



STRENUE

**KINGSTON
DAY
COMMERCIAL
SCHOOL
ASSOCIATION**

MARCH 2016

KINGSTON DAY COMMERCIAL SCHOOL ASSOCIATION
Incorporating the Commercial Section of Hinchley Wood School
March 2016

Dear Members,

The weather is very cold as I am starting this newsletter and we have had a slight dusting of snow. When you are reading it, hopefully we will be enjoying a lovely Spring. Although many daffodils flowered early in January there should be some flowering now! The bright colours of the Spring flowers are very welcome after a dark and dismal Winter.

**DO YOU LIVE IN THE
KINGSTON/SURBITON AREA?**

As we are not holding our annual Reunions it was thought that small groups may like to get together locally. With that in mind, Les Green has recommended the Antoinette Hotel in Kingston. They have an Afternoon Tea menu, as follows:

Selection of Afternoon Tea Sandwiches
Freshly baked plain & fruit scones served with strawberry preserve &
Devonshire cream
Assortment of Handmade Plain & Cream Cakes
Specially Selected Teas & Coffee
£9.75. Per person

If you would like to come along and have tea and a chat please telephone me Janet Creighton-Kelly 01276 25357 email janet@jangeo.co.uk or contact Janet Steeples 01932 873478, 204 Fangrove Park, Lyne, Chertsey KT16 0BT. Even if you live a little further out, we would love to see you.

As the Hotel often have Weddings at the weekend we thought a weekday would be more suitable and suggested dates are 12th or 13th April or 17th or 18th May - possibly meeting up about 2 o'clock.

Obviously one date may not suit everybody, but you never know, if we get enough people interested we could meet up twice!! As the next newsletter doesn't come out until July, all the arrangements will have to be done on the telephone, so do get in touch and we can start to make plans.

The address of the Hotel is: Beaufort Road, Kingston upon Thames KT1 2TQ. It is between Kingston and Surbiton. There is a large car park and a bus runs from Surbiton Railway Station (K1 I think).

If you do not live in this area what about arranging a small gathering where you live. You can always contact other members through the newsletter, but it does involve some forward planning as the newsletters are only published three times a year.

After I have completed each newsletter and cleared my folder, I wonder if I am going to get enough content for the next one. Do please keep your letters coming - short, long any photos - I love to read them, as do our members, especially if a familiar name is mentioned. Looking forward to hearing from you. By-the-way, buy your stamps before 29th March as postage is going up again. 1st class will be 64p and 2nd class will be 55p.

Janet C-K

email janet@jangeo.co.uk

SUBSCRIPTIONS We are very grateful for all the subscriptions received.

£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 If both husband and wife attended the school, only one subscription is required.

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PATRICIA POTTON (Symondson) 1946/47 writes from Market Lavington, Wiltshire..... It is seventy years since I first arrived on the doorsteps of KDCS, not particularly nervous as my sister Anna Symondson had already completed her first year there. We were Gregg students and eventually left together in 1947 to work as shorthand typists for the British Legion in Eccleston Square, London.



Gregg students 1945/47

Back row: Diana Jean Mary Margaret ? Pam

3rd row: ? Pam Florence

2nd row: Christine Sylvia Patricia

Front row: Mary Eileen Gwen

We both stayed for two years, and I then moved on as a Secretary in Victoria Street and Anna decided she wanted to be a teacher. We attended many Reunions together, mainly in the company of Winnie Macklin and her husband. Sadly, Winnie is no longer with us, but I do remember she married John on the same day, and at the same church in Wallington as my husband and I, on the 28th June 1952. I often wonder who married first on that day!

Some photographs from my school days!



1945/47
Patricia
Symondson

Brenda Holt

Roy Weston

Diana Emmett

Jean Bower



1945/47

Patricia Symondson

Reg Upton

Anna Symondson

Harry Stanley

The Reunion I remember most was the main School Hall packed with well over two hundred past students having a wonderful time remembering old times in the presence of Sir Edward Britton!

Losing a kidney nearly six years ago has really curtailed my life and travelling far has been a problem and Anna is not in the best of health now. We would both have loved to be at the last Reunion.



Taken at a previous Reunion:

Christine Eggington

Mary Dudley

?

Kay



Patricia Symondson

Harry Stanley

Margaret Bond

Ted Woodward lived just around the corner from our home in Wallington, where his Mum and Dad had a tobacconist and sweet shop. He went on to great stardom, as we all know, but could not get him to visit our Reunions.

Christine Eggington and I keep in touch by phone and remember our Birthdays! Long may it last!

I still use my Gregg shorthand daily at nearly 85 years.

Thank you Pat for your good wishes in continuing with happy memories in the magazine.

JOYCE DAY (Rowson) writes from Snape, Suffolk I was in the class of 1945/6. I remember remarks of the staff - Mr Bray talking of The refining influence of the girls - Mr Britton saying, (with his difficulty with r'ln theowy) "yes, but in actual pwactrice, no" and Mr Overton calling my poor double entry bookkeeping "A dog's dinner" and adding that he had told us "When in doubt open a new account" but I must have thought he said "When in doubt, throw it out!" I remember how easy it was to make gentle Miss Knight, who I believe took shorthand or typing, blush.

But my most vivid memories are of the smiling faces of all my closest friends. Joyce Brown had a kayak and we paddled once from Teddington to the Boat Race. We missed the race but got overturned by the swell from returning boats and had a very wet cycle home. Vera Steel, who lived at Thames Ditton, also took me out in her boat more successfully. Hazel Pike was great fun and used to arrive at school with her hat firmly on as her curlers were underneath, which she then removed in the cloak room.

Joyce explained that she is registered blind, although she does have some sight and machines which talk to her.

MARY CLARKE emailed My mother Mavis Free (Cannon) was very pleased to see there were two items from people who she remembered from her time at school in the latest magazine. Margaret Sharrard and Betty Suttron (Murray) who mentioned that she would be pleased to hear from anyone who knew her.

My mother was widowed this year and I am trying to get her interested in sending emails. As Betty is in New Zealand, is it possible to have her email address so I can try to get communication going between them.

I forwarded Mary's email to Betty who has replied that she remembers Mavis Free very well and will get in touch with her.

BETTY SUTTRON (Murray) emails from Whakatane, New Zealand



Christmas Greetings to all..... *following are some excerpts from her email:*

Well I have had another good year and have spent quite a lot of time gadding about in my lovely campervan Sutts Hut. Early in the year I went on two campervanning safaris, the first one was for a week and before we got started we were given instructions of where we

were to be by 4pm that afternoon. This meant that we could choose which way to go and take our time and could stop on the way, so long as we got to the meeting place on time. It was good fun just like an ongoing mystery tour.

The second one was run by another group and lasted about 10 days and the idea was to finish up at the Easter Rally. We started off in Tauranga which is a town about 80km from Whakatane and gradually we made our way north. Most of the stopovers on this trip were by a beach, some of them

I'd never been to before, so that made the trip very interesting. They were a very friendly group of people who looked after me so well as I was the oldest person there and travelling on my own, most of them were couples.

The Easter rally was held in a little town just south of Auckland. I have got to know so many people through campervanning and the Easter rally is such a good opportunity to catch up with lots of those friends. This year I got my 20 year membership badge and a bottle of wine at the AGM. It certainly doesn't seem like 20 years since Tom and I joined the organisation and I've had so much pleasure from it and I have achieved so much from it since Tom died.

My garden has given me a great deal of pleasure this year. I decided to make some alterations - luckily I have a fantastic gardener.

Sorry the picture is not in colour - the roses are a beautiful bright red.

BERYL WARNER (Chaston) 1942-44 writes from Yateley I do enjoy the magazine, even though I seldom find a class-mate. I guess we are becoming fewer now - it was 70 years ago since I left!!

Recently, in turning out some papers I found Kingston Day Commercial School, work sheet for third week beginning 10th July which you may - or may not - find of interest. My class were into their final term when the school evacuated to Leigh (1944) and we were about to do our final exams, so we remained at Hinchley Wood. I think the doodle bugs were about then as I seem to recall spending time in the shelters and continuing with our studies. The arrangement, as I recall, was to get to school if possible, but not to leave home during an air raid. Also, if you were unable to reach there before a specific time then not to come, and work would be sent by post.

I enclose one such work sheet, which is quite interesting, but I would certainly struggle now to find most of the answers - especially the Maths which I used to be quite good at!!! Interesting too, to see how it was posted. No envelope, the address just printed on the folded sheet and 1 penny postage!

MATHEMATICS

Third Week. Forms IV, IVa, V, Va, VI, VIa

The first week's work will be marked by the end of this week. If you find it inconvenient, you may have the work returned to you at school. If you collect your work, you will not make the same mistakes in your third week's work. If you do not collect it, it will be returned to you when you come back to school.

1. To be done by all forms. (Take $\pi = 3.142$, and work by logs as far as possible)

- (a) Area of a circle radius 6.763 ins. (b) Area of a circle radius 73.69 feet
 (c) Vol of a sphere radius 7.839 ins. (d) Vol of a sphere radius 3976 miles
 (e) Vol of cylinder radius 7.235 ins., height 4.859 ins.
 (f) Surface area of cylinder in (e) (g) Radius of sphere whose vol is 642 cu ins
 (h) Radius of a circle whose area is .4982 sq. ins.

2. To be done by all forms.

If a equals 3, b equals -2 and c equals -1, what is the value of the following:-

- (a) $a(b-c) - b(c-a) - c(a-b)$ (b) $a^2b + b^2c + c^2a$
 (c) $a^2(b-c) - b^2(c-a) - a^2(b-c)$ (d) $a + b^3 + c^3$
 (e) $abc - bc - ca - ab$ (f) $(a^2 - b^2 - c^2)^2$

3. To be done by all forms.

Solve the following simultaneous equations:-

- ~~(a) $5x - 3y = 4$ (b) $2x - 4y = -8$~~
 ~~$3x + 6y = 25$~~
 (c) $\frac{2x-y}{4} - \frac{x-2y}{7} = 1$ (d) $\frac{3x-y}{7} - \frac{2x-y}{4} = 0$
 $\frac{3x-y}{11} - \frac{x-3y}{9} = 0$ $\frac{x}{3} + \frac{y}{2} = 1$

4. To be done by Forms V, Va, VI, VIa. (Upper section only)

Solve the equations:-

- (a) $x^2 - 3x - 7 = 0$ (b) $x^2 - 5x - 6 = 0$
 (c) $2x^2 - 3x - 8 = 0$ (d) $3x^2 - 7x - 1 = 0$

5. To be done by any one who can.

"I weigh exactly a stone more than Alfred," said Edmund.

"I weigh 10 pounds less than David," said Barnaby.

"My weight," said Cedric, "is equal to the average weight of Alfred, Barnaby, David and Edmund."

"My weight, plus Cedric's weight," said David, "is equal to Edmund's weight plus Barnaby's weight."

"And mine," said Alfred, "makes the total of our weights up to 37 stones and 2 pounds."

How much did each of them weigh?

I have reproduced the Mathematics sheet but I am afraid the reproduction is not very good, but it will give you an idea of what was required!

On the sheets that Beryl enclosed with her letter were also exercises for History, Geography, French, English, Commerce, Book-keeping and Shorthand.

Beryl continues.... I very much enjoyed my 2 years at KDCS. It was challenging at times, especially as the war was on. My journey to school necessitated 3 buses each way and I well recall one particularly wet and

windy day, whilst waiting at The Toby Jug bus stop, my hat blew off and went under the wheel of the bus. (NOTE! Good job I wasn't wearing it at the time!!) We recovered it and after much pulling and pushing managed to get it into a reasonable shape to meet the School's expected standard! Happy Days.

DOROTHY GARDNER 1946-48 writes from West Sussex..... Recently I wrote to you about the death of Jean Richardson (nee Diprose 1946-48). One of our members has seen a poem written by Jean, which appeared in the printed order of service for her funeral and thought it should be published in the KDCS magazine. It is as follows. ("Peter" was Jean's husband).

Ode to Peter's Birthday

Hurray, it's Peter's Birthday
He's 32 again
But when it comes to birthday presents
He's really been a pain.

Now shortly after Christmas
Jean had a sudden thought
He'd like a Breville toaster
So that is what she bought.

But on every trip to Kingston
Peter gave her quite a fright
He couldn't resist the strangest urge
To pop into Timothy Whites.

"Look, they're on special offer dear
The price has come right down"
Jean said "Seen them cheaper somewhere else"
And gave him her usual frown.

“What d’you want a Breville for
It’ll only make you fat
All that toast and Heinz baked beans
I’m having none of that”.

Every shopping expedition
In he’d go again
Until the Breville toaster
Was nearly driving her insane.

“John’s got one, they’re really good
And so has Reg”, he said
Jean thought: yes, dear so have you
And it’s under the blooming bed!

ROGER FORSTER emails from Victoria, Australia I must, with a great deal of regret, inform you that I will not be renewing my sub for the (mostly) very interesting and readable publication. Following a serious illness I am now residing in a Nursing Home. Although still well able to read, many day-to-day matters have had to be abandoned, and sure enough Strenue has to be among them. Very few of the students mentioned or contributing are or were known to me, and I have greatly regretted never having word of those at Hinchley Wood during my time (1952-1954). Having said that, there are a couple of exceptions, the main one being Tony Collins (who was Best Man at my wedding in 1960). We are still in regular contact after all these years!! I also remember Ken Green (wouldn’t recognise him now!) who was a fine athlete and soccer player.

Roger wrote about his career and life in New Zealand in our issues November 2012 and March 2013. Sorry to lose you Roger - we send you our good wishes for better health in 2016.

SADLY

GWEN AYLING (Spain) passed away peacefully in a Nursing Home on 9th October 2015. She leaves a daughter Mrs Wendy Jude, a son Richard and four grandchildren. Through the Newsletter she had made contact with Vivienne Pashby and Bill Kauffman, two of her old classmates from 1934-36.

JOYCE MATTEN (Todman). Maisie Lympny (Todman) 1940-42 writes..... It is with great sadness that I have to write to tell you that my sister, **JOYCE MATTEN** passed peacefully away on 7th December 2015. Joyce attended KDCS from 1943 to 1945. It was there that she met her future husband, Brian Matten. They married when Joyce was 21 and they had over 60 years together until Brian passed away a few years ago.

JEAN HUNTER (Caile). Marion Spicer writes.... Sadly, my very oldest friend **JEAN HUNTER** passed away on Thursday, 4th February. We were very close friends at school and afterwards. When we were both married and had children we still kept in touch and had one or two family holidays. In later years, after they moved to Kent, we drifted apart as so often happens but we reignited our friendship about ten years ago and they visited us occasionally. I only spoke to her just before Christmas, so it came as quite a shock when David, her husband, phoned me. They have lived for many years in West Farleigh, near Maidstone, Kent and she would have been 82 years old. She is survived by her husband David and three sons, Paul, Steven and Andrew.

*In the November 2015 issue I mentioned that it would be nice to hear how many family members attended KDCS. **JOHN LIPSCOMBE** 1949-52 from Guernsey, Channel Islands mentions his sister Eileen attended 1946-47 and his brother Eric attended 1942-43 and was evacuated to Leigh with the school.*

PEGGY PARLETT (Nunn) 1947-49 writes from Chiswick..... Going back to the March 2015 newsletter and the paragraph concerning Pat Thomas (Jackson) in Bermuda. I was pleased to meet her at a Reunion a year or two ago as I had much to thank her for. She gave me lots of information and photographs concerning the rescue of my youngest brother Ronald Nunn, one of 4 survivors from 39 days on a raft in the Atlantic after the “Melbourne Star” was torpedoed. They were taken to Bermuda.

Printed beneath two photos were the words “Picture courtesy Julia Nunn. Ronald’s great niece“. Well, I didn’t know Julia but had to find her! Without going into an extremely long and complicated story (full of interest for me) I found Julia, the daughter of a cousin. I have many cousins. I’m looking forward to meeting her in the not-too-distant future and hearing about her interest in her Uncle Ron. Her Dad was in the Merchant Navy.

My research has been the old-fashioned type, the hard way, but has given me much interest, not least that I have met a second cousin twice removed (don’t ask)! We share a paternal Grandmother. He just happens to be compiling a book about the Nunn family. Lots of delving into my “archives” for old photos, certificates etc to show him.

Our first meeting was last year. We spent hours in a pub (with coffee and sandwiches) by the Tower of London, talking and exchanging Photos. I’m looking forward to our next meeting.

The Merchant Navy Memorial is close to the Tower, which made it an appropriate place to meet. Ronald Nunn BEM is inscribed under the SS Dungrange. Sadly he was killed 10th June 1944. My family and I attend the Remembrance Service there every year.

My renewed thanks to Pat for all her information and interest.

Welcome to a new Member of the KDCS Association - **ELIZABETH KOBER**. Elizabeth now writes from Ham Common, Richmond..... I was at KDCS (Elizabeth Wales, at the time mostly called Betty) from 1946-48 staying on for the third year to obtain Oxford School Certificate. I am full of praise for the teaching staff, all mentioned on your website, and owe them all a debt of gratitude.

Mainly due to my education at KDCS, from 200 applicants, I became Secretary to Lord Marchwood (The Rt Hon Peter Penny) who, at that time, was Chairman of Vine Products, head office in Villiers Road Kingston (not there now). It was lovely travelling around in a Rolls Royce Silver Cloud to Viscount Marchwood's pied-a-terre in Catherine Place, Westminster.

Back to KDCS. One school holiday, the head-girl Doreen Powell (who lived off Raeburn Avenue, Tolworth and was my best friend) and myself decided to go to the Isle of Wight. Headstrong and daring, we flew over the Isle of Wight in a Tiger Moth persuading the pilot to loop-the-loop! It was a terrific experience for both of us. Having said that, much later in life, I was one of the first passengers on Concorde from London to New York. Quite different and absolutely AMAZING!

Back again to KDCS. I was in Cornwall House (Charles Bray came from St Ives in Cornwall hence the house name) when Geoffrey Short was Head Boy (also Cornwall House) - later John Jones. In the 6th Form above me were Cyril Isaacs who became leader of the Labour Party in Australia (for some reason, he changed his name to Wyndham) - his fellow student John Woodland (with Surrey County Council), Michael Murray from Wallington and Derek Rust. Michael often carried my satchel or case to my bus stop at the top of Claygate Lane, opposite the Milk Marketing Board (no longer there).

I remember Bryan Johnson. After leaving KDCS, I was his girlfriend for several years. I helped him with his "Macbeth" and wrote several poems for him. I say this, because, much later HE was nominated for the Nobel prize for Literature! Sadly, he committed suicide at age 40. Bryan phoned me the day before, leaving a message for me to read his written obituary in the Telegraph and Times.

This is a list of those students I remember:

Frances Warn (whom I am now in touch with), Brian Churchill, Roy Edmunds, Eileen Lipscombe, Alan Rigg, Roy Fletcher, Doreen Powell, Yvonne Seager, Barbara Guy, John Jones, Vincent Williams, Cyril Isaacs, John Woodland, Tony Robertson, Michael Murray, Derek Rust, Bryan Johnson, John Laws, Geoffrey Short, Edward (Ted) Woodward (I was in a play with him). Charles Davies (my Gregg year), Marion Davies (also my Gregg year), Marilyn Elmhurst (same Pitman year), ? Dashwood (boy, first name forgotten, my Gregg year).

I shall be grateful for Eileen Lipscombe's 'phone number. She was a fellow student in my Gregg class and apparently lives close to a late friend of mine on the cliffs of Seaton, Devon (Reg How). Also Michael Murray's 'phone number would be lovely. Somehow I have always remembered his student day address: 57 Lavender Vale, Wallington. I would like to get in touch with Barbara Gibbs (nee Guy) who lived in Worcester Park and Brian Churchill (at the time living close to Barbara).

I don't pass on details of addresses or phone numbers unless given permission, so if you are mentioned and would like to get in touch with Elizabeth her address is:

Brook House 29 Ham Farm Road, Ham Common, Richmond, Surrey. TW10 5NA. I am sure she will be delighted to hear from you.

Regarding the names of the Houses, Cornwall - yellow. Gloucester - blue. York - white. Lancaster - red - were they named after Dukedoms (Duchies)?

BOB PHAROAH emails from Australia..... Was Rosemary Ovrington ever a student a KDCS? That name came to mind the other day but I just can't place her.

Does anyone know the answer to Bob's query?



JANET PRISCILLA'S PAGE

Hello Everyone,

We do hope you had a good Christmas doing all the things you wanted. It's all very well planning your time but at our age it is rare to come to pass.

Speaking for myself I am getting slower and slower. For instance every year I like to make a new dress for Christmas. If it is not finished on time I could manage to make it for my Birthday in January. (Like Christmas cake - put candles on it for my Birthday cake). This year the material is still waiting in the sewing box - maybe I could make it for Easter, although I should transfer to Summer material!!! That's age for you!!!! It is frightening that it is only 9½ months to Christmas this year!

Thanks to Les and Marion Green we have found a location for an "Afternoon Tea" in Surbiton. Just let us know if you can come. It would be good to arrange more than one 'get together'.

I hope you are all looking forward to Summer. It is so good to be able to sit outside, be it in the garden or on the balcony. Spring appears to have arrived already with blossom and bulbs in bloom, but along comes rain, snow and wind that will probably kill off all the signs and Spring will have to start again so maybe we will have daffodils in May!

Well, enjoy Spring whenever it comes and of course, Summer. Will write again in July.

With love and God's blessing.

Janet Priscilla

Janet, I thought you would like to know - **NORMA HAYWOOD** writes from Sunbury on Thames On looking at Janet Priscilla's page again, I actually registered that a visit was made to hear and see an Andre Rieu concert - I'm envious! *Me too!*