

STRENUÉ

**KINGSTON
DAY
COMMERCIAL
SCHOOL
ASSOCIATION**

MARCH 2018

KINGSTON DAY COMMERCIAL SCHOOL ASSOCIATION
Incorporating the Commercial Section of Hinchley Wood School
March 2018

Dear Readers

Good news regarding our local **GET-TOGETHERS**. For those of you in the Kingston/Surbiton area we have booked another Afternoon Tea at The **Antoinette Hotel, Kingston** for 2.00 pm on Tuesday, 17th April. The tea menu is the same as last year at a cost of £9.75 per person. The gatherings we have had at The Antoinette have been very successful and I look forward to meeting everyone again for a cuppa and a chat. If you wish to attend on 17th April, please complete the booking form at the end of this newsletter.

Bob (Gordon) Coleman (1948/51) has been researching possible venues for members living in the Dorking area and feels that the best is **Denbies Wine Estate**. We have, therefore, made a booking for afternoon tea at Denbies for 2.30 pm on Wednesday, 16th May.

Denbies Wine Estate is family owned and run and has become one of the largest wine producers in the UK. The surroundings and views are glorious. There is ample free car parking and there is also a great gift shopping area adjacent to the restaurant area.

There are three stations in Dorking, the main one is Dorking Station which should be used for anyone arriving by train. Denbies is a short taxi ride from Dorking Station and perhaps arrangements can be made for a group to get together to share.

If we have a minimum of 10 people we can book a table and have afternoon tea served at a cost of £15.95 per person. If you wish to attend on 16th May, please complete the booking form at the end of this newsletter where you will find address details. I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible.

If you would like to have a “Get together” in your area and can suggest a possible venue, I can always print details in the newsletter.

Many of you have kept in touch with your classmates, even though in some cases you are many miles apart, and we would all be interested to read your stories. We want to keep the newsletters going, so please do keep your letters coming. Do you think we should have two newsletters a year instead of three?

After a very wet January, freezing February and, so far, a snowy March I do hope we can all look forward to some warmer weather so we can plan our summer breaks. My husband and I do not go abroad any more so hope for the best when we visit Devon and Cornwall. At the beginning of June this year we are self catering in Cornwall with our daughter and large dog. Cheating a bit, as we are in the grounds of a very nice hotel where we can enjoy being served with our evening meal. (Must have a little bit of luxury)!

I am looking forward to the two “Get togethers” and thank you for all your contributions keeping the newsletter afloat.

Janet CK

email janet@jangeo.co.uk

SUBSCRIPTIONS Thank you 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

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CELIA BRADBURY (Pinchen) writes from Beverley, East Yorkshire.....
An Anecdote from Schooldays at KDCS - As prefects, we were expected to read from the Bible at the morning assembly. The formula was to start out from the back of the hall, where the 6th formers stood, on the last verse of the hymn and when finished, to march up the stairs to the lectern on the stage.

Once, when I had to do the reading, I set out from the back to stand in the front of the hall ready. I was just beginning to make my ascent up the stairs when I suddenly realized the assembly were still singing. It was a long hymn with extra verses which I hadn't seen. Hurriedly I stepped back down feeling extremely foolish as all the juniors in the front few rows appeared highly amused. In future I made sure how long the verses of each hymn were before walking to the front.

JOYCE DAY (Rowson), a student at the same time as Mike Murray, Hazel Pike, and Vera Steel writes from Snape Suffolk.....I was very warmed to read the letter from Margaret Grimshaw (Margaret Sharrard November 2017 newsletter) I believe she joined me in Plant Protection Ltd when I was assistant to the Staff Officer. Margaret left to marry someone who, I believe, was a lock keeper near Warrington. I am so glad to hear she has had a very happy and long marriage. I married soon after Margaret and my husband died two years ago, after 57 happy years together. Plant Protection Ltd was a small company, later taken over by ICI and the bonus was that we always got to the Chelsea Flower Show, where they took a stand each year.

My husband was in the Merchant Navy but came ashore when we married and was offered a job in Earth Sciences Department in Cambridge. I found a job as secretary to a very odd professor of Colloid Science in the Cavendish Laboratories. The professor only lived for his research and hated the business of running a department. I would make lists of what letters really should be answered, giving a precis and date by which they really had to be answered but he would look at my list and praise me for it and then go out until the evening when he could return and do his research in peace.

Doing this one evening, he locked me in the lab by mistake and forgot me. Luckily my husband missed me, came to the lab and found a janitor to let me out. But, of course, the job was incredibly boring. I tried to make useful work reorganising files and when I got back to the war years, I found an American gift in them - a tin of Spam and packet of Jello - the professor took the Spam and gave me the rather mouldy packet of Jello!

The professor of my husband's department kept asking me to work for him. It was a dream job; Earth Sciences was on the outskirts of Cambridge in a lovely house, set in beautiful grounds and they had lots of parties as well as working hard. We also went to several May Balls. My husband became a mature student, whilst I supported us and then was offered a job with the British Geological Survey for three years in London and then, until his retirement, in the wonderful city of Edinburgh. I could recount several other weird stories of the Colloid Science professor but perhaps this is enough.

By a strange coincidence, I am now friendly with a lively lady in her mid nineties, who knew our Miss Adams when she was young. Miss Adams had a most exciting early career. She travelled widely, taught for a year in Kabul and worked for Unesco in China teaching young girls and managing to get at least two of them to do university courses in Britain. What stories she could have told us.

This ignoramus had to look up "Colloid" never having heard of it and the dictionary says "substance in non-crystalline state, with very large molecules". So now I know! J C-K

PAMELA BUDD (Richards) wrote from Tadworth enclosing two old documents and her letter was printed in the November 2017 newsletter. One of the documents "From the Headmaster's Study - Easter Term 1947" was printed in our November 2017 newsletter. The other document "Reunion Newsletter April 1995" is reproduced here:

“REUNION NEWSLETTER APRIL 1995

“When I read John Crisp’s comments regarding the formation of KDCS, I remembered that I had kept some old school magazines which might throw some light on the matter. To my delight I found copies of the “KDCS Magazine” from January 1938, when I entered the school, up to the first issue of “The Chronicle” of the Commercial Department of the Hinchley Wood County Secondary School dated Summer Term 1948. However, I have no copies for most of 1945 and 1946. In addition to all the usual entries to be found in such publications there is a regular feature entitled “From the Headmaster’s Study” from which I have extracted the following.

The school was founded in 1910 as a result of the efforts of the late Alderman Gridley and Mr Roberts, who was then Principal of the Kingston Technical Institute and Secretary of the Kingston Education Committee. The first headmaster - until December 1933 - was Mr J B Broadhead when the school had 200 pupils, and he was succeeded by Mr C H Bray. It is worth noting the Mr H Overton had joined the school on 12th November 1912 and Mr E J Weaver in 1927.

The Junior Technical College was founded some fifteen years later and, as its number of classes increased, both schools suffered from overcrowding. The proposal to find a permanent home for the school in the old Tiffin School premises on the Fairfield did not meet with approval and, although the school was a separate entity, it continued to be housed in the premises of the Technical College until September 1937 when Surrey County Council granted the school use of the Tiffin Girls’ School premises in St James’s Road. The magazine then carried a photograph of the main entrance to the school (used only by staff and prefects) on its front cover. It is interesting to recall that across the road from the school there was a narrow lane where you crossed the Hogsmill river by a narrow wooden footbridge: today it is covered by a dual carriageway.

The classrooms of the new premises were ranged round the hall which was used for assembly, then as the girls’ gymnasium, and a photograph of it appears in the January 1938 issue of the magazine.

There was great competition for places in the school and in January 1938 there had been 186 candidates with 60 admissions. According to a report issued by the Board of Education there were only 50 Junior Commercial Schools in England and Wales KDCS was the first and the largest. Advertisements at the time quoted blazers at 25/- (£1.25) and ties at 2/6 (12.5p) And, if you left during the final term without the permission of the Governors parents were liable to pay a penalty of £5.

With our present sophisticated television and quiz shows there is a record and photograph of a team of three boys from the school who on the 15th October 1938 took part in a televised general knowledge quiz against three girls from Kilburn Commercial School. I well remember watching it on the then modern set with its nine inch screen. This must have been one of the first televised quizzes. Having no sports field, games used to be played in Fairfield and the King's Field in Hampton Court Park.

During the summer of 1939 a national State of Emergency was contemplated and the final term of that year saw the outbreak of war when studies were carried on at home with finished work being delivered to local collection points. Pupils returned to the old school for the closing days of 1939 when permission was then given to use new premises at Hinchley Wood. On 1st January 1940 the school commenced in "handsome new premises." These were always referred to as "temporary premises."

The school magazine was re-titled "The KDCS Chronicle" in the summer term of 1939 and its final issue was in October 1947 when the "Headmaster's Study" report was written by Mr E J Weaver. He was clearly upset by the loss of identity of KDCS after 37 years and "The Chronicle" then took over as the magazine of the newly amalgamated schools.

I am sure the foregoing will be of interest to all former members of the school many of whom I hope to meet on 20th May.

Dennis Clayton

REUNION NEWSLETTER APRIL 1995 continued.....

Many letters have been received giving details of various parts of the school's history. Unfortunately, it has not been possible to include all of these in this Newsletter. However, these letters together with any describing careers, war experiences and memories of our school days, will be put into a series of ring binders (numbered I upwards) which will be available on 20th May.

Please bring with you any photographs, magazines, school reports (if you dare) and anything else relating to the school. Please mark each with your name so that I can return to the owner any items which may be left behind.

I want to ensure that there is some information available for all of us to check who actually is at the reunion. It would be a pity, after some 50 years, to miss an old classmate, so I shall have some instructions in the foyer when you arrive how I would like you to "sign-in."

At the time of printing payment has been received from 169 ex-students and partners. Contact has been made with over 350. It is expected that there will be an attendance of over 200 including 3 from Australia, 2 from Canada and 1 each from USA and Spain. Contact has been made with others in South Africa and New Zealand."

ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE REUNION

Saturday, 20th May 1995 - hall booked from 5 - 11 pm

(No-one is expected before 5.30)

At our old school premises in Claygate Lane, Hinchley Wood.

(roundabout at end of Claygate Lane is now on A 309)

School now known as Hinchley Wood School (name displayed outside school) There are two schools in Claygate Lane.

Adequate parking in school playgrounds - entry by main gate next to caretaker's house a little further down Claygate Lane - and in Claygate Lane.

Light finger buffet, coffee and wine at cost of £6 per person provided by the school caterers.

Name badges will be available at reception. Please write your own in capital letters.

Our young ladies should write JOAN SMITH (JONES) 1944-46

Our young men JOHN SMITH 1944-46

Our partners JOHN SMITH

I don't expect everyone to walk around with a badge showing the name "SMITH!"

Many have requested that the event be Non-Smoking. If we can follow this I am sure it will be appreciated.

Contribution to costs of contacting all to be in form of donation to Royal Marsden Hospital. Collection box will be available.

Thank you Pamela for sending these two old documents, they make very interesting reading.

Did any of our readers attend this reunion on 20th May 1995, if so, please write telling us your recollection of the event.

WILLIAM CRISELL emails from Ontario, Canada..... Thank you for yet another interesting letter. For me especially because of the reference to new member Derek Carver who was in my class. I recall he was very tall and thin and if my memory is correct he could make a circle with his thumb and first finger above a wrist and pass it unbroken over his hand! He also played the murderer in a school production of Emlyn Williams drama, "Night Must Fall". It is amazing how much old trivia we can dredge from our memory cells.

Re your request about how KDCS helped in ones career, I did previously write about how my shorthand/typing skills enabled me to get a post shortly after arriving in Toronto and started me on a thirty four year career with a major oil company. I cannot remember if it was printed and do not retain old issues to check.

Yes, Bill, it was printed in the July 2016 issue and I now reproduce it again.

“I recalled recently that, although I took shorthand and typing at KDCS, I never really thought I would use them in business. The majority of secretaries were ladies. When I arrived in Toronto in 1953, however, I was offered a secretarial position at a firm which could not accommodate ladies (lacked separate toilet facilities!) and became secretary to the Manager for about three years until we moved to a new office. I started in January 1954, never imagining I would be with the Company until I early retired in January 1987. So my shorthand and typing paid dividends.”

Bill Crisell

You have contributed several items for our newsletters in the past, for which I am extremely grateful, keep up the good work.



This is a picture that PEGGY SAUNDERS (Shepherd) 1944/46 sent and was printed in November 2010 newsletter and Bill Crisell added the names.

Back row from left

Sadler (Gregg), Bill Crisell (Gregg) Derek Carver (Gregg), John Sowerby (Gregg).

Front row

Hayden Jannaway (Pitman)

SADLY

MARIAN JACKSON (Tutt) Celia Bradbury (Pinchen) writes
Sadly, I am sorry to report that my friend Marian Jackson(Tutt) passed away on 9th September 2017. She was the widow of Malcolm Jackson, also from school, who died some years ago. She was a very popular girl, liked by everyone.

RODNEY BERRY Rodney passed away on 28th December 2017 after a long illness. The funeral took place at Clandon Wood Natural Burial Ground on 22nd January. He was very popular at school both in the classroom and on the athletic field. He will be sadly missed by Jean, his wife of 62 years, who also attended KDCS, his son and daughter, four grandchildren and three great grandchildren.

PHYLLIS CRISPIN (Bradbury) 1949-1952. Jo Coles (Mitchell) advised that Phyllis passed away on 20th January 2018. Although she lived in Essex with Michael, her husband, she never lost touch with her school friends. Phyllis eventually came back to her beloved Surrey Hills and spent her last years in Dorking. She will be very much missed.

PEGGY PARLETT (Nunn) 1947-49 writes from Chiswick..... Many thanks for the July newsletter. Great reading as ever, especially Janet Priscilla's account of her flight in a Hot Air Balloon. What a brave girl!!

I might give you a giggle recounting an incident which occurred in August. It was a Sunday. After Church I went to meet my daughter Frances (who has enjoyed several Reunions with me) and Granddaughter Michelle. We were going out to lunch at a nice restaurant in the High Road. We ordered our meals and drinks. Meals arrived safely. Then the waitress brought our drinks on a tray. Wine for Frances, something healthy for Michelle, as she is expecting my first Great Grandchild soon, cranberry juice for me. As she gave them out she accidentally knocked over one glass - the cranberry juice, with ice, all down my back, which was covered in a nice white shirt, now a nice red shirt!!! Shocks all round - especially me.

What to do? I was taken to a “bathroom” and dabbed with tissues. No new shirt forthcoming. The Manager appeared. Everything is free. Dry cleaning bill will be paid. Many apologies. We all recovered AND enjoyed the meal.

It was a warmish day with a slight breeze and I eventually dried out, all be it, as Michelle said, looking as if I’d been stabbed in the back! In the end I was reassuring the poor waitress who was very upset. Unlike Frances - it was to be her treat - so she was the Winner.

Since then she and I have had a lovely “break” in Swanage with family, beautiful weather, plus it was Lifeboat Week, so we were able to see it launched. We enjoyed the slower pace of life in Dorset and have many happy memories of holidays there and in Studland, Shell Bay and Bournemouth, all of which we revisited on an open top bus (My first trip “upstairs” on a bus for many a year.) It was wonderful.

ELIZABETH KOBER writes from Ham Common.... After leaving KDCS and in the early 50’s, I was the girlfriend of the late author, Bryan Johnson (KDCS student 1948). Bryan was very taken with traditional Jazz and gospel singers Bessie Smith and Mahalia Jackson. We both belonged to the 100 Oxford Street Club where Humphrey Lyttleton and Mick Mulligan played. At that time, the late George Melly sang jazz with both bands and he was my dance partner at the Club. Also, around this time, Bryan was very much into the occult and witchcraft (having studied Macbeth for his Oxford). Furthermore, Bryan also believed that he was the reincarnation of Christopher Marlowe and composed an additional verse for me of “Come Live with Me”. Somewhere in the house I have the original which he sent me (together with other originals). After my relationship with Bryan ended, he became friendly with Dame Joan Bakewell.

In later years George Melly wrote to me and I quote “Remembering our outrageous years!!” They were certainly most enjoyable times and remain in my memory as if they were “only yesterday”. I believe the 100 Oxford Street Club still exists.

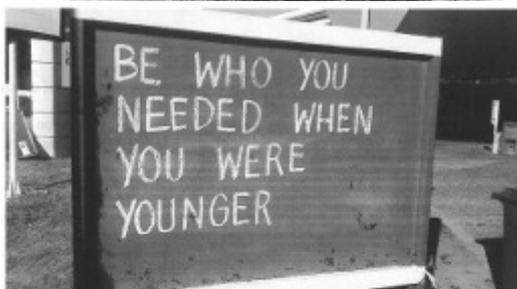
All of us also used to go to “The Bun Shop”, Surbiton where Mick Mulligan, George Melly and Chris Barber regularly performed. I would love to know if any other students went to the 100 Oxford Street Club or The Bun Shop? Happy carefree and wonderful days!!

BOB PHAROAH contributes the following from Victoria, Australia.....
A Johannesburg filling station has become quite a landmark in Gauteng with its daily PETROL PUMP WISDOM - uplifting quotes written on a chalkboard. Some motorists say they deliberately travel this route just to read the quote which brightens their day.

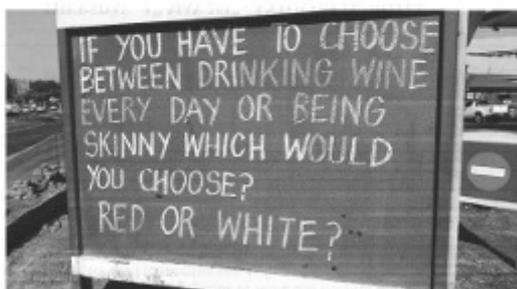
Here’s a selection:



The lady behind this wonderful initiative at Hutton Hyde Park is Alison Billett. She told SA People: “We inherited the board from the previous owner, Dick Hutton, when we bought the filling station from him almost 20 years ago. We continued the tradition and it has become a landmark - more so now that it’s on social media!”



Alison’s “Rest in Peace” quote (above) has now been shared over a quarter of a million times around the world!



MARGARET (PEGGY) PICCO 1939-40 sends in some Clerihews.....
Reverend Edmund Clerihew Bentley (1875-1956) invented the clerihew.

Dictionary definition CLERIHEW - a short comic or nonsensical verse, typically in two rhyming couplets with lines of unequal length and referring to a famous person.

Nelson and Emma	Had, by a fluke,	Sigmund Freud
Faced a dilemma	He not been Duke,	Became annoyed
He, unlike she,	Our wellies	When asked “Why all the
Was all at sea.	Would be “wellesleys”.	fuss
		About Oedipus?”.

Henry eight was addicted to having folk convicted. He sure “carried weight” when deciding their fate.

“Although I’m half-French” said Brunel, “I ‘bridge’ with the English quite well”.

Boudicca said “Yes, we’re all cut up, but I fared worse, so - all shut up.”

Said J M W Turner “This painting’s a nice little earner.”

Completely worn-out From rushing about, Hercules quit his labours.
“I’m moving to town And settling-down. I want a house and neighbours”.



JANET PRISCILLA'S PAGE

Hi All

Well Christmas has ended and Spring is on the way! Just when we thought the weather was getting better, the vicious winds from Siberia lost their way and landed here in England, now we have to look forward to Spring.

I hope you all enjoyed Christmas. We must go forward and look towards Easter, quite early this year, so the weather may not be good enough to have an "egg" hunt, but whatever, that is what we will do - imagine being very soggy or there being even more snow, and "collecting".

We are all looking forward to our first reunion this year. It is so good for us to get together again. I love these, and meet new friends even at our age. I must admit I am the worse person with whom to go on holiday because I just think who lives near where we are going so I can visit - I drive my ever tolerant husband mad. As I have got older I get worse! We have planned a holiday in June to go to my daughter's house in Spain with her and her son. We have our "SPANISH FAMILY" at least 60 miles approximately north of Mil Palmeras and usually visit them and stay overnight, but not this time. We are beginning to realise we ARE OLD although not in mind. I am going in the sea daily, walking and shopping lots, as I always used to. Doing CARTWHEELS on the sand is definitely out. I have to giggle, what a sight that must have been to see this LUMP upside down on the beach ooh-er!!!!

Enjoy Spring, hope to write again in July.

Blessings from Janet Priscilla

THE ANTOINETTE HOTEL
Beaufort Road, Kingston upon Thames, KT1 2TQ

2.00 pm Tuesday, 17th April 2018

I would like to attend the meeting at
The Antoinette Hotel and enclose my cheque for £.....
(£9.75 per person) for afternoon tea.

Please complete this slip and return it, together with your cheque to: Janet
Creighton-Kelly, KDCS Association, 2 Maultway Close, Camberley,
Surrey GU15 1PP.

Thank you.

.....
.....

DENBIES WINE ESTATE
London Road, Dorking, Surrey RH5 6AA

2.30 pm Wednesday, 16th May 2018

Iwould like to attend the meeting at
Denbies Wine Estate and enclose my cheque for £.....
(£15.95 per person) for afternoon tea.

I will be travelling: By car By train

Please complete this slip and return it, together with your cheque to: Janet
Creighton-Kelly, KDCS Association, 2 Maultway Close, Camberley,
Surrey GU15 1PP.

Thank you.