

# Over the Hill



September 2007

## The Summer Reunion.

This year, the reunion was held on a Sunday. It made for a rather crowded programme, with a school confirmation service, a KHA service at Daylesford, and the KHA Annual General Meeting all taking place in the morning. Then a buffet was served in the sixth form playroom (the old dining hall annexe with an extension for comfy chairs).



For once, KHA had a cricket team ready in advance. It was rumoured that some of the players were young enough to play other games, a difficult concept for those used to the Old Boys' team in the 1960s that consisted of Joe Davis whacking the ball so far that running between the wickets wasn't actually necessary for the elderly gentlemen in the team. But two days before the match, down came the rain, returning the 1st XI square to its usual state of best Kingham Hill Mud, and it was clear that any balls bowled wouldn't do any bouncing. On the day the pitch had dried up to a surprising extent, but it was still clear that the square wouldn't be left in the best condition for the matches that really mattered. The ghost of Sergeant-Major Clarkson hovered in the minds of many of us, and the clouds clearly threatened to pounce the minute anyone set foot on the square.

The absence of a cricket match did not prevent the presence of a barbecue next to the pavilion.



Having already persuaded the kitchen staff to provide an extra lunchtime buffet for those coming from the AGM, Martin Morris, the Headmaster, manned the afternoon flame-throwers.

With people arriving at different times, and not as much publicity as there could have been (a note on the KHOBA notice board, which still exists, saying what was happening when and where would have helped) there was a risk that some people may have turned up, not seen anything happening, and assumed that they had arrived on the wrong day. Nevertheless, those who arrived for the Daylesford service and found the AGM (if they knew where it was) naturally moved on to the sixth form room for the buffet, and those arriving for the match would have found the barbie. The two meals actually overlapped, as the barbecue started early in the absence of a game.

It would have been good if the weather had been more pleasant, making it more inviting to lie around on the grassy banks, but the rain held off, and there were some trestle tables set out near the Barbie marquee, which was empty for most of the time. In the end, a fair number of people

turned up, meeting old friends that they hadn't seen for years and newer friends who had attended the Hill at completely different times. It was too easy to get into deep conversations with some friends, while others came and went, possibly even unrecognised, having become older - or younger - in appearance since their last sighting. (Now that the hippie generation is pushing sixty anything is possible.)



The above picture features Simon Sumner (c.1970) in the foreground and Matthew Bourne (P&B 89-96) in stripes. Both are managing to scratch a living as popular musicians.

In my early days as an old boy, much of the reunions seemed to consist of finding out who was around, and then getting into cars in order to find refreshments in the excellent local hostelrys. However, this could lead to under-par driving and a poor impression of old boys being given to current pupils. By providing full refreshment of a decent quality while controlling the quantities, the Hill now offers the local wildlife a greater life expectancy, and former pupils have a greater chance of meeting each other.

And don't forget, guys, these days the Hill is a lot prettier than it used to be at reunions.

psj

### At the AGM

The following turned up to the Annual General Meeting of the Association, hardly the most enjoyable part of the reunion, but probably the most useful. Lots of other people were seen afterwards.

Leo Smith. Stan Clavell. Geoff Ball. Philip Harrison. Monty. Keith Targett. Judith Montgomerie. Mike Tadman. John Hayter. Peter Johansen. Matthew Bourne. Brian Dean. Eddie White. John Lawrence. Jill Lawrence. Bryan Shaw. John Timmins. Jim Woolliams. Tony Middleton.

Julie Middleton. Sue Shorter. Rachael Callender. Elizabeth Foley. Keith Parsley. Betty Parsley. John Hughes. Simon Briggs. Mike Kent. Ken Jones.

## Pub Quiz

On 12th October there will be a pub quiz at Kingham Hill. Teams should consist of a mixture of current pupils and staff/former pupils. Teams consisting purely of one age group do not tend to do well. It follows a common pub quiz format, with five rounds of ten questions, with teams choosing one round as their joker, in which they can win two points per question instead of one.

Why not come along? To give you some examples, there is usually a round about Kingham Hill. These were the questions asked in the 2006 Quiz. Answers will appear in the next issue of OTH.

1. Who Wrote "50 Years of Kingham Hill" ?
2. A Governor-General of India is buried a few feet away from the Founder in Daylesford. The founder lived in his former house. Who?
3. What title was originally given to the adult in charge of an accommodation house for boys?
4. How many old boys died in World War I ? (To the nearest 5.)
5. In 1983 Channel 4 put on a half-hour documentary on an artist who had been the Kingham Hill Art Master between 1972 and 1978. What was his name?
6. What was, or is, magging?
7. When Rev. Douglas Horsefield took over the posts of Chaplain and Headmaster in 1935, he was soon described by another job title. What was that title?
8. In 1887 the second house for accommodation for boys was built. Its superintendent was a professional schoolteacher, and pupils from Durham House went there for lessons. What name was given to this house?
9. In 1893 a house was opened for older boys training in the workshops. What was it called?
10. What change happened to the Hill on 2nd December, 1992?

## Music Review:

The Molde Concert, by Matthew Bourne (P&B 1989-96).

The editor had played and enjoyed this CD a number of times, but was still working out how best to describe the music contained in it, when he came across the following review in the September edition "The Wire", a magazine specialising in the sort of music that big companies don't encourage record stations to play incessantly, which does the job far better than I could. Anyone planning mouldy retorts should bear in mind that Molde is a small town in Norway, about 350 kilometres northwest of Oslo and 200 km southwest of Hell, which holds Scandinavia's musical equivalent of the Edinburgh Festival, with musicians of the stature of Keith Jarrett and Jan Garbarek regularly popping up.

Matthew Bourne  
The Molde Concert.  
Foghorn CD.

This CD finally confirms what I've long suspected - that Leeds based pianist and composer Matthew Bourne is the bastard child of John Shuttleworth and Cecil Taylor. Recorded live in Molde, Norway, in July 2005, the hour long performance offers schizoid, nonsequitur piano improvisations encased in mischievous samples snatched from pulp culture. The first piece has Bourne tossing a torrent of clustery counterpoint against the Disney chestnut "When You Wish Upon a Star"; later improvisations bounce against wisecracking plays on words from The Simpsons. A particularly disgusting description of what 'dicks' do to 'pussies' is looped to provide a rhythmic backdrop for improvisation. Using samples which have potent resonance in their own right in this manner is a high risk strategy; perpetually balanced on a knife-edge, it's as if he is intrepidly tinkering with the sacred cows.

In a moment of pure Shuttleworth, Bourne tells an anecdote about his broken minidisc player, before proceeding to stuff a ridiculous number of notes into each bar, joking that "it's time to get the jazz out of the way". But Bourne's piano playing itself has matured noticeably. The maelstrom counterpoint and abrupt structural hiccups of Michael Finnissy are in his DNA, and his playing feels ever more pointed and controlled. As an encore, "The Folks Who Live On The Hill" is played straight, with a gentle spirit and fastidiously evolving harmonies. This is a fine portrait of Bourne's dadaist talents, a more faithful representation than 2003's Electric Dr M.

Philip Clark

## Book Review

My Bass and Other Animals, By Guy Pratt. (Orion Books, Hardback, £12.99.)

It is a sign of the times that I first heard of this book on Radio 4, when Guy was being interviewed about it and telling a few stories. When deciding not to lend Pink Floyd or Roxy Music his services he does stand-up, adding his natural wit to his store of the crazy people and events that come with the touring mega-rock lifestyle. The book contains some of his best stories plus an honest description of life as a bass guitarist for hire since answering the advert "Mod Band Seeks Bassist" in 1979.

Guy was at Kingham Hill from 1973 to 1978, and mentions the place primarily in terms of his escape attempts. But what else could a rock musician say and keep his credibility? He also mentions that the school let him and Martin Glover have a room above the gym to practice in, and thus are rock legends made. (MG is now better known as Youth, and after playing bass for Killing Joke, concentrated on production work, getting the Producer of the Year award in 1998 for his work on the Verve's Urban Hymns. Killing Joke gave another old boy, Alex Paterson, a job as roadie, and Alex moved on to become the main switchdoctor for The Orb, with at least one No 1 CD to his credit. For a school of 200 pupils to come up with three rock legends isn't bad going.)

Guy's career involves playing with bands such as Icehouse, Pink Floyd (when Roger Waters doesn't want to come out to play) and Roxy Music. Look him up on Wikipedia for the full story.

Apart from having three laughs per page or more, the great thing about this book is Guy's honesty. When he lives up to his name, he says so, such as the time when he was so out of it on a plane that Jimmy Page had to arrange for him to be wheelchair through customs. It's also written from the point of view of someone who is amazed to find himself playing with the heroes of his younger days and doesn't object when his bass track on a record is quietly removed and replaced by someone else's. He clearly loves different styles of bass playing and recognises the masters of each style.

This low price hardback book is worth buying alone for the description of a recording session with an invisible Michael Jackson and what happened when the Pink Floyd's flying pig took on water. It only got 4 stars in the October edition of Mojo, but I suspect that this was only because it was up against a no holds barred biography of the late, great Warren Zevon.

For those wishing to see Mr Pratt in action, a 2-disc special DVD comes out on 17<sup>th</sup> September of the David Gilmour Band's concert at the Albert Hall, though people such as David Bowie, David Crosby, Graham Nash and Robert Wyatt may hide him from view at times.

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## Obituary.

We have just heard of the death of **Leo Stanton** (P & C 1977-84). After leaving the Hill he moved on to Sandhurst, and had a distinguished army career, including service in the first Gulf War. He leaves his wife Carol and baby son Baxter.

## News of Old Boys - and Young Ladies.

(People marked ☺ were at the reunion, while FU means that the news was fished from the Friends United website. Some of this news may be a bit elderly, but I am working on the assumption that if anyone has fallen off the perch, FU will notice the lack of annual income and remove the person from their webspace. The next issue should include the news that you have sent in directly. As we are talking about the under -18s that you used to know, their sons are abbreviated to s, daughters to d, children to c, and grandchildren to g.)

**Ken Adams** (-53) last checked in with Friends United in 2002, when he was a city centre manager in Wolverhampton. FU

**Mark Amis** is surviving as an artist and sculptor, based in Swindon. ☺

**Andrew Austin** writes: "For my part, I started horse riding in Canada, in the early 80's, and I really enjoy it, unfortunately, the U.S.A. is such a litigious society that places to rent a horse are now few and far between; I've have some wonderful times on horseback. One negative part of my time at KHS is that (unbeknown to me) I had arthritis at that age, and all of my joints were damaged play left prop and full back on the rugby field (my one claim to fame may be that I never shied away from stopping Chris Bramham (Norwich) when he came charging down the field.

These days I need to get my hips and knees replaced, and my ankles and shoulders are in poor condition - all of this means that, even living in Colorado (within one to two hours of some of the best skiing in the world), I cannot ski, or manage many other sports. Swimming was always fun for

me, and I was on the house team for Durham; fortunately my only (nine year old) child loves to swim, and that is not affected by the arthritis.

Hopefully Mike or yourself can put me in touch with whomever is publishing 'Over the Hill' - and maybe I can come up with a few stories. There will only ever have been one Teddy, a man I have great respect for; I think he and Padre both had a strong influence on things for me."

**David Bacon** is a teacher in New Zealand, but ☺ all the same.

**Rachael Callender**, as well as being the new Chairman of the KHA, is now also the mother of Maya, who arrived on 29<sup>th</sup> July. Given the timing of the event, one has to ask whether Rachael disposes over two votes at committee meetings. ☺ ☺

**Barry Fisher** (48-56) now lives in Chippenham after a chequered career in sales & marketing, FU

**Dudley Freeth** (C, D, C 43-48) did his National Service as a navigator based in places like Scampton. From 1955 to 1972 he worked as a handicrafts teacher before becoming Head of House at Bournside Comprehensive in Cheltenham. He is now in retirement in Evesham. FU

Conflicting reports are coming in about the current activities of **Woyzek Gambaski** (G 59-63). He has apparently been sighted acting as Assistant Sales Officer for Haliburton, Satrap of Darfur, and Chief Scriptwriter for Big Brother. It is also rumoured that after a little facial surgery, he is covering for Guy Pratt on bass guitar when both Roxy Music and Pink Floyd are playing on the same night.

**John Hancock** (S 45-50) remembers being in Sheffield under Mr Phelps when the Hill was cut off by snow in 1947, and no sport was possible. He has now retired to Nailsea after 25 years with Kodak as an electrical engineer. (2s, 4g) FU

**Harold Hards** (-43) joined the Navy during the war, and has now retired to Plymouth. He has been married for over 40 years, with three children and at least 8 grandchildren. FU.

**John Hayter** (-39) moved on to Latimer House, and was there when the place was bombed. (There were no casualties.) Working for Cosser Radio gave him poor health, so he joined the RAF for better food and fresh air - and the war. After the hostilities he returned to Cosser Radio, but poor health also returned. So he joined the civil service from 1948 to

1988. He has acted as Social Secretary of KHA and is still a member of the committee. ☺ FU.

**Ron Hoskins** (41-42) was evacuated to the Hill for just a year during the war, but during that time one of the housemasters kept bees near Sheffield House, giving him an interest that he still keeps up. He lives in Swindon and is married with more than 3 children. FU.

**John Hunt** (45-54) worked for the British Aerospace Company, Rolls Royce, AERE Harwell before retiring early and acting as a consultant for 5 years. His hobby is building and playing mechanical street organs. He would like to hear from others of the same vintage. FU

**Des Jarvis** (-38) lives at Seaview, I.O.W. He is married with two sons, and still wears spectacles. (FU)

**Ken Jones** (Bradford) now lives In Canada. ☺

**Hans Leistena** (-45) was in the unenviable position of being a German on the Hill during the war. He is single, retired, and has a part-time accounting job. He supports the local Opera House and fish restaurants. FU

**George Mattison** (45-50 or 55-60) works for himself as a painter. FU

**Paul Robertson** (D 60s) plays lead fiddle in the Medici Quartet, and, in his other role as Professor of Music Psychology, has turned up on television a couple of times in programmes about brightening up the lives of the inhabitants of the Blackbird Leys estate (my old home) and then the whole of Oxford by getting them to perform major choral works.

**Bob Rose** (-44) now lives in Manchester with four grandchildren to his credit. His brother John, however, who was in Bradford, and now lives on Vancouver Island, beats this with 19 grandchildren and 2 great-grandchildren as at October 2002. FU

**Peter Saunders** (1938-47) was in the army from 1949-54, then the Metropolitan Police in Southwark. He had to be invalided out after an incident, and after several operations he went to Australia to sell pharmaceuticals. After 4 years back in the UK he moved to New Zealand in 2001 where he now lives, retired, in Auckland. FU

**Lloyd Silverthorne** (C 60s) spent a fair few years in the back rooms of the BBC but now runs his own

studio business in Cheltenham (Music Dynamics Limited). ☺

**Libby Selley** now appears to be operating under the alias of Foley.

**Simon Sumner** is surviving as a singer & songwriter, was recently involved in a show called Interior Rivalry, and is working on a feature film. ☺

**Nigel Tanner** (48-54) Moved on to Emmanuel College, Cambridge, and emigrated to Australia in 1959. He worked as an English and Modern History Teacher, and is married with two daughters, Now retired, he keeps up his orchestral and choir interests. FU

**Keith Targett** (P&C 61-69) writes: Targetts - there are 4 of us and we all went to Kingham. In age order - me, John, Roger and Barry. There is 7 years between me and Barry - he's just turned 50. I have a number of interfaces with the old school; I'm secretary of the KHA, old boy, father of an old boy and a governor. Yes - my elder son lives in Western Oz with his wife and three little people. Has horses in his blood - inherited from his mum. Competes successfully and at a high level on his young stallion at dressage and runs the biggest equestrian centre in WA. 9 months ago I finally got bitten by the horsey bug - only some 45 years behind my wife! Started riding and then bought a large grey Irish Draft / Thoroughbred cross aged seven 6 months ago. We live on the England / Wales border and have a bit of land on which we keep our three horses - and have a huge amount of fun ! Our younger son (Ski instructor - qualified in Quebec and lorry driver) thinks that we are all mad !"

**Nick Thompson** (D 60-65) writes:

"My wife Gaye and I have been based in Hong Kong for the last 10 years.

Gaye is a teacher (her degree is music - plays harp and piano) at a Chinese International school and loves it. She says it is much nicer that teaching in Britain!

We met in Dar-es-Salaam in 85 where she was teaching; I was working on an airport project. We then moved to Oman and later back to England.

I was working more and more overseas with Arup, mostly in Asia, so it was decided that we would move to HK as a base.

I left Arup about 3 years ago and set up on my own (one man band) and now work as a consultant to

various companies like Goldman Sachs, Morgan Stanley and the like.

At present I am 'nursemaiding' a project that is going 'pearshaped' in Taipei for Morgan Stanley.

**John Thompson** (P&S 63-?) is my younger brother and lives in Belgium where he has an Air Courier business. He is married with four children.

At this time (Easter 2007) he is in England for our mother's birthday."

**Rev. John Tonkin** (-45) became a C.of E. clergyman in 1960, working mainly in Leicestershire. By 2001 he was retired and living in Leicester. (3 c, 7gc) FU.

**Paul Treacher** (-53) Has retired after time as a soldier and a neon sign draughtsman. FU.

**Douglas Williams** (48-55) joined the Merchant Navy in order to sail around the world. He now lives in the USA after a while in Spain. He is now single after two divorces, and wonders what happened to Clifford Bradley and Tony Norton. FU

## Working for You.

The Committee of the Kingham Hill Association for the year June 07 to June 08 is as follows:

President: \* Tom Smart  
Vice presidents: Bob Hughes  
Eddie White  
Brian Dean

Chairman:\* Rachael Callender  
Secretary:\* Keith Targett  
Treasurer:\* Leo Smith  
Assistant Treasurer:\* Mike Tadman  
Legal Advisor:\* David Ware  
Editor: Peter Johansen  
Assistant Editor: Monty  
Web Alumnus Secretary: Tim Lofts  
Elizabeth Foley  
Mike Kent  
Sports Secretary: Jim Woolliams  
Archivist: Mike Kent  
John Timmins  
Simon Briggs

Marketing / 200 Club:  
  
Committee: Bryan Shaw  
John Hughes  
Tony Middleton  
Ken Wingfield  
John Lawrence

## Your Turn !

Items for the next issue of Over The Hill should be sent to P.S.Johansen, 37 Mount Ephraim Road, London SW16 1LP ([psj@globalnet.co.uk](mailto:psj@globalnet.co.uk)) before Christmas.



## And also....

As well as the official KHA website, there is an alternative website for reminiscences and swapping of notes on [www.kinghamhillschooldays.co.uk](http://www.kinghamhillschooldays.co.uk). This is building up nicely, with biographies of former staff and adverts for forthcoming events. For example:

On 7<sup>th</sup> October we're replacing the old Rugby match with a reunion involving a chapel service at 1130, pre-booked lunch at 1230, an archive exhibition in the Hall at 1330, and possibly other events, including a recital in the chapel.

A number of former staff have already indicated their intention to intend, and we're waiting to hear from others.

On 12<sup>th</sup> October there will be a "pub quiz" involving teams including both pupils and staff/former pupils. If you want to join in, please give us advance warning, as places are limited.

