

KITALE SCHOOL
NEWSLETTER
1999



Hello All!

I have had contact with so many of you this year that I have decided to try a new format to be sent round to all whose addresses I have to see how you like it. We'll take future Round Robins or Newsletter from there, depending on your reaction.

First of all, thank you so much for letters, addresses, phone calls and visits. I am amazed at how our first effort has snowballed and the list has grown. I am not going to try and get any sort of order but I shall stick to maiden names in the case of the ladies and put married names in brackets afterwards.

Roger Hissey and Helene we continue to see often. Janina, their elder daughter is now a Londoner. I met her there in April and decided it hadn't taken her long to acquire that 'London look.' Younger sister Danisha is currently writing Matric and she hopes to join Janina at some stage. Janina has been spending Christmas here with family and to celebrate her 21st Birthday. *(You've no idea how old this makes some of us feel, when we read of wedding bells the next generation down – and as for some of you reaching the stage of grandparenthood!)*

News from Daphne Hissey: I moved into this two-bedroom unit with a small garden, enough for me to manage. I am quite close to **Peter and Jenny (Patterson)**. **Peter's** workshop in Perth is doing well. He specialises in Jaguar, Range Rover. **John Barbour** now has a garden landscape and lawn mowing business helped by **Pam (Hissey)** when she is not in the Gallery. **Pam** now paints Australian landscapes, as not many people are interested in African game. I have just returned from **Pam and John**. I love the dairy farming area down there, only 1½ hours drive from here. I saw **Jessie and Alan** briefly. Tony had to have an op. He comes to Perth for therapy so I must go and see them *(Tony and Jessie Senior)* when they come up next week. *(I hope by now you will have made a complete recovery, Tony.)*

Our garden is not the same since we had a dog. We decided to give Graeme a puppy for his birthday last year and now I have a 1 year old Staffordshire Bull Terrier who is as wide as he is high and who does not seem to respect my plants. However, he is, otherwise, very good and loveable.

We wonder what the people in South Africa feel about not getting the Olympics. In some ways I suppose it is a sense of relief. (*I think so, Tessa*)

We are all well and chasing "filthy lucre." We'll keep in touch, Lots of love,

Tessa

Tessa is a keen landscape gardener besides her nursing career and she was invited to go to California and Arizona to look at gardens, natural and man made, in climatic conditions similar to those in western Australia. In nursing, Tessa is involved in the field of rehabilitating people with head injuries and post surgical.

Liz Troward (*Vorster*) mentions father Dick's annual 4-month visit to them and also that twin sister Jenny (*Botto*) was out and how both still enjoy walking. Liz still plays league and social tennis. I believe Peter Troward and family are still living on the East Rand. Liz mentions that they will be in the Cape for 2 weeks after Christmas and that Jenny will pay a second visit also.

Helen Nicholson (*Bailey's*) mother is down from Malindi for her second visit in the year and Liz mentions meeting her for lunch at Kirstenbosch along with Peter Thorald. (*I seem to remember that Peter's son was at Kitale School. Does anybody know his whereabouts?*) Helen arranged a lunch in Somerset West earlier in the year so that Liz and some others, including Mary Brendon could see Ann.

Diana Brendon (Heiberg) sent me a surprise letter, (*Were you at Kitale School, Di?*) She heard about the Newsletter through **Gay Tilney (Prevot)**. Di was born in the Cheranganis and her mother, **Mary**, now lives with her and husband in Somerset West. (*Thank you Di for addresses for Richard Chorley and Mary. I have tried to contact Richard but, alas, unsuccessfully. Have they perhaps moved to be nearer Mary in Natal?*)

Di would like addresses, please for the Allen family. **David** and **Muriel** live in England with **Jeffrey**, **Peter** and **Patricia** spread across the world. She also asks for the whereabouts of **Reg Chapman** or either of the **Chapman** daughters. **Su** is in England, she believes. Where is **Yvonne**? (*Bye the way, Di, I need an address for you also!! You wrote without giving it!*)

Alison Nicholson (Gilbert) writes about her wonderful bird watching trip in Uganda where she met **Katie Roberts**. (*George Roberts was at Kitale School for a very short time before going to Hardy Manor and prior to the family's departure for South Africa.*) 'It was brilliant. Uganda is so lush and not ruined by tourism. We saw 380 different birds, about 180 new to me, plus the chimps twice and the gorillas. My best part was the Nile where we saw the rare Shoebill, and then on the way to Murchison Falls the banks were a picture of papyrus, hippo, elephant and crocs., fish eagles and Goliath herons apart from the many other species. Then there were about 8000 Abdims storks gathering to migrate and 800 African skimmers. I was hoping to see one or two. **Alistair Douglas** phoned me from Somerset West, he was in our class. (*Alas, Alison, I have not had his address through Gay Tilney (Prevot) yet. Please help! Gay, if I have mislaid your E-mail, please accept my apologies. This does happen sometimes.*)

Paula Burch (*Allen*) and Ian have had a busy year at Montagu in the Cape, where she and her husband run Rainbow Glen Self-Catering Cottages. Paula wrote: 'Helen diligently passes on your letters. I have enclosed our brochure. We started this from scratch 15 months ago. The first year of building up cottages and reputation, gardens etc. was very busy. We are still busy but now able to enjoy the lovely surrounds as well. Hout Bay became less and less attractive. More people cars, buildings etc. encroached the once quaint fishing village. We have just had a very busy weekend with a full guesthouse, plus family who had come to celebrate our silver wedding anniversary. (*Congratulations to you both, Paula. For those of you who might plan a visit to the Cape, I can recommend that you include Montagu and the Allens in your itinerary, (Tel: 0123 41294). Paula, we look forward to seeing you again in your new environment.*)

More news from Paula: **Bryony Fremlin** is an artist who illustrates flower books. (*I think we all remember Bryony's talent when she was still at Kitale School.*) The Fremlins, mother **Florrie** and brother **Ralph** are close friends of the Kerfoots. (*Yes, Paula, please send addresses, also for Margaret Powell and Jean Hallatt (Skilleter) who married John Revill and whose mother Dorothy was matron in the Junior School.*)

Anthony Burch and Audrey have 4 children and they live on a farm in Dorset. Anthony has a large veterinary practice in Sturminster. (*They also run a Bed and Breakfast arrangement so I add a Telephone Number for those travelling in the area: 01258 880828*)

Colin Burch lives in Naivasha on the same farm as Paula's mum, Topsy. Paula met **Alistair Douglas** and she forwarded mail to him. She adds that he was BBD (before Bridget Doenhoff!), (*I do recall the name and according to Alison Nicholson, I believe I actually knew him! May we have an address, please, Paula*)

Chris Hearne phoned us up out of the blue just the other day and called in for a cup of coffee and a chat. Thank you, Chris. Chris and Magda have changed their horticultural life for something quite different, The Amway approach, which they hope will bring them quicker returns. Chris has asked for **Su Barton's** address (*so you and Tony may well be visited one day by Chris and Magda*)

In November, I was in Mombasa for a week visiting my brother and we called on **Diana Fulton** (Purchase) on our way home from Vipingo. Paddy was down with malaria so we were lucky to find Diana at home. Charles is back from UK and working in Mombasa. Diana particularly wants to be remembered to you, **Biddy** (Crowcombe). She remembers you as a fine Standard Seven teacher. (*I think we'll agree on that one.*)

Pamela Mudd (Bennett) wrote from Zimbabwe after many years of having lost touch. Pamela's parents are also in Harare as is brother John, an accountant. Pamela and her husband farm and Peter is also Chairman of the Board of Governors at Risawe School.

Christopher Horsey and Caroline (Denton) and **David Horsey** continue also to live in Mombasa. I believe **John** and **Ruth** are still involved with running a Game Lodge somewhere between Mombasa and Nairobi. (*We need addresses, please!*)

During the Centenary celebrations at St John's earlier this year, Robin and I met **Terry** and **Gayle Davidson** whose younger son is there, in the Prep, School. Terry is Managing Director of City Bank, Johannesburg and we have since visited them in their very gracious Sandhurst home while parents Walter and Sylvia were visiting from Kenya. During my two-day visit to Nairobi in November I drove out to Thika to see Walter and Sylvia in their home just beyond Thika. They promise me that, next time they are in the West of England, they will try to visit you, **Biddy and Chris**. They will be in England next year (1999) for Walters 85th birthday and their 50th wedding

anniversary. *(It is so peaceful where they live, typical beautiful Kenya and they have a magnificent view of the mountain on a clear day - but the drive is a nightmare and I was pleased to be back in one piece. Having driven in both Mombasa and Nairobi, I began to feel that 'taxi' drivers in South Africa are quite disciplined after all. But roads generally are better than they were four years ago when we were last here.)*

Terry keeps in touch with several people and he writes:

“We spent Xmas '97 in Australia visiting Gayle's parents and had an evening with **Peter Flatt** and the **Sinclair** family in Perth. **Daphne** (Bellingeri) and family have just immigrated to Australia from Kenya and are in the process of buying a house. Daphne loves it. However, I am not too sure about Chesray(?) *(I am sure you will have settled in by now, Daphne and I hope you are all happily settled in with Chesray enjoying it as well.)* Terry had a great source of addresses, his own family, **Robert Brooke**, the **Stumps** *(I remember Ann well)* and the **Harrisons** - all of who are known to me and are added to the list.

Thank you, **Andrew Hillier**, for lots of news. You really are a fund of information. **Adrian** and **Jacquelin** with their two children have moved to Nairobi from Mombasa. Their son, **Kevin**, will be going to school in Dublin, less expensive, I believe that England. They have a daughter, **Brita** who will go to prep. school in Nairobi initially.

Andrew writes:

“Have you had any luck in tracking down **Robert Heath**, **David Malitte** or **David Herbert**?” *(Can anyone help, please? I have a feeling Robert Heath is sugar farming in KwaZuluNatal.)*

Felicity Ross (Manuel) is very happy living in Canada, **Grant** and **David Daniels**, who live in England, may go to Perth WA for the 50th

Anniversary celebrations of the founding of the DOY School. (*I'm sure Andrew will be responsible for organising this event and if any ex. Lenana / Duke of York members are interested, please get in touch with Andrew Tel:Perth (08 945 48306) E-mail: hillier@inf.net.au. For those of you on the Internet, the Old Yorkist Web Page address is: <http://www.inf.net.au/~hillier/>)*

Last year, Andrew wrote as follows:

We have just got back from a few days away with Charles and Vicky Kerfoot. (*Vicky was a Bell*) We stayed on the coast in a couple of chalets and had a great time playing tennis and golf etc.

Congratulations to Andrew and Gail on celebrating their 25th Wedding Anniversary a year ago. Andrew describes their own private celebration thus: "I booked us into a hotel, which was doing a package called 'Romance by the River.' Champagne and chocolates on arrival, private balcony overlooking the Swan River etc. I was very popular!"

Susan Shields, (White), was in the UK for her son Mark's wedding. (*Congratulations and best wishes.*)

It seems that Andrew sees Angela Hickman (Swain) quite often. Angela's daughter Elspeth, a great hockey player, won an Olympic Gold Medal in Soeul. (*Congratulations to both parents and of course Elsbeth!*) The not so good news was that Andrew Kerfoot had a nasty experience last year when walking back home from visiting George Barour with his wife Sue (Roffey). "They were attacked by three men with knives. Andrew was quite badly injured and had over 200 stitches. He has still not made a complete recovery." (*Andrew, as this was now a year ago, I hope you are fully recovered.*)

Andrew added Alan Hitchcox's address to the List and also Richard Northmore's about whom he writes:

"This week I got a phone call out of the blue from a great childhood friend Richard Northmore. I last saw him in 1974 when we lived in

UK. He is in Perth for a Conference (he works in the energy field). We managed to snatch a couple of hours together last night (*May 06, 1998, this will have been.*) Richard has married for the second time. He has 2 adult children from the first marriage and two youngish ones from the second marriage. Richard's elder brother **John** lives on a dairy farm in Natal with his wife, **Marylin** (Hickman) (*Some of you may know that Marylin survived an attack by armed intruders some time back. Marylin, I hope all has gone well since.*)

“Richard has not seen **George Brooks** of late. He no longer lives in Fowey and he is nearly blind. (*I am sure we all know that Vera died some years ago. I believe Michael and his family are taking good care of their father. Vera will be missed sorely by family especially but also by friends.*) Richard went back to KPS last year (now **Kitale Academy**) and he was treated as an honoured guest, visiting classes and talking to pupils. There are over 1000 of them now. He said the old honours boards are still in place and even the picture of the Laughing Cavalier is still hanging on the Dining Room wall! (*We also saw much that made us feel nostalgic when we revisited in 1993. The Headmaster and Bursar could not have been more gracious in showing us around. I believe **Brandon Brooksbank**, now also in Perth, and Penny had a similar pleasant experience.*) Richard stayed at the Kitale Club, which he says has changed hardly at all. He also visited their old farm at Lugari, where the local people greeted him with the words, ‘Are you the Northmores?’

Andrew sent letters from **Robert Richards** and **Patrick Halahan** which are transcribed below. I think Robert wrote more for the Duke of York/Lenana School website which Andrew has obviously put a great deal of work into.

“From Kenya to Israel with my family. Went to a small English speaking school here, attended largely by children of foreign diplomats. Did ‘O’ Levels in 1964, ‘A’ Levels a year later - the odd combination of English Lit., Maths and Physics. Went to University

in England - studied Aeronautical Engineering at Loughborough. My elder sister, **Esther**, went to a Secretarial College in England at the same time (a waste of talent to be regretted ever since) and my younger sister, **Deborah**, and my parents stayed in Israel. Graduated in 1969, and have been in Israel's aerospace industry ever since, specialising first in wind-tunnel testing (yawn) and later on in structural analysis and testing (yawn). Actually, it's not that bad really. Spent a year's study leave with my family at the University of Maryland, USA, in 1986 and another period at the University of Christchurch, New Zealand in 1994. In 1970, I married Naomi Erlanger, an Israeli girl, and we have three 'kids' - Roy, 26, married with a baby daughter of his own (correct, I'm a grandfather, would you believe!) Roy graduated in mechanical engineering from the Israel Institute of Technology in Haifa. Oren his brother is 24, post army and post backpacking in the Far East and Australia and pre-deciding what to do in life now that some of the fun is behind him. Tammy, his sister is 18 and leaves school this year. Her name is Tamar.

I spent 6 months in the army as an old man of 28 - did some extremely rough basic combat training but ended up teaching in an Airforce Technical College. **Esther**, now 53, is not married but has a partner in life. (Ian is 14 years her Junior) and they share a house in London. **Debby** has 3 girls, all of them grown and her husband is an airline pilot with El Al. My parents are getting on. Dad is 78 and not in the best of health whilst Mum is 74 and as fit as a fiddle, swims 1km every day, has cold showers, eats vegetarian etc. They live on a small farm with orange orchards and poultry facilities that have been leased out for many years. They are thinking of moving into a Retirement Home in town, because before long they may be unable to drive and then they'll be stuck. (Mum may be fit, but not to drive).

Recently **Debbie** revisited Kenya, including Kitale School and found it terribly run down. I have not been back since 1962 but am going there as a tourist with Naomi one month from now. (*This was written*

in August, 1998) That is what led me to the Duko website and the name list - congratulations, Andrew, on a good job.

I occasionally reflect on those far off school days. In retrospect, we got an excellent education there, though I could have managed just as well without the occasional caning. To my friends today it sounds like somewhere straight out of Charles Dickens.

Bye for now,
Robert.

(Thank you Robert. Please can someone send me an address - also for Esther and Debbie. Even an E-mail address to start with would do.)

And from **Patrick Halahan**

Andrew, I was told about your website and had a look. It is great, well done.

My brother **Anthony** (Tony) and I went to Duko and left in '68 or '69. I will check the facts. Tony and I went to England after Duko. Tony went to aircraft engineering college and then joined Cargolux in Luxemburg where he still works.

I went to England, got a degree in Engineering, travelled some of the rest of the world (South Americas and part of Europe) and then settled down in California. I married an American girl, Cindy Skal in '83 and we have one child, a daughter, born in '88 who is called Jane. I have been a Senior Engineering Manager in high tech. equipment for the last 8 years in several different companies.

In the meantime, we had a little gathering here in San Francisco area of **Ben Pickford** and **Mike Ganz** and their wives. Mike and his wife hosted the deal and I showed some slides, mostly of Kitale and Kilifi

(the farm and the vacation spot). This seemed to cause a lot of discussion and trying to remember other people etc.

We'll keep in touch. All the best and well done on the site.

Pat (Patrick) Halahan

San Mateo

California

For those who remember the **Halahans**, they lived up the Central Elgon Road above **Barton, Mills** and so on. **Patrick's** father, was a naval captain and he built a 27 foot yacht on the farm and took it down to Kilifi.

From **Charles Kerfoot** and **Vicky** (Bell) 'It is quite amazing how Kitale School and Kitale must have been in those good old days and such a tragedy we have all spread to all parts of the world. (*How about another Reunion in Oz, Charles? Let me know when! – And, I have dreams of one in England too – Any offers for a suitable venue?*) I have been back to Kenya lots of times and the last time I went, about 18 months ago, I visited the old school, now called Kitale Academy. I was amazed at how little the school had changed – dirty but still solid and you wouldn't believe it, the old school boards in the hall were still there. So you can imagine what a thrill it was. Kitale very scruffy, but Kitale Club excellent. (*I endorse that from our own last visit, Charles.*) I see a lot of **Andrew Hillier**. (*Thank you for all the addresses, and thank you, Vicky, for the translation of Charles' letter! I think we all find typing easier. What would we do without our computers? Thank you also for reminding me that all Clemency's children **Robert, Simon, Antony and Steve Jarvis** all started their schooling in Kitale before moving to Kaptagat and eventually to England.*)

Others who went to Kitale School fairly recently were **Carol Cooper** who went with **Tony Mills**. This was Carol's first re-visit for 25 years. She planned to go to the school and take photos of where she

ran the 3-legged race and Eagle was the best house! (*I look forward to the Report Back, Carol!*)

One of my big surprises during this year was along letter from **Ariadne Munro** (Hartmann) who lives in Otjiwarongo, Namibia. Ariadne gave me news of all the **Munro** family. (*The sad part for me was to learn that **Granny Joan Munro** who looked after the Senior Girls' Boarding House had died in 1989. I always regarded her as one of the best.*) Some news of the family members follows:

Heather (Munro) Davidson's husband, **Jim** passed away in August, 1995. Ariadne gave me an address for **Roderick Munro**. Roderick's wife **Hazel** worked at Kitale School for a short time but, sadly, she died in 1990. **Sandy Munro**, Ariadne's father and **Heather** also live in Harare. Many of you will remember Heather, who also worked at the School. Ariadne's sister **Devinia** (Robinson) lives with her parents in Harare. (*Thank you, Ariadne. Please keep in touch.*)

Anna Hasluck (Weaver) writes: '**Helen Nicholson** (Bailey) and I were skiing one week apart, one valley apart in December last year. I think we both found we weren't naturals! I intend to go again though. It's one of the few family holidays we could guarantee would attract interest from all the children. I am looking forward to a more traditional Xmas at home with Church Services, eating lots and parcels round the tree - so old fashioned at heart. (*I think many of us are, Anna.*) Wish the family far away could join us too. Mum is getting very frail. I hope she'll come in spring. We need to treasure the visits. **Phil (Hasluck)** and **Wendy** are going to Kenya in January '99. I think I'll have to try to get to see them while they are there. I haven't been back since we left in '61. (*Anna, I am so pleased Roger is now working close enough to home to be able to commute daily.*)

I received such a lovely letter from **Christine Jensen** (Allen) Many of you will know that Christine runs a Nursing Home n Swainshill,

Hereford and she has been providing that tender loving care so badly needed by the elderly. *(Well done, Christine. I salute you.)*

Another lovely surprise letter earlier this year came from **Jennie Duirs** (Field) who is about to return to the family home, Fern Hay in Gloucestershire after a spell in Sri Lanka. Jenny writes, 'I heard from **Anna** a few weeks ago. It is amazing how many names I can recall from those hazy, lazy school days back in Kenya. I went to a reunion of Highlands School Past Pupils in UK 2 years ago and I was astounded at how many people I remembered after 25 years. I did meet up with the **Northcote** sisters, **Lindy** (Wilson) and **Jenny** (Hellier) and **Koba Bosman** (Bentley) when we were living in Zimbabwe three years ago. We lived one road away from the Northcote's Dad. What a small world!

My husband and I moved over here on 26 January and will be here for a year. John is a Colonel with the Royal engineers and hence we are never settled for that long anywhere. Generally we stay put for about 2 years although we have recently had two 3-year postings, which are considerable better for my sense of well being and state of mind. We live out of Colombo in the country, 45 minutes from the city centre. It mainly takes this long because of the appalling congestion in the city, not to mention the atrocious driving. The main technique, it appears, is to press firmly on the horn and then just 'go' for it. There appear to be absolutely no rules regarding roundabouts and such things. It is easier to close one's eyes. The heat here has to be felt to be believed, outside temperatures up around 38°C and very humid. The Sri Lankan people are wonderful and welcoming. We like them very much. It is just a shame that there is a raging war going on around them. We have had 3 incidents (bomb attacks) with many casualties in the short 6 weeks we've lived here. It reminds us of Ireland with its barricades and police blocks and sandbags strewn about the city. Neither **Glenda** nor **Robert** are married. Glenda lives in Stroud and is a Social Worker. Robert manages and maintains a large property in London, which he rents out. *(Jenny, thank you for the regular E-mail*

letters. Welcome back to England and we look forward to seeing you in Harare, I hope, in the near future. Do contact Pamela Mudd (Bennett) when you get there, P O Box 140, Concession)

Pamela writes from Concession, Zimbabwe: 'Time seems to have run away this year. Life has been very chaotic and unsettling here at the moment what with riots, strikes, squatters taking over farms and the Zimbabwean dollar plunging against all currencies. It really would be quite a cheap holiday here now. *(This is confirmed by friends who have just spent time in the Eastern Highlands)*. We've plenty of beds etc.' Pamela and Tiff have two sons at University in South Africa and she continues: 'At this stage we dread getting the Varsity fee notice as, at the beginning of this year we were about Z\$2,5 to the Rand. Now it is \$6.7 and we've been warned it will probably be \$10 by the end of the year. We're also desperate for rain, had none – who would be a farmer.' *(Pamela, I sympathise and I hope things will improve for you. I hope by now you will have had rain because we've had such a good season here.)* 'I'm working full time as a Bookkeeper/Accountant for a Packhouse which exports citrus fruit/vegetables etc., mainly to Europe. This helps pay for the horrendous Varsity Fees. My actual degree from Rhodes was a BSc majoring in Maths and Computer science and I worked in the computer field as programmes' analyst before I got married. *(You always were a mathematical genius, Pamela!)* I keep in touch with **Patricia Edge** (Neale) who lives in UK and my parents keep contact with **Carol Barratt** (Schmoll's) mother. Carol lives in Australia. **Rosalind Williams** *(Please give me her married name, Pamela)* and **John** live in UK as does **Jenny Hoare**. **Johnny D'Olier** lives in Naivasha.

Lindy Northcote (Wilson) writes: 'The shop has been exceedingly busy this year. I often wonder why people buy what they do but I am the last one to complain, as, if everyone was like me, we wouldn't make a living! **Jen** and **John** (Hellier) were over from Kenya and were amazed at the mass of humanity – quite an experience. The

circumstances of their visit were not too wonderful as Johnny was diagnosed with stomach cancer. He was operated on and had the stomach removed. He is still in a lot of pain which is a worry as chemotherapy is apparently no longer an option in that area. *(I hope by the time you receive this, Lindy, the news will be better)* My sister in law *(Kevin's wife, Lesley)* had a mastectomy on the same day in Plymouth. She has had chemo and radiotherapy since and is back on chemo until the beginning of next year, which she is finding very difficult. Now for the good news: Jen and John are coming over for Christmas, which is going to be wonderful. *(Daphne tells me that John has made an amazing recovery. Great news!)* Then we are going for a cruise around the Greek Islands for 10 days, winding up in Istanbul where we will spend a couple of days before heading back into the cold. *(Congratulations to John Northcote on the publication of his book. I hope Enid has made a complete recovery. Thank you Lindy for more addresses. Granny Taylor lived to be 102. What a wonderful age for this lovely lady. Can you remember her playing the piano for ballet classes?)*

Delia Duncan (Krause) writes from Oldenburg, Germany: 'Sandy kindly sent the address list of ex-Kitale folk to me. I was amazed at how many people are on it, how many I don't know and how many have stayed in Africa.

Of course, like Sandy (Peatling), I was one of those who went to the Kenya High School rather than Eldoret. Between leaving the KHS and going up to University, I met this German chap in Spain. We live in Oldenburg, which is between Bremen and the Dutch border, in a cosy little house with a big garden and a dog. I teach English in the English Department at the University here and my husband, Walter, is a teacher at one of the local schools. We have two lovely daughters, Jennifer (20) who has taken time off between school and University and is currently in Australia. Kathy (18) is still at school but wishes she wasn't. With Sandy living in Somerset West, I doubt that we will be going to Kenya again which is sad, but I feel there is a whole new

territory in South Africa to explore. (*Delia was in Somerset West for the Duncan's 60th wedding anniversary in March.*) It was the first time that the three daughters, **Sandy, Glenda (Lloyd) and Delia** had been together since 1992 in Australia. *Is Glenda still in Brunei?*)

'You mentioned the Sinclairs in your letter and I got quite excited. I used to be very friendly with **Carol Sinclair**. I wonder if anyone knows where she is now?'

Clare Breckenridge (Long) writes: 'Hi! Jambo sana. I have just received the list from **Biddy Crowcombe**. Fascinating! I am married to John Long. In Canada we keep our maiden names when we marry. We have retired to our cottage in Elgin. When we are not at the cottage, our mail is forwarded. So many Canadians go somewhere else in the winter due to the disgusting weather that we have a very good forwarding service. My parents moved to Canada in 1997 from Ireland. Both are in their eighties. They live in Ottawa and are doing fine.'

News of **Michael and Derek Strange** written by **Inez**:

'**Mike** was fully ordained on 3.10.98. It was a very memorable and moving service in a packed church including work colleagues from 25 years ago and onwards to the present dates. It was great to see them all at Mike's wine and 'eats' party afterwards. He does three days as a homeopath, then three days as Chaplain at the large prison at Highdown and takes services and preaches on Sundays. He loves it. Both jobs are stressful.

Derek and Jo are working in Spain for a month, then back to UK for a few days before **Derek** leaves for a 10-day project in Turkey. I have two workaholics, I fear! (*Derek is an educational writer for OUP*)

I am in touch with **Alison Mortimer** (*We knew her as Alison Grey. She married Charles who used to teach Standard Four at Kitale School.*) Alison is now a widow and is busy clearing out their biggish house in Bognor.

Carol Barton (Griffiths) and David are very busy running the International School in Morogoro, Tanzania. It seems that the school is expanding rapidly. Carol and David were in UK for Christmas with their family.

The longest letter ever came from **Chrissie Luck** (Briscoe): '**Susan Barton** (Cockcroft) sent me your latest update plus address list and I took the liberty of faxing the pages through to **Eric Lusso**. The whole thing fascinated me but I could really only remember names rather than faces and I realised that my memories of the Highlands School at Eldoret and my contemporaries there were far stronger.

My surname really is **DRAKE BRISCOE** and my husband Peter is a direct descendant of Sir Francis Drake who lived at Buckley Abbey in Devon. I noticed that **Ralph Nicholson's** address is Buckland Manor in Devon. Peter was wondering if there was any geographical/historical connection between the two addresses. If **Ralph** looks into Burkes Landed Gentry, he will find the Briscoes and the Elliott/Drake/Briscoes and the Drake/Briscoes all linked to Bucklands Abbey via the Drakes in some way. I would like to hear from him very much. (*Helen, Alison, perhaps this is something for you and Ralph to get together on.*) Back to **Chrissie**: She and Peter have three children. They live on a 2000-Acre farm, 50% of which is under sugar cane. They have 600 beef cattle and several hundred thousand wattle trees. Chrissie herself is a cheese maker who makes 50 different types of exotic cheeses. She also has an egg business and runs a small dairy herd besides being general housewife and taxi driver. (*What a busy lady, Chrissie!*)

Annette Nielsen married Stan Gilbert's son of Kitale. Annette lives in Southern England. I know nothing of the whereabouts of **Clive Nielsen**.

Evelyn Ruthman (I am not sure of her married name) lives with her mother in Spain. (*Guy Luck, I believe you may have an address for us*)

I have a photo of the Senior Girls with Mrs Munro and Miss Dempsey, the then housemistress, outside the dining room. Many of the faces I don't recall but **Biddy Hufford** comes to mind very forcefully, **Jackie Black**, **Ann Barnley**, **Lizzy Statham**, **Sandra Dunn** and the **Van Rensburg twins**, the **Boschoffs**, the **Buckholz girls** and **Susan Buchanan Allen**. (*Any addresses would be welcome so that we can add them to the list.*)

Where are they now?

Jane and Cecilia Hingle, believed to live in England. They used to be at Grasslands Research Station.

Janet Morgan and sister **Caroline** and brothers **Robert** and **Richard**.

Jacqueline Lachmann, whom **Chrissie** remembers as being small and stocky with dark curly hair, a gutsy girl who could run like a rabbit and who was a very keen sportswoman.

Nils Sunde whose parents crossed the Sahara in a bus.

Aiden Doyle (*Su Barton (Cockcroft), I believe you know his whereabouts*)

Peter Liehti and his sister **Margaret**. **Chrissie** remembers **Peter** as being very clever and competing with **David Leach** for top place in class.

Peter van der Westhuisen, a Dutch/Afrikaans boy, very tall. He sat next to **Chrissie** in Mrs Greenwood's Standard Four class.

Michael Fulton (*We need updated news of you Michael, please*)

Harry and Simon Fitzherbert. **Harry** lives and works in Johannesburg. (*Let's have news of Simon, please*)

Rosemary Harrison

Tina Ray

Claire Roberts friendly with **Biddy Partridge** when at school. (*Biddy, are you still in touch? I suggest you try to make contact via Claire's sister, Dr Annette Gardner, P O Box 45560, NAIROBI*)

Anthony Knight (*News, please, Liz*)

Edward Falck now in Germany and running a massive financial concern, and **Karin Falck** (Normanof) who lives in Kwazulu Natal, and **Celia Falck** (Moore).

Francesca Pellissier, very bright and very popular.

Mark Hardy, believed to be running the family 'cheesery' in England, Putnam's Farm.

The **March** brothers – may be somewhere in South Africa. Their parents, Nick and Sally farm at Greytown. Nick also runs a vintage tractor/vehicle business, renovating old machinery. I believe he has a stand at the Pietermaritzburg Agricultural Show each year, which is a huge attraction.

Susan Dwen (HUDSON) (*We'd like news of you and the family, please, Su.*)

Veronica and **David Josselyn** – (*I wonder whether Su Brooksbank (McKenzie) or Brandon might have addresses. I believe you kept in touch.*)

Michael Meyer who used to live in Soroti, not far from where the **Lucks** farmed.

John Begetti – Italian and believed to be a friend of yours, **Eric**. Are you still in touch?

Anne Buck and brother **Christopher** whose father, **Martin**, ran Buck's Garage. **Winnie** was a nursing sister at Kitale Hospital.

Mary Sovic (Ruthmann) who married **Evelyn's** brother **Ernst** and **Tina Sovic**.

Petronella Bosman (*Koba, we need your help here!*)

The **Wilson** family. (*Am I right in thinking they emigrated from Kenya to Australia? Chrissie thinks they may be in South Africa. They were cousins of the Grandcourts I believe.*)

The **Dimech** family. **Mary Rose**, **Rodney**, **Alastair** and **Johnny Davina Hampson** whose father was DC in Kitale.

Jeremy and **Sandra Kidner**

* **John** died tragically in a road accident in Melbourne in 1968.

David and Michael Horsfall

Tony Mills and his brother John (?)

John and Ken Greathead who live in Albany, Western Australia. (*I believe you might be able to provide addresses, Andrew*)

Anthony Durrard and his brother Brian

The **Auret** family – believed to be in New Zealand. (*Ann Partridge (Pitout), maybe you know their whereabouts, or Carol Barton (Griffiths)*)

Robin Archer known as ‘**Tiggy**’. (*Address, please, Susan*)

John, Mike, Sally and Tim Eager (*Addresses needed, please*)

Staff Members:

George Brooks, now living close to **Michael** and family, mentioned earlier.

Mrs Greenwood, very Scottish and a Standard Four teacher at one time.

Margaret Powell, Sanatorium matron;

Kay Yuille – last known address Park House, Shalloch Park, Girvan, Ayrshire. SCOTLAND KA26 0HW. Is anyone still in contact? **Chrissie** describes Kay as dynamic, formidable and a very good teacher. (*I go with that, Chrissie*)

Biddy Crowcombe who with **Chris Gibson** have a magnificent home and garden in Devon, and who keep in touch with so many of us. **Biddy** enjoyed a short holiday in the Cotswolds in the autumn. **Chris** is a keen walker and she plays tennis regularly.

Arthur Davies – believed to be in Perth, Western Australia

Doreen Drakes and **David** are retired and living happily in Denmark, Western Australia. (*We need addresses for Ian and Lynne, please.*)

If any of you are in touch with other former members of staff or have news to pass on, please do get in touch. Chrissie was asking after Ivy Wood, who went to Australia. Mrs MacDonald, Standard Three teacher passed away many years ago as did Mrs Williams, Mrs Valpy and Mrs Hallatt (matron) and Mrs Davis, catering matron

and sister of Alison Grey (Mortimer). Mr Mortimer also passed away.

There have been many sad occasions recently when those we know have lost loved ones. Some of these received **Christine's** tender loving care and attention in their final days, which must have been great comfort to bereaved relatives. Our love and sympathy goes out to the following:

The Kerfoot family who lost a wonderful mother.

Felicity and Malcom Ross on the passing of Joan

Susan and Ian Shields who lost their father, Bill.

Robert, Jennie and Glenda Duirs. Diana passed away very suddenly after many years of suffering.

Marylin and Angela Hickman

The Flatt family in their loss of Dick, a wonderful husband and father.

The Kidners. Sadly Oliver passed away.

The Hitchcox family.

The Burch family, Toppy, Paula, Anthony and Colin on their loss of John.

The Davidson (*Munro*) family who lost Jim during 1995

The Duncan family

The Brooksbank family, Brandon and Su, who lost a wonderful mother during 1997

Anne, Bidy and Hugo Partridge who lost Vi after years of suffering

There may be others that I have not heard about whom we need to remember.

Of those who have been in touch with me during 1998, I hope I have not left anybody out. If so, please get in touch and I promise you will be first in the 1999 Newsletter, which comes out in 2000. Please let me have your comments also on the new format. Those of you who have let me have E-mail addresses will be the first to receive the Newsletter. The rest follow by post, some inevitably later if I have not got your addresses.

I can do a certain amount of printing through the office to reduce costs but I hope those of you who would like our efforts to continue might be willing to make a contribution towards costs of stationery, printing and postage. Sadly, I am afraid my meagre pension can no longer support all the expense but, for as long as I am able, I am willing to give the time if this is what you would all like. It has been suggested that a £10 contribution from each of you, or the equivalent in whatever currency you are using, banked in a separate 32 Day Deposit Account where it accrues good interest would keep us in funds for the rest of time. I would deposit into a separate Account and make sure there was a second signatory, probably asking **Roger Hissey** who lives fairly close by and who is a few years younger than I am to be there in case of need and to help monitor the Account. It would probably become The Kitale School Past Pupils' Account – so that you can be sure that I shall not embezzle your Funds! But, since, so far, we have no money, please make cheques, Postal Orders etc. out in my name, Mrs B Walton. When I opened the Loreto Past Pupils Account last year we discovered this to be the easiest route.

Thank you all for the contents of this, our first real Newsletter. I have had fun – in spite of the fact that many of you seem to remember me as ‘Memsahib kali sana!’ **Helen** tells me she would hide her bacon and egg in her uniform pocket rather than have me tell her to eat up! What an ogress of a housemistress! But, **Helen**, I can remember the same happening to me over Boarding School porridge, sago and vermicelli pudding. How I must have changed over the years! At St Andrew's I was known as the Headmistress who never raised her

voice in anger and the mischievous girls apparently actually took bets on this! I'm pleased we can all laugh together on this now that we are older. In the case of those who endured me in my first year, I was only about 7 years your senior in age at the time – That's hard to believe! I have to admit that when, here in South Africa, I found myself teaching only girls, I looked back to the days when I was challenged by the Peter Flatts, Peter Liechtis, Adrian Hilliers, Oliver Kidners and all the young men I taught at Kitale. You added such life and spice to what went on in the classroom and you challenged those hard-working young ladies to do better. What wonderful memories we all have of golden days and great experiences.

My address details for those of you who may not have them:

Mrs Bridget Walton (*Yes, I was Bridget Doenhoff*)
P O Box 556
KELVIN
2054
SOUTH AFRICA

E-mail: waltonrb@global.co.za

Good wishes, love and a happy and successful 1999 to you all wherever you may be.

Today I received the sad news that Jake, husband of the late and much loved Standard Seven teacher, Alice Jacobs, passed away in September 1998 after a short illness. Rosemary Jacobs (*Grey*) also lost her husband Derek on 13 December. Derek had been ill for many years but, with Rosemary and the family supporting him, he had fought so bravely to keep going. Our sympathy goes out to the entire Jacobs family, Libby, Rosemary, Alison and Tom and the wider family in their loss of two loved ones.

