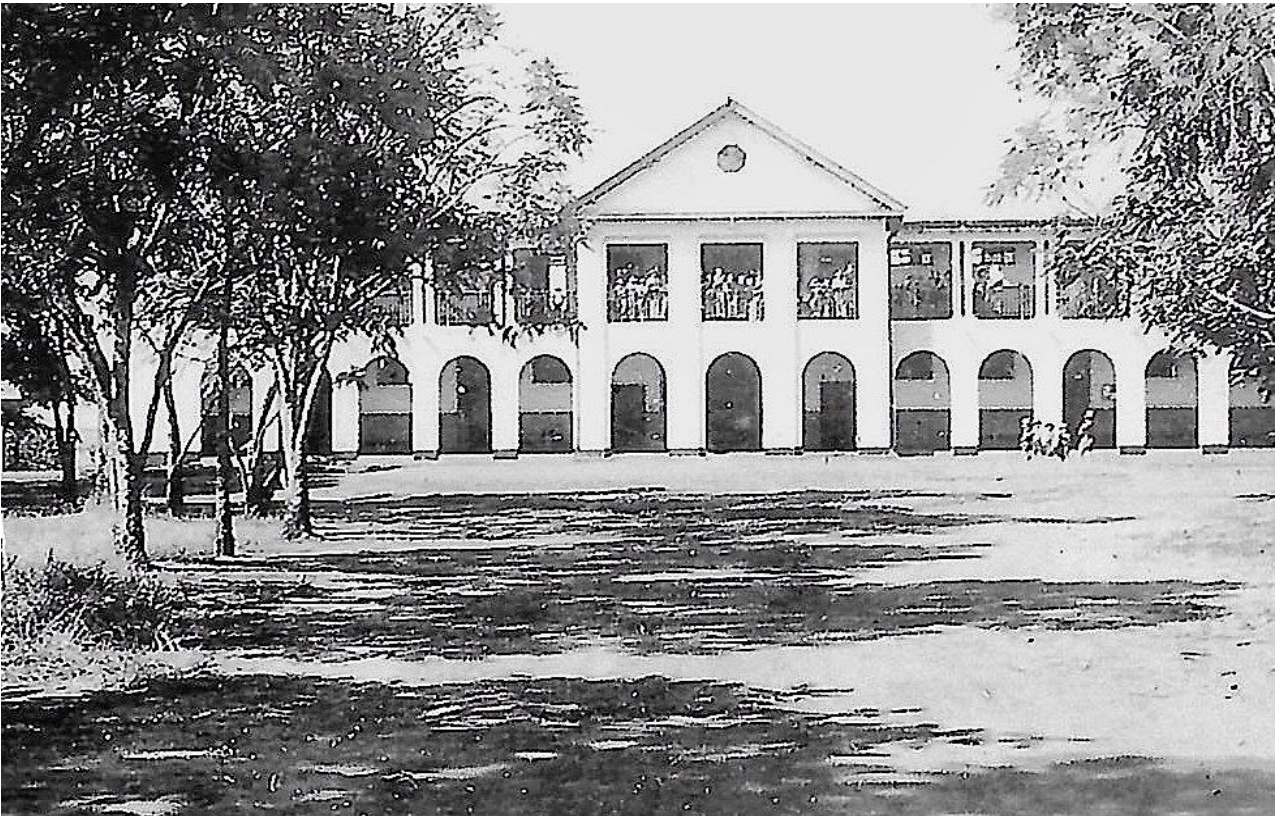


Kitale Primary School Kenya

90th Anniversary



1928 - 2018

More Treasured Memories - 2018



PERSEVERE

Collected, compiled and edited by
Paula Allen and Aiden Doyle

Welcome back to Kitale Primary School.

This being the 90th year of Kitale School, it seems an appropriate time to celebrate the school's history.

I sincerely hope you'll get as much joy from More Treasured Memories as Aiden and I saw from the responses to the first compilation, Treasured Memories, that I compiled for the 2011 reunion in Picton, New Zealand, though only circulated last year.

It has been such fun to compile this collection of memories, but liberally inclusive of photographs this time.

Thank you to all of you who have sent in your penny's worth of memories, stories and personal journeys.

This booklet begins with a little history of Kitale, the town and the school – thank you **Chris Mukulu** - and ends with a delightful poem written for the 2011 reunion – thank you **Hugh Gladman**.

I have included a Kitale School Time Line and a list of staff. My apologies to anyone omitted.

A great many thanks for your patience and help to both Aiden for circulating the call for more memories and to Lesley for her help with the editing.

This is a school history through a very different period, the likes of which I doubt we'll ever see again. The school was a solid foundation that equipped us well for our journey out into the world.

Thank you, Kitale School heads, thank you staff.

I'd like to conclude with a quote from Cameron Diaz:

“Friendship, happiness, joy; sharing laughs and sharing tears; these are not just the elements of a good life, they are the elements of a long and strong life. Friendship affects health. Happiness affects health.”

Treasured Memories indeed, The Honour Boards.



More Treasured Memories and Stories.

KITALE SCHOOL AND KITALE HISTORY

Kitale is part of what was known as Trans Nzoia District in the early twentieth century. It is situated between Mount Elgon and the Cherangani Hills at an elevation of 6,070 ft. above sea level. Kitale is home to the oldest museum in Kenya, the Stoneham Museum established in 1926 by Lt. Col. Hugh Stoneham, which traces the region's colonial history. Also known as the doorstep to Kenya's remotest wilderness, the area borders the Pokot and Turkana people to the north.

As Special Commissioner for Uganda, Harry Johnston traversed the Rift Valley in 1901 and in his final report remarked that the highlands were "admirably suited for a white man's country". Such sentiment received the unqualified support of Charles Eliot, who as Commissioner for the East African Protectorate, was an outspoken advocate for European settlement. Eliot proceeded to give grants of large swathes of agricultural land in what came to be known as the White Highlands, to a small number of influential concessionaires, the most famous of which was Lord Delamere, who was given more than 100,000 acres between Molo and Njoro. Most of the wealthy Europeans who were granted land were only interested in the speculative value of the land and did not develop it. In any event, the conditions for development were so lenient that just fencing the land was considered development. This approach failed to achieve the intended outcome of populating the White Highlands.

A map of Trans Nzoia in 1908 showed numerous potential farms delineated by metal beacons stuck in the ground. Kitale appeared as a rectangle, three miles by two, but, there was nothing there; not even a building. Trans Nzoia was not a popular destination for settlement as it was said to be the home of malaria and blackwater fever and was also far removed from civilization, the nearest railhead being 100 miles away at Londiani and the nearest bank 45 miles away at Eldoret. It was only after World War 1 that serious settlement began in Kitale when the British government sent thousands of soldiers under the Discharged Soldiers Settlement Scheme to occupy the farms. A District Commissioner, Mr. Champion was appointed in 1919 but there being no buildings in Kitale, he took up residence in what became known as the Old Boma not far from Hoey's Bridge (current Moi's Bridge). As more Europeans settled in Kitale, permanent buildings were erected for the District Commissioner, the Police and the Kitale Club was founded in 1924. There was no water supply and water for domestic use was fetched by donkey cart from a stream below the Kitale Club. Hot water for bathing was obtained using Tanganyika boilers. Sanitation was provided by pit latrines. Those residents who could afford it, ran generators for electricity.

Only when Sir Edward Grigg became governor in 1925 did policy change and a branch line of the railway was extended to Jinja in Uganda via Eldoret with a branch line to Kitale from Eldoret. It was while officially opening the branch line to Kitale at the end of 1925 that Grigg provided funds for building of Kitale School which had hitherto been accommodated in a cramped private residence. Kitale School was opened in 1929 for the children of European settlers in the area. Unfortunately, the agricultural depression of the 1930s and the locust invasions which caused extensive damage to crops spelt doom for the prosperity of the emerging Kitale area. This affected the growth of the school and it was not until the end of World War 11 that a new influx of discharged soldiers saw the fortunes of Kitale change for the better. Kitale achieved full municipal status with full control over township affairs which saw it develop into one of the leading towns in the colony.

The first African students in Kitale School were enrolled soon after independence in 1963.

Notable alumni include **Geoffrey William Griffin, Kiprono Kittony, Terryanne Chebet, Linda Obilo, Joshua Sang, Ika Angelei, Richard Etemesi, Terry Davidson** among others.

From: **Chris Mukulu**



Kitale 1929



Kitale School 1930

John Scally (1939 – 1941)

When Aiden asked me to send him some of my memories of the school, my most immediate memories. were of being beaten three times by the Headmaster. The first beating was made after I had broken a window by hitting a ball at a wall - it missed and went straight through a pane of glass in a window which was open. I think that was a classroom block. The second beating was made after Colin Spence and I were playing "tag" – he was running after me when I went into a classroom, shut the door and he could not stop. He broke a pane of glass on his way in and that was that. The third time was after I was caught trying to trade soap for peanuts. I was scraping black out paint off a window when an Italian prisoner of war called up to me and asked me to do just that. I was not successful in that either!

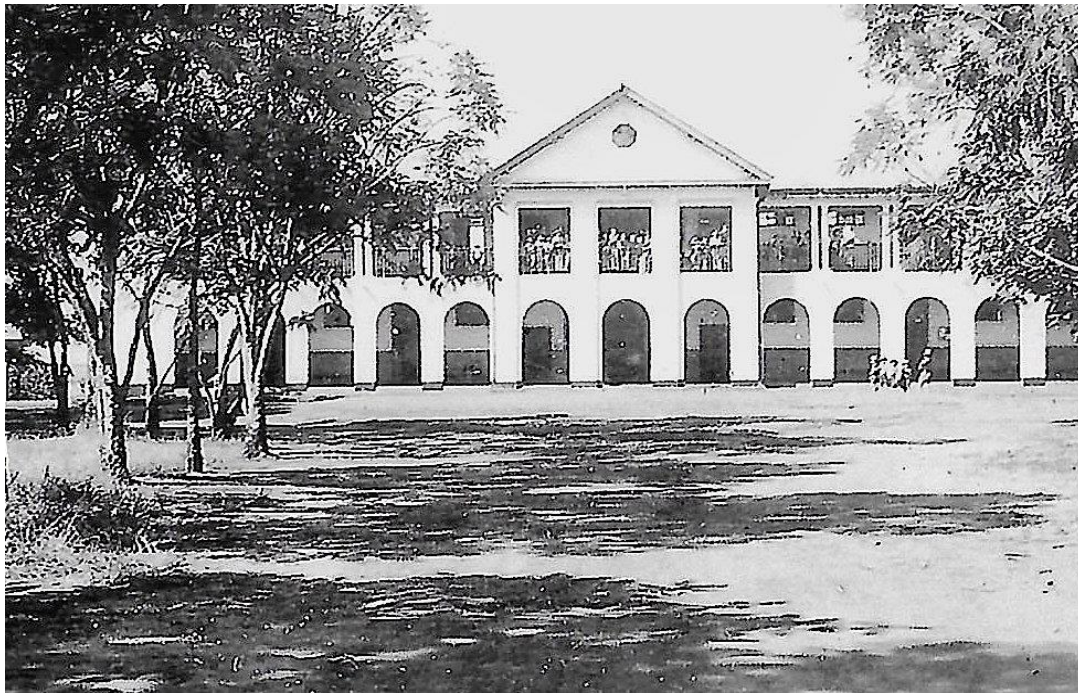
A much happier memory is of meeting Baden-Powell, who started the Scouts. I was a member of the Cubs when he came to the school and inspected us. I was introduced to him as the son of a man who had served under him when they were both at Mafeking during the siege. I remember him well - he was small in stature and had very beady, penetrating eyes. My mother once told me that my father had told her that during the siege, Baden Powell impressed on everyone there the need for personal hygiene. "Wash yourself every day, even if you only have a cup of water"

Ernest Irwin

My brother Ken moved from the old school on the Kitale Hoey's Bridge Road, to the present school when it opened in 1929/30. In the boarding block the girls' dormitory was up top, dining room below. The boys block had a hot water boiler below a square concrete wall. Donkeys were kept in the grounds.



I remember Sunday School at **Dr. Broadbent's house**. We had to walk there in 'croc' fashion every Sunday. He had a foot operated organ and we sang choruses.



Kitale school 1942

Ron Standfield

Std V 1944 - Kitale school, Kenya



BACK ROW (left to right): Geoffrey Griffin, Evelyn Valpy, John Spratt, Eunice McDonald, Ian Woodley, Helen Balabanoff, Neil Pearson, Tim Miller, Shirley Reynolds

MIDDLE ROW (left to right): Philip O'Neill, Dorothy Wain, Harry Fell, Ann Seton-Miller, Noel Hales, Barbara Turney, Pierry Vorster, Helen Godley, - Powles

FRONT ROW (left to right - sitting): Eric Cohn, Gillian Brown, Peter Uys, Anne Gilson, Ronnie Standfield

Of the 1945 class those who I know have since died are -

David Reynolds, Hector Munro, Jim Martin and Winnie Lutkens. (Now also **Sandy Munro** - the great all-round sportsman)

Of our class **John Spratt, Neil Pearson, Shirley Reynolds** (My girlfriend), **Harry Fell, Helen Godley, Tim Miller** (Helen's cousin) and **Eric Cohn** (my Jewish friend) are no longer with us.

There are surely more I've not heard about.

Geoffrey Griffin** was famous for the School he founded in Kenya for under-privileged African boys = Stahere School

Bobby Skinner was not there as he had returned to Canada or the USA with his parents. He turned up at Prince of Wales sometime later when his parents were posted back to Kenya but didn't stay long. I seem to remember the parents were missionaries, possibly at AIM at Kijabe? (He was an early friend of mine at primary school)

Anne Gilson was the only one to fail the Kenya Prelim (Exams for to go to 'College') and so had to stay back, featuring in the 1945 Std V photo along with:

David Reynolds, Bobby Gray, Jane Green, Hector Munro, Benjie Hatfield, Jim Martin, Alida Glover, Winnie Lutkens, Ramona Paul, J(Jane?) Manger (June?) and others.

Do you remember **Ramona Paul's** younger brother **Jackie**, a real makora who in later years fell foul of the law in Tanganyika?

Our Headmaster, Johnny Woods - in our time - he was excellent in the job.

There is a book written about his Life and career - probably by his daughter who lives in Australia.

As a young boy like the others I was not interested in girls and had no sisters - we had other more important things to do every day.

For example, I remember I once suddenly found myself and other senior boys and girls of our class standing around the Water Tank way above the high ceiling of the big school Hall, all in our underwear (I think?), and being told to stand on the wooden rafters, otherwise we might fall through the ceiling! (long way down to the Hall floor). However I neglected to point out that Headmaster Johnny Woods himself only, - was up there with us around the Water Tank.

To this day I have not worked out the purpose of that exercise, because we could not 'swim' in the water tank and cannot remember how or why we got up there and down again. Was it educational?

--- and that is not all !



The one of the two "Pyramids" out on the sports field are 20 of us - one was a ring-in - **Hector Munro**, top right.

We had a great education - for myself starting with the teacher named Miss Stripp about 1938.

There is no doubt our time living, schooling, and working in Kenya were the best days of our lives- from the 1920's and earlier, to about 1960.

Cheers, Ron.

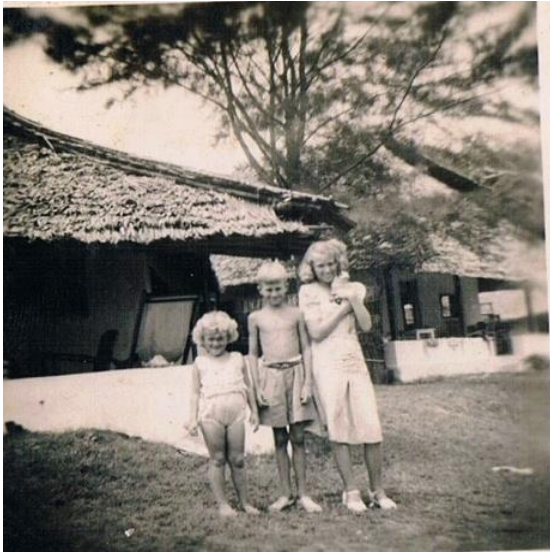
*** Starehe Boys' Centre and School (popularly known as "Starehe") is a partial-board, boys-only school in Nairobi, Kenya. The school was founded in 1959 by Dr. Geoffrey William Griffin, MBS, OBE, Geoffrey Gatama Geturo and Joseph Kamiru Gikubu. It started as a rescue centre in Nairobi. Starehe and Brookhouse School are the only African schools south of the Sahara and north of the Limpopo distinguished as Round Square members.*

ROB SAVORY'S KS 5 NOTES

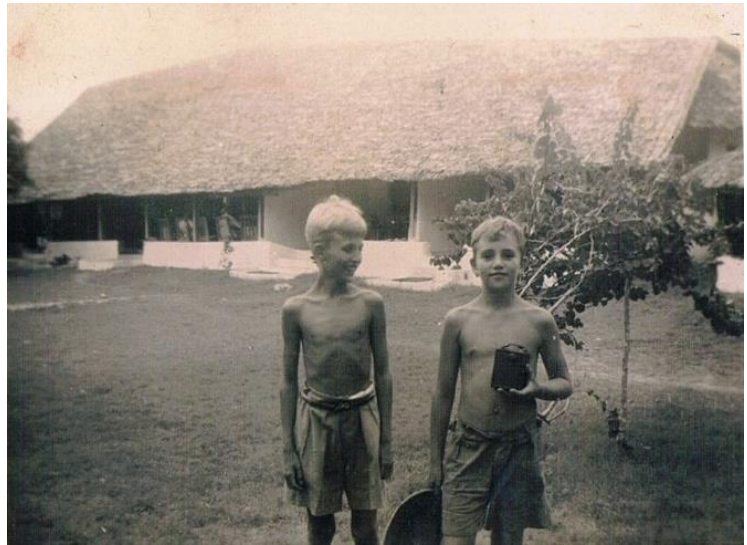
Diani Beach Hotel owned by the Schouten Family Nov-Dec 1948

I have included this because it is the only one I have of my pal Richard Schouten who was at Kitale School (only for a couple of years) and his sister Sally who was a teacher for a couple of terms.

KS 5 Diane Beach Hotel Nov-Dec 1948



The Schouten Family:
Kid sister, Richard & Sally
Probably 1949?



Richard Shouten and Rob Savory

KS 14 Kitale School play about the Romans & Picts on Hadrians Wall 1946 - Definitely



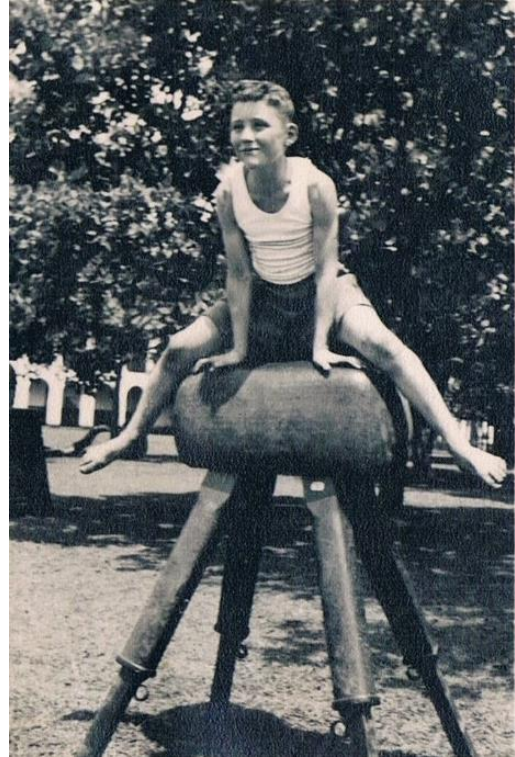
Standard 5 Nativity Plan, Elgon Club, Christmas 1948

Ann Luck (Gabriel), Drucilla Barberton, Patricia Matthews, Jane and Frances Savage (Angles) Elizabeth Morgan (Mary), Giles Shaw (Joseph), Gillian Horner, Diana Anderson, Rosalind Savage (Kings), Jonathan and Jenny Woods, Ian Barberton Thomas Shaw (Shepherds)

KS 6 Kitale School Sports Day 1949



Richard Pembridge



Erick Flemmer

Standard 6 - 1949



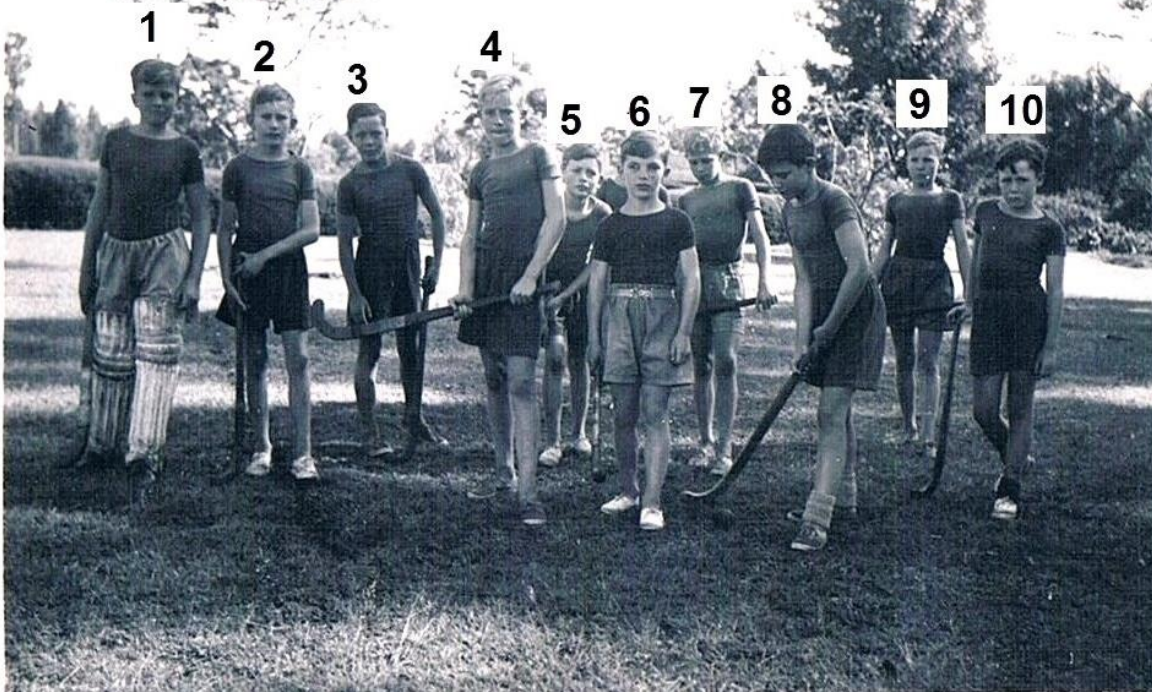
Back row: (Unknown) Arnold Irwin, Jack Ripley? (Unknown), (Unknown)

Middle row: (Unknown) Patrick Colquone, xx Symonds, ? (Unknown), (Unknown)

Front row: (Unknown), Jerry Olivier, Arnold twin

KS 7 Kitale school Sports 1949

1949 Hockey Team



Kitale Schools hockey team 1949

1. 2. Daniel Shaw, 3. 4. Patrick Colquhoun, 5. 6. Reginald Hawksworth, 7. 8. 9.
10. David Kerr, the 11th member of the team is hidden behind
Reginald Hawksworth

Kitale School Gymnastics 1948 – 49?

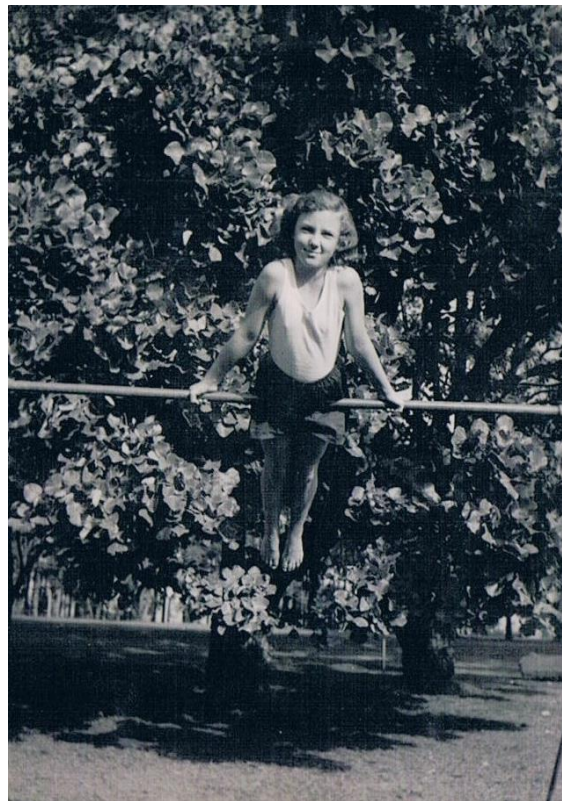




Inga Sunde on top



Inga Sunde



My photo album just has the caption 'M.A.' and I can't think who that could be.

KS 10 Kitale School Buildings 1948?



Old dorm



Front of Main Building



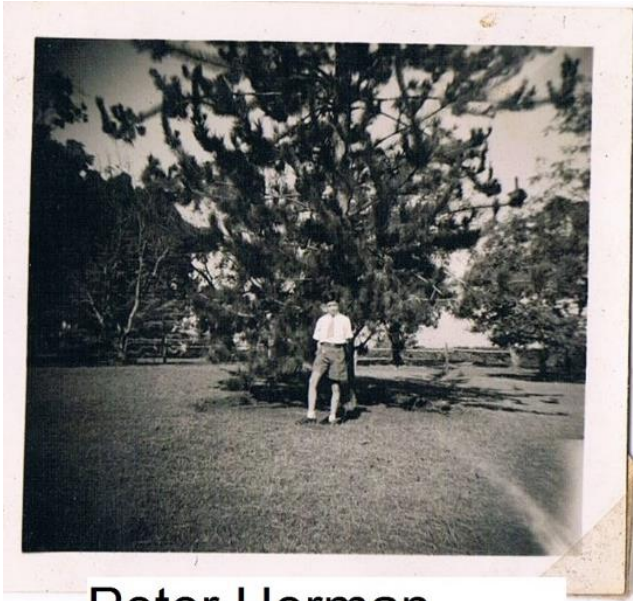
New Dorm with Pongo Parsons



New dorm

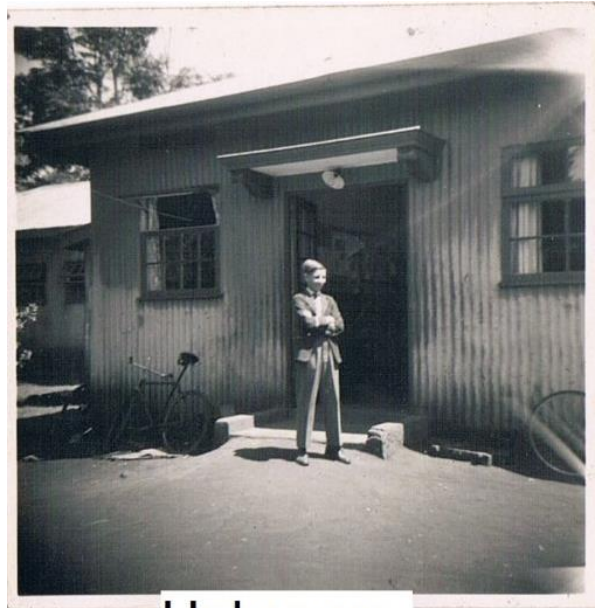
I wonder what happened to Pongo Parsons?
He wasn't a bad bloke ... for a Pongo.

Kitale School pupils 1949



Peter Herman

The photo of Peter Herman was taken on his farm.



Unknown

KS 12 Kitale School play 1949?

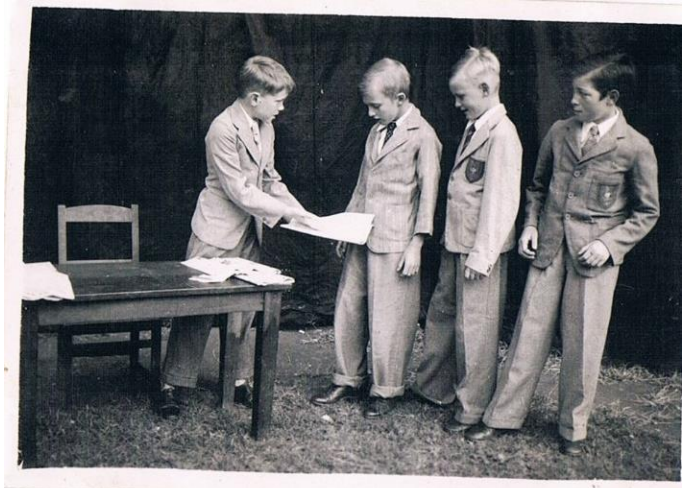


Robert Savory, (Unknown), Bernard Woods, (Unknown), (Unknown)



Robert Savory

KS 13 Kitale School Play 1948?



Not too sure who all those people are (senior to me)

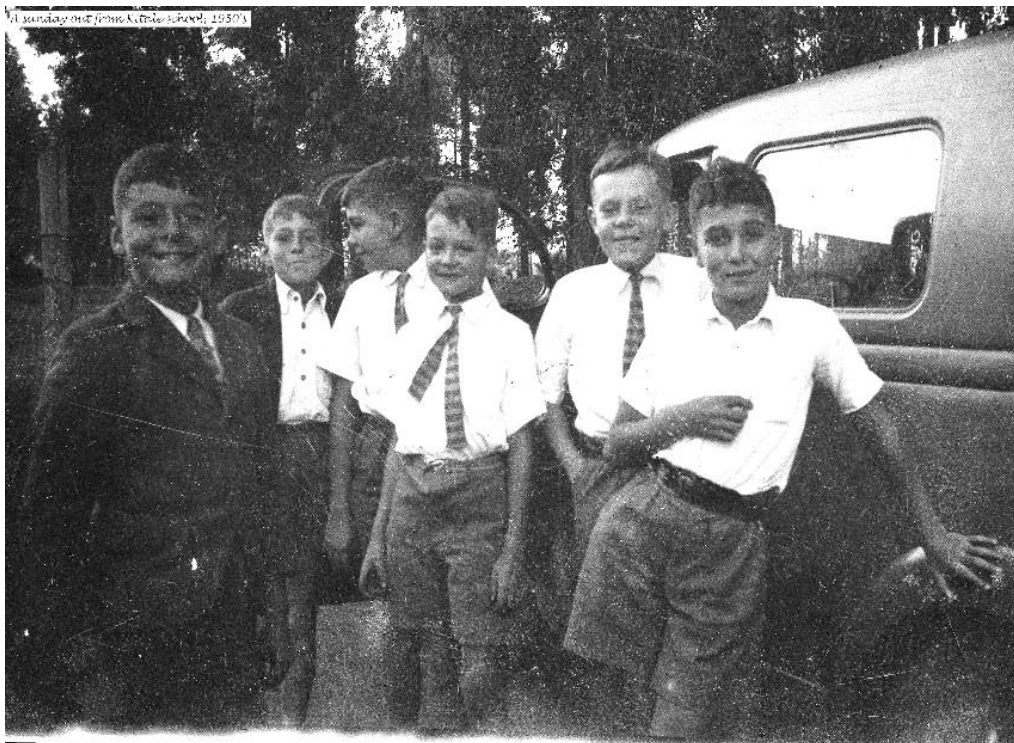
Kitale School play 1946 (definitely ... one of the photos dated on the back)

All 3-4 years' senior to me so I don't know any names.

Standard V 1949



Included in this photograph are: Inge Sunde, Valarie Littlehales, Richard Pembridge, Anne Fiske, Pierre Parsons, Sally Berridge, Oliver Long, Carol Gerrard, Peter Woods, Valerie Arnold, Eric Flemmer, Elizabeth Morgan, Sally Disney, June Hendry, Wendy Roberts, Karl Dannhauser, Ann Faull, Jean Hallett, John Edwards, Giles Shaw, Daphne Martin, Peter Herman.



Sunday outing to the Pickfords 1950's

Left to right: Nic Pickford, Jay Pickford, ?, Jonathan Woods (Headmaster's son), Harvey Taylor, Bernard Verlaque.

KITALE SCHOOL UPDATE

Visit to Kitale School: as a volunteer teacher from September to November 2015

Judith Hollows (1955 – 1960)

Principal Mrs Margaret Wanyonyi is providing excellent leadership in enabling Kitale School to maintain its reputation for being the best in the area, and to continue to improve year on year KCPE and KCSE national exam results. The standard 8 graduates are able to go onto good secondary schools (only girls are accepted in the school's secondary section). The secondary girls are able to qualify for entry into good universities.

The school is a national school and now has standards 1 to 8 in the primary section, forms 1 to 4 in the secondary section and 3 levels in the kindergarten section (Early Childhood Development Education). In the primary section there are 3 or more classes in each year and 3 classes in each year of the secondary section, and more than 200 children in the ECDE section. So, the school has well over 2,000 students and close to 100 teachers. All secondary and most primary students are boarding in the original boarding accommodation until a new hostel is finished to replace the one that burnt down in 2015, fortunately during the school holidays.

Despite the challenges of cramped classrooms and dormitories, the challenges of water shortages, the challenges of insufficient funding for textbooks and for development of the building infrastructure, the school has talented teachers and students. I was very impressed by the quality of the teachers and the achievements of the students. The textbooks I used in teaching English were well written and encouraged learning through activities rather than by rote.

The school has several funding sources: parents (through the PTA), Ministry of Education (through bursaries, and grants), the Constituency Development Fund (CDF), Trans Nzoia County Government, donations from well-wishers and strategic partners including financial institutions, and competitive loans from financial institutions.

Support from alumni could be strengthened.

To support the school, please get in touch with the Principal Mrs Margaret Wanyonyi

Tel/WhatsApp: +254 724 722 888

Kitale School, PO Private Bag, Kitale 30200, Kenya. Email: info@kitalchool.sc.ke

Donations can be sent to:

Kenya Commercial Bank, Kitale School Reserve Account 1108015166 Swift KCBLKENX.

Mrs Margaret Wanyonyi - Kitale School Principal 2016

Once again, I wish to sincerely appreciate your efforts to raise funds for Kitale school through a raffle. I will email you the introduction to the strategic plan. As a school we have made effort to improve the infrastructure and give the school a face-lift. This has not been easy due to insufficient funds.

After your stay with us, we embarked on the construction of a two storied dormitory for the primary section. Due to pressure we completed the ground floor which is currently in use by the Standard 8 girls. Photos will be emailed.

For the secondary section we started a one storied where the ground will house the principal's office and a staff room. The upstairs will house a library and a computer laboratory. Again, the ground floor will be put to use as from 15th September. The remaining work will be done when funds will be available. Who knows, you may be coming in at the right time to boost us in the construction. You are indeed God sent. We look forward to your support.

Peter Gerrard (aka Titch)

I was at Kitale school from 1947 to 1952, all the time a boarder.

Memories! Roller skating along main block, big jump down to path then a sharp right to dining room, miss that and bang into the steps.

Swimming pool being built, all steel and sore eyes from watching the welding; problem when the steel bowed in after heavy rain.

The old generator; engine started with 12 bore cartridges. .22 and 12 bore cartridges pinched, chuck into fires to hear the bang, a bit over the top when we threw them into the boarding house boiler, a spectacular blowing up! Learnt not a good idea to hold when tapping the percussion cap, lost fingers resulted.

Dens in old ant bear holes in land below sports pitches – Crown Bird were the favourite.

Outbreak of jaundice (Hep A in modern speak), extra beds in Old Hall, brains on toast.

Night walks to Kitale Club, not appreciated by the authorities, long line waiting for punishment.

Total eclipse of the sun.

Keith Monkhouse

Emigrated to Kitale in 1948 where Father was a doctor. Remember the excellent Kitale School Headmaster Mr Woods well as well as the trees for climbing on the entry road to the school. I left in 1950.

Tricia Pratt (nee Matthews)

I was at Kitale School from 1948 to 1953, as a boarder in Hawk House. Wednesday break time was one of my highlights as my parents would visit bringing me a treat of fruit from the farm.

I remember: swimming at Bowker's Dam

School Plays - 'Make Believe'

Getting the cane from Mr. Woods for talking after lights out and then running to the cloakroom, where my friends had prepared a basin of cold water for me to sit in to ease the pain and bruising

Sunday services in the hall with Rev Totty giving a talk

Sing-a-long with Bidy Crowcombe on wet Saturday afternoons again in the hall

Gym competitions

Amazing projects, making papier Mache models with Miss Buchan

Climbing trees in standard 7 and seeing how many 'crossings' from one to another I could do

Ballet with Miss Strip at the piano and Mrs Bowden teaching riding lessons with Peg Lloyd.

Else McMichael (Nee Sunde)

I was in Kitale School from 1948 to 1952. It was at Kitale School where I first developed my love of gymnastics and diving. I believe I was in Falcon house with blue shirts - but it was a very long time ago and it may be a false memory.

In 1954 my parents built a caravan on the back of a 5-ton diesel lorry and took us 4 children on a trip from Kenya to the north of Norway and back, right across the Sahara taking 10 months.

(I recall when the Sunde family returned from their adventures, they showed a film of their trip in the School hall. Many parents came to watch too. Paula Burch Allen.)

John Foster

I was at Kitale School from 1949 to 1954, in Hawk house (red vests) as a boarder. My parents would visit about once a week at break time when they came into town from the farm to do the shopping. I remember the new accommodation houses being completed to cater for the increased population, and the swimming pool being dug out by prisoners from the nearby open prison! I remember the massive Lister diesel generator that became obsolete when the school switched to mains electricity.

Michael Legg

I came to Kitale School in May 1947 from war-ravaged England, wearing grey woollen shorts down to the knees, while I waited for BK Shah to run me up some regulation khaki shorts and blue shirt which rapidly

transformed me from a teased “pongo”. I started in Standard 2. There was no more room for boarders that term and I had to wait until January 1948 before I could board. My parents had bought a farm near Endeless and so in the meantime I lived with Mrs Paulson and her family on the Eldoret Road where there were a group of us, including the **Edwards** brothers, **Digby** and **Morny Morphy-Morris** and **Rodney Valentine**. We all biked to school and back s we all had some degree of freedom exploring the bush around the Paulson house collecting discarded snake skins and the like. The house was built in the 1930s and I always feared snakes in the long-drop which was some way from the house.

Johnny Woods was on home leave when I arrived and the acting Headmaster was Mr Pateman (I think). He was a kindly man and not so prone to beating boys as Mr Woods! My form teacher was Miss Strip, a very spinsterish lady but she was very fond of her pupils and we often sought cuddles from her! I stayed at Kitale School until 1949.

Being used to boy school environments I found it difficult to integrate with the girls at Kitale School and us boys tended to remain in packs, finding the girls in their blue polka dot dresses somewhat snooty! Still, there did exist the rather archaic tradition of formally asking a girl to be your girlfriend if you fancied her – all very cute! Mrs Paulson, who lived along the wagon track beside the main road, had two daughters at the school, **Muriel and June** and at the weekend I never had such courage at Kitale School to tell them I fancied them, but I subscribed to the tradition later in my pre-teens!

I was in Leopard Dormitory with **Peter Gerrard** amongst others and was in Falcon House. I liked running and recall coming away with a number of 50-cent savings stamps as prizes at Sports Day. Rugby was tried out while I was there and as my father was in the Kitale Rugby Team as fly half I was invited to our first practice. I hadn't a clue about the game and wasn't asked again! Gardening was encouraged and I was given a patch to plant vegetables and flowers. I was so pleased when my parents gave me a WWII trenching tool which served as a jembe and spade, and also some seeds but I don't think much became of that. Kite-flying was one craze that started up and I made my kite out of balsawood and greaseproof paper. I was so excited to get it flying that I got out of bed early one Monday morning and tried to fly it in still air from the dew-covered lawn near Johnny Woods' house. All my gluing became unstuck and I relied on borrowed kites from then on!

I wonder if anyone remembers when we boys were dressed up as wooden soldiers and performed various formation marching manoeuvres? I don't recall what the occasion was but I have a photo of our group. At one time the teachers decided that we would be better occupied on Sunday afternoons by taking supervised walks out of the school grounds in crocodiles. We all found this a bit of an invasion of our free time and it was dropped eventually. I do remember, though, marvelling at the wild gladioli growing in the bush around the school and walking down towards the prison.

My sister, **Janina Seabrook, née Legg**, followed me to Kitale School a few years later and obviously will have different memories. She made many long-lasting friends amongst the Kitaleites.

Fast-forward to 1980 when I visited the School with my family and again in 2006 when on a medical mission to Bungoma. It was heartening to see a still-flourishing school and that much of the original buildings and sports fields are as I remembered them. I enjoyed chatting to some of the pupils at the time and in telling them about my time at the school.

Persevere –a word I have always associated with from my days at Kitale School.

Oliver Heathcote

I went to Kitale School in about 1950 and feel a bit of a fraud here as I left after 2 years and in any case was only a day boy so didn't have the full boarding experience of Cock House etc. I think I was in Falcon. Memories include: The jacaranda trees heaving with children at break time – as too were the exercise bars. This must have been a very fit generation. The swimming pool and trying to swim suspended from a