

# Over the Hill

January 2010

No 8



## A Letter from the Headmaster



Simon Briggs, John Timmins, **Nick Seward**, John Hughes, Brian Dean, Eddie White.

Dear all,

It has been a tremendously encouraging term at the school - we started September with a record number of pupils, and record GCSE results as well. There were many highlights to the last three months, including our U15 Rugby team getting as far as the semi-final of the County Cup, our new academic society, the Octagon, really launching in earnest, and our Performing Arts Academy continuing to go from strength to strength. On a personal note, Hannah and I were delighted to welcome our third child into the world, a little boy called John Emmanuel.

One memorable day at school saw our local MP, David Cameron, coming to our two new houses, Latimer and Havelock. He brought the Chinese Ambassador with him, who announced a free scholarship to China for a year, for one lucky member of the Hill. Although Mr Cameron came to open new day houses, I took the opportunity to remind him that all three main political parties have made a manifesto commitment to boarding as a positive and effective means of helping children in need to fulfil their potential. This aim remains at the heart of all we do and strive for, and we continue to keep the Founder's vision of Kingham

Hill as a home at the forefront of our planning (one persistent Sixth-Former also managed to extract a clear commitment that the Pound would never be abandoned for the Euro whilst [if!] he was PM - there were plenty of witnesses!).

The most obvious new change with this in mind has been the introduction of new weekend arrangements. Pupils no longer have Saturday morning lessons, but instead we see our duty *in loco parentis* as giving our boarders the kind of excursions and trips they might enjoy at home - a mix of the educational, inspiring, and just plain fun! The longest trip this term involved a 3am start, one bleary-eyed Saturday, as pupils and staff set off for Ypres in Belgium on Remembrance weekend - a moving and salutary experience for many of them. In addition to this, other trips have included the Black Country museum, an outdoor activities centre, Cadbury's World, the Cheltenham Literary Festival and Premier League Rugby. Next term's Saturday trips look equally varied and enjoyable, and it has been great to go around the boarding houses and hear pupils enthused about their new-style weekends. Other new changes have been the Day Houses, which have proved extremely popular, a more effective tutoring system, and Upper Sixth Form boarding arrangements. These have enabled prefects in particular to enjoy more independence before university and the world of work, whilst continuing to do duties in their houses and retaining strong links with them.

The major focus for us now, of course, is the 2020 Vision, and to remind you of the essential features of that, we seek the following:

- To fulfil the Founder's Vision in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.
- A Christian, academically non-selective school, offering a home for those in boarding need, and an excellent all-round education.
- Growing to 400, to retain the family atmosphere, but be large enough to financially sustain our core mission.

In pursuit of this, we have identified, very clearly, our first major goal as a new academic block, to be named the **Teddie Cooper Building**. This would house:

- New science labs
- Enough classroom space to accommodate the growth in numbers
- A new Library
- KHA archive centre and meeting area.

We will be looking to finance this largely through an appeal, to be launched next year, which will be overseen by our Development Director, Mike Tadman. I do hope that as many of you as are able will support this - as I've said before, Kingham Hill is a unique place, with a vision it has served faithfully for all of its history to date. We would love to see it continue to be able to offer a home to children in the way I know it offered a home to many of you, and I very much hope that you will want to be part of the continuing story begun by C.E.B.Young.

I do wish you all a very happy and prosperous New Year.

Yours,

Nick Seward

### New Developments.



Kingham Hill is going through changes again, and Mike Tadman (C62-68) has settled into the post of Development Director, with an office upstairs in the Office Block next to a room that should be reserved for the KH archives and for KHA activities. The KHA Committee used this room for a meeting in October. It should be noted that his main task as a member of staff is to bring in money for the work described in the Headmaster's Letter, and that the KHA Centenary Fund is still trying to bring in funds to provide bursaries for pupils in need. Ideally, it would be good if you could find money to

donate to both causes, but if in doubt, money given to KHS will go towards the building and money given to the KHA Centenary Trust Fund will assist pupils.

Some of us may remember the Kingham Hill Archives/Association area as being the technical drawing area, but more recently it was the Sanatorium. The Sanatorium is now in the building that the Founder called Durham, which also houses the day boys' area (Havelock) and the day girls' area (Latimer). These enable day pupils to have a place to place their property and themselves between lessons and also while waiting for transport home.

### Who Does What?

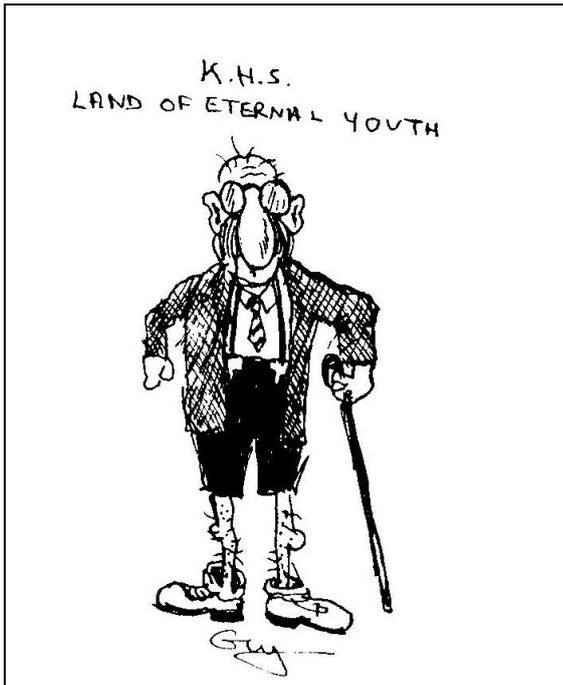
President:	Bob Hughes
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Schooldays Editor:	John Timmins
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Sports Secretary (Ladies):	<b>You ?</b>
Archivist:	Jim Woolliams
Memorabilia/200 Club:	Simon Briggs
Committee Members:	Tony Middleton Leo Smith
Hon. Vice-Presidents:	Brian Dean Eddie White John Hughes Keith Targett

### Obituary.

**Tony Marfleet** (P+N 1956-63). Lt Commander Anthony John Marfleet RN died on 27<sup>th</sup> October, 2009, aged 64, after a long illness. He was Head Boy in 1962-63, and is also remembered for his sporting, swimming and gymnastic abilities, as well as being a feature of the choir. He went on to Dartmouth Naval College and a career in the Royal Navy including South East Asia, the Panama Canal, and north of the Arctic Circle. On retiring, he ran a Christian bookshop in Yeovil. Over 400 people attended a thanksgiving service in his memory. Detailed tributes can be found on the [www.kinghamhillschooldaysco.uk](http://www.kinghamhillschooldaysco.uk) website, but this Plym from Tony's time of power remembers someone who was ridiculously good at everything but treated everyone fairly and with respect.

psj

## Your Letters and News.



*(With people going to the schooldays website, or inputting their details straight into the database, this section risks becoming rather sparse, compared to the days when people contacted me with their news and I updated their records and put them on the magazine list. The database notes new contacts, but so many of you don't hang around long enough to put in basic details like when you were on the hill and your postal address. I don't publish addresses unless requested, but it does provide at least a minimum if I am able to say that Fred Bloggs (D 1999-2003) lives in Bolton. Ideally, you could send me your news that you want published and then this section would be more interesting. psj)*

One of the disadvantages of being a prominent politician is that you have to justify your existence all the time. According to Simon Hoggart's Parliamentary Sketch in the Guardian of 23<sup>rd</sup> October, "The Public Administration Committee was talking to people who had never been elected but were ministers none the less. They included persons of terrific knowledge and accomplishment, plus Lord Adonis. The committee kicked off by asking the secretary of state for transport about his achievements. He told them. They were manifold. He had been an academic, a journalist, a policy adviser, a local councillor, and presumably a lord high everything else. Nothing he said implied that he had ever known anything about transport." One suspects that his contemporaries (P+C 1974-81) may wish to contradict this.

**Andy Anderson** ( ) is a director of cvista ltd, based in Sutton Coldfield, supplying hands-free mobile phone and navigation devices for cars.

**Ashish Bablani** (?) obtained a degree in Electrical Engineering and is at Boulder University (Colorado)

**David Bacon** (B 1972-78) is a design technology teacher in the Netherlands.

**Adam Biggs** ( ) works for Morrison's in Stamford. (f)

**Geoff Ball** (C 1936-45) sends Christmas and New Year Greetings.

**Jonathan Bawden** (C 1988-93) works in London as a shipbroker.

**Roger Blake** (C 1962-67) lives in Minster Lovell.

**Matt Bourne** (P+B 1989-96) is writing more material for a project called The Dukes of Pouch with a singer and cellist as well as his keyboards. He is also doing a solo memorymoog performance in the downstairs bar of the Vortex on 21<sup>st</sup> February, and trying to arrange more performances with pianos that have had an interesting life.

**James Collinson** (P+D 1978-83) lives in Hampshire.

**Colin Cummings** (D1973-78) is a Detective Sergeant in the Northamptonshire Police, due to retire in 3 years. (f)

**Tony Dee** (P+D 1959-67) moved to a new home in Dorset in mid-2009.

**Kevin Desborough** (?) lives in the UK and recently made contact.

**Alan Drewett** (B 1968-75) is in Klagenfurt, Austria. (f)

**David Earl** (P+B 1960-65) has retired to Japan, and busy learning Japanese. He is married with two sons and his wife no doubt helps him with his studies.

**Peter Enock** (C 1972-76) lives in Bicester.

**Paul Farnborough** (C 1983-86) is a police officer with the Avon & Somerset Constabulary.

**Andy Fraser** (B 1963-67) lives in Fleet, Hampshire, and writes: "I worked as an engineer on outside broadcasts at Thames TV from 1973. I specialised on drama and situation comedies. I was made redundant in 1993 after Thames TV lost its

franchise. Since then I have been a freelance engineer working on major television events around the world, such as Olympics and World Cups in most major sports. Most recently, I have been working on Springwatch and Big Cat Live for the BBC. I am now winding down to retirement, so I only do occasional TV work and mostly in the UK.”

**Dexter Fielding** ( ) is at Putney Art School and freelances for Canary Wharf Research Ltd.

**Woyzek Gambaski** (G 1960-63) runs a rock salt and lockable grit bin redistribution business.

**Fisnik Gashi** (N 2009) “I am 17 years old. I come from Kosovo. I was in The Hill for only 1 year, and really liked it and miss the time I have had there.”

**Oliver Hall** (P+?1974-?) is Chief of Communications Services at the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs in New York.

**Clifford Horlock** (P+B 1960-67) lives in Bedfordshire.

**Matt Huber** (N 1955-61) lives in Weybridge.

**Robert Huxford** (P+N 1986-93) is European Marketing Manager for GlaxoSmithKline, and lives in West London.

**Toby Knight** (P+C 1976-82) is a director of Pullin Knight Estate Agents, and lives on the Isle of Wight.

**Stephen Knowles** (P+Sh 1979-84) lives in the Bristol area, and is Head of Building Services for Atkins.

**Neil Lakeman** (?) lives in Suffolk.

**David Maundrell** (G 1988-90) writes: ‘Hello to anyone who remembers me. Hopefully I will see some familiar faces at one of the KHA reunions. Since leaving school I obtained a business degree. Even pupils who spent much of their time at Kingham Hill in the “Green rooms” with much help from Mrs Green can overcome their learning difficulties and get degrees. Other achievements include cycling from Lands End to John O’Groats in May 2005 to raise money for the Parkinson’s Disease Society. This took 15 days to complete and covered 1023 miles. Luckily, I did not get one puncture! In August 2006 I completed Wainwright’s Coast to Coast Walk with family members, which took 13 days and covered 190 miles. I had fantastic views of Cumbria, the Lake District and North Yorkshire. I am also a member of Stratford-upon-

Avon Athletic Club and have completed various half marathons and I hope to complete a full marathon at some point in the future. However I am not looking forward to all the training required to complete one.’ He works for Mencap in Leamington Spa as a Support Worker in Supported Living, and lives in Henley-in-Arden.

**Monty** (Jonathan Montgomerie P+B 1972-78) lives in Warrington and is Manager, Development + Test Services for AMEC Nuclear.

**Richard Moore** (D 1961-65) lives in Bournemouth, and retired in 2008 after a career starting off in the building industry (Wimpey) and ending up as Vice-President for Corporate Real Estate for the Chase Manhattan Bank. He is married with a daughter.

**Glenn Norris** (?) has obtained his Bachelor of Engineering Degree. He lives in Kent.

**Richard Oldham** ( ) works for Milford Haven Port Authority. (f)

**Bill Parker** (C, D, N, St 1933-43) wishes everyone a Happy New Year from Down Under.

**Colin Perry** (?) lives in Cheltenham.

On Radio 4 on 13<sup>th</sup> December, between “The World this Weekend” and “Gardeners’ Question Time” Professor **Paul Robertson** (D 1964-67) presented a programme about a medium in Balham who produced pieces of music that sounded rather like Brahms and Liszt and other deceased composers, and claimed that she had received these from them. In the programme Paul “examines the claims and counter-claims for musical mediumship and asks whether musical inspiration comes from within ourselves - or from somewhere beyond.” If I remember right, at one point it was asked if some tunes had always been around and the composers just picked them up, wrote them down and orchestrated them without remembering any previous versions.

**Bob Rose** (Sh 1937-44) lives in Cheadle Hulme, Cheshire.

**Richard Ryland** (B 1992-97) lives near Broadway and is married with two children.

**Geoff Sewell** (C 1959-63) lives in Bristol and works for Lafarge as a fitter. (f)

**Robin Sharp** (P+B 1986-89) Lives near Cheltenham.

**Bryan Shaw** (P+B 1961-66) lives on the Isle of Wight and is proprietor of Herb of Grace Wholefoods. He has been married to Gill for 35 years and they have two children.

**Pete Stevens** (B 81-84) is a freelance professional photographer with over 25 years' experience. (His website is <http://www.creativeempathy.com> . ) He lives in Hertfordshire. (F)

**Peter Suchy** (P+B 1963-69) runs his own motor business specialising in Volvo near Gatwick Airport. "I am now recently divorced and with a lovely lady who has changed my life!" (F)

**Nigel Tanner** (B 1948-54) clocks up 50 years in the Sydney area this year. He has retired from teaching English and History, but keeps up his orchestra and choir interests. (F)

**David Taylor** (P+C 1957-63) lives in Surrey.

**John Vickers** (P+B 1953-58) lives in New Jersey, USA.

(F = taken from Friends Reunited.  
f = taken from Facebook)

## Editorial.

As I sit in my attic trying to find enough material for an issue while not omitting the scraps of news that have burrowed into the wrong files, I note how things keep changing.

In the old days, people would send me letters, which I would put into a folder, and then they'd be ready and waiting when I finally sat down to put a magazine together. In the days of subscriptions, people would often attach a note of what they were up to to the cheque. Now there aren't subscriptions, and donations go to the Treasurer, and there are other ways of letting your friends know what you're doing.

I used to trawl through Friends Reunited to find some news, but there is very little there since the last issue. As I write, I am now looking at Facebook, but I do confess that I find it a bit confusing. I also find the Facebook thing about being friends so cheesy. The internet works by people having to ask questions, and you feel like a hamster finding its way through a maze, while with magazines you start at the beginning, and then go on to the end, and then stop, skipping the boring bits. The maze system ensures that you find a useful page, like the one for KHS, which gives you a link to a bit of news, and then you find that can't find it again, as the Internet is so fond of cutting

links behind you, so that you have to get right out and start from the beginning.

The other thing that gets me about the Internet is that they stick portrait pages on landscape screens, so that you never see a whole page at once.

Computers always ask specific questions and don't give space for explanations of what the answers mean. Drop-down menus ensure that you can only say things that have been said before and allow no room for original thought.

Anyway, what with cloud computing, soon everyone will have all the information they need kept on unspecified computers, linked by the internet. And then the virus will get in, or the server company will put up its charges to ludicrous rates, or the electricity will be cut, or computers will be so busy passing on messages to each other that they won't have the time to talk to us, or....

So if you want to be sure of getting your news into the next magazine it'll probably work best if you e-mail me or update the wakha website, saying who, where, and when you were (e.g. "Albert Aardvark, P+Sh 1998-2004) and what you're up to now. (e.g. "Used computer salesman in Tooting, usually to be found in the Frog and Ferret at lunchtime, and looking for a partner to set up a website-building company.") And if you'd like hard copies to be sent to you, make sure that you keep us up to date with your address.

## Another School Magazine.

"King of the Hill" can be found on the *Schooldays* website. I'm currently looking at the October 2009 issue, which I downloaded, and just wish that something like it had existed in the sixties, when there was an annual magazine where most pages were full once the usual house and sporting reports were in place.

In this new magazine a member of staff, Mrs J Chapman, the Head of English, acts as Editor-in-Chief, but the rest of the work is carried out by pupils "during after school activities".

It's always good to see the point of view of the pupils, and the October issue includes reports of Saturday trips for boarders, a bit of creative writing, minutes of the food committee, interviews with people who come to talk about their work, film and other reviews, sports reports (school and international) and all kinds of things, giving the pupils a chance to see what they can do while providing useful information and entertainment as well.

## The Main Man in Ambient House Music.

(He's one of ours.)

On 7<sup>th</sup> September the *Baghdad Batteries* CD was unleashed by the Orb, but the next day, at a time when one would have expected him to be busily checking sales statistics, Alex Paterson found time to spend with a rather incompetent interviewer from *Over the Hill*, one who had never mastered shorthand and whose pocket tape-recorder had just been found to add its own deafening improvisations over anything that might be said. So while words have been put in the mouth of the world-famous switchdoctor, attempts have been made to retain the general substance of what was said, though they should not be taken as Alex's own choice of words in all cases.

"So who's Alex Paterson?" I hear the more elderly and youthful readers scream. Duncan Robert Alexander Paterson was in Plymouth and Sheffield Houses during the 1970s (PL05 + SH11). In 1992 he was one of the main men of the "rave culture" and top of the album charts. The Orb, consisting of Alex and various others who come and go so as to add something different each time, is still putting out CDs. With *Baghdad Batteries* now in the shops, he was currently working with David Gilmour from the Pink Floyd.

"I can't say that I particularly enjoyed my time at Kingham Hill", he said, but looking back, I realise that a lot of the problems came with me. My father died when I was three, and my mother ran a sweet shop. A Reverend Nash arranged for me to go to Kingham, but as a city kid from Battersea I had soon had enough of the countryside. At the age of ten I was also relatively young. I didn't learn much at Kingham, except how to look after myself. It helped here that by the time I was 13 I had reached the size I am now. I ended up in the 1<sup>st</sup> XV. I also made two very good friendships there which have lasted. Both Martin Glover and Guy Pratt have been involved in the Orb at different times.

"I found religion in the form provided at Kingham Hill rather overbearing, but it provided an interest in the occult - not so much in the Denis Wheatley sense as Colin Wilson. Certainly there are more coincidences in life than you'd expect there to be. At a recent club night at the Mass in Brixton I was reminded that this used to be Rev. Nash's church - St Matthew's. Also, when it seems that when the time for an idea has come, if you don't grab the opportunity, you can be sure that someone else will. We were about to issue our mix of Minnie

Riperton's *Loving You*, when someone else came up with theirs. So we had to include ours as part of *A Huge Ever-growing Pulsating Brain that Rules from the Centre of the Ultraworld* instead. (This has kept its record as the longest title ever for a single, but at a mere 22 minutes, it ceased to be the longest single when *Blue Room* clocked in at 40 minutes. But as this was also by The Orb, little harm was done.) "When we heard that EMF were working on a CD called UFO, we made sure that *UFO*rb was finished and out as quickly as possible.

"What was good at Kingham were the former coal cellars that we used for listening to music after prep. Each house had its own favoured type of music, so you'd get new ideas when you visited the other houses. Sheffield tended to go for glam rock such as Bowie and T. Rex. The first LP I bought was T.Rex's *Electric Warrior*. While music teaching was all about string quartets and symphonies, and no one there had seen instruments like bass guitars, I found the music teacher helpful. He also compiled crossword puzzles for *The Times*, and I remember him bringing the King's Singers to the school. Teddie Cooper was the Warden at the time, and I remember how he seemed to know the details of each boy's home circumstances, and made you feel that you were actually worth something.

"I also enjoyed Art, but wasn't particularly academic, so after an extra year in the 5<sup>th</sup> Form to improve my O Levels I went on to Bromley Art College to do a foundation course in graphics. Though I was back in London, my childhood friends had moved on. On the other hand, I found the Third Year students impressive, as this was the time of punk, and they seemed to be in the middle of it. At the time my ambition was to design album covers, and now I'm in a position to do so.

"I contacted my old friend Martin Glover. At the time he had a spare room and I had just lost my bedsit, so I moved in. He saw an advert for a bassist in what became Killing Joke and got the job. I'd been working on silk screen design, but when Killing Joke wanted a roadie, I packed that in.

(Killing Joke served up a heavy mixture of post-punk metal with electronics. According to Wikipedia they were an influence on bands like Nirvana and Metallica, and at the time they were described by one magazine as the most frightening band around. It was a time for pseudonyms, and Martin, who liked the reggae of Big Youth, called himself Pig Youth, but the pig was soon dropped.)

At the time Alex was developing as a DJ, not so much the type of disc-jockey who says “that was...this is...” between records, but the type with two turntables who keeps the music moving all the time, also switching from one to another after just a couple of bars. “There’s a lot of mathematics involved. They’ve got to be running at exactly the same number of beats per minute when you switch over for it to work. I got better at selecting the right samples to use and built up my record collection. I occasionally did the warm-up for Killing Joke, and here I had to avoid anything that sounded the slightest bit like their stuff, which built up my range.”

Martin Glover left Killing Joke and formed Brilliant with the third member of the KHS trio, Guy Pratt, as well as Jimmy Cauty, who went on to success with the KLF and the Timelords. Meanwhile, with his DJ hat on, and with Acid House being fashionable, Alex was asked by Paul Oakenfold to provide chill-out sounds in the white room of the Heaven Club for those who were exhausted by the high energy dancing. The dance rhythms were still there, but less prominent, and all kinds of other sounds were added to the mix. The final sounds were so different to the records and tapes that had been put into the mix that there was a case for recording the final sound. Together with Jimmy Cauty, Alex put together The Orb. The *Kiss your Love* EP in 1989 tested the water, and in 1990 the snappily entitled *A Huge Ever-Growing Pulsating Brain that rules from the Centre of the Ultraworld* was a hit, and since then The Orb has put out a steady stream of singles and albums ever since, not forgetting a string of remixes of other people’s work, with various people, including Guy Pratt and Martin Glover, following Jimmy Cauty into the role of Dr Paterson’s companion. See [www.backsideoftheorb.com](http://www.backsideoftheorb.com) for full details.

“I like being able to work with different people. It keeps everything fresh, with each CD different to the one before. *Baghdad Batteries* has been done with Thomas Fehlmann. I’ve worked with him before, but Berlin is my favourite town, and a lot of the stuff everyone takes for granted now goes back to the German bands like Kraftwerk, who not only produced these weird and wonderful sounds but also told people how they had been produced them.

“I’d been taught to play chess by an expert, playing so as to get specific results rather than just react to the last move, and at Kingham Hill some of the more academic pupils were rather surprised when I beat them. When The Orb did *Top of the Pops* with *Blue Room* we just sat down and played

chess. It always was a bit of a contrived programme. I can remember that when I was a kid and Blue Mink was on, the people around me were all laughing because the band had all swapped their instruments round and no one had noticed.

“Whatever we thought about it at the time, Kingham Hill made us what we are. And we haven’t forgotten it. There’s a track called *Hamlet of Kings* on the *Cydonia* CD (recently reissued), including Guy Pratt. Of the three of us, Guy and I are starting work on David Gilmour’s next CD. Youth is working with Paul McCartney. Not long ago I was on child watching duty at a public sandpit. Then I noticed that another child in the pit was being supervised by Sir Paul. Said hello, and then “I know a mate of yours.” “Who’s that?” “Youth. Went to school with him.” And then we talked about what they had been doing. Didn’t need to tell him who I was.”

And then the legend went to catch the bus home.



Since then I’ve seen Alex in action twice, once at a newly-opened pub in Streatham and at the 30<sup>th</sup> birthday festivities for the Malicious Damage label, between which performances Alex had things to do in Japan. At both events Alex came on, with turntables and computer, after the various groups of people with instruments, to keep the public dancing. At the second, he was working with Dom Beken (an old Orb collaborator) under the name High Frequency Bandwidth to take us “On a sonic trip through their forthcoming album *Hell Fire and Brimstone*, according to the programme. The place was fully dancing when it became necessary to consider the last bus home.

Should you be browsing through the dance records shelves or downloads, and see anything labelled Transit Kings, this should involve the last two, plus Guy Pratt. It can not be denied that the Kingham Hill of the 1970s has had an effect on the music

business in future years, with major bands competing for Guy's services on bass, and a sprinkling of Youth or an Orb remix being widely sought.

## CD Review

### The Orb - Baghdad Batteries

For his next trick DR Alex Paterson has got together with his former associate Thomas Fehlmann in Berlin to produce this opus. It's packaged the way that luxury LPs used to be (gatefold sleeve, booklet, inside cover), only CD sized. It has the subtitle *Orbsessions Volume III*, which seems a bit odd in that Volumes I and II were collections of loose items rather than complete new works like this one.

When I first heard the title, I expected the cover to show something on the lines of an artillery emplacement, but the cover and booklet are primarily about lemons. In 1938 several earthenware jars thought to be about 2000 years old with asphalt stoppers with an iron rod sticking through were found. On the inside, the rods were encased in copper. Wise men thought these looked like batteries, and it was subsequently found that if filled with lemon juice these jars could produce about two volts. A fair amount of electricity was used in producing this CD of two men having fun in the studio, assisted by Andy Hughes, who sadly died before the CD was released.

While you may have to look in the "Dance" section of your local record shop for this CD, it's probably not the best idea to stick it into your village hall sound system and expect instant dancing. It's not that sort of CD. It's more music for people who are danced out to recuperate to, perhaps best heard alone in a darkened room. It's full of found sounds, like rushing water and metallic scrapings, with synthesisers processing them and adding noises of their own, putting them through tape loops and echoplex as required, so that rhythms emerge, sometimes overtly, but at other times you find yourself tapping the desktop or your thighs because you know that the beat ought to be there, though it's not actually played.

Though sometimes it is. The first track, *Styrofoam Meltdown*, starts off with a few low bleeps near a waterfall, and two evenly spaced low notes carry on throughout. A drum crash kicks off a rolling repeated riff, though the individual notes that make up this riff are spaced at different times, so that it is constantly changing while it feels as if it

has always been the same, until the waterfall sound returns.

The only vocals are snatches of conversation that are put through the mill. At other times, such as on the title track, the emphasis is on gentle sounds providing an atmosphere of peace. But once you feel that you're in the groove and this could go on for ever, things move on. On *Super Soakers* I found myself wishing for something a bit less electronic, and then in came a dub reggae bass, only then delays started appearing between notes, varying in length....

Ageing hippies who listened to bands like Tonto's Expanding Head Band, Gong, Neu, Can and Kraftwerk will recognise this, only the technology and ideas have moved on since then. So, naturally, will those who raved at warehouses nearly twenty years ago. People new to the Orb, or to the whole genre of music, might do better to start with the more commercially intended *U F Orb* from 1992 (No 1 in the album chart; expanded version issued in 2007) or *The Dream* from 2008, which has more of that Youth factor. This is one more for those who have time to listen with full attention, perhaps on headphones. As the cliché goes, *Baghdad Batteries* rewards repeated listening. *The Independent* says "It's cool, and it's got personality." What more can you want than that?

## 50 years ago (and more)

(From the May 1949 KHOBA "Post Bag".)

By Walter William Mason. Born Lambeth, London, 21<sup>st</sup> October, 1912.

I entered Durham House in 1921 at the age of eight and a half years, and left early in 1927 for Norwich.

My conduct at school was no better than most boys, and the only punishment I ever received from the late Mr T.W. Scarfe was half a dozen 'handers' for being late for school one afternoon. This was due to my conceit in trying to prove to a certain rabbit that I could run faster than he, but, alas, he won.

Like most boys at the Hill I had a passion for breaking bounds on half-holidays and often ranged far afield in search of new delights in the shape of fruit trees. I often went bird nesting in the summers but never went to the extent of making a collection.

And so passed eight of the best years of my life. In 1929 in company with Sydney Higgins (Sheffield) and George Griffin (Durham) I sailed for Canada, but only stayed four years. This was due to the lack of work and very little money. I worked at Havelock Farm for ten months, and then moved on to another farm where I met the Robins brothers (Ted and John from Bradford). We worked together through that summer and in October I went West to see my mother. Needless things out there were even worse, and so I went to British Columbia in the hope of finding a job on a fruit farm. I drew a blank and so in March 1933 I returned to England.

Twelve months after returning to England I joined the Royal Navy. I took this step in the hope of finding an outlet for my restless spirit, but unfortunately life in the Senior Service was not all I had hoped it would be. Earlier I had studied posters of sailors riding camels under a blazing sun, and here I was, carrying out ceaseless patrols off the Spanish Coast during the Civil War. My camel ride had to wait. In fact I never had it, even though I spent a good deal of time in North Africa. I had a sneaking suspicion that the Arabs took their camels South whenever I came ashore. When World War No.2 was declared I was already serving aboard an old cruiser that had been converted into an Ack-Ack ship. Still we were the first British warship to fire on a hostile aircraft. My war experiences are contained in five separate evacuations and five separate landings, and I was a survivor on two occasions. In September 1946 I left the Navy and so came back to "Civvy Street". From that time onwards up to the present time I have been in and out of various jobs, which goes to prove that twelve years in the Navy have not cured my urge to go places and do things. Maybe one of these days the opportunity to travel may present itself again, and then...well... what?

### Quiz.

With the A2 Leisure Studies group helping organise the KHA quiz night alongside Mike Tadman and Peter Johansen (our quizmaster) 50 current sixth form students and up to 20 visiting old Kingham Hill students met over a meal and a quiz. It proved to be once again great way for the current students to hear about the past days of Kingham Hill and for the older students to re-visit their past and integrate with the present students and staff. The evening was thoroughly enjoyed and worthwhile, and will hopefully continue to take place in the future.

Jo Lewis  
(current pupil and quizmaster's assistant)

## Sports Supremos.

At last committee meeting we co-opted **James Montgomerie** (N 2006-08) to fill the vacant post of Sports Secretary. His first task is to arrange something for the next reunion on 20<sup>th</sup> March. The nature of the game to be played rather depends on how many people are interested in playing, so contact him ([monty.gommy@hotmail.com](mailto:monty.gommy@hotmail.com)) if you want to play.

*But we are still in need of a lady to organise similar activities for the young ladies.* Actually we desperately need someone female on the committee full stop. For the time being, if you are interested in playing on 20<sup>th</sup> May, contact James Montgomerie, and if you are interested in leading the ladies, could you also please let him know. Sorry to be so vague, but the game(s) to be played rather depend on who announces their availability in advance.

psj

## Question Corner.

In the last issue a question was thrown in: "Who played the first doctor of that name?" to which the answer is, of course, William Hartnell. I can remember being amongst those present before the television in the Quiet Room (don't ask) in Plymouth one Saturday afternoon when, instead of Dixon of Dock Green coming after the sports results (1.2.X.X.2.2.1.1.... or something like that) there came this new programme in which a police box (then a sight as common and used as much as phoneboxes are now) appeared with a most peculiar noise and out came the original grumpy old man, greatly irritated at the idiocy of the human race.

Anyway, this issue's question is:

On 11<sup>th</sup> March 1927 the following were amongst those boarding the *Montclare* in Liverpool, bound for St John, New Brunswick: Victor Balfour, Percy Medcalf, Jack Bunting, Ernest Williams, Richard White, Edgar Lambley, and William Lane. They were all noted as having the profession of farming, and their intended country of residence was given as Canada. Their last address was given as 1, Fitzroy Square, London, W1. You've probably worked out that they were old boys on the way to Havelock Farm, but what was 1, Fitzroy Square better known as?

The answer will appear in the next issue.



### **Plymouth House Summer 1962**

Rollo Witton, Terry Reed, Chris Carter, Ian Crossen, Robin Greenwood, Timothy Stubbs, John Gilbert, Charles Sansom.  
 Maurice Grandsoult, Bryan Shaw, John Russell, Peter Collier, Richard Collier, David Goodall, Christopher Bounds.  
 James Vernon, Peter Moore, Michael Powell, Bob Batchelor, Simon Orpwood, Nicholas Thompson, David Earl, John Burgess.  
 Peter Reed, Max Turner, Rev Harry Wilkinson, Mrs Wilkinson, Mr David Wetherill, Mrs Knight, Chris Jordan, Peter Rozycki.  
 Simon Bullock, William Stewart, Peter Johansen, Mary Wilkinson, Sammy, Robert Betteridge, Andrew Davison, Keith Targett.

NB, by virtue of height, Messrs Vernon & Orpwood may appear to be in the row behind them.

### Who Needs to go to Kingham Hill ?

At the time the photograph above was taken, school fees were £120, and about half of the pupils had a chunk of that paid by their local councils, who might otherwise have been put to the expense of putting them in Care.

It should be noted that the boys in the photograph were born during the Korean War.

In those days divorce wasn't fashionable, but it still happened, and there were plenty of cases where a lone parent couldn't carry out a job and look after a child, though they might be able to manage most of the holiday time. Because of this, children did not go home at half term.

In these days before inflation went mad, there was plenty of the Founder's money left. Now there isn't, and councils prefer to keep children with their parents regardless of their ability to look after them.

Consequently, money is needed to enable some of the children who need a Kingham Hill Education most of all to do so. At present the Kingham Hill Association Centenary Trust is able to assist a few pupils whose situation took a turn for the worse while they were already at the school. We'd like to be able to do a lot more than this.

Please contact the Treasurer, Mike Kent, ([mike.kent@inbox.com](mailto:mike.kent@inbox.com)) to find out the easiest way for you to help current pupils who really need to be on the Hill.

## A Kingham Hill Chronology.

*(This was cobbled together as an A5 booklet for the Centenary of the Hill, but I've tried to add new items and corrections as I come across them, with a view to perhaps issuing a new version for the Hill's 125<sup>th</sup> birthday in 2011. Does anyone think this is a good idea or have any suggestions as to its format?)*

### Part 6

1925 "Sunday School re-opened on April 19<sup>th</sup>, when the various classes met and Messrs Cave, Davies, Floyd, Harwood, Meehan and Melton took up their work." *(It looks as if in these days Evening Chapel and Sunday School were replaced by Afternoon Chapel in the winter months.)*

June. The school magazine includes an article from Old Boy Charlie Devine, now an employment office manager in Canada, reminding prospective emigrants that over there, it's farm work or nothing.

September. Mr and Mrs Lamb of Severn House retired after forty years of service to the Hill. Mr Lamb had been there from the start as carpenter.

28<sup>th</sup> October. Mr and Mrs Walliker left the Farm, and Mr and Mrs Edginton took over.

1926 Mr and Mrs Mitchie took up their duties at Severn House.

1<sup>st</sup> July. At a reunion of Old Kingham Hill Boys at Havelock Farm, during a discussion about the need to befriend and assist Kingham Hill people newly arrived in Canada, it was suggested that a button/badge with the letters KH be made and sold to all Kingham Hill boys, past, present, and future, so that a Kingham Hill boy away from home would be readily recognised.

"On Friday, November 5<sup>th</sup>, the bonfire was lit at 6 p.m. by Mr Young. Great interest was taken in the cooking of Mr Cook." *(according to the school magazine).*

Snow prevented the Founder's usual Christmas visit.

1927 June. "Mr C. Melton brought his super 'Wireless Set' up to the school, where we listened to a running commentary on the Boat Race."

The Founder became ill. Nevertheless he carried on with the planning of Oak Hill College and the extension of Latimer House.

One of those noted as attending the Sports on 1<sup>st</sup> August with the Founder was Mr F Grisewood, later to be known for his work for the BBC.

The Swimming Sports were postponed, because of the weather, until 10<sup>th</sup> September. The Founder was unable to attend. However, he did attend the Harvest Festival Service on 16<sup>th</sup> October and added a few words (a "vigorous and earnest appeal") against the proposed introduction of a new prayer book. He did not attend the lighting of the bonfire on 5<sup>th</sup> November, but read the lesson at the Armistice Service on 11<sup>th</sup> November. He was not able to make his usual Christmas tour of the houses.

1928 Jan-Feb. The Founder was obliged to spend three weeks at a nursing home in London.

March. He travelled to London to see off a party of Old Boys emigrating to Canada.

17<sup>th</sup> June. The Founder gave his last address at Evening Chapel.

22<sup>nd</sup> August. Mr C.E.B. Young made his last visit to the Hill.

19<sup>th</sup> September. A group of boys went to the Founder's House to sing some hymns for him.

22<sup>nd</sup> September. At dawn, Charles Edward Baring Young, Founder of Kingham Hill Homes, died.

28<sup>th</sup> September. There were two funeral services, first in the Hill Chapel, and then at Daylesford Church, with boys lining the route between, and Old Boys acting as pall bearers. The Founder was buried at the opposite end of the churchyard to another former Lord of the Manor, Warren Hastings.

29<sup>th</sup> September. The Evesham Journal published a lengthy tribute to the Founder, which began thus: "Outside a circle of comparatively small radius the announcement of the death of Mr Charles Edward Baring Young, of Daylesford House, will not arouse any widespread interest. He was not well known to the public in any capacity. He was not a politician, a society leader, a sportsman, a soldier, or a multi-millionaire. Yet if real, good, practical work for his fellow men is to be recognised there are few more deserving of a monument than Mr Baring Young. And he has such a monument. Just as you are approaching Kingham Station on the way to London on the Great Western Railway, look out of the near-side windows of the train and you will see Mr Young's monument on the high ground of Kingham Hill. He built it in his own lifetime - not a tower, or an obelisk, but a scattered group of big, gray, rather austere-looking houses. If you ask locally what they are, you will be told that they are the Kingham Hill Homes. The story of these homes is really the story of Mr Baring Young. Apart from them there is not much to say about him."



## Events

### Quiz Night. (16<sup>th</sup> October, 2009)

Thanks to Yogi and the four Kingham Hill pupils from the Leisure and Media course, the night was really enjoyable.

The scoring system was well thought out, and congratulations to the Jellystone Yogis team who won on their controversial bonus round. Well done!

There was a good attendance from the staff who work at the Hill. The KHA members wish to thank everyone for such a successful evening. It was very helpful in building a working relationship with current, old and new pupils. We need more events together - any ideas? Thanks to all for a good laugh.

### A New Year.

On behalf of the KHA we would like to thank all of you for your continual support throughout 2009. We wish you and your families a very Happy New Year.

## Forthcoming Events.

Launch of Headmaster's 20/20 Vision Appeal for Kingham Hill School !! Watch this space for details. Mike Tadman is now KHS/KHA liaison man. For any information about this appeal he can now be contacted in the New KHA Centre, Tel: 01608-731880. Please support the appeal.

### Events for 2010 for your diary:

20<sup>th</sup> March.

- 0930 Founder's grave Daylesford Church.
- 1015 Welcome coffee at the KHA Centre.
- 1030 KHA Committee Meeting.
- 1230 Buffet Lunch at KHA Centre.

Afternoon events to be announced. Details to follow shortly. Keep logging in to Schooldays.

3<sup>rd</sup> July.

This year our Summer Reunion is on Speech Day, a first for the KHA. We are really looking forward to attending the Hill, all together with the proud families and bring back happy memories for Old Boys/Girls of their time at Kingham Hill School.

The Guest Speaker is the Reverend Richard Priest, an old boy (P+N 1975-82).

I shall be publishing an events timetable in the spring; come and enjoy the day.

All Ex-pupils are welcome at KHA events, though it does help if I know if you are visiting the Hill for any events, so that we, the KHA can make a point of having a chat and make you and your families part of the day. We want to strengthen our membership to support the school and the Headmaster to achieve success for the 20/20 vision of Kingham Hill School.

Donations for the 20/20 Appeal (for building work) should be made out to "KHS 20/20 Appeal" and send to Mike Tadman, KHA Centre, Kingham Hill School, Nr Chipping Norton, Oxon, OX7 6TH.

Donations to the Centenary Trust Fund (for bursaries for pupils in need) should be made out to KHA CTF and sent to the KHA Treasurer, Mike Kent, Danetree Cottage, Dunley's Hill, Odiham, Hants. RG29 1DL.

Donations to help the running costs of the KHA should be made out to KHA and also sent to Mike Kent.

Please ring me with any enquiries.

Ken Wingfield,  
Events Secretary,  
Tel. 01530 812361  
Mob. 07826 445244  
e-mail: [Winger@uwclub.net](mailto:Winger@uwclub.net)

For updates on the reunion plans, and loads of other good stuff about the Hill, check:

[www.kinghamhillschooldays.co.uk/noticeboard.htm](http://www.kinghamhillschooldays.co.uk/noticeboard.htm)

## And for my next trick....

The deadline for the next issue of "Over the Hill" is  
**1<sup>st</sup> April, 2010.**

Get your news and articles to :

[peter.johansen@sky.com](mailto:peter.johansen@sky.com)

or at

37, Mount Ephraim Road, London, SW16 1LP