

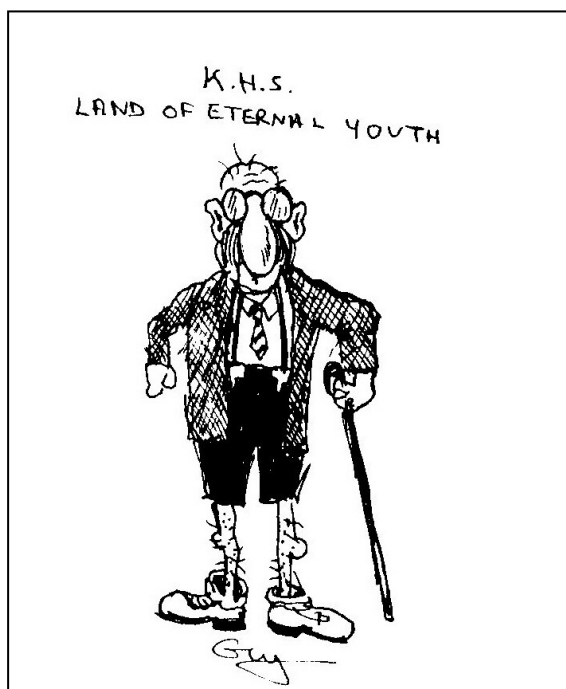
Over the Hill

April 2010

No 9



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)

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

Sue Akers (Staff 1994-2006) lives in Barnstaple in Devon, teaching dyslexic pupils in a private school. (f)

Bruce Arnold (1944-50) is Chief Critic of the Irish Independent, writing about art, theatre, music, and politics.

Roger Arthur (P+N 1967-72) lives in Ilford and works for the government. (F)

Gerald Baker (P+N 1964-70) lives in Fareham, Hants.

Timothy Baker (N 1969-74) obtained a BSc in Mathematics from Manchester University in 1977, following this up with a Postgraduate Certificate in Education from the University of Aberystwyth. After four years of teaching mathematics, computer science and music at Maidstone Grammar School he moved to Aix-en-Provence, doing various jobs in the IT management area, and is currently Advanced Marketing Director for INSIDE Contactless, still in Aix.

Ian Bales (D 1967-71) hopes to be at the reunion. He served 22 years in the Royal Navy, and moved on to offshore Seismic Survey for another 13 years. Now semi-retired and living in Yorkshire, he is fighting weeds on an allotment and pottering around with various other interests. (F)

Nick Beal (N 1964-67) lives on Rousay, one of the Orkney Islands.

Matthew Bourne (P+B 1989-96) is Artist in Residence at Leeds College of Music and lectures in Composition and the Piano. He also performs solo and with various combinations of musicians all over Europe. The website www.matthewbourne.com will show details about *him* (including forthcoming appearances for the next year) rather than the choreographer of the same name.

Danny Brooks (C 1976-1980) is still in the RAF, currently living in York, and studying for an Open University in IT and Computing. He has also played in 5 bands. (F)

Kelvin Bunyan (P+Sh 1967-73) lives in Chipping Norton but is off to Canada at the end of May.

Mike Burnett (P+B 1988-93) lives in Amsterdam. www.doghouseanimations.com provides further

information about his post production graphics and computer-generated animation company.

John Caldicott (1959-63) lives in Billingham, Teesside.

Roberto Campana (P+D 1971-79) lives in London SW1, and is a Head of Department for Salomon & Seaber Ltd, in the Pharmaceutical / Chemical industry.

Michael Ching'Anda (P+S 1990-96) lives on the West coast of Canada, working for Campus Living Centres Inc as a general manager. (F)

Chris Clarke (P+D 1987-1991) lives in Sydney. (F)

Paul Cole (? 1983-90) flies Boeing 767s long haul to the Caribbean and Far East.

Ben Custance (-2009?) has obtained a place in the Industrial Design course at RMIT University in Melbourne.

Andrew Dauncey (P+N 1975-80) lives in St Austell, working as Harry Kazzam, a Magician and Children's Entertainer, working at various holiday camps and "Flambards". "Recently met **Guy Ellory** (?-80) a great friend at KHS who left there in 1980 as well. He lives just down the road from me and has lived within 3 miles for as long as I have been in Cornwall. He moved here at the same time! Met up when he came to my house for a business appointment. Both were amazed and just said 'wow' a lot. No business was discussed." (F)

Brian Dean (Sh 1948-52) has moved from Bognor Regis to Chichester.

John Dixon (S 1964-68) is married and still lives in Sidcup. (F)

Philip Eberlin (N 1978-82) lives in Cheltenham.

Simon Edwards (B 1981-86) lives in London and works as a motorcycle mechanic. (F)

Paul Edmonds (G 1980-85) is a community affairs manager with McDonalds. He lives in Sunbury on Thames.

Luke Elvins (P+D 2003-09) has posted a photo on the KHA website, along with an e-address that is probably worth money, but hasn't said where he is or what he's doing.

Alan Emberson (Staff 1987-2002) is retiring as Head of Maths at Dixie Grammar School in Leicestershire at the end of the summer term.

Nicholas Evans (G 1966-71) lives in Ashford, Middx.

Paul Gibbon (P+S 1963-69) writes:" I'm currently working at the Pension Protection Fund as a contractor dealing with pension schemes whose principal employer has gone into liquidation. As you can imagine the past year has been an extremely busy one, and I'm sure you have all heard of some of the higher profile cases. Thinking about it there may be some old boys who worked for companies in a similar position whose pension scheme assets have been transferred to the PPF and are now in receipt of compensation. I continue to live in Eastbourne and spread my time between there and the North of France as well as continuing with my rugby refereeing most Sundays. I recently learnt that I will become a Grandfather for the first time later in the year... guess that now makes me officially old!"

Nick Goodhew (N 1966-71) manages the Bay of Many Coves in Marlborough Sounds, New Zealand. He should be able to provide a discount to former KHS pupils. www.bayofmanycoves.co.nz .

Christopher Grierson-Jackson (C 1964-69) is still based in Totnes, but works all over the world as a consultant in offshore seismic work, recently including Nigeria and Ghana. Has a sideline in truck driving. Next stop the Barents Sea.

Sheldon Gould (P+C 1984-90) has returned to Oxfordshire after 7 years in Portugal and the USA.

Chris Handley (P+Sh 1986-91) "moved to Norwich after University and got into selling Toyotas. Now I'm a Finance Manager at an Alfa Romeo & Fiat dealer." (F)

Iain Helstrip (D 1961-65) is still dashing round the world despite health problems. "Somebody who I used to do quite a lot of work for suddenly woke up and wanted everything done by yesterday. I have also taken on a part time role with Thames Valley Police and was also trying to get to grips with that. Then just to complete things I had to put up some shelves in the kitchen and was cutting to size and slipped and now have a number of stitches holding my little finger onto my left hand. Because I take blood thinners for my cardiac problem, the kitchen looked like a slaughter house. I have never seen quite so much blood - and the worrying thing was that it was mine!" He was about to go back to the Middle East at the time of writing.

Helen Highwater (Se 1970-75) runs "Fag Off Ltd" which has a government contract to check street cameras in Whitehall and elsewhere to ascertain the length and frequency of public servants' cigarette breaks. This contract was awarded after her success in monitoring the purchases of Lexus cars by police forces.

Amir Ismael (P+G 1988-91) lives in Crawley.

Mark Johnson (Sh 1969-71) worked briefly with BT and then was with IBM for over 30 years. He spends half his time renovating farmhouses in France. He lives in Southampton with his wife and two daughters. (F)

Over in New Zealand, **Tim Lofts** (N 1963-69) and his wife Anne are now the parents of Cameron Archie.

Bruce Lloyd (D 1986-91) spent 11 years flying in the Fleet Air Arm and has now started a second career flying Boeing C-17s out of Brize Norton. (F)

Adam Newton (P+Sh 2000-07) lives in Marlborough, and is a Recreation Assistant with Wiltshire Council.

Richard Pheasant (P+B 1977-83) sends apologies for absence at the Reunion, as he won't be back from the UAE until mid-July.

Chris Prince (P+B 1959-64) lives near Bristol.

Barry Rowe (Sh 196?-7?) lives in Crewe, and is engaged to Val.

Pete Rozycki (P+D 1960s) runs Rozycki Design, based in Plymouth, and amongst other work has a number of book covers to his credit.

Clifford Searle-Baker (Sh 1958-62) Sh25. Spent a lifetime working in aviation, and has retired to a village near Cambridge. He also has a house in Sri Lanka and witnessed the Tsunami. "It was as horrific as your worst nightmare." (F)

Lloyd Silverthorne (P+C 1957-65) runs Music Dynamics, a firm based near Cheltenham which provides rehearsal aids for choirs, such as vocal scores and recordings for particular types of voice to sing along to. www.musicdynamics.co.uk .

Paul Streater (P 1986-87) is the general manager of a five star resort on the Black Sea Coast. Moved to Bulgaria in 2005. (F)

Robert Sturdy (P+D 1965-70). "I bumbled around at college and in totally unsuitable jobs until I

settled at Toshiba Semiconductors in Camberley in '81. Moved up to Wales in '88 and now living in the glorious Mid Wales countryside, have been for the last 20 years. My wife and I have two businesses - I'm a dog groomer and she runs her own healthcare business. What luxury to be able to work from home!... and btw if you'd have asked me 10 years ago what I was likely to be doing now, the answer is unlikely to have been dog grooming. I don't think my sense of humour has changed much, although I'm probably not as patient as I used to be - it worries me that I'm slowly turning into a grumpy old 50-something man though."(F)

Mark Sutherland (? 1990) lives in Selby and has a new role as a project manager for a financial services and technology company based in Skipton. (F)

Nigel Tanner (B 1948-54) keeps in regular touch from Australia but now the full story can be told. On leaving KHS he spent two years in the Royal Navy, including HMS Victory and HMS Chaplet. He was at Cambridge University (Emmanuel College) 1956-59 and moved on to the Teacher Training College of Sydney University for a year. Then five years teaching at Wollongong High School before moving on to other teaching posts. He has retired but retains orchestra and choir interests. (F)

Nicholas Thompson (P+D 1960-65) has lived in Hong Kong since 1998 and works in China and Korea. (F)

Charles Vernon (P+C 1963-71) still lives in High Wycombe and is in the furniture business. He is married with three adult children.

Marc Van Vliet (N 1986-91) lives in The Hague, and obtained a Master's degree in Business Administration from the local university in 2006. He's currently an IT manager for Avery Dennison in Leiden.

Royston Watkins (P+C 1954-59) has retired, but works part time for Leonard Cheshire Disability as a volunteer co-ordinator. He lives in Banbury and hopes to attend the reunion.

John Wheatcroft (? -1983) provides computer solutions at www.kenilworthcomputerrepairs.com Amongst other things he builds bespoke database software and assists people to get their websites visible on the Internet. May turn up to the reunion. (F)

John Wyatt (P+N 1968-73) lives in Oxford and is employed by the local council. (F)

Obituaries.

Mrs Lavender Gilmore (196?-89), on 11th April. Miss Paston arrived on the Hill in the mid-sixties, and was soon dragged off by Pat Gilmore to Stratford House. We hope to have more information later.

We have belatedly heard of the death of:

Simon Flinn (c1943-48) some years ago. He went to Oxford, then to America and Canada, and spent the latter years of his life in Japan where he taught and published versions of different Shakespeare plays - ten in all - which are regularly performed worldwide.

Don Francis (C, Sh & D 1937-45), suddenly, on 20th July 2007. He had lived in Hertford for a long while, retiring to Clacton on Sea in 1993.

Editorial.

Those of us who come back to Kingham Hill Reunions are an odd mixture. Some of us arrived as children, and it was our home until we left to find jobs. Others could pretend we were going to boarding school, but knew that our parents or guardians were running around like mad to fix it that there would be someone around to look after us during the holidays so that we didn't have to be taken into care. Others had parents who paid for us to attend, even the full price in some cases. Obviously the place is going to mean more to those for whom it was home for ten years or so than those who just received a paid-for service. There also comes the point when you realise that all the pupils and staff who were there with you have left.

The school keeps changing, and now it is expanding to give more room to day pupils. This will enable the school to teach a wider range of subjects, and will also bring the school closer to the local people, who are ceasing to think that the place is a sort of borstal institution. Nevertheless, the school still tries to find places for the sort of child that really needs it.

But in coming back to Kingham Hill at reunions, you can meet people who were there at different times, when the Hill was a different sort of place with different rules, but still find that you have a lot in common. If you turn up a few times it doesn't take long to completely forget that your new friends weren't on the Hill when you were, or that the bossy prefect from your first year is

actually a diamond geezer, and it's also fun horrifying current pupils with tales of what really happened in the Planny, and trying to get them to believe that Ball's gap actually wasn't put there so that players could retrieve rugby balls after conversions that went too high and too far.

On 3rd July not only will you be able to meet friends, but also see what the school is doing now.

Sick of Screens ?

These days many of us spend the day at work looking at computer screens and then come home to more computer screens and the TV screen. Don't you sometimes wish you could curl up somewhere comfortable with some reading matter on paper? Or are you fed up with blundering through website mazes to see if the news you are looking for has arrived yet?

Over the Hill is still available on paper. To get each issue sent to you when it's ready, please provide your name and postal address and a donation to the Centenary Fund (KHACTION) preferably in excess of £5, to the editor at the address at the bottom of the last page of this issue.

psj

That KHS Effect....

The Kingham Hill page on Facebook (yes, there is one) has been running a "you know you went to Kingham Hill when...." discussion sheet for a couple of years now. Recent entries include:

"When you're stood in Tesco jumping and clapping at the sight of Arctic Roll."

"School Dances. It was like releasing a load of foxes into a chicken pen."

"When you say you were on top of chapel and you don't realise straight away why people from other schools find this weird."

"Doing everything in your power not to get caught misbehaving too much by Gus or Popeye, as they hit you with a slipper, and it HURT!!"

"Mr Boyd saying that's not cold as we broke the ice on the outside pool!"

"You never actually admit it was a private boarding school. And you never will."

Notes from the Hill.

This is Nick Seward's second year as headmaster, and huge, positive, steps have been taken.

The teaching staff structure is now the Deputy Head and three Assistant Heads, and the number of staff who left at the end of the last year was tiny.

The Hill's GCSE results were the best ever, and another boy has been offered a place at Oxford.



During last summer Durham was converted into two day Houses, Latimer and Havelock, as well as now housing the San and upper sixth boys study bedrooms. The senior girls now have their rooms above the kitchens.

The area above the headmaster's Office, which was the San, is now a thoroughly refurbished office suite, paid for by members of KHA's committee. In two weeks "we" (through Kingham Hill Old Boy David Nock (N 70-77) dismantled the isolation room, bed lay out and nurse's office, installed a new ceiling with wonderful lighting, new walls - mainly frosted glass - new floor, carpet tiles, doors, and a thoroughly repainted everything else! We now have an Archive room, a Development and Marketing office next to a KHA / archive office. When you visit we should have a display of archive material with copies of Hill magazines and photographs etc (School, House, Teams et al).

This academic year there are more pupils than ever before - boarders and day. Every KHS pupil's fees support the Hill. Whether a parent pays full fees, or fees are found from employers or charitable trusts, they all support and effectively invest in The Hill's future. KHS's fee support for students, for example, will exceed three quarters of a million pounds this year. Every pupil is treated

equally, and each is nurtured and encouraged to uncover and develop their unique talents.

We have had a visit by a team from the USA who we hope will give Kingham Hill full accreditation for our US Studies program. UK-based US pupils can enjoy Kingham and continue their education here. On Speech Day you'll see their leavers graduating from high school in caps and gowns; a very proud day for them. This scheme was set up mainly for the families of a local US facility (USAF and US embassy staff) who are bussed in daily. It is great to see what has been achieved and how well we all work together. I am pleased to note that they enjoy such vital behavioural educational activities as rugby and even cricket; splendid stuff.

The school is expecting Inspections from OFSTED and ISIS this year - both will be positive.

This summer should see senior boarding houses and the swimming pool changing facilities refurbished. These are huge projects. The Hill has refurbished one house each year recently - Greenwich, Bradford, Durham - but it will be good to know that every house has sound plumbing, heating and beds; as good as they can be. Incidentally there is a Kingham bed, designed for us and sold as such! Far from being a simple metal frame with an open board base it incorporates a desk, a lockable tuck box, a wardrobe, lighting, internet access and ample storage space; yes, times are changing for the better.

The Kingham Hill Association's Summer Reunion will be on Speech Day - a first. The speakers this year and next will be KH old boys. 2011 will be Kingham Hill's 125th!! This is the school's big day, but, if we each make contact with friends from 'our time on the Hill' we can make arrangements to meet over lunch. Lunch cannot be provided by the school for all visitors, but we can picnic or meet at the Chequers in Churchill or any other local hostelry. Details are elsewhere, but don't leave your planning to the last minute. Speech Day itself has changed but the enormous marquee opposite Durham should seat us all.

The other big development for KHA is our reworking of www.kinghamhillschooldays.co.uk, which will become KHA's only website. It will remain a magazine-cum-archive and also become both a secure membership database and somewhere for us to view Hill photographs. (At present there is a link between schooldays and the existing KHA database website, but they will merge more closely.)

Kingham Hill School 20 20 Vision Appeal.

Kingham Hill is launching its first Appeal - this is HUGE. The Kingham Hill Trust, which was set up by Mr Young some years before he died, owns and is responsible for Kingham Hill School and Oak Hill College. Everything that could be sold has been sold (from Daylesford House, to Havelock Farm in Canada and Latimer House in London) to raise funds over the years. We still have splendid grounds in a wonderful location, crowned by The Chapel above Top School. The Houses are as they were, except that Plymouth (still the junior boys' house) is in old Norwich, and Norwich House occupies old Clyde (I write as a Clyde Old Boy!). Severn is the girls' boarding house and Greenwich the junior girls' house.



Kingham Hill School has a "20 20 Vision", of 200 boarders plus 200 day pupils. A school of four hundred will continue to be Kingham Hill doing what it does best, and be financially credible. However, to house and teach four hundred we need a new academic centre. This will be a three-storey mainly glass building which will more than just replace the "new" maths and science block. If you have not seen the Appeal Brochure, please let me know and I'll happily send you one. Our architect is **Mark Foley** (P+C 1963-69) of Burrell Foley Fischer.

This is some challenge! Five million pounds as soon as possible! Then we'll need a new sports hall, and relocate the dining hall in the old gym, etc. (As part of the archive we have an old plan of where the dining hall we all know was itself once workshops, since the boys were then fed in the homes -houses they lived in.) This appeal is not for money to keep the School afloat, but to build vital new facilities for 400 pupils - their fees (from parents, employers, charitable trusts) will ensure that Mr Young's vision will continue and flourish.

MJT

Kingham Hill's Bayeux Tapestry

We have been given a magnificent embroidered picture map of Kingham Hill School by Mrs Pauline Turner, formerly House Matron of Norwich House 1956-68 (when it was in what is now Plymouth!).

Measuring some three by two feet it was made by her in 1968, an extraordinarily accurate bird's eye view of the school. It would appear that she used to send the boys out to count the number of trees in the grounds for her! We intend to display her picture in the Archive Centre.

Pauline was married to John Turner, affectionately known as 'Butch', or in later days 'Bonzo'. As well as being housemaster he was the school's Geography teacher. His ability to guess that year's main O' level exam questions was legendary. In my year, 1959, he had us swotting for months on the North East. "I know it's due. We haven't had this bit of the UK for years!", and, yes, it came up as one of the main questions.

He also devised the phrase for remembering the names of the great lakes in Canada of 'Sam Manning Hates Eating Onions', (Sam Manning being the Biology master and always having the mickey taken out of him). Imagine the look of bewilderment on the external examiner's face when twelve pupils all punched the air with grins on their faces, as the exam paper of the World map had a question on it: "Name the Great Lakes". From such are memories made, and, yes, I passed Geography O' level.

Pauline is one of life's lovely ladies, and has recently moved to a care home. I know that she would love to hear from any former Norwich pupils of her era, so, come on, guys, drop her a line at: 11, Hillside Court, Beach Moss Lane, Ormskirk, Lancs, L39 4YX.

Mike Kent.

Giving to Charity.

The chances are that we all give to charities, one way or another, whether it be to the person with a collecting tin, being part of a fund-raising event, or simply giving a regular amount by direct debit or standing order. Naturally, we have our favourites, which tend to be local and have had an impact on our friends or family, like a Hospice. In the majority of cases we give to organisations that benefit others less fortunate than us and in many parts of the world.

Having attended KHS, you have also benefited from charity, whether it be from the *Kingham Hill Trust* or the *Kingham Hill Association Centenary Trust Fund*, the charity of the Kingham Hill Association, and you may have been supported by either charity with your fees via a bursary.

If you have used the adjustable stage in the school hall, equipment in the fitness suite, broadband facilities, the router and laser cutter in the DT Dept, plus various other items over the years that were funded, mainly in full, by KHA, then you too have been supported by charity.

Normally with appeals for money we are asked to give to help others, but in this case it is reversed. We have already benefited in some, possibly small, way, and KHA is appealing for funds to carry on what it does best, supporting KHS.

As an example of what is possible, with Gift Aid, a Standing Order of £10 a month is worth £153.60 a year, which, if multiplied by 250 participants, gives us £38,400 a year, which means more deserving pupils enjoying, as we all did, the lifelong benefits of KHS.

To spice it up a little, this appeal could be based on an "inter-house competition" and, yes, Clyde would be reinstated for this purpose. The prize would be the kudos of giving the most, and the prospect of being last a spur to make sure that it wasn't your house. Contact your contemporaries and make it happen, in the same way as somebody made it happen for you.

Thank you in anticipation.

Bryan Shaw,
Secretary,
Kingham Hill Association,
February 2010

Question Corner.

In the last issue a question was thrown in: "The last address of old boys sailing to Canada in 1927 was 1, Fitzroy Square, London, W1. What was this address better known as?"

It was Latimer House, a sort of hostel for people leaving Kingham Hill in search of work in London or moving on to Canada. Some of them found work at a factory owned by the Founder. What did it make?

Wanted - Urgently - Work Experience Contacts.

KHA is actively trying to help Year 12 (Lower 6th) and Year 13 (Upper 6th) with guidance on careers, CVs, interviews etc in conjunction with the School. However, what we desperately need are contacts, names and addresses of companies, charities, shops or anywhere we can/could place KHS students for work experience - even better if it's part-time employment - in the school holidays.

As I'm sure everyone knows by now, all employers and colleges are looking for students who have been in the real world and not wet behind the ears. Having work experience on your CV is now almost mandatory for some employers and has fast become a topic that college interviewers will pick up on. "Tell us about this work you did at Joe Bloggs Ltd. It sounds interesting."

So if you can help, for example if you have your own company, or know someone who can or is prepared to help, please let me know the details. We will build up a register and then attempt to match someone suitable who lives in the area that you have given us. Remember, nothing is too obscure. It is also one way you can help pay something back.

If you can help, please let me know the details.

Mike Kent,
Danetree Cottage,
Dunleys Hill,
Odiham, Hants.
RG29 1DU
mike.kent@inbox.com

Misprints

The January 2010 issue contained a number of misprintings and mishearings.

In the Plymouth House photograph a d disappeared from the name of Andrew Davidson.

A rogue postcode crept in to Treasurer/Archivist Mike Kent's address as given in the last issue. The correct address is

Danetree Cottage,
Dunleys Hill,
Odiham,
Hants.
RG29 1DU

So queries about records as well as money should be directed to him. (mike.kent@inbox.com)

Mistakes abounded in the items about The Orb:

Martin (Youth) Glover, not Guy Pratt, was working with Alex Paterson on the David Gilmour album.

The *Kiss Your Love* EP came out in 1988 and the *Huge Ever-Growing Pulsating Brain that Rules from the Centre of the Ultraworld* came out in 1989.

The Orb appeared on Top of the Pops twice, but played chess only once.

Website changes.

Some years ago we introduced a website which we hoped would enable former pupils to keep track of the school and each other. The idea was that people could use it to arrange reunions of their particular age group or of former pupils living in the same area. This depended on people getting into it and reporting their latest movements. It was not, however, the easiest to keep updated, and wasn't particularly easy to enter.

With progress on the existing website moving too slowly, John Timmins introduced a new website, www.kinghamhillschooldays.co.uk, which was less of a database and more of a place for swapping news and reminiscences, not to mention photographs. This was much more of a success, not least because, without the database element, it was not necessary to go through the login, ID, and password procedure. Meanwhile, areas for KHS developed on the Friends Reunited and Facebook websites. We are currently in a situation where different people use different websites, or different combinations of websites. Simon Howlett is now working with John Timmins and Mike Tadman to update "schooldays" and merge it with

an updated version of the KHA database. If you haven't looked at www.kinghamhillschooldays.co.uk recently, it may be worthwhile for you to have a look at it, and if possible, update it with your latest e-address and postal address so that we can bring you the details of upcoming events, bearing in mind that KHS reaches the age of 125 in 2011.

Book Review

He That Is Down Need Fear No Fall

by Bruce Arnold.

(Ashfield Press, Ireland, 2008)

Bruce Arnold (P+S 1944-1954) has already fictionalised his experience on Kingham Hill in *A Singer at the Wedding* (1978) *The Song of the Nightingale* (1980) and *The Muted Swan* (1981). Here the real Kingham Hill appears, but as part of a longer story. While memories of Kingham Hill are built upon in the trilogy about the fictional Coppinger School, now the school is part of a longer true story, told in fewer words, and now an older author faced with some fresh evidence tries to work out what was really going on around him in his life. The death of a friend of his father led to his being passed a set of letters from his father to her covering a good 50 years. His father married two different women and had seven children, yet these letters are full of love for the lady he didn't marry. Mystery indeed.

In trying to make sense of what was going in the mind of his father, the writer has to go back to his own memories. But, as in the case of so many Kingham Hill contemporaries, he was not just a youthful observer, but one who was away for months at a time, and then would return to find a different home shared with other people.

With many affairs and two marriages, and different types of job, it is clear that Bruce's father was a charmer, but in the end he couldn't hang on that easily to what he obtained. He had to explain why a former Lt-Cdr RN was doing looking for work as a jobbing gardener. The basic problem was that he liked a drink (and the Admiral's wife) and one wonders if his second wife would have held the family together for much longer had she not died in 1943.

The impression obtained by the reader is that George Arnold started off with many chances in life, but was held back by his lack of restraint. He was a man that women could easily love, but would find it hard to live with.

There is plenty about Kingham Hill in the book, as the writer matches the new information with what he knew and thought at the time and checks how far his own stage of development at the time would have affected this. Names appear that may be familiar to many readers, and the school is placed clearly into its local geographical context during the post-war years. I suspect that many former KHS pupils will recognise the lifestyle and problems described.

psj

This book has been around for a while, but is not that easy to get hold of, though copies may still be around on Amazon or e-bay, and the publisher may be persuaded to do a reprint if it hears of enough demand. Otherwise, Bruce has some spare copies of this, and also hardback copies of "A Singer at the Wedding" and "The Song of the Nightingale", and you may be able to purchase these from him by e-mailing him for details on arnoldbruce@mac.com or write to him at Rosney House, Albert Road, Glengeary, Co. Dublin, Republic of Ireland.

www.brucearnold.ie

Concert Review

Matt Bourne's Liquid Launch.

(Purcell Room, South Bank, 27th March 2010)

Music has often been a way to help people from different cultures to understand each other, but the good old Joanna, with its "you press this key; you get this note" approach has had problems in fitting in with middle-eastern and other forms of music that go in for microtones and "bent" notes. Stringed and wind instruments, and even synthesizers have had better luck in this field. Consequently a chap called Geoff Smith has spent the last few years working on a grand piano that can be quickly tuned to fit in with non-western scales. Finally, the Fluid Piano has been built and was now unveiled in the small but fully-stuffed Purcell Room, with four very different pianists showing what it can be made to do.

Ladies First. Pam Chowhan made maximum use of the sliders on each string that served to adjust the note in three very different pieces; playing together with tapes of oriental music in the last two to it could be made to fit in to match the different scales employed. Then, after some time spent retuning the instrument to starting positions, Nikki Yeoh demonstrated how the fluid piano could be encouraged into those areas of boogie-woogie

where normally only slide guitars venture, adjusting the notes as they were played. Both ladies also made use of their fingernails to remind us how a piano is based on a harp laid flat, venturing into the further reaches of the piano to obtain further notes.

Fairly early on it had occurred to me that another difference between the piano and oriental instruments was one of portability, and Geoff Smith now took the opportunity to tell us how he had seemed stuck with only two helpers to get the fluid piano from West London to the South Bank Centre when **Matt Bourne** (P+B 1989-96) turned up, having come down from Leeds that morning by delayed train and cycling the rest of his way on his foldable bicycle.

Matt is quoted on the internet as saying about the fluid piano that it was "like walking into a huge sweetshop. The possibilities are endless Sometimes I do nothing. I just sit and stare at it." He now strolled up to the machine and announced that he didn't have anything lined up to play, but would follow what the piano suggested to him. However, this was not the sound of silence. To make the fluid piano work at its best you need a spare arm or two to move the sliding "tangents", and Matt made it clear that he had plenty of spare fingers as well in a solo that was full of musical punch lines as well as displays of dexterity.

After this Pam Chowhan returned while Geoff Smith joined her on his previously invented fluid dulcimer. Then Matt Bourne returned to give the keyboard a good wallop while Nikki Yeoh did unspeakable things to its insides.

Finally an Iranian gentleman called Ramin Zouphonoun played a piece that initially involved bending a few notes while getting the sounds finally required, and then continued with the piece sticking to the notes finally obtained.

In enlisting the help of four such varied pianists, with Matt Bourne seeming the most "normal" of them, Mr Smith was able to give a wide indication of how his invention could be used. However, the sight of two musicians trying to get their cellos on to the train afterwards reminded me that we were unlikely to see a group of kasbah musicians using a fluid piano, and that for best results you need a couple of extra arms. Two musicians, each knowing what the other had planned, might make good work of it, but otherwise we probably have to wait for an upright fluid piano where the pianist can move the tangents with the knees.

psj

Book Review
Rags to Riches & Bungles
by Ken Wingfield

Until recently, all pupils at Kingham Hill went there for a reason. This was certainly the case for Ken Wingfield (P+N 1959-63), who describes his home situation with such lightness of touch that you occasionally stop short with a “hang on a sec....” to wonder where the money was coming from or who was carrying on an essential role in his life. But he describes the position as it seemed at the time, with adults coming and going, as they did, in a way that makes his position seem quite natural.

Until you read the book, suffice it to say that it proved necessary to bring him to Kingham Hill at a younger age than usual, where he found himself under the watchful eye (and gymshoe) of Rev. Wilkinson in Plymouth House. Pages 14 to 26 describe his time in Plymouth and Norwich Houses, including 4 photographs. He wasn't an academic success, but he was able to show a turn of speed that enabled him to shine in the cross country and at rugby. “Wingfield,” said Reverend Wilkinson, “this is the basic rule; see this oval ball, the idea is to run with it down to the other end of the pitch, under the post and if you put it down you score 3 points”.’ His skill at the game enabled him to make friends and acquaintances later on in life.

This book describes how he took on an apprenticeship that should have led to a course as an agricultural engineer but didn't. So then he took work in a Home for the Handicapped as a House Companion, during which time he was clearly impressed by the fortitude of the residents and the willingness of some celebrities to come and entertain them. While playing for Northallerton 1st XV he was advised to apply to the Prison Service, and in 2005 he was awarded the MBE for his services to staff there and to charities in Leicestershire. For some unaccountable reason, most of his time was spent in Young Offenders Institutions, mainly Glen Parva in Leicestershire, and it took a while for this reader to realise that “garden parties” were not about tea and canapés.

With young offenders having a greater chance of rehabilitation than old lags, Ken often found himself taking parties of offenders out of the Institution to carry out helpful public works ranging from digging up unwanted railways to entertaining children. The way Ken describes it, the work was

mainly a Keystone Cops exercise of working out which direction to go when offenders ran off in both directions and which pub to find them in afterwards. On the one hand, he always seemed to be in the centre of events when things went wrong to the extent of comedy, obtaining the nickname of Captain Chaos, but he also developed as a children's entertainer with clown and Laurel and Hardy routines.

The book shows how a child raised with low expectations was helped by Kingham Hill and left it prepared to spend his time helping other people, despite things often going wrong. Having spent a life doing a stressful task while raising funds for children's charities, Ken has written this volume. It could have benefited from a final proof-read, but where there are misprints, it is clear what is meant. At £10 a copy, this includes sums to go to both KHACTF, helping pupils in need to go to KHS, and also the Piggy Bank Kids Charity.

Apart from those of us who remember the Hill in the 1950s and 1960s, this book is recommended to staff and students of more recent years, who may gain from it an idea why these peculiar and ancient characters keep coming back to Kingham Hill.

Get your autographed copy from Ken at
74, Claremont Crescent,
The Limes,
Ravenstone,
Coalville,
Leics.
LE67 2ND
including your cheque for £10 or more.

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 125th birthday in 2011. Does anyone think this is a good idea or have any suggestions as to its format?)

Part 7

1929 With the Kingham Hill Trust taking control of the running of the Hill, and with John Kinahan moving into Severn House to supervise things as Resident Trustee, several changes took place. Many of the buildings, such as Plymouth and Swansea, needed a certain amount of rebuilding, and renovations were required everywhere. A new House system meant that the youngest boys now went to Clyde, and then progressed through Durham, Bradford and Sheffield. Around this time some boys started going home for holidays, with outings and entertainments being arranged for those who stayed on the Hill.

January. Mr A. Cave, who had been one of the first twelve boys admitted to the Hill, resigned as Superintendent of Sheffield House.

Mr Scarfe retired as Headmaster, after nearly forty years of teaching on the Hill. Mr C.R. Forrester took over as Headmaster.

1930. 11th February. The Scouts restarted, with Mr Frank Harwood as Scoutmaster.

24th June. The Tennis Courts were opened.

28th July. Death of Mrs Scarfe.

4th August. New events at Sports Day include Throwing the Discus and the Motor Cycle Race. The latter event was won by Ernie Lovegrove.

11th August. For the first time, a former pupil, Robert Fryer, occupied the pulpit and gave the address at the Evening Service.

During the Summer Holiday there was a timetable of organised long walks on Mondays; Swimming and Gymnastics on Tuesdays and Fridays; the Inter-house Cricket Competition on Wednesdays; and picnics on Thursdays.

Dr and Mrs Wilkinson took over Plymouth House.

The School was recognised by the Board of Education.

October. The School Magazine reappears after a two-year break. It included the addresses of 38 Old Boys living in Canada.

December. The Sheffield House Report in the next magazine stated that: "We spent a jolly

Christmas. After partaking of the good things provided for dinner, about fifty parcels were given to their owners. I leave it to you to picture what our Reading Room was like in a very few minutes."

1931 Some Sheffield Boys, and possibly others, were affected by a mild outbreak of Diphtheria in late January. Eight years old was a normal age for Clyde Boys to be.

19th March. The School Magazine reported that 'the usual' Founder's Day football match between Norwich and the School was won easily by Norwich.

May. It was recorded that there were 102 boys in the school, as well as 30 Norwich 'men' attending evening classes.

18th June. A Wolf Cub pack was formed under Mrs Michie.

4th August. The annual cricket match between school and Old Boys sees the school given a score of 106 to beat, and gaining 107 for 7. Rain causes the abandonment of the match against Latimer House on 8th August.

10th August. Death of Mr G. Lamb, former Hill Carpenter and Superintendent of Severn.

Geoff Goddard joins the Hill's staff as assistant to his father.

At the time the members of the Kingham Hill Trust were: Mr A.W. Young; Rev. W Mitchell-Carruthers; Mr John Kinahan; A. B. Keith; Rev. Prebendary Hinde; and Mr Murray Buxton, M.C.

Latimer House was being run by Mr Emptage. Of the seventy seven inhabitants, it was rare to have more than two out of work at any given time, and then only for short periods.

Renovations meant that Bradford boys were temporarily in Durham House, and so, later on were Norwich boys; and Sheffield boys had a spell in Bradford.

Death of George Walliker, Durham House old boy and former Superintendent of Bradford.

13th September. Sudden death of the Reverend W. Mitchell-Carruthers, Chaplain since 1920, and first Resident Trustee.

Miss C M Benson took over Bradford House.

Events:

Launch of the school's 20/20 Vision Appeal. Mike Tadman is now KHS/KHA liaison man. For any information about the appeal he can be contacted on 01608-731880. Please support the appeal.

Saturday 3rd 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 parents and families and bring back happy memories for Old Boys/Girls of their time at Kingham Hill School.

0930 Founder's Service at Daylesford Church, led by Assistant Chaplain Debbie Mosley.

1000 Welcome Coffee in the Chapel.

1030 KHA Annual General Meeting in the Chapel. All visitors invited. We value your views.

1200 School Service in the Main Marquee, led by Rev. Andrew Savage, School Chaplain.

1230 Lunch. Please plan ahead to enjoy a picnic with family and friends in the school grounds; cold drinks will be available at the KHA gazebo near the main Marquee. The Chequers in Churchill or other local pubs might encourage fond reminiscences.

1400 Prizegiving and speeches. (You should be given a programme as you arrive - please park in the pitch beside Bradford gate if you can) The Guest Speaker is the Reverend Richard Priest, an old boy (P+N 1975-82). Visit the KHA gazebo during the afternoon and see how we support the school.

1645 Afternoon tea will be served in the Main Marquee for everyone.

We hope you all enjoy the day; and wish all the pupils leaving the very best for the future.

Friday 8th October. Evening.
KHA/Sixth form dinner & Quiz.

Saturday 19th March, 2011.

It's the Founder's birthday and The Hill's 125th year, and it's a Saturday, so watch this space.

Saturday 2nd July 2011 - KH's 125th. Speech Day & KHA Summer Reunion.

Speech day in year 125th year. Lord Andrew Adonis, KH OB will be the speaker.

All Ex-pupils are welcome at KHA events. It always helps if I know in advance so that we (KHA), can make a point of meeting you and your families.

We want to strengthen our membership to support the school and the Headmaster to achieve success with the 20/20 vision and appeal.

Donations for the 20/20 Appeal (buildings) should be sent to Mike Tadman at Kingham Hill School.

Donations to KHA's Centenary Trust (bursaries) should be sent to Mike Kent, Treasurer KHA, Danetree Cottage, Dunley's Hill, Odiham, Hants. RG29 1DL.

Donations towards KHA's costs also to Mike Kent.

Please ring me with any enquiries.

Ken Wingfield, Events Secretary,
Tel. **01530 812361** Mob. **07826 445244**
e-mail: Winger@uwclub.net

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

www.kinghamhillschooldays.co.uk

Who Does What?

President:	Bob Hughes
Chairman:	Jon Montgomerie
Secretary:	Bryan Shaw
Treasurer:	Mike Kent
Events Co-ordinator:	Ken Wingfield
Alumni/KHS Contact:	Mike Tadman
Schooldays Editor:	John Timmins
Magazine Editor:	Peter Johansen
Sports Secretary:	James Montgomerie
Sports Secretary (Ladies):	You ?
Archivists:	Jim Woolliams Mike Kent
Memorabilia/200 Club:	Simon Briggs
Committee Members:	Tony Middleton Leo Smith
Vice-Presidents:	Brian Dean Eddie White John Hughes Keith Targett

And for my next trick....

The deadline for the next issue of "Over the Hill" is
30th August, 2010.

Get your news and articles to :
peter.johansen@sky.com
or at

37, Mount Ephraim Road, London, SW16 1LP