

KITALE SCHOOL NEWSLETTER 2001



Hello all,

It's high time I started on the 2001 Newsletter! What better day than Christmas morning, after a Happy Christmas call from **Richard Statham** down in Maidstone, KwaZulu Natal and as we wait for Robin to join us after he has finished with his many services as organist of St Michael's Bryanston, 15 kilometres outside Johannesburg. So I start by wishing you and yours a very happy year in 2001.

What a year 2000 has been for Kitale School past pupils with two reunions, the first in Buckland Filleigh, Devon and a second, perhaps more modest because there were fewer present but just as successful because it was different, here in Johannesburg. I believe their strength lay in the purpose of getting people who had so much in common together to enjoy a day of reminiscing and reuniting with one another. We must now look forward to the next two which I believe should take place in Perth, Western Australia, - this city chosen simply because there seem to be more living in the warmer west than in other centres of Australia, and Kenya - venue to be decided. Kitale has been suggested as have Naivasha, perhaps more central, Nairobi and Mombasa. In the latter city, **Dolly [Watts] Andreeva** runs an amazing restaurant which we might ask to use as venue [Dolly, blame your elder sister for this suggestion, but we know your culinary skills as do many who have been privileged to enjoy meals at Sea Haven]. Finance permitting, because the cost of airfares places a heavy burden on a pensioner's pocket, I am happy to 'try' to attend both. Much more essential, however, is the necessity to have a small group, of just 2 or 3 willing volunteers who live near the chosen venue, to act as committee members. I cannot express deeply enough our gratitude to **Ralph and Suzanne Nicholson, Jim and Jane [Nicholson] Cox** for their input besides lending us their gracious home in Devon, or to **Alison [Jacobs] McLean and Carol Cooper** for their enthusiasm and the hours of work both put into making the Johannesburg Reunion such a success. Those who attended will know exactly what I mean.

In Devon, it was decided, very wisely and it worked wonderfully well, that we have a 'bring and share' lunch. Those who were staying started arriving the evening before, which is, I am told, when the party actually began, and it continued until the Sunday morning. Robin and I had only just arrived in UK from South Africa so we did not get there until about 10h30 - just in time to put in the finishing touches and to greet people. Imagine the inside of a stately home with an enormous hallway off which led three large reception rooms. One was used to serve the main course, a second the dessert and afternoon teas while the third held memorabilia, of which there was plenty. A vast kitchen was the other essential and there was a constant hum of dishwashers, which were in action throughout the afternoon. I feel I should mention here that **Patricia Greaves [Casadio]** must have the best trained husband, **Oreste**, in the whole of England as he led a team of helpers in the constant clearing up that was a necessary part of any successful day. The food, a wonderful buffet followed by mouth watering desserts and a scrumptious tea, was thoroughly enjoyed by all and there were scenes of small year groups picnicking in the lovely gardens with others sitting on the staircase on the verandas or in one of the reception rooms.

Those present at Buckland Filleigh on 30 June were:

Rosemary Aimes [Harrison]
Bob Archer
Ann Attwood [Totty] and Bruce
Helen [Nicholson], Ian and Kate Bailey all the way from Cape Town
Liz [Waterfield] and John Bannister
Peggy Begley [Wilson]
Sue Boll [Wilson] and Pamela from South Africa
Jenny Botto [Toward] and Dick
Claire Brayne Nichols [Roberts]
Eddie Bristow
Michael Brookes - son of George Brookes, Headmaster
Robert Brooke and Irene
Mary Broomhall [Leech]
Tony Burch and Audrey
Pat Burr [Morrow] and Vivien
Graham Bush [Staff]
Ruth Carvosso [Leech]

Pat [Greaves] and Oreste Casadio
 Christine Coppola [Jensen]
 Jane [Nicholson] and Jim Cox
 Mary and John Dalton
 Grant Daniels
 David Daniels and Christopher
 Robert Duirs and Jonathan Kinton
 Grafton Edwards
 Betty [Cory, Staff] and Hugh Evans
 Sally [Nield] and Dick Evans
 Jenny [Duirs] and John Field – home on leave, for
 2 weeks, from Zimbabwe
 Peter Gerrard
 Annette Gilbert [Nielsen]
 Rosalind Graham-Smith [Williams]
 Christopher and Gill Greaves
 Peter Greaves
 Ilse [Hasse] Guest
 Biddy Hamil [Lloyd]
 Fiona [Dalton] and Peter Hawkins
 Mary Hayley [Sovic]
 Alan and Tom Hollows
 Judith and Mavis Hollows
 Marion Hubbard
 Elizabeth Janssens [Sinclair]
 Noreen Johnson [Wilson] and Claire
 Dave Josselyn
 Sue [Roffey] and Andy Kerfoot
 Jeremy and Doreen Kidner – from Hong Kong
 Rosalind Kohler [Sinclair]
 Michael Legg
 Paddy Lloyd
 Lisbeth Mandel [Jensen] – all the way from
 Copenhagen, just for the weekend.
 Elsa Martin [Sunde]
 Janet Morgan
 Jenny [Wilson] and Charlie Munden
 Ralph Nicholson
 May Payne [Wreford-Smith]
 Alison [Pickford] and Dave Wardle
 Patricia Pratt [Matthews]
 Cherry Quinlon-Robinson [Roberts]
 Robert Richard – all the way from Israel, just for
 the weekend
 Esther Richard
 Gillian Ryan [Horner]
 Janina Seabrook [Legg]
 Tom Shaw
 Jill Skinner [Armstrong]
 Richard Skinner
 Mary Sloan - Staff

Ann [Hitch] and Peter Sowerby
 Brian Sparke
 Nathalie Stump – all the way from Geneva,
 Switzerland, just for the weekend.
 Niels and Carol Sunde and two children
 Peter Symes
 Andy and Maggie Tainsh
 Jo [Archer] Trench
 Elizabeth [Morgan] and Richard Tottenham
 Bridget [Doenhoff] Walton [Staff]
 Sandra [Roberts] Westlake
 Steve and Cecilia Wilson
 Lindi [Northcote] Wilson
 Alan and Pat Wood
 Michael Wood
 Peter Woods [son of Johnny Woods, Headmaster]
 Vivienne [Greaves] and Rod Young

By contrast, we decided to have a sit down dinner
 here in Johannesburg for which my clever
 committee prepared a real Trans Nzoia theme.
 Each room had its own name, the menu was in
 Swahili, our colour scheme was blue and yellow
 and everything bore the school crest, even the
 wine bottles! It was indeed a very festive scene
 and the five-course dinner was real cordon bleu
 standard. I had even managed to get the company
 for which I work to donate a gift for each guest, a
 travelling alarm clock on which we put a small
 crest.

**Present at the Johannesburg Reunion held in
 Hofmeyr House, at the University of the
 Witwatersrand on 14 October:**

Laurie and Stella Balabanoff
 Willie and Jeanette Balabanoff
 Susan [Wilson], Klaus and Pamela Boll – from
 Amanzimtoti
 Harm Bosman and Denkie van Deventer – from
 Volksrust
 Carol Cooper
 Heather [Munro] Davidson – from Howick KZN
 Aiden Doyle – from Standerton, Mpumalanga
 Karin Falck
 Alfred and Marge Fletcher
 Chris and Magda Hearne from Winterton KZN
 Frances and Janet Henn – from Swaziland
 Roger and Heleen Hissey and Daphne [all the way
 from Perth, Australia]
 Tom Jacobs

Anne [Fiske] Kempe and Graham
 Neil McCormick [DOY] – invited guest
 Sue [Brooksbank] and Gavin McKenzie – from
 Westville KZN
 Alison [Jacobs] and Don McLean
 Celia [Falck] and Chris Moore
 Karin [Falck] and Chris Norman
 Gail [Tilney] and Mike Provost from Elgin,
 Western Cape
 Karin Rogers
 Brian and Susan Rose
 Jean [Hallett] and Don Skilleter – from Schagen,
 Mpumalanga
 Richard and Pauline Statham – from Maidstone,
 KZN
 Danie Steyn
 Peter and Marisa, Brett and Aileen Swan
 Barbara [Richter] Terney
 Robin Tilney – from Botswana
 Peter and Angela Troward
 Rynie van Emmenis
 Joyce [Keeze] van Nieuwenhuisen
Bridget [Doenhoff, Staff] and Robin Walton
 Madge [Watts] and Alan Rattray, from White
 River, Mpumalanga

Extracts from letters written after the two reunions:

Bob Archer, having just returned from walking in the Pyrenees writes:
 'What impressed me was that it was a gathering of old friends who were all busy going their different ways, having enjoyed a common past. For this, Kitale School can well be proud. Pupils obviously were well prepared to face life's contingencies.' Bob asked that we add Stephen to our list and added, 'Stephen is a Marine Biologist working at the laboratory in Plymouth.'

Su Brooksbank [McKenzie]:

'It was great catching up with so many people after all these years and we enjoyed staying with Neil [McCormick]. We spent the following week at Hartebeestpoort Dam, phew it was hot, and got back yesterday to cooler weather and rain. Jo-Burg intimidates me, too fast and too much traffic.'

Carol Cooper mentions having received letters and phone calls from **Laurie Balabanoff, Joyce Keese** who asks not to be forgotten for the next

one! She then writes: 'It was a darn fine evening, getting everyone together, the memorabilia, the stories, the idea itself. I loved Richard's stroll down memory lane, his remembrances of the swimming pool, Sunday walks, playing 'nyaabs' under the big tree, and just watching the enormous amount of talking that went on. **Alison [Nicholson] Gilbert** spoke to me last evening and she sounded almost wistful that she hadn't been part of it.'

Hugh Evans

'A terrific gathering last Friday!'

Peter Gerrard

'What an amazing day we all had in Devon at the end of June. What was incredible was how we all got on so well, spoke the same language. It felt that it was only the other day that we saw each other, not some 40 or 50 years ago. Well, I can't wait that long till the next reunion! It was great to re-establish contact with ex-girl friends [no names, no pack drill!] and those one 'fancied' at school, even at that tender age, must have been the sun and altitude. Whatever, friendships have been rekindled. It really does show how important one's first school is in moulding us. I think that is why we got on so well and communicated so well, a great reflection on a great little school. What a lovely place Buckland House is for such a function.'

From **Patricia Greaves [Casadio]** 'What a fantastic day. The whole atmosphere was totally unbelievable and the emotion so strong even after all these years.'

Alison Jacobs [McLean] has also had calls after the Jo-Burg reunion, one from **Anne Kempe** who said how much she enjoyed the reunion at Hofmeyr House. She also asked whether there are future reunions planned!

Chris and Karin Norman [Falck] wrote:

'Hi, all of you who put on such a marvellous 'Ngoma.' It was so good that I wish it had lasted for a whole weekend! There were still people to meet and things to say and exchange. But isn't it always that way, there's never enough time? The little digital clocks are really appreciated and we each have one at our bedside.'

From **Tom Jacobs:**

'I thought it was a great evening. Looking forward to the Y 3 K Reunion.'

Christine [Jensen] Coppola:

'It was most certainly a day never to be forgotten. I know I speak for everyone when I say what a wonderful day we all had. We had such a great time catching up on all those years. I couldn't believe it was suddenly 7.30 pm and time to leave. For me it was a particularly exciting day as I caught up with **John** and **Marie Dalton**. I had been a flower girl, aged 5, at their wedding, and had not had contact all those years, only to discover that their daughter lives near Hereford and the whole family know the National Trust Gardens next to the Nursing Home which I have been running for over 4½ years. What a small world! I caught up with **Judith Hollows** with whom I have been friendly since Standard Two and since she left in 1960, we have corresponded for both birthdays and at Christmas. That must be a record! We see each other every 10 years or so. We all look forward to the next one.'

From **Jane [Nicholson] Cox** our wonderful hostess and, I believe the person to whom, along with **Ralph**, we owe the biggest thank you of all:

'It did go so well, it was wonderful to hear the happy hum of conversation. It made it all see so worthwhile.'

Lindy [Northcote] Wilson:

'It was such a wonderful day and I so wish it had gone on for longer. It was so good to meet up with so many 'old' friends, some totally unrecognisable but some remarkable recognisable. Such fun! I have written to Ralph and Jane. Weren't they terrific? *[I think we all agree on that one, Lindy.]* I do hope that the SA reunion will be as successful and that Dad will be able to join you.' *[Unfortunately John Northcote was not at the Johannesburg Reunion, but we did all see him at Roger Hissey's 50th Birthday, another great gathering of the clans.]*

From **Robert Richard:**

'This was a real 'once in a lifetime' experience which went off just perfectly. Not surprisingly, given the 40-year separation and the transition to

adulthood, I didn't recognise any of my former schoolmates. However, very soon the faces merged with the memories, and in no time at all we were talking about the old times and our very special and unusual past. And of course, I'm sure you noticed, the volume of laughter increased with the passage of time and the consumption of alcohol!'

'Now for the gossip! My mother used to be **Peter Wood's** nanny when he was about 4 and she about 16. At the time, she was a newly arrived refugee from pre-war Germany. Peter remembered her and Mum was tickled pink at the story and the photograph. **Esther [Richard]** and I stayed at a farmhouse together with **Ann Attwood [Totty]**. She was at Kitale School before our time but I remember her father, Rev Totty, who was a missionary. I even remember a story he once told on Speech Day. Ann reports that he was thrilled to hear that people remember him from so far back. Later on I saw that Ann has an MBE. Do you know anything about that?' *[This is indeed a well deserved award in recognition of the enormous amount of work Ann has done over many years in the West Country to improve the quality of life for people like her own son, Bruce, who was with us at the reunion. Ann, we are all proud of you. See Ann's own contribution below. I heard the other day that John Rose, also ex Kitale School was also awarded an MBE. Congratulations, John. Please get in touch and let us know more about yourself.]*

Danie Steyn

'What an amazing evening we had at the reunion. To me it was so special and the memories were wonderful. I was never really fond of boarding school as I was always very homesick but it was a necessity. It was good to meet friends again and to remember that I was very fortunate to have had what we had.' *[Danie organises tours for folk visiting South Africa, so if you are in the area, do get in touch. E-mail: danie@cis.co.za]*

Richard Statham

'What a brilliant evening! I have not felt so utterly emotional for a long time. In fact, I don't think I finished my meal because I did not want to miss a second of the precious time we had.' *[Richard, I*

WHAT A DINNER!!!

*Johannesburg
October 2000*

**WHAT A
BARMAN!**



Aiden Doyle



Ester & Robert Richard



Chris Hearne



Susan Brooksbank



*Brian Rose, Jean (Hallett) and
Daphne Hissey*

believe we have to thank you for bringing back so many memories when you spoke of Kitale school as it was in your time.]

Ann Totty [Attwood] wrote the following contribution for the E A W L Magazine, published in the Autumn of 2000.

'The first Reunion in England of former pupils of Kitale School was held on June 30th, 2000. Over 100 people attended a wonderful gathering at the home of the Nicholsons [former pupils].'

'It was a marvellous setting in beautiful grounds with 2 lakes, a swimming pool and this lovely house [Buckland House], which dates back to William the Conqueror's times. Buckland House is at Buckland Filleigh, Beauworthy in Devon, and there couldn't be a more beautiful place. To some of us, it was reminiscent of the Cheranganis and Elgon! Many had come especially from Australia, New Zealand and America and, of course, we never stopped talking. Some stayed overnight and no doubt talked late into the night.'

Ann then wrote her own personal views as follows:

'These were 2 of the most gloriously happy days. Not only for me, but the reunion gave 2 other people happiness, namely Bruce and my Dad. To see friends from my childhood whom I never thought I would see again, to hear about their parents, friends of my parents and to be able to talk about my wonderfully happy childhood, a privileged one, such fun! My Dad [now 93] was cheered too, when I told him of 3 people who could remember the talks he gave at Kitale, something I did not know he did. To be able to talk about sugar sandwiches, climbing Jacaranda trees, midnight feasts with 5 pieces of Willy Wood's toffee and reading under the bedclothes by torchlight until Mrs Munro tapped on the bed, Kestrel only once winning Cock House, finger-nail and shoe inspections was bliss! This was continued when we shared the perfect B & B with Esther and Robert Richard. They were younger than I was but nevertheless we spent until almost 11pm non-stop talking about Kitale days. Bruce loved it too. Only Kitaleites could make him feel so welcome and understand him. [Ann, I hope one day we can welcome you here and introduce Bruce to our friend Jeff, with whom he has so much in

common]. How kind of the Nicholsons to provide such an idyllic venue!'

'The M B E – that was 2 years ago and what a day! I was allowed to take the 3 most important men in my life, Harold [Hubby], Philip [elder son] who took me back to Kitale 5 years ago, when we stayed at the Kitale Club and went on to Kapenguria, and Bruce. We were able to buy millions of photos and a video with all the bits of me and the family prominent! It was for services to the mentally handicapped. We were devastated when Bruce was born, but he has enriched our lives in an unbelievable way. Three years ago, I received the Cheltenham Medal of Honour for services to the mentally handicapped of Cheltenham over 21 years. Harold and I went to a Buckingham Palace Garden Party too. I still do 2 nights a week at the hospital where I trained as a midwife and on several occasions have been able to talk to young new mothers of Down's babies, knowing their grief but also giving them hope.' [Ann, in case you didn't meet up with **Vivien Young [Greaves]** at the Reunion, her address: *Chester Cottage, 11 Iveywell Road, Sneyd Park, BRISTOL BS9 1NY*].

From **Steve Wilson**

'A great reunion, enjoyed by all without exception. It really was great meeting up with so many of our friends and acquaintances of yesteryear and even though my wife Cecilia was not of the original 'Wilson' clan, she enjoyed meeting and talking to everyone. It was very generous of Ralph and Jane to hold the reunion in their lovely mansion. It was an ideal venue for such a gathering and I can't believe that the weather remained so good. I recognised Ralph immediately though I did not know Jane or Helen. It was somewhat unusual for the whole Wilson clan to be together in one place – they are usually too noisy and need to be kept apart! I know **Peggy, Noreen, Jenny and Sue** enjoyed themselves thoroughly. It's a pity **Biddy Crowcombe, Kay Yuille and George Brookes** couldn't make it as it would then have been even better.' [I'm sure all three were there in spirit, Steve.]

'A week or so I heard from **Andy and Sue [Roffey] Kerfoot** who had just returned from a visit to the **Dales** in Australia. Sadly, they did not

get there before **Alan's Dad, Tony**, passed away. While they were out there, they had a mini reunion and caught up with **Johnny Barbour** and **Pam [Hissey]**, **Brandon Brooksbank**, **Alan Hitchcox** and a few others living around Alan and Jessie Dale's area.'

Peter Woods wrote:

'As I said at the gathering, my father would so love to have seen everyone at the reunion and to sense the obvious bond which those people still share. There are going to be a lot of people who didn't come to Buckland House who will wish they had when they hear what a great success it was. News of the family: **Bernard** retired from World Bank a few years ago and now lives near Canterbury. Perhaps his greatest claim to fame, other than falling out of a tree at Kitale School and breaking his leg, was to set up an Agricultural College in Lilongwe, Malawi, for which he was awarded the OBE at the age of 32. **Jonathan** has been a barrister in London ever since he graduated from Oxford. He still practises, sometimes as a judge. **Jennifer [Eaton]** lives in Nairobi now after spending many years with her pastor husband in charge of churches in Lusaka and Johannesburg. Jennifer now does the most heroic work in Southern Sudan, seeking out isolated communities who have not yet been reached by the international aid agencies. I, **Peter**, spent many years working for De Beers and related companies in mining exploration, operating first in different parts of Africa before being sent to Yorkshire. After that it was Canada, in charge of the De Beers Office there. I left of my own volition in 1985 to return to University to do a Master's Degree in Forestry and Wild Life Habitat Management. I have had such fun and satisfaction working for myself ever since, based here in Yorkshire. *[In 1968, after losing his beloved Janet in a motor car accident, Johnny moved from Surrey to Yorkshire to convalesce and this is where he started writing his autobiography. Peter writes: We would hear him chortling to himself from time to time as he said to himself, "I find myself recalling comic incidents I have not thought about for 50 years.]" [Peter, I am sure you will let us know when your Dad's Memoirs are published for us all to enjoy in full.]*

George Brookes is a prolific letter writer and I

share some of his news with you all:

'It is very satisfying to learn of the success of our former pupils but in particular of **Peter Rosa**. Vera Tellatin used to 'whip' the Catholics in religious lessons on Saturday mornings. Poor soul! Peter always asked the most difficult questions. She said he was halfway to being a bishop.'

After returning to England from Kenya, George went home to Fowey where he stayed until his beloved **Vera** passed away. 'Eventually I sold my house and large garden to move here to Salisbury. It was grand to be near Michael and his family. I keep in close touch with the grandchildren, helping where and when necessary. Myles is at Birmingham University studying Biochemistry and Sarah is in the VI Form at the local girls' Grammar School. I have lunch and tea with the family at weekends or I take them out to lunch at a pleasant pub on Sundays. Apart from that, I watch sport on the box and read the Telegraph, which takes an age. My delight is to watch rugby and racing, especially the French. I correspond with several of my Kitale friends, but age has reduced them.'

Su Brooksbank:

'We are pensioners and keep busy fixing up the house and garden. We are going to UK in August and September and will be attending the Highlands Reunion. We are looking forward to having **Shirley [Brooksbank]** and **Rod [Patterson]** in June for 10 days, en route back to Kilifi after visiting their children in Perth and Auckland.'

Through Susan, I have had news of **Ian Brooksbank** who has been dairy farming in West Sussex for over 30 years, very hard work indeed. *[Ian, it was good to get news and I hope, one day, cows permitting, that you will take a holiday back in Africa and visit your family in KwaZulu Natal, perhaps calling on us en route.]*

From Shirley Heriz-Smith [Brown]:

'My father farmed near Hoey's Bridge on land that he bought in 1913. I was at Kitale School in 1933-1934 before going on to school in Natal, South Africa, Girls' Collegiate, Pietermaritzburg. Two of my brothers were at Kitale School before going on to Michaelhouse and some time later my half sister

Ruth, was there also, before going on to Limuru. She was at Kitale from 1945 – 1950 and she now lives in Mooi River.'

Paula Allen [Burch] and her husband Ian are about to start a new life in New Zealand, that is, as soon as they are able to sell their lovely Rainbow Glen. Paula writes:

'Our property market here is dead slow. People are cautious. We have absolutely no regrets. I love the place to bits but we live like ostriches with heads in the sand. The place is so peaceful and crime-free, but it doesn't reflect the real world. We could be anywhere in the world, a paradise of wild birds, our lovely gardens, the farm animals, contented guests with delighted kids making happy sounds. It's been one of the happiest chapters in our lives but all chapters end and new chapters have to begin. We have made a very difficult decision as we approach 50 to begin a new life now, while we still have the energy and health, or to stay here forever.'

For those living in Britain or for visitors from abroad, **Tony Burch** and **Audrey** suggest you might like a change. You would be very welcome visitors at Park Farm, in Blandford Forum, Dorset. *[See picture and details.]*

Many of you will remember **Mike Cooper, Carol's Dad**. He writes: 'There are a few Kenya folk living in this part of the world so I manage a bit of Swahili talking every now and again. The snag is we are all getting a bit 'mzee.'

In spite of living so close, unfortunately painful arthritis prevented **Biddy [Crowcombe]** from attending the Devon Reunion. Biddy wrote to let me know that sadly **Margaret Powell** [Sanatorium sister] passed away after a second heart attack. Irene Leach has also passed away. *[We send our condolences to Gillian, Andrew and David on the loss of a very special mother and, for many of us, doctor.]* Biddy had visits from both **Clare Breckenridge** and **Wendy Charlton**. Biddy had been to Canada to see Clare and her parents but **Chris [Gibson]** couldn't go as her mother, now aged 98, could not be left. It was Biddy's first flight across the Atlantic and she obviously had a very good holiday, enjoying the Canadian people, the countryside, which she described as clean and fresh.

Tony and **Jessie Dale** celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary in April 2000, but we heard from **Jessie** and **Alan** that Tony passed away during the year. I believe the funeral service was a memorable tribute to the life of a very special friend.

Thank you **Grant [Daniels]** and **Elly** for Christmas Greetings. Grant writes: 'Hardly a day goes by but that we think back to the Kitale School Reunion. When is the next one?' *[Grant, several have asked me this and I am 'thinking' about it. Have written to brother Mike Doenhoff whose family runs a pub in the East End of London. We might just be able to take that over one day for those living not too far from London – but this is hypothetical at present, just an idea!]*

Terry Davidson and **Gail** have returned to live in Nairobi *[We need an address, please, Terry]*. They will be living in the City Bank Manager's House right behind the Muthaiga Club, which will be very convenient for visits to Walter and Sylvia. Gail writes that the house has its own generator and water supply and a telephone line that works – all very important in Kenya these days. She finds Nairobi very run down and the standard of driving worse. *[We were sorry you were unable to be at our Jo-Burg reunion, but the date probably didn't tie in with a business trip as you had hoped.]*

Sylvia Davidson wrote: '**Oliver** is having to build up a farm on the slopes of Mount Kilimanjaro from scratch and **Colin** a workshop, specialising in Landrover, Discovery and Range Rover repairs.'

From Oliver Davidson:

'The Kitale School Newsletters are doing the rounds here in Tanzania where I have lived with my family for the last 15 years. After finishing my education in the UK I went back to Kenya to manage farms before going on to the Sudan where I spent a fascinating 5 years with oil exploration until the civil war started. From here I went to Australia and it was during this time that I met my wife, at **Peter Flatt's** wedding! We drove round Australia, then cycled round New Zealand before getting married in the UK. After a year in England, we came out to Tanzania, first to Dar es Salaam and later in Arusha, where I was a partner in setting up a tour business building a tented lodge

on the escarpment overlooking Lake Manyara. I sold out of this and purchased a farm on West Kilimanjaro where the struggle continues!' *[Please Oliver, let me have address details for Barney Gasston. Thank you for all the others.]*

I have had several chats with **Mike de Bromhead** although unfortunately he could not get to Johannesburg for October 14 as planned because he was unwell. *[We hope you have made a complete recovery, Mike].* Mike writes:

'What a great surprise when I received a copy of the Kitale School Newsletter. All the names that cropped up bring back many memories. I haven't really kept up too well with Kenya people since I left in '63 although since coming to South Africa I've met up with quite a number through the ex-Kenya get together at Cato Ridge and the Kenya Regiment Reunions.'

Aiden Doyle wrote:

'I am about to go to Cape Town to ride my 3rd Argus Cycle Tour. I spoke to Harum Bosman yesterday after receiving the Newsletter. He gave me **Petronella's** telephone number and postal address. *[Thank you for these, Aiden.]* **Koba** was with her for the weekend. She still lives in Harare. Sister **Celine [Stear]** is not the easiest person to get hold of. She is living in the sticks close to Mtyoroshanga. Celine is married and she has 2 boys.'

Aiden saw **Sue Barton [Cockcroft]** during September and had a long chat with her. Douglas is in Kenya. *[I too had a long chat with Sue after her return from India where she spent 6 months of this year. This must have been a great, if tough, experience.]*

Many will remember **Doreen Drakes**, who lived with her children in the Junior Boarding House. I had a surprise letter from **Ian** this year. Ian had a friend, Peter who had a damaged wrist. I have racked my brain to try to find out which Peter this might be from our database. If said Peter reads this, please renew contact with Ian through: idrakes@hotmail.com

From **Sue Dwen [Hudson]**:

'I was absolutely thrilled and delighted to receive the Kitale School Newsletter; no doubt my address

was made available to you through **Heleen Hissey [Roger's wife]**. It was wonderful to catch up with everyone's news. The Newsletter certainly stirred up some very old memories for me. I have passed copies on to **Dorothy and Irene Vorster, Danton and Peter** and to my brothers.'

'The Dwen family emigrated to South Africa in 1962. We children all completed our schooling and further studies in South Africa and then did the usual travelling before settling down. I am happily married to Peter Hudson, living in Durban and am proud mother of 3 gorgeous [now grown up] sons who are all busy leaving the nest. Sadly we lost my 4th son Mel, who got that dreaded disease Leukaemia, and after fighting a courageous battle for a year, we lost him. Our parents, **Rita and Leo** are both well. They have retired in Howick.'

'**Chris** is a potato farmer in Underberg. He has done very well for himself. He and his wife and family live on a beautiful farm in the foothills of the mountains. Chris is passionate about flying and is proud owner of 2 aeroplanes.'

[Sue wrote about William: 'William is a confirmed bachelor who owns and runs a very successful fabric and interior decorating business in Cape Town. He is passionate about microlighting and he spends many hours flying all over the place in his little plane.' Sadly, we have to put this paragraph in past tense for William was brutally murdered on returning home one evening about a fortnight after we had all enjoyed seeing him at Roger's 50th Birthday party. I believe you would all join me in sending our heartfelt sympathy to the Dwen family in their bereavement. Believe me, William was one in a million and for me it was a privilege to have seen him again as a very special adult and Kitale Old Boy.]

Some husbands are marvellous letter writers and it was such a pleasant surprise to receive E-mails from **Wayne Lawrence**, husband of **Anthea [Dudin]**. Thank you for all four addresses, Wayne. *[Having re-read your letter, I can try and get better copies of the photographs printed through a publishing firm here in Johannesburg. If they come out well, I shall send them. I am still waiting for news about the Dudin clan - for the 2002 Newsletter, perhaps?]*



BUCKLAND FILLEIGH 30 JUNE 2000



REUN
AUS



Alistair, Judith, Tom, Vincent, Robert, Mavis and Alan Hollows

Is this l

TROUT'S

Guess who
School, late

(Peter R

(All you ac
let us in on yo
and forward
of the photog



Niels Sunde, Roz (Williams), Rosalind & Elizabeth (Sinclair)



*Peter Woods, Michael Brookes,
Graham Bush & Bridget*



**REUNION 2002 / 2003????
AUSTRALIA AND/OR KENYA**



Lisbeth Jensen (Mandel)

*Is this less than
25lbs?
TROUT'S BACK!*

*Guess who? Kitale
School, late 1950's.
(Peter Rosa)*

*(All you achievers
let us in on your secrets
and forward us copies
of the photographs?!)*



Jenny Duirs and **John [Field]** have been posted to Harare, and it was wonderful to see both first, too briefly, in Devon but during their leave here in South Africa. Jenny also asks when the next reunion is likely to be! She writes, 'Fancy Roger Hissey reaching the ripe old age of half a century! I can't believe he can be so old and now a Granddad too! Wonderful really! He can receive 'Saga' magazine for the aged now! We are looking forward to our trip South and across Namibia. We were in Kenya at the beginning of September, a quick trip up to Mount Kenya Safari Lodge and the Ark – brilliant and relaxing. After John's conference in Nairobi, we managed a quick trip down to Mailindi. We stayed at Hemingways, again wonderful. We met **Jenny Northcote** briefly at the airport and then her son at the hotel. Things are not looking good in Zimbabwe. The country continues its depression. Nothing much that is 'good' seems to come out at the moment. Even where there was 'hope' it is now turning to despair in many cases. That said, there are worse problems in other parts of the world at present – Palestine and Israel come to mind immediately. What a pity that **David Hasluck** could not get to the Johannesburg reunion. We are off on Thursday evening to UK to see our son and John's Mum for Christmas and then we pop over to Freiburg to see Naomi for New Year, all rather rushed but very exciting.' *[I am not quite certain of what David does but he had to cancel his trip to be available in Harare for an emergency situation. Ed.]*

Having renewed contact with **Robert Duirs** in Devon, he and I met in London in September and enjoyed a cup of tea and cakes at the Festival Hall, overlooking the Thames. There was no waist watching for either of us on that occasion! *[We had time to chat while Robert drove me to my next appointment in Putney, for which many thanks, Robert!]*

From **Sandy Duncan [Peatling]**: 'I bet the reunion was fun. I wish I could have been there. Fancy having one so soon after we left Johannesburg. Sadly **Glenda** left JHB just 2 days before the date and so was also unable to attend. I would love to have some news from Carolyn [Cooper]. My father met her Dad, Mike, here in Somerset West literally days before he passed away.' *[Sandy, Mike lives at: 65 Storm Haven*

Park, SOMERSET WEST, 7130. I'm sure he'd love to hear from you. Ed.]

From **Sally Eager [Hood]**:

'**John** is married to a South African girl, **Christine I'Lons**. John has retired from Caltex, Australia. He has been living in Aussie for the last 20 years or so, and he is moving to Clare Valley, South Australia in February 2001. **Mike**, an entomologist working for Zenaca, also married a South African girl, **Dimity Language**. They live in Wisconsin, USA, and have two children, Andrew and Sarah. **Tim** teaches at a private school in the Rockies and lives in Vancouver. He is unmarried. I am a physiotherapist and married a Kenyan, **Peter Hood** from Nairobi [ex Kenton College and Sedburgh]. We live in Malawi at the moment, as expatriates, and are rootless. We have a house in Kleinmond, Cape, but are not sure where we will eventually live. Kenya is always 'home' and we will always find ourselves going back there.'

Nan Fell, whose **Mother** taught at Kitale School writes:

'My mother taught Maths, English and Art. She was there at the time Johnny Woods was Headmaster, and left in the late '40s.'

From **Alison Flatt**:

'My parents, **Dick** and **Madeline Flatt** moved to Australia in 1986. My mother suffered a stroke in 1991, which partially paralysed her right side. However, she is mobile and she speaks pretty well. My father died in 1998 *[Alison, we send our condolences belatedly to you, your Mum, Penny, Peter, Derek and Chris]*. **Penny** married **Peter Madvig** from Moshi and they live in Sidney, Australia. **Peter** married a French girl **Ariele** and they live in Perth. Pete is in touch with **Vicky** and **Charles Kerfoot**, **Lilian Andersen**, and **Barry O'Toole**. Barry, now called Derek, married an ex Zimbabwe girl, **Judy**, and they live here in Maun. Derek has his own air charter and travel agency company. We have a lot of contact with the **Davidsons**, **Terry** and **Gail**, and also **Jennifer**, who lives in Selebi Pikwe, Botswana. **Chris** married a Nairobi girl called **Nicky West** and they still live there. Chris runs a successful tourism enterprise called the Bush Homes of East Africa. I live here in Maun with my partner, Mark Muller, ex Moshi. I help Derek in the Travel Agency.'

'**Jane Barnley** is my godmother and still very much alive and kicking in Kitale. **Julia** lives with her and they run a small guesthouse still on their old farm. Dick is also based in Kitale having spent some years in Venezuela.' *[It would be nice to have an address for Ann, believed to be living in Nairobi, if there is anyone who has it, please.]*

'**The Horsey** family members are all still very much in Kenya. **Horace [Christopher]** and **David** run a very successful business dealing in all sorts in Mombasa. Horace married **Caroline Denton** and David married **Vicky McKenzie** from the coast. **John**, I think, is farming near Nanyuki. **Ruth** got married to a polo player and probably still lives in Nairobi.'

Michael Fulton:

'I have spent some time in Kenya this year, staying with my sister **Diana [Purchase]** for a couple of weeks at a time. *[Michael, I know the second time was when Diana's Paddy passed away and she will have been so grateful to have your support. Diana, I am sure all that knew you will have you in their thoughts and, through the Newsletter, we express our condolences in your bereavement.]* I just want to let everyone know that I have moved into the new house that I bought here in Singapore at the end of August.'

Michael gave us news of the **Kidner** family. '**Colin** and **Sandra** both live in the UK [Colin in Billericay, Essex] with their families. **Jeremy** and his wife **Doreen**, live between Hong Kong and Brisbane. They are getting Australian permanent residency. Jeremy runs his own commercial intelligence company. *[It was great to see you both in Devon, Jeremy and Doreen. Perhaps the next time we'll meet in Perth?]* Jeremy and Doreen met **Cherry Dale** in Kitale, when they visited and were staying with the **Mills**.'

Peter Gerrard:

'As I mentioned, the Sunday after the reunion, I took off for Indonesia and I have been here since as stand-in Manager for 3 tea estates south of Bandung, in West Java. I have a 2-year contract – not bad for an old geezer on a pension. It is hard work but rewarding – I hope financially as well! This is a beautiful country with high volcanic peaks, terraced rice paddies and then, at the head

of the valleys, a lot of tea. Unfortunately, ours is not the best due to years of poor management. But at least Indonesian Managers are willing and prepared to carry out recommendations for improvement. Wages are low by any standards but there is no shortage of labour.'

Tony Halahan writes:

'It is amazing to think that a Kitale School Reunion can happen in Johannesburg and in the UK. I remember the **Hissey** and **Northcote** brothers, the **Bartons**, the **Durrards**, Pete and **Barry Flatt**. I remember the **Hissey** brothers best of all because they were both at the Duke of York where I was for a while. **Peter Hissey** specialises in Jaguar car mechanics in Western Australia. The last time I visited Kitale was in 1995 and it looked very run down. We left Kitale in 1965 and my mother worked in Malindi, then Molo, Turi and back to Malindi, leaving for UK in 1970. My brother **Patrick** is an electronics engineer working in Silicon Valley, San Mateo, California.'

From Justin Hardy:

'I attended the school in about 1970 after a stint at Jack and Jill Kindergarten. I then went to Manor House and from there to Pembroke. I have some good memories of Kitale School. I went to Uni. in Newcastle upon Tyne and saw a bit of Clive Richardson, once Headmaster at Manor House, who had retired there. I remember him for his discipline and for the caning that he often delivered and we had a few good laughs about those! Currently, I work for Agriculture WA. I married a Kenya [Nairobi] girl, **Kathy [Bywe]**. We live on the south coast in scenic Albany. I recognised **Chrissie Luck** in the photo of the last Newsletter. My elder brother **Giles** is in Western Australia, a lecturer at Murdoch University, Perth. He is a plant pathologist who loves the academic world and who does a lot of work on soil/plant diseases. Giles was always and still is a long distance runner. Her loves the bush and is always looking for an opportunity to explore the Aussie bundu. Older brother **Mark** runs a business in Sussex. It's a pity he missed the Devon Reunion.'

It was good to hear from **Allen** and **Jenny Hallett** who run an extremely successful gallery in Howick, KwaZulu Natal. I have also been in touch with **Ian**, who is recovering well after his stroke

and who is determined that it won't be too long before he is back working again. *[Well done, Ian, on such positive thinking. We all wish you a complete recovery.]* Seeing **Jean Hallett [Skilleter]** at the Johannesburg Reunion was also such a pleasure. She has boundless energy and, apart from adding a few years, I don't believe she has changed at all.

Tessa Haupt [Watson] is another of our energetic members, and a good E-mail correspondent to boot. Tessa has offered to help co-ordinate a reunion in Perth. *[Thank you, Tessa. Andrew [Hillier] has agreed to help in a minor way, bearing in mind all the work he puts into the OY website, and I believe Vicky Kerfoot is also a willing third person. Let's get going on this, perhaps for the beginning of 2002 and in Perth. If you can think of a suitable venue and a possible date, we'll advertise through Willie Pinto's Funga Safari website. I can also create a flyer to send either through the post or by E-mail to all on our database.]* Tessa writes about the family reunion with brother **Mike** and **Sue** and what fun it was to enjoy a holiday at Longreach Bay with both families and **Ann**. The family also celebrated Ann's 80th birthday during 2001. *[Congratulations from all of us, Ann.]*

Chris Hearne and **Magda** are real entrepreneurs. They are now in the tourist business and organise treks, trips and trails in the Central Drakensberg area. Magda describes them as 'Tremendous, terrific, tailor-suited, tip-top, totally out there,' and she suggests we all pay them a visit. Knowing Chris and Magda, a visit to their idyllic valley is definitely to be recommended.

Thank you **Andrew** and **Gail Hillier** for putting me in touch with **David Leach** and also with **David Mailte**. Your Perth OY Reunion must have been amazing. *(We felt the same way about Kitale in Devon and Kitale in Johannesburg. Loreto in Kloof was also great fun and I have just got Loreto Cape Town off the ground and am flying to the Mother City on 02 February to liaise with my small committee there, check out the venue etc. I am not quite sure why I have landed myself with 2 part pupils' jobs as well as full time and two half-time employment jobs. The fun part is meeting and hearing from people.)*

Andrew writes of David Leach: 'We have just had David and Lynn Leach staying with us. It was lovely to see David again after all these years and to meet Lynn. He has certainly done well and is semi-retired at the age of 49. The company he formed with a colleague from Harvard Business School has expanded world-wide and though he is still a Director, he no longer has an executive role. **Andrew Kerfoot** and **Sue** came to WA for a holiday in October and Charles arranged a small Kitale gathering for that with the **Brooksbanks, Barbours, Dales, Archers, Whites [Su Shields]** and **Swains** there.'

Daphne Hissey is probably one of our most enthusiastic honorary members. She won first prize for travelling the furthest to attend our Johannesburg Reunion! She, **Pam** and **John [Barbour]**, **Peter** and **Jenny** and family were expecting a visit from **Judith Hollows**, en route to a conference in Sydney. Judith hopes also to catch up with Peter Flatt after 40 years! There were 4 members of the Hollows family in Devon, **Judith, Mavis, Tom** and **Alan**. *[Photo][Thank you for keeping in touch. It was good to see you all. Thank you for putting me in touch with Sally [Nield] and Dick Evans.]*

Here in Johannesburg and Pretoria, we have all 4 members of the **Jacobs** family. **Libby** arranged the flowers for our reunion while **Alison**, together with **Carol** were my invaluable supporters. **Rosemary** continues to be most successful in her chosen academic career while **Tom** is a good friend to have around and we thank him for supplying several of the photographs for this Newsletter.

If you want to see the tango dances professionally, take a trip to Copenhagen and ask **Lisbeth Jensen [Mandel]** to show you how it's done. Copenhagen is a wonderful city and Lisbeth is an excellent tour guide who knows her museums, art galleries and cultural centres backwards. She organised a great 50th party for husband **Peter** during this year and soon to leap that hurdle herself. *[This seems to be the year for 50th birthdays. Ed.]* Lisbeth was one to arrive at the Devon Reunion in school uniform, having flown in specially for the occasion – see photo, and she certainly was the life and soul of the party throughout the weekend.

From **Dennis Leete**:

'I received a copy of the Kitale School Newsletter from Peter Gerrard. Somehow our interest in our early life regains its momentum as one gets older and thinks back. Perhaps it's as our brain declines, we can only remember our childhood clearly! I left Kitale School in 1946, went to the Prince of Wales and in 1952 joined the Kenya Regiment and was sent to the then Rhodesia for 6 months training. I worked for Dick Troward for some months pending my intention to start at Egerton Agricultural College in January 1953 but the emergency intervened. I eventually went in the company of Benjy Hatfield, Rusty Miller and Peter Strong. We now live in Nairobi where my wife runs an old folk's home. One of our residents is Doreen Coombes, mother of Jenny, also ex Kitale School.'

It was great to be in touch with **David Leach**:

'Alpharetta where we live is a suburb of Atlanta. I have lived here since leaving Harvard Business School in 1952. I retired from Harbinger Corporation after founding it in 1983 and being, finally, president and CEO and I am now writing a book [I hope] and dabbling in the stock market with several companies that I still have an interest in. **Lynn** and I have been travelling a lot. We did indeed see **Bill** and **Gail**, **Charles Kerfoot** and **Vicki**, **Nigel** and **Jeanette Sinclair** amongst others in Aussie, which was absolutely marvellous after all these years. We should be in Kenya in July August.' [Andrew Hillier writes of this: 'David, Andrew and Gillian Leach and all their families had a reunion in Kenya in mid-2000. Charles and Vicky Kerfoot also spent 3 weeks there in October. Vicky wanted to revisit the farm and Charles went on an epic 10-day walk over Mt. Elgon with 3 African guides.']

I have heard from all three of the **Liechti** clan this year as well as from **Katherine**, their mother.

From **Alex**:

'During our skiing holidays, we got a copy of the Kitale School Newsletter 2000 from my mother. Although I left Kenya in 1966 at the age of 11, it was interesting to read, especially the reports of those people going back to Kitale for a visit. Once a year I have written contact with **Tim Eager**.' [Thank you for sending his address, Alex.]

From **Margrit**:

'The only person I have ever met again was **Elizabeth Knight** in 1972 when I made a trip to Kenya with **Peter** who visited the **Davidson** family on their farm near Kitale for 5 weeks. Since then I have trained as an elementary school teacher and thoroughly enjoyed my work. On a 3-week trip to Turkey with the aim of climbing Mount Ararat, I met my future husband, a nuclear physicist. Since then we have lived in the United States, in California, in Hamburg, Germany and now back in Switzerland. From being a teacher I have now become a Tour guide and this takes me to the south of France several times a year.'

And **Peter** writes:

'My departure from Kitale was traumatic for me. My parents decided to send me to Switzerland to complete my education which, in the beginning I hated, especially being torn away from all my friends in Standard 7. I then studied medicine in Zürich and Salisbury, then still Southern Rhodesia. I have been married to Naomi since 1988. We own a big private practice in the eastern part of Switzerland. Mum is now 73 years old and still going as strong as ever. I have been trying to get her to link into the Internet and have her own E-mail address but she prefers to keep her contact by conventional means. After a busy time of year in the medical field, we can look forward to a week's skiing holiday in Zermatt. Please say 'jambo' to anyone who may remember the Liechti from Kaimonde Farm.' [Peter, I hope you got the addresses I sent. Please tell your Mum that my oldest computer pupil was 80 last year – so she is quite young enough to pick it all up! Do keep in touch].

In February, while down in KwaZulu Natal for the Loreto Reunion 2000, **Bridget Walton** [Doenhoff] spent a very very happy hours at the home of **Eric** and **Helen Lusso** on their lovely farm in Eston. Eric's parents **Ghislaine** and **Gino** were there also, so you can imagine how the tongues wagged and how we all enjoyed reminiscing.

David Malitte keeps in touch with Andrew Hillier. David served with the Royal Engineers in Kenya, Gibraltar and British Honduras after which he worked with a construction company in Nigeria. From there, with Mowlem, to Zanzibar and then to South Africa, Durban, Port Elizabeth



Richard Statham, Peter Swan and Caroline Cooper



Tom Jacobs

ALL YOU TRAVEL ADDICTS

REUNION 2002 / 2003???? AUSTRALIA AND/OR KENYA

Assistance is needed in the host country to arrange the venue, menu, accommodation for out of towners, etc. Bridget's help will be available from South Africa as e-mail is so much more efficient than snail-mail.

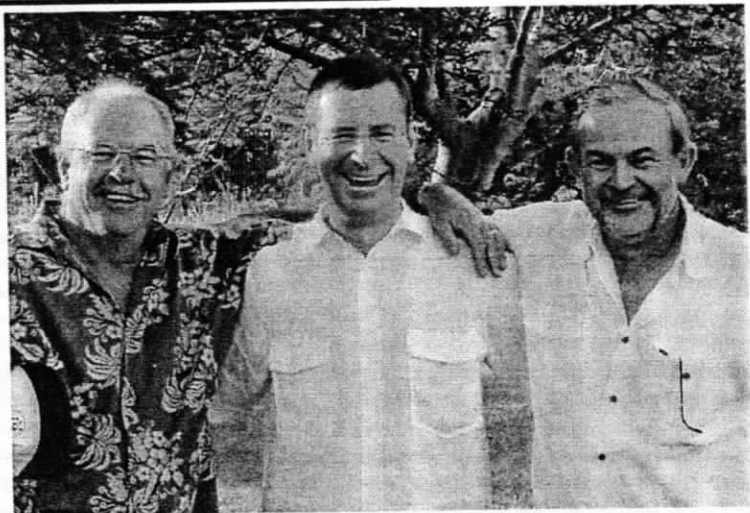
E-mail: waltonrb@global.co.za



*Alison Jacobs and
Robin Walton*

*The Rose brothers,
Brian and Douglas,
joined by
Roger Hissey.*

*Douglas was on a
fleeting visit to see
his parents, Charlie
and Yvonne, who
are now living on
the South Coast of
Kwa-Zulu Natal.*



and now Cape Town.

Chris Marshall:

[Thank you Chris for Jenny Coombe's [Pont's] address. I look forward to receiving Ruth Horsey's, perhaps when you receive the Newsletter!]

It was good to renew contact with both **Chris** and **John McCormick**, Chris who lives in Zimbabwe and who is a medical doctor and John in Indiana, USA, also with a doctorate. Kitale School certainly bred a few geniuses! *[Sadly, Peggy McCormick lost her battle against cancer during last year. You were very much in our thoughts at the time, Chris and John, especially with living so far away.]*

Two of our very enthusiastic supporters whose absence at the Reunions was sorely missed were **Alison Nicholson [Gilbert]** and **Richard Northmore**. Alison and **Simon** had been to UK fairly recently and also to Kenya and Richard had **Marilyn** staying, the latter having lost her dear **Johnny** during this year and for whom quality time with family was an essential. *[Our thoughts are with, Richard, Marilyn, and with Elsie also.]*

What can one say about the remaining members of the Nicholson family, **Ralph, Suzanne, Jane** and **Jim, Helen, Ian** and **Kate** and **Margaret**, who never seems to grow a day older, except a huge thank you again for lending us their gracious home for what turned out to be a special day for all of us. We certainly renewed contact with so many not already on our database and I am sure there will have been many who heard about the day afterwards who will have regretted not being there. Since 30 June, I have been in touch with **Kay Yuille, Biddy Crowcombe** and **George Brookes**. I have had lengthy conversations with all three and I believe they would have enjoyed renewing friendships as we all did.

Lindy Northcote [Wilson] must be one of the best letter writers in this modern age. Thank you for so many new addresses, Lindy. Sadly, **Jenny's Johnny** passed away after his long illness. Our sympathy goes out to the Hellier family. John Northcote Senior keeps so well. It was so good to

meet him after all those years. He has lost none of his sparkle!

What a pity we didn't see any of the **O'Hanlon** family at Buckland House. I do know it's a case of so near and yet so far and that **Michael** was unable to get away from University responsibilities, as was **Peter Rosa**. Another bereavement we were saddened to hear about is that of **Eileen Williams [Staff]** who died during the summer of 1999 aged 83. **Rosemary** also now an octogenarian, keeps in close contact with **Jean** and **Guy Sparke [Brian]** was at the Reunion in Devon.]

A letter from **Peggy Owen [Johnson]** reads:

'I suspect I am older than most of the folk mentioned in the 2000 Newsletter since I think I left Kitale School in 1951. I know I left the Highlands School in Eldoret at the end of 1958. Since then I have travelled all over the place, finally ending up in South Africa in 1967. I trained as a nurse in Bulawayo before going to the UK to do midwifery and then I worked at Groote Schuur hospital for a while. Later, for a while, I worked in the secretarial field and I have now 'retired' and am working as a florist, which is a joy.'

Alison Pickford [Wardle] will have met Robert Richard, her 3-legged race partner, at the 30 June reunion. Alison also remembers accompanying **Grant Daniels** and my brother when he had to go and check on the rats in his laboratory. *[You remember rightly, Alison. In those days it was rats and today it's snails but at Bangor University, North Wales. Dr Robert Harrison ex Kitale, now working at Liverpool University, is another of my brother's protégés.]*

From Martin Pickford:

'Having just returned from Namibia on 30 June, I unfortunately missed out on the Kitale School Reunion, Please tell everyone that I am sorry to have missed the party, but that I joined them in spirit from the other side of the Channel. I had a couple of beers in memory of happy times long ago. I was in Kitale in March of last year where I got arrested for illegal collection of fossils. I had all the necessary permits so was soon out with the trial being declared "nolle prosequi." I am in Kenya every year for a month or 2 – can't seem to keep away.'

Imagine Dundee railway station in Scotland on a wet September day and the arrival of a train from Stirling, which brought **Peter Rosa** to see his one time Kitale School Standard Six teacher. It was an afternoon of indulgence, first coffee, followed by an extended lunch in an Italian restaurant – and lots of chatter as we looked at photos Peter had brought of his lovely country home and just generally remembered incidences. Such meetings are very precious for people like myself for two reasons. The first is that beyond school, teacher and pupil become human and are able to converse. The second is far more humbling for folk like myself, as I realise that most of those I taught in my 45 years in the profession have had the most successful careers and reached such dizzy heights. Peter was in Sri Lanka at the same time as Jenny Duirs. What a pity neither knew about the other being there and so they never met. He remembers Miss Crowcombe well – and is still able to conjugate Latin verbs!

Thank you, **John McCormick** for putting me in touch with **Clare Roberts [Madden]**, youngest daughter of Dr Roberts who was the Surgical Specialist at Kitale Hospital until about 1975. Having done an initial degree in Biochemistry, Clare chose to become a doctor and after graduating from Trinity College, Dublin she spent an elective period in Cape Town, met her husband Mike and emigrated in 1978. Clare would love to renew contact with her erstwhile friends, **Barbara Bowes, Pam Hissey, Penny Flatt and Veronica Josselyn**, also **Susan Chapman, Veronica Plunkett, Susan Garrod, Susan Barton, Jennifer Northcote, Annette Nielsen, Tina Boschoff and Jenny Duirs**. Clare remembers that her great rival in class was Peter Liechti and she has a vivid memory of Nils Bertlesen sitting on a drawing pin that the whole class knew was there and the trouble all got into as a result. It was a case of tacky to the posterior for boys and girls, no less! Clare also mentions weekends idling under Persian Lilac trees in the driveway and the hairy caterpillars. What about swimming in the pool with blond hair turning green from the chlorine, the craze of marbles, 'nyabbs' and jacks. Who remembers the lovely soft, faded checked uniform dresses with their appalling matching bloomer knickers! What about **Ann Barnley** who ran away from the Boarding House, over the roof and was

discovered the next day in a stable at the Showground, unrepentant and much admired by all. Clare's most memorable punishment was having to cut a square metre of grass in the quad with nail scissors with Mette Bucholz as a punishment for some dreadful deed. She also mentions her beloved Miss Crowcombe who remains for her an image of the ideal teacher.

Val Robertson [Prophet] was sorry to hear that David Reynolds had passed away. *[We hope you enjoyed the KHS Reunion in July, Val, and were sorry you were unable to join us in Devon.]*

Roger and Heleen Hissey, and Robin and Bridget Walton are often seen socialising with **Brian and Susan Rose**. Recently, **Douglas Rose** was out from London to visit the family in South Africa. **John Rose** is another of our rather famous past pupils, having been awarded an MBE for service rendered. *[John, we would like to hear more about your happy event for the 2002 Newsletter, please.]*

John Scally tumbled across our site quite by chance on the eve of our meeting in Johannesburg. John was at Kitale School from 1939 – 1941 and lived in Kenya from 1949 to 1956.

Carole Barrett [Schmoll] is doing sterling work in helping Julie Swaine [Cleverly] to organise the Loreto Reunion due to take place in Melbourne later this year. Carole also keeps in touch with **Pamela Mudd, Bennett** and her parents. All live in Zimbabwe. Carole worries about farmers in Zimbabwe but also about their future prospects in Australia in view of the difficulty of obtaining resident permits. Carole loves the English feel of Melbourne *[I have to admit I did too when I was there in 1995, Carole]*. She keeps in touch with **Vicky Bell [Kerfoot] Melanie Forster [Hickman], Felicity Ross [Manuel], Nigel and Janet Sinclair and Jennifer Hoare**. *[Those of you who remember Jenny's sister, Chrissie, will be saddened to learn that she also died tragically at far too young an age.] [When you next visit South Africa, Carole, please let us know!]*

Giles Shaw heard about our Kitale School 'get together' through Dave Lichtenstein, who is responsible for that amazing Hill School Newsletter. Giles was at school from 1947 – 1949.

Seeing two **Sinclair** sisters, **Rosalind [Kohler]** and **Elizabeth [Janssens]**, who came over from Holland for the Devon Reunion, was great. [Photo] Roz writes: 'Nigel, a cardiologist in Perth is in touch with a lot of ex-Kitale people. Penny lives in Canberra and Daphne is also in Perth now, having left Naivasha. **Sally Nield [Evans]** was my best friend at school and I have recently met up with her again here in Devon where **Paul** and I have retired. The Headmaster at Kitale School when I was there was John Woods and two of his children, the twins, were contemporaries. I also remember Kay Yuille, who taught me English.'

John Skinner was at Kitale School before going on to Saints and 'A' Levels at Strathmore College. He remembers leaving Kenya from Kisumu Station on Christmas Eve of 1962.

Niels Sunde is leading a hectic life working in a pupil referral unit in Lambeth with EBD students. Niels mother is still going strong at 95 and in 2000 she travelled to Zimbabwe to celebrate her birthday with **Ole**. [Niels, it was wonderful to have both you and your family and also **Else [Martin]** at the Reunion in Devon.]

Liz Statham [Kerr] keeps in touch with **John** and **Christine Eager** and with **Sally** and **Peter Hood**, now doing two years in Malawi. They enjoy living in Hermanus although they plan to emigrate to Australia. [Please let me know what happens, Liz – and make sure we still have an address. Let me know also if you need Stephen or Brian Sparke's addresses.]

I know that **Pauline** did not shoot **Richard [Statham]**, as he feared she might, if he postponed their trip to England to come to our Kitale School Reunion here in Johannesburg. [Pauline, he was the life and soul of the party. Thank you both for coming all that way.]

Derek Strange is a full time writer now, having previously been in the publishing industry. He describes the latter as 'a very tough world.' [Derek, I eventually abridged the little booklet and wrote and printed it 'in house' myself. It serves the purpose for which it was intended very adequately and at minimal cost.] Derek writes, 'Mum now feels the few aches of age a bit more than she used

to but she keeps very cheerful. **Mike** is as super-busy as ever, with his homeopathic practice and chaplaincy work both at the high security jail and as support minister in his local parish.'

It was good to see **Peter Symes** in Devon, where he will again have met up with Robert Richard, having seen him in Israel earlier in the year. Peter asks if anyone might by chance have the boys' version of the photograph we printed in the last Newsletter. He would very much like to see this printed in a subsequent copy. Peter works for the BBC in Bristol and his line is the making of documentary films. He mentions the film about Johnny Woods, which was transmitted nationally in the UK on Channel 4 at the beginning of the 1980s. He is willing to track it down for those of us who were not lucky enough to see it, especially as Kitale School features in it. Peter's E-mail address: peter@wvnneddiary.com [Peter, I would be very interested. Is it on video, and is one able to purchase a copy?]

Elizabeth Troward [Vorster] writes about the fire that gutted the top floor of her Dad's house, which had been let out during the summer. Thank goodness Dick was not harmed, even though he had to move out. Liz still keeps very active, hiking and playing tennis, and in mid August she went over to England for almost 6 weeks to give Jenny a hand with emptying Dick's house before the builders moved in. She was there for a second time in late autumn when the twins celebrated their big 50! [I believe we should send congratulations and good wishes to all who reached this during the course of 2000.]

It was great to be in touch with **Ann Buck [Tilbury]** again. Ann mentions that Win and Martin, her parents have also left Kent and moved to British Columbia. **Martin** is also an ex-pupil and Win used to teach First Aid and organise outings to the Nairobi Show and Mt Elgon caves. Ann says she loves Canada, the country and the people, the outdoors, but more than anything, the civilisation, security and comfort. Ann works for a software company developing on-line technical training [through the web.] **Chris Buck** lives in Bexley, Kent and **Mike Buck** lives in Curitiba, an hour's flying time south of Sao Paulo. Mike is working as a Project Manager, building hospitals

throughout Southern Brazil. Ann says the country is very similar to Kenya.

Madge Watts [Rattray] is one of many main sources of information. She and **Alan** visited Kenya during June and together with **Dolly** and her husband **Peter [Andreeva]** they revisited Eldoret and Kitale. Madge mentioned bad roads but a new road from Eldoret which goes past the airport, past Ziwa and A C Hoey's and what used to be the Duke of Manchester's place, also the Nicholson's farm to Hoey's Bridge and from there to Kitale. *[Sadly, the purpose of their visit was to lay Tom's, Mr Watts Senior's, ashes beside those of Madge and Dolly's Mum. He had been living with Madge and Alan at White River and so the loss will have been felt keenly.]* Madge took photos of the school and of present staff members. Like many, including the current Headmaster, Mr Sawe, she feels the school is in need of a face-lift.

Roz Graham-Smith managed to snatch time away from family responsibilities to travel down to Devon for the Reunion and then I met her again in a pub at Waterloo Station during September, when we could have a longer chat. Roz among others is keen on the idea that we try to organise another reunion nearer to London sometime for those who were unable to travel to Devon. I have already made some tentative approaches regarding venue – nothing more at this stage!

The **Wilson** clan, **Steve, Noreen [Johnson], Peggy [Begley], Jenny [Munden] and Charlie and Sue [Boll]** with **Pamela** were out in full force in Devon and recognisable! Since then, Steve has written several letters with news of Kitaleites with whom he keeps in contact. It's wonderful that Steve's close friendship with **Michael Brookes**, which dates back to when I first met both in 1956, is still as strong as ever. Steve mentions that Michael is the splitting image of his Dad [photo].

I close this year's Newsletter with a short extract from the Epilogue of **The Lion and the Bicycle** – that **Peter Woods** sent me after the June Reunion. It relates to his father, **Johnny**. 'Dad died, peacefully, in a very caring, small nursing home near Whitby, in 1992, at the age of 94 – not bad for one who had been regarded as a very sickly child and teenager – so there may be some hope

for the rest of us, particularly if we can maintain the positive and enthusiastic attitude to life, which he did almost to the last. The nursing home staff loved him for his humour and fortitude as much as anything. Johnny had more than life's share of buffetings, perhaps, but he never let them show, nor permitted them to detract from his immense courtesy and concern towards others. What more can one say in tribute, even of one's own father!'

Finally, a huge thank you to all that have contributed to this Newsletter with news as well as photographs. Once again the biggest accolade and 'thank you' goes to **Roger Hissey's** wife **Heleen** who has helped with the formatting and insertion of photographs – all of which contributes to making it possible for us to keep in touch with you all. A new file has been started for 2002, so do keep in touch! Thank you also to **Jane [Cox] Nicholson** who made the suggestion that we print and post Newsletters to UK and European addresses from England and who has taken on this task for 2001.

SUBS – The Devon Reunion swelled our kitty quite amazingly. Thank you **Jane [Cox]** for organising the collection of subscriptions. May I use this opportunity to remind those who have had memory lapses. For this year, I shall send one copy per family to non-subscribers, but next year, while we shall keep you on our mailing list for future reunions, we cannot continue to afford the cost of Newsletters and postage gratis. So, if you have enjoyed the memories, we await your remittance, please! We are asking for what we hope might be a 'once off' £10 per subscriber or the equivalent in US\$. South African subscribers, please remit R100, 00. These amounts should keep us going for the next 10 years provided all on the database are generous.

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