



STRENUÉ

**KINGSTON
DAY
COMMERCIAL
SCHOOL
ASSOCIATION**

NOVEMBER 2018

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

Dear Readers

We cannot grumble about the Summer weather this year, can we, unless to say it was too hot? As I am writing this newsletter we are enjoying the beautiful colours of Autumn with the resulting piles of leaves to sweep up, but I think it is a lovely season. The squirrels are busy burying the sweet chestnuts in my lawn which still hasn't recovered from the dry months we have had.

It is very rewarding when an article in the newsletter sets off memories from the past and Brian Shepherd's letter regarding BBC comedy programmes and radio shows certainly did this and you can read the results further on in this newsletter. Thank you Brian.

The KDCS website often results in a letter to Stephen Jones, our website Manager, who then passes the letter to me for the newsletter. See the item from Pamela Douglas who has sent in copies of the newsletter from Christmas 1935 - January 1937 and the Coronation Number 1937. I will reprint an item from these old newsletters in each of our issues. It is interesting to see that each one has an advert on the back page - **“Bentalls on-Thames, England's Most Modern Store”**

Christmas catalogues are dropping through the letter boxes and Christmas trees and decorations are in some stores already and as I am writing this we haven't had Halloween or Guy Fawkes yet! I do think the build up to Christmas starts too early, however, I know some thrifty people purchased their Christmas cards in the sales after Christmas 2017, unfortunately I was not one of them.

Thank you for your good wishes for my husband's recovery after a stroke. He has now moved to a Care Home where they are able to give him the care and attention that he needs. It was not an easy decision but we both felt it was the right one. The Home is just around the corner so I can pop in every day, as can the family and friends.

I hope you enjoy reading this newsletter, I am very grateful for your contributions, please keep your letters coming.

Janet C-K

Sorry my email was incorrect in the July issue - it should be:
janet@jangeo.co.uk



Janet Priscilla and I sincerely hope that you have a Very Happy Christmas together with your family and loved ones, and wish you a Peaceful and Healthy New Year.

MAUREEN PIPER (Marshall) 1949-1952 emails from Ongar.....
Brian Shepherd from Australia (isn't amazing how many old students are spread around the world) wrote about radio programmes during the war, and I also remember Happidrome with Enoch and Ramsbotom and "me". In 1940 we were living in Altrincham, Cheshire, and I was five years old. I especially remember there was a young man called Enoch living next door - I always thought it was a strange name, and I still do! In 1941 we moved to Kingston. Tommy Handley I did not enjoy at the time, but still remember all the characters.

I remember on Sundays the following:

Little Chapel in the Valley - dreary Sandy Macpherson on the organ - Family Favourites was always popular, particularly Sparky and Tubby the Tuba - Hoggs Norton - Gilly Potter who I found boring but my Father enjoyed him. During dinner there was mighty Big Bill Campbell and Peggy Bailey - Kitten on the Keys - Kay Cavendish on the piano.

I have dug deep here and come up with

Kitchen Cupboard - Grandma Buggins (Mabel Constandurous) with recipes to stretch the rationing - Radio Doctor, Dr Charles Hill (later Minister of Health in Conservative Government) - Monday Night at 8 o'clock - Henry Hall and his Guest Night - Gert and Daisy - Old Mother Riley - Over the Garden Wall, Norman Evans hilarious.

Mediterranean Merry Go-Round:

Charlie Chester for the army (Stand Easy after the war)
Eric Barker for the navy (Waterlogged Spa after the war)
Richard Murdoch/Kenneth Horn for the RAF (Much Binding in the Marsh after the war).

Ack Ack Beer Beer - Doris Hare

Hi Gang - Ben Lyon and Bebe Daniels. As US citizens they were to be admired for staying in London during the war.

Children's Hour with patronising Uncle Mac but I enjoyed Norman and Henry Bones.

Music Hall on Saturday nights, towards the end of the war, likewise Variety Bandbox on Sunday nights.

Moving on a few years I used to do my homework to Dick Barton Special Agent at 6.45pm. Then there was a circus series - The Daring Dexters but that didn't last long. Then came The Archers which of course is still going strong. I remember the night of the famous fire when Grace Archer was killed, I had to stay late at school for a netball match.

Changing the subject, I was so sad to read of Valerie Webster's death. Us girls (or should it be we girls - I am going to be in trouble here!) really looked up to and respected Valerie, and were so impressed when she broke the long jump record (18ft 10ins, so John Lipscombe informs me) at the All England Schools' Championship at Port Sunlight. I understand that record stood for some time. I remember John Jones won a long distance race at the above championships. I seem to remember they were both school captains at the same time. Again John informs me that Bob Coleman won the 800 yds race at the Surrey Schools' Championship.

I am afraid living in Essex I do not manage to attend the various reunions that take place from time to time. I did attend two of the major reunions at the school, which were most enjoyable. I do meet Jill Dessent (Roebuck) and Sheila Edwards (Cornwell) at the Festival Hall in the summer. Josephine Coles (Mitchell) used to attend but following knee surgery finds it difficult to travel.

I really enjoy reading "Strenue" and long may it flourish.

I too remember Norman and Henry Bones boy detectives, and can still recall the signature tune of Dick Barton Special Agent, it sounded like a train speeding along. I think you may have stirred up a few more memories, Maureen - many thanks.

Janet C-K

For some reason Maureen Piper's email came via **JOHN LIPSCOMBE** so now **John** emails from Guernsey.... I think I should mention that Valerie Webster did ½ inch more on her 18ft 10 inch and Bob Coleman was known for running the half mile = 880 yards. In the interests of accuracy and my memory!

John carries on Maureen was uncertain whether her technology had succeeded so sent her email to me knowing I would be able to pass it on to you. We have exchanged thoughts and memories (when we can remember, that is) for some years. I attended her 80th Birthday, if I can mention such a thing, but she could not attend mine because I had it in Antigua (a showoff) over three years ago (bragging about my survivability).

I think it is great that we have so many old KDCSers and Hinchley Wooders who get your publication and read it as soon as it arrives. Unfortunately, it does mention those who have ceased to subscribe or to be! Got to joke about the situation I think. Keep up the good work.

John Lipscombe (49/52 = 1 extra for GCE including Commercial Subjects with typing and shorthand which is why I write/type too much stuff. Can't seem to stop. Thanks to Miss Mackintosh, oldish, Scottish lady with lovely manners and very kind and patient with ten-thumbed blokes who wondered what they were doing learning to type. Helped me a lot when I did my National Service for two years. Wasn't allowed near an airplane's cockpit but was secretary to the AOC of Transport Command and flew around a lot with him and wrote his letters, and spent a lot of time playing badminton).

GORDON (BOB) COLEMAN 1948-51 emails from Itchingfield..... Brian Shepherd's email reminded me of much of what we experienced as small boys during WW2 - We are both very close in age and thus saw what went on around us from more or less the same perspective. My date of birth is 17 June 1933, and like Brian I was six years old when the war broke out. It may be due to our upbringing in those days when children were expected to be 'seen and not heard' which thus made many of us somewhat reserved in our behaviour, but like Brian I wanted to stand up and clap at the end of WC's speech in the film Darkest Hour, but as nobody else got up to start it off, I didn't have the courage to do so! One of the things I liked about the film was the way in which it captured the prevailing dark mood of the time, overcome by the spirit and courage of the ordinary people as they went about their lives, with spirits raised by BBC programmes mentioned by Brian such as 'We three in Happidrome', ITMA (It's that Man Again - Charlie Chester) and Workers Playtime.

Brian will remember the ominous staccato sound of the engine of the Buzz Bomb, dark and threatening against the sky, which, all the time you could hear the sound you knew that you were safe, as it only came down when the fuel ran out and the rocket, which what it really was rather than an aircraft which it looked like, would plummet to the ground, and those watching would try and calculate who had 'copped' it. Then the onset of the V2 supersonic rockets which resulted in a surge in the movement of evacuees away from the Home Counties, with children dispatched with name and address labels tied to their lapels, and their gasmasks around their necks with string. And, before these threats, many of us would have stood in their suburban gardens watching the Battle of Britain being fought out in the skies above as Spitfires and Hurricanes, outnumbered by about two and a half to one, defeated the Luftwaffe.

Our generation lived through dark times but somehow carried on living happily and still enjoying our childhood, and not long after it all ended Brian and I, together with many others, turned up at KDCS in Hinchley Wood, to enjoy two or three years of education at a fantastic school which prepared us for our futures. STRENUÉ.

CELIA BRADBURY (Pinchen) 1948-51 writes from Beverley, E Yorks. In July's magazine the letter from Brian Shepherd made me smile and took me back so many years. I thought we were the only ones who could remember "Happidrome," on the BBC. Shows like that seemed very innocent and naïve in those days, but they kept us laughing through the war years. Thanks for reminding me Brian.

Glad you are still enjoying the newsletter, Celia. Janet

JILLIAN PAUL writes from Reigate..... Good to read your letter in the KDCS magazine. I do so agree it was a happy get-together at Denbies and I also agree we might try lunch next time. Have to say that my foxes did enjoy all those sandwiches I took home that were surplus to requirements. Incidentally I have remembered that I have agreed to take a River Cruise in Venice next year 10th-19th May. Wonder if I'll miss the 'do'.

Loved all the memories people had. I recall a group of us, at about 18/19, going up to The Coconut Grove off Regent Street. For the life of me I can't think of the famous band there - maybe it will come to me. I'm not sure how we got home but recall it was very late when we left and there were about six of us and we all spread across the road doing the Lambeth Walk - great fun.

Brian Shepherd's memories had me going down Memory Lane too. I certainly recall Happidrome, Educating Archie, Workers Playtime. I was a great listener to Children's Hour and loved Ballet Shoes and the Bunkle and Just William Stories. Uncle Mac's parting, "Good night children, everywhere" I recall with great pleasure. There was another gentleman who used to give talks I recall, anyone remember Commander Stephen King-Hall (amazing that I remember the name) ? He always signed off with something like, Good night children, now be good but not so good that someone says 'hello and what are you up to' - funny the things you remember.

That band leader's name has just come to me - Edmundo Ross - lovely music and we had such a great time too - only did it the once. I'm still trying to remember how we got home so late, I think it was maybe Christmas time and there were special late trains - ah well, happy memories. Brian Shepherd and I are obviously near in age because I was four when war was declared, wonder where he lives in New South Wales, I have lots of friends and relatives around Sydney. Go about every three years and provided I hold together hope to go next year.

Thank you Janet for all you and the other Janet do - how nice it was to meet her husband and son at Denbies, as well as all the old friends.

If we organise another "do" at Denbies, will try and avoid 10th - 19th May.

I am sure Brian will not mind when I tell you he lives in Pymble, New South Wales. Janet CK

ELIZABETH KOBER writes from Richmond, Surrey..... I was sorry to miss the Antoinette get-together but glad to hear that it was enjoyable.

Bernard Lyne's email brought back many memories. The London Jazz Club was in the basement of 100 Oxford Street and, Bernard is right, the atmosphere was always thick with smoke. I was not there in 1948 but the George Melly incident mentioned by Bernard obviously became routine as I was frequently left on the dance floor when George jumped on the stage.

You mentioned that you do not remember The Bun Shop. I made a slight mistake. The Bun Shop was not in Surbiton but was actually in Berrylands, so how did you miss it? Message to Bernard in Yorkshire - your Facebook hug is returned from an aged KDCS Surrey student, who loves traditional jazz!

I do remember The Bun Shop in Berrylands, but never went there. Sorry to hear you are still battling with health problems and hope you see some improvement soon. Janet CK

LEE TEASDALE writes from New Malden.... My husband Ken, and I were at the first Reunion in 1995 and it was great to meet up with friends that we had not seen for many years. Unfortunately, a number of them are no longer with us. I remember the food ran out as they had not expected so many to turn up to the event. Before this occasion we had attended several of the lunch meetings with Miss Knight. These stopped once the Reunions started.

JACQUELINE SADLER 1940-42 writes from Claygate..... It was sad, but lovely, to see the photo of Peggy Picco in the July magazine with the letter submitted by her son having to tell us of her death. I didn't know Peggy at school - she was a year ahead of me - but met her at one of the monthly meetings of the Kingston Branch of Association of WRNS and discovered she was also a KDCS girl. We miss her at the meetings, she was always so bright and cheerful coming up with "quotable quotes" for us - hence her collection of clerihews! I also recall the amusing account of her Wedding Day in December 1952 which she sent in for the March 2017 issue of the magazine. Peggy served as a writer in the WRNS. I believe she was stationed in Paris for a while and said she was always grateful for

the good shorthand and typing skills she had received which helped enormously with the lengthy reports she had to deal with. All good people come from KDCS!

MARJORIE PURKESS (Darlington) 1948/51 writes from Chartham, Canterbury..... Here is the long ago suggested item about Miss Knight and the drama group during my time. Sorry it's late, but I'm glad it provoked a couple of letters. The first was from Cynthia Rowland (Jackson) and the second from Dora Bard (Ulman) both of them most definitely stars. Cynthia joined the school a little ahead of me, and must have caught Miss Knight's attention right away, because I remember admiring her performance as one of The Six Wives of Calais in my first term. She produced a really wonderful ripple of laughter as she talked mockingly about her husband's public walk to execution in shirt-tails, with his 'skinny little legs' on show - cruel, but funny! Dora came a little later and was just beautiful with a lovely voice. She walked straight into Knightie's heart and appeared in many roles.

Dora mentioned Shirley Green in her piece, and Shirley certainly was a really assured actress and a very strong character, too. I remember she once astonished Miss Knight with a Christmas card addressed to, 'Dear Nightie'...! We all called Miss Knight that in the post school group and she knew it, of course. What amazed her was the lack of the K! Also to be mentioned among the girls are Sylvia Frankel, Daphne Slaymaker, Virginia Denham, Daphne Elkins, Marian Jackson (Tutt), Molly Mitchell (Pickford) and lovely Jean, who didn't act, but helped a lot and was a soothing influence on the highly strung and nervous. She came in the first place, I believe, to be with her future husband, John Coombs. They were a lovely couple and a good many of us were invited, years later, to one of their big Wedding Anniversary parties, which was very enjoyable, but a bit of a shock for the happy couple. Few people can pull off a 'surprise' party successfully, but their clever daughters had managed it. The first arrivals found Jean in the front garden doing a bit of weeding.

John was among the actors, of course, along with the rest of the talent. Dora did mention Roy Ward, who was brilliantly extroverted - a real performer, but didn't join the later group for some reason.

He probably joined a group somewhere else. I like to think he was the Roy Ward someone told me about after I moved down to Kent. That one had been seen in a production of *The Pyjama Game*, and was particularly brilliant in the *Steam Heat* number. Who knows? He could have done it. Also among the Stars were Jock Mugford, Malcolm Jackson (married to quiet, kindly, clever Marian), Spud Murphy, Ken Watson, Jim Page and Les Brush (who, when measured for a costume once, proved to be chest 34, waist 34 and hips 34). Dear old Les was delighted when the extended reunion group was formed, especially to find as an existing member one of the girls he had especially admired when at school.

There were others whom Knightie often mentioned fondly, but I didn't get to know. There were some too, who were backstage stars, like Michael Staff and his Mother and big Mike Smith (strangely known as Kanga, though I never saw him bounding about). He produced wonderful sound and lighting effects and was famous for once reassembling a radio in the back row of one of Miss Howe's history lessons. Happy days! Sadly, I was most usually in the prompt corner, to my huge disappointment. Almost all of us joined in the odd jobs, some involving hairy trips in Miss Knight's car (she being a driver of original style), frequently with bits of scenery tied to the top. Sometimes, there were six of us stuffed inside, with the smallest required to use an obliging lap. On one such journey, bombing along the Kingston by-pass, I glanced out of the back window from my sideways perch to see sheets of hard board floating freely on the breeze, with the cars behind weaving round them as they landed on the road. Oddly, I can't remember what was done to remedy the situation, just the consternation and disbelief, but it's a good thing that traffic conditions and controls weren't as they are now! Would we have hit the headlines? I rather think so, and almost certainly a few other things, as well.

Another guilty moment involved fireproofing some curtains at the Knight family home. Once prepared, the curtains were hung out in the garden to dry while we went inside for refreshments provided by Mrs Knight. When we went to inspect our work later, we found big bare patches in the lawn where the chemicals had dripped on it. Knightie's father was amazingly tolerant about it, but I can't help thinking now that more must have been said after we had gone.

As Dora wrote, Miss Knight tried very hard to keep the Drama Group going after we left and formed The Wooster Park Young Players. I remember the evening when we were split into small groups to canvass the area, knocking on doors to introduce ourselves. There must have been several funny moments, now long forgotten, but I remember one elderly lady being rather thrilled because she misunderstood and thought we were asking her to join. Fortunately, she graciously turned down what she thought to be an invitation.

Inevitably, the WPYPs found it difficult to survive long as a group once the lads were called up for National Service and the girls got caught up in their jobs, but somehow a good many of us stayed in touch over the years. We even went on a couple of holidays as a group - happy days.

We all enjoyed Spud's walks and the after-hike teas laid on by his lovely Mum. We also enjoyed the occasional theatre parties organised by dear Knightie and, I think, Jim Page. In later years there were the almost annual lunch parties that we took turns to arrange, with walks or interesting visits where these could be found. If memory serves, the last of these before the big reunions took over was at Molly Mitchell's house following lunch out and a trip to a nearby castle.

Dear Knightie was a brilliant English teacher to the last. I went to see her in hospital during her final illness and she was propped up on pillows, scribbling away on a small piece of paper. Beside her, fighting back impending giggles, there was a young woman. Miss Knight was extremely deaf in her later years and had to have things written down for her. Her visitor was one of her adult foreign students, very amused that Knightie had answered her written message, but was then busily, and very thoroughly, correcting the student's English mistakes before handing back the note.

Miss Knight was absolutely thrilled when I got my BA and rang me up with great delight. I think she would have been pleased, too, with how much I learned about amateur drama from my prompt corner. Over the years I've directed and acted in a good many plays, more than a few of which have won places in Drama Festivals.

The last, very enjoyable, full-length part I played (at 78) was Madame Arcati. (However, it's become too much like hard work to remember all the lines these days.) I've also had several parts in student films. One of these won a British Film Institute award for the young man who wrote and directed it.

I think our old English teacher would have been pleased that I got my book published last year, too, but probably surprised that it was Sci Fi with some mild cursing! (Best of all, my arty middle son did the two illustrations, which were described by one reviewer as, 'seriously good'.)

There was a huge gathering at Miss Knight's funeral and many speakers, Jock Mugford among them. Knightie was a kind and talented teacher and friend of great character and integrity. She was regarded with enormous affection by many, many people, not least by her old drama students of years gone by.

M M Purkess "All Change" available from Kindle, Amazon, Waterstones.

STELLA ELMS (Hobden) writes from Bognor Regis.....I still find the magazine interesting - Bless you and the others for keeping it going. I wonder if John had any idea we'd still be going and receiving the magazine. It must be nearly 25 years.

Not much from my era but I do occasionally see an item that rings a bell. I am still occasionally in touch with Jeanne Lester (Byford) who joined at the same time as John. We are both 92 next year.

I am fortunate to be reasonably mobile and healthy and live in a retirement apartment about 200/300 metres from the seafront; shops; buses; coaches; and the Doctor's surgery. Also, I'm about 5 minutes from the station. I regularly play Mah Jong and Scrabble here and run our weekly coffee morning and Bingo. I belong to a book group within one of the two very active WI's I belong to and go to a variety of events. Tonight, a meeting where the Speaker is talking about crop circles and Monday a trip to Chichester Festival Theatre for a Musical.

I have a son who lives in New Zealand; a daughter in Berkshire and a foster daughter in Kent; 10 grandchildren; 23 great grandchildren and one great great grandchild with another on the way!! Quite the Matriarch. My son as a great grandfather is not quite the scenario I envisaged when holding my newborn son in my arms 66 years ago.

There's still life to be enjoyed even when you're old - go for it. Hopefully you'll still be sending out the Magazine when I reach my century.

*Stella - you are certainly a very active lady, will try to keep the Magazine going as long as our readers send in their letters for the next **nine** years!!!!*

Take Care

Janet C-K

SHEILA EDWARDS (Cornwell) 1949-51 writes from Ticehurst, East Sussex... My husband, Douglas, died in February three weeks short of our 62nd Wedding Anniversary and I decided that I would like to go on holiday. After much thinking of where to go I decided on Guernsey. Whilst I was there I contacted John Lipscombe and we met up and had a lovely time reminiscing about our time at school.

Douglas and I were very involved in a great many things in both the village and other interests and because of this I have been invited to join other clubs and I have never been so busy. Also, there is the family who live locally to visit.

DOROTHY GARDNER (1946-48) writes from Southwick, West Sussex When I started at KDCCS in September 1946, I used to travel to school with three friends from Tolworth - Anna Simms, Barbara Guy and Jean Diprose - who had all attended Tolworth Central School with me. We used to get a No 72 or 152 bus from a stop on the Kingston By-pass (A3) and I recall that we could walk across that main road with hardly a car in sight. What a difference now!

My particular school friend was Jean Diprose. We had been friends from about age 13 when I sat next to her at school. When I left school in 1948 I moved with my family to Sussex and after a while we lost touch.

Many years later some of my old classmates managed to track me down and we were reunited. Jean sadly died three years ago, but a year before that her two daughters brought her down to see me on her birthday and we enjoyed lunch out and a celebratory tea at my home.

I was so pleased we did that, as on her next birthday she was in hospital and died a few weeks later. Her lovely daughters, Karen and Joanne, have kept in touch with me and we have met up several times.

Some years ago, at a reunion, I discovered there was a lady in attendance named Barbara Dawson who lived in Brighton, not far from me, who had been at KDCS at an earlier year. I sought her out and we exchanged details and got in touch and have been meeting up regularly ever since. I appreciate all the friendships made through KDCS and keep many happy memories of my time at school.

Dorothy, we missed you at The Antoinette this year, but quite understand your journey home in 2017 must have been a nightmare, having to change trains at Clapham Junction during the rush hour especially as you had to stand part way home.

Janet C-K

JEAN K SHEPPARD (Whitbread) writes from Tolleshunt D'Arcy, Essex..... I enjoy reading the newsletters but so far I have not seen mention of any of the people who were in my class 46/47. I attended one of your lunches at Claygate, but age and infirmities have precluded me coming to any of your other events. My husband and I are now 87 and feeling it. Late last year I fell UP the stairs and broke my right foot in two places. That, together with a very severe arthritic left knee, makes it difficult to get around.

My sister Doreen Constance Whitbread attended KDCS with her friend Phyllis Stevens (or was it Stephens) sometime in the early 1930's. My sister was born in 1919.

Recently a relative uncovered some old photos of them both, very small and faded. However, my son took them to Tesco's and they edited them and I thought you might like to see them.



My sister is right at the back, second from left and her friend in the same row extreme right. Sadly, my sister fell down our stairs in November 1939 and broke her back. She died having an operation.



My sister is sitting on the ground in front of the group. I think her friend is on the seat second from left.



It appears that part of the school were at the Isle of Wight - you can see a sign on this picture 'Steam Launch for East Cowes'. I have no idea when this was, as they are not dated.

Do the hats provide a clue as to the date of these photographs? 1934-5?



My sister is on the extreme left and her friend Phyllis on the extreme right.

Jean - I hope your foot has completely healed and that your mobility has improved.

SADLY

MARJORIE HUMPHREYS (Gillard) ... Sylvia Fairweather emails I am writing to inform you that my cousin Marjorie Humphreys (nee Gillard), who was a subscriber to your news magazine for many years, died in March at the age of 92. She was always proud of her association with the school where she chose to take on Gregg shorthand which stood her in good stead in the civil service, including secretarial work for several members of parliament.

VALERIE PUGH (Why) Shirley Rosser advises that Valerie passed away on 22nd September. Her early working life was with the Crown Agents for the Colonies. Shirley and Jillian Paul, were childhood friends of Valerie and all went to school together. They have many happy memories of their time together. Valerie leaves two daughters.

ETHEL WILLIAMS (Dopson) 1949-51 ... Barbara Dillon (Bowyer) writes that Ethel Williams passed away at the end of August. She lived at Shoreham in Kent and had been in poor health for several years.

BETTY SUTTRON (Murray) 1942-43. Elaine emails from New Zealand ... I am sorry to have to tell you that my adventurous, feisty brave mum died at the weekend following surgery for a fall that fractured her hip. To that day she would have talked about her time at KDCS as wonderful years.



Betty spent many happy years travelling around New Zealand in her campervan "SuttsHut".

Accounts of her journeys have been printed in our newsletters.

JANE MILTON (Ellis) *As we hadn't heard from Jane for some time she was deleted from our mailing list. However, she is now reinstated and I sent her some copies of the newsletter which she may have missed, she writes from Worcester Park.....* For the last 4½ years I have been sole carer for my husband. He had been confined to a wheelchair after a whole leg amputation. He slipped away peacefully a week or so after his 98th birthday, after spending the last few days in Kingston Hospital. He was amazing until the last few days - brain working, still telling his funny jokes and about life in East Africa as a Captain in the KAR breaking the enemy ciphers.

It is a long time since I was able to attend a School Reunion - I remember the one at the Toby Jug - and our very first Reunion (friends from Canada came over Lilian Hammond and her late husband and Bill Crisell). Imagine my surprise when the first of the back copies I opened, fell open at a photograph of the first reunion at Hinchley Wood. There was a photo of Bill Crisell, Lilian Hammond and her husband who sadly died some years ago. I am still in touch with Bill (he has moved home) and also Lilian. My late husband took the photo.

Mary Eastaff (Burge) was in Leigh with me during the war and we were billeted together. How the years have flown by.

KENNETH DOUGLAS Pam Douglas contacted Stephen Jones, our website Manager, and sent a copy of a school photograph (circa 1936). She writes..... My father was Kenneth Douglas, he attended KDCS in around 1935-37 I think. He worked for BAT most of his life (British American Tobacco), then Thames photocopier. He passed away in December 2013 at the age of 91. He was mostly known for his beautiful garden and won loads of horticultural prizes at work and local shows.

Pam has sent several copies of old newsletters and a copy of the letter Kenneth Douglas wrote to John Crisp on 22nd March 1996 asking to join the KDCS Association. It also mentions his sister, Cicely M Douglas, who attended KDCS in 1931. The school photograph and the letter to John Crisp will be printed in the March 2019 newsletter.



JANET PRISCILLA'S PAGE

Hello Dear Friends

We had such a wonderful Summer - just like the ones I remember when I was at Junior School. I always thought the Winter was cold and wet, especially in January - my birth month. My sister Christine's birthday was in December. We used to persuade our parents to allow Chris to have a party, then five weeks later I could have one too! Back to the present, let's hope we have a good winter.

I think it has been a good year for KDCS. We managed two Reunions and wish we could have had more, but as we are all getting/got old it is difficult to get to venues. However, we will try and do what we can in 2019. Well, it will soon be Christmas with all the preparations it needs. However much we try to be ready for the 'Special Day' it gets harder. Don't despair it is all worth the effort.

I am very sad to say that my husband, Gerald, has been diagnosed as having cancer. It is very frightening news to receive - he will not be having chemo and we are taking it a day at a time.

Take care. Have a lovely, joyous Christmas and a Happy New Year 2019.

Blessings from Janet Priscilla.

SUBSCRIPTIONS Thankyou 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 PP

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