



KIDDERMINSTER HIGH SCHOOL O.G.A. NEWSLETTER 2013

Future Events

Sat 21/09/2013 at 11am

A.G.M. followed by lunch at The Hundred House, Great Witley, WR6 6HS.

Sat. 22/3/2014 at 2pm

Visit to Museum of Carpet, Green Street, Kidderminster. (Entrance via Morrisons). Guided tour (approx 1 hour) beginning at 2 pm.

Sat. 20/9/2014 at 11 am.

A.G.M. followed by lunch at The Hundred House, Great Witley, WR6 6HS.

If attending a meeting, please notify Beryl Bedford two weeks beforehand. (80 Holmcroft Road, Kidderminster, DY10 3AG. Tel. 01562 752997)

OGA Contact Information

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From the Editor

Welcome to this, the 2013 edition of the K.H.S. O.G.A. newsletter. I hope you were all pleasantly surprised to get the extra newsletter earlier this year commemorating the centenary of the 1912 building. We have a quiet year this year before celebrating the centenary of the O.G.A. next year. The committee are planning a range of events – watch this space.

I think that I have used all the contributions I have been sent this year. Please feel free to send items for inclusion in future editions – I collect information throughout the year but don't actually start putting things together until June ready to be sent out at the end of July.

I hope you all have a wonderful year!

In Memoriam

Sadly, we say farewell to a number of friends.

If anyone would like to send an obituary or memories of any Old Girl, please email or send details to the editor.

Philippa Ditcham died July 2012

Marian Foster died 2012

Elaine Jones (née Groves) died 29/08/2012

Valerie Skinner (née Bulmer) died 3/9/2012

Margaret Mills (née Norman) died 30/9/2012

Sandra Perrett (née Holloway) died Spring 2012

Mary Gill died 2/12/2012 aged 99

Angela Lane (née Bradley) died early 2013

Miss Margaret Miles History teacher 1960-1968 died 18/12/2012

Sheila Clarke (née Bagnall) died 17/1/2013

Mavis Wilkinson (formerly Mayo) (née Tovey) died in October 2012 aged 87

Eileen Shirley (née Greaves) died 25/3/2013

Mr John Armstrong Chemistry teacher 1970-1977 and then King Charles 1 School 1977-1980 died 13/06/2013. Mr Armstrong's funeral was held at Our Lady and All Saints Catholic Church, Stourbridge on Friday 28th June 2013.

Beryl Bedford and several Old Girls, including Alison Hargreaves, Teresa Williams (now Mrs Nicklin) and Tina White attended.

Booklets by Jo Roche

The History of Hill Grove (About the Hill Grove estate) £1.50

Pioneers in Petticoats £2.50

(The history of Miss Bennett and Miss Jordan who were headmistresses of Kidderminster High School before it moved to Chester Road.)

Postage is 69p for one booklet and £1.10 for two. Please make cheques payable to Beryl Bedford.

Overheard on 11/5/2013 as Old Girls came down the main Hill Grove staircase.

"I could have sworn these stairs were wider"

"No. It's just that you were narrower."

News of Old Girls

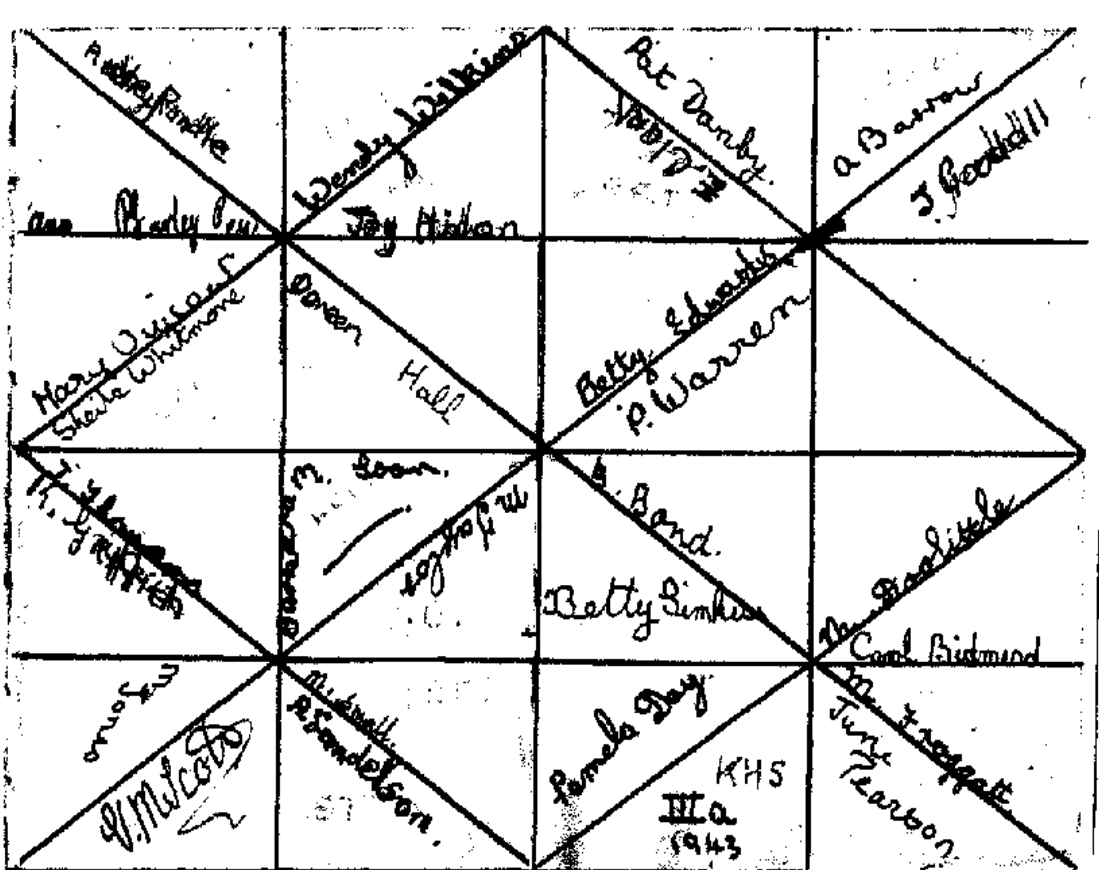
If you would like to put anything in the Newsletter or have it added to the email version, please contact Anne Budworth.

Betty Caswell (née Edwards) 1942-1949

I have had to promise my family that I will not write any more books on Cookley! I have recently completed my 16th one which is entitled "St Peter's Church Cookley – The Story of the Church – 1849-2012".

I came to Cookley to live when I married in 1954 and have never wished to live anywhere else! It's a great village and there is plenty still to write about. (Editor's note – at this point Betty says it is my turn as I was brought up in Cookley and showed her my writing skills when I was in her class at Cookley Primary School. However I know I'm not the only past pupil of Betty's reading this newsletter.....)

Betty also sent a page from an autograph book (reproduced below) belonging to Audrey Sach (née Randle) who is living in Burnham-on-Crouch, Essex. She is sure the names will "ring bells" for pupils of that era! Audrey and Betty started at K.H.S. In 1942 and still regularly correspond by letter.



Elizabeth Dunford (née Cotterell) 1961-68

After a career as a Maths teacher (inspired by Miss Newman), with a break to produce three lovely daughters (all now married), I decided to take early retirement and fulfil my dream of volunteering in Africa. I spent two years in the small and very poor country of Lesotho teaching and helping to establish a new secondary school in a remote village. The school has been a great success and the local people are very proud of the opportunities it gives to their children. After much financial support from friends, the school is now well on the way to becoming self-sufficient and we are now helping to support deserving students to progress to higher education. Working there certainly made me appreciate the educational opportunities I enjoyed at KHS.

Eileen Balmforth (née Evans)1941-1945

Eileen is still living in the Forest of Dean and is always pleased to have news of K.H.S. and the O.G.A.

Alice Bennett (née Cookson) 1967-1974

Alice writes that in June 2012 a group of Old Girls from her class enjoyed a luncheon and endless chat together. She is delighted to have won the award for “Best in UK” for the Early Years Centre (Setting) she runs on the family farm in Malvern. It is lovely for Alice and her faithful and hard working team to be recognised in this way.

In memory of Mrs Crossland, her K.H.S. Geography teacher, Alice will visit the Grand Canyon. Mrs Crossland had told Alice that she must make the trip before she got too elderly so Alice will be setting off with plans to trek, white water raft and fly in a helicopter. She hopes Mrs Crossland would have approved.

Jenny Booth (née Brookes) 1967-1974

I am still living happily on the riverside in Bewdley and have been fortunate enough to join my husband Colin in early retirement. We can now spend even more time walking locally and in the Lake District where we have achieved our goal of sumitting all the 214 peaks identified by Alfred Wainwright. We are also travelling more extensively and enjoy walking wherever we go. Interestingly my first taste of foreign travel was a trip to Moscow with KHS in December 1973 when I was in the UVI. Our furthest adventure to date has been a trip to New Zealand with another one in the planning for 2014. As a passionate Grecophile we have travelled to Greece many times to a variety of places, both the islands and the mainland, usually off the beaten track. I have had several Greek themed articles published and we even led a walk for 30 fellow Grecophiles who met up in Crete a couple of years ago. Over the last 12 months I have met up with Anne Budworth (née Amies), Sue Smith (née Cartwright) & Helen Barlow (née Perrins) – a most

enjoyable rekindling of old friendships!

Pauline Carroll(née Insull) 1950-1955

Pauline reports that a group of her year meet at the Brinton Arms, Stourport at 1pm on the 4th Thursday of each month. If there is anyone else who would like to join them, you would be most welcome. Contact 01299 822749 for more details.

Kathleen Curryer (née Reeve) 1972-1979.

Beryl Bedford was delighted to receive a letter from Kathy who was in Miss Baker's class in her first year. Kathy spent most of her working life in industry rising to be a company director after an initial start in retail. She has now chosen a different path, and is enjoying her "good life" in the countryside farming alpacas, a joyful animal to be around. Farmed for their fleeces, not their meat, they are always a pleasure. She has learnt spinning and weaving, natural dyeing and even making felt using the fleece. Sadly she is now too far away (in Hampshire) to join in the celebrations last year but she has given everyone and the school lots of thought.

Lindsey Granger (1968-1973)

Lindsey was mentioned in the local Kidderminster paper, The Shuttle, when she was one of the ambassadors for Cancer Research UK who went to Westminster in July 2012 to urge M.P.s to back the charity's campaign "The Answer is Plain" aimed at discouraging young people from starting to smoke.

Jean Harrison (née Whiteman) 1970-1977

Jean was a member of the Severn Trent choir which won the BBC2 "Sing While You Work" competition on October 25th 2012. She sent the following piece about her experience and will talk about it after lunch on 21/09/2013.

In February 2012 it was announced that Gareth Malone wanted to start a choir at Severn Trent Water (where I have now worked for 33 years). Being a fan, I decided to apply, just in the hope of getting to meet him. I was thrilled to get an audition, which was quite relaxed and fun. I was very relieved that I seemed to be able to sing in tune. Over 200 employees were auditioned and, with no prior singing experience, I really did not expect to hear any more.

I was amazed to get a phone call the following week, telling me that I was one of the 30 people chosen by Gareth to be in the choir. A few days later we all met up for our first rehearsal. We had to get used to having TV cameras trained on us for hours and being asked for opinions on how it was all going every time we had a break. I hated all of that, but absolutely LOVED being taught to sing the various pieces of music and experiencing the wonderful

sound that we all made.

We were going to be in a contest against other workplace choirs from Manchester Airport, the Royal Mail from Bristol, and Lewisham NHS Trust from London.

The semi-final was held at Colston Hall in Bristol in June. We had to perform "If My Friends Could See Me Now", along with choreographed moves, which was quite a challenge. We found it impossible to arrange extra rehearsals, as we all lived and worked so far apart. I have to say that I never was 100% sure of all the moves!

Lewisham sang brilliantly and the Royal Mail nailed their performance. We knew that we might have sung for the last time, but hoped against hope that we would go through. We made it, but empathised with the Manchester Airport choir who were so upset to go out of the contest.

We had achieved our ambition of performing on the main stage at the International Music Eisteddfod in Llangollen and resolved to show everyone that the judges had made the right decision in putting us through. We worked hard and attended extra rehearsals to perfect the Nina Simone classic "Feeling Good".

Performing on the final evening of the Eisteddfod was over far too quickly. We gave it everything we had and knew that whatever the outcome we could hold our heads high. To then find out that the judges were unanimous in deciding to award the trophy to us was a dream come true. We had worked so hard for just over 4 months and it had been worth every minute. We really were 'Feeling Good'!

The cameras and Gareth left, and we decided to continue the choir, as we loved it so much.

We had to keep the huge secret until the TV series finished last autumn. It was surreal seeing several months of our lives condensed into the documentary. My mobile phone exploded into life as the final episode finished, with friends (and my sister) sending congratulatory texts and asking just HOW I managed to keep the secret from them.

The following day was mad. We had to be up in Birmingham first thing to be filmed and interviewed for Midlands Today, and then it was down to London to perform live on BBC's The One Show. We also had to do interviews for local radio and newspapers.

We also appeared at Symphony Hall as part of Radio WM's Christmas Show and held our own Festive Concert. We are busy learning new music and will be appearing at the Godiva Festival in Coventry at the beginning of July this year.

Discovering the joy of singing in a choir at the ripe old age of 52 was entirely thanks to Gareth Malone, who is just as nice as he seems on TV, and knows exactly how to get the best out of people. I have made some great friends and have wonderful photographs and memories. I cannot thank him enough!

Helen Willis (née Haywood) 1956-1963

Helen retired from teaching art and ceramics seven years ago. She makes the occasional pot in her garden studio and exhibits with the Midlands Potters' Association which has its own website.

Angela Potter K.H.S. 1975-7, KC1 1977-80

Angela was pictured in the Express and Star on 10/01/2013 involved in the annual animal count at West Midlands Safari Park with the zebras and ostriches. She is assistant director of wildlife.

Phyllis Hudson (née Stoker) Staff 1947-1973 is still around at 99 and enjoying lunches and meetings with Old Girls. She hopes to be at the AGM in 2013. She continues to enjoy CBSO and other concerts.

Margaret White (née Jones) 1942-1947

Margaret and Dennis will hopefully celebrate their diamond wedding anniversary on September 12th 2013. Margaret began school life in 3 alpha in 1942, eventually training as a mature student to teach first year school children. Dennis came from Hartlebury Grammar School to K.H.S. in September 1946 to study Higher School Certificate Pure Mathematics. He became a Chartered Structural Engineer and went on to teach Mathematics in Further Education in Birmingham.

Dorothy Beadsworth (née Mole) 1953-1959

Dorothy writes "Just to let you know that I am sorry that I cannot attend the centenary service of thanks for K.H.S., as I shall be working that weekend. I run the Laser Class Association, which is the Laser Olympic single handed sailing dingy, and am running a world and European Qualifier that weekend at Pwllheli. I have been involved with sailing for around 30 years and involved with the Laser Class for over 20 years, and have done two stints on the Royal Yachting Association Council. We all sailed as a family when I was

young and my son competed as helm in two sailing Olympics, Atlanta and Sydney in the Soling Class (a 3 man keel boat), unfortunately not to win a medal but to come 4th and 7th respectively.

I attended K.H.S. from age 10 in 1953 (my birthday is October) and left at 16 in 1959 to attend Halesowen Technical College doing a secretarial course. What a long time ago.

My mother, then Isabel Green, also attended the school; as she was born in 1907 I presume she attended from 1917/1918 until 1923/1924; she actually won a scholarship to the school as her father had died and her mother was not well off with 6 children to bring up. She is of course not alive now, and died when she was 83 in 1990. She was also in Cyniberht house the same as me.

My cousin Margaret Mole also attended the school, I think about 1943. She now lives in Bognor Regis and I have not seen her for some time. Another cousin Angela Cartwright (née Mole) also attended at the same time as me.”

Mary Johnson (née Bradley) 1948-1955

Mary had a wonderful time in New Zealand visiting many friends and places she had known when she lived there. She says that Irene Hoedemakers (formerly Shutt, née Mann) was delighted when she and Diana Gooseman (née Slater) 1948-1954 took flowers on behalf of K.H.S. They had a most enjoyable afternoon together. While in New Zealand, Mary was also entertained by Jennifer Morris (née Astill) 1942-1954 at her new home in Te Kuiti, meeting Jennifer's son and daughter and some of her daughter's pupils while there. The pupils amused Mary and Jennifer a great deal as they sat in their small chairs while they questioned them about their lives. Back home Mary is continuing to sing with Stourport Choral, walk with two groups and act as Liaison Officer for the Talking Newspaper among other activities.

Diana Spokes (née Sturges) 1939-1946

Diana is now living in Bourne End. In 2012 Diana and John received from Rotary the Paul Harris Fellowship for services to charity. She was awarded the British Empire Medal in the 2013 New Year's Honours for services to the RNLI. This was spotted by Mary Wehner in the W.I. Magazine. Diana's friend from school days Greta Humphries (née Morris) 1941-1948 asked Diana for details. The medal was presented on 20th May by the Lord Lieutenant of

Buckinghamshire. Diana (now 83 years old) sent the following report (requested by Beryl Bedford).

I was invited, with a guest, to the Garden Party by the Lord Chamberlain on behalf of the Queen because I was awarded the British Empire Medal in the New Year's Honours List for my 35 years of fundraising for the RNLI. I had a choice of three dates and chose 6th June, which was extremely fortunate in terms of the weather, and I was accompanied by my husband of 63 years, John. He drove us into London and as I had been given a special parking permit, we were able to park right opposite the Palace gates. By 3pm a very long queue had formed, but we were ushered straight in as I am partially disabled.

The female guests mostly wore colourful outfits with a predominance of fuchsia, purple, lilac and florals. There was a varied cross section of the public invited, including Sir Chris Hoy and many other Olympic athletes, members of the armed forces and dignitaries. The Queen and Duke of Edinburgh arrived at 4pm, accompanied by the Earl and Countess of Wessex, the Duke of Kent and Prince and Princess Michael of Kent. They had their own smaller Royal Tea Tent while the guests' marquee was huge. There were lots of staff serving us so we didn't have to wait long. When a member of staff kindly escorted us to a table on the lawn, I asked him how many guests were expected and he told us they had catered for 7,500! The tea was delicious, with an assortment of finger sandwiches and wraps, mini strawberry and lemon tarts, chocolate cake, mini eclairs and scones. There was tea or iced coffee to drink, and water available all afternoon. Tubs of ice cream were served later as well. Two military bands played for us during the afternoon. We were joined at our table at one point by the High Sheriff of Cumbria and her husband, a charming couple who were very interested in our Lifeboat work.

It was a beautiful sunny day and guests were free to wander around the 40 acres of gardens and lake, and with so many trees surrounding the gardens it was hard to believe we were in the middle of London.

The Royal Family left just before 6pm and guests soon after. Subsequently we learned that the Duke of Edinburgh went to hospital later that day for an exploratory operation.

We found the Palace staff and the policemen and women extremely helpful to us all and it was a really interesting unforgettable experience and we felt very privileged to be invited.

Eileen Shirley (née Greaves) 1934-1942

Eileen led a very full life. At school she took part in 1942 in a radio current affairs programme for schools "The Merchant Navy in Wartime" with Capt. White. K.H.S. was a participant in the Ship Adoption Society. She took a degree in Sociology (Bedford College, London, though it was evacuated to Cambridge) and trained as an almoner. She married the Revd. Tim Shirley in 1954 and they had a daughter and three sons. They lived in London and she was a busy vicar's wife. When the Lambeth Conference took place, she entertained visitors to London. She worked part-time in hospitals. She set up a babysitting circle. In 1965 she did teacher training and was particularly involved with children with special needs. Eileen loved the theatre and opera, walking, particularly in Italy, and cycling. After retirement Eileen and Tim moved to Worcester. She was involved with U3A and worked for St Richard's Hospice. Eileen was a loyal member of the O.G.A. In 1999 aged 75 she cycled to the Pear Tree Hotel at Smite for the lunch. Recently she had researched 100 years of St Martin's Church, Worcester. She died aged 89 at St Richard's Hospice on 25th March 2013.

Rita Hardiman 1957-1964.

Rita looks back on her time at K.H.S. with pleasure and pride. She was inspired to become a music teacher and only retired last March through ill health. Her hobbies include writing poetry and after reading the last few newsletters has been inspired to write the following poem.

K.H.S.

There it stands so elegant
And yet sturdy and strong
That wonderful building
To which we all belong.

It's been a school for a hundred years
So many have passed through its doors
Doing its best for every girl
As we lived by its laws.

It enfolded us in its walls
And prepared us for the future
To build on what it taught us
As it aimed to nurture.

It provided us with teachers
Who encouraged us each day
To embrace our learning

In a most inspiring way.

We look back on those years
With fond memories so true
And we've tried to live our lives
As K.H.S. would want us to do.

Following discussion at the 2020 A. G.M. The following contribution has been sent for the newsletter by Sue Smith (née Cartwright) 1967-1974

At the AGM in 2020 it was commented that school dinners were not being cooked on the premises when KHS became King Charles.
In fact they were and I should know as my Mum (Mary Cartwright) was cooking them right up to the time the service was abruptly changed in 1982.
These are my recollections of school dinners at KHS from 1967 to 1982 (with the help of a little “insider” information).

When I started at KHS in September 1967 we still had Family Service. The dining hall (later the Oldfield Hall) was arranged in three lines of tables seating eight; on each table there was a head and deputy, usually a 6th former in the 1st sitting and an Upper 5th in the 2nd sitting.
The first sitting consisted of 1st and 2nd years (or 3rd form and Lower 4ths) and the 2nd sitting was 3rd and 4th years (Upper 4ths and Lower 5ths).

We lowly minions would take it in turn to fetch the main course from the kitchen hatch; it would be on two trays and everything (roast, meat pie, potatoes, and vegetables) would be in portions of eight. The head of table would serve the main dish and we would help ourselves to vegetables. These would be cleared away and the puddings brought. Again these would be made into dishes containing eight portions and served by the head of table. In the early days teachers patrolled the dining room to make sure we ate everything on our plates; even though I was a butcher's daughter I have never been a big meat eater and fear would strike in my heart when Miss Chalk was on duty as she expected everyone to have a clean plate so we would wait until she had passed and then quickly clear away.

Also in those days the staff ate their dinners on the stage served from a warming cabinet by the Upper IVths. I suppose if all else failed we could all say we had had some experience as waitresses!

Mum came to KHS in November 1970, previously being Cook-in -Charge at St Oswald's School, Broadwaters.

Just a little aside about Mum

If Mum had grown up in Kidderminster she would not have been a KHS girl as she did not pass her 11+. However at the age of 13 she took the entrance exam for Radbrook Domestic Science College in Shrewsbury, was successful and went as a boarder. After two years she had gained her Junior Housecraft Certificate. As well as all the usual academic subjects (English, Maths, History, Geography etc) she took such subjects as Cookery, Needlework and Laundry; I do recall my daughter asking when she saw Mum's school report – "What do you learn to do in Laundry, Grandma – how to use an automatic washing machine?"

After completing her course she joined the staff as a cook, soon rising to the position of Head Cook. The Principal and Vice-Principal were Miss Bode and Miss Hutton respectively and OGA members who are WI members may be aware that they were instrumental in the setting up of Denman College; also the then matron, Miss Messer, was the first Housekeeper at Denman.

In the early 50s Mum moved to Wolverley to become cook at Sebright boys' school (on the site of the current Wolverley High School). She had in the interim also applied for a job at the newly opened Keele University; they did offer her a job, not as cook in charge but as assistant under a chef; but those who knew my Mum know that would never have worked!!!

Back to KHS

Family Service was still in operation when Mum arrived but I always felt that she thought this was not the most effective way to serve 500+ school lunches. However shortly after she arrived we changed to a cafeteria service; there was a choice of two main meals each day, one being served from the main kitchen hatch and the other from tables set up opposite inside the dining room. It was around this time we also had yoghurt for the first time!! It came in square plastic containers and supplied us with an endless supply of useful containers for flour, sugar etc.

Chips were only on the menu once a week and were always on "both sides". We still paid for our dinners weekly in advance and were issued with plastic tickets each morning which we then handed in as we queued for our dinners.

Many may not have realised it but virtually everything to do with the planning and production of the daily meal was done at a local level. Mum would plan a 4 week menu (It was rare for anything to appear twice in that 4 weekly cycle.) and place the orders. (I remember sometimes having to push the fruit and veg order through Brookes Bros door in Blackwell Street.) Then there would

be the weekly sheet to complete; on one side would be a stock record of all the dry goods showing opening stock, goods in, weekly usage and closing stock. There would be a unit price for everything and so the weekly cost of these goods could be calculated. The other side would record the fresh goods (meat, fruit and veg) plus details of the daily numbers served. From this the average food cost of each meal would be calculated. In the mornings Mum would be in the kitchen overseeing and assisting in the lunch preparation; after lunch she would be in her little office completing all this paperwork; if she hadn't finished the weekly sheet by the end of Friday she would bring it home and sometimes I would finish it off – all without the aid of a calculator, although we did have a Ready Reckoner. I have since thought that this in particular would have been perfect for a spread sheet!

What else can I tell you about life in the kitchen in the latter days of KHS?

Well, everyday they had to put up a dinner for Fred but he never ate it. This was actually a small sample of everything that had been cooked that day. It was kept in the fridge for a number of days in case there were ever any reported problems with the meals.

I think it is fair to say that the kitchen staff always felt an integral part of school life. Mum would go down and meet with Miss Renwick in her office every Monday at 4pm. She would be kept informed of such things as school trips which meant numbers would be lower, or events in the hall which meant they had to be as quiet as possible. Miss Renwick would always remember if any member of staff was unwell and ask after them. Mum did recall more recently that Miss Renwick always gave a luxury box of chocolates to the kitchen staff at Christmas; there were always 12 chocolates in the box and 13 staff in the kitchen. Miss Renwick must have known that one of them didn't eat chocolate!!

On the subject of Christmas, every year a full Christmas dinner was cooked from scratch; Dad used to bring Mum to school in the very early hours of the morning to put the turkeys in the oven. I'm sure when Mr Armstrong referred at the centenary meal last year to himself and Mr Rose being privileged to have the leg of the turkey he must have realised that it would take more than one turkey to feed over 500!

Were there any perks to having your Mum as the school cook? Well, it was always useful if you had forgotten to tell your Mum that you had to stay behind after school for a practice or something similar or if you had forgotten to bring in money for anything. For me personally, although not a meat lover, I have always loved the gravy that is in meat pies, stews etc and would make sure I was in the queue just when a tin was coming to the end so I could get

extra gravy. Mary, my sister, recalls that it was very useful to go to the kitchen and be hosed down after she had got very muddy in the cross-country (introduced after I'd left).

In the latter days as well as cooking for the pupils and staff on site a number of meals were also sent out to some of the smaller schools, Trimley being one.

In recent years when I have chatted to old girls who went to KHS when Mum was the cook, it seems to be the puddings that they remember with most affection – Manchester Tart and Bakewell Tart being particular favourites.

I think Mum, if she was here today, would say she enjoyed her days at KHS. However things were not the same when it became King Charles and she was happy, if not somewhat relieved, to accept the option of redundancy in 1982.

The Old Carolians' Association has invited members of the O.G.A. to attend the following functions:

President's Quiz Night, Chester Road Sporting Club

Friday, 18/10/2013 at 19:30 hours.

Annual Dinner, Oldfield Hall, King Charles 1 School

Saturday, 23/11/2013 18:30 hours for 19:30 hours.

More details of the events will be on www.oldcarolians.org.uk

A number of O.G.A. Members (Some from the bridge generation also belong to the O.C.A.) attended the dinner on 19/11/2012.

Ann Mullard (K.H.S. 1972 -1977, KC1 1977-1979) is the first female president of The Old Carolians. As well as being a former pupil she also taught Maths. at King Charles 1 School for a short time. She was a games maker at the Olympics and Paralympics.

Facebook

The following are contacts and snippets via the K.H.S. Facebook Group called "Kidderminster High School OGA"– where over 80 ex pupils chat, reminisce, debate and laugh. Join us

From Bev Caudle (née Martin) 1967-1971 I've just discovered KHS on facebook and being a bit of a dinosaur this is my first foray into using it so please excuse any gaffs!!! Does anyone out there remember me? My maiden name was Bev Martin (now Caudle) and I attended KHS from 1967 until 1971 when my family emigrated to Australia. I recognise a few names - Zena Ward and Chris Goggin (Brook)... and have really enjoyed reading your

comments....quite a walk down memory lane!

From Carolyn Tew (née Jones, formerly Johnson) At KHS '68 - '76 ish, same year as Marcelle Hartley, Sue Chubb, Caroline Peters, Pam Newton, Christine Oakes, Sarah Allen, Julie Cooper, Libby Hart, Carol Aitken, Carol Wilkes, Caroline Guest, Joanna Kirk. Also knew Alison Firth-Clarke who was the year below. I remember headmistress Miss Renwick, Miss Bedford, Mrs Gethin, Mrs Dixon, Mr Rose, Mrs Harman, Mr Armstrong, Mrs Crossland. Lived for a while in Hillgrove Crescent - used to squeeze through fencing in school hols to smack tennis ball against that huge wall that I think was the end of the hall. Now working as radiographer (mainly CT scanning) at Kidderminster Hospital, did a bit of pharmacy as well a few years ago. One daughter Victoria (Johnson), 2nd husband Steve Tew (first husband Ed Johnson passed away 2005); Steve and I run Merlin Weddings/MerlinPhotographic. Would love to hear from past KHS girls.

From Caroline Hodges Well done Amanda Hipkiss (née Hodges). KHS 1966 - 1973. Winner of Ted Wragg Lifetime Achievement Award for South West.

From Val Maybury 1967-1974 I started in 111K and I stayed on for the sixth form. Hello if anyone remembers me. I went to Hull University in 1974 to read English and French and never really came back. I married Brian Swallow in 1988 and I have 2 lovely boys. Dan is currently at Sheffield reading History and Archaeology. Douglas is just a littl'un of 14. Who remembers lovely Mrs Harman and her poetry lessons and lovely Mrs Pickthorne? Bonjour la classe! Who went to Digne on the train and slept in a couchette? Who went to Leipzig and got kept in a school by the secret police with Miss Baker? Such excitement. Keep in touch.

From the Editor – Although I am still fairly inept at using Facebook, I have discovered the wonderful “Kidderminster Past” group. They have a huge photo section held in specific folders including one of K.H.S. There is some overlap with the photos on our website but there are some different ones too. It is quite possible to lose track of time when browsing Kidderminster Past!

Information, please

Does anyone remember Lynda Padmore? Juliet Borg would love to find her.

Race for Life.

On Sunday June 16th 2013, Old Girls Ellen Ferguson and Anne Budworth (née Amies) both 1967-1974, accompanied by several current King Charles staff, took part in the Cancer Research Race for Life at Worcester Racecourse for the eighth consecutive year. They were able to send in over £300 in sponsorship, thanks partly to the collection taken during the tea party on May 11th. Thank you very much for your contributions.

OGA Flower Fund

Elisabeth Robinson (née Wigglesworth) took over the flower fund in 1989 from Margaret Badland. Over the years since then, due to the hard work of Elisabeth and Rosemarie Moore, a healthy Flower Fund has been built up. Elisabeth and Rosemarie continue to do a great job, with help from Sheila Garlick, in taking and posting flowers and vouchers to over 60 ladies.

If you hear of anyone who is ill or bereaved and would appreciate a visit, or someone celebrating a special occasion, please contact:

Elisabeth Robinson (01562 750891) or Rosemarie Moore (01562 67546)

O.G.A. COMMITTEE 2013 – 14

<i>Chairman</i>	Beryl Bedford (former teacher)
<i>Secretary</i>	Beryl Bedford helped by Rosemarie Moore (née Brockway)
<i>Assistant Sec.</i>	Mary Wehner (née Crane)
<i>Treasurer</i>	Shirley Whiteside (née Hall) 2011-14
<i>Committee</i>	Monica Bashford (née Hall) 2011-2013 Margaret Bazley (née Osborne) 2011-2013 Judy Neale (née Beddoes) 2012-2014 Gloria Phillips (née Galloway) 2012-2014
<i>Newsletter Editor</i>	Anne Budworth (née Amies)
<i>Flower Fund</i>	Rosemarie Moore (née Brockway) and Elisabeth Robinson (née Wigglesworth)
<i>Coopted</i>	Sheila Garlick Rosemarie Morgan (née Pitt) May Phillips (née Tuck)
<i>Webmistress</i>	Alison Hargreaves