



STRENUE

**KINGSTON
DAY
COMMERCIAL
SCHOOL
ASSOCIATION**

NOVEMBER 2016

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

Dear Readers

I hope you have been able to make the most of this year's good Summer, although it was rather late in starting. It was so nice to see blue sky and to enjoy the warm sunshine, especially in September which was an exceptional month weatherwise.

I usually request either a blue or yellow cover for the newsletter, as these were two of the house colours, but the Printers had neither for the July issue so we had to do with green. Not sure what colour the cover will be for this November edition!

Many of you write and say how much you enjoy reading our newsletters, even if you don't recognise any familiar names, so many thanks and well done to all our members who write in, we are most grateful. There would be no newsletter without your contributions, so please keep your memories and anecdotes coming. We would all like to read your memories of the classroom, details of your working life and friendships that have endured since school. I am looking forward to receiving your letters long or short and receiving any pictures you may have.

Sadly, Bob Coleman only received three enquiries regarding a get-together in the Sussex area. If anyone is interested in arranging a meeting with friends, please let me know and we can put details in the next newsletter.

The lunch we had at The Antoinette Hotel in the Kingston/Surbiton area this year was very successful so we are going to arrange another afternoon tea at the same hotel in 2017, possibly in April or early May. Full details will be in the March issue so please keep this in mind as we would love to see you all again and also any new faces who wish to come along.

Welcome to a new member Marjorie Purkess (formerly Darlington) who attended KDCS in 1948/51. Celia Bradbury(Pinchen) was a friend of Marjorie's in the 6th Form during their third year at the school and told her about the Association. Thank you Celia and welcome Marjorie.

Our very best wishes and congratulations to Ken and Geraldine Hayes who celebrated their Diamond Wedding Anniversary in September this year. They both attended KDCS.

We also send our very best wishes to Margaret Sharrard (Grimshaw) who celebrates her 90th Birthday in December.



The other Janet and I hope you all have a Very Happy Christmas together with your family and loved ones, and wish you a Peaceful and Healthy New Year.

Janet CK

Email janet@jangeo.co.uk

SUBSCRIPTIONS We are very grateful for all the subscriptions received. Thank you.

£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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EVELYN WILLIS writes from GodalmingMany thanks for the July magazine - always an interesting read and takes me back to my happy two years at the school. So pleased the afternoon tea at Antoinettes was great fun. I may try to join in if there is another. I will be interested to know if the 'other' Janet has finished that dress yet; only one more Bank Holiday and Christmas will be fast approaching once more! Oh! Why does time pass so quickly these days? My very best wishes to you all. Enjoy what is left of the Summer.

AUDREY DABORN (Vayro) writes from EsherNext year, if you do have a get-together at the Antoinette Hotel I will try and get along. I was in the same class as Elizabeth Kober (known to us as "Betty Wales") so was interested to read about her. She probably doesn't remember me.

IRIS FREESTONE writes from Walton-on-ThamesI do enjoy the newsletter and so glad you are able to continue with it. Pleased to hear your local "get-together" was a success. A group of us from the Gregg class of 1946/48 have been meeting annually for a few years, organised round one friend who comes over from the States! We were originally nine, this year only six, sadly. We did manage to contact a much larger group and met a couple of times, including Mr Twilley, before the Association was formed and were able to give John Crisp some names to contact. Sadly a number have passed on but I am still in touch with a couple in other parts of the country.

JACQUELINE SADLER writes from Claygate The mini Reunion at Hotel Antoinette was very enjoyable and it was a joy to meet up with someone from my year - Norma Haywood. We weren't class buddies, she being Pitman and myself Gregg, but we were able to have a happy time recalling names of all those we both knew from our years at KDCS (40-42)

JEAN POLLARD 1932 writes from Leatherhead.... Thank you for organising a very pleasant afternoon's "get together". Stuart thought it was a very interesting and happy afternoon.

Stuart, Jean's son, accompanied her to the Antoinette Hotel. Glad you enjoyed our afternoon tea Jean, see you next year.

PATRICIA WHITEWAY (Challis) 1944-46 writes from Surbiton
Our little get-together on the 12th April was a very pleasant afternoon and I hope it can be repeated.

The magazine is very interesting as usual. Seeing the reference to the Rev Scrutton, Vicar of All Saints Church, Kingston was quite a surprise as he married my late husband and myself on 17th March 1951. He was rather a strict gentleman and as it was Lent would not permit us to have any music at the ceremony. My mother-in-law never forgave him as she was a strong Church member in Portsmouth and Bedford and loved hymn singing! We were married nearly 60 years, my dear husband passed away soon after our 59th Anniversary. (I was not aware that Rev Scrutton had a son who was a teacher or that he had been at KDCS).

I am so glad you all enjoyed our get-together and as mentioned, we will be having another Afternoon Tea at The Antoinette Hotel in April/May 2017 and hope to see you all there.

GERALDINE HAYES (Chatten) 1949-51 writes from East Grinstead....
Thank you for the Association's last edition. All the family were very interested to see my "contribution"!! We had a lot of the family here last week as my granddaughter was home for July from Dubai where she, at present, resides. Her mother (my ex daughter-in-law) lives in Shepperton as do her family. Her parents live in sheltered accommodation - her father can barely see now but he "needs" to go into Kingston every day!! I had a book on 'OLD' Kingston (where I lived) and my daughter-in-law took it home, with our Association magazine, for her Mum to see. My son thought our magazine and association was a wonderful idea and wondered why the schools they went to, here in East Grinstead, had nothing like it. So at least one family were very interested in it, and Ken and I felt proud of KDCS too!! How we spent years not knowing about it or the reunions I do not know. Shows it's never too late!!

I read with interest about someone getting a reunion together in Sussex! It will obviously depend on where it is happening - it is a big place! Our class has a reunion on 1st October in a Beefeater near Horley/Reigate.

ROY WESTON writes from East Yorkshire On the continued saga of the photograph that Patricia Potton sent in and is shown in the March and July issue, I have had a go at filling in the missing names.



Back row: Diana Emmett: Jean Bower: Mary Attryde: Margaret Bond:
Ann Wilson: Pamela Kale

3rd row: Maureen Bird: Pamela Wild: Florence Sharp

2nd row: Christine Eggington: Sylvia Shaw: Patricia Symondson

1st row: Mary Dudley: Eileen Brightwell: Gwen Stevens

With the passing of the years the old grey matter may perhaps not be as good as it might be - so if I have got any names wrong - to them - apologies.

Thank you Roy, the surnames match up with the names that Mary Thomas (Dudley) gave us, shown in the July issue.

ELIZABETH KOBER (Wales) 1946/49 writes from Richmond..... It is so interesting to read previous students' experiences, particularly, for myself, the one from Geraldine Hayes. Geraldine will have been at KDCS during my extra year (1949) and seems to have been living very close to where I am living at present. Richmond and Kingston border each other. Fortunately, during the war years, I was evacuated to Devon. (Still hoping to hear from Eileen Lipscombe who seems to be living in Seaton, Devon). Geraldine lived through extremely dangerous times in Kingston and it must have been extremely frightening for a girl so young, particularly sheltering under a Morrison indoor shelter.

My parents stayed on in Kingston (my father working at Tough Bros, Teddington and my mother owned a grocery store). Their experiences were horrifying. Strangely, my background is similar to Margaret Thatcher's when, in much later years, we became friends when she was Education Secretary.

Geraldine's mother came from Wiesbaden and my late husband, originally German, and myself often visited Wiesbaden. We spent many happy times playing roulette in Wiesbaden's famous casino! Needless to say, we mostly lost!

If it is possible, please wish Geraldine and Ken all the very best for their Diamond Wedding Anniversary. It is lovely to know that KDCS classmates became lifetime husband and wife.

On the same note, I would like to be in touch with Brian Bibby, who, I understand from Rodney Berry, married my best school friend, the late Doreen Powell. Mike Murray sent me a list of previous student 'get-togethers' where two of my classmates were mentioned:- Marion Wellbelove (who lived in Gloucester Road, Kingston) and Charles Davies (known as Chas). I would love to be in touch with both.

If any of the persons mentioned would like to contact Elizabeth, I will forward correspondence to her. Alternatively, write a letter to be printed in the next newsletter.

JEAN FUGE writes from Cobham..... I am not remaining a member of the Association now as I am 86 years old and the friends I enjoyed meeting at the lunches have all disappeared! My husband also went to KDCS, but five years before me. We actually met in the office in London (my very first job, straight from KDCS). I wrote about our story long ago in the magazine. My “claim to fame” was that Edward Woodward was in my form and I went to his 16th Birthday party! Good luck with your future meetings.

Thank you, Jean, for your good wishes. We are sorry to lose you, but thank you for being a loyal member for many years.

EDNA HOLT Mitchell 1943-45 writes from Woking..... I did write you a letter a while ago (?) reference my first day at KDCS - September 1943 and my brush with Miss Adams re socks! - Not published. I have seen, recently, a picture of my nephew David Bryant. He is the son of Ethel - my sister - a helpful lad!

I am sorry your letter regarding your first day at KDCS was not published. I usually print all the letters I receive - would you like to write in again? I am intrigued about your brush with Miss Adams re socks!!

PEGGY PARLETT (Nunn) 1947-49 writes from Chiswick..... Thank you so much for another very interesting and inspiring Newsletter for July. I certainly enjoy reading every issue. Concerning Geraldine Hayes very newsy letter “My World War II Experiences”, we have a few things in common.

I was born in West Molesey. A year or so before the war we moved to Kingston, Tudor Drive, near to Ham Common and Richmond Park, which was lovely. I spent a lot of time playing there, having picnics, picking bluebells, cycling, and fishing for tiddlers and tadpoles in Ham pond.

I attended Latchmere Road School and even remember Mr Pearson, the Headmaster. He was very nice. My next school was Bonner Hill; long gone, I think.

We had good friends and neighbours especially the Potts family. Like Geraldine, when the V bombs started it was decided I should be evacuated. The Potts children were already away in Cheshire. They had neighbours Mr & Mrs Jones who were willing to have me. The decision was made.

I couldn't have been more vulnerable to make the journey. The previous day, with my friend Jeanette Goodwin (also KDCS - wish I had news of her) we had cycled to the River Thames for a picnic. At some point I had an altercation with a deckchair, resulting in a squashed finger! So, with suitcase in my good hand, gas mask round my neck, and my arm in a sling, my Mum and cousin took me to Euston Station. I was put on the train in the care of a carriage of total strangers who were told where I would be getting off and met. I was 11 years old! I arrived safely in Cheshire and Mr & Mrs Jones looked after me very well. I was homesick but made friends and it was good to see familiar faces living near.

I attended the local Secondary School, but became quite bored as I had already moved on from the work I was now doing! However, everyone was friendly and we went out and about together, sometimes to Piccadilly, Manchester, where it always seemed to be raining. It was there I noticed the headlines on the newspaper stand, saying Paris was being liberated (end of 1944) which made me think about coming home, which I did just before Christmas. My Dad took me to the VE Day Celebrations in London, which was hugely exciting.

I went to KDCS in 1947 and only have good memories of my two years there. In September 1952 I married Frank, a Londoner, at St Andrews Church, Ham Common, which I had attended in my earlier years. We moved to Shepherd's Bush - quite a culture shock after Tudor Drive, into our little garret, as I refer to it, but when you're in love, any port in a storm, eh?

It was a happy time. I enjoyed my secretarial job with the British Limbless Ex-Service Men's Association in Kensington, with the occasional Film Premiere thrown in and we made lots of money for our Charity.

Frank showed me London, which I've come to love. We did everything, Trooping the Colour; Royal Tournament; Concerts Hyde Park; Lying(s) in State; Royal Birthday Parades. I even slept on the pavement in Whitehall the night before the Coronation. I guess I've become a Londoner myself and certainly would never leave.

In conclusion, my heartiest congratulations to Geraldine and Ken as they celebrate their Diamond Wedding Anniversary in September.

I am sure many of you will relate to Geraldine and Peggy's World War II Experiences - being evacuated and travelling alone on a train - and we would love to hear your memories.

VALERIE PUGH (Why) when sending in her subscription writes from Petersfield I am sorry I didn't manage to get it off to you earlier, but I have only just been discharged from hospital. I have had a rotten bout of vertigo with all its nasty effects. I much enjoy the newsletter and always look forward to receiving it. My special chums at school (circa 1948) were Jillian Dee (Paul) and Sheila Kemp (Bullin). Sheila now very sadly deceased.

We hope you are now fully recovered from your bout of vertigo.

MARGARET SHARRARD (Grimshaw) 1940-42 writes from Stockport. Thank you once again for the excellent newsletter/magazine. Always a good read. I can't believe it is August already. The commencement of local gatherings of folk you have brought together over the years sounds a great success. I am sad I managed only one reunion. My husband and I are gradually less mobile, but I still drive and thankfully our brains remain clear and active. The family insist I celebrate my 90th Birthday in December in style, so it will be a repeat of our Diamond Wedding Celebration 3 years ago.

STELLA ELMS (Hobden) writes from Crawley.....I still like to receive the magazine 'though, apart from teachers, there are practically no names I recognise. Are there still any members from my era 1941-43? Long may you all manage to keep in touch.

Yes Stella, see the letters from Margaret Sharrard and Patrick Packer.

PATRICK PACKER writes from North Somerset..... I would like to continue receiving the newsletters although names I recognise are, understandably, few and far between these days. I am sorry to hear about Jean Parsons (McLaren), I always remember her as the girl always wearing a smile. If any of the remaining 'old students' (1942-44) would care to get in touch with me to say hello, my telephone number is 01275 876055 or email Patrick.packer@patrickpacker.plus.com

IAN D HARDING writes from Crawley, West Sussex..... I enclose subscription for my mother **Jean Dorothy Harding (nee Parsons)**. She is keen to continue to receive your newsletters. Mum really enjoys reading the newsletters, although she was saddened to read, in the latest issue, of the recent passing of her namesake Jean Parsons. Her thoughts are with husband Leslie. Please keep up the good work with the newsletters which always bring back fond memories to mum of her time at the school all those years ago.

We will continue to send the newsletters to Jean at her new address the Acacia House Nursing Home, Horndean, Hampshire - we are so glad she enjoys reading them.

BETTY SUTTRON (Murray) emails from Whakatane, New Zealand confirming receipt of the July newsletter and adds..... We have had a very mild winter this year but once September comes I am looking forward to more sunshine and summer will soon be here and I will be going away again in "Sutts Hut". The last two winters the family have clamped down on me saying it was too cold etc etc. Funny how times have changed - once I gave the orders, now they do!! Best wishes **BETTY**



In case you are wondering - this is a picture of "Sutts Hut", Betty's campervan, in which she travels many miles across New Zealand.

SADLY

PAMELA SLEET Jane Wallis emailed. I am writing to inform you that Pamela Sleet passed away in January of this year.

MICHAEL JOHN MURPHY - always known as "Spud", passed away sometime in February. Celia Bradbury (Pinchen) writes. He came from Dorking and was very fond of hiking with groups of friends from school. He was a member of the Drama Group and I believe he arranged some early KDCS Reunions. He became a Senior Nurse after leaving school and did a great deal of voluntary work. He was a sweet person and well-liked by everyone who knew him.

PAMELA KELLY (Andrews) 1951-52. Sheila Edwards (Cornwell) writes. I would like to inform you that Pam Kelly died in April after a short battle with cancer. She had not been a member for several years but had been enquired about a few times.

SHEILA WENBAN (Davis) 1950-53. Marian Green writes. Sheila's daughter has written from Australia to say that Sheila died on 13th May (lung cancer) in Germany, to where she and her husband had moved, to be near their other daughter.

PETER KINTON Sheila Kinton has informed us that her husband passed away on 25th July. He was at home until the end and leaves two daughters, Sally and Angela and two grandsons.

ANNA LLOYD (Symondson) Simon, Anna's son, telephoned to say that he was at his Mother's bedside when she passed away on 15th October. She had been living at home until July. She leaves two sons, Simon and Chris, and grandchildren. Anna met up with her sisters (all in their 80's) in August 2015 at Pat's Nursing Home.

(BILL) WILLIAM KAUFFMAN Coral (Heath/Kauffman) writes, sadly I have to inform you of the passing of another of the ex pupils from what I think must have been a very special school. My husband, (Bill) William Kauffman passed away on Tuesday, 5th July age 96. He cherished the reacquainting with other ex pupils which I think added a few more years onto his life. He had an incredibly lucky and full life until the very end and was reciting poetry and telling me his favourite music pieces only an hour before he passed away.



This picture was taken when Bill called on Vivienne Pashby when he and his wife were on a short holiday in England in March 2012. He and Vivienne were in the same class from 1934-36 and were meeting again after 76 years.

CELIA BRADBURY (Pinchen) 1948-51 writes from Beverley, East Yorkshire..... Regarding Bob Pharoah's thoughts on Mr Scrutton, in the July 2016 newsletter - it was really shameful the way the boys treated him, which made his classes so uncomfortable. I loved his violin pieces but we learned very little French. Once, Iris (Bower), Maureen (Gosling) and myself went to him to (I think) ask him to try to make the boys behave. It was probably a very unwise thing to do, and he became very angry and sent us away. I'm glad he had some encouragement from people like Bob Pharoah, David Reid and Janet Priscilla. Sometime after Mr Scrutton left our school, I saw him from the bus, leading a group of small schoolchildren across the road. So hopefully he was finally treated with the respect he deserved.

SYLVIA MOORE-GILLON (Keefe) 1949-51 writes from Worcester Park..... I really do enjoy the newsletters. Is there any chance that there is contact with a Sheila Keefe from the past? I have a feeling she may have been a relation of mine.

Can anyone help Sylvia?

ROSEMARY SEARLE is the daughter of **Cynthia Chandler** (Ayliffe) 1939-41 and emails..... I am sorry that we have not been able to attend the last few reunions due to my mother's blindness and now increasing deafness. She is now living near my sister on the south coast and seems to be enjoying it there. She will celebrate her 92nd birthday in November.

I was interested to read the letter from Ian Chevalier in the July magazine. His father, Bill, was a very near neighbour of my husband and me in Manor Road, East Molesey for many decades until his death a few years ago. I remember Ian as a small child when I was a teenager and living in an adjacent street! I had no idea that Bill had attended KDCS and that he was born in 1922. I always imagined he was at least ten years younger as he retained a full head of wavy hair into old age. We used to exchange greetings on our way to and from the local shops or discuss his pot plants in his front garden! I am disappointed that I didn't know that Bill was a pupil at KDCS (probably from 1937-1939?) If I had known, I could easily have brought him to the reunions, along with my mother. Do you have an email address for Ian Chevalier - it would be nice to contact him.

Rosemary - please give Cynthia our very best wishes for her 92nd Birthday.

IAN CHEVALIER emails...I do remember Rosemary along with her husband John, who in fact lived just four doors along. It really is such a shame that, due to the War, Dad seemed to shut off from memory a large amount of his early life, as I'm sure he would have really enjoyed being a part of the history of KDCS and would have been happy to have been part of the reunions. As mentioned previously, I played football for Strenue, purely as an outsider and not an 'old boy'. This, as it turns out, was a pure coincidence and one that passed both dad and I by, as neither of us realised the Association existed.

WILLIAM CRISELL emails from Ontario, Canada..... Thanks again for an interesting Newsletter. I did know Reg Upton who had a photo on one page in the March 2016 newsletter. Many years ago - probably to John Crisp - I did mention that in 1947 or 1948 I met Reg while walking through the bombed area near London Wall (area now occupied by The Barbican). He told me he worked at the War Office. Never did meet him again or know what happened in his life.

It was interesting to look at the maths paper. Maths became my worst subject when we started algebra and trigonometry and in 1946 my final exam mark was 38!!

Another name mentioned that I recall is Eric Lipscombe and unless my aging, failing memory is at fault I am certain I can pick him out on the school photo taken at Leigh. One happy memory I have about Leigh is that at lunch time (weather permitting) a crowd of boys would go out on the front playing field and somehow split into two teams of 20+ to play soccer. With that number on the pitch one was lucky if you touched the ball, but even if not, it was great exercise and fun.

Although not a member of the Association I do infrequently exchange emails with John London (1945-47).

BRIAN SHEPHERD emails from New South Wales, Australia.... Life continues to treat Beth and myself well. Just a few aches and pains and I have had one cataract op with the second eye due in a few weeks. Just think, the first has lasted 83 years - the replacements should see me out!

Just received the following and immediately thought of the KDCS newsletter - if you have a spare space, a few of them may amuse.

Who said footballers aren't intelligent?

"One accusation you can't throw at me is that I've always done my best." - Alan Shearer.

"My parents have always been there for me, ever since I was about 7." - David Beckham.

"I'm as happy as I can be - but I have been happier." - Ugo Ehiogu.

"I'd like to play for an Italian club, like Barcelona." - Mark Draper.

“If you don’t believe you can win, there is no point in getting out of bed at the end of the day.” - Neville Southall.

“Leeds is a great club and it’s been my home for years, even though I live in Middlesbrough.” - Jonathan Woodgate.

“I couldn’t settle in Italy - it was like living in a foreign country.” - Ian Rush.

Another ‘item’ from Brian:

The Coast Guard intercepted a boatload of people off the coast of Essex today. This placed the Coast Guard in an awkward position, as the boat was not heading to, but away from the UK, but towards Europe. Another surprise finding was that it was loaded with white English people who were all seniors of pensionable age. Their claim was that they were trying to get to Europe so as to be able to return to UK as illegal immigrants, and therefore be entitled to far more benefits than they were receiving as legitimate UK pensioners. The Coast Guard, it is believed, gave them food, water and assisted them on their journey. There is space on the next boat out - let me know if you want to go, and I will reserve you a rowing seat.
!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Thank you, Brian. Best wishes for the success of your second cataract operation.

RODNEY BERRY 1947-50

Rodney had a stroke in May and was seriously ill in hospital for three months. After several return visits to hospital (Jean says they have a season ticket!) he is now back at home and we send him our love and best wishes for a return to better health.

My husband, Geoff, and I have been friends with Jean and Rodney since our school days. In our youth we toured on our two Lambrettas and in later years spent many happy holidays together. Janet CK

Get well soon, Rod.



Hello dear Friends,

I hope you had a good summer. The weather was quite kind to us, wasn't it? As was stated in the July magazine, we did have a good response to the afternoon tea at the Antoinette Hotel, Surbiton let's do it again.

I was very lucky to have managed to go abroad twice this year, to Lanzerote and our daughter's house in Spain, that was home from home, which is so good at our age. My husband has been suffering from bad circulation in his legs for a whole year now and finds it difficult to get about and accepting the fact that it does not seem to get any better. Still, we have been very fortunate having our family around and acquiring another great grand-daughter in August. Her name is Daisy, a sister for Rose who will be 3 in December - going on 13!

There has been a lot of "to-ing" and "fro-ing" within the family. Our youngest grandson was 21 on 21st October and at the University of Essex. Our only son having retired, is travelling around Australia and New Zealand for four months and won't be home until February. Before he left he brought from his allotment eight "Squash". The largest of which was 36 lbs! He had "stored" a couple wrapped in newspaper, hoping they will still be ok when he gets home. He left instructions with his sister, who is looking after them, to check them every week and if they look as though they are going off, to eat them. There are a lot of 'fridges around here containing Squash Soup!!! It looks as though it will be on the menu at Christmas.

Well, Christmas isn't far away now so all enjoy this lovely Holy season and look forward to a happy healthy New Year 2017.

God Bless you all.

Janet Priscilla