

Greetings from Kitale School Alumni on your 80th Birthday

- **Jenny (Combes) Pont**

"Warm birthday wishes from Kenya and Hongera for reaching 4-score years.
Have a top day. Love from Jenny Pont"

- **Elizabeth (Morgan) Tottenham**

HAPPY BIRTHDAY BRIDGET!

And congratulations on all you've done to keep us all in touch. It has been such fun re-uniting with Kitaleites over the years.

I hope to meet you in Cheltenham - I'm too old to have had Memsahib Kali at school!

Best wishes and Many Happy Returns of the 30th,
Elizabeth

- **David Horsey**

Bridget

Happy birthday, and we will be thinking of you on this auspicious date as it is also our wedding anniversary.

- **Moira (Bridson) McIntyre**

Dear Bridget,

I would like to wish you a very happy 80th birthday and to thank you for all the work you did for us Kitaleites together over the years.

I hope and pray that you will have many more happy returns of the day.

God bless.

Moira McIntyre (nee Bridson) Armagh, Northern Ireland.

- **Mike Fulton**

Dear Bridget,
With memories all the way from 1958's class 2A
All the way to the present day.
Have a really fantastic and memorable b'day.
Hurray, Hurray, Hurray!!!
Best regards,
Mike Fulton

- ***Sally (Eager) Hood***

Happy birthday, Memsahib Kali.

You were the best teacher that I ever had - and were hugely influential in my young life. Thank you for everything you did for us.

With love and very best wishes from Sally Hood (Eager).

- **Libby (Jacobs) Davies**

Happy birthday to a special friend. We still have the table we bought from you in Mooi River and think of you and your folks each time we use it.

Wishing you many more happy and productive years.

Libby (Jacobs) Davies

- **Jeanne Bristow**

To Ditti,

Our very best wishes and congratulations for your 80th birthday from Edwin, as a fellow Kitaleite, and from me as one of those old LOGs from all those years ago! Our thoughts are with you and we wish you every happiness in the years ahead.

Much love from Jeanne and Edwin.

- **Mike O'Hanlon**

Many, many, happy returns, Bridget, with thanks from all the O'Hanlons for your inspirational teaching, friendship and support over the years, and for all you've

done to make flourish the relationship of Kitaleites everywhere'

- **Margrit (Liechti) Eichler**

Thank you Bridget for setting up the Kitale School News Letter and keeping it going through all these years. It has been ever so valuable in keeping the Kitaleites together and hearing news from all over the world from people whose names still ring a bell of times long ago. You have really put your soul into it. We are so lucky that Aiden is carrying on this work.

Wishing you all the best and of course good health for the future.

Take care!

With kind greetings from Switzerland

Margrit Eichler née Liechti

- **Vickie (Kerfoot) Bell**

"Thanks for holding the Kitale memories together"

- **Christina (Hearne) Vincent**

Thank you so much for being such an awesome principal right from the beginning of my school life. I have the most memorable memories from Kitale School, my other schools fade into the mists of time.

Thank you.

I may be in SA next year and I would love for us to get together for tea or wine. I will contact you as soon as I have some dates.

Happy birthday and have a wonderful day, year and decade.

Kind regards and a big hug

Christina Vincent nee Tina Hearne

- **Jenny Eaton**

Dear Bridget,

Sending kikapu's full of love and grateful thanks for all you have been and done for KITALE school, over the years!!! for your 80th Birthday!! with love from KENYA.

The school was done up, painted, renovated, last year, top in results in the Rift Valley, good senior staff, a special needs centre, a good ECLearning centre, grounds looking well kept, ,, a new boarding house for senior pupils coming up, and I guess a total near 2000 children on site in any given day, plus the girls secondary school on a separate site.

I Jenny Eaton (John Woods, headmaster's daughter) actually born in the school, and my twin Jonathan Woods, eldest brother Peter, Woods, 2nd Bro. Bernard Woods, all three retired in UK with their families, would send their greetings too.

Going over in July to visit them all, while summer is there.

I am up in Kitale about every 6 weeks, and most enjoy good "kahawa", on my verandah., of Tazamia, maili saba facing Mt Elgon., but based in hectic Nairobi when in Kenya.

Karibu.

Jenny (Woods) Eaton

- **Carol and Margaret Sinclair**

Congratulations and very happy birthday wishes

Carol and Margaret Sinclair (as children in school)

- **David Hasluck**

HAPPY 80th BIRTHDAY BRIDGET - CONGRATULATIONS AND ENJOY! GET SPOILT AND GIVE IT A FULL ONE.

- **Caroline (Quinn) Esterman**

Happy 80th Bridget and as per the KPS motto of Preserver, may you have many more!

Best regards

Caroline (Quinn) Esterman (Adelaide)

- **John Rose**

Here's wishing you a very happy birthday

Best Regards

John

- **Anne and Hugh Gladman**

Many happy returns Bridget on your special birthday. In Australia we have a saying. You have just got your OBE
Not what you're thinking. -- Over

Bloody Eighty. Best wishes from us both and a huge thank you for all you have done for all of us.

Happy Birthday

Anne and Hugh Gladman

0417 239 091

- **Tom Jacobs**

Dear Bridget

How time Flies.

Congratulations. I am sure you are still as young energetic and spritely as you were the last time I saw you. Probably at the re – Union.

Thanks for all you have done for me and us over the past 62 years. I think you taught me in standard 3 in 1954.

Have a wonderful Birthday and great 80th year.

Regards

Tom Jacobs.

- **Lindy (Northcote) Wilson**

Wishing you every happiness on your very special day, will raise a glass or two on the 30th and then again in September,

Much love

Lindy x

- **Ralph Nicholson**

Dear Bridget,

Congratulations for your 80th birthday and thank you very much for all you have done to keep us all in contact. Your newsletters were very interesting and organising all the reunions was very well done. I was amazed at the very good speech you gave at Kitale School and didn't realise you were such a professional in the education world. Thank you very much for keeping us all in contact.

All the best

Ralph Nicholson

- **Pauline (Crampton) Shaw**

Dear Bridget

Many Happy Returns of your birthday & congratulations on reaching 80!

How lucky are we to have had you for so long. I fondly remember you as being the kindest, sweetest & prettiest teacher I could ever have wished for & thank you so much for this lovely memory.

Have a great birthday & best wishes

from

Pauline Shaw (nee Crampton)

- **Jenny (Wilson) Munden**

Hi Bridget. A very special day. Hope you have an amazing 80 th. Will be thinking of you. Our love and God's blessing.

Jenny and Charlie xxx

- **Anthea (Dudin) Laurence**

Dear Bridget

Best wishes for your Birthday on the 30th from your friends in NZ. Hope you have a lovely day.

Kind regards

Anthea and Wayne Laurence

- **Anthony and Penny (Davies)**

Congratulations on reaching such a milestone! You have brought joy to many people's lives and we really hope that on this special birthday you will have much joy given to you and be spoilt rotten, just as you deserve. Happy Birthday and we are very much hoping to see you at the next Reunion.

Lots of love from us both,
Anthony and Penny xxxx

- **Patricia (Matthews) Pratt**

'Don't think you will know me but Happy birthday and thanks for all you do to keep the memory fires of Kitale school burning. I see Jenny Woods regularly and Peter every now and then.'

- **Jeremy Kidner**

Happy Birthday Bridget,

I fell in love with you when I was six at Kitale School. 65 years later, nothing has changed.

Jeremy Kidner

- **Alison Gilbert (Nicholson)**

BIG Congratulations on your 80th Birthday Bridget! Wishing you fun celebrations on this very special milestone, with many more years of good health and high energy levels! Please call when next you visit Cape Town as we would love to catch up.

With love,

Alison Gilbert (Nicholson)

- **Alison (Flatt) Muller**

Dear Bridget

All the best people are born in June! And since this birthday is a real special one for you, June is even better!

Thanks very much for all your hard work over the years in putting out the Kitale school newsletter and especially on gathering in all the bits of interesting news that's appeared in it.

We've all enjoyed it very much!

Many happy returns to you on your 80th birthday and all the best for many more to come.

With love and best wishes - The Flatt Family

- **Gordon Armstrong**

HAPPY BIRTHDAY BEAUTIFUL LADY. I hope you enjoy your very special day.

- **John & Cathy Dudin**

Dear Bridget,

Wishing you a very HAPPY 80th BIRTHDAY. It only seems like yesterday you were teaching us our 2X2 tables!!

It was great being able to meet you again at various Kitale School reunions, especially appreciated seeing you in New Zealand.

Love

John & Cathy Dudin

- **Jay Pickford**

Jambo - I would like to send my very best wishes to Bridget on her 80th. and many happy returns of the day too. I would like to congratulate her on reaching 80 before me - well done - just shows how females are more than equal than the male, but seriously, and with sincerity, a thousand thanks for her work on keeping so many people up to date on the good old days. Very well done and three - no, at least six, cheers.

Jay Pickford

- **Inga (Sunde) Tolley**

Dear Aiden,

Thank you for keeping me in the loop!

Sadly, I don't think that I have ever met Bridget. I am 12 years older than my youngest brother Niels Sunde, and will be 80 myself next year!

However, I do send my best wishes to her for a very Happy Birthday, filled with many Happy Memories!

With best wishes,

Inga Tolley (Now living in Adelaide South Australia).

- **Carole (Barrett) Schmoll**

"Bridget, congratulations on your 80th birthday, may you celebrate in style! Thank you for devoting so much time to producing the wonderful newsletters for such a long time & helping to reconnect old friends.

Keep well & enjoy life to the fullest!!

Happy birthday!!"



Kind regards,

Carole

- **Joanna Pickford**

That's great just a great big huge love and congratulations from the extended Pickford Family. I have loved getting to know Bridget as I am the only Pickford not to have been to Kitale school.

Cheers Jo

- **Jean (Barbour) Bennett**

Thinking of you Bridget on your Birthday.

Mike and Jean Bennett wish you many, many more and good health to enjoy them.

All love

- **Ben Pickford**

Dear Bridget,

Thanks so much for all your hard work to help us keep informed and stay together as a wide spread family, Asanti sana mama!!

Ben Pickford

- **Caroline (Barton) Griffiths**

Many Happy Returns Bridget and looking forward to catching up with you on the 17th. Happy memories from Caroline and David and all the Bartons.

- **Pat Wood**

"Many happy returns have a wonderful day.

Best wishes

Pat Wood, Jean and Mikey Bennett."

- **Bryony Fremlin**

Hearty congratulations, Bridget, may you have a wonderful 80th birthday, and our thoughts will be with you on the 30th.

Bryony Fremlin

- **Paula (Burch) Allen**

Salaams Memsaab kali for a wonderful birthday. You are truly an example for us all to follow. We are in your debt for all you have done to get us all in touch since that 1st gathering at Kirstenbosch Gardens in C.T.' Treasured Memories' to be sure.

Love and blessings

Paula and Ian in Picton, New Zealand.

- **Alison (Jacobs) McLean**

Dear Bridget

Congratulations and every good wish on your very special birthday.
We wish you much happiness, good health and well-deserved relaxation in the years ahead.

Thank you for keeping the Kitale banner flying and for keeping us all in touch and informed.

God bless

Love and thanks

Alison and Don McLean

- **Barney Gasston**

Dear Bridget,

This comes to you with warm wishes and congratulations for your 80th! from Barney Gasston, on the Laikipia plains in North Kenya.

- **Sue (Dwen) Hudson**

Dear Bridget.

Happiest of Happy Birthdays to you on this very special day – your 80th birthday.

Where have the years gone to!!

I will always think of you with great fondness. You were any amazing and awesome teacher. I think you were my standard two teacher!!

My memories always take me to the times that you used to come and visit me – than a young unhappy lady with a ‘funny haircut and a strange English accent’ grappling with settling into a new country and a strange new school (with really mean girls) - Epworth in Pietermaritzburg. You always arrived with a big bag of sweets under your arm and somehow made me feel a whole lot better. I am not sure if you ever knew this!!

I am so sorry that we cannot be there to share your special day.

We drink a toast to you and thank you for all that you have done for so many.

Fondest of love and very best wishes.

SUE HUDSON (DWEN)

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- **Tina (Sovich) Riccitelli.**

To Bridget, who touched many lives along life's journey, here's wishing you a wonderful

80th birthday, God bless you.....much love.

Tina Riccitelli.

- **Peter Symes**

“Keep the flag flying Bridget – best wishes on your 80th, from Peter Symes.”

- **Glenda Duirs**

Happy Birthday - always have fond memories of Kitale School.

Glenda Duirs

- **John Eager**

Many happy returns on the 30th June!

Although I was only at Kitale School for a bit over 12 months, it's hard to think that I was only about eight years younger than you at the time. You were so very energetic and young, prancing around in your pleated gym skirt, even at my young age you could take a young boys breath away!!!

Have a great birthday, I'm really not that far behind!

John Eager

- **Dennis Leete**

Please greet Bridget for me. I do not think, or cannot remember, if I ever met her, because I left Kitale School in 1946.

I do appreciate the selflessness of all teachers, who give their lives to their charges. It's a close call between that, and becoming a Nun!

My congratulations, Bridget!

Best Wishes,

Dennis

- **Jonathan Woods**

Birthday greetings and many thanks to the lady who has reunited us and kept our childhood memories alive

Jonathan Woods

- **Celia (Falck) Moore**

‘Thanks so very much Bridget, for all that you have done, and are still doing for Kitaleites. Without your tireless efforts we would surely have fallen apart years ago. Always there, always available, and always with time for a chat; how do you do it Bridget? To a strong, true, wonderful friend – a Very Happy Birthday, and many more.

Lots of love, hugs,

Celia.’

- **Biddy (Lloyd) Hamill**

A very happy 80th Birthday Bridget and special thanks for all you have done keeping the Kitaleites in contact with each other all these years. Many happy times.

Huge thanks - love Biddy (Hamill)

- **Mike Eager**

Hi Aiden,

Please wish her a huge "Happy 80th" from me and it would be nice if you could send us all pictures of the event.

Thanks and regards,

Mike Eager

- **Robin Jensen**

Dear Bridget, we hope you have a really Happy, Fun and Special 80th Birthday. Thank you for keeping all us Kitalites in line and in contact all these years!

Lots of love from Robin & Jessica Jensen. Xxx

- **Tessa (Haupt) Watson**

“Happy Birthday Bridget with love from Brian and Tessa Watson and our extended family in Perth and in Queensland. Congratulations on reaching the milestone of 80 years and thank you for all you did to keep the Kitale School alumni in touch. Much love to you and Robin”.



- **Michael Rosa**

"You have always been quietly encouraging us in the back of our minds, and we have much to thank you for.

Fondest happy returns from Peter, Michael and Paul Rosa"

- **Lisbeth (Jensen) Mandel**

Dear Bridget,

Last time we met, it was your sixtieth birthday. We went to see Hamlets Castle in Elsinor. Later we travelled to Devon together. I did so enjoy your visit. Now twenty years have slipped by. Happy Birthday to you, and thank you for your wonderful attitude to all your pupils, who loved you very much.

Love From

Lisbeth

- **Chrissie (Luck) Briscoe**

I live in Natal, married to a farmer – of English extraction. Peter Alan Elliott-Drake-Briscoe.

I have kept well away from all of these Kitale school meeting, ironically...don't quite know why – likely, cos my school days in Kenya at both senior & junior level, were not always my happiest years, even if my memories thereof are profound still.

BUT PLEASE WISH BRIDGET WELL. SHE WAS A GREAT TENNIS PLAYER IN HER DAY. HER BROTHER WAS A MASTER AT THE DUKE OF YORK SCHOOL WHEN MY BROTHER WAS THERE & Robin, Bridget's husband is still very well known in the Music world of SA.....She was a great lady & still is.

Wish her God's richest blessings.

My name was Chrissie Luck.

Endebess, Kitale.

- **Richard Northmore**

Happy Birthday 🎂 thanks for saving me from drowning in the Kitale School swimming pool. My family are quite grateful so am !!!!!

- **Peter Woods**

Dear Bridget,

You have done so much over the years to keep the original spirit of Kitale School alive and in touch with so many of its 'progeny'. Thank you so much. My late Dad would have been so proud of you.

With very best wishes for your 80th birthday,

and for many happy returns,

Peter Woods

(only a year behind you)

- **Tim Eager**

Dear Bridget,

Best wishes for a wonderful 80th birthday. I thought you might be impressed that I have kept the shoe bag that you presented to me at the Jack and Jill nursery school in Kitale - in 1957! As you can see from the photo it has been well used and patched up on more than one occasion. I keep all my best shoe brushes in it - and think of you every time I polish and brush my shoes! Age can distort some facts, but I hope they are correct!

Happy Birthday, from Tim (Eager)



- **Pat Kelly**

Happy, Happy 80th Birthday Bridget. What a wonderful milestone to reach.

Wishing you a tremendous day and many more to follow.

Lotsa love and best wishes

Pat and Linda Kelly xxx

- **Peter Bertelsen**

Yes, please send her our kindest regards from Niels, Peter and Hans Bertelsen

- **Antonia Bagshawe**

Very best wishes to Bridget and huge congratulations. It is a great occasion and I hope enjoyable. Aiden – thanks for giving me the opportunity to add my congratulations and best wishes for many more happy years.

Antonia

- **Eric and Helen Lusso**

Hello Bridget

Here's wishing you a very happy 80th birthday on 30th June, we hope that you have a fantastic day.

Love

Eric and Helen Lusso

- **Sally (Lloyd) Foxton**

Dear Bridget,

I would like to say a BIG thank you for all that you have meant to the Lloyd family over many, many years. What an institution you have been and we are all privileged to have known you and been a part of your life.

May God bless you and keep you on this very special occasion. We are all thinking of you and sending you much love.

Sally Foxton

- **Marilyn (Hickman) Northmore**

Happiest of Birthday's Bridget. May you have many more.

Much Love,

Marilyn Northmore.

- **Cherry Dale**

Happy birthday Bridget.

I will definitely raise a glass to you on the 30th.

Thank you for all your hard work.

Cherry Dale. Kitale

- **Rosemary (Jacobs) Gray**

Dear Bridget

Although, paradoxically - given that I am now 75 - I remember you more as Mum's (Ma J's) friend than mine at Kitale school, I wish you every happiness that life has to offer us in our old age as well as God's richest blessings. I am still working for UNISA - indeed a privilege, and am just back in London from a splendid conference at Harvard.

Loving wishes,

Rosemary nee Jacobs.

- **Derek Strange**

"Greetings and congratulations from Canberra, Bridget! Have a wonderful celebration on your milestone Big Day, June 30th. Best wishes to Robin, too, from Derek (Strange)"

And best wishes to you as well, Aiden.

Derek

- **Tessa (Haupt) Watson**

All the Best Bridget What a young and energetic 80-year-old you are.

For you to have single-handedly kept the old colonial spirit alive for all these years is such an achievement.

May you continue in good health for a further 20 years.

From Mike Haupt and Tessa Watson (nee Haupt)

- **Patricia (Greaves) Casadio**

Wishing you a stupendous Birthday Bridget with many, many happy more birthdays to come.

- **Mavis Hollows**

I would like Bridget to know how grateful I am for her care for Judith, Alan & Tom at school & for keeping in touch now we live in England.

My love & congratulations to her on her 80th birthday.

From Mavis (mother)

- **Roz (Sinclair)Kohler**

"Congratulations on reaching the great age of 80, and many thanks for keeping all Kitalites in touch over the years with the newsletter.

Very best wishes for peaceful & restful years ahead.

Rosalind, Elizabeth, Nigel, Penny & Daphne Sinclair”

- **Sue (Forrester) Mouton**

Please give Bridget my best wishes for many more healthy, happy years. I have great memories of Kitale School and Bridget, though I haven't been in contact with all the Kitaleites.

Regards

Sue Mouton (nee Forrester)

- **Chris (Falck) Norman**

Dearest Bridget,

Congratulations on reaching such an eminent stage in your life – we would never have guessed it! On the regrettably few occasions we see you, you have been, and no doubt will continue to be, **young at heart**.

Our love and best wishes,

Chris and Karin

- **Cath and Lou Keese**

We were trying to 'place' Bridget when we had an unexpected visit from Jean and Mike Bennett (to our place here in Gympie, Queensland, Australia) - and all was revealed! They remembered Bridget well.

I think, at one stage or another, Bridget would have taught a Keese, most likely Kay (who is now in South Africa, and has been for many years.) or Cleone, (deceased) and perhaps Philip. I think Sonny Keese's daughters would have gone to Kitale School too, (Elizabeth, Dorothy, Joyce, Winnie and Pauline) but am not sure of dates.

So we would like to pass on our best wishes for a very Happy 80th Birthday. We hope Bridget has a

With very best wishes, and salaams,

Cath and Lou Keese.

- **Alan Dale**

Congratulations Bridget on your 80th thanks for all that you have done for us as a teacher and for all the reunions that you have organised.

Onya,

Alan Dale

- **Val Jacobs**

Please add my very best wishes to Bridget for her birthday. She has achieved so much in her life time and was indeed the person who brought the Old Kitale School boys and girls together and what joy it has brought to so many of us.

- **Kevin Northcote**

Would just like to wish Bridget a very happy birthday. Looking forward catching up with you at the reunion.

Best wishes from Kevin Northcote

- **Helen (Nicholson)Bailey**

Happy, happy birthday! A great milestone for a great person.

You must have been the kindest and most caring teacher I ever had. Even when I was at Limuru you took me out for a Sunday outing – just an amazing love of children. You have been so incredibly generous financially and especially with your time – thank you and to your children for sharing you with so many! Your wonderful memory for so many and all their connections

My memories of Kitale School seem to have little to do with the academic side!

Chameleons in the hedges – some kept as pets, trapdoor spiders lured out with pieces of grass, owls in Titch Block and various dogs.

Eating oxalis/monkey food, spekboom and nasturtiums on our bread. Flavour straws and blowing bubbles in the milk and then finally chewing on the felt-like centre. Lining up for malt or sweets. Jelly in cubes (other people had those!).

Skating down the corridor and jumping down the steps being careful to get over the grate at the bottom or being pulled along by a friend with a towel. Throwing balls over the building near the pool and shouting??? Swinging from bars doing knee hang or swallows. Nyabs –

bananas or followies. Changing rooms at pool with see-through bamboo. Burying pencils, marbles or treasures – are they still there?

Mixing soap with water in bathrooms and throwing it to stick on the ceiling. Waiting for parents at break times and sitting on our trunks at the end of term.

Pens with nibs on a stick and ink wells. Polishing coins for church? Shining shoes and changing sheets. Gibbs SR toothpaste in a tin.

Lost property – very smelly place and all sorts of sporting equipment.

Sunday walks collecting beans to make bean bags, golf balls with layers of elastic bands, swamp area with lovely flowers.

Birthday parties with 10 chosen friends when you suddenly became popular.

Brownies and guides – I remember Miles saying ‘you couldn’t even guide someone around the room’. Riding lessons with Grock who could tell his age by pawing the ground. Ballet with Mrs. Northcote, piano lessons with Mrs. Taylor, elocution with Mrs. Berridge.

Washing blankets at the end of term under supervision of Mrs. Munroe – trampling on them in the baths. Midnight feasts and having to stay awake.

What a wonderful and unique childhood and you were a special part of it all.

Thank you, thank you and may you have special celebrations for your 80th. Let others spoil you for a change!

Mingi love and asante sana Memsahib – a big hug,

Helen Bailey (Nicholson)

- **Allen Hallett**

“Dearest Bridget,

Wishing you a very happy ‘80th’ Birthday on the 30th June.

Congratulations

Thinking of you

Allen & Jenny”

- **Dino Sarides**

Dear Bridget, or as I remember you: Miss Doenhoff.

I wish you a happiest 80th birthday, good health, and many happy returns. I cannot tell you what a blessing you have been in my life. You are in my thoughts frequently.

With much love,

Dino Sarides.

- **Rodney Dimech**

So please pass on my Best Birthday Wishes, and thank her for her past efforts in uniting old Kitaleites. She may not remember me in particular, but might have known my half-sister Alice Luck, who sadly passed away last year.

Many thanks

Rodney

- **Koba (Bosman) Bentley**

Dearest Bridget

It is my absolute pleasure and privilege to wish you a VERY HAPPY 80TH BIRTHDAY. How blessed we 'smallies' were to have a beautiful teacher like you.

Thank you so very much for leaving us with such good memories. We were blessed for sure. Thank you also for years of dedication to the Kitale School Newsletter that was always such a pleasure to read. Thank you! May you be blessed with many more lovely birthdays. Guess what? We do love you!

With my love and far away hugs.

Koba (Bosman) Bentley. In Wales!

- **Dolly (Watts) Andreeva**

Dear Bridget

Here's wishing to a wonderful 80th birthday and may you have much health and happiness.

Love

Dolly

- **Horace Horsey**

""""""""Warmest Regards and Best Wishes for a great day and many, many more to come.

Horace and Mandy""""""""

- **Steve Wilson**

Hi Bridget

Really did not know you had arrived at the big "Eight O"

I am sure you will be remembering all the happy and sad times as well as the trying times you would have had as "Memsahib Kali"!

All the pupils and ex pupils will also have fond memories of you keeping them in line, teaching them and in later years reminiscing at the great reunions.

We take this opportunity to wish you a "Very Happy Birthday" and look forward to seeing you in September.

Kindest regards

Steve, Cecilia, Anna & Paul and "ALL THE WILSONS"!!

- **Penny (Flatt) Madvig**

Please include my BEST WISHES FOR A VERY HAPPY BIRTHDAY to Bridget in your card, and my thanks for all that she has done and for visiting us in Sydney when we had the NZ gathering.

- **Ros (Williams) Graham-Smith**

Very Dear Bridget,

In the famous words of a well-known tennis player ... "You cannot be serious!" It just cannot be that you are 80! Aiden has asked us old things from 'Kitale Sschoolu' to send a few words. I hear some of us never did learn how to be concise ... maybe because I don't remember you either teaching me or being kali! So Memsahib Kali is not the name I have for you. Don't even remember you being called "cuss.

Memsahib Maradadi is much more fitting in my opinion! I remember this very slender and pretty lady, with flowing skirts, very blue eyes and a big smile. And a chic cut to your very naturally blonde hair. A cut and colour that beautiful African girls like Princess Charlene and Charlize Theron nowadays grace the red carpets and glossies with! You set the trend all those years ago and must have been a very refreshing sight around Kitale!!!

Apparently some people have also added their memories of Kitale School. We will all have so many (and I have more from there than any of the other schools I went to. They are happy ones (except the army worm and the TABs!) ... I wonder why the kitchen staff mixed the marmite and butter together (so that the result looked the colour of peanut butter) before it was spread on the bread that came out on huge trays at break time? Typically, it must have been done with great African care as it was so smooth. I remember knee-hangs (one knee when you could) and eggs in the basket on that bar. Never achieved that going around and around thing. If we fell, it was on to that worn murrum patch underneath. A

few broken arms. How bless'd we were that Health and Safety had never been invented!
And I wonder why I wanted a broken arm anyway. And a brace on my teeth. (We used to break a piece of wire off the fencing and make it into one with a rubber band at the back). Being a teacher must have been exasperating but fun. We all remember Brookie rattling his keys (as an adult now I wonder if he did it to forewarn us he was on the war path?) And Whiskey and Soda .. the scottie dogs. Why he called them that is another adult thought.

I could go on forever. But today is about you .. Mama Maradadi. . . You are simply one of the best. A very special person who has inspired us in so many diverse and individual ways.

Us old Kitaleites would not exist if it were not for your dedicated and tireless work to keep us all in contact and our memories alive. Many, like me, away from our homeland, Kenya, find much comfort in those memories.

There's no other words except ASANTE SANA ... Kabisa.

Have a wonderful and Very Happy Birthday and be showered with all the love and blessings that you richly deserve!! Have I been concise enough?! I have a feeling this side margin would have much red writing! (Biddy Crowcombe who I admired and respected so much but who was Kali)!

Many, many Congratulations on this very special birthday. I'm really looking forward to seeing you over here in the UK in September!

Salaamu ya Siku Ku! (what's 80 ... can't remember).

And much, much love

Ros (Williams) Graham-Smith

- **Elizabeth (Ulyate) Cambra**

From the land down under, if I could tell you in person Bridget, I would say,

*May you live a long life
Full of gladness and health,
With a pocket full of gold
As the least of your wealth.
May the dreams you hold dearest,
Be those which come true,
The kindness you spread,
Keep returning to you.*

[I send her much love and mingi mingi salaams](#)

[Elizabeth \(Cambra nee Ulyate - ex Kitale/Eldoret/Ol'Kalou\)](#)

- **Michael Brookes**

My best wishes on your 80th. Now myself 70 and retired, the Brookes family's time in Kenya and particularly in Kitale & the School are often recalled & reminisced. Your newsletters *continue* to be a most valued means of prompting the memory. Your editorial task over many years served a unique community in a most eminent fashion

and is applauded. Needless to say my Father enjoyed reading them, prompting his own recollections.

I will be in attendance at the September gathering & hope to see you there.

Michael Brookes

- **Jenny (Duir) Field**

FOR BRIDGET on her 80th Birthday:

There was a young Pom from UK,
Whose career path led her astray,
In Kitale she landed,
'Kali Sana' was branded,
NOW, 'Rafiki' to All to this day!

John and I wish you a HAPPY BIRTHDAY! Look forward to seeing you here in Elmore, Glos shortly.

- **Andy Kerfoot**

Dear Bridget/Mama Mzee,
We hope you have a lovely birthday and that there are many ex Kitaleites to celebrate with you.
All the best for the future, and many thanks for all your time and efforts over the years in keeping us all in touch with each other.
Mingi love,

Sue and Andy Kerfoot

- **Carolyn Cooper**

Bridget - you are an inspiration to us all - your energy, your commitment to learning and your sense of humour.

What a great start to life to have had you there guiding us.

Happy 80th - will sip a glass of bubbles to you on 30th!

Sincerely

Carolyn Cooper (as I was then)!

- **Liz (Troward) Vorster**

Dear Bridget,

Our memories go back to your arrival at Kitale school. We can't recall how many of us stood watch at the end of the line of gum trees bordering the playing fields where we had a view of the entrance gate all eager to witness your arrival! Thank you for all your caring and interest in keeping touch with us all over the years.

Wishing you a very happy birthday on your big day. We shall be thinking of you and hope that it will be a very special day spent with family and friends.

Mingi love from the Troward twins.

- **Patricia Neale**

Here's wishing you a very Happy 80th Birthday and look forward to seeing you again

- **Petri (Bosman) Cloete**

Dear Bridget,

I just want to wish you a very happy 80th birthday. May you have a blessed day with friends and family. I hope they spoil you rotten!

Love

Petri

- **Alan Howitt**

Happy Birthday and many happy returns, Bridget.

Thank you for all you have done bringing some of us Kitaleites together.

We are much the same age but I don't think I have met you although I would have liked to.

My brother (ex Kitale school) lives in Cape Town and a sister further North somewhere in SA should I visit them I will try and make myself known to you.

May all your memories be good.

Alan Howitt

- **Chris Hearne**

Bridget, all too rarely in life a truly spectacular human being comes along & you are one such person. It has been an absolute honour to have travelled the past 60 years with you as a mentor & friend. It was the grounding you were responsible for to so many of us Kitale School alumni that gave us such a solid start for our future lives.

Bridget on the occasion of your 80th birthday I, and I am sure I speak for all of us 'Kitaleites' salute you, thank you and wish you all the very, very best for your birthday and hope that the years ahead – may there be many of them – are filled with love, health and joy. Hopefully, you will now be able to slow down a bit and enjoy your senior citizenship.

All our love and best wishes from Chris & Magda.

- **Dorothy Wright**

So sorry not to have answered before now. Things have been a bit topsy turvey at this end. However, we are gradually getting back to normal. Yes, if I am still in time please give my Birthday greetings to Bridget and I hope she celebrates well.

I met her briefly in Sydney some years ago when she came to one of our school reunions. Lovely to have met her, but I never knew her in Kenya as we left Kitale in 1944 and lived thereafter at Njoro, and I went to the High School.

My husband and I left Kenya in 1960, and have never been back. Don't think I really want to. Best to remember the wonderful life I had. We have a pretty good crowd of ex Kenyan friends, although as the years go we are a dwindling band. Still manage to have good times though!! I can't remember when I started at Kitale School --- 1935 I suppose. I know Johnny Woods was headmaster, and the number of pupils was about 100. Also long ago, and am sure my generation must be few and far between I left Kitale school after year 5, having passed the Kenya prelim. My husband is Keith Wright and our address is as follows Unit 2, 23 Farnell Road, Woy Woy NSW 2256. Australia. Phone no. is (02) 43424480. And the e-mail address you know. (daandwk@tpg.com.au) Yes, it would be interesting to receive the newsletter.

I presume you are in Kenya, and would love to know about you and your Family. Please excuse all the typos -- a bit of a shaky hand!! Enjoy your South African trip. I did my Nursing Training at Greys Hospital in Pietermaritzburg in 1950. Been back in 1995 for a Holiday and a Family catch-up. Loved it.

All the best

Dorothy Wright

- **Christine (Jensen) Cross**

Dear Bridget,

This comes to wish you the Happiest of Birthdays on this a very special day!

We (as Kitaleites) have so much to be thankful for and it is huge thanks to you that so many of us have been able to stay in touch and reconnect over the years.

I feel very privileged to have known and been taught by you - my early recollections of Kitale School are of my teacher in Standard 2 - a gentle, kind but firm lady who helped me tremendously as a very shy and introverted child of 61/2. I can't say I particularly liked primary school but survived it. A long time has elapsed since those days and I have lived a very interesting though sometimes difficult life too when I look back.

At present we live in a beautiful part of Somerset - as close to paradise as UK can offer, in a lovely house with very old origins and a huge garden, though hard work but rewarding when we can sit and enjoy it with friends or just ourselves.

I have much to be thankful for and very often count my blessings which includes having known you.

Have a lovely day!

With Warmest Regards,

Christine Cross (Jensen)

- **Rob Bairstow**

Congratulations and felicitations to Mamma Kalli on becoming an Octogenarian.

Mingi Salaam with love,

Cheers Bridget Happy Birthday and may you have many more.

Barnley and Bairstow Clans.

- **Richard Bumpus**

Hi Bridget,

Aiden very kindly told me it will soon be your birthday on the 30th June. You really are a star. I expect that you will be getting messages from all over the world. I am so pleased to be able to say "Happy Birthday, Bridget" and may you have many more of them. I hope you have a great day.

All the best from Richard Bumpus.

- **Ann (Buck) Tilbury**

"Bridget.

The Buck family (Mum Winnie, Anne, Chris and Mickey/Mike) would like to wish you a wonderful and happy 80th birthday. May you have many more. We all remember you very fondly from our Kitale days.

With love from all of us"

- **Oliver Long**

Dear Bridget,

Congratulations on your 80th. and our very best wishes for a very happy birthday and many more to come.

Peter and I were very happy that we could actually meet you back in April, 2010 at our younger brother Pat's farm in South Africa. I hope you are keeping well and enjoying life. May be you have finally retired from your busy work?

We thank you for all your hard work in establishing our Kitale school network across the globe. Also Aiden who has very ably taken up the reins.

The captions to the photo attached taken at the Distillery district in Toronto, Canada on June 22nd. seem to have been lost in the ether. We were pupils at Kitale School samani sana as follows from Left to Right: Peter Long – 1946-48, now lives in Northampton UK, Gillian Hamson (nee Bowden) – about 1944-50, now lives in London, Ontario, Canada, and Oliver Long - 1946-49, has lived in Toronto, Ontario since 1968.

Salaams,

Oliver Long



- **Aileen Swan (Daughter of Peter Swan)**

Dearest Bridget

Herewith our best wishes for your 80th birthday.

Through the years your unsurpassed efforts in arranging the Kitale school reunions were of great value to us all.

Through your efforts we have been reunited with our fellow Kitaleites. With thanks to you, Bridget, many lasting friendships were formed and therefore you will always have a special place in our hearts.

We hope your 80th birthday is a wonderful celebration of the amazing you!

Happy Birthday Memsaab Kali!

With best wishes and all our love!

The Swans

- ***Mike and Sue Haupt***

Happy Birthday Bridget – and a very special one too!

May you have a great one, filled with much Joy and Happiness together with family and friends.

It has been a while since we crossed paths now that Stephen is out of school.

I am sure Tessa and Brian would send their Salaams and good wishes too.

(Unfortunately Tessa is about to undergo a very serious op and has a lot on her mind)

Lots of Love,

Mike and Sue Haupt