

Kenton e-BUFFALO

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Newsletter – Vol. 31



KENTON CHRONICLE

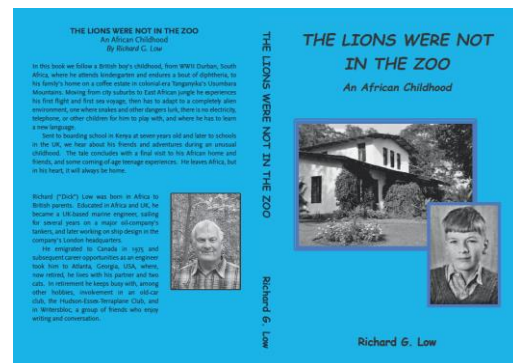
Memories, & photographs, are gaining momentum for the Kenton Chronicle. Astonishing accounts of Old Kentonians war years, many mentioned in the school magazines. Like this one - OK **Archie Arderne (leaver 1932):** -

“We know also that everyone will wish to join us in sending congratulations to P.V. (Archie) Arderne on his winning of the D.F.C. From an excellent letter received from his brother, John, in Cape Town we gather that Archie successfully “crash-landed” his bomber on Dieppe beach at the time of the Dunkirk affair, thus saving the lives of his crew when the machine was shot down by Messerschmidts. Then his adventures began, staving off stray Germans for four days and avoiding hunger by the simple expedient of milking cows in the fields at night. On one occasion he and his friends made as long a rope as possible out of their clothes and let him down a cliff – presumably in search of a boat; this exploit naturally had to take place at night. Unfortunately, the rope was too short and he had to be pulled up again. In the end a boat was found in which they sailed for Poole, the crossing taking them two days: arriving in only a pair of trousers and a borrowed pull-over he was befriended by local residents and at long last he once again reported at his aerodrome. Rumour has it that he has now flown his new bomber out to the Middle East. We feel that Archi has heard that slogan, “Go to it.”

A happy memory is included in an 80s school magazine: - The Queen visited Kenton on the 11th November 1983. Student, at the time, **Suna Semmazzi**, wrote a letter to the Queen, which was rewarded by a nice response from the Queen’s Lady-in-Waiting.

NEWS OF OLD KENTONIANS

Richard ‘Dick’ Low, leaver 1951, was recently in contact with this office and Tony Hockey, regarding his book published in 2020. The Book *“The Lions were not in the Zoo”* recounts his early boy memories of growing up in East & South Africa – an excellent read taking you back to early days in East Africa & the wonder, & difficulties, of growing up in Africa. Dick very kindly allowed us to take excerpts of his chapters on Kenton College (not always positive, Dick warns) from his book to include in the Chronicle. Dick offers, through his penmanship, an incredible memory for detail - it’s delightful to walk through the Kenton of that time, though the ‘Dentist visits Kenton’ is alarming! Well worth a read. Available on Amazon as an e-book & paperback.



Charles Nightingale (leaver 1962)

directed Tony Hockey to author **Venn Fey (leaver 1931)**, (a distant cousin of the Nightingale family); to Venn's books as a source of information for The Chronicle: -

Cloud over Kenya – (published 1964), includes photos, map. Authors experiences in the Emergency, end of colonial rule, & hunting the bongo.

Valley of the Eland (published 1984) includes maps, drawings by Keith Fey.

Wide Horizon: Tales of a Kenya that passed in to history (published 1982) - sketches of varied aspects of the author's life in Kenya.

Authors often include in autobiographies memories of their school years. If an Old Kentonian has written a book, and with their permission, we can gather anecdotes to enrich the Chronicle. Perhaps you know of an Old Kentonian who has written their memoirs? Please be in touch with this office at alumni@kenton.ac.ke

Great news was received earlier this year from the proud mum of

Sohail Ahmed, Kenton graduating Class of 2016, who recently received an offer from University of Cambridge to read Land Economy. Sohail joined Kenton aged 6yrs in Year 2 and we have no doubt that the fantastic all around foundation that he received at Kenton is the foundation of the young man he is growing up to be. Sohail is the epitome of a Kenton student and all it has to offer. All of his Kenton peers at Peponi secondary did equally well and are also beginning their journey to good universities. We all remain friends and continue to support each other and our children as they navigate life. Kenton bonds are so strong and I think this support structure has been critical especially in these challenging times. Everyone is trying to help each other and this is perhaps the most

valuable take away from a Kenton education. We must keep the alumni community alive."

Thank you Shilu and many congratulations to Sohail and his very proud parents! What an achievement. Kenton wishes him all the best for the future.

Note: In August Sohail received his A level grades and attained 3 A that have seen him comfortably in to Cambridge.*

Anushka Kapoor, Leaver 2011, has just completed a Masters Engineering Degree in Chemical Engineering with First Class Honours from the University of Edinburgh.

Many congratulations Anushka! Kenton wishes you well as you embark on your career in the UK.



Introducing Mr. Jack & Mrs Alice Hartley-Reid. **Old Kentonian Jack Hartley, leaver 2003**, and his lovely bride Alice Reid tied the knot, (literally during the Hand fasting Ritual) at Hampton Court House in London on Friday 27th August, 2021. After Covid postponements, the couple looked wonderfully relaxed and determined to include and entertain family and friends on their special day. I was honoured to attend this wonderful day. Congratulations Jack & Alice from all at Kenton



Elizabeth Nsereko-Lule (leaver 1995) returned to Kenton as a parent during a very difficult time. Elizabeth has been in touch: -



Old Kentonian Elizabeth and New Kentonian Zara.

“Our decision to return to Kenton as parents included quite some discussion before a decision was made. Firstly, why still Kenton? Only because my family had been at Kenton for over 20 years with me and my siblings. Did I have to go back? Once we were accepted, a family WhatsApp meeting ensued to decide if we should remain in the same School house. An adamant family decision was made to remain in the same House (Bongos). No traitors here please!

Due to the onset of Covid and all the restrictions, we began a new era of online learning that was truly challenging. As I awaited the return to school for Zara, experiencing Kenton 2D from a distance just didn't cut it. On her return and due to ongoing restrictive measures, parents are not allowed out of the parking lot, let alone the car. But the stories I heard from Zara on all the familiar things - the never ending longies, the dining room, the music room to name just a few, has assured me Zara is experiencing it to the full. I am told that there is now a bell signaling the end of

classes. Oh, how I remember those occasions when I enjoyed hitting the deactivated bomb (we thought it was), twice at the top then 5 hits on the side. And it rang throughout the school. For now, our return is only anecdotal but the joy on her face, stories of her friend and teachers will have to suffice.

Thank you Elizabeth.

There are a number of Old Kentonians at Kenton now as parents. It would be great to hear from these OKs to learn how they feel Kenton has changed since 'their days'.

Via the OK grapevine, I hear that a few OKs have recently married. If any would like a mention in the next newsletter, please be in touch with photos. I am always delighted to mention a happy occasion, especially during these times.

We are still looking forward to receiving emails from the First Girls at Kenton. I know that several girls who joined the school during the early 90s have already been in touch, but we can always do with more, more, more for the Chronicle!

The School thanks all OKs and ex-staff members who have already been in touch and shared their memories of Kenton. Compiling a book of this magnitude is quite a task. It wouldn't be possible without the help of many.

Contact: alumni@kenton.ac.ke

WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING AT KENTON?

The beginning of this year opened with continued Covid challenges for the School. There was a big effort to stay positive and focused for the students. Kenton staff worked hard to keep students educated and entertained, both at school and online from home. To mention just a few: -

February. Suddenly a Yellow Brick Road appeared in readiness for the Senior Production of the Wizard of Oz.

Following their mock CE exams, Year 8 pupils had two days off timetable, during which time, they took part in a number of different activities. Included – joining up with Yr. 2 & Yr. 3 pupils in a scavenger hunt around Kenton to help the younger pupils get to know the school better. Setting up the school's very own kitchen garden and planting a range of seeds. Other challenges included team building, leadership and communication skills. In the Art Room the Year 8 students put together an Easter Themed installation, which was enjoyed by all.

The Dagoretti Horse Show was attended by a few students who competed in dressage & show jumping combined training.

March – Keep Calm It's Pyjama Day raised funds for the Ol Pajeta Conservancy

Students took part in the Glenalmond College Photography Competition and a Yr. 7 student won the runner-up prize in the #GoWildThisWinter competition with his poem.

Year 5 students gave presentations about their relatives who were in World War 2.

Year 3 students enjoyed Greek Day taking part in Greek themed activities'.

The school celebrated 2021 Language Week with a number of Kiswahili, French and Spanish activities presented in Assemblies. Some Year 5 students took on the teachers in a tongue-twist challenge.

Year 2 went on a Planet hunt around school and then made their own Top Trump cards using the

planet facts found around the school. They then became Engineers and Scientists as they designed and constructed their very own Rockets. Once the rockets were made the children went to the launch pad (Front Pitch), counted down and lifted off.

30th March the Year 4 online Tudor Day was held. Amazing costumes showed how the rich and poor dressed in the Tudor period. Classes did four main activities: - making pomanders (used to ward off illnesses); Videos and quizzes to complete; substitute clay pots with salt dough bowls at home and finally Tudor games – students learned how awful football was back then and played versions of bowling, draughts and a dice game.

April – World Book Day theme ‘Inspiring Characters’- everyone got into the Spirit of World Book Day.

Nature Art, during JAGS some Year 2, 3 and 4 pupils created art using natural products.

Year 6 pupils took up the challenge to draw one of the Tinga Tinga characters as part of a KHAC end of term Christmas Project. Judge Claudia Lloyd (the Tinga Tinga creator) was impressed with the children’s interpretation of her characters and how they could be used to bring Christmas cheer during a pandemic.

Year 7 met on Zoom to debate the motion: *This house believes that playing video games is good for you* and Year 8 met on Zoom to debate the motion: *This house believes that exams are the best way of assessing talent.*

Impressive public speaking skills and ability to think on their feet in the face of excellent questions from the audience.

Year 5B explored Kenyan History, Kenyan Traditional Games – they had opportunities to play and recreate popular games.

At the beginning of May, the School were excited to welcome back staff and students to in-person learning.

Year 4 learnt about the importance of the rainforest and focusing on some descriptive work to help with persuasive writing. They focused on expanded noun phrases.

Year 5 learnt about thermal conductors. They tested spoons made of metal, wood, and plastic, to see which would transfer heat the fastest and melt some butter. From their experiment, they discovered that metals are very good thermal conductors, while wood was the worst conductor of the three.

Year 5 investigated which materials can or cannot dissolve in water and made a list of them. They also discovered from their experiment that using hot water and stirring the container makes materials dissolve faster.

Year 2 have been finding out about forces. They looked at how long it took their toy cars to travel 2 metres with different strength of forces.

In Kenyan History, Year 3 planted Sukuma wiki and spinach in sacks as a project for Kenyan/Kiswahili Day on 25th June. They chose sacks as they were exploring vertical gardening to save space and also recycling materials which they were learning in class. Everyone has a duty to water the plants on specific days.

A number of children challenged themselves weekly by answering GK, trivia & riddle questions posted up in the Bird Cage.

Impressively Elands got off to a flying start, taking the lead in the first week, but were closely followed by Kudus! Finally results, Kudus 1st, Elands 2nd, Oryx 3rd and Bongo’s 4th.

During the 2nd half of term there was a new, voluntary competition set up for everyone to take part in. Both Seniors & Juniors, covering different topic areas such as; General Knowledge, Trivia, Riddles & Puzzles.

Year 3 learnt about how something we all love – chocolate- is made. Yr. 3 watched videos and learnt about the long process from growing the cocoa tree to harvesting the pods and various stages that happen before we can buy and eat this treat.

At the end of June, on a Saturday teachers and a few Kenton students helped the Mount Kenya Trust, which does so much good work to protect the mountain by riding up its slopes on horseback from 4,000 to 10,000 ft. in one day. Since the trust

started it has planted half a million trees, reforested 1000 ha. of bare land with indigenous trees, helped build and maintain vital elephant corridors and underpasses and help tens of thousands of young Kenyans with health and conservation education. Overall, only including the riders we have managed to raise Shs1.2 million and one Kenton student managed to raise more than Kshs. 200,000. The journey lasted about 5 to 6 hours and was very tiring but worth it.

The final sailing weekend of the Naivasha Yacht Club Cadets took place during the weekend - with lots of wind and a bit of sun!
There were 8 Kenton cadets who won some trophies and prizes. One Kenton cadet won the Sapling Cup for the Winning Optimist Class. Kenton won The King Trophy for the winning school in the Optimist Class, Kenton also won the Inter-Schools Trophy for the winning school overall.

5P have been busy investigating circuits this week. They were connecting buzzers, bulbs and motors and trouble shooting in order to get their circuits working.

Year 3 had fun learning about the Amazon Rainforest. We have learnt about how animals, birds and insects adapt to live in that environment. We have designed our own Amazon creatures with adaptations to live in the Rainforest. We hope you like them!

Year 2 learnt about 2D and 3D shapes in Mathematics. They made their own 3D shapes using Toothpicks and Marshmallows and were able to identify how many sides, face and corners each 3D shape had.

Year 2 were extremely shocked that a naughty T-Rex came to Kenton. In English, they used similes, adjectives, adverbs and even personification to describe what the T-Rex got up to at school

At the end of June, Kenton College celebrated all things Kenya in a colourful event that started with a dressing up competition and ended with a whole school assembly on Front Pitch. Pupils in each class were engaged in creative, fun and innovative activities that expanded their knowledge of Kenyan History, Kiswahili and Kenyan Culture. Year groups were kept busy with: Treasure Hunt, Traditional

Dancing, Storytelling, African outdoor games, Kanga Fabric Collages, Wall Rock Painting, Beadwork, Boma Building, Henna and Rangoli Art and Lesso Printing. It turned out to be a great Kenyan Party with lots of entertainment, delicious food and merry making for all.

One Wednesday at the end of June, all pupils took part in Kenton's first-ever STEM Morning! Each year group was assigned a different challenge to attempt, using some limited resources. Pupils had to think outside the box and find ways to complete the task as a team, and in the process developed some very important life skills, most importantly co-operation and resilience. It was a morning of learning by doing, filled with fun, creativity, competition, and a sense of accomplishment!

At the end of term, students were challenged to

Get Caught Reading This Holiday!!

What a busy term for our young students. Kenton teachers, staff and students have continued to work hard despite the Covid challenges. Well done to everyone!

NOTE FROM ALUMNI OFFICE.

September 2021 will be my 30th year of association with Kenton College. In September 1991 we dropped off our eldest on tarmac and for the next

19 years with three other children in attendance, we seldom missed a school day. During that time, I volunteered on PTA (as it was known then, PA later), helped in fundraising activities, at food fayres, Kenton Bonfire Nights, two Kenton cookery books, landmark events such as Kenton's 90th year, numerous dances & balls, joined the Capital Fundraising committee - started at that time the ongoing paving stone project (if you don't have a stone yet please contact me for details), and I have constantly been amazed by the generosity of the Kenton family. When our youngest left Kenton, I volunteered as Alumni Officer....no training required!! With the help of a younger mind, our eldest, we updated the database gathering names and dates from School records and I spent many happy hours gathering together historical documents and finally reinstating the Buffalo newsletter. Over the years, I have been thrilled by the number of OKs who have signed up to receive the newsletter and am indebted to those who have taken the time to contribute to our small paper! I could not have produced this newsletter without your help and hope that you will continue to be in touch with this office. If you are in contact with any Old Kentonians not yet on our email group, please encourage them to contact me. With the School's Centenary just around the corner Kenton continues to need your contributions.

Michael Aronson (1939) passed away in November 2020. Michael was passionate about Kenton and supported the School whenever he was able. He will be missed, our sympathies to his family.

Colin Church (1952) passed away suddenly early 2021. Colin was a great supporter of Kenton College and was guest speaker on Speech Day 2003. Our sincere condolences to his family.

Michael & Colin's journeys since Kenton have been mentioned in previous newsletters.



so stay in touch!

Rest in Peace