

KITALE SCHOOL NEWSLETTER 2010



Kitale School Reunion, Picton, New Zealand 2011



Updated Notice

2011 - After World Cup!
Combine the two events



Dates: 29, 30 and 31 October 2011

Approximate cost excluding flights:
± \$500 NZ Dollars



Contact: Paula & Ian Allen: ian.allen@xtra.co.nz
Bridget Walton:
waltonrb@global.co.za



Hope to see you there!

Approximate total cost, excluding travel: NZ\$500

Hello, all Kitale School friends

I cannot blame any of you for thinking I have fallen off the planet. For a year, this was so and hence the no Newsletter for 2010. I am only now aware and agreeing that it has taken me a full year to recover from surgery (November 2009 and May 2010). I was told to give each 6 months and was too impatient in both cases. However, all is well, again and I look forward to seeing as many as can afford it in 2011 at another memorable Kitale School Reunion in Picton. **Paula (Burch) Allen** has been an amazing organiser thus far as the two leaflets enclosed with this Newsletter will indicate. A special thank-you must go to Paula for taking on the task. It might have been Australia's turn since there are many more Kitaleites living on this continent. This was not to be, so we now hope for lots of support from our Australian friends. I seriously believe this may have to be our swansong in as far as both Reunions and Newsletters go. Memsahib Kali is getting on in years; she still works, pretty well full time on as many remunerative projects as come her way to supplement meagre teacher pensions. I am so lucky to have the right connections and hope for continued motivation and energy to perform. I am told we are only put out to graze when our input levels deteriorate – and this can and does happen.

In a recent conversation with **Chris Hearne**, he feels we have achieved our objective in putting friends back in contact with one another. The rest is up to individuals to continue communicating. This can be done through me for forwarding; at the press of a button this is easily achieved, or directly. Alternatively, someone kindly makes the offer to take the task on. I have the Newsletter Template refined on my system to a point where the writing of the annual document is quick and easy. **Danie (Steyn)** and I have updated address lists and there are some funds in our savings account which can be passed on to whichever new brave person is happy to continue. There must be such a one.

It has been a year of happiness for some, sadness for others, including ourselves. The Newsletter will give you details and, if you need to get in touch, please just let me know so that I can send contact address details directly.

For those who were at the 2009 Reunion in Kitale and especially **Michael Brooks**, who donated so generously, **Mrs Wanyonyi** requested that she be allowed to spend the money on book shelves rather than books initially, since lack of space and shelving would pose an extra problem. **Nigel (Warren)** wrote to me in this regard. We made a joint decision that the money would be spent as the school had need. However, we

requested that a plaque should indicate that the money was donated by alumni members on the 80th anniversary of the founding of Kitale School, now known as Kitale Academy.

We congratulate **Rob Bairstow** on becoming a grandfather second time round. Rob writes about 'time running fast' – his grandson will be two years old by the time you read this.

Sad news relayed later is that **Julia (Barnley)** gave up her struggle against cancer. She was in good hands at the end, in a local hospice and with Mum **Jane** at her side. Luckily **Dick** is now at hand to help at Sirikwa. Our thoughts are with the Barnleys as well as with **Harry** and **Simon Fitzherbert** whose Mother **Betty** (also Jane's sister in law) passed away in KwaZulu Natal. Betty lived life fully, right to the end.

Koba (Bosman) Bentley keeps in touch with **Mary (Sovic) Hayley** and with **Jennifer (Wilson) Munden**. Koba and her husband **Bob** travelled to Australia in 2009. We wonder whether they made contact with Kitaleites while there? Koba, please let us know whether you managed to get in touch with **Janine King**.

Wilna (Boshoff) Palm writes that her daughter has been living in Rotorua, New Zealand. If she is still there, Wilna, might this not be a good time for you to visit, and for you

to join us in Picton thereafter? Think about combining the two!

Paula, already mentioned in connection with Reunion 2011, is hoping that her brother **Colin (Burch)** and Sue, now living in Northern Australia, might be able to attend the reunion. Keep persuading, Paula, it would be good to see both.

Antonia Bagshawe, albeit not a Kitaleite although family members (**Vicky (Bell)** and **Charlie Kerfoot**) were, wrote enthusiastically having heard about the Kenya Reunion. Antonia, we would love to see all three of you join us in Picton – not too far for you all to travel!

Barbara Boy sent greetings from Thika. Barbara belonged to the 1940 **Johnny Woods** era although **Gordon**, her son, was a contemporary of **Jackson Omaido, John** and **Douglas Rose** of the 1960 era.

Clare (Breckenridge) Long sent Christmas Greetings with a promise that an e-mail would follow. Did it get lost as they sometimes do? Clare, we look forward to hearing from you.

Edwin (Eddie) Bristow and **Jeanne** continue to spend 6 months in Nairobi and six months in the UK. Eddie remains an avid rugby fan and enjoyed meeting up with a group of 'Old Nondies' at a match in Twickenham. As he writes, 'this is

what 'makes it'.

Brandon Brooksbank, who was at the Kitale Reunion, writes that because of the volatile political situation in Kenya at the time, **Penny** had fears that he would never return. (*Penny, we only had fears that he and his camping party led by **John Wreford-Smith** would drown on Elgon. I hope they took photos of their mud covered selves to show you!*) Brandon writes of spending time in Laikipia with John and **Kath** after the reunion: 'it is just like the 'old Kenya' up there – lots of open spaces, lots of animals and very few 'watu.' Next visit was time spent with **Nigel Warren** and **Lisa** in Karen after meeting him for the first time in 52 years (*this is what Kitale Reunions are all about, Brandon*). More from Brandon: **Ralph Fremlin** stayed in Kenya after the reunion pursuing a hobby while daughter **Katryn** and friend **Miescha** travelled to Uganda where they saw gorilla. Brandon was further surprised to meet up with **Tony Monkhouse** and **Rosy** – Tony having been Head of House when Brandon was a rabble at what was then the Duke of York School. Lastly Brandon writes that his father would never have believed it, had he been alive, to see Kenya black passengers travelling by air with their laptops and mobile phones.

I have seen **Sue (Brooksbank)** and **Gavin Mackenzie** on two occasions this year. Both very kindly transported me to and from Durban

International Airport when I went suddenly to visit my brother, and they looked after my car over the weekend. We then met at **Kate Robert's** Memorial Service in Howick, KwaZulu Natal. Kate's son **George** was at the school prior to going to Manor House before the family left Lugari for South Africa.

Jenny (Duirs) Field and **John** write regularly at Christmas time and mention that they continue to be busy with 'magistrate and mentor' work. They clearly have academic children who continue to study and achieve amazing results (*see you in Picton, Jenny and John!*)

News of the **Davidson** clan as written by **Terry** is as follows: dear **Walter** passed away in July 2009 peacefully and painlessly. He was a true Kitale School Dad icon who married a Kitaleite in **Sylvia**, now living in a small, comfortable apartment close to Terry and **Gayle**. **Colin** has also moved closer to Nairobi having set up a new business along the Mombasa road. Terry is one of Kenya's bwana makubwas who sits on several Company Boards, is a Trustee of Gertrude's Garden Children's Hospital, on the Council of the University of Nairobi and he is involved in community work in Masai Mara. Gayle continues to visit her family in Australia regularly and the couple were able to spend 6 weeks travelling in Italy, France, Switzerland and Italy.

Of Kitale School, Terry writes: 'I was invited to be chief guest at the 80th Anniversary of Kitale Academy. ' Also invited were Bishop Stephen Kewassis, Richard Etemesi (Chief executive of Standard Chartered Bank), Hon Eugene Wamalwa (local MP) and Kiproni Kittony (old boy and prominent businessman). 'All the school were present – Board of Governors, staff and pupils – and quite a lot of past parents and alumni'. Terry was asked to unveil a plaque at the entrance to the school. At the end of proceedings, they had a fund-raising harambee which secured close to KShs 1 million. *(The school has launched a new Alumni Club and Terry suggests that it would be good to merge our alumni list with theirs as the new one focuses more on Kenyan students. I would be happy for this to happen with a younger, more recent, Kitaleite taking over the reins, Terry. Let me know what you think and whom I might approach.)* Terry concludes with: 'I was impressed with the current BOG and Management, who seem to be making a real effort to revitalise the school and upgrade facilities.' Fund-raising hopes to raise an additional KShs 2 million and it seems that Terry might be involved in this project.

Diana de Bromhead has moved into a new home in Howick, KwaZulu, Natal.

Robert Duirs travelled to New Zealand twice during 2009, going to

a cousin's wedding. While there he met **Niels Sunde**. A long letter from Robert assures us that he is still alive, has reached the 60 years old stage, continues to live in the same house in Highbury, London, has had surgery to correct 2 hernias and has succumbed to diabetes, from the sound of it, stress-related. However, he feels that, thanks to the valued support of exceptional friends, he has survived all and continues to enjoy the amazing culture that London provides. *(Robert, we hope by the time you read this your anxieties in regard to building improvements, hassles workmen et al will all be history. Do think about a third return to visit family in New Zealand in 2011 and combine this with the dates chosen for our gathering in Picton.)*

Celia (Falck) Isaacs has sent a glowing tribute to **Dee Rayner** who passed away unexpectedly after succumbing to a respiratory infection while working in Malawi. 'The occasional contribution made by Dee in the Kitale School Newsletter suggested that she was still the same Dee, very much her own person even as a child, and a character with her own style. It is easy to remember clearly someone so bright and strong – and somewhat impatient too, as often happens. Do you remember how good she was at drama too? Johnny Wood certainly produced some very good plays and displays. Dee was one of those really gifted people. I remember how often our

games involved imagined wild life situations.'

From **Jenny Woods (Eaton)**: I spoke to Dee two weeks back on the phone as she arrived back home from Malawi work on aloes. We looked forward to a coffee when she was next in town from her place near Lenana Mt Machakos. She had contracted some Malawian 'flu cum pneumonia down there, was chesty and very tired. She gave me a 'Dee' summary on various activities she was down there for (did not tell me she had been taken from the plane in a wheelchair due to lack of oxygen on the plane). The next call came from a good friend of Dee's in Karen who said that the chest complaint had got worse. Being Dee, she medicated herself rather than go to a doctor. She then decided to drive home (40 kilometres down the Mombasa Road) to her place in the bush. On the Sunday evening of that weekend, Dee must have collapsed on her veranda and was found the next morning - no sign of a struggle.... It must have been a heart attack that took her on ... Sad loss with all her expertise in so many fields and a good friend to us all for so long. There will have been a garden gathering in Karen on 24th July at the home of Dee's good friend Sue Allen, once Dee's daughter, sisters, grand-daughter and other family members were able to travel from New Zealand and elsewhere.

Sally (Eager) Hood writes of having had friends and family visit them in their new home in Stanford, Cape. **Tim** was over from Canada in February. Sally writes that there is so much to see in this wonderfully diverse country that she and Peter have not been overseas for three years and it has not bothered them at all. Both **Nicola** and **James** seem to have taken after clever parents in that they have come through tertiary education with flying colours

Sad news arrived recently from **Penny (Flatt) Madvig**. After so many years of not being in good health, Mum **Madeleine** passed away. **Alison** had been to visit from Botswana and was still able to enjoy quality time with her Mum. Sadly **Peter** was on safari in Kenya and could not change his travel plans to be there in time while neither **Chris** nor **Barry** saw their Mum recently either. *(We all remember Madeleine fondly and our thoughts are with the entire family in their sad loss of a special lady).*

News - not too recent, of the **Greaves** family arrived in a letter from **Patricia (Casadio)**. She is a real stoic, having left Kenya with the two children and three suitcases to start a new life in Dorset. She is in touch with **Jenny Wilson (Munden)** who I know will have been very supportive. Pat recalls the first big reunion in Devon when her two were very young and not particularly interested in how grown-ups meet their school friends. Dad Greaves,

now in his mid 80s, lives in Australia while Christopher is in Canada. *(Pat, I do not know of a representative for Kitale School in England. I have tried for years to find an enthusiastic replacement for Mem sahib Kali, to no avail. I do believe that friends get together as you have done with Jennifer and that seems now to be how it works).*

Chris Hearne's fond memories of Kitale and those who went to the school deserve entry. He mentions how lucky are 'the spouses of the Kitale Schoolites who are married to the crème de la crème. He goes on to say that there is only one higher pinnacle for the ladies and that is to be married to a Kitale School man who went on to the Prince of Wales. *(One thing we teachers clearly taught our young people was self esteem!)* Chris remembers **Mrs Valpy** especially (not 150 years old) as a maths and English teacher of note. **Robert Heath** was the then 'young' man who made a lasting impression on Chris. They used to play hockey together, first around Kenya and later in KwaZulu Natal. Robert's advice to Chris was that he should only hit the ball with the flat side of the stick, something Chris maintains he never did get 100% right.

Peter Gerrard has, over the years, been one of the strongest supporters of our reunions and hopes, given enough notice, to find his way to Picton in 2011.

Jean (Hallett) Skilleter lost her beloved **Don** and she too has been fighting cancer. Her last letter indicated that she was feeling a lot better after chemo and radiation treatment. Believe it or not, Jean is now a great great granny! **Dorothy Hallett** who you may remember was matron in Junior House for many years would have been 107 years old this year! It is good to know that **Ian**, still living with Jean in Schagen, Mpumalanga, has recovered so well from his stroke that he is able to keep himself busy poultry farming. *(A note from Madge mentions that Jean is again unwell. You are not forgotten, Jean)*

Phil Hasluck's news is mainly about Mum **Margaret**, now 96 years old and wheel chair bound, living in an excellent nursing home in Harare. While physically frail, Margaret is as 'clair voyant' as always. **Dave** and continue to live in Zimbabwe and they are the family members who ensure that Mum has the nursing support she needs. *(What news of Anna and family, Phil?)*

Although I have not has a further update from **Tessa (Haupt) Watson**, we were saddened to hear that a new born grand-daughter was seriously ill. *(Tessa, our thoughts are with you, the little girl's mum and dad and we hope for better news when you have time to write.)*



Gillian Horner Diddy Loyd



Judith Davies



Robin Loyd
Gillian Valentine



Gillian Horner Anne Edmunds
Gillian Longhat Higgins



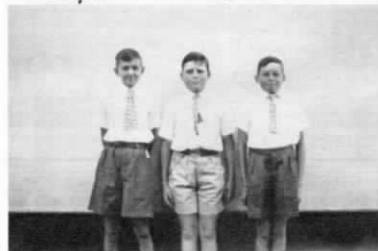
Gwynne Gladman Robin Loyd
Jeremy Pool



Caroline Gayer Anne Lucas
Elsie Sunde



Jonathan Ronald Anthony Jeremy Harvey
Woods Davison Foster Pichford Taylor

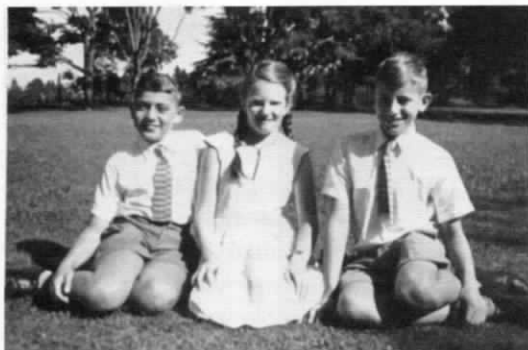


Philip David Alfred
Keese Dairs Woodley

Kitale School
Standard 7
1952-54



Brian Jacques Robin
Bayles Barraclough Tilney



Daniel Pat Andrew
Steyn Matthews Clark



Julian Duncan
Pelissier Hitchcox



Joyce Reese, Rosemary Jacobs



Juliet Davis



Our thoughts and sympathy go to the Shaw family, Giles, Dan and dear Sheila on the very sudden and unexpected death of Tom, 1 December 2010. R I P Tom.



Ian Derek Richard Thomas
Hallett Forrester Statham Shaw



Janice Susan Sally
Howitt Hitchcox Lloyd



David Paul Francis John
Bassett Lane Henn Davison



Caroline Sally Susan
Bateman Kerfoot Luke



Clive Thatcher

Kitale School photos

1952 - 1954
era

Courtesy
Jonathan
Woods



Marion Julian
Symons Pelissier
Ian Barberton



Vanessa Read Stuart Thomas Ann Baxter



Madeleine Flatt as we all remember her



A Sunday outing from Kitale School - 1950 era



Two angelic looking Gerrards and 'The Hip Bath!



Susan Hitchcox Deirdre Raymer Celia Falck

Jonathan, my apologies for the amateur reproduction of the photographs, which I had to separate, scan, copy and paste to be able to share them.

Only this week I received the news that Heather Munro passed away in Harare - another sad loss. (Our condolences go out to daughters Ariadne and Devina and the wider members of the Munro family.

P S Great news was received from Tessa and Brian Watson. Baby Emily had a successful liver transplant and is now a healthy, thriving toddler.

Helen (Hilder) and David O'Loan have moved back to England and are now living in Saltaire, West Yorkshire.

Mavis Hollows writes that **Judith** continues with her care work in Arkansas, USA, although she is not finding it easy to cope almost entirely on her own.

Our love and deepest sympathy goes out to **Horace Horsey**. Dear **Carly, Caroline (Denton)** as she was fondly known to many of us, finally gave up her amazing, brave and determined struggle. She passed away peacefully at home in Nyali with family members around her. **Penny (Davies) Denton** and **Anthony** had flown out to Kenya, after which Anthony travelled on to Perth to be with **Margaret** and to settle her into a comfortable situation with the care she would need as the years progressed.

It was good to hear, albeit very briefly and only with a revised address, from **Lisbeth (Jensen) Mandel**.

Ernest Irwin (Kitale School 1937 – 1943) heard about the last reunion through **Alan** and **Jessie Dale (Senior)** and also from **Ralph Nicholson** and **Jane**, (*Ernest told us something I never knew, that the original school was out of town on the Hoey's Bridge Road. We look forward to seeing you in New Zealand, Ernest*)

Gillian (Leach) Flochel would love to renew contact with Kitaleites visiting Paris. She sees **Andrew** (still living in Sandhurst, Kent) and looks forward to telephone calls from **David** and **Lynn** (*Next time we are in Europe, Gillian, and provided you have not sold your lovely home, Robin and I would enjoy a visit. Paris is definitely a favourite city for both of us*).

Alex Liechti writes how much he enjoys receiving the Newsletters, which bring back so many memories. (*Perhaps you might like to take your holiday in South Island, New Zealand, during October 2011 and join us at the next reunion – with a stop-over to see Ian Drakes en route?*)

Peter and **Oliver** and **Ginny Long** enjoyed a family reunion on **Patrick** and **Marion's** farm in Balgowan, KwaZulu Natal. Unfortunately Peter's **Maureen** was unable to take time off work to be with them. They travelled quite extensively through Southern Africa besides – thus making the cost of overseas travel really worthwhile.

Jacquie (Megson) Evans heard about the Kitale School alumni from **Alison (Flatt) Muller**. Her parents, **Jill** and **Jerry Megson** farmed in the Cherangani area. Jacquie's sister lives in Limuru and, with an uncle at the coast, there is good reason to return to Kenya, which she managed to do last summer. As her husband was born in Kisumu,

and his parents taught at Siriba College Teacher near Maseno, Kisumu and Kitale will both have been incorporated into their travels.

I still recall the night that **Michael O'Hanlon** and **Peter Rosa**, while back-packing in Kenya, landed on our doorstep at Lenana School and camped in our living room. Much water has passed under their bridges since then although my predictions that both would end up becoming University professors were not too wrong. Michael's work in Oxford keeps him more than busy while Peter still travels to Uganda regularly and lectures at Makerere University. *(Michael, am I right in believing there has been a family wedding since Newsletter 2009? If this is so please fill us in on details.)*

From **Giles Shaw: Kenya Regiment Lunch, New Zealand, 2011**: The NZ branch has timed its annual luncheon to coincide with any visitors from overseas for the Rugby World Cup. The luncheon will be held on Wednesday 26th October 2011, three days after the final is played in Auckland. The event will be held at Soljans winery which is situated on the outskirts of Auckland.

Our condolences go to **Robert, Esther and Debbie Richard** on the loss of their mother at 84 years of age. Dad **Richard**, now in his 90s is also not well and is living in sheltered accommodation. Debbie and Robert visit as often as time

allows. Robert and **Naomi** enjoyed a visit to Ravensburg, Germany, to the opening of a new wing in the famous museum dedicated to the Jewish community expelled or deported in the 1930s. They now boast having five grand-children, while younger sister Debbie has three.

With so many reports of bereavements in the last two years, this is perhaps a reminder that we are all getting older. **Shirley Scroggie** (many of us will, remember **Grant** also) wrote to let us know that her Mum, **Gill (Prophet)** passed away. That leaves only **Shirley (Harrison)** of the three Kitale Prophet sisters remaining (**Val (Scroggie) Robertson** having passed away in 2008). Shirley has recently moved from Harare to Cape Town. *(Thank you for letting us know, Shirley. It will have been a hard year for you and Grant and we hope you are able, 12 months later, to feel less bereft of a wonderful Mum)*

June and Dan Shaw are always so good at keeping in touch. *(Thank you for putting me in touch with the Haslucks, June.)*

Danie Steyn remains my indefatigable helper in regard to the updating of our database and the sending out of information to all on electronic mail. *(Thank you, Danie, from all of us.)*

Derek Strange and **Jo** visited Cuba earlier this year and travelled extensively over the island. Derek commented that Cuban food and cooking took the edge off travelling and how pleased they both were to get home to a decent cup of tea! The island is covered with acres and acres of banana plants and yet they did not see, yet alone eat a single banana during their stay. Apart from sugar, rum as a by-product and tobacco, the island's agricultural economy is inefficient and under-exploited. By contrast, they loved the music and the dancing – groups visually magnificent for Derek while Jo 'grooved to the music.' Derek commented on the gigantic 1950s American cars 'with massive tail fins and bonnets the length of cricket pitches – thousands of them often held together by tape and bits of string, guzzling gas by gallons and emitting foul clouds of black fumes.' Son **Mark** was awarded his DPhil at the Sheldonian in Oxford. Derek mentioned that the ceremony was mostly in Latin and adds that 'Kitale's great Primary School education seems to have failed a bit there.' (*Until now, we all believed that Biddy Crowcombe drilled you all super-efficiently, Derek*)

Thank you, **Peter (Symes)** for your usual generous contribution to our alumni funds, gratefully received. *Do let us have news of yourself and Ronnie sometime.*

Robin Tilney on a road trip to Kenya managed to see **Adrienne** and **Tony Mills** and to catch up on their news. From Adrienne and Tony we have just heard the exciting news that they are expecting two new grand children, twins to **Olivia** and **Steve**.

Gay (Tilney) Prevost mentions that farming in the Western Cape does not get any easier. She mentioned that **Alistair Douglas** is extremely unwell (*Our thoughts go out to both Alistair and his wife, Dawn*). Gay herself has not had an easy year although, in positive fashion, she reminds herself that she has been given another 8 years when the medics gave her a 1% chance. (*Well done, Gay. Your courage is an example to us all.*) Although they travelled to Australia, Gay writes that they did not manage to see **Sue (Shields) White**, with whom she has kept in touch since Kitale School days.

Liz (Troward) Vorster writes that she and **Helen (Nicholson) Bailey** continue to walk twice a week in the Cape Town area. Twin sister **Jenny Botto** visited South Africa as always in January and February. Brother **Peter** has had another spell of ill health and was hospitalised 11 times during 2009. (*We hope 2010 has been a better year for you, Peter*) Liz's love of hiking sees her go to amazing parts of Southern Africa – in 2009 Fish River Canyon and Augrabies Falls National Park. She and **Auret** also went to the UK

staying first with **Auret's** family members in Somerset after which they spent time with sister **Jenny Botto** who took them to the Isle of Wight. Here, twenty-seven members enjoyed a family reunion.

Dolly (Watts) Andreeva and husband **Peter Andreev** writes that they have settled quite well in the UK although Peter longs for Africa and has Mozambique in mind. However, National Health is taking good care of Dolly meantime and she is resisting back surgery fearing that this might not be successful. *(We hope at least that the pain is being kept under control, Dolly).*

Madge (Watts) Rattray has been silent this year, having had visitors from the UK descend in the latter half of 2008. She mentions **Tom** briefly and it seems that he is busy taking clients in and out of Mozambique (from neighbouring Mpumalanga in South Africa).

Celia (Falck) Isaac has been in touch with **Jonathan Woods** as I have also. It is to Jonathan that we owe a huge debt of gratitude for the photographs he sent through for the Newsletter – photos which take some of you readers back before my time at Kitale School. Celia recalls a time when she and her late husband **Chudleigh (Moore)** had bought **Heather (Munro)** and **Jim Davidson's** house in Greytown, KwaZulu Natal. An unexpected visitor arrived who turned out to be either **Peter** or **Bernard** with

Johnny from Kitale School. Celia mentions that, in school, Johnny 'had been one step below God!' Seeing him again she remembers him as 'a delightful grandfather figure with twinkling eyes.' (**Johnny Woods Memoirs** entitled '**The Lion and the Bicycle**' – up to the time of the Second World War, make interesting reading for people who knew Johnny or who lived in Kitale and elsewhere in Kenya. If interested, the cost per copy is £10 and can be ordered through Jonathan at jwoods@amajor.com)

Jenny (Woods) Eaton was also an invited guest to the September celebrations of Kitale School's 80th birthday. She mentions a cake measuring 6ft by 4 ft in the shape of the school with every last person getting a slice. To know that the school roll numbers 1850 children will give you an idea of how many slices were cut!

Jenny writes: 'I was asked to attend the school's 80th celebrations to represent past Headmasters, most of who were there. It was held on the main playing fields. The school grounds looked spotless, the main building repainted and the bell fixed. A magnificent turn out included local MPs and dignitaries. Eight trees were planted near the gate and a stone unveiled. The children put on excellent songs, dances etc. My Dad would have been proud to be there and to see how far the school has come under its present leadership.'

There is a 5-year Development Plan, a website launched and a magazine. The results put Kitale Academy among the top schools in the North Rift.

Alan and Pat Wood have left England and relocated to Cambridge, New Zealand. *(Thank you for forwarding the new address, Pat. We hope you have settled happily and look forward perhaps to seeing you in Picton in October 2011!)*

Richard and Pauline Statham, both now fully retired are able to visit family and travel more easily. A call yesterday (08 November) might have had us enjoy a cup of coffee and catch up on news as they travelled home to Ballito from Johannesburg. Alas, I was en route to Johannesburg so this did not materialise *(We hope there may be another such occasion. Thanks for keeping in touch.)*

From **Jonathan Pickford**: We live just outside a coastal village in Andalucia. It is called Castell de Ferro and is to the East of Motril which is on the coast, almost due South of Granada (and Madrid). We have an old 'cortijo' which was in a partly ruined state when we bought it in 1987 and which we have been, and still are, restoring. We keep body & soul together by working, looking after properties of absentee owners, and, among other activities, I also act as a translator. I continue to draw and write and

have had a couple of exhibitions in the local town hall.

From **Graham Duirs**: We live in Hamilton where I have a company involved in agri/biotech sector. I am completely out of touch and only know a couple of Kitaleites in New Zealand. I knew **Dave Fleming** who died a few years ago and recently met **Neils Sunde**. Other than that, I confess that my Kitale days are a distant memory.

The **Swans (Peter and Marissa)** have had a busy year with the wedding of daughter **Aileen** to a lovely young man **Gerhard. Robin** and I travelled to Pretoria for the occasion, which we both enjoyed – especially meeting the **Dyers** from Timau who travelled from Kenya and several members of the Swan and Marissa's family – all who had lived in Kenya at one time. Granddaughter **Shasta** was a very attractive flower girl. The couple's first dance – bride and groom managed this to perfection.

John and Barbara Barton, parents of **Caroline, Oliver, Sue, Lucinda** and **Matthew** passed away within a few weeks of each other earlier this year. John had been unwell for some time and for Barbara, failing eyesight made life very hard. *(In speaking to Barbara she mentioned how wonderful it was that her five children were taking it in turns to look after her. Our love and sympathy goes out to all five and their families.)*

This most interesting entry was sent through to **Jonathan Woods** by **Inga (Sunde) Tolley**

You might be interested to know that, due to the depression, my Sunde grandparents who had a sawmill on Elgon (Tiptogot) couldn't afford to send all their children to school, and my grandfather needed the help of his two eldest sons, - so it was decided that Odin, my father, and Arthur the next eldest, would have a year of schooling each over two years, *taking turns alternating each term!* It is hard to imagine how difficult it must have been for them, and my dear father had an inferiority complex with regard to education for the rest of his life. Both he and Arthur were high achievers in life, as so many self-taught people are. The eldest daughter, Ragna, went to Norway and trained as a nurse, and on to England to Queen Charlotte's Hospital and did her midwifery training. In about 1926 she returned and met up with Sister Lusada in Kitale and arranged to join her to start a private hospital. This worked extremely well for the welfare of the Trans Nzoia residents, and as the population grew it was obvious that the town council should take it over, as it was too much of a burden for two nurses to cope with the influx of white settlement. During her time in Trans Nzoia she became friendly with Mrs. Boy who was also a trained nurse and well experienced. Together they became well known and

delivered many children born in the district. Dr. Arnell, who had always been at their call when necessary, moved to Uganda.

It was while Ragna was in charge of the Kitale Hospital that my mother who was a very highly qualified nurse, (she did her training in Copenhagen, and was sent to Brussels to train nurses there) came to nurse in January 1935. Ragna was delighted to have her there and was not best pleased when she married my father on 1st August that year. My mother did complete the year nursing before she and my father moved to Uganda.

Ragna then became the matron at Eldoret Hospital. There was a break from nursing when she got married to a much older man. After his death she went back nursing. During the war (1939 - 1944) she was in charge of the military hospital in Nairobi. She then took up the appointment as Matron of the Mount Kenya Hospital in Nyeri. Later she was Matron of the Aga Khan Hospital in Nairobi. Eventually, she decided to retire to South Africa.

Jonathan, we thank you enormously for the amazing contribution you have made in regard to this Newsletter, this when we are aware that you have a great deal on your plate.

Kitale School Reunion, Picton, New Zealand 2011



Friday Evening 29 October:

**Registration: Meet, enjoy drinks and a meal
approximate cost: NZ \$40 – \$50**

Saturday 30 October:

**Cruise in the sounds: approximate cost,
including lunch NZ \$65 – \$70**

Saturday evening 30 October:

**Gala Dinner: Venue and approximate
cost still to be decided**

Sunday 31 October:

**Farewell breakfast: Thereafter explore the area;
share memories with friends from the past;
stay another day**

**Accommodation costs at B & B in Picton area
± NZ\$ 140 per couple per night**