

Kenton CENTENARY

1924-2024



Artist Isaac Kahlu Mwangi

In January 1924, a Journal was opened. Handwritten by Mr. William Jesse it holds valuable information and mentions the character of those first boys who joined the new school nestled on a hill in Kijabe.



In January 2024, Kenton College marks 100 years of education excellence in style.



Headteacher Sally Weston dressed as a 1920s 'formidable' head of school on Founders Day 16th January 2024.

Taken from Sally Weston's newsletter:-

"I write at the end of a wonderful half term, which saw a unique celebration in Kenton's long history, our Centenary. It was wonderful to share such a special event with so many of our current community and meet many many Old Kentonians and their families, some of whom had travelled from Canada, New York and the UK to celebrate this very special occasion.

Our Centenary Fair held on 16th January 2024, was truly exceptional, seeing everyone dressed in their 1920's attire and enjoying many activities, eating different treats, especially the magnificently decorated Centenary cake. The bonfire and simply spectacular fireworks saw our Founders Day celebrated in style. I did wonder what Finlay Cramb would have made of us all; I think he would have been amazed and very proud that the school he founded and worked so hard to build is thriving in 2024. My sincere thanks to The Parent Bonfire Committee, Mr Bareham, all the parents and the Kenton Estate, Housekeeping and

Catering Teams who were involved in making it such a successful event. Special congratulations to the Year 7 tent, which made the most money, and we raised a fantastic sum of KShs 700,000. Some of this total was utilised to provide the Christmas Goodie Bags and Food Donations in December. The remainder will be used to decorate and furnish the new library at Kileleshwa Primary School."



"Saturday 20th January saw us welcome some Old Kentonians and their families for tours of the school including our new Early Learning Centre."



Sally Weston greets Mrs Sue Hartley and Mr. Roger Hartley says hello to Michael Wilson leaver 1973



"Old Kentonians emotions were powerful as they walked around the school and reminisced about 'the happiest days of their lives'. They told us stories and shared memories of where their dormitories were, what the food was like and what mischief they got up to. They enjoyed visiting the Dining Hall and looking at all the shields, finding their names and thinking back to their days representing Kenton. Our oldest visitor, Russell Carver, left Kenton in 1946 and he had many fabulous stories to tell."



Michael Johnson leaver 1953 chats with Mohamed Mukasa, leaver 1986 who travelled for the celebration all the way from Canada. Michael Johnson happy to have located the shield with his name on it and with Grounds Manager Collins outside the school.

as our current parents enjoying meeting many people from across our community. My sincere thanks to all involved in this event, especially The Centenary Committee, Jilna Collis and her team, Sarova, The Wine Shop, Jays Pyrotechnics, our Jazz Band, Calabash Band, the DJ, Chris Foot our wonderful MC and our very own Estate, Catering and Housekeeping Teams. It was certainly an incredible evening celebrating an incredible school."



"It was wonderful to welcome back Roger and Sue Hartley and they took great pleasure in visiting the 'Jolly Roger' named after him and the 4 trees they planted as a family when they left Kenton."



Kenton teacher of over 30 years, Francis Oludhe with ex-Kenton teacher Juliet Nightingale. Sue Hartley, ex-Kenton teacher chats with Paul Sayer, leaver 1952



Juliet with Paul and her husband Charles Nightingale, leaver 1962



"We then moved onto the Gala Dinner, attended by over 400 guests including a number of octogenarians and Tony Davies (former Governor) with his wife Val. The projections onto the Main School building as well as the incredible lighting made for a very special atmosphere. The evening started with a spectacular fireworks display followed by delicious food, some speeches, a raffle and brilliant art auction. The dance floor was then the focus of a fantastic and memorable evening with many Old Kentonians reconnecting with classmates and their families after many years, as well



Ex-Kenton parent Julie Scott with daughter Tamara, leaver 2004. Mugwe Manga with wife Natalie Githuku, Head Girl and leaver 2004.



Ex-Kenton parent Petronella Cox with daughters Isabella, leaver 2006 and Francesca leaver 2010



The centenary Gala dinner Master of Ceremony [Chris Foot, leaver 1984](#) with his wife Daniela.



Left to right, [Neer Chandaria, leaver 2001](#), [Muchiru Kuria, Momoko Ueda, Chris Muthamia, head boy, Betty Cox and Francesco Bisletti leavers 2003](#).



[Stavros, ex-Kenton parents, ex-Board of Governors and Jane Spyropoulos, Alumni. Roger Hartley, ex-Kenton parent, teacher 1978-1979, ex-Headmaster 1993-2005 and Sue Hartley, ex-Kenton parent and teacher. With Dr. Harsh Khoda, leaver 1997, current Kenton parent and Lee Nyachae, ex-Kenton parent and on the Board of Governors.](#)



The perfect time to meet up with contemporaries. [Mohamed Mukasa, leaver 1986 catches up Bart Kamy, leaver 1992 and Simon Buggingo, leaver 1987. With Gordon Owles, leaver 1986 and Simon Sayer 1984.](#)



[Sally Weston, Headteacher. Chris Banks ex-Kenton parent, Chairman, Board of Governors and Simon Fisher, ex-Kenton parent and member Board of Governors.](#)



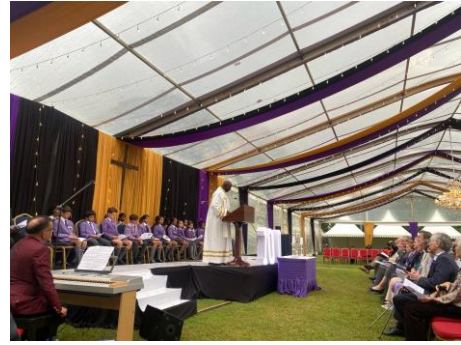
[Tony Church, leaver 1951, wonderful use of his school tie! Michael Johnson, leaver 1953.](#)



[Michael Johnson and his cousin Colin Johnson - School captain leaver 1955 on the mukamba drums to call the assembled to front pitch for the start of the fireworks.](#)



Current Kenton parents having a great time.



“On Sunday, we had a wonderful Thanksgiving Service led by Reverend Opuka. All of our readers, Tony Davies, Chris Banks, Stephanie Donaldson, Roger Hartley, Sophie Mbochi and our Head Boy Pranav and our Head Girl Lily - read beautifully despite some very loud, heavy rain. Kentatonix sang brilliantly and it was very special to welcome Old Kentonians, parents, pupils, staff and our whole Auxiliary team to share in this amazing occasion.”



Rachel Mbai, ex-Kenton parent and Wanjira Maathai, both on Kenton Board of Governors.



First Chairman of the Board of Governors and ex-Kenton parent 1979, Tony Davies with Paul Sayer, leaver 1952.



Our School dressed spectacularly for the event.

A FEW COMMENTS ON THE OCCASION

Roger and Sue Hartley

What a magnificent treat and rare privilege to be able to join in the centenary celebrations. It brought such joy to meet up with old friends, many of whom we had not expected to see again, and to make new friends whose reputations sometimes preceded them!

Tom Verdon, leaver 1977

I have now been back in Aus. for a couple of weeks after a wonderful visit to Kenya, made the more so after our visit to Kenton for the tour and the Centenary Dinner. To say that I was happy at the developments in the twenty odd years since I last visited the school and in the forty-six years since I left, would be an understatement! I was overjoyed to see the school looking so wonderful and to find it in the hands of such a capable and caring group of people! I think the plans for the development of the introductory level at the school are excellent and will provide an excellent foundation and introduction into the Kenton ethos going forward. Whilst the heart of the school looked and felt the same, the old shell to sound class changes, the dining halls, the wide stairway etc., the additions and extensions in the form of the auditorium and additional classrooms since my day give the school a modern and very up to date look! I found it quite moving to be back

in a place that I had been so happy in, even though I did probably experience Roy Stagg's cane rather more than most! It was lovely to be able to take my daughters, Maddy and Geni with me on a trip down 'memory lane' and I am deeply grateful to Sally Weston and all her staff, not least your good self for making the whole event possible!

I am also looking forward to seeing any pictures of the Centenary Dinner that come out in the Buffalo Newsletter. It was wonderful to see Roger Hartley and his wife Sue. Roger looked as if he could still sprint up to the upper playing field without breaking sweat! He had not changed a bit!

Thanks so much for all your efforts on our behalf Jane, all the very best to all the team involved in the Centenary Dinner.....it was an absolutely wonderful event and one that I was overjoyed to be able to attend.

[Momoko Ueda, leaver 2003](#)

Thank you for all the organizing! We all had a spectacular time and it was a joy to be back at Kenton!

It was lovely to be back at Kenton and I am still in awe by the turnout! I always knew that being a Kenton alumna was special, but the turnout of friendly faces and the sharing of personal memories, even across age groups solidified my belief that Kenton truly is where many of us forged lifelong friendships and relationships. It is funny what we remember of each other! I look forward to developing the (re)connections I made at the gala. Thank you to all the organizers and vendors for the wonderful event!

[Tony Church, leaver 1951](#)

The Centenary Dinner was a glittering event. The reception on the front terrace with the men in their DJ's and the ladies in their finery, all being warmly met by the Chairman and the HM was a fitting start to a wonderful evening. The lighting effects were spectacular with the school emblem, the Buffalo, blazoned above the school entrance. Of course that is where the HM's office is situated just on the right as you enter. Many of us Old Boys remember that office well, with mixed feelings!

The call to dinner on the Mukamba drums was very nostalgic. The dining arrangements were excellent, with the tables beautifully decorated, and well distributed to avoid congestion. I thought the cuisine and choice of food on the menu could not have been bettered.

Mr [Chris Foot](#), as MC performed his duties with aplomb and humour. The auction and raffle may have gone on a little long but Chris made sure tickets and bids loaded the school coffers for the approved improvements.

The live band may have been a little loud at times but there was much to "shout about" after 100 years of uninterrupted success in the academic arena and on the games fields.

My 3 years boarding at Kenton from 1949 to 1951 were most memorable.

May Kenton College thrive for the next 100 years.

[Paul Sayer, leaver 1952](#)

It was a wonderful event and the Thanksgiving Service too. We were most impressed and grateful for all the planning and preparations.

[Petronella Cox, ex-Kenton Parent. Isabella, leaver 2006 and Francesca, leaver 2010](#)

First of all, a very BIG thank you to you all, for the fantastic evening we attended, on 20th January 2024.

We were so happy to be part of this very memorable event and were amazed by the décor up by the school building itself, near the swimming pool and, especially, the gorgeous marquee, complete with chandeliers!

The fireworks were spectacular and so many elements were put together fabulously! Loved the little touches – the drums playing us in by Old Boys from early days, and the uji bowls!

The range of food was impressive and tasty.

Dancing was fun and the MC did a wonderful job throughout!

We were happy to buy some of the memorabilia on offer as well.

Well done to you all! You must be so delighted it all went off so well and that rain did not stop play, either!

OTHER NEWS FROM OLD KENTONIANS



Celebrating being together and Kenton's centenary away from the School – Old Kentonians [Michael Johnson](#), [Colin Johnson](#), [Simon Sayer](#), [Charles Nightingale](#) and [Tony Church](#). Looking forward to tucking in to that cake!



While many enjoyed the Gala Dinner, [Heather Hall \(Ketchum\)](#), [leaver 2006](#) celebrated the 20th January 2024 with the birth of their son, named (purely coincidentally) Finley! Congratulations Heather, Alexander, Lyra & Robyn. Welcome young Finley, what a fine name!

From that treasured handwritten 1924 journal, Kenton 100 years on has Social Media 'handles'. You can find other photos taken during the events and throughout this centenary year on these sites:-



Instagram: @kentoncollege



Facebook page: Kenton College Preparatory School



(Formerly twitter): @KentonCollegeKE



TikTok: @kentoncollege



LinkedIn:
Kenton College Preparatory School

Please [click here](#) to view the Centenary Video.

Please be aware that due to the Data Protection Act of Kenya parents/guardians are prohibited from taking and posting (on any social media platform) any photographs or video footage that contain children and adults who are not members of their immediate family without prior consent from those children's parents or from the adults.

As Centenary event photos are received by this office, they will be included in the next newsletter. We know there will be many that have not been featured here so please keep sending them in. Thank you.