

STRENUÉ

**KINGSTON
DAY
COMMERCIAL
SCHOOL
ASSOCIATION**

MARCH 2019

KINGSTON DAY COMMERCIAL SCHOOL ASSOCIATION
Incorporating the Commercial Section of Hinchley Wood School
March 2019

Dear Readers

I hope 2019 has started well for you and that you have all survived the 'Beast from the East' and the severe snowfall some areas have had.

You will see from the SADLY page that Janet Priscilla's husband, Gerald, passed away on 28th December. A Service to celebrate his life was held at St John the Baptist, West Byfleet which was very well attended. Janet receives great support from all of her family and I am sure you all join me in sending her our love and sincere condolences for her loss.

We had a very enjoyable Afternoon Tea at **Denbies Wine Estate** last year and I am pleased to say Bob Coleman has again booked this venue for Wednesday, 22nd May 2019 at 2.30 pm at a cost of £14.95 per person. (A pound cheaper than last year!!) We need a minimum of 10 people and hope as many of you as possible will be able to attend. There is a booking form at the end of this newsletter which please complete and return with your cheque as soon as possible.

There is ample free car parking and there is also a wine and gift shop adjacent to the restaurant area. If you want to make a day of it, they run a train tour of the Vineyard.

Not such good news for the get-together which has been held at the Antoinette Hotel in Kingston. It has been knocked down!! I have found two establishments that can provide an afternoon tea but both are more expensive, so nothing has been arranged at present. Here are the details:

Glenmore House (recommended by Les Green) 6 The Crescent, Surbiton. This is a very elegant establishment. Price for Afternoon Tea £19.00 per person.

The French Tarte, (a coffee shop) 83 Maple Road, Surbiton. Afternoon Tea £18.50 per person. Parking in the road.

If you would like to consider either of the two venues let me know and we can arrange something for August/October.

So for the moment there is no get-together in the Surbiton area. I know that the loyal members who have attended the Antoinette Hotel will be disappointed. It would be nice if you could get together informally and meet up in a coffee shop, say once a month, for a chat. This is rather difficult to organise through the newsletter but let me have your thoughts on the matter.

SOS Please, if you wish to keep the newsletter going, send me a letter, one or two lines or 60 plus, anything. Some photos would be good too.

I hope you all have an enjoyable Spring - The lovely bright colours of daffodils and polyanthus give us a lift and it is good to leave the grey days of winter behind and enjoy the longer hours of daylight.

Take care

Janet C-K
e-mail 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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KENNETH DOUGLAS..... As mentioned in the November 2018 newsletter Pamela Douglas contacted Stephen Jones, our website Manager, sending some documents relating to her father Kenneth Douglas. Kenneth Douglas attended KDCS in around 1935-37. He worked for British American Tobacco most of his life and passed away in December 2013 at the age of 91. This is a copy of the letter he wrote to John Crisp on 22nd March 1996 asking to join the KDCS Association.

Dear Mr Crisp

A few months back I heard from an old friend whom I know from our schooldays in the 1930's, firstly at our local school in Egham Hythe (Surrey) then at KDCS. We remained friends till about 1948 when we both married. I won't bore you with various complexities, but I had not seen this friend Ray Ruby for some 48 years when he 'phoned me 'out of the blue' having discovered I was still on this planet. We have met three times since (his health is not too good) and had lunch together and with our respective wives, also on the last occasion with my sister Cicely Douglas, who also attended KDCS.

Ray Ruby told me of his discovery of KDCS Schools Association and loaned me two newsletters which he had and which I copied and also showed them to my sister.

Brief details are: Kenneth Douglas (that's me) joined KDCS Autumn Term 1936 names listed in the Summer 1936 School Magazine.

Raymond C W Ruby was about a year ahead of me and has already joined the Association.

Cicely M Douglas (my sister) attended around 1931/1933.

I was a scholarship or special places student, and like many of my contemporaries, only 'made it' through either the free place and rail ticket and/or sacrifices made by poor parents.

I don't recall all the students who entered in that August Term 1936 since at that time (I recall) the school was in the process of expanding, so the entrants were made into two forms "1" and "1A". Those in "1" learned Pitmans Shorthand and those in "1A" learned Gregg Shorthand. I am sure we were the first! My elementary education had not included English Grammar, so that wasn't a strong subject with me. Maths - particularly Arithmetic was my strong subject and I was especially pleased that in the mental arithmetic part of the final exam I was the only one with 100% correct!

I duly received my Diploma (I don't think it was first class). My other memory of learning was that I did rather well at Gregg Shorthand and frequently had my name called out at Assembly (by this time we were in Tiffins old school) for getting most house-marks (Lancaster).

When I started Charles Broadhead was my form master - I was, I suppose, an introvert though I made some good friends - particularly Royston Brooks. I recall attending only one Social after leaving school and staying with Royston Brooks who lived in Ewell as I think his parents probably had a car and picked us up for the journey home after the Social.

About 30 years ago I met Dorothy Deacon who had moved to Staines, I lived in Egham at the time of my school attendance but I didn't see her again to speak to - I think she had married. One girl I recall was Sylvia Harris, whose uncle happened to be Sir Adrian Bolt. You can imagine (if you knew Mr Charles Bray) just how 'chuffed' the Head was when he interrupted class to announce that Sir Adrian had 'phoned him to enquire about his niece's progress. I have one sepia old picture taken I think on a school trip to Southampton which includes myself, Elizabeth Punt, Elaine Stocker, Royston Brooks and I think the last one might be Norman Bettison.

After 3 years or so with a badly run Grocery Company who went into voluntary liquidation, I (as with Ray Ruby) joined the RAF - I became a Wireless Operator (he was a Wireless Mechanic). After spells at Biggin Hill, then at West Malling, I contracted glandular TB and despite removal of the infected gland, I was discharged.

I joined British American Tobacco who had moved most of their London Staff to Egham and were only too pleased to enrol the services of young able bodied males. I mention this to explain that at that time British American, though a large Company, had sprung into being partly from Imperial Tobacco Company who held (I think) a 20% stake. Some years later Imperial were obliged to sell their stake and BAT already the larger, went on to greater things and Imperial due to bad management, were an easy victim to Lord Hanson. He bought them and all the diversification companies they had invested in. He sold all the Companies off except Imperial Tobacco which he still holds and gained an amount which virtually covered his outlay for the whole Group which by then was called Imperial Tobacco Group.

As you may know Imperial Tobacco was made up of all (or nearly all) of the leading UK cigarette companies (they had merged to fight off an American predator). Around about 1960, when BAT had returned to their head office in Millbank London, I attended a meeting and I was sure one of the visitors was Charles Broadhead. I'll explain briefly that at that time BAT owned most of the Imperial's brands in overseas countries and there was a liaison with WD & HO Wills John Player & Sons etc and Charles Broadhead was making his way up the ladder with John Player at Nottingham. At a subsequent meeting when I had a chance to speak to him (I had already checked his signature with that in my Autograph book), he told me he had left KDCS and I think joined the Army soon. In the early 1960's Charles Broadhead had moved up to near the top of John Player & Son and I recall writing to him when he was appointed Chairman (I think that was the title) and he was a direct Director of the Imperial Group as well. Because he felt that I was someone reliable (I suppose) when his staff contacted BAT on some matter which might involve me, he instructed them to ring Ken Douglas - These people were mainly quite senior to me ie top management (I didn't get past middle management!!) Very sadly after a few years at the top of Players, he became ill with (I believe) a brain tumour and was forced to retire and I seem to remember that within a year or two he died. I would guess aged about 55 to 58 years of age. You may already know about this.

I'm sorry this is a somewhat long and maybe boring letter but some of it may be news to you. The last reference to Mr Broadhead is that he said he had met only one other ex KDCS in his time with Imperial - I didn't know the chap probably from an earlier year. I think Mr Broadhead was one if not the youngest Master.

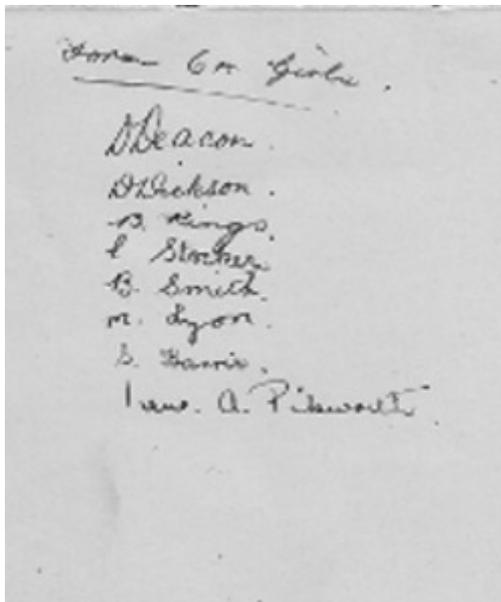
I would like to be a member of the Association and enclose a cheque for £3.00 and look forward to receiving the next Newsletter.

My sister will be 78 next birthday, and I think she does not wish to join. She said she recognised at least one lady who attended your first reunion. I didn't spot any of my contemporaries!

With best wishes
Yours faithfully

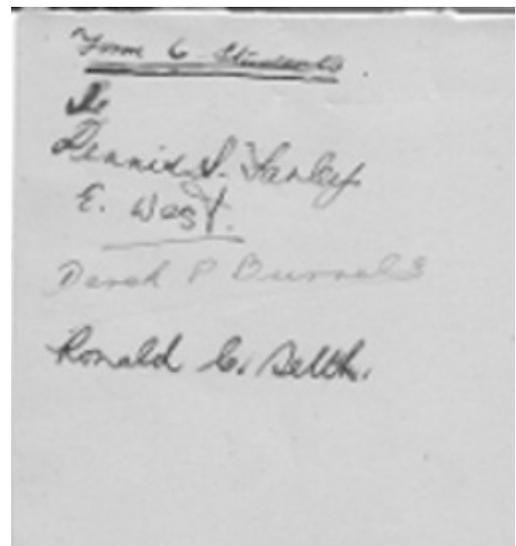
Kenneth Douglas

These are pages from Kenneth's autograph book.



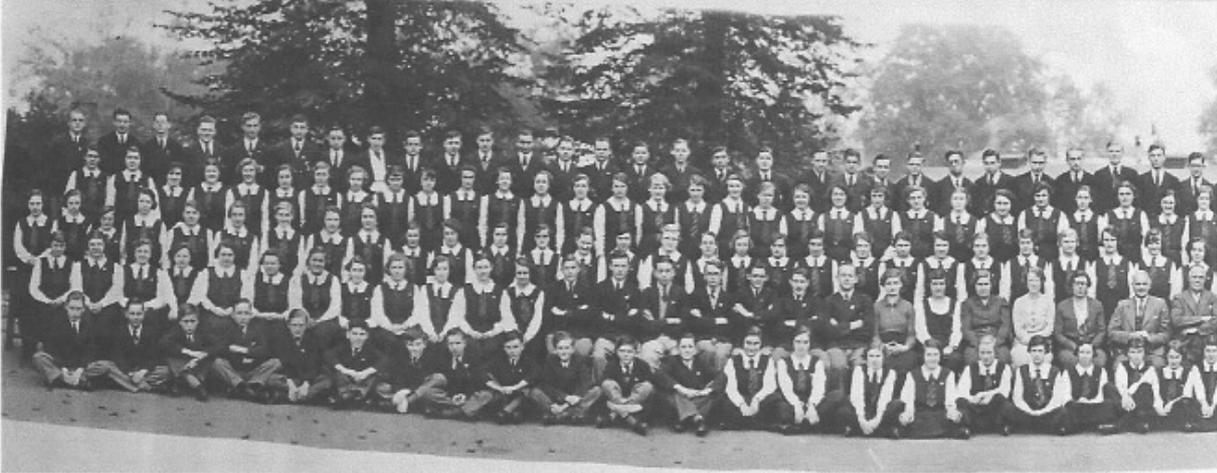
On left

D Deacon
D Dickson
B Kings
E Stocker
B Smith
M Lyon
S Harris
Irene A
Pikworth



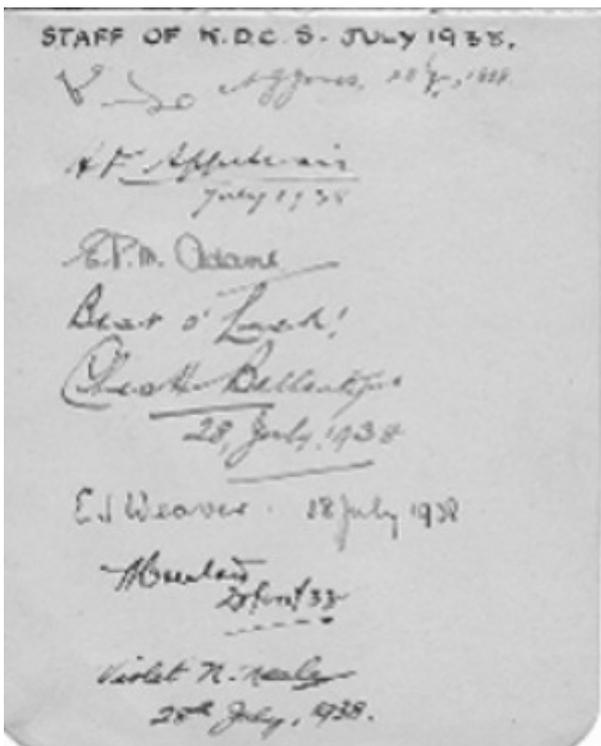
Above:

Dennis S Farley
E West
Derek P Burrells
Ronald C Selth



KDCS students 1937. (I find it amazing that the students always look the same whatever the year; it must be the uniforms. JCK)

A page signed by the staff of KDCS in July 1938.



- J Jones
- A F Appelian
- E P M Adams
- Best o' Luck!
- Ches??? Ballantyne
- E J Weaver
- ??????
- Violet N Neale

BOB AND BARBARA PHAROAH Email from Victoria, Australia...
Regarding the “Centenary Commemorations of 11/11/1918”, I wonder if you have seen the “Youtube” featuring Edward Woodward singing the Boer War song “Goodbye Dolly Gray”? I think it was recorded at the time of the making of his last film “Breaker Morant”. It made me think (I admit, I’m not very good at it!):

LEST WE FORGET!

WWI was touted as “THE WAR TO END ALL WARS” - What happened?

We have just commemorated the centenary of “Armistice Day” (Eleventh Hour of the Eleventh Day of the Eleventh Month 1918) and all those brave lasses and lads who volunteered and gave up their lives and limbs or had them taken from them by inept commanders like Haig, who’s treatment for “Shell-shock” or “Post Traumatic Stress Syndrome”, was to have the victims shot at dawn as cowards!

I confess to being a “Left-leaning, Atheistic, Environmentalist” (which will instantly lose me much credibility!) BUT, personally, I think we would honour those aforementioned, brave lasses and lads more genuinely, not by military displays of “Remembrance Day” marches (obviously inspired by the “Ministry of Funny Walks”) but to seeing to it that future wars would be avoided, where humanly possible!

BUT “Defence” (WAR) is now an enormous industry, creating many jobs and (for a few) huge wealth! Many “Defence Industry Corporations” the world over, who pay little (if any) tax, wield terrific influence (“Political Donations”) over Governments and it begs the question, “Can they really be interested in ‘World Peace’?” Yes, I’m also a “Pacifist”! (There goes any remaining credibility!).

Wars occur because politicians and diplomats are not doing their jobs properly and are rewarded for not doing so by donations from “The Defence Industry” and besides, the superfluous population won’t be missed (by Governments) and what does a few wreaths and crocodile tears cost?

INCIDENTALLY, there are final verses to “Goodbye Dolly Gray”, they are not often sung but they go:

Hear the rolling of the drums, Dolly Gray
Back from war the regiment comes, Dolly Gray
On your lovely face so fair, I can see a look of fear
For your soldier boy’s not there, Dolly Gray

For the one you love well, Dolly Gray
In the midst of battle fell, Dolly Gray
With his face toward the foe, as he died he murmured low
I must say goodbye and go, Dolly Gray

Goodbye Dolly I must leave you, though it breaks my heart to go
Something tells me I am needed at the front to fight the foe
See the soldiers, they are marching and I can no longer stay
Hark, I hear the bugle calling, Goodbye Dolly Gray

LEST WE FORGET!

Many thanks for your thought provoking article, Bob.

Regarding the second World War The Normandy Memorial Trust has been formed to create a British Memorial in Northern France to those who gave their lives in Normandy in the summer of 1944. While all the other allied nations involved in the invasion of France have a national memorial in Normandy, Britain does not. (A 75 year oversight!)

‘One line humour’ from **BRIAN SHEPHERD** in Australia....

Don’t feel bad. A lot of people have no talent.

You can’t buy love, but you pay heavily for it.

Marriage is a relationship in which one person is always right and the other is the husband!

Wise men talk because they have something to say; fools talk because they have to say something.

You’re getting old when you enjoy remembering things more than doing them.

JOHN LIPSCOMBE 1949-52 emails from Guernsey..... In the newsletter of July 2000 it mentioned that the school had been formed in 1910, and at the outbreak of the Second World War education was continued by correspondence until it was established at Hinchley Wood in 1940.

My brother Eric became a student in 1942 and was evacuated to Leigh in Lancashire when the school moved there when he was in the fourth form. He got his diploma in the 6th form and returned to Epsom, the bombs, sleeping often in our overcrowded Morrison, in-house air-raid shelter - and his first job. My sister Eileen and I were evacuated at the same time as Eric, with The Clock House Catholic primary school in Epsom, to Southport, which was not far from Leigh.

Until our move north we had spent some hours most nights in our Anderson air raid shelter in the garden. Eileen stayed “evacuated” until the end of the war and not long afterwards started at Hinchley Wood. Within a month of my being evacuated my mother came up and took me home as I was very unhappy, being only 7, and I saw and heard the explosions of many VI and V2 bombs, and witnessed so-called dog-fights between Spitfires and Hurricanes and German fighter planes above our part of Surrey, and collected an awful lot of shrapnel. I had to wait until 1949 before I started at Hinchley Wood. Towards the end of our second year we were given the option to study for new GCE and stay on for a third year. I was, I think, in the second intake which sat those exams.

We who read Strenue immediately it arrives, mostly spent just six terms at Hinchley Wood (a fraction of our school years), but they were the last years and they are recalled with some fondness by most. The impressions made on us seem to survive even into the age of forgetfulness, and are kept in mind by contributors who write stuff like this! I believe that because our teachers treated us as adults and were encouraging and relaxed, we benefited enormously and departed almost grown up! Maybe others will agree with me that we were fortunate to have spent those important two years of our lives at Hinchley Wood.

I didn't get into a grammar school and I didn't get through an interview to go to Kingston Technical College: thank goodness, but had an interview to gain entry to Hinchley Wood which I passed somehow. I broke my arm trying to do a neck roll for Mr Bamber in the gym five minutes after I entered it on my second day. I have pressed the space bar with my left thumb ever since.

On the 406 from Epsom to the Toby Jug I had many laughs with Bryan Bartlett, Gordon Bishop and Dick Bradley. The late Valerie Webster was usually already on the bus when we clambered on. Whilst we were in our first term, she was already in her fifth and so we didn't have conversations with her (and I was in awe of her anyway).

I am very grateful to the two Janets for keeping me in touch with other students who, like me, enjoy recalling experiences at the school at the bottom of Claygate Lane, and learning about what has happened to them since they left it. Many of us in our late Autumn days may be allowed nostalgia for those oh so innocent days. It's not been dull since has it?

IRIS BOWER 1948-50 writes from Derby and recalls a few of the personalities she met when working in London..... In 1954 I worked as Secretary to the Editor of a Trade Journal. I believe it was one of the George Newnes Group. One of my tasks was to go to the Accounts Department which was in Kingsway. Also there, was the Headquarters of the Federation of British Industries, whose Chairman was Kenneth Horne, he of "Round the Horne". He was a perfect gentleman, always opening the door for one.

As the only female member of our Journal, it was decided I should go to one of the fashion shows. This was hosted by Ben Lyon of "Life with the Lyons". I actually had a cocktail with him. He was really lovely. Also, sitting opposite me was a famous actor, whom I am sure was called Michael Goffe. On leaving, the Doorman enquired if Madam would like a taxi. I didn't like to admit I only had my bus fare!! As our offices were near Drury Lane, I often caught sight of famous actors.

My husband and I often went to the Highlands for holidays. Before the bridge was built to Skye we had to get a ferry. On one trip we sat opposite Donald Sutherland. He's very tall man. There was a man we couldn't quite place but think he was a well known American actor. A very attractive young lady was also on the ferry. We often wondered if they were filming on Skye.

ELIZABETH KOBER 1946-48 writes from Richmond.... Dorothy Gardner wrote in the November newsletter - "I used to travel with three friends from Tolworth - Anna Simms, Barbara Guy and Jean Diprose". I wonder if Dorothy can tell me whether the Barbara Guy that she mentions (unbelievably there were two Barbara Guys attending KDCS at the same time and not related) is the Barbara Guy living at that time near Brian Churchill. Both Barbara and Brian were in my Gregg class. Also, whether Dorothy knows if both are still in the land of the living, since we are all in our late eighties.

I remember Jean Diprose (sadly not with us) a friend of Dorothy's. I also remember that Barbara and Brian travelled together on the 152 bus, both living in the Tolworth/Worcester Park area.

Over to you, Dorothy. I wonder if you can answer Elizabeth's questions.
JCK

Another 'fill in' from **BRIAN SHEPHERD**.... Did you know? As incredible as it sounds, men and women took baths only twice a year (May and October) Women kept their hair covered, while men shaved their heads (because of lice and bugs) and wore wigs. Wealthy men could afford good wigs made from wool. They couldn't wash the wigs, so to clean them they would carve out a loaf of bread, put the wig in the shell, and bake it for 30 minutes. The heat would make the wig big and fluffy, hence the term '**big wig**'. Today we often use the term 'here comes the Big Wig' because someone appears to be, or is, powerful and wealthy.

SADLY



GERALD STEEPLES passed away on 28th December. A Service to celebrate his life was held at St John The Baptist, West Byfleet following cremation at Woking Crematorium. He leaves his wife, Janet, two daughters and one son, five grandchildren and five great grandchildren. Gerald attended our meeting at Denbies last year.



HARRY STANLEY ... Harry's daughter Carol advises that Harry passed away on 12th January. He is survived by his wife Margaret, daughter Carol and son John. Harry was a very active member of the KDCS Association and attended many of the Reunions. Seen here receiving his raffle prize in 2013.

JOAN PENNINGTON (Mears)... Jane Adams advises that her Mother, Joan Pennington passed away peacefully on the 23rd January. Joan attended KDCS in 1944/46.

PAT NICOLLS (Slark)... Pat passed away peacefully in her sleep on 16th February, after a long illness. She is survived by her husband 'Nick', one son and two daughters. She will be sorely missed.



JANET PRISCILLA'S PAGE

Hello Dear Friends

I hope you all enjoyed the Christmas season and did all you wanted to achieve. As you have read in "SADLY" I lost my beloved Gerald just after Christmas. We were very fortunate to be able to take him to our daughter's house on Christmas day with our Grand and Great Grandchildren. It was a happy day, he opened all the presents the little ones had made and took delight in giving to him. At one point our youngest Great Granddaughter - Daisy two and a half, gave him her hula-hoop to try. We all clapped and cheered because he was sitting - not easy to twirl a hula-hoop!! Our children Deborah, Trevor (who some of you met at DENBIES last year) and Marina have been wonderful, guiding me in all the things Gerald did for me. I also want to thank our friends from KDCS who came to Gerald's thanksgiving service on 1st February.

Another sad occasion, so sorry to hear of the passing of Pat Nicolls (Slark). I met her at school in the playground one lunchtime after which I would share my Mum's delicious bread pudding with her and her friend Pat Butcher. We also had the privilege to attend Pat and Nick's 65th Wedding Anniversary last September, just after our 64th, and had a lovely day meeting other KDCS members there.

We have almost a whole year ahead so we must try to get together as often as we can, so if anyone knows of a coffee bar, restaurant, garden centre or anywhere within easy reach, let us know so we can arrange something. Time is so precious and seems to be running out. Both Janet and I will attend as best as we can, while we can. Don't forget we can advertise in this magazine which is published three times a year, thanks to Janet C-K, who does all the work.

Take Care, God Bless you.

Janet Priscilla

If you wish to come to Denbies, please complete the form below and return it as soon as possible.

Many thanks.

.....

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

2.30 pm Wednesday, 22nd May 2019

Name/s would like to attend the

Meeting at Denbies Wine Estate and enclose cheque for £.....

(£14.95 per person) for afternoon tea. Cheque payable to KDCS Association.

I will be travelling: By car By train

Signed

Telephone No: (should we need to contact you)

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