

Hello all fellow Kitaleites

We are well into the New Year already as I start the 2003 Newsletter, with Christmas well behind us but, for those of us who were lucky enough to be there, memories of the Kenya Reunion are still very vivid as we relive another great Kitale School experience through our photographs.

This was probably the longest lasting of the three held to date in that, after a memorable Saturday at the Muthaiga Club, a group of us travelled on to Kitale to enjoy another three days in good company.

But, to start at the beginning: A grand committee had spent months of planning and this all came to fruition on Saturday 30 November. Our venue: the ballroom of the Muthaiga Club, with its own spacious front lawn on which management had erected an open marquee. The décor had to be different from both Devon and Johannesburg and we chose this time to have blue and yellow helium-filled balloons attached to each chair to add to the party atmosphere. Flowers were in Kestrel and Eagle colours with all four house colours represented in the napkins. Menu covers depicted a map of Kenya showing both Nairobi and Kitale as our chosen venues.

The first guests to arrive were June and Dan* Shaw, who had travelled from Nanyuki; Thereafter, we welcomed the following: [* denotes Kitaleite]
Ian and Lynda* [Megson] Allen
Rob Bairstow* & Anne Barnley*[Holmes]
Barbara* and Gordon Boy*
Eddie Bristow* and Jeanne
Bob and Heather Campbell
Patricial Greaves* [Casadio] and Oreste
Terry* and Gayle Davidson
Oliver Davidson*
Walter and Sylvia* [Ganz] Davidson
Jenny [Woods] Eaton*
Ruth [Horsey]* Entwistle
Debbie [Winter]* Evans
Catherine [Horsey]* and Chris Everard
Kate [Hill]* and Thomas Fjastad
Anne [Heath]* Dunn
Adrian* and Jacquelin Hillier
David* and Vicky Horsey
Horace* and Caroline* [Denton] Horsey
Robin* and Jessica [Winter]* Jensen
Vicky [Winter]* Lyall
Mike* and Liz Mills
Tony* and Adrienne Mills
Tony* and Rosy Monkhouse

Ann and Gordon* Pickering & Tristan
Jenny [Coombes]* and Ben Pont
Dee Raymer*
Jay* and Julia [Robinson]* Roffey
Pam Robinson*
Gill [Prophet]* Scroggie
Shirley Scroggie*

From further afield, UK and SA:

Doris Bairstow [UK]
Phil Bairstow* [UK]
Janette [Bairstow]* Jenkin [UK]
Pauline and Richard* Statham [SA]
Marisa and Peter* Swan [SA]
Aileen Swan [SA]
Bridget [Doenhoff]* Walton [SA, Staff]

Imagine the chatting, fun and laughter that went on over a delicious curry lunch and cold buffet menu with a variety of sweets prepared by Chef Luke Doig [Lenana]. In spite of the laid tables, the occasion was completely informal and, while most of us were there until late afternoon / evening, I am told the party went on well into the night and early hours of the next day for those who stayed at the club overnight. At this point I must express our grateful thanks to those living in Nairobi who hosted, fetched and carried with such friendship and generosity.

Sunday morning saw three 4X4 vehicles leave for Kitale where we were to meet others. **Gayle [Davidson]** had prepared a picnic fit for kings and queens which we enjoyed at a chosen spot just beyond Naivasha. We arrived in Kitale where we were hosted either at **Jane and Julia Barnley's** or chez **Tony and Adrienne Mills**, in each case accommodation and hospitality can only be described as 5-star.

Those who managed to be there included: Folk who came from further afield SA & UK as well as:
Rob Bairstow* and Anne Barnley*
Dick Barnley* and Jane Barnley
Edwin Belcher* and Tanya Barbour*
Cherry Dale*
Colin Davidson*
Oliver Davidson*
Terry* and Gayle Davidson
Robin* and Jessica [Winter]* Jensen
Jonathan Mayer* and Helen [Mrs Snr.]
Jolyon* and Janet Mills
Tony* and Adrienne Mills
Jay* and Julia [Robinson]* Roffey

Pauline Statham kept a diary of events experienced and **Richard** e-mailed the

following feedback on the Kitale leg which I have included for those of you who were not able to join us there.

'The Reunion at Kitale School was an emotional occasion, to be able to relive your past by walking through the old buildings, memorising your friends of yesteryear and visualising all those special events and people that made those years happy and sad.

'I felt pride for the school when the Headmaster [Mr Sawe] told us of the contribution the Kitale Academy [now 1000 pupils] was making to the future of Kenya. I also had to swallow the lump in my throat when I saw the enormous effort being put into trying to maintain the school buildings and furniture, this in spite of the tremendous financial pressure [and no government grant]. It was obvious that the old school motto still means a great deal to those current pupils and staff. I was proud to have been a past pupil. *[Richard had had made a heraldic shield of the school crest which he presented to the Headmaster, while the fund contributed also to Nelson Mandela's 'Long Walk to Freedom,' which we presented to the school library, as a gift from the past pupils who were present on this occasion].*

'The stay with Tony and Adrienne was a further highlight of this memorable trip. To be able to enjoy that level of hospitality and friendship was something never to be forgotten. The whole 'gang' made sure that our three days were special.

'Even the cold showers and the long-drops at the Environmental Centre could not detract from the fun of spending a night at Delta Crescent. The atmosphere around the camp fire along with the 'braai' provided us with an enjoyable evening. A great time was had by all [some greater than others!] *[Richard you cause us to be curious!]*

'Spending the day on Mt Elgon on the Tuesday was a further impressive event. The mountain has been kept in pristine condition and this is all thanks to the Rangers and a handful of local farmers, including Tony. The fantastic scenery, the condition of the numerous game animals and the unspoilt environment made the day yet another unforgettable one.'

News from **John and Pam [Hissey] Barbour**: A working husband / wife partnership has been set up with Pam doing the painting and John the formatting / sales. Pam creates the cards and prints, which are now available to anyone and can be viewed on their website:

<http://www.NdofduArt.com>

*[I believe Pam and **Bryony Fremlin** plan to hold a combined exhibition for us to enjoy at the Perth Reunion [October 25 / 26]. Bring your Credit Card[s] along!]* Pam writes,; 'We have been amazed at the response to the website. Our first sale was to **Judith Hollows** in Hong Kong. It has opened up correspondence with people we haven't heard of in years – **Koba Bosman [Bennett]** in Harare, **Christine Jensen [Coppola]** and **Catherine Black [Homerchuk]**, Canada. We had a lovely evening up at **Brandon Brooksbank's** property while **Rod and Shirley [Brooksbank] Patterson** were visiting Australia,' *[April 2002].*

Carole Schmoll [Barrett] writes: 'I had a look at the 'mykitale.com' website. The anonymous producer has done a wonderful job. It certainly took me down memory lane. I can remember standing outside the Head's Office on a number of occasions!'

Niels Bertlesen *[Niels comments on the photographs in the 2002 Newsletter]:* 'People look different compared to the photographs I have *[taken 40 years ago, Niels?!]* I was quite surprised to notice **John Eager's** name and **Sally's**. I was very keen on her at the age of 11! **Michael** and I spent summer holidays together. Sally is probably just as pretty now as she was then. I still fly, do rep. work and on occasions veterinary work.'

It's good to be back in touch with both **Catherine** and **Jacque Black**, both living in Canada with their respective husbands. 'I did enjoy seeing the photograph of **Caroline [Denton]** and **Horace Horsey** and **Diana [Fulton] Purchase**. Isabel, my oldest sister, and I visited Diana when we were in Kenya in 1960. Caroline is a stunningly beautiful lady. I last saw her in 1968, and of course Horace. I always remember that Horace had very long legs and wore very short shorts, short that is in comparison to the other boys!' *[Horace, I can see my popularity rating going up with the*

comment on Caroline, but down on the latter regarding you! See you in Perth, Catherine?'] Catherine also writes about running the London Marathon with her husband and her meeting with **Rosemary O'Hanlon** on that occasion. She will have got news of the younger O'Hanlon generation – all doing well with **Michael** and **Rosalind** top academics working at Oxford and Cambridge respectively as we expected them to be, as well as the **Denton** family through Caroline. Alas, we continue to miss the letters from **Annette Nielsen [Gilbert]** but I am in touch with Annette's Mum, **Shirley**.

Jacque Kangas [Black] writes: 'I was a bridesmaid at Caroline Denton's Mum and Dad's wedding!' Jacque has also been in touch with **Alistair Dimech**. I was in the same year as Mary Rose and Rodney at Kitale School. Alistair and Rodney and their wives, Betty and Elizabeth run guest-houses in Dover, Kent.

Eddie Bristow must be one of the few who still write regularly and by hand. Eddie and Jean still have a home in Lower Kabete but spend much of their time in England, where their son Whiston works. [*I enjoyed five-star hospitality with Eddie and Jeanne over the Nairobi Reunion, with Jeanne acting as hostess-cum-taxi driver. Their Kenya home and garden is a dream while Eddie must have the best collection existing today of books on Kenya from the early settler until modern times.*] Eddie plays golf with **Walter Davidson** and so sees him and **Sylvia** often at Ruiru Sports' Club.

Su Brooksbank [McKenzie] has been silent this year. [*How about visiting Brandon in October, Su and all of us at the Reunion?*]

Out of the blue an e-mail arrived from **Judith Whittaker**, now living in Natal, who was at Kitale School between 1964 – 1969 in **Biddy Crowcombe's** era as Head, with sisters Victoria, Helen and Charlotte.

Another silent Kitaleite this year: **Anne Buck [Tilbury]**. [*Anne, WE are still waiting for your promised Christmas letter with all the family news!*].

Definitely the e-mail correspondent of the year has been Ian Allen, husband of **Paula [Burch]**. Ian and Paula are now

happily settled in Picton where they have again opened a B & B, 'The Gables.' Paula is nursing again. Their recent news is that daughter Carina will be joining them in New Zealand. Paula writes of **Margaret Nicholson**, who was District Commissioner Guides and Brownies in Kitale, 'She was still being called upon to give talks to the South African Guiding Movement.' [*I have a feeling this will have been in the past when Margaret was still able to travel to see Alison and Helen in Cape Town.*]

Michael Brooks and **Kay Yuille** have between them written an appreciation of the life of George, who passed away in February last year after a short illness. Before continuing, a short quip from an ex-Kitale pupil who remembers George thus: 'I can remember the keys. I would have been in a lot more trouble than I was if it hadn't been for his keys and the way he always played with them behind his back. It was a good warning signal – perhaps that is why he did it.' From Michael: 'My father taught in the UK before the war and, following his demob., prospects after war in teaching were not encouraging. So he joined the Colonial Service in the 'Teachers' Division' and was posted to Kenya, taking up his first appointment in Nairobi Primary in 1949.'

Kay writes:

Edward George Brooks, An Appreciation

'I first met George when I came out to Kenya in August 1949. I was posted to Nairobi Primary and, at that time, George was in Mombasa, I think. I think it would be about the summer of 1950 when our paths first crossed. I didn't particularly enjoy my time at Nairobi Primary. I was so young and so naïve and George was so kind and did me such a lot of good. But it wasn't to last long as I was posted to Kitale Primary at the end of 1950.

Johnny Woods was Headmaster then, but he retired, and after a spell of acting Heads, George arrived to take up the helm in 1955.

It must have been a very difficult time for anyone to take over Kitale School. Johnny Woods was a charismatic character; to many the name of Johnny Woods and Kitale School were forever linked. His was a very difficult act to follow. To their credit, George and Vera took over slowly. Everyone liked Vera.

Vera took over the running of the office side of the school with calm efficiency. You never went to the office with a query but that you came away with the right answer. With George, it was more difficult. There were pupils and members of staff who did not take kindly to the new era. However, George went steadfastly about the task of being Head and he succeeded very well.

George had a dog of somewhat mixed ancestry called Whisky. In the fullness of time, **Whisky** mated with a rather nice little lady belonging to **Alice Jacobs** and George became proud owner of a puppy. Being George's dog, what else could it be called but **Soda**! My Yorkshire Terrier, **Freuchie**, and Soda became bosom cronies.

Speech Day came around and George issued instructions that Freuchie and Soda were to be shut up that afternoon. I don't know how they met up, but meet they did and they appeared on the platform in the school hall and sat one on each side of George as he delivered his year end speech. Both dogs were filthy. George didn't turn a hair. I don't know what he said to Vera afterwards, but what he said to me doesn't bear repeating!

In 1960, I was promoted to Senior Mistress and posted to Nakuru. I didn't meet up again with George and Vera until we were all back in the UK. I stayed with George and Vera when they had a Post Office-cum-General Store in Evesham and again when they were in Fowey in Cornwall. I looked forward each Christmas to long letters from George. Even after he began to have his eye problems, he was a great letter writer. Kwa heri George and Vera. I shall never forget you.

Kay goes on to mention how kind George was to her when she got the news that her father had passed away. Another lady who had reason to be very grateful to him was **Ivy Wood**. When Alec became ill with encephalitis, it was George who arranged for her to come back to England. I stayed with Ivy after both **Alec** and **Hilary** died and she couldn't say enough about George and Vera's kindness. *[Kay, you ask where Robert is. The last I heard, he was living in Australia. Perhaps there are folk there who still keep in touch. Alan, what about*

you? Can you let us have an address, please?]

Rowen Barry-Taylor [Candler], having worked in Cairo for several years, is now living at Amberfield in Howick with her mother. She is in telephone contact with **Roz** and **Ants Humphris** and says she feels quite at home in the Natal Midlands.

Jenny Combes is just another of Kitale School's many success stories who, along with husband **Ben**, is doing amazing work in the movie industry in Kenya. Obviously the volume of work fluctuates but Jenny's Christmas letter indicated that the business had a very successful end to 2002. She mentions also that, in the new Kenya Cabinet, they have a Minister of Information who is a professional in communications, broadcasting and filming – good news for 'Pontact.' Jenny's Mum is still going strong although her eyesight is failing.

Biddy Crowcombe writes such cheerful letters about her busy life that one would never imagine she is suffering badly from arthritis. She and **Chris [Gibson]** enjoy receiving visitors who travel to Devonshire to breathe in the country air – this in spite of often poor weather. They mention seeing the **Bush** family members, **Grahame** [Staff] in particular. He is now a grandfather. **Michael Raymer**, who now lives in New Zealand also 'arrived on the doorstep with his very nice wife and 2 grown up sons.' *[Biddy, we hope you received the messages Dee compiled for you at the Muthaiga Club Reunion]*. Biddy is in touch with **Topsy Burch**, now 80 and **June Alston** as well as **Madeleine Flatt**. Chris still plays badminton / tennis with what she calls her geriatric group. Biddy's garden continues to be a source of delight to visitors to the area.

It was good to see so many **Davidson** family members at the Kenya Reunion. **Terry**, retired from being City Bank Manager at aged 50, has just started a new job with Kenya Commercial Bank and he and **Gayle** will continue to live in Nairobi. **Terry** and **Gayle** along with **Rob Bairstow** and **Anne Barnley** and **Tony** and **Adrienne Mills** were our amazing Committee Members for the Kenya Reunion. All six were worked to the marrow by Memsahib Kali Kidogo, but they gave us all an amazing trip down memory lane. Asante sana watu wote!

Alastair Douglas –at last we are in touch! Alistair runs an agrochemical business in Somerset West, spending his time in the Elgin and surrounding districts. He is in touch with **Gaye [Tilney]** and **Mike Provost**. Alistair reminisces about his various Kitale School teachers, **Mrs [Eileen] Williams, Mrs Fatty, Mac [with apologies]** and **Francis Walker**. Sisters **Pauline** and **Janet** were also at Kitale School. Alistair writes of Caroline Barton, 'I thought she was the best thing since sliced bread. I don't think she even knew I had such a crush on her!' *[I am afraid, Alistair, you were in competition with my brother there!]*. **John Skinner** is an advocate in Bahrtein; **David** lives in Spain and is a dentist. **Richard** lives in England and is a geologist involved in the North Sea Oil industry. I will be contacting **Tessa Haupt [Watson]** soon and I still write to **John Barnard [Albany WA]**. I remember also, with affection, **Crampton's Inn** with its high diving board, roller skating, pulling dinky cars on string and the log homes, more like dens, we used to build in the blue-gum forest.' Alistair, you and **Richard Statham** should get together and write your several memories of Kitale School for the 2004 Newsletter!]

Ian [Drakes] *I too look forward to seeing you in Perth in 2003 [October as ever is!]*

Jenny Duirs [Field] and **John**, having completed their time in Harare have been on a 'round the world' tour before heading back to England and Gloucestershire. Jenny and John have had 21 moves in their time with the Embassy. They expected to spend a family Christmas / New year with members of the **Duirs clan** in New Zealand. Retirement looms for John and their dream is a property in France to be shared with daughter Naomi and her new family who live in Germany. Of Zimbabwe, Jenny writes, 'I can report nothing very positive and we left at a timely moment with shortages increasing daily on vital commodities such as sugar, bread, flour, oil, salt, mealie meal, fuel and now even milk and beef.'

Sally Eager [Hood] Peter: Family members still live in South Africa and so they travel extensively between Durban, KwaZulu Natal and Cape Town, with Kleinmond and Knysna as chosen spots for holidays.

Penny Flatt [Madvig] has been spending quality time with her dear Mum, Madeleine, who lives in a nursing home but gets around in her electric wheel chair and can still enjoy going out to explore bookshops and have fun in the various eateries in Bowral, where she lives. Husband Peter has now retired and is enjoying his hobby, bird watching. They are also able to enjoy time enjoying holidays in the Snowy Mountains. Penny keeps in touch with **Judith Hollows** and **Angela Macadam** [Kiminini]

Patricia Greaves [Casadio] and **Oreste** are enjoying being back in Nairobi although I believe they missed the cold of England at Christmas time, while daughter Jennifer did not. She enjoyed Christmas and the spoiling of ten aunts and uncles and several cousins. *[Thanks for the address, Patricia – arrived in the nick of time for receiving the Newsletter!]*.

For visitors to South Africa, a trip to **Allen Hallet's** gallery and to enjoy a fly fishing outing in the majestic Drakensberg's is a must. I have seen some of Allen's sculptures in Johannesburg galleries and I can assure you it is world-class.

It was good to hear from **Anna Hasluck [Weaver]**. Imagine the difficult time David and his family have been through in Zimbabwe, where David eventually resigned from his job with the National Farmer's Union. Anna still works in a school near / in Salisbury, UK and altogether leads a very busy life although she and Roger have been on holiday in Ireland while Anna spent time with her Mum, Margaret, in Harare in April. Anna would like to hear news of you, **Helen Nicholson [Bailey]**, so do write soon!

Chris and **Magda Hearne** are some entrepreneurs among us who seem to be doing very well in their various enterprises. They have built up what seems to be a very successful tourism / accommodation business in the Winterton area of Kwazulu Natal, which has also now become a wedding convention centre with Magda as events' co-ordinator. Not to be outdone, Chris is doing the photography.

I am still anticipating, sometime, the arrival of a copy of a report 'Miss

Doenhoff' wrote on **Melanie Hickman [Forster]**. [*Melanie, Nils Sunde assures me that I only write nice reports. I hope you agree! Yes, I do have close contact with Bridget Stevens, a special person: bridgeet@iafrica.co.za*

*I had news of **Grant Scroggie** when in Kenya, his mother was at the reunion. Unfortunately **Raoul Bonfiglioli** was killed several years ago in a vehicle accident in London].*

Andrew Hillier

[Firstly, our thanks to you Andrew and to your co-committee members, for co-ordinating the Perth Reunion for us. I am sure those of us who are planning to be there look forward to a 4th bumper event.]

Andrew writes: 'We went to Charles and Vicky Kerfoot's at Jarrahdale and met quite a few folk who were here for the Convent Reunion.' [*It seems that the seed for the 2003 Reunion was sown then*]. He goes on to tell about his very talented musical family and their various successes. Andrew tells also of a conference he was asked to attend in Canberra where he presented a paper on the 'Lost Boys' of the Southern Sudan.

Heleen and **Roger Hissey** enjoyed a wonderful Festive Season in Perth with **Pam** and **John, Peter** and **Jenny and Daphne**. It is the first Christmas that the entire family has been together in a long time. [*Daphne is soon to celebrate her 80th Birthday. Congratulations from all of us, Daphne.*]

It was good to see **Adrian Hillier** in Muthaiga with his lovely wife, **Jacquelin**.

Sarah Chambers, daughter of well known pianist Dorothy, was in Kestrel House in 1957. She now lives in Port Shepstone. Sarah is keen to get in touch with either **Robin** or **David Bridgeman**.

Anthony Humphris has also been to visit **Rowena Candler**, who was at Kitale School from 1949 / 1952. Rowena lives in Howick with her mother. [*Thank you Anthony for putting us in touch with both these ladies*].

Alison Jacobs [McLean] gave us news of **Jean Hallett [Skilleter]**, who now lives in Schagen, near Nelspruit, SA. **Ian**, who suffered a severe stroke, from which he is recovering well, is living there also and he is to be joined by the rest of his

family once school and university commitments are behind them. Jean is a talented lady who makes gifts suitable for birthday and Christmas and sells them at craft markets.

Can anyone, please, throw a light on the whereabouts of **Anne Kemp**, believed to have relocated to Simonstown? It's great to be back in touch with **Rosemary Jacobs [Gray]**, Prof. Gray, no less. Rosemary writes: 'My beloved Mama took me by the hand and led me in her quiet, determined way. I am now involved in promoting English on a national and international platform.' [*Rosemary, I can just picture your Mum doing this, in the same way as she encouraged so many at Kitale School, but in maths. I know Al was a favourite teacher and a good friend to all*].

Anybody wanting to enjoy a really excellent South African 'braaivleis' should visit **Tom Jacobs**. Tom hosted **Alan** and **Jessie Dale** in transit from Perth to the UK, where they went to visit sister **Grace [Belcher]** and **Jessie** senior. Tom writes, 'I am still wandering around Africa looking for or working on projects. We are presently putting together a proposal to refurbish two hydro power stations in the DRC.'

Guy Innes, we hope to see you at the Perth Reunion!

Lisbeth Jensen [Mandel] writes about the heat wave in Denmark this last summer. On the positive side, patients have been keen to get out of surgery rooms more quickly! The family went to the St Tropez peninsular in France for their holiday and were pleased to be able to enjoy life under pine trees and away from the jet-set holiday paradise of St Tropez proper with its posh cars and expensive shopping.

Elna Jensen has moved into a ground floor apartment, which Lisbeth hopes will give her more freedom to move around and get out occasionally, even if in a wheel chair. She, like Lisbeth, has not enjoyed the heat of the 2002 Danish summer.

Joyce Keese is another prolific letter writer who regrets not having kept in touch with Kitale folk over the years. On reading through last year's Newsletter, Joyce enjoyed the following trip down memory lane: '**Jennifer** and **Jonathan**

Woods' birthday parties were always a highlight, if you were privileged enough to be invited. The beautiful grounds, hedges, trees, flowers, which we were allowed to pick when head of the table. Skimming down Jacaranda trees [only Standard 7s were allowed to do this], long Sunday afternoon walks in gum-boots, with the boys pelting us from the back with their home-made ammunition. I remember the old box room where we played 'Antigone' over weekends; also gooseberry picking and stuffing these delicacies down our T-shirts to enjoy later. Who can remember **Mr Paxton's** Club, swinging and Latin? Remember the white bread and butter sandwiches elevated to something wonderful with the addition of a nasturtium leaf or a radish picked from the small patch of garden many of us cultivated after school hours. I am still an avid gardener. Was a seed sown? Rounders was a great favourite as well as sports days, games and Cock House – what memories. Then there was **Miss Crowcombe** and her tennis expertise, **Roz Jacobs** and I thought we were 'top players.' **Mrs Fell**, now there was a Memsahib kali sana. She was our Art teacher for many years. I still paint and say 'thank you' to her every day because I am never bored. **Mrs Tellatin** in her 'sick bay' was good at taking jiggers out of toes. Her daughter **Velia** was my sister Elizabeth's bridesmaid in later years. [*Velia is now Velia Carn and can be contacted at P O Box 997 THIKA, KENYA*] Dear **Mrs Munro**, our matron for so long ... our cupboards had to be really neat to be in her good books.

Will we ever forget her dispensary where good old malt and twice weekly sweets were given out? **Mr Woods** [Kitale Bakery] toffee, now that was a treat if ever there was one. Then there was the visit to **Mr Sunde's** flax factory on Mount Elgon and Else's amazing acrobatic feats! What about the end of year plays, music lessons with **Mrs Bowden**, swimming out at **Bowker's Dam**? Will we ever forget walking across the golf course to Kitale town to watch 'The Wizard of Oz' at the local cinema? With hindsight, the school, with Mt Elgon as a back-drop, and all those who made their mark in my life, I realise how privileged I was to be part of Kitale School.' [*I think there are many of us, including teachers, who would agree with you, Joyce. My friends, made through the Kitale School experience, have been not only lasting*

ones, but they have grown considerably in number].

Vicky Kerfoot [Bell] writes, '**Carole Barrett [Schmoll]** is coming over from Melbourne [*for the 2002 Loreto Reunion in Perth*] and sister **Clemency Bagshawe [Jarvis]** will also be there. Aren't we lucky to be able to travel?'

Is anyone in touch with **Mr Frank King**, Staff member at Kitale School from 1970 – 1974, finishing up as Headmaster? He is now teaching in Brisbane, Australia. [*Andrew, we should extend the invitation to him to join us in Perth. I have send him a flyer by e-mail to his address at: frankking@powerup.com.au We need also to try to get a postal address*]

Similarly, if anyone is in contact with **David** and **Deirdre Malitte**, we would love to hear from them. I have tried to make e-mail contact, to no avail.

Karim Lalani, who was at Kitale School between 1968 and 1970 and who was a member of Elgon House now lives in British Columbia and intends to revisit her home town of Eldoret as well as the school one day. [*We hope you will manage it, Karim.*]

Peter Liechti [*now at: pliechti@hin.ch*] says nothing in Switzerland has changed during the year except that the National Airline went bankrupt as a more or less direct cause of the 11 September event. [*Peter, I believe things have come right because we are now able to travel on your airline again, having chosen it as our preferred carrier often!*]

From **Oliver Long**: 'I vaguely remember Richard Statham as a kijana – one forgets that we all age. When in Kenya in 1997, I was even addressed as the venerable "Bwana Mzee." The Africans are so much more sensible about "seniors." [*It was good to see both Tony and Rosie – straight off the plane from the UK- at our Muthaiga Club gathering and to pick up the threads*]. To answer your other questions, Oliver, as far as I know there is no one else producing a Kitale School Newsletter but I have an anonymous assistant who is keeping a website on the go. Try www.mykitale.com for this].

Eric Lusso is on his way to Kenya, I believe with sister **Celine**, any day now. He has plans for visiting Naivasha and Kitale, where he will be staying with **Tony** and **Adrienne Mills**.

Rosleen O'Neill [1942 – 1945] would love to get in touch with old friends from her era who were at Kitale School. Rosleen was in Hyrax Dorm.

During the course of last year, we heard of several people who had lost loved ones. **John McCormick's** only brother **Christopher**, a doctor practising in Harare, passed away while visiting his children in Ireland. [*John, we send our love and our sympathy to members of your family as well as Chris's as well as our congratulations on the birth of your second child. I look forward to receiving the Standard 4A class photograph with all names- perhaps for the 2004 Newsletter*].

We have had some sad e-mails from folk who have made their homes in Zimbabwe, from **Koba Bosman [Bentley]** and **Pam Mudd [Bennett]** in particular. I believe we would all join in extending our heartfelt condolences to Pam, **John** and **Molly**. John Senior suffered a stroke about 18 months ago and Pam wrote just before Christmas to say that he had passed away on 09 December and that she and Chris were flying to the UK to be with Molly over the festive season. Pam and Chris had just been turned off their farm as this happened, having been given just 2 days to do so and they were still busy trying to get their equipment off, this in spite of the fact that they had a Court Order allowing them to do so. [*Pam, please keep in touch and let us know how you are all coping*].

Helen Nicholson [Bailey] writes: 'I am well and back to strength, have to keep up with the exercise and then I feel great.' She mentions also that **Barbara Simpson** had died on the same day as the Queen Mother, a coincidence as **Sandy**, her husband, had entertained the Queen Mother when he was DC.

Lindi Northcote [Wilson] mentions having seen **Christine Luck [Briscoe]** at the Highlands Reunion in the UK and how changed she was! [*Please tell us more! We haven't heard from Chrissie in a while. I also tried to get hold of Jenny [Hellier] while in Mombasa, but she was*

either away or not taking calls. I had hoped to see her in the time I was there.] Lindy was in Kenya for 2 months, during 2002 when Jen's daughter got married, and she stayed on to see **Clive** who flew to Kenya to work on some sugar mills near Kisumu. Here, it seems, Clive met up with several Kitale Africans who knew him by name from the Kitale School Honours Boards. [*It's a small world!*] Clive mentions that **the entire Dwen family** has been wonderfully supportive throughout this year, which has been a difficult one for him.

From **Ben Pickford**: 'I teach in a continuation school [for school phobics and the unruly]. I teach woodwork, electronics, small engine repair and maths. I have had two Kikuyu sisters from Kenya as students in the past. It was such a joy to be able to speak Swahili with them. My wife Mary, who is a High School Principal, and I are planning on retirement at the end of next school year and we hope to travel back to Africa and Australia. [*Ben, do try to plan your travel so that you are in Perth for 25 / 26 October.*]

Alas, **Richard Northmore** and **Peter Rosa** were both on our list for the Kenya Reunion but family illness prevented them from travelling at that time. Richard, we do hope ***** has made a complete recovery and Peter, we hope the surgery on your Dad was successful so that he can continue to enjoy quality life.

Another new recruit is **Veronica Plunkett**, who writes: 'I was at Kitale from 1958 to 1962 with my brother **Patrick** [now living in Calgary, Canada]. I live in Brighton now. Memories of Kitale School: Senior Block, Mrs Munro. I still have my autograph book with loads of names, sketches etc.

Having heard so much about **Dee Raymer** over the years, it was good to meet her in the flesh at the Muthaiga gathering. Dee, in writing about her sorrow on reading of the death of **Robin Lloyd** writes: 'Post-exams, the Standard 7s were royally entertained on a day out to one of the Wallop farms on Elgon, then managed by **Hugh**, and whence we were transported by farm lorry singing, 'She'll be coming round the mountain.' Dee mentions also a memorable roast pork dinner, courtesy of a dining room donation by **Celia Falck [Moore]'s**

parents. 'Oh dear,' Celia commented. 'We're eating poor Curly.' The name stuck and, in spite of having dead-straight hair, Celia became known as Curly thereafter. My own big news was being first Regional [English Speaking Africa and Middle East] and then the overall Global Winner in the Reuters – IUCN [World Conservation Union] annual award for environmental journalism. There were 240 entries from 58 countries. Credit for being my most influential literary mentor must go unreservedly to **Biddy Crowcombe**. My winning article, 'Water, Water everywhere,' is posted on <http://www.iucn.org/reuters/index/2001>. [Dee, our congratulations, if we forgot in the 2002 Newsletter, are long overdue. You are clearly another Kitale School genius and, from my conversations with Biddy, I know she has always been proud of you.]

Esther Richard writes: 'I am seriously toying with the idea of "doing" either the Kitale or Perth Reunion. [Well, Esther, we expected you in Kenya, but are happy to wait until October 2003. See you there?!]

From **Robert Richard**, a short correction to the story in the 2002 Newsletter where he was saved from a beating because he was "swotting" Latin. Robert says he was 'doing a Latin punishment.' But at least he was "doing" Latin. Robert and Naomi chose Varna, Bulgaria for their holiday and described it as 'a miles long holiday resort on the Black Sea and a mere 2 hour flight from their home in Israel. This was in contrast to their previous skiing holiday in the French Alps which he describes as a 'marvellous week, real quality time, and for once we were all together. It made me realise how little bonding we have in our day to day lives.'

Unfortunately, we missed seeing **Peter Rosa** and **Alison** when we drove through Scotland and stayed in Stirling last summer but Peter organised and treated us to a very comfortable night at a B & B not far from the University where Peter works. We were over-looked by an enormous statue of William Wallace, which, in the mist and rain of the entire duration of our stay was a menacing sight indeed! [Peter, we still hope you may land on our doorstep here one day, perhaps even with **Michael O'Hanlon** as last time but also with Alison and Linda!].

Gillian Scroggie [Prophet] gives us news of Peter Gerrard, who is involved in 7 a side rugby and who describes the Highland Gathering event in Jakarta, where he is stationed temporarily, as a unique event.'

Of herself, Gillian writes, 'I left Kitale School in 1939 / 1940 for the Kenya High school, then temporarily established at the Station Hotel in Eldoret. Gillian's two children, **Grant** and **Shirley** also attended Kitale School in the late 1950 / early 1960s.

June and Dan Shaw were our first arrivals at the Muthaiga Club Reunion and, in writing after the event, June writes, 'Although I was not at Kitale School, husbands don't write letters!' June and Dan visited Kitale during last year and, of the roads June writes, 'All the up-country roads are in a shocking state of repair. Be prepared!' [Perhaps now that Dan has his own computer, June, he will enjoy playing with it! We hope to meet other members of the Shaw family at the next Reunion].

Giles and **Virginia Shaw** have moved back to Brisbane so as to be closer to their grand children. Giles enjoyed reading about his 1949 classmates in the 2002 Newsletter, namely Sally Berridge, Oliver Long, Peter Woods and one of his favourite girls, Val Jacobs. Giles would like the following names to be added to the:

Where are they now list:

Wendy Roberts, Giles' co-captain of Eagle House when they were able to win 'Cock House' after a long drought. [I seem to remember there was a drought even in my day, Giles.]

Richard Pembridge

Inga Sunde [contact through **Else Martin** her sister at: 21 Wanstead Road, BROMLEY, KENT BR1 3BL].

Valerie Littlehales

Sally Disney

Peter Talkington

Roger Fiske

Ann Faulf

Michael Reavely

Daphne Martin

Where are they now? [Class of 1949] contd.

Pierre Parsons

Brian Hacker

Please would anyone who is in contact with any of the above [See also P12] get in touch with Giles at:

giles@uq.net.au

[Giles, see you in Perth in October, we hope!]

I now have e-mail addresses for both **Penny Mckenzie [Sinclair]** and **Daphne Bellingeri [Sinclair]** but no news to report. *[With Nigel and Jeanette living in Perth, I hope there might be a reunion of all members of the family there for October 25 / 26. How about it Roz and Toots?] [Nigel, please let me have your e-mail address.]*

Toots Elizabeth Janssens [Sinclair] writes: 'We had the greatest holiday in South Africa but stayed around the Cape area to see that more in depth and to have a look around the western coast north of Cape Town, which is an interesting area and very different from the Cape itself. It's a lovely country!'

Roz [Sinclair] and **Paul Kohler** have moved to a rented house in Hampshire so as to be nearer members of their family. *[I am pleased to have your physical address well in advance, Roz, so you should get your Newsletter safely this time! The chances are that we will be in Haslemere, a stone's throw away, for a few days in July. We should try to meet, if possible.]* Roz was only at Kitale School for a year before going on to Limuru Girls' School, but she got to know a lot of folk through living in Kitale for 10 years while her father **Ian** was Standard Bank Manager as well as meeting up with Nigel's friends at the Duko.

A short while back, **Madge Watts [Rattray]** thought she had managed to locate **Patrick Shorten** but it turned out to be a false alarm. Thank you Roz, for sending me Jill Falconer [mother of Patrick and **Julian**]'s address.

Mary Hayley [Sovic] and **Brian** have moved to a 'Farmete' in France, to an old farmhouse with 30 acres of land attached. This will be a change from the sheep farming they were engaged in on the Isle of Man, and they hope also for better weather. *[Mary, please let me have your updated e-mail address and also details for Tina, who phoned me last year from Port Said but didn't leave a number for me to return the call.]*

Liz Statham [Kerr] and **Chris** seem to be very happily settled in their new home in Karoonda, South Australia. They spent Christmas with **John** and **Christine**

Eager and had a wonderful time although they missed having members of their own family with them.

[We look forward to seeing you in Perth, Liz. Richard, how about you and Pauline? You've tasted two, there's always a third time lucky! I haven't yet heard from Stuart Thomas but perhaps he will be in Perth at the same time – a good chance for meeting one another with no need to write!]

Richard Statham and **Pauline** are both great writers. They, together with the **Swan** family, **Peter**, **Marissa** and daughter **Aileen**, made up the South African contingent at the Kenya Reunions and great fun was had by all. A mini reunion is planned for the weekend of 20th February, so that we can share photographs and relive the highlights of a great week spent in Kenya. Richard and Pauline have meantime moved away from Maidstone to Umhlanga Rocks – one step nearer to their retirement.

Alas, **Danie** and **Sylvia [Steyn]** did not manage to get to the Kenya Reunion because of an important work project. *[Nevertheless, Danie, it gave us cause to phone each other frequently as I tried to persuade you to join us.]*

Ronnie Older [Symes] has added her sister **Pat [Collins]** who lives in New South Wales to our database. *[Thanks Ronnie! Let's hope she may be another recruit for the Perth Reunion!]*

Derek Strange writes: 'It's quite amazing to see how far and wide the tentacles of the Kitale network have spread, as far north as **Paddy Lloyd** in Alaska with a whole bunch of alumni down-under in Australia and New Zealand. And the rest of us scattered around the middle of the globe. I have not succeeded in actually meeting **Evelyn Ruthman [Lafaysse]** in this corner of Spain. *[Derek, poor Eve has gone through a torrid time, first with losing her Mother and then through her own illness. Alas, e-mails to me have also stopped. Please let us know of you have managed to renew the contact].* Derek and **Jo** commute between London and Costa Blanca in Spain, spending the hot summer months in England and hibernating to warmer, sunnier climes for the winter.

Michael Strange writes that his mother Inez devours every paragraph of the

Newsletter with interest. He was saddened by the death of **Chris McCormick** because he and Chris had been good friends in the late 50s and early 60s. Michael is chaplain at Wormwood Scrubs prison in West London. It is a large prison, about 1200 men. As it serves Heathrow Airport, Michael says it holds a disproportionate number of foreigners. He finds the work endlessly fascinating and fulfilling albeit frustrating at times. In addition, Michael still practices homeopathic medicine three days a week as well as helping out at the parish church closest to where he lives. *[Mike, if you have time to record them, we would love to have some of your Mum's anecdotes for the 2004 Newsletter, please!]*

Liz Troward [Vorster] writes that her father, **Dick**, managed to go for evening walks while staying with them even though he has slowed down considerably. Sadly, it has now reached a point where, having probably suffered several minor strokes, he may not be able to revisit South Africa annually as before. However, Liz writes that *[elder brother]* **Peter** and **Angela** were in Cape Town during the Festive Season, so they were able to spend quality time together. Peter seems to be recovering well from his kidney transplant *[good news, Peter, no more dialysis, Wonderful!]*. **Jenny [Botto]** and her husband **Bill** are still managing the Restaurant in Truro, Cornwall, especially alongside looking after Dick.

Liz continues to enjoy playing tennis and hike. In October she, and the group she hikes with, did the five-day "whale" trail at De Hoop Nature reserve, and they saw puff adders besides a few whales. With Auret's youngest daughter Jane, Liz has been to Montagu *[one-time home of Paula and Ian Allen before they moved to Picton, New Zealand.]* Liz writes, 'I see a lot more of **Helen [Nicholson]** these days. She *[Helen]* joins us most Tuesday mornings for a quick "doggie" walk in Newlands forest and she is now a fully-fledged member of the Thursday hiking group. It is wonderful to see her looking so well.'

Robin Tinley and sister **Gay [Prevost]** have been silent this year. *[We hope you have made a complete recovery, Gay, so that we can expect an entry for the 2004 Newsletter.]*

Alison Pickford [Wardle]: Alison writes about her brother **Martin**, 'He did a documentary on television about those 6 million year-old hominid bones. The find has generated quite a controversy in the fossil world, with many people thinking he *[Martin]* is barking up the wrong tree. I am not so sure; I think he will be found to be right after all. *[Having met Martin while he was staying in Pretoria, I am inclined to agree with you, Alison. At any rate, I hope so.]*

Tessa Haupt [Watson] and **Michael** presented their Mum, Ann, with a book they had compiled about her life as an 82nd birthday present. *[What a wonderful idea. It's something the grandchildren will all read and treasure the memories one day, I'm sure.]*

Madge Watts [Ratray] must be one of the 21st Century's most prolific letter writers. Madge keeps me in the picture as to Highlands School activities to a point where I often catch up with ex Kitaleites through their e-mail database. *[Madge, Dolly, Tom and Butch had a sad year in that Tom Senior passed away in White River where he had been living with Madge and husband Alan. I am sure all would join me in this message of sympathy. Out thoughts are with you even now, so many months after the sad event.]*

Madge writes, 'I still have the letter written after Mum died in 1962. Dolly and I were already at the Highlands School by then. Butch was still at home with Mum. I was 15 when Mum died and Dad and I have been together all that time. For 25 years we've been used to having him as a part of our lives. It really leaves a big gap, which is going to take a lot of getting used to.'

'About 2 weeks ago we spent a couple of days with **Magda** and **Chris [Hearne]**; they are both well and very busy with their new venture, B & B, letting cottages etc.' *[Chris's website address is: <http://home.worldonline.co.za/~theswallows>*

Madge has put me in touch with **Colin Davey**, whom some of you will remember as a staff member at Kitale School in the time of Arthur Davies. Colin is now living in the Lowveld of Mpumalanga and it seems that the lifestyle suits him very well.

Robin and I visited **Kay Yuille** and her sister in their lovely cottage on the outskirts of Perth in July 2002. Although she is a much slimmer version of the Kay we all knew, she is as alert, full of life and energy as ever. Kay has many talents, but her artistic talent has come to the fore and she is amazingly creative. Besides keeping her busy in retirement, it is a form of entrepreneurship we could all learn from. After our visit, the next Kitaleite to visit Kay was **Michael Brooks**. I believe both were as delighted as the other with the visit. True as her word, Kay has let me have some interesting photographs for inclusion, if not all in this Newsletter, for future additions.

Data Protection

Many have written asking me to e-mail or post the complete database we have so far compiled of Kitale School alumni. Please understand, that I am not able to do this because we come under the **Data Protection Act**. However, if you have names of specific individual people with whom you would like to renew your friendship, I am able to send you such details as I have. Please e-mail me at: waltonrb@global.co.za or P O Box 556, KELVIN, 2054 SOUTH AFRICA

Robert Richard wrote after receiving last year's Newsletter that, while he enjoyed reading it, he had one gripe in that I did not say anything of how I was spending my time in 'retirement.'

I believe Chris and Magda Hearne and I are in competition as to who works the longest hours or gets the least sleep among us. I think they just pip me to the post, but, Robert, here goes:

Although I supposedly retired from being Head of an all girls Junior School [ages 5 – 13] at the end of 1995, I have kept my fingers on the pulse of education and am involved with the Independent Schools' Association of South Africa as a Committee Member. My other brief is doing audits for Membership within Southern Africa [I am about to go to a school in Mozambique on such a visit].

I work flexi-time [but this is generally 9 hours a day] in a Market Research Company, on the computer side, currently as their PA / Book Keeper, Report Writer, Report Reviewer,

Transcriber, hostess for functions – Jack of all trades, mistress of very little.

I have been acting Hon. Consul for Guyana Republic for the last 2 years. As such, I had a very interesting fortnight during the World Summit, meeting dignitaries from the UN and Guyana and liaising with our own Ministry of Foreign Affairs. I haven't time to attend all the functions we are invited to but I am in contact with folk who wish to travel to that country and who require Visas and such information pertaining to travel to that country.

I have been asked to manage a bursary education fund for ICI but this is still pending, something of a relief at this point. We are not sure, at this stage when / if it will take off because the lady I am liaising with is, like Rob Bairstow last year, suffering from Bell's Palsy.

I try to maintain contact between folk like you through the Newsletter, the Reunions [for which, thank goodness, I have always had amazing committee members who take the pressure off me]. Thank you again, **Heleen Hissey**, for your help and expertise in the final production area, and **Robin** for editing.

This year, besides the Perth Reunion, I am involved as a Committee Member for the 125th Reunion of Loreto Schools in Africa, which is due to take place in Pretoria on 4 October.

In September, we have the Caius College, Cambridge Choir coming out for our Church Jubilee Celebrations and Robin and I are organising the itinerary, accommodation, transport and concert / worship programme for their fortnight visit to South Africa.

I also run the Africa Circle for my London /now University of Surrey College, but this only entails a once-a- year update on information.

Roll on Retirement! Are there any offers for taking over the Newsletter / Reunion co-ordinating. There must be folk out there who can do a better job.