite an affair; the whole class was there.
It was held at a fancy hotel.
We wined, and we dined, and we acted refined,
And everyone thought it was swell.

The men all conversed about who had been first
To achieve great fortune and fame.
Meanwhile, their spouses described their fine houses
And how beautiful their children became.

The homecoming queen, who once had been lean,
Now weighed in at one-ninety-six.
The jocks who were there had all lost their hair,
And the cheerleaders could no longer do kicks.

No one had heard about the class nerd
Who'd guided a spacecraft to the moon;
Or poor little Jane, who's always been plain;
She married a shipping tycoon.

The boy we'd decreed 'most apt to succeed'
Was serving ten years in the pen,
While the one voted 'least' now was a priest;
Just shows you can be wrong now and then.

They awarded a prize to one of the guys
Who seemed to have aged the least..
Another was given to the grad who had driven
The farthest to attend the feast.

They took a class picture, a curious mixture
Of beehives, crew cuts and wide ties.
Tall, short, or skinny, the style was the mini;
You never saw so many thighs.

At our next get-together, no one cared whether
They impressed their classmates or not.
The mood was informal, a whole lot more normal;
By this time we'd all gone to pot.

It was held out-of-doors, at the lake shores;
We ate hamburgers, coleslaw and beans
The most of us lay around in the shade
In our comfortable T-shirts and jeans.

By the fiftieth year, it was abundantly clear,
We were definitely over the hill.
Those who weren't dead had to crawl out of bed,
And be home in time for their pill.

And now I can't wait; they've set the date;
Our sixtieth is coming, I'm told.
It should be a ball, they've rented a hall
At the Shady Rest Home for the old.

Repairs have been made on my hearing aid;
My pacemaker's been turned up on high.
My wheelchair is oiled, and my teeth have been boiled;
And I've bought a new wig and glass eye.

I'm feeling quite hearty, and I'm ready to party
I'm gonna dance 'til dawn's early light.
It'll be lots of fun, but I just hope that there's one
Other person who can make it that night.

Author Unknown

!!!!!!!

PEGGY PARLETT (Nunn) 1947-49 writes from Chiswick..... As always an excellent newsletter for November, full of interest, especially Gordon (Bob) Coleman's email. I haven't a clue what the "I" newspaper is but am glad he reads it and we can see the "March of the Militants back to the classrooms" picture with dear old Sir Edward Britton taken in the 80's. I remember our first Reunion which he attended. (I think it was the first). There was a queue of us, all waiting patiently to have a word with him.

I still have all my KDCS newsletters and I bet I'm not the only one. I find it so hard to throw (recycle?) interesting and memorable things away. I kept my KDCS mags for 1947, 1948 and 1949 and brought them with me to each Reunion as suggested. Much interest was shown. Sadly they disappeared at last year's Reunion!

How interesting to read the email from Julia Sanford-Francis, granddaughter of Charles Bray, remembered with much affection I'm sure. I can understand her excitement at having discovered his school and all the nice things that are written about him.

Peggy, You will be pleased to hear that somebody has discovered your missing magazines and hopefully they will be returned to you at our Reunion.



JANET PRISCILLA'S PAGE

A Happy New Year to you all! We hope you did have a good Christmas doing all the things you wanted and more. We are now concentrating on the "last" reunion and trust we can get some more ex-students to come, and make it an enjoyable occasion. Janet and I will do all we can. We hope you like the menu - we try to take into account all your needs.

Are you all coping with this winter weather? We are never sure what to wear, whether it is wet, snowing, high winds or, of you are lucky, maybe a flash of sunshine, but I suppose we should be used to it by now.

I am sure our members in Australia, California, West Indies and southern Europe are enjoying beautiful weather. My daughter was in America in January and managed to contact one of our colleagues from KDCS - namely IRIS APPLEBY (Broughton) and the temperature was 30 degrees centigrade!

In February I went to a family cremation in Reading with the Wake in Streatley. Looking at the small map from Google, it looked pretty easy to find and we felt it shouldn't take long! As you can imagine we got lost umpteen times going through dirt tracks, forest and crossing a motorway but the best was - we came to a river beyond Pangbourne - we surmised it was the Thames, and to our surprise we had to pay a Toll of 40p per car to use the bridge to cross the river! We have since learned that it was Whitchurch Bridge which had been closed for reconstruction on 3rd October 2013 and re-opened on 19th September 2014. The toll hasn't increased too much as in 1792, when the first bridge was constructed, it cost ½d to cross on foot and for every carriage with two or more wheels it cost 2d for each and every wheel!!

See you in April at the Reunion.

God Bless you.

Janet Priscilla

**GRAND FINAL REUNION
25TH APRIL 2015**

The Reunion will be held in the Leisure Complex at the School. Doors open at 12 noon and a sit-down three course meal will be served at 1.00 pm. Tea/coffee will be served after the meal.

Don't forget to wear your Name badges and bring with you any photos you may have of your school days. If transport is a problem, let us know and we will try to organise a lift with someone from your area.

MENU

Vegetable Soup or Brussels Pâté

Roll and Butter

Chicken Casserole or Salmon Fish Cake

New potatoes and green vegetables

Vegetarian Nut Roast

Fruit Salad or Lemon Cheesecake

Or Cheese and Biscuits

Orange Juice and Still and Sparkling Water will be on the table

PLEASE COMPLETE THE FORM OVERLEAF and return it as soon as possible.

Should you have to cancel we will refund your payment.

REUNION SATURDAY, 25TH APRIL 2015

Name(s).....

.....

Maiden Name if applicable Entry Year

Address

..... Telephone No

Number of persons attending Reunion Luncheon

Cost per head £20.00 Cheque for £ Enclosed
(Made payable to KDCS Association)

Please mark number required:

Vegetable Soup **OR** Brussels Pâté

Chicken Casserole **OR** Salmon Fish Cake

Vegetarian Nut Roast

Cheese & Biscuits **OR** Fruit Salad **OR** Cheesecake

Special dietary requirements

I would like to sit with

.....

I would like to sit on my “Year of Entry” table

PLEASE RETURN THIS SLIP TO:

Mrs Janet Creighton-Kelly, 2 Maultway Close, Camberley, Surrey

GU15 1PP

Telephone 01276 25357