

KITALE SCHOOL

Newsletter 2007



Greetings all Kitaleites

Another year is over, another Festive Season is over and we have enjoyed another highly successful reunion – a weekend from 10 – 12 November in the Northern Drakensberg area of KwaZulu Natal. A huge thank you is owed to **Magda** and **Chris Hearne** for their tireless efforts before and during the weekend as well as to our barbecue specialist, **Allan Hallett** and his lovely **Jenny**, **Alan Rattray** our photographer in chief and **Madge [Watts]** who helped with the catering on the Friday evening and **Robin [Walton]** and **Stephen Haupt**, joint barmen. **Sue Boll [Wilson]** brought paintings for us to enjoy and presented one for auction to raise funds while **Chris Hearne** donated two magnificent framed photographs and **Allan Hallett** presented a set of pewter candlesticks made at his 'Maridadi' factory in Howick.



We owe a huge debt of gratitude to **Pauline** and **Wayne Lennon** and their two daughters who spent a long day with us and stayed late into the evening to provide disco music for our Gala Dinner. In spite of the disruption caused by tourist gate-crashers who insulted our energetic dancers by calling them a bunch of geriatrics, this was a wonderful evening and altogether a reunion to be remembered. [More details on P3]

Those who were able to come:

Chris and Magda Hearne
Su [Brooksbank] and Gavin Mackenzie
Chris and Karen Dwen with Sharon and Lauren
Sue [Dwen] and Peter Hudson
Madge [Watts] and Alan Rattray
Karin [Falck] and Chris Norman
Celia [Falck] and Frank Isaacs
Marie de Bruin
Kay [Keese] MacPherson
Val [Arnold] and Barry Jacob
Allan and Jenny Hallett
Alison [Nicholson] and Simon Gilbert
Helen [Nicholson] Baillie
Liz [Troward] and Auret Vorster
Alison [Jacobs] and Don Maclean
Tony and Adrienne Mills [From Kitale]
Tessa [Haupt] and Brian Watson [From Perth, Australia]
Michael and Susan Haupt and Stephen
Peter, Marissa and Shasta Swan
Richard and Pauline Statham
Sue [Wilson] and Klaus Boll
Danie Steyn and grandson
Tom Jacobs and Alison Vienings
Harm and Neil Bosman
Heather [Munro] Davidson
Pat and Marian Long
Pauline and Wayne Lennon [Saturday only]
Daphne [Martin] and Nigel Hunt [From Zambia]
Carol Cooper
David de Bromhead from UK [Sunday brunch]
Peter and Angela Troward
Brian and Susan Rose
Rowena [Chandler] Barry-Taylor [Sunday brunch only]
Fiona [Robertson] and David Ramsay [Sunday Brunch only]
Bridget [Doenhoff] and Robin Walton
Invited Guests: Jenny and Andy Rayner

This reunion was not to be compared with any of the previous ones, which were all different and happy, well organised gatherings thanks to the various committee members who worked tirelessly. However, those of us who has attended in previous years agreed that to spend an entire weekend together was the ideal since it gave time to talk, reminisce and enjoy those known to us as well as having the opportunity to meet older/younger alumni members and to make new friends.

Looking towards 2008

There will be no reunion in 2007. Memsahib Kali is now also mzee kidogo and needs time to catch breath before the task of organising the next gathering becomes a necessity.

2008

A reunion is planned for the latter half of 2008 when it seems that a few who were with us this year plan a return to Kenya, many by road. **Tony** and **Adrienne Mills** have valiantly suggested that this take place in Kitale [on the eve of the school's 80th birthday incidentally] and that we make it a camping weekend. With almost two years' notice, this gives us all time to save for the trip as well as reunion expenses. Tony, understandably, asks that if you are thinking of joining us, you make a definite commitment as we stand to lose out monetarily if people withdraw at short notice. My thinking at present is that it will also be the last that I arrange and organise albeit that I will always lend support and help with the writing of the Newsletter [although I hope more suggestions and ideas of how we might improve in this area will be forthcoming] **Danie Steyn** has kindly offered to help keep the database updated. Please help us here. Last year your funds on sending our Newsletters

that bounced back because changes of address details had not been notified. I feel guilty when this happens since the innocent subscribers are hard hit. In sending out reminders for Reunion 2006, 25% of e-mails sent out were returned. Please send all changes of address, postal as well as e-mail and even telephone numbers, to me at waltonrb@global.co.za as well as to Danie at danie@mweb.co.za

Questionnaire Response:

You may recall that I sent out a questionnaire with the 2006 Newsletter requesting feedback on what you, the Kitaleites, would like by way of future contact and activities. Three hundred and fifty copies of the Newsletter were sent out and a questionnaire sheet was inserted into each. Thank you to those of you who responded [10% only but it proved that Kitaleites too are human and that such insertions find their way into an 'in tray' only to be forgotten about] Understandably, those who wrote back mentioned that they prefer the reunions to take place geographically nearest to where they are living. This would mean attending once in \pm 5 years, which makes good economic sense. Perhaps, in future, Kitaleites might arrange **mini reunions** as I believe **George Barbour** did for **John** and **Jessie [Dale's]** 60th Birthdays. This would take the weight off my shoulders somewhat but unless someone attending is keen to let the majority hear about such events and distribute photographs, the Newsletters would lose impact. For the time being, we uphold the school motto and 'Persevere!'

Reunion 2006 in the Berg

This gathering of the clans was again so very different, intentionally so, from previous ones. The 69 who came all seemed to enjoy it. If we have learnt anything from past experience, it is that a one evening gathering is too short. People need time to re-establish and make new friendships and this cannot happen if the time allowed is too short. We met on Friday afternoon, taking over almost an entire resort and on Sunday afternoon after a leisurely Brunch people still seemed reluctant to leave – shades of Chichester! Friday evening began with a huge barbecue for which we on the committee did the buying, making of salads, desserts etc and we had a cash bar. We then organised Brunches instead of the two meals which meant that the more energetic among us could get out and play golf or hike before it got too hot and the afternoons were then free for swimming, more golf, walking or just enjoying company. The Gala Dinner/Dance on Saturday evening went on into the early hours. All in all, it was a very inexpensive and great idea to take over Hlanlanathi. The cost, about £50 per person all inclusive of accommodation and meals plus a gift for the entire weekend was unbelievably reasonable. **Allan Hallett** had created a Kitale School crest key ring in pewter, which we used as a napkin ring after which each guest took one home – a fitting memento of a great weekend.

2006 – Habari, watu wa Kitale

Antonia Bagshawe from Oz writes, 'I am determined to adhere to genuine part time at between 60 and 70% of the normal working time. I so enjoyed doing nothing when on leave.' Antonia had spent time in

Zambia as well as the UK visiting family members there. For the rest, she enjoys alpaca farming – lovely animals to work with.

Thank you to Dave Lichtenstein who managed to trace **Wendy Batten [Dobbs]** for us. Wendy's e-mail address: WDobbs@lambeth.gov.uk

Wilna Boshoff [Palm] is a new recruit who unfortunately could not manage the reunion. Wilna is in close touch with **Madge Rattray**. Older sister **Bregg [Hubreggie]** lives in Glencoe, KZN, and Wilna and **Martha** paid her a visit and reminisced about the school and teachers.

Harm Bosman – great guy and always ready for some fun took the young out on a 4X4 drive on the Saturday of the reunion, which I gather was somewhat hair-raising. However, he got them all back to camp safely.



Marie and Harm

Barbara and Ronnie Boy celebrated a Golden Wedding Anniversary this year. **Dennis Leete** was among the many guests at their party. One 20-year-old guest apparently wrote after the event, 'It's nice to know how long fairy tales can last.' Barbara and Ronnie are both retired although Ronnie is occasionally a Safari Tour Guide while Barbara teaches children with learning difficulties and looks after the garden at Imani School, Thika.

Carole Barrett [Schmoll] has been to Japan during 2006 and hopes to revisit Zambia in years to come.

Paula Burch [Allen] sends greetings to **Tina Hearne [Vincent]** and **Koba Bosman [Bentley]**. Unfortunately neither was able to get to the reunion. Paula writes of the days when she and Koba were paying guests with Tina's parents in Kitale [1969]. Tina introduced Paula to Afrikaans, since she was about to start her nursing training in South Africa. Needless to say, there was a mischievous streak in Tina who taught Paula all the wrong sayings, pretending that they meant something completely different!

There has been some debate recently as to who might be the 'oldest' surviving Kitale School pupil. **Eddie Bristow** [1935] comes to mind as does **Sylvia Davidson** and also **Alistair Low** [See P 7]

Sue Brooksbank [MacKenzie] did some sterling work recruiting for this year's reunion. She writes about the **Barbour** 60th birthday party for **John** and **Jessie**: 'Thirty-six guests met at the Tamarind Dhow and sailed up and under the Nyali Bridge and had lunch, then went back to Diani for supper and stayed in his **[George's]** old house, which he has now converted into an hotel. They had a live band and Jessie danced the night away.' Others, besides the Barbours, who were there: **Jessie Dale** Senior as well as **Andy** and **Sue [Roffey] Kerfoot**. Sue also met up with a local horticulturalist in Westville KZN to discover that he too had been to Kitale School. His name: **Geof Nichols** and his father farmed at Hoey's Bridge next door to the **Nicholsons** – small world indeed.



Gavin and Susan

Shirley [Patterson] and **Don Brooksbank** went to **Gerd Jensen's** Memorial Service in Nairobi and caught up with **Sven Robin** and **Christine [Cuppola]**. *[Christine and Robin, our thoughts are with you in the loss of an amazing mother, one who lived life to the full].* We have heard recently, through Su that Shirley has been unwell. *[Shirley, we hope by the time this Newsletter arrives that you will be feeling 100% yourself again].*

Christine writes that it is definitely time for her to move on from the nursing home that she has run so successfully for many years. She hopes to be able to disappear into the wilds of Exmoor where she will keep horses, dogs, cats and chicken as well as guinea fowl – and lead the good life. *[Good thinking, Christine. We hope it materialises]*

From Sven Robin and **Jessica**: 'We continue with our Artemisia farming; it's an interesting crop to grow, believed to be a 'wonder drug' not only for the cure of malaria. Jessica, Robin and family members have enjoyed a safari along the western side of Lake Turkana and into Ethiopia. 'Amongst the walking party at the start of the safari was none other than **Peter Flatt**. Peter and **Ariele** have been to Dubai this year and plan New Zealand for 2007.

Ariele has her sights on Asia while Peter hopes to climb Mt Kenya this December with, possibly, a longer walking trip, also in Kenya, in April 2007. Mum Madeline has just celebrated her 80th Birthday. *[From all of us, congratulations!]*

Ann Buck [Tilbury] writes that her parents are doing well considering their ages [83 and 84 years]. Ann was in touch with **Jackie Lachman [Philpotts]** [remember her – petite and very sporty?]. **Mike Buck** is currently working in Dubai.

Excellent news received this week is that **Ann Barnley** and **Rob Bairstow** were married last Friday, 08 December in Nairobi. We send hearty congratulations to our newly weds!



Congratulations go also to **Sally [Kerfoot]** and **Robin Lavis** who celebrated their 40th wedding Anniversary during 2006. Among the guests who spent a wonderful day with the couple were: younger brother **Andrew** and **Susan [Roffey]** and **Sylvia [Bumpus]** and **Paul Rattenbury**.



Paula [Burch] and **Ian Allen** have purchased a 12 acre piece of paradise accessible only by water in Outer Sounds, Te Rua Bay, South Island NZ – a house built from the remains of a church, which will take some renovating. Along with the house went 4 sheep [able lawn mowers which add fertiliser while cropping], fruit trees and, more

recently, a vegetable garden has been added.

Rosemary Claydon [Staff] spent 9 days with the **Allens** and showed slides of her Northern Kenya Turkana area safaris. In retirement, Rosemary is enjoying painting as well as travelling.

Susan [Chapman] James with sister **Yvonne [Drewett]** and her husband visited Kitale as part of a journey they made to the Serengeti and Masai Mara. While in Kitale they stayed with the **Barnleys**, who had taken on one of Susan's ponies, Apply Dapply, when the Chapman family left Kenya. They paid a nostalgic revisit to their former homes, Crossroads at Cherangani and Bowring Farm.

Carol Cooper, energetic as ever, led a hike during the Reunion up the gorge trail. Here is **Marie de Bruin's** description of the event: 'I vaguely heard 'walk' and thought it would be just a short morning stroll, so rushed out, no hat, no water, very wrong takkie type shoes. **Kay [Keese]** **Heather [Munro]** and **Marie**, all in the same condition, began to feel the heat, the thirst and the shoes, by the third hour. Poor Carol must have heard the muttering. All made it to the top where the view was BEAUTIFUL.' Carol and Dad, **Mike**, spent time in Germany visiting **David** who lives in Berlin.



Carol with Marie

Of their journey to the Reunion with the **Rattrays [Madge Watts] and Alan**, Marie writes: 'Madge, feeding, caring and spoiling; Alan, soundless during the driving but always there when needed and with such a precise, dry sense of humour.'

Grant Daniels had **Alan Hitchcox** stay with him; they are busy hatching a plan to visit the sites of some mines and World War 1 battlefields in Tanzania. [*How about planning for late 2008, Grant?*]

Terry Davidson continues to be a 'Bwana Mkubwa' in banking in Kenya. He and **Gayle** continue to balance their busy lives with travel. **Sylvia Davidson** celebrates 4 score years on December 30. [*We all send congratulations, and good wishes, Sylvia*].

Mike de Bromhead had made plans to join us at Hlanlanathi and we were so looking forward to this. Sadly, instead, **David** flew out from England while **Tom Jacobs** and **Alison**, **Alison** and **Don Maclean** and **Patrick** and **Marion Long** left us for part of Saturday to support **Di** at a wonderful Memorial Service held in Mooi River. [*Di – and David, our love and sympathy comes to you at very sad this time in your lives*]. David then drove to Caterpillar and Catfish to share brunch with us all on Sunday.

Anthony and **Penny Denton** have moved into their own house in Chichester after living in school premises for 20 years. Of their revisit to Kitale after 25 years, Penny writes that their home was completely intact albeit in need of TLC. The farm has been split into 50 acre plots. They met the son of one of their former employees who explained that parts of what was at one time their farm outbuildings are now used

to house and care for 100 needy and deprived children. [See www.npyt.org] They also revisited Big Tree, the Denton's farm in previous times, still run as a complete unit.

At Kitale Club, Anthony and Penny met **Cherry Dale**. Penny writes: 'The Club was as I remember it, even down to the bed in the Ladies' Changing Room! It now boasts a lovely swimming pool. We were impressed with the golf course. Kitale School was instantly recognisable and very like it used to be. If you are thinking of visiting but are not sure – GO.'

Jenny Duirs [Field] completed a TESOL course as well as a business section while husband **John** was completing his MBA. During this time, they were revamping their home, which they plan to open to foreign clients who are looking to experience life in England.

Hugh and **Sandy Peatling** were part of an Old Yorkist contingent who helped celebrate Lesley James's 100th birthday in Somerset West during 2006.

Leo and **Rita Dwen** live in retirement in Amberglen, Howick. Daughter **Sue** and **Peter [Hudson]** and son **Chris** and **Karen**, who live close by in KZN, keep an eye on them. The **Northcotes (John, Rita [Dwen] and Daphne [Hissey])** never seem to age and are as energetic as ever.

John and **Christine Eager** now live about 300 kilometres north of Brisbane. The climate is perhaps the best in the world while the area is the whale watching capital. While journeying and getting to know Australia, they travelled 25000 kilometres in nine months.



John & Christine in holiday mood

Sally [Eager] and **Peter Hood** have finally left Malawi for retirement in the Western Cape.

Celia [Falck] Isaac and **Frank** were two lucky people who managed to get to the Kenya Regiment reunion held in Nairobi and Malindi. While there, they met **Eddie Bristow** who believes he might be the oldest surviving member of Kitale School. **Alistair Low**, born in 1929 enrolled at the school in ± 1934. What we do know is that the school was established in 1929, which makes 2008 it's 80th year and a fitting time for our next reunion – to take place in Kitale. An older cousin, **John Low**, when asked in an exam to give the opposite of 'pessimist' wrote 'pole pole mist.' How did he come to be top scholar?

New, fairly recent, recruits are **Beryl [Flemmer]** and **Dale Pickford**. **Beryl's brother**, Eric, sadly passed away in 2003 [from a heart attach]. Beryl is in touch with **Wendy [Roberts] West**.

Karin Ganz [1949 – 1954] Having left Kitale for finishing school in Switzerland, Karin became a hostess with Swiss Air in 1964. She has lived in Melbourne since 1977, has never married and has a lovely home and a canine companion. Karin is in touch with **Gay [Tilney] Prevost**, **Sue [Shields] White**, **Sandra Purves** and **Di [Fulton] Purchase**. Karen would loveto hear from **Biddy**

Doughty, Janina Legg and **Ms Yuille!**

karin-ganz@smartchat.net.au

Hugh and **Anne Gladman** who were at the Chichester reunion [2005] were disappointed that so few of the names mentioned in Newsletters were there. *[Our numbers at reunions have varied although we are happy with the effort folk make to attend – especially considering geographical distances that most people have to travel].*

Allen and **Jenny Hallett** – staunch supporters of the 2006 reunion are proud owners of Maridadi Pewter Designs in Howick. Allen is the mightily talented artist, Jenny his Business Manager.

africacalls@nitrosoft.co.za



Allen enjoying his sundowner

Tessa [Haupt] and **Brian Watson** were our furthest travellers at the Reunion and brought us back into contact with **Michael**, **Susan** and **Stephen Haupt** The latter enjoyed being 'soft drink's barman and he exercised his mathematical skills in totting up accounts for cash bar payments.



Michael with Madge

We hoped so much that **David Hasluck** and **Debbie** might have joined us in November. It was not to be. News from **Anna** is always cheerful and she and **Philip** visit Mum in Harare as often as time and money allows.

Robert Harrison works at the Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine. I believe the rest of the family live in Yorkshire. *[You missed a reunion of note, Robert. Perhaps next time?]*

Oliver Heathcote, <oliverheathcote 898@hotmail.com> is keen to get back in touch with **Biddy Hamil [Lloyd]** <ham@burnthill1.demon.co.uk> Oliver mentions that **Peter Symes** has created a most interesting website of his mother **Nooti's** diaries on www.wynnesdiary.com *[We send love and condolences to all members of the Lloyd family on the untimely death of Paddy in Alabama USA]*

Peter Heathcote and **Prue** have been in travel mode having been to Western Australia and now in January a visit to Argentina is planned.

Helen Hilder [O'Loan] and **David** have left the busy streets of London for the Isle of Lewis in Scotland.

Andrew Hillier and **Gail** enjoyed a 3 month camping trip as they toured Australia, covering some 6300 kilometres – see photos on: <http://www.flickr.com/photos/hilliers> Not content with that, they enjoyed a contrasting holiday in Europe, visiting Vienna, Salzburg, Budapest, Prague, Leipzig, Dresden and Berlin, where son Robin is a professional musician.

Judith Hollows now lives in Arkansas where she is doing amazing

work looking after a small number of residents who suffer from developmental disabilities. *[Well done, Judith on taking this brave decision, especially in a foreign country where you need also to obtain residence permission].* Mum **Mavis** continues to give monetary support to the **Kitale School** alumni movement and for this we are extremely grateful. *[Thank you, Mavis Sadly, Vince Hollows gave up his struggle against ill health. To Mavis, Judith, Tom and Alan, all Kitaleites send love and sympathy in your sad loss.*

While in Mombasa recently, I was

able to see **Caroline [Denton]** and **Horace Horsey** as well as to spend a wonderful evening under the stars at the Nyali home of **David** and **Vicky**. I am afraid we deprived the home owners of sleep since the party lasted into the early hours of Sunday morning. Needless to say, a great time was had by all.

The reunion brought us back into touch with **Barry** and **Val [Arnold] Jacob** who now live in Howick. Val continues to enjoy her swimming and playing Canasta. Their best news is the recovery from a serious illness of their daughter, Angela.

Tom Jacobs is another who has a hugely responsible position with ESKOM [the SA equivalent of EAP&L]. He is currently working 24/7 on a R18 billion boiler and turbine contract for the company. Last December / January, **Robert Mundy** visited to celebrate a 60th birthday. Tom and his friend Alison managed to take time out to join us at Hlanlanathi.



Tom with Alison

Lisbeth Mandel fulfilled a life-long dream last March when the whole family went to Amboseli, Lake Manyara, Seronera, Nduvu and Ngorongoro. Sadly, **Elna** [former catering matron and Lisbeth's mother] passed away after a long illness.

Peter Johnson, boarder at Kitale School in 1935/1936 would like to make contact with **George Irwin**, last seen in Mombasa in 1943, **Peter Cook** and any others of his era. P O Box 41687, ROSSBURGH, 4072, SOUTH AFRICA

The **Kelly** family [**Patrick and Linda**] are finally on the move to Australia where they will live 50 kilometres north of Perth. [*Patrick, new contact details, please!*]

Sally Foxtan [Lloyd] has been travelling this Christmas to visit friends and family in the UK and USA. Sally has grandson James staying as he waits for entry to a High School near Durban.

It was good to catch up with **Kay Keese [Macpherson]** at the reunion. I would not have recognised her!



We are back in touch with **David** and **Deirdre Malitte**, now living in Ireland.

Madelaine Flatt's sister, **Daphne Martin** and **Nigel** travelled from Zambia to join us for the weekend at Hlanlanathi. They seemed to have a great time catching up with friends from many years back.



Marie and Daphne

Michael Legg [1947-49, now living in Canada and working in the mining industry, is keen to catch up with Kitaleites living in the Toronto area, in particular with Oliver Long. mlegg2004@yahoo.ca

It was good to have **Patrick** and **Marian Long**, still farming in Balgowan, KZN, with us. They enjoy coming through to Hilton for musical events so we hope to see more of them during this year.



Marian and Patrick

Fun loving **Tony** and **Adrienne Mills** were the only Kitaleites representing the Kenya contingent. Tony, along with

Chris Hearne would have won prizes for best public speakers over the weekend. They were able to take extended leave to tour South Africa while **Dan** Shaw looked after Lokitela. Unfortunately they missed seeing **Peter** and **Marissa Swan** who were part of a contingent of drivers [Johannesburg to Nairobi] in not quite vintage cars. As always, Tony and Adrienne enjoyed some exciting safaris during the year.

Cliff Mukulu is one of the younger generation of ex Kitaleites who got in touch during 2006. He runs a financial services consulting company in Kenya and would like to be in touch with past students from the 60s.
cliff.mukulu@rentworks.co.ke

Elizabeth Tottenham [Morgan] had a difficult choice to make during 2006, between the Limuru Reunion and a cruise, Mombasa – Zanzibar – Mombasa or Kitale and Hlanlanathi. She naturally chose the former! A return to Kenya gave an added excuse – to visit the **Barnleys** in Cherangani and others. In July, **Oliver Heathcote** will have visited them when he travelled to Co Tipperary with his band.

We hear that **Janet Morgan** lives in Devon and would love to be sent her contact details, please.

The **Nicholson** family, **Alison** and **Helen** in particular are great correspondents and both travelled from Cape Town to join us in October. Helen had a list of memories that may trigger off others:

Classrooms, learning tables, cuss cuss etc.

Cock House

Sport – playing netball after TAB jabs,

3 legged races, relays, etc

Games – nyabs [followies, bananas]

roller skating

Teacher – Fatty Mac – feet on table for driver to tie her laces

Break Times / end of term and waiting for parents

Dorms, shoe cleaning, soap on ceiling, Mrs Munroe, midnight feasts, changing sheets, rest times

Punishments [takkie or cane], standing in corner

Food – stringy beans, soapy potatoes spinach

Sermons [golden syrup tin] ‘..out of the strong came forth sweetness..’

Preachers – Housden, Cribby

Films – King Kong

Extras – ballet with Mrs Northcote, piano with Mrs Taylor, riding, brownies etc.

The san – verukas, other ailments

Creatures – chameleons, trap-door spiders

Special Days – Queen Mum/s visit, Guy Fawkes

Birthdays and parties with special friends

Weekends – What did we do?

In February 2006, **Helen** and **Ralph** were in Kenya visiting Margaret and taking her to her home in Watamu. There was a gathering of the clan in UK in July for a family wedding, while others of the family will have gone to Kenya for Christmas.



Alison, Kay and Helen

Lindy Northcote [Wilson] writes ecstatically from their new retirement home in Mersin, Turkey – this in spite of the amount of work and the settling in period.

I was not wrong in predicting that both **Michael O'Hanlon** and **Peter Rosa** would rise to the dizzy heights of becoming University professors. Of memories that come back to haunt one, Michael writes, 'I will never forget the day when, driven to distraction by 6As inability to understand the notion of plus and minus in Algebra, Cuss Doenhoff hauled the whole form out on to the stairs and made us bodily descend a stair for each minus number and ascend one for each plus.'

Jay Pickford known by the staff at Kitale School as pugnacious Pickford and by the kids as Picky was at the school in **Johnny Woods'** era. He writes, '**Mrs Gorrie** was matron with **Mr Paxton** as Housemaster. In the dining room, all had to sit on benches, boy, girl, boy, girl and Jay found himself happily seated next to **Janice Howitt**, pretty, with wavy blond hair, either plaited or falling free. Alas, she already had a boyfriend in **Michael Loveland!**

'After meals, letters were handed out. **Nick** and I were always disappointed to hear our names called and then to find that the letters were for **Jeremy** and **Nicholas Bickford**.

'Along the road to the main tuition block were jacaranda trees, which we were allowed to climb at break times until **Bernard Woods** fell and broke his arm. 'Classrooms: Inside were blackboards and chalk, which occasionally served as teachers' weapons, as did the wooden dusters. Among all the teaching paraphernalia, books, rolled maps and diagrams was one which illustrated the inside of the body cavity – this made **Philip Keese** faint!

'Sometimes on a Sunday afternoon,

selected children would be invited to the Woods' Home for tea. On the afternoon that my brother Nic and I were invited, Nic disgraced himself by telling a joke that was considered in poor taste.

'Staff Members I recall: **Miss Biddy Crowcombe** [Crowbar], **Miss Buchan** [buck currant], **Mrs Fell** who used expressions like 'You desiccated piece of cow dung'. There was **Mr Corbett**, acting while Mr Woods was on leave. It was rumoured that he had once been a lumberjack so the idea of being caned by him kept most of us in line.

'Children I remember: **David** and **Frances Henn**, the **Lloyd family**, the **de Bromheads**, **Jacques Barraclough**, who played guitar and wrote songs and his **brother Nick**. Jacques and I were members of the Habari Club and we contributed bits of nonsense for its Newsletter. There was **Drucilla Barberton** and brother **Ian**, **Sarah Chambers** and **Roger Lane** who I later met at Art and Drama College in London. The **Foster family** arrived in Kenya on the SS Mantola at the same time as we did [1946]. Others I remember were: **Sue** and **Alan Hitchcox**, **Janice** and **Frank Howitt**, **Philip** and **Joyce Keese** [was smitten with Joyce on the occasion when she was dressed as Mary in the Nativity Play]. There were **Lucy Pelissier**, **Serge**, **Phyllis** and **Percy Grandcourt**, the **Hawksworth brothers** – **Gerald** who could run fast! **Michael Montgomery's** Dad has a marvellous speaking voice. There was **John Luck**, **Frank Norris** – bigger than me although, on one occasion, I managed to knock him out with a lucky punch. **Else Sunde**, small and a great acrobatic contortionist. I cycled from our farm to visit "**Titch**" **Gerrard [Peter]**

during school holidays. *[To be continued in 2008]*

Veronica Plunkett is very excited at the prospect of becoming a 'granny. Sadly, brother **Patrick** continues not to be well. Veronica hopes to be a match as a sibling stem cell donor.

Direct news from **Sarah Proctor [Humphris]** is that she is a granny twice over. While husband **David** runs the most amazing Bed & Breakfast venue: [www.longacre1000hills.co.za] Sarah is a partner in a computer company in Durban. *[Sarah, has **Anthony** a change of e-mail address? Please update.]*

Shirley Prophet [Harrison] and **Martin**, with some help, managed to stretch forex resources to be able to visit her family in Australia during April and May and also to South Africa in July for a special family birthday.

Esther Richard visited Namibia for a two-week holiday in September so was unfortunately not able to extend the visit into November to join us at Hlanlanathi. Sadly, her efforts to persuade brother **Robert** to represent the family didn't work either.

Clare Roberts has been across to Dublin to visit her Dad, now 101 years old and we hope still going strong. She remembers **Veronica Plunkett** fondly and would like to get in touch:

veronett@hotmail.co.uk
madden@iafrica.com

Back to the **Flatt family**: Hot off the press is an e-mail from **Penny [Madvig]** who with husband **Peter, Mark [Muller]** and **Alison** travelled by ship to the Antarctic Peninsula, via the Falklands and South Georgia before going on to Chile. Not content with that, where husband Peter was working as a volunteer tour

guide/research officer. Penny and her Mum, **Madelaine**, also enjoyed visits from **Alison [Flatt]** and Mark to Sidney as well as **Terry** and **Gail Davidson**. She enjoys hearing from **Judith Hollows**. **Madelaine** is happy to hear from **Chris Gibson** and also from **May Payne [Wreford-Smith]**.

Thank you **Val [Robertson]** for addresses for **Grant** and **Shirley [Scroggie]**. I remember both well from Nandi Hills Sports Club days as well as through the school.

Julie [Robinson] and **Jay Roffey** enjoyed a 30th wedding anniversary treat cruising the Indian Ocean isles – Seychelles, Mauritius, Reunion, Madagascar, Comores and Zanzibar before returning to Mombasa. Both were at **Barbara** and **Ronnie Boys'** 50th wedding anniversary party. Julie was more than a little surprised when she met **Jenny Behr** in Westlands Supermarket.

Our **website guru** continues to work hard on our behalf and for this we owe him a huge 'thank you'. If you have recently had difficulty getting into the web, the new website address is:

<http://www.members.lycos.co.uk/kitale/>

The section 'Where is your farm' is particularly interesting even for those of us who only worked at the school. It reveals so many familiar names.

Graham Duirs would like to renew contact with **Alan Dale**. Graham's e-mail address: gduirs@clear.net.nz Graham and **Julian Shorten** are near neighbours so could arrange a Kitale School 'get together' without difficulty. *[Please ask Julian to get in touch via e-mail with a Physical Address].*

Brian and **Susan Rose** were a more than popular couple at the Reunion. Friends of **Roger** and **Heleen Hissey**, they let nothing deter them from coming. A decade ago, Brian and Sue even entrusted me to take care of their lovely daughter Jackie [Clearly, the 'Memsahib kali' that you all seemed to be familiar with in the 1950/1960 era appears to have mellowed over time.]



Brian and Susan

Hazel Rudland who was nursing at Kitale Hospital in 1967/1968 is very keen to get in touch with **Anne Bowker**, niece of **Moth** and **Renshaw Barberton** and thought to have married **Ray Hoey** in 1971/72. It is believed that they live either in the region around Durban or Grahamstown. Hazel can be contacted at:

rudland@hotmail.com

Giles and **Ginnie Shaw** have had a quiet year – better vision in one eye, writes Giles and knees that are as good as new, probably due to the ± 1800 kilometres of cycling that they have done in the last 20 months. Giles runs the Kenya Regiment Association in Queensland. 2006 saw him, with Ginnie's help, organise 3 curry lunches attended each time by approximately 60 members.

Below: Ginnie and Giles



Daphne Bellingeri [Sinclair] writes that **Ian**, aged 91 continues to enjoy good health; he walks a great deal, taking two small dogs with him. Daphne sees **Nigel** regularly, probably once a week, and **Penny** every 6 months'. Daphne and **Cesare** will be grandparents in March and Ian a great! Penny writes, 'We had great celebrations for Dad's 90th birthday with a family reunion in England with **Posy**, **Toots** and their families and Daphne, who accompanied him and then another in Australia in August, organised by Daphne and Nigel's **Jeanette** – complete with live band and piper and even haggis flown out from Scotland.

Mary Hayley [Sovic] now lives and enjoys life in France where she and her husband, **Brian**, farm sheep. Mary has heard from and hopes to visit **Evelyn Ruthman**, who seems to be well again.

It was good to see **Liz [Statham]** and **Chris Kerr** while they were over visiting family [**Richard** and **Pauline** as well as their daughter and family]. They now live in Perth although the move from East to West, albeit in the same continent, has not been an easy one.



Sticky [Statham] with Pauline

Danie Steyn is a staunch supporter of his former Prep School as well as being distributor of Habari, Newsletter of the friends of East Africa.



A weekend of fun for all ages – Grandfather Danie with much loved grandson

Mike Strange turned 60 during 2006 as did many of his contemporaries. He was hoping to be able to give up his homeopathic practice and concentrate on his prison-related job only. **Derek's Jo** seems to have won her battle against cancer, which is good news, while Derek himself has been working on a set of 5 books, which were due to be published during 2006.

Peter and Marissa Swan have an 'open house' situation for Kitaleites visiting South Africa. Their guests have included **Tony and Adrienne Mills, Richard and Pauline Statham** and even the **Waltons** on 2 occasions during 2006. Peter and Marissa motored to Kenya in

September in a convoy of vehicles, all over 30 years old. *[We congratulate daughter Aileen - who enjoys Kitale School reunions almost as much as her parents do - on earning her wings].*



Peter and Marissa

Niels and Carol Sunde with two sons have emigrated to New Zealand. Before leaving England, they rediscovered Africa through wandering through Zambia, along the remote areas which border the Congo and Angola. They are now settled happily in the lovely Bay of Plenty [North Island]. They think back to how hard it must have been for their grandparents who, in their ox wagon, trundled along towards Mount Elgon nearly a century ago. They had four children on board! Brother **Ole** continues to be missed. Niels writes: 'Ole's humour, generosity of spirit and joie de vie have made their mark on all who knew him well.' **Else [Sunde]** has remarried to a very nice new husband in **Hugh McMichael**. They live in Leicestershire. **Inga** and husband **Michael** have retired in

Adelaide – great for Niels and Carol as they now see them from time to time. Niels would like to get in touch with Kitaleites living in New Zealand, especially **Tim Roberts**. His e-mail address:

nielsjuel@ihug.co.nz

Peter Symes has been running documentary masterschools, with sessions in Venice, Munich, Amsterdam and Leipzig. He has managed to 'creep' away occasionally to enjoy listening to music in Bach's own church. Peter has been doing a job in Armenia, apparently 'the first state to introduce Christianity as a state religion, even before Constantine.' He experienced sitting at the foot of Mt Ararat, eating a simple picnic while debating the merits of the mountain as a refuge for Noah's Ark.

There were four members of the **Troward** family at Hlalanathi – **Liz** with **Auret**, **Peter** and **Wendy**. What fun folk they all are, a happy family indeed! Liz and Peter had both been over to see **Jenny**, whose much loved **Bill** had recently passed away. *[Jenny, all of us at the reunion had you especially in our thoughts and we did miss you.]* As I write this, Jenny will be staying with Liz, having seen Peter and Wendy on her way through Johannesburg. Liz and **Helen [Nicholson]** met up with **Sally [Eager] Hood** at Cavendish [a Mall in Cape Town], after not having seen each other since their days at Limuru Girls' School. Imagine the chatter over bottomless cups of coffee.



Auret and Peter – Liz and Wendy!

What a good friend **Madge [Watts] Rattray** is to so many Kitaleites. Her reunion continued into the Monday as she and **Alan** went on to stay with **Chris** and **Magda** in their lovely Drakensberg home.

Rosalind [Williams] writes of how much she enjoyed seeing everyone at Chichester. She hopes that **Jenni Hoare**, maybe even her parents Pat and Ken, might come to the next UK reunion. *[How about taking on the organisation of this one, Roz? We'll find you some helpers! 2010?]*

The **Wilson** family: What a wonderful, close knit family we have in all of them.

Jenny and **Charlie Munden** were in South Africa visiting **Klaus** and **Sue Boll** early in 2006, so could not make the November reunion. **Sue** was a most enthusiastic and generous supporter / talented artist / photographer, a far cry from the littlest Wilson when she first came to Kitale School!



Sue and Klaus

Jenny writes how much she enjoyed seeing **Chris** and **Magda [Hearne]** and **Alan** and **Jenny Hallett** after so many years. **Steve Wilson** wrote about the special 'teachers' at Kitale School and the excellent grounding in education and life in general the school provided. Steve and **Cecilia** have been in Sydney and Melbourne to see family members before flying to Wellington for a 10 day 'Walkabout' on the South Island.

The **Woods family**, headed by **Peter** keep in touch. It was great to see so many members in Chichester. Peter has offered photographs from his father's album, which I believe would be of huge interest to some of our more senior members who were at the school in those earlier years. Peter also offers the use of a cottage on their property in the North Yorkshire Moor area to Kitaleites visiting the UK. Peter's e-mail address: pjri@hotmail.com

Jenny Woods [Eaton] is coordinator of the Elishama Community Development and Education Programme which is doing amazing work to improve the quality of life for so many under-privileged children in Kenya. While a small donation from any one of us might seem like a drop in the ocean, as with the Star Fish Project which we support here in South Africa for our thousands of AIDS orphans [*we have over 4000 in our own small area of KwaZulu Natal*], these drops go on towards creating a puddle or something larger. Any Kitaleite who would like to become involved is asked to contact Jenny at: jmeinkenya@yahoo.com

I end with a part of **Chris Hearne's welcome at our Reunion Dinner** – Do we give him a wooden spoon for this one?

'Looking around, there are some very lucky people here – the spouses of the Kitale schoolites – you are all married to the absolute best, the crème de la crème. So, go ahead and congratulate yourselves. There is only one higher pinnacle for the ladies, and that is to be married to a Kitale School man who went to the Prince of Wales. Better than that you cannot get.

Chris then went on to reflect on a 50th anniversary, the arrival a full 51 years ago when 'an angelic, spark of a boy was having all sorts of character building stuff imparted to him by a certain Miss X. The kid was I, the teacher ?. Half a century later, here we are, still talking to each other amazing.'

Here are some of the ways in which a [any?] special teacher, one tireless in her pursuit of the art of appreciation might have got her message across:

- Of work well done and the importance of a clean work place: '*... If you want to kill each other, do it outside; the classroom has just been cleaned.*'
- Of good time-keeping: '*If you lot do not tidy up now, I'll spank you into next week.*' [*Try that in a school today!*]
- Of logic: '*... because I say so, that's why.*'
- Of irony: '*Carry on laughing, and I'll give you something to cry about.*'
- Of the impossible: '*Do not eat your food with an open mouth.*'
- A lesson in stamina: '*You will stay here until all that spinach is finished.*'
- Lastly, a special lesson in paradoxicality [new word to be inserted in the next edition of the Oxford Classic – CH] '*I have*

told you a thousand times not to exaggerate.'

Chris ends with the following: 'It was not a teacher but another pupil that has a long lasting and gratifying impression on me while I was 'persevering, the first person to put a hockey stick into my hand – **Robert Heath**. I have enjoyed incredible times playing hockey all around Kenya and in KZN. It all started at a little back woods Primary School with, 'Here, take this, but only hit the ball with the flat side of the stick.' I never did get it quite right but thanks, Robert!
Till 2008, cheers; keep writing, please!