

KITALE PRIMARY SCHOOL REUNION

17TH – 18TH SEPTEMBER 2016



THE CHELTENHAM PARK HOTEL
CIRENCESTER ROAD
CHARLTON KINGS
CHELTENHAM
GLOUCESTERSHIRE
GL53 8EA



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ATTENDEES

NAME	Country	NAME	Country
Attwood, Ann (Totty)	UK	Johnson, Noreen (Wilson) & Michael	UK
Bannister, Liz (Waterfield) & John	UK	Long, Peter	UK
Bentley, Koba (Bosman) & Bob	UK	Mandel, Lisbeth (Jensen)	Denmark
Bertelsen, Niels	Denmark	McMicheal, Else (Sunde)	UK
Bertelsen, Peter	Australia	Monkhouse, Keith	UK
Blennerhassett, Veronica (Plunkett)	UK	Munday, Robert	UK
Boll, Sue (Wilson) & Klaus	Germany	Munden, Jenny (Wilson) & Charlie	UK
Bolton, Alex	UK	Neale, Patricia (Edge)	UK
Botto, Jenny (Troward)	UK	Northcote, Kevin & Lesley	UK
Brookes, Michael	UK	Northmore, Richard & Bronwen	UK
Bush, Graham	UK	O'Hanlon, Damsie	UK
Collie, Harris	UK	O'Hanlon, Mark	UK
Cottam, Marianne (Olsen)	UK	O'Hanlon, Michael & Linda	UK
Crewe, Wendy (Totty)	UK	Pratt, Patricia (Matthews)	UK
Cross, Christine (Jensen)	UK	Ralph Nicholson & Jane Cox	UK
De Bromhead, David	UK	Rosa, Mike	UK
Denton, Anthony & Penny	UK	Rosa, Peter	UK
Dimech, Rodney & Elizabeth	UK	Rose, John & Mandie	UK
Doyle, Aiden & Lesley	UK	Seabrook, Janina (Legg) & Michael	UK
Dudin, Roger & Kirsty	UK	Tottenham, Elizabeth	Ireland
Field, Jenny (Dairs) & John	UK	Totty, Bruce	UK
Foster, John & Sally	UK	Vorster, Liz (Troward)	South Africa
Gerrard, Peter	UK	Walton, Bridget (Doenhoff) & Robin	South Africa
Hallows, Judith	UK	Wilson, Lindy (Northcote) & Tug	Turkey
Heathcote, Oliver	UK	Wilson, Steve & Cecilia	UK
Horsey, Horace & Mandy	Kenya	Woods, Peter & Jenny	UK

THANKS

Lesley Doyle, Lindy Wilson and Koba Bentley for manning the registration

John Rose for taking photos at the functions

Michael O'Hanlon for taking on the duties of master of ceremonies.

Judith Hallows for all of the photos in the booklet of Kitale School taken last year.

Horace Horsey for doing the evening grace.

Lesley Doyle for assisting with the formatting and editing this document.

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

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 lab. 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.

DINNER MENU

Starters

Roasted Tomato and Sweet Pepper Soup with grilled cherry tomatoes and balsamic vinegar

A smooth chicken liver pate with red onion marmalade and brioche toasts

Goats cheese & blueberry tart with roquette salad, walnut & herb dressing

Main Course

Pan fried fillet of chicken with roast potatoes and a mushroom & tarragon jus

Roast loin of pork, grain mustard mash and apple & sage sauce

Spinach, wood mushrooms and chervil risotto with parmesan crisps

Dessert

Glazed lemon tart with citrus syrup and clotted cream

Vanilla pannacotta with fruit compote

Chocolate and orange tarte

MEMORIES AND STORIES

1. 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. There are many other things which I hope to be able to reminisce about at the reunion.

After Kitale I went to the Prince of Wales. After doing my stint in the Kenya Reg't in 1960 I joined the KCC in Eldoret before leaving for the UK in March '62 to join the RAF as a pilot. After the RAF I continued as an airline pilot until retiring to Cornwall in July 2004.

I married Sally in 1972 and we have two grown-up sons and (so far) three granddaughters.

2. Peter Woods

As the headmaster's son, I was at Kitale School (KS) from my birth in 1937 until I was sent to school in England shortly before my father's retirement in 1954. However, I spent a year at Kenton College in Nairobi (which I hated) in preparation for the transfer to the UK.

Things which were particularly memorable at KS included gymnastics, top form allowed to climb the jacaranda and Nandi flame trees in front of the main school building, my brother Bernard becoming the only pupil who fell out of one of these trees and broke his leg, weekend trips to Bowker's Dam, going in a hired Kitale lorry to see a dead rhino which had wandered into Renshaw Barberton's farm buildings on Mount Elgon. Not too sure about which house (perhaps it was Falcon).

After 'A-levels' at Epsom College, I went to Cambridge to study Geology (as a potential ticket back to Africa), graduating in June 1959. Next was a Cambridge expedition to the Andes in Colombia, before starting, in October with De Beers in Tanganyika, looking for diamonds. Moving on to the Kalahari and then Nigeria (still diamonds), culminating in the tribal massacres in 1967, when the company pulled out and we returned to England.

We (by now with wife, Jenny, and baby son) were expecting to be sent abroad again, possibly South America, but when the time came it was to Yorkshire

(Potash). Fourteen years later, with the Boulby Mine established, De Beers summoned me to Canada to build up a prospecting team there. I travelled and worked all over that huge country, from the Arctic Islands to the Rockies and Newfoundland.

In 1987 it was then time to change career, when I was 50. I went back to University (Edinburgh this time) to do an MSc (specialising in Forestry and Wildlife Habitat Management, which I then practised until I was 70. Then Potash reared its head again, with a short advisory job in Russia and now the new polyhalite project near Whitby, which I am still involved with at the age of 79.

I would recommend to anyone a career switch half way.

3. 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-longs 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

From Kitale School, I went to the New Girls Secondary School in Nairobi, which started its life in the old hospital and then moved to Eldoret, becoming the Highlands School. From there I did a Froebel Teacher Training course at St Andrew's School Turi, then taught in Cambridge (UK) for 3 years before returning to Turi to teach. After independence my parents and brothers emigrated to New Zealand, while I returned to UK having married Tim Pratt, whom I met while he was on a gap year at Turi.

4. Kevin Northcote

I was at Kitale School as a boarder from 1956 - 1963. My 2 older sisters Lindy, Jenny and younger brother Clive also went to Kitale School. I represented the school at boxing on 2 occasions against Manor House and won the tennis and gymnastics cup in 1962.

I remember the roller skating on the concrete path but also incorporating jumping the steps at the end of the main school corridor onto the path!! Unfortunately, this popular event led to me breaking my arm just before sports day. I remember the marble craze with fond memories.

Sadly, my mother passed away in 1962 and our farm was one which was handed back to the Kenya government. The family moved to Uganda and from there I went to the Duke of York School in Nairobi. I have fond memories of the train journeys to and from school!!

On completion of my O levels I went to England and joined the Royal Navy where I served as a Physical Training Officer. During my 32 years' service I served on a number of ships and shore establishments and travelled the world. During my early years in the Royal Navy I met and married my wife Lesley and had 3 children. We spent our working lives living in Plymouth and in recent retirement we have moved to Camberley in Surrey to be close to 2 of our children and help out with the workload with the grandchildren!!

5. Veronica (Plunket) Blennerhassett

I was so pleased to be going to Kitale School with my brother Patrick in 1957 as I had already had one year at Loreto Convent Eldoret. I was miserable there.

- Hawk house was red t-shirts
- The art room and brightly coloured powder paints
- Jacks, stilts, marbles, hopscotch, autograph books.
- The jumping sandpits with the boy's tarantula fights
- Sweets after lunch from our tins
- Licking Oxo cubes
- Flavoured straws
- French toast on Sunday's
- The green room and plays

I left in 1962 and was sent to Convent in England (New Hall). I left school at the age of 15 in 1965 as I was very ill. Dad sold the farm Kenya 1966 and we were in UK briefly and travelled around Ireland in a caravan while my parents were looking for property to buy.

We emigrated to South Africa 1967 and lived in Natal. I did a modelling diploma in Durban, worked in a photo studio, did acting, modelling, and advertising. I was a wig

consultant, worked in hotels and restaurants waitressing in Durban and Cape Town. I went with a group of friends to Rhodesia and worked at Southern Sun hotels Bulawayo.

I returned to the UK in 1973, then lived in Marbella Spain for 2 years. I did art work, painting and worked as a nanny for a while. Then back to the UK, did hair dressing in Brighton in 1976, and promotions, public relations, In store demos, advertising. Also fashion boutique sales and perfume consultant, modelling work, and also hand painted roller blinds and various artwork on materials. I visited family from time to time in Spain, also my brother Patrick who was a dental technician in Canada. Sadly, he passed away 7 years ago from leukaemia.

I have a son Peter and a daughter Alexis with 5 grandchildren, I am retired now and enjoy sharing my home with 2 cats, 2 dogs, 2 tortoises, 3 ducks, 5 chickens, iguana bearded dragon and a couple of snakes. The latter 4 are my son's creatures he has left with me!!!

Homes wanted for snakes and maybe iguana.

I visit Switzerland from time to time as my daughter Alexis lives there. I have lived in Bevendean Crescent, Brighton up here on the Downs on edge of farmland for nearly 30 years. I looked after my Dear mother here for 8 years till she sadly passed away a couple of years ago.

Well on to another chapter of life. 😊

6. 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 dayboy 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 bamboo pole. The changing room walls were grass at first and burned down after a pipe smoker dropped his match.
- Cubs with Peg Lloyd. I could never pass my 'draw the Union Jack' badge, but thanks to Brexit this problem will probably go away!

I went on to Pembroke House, Gilgil; then Princeo up to school cert and – severe culture shock – transplanting to UK for A levels at Guildford.

After Zoology at Southampton University I worked on mosquitoes in Borneo and Tanzania for a time. During a few years in Montreal, Canada, I married Pat Sharpe (ex

Highlands!) and we have 2 children. We came back to England in 1982 and are now retired in Ipswich. I keep busy playing in Ipswich Hospital Band and doing up computers for the charity Tools with a Mission (www.twam.uk) to send to eastern Africa.

7. John Rose

I was at Kitale School as a boarder from 1961 - 1968. I think I was in Kestrel House (green). I have many memories, particularly of playing sport. Other memories include: roller skating around the triangle near the main block; playing catch with others over the shed near the swimming pool; and the marble crazes.



I left Kitale to go to Duke of York's school in Karen for two years (name changed to Lenana School after my first year). I was in Lugard House. I then went to Dollar Academy in Scotland for four years and then joined the Royal Marines in 1974. I retired from the Royal Marines as a Major General in 2009 after an exciting and rewarding 35 years' service.

After that I was, for 18 months, Project Director for the African Union/United Nations Strategic Communications project in support of the AU Mission in Somalia and was mostly based in Nairobi. I did manage to go back and see Kitale School and my old home on Sabwani Farm whilst in Kenya. On completion Mandie and I stayed in Nairobi for an additional 8 months before returning to UK. I now work part

time as a Consultant. My adventures continue through photography, motor bike riding, travel and golf.

I have been married to Mandie, a primary school teacher, for 30 years and we live in Exeter. Our son Jamie (24) is currently at Bristol University.

8. 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 cartridge. .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.

I had to repeat my final year, not a happy little chap.

Duke of York School 1953 to 1958, three A levels then to Wye College, University of London for a degree in agriculture. Returned to Kenya in 1963, tried to work with my Dad on the farm – he didn't want to know about any scientific advances. Joined Ministry of Lands and Settlement, stayed there until 1968 when got married to Alice and moved to Malawi – Ministry of Agriculture as Principal Settlement Officer.

Left in 1974 to return to Wye to do an MSc in Agricultural Economics. Joined Commonwealth Development Corporation (CDC) in 1975. Mainly overseas (Singapore, Tanzania, Vanuatu, Nigeria, Papua New Guinea). Managed exotic crops – wattle in Tanzania, cocoa in Vanuatu, oil pal in PNG. Left CDC in 1996.

Two children, Edith and Ashley. Edith has two children and is a teaching assistant in Colchester. Ashley has his own business in Val d'Isere, France – transfers to and from the ski areas in the Alps (snow-drone.com). Alice died in 1997. Then Indonesia 2000 to 2005 Operations Director of company with three tea estates, great time.

As a consultant have had trips to Siberia, Ethiopia and Mozambique. Now living in Canterbury.

9. Else McMichael (Nee Sunde)

I was in Kitale School from 1948 to 1952 when I went on to the Kenya High School. 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 moved on to the Kenya High after that - missing a year of schooling!! I was certainly in Mortimer house there and ended up as head of house.

In 1960 I went to England to begin my training to become a doctor, qualifying in 1965. While at the Royal Free Medical School I continued my interest in diving and swimming and managed to get a silver medal in the Intervarsity diving competition!

Shortly after qualifying I got married and became a GP, practising initially in Neasden, where I had my 2 children, before moving down to Dorset, where I have remained ever since. I was in Practice in Verwood for over 25 years retiring in 2001. During that time I had 2 sabbaticals (3 months each) working abroad, one in India and the other in Ecuador, and since retiring I have travelled as much as possible - having visited at least 120 different countries - I guess it was my parents who early on gave me the travelling bug...

My husband died in 1999 and I had a brief remarriage of 5 years. I have great pleasure from my 2 children, 4 grandchildren and 2 step daughters. I am very fortunate to have good health so that I can enjoy travelling, gardening, rambling and badminton etc. as well as quality family time, who are all widely scattered, brother Ole in Kenya and sister Inga in Australia, both of whom were Kitalites.

10. Richard Northmore

KPS January 1955 to December 1961

I was born in Kitale hospital in February 1949. My parents had left farming in Cornwall in 1947 to farm in Kenya. Our farm was at Sikendu on the Lugari road. It is said that when I was born the midwife was drunk – apparently a bit of a shambles but it turned out OK. My brother John was 16.

I suppose my early childhood was similar to that of most of those on fairly remote farms; a bit isolated with an aya (at least until she put me in the cattle water trough – because I wanted to get in!). However, I have found that I can travel the world on my own without becoming lonely - a result of the isolation I suppose.

Kitale School memories:

I started when I was 5 and at least for the first term I was a day boy staying staying with the Hallett's during the week who lived near the school. Alan is my age – it was fun. I then boarded. It was only at the 2008 reunion that I realised that I was younger than most of my class because they were celebrating their sixtieth birthdays – that is why I was smaller!! I am rather large now though! I was in Eagle.

I used to get home sick at the beginning of each term but not for long and only when I first when to KPS. I loved having all my friends around. My parents came with ice cream from The Bakery at least once a week at morning break - delicious.

Other memories:

- Skating along the path between the dining room and main block
- Marmite and butter mix sandwiches – I still occasionally have these even now
- Swimming pool - I nearly drowned there before I could swim - Bridgette saved me. Thanks!
- Dens in the Kei Apple hedge around the tennis court
- Chug chugs – my son was given a physics homework to make something which moved, a chug chug was a great hit.
- Climbing over the partial walls in the junior dorm
- No mosquito nets on the last day of term and throwing shoes at each other in the dark
- Corporal punishment - Crowbar and her ruler, Brookie and the cane, Dowson and the tackie

Sadly, my Dad died in 1961 which brought a sea change to my life. We sold up. However, in 1962 I went to the Prince of Wales for 2 terms. The main highlight there was Rafe Fremlin making me captain of the Grigg junior rugby team - it did my rather sad disposition a lot of good – Thanks!!

Mother and I returned to Cornwall in time for the school year start in 1962, it was horrible – the coldest winter for 50 years (11 blankets on my bed). I was a complete stranger in every way living in a small bungalow on a housing estate. I gradually found my feet but it took 3 years.

After Kenya, I went to Plymouth college where I did reasonably well at sport - rugby, hockey, canoeing and putting the shot. Not all that good academically. In 1967 I joined BOAC as a management trainee – I got some qualifications! In 1968 my daughter, Anna, was born. I was just 19. Her arrival caused another sea change – I had a very strong paternal desire to take care of her. This meant that I had to knuckle down and get on in life. I worked hard and effectively and was very ambitious – I had to be. I was a buyer. I bought a flat on Richmond Hill when I was 21 (for £4,750!!) having married in 1970.

In 1974 we had a son – Henry. That year I changed jobs to work for one of the world's leading oil and gas process plant contractors. In 1977 I moved within the company from buying to selling. I had found my perfect job. I travelled the world making friends in many countries. There are many huge process plants around the world where I led the sale – I just loved the complexity, the magnitude, the strategising and winning!! I ended up as the head of sales and proposals responsible for finding work for 1,600 people. I retired in 2009 and after a break I started doing consultancy work. For instance, I recently set up a new engineering office in London for the main Japanese process contracting company.

In the early 80's my marriage had broken up. Then in 1985 I married Bronwen. We have had 2 children David and Rebecca. Unfortunately, David died in 2007 aged 19. The two lots of children became a single family as a result of the older 2 coming to live with us. We are all very close.

As to other interests - I played rugby until I was 25 then took up rowing which I stopped when I was 36. Now I watch various sports but especially rugby, cricket and rowing. I also did scuba diving for a while. I have a narrow boat and a small wood on Dartmoor in Devon – probably going camping there tomorrow (weather permitting). We travel quite a lot especially to South Africa where my brother’s family live, to USA where Bronwen’s sister lives and for general holidays/following sport and the like.

11. Elizabeth (Morgan) Tottenham

Kitale School: My best memories are of things that Health and Safety would forbid ...!

Saturday mornings at Bowkers Dam, all scattering out on rubber rings or just swimming, Woody fully dressed sitting on the diving board (could he have been reading the paper?) tossing us occasional advice – “don’t swim into the reeds, they may pull you down”.

The great treat was on the homeward journey when we swarmed all over the bus, mudguards, bonnet, back - most of us managed to cling on outside - while we bumped along the farm road... such adrenalin. At the main road we became a conventional busload of school kids, singing our way back to school.

Torrential rain flooding the place and instead of games we were sent out to splash barefoot in lakes on lawns and games fields.

Tree crossings along the avenue - jacaranda, Nandi flame - were daily entertainment. Again, Woody’s laidback advice -”test a branch before trusting your weight to it - if dead it’ll break off.” I remember only one broken arm.

They applied for government funding for concrete paths between all the buildings “to keep the children’s feet dry”. Not really necessary, but Woody thought they’d be so good for roller skating. They were.

Since then -

After Limuru I went to Trinity College Dublin and then had a couple of years teaching at the Highlands, Eldoret. Then a variety of jobs in London, Dublin, Athens (Architects office, Market Research, Stud Farm, Secretary) and finally back to the more serious life of teaching at Park House School in Dublin.

Richard and I now live on the County Wicklow farm that my parents bought when they left Kenya in 1964. We had fun planting trees and making a pond. Our sons and their families come from their urban lives in London and Frankfurt to enjoy a bit of bundu. And so do a number of ex Kenyans and their children - and grandchildren.

12. Michael O'Hanlon

Kitale School 1957-63; Falcon House.

Memories of school too many to recount; among them: close friends; games of 'One, Two, Three Block'; 'nyabs'.

Subsequently Prince of Wales School (Rhodes House, now Athi House), then Plymouth College, then Cambridge and London Universities. Career first as an anthropologist at the British Museum, focused on Papua New Guinea where my wife Linda and I did fieldwork; subsequently as Professor and Director of Oxford University's Pitt Rivers Museum, retired autumn 2015.

13. Roz (Williams) Graham-Smith

A bit of time to send you a few thoughts on what happened to me after Kitale School....and a few memories

I went on to Limuru (LGS) after Kitale School. Kitale must have primed me well as apparently it was deemed the first year there was unnecessary and I was bumped into the next form up. School life went downhill for me after that. Never felt I belonged the way I had at Kitale. Boarding was very restrictive there... So couldn't wait to get out and left as soon as I could after School Certificate. Not even 16!

Went to and lived in Paris after that. The idea was to "finish me". That was a really great and happy way. Lazy days on the Seine, sharing 'a lunchtime litre' in the sunshine with other English students from the Sorbonne. Coffees in Pub Renault on The Champs Elysees and evenings dancing at the Rond Point, a club at the other end. We moved in a happy gang. Not a conventional finishing school, but what great parents I had to choose Madame Fleury who did her best to house six English girls and make sure that not a word of English was spoken in her shuttered and grand apartment. And did her best to protect us from the gorgeous men we found in Paris!

I did a part SRN nursing training at The Radcliffe Infirmary in Oxford until the homesickness for Kenya and the sadness of real illness got the better of me and I retreated back home to Nairobi.

After a stint of working at Embakasi (!) for NAS, I joined BOAC in London and worked as a uniformed passenger service girl at LHR. A dreamed of job came true. Cabin crew was for me, in those days, out with a 5'8" height limit. But the opportunity to travel was endless with staff travel. Travelling back home to Nairobi on a VC10 for a long weekend was easy in those days.

After my years with BOAC, I trained as a florist and worked in the Kings Road. Some interesting work including The Lord Mayor's Banquet but constantly working with sore hands in buckets of cold water was not for me (!) and did not leave the time to be truly creative and I moved on to yet another career!

Beauty therapy and Aesthetics seemed to combine it all for me and that's the field I eventually trained in and stuck with until retiring from it very recently. These days,

when I can, I write travel stories. Like Bill Bryson and Michael Palin (but sadly not like them!) I love to observe people and the funny side of them and life. It adds a great richness to seeing other parts of the world and keeps me and a few others entertained. Despite encouragement, I have never been brave enough to look for a publisher!

My memories of Kitale school are happy and many and I list those that first come to mind...

- Brookie rattling his keys in his pocket as he walked along those verandas (on the war path no doubt)
- The sliced bread at break time, spread with the (mixed with great care) marmite and butter so that it looked like peanut butter!
- the "bar" that we did knee hang from (one knee when we got brave and clever) and "eggs in the basket. Never did get the hang of that going around and around thing, as did people like the very limber Jenny Northcote... rats!
- ballet in the assembly hall with (Jenny and Lindy's mum who had very impressively I think once been a Windmill girl)
- swopping sweets outside the dining room after lunch with whoever one was 'hitched to'
- hitch bracelets of course
- army worm all over the playing fields... Revolting, squelching between your toes
- TAB's and walking around the rest of the day like a windmill. Don't remember it making any difference to the arm seizing up
- "midnight feasts" on the concrete floor of the loos... the only place with light. How sad.
- making ourselves faint on the bed at rest time. How stupid!

Well I better stop. It was a great school. For all his seemingly terrifying ways Brookie must have been a good guy. We came out well.

By the way ... I was in Falcon (blue). Chris Hearne (Hearno) and I ended up as House Captains... And I ended up with his hitch bracelet.

What was it ... Persevere. Good advice if you ask me.

(Roz unfortunately was unable to join us – she had to fly to Nairobi urgently, but sends salaams to everyone.)

14. Lindy (Northcote) Wilson

The whole Northcote family were in Eagle house and if my memory serves me correct we ONCE won Cock House!! I boarded with the lovely Miss Gray as our house mistress then in seniors was with Mrs. Munro (whose granddaughter we met three years ago in Harare).

Onwards to the Highlands in Eldoret, the start of which was not brilliant as our beautiful mother died (the staff I have since met at Highlands reunions said they were thrown into a real tizzy as they had never had to deal with such a situation before) a

few years later Jenny joined me, she really made herself known ~ her final report said, in so many words, that if she was not leaving of her own free will she would be leaving anyway!! During this time our farm was compulsorily purchased and we moved to Uganda, Entebbe initially, my Dad remarried, and then we moved to Busiga in Kampala. Our train journeys to and from Eldoret being very memorable, especially when the boy's schools were on the same train, would have hated being one of the staff on those occasions!

After school I went to Kianda Secretarial College in Nairobi after which I did temporary work and finally worked for an advertising company, SH Benson. It became more and more difficult to get a work permit (even though being born in Kenya!) so I went back to Kampala where I worked for an Advertising company, Cobb, Archer and Partners. I met and married Tug who initially was with International Aeradio and then went into partnership with two friends to form Uganda Tele Electric.

In 1970 I went to India to play hockey for a Ugandan team, travelling by train all the way around the country, going to Ceylon for a break and then back up the west coast, after which we went to Cairo to have a few games and then back to Uganda, not long after arriving back, on the 25th January, 1971 there was a coup and Idi Amin overthrew Milton Obote. All was okay initially BUT - well by October 1972 I was sent, heavily pregnant, to Kenya to have my first baby, Colin, Tug had to fly to UK to obtain another UK passport because by the time he was to join me Kenya had banned all Ugandan residents entry! In December we flew to UK toured, flew to SA, Zimbabwe saw family and then flew to Perth, WA to join Tug's former partner from Kampala. After a couple of years, we added to our family with a daughter, Julia. After a few more years we decided to up stakes and go to the UK (the first time I had ever lived in the UK ~ 1976).

We purchased a business in Shepton Mallet, in Somerset where we remained for over thirty years, I vowed never to move again as every time we moved another little Wilson joined the world, so after Alan we remained until it was safe!! Our two boys now have the business, a very busy time for them both as they have seven children between them! Julia is in Bristol with two little ones so we feel very blessed with our nine babies ~ I love that they are starting to suffer the "teenage" rebellions!!

We have now had a property in Northern Cyprus for 12+ years where we continue to enjoy our lives, visits from family and friends and just ~ wellbeing retired!

15. Judith Hallows

At Kitale School from 1955 to 1960 when I left to go to grammar school in England. I was a boarder and in Kestrel.

Among many memories is sitting under the gum trees near the San with a wind-up gramophone playing over and over again a few records in the dorm's collection. Another musical memory is listening to top of the pops on the radio in a study in the senior dorm on Sunday afternoons.

Last year I returned to Kitale School to work as a volunteer teacher in the senior school for a couple of months. I was very impressed by the quality of the teachers who are

teaching in challenging conditions – rudimentary classrooms and lack of funding for sufficient textbooks. Insufficient water supplies is a hardship for the boarders who have to carry water to the dorms from a standpipe near the swimming pool.

I am now resident again in the UK after some 40 years of living in eight different countries.

16. Aiden Doyle

I was at Kitale School from 1955 – 1961 and was in Eagle House which was yellow shirts. My memories of Kitale School were many especially being a boarder as many of us were. I remember I used to get very home sick at the beginning of each term but was able to see my parents every week or so when they came to visit.

Other memories:

- Skating along the path between the dining room and main block
- Marmite and butter mix sandwiches at break time
- Swimming pool
- Dens in the Kei Apple hedge around the tennis court
- Chug-chug craze

I left Kitale School in 1961 to go to Hill School, Eldoret as my mother was working there as the matron. I then went on to Prince of Wales and joined KCC after doing my “O” level exams.

I was sent to Scotland by KCC to do a Diploma in Dairy Technology. I came back to Kenya and worked for KCC for a couple of years before hitch hiking to South Africa, those days you could hitch hike through Africa safely. I stopped off in Rhodesia for 5 years, long enough to play soldiers for Ian Smith! I went on down to South Africa and ended up working for Nestlé for 27 Years.

I retired in February 2013 and came to Bournemouth with my wife Lesley who got a transfer to UK with Vitality Health. I took over doing the Kitale School Newsletter last year.

17. Jenny Field (Dairs)

I lived on our farm at Hoey's Bridge and attended Kitale School up to 1961 before moving onto The Highlands School in Eldoret. I loved my school days as a boarder at Kitale pretending to sleep walk or even sleep talk if an adult intruder was on the prowl! Bending over the bedstead for the tackie was not such a terrible calamity either, not even a scar to show for it. I was in Hawk, simply the best! I loved competing on sports days and swimming club with pomegranates as a treat.

Our family left this great African experience to make a life in the UK in 1965 and we eventually settled in the West Country in the beautiful county of Gloucestershire. Forty-five years later my husband, John, and I live in the same home

my folks bought all those years ago! I trained as a teacher and taught in many interesting places around the world having travelled far and wide with John who was a Sapper Officer in the Army. Having moved house 21 times we are more than delighted to have come to a stop with regard to the house moves but not with the teaching. I have been running my own successful 'Immersion English Business' from home for 12 years now and love meeting new and interesting people each with their own stories to tell.

18. Harris Collie

My Parents Duncan & Cecilia and elder brother Marcus arrived in Kenya in 1948. We had a farm Japata near the Suam River on the Uganda border at the foot of Mount Elgon. I was born in 1952 in the Kitale Hospital, I was christened at the newly built Kitale Church, but did not attend Kitale School. We carried on living at Japata until just before "Uhuru", when Don Brooksbank and Robin Paterson bought our farm.

Our nearest neighbours were the Andersons (the fruit farmers now known as Elgon Nurseries run by Rob & Bea Anderson) On the other side were the Jensens. We had a mixed farm mostly arable maize & wheat. My fondest memories are when a herd of elephants came down from Mount Elgon in a thunderstorm they trampled all over our crops, so they had to be chased off and a baby elephant got left behind, and we looked after it.

We also went on safaris down to the Suk, sometimes on up to lake Turkana, which always had plenty of dramas, my particular one was getting lost aged about five for a couple of hours in the middle of nowhere, also in a thunderstorm. The family moved to southern Ireland in 1963 and finally to Devon in 2000.

19. 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 Endebess 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 along the wagon track beside the main road. Mrs Paulson had two daughters at the school, Muriel and June and at the weekends 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 when I moved to Kenton College in Nairobi for the remainder of my primary school years. 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! I never had such courage at Kitale School but 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.

20. Michael Brookes

The Brookes family went to Kenya in 1949, with my father Edward Brookes under contract to the Education Department of the Colonial Office. After teaching posts in Nairobi Primary & the Mombasa Arab Boys School, he was appointed to the Kitale School Headship, taking over from Mr Woods in 1955, & remaining there until early 1964. I was a pupil at the School from 1955 to 1958 & then at the Prince of Wales Nairobi from 1959 to 1962.

As well as the School teaching staff including Bidy Crowcombe, Tom Jacob's Mother & Kay Yuille, memories are:

- My mother Vera in the School Office typing up official letters, having to decipher my father's illegible writing
- Driving my father's Landrover on my own around the empty school grounds during the holidays, with our two dogs (Whiskey & Soda) in the back.
- The School swimming pool, and the retired askari who maintained it.
- The gloriously colourful flower beds and trees in the School grounds, with masses of butterflies & hornet's nests & the odd snake as well!
- The long L shaped grove of v tall gum trees that partially enclosed the sports fields
- The School sanatorium overseen by Velia Tellatin as the Nursing Sister.
- The weekday Morning Assembly in the School Hall.
- The visits to the surrounding farms and the very kind & generous hospitality provided, invariably a delicious Sunday roast!

At the conclusion of my father's Colonial Office contract, we returned to the UK in 1964, where my father continued teaching, and I subsequently spent some 45 years with both the British Army and the UK Ministry of Defence.

21. Roger Dudin MBE

I was born in Kitale Hospital on 28 March 1947.

I was at Kitale School from January 1955 to December 1960 with my brother John and sister Anthea. We were in Eagle House. My memories of Kitale School were many, especially being a boarder. My grandparents farmed on Mount Elgon and looked after us during term time with weekly visits to the school at break times on a Wednesday. Our parents lived in Kisumu on Lake Victoria.

I learnt to swim in the school pool. I was taught how to box. We had great sport with the scouts playing wide games in the forests below the school. I learnt to ride as an extra activity and to play tennis. I was awarded the Endeavour Prize in my last year at the school. During the holidays we learnt to sail in dinghies on Lake Victoria.

John and I went on to the Prince of Wales School, Nairobi in January 1961. John was in Grigg House and I was in Hawke House. I stood on the top of Africa by climbing up to Gilman's Point on Mount Kilimanjaro. I was awarded a prize for Services to the School's Sailing Club.

I left Kenya in December 1963 and went to Welbeck College in UK to complete my A levels. My family emigrated to New Zealand in April 1964 and took up farming in the north of the North Island at Whangarei Heads.

I left Welbeck College in July 1966 and moved to the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst. I was commissioned into the Corps of Royal Engineers on 2 August 1968. As part of my career development I became a qualified Chartered Civil Engineer and specialised in project management of engineering tasks and the development of

command and control computer systems. I completed a full career of 34 years' service in the Army and retired in March 2002.

I was able to continue sailing in both dinghies and offshore yachts. We were able to take my family on sailing trips over the years. I have taken part in four Royal Ocean Racing Club Rolex Fastnet races. I was appointed Member of the Order of the British Empire (MBE) in April 1988.

I married Kirsty on 24 June 1972. We have three boys and four granddaughters. We are able to visit our family in New Zealand and Australia on a regular basis.

22. Bridget Walton

Having been appointed by the Ministry for Overseas Development, London, I arrived at the school on September 09th 1956, a few days after term had started. My delay was caused by the Suez Crisis which meant that all ships hoping to go through the canal were turned back to sail around the Cape. The long holiday at sea was immediately forgotten as I met Mr Brooks for the first time to a severe reprimand for lateness.

My horror at having to teach 42 Grade 2B children was lessened considerably when I received another reprimand from Miss Crowcombe in front of the Grade 7 class for a misdemeanour unknown. At age 19, indeed not much older than the children in Grade 7, some of whom were turning 14, it took me all the courage I could muster to ask her, please, if she needed, to reprimand me anywhere other than in front of her teenage pupils since, as I was destined to teach them on the sports' field, I needed to earn their respect.

I shared quarters with Ms Williams and enjoyed her lovely German Shepherd dog as well as her kindness in making me feel at home. However, life soon became too expensive since I was paying back a College loan at interest rates and was on basic salary. So I requested consideration for a change to Boarding Accommodation, less expensive and for which I was fed as part of the perk for extra duties. Body and soul were now looked after while several years of hard labour kicked in. There were 72 full time boarders with the girls housed upstairs and the boys downstairs. Matrons were relieved by teachers at weekends although Mrs Mac and I were each given a weekend off before and after the mid-term break.

Boarding school food, good as it was under the supervision of Mrs Margaret Davies, never suited all and I remember clearly seeing greasy marks on Helen Nicholson's school uniform pockets as she tried to hide fried egg and bacon, which were far from her favourite breakfast eats. An appallingly unhappy boarding school pupil myself, I ignored the mess and suggested to Alison Gray, kind girl's matron that she was, that she get a clean uniform every time we noticed the stain.

One of my extra mural duties was hockey coaching – 1st and 2nd eleven mixed teams. This was great since among the excellent players were Brandon Brooksbank, Alan Dale, the Barbour twins, Sue Forrester to name a few. We won matches and Kitale School managed to defeat both the Hill School and Nairobi Primary in the same year.

I remember Peter Chiarletti giving me driving lessons and passing my test first time (John Revill being the examiner). On going home for the holidays, my father decided he had better start over so that I learnt better driving skills before causing an accident. So I re-learnt on the farm truck – rather more challenging than the Chiarlettis Ford Escort saloon vehicle.

My one free evening a week was always spent at the Sports' Club, with a game of hockey followed by social enjoyment with young club members, mostly farmers. Mrs Mac kept a beady eye on my goings on and on one occasion I was in a hurry to evade her peeping from upstairs to a point where I left a water tap running. I got back to find her having to sweep out a flooded flat. While my conscience dictated that I should assist, I did not own up to being the cause of the flood. Perhaps she guessed!

Free weekends were usually spent with very kind Horsey and Barton families who became and remained firm friends. Miles Barton was a young man who was totally unsuited to boarding and so, once I became a car owner, I would take Miles out with me to meet up with his parents who by then were living in Kedowa. Miles enjoyed steering my little car while I worked the pedals that he was unable to reach!

Firm friendships were established among the teachers and I have fond memories of Frances Walker, Mrs Valpy, Alice Jacobs, Charles and Alice Mortimer, Ivy Wood, Kay Yuille and others. In later years long after I had left the school and was teaching in Nairobi, married and had a family, which eventually saw us move to Johannesburg and start a new and very different life in South Africa, I used to visit Bidy and Chris (Gibson) in Devon and Kay in Perth, Scotland. The difference in age no longer mattered. Strong friendship replaced the fear and respect of former times and there was great sorrow when eventually both made their way to a more permanent heavenly abode. One might have said of both, 'Well done, thou good and faithful servant.'

My connection with past pupils and fond memories remain to this day. Helen, Elizabeth Troward and Paula Burch – all married although for recognition's sake I have kept maiden names, asked me to form an alumni, which thrived and we held reunions in Kenya (2), England (2), South Africa (2), Australia (1) and New Zealand (1). The Kitale School flag continues to fly under the very able new captain of the Alumni Association, Aiden Doyle, who is the organizer of this year's Reunion in Cheltenham, England. I am so fortunate in that we continue to be visited by and keep in touch with Kitaleites living in Kwa Zulu Natal – Chris and Magda Hearne, Marilyn Northmore, Patrick and Marion Long, Richard and Pauline Statham, Andrew and Gayle Hillier, Terry Davidson while more recently we met Jenny and John Field who were visiting from Gloucester, England and very recently Aiden and Lesley, now living in Bournemouth.

Please keep in touch. I am still working although long past my sell by date but I will respond. You are all not forgotten. Robin joins me in sending greetings and we look forward to connecting with many of you in mid-September.

Till then, love and best wishes,

Bridget

23. Lisbeth (Jensen) Mandel

A few years back the company sent a couple to clean the offices where I work as a family doctor. She called him 'John darling'. It turned out that 'John darling' was a huge African, with a slightly mutilated eye. One day when he was there alone, I asked him where he came from. He was from Kenya. See the surprise on his face when I switched into broken upcountry Swahili. It turned out that he was from Endebess, twenty minutes from the farm on Mount Elgon, my father managed.

I was taken out of Africa and put through school and university for free. He had boxed his way out of Africa, and now worked cleaning offices. He made me feel so privileged.

His vacuum cleaning, a few strokes this way and that, not very satisfactory, but who cares, when you know he was from Endebess. They have now moved on.

Recently reading John Le Carre's biography, he detested the cruelty and punishment in his boarding school during the war, just a decennial before us at Kitale school. I haven't thought much about punishment, but was surprised to hear at the Reunion in Devon, that a man felt the punishment had practically ruined his life. One does not forget punishment. I remember Mr. Mortimer hitting me over the knuckles with a ruler because I couldn't make out how to divide into pounds, shillings and pence, this was standard three. 'Crowbar' once lifted my skirt and hit me between my legs because of some mistake in Latin, standard 6. I remember the cue in front of Brookies office, what a horrible job for a grown up to have.

How I missed Africa and the school, when I got to Denmark. There were no sports at the girl's school I came to. Half an hours walk with one of the matrons in the afternoon, was all. I was about to explode with energy. Back in standard 6 we had algebra, geometry, Latin and French. I loved the clean white paper and the fine lines and angles of geometry. I hoarded paper, and had quite a stack, that I wasn't allowed to take home to Denmark with me. I remember Bridget reading "Our Island Story" to us, some King was having his nephew's eyes torn out, the thrill and horror of it all; back in Denmark they were trudging their way through the industrial revolution. I was very bored.

Looking forward to the Reunion,

Yours

Lisbeth Jensen

Now Lisbeth Mandel, married to Peter.

Two boys, Jacob, real estate agent, going into banking.

Morten musician, double-bass.

24. Alex Bolton

I left Kitale school in 1963, returning to the UK with my family, living in Cheltenham and attending the Sacred Hearts Convent. I was then sent to do a year's Secretarial course in Oxford and another years Cordon Bleu. I then cooked freelance in the UK and Europe.

I took a gap year and travelled with a back pack in South America. I worked as a secretary for a while. I married and lived in Paris for three years, then Oxfordshire where I ran a small catering company for 6 years. I have two children. Remarried and have been living in Dorset for 23 years.

25. Graham Bush (Staff)

I taught at Mount House School Tavistock, Devon from 1969 - 1998, teaching maths and games. Senior Master from 1989. Retired at 60 in 1998, was quickly bored and then taught maths at Her Majesty's Prison, Dartmoor (quite a change from a Prep School!!) for five years.

I retired in 2003, but still do private maths coaching (helps keep dementia at bay). Otherwise gardening, dog walking and golf keep me busy.

My late wife, Margaret Parr, was also a teacher at Kitale School. She died in 1984. Both my daughters were born at Kitale Hospital.

26. Patricia Neale

I started at Kitale School in January 1958 just after my 7th birthday and left in July 1962 to come to England and my main memory of that was the trip back by boat via South Africa, hating the English school.

The Abbey at Malvern after Kitale and then having my 1st encounter with an English winter which unfortunately was the coldest for many years! I then went on to weekly board in Leamington Spa which was less severe.

After college I worked on my parent's farm, probably less than the size of most of the fields we had in Kenya, before getting married and having 2 children.

I now run the farm and have recently moved into the bungalow on the farm so my son and his family can take over the farmhouse.

I have 6 grandchildren.

27. Horace Horsey

I was in Kestrel House from Standard 1 (Jan 1956) when I was but 5 and left in 1962 in standard 7. Having had children I really don't completely understand how my parents could drop off a shy and definitely crying child to the mercy of bigger boys and unknown teachers. But I wasn't the only one and slowly I settled into the routine.

One recollection of the junior dining room was long tables with a teacher at one end and a regular forced helping of about the most revolting spinach piled high onto my plate for lunch and supper. The skill was to carefully check out the teacher and dispose of this green gunge onto the floor without being caught. To this day I cannot abide spinach! But other than that Kitale School gave me a well-rounded education and many friends still to share the anecdotes.

This was followed by 4 years in a South African school and then the harsh reality that I was now on my own as my parents had another 4 children to educate and money was definitely not in abundance. A short career as a travelling salesman for the Welcome Group. The realisation hit me that I would either kill myself on the road or my liver would give up the uneven struggle.

I then worked as a farm manager for 3 years for Tom Luck on the slopes of Mount Elgon. A very inspirational man - thank you Chrissie your Dad was a great raconteur and was definitely one of the people whom shaped my life.

The early 70s in Kitale were magic with our social life based around the Kitale and Endebess club. Rugby and Hockey with games either home or away nearly every weekend travelling as far as Kampala /Mombasa.

Since the mid-70s I have worked for myself in partnership with my brother David based in Mombasa in the transport and construction industry, concentrating on the countries no one wished to operate in – Sudan, Congo and even Somalia. The company was sold 4 years ago and I am now very happily retired with my beautiful wife Mandy in a 2400acre gated golf course, Vipingo Ridge, 30km north of Mombasa We now spend around 6 months of the year travelling enjoying the world and friends before we are too old.

Kenya has been extremely kind to me and my family and is still an amazing fun place to live without any of the rules and regulations of the more civilised Western countries. Any Kitaleites are welcome to come and stay if one can get over what Kenyans regard as unnecessary travel warnings and see for themselves the country that you grew up in and notice how it has progressed.

To give all some comparison I was in the US over July 4th weekend and more people were murdered in Chicago alone that weekend than tourists in the last 10 years in Kenya - so still fairly safe by the modern world standards!!!!

28. Andrew Smallwood

I was born in Kitale and grew up on my parents farm on Mt. Elgon above Endebess and at their house on Kilifi Creek.

After Kitale School I went to Kenton College and then Duke of York School. I arrived in SA in 1960 and got a job as a dancer in a traveling ice show.

Two years of this enabled me to get a commercial pilots license and I went to work for the Basutoland Flying Doctor Service and then the local airline in Lesotho. Carmen was

a secretary at the German Embassy in Maseru and we married in '68. I flew all over SA, Botswana and Namibia until '71 when Idi Amin expelled all the Asians from Uganda.

The British Government started cancelling passports and mine, since I was descended from a long line of Indian Civil servants and traders, was one of them. I arrived in the USA in '72 on a stateless person's document and was given permanent residence.

I got a job flying a ski equipped aircraft on the pack ice of the Beaufort Sea for several winters and in the summer was sent to Prince William Sound, Alaska to fly floatplanes in support of the fishing fleet. I did this for 26 years out of the tiny fishing village of Cordova where I still live. Carmen died in 2009 and our son Jonathan lives in Los Angeles where he is a voice over artist.

Michelle and I have been together for the last six years. I own and operate a salmon purse seine operation in Prince William Sound (that's the stuff you buy in cans) in the summer and spend most winters in the West Indies on a sailboat I keep in Trinidad.

29. Janina (Legg) Seabrook

I was known as Janina Legg but married Jim Seabrook in 1967. I was at Kitale School from about 1950 to 1956, in Falcon house, and it was a very happy time. I was head of house in 1956, with Sue Shields, Biddy Doughty and Diana Fulton head of Kestrel, Eagle and Hawk. I think my claim to fame was my ability to walk on my hands - on one occasion doing over 400 steps during break time!

I owe Miss Macdonald, Standard 3, a debt of gratitude, having taught me my times tables so well. She really instilled them into us. I wish my grandsons had a Miss Macdonald in their lives now.

I remember doing PT first thing in the morning in our vests and shorts (or was it pants?) and spending a lot of time on the bars doing knee hangs etc. and climbing trees before that was stopped after a few arm breakages. Break times were spent looking for Oxalis weeds to put in our bread and butter - delicious! We were also good at gym and every year we would put on a display for the parents in the main hall, doing all sorts of acrobatics. The main hall had a large stage where we would sing our hearts out - mostly Scottish songs as Miss Yuille was the singing teacher and an avid Scot. The hall was also used by the Kitale Theatre Club in the early days to put on pantomimes, and also my mother produced The Women there, involving 40 women and no men - that was quite a show!

The highlight of my year was sports day. I think they were rather competitive occasions.

I remember when the Black Watch came to the school and marched up and down the sports field in their kilts.

They were very happy days, in spite of being beaten by the assistant matron with the hairbrush for being caught out of bed after lights out with no clothes on, as a dare. The next day my parents were summoned to the school to inspect my black and blue backside!

After Kitale I went to Limuru Girls School until 1960, then to London to be "finished off" before returning to Nairobi where we lived until 1990, bringing up two daughters Samantha and Tanya. I now live near Wallingford, South Oxfordshire, with my daughters and their families being within a 12-mile radius of me, so I am very fortunate.

30. Jenny (Toward) Botto and Liz (Toward) Vorster

We were at Kitale School from 1957 - 1963 and were in Hawk house with the red shirts, later renamed Cheringani. Although our parents farmed just outside Kitale we were full boarders and only got to see our parents on visiting Sundays.
Other memories - many!

Liz: Break time activities.... marbles (I was banned from playing with the girls!), jacks and pick up sticks (using porcupine quills - the white quill being the prize) as well as skating, hoopla hoops stilts and hop scotch.

Jen: I usually found myself trying to keep up with my twin. She always came home with the good reports and better marks, but I guess I didn't quite put the same effort into my school work, so only to be expected. Whilst she was jostling for top spot with Adrian Hilliar, Kevin and I took it in turns to take bottom spot. I remember messing around in standard 7 waiting for I believe Miss Crowcombe to take class and Roger Hissey was up at the blackboard messing around with the blackboard compass and thrust it towards the class and the point flew out and embedded itself in my chest, what a mess by the time 'Crowbar' walked in. There were a few raw hides that day. We both joined the Brownies and flew up to Girl Guides. Helen's mother (Mrs Nicholson) was our Brown Owl and later our mother took over the Brownies. When the queen mother came up to Kitale we were all lined up at the show ground to meet her. The guides spent a weekend on the Nicholson's farm where amongst other activities we had to cross over the river using ropes. I (Liz) twisted my ankle and had to be carried back to the farm house.

Liz: I enjoyed all the sporting activities and we also took ballet lessons (Jen was the graceful one!). My (Jen) sporting activity was at its best when I was busy legging it out of the Sanatorium with nurse in hot pursuit with the dreaded TAB (fondly? Referred to as Torture after breakfast).

Our parents were very involved with the Kitale Theatre Club and one year produced 'Snow White' ...the whole of our class + others were roped onto the stage.... animals in the forests scene doing dances, ...Tessa, Jen and I were also the three cats around the witch's cauldron. Our mother was the evil witch, our brother Peter was Dopey and our Uncle John had the unenviable job of keeping us kids entertained whilst off

stage, some were easier than others, he thought Kevin was great, loads of cheeky character, I think he could see himself at the same age, always up to no good. Once the kids were calm, Betty Northcote, co-producer, had to get us all dancing.

From Kitale School we both attended The Kenya High School, fondly known as The Boma. We left after taking our 'O' levels and attended Southern's Secretarial College in Mombasa. At the end of our college year the plan was for our mother to take us to the U.K to join our brother. However, it was not meant to be, our mother passed away so we remained together for a few more years in Mombasa.

Liz: I took a secretarial position with a firm of chartered accountants and as I was interested in accounts went on to do some accounting/book keeping and auditing with the firm. I left Kenya at the end of 1974 and spent a year in the UK temping before joining my father out in Rhodesia. I worked for Standard Trust for the 14 years I was there and it was here I met my husband Auret. We moved to SA in 1989 and settled in Cape Town. I worked for a short time on a temporary basis. I love Cape Town and enjoy playing tennis and hiking and walking.

Jen: I worked for a clearing and forwarding company in Mombasa called Express Transport owned then by the Rueben family in Nairobi. I left Kenya in 1971, worked briefly in Rhodesia before driving to Cape Town and sailed to the U.K aboard the Pendennis Castle. I worked in London for 18 months before travelling to India and Nepal. The plan was then to go on to Australia, but went back to Mombasa where I got married and lived there until returning to the UK in January 1980 to run a Tea Room Cafe in Stockbridge, near the Wiltshire/Hampshire border. We lived in Nether Wallop (our farm in Kitale was next door to Lord Portsmouth's farm called Topie Wallop) whilst my husband worked in Iran.

In 1984 we had sold up and moved to St. Mawes on the Roseland Peninsula, Cornwall overlooked by the Pendennis Castle in Falmouth no less. I ran my restaurant there until 2012 when I sold the business. During the earlier years, when the business was seasonal, we had a home in Ft. Myers Florida and then a dockminium in Marathon where we kept our boat and spent the English winters sailing around the Bahamas. Since retiring I have been lucky enough to travel extensively, but enjoy coming home to play my tennis and golf.

Too bad I am such a long way away from my twin.

31. Tina Riccitelli (Sovich) and Maria Sovich

Greetings from Tina and Maria: Just to say how very disappointed I am at not being able to be at our reunion, I would have so wanted to see so many faces from yesteryear even though many I can hardly remember, god willing let there be another time.

Thank you once again for all the work and effort that you have put into this, and please be sure to say Jambo to everyone there on my behalf.

32. Ann Attwood (Totty) MBE

I left Kitale School in 1951 with a heavy heart believing nothing would be ever the same, and went to K.H.S. (known as the Boma). The excitement here was the journey to Nairobi - we went by "steam train" and it was a long way, over 300 miles so we slept one night on the train! The cabins were 4 berth, so one of the girls in our gang had to get to Kitale Station to book the cabin while the other three followed on. Next morning we'd reach Nairobi and then on to school.

I was in Hamilton House (the houses were in blocks of three) and all the meals were held in a huge dining room. It was a lovely sight to see 300 girls file up in silence to eat and attend assembly. The classrooms were situated there too. We had a swimming pool and numerous sports fields. Our uniform was grey divided skirts and white shirts. I didn't want to leave there either, but left at 17 after having completed the Overseas School Certificate. I went home to the Mission Station near Kapenguria where my parents were "in Charge".

We were all young when we had to go to Kitale and the Boma – it was sad because we didn't see our parents for long periods and so the other girls were like our sisters.

I wanted to be a nurse from an early age but you couldn't start until you were 18, so I helped on the Mission Station. I originally wanted to train at the Westminster Hospital but fear of "busy" London put me off and I chose to train at Cheltenham (for SRN), my grandparents lived there.

I met my husband when he came in to my ward as a patient and I was a second year Student Nurse. Once I had qualified I went back to see my parents and worked at the Kitale Hospital, and later returned to Cheltenham to marry my husband Harold! Before we married he persuaded me to do my midwifery, so I trained at Cheltenham again and we were married at St Mary's in town.

We were blessed with 2 super boys. Phil lives in Surrey with his wife and 2 lovely girls. Bruce, who has Down's Syndrome lives with us at home. Having Bruce led us into fundraising with other parents and staff, running fetes, car boot sales etc. and along with campaigning for over 40 years, which was quite stressful.

Bruce has been great company especially since we lost our beloved Harold recently to cancer. His loss has been life changing.

How fortunate we are to have the Reunion unbelievably on our doorstep – thank you to Aiden for all his hard work and making it happen. Not forgetting Bridget Walton in South Africa who started it all.

The Boma reunion is in September too!

33. Keith Monkhouse

I 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 to go to the DOY. Then I joined the RAF as a technical cadet in 1957 after a period of National Service in the Kenya Regiment. Got a degree in Mechanical Sciences at University. I was fortunate to be trained as a pilot and flew Canberra's in Germany in the Cold War. I then returned to engineering and retired in 1993 to become a cabinet maker much involved with the local golf club, the village and growing asparagus with no spare time! I'm very happily married to Clare with 2 children and 3 grandchildren.

My Brother, Tony, also a Kitaleite, sadly died last year after many years with Brooke Bond in Kericho. His widow, Rosie, remains in Kenya but returns to UK to visit her daughter Sharon from time to time.



Playing Fields



School Hall



Front Gates



Main Block