



OLD ROAN

Chronicle

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Simon Perry, Old Roan Association President, 1991-92

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Write a short piece for the magazine I was asked. What on earth do Presidents write in their opening report, I wondered? Hoping for inspiration, I sorted out my collection of old magazines, and 50 or so issues later I was still none the wiser. I must admit that I was sidetracked by old reports of the football and cricket clubs (seeking the name Perry) which gave me reason to reminisce on the good old days. It is amazing how readable are past magazines. Anyway, a week after starting I still hadn't put pen to paper. How does one try to write an original article when it has all been said so succinctly so many times before? To follow the eloquence of Graham Johnson, the energy and humour of Steve Nelson and the diligence and drinking capacity of Monty Smith will be no mean feat. With very little more than enthusiasm and club loyalty I can only hope to fulfil a role given to so many notable characters of the past.

I am always surprised by the strength of the Association and Club particularly in the light of the present situation, with so many old and established clubs struggling for numbers and sides or folding up completely. As a young, and not very talented, sportsman, I was always given encouragement and useful tips by older, experienced club members; and it is now up to us to give that same encouragement to our younger element. For it is with them that our strength and future lies.

It has been a great pleasure this year to visit the Field, as I do regularly, and see so many new and enthusiastic young members, from the School, now turning out for our cricket and football teams. To illustrate this new phenomenon, this is being written by an extremely stiff President on Spring Bank Holiday Monday after yesterday's Sunday 3rd XI comprising five Old Roans, four school boys and two guests enjoying a very high-scoring but close defeat against Sidcup 3rd XI. Colts football teams comprising Roan Boys are also contemplated next season.

Jackie and I look forward to seeing all our colleagues and members of the Association and Club at our two main functions: The Association Reunion Dinner which will be held at the Club on Friday 18th October, and with their other halves at the Dinner Dance next March. It would be particularly pleasing to see our friends from the halcyon days of the '60s and '70s come out of the woodwork—Dennis Upton, Glen Pullen, Tony Rickson, Colin Castledine, Fred Jacobs, Ted Hadrill, Dave Bryden, Richard Dyson, Terry Barry, Peter Duffield, Del. Sleight and Fred Fuhr (both in the Antipodes), Paul Watts, Keith Banks, Don Bourne, Peter Hall, Roger Larkin...!

Finally, on behalf of all Old Roans, and personally, I must express my appreciation of the work of two recent past Presidents who seem to have instilled a new vibrancy into Kidbrooke Park Road - many, many thanks to Steve and Monty from all of us. Your past and present wholehearted efforts have been, and always will be, greatly appreciated by all of us.

Simon Perry
May 1991

REUNION DINNER — FRIDAY 18 OCTOBER, 1991
DINNER DANCE — SATURDAY 21 MARCH, 1992

SIMON PERRY — PRESIDENT

This year's O.R.A. President, Simon Perry, will need no introduction to any members who have been involved with the Club activities over the past 30 years — yes, it really has been that long Simon!

Like many Presidents before him, Simon has Roan blood (or is it bitter?) coursing through his veins. His father was at the school in the 1920's and has been a member of the Association ever since. Simon and younger brother Adrian came to the school together in 1956 — obviously a good year, as the writer was also making his nervous way along Maze Hill on that September morning. Simon, in fact, joined in the 3rd year after spending 2 unhappy years at a Reading boarding school - not a lot of people know that!

Simon soon settled in at Roan and excelled on the sports ground where he played for both the cricket and football 1st XI's. Simon's all-time hero at school was Dougie Weaver, who at that same time was a fearsome fast bowler and, of course, a superb footballer. Simon has also been known to mention the other fearsome fast bowler of that time — Dave Bryden!

Since leaving school in 1961 Simon has been a "one-club" man, playing both football and cricket for every team in the club. He did, however, play two football matches for Bexley United in the 60's after he was dropped by the Captain, Bill Brooks, having scored a hat trick for the 1st team the weekend before — all because Simon was seen drinking a pint *before* the match. It was tough at the top in those days!

In recent years Simon has been enjoying himself picking the ball out of the back of the net playing in goal for the Vets XI. This season, however, has seen him hang up his boots — a rather premature decision, in my view, based on his inability to see the ball in the second half. So what's new, Simon?

On the football pitch Simon will always be remembered for his ready wit. His team-mates, however, may not have appreciated the occasions when the flak was flying on the pitch and Simon would shout "Come on Roan — *we're* Grammar School Boys!"

At cricket, Simon's finest days must have been keeping to Terry Barry's mixture of spinners and cutters. His biggest disappointment was when Mike Callaghan declared against Colfes with Simon on 83 not out - he has never scored a century (yet!) — shame on you Mike. Simon is now with the Sunday 3rds, where he started in 1961, and is thoroughly enjoying himself as the elder statesman (and jug purchaser).

Simon has always been a wholehearted performer on the sports field, resulting in not only blood being spilled for the Old Roan cause. Four teeth have been lost so far — divided equally between football and cricket. It's quite a fearsome sight to see Simon just before a game taking out his false teeth. Of course, now that we have an established Veteran's XI it is not uncommon to see false teeth, hair-pieces and even pension books being thrust into the "kitty-bag".

Simon's contribution to Old Roan sport has not been confined to the pitch — he has always done his bit, acting as secretary and captain for various teams over the years and he is still taking his turn behind the bar and is occasionally to be seen in front of it as well!!!

True to his "one-club" image, Simon is still working as a Barrister's Clerk for the same Chambers he joined straight from school. During that time he has helped many young barristers on their way to becoming Q.C.'s and High Court Judges.

Simon is also a "one-woman" man and his wife, Jackie, (perhaps better known as "Doris") has spent many a happy hour preparing the teas at cricket matches *before* they were married!

I am sure Simon will enjoy his year as President — I know how much he loves the Old Roan Club. I also know that the Old Roan Club will enjoy his Presidential year — Simon's infectious sense of fun and humour will make sure of that.

Congratulations Simon — you deserve it.

Don Boon
June 1991

SECRETARY'S REPORT

The Annual General Meeting this year was poorly attended as was the one held the previous year. Indeed the meeting could not start on time for lack of a quorum, which is only twenty. Whilst it may not be the most exciting night of the social calendar it would be nice to see more members attending and showing their support for both the outgoing and incoming Presidents. Are most members so pleased with the Association that no-one feels they can join the Committee to bring fresh ideas to better the running of the Association? Of course, with an organisation of this nature with individuals of varying ages living all over Britain, and overseas, it is unreasonable to expect a large turnout. In fact for several of the last twenty-five years the attendance used to be exactly 39. Nevertheless, some time was spent discussing the low turnout of the A.G.M. and next year the meeting will be held on a Thursday. The date of next year's will be 26th March 1992. It was hoped that more people will be able to attend on a day when minds are not concentrating on the weekend ahead.

The following membership figures as at 31st December 1990 were reported at the A.G.M.:-

	1990	1989
Life Members	636	661
Fully Paid Ordinary Members	364	373
Junior Members	21	30
Honorary Members	2	2
Associate Members	28	25
Fully Paid Affiliated Club Members	14	10
Total:	1065	1101

Although Ordinary membership was down 9 on the previous year, 1989 had been a particularly high intake year with an increase of about 50 over 1988. Inevitably the number of life members reduces each year as few new members take the option to transfer to life membership.

Many of you will know that the Headteacher, Ann Tonkin, moved from Roan to Steyning Grammar School over the Christmas holidays and I am sure that we all wish her well in her new post. She was a considerable help to the Association and particularly the activities at the Field, including the Club. There was a spirit of goodwill and involvement of mutual benefit. Chris Deane, a former Deputy Head at Roan, has taken over and the co-operation between the School and Association will, no doubt, be continued and enhanced. In this connection the hard work

and time put in by Steve Nelson in his liaison with the School must be mentioned. A younger volunteer, nearer school leaver age, is sought to assist in his task of extolling the virtues of the activities provided through membership. Are there any recent Girl leavers who could fill this role? Steve has recently become even more tied up with his business ventures and is finding increasing difficulty in providing time for his many duties with the Association and Club.

Many of you will be interested to learn that the School has instituted (re-instituted ?) merit badges in the form of miniature stag's heads, and the Association has donated £500 towards their cost.

The Club remains the focal point of the Association, and there are events of various kinds nearly every month. Unfortunately, dates cannot be set far enough in advance for notification to be given in the "Chronicle". Events include the usual discos, quizzes, reunions, and the Roan Theatre Company (formerly the Old Roan Dramatic Society) put on an Olde Tyme Music Hall performance. A Karaoke night should have taken place by the time you read this. The Club is open Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday evenings from 8 p.m. and Sunday lunchtimes. Pop in when you can. Since I have moved I am not there to collect subscriptions as often - but still manage to visit from time to time. Members can write to either the Editor, David Horsburgh, or myself with news. The more news — the more interesting the "Chronicle" will be!

Tony Slaney
May 1991

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

The 1990 "Chronicle" was returned from the addresses listed below as they no longer live at the address in the Association's records. Can anyone supply the Secretary with the member's current whereabouts?

Balderson, Graham '65-'70
Coe, Geoffrey '66-'73
Coe, Howard Henry '59-'65
Fletcher, Graham '52-'60
George (nee Deane), Vicki '59-'64
Green, Alan '76-'83
Kirk, Anna '70-'77
Miskin, R.W. '14-'18
Newman, P.F. '45-'48
Vickers, John '34-'42

Old Roan Ties - available from the Secretary at £4 each

TREASURER'S REPORT

OLD ROAN ASSOCIATION

Subscription income remained steady in 1990 although no members took advantage of obtaining Life Membership. Interest on our funds on deposit continues to provide a large part of our revenue, which totalled £2,644.

Expenditure was contained, solely due to the decision not to publish a "Newsletter" as the lack of contributions rendered it uneconomic, but the total of £2,737 resulted in a small loss of £93 being carried forward to the Accumulated Fund.

We were pleased to donate £500 to the School to cover the cost of the new "merit" badges, and, after receipt of donations and investment interest, the carried forward balance of the Accumulated Fund stood at £11,885.

A further £100, from the Mary Higgs Fund, was paid to the School to assist with expenses at the London International Youth Science Fortnight. The Balance Sheet shows little change, with fixed assets of £3,624 and net current assets of £11,121.

The audited accounts were presented at the Annual General Meeting and adopted.

OLD ROAN CLUB

Our optimism for 1990 was well-founded. Bar sales at £34,502 were up 16% and the volume throughout increased nearly 13%. Whilst the gross profit percentage decreased due to our maintaining a stable range of prices, the amount generated showed a small increase. The addition of the redemption value on our loan from Whitbread gives a gross return of £7,456.

Club running expenses of £5,722 and other receipts (fruit machine etc.) of £1,634 left a healthy surplus of £3,368 carried forward to the Profit and Loss Account.

Additional heaters were purchased, along with new tables, curtains, and even a new till — Yes! an electronic one! Further expenditure is planned regarding flooring, carpet, furniture etc. to improve the Club and encourage use of the premises and thereby increase the bar turnover.

The Balance Sheet reflects a good position upon which we hope to build. The audited accounts were presented at the Annual general Meeting and adopted. Detailed copies of both sets of accounts are displayed at the Old Roan Club.

Neal S. Haslam, May 1991

THE BEATING OF THE BOUNDS

"To perambulate the bounds of the parish according to custom ..."

The beating of the bounds has been undertaken by Old Roans on a number of occasions. To enable a larger audience to participate in hearing some of the history of our founder's parish in Greenwich, the perambulation has now been prepared in the form of a lecture, and slide photographs taken of the landmarks.

This illustrated lecture will be given on Friday 6th September 1991 at the Pavilion, Roan Schools Playing Fields, commencing at 9.00 pm and will last about 45 minutes.

We hope the evening will be an informal social event and welcome Old Roans, Parents and Staff to attend.

Make a note in your diary now!

Neal Haslam, June 1991

OLD ROAN CLUB REPORT

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE 1990-91

Once again the improvement in our financial position effected during 1989 has been maintained and at last we are seeing an increase in the actual volume of sales.

We have taken steps to further up-grade the Club facilities and recent improvements include additional fan heaters, new tables, curtains, wall lights and a new "state-of-the-art" till (well almost!). Other plans are in hand and we hope that these measures will attract new members.

Our sales and profits have been helped by our efforts to have one major function per month at the Club, which has just about been achieved. Please keep up the efforts in this direction.

Apparently the paid bar-staff system that operates after both football and cricket matches is still up and running smoothly so hopefully we can look forward to continued coverage during the coming year.

To date, we are no further forward with our application to the Governors of the Roan Schools Foundation for an Agreement of Tenure; but, as many other matters have needed attention on the education front, perhaps our issue has had to take a lower priority than others at present.

Finally, thanks to everyone who has supported the Club. Keep up both the efforts and the elbows and, please, anyone who doesn't get down too much (or at all), be assured that a warm welcome is always waiting for you.

Thank you.

Mike Titheridge, May 1991

HOPE MEMORIAL TRUST

Jim Upton, Chairman of the Hope Memorial Trust, is working on a history of the Hope Memorial Camp. He asks Old Roans to supply him with memories of the camp and photographs of the early days.

Old Roans are very welcome to visit the new building, and any groups or individual wishing to use the facilities should contact Jim at the John Roan School.

Jim Upton
Hope Memorial Trust
The John Roan School
141 Maze Hill
Blackheath, SE3 7UD

Tel: (081) 858 8981
Fax: (081) 858 9101

The "Chronicle" will feature archive material on the Braithwaite Camp in future issues. The following excerpt shows how times have changed - and cars have improved:

"In 1930, forty boys left Euston with Mr. Mills at 10.30am and arrived at Braithwaite at 7.30pm for the Braithwaite Easter Camp. The Antient, although he had left in his car before the train party, arrived shortly after dinner the next day. Visits to Ullswater, Grange, Grasmere, Skiddaw and Buttermere were enjoyed by all. The camp was honoured by a visit from Captain White, who came especially to instruct us in the art of shooting 'Fuzzy-wuzzies' (sic)".

ANN TONKIN HEADTEACHER — JOHN ROAN SCHOOL (1985-90)

AN APPRECIATION

When Dr. Taylor retired in March 1985, after 16 years as headteacher of the Roan School and the new John Roan School, it was fortunate that he gave ample notice. The shortlist for the post of headteacher proved to be of mediocre quality and it had to be re-advertised. The second shortlist proved much higher in calibre with Ann standing out prominently as the best candidate. The I.L.E.A. readily endorsed her as the governors' choice.



*Ann Tonkin, John Roan School
Headteacher, 1985-90.*

Much of her experience and career has been outside the I.L.E.A. in the West Sussex Authority. She had originally worked as an R.E. teacher and after following an Open University Course she changed her subject to English. She extended her studies into educational research at the University of Sussex writing for her masters degree. Since then she has maintained her academic interests there as a visiting lecturer.

She always knew Greenwich well and was familiar with the Roan Schools, having been brought up in Erith. Her earlier teaching career had taken her to Kidbrooke School where she worked under Dame Mary Green. She came to the John Roan School after serving as deputy head at the Priory School in Lewes. Before that she had been Head of English at the Thomas Bennett School in Crawley where Beryl Scott, the last head of the Roan School for Girls, had been on the staff.

Ann took over the headship of the John Roan School at a difficult time. The School was still in the throes of amalgamation. The teaching unions were in dispute with the government. In addition, she had to cope with the difficulties of the School working on two sites with a badly planned new building. The Hargreaves Report had just been published and it fell to her to deal with the

issues it raised. The School was under-subscribed; and, as with other schools in the borough, there was a dramatic decrease in the numbers of students staying on after 16. New arrangements for G.C.S.E. had to be worked out which included Ann and all the staff in many extra hours of work with in-service training, meetings and consultations. Hard on the heels of this came the greater demands of the National Curriculum, bringing with them once again many extra hours of work, even more INSET and the need to re-equip on a low budget, not to mention the high pressure of having to implement it at a pre-set time. Her final period as headteacher saw the demise of the I.L.E.A. and the transfer of education to the London Borough of Greenwich. During the crucial time of the changeover, Ann was the Chair of the Greenwich Secondary Schools Headteachers Consultative Committee, and her experience and judgement were much valued by her professional colleagues.

She went far in achieving her goal of running a secure, friendly, welcoming, hardworking school. She has left behind a school with a fully subscribed roll with increasing numbers aspiring to the sixth form. She built up a democratic, devolved, management-structure between head, deputy heads, senior teachers, heads of departments and pastoral heads of years. She steered the School through the implementation of the Education Act of 1986 and the Education Reform Act of 1987 leaving the School well established into the National Curriculum. Beyond the confines of the John Roan School she encouraged the activities of the John Roan Association, and maintained good contact with the Old Roan Association, while her relationship with the Governors was friendly and excellent. She improved the School's relationship with its feeder primary schools, and was instrumental in changing the sixth form consortium arrangements so that John Roan now works in partnership with the Blackheath Bluecoat School; and she was strong in the defence of John Roan maintaining its own sixth form in the recent Tertiary Education Consultations. During the time of her headship she also served on the local Tertiary Education Board.

Perhaps she will be best remembered in gratitude by the John Roan School staff and pupils and the Old Roan Association for her initiative in obtaining funds from the John Roan Foundation to rebuild the camp at Braithwaite for the Hope Memorial Trust. This is a marvellous asset available to the present and future generations of John Roan staff and pupils.

Ann has left John Roan School after five active and very productive years to take up the headship of the Queen Elizabeth Grammar School at Steyning, a large community school and, like the John Roan School, a voluntary foundation. We wish her well. She does, however, remain in contact with John Roan on her election as vice-chair of the John Roan Foundation.

Nigel Edgerton
June 1991

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EDUCATION AND THE JOHN ROAN SCHOOL IN 1991

Unless I've missed one, this year's major buzzwords have been "differentiated learning" — basically suiting the task to the best needs of the individual pupil. If we crack it, gone will be the days of the well-intentioned whole-class lesson or homework aimed at the mythical "middle-range" or "normal" student, leaving many floundering and others frustrated. Each student will find satisfaction by being gently stretched to the limits of her/his ability. Visualise an all-ability class of 26 or 27 and you begin to see the enormity of the task, but the journey towards the goal has usefully refocussed our thinking and many lessons are the better for it.

The inevitable clutches of letters (always in capitals to mark their importance) have, of course, dominated discussion. L.M.S. (not railways — that shows my age!) Local Management of Schools which will come in next April and give us full control of the ever-dwindling resources voted to us by our political masters; E.R.A. — the Education Reform Act — with its National Curriculum (strangely rarely referred to as the N.C.) and its attendant S.A.T.S. (Standard Attainment Tests) and T.V.E.E. (which has taken over from T.V.E.I. — you can look those up yourselves!) have all taxed our rapidly befuddled brains. We haven't yet adopted U.S.S.R. (United Sustained Silent Reading) where all the school, pupils and adults alike, read in silence for a given time each day or week. It sounds like a good idea to me, but Kenneth Clarke is reported as having said that he thought it was intrinsically hypocritical as it gave the false impression that adults find reading satisfying!

Away from the jargon, though, it has been a good year as you will see from the reports in the John Roan News. Above all there has been as ever a great deal of exciting work going on in the classrooms — youngsters brimming over with ideas — and succeeding in communicating them in talk, writing, drama, dance, artwork — whatever medium suits them best. There have been the bad days — there always were — but many more when the young people have yet again given the lie to the dismal talk of falling standards that is so popular in certain quarters of the popular press — don't believe *all* you read — but then if Kenneth Clarke is right, you don't read anyway do you?

Nigel Ballantyne
June 1991

NEWS FROM THE JOHN ROAN SCHOOL

Excerpts from quarterly copies of the John Roan News

The Christmas tradition of entertaining the local community and providing food hampers for the senior citizens of Greenwich continued last December with the John Roan School Choir performing at Trinity Hospital Greenwich and the St.Mark's Community Centre. The choir members clearly enjoyed themselves and the staff and students received many thank-you letters.

The farewell presentation evening in December for Ann Tonkin was a most enjoyable occasion supported by the school's staff and governors, the education authority, and friends within the local community. The respect and affection felt for Ann by her colleagues and friends were clearly evident on the night. With the support and help of colleagues and parents she has moved the school far along the road of providing a high quality comprehensive education for all pupils.

We wish her every success in her new post of Headteacher of Steyning Grammar School, Sussex, our loss being their gain. Ann writes in her final staff bulletin that "I shall still keep the Roan connection. We should all be proud of our combined achievements and of the young people in our care."

Under the heading "Roan pupil wins national prize" the Spring 1991 newsletter reports that Larry Allen, a student in our 6th form, has won a Special Commendation from Prince Michael of Kent in the National Road Safety Awards Competition for an invention which will improve road safety, called the "Autovision". Larry designed the system after seeing the problems his father faced as a driver when pulling out of a junction where parked cars make it hard to see on-coming traffic. He decided that the answer was to mount a camera on the front-off-side bumper of the car and connect it to a small screen on the dashboard. There has been much interest in Larry's invention which he designed with some guidance from Design and Technology Teacher, Mr.Bennett. Rover cars put a prototype into a car for him for a trial display and there was much excitement at school when television news reporters visited John Roan to see the design in action. Toshiba has entered Larry into the finals of their Year of Invention competition and he has the chance of winning a nine day trip to Japan. Larry wants to become a Graphic Designer and hopes to see his invention in production soon.



Larry braves the media attention.

Various fundraising events during the year indicate the social awareness and concern of current staff and students. A Memorial Service last November to commemorate all those who died in the two World Wars and subsequent conflicts raised over £50 for ex-service people in need. The 4th and 5th year disco and the staff Christmas Dinner raised £105 for the famine in Ethiopia. "Red Nose Day" on March 15 featured pupils dressed as St.Trinians girls, wearing pyjamas or dressed like punks! The staff joined in the activities with Mr.Smith recalling his hippy days, complete with platform shoes, and Ms.Prentice and Ms.Guest dressed as clowns. Events included sponsored silences, runs, swims, dances, tap dances, car washes, football matches and many other money-making ideas including a 10p privilege payment for not wearing the school uniform. The day was completed by a Disco which alone raised over £100. Peter Lamb, P.E. Staff, completed the London Marathon and raised over £450 which was divided between the Muscular Dystrophy Cause, the School mini-bus fund and the School Festival Appeal. Three students ran in the Mini-Marathon. An impromptu collection at assembly raised money for the Crisis in Africa Appeal.

If you want to get an up to date, well informed opinion, ask a pupil at the John Roan School. This was the view of the B.B.C. Radio One News reporters when they came to ask fifth form students what they thought of the government's latest proposals on History teaching in the National Curriculum. Their concern centred around the issue of when History stops and Current Affairs begins. The students, who included Alex Ayares, Charlotte Kay, Jack Croze, Tamsyn Tyrwhitt and Paul Merry, felt that they should be able to investigate fairly recent events as part of their History courses. They made the point that only through linking the study of the past and the present could they be prepared adequately for the future.

During the Summer Term, the John Roan School elected to become a non-smoking institution. After a period of consultation with governors, parents, pupils teaching and non-teaching

staff, the overwhelming view was to ban smoking from all areas of the school's sites except for a designated room in each building. In addition it was agreed to:

Put up "No Smoking" signs and anti-smoking displays around the school

Inform job candidates of the School's policy on non-smoking

Make anti-smoking education an important part of the curriculum

The concern for the environment is also seen in the launch of another of John Roan School's "Green Teams". Mark Fisher, Tessa Wake, Teresa Fisher, Claire Martin and Pam Nixon organised a litter race as part of a campaign to take care of our environment. The School now has a "Green Team" from each year group and the pupil committee will meet to work on the next project. John Roan School pupils both care and work for their school environment. We are members of the "Adopt a Patch" scheme for keeping Blackheath clear of litter and rubbish. Through education and voluntary groups such as "The Green Team" we will make a long lasting commitment to improving the environment.

The School Sports Day takes place at the School Field on Tuesday 16 July starting at 1100. Familiar names to Old Roans will include Bernie Turner as starter and Nigel Ballantyne supervising the shot. The Sports Day also appears to include tennis.

Founder's Day is celebrated on Friday 12 July with an Awards Ceremony at the Maze Hill School at 9.30 am and the Founder's Day Service at St. Alfege's Church, Greenwich, at 1130 am.

The Kentish Times reports in June under the heading "School leads nation" that the John Roan School has been chosen as a national model example of a teaching method used in the borough for years. The School has been chosen by the Government-sponsored National Foundation for Educational Research (NFER) for a video highlighting partnership teaching. This offers pupils from the ethnic minorities a chance to study in class with their fellow students. In the past they were taken out and taught English separately. Under the method, the English as a Second Language teacher will come in to the history, maths or geography class and help children with their lessons.

At the end of January 1991, Nigel Edgerton resigned as Chair of the Governors of the John Roan School after holding the position for sixteen years. His place was taken by Celia Davies. Chris Deane wrote to Nigel on behalf of colleagues to thank him for the time and commitment that he gave to the School over these many years.

NIGEL EDGERTON

Nigel Edgerton's contribution first to the Roan School for Boys and then to the John Roan School has been outstanding. When the history of the School comes to be up-dated to include the amalgamation, his tireless efforts as Chair of Governors at that very difficult time should be fully acknowledged. Inevitably, I suppose, most of his hard work took place behind the scenes, and only those of us who served on the Governing Board throughout that period can fully testify to the devotion with which he negotiated with the Authority to gain the best deal possible for the staffs and pupils of the amalgamating schools.

It was not an easy task, but, with the good of the children of Greenwich always uppermost in his mind, he fought plans which might have disadvantaged them and succeeded in getting officialdom to see things our way.

He has been a great support to the headteachers and performed that most difficult of tasks: the chairing of meetings with a firmness that kept things moving without governors feeling that they were thwarted in having their say.

Perhaps my most enduring memories will be of the hours (and hours) I have spent with him at interviews for staff appointments. Often we deliberated virtually until midnight but under his leadership we were a byword in the Division for thoroughness and fairness. It is a great sadness that ill-health has forced him to relinquish a post that he loved and to which he brought such energy. All those of us who knew him, and many, many more — pupils and staff — who didn't, owe him a great debt of gratitude.

Nigel Ballantyne, June 1991

NOTES FROM THE PAST PRESIDENT

It is the morning of Monday 25th March and I have just been awakened by a polite cough from Jim Bird ('54-'59) who had been good enough to escort me home the previous evening! A little later, whilst walking towards Eltham for a pre-arranged meeting with a number of other Old Roans, I remembered the ceremonial handing over of the Presidential Chain to Simon Perry the previous afternoon. Not unnaturally my thoughts turned to the previous year and to my presidency of the Old Roan Association.

What, if anything, had been achieved? Had I enjoyed it? How did I feel about the burden of office recently lifted from my shoulders? My initial reaction, which has not subsequently changed, was one of relief, coupled with a considerable degree of exhilaration, that the events of the previous forty-eight hours had been such an outstanding success. The Dinner Dance had been attended by over (140) one hundred and forty Old Roans and their guests wining, dining, and then dancing to the music of the "Swinging Eddies". The following Sunday morning, the School football team which had won the English Schools' F.A. Under-19 Trophy in 1971 took a trip down memory lane and played an Old Roan Select XI at the School Field. An entertaining game, matched by a large and appreciative crowd, saw the '71 side run out 6-4 winners. Players and spectators then adjourned to the Clubhouse for well-deserved refreshments. My heartfelt thanks go to Barry Thomas and Trevor Puddifoot for their considerable contributions to the success of both occasions.

The other major Association function of the year was the Reunion Dinner held on 26th October at the Club. This event was equally successful and I conclusively proved that the President does not necessarily have to make long speeches! I class this as an achievement as it removes an obstacle from worthy individuals who might otherwise be reluctant to accept the presidency.

Had I enjoyed it? In retrospect, yes, although at times I wondered why I was working so hard! My visit to the School for the Founders Day Ceremony was particularly enjoyable, and I was singularly impressed by the attitude and demeanour of all those involved. Old Roans need have no fears about the direction in which the School is heading.

Finally, my thanks to everyone who supported me during my year in office and especially to Debbie Wallis, our new Social Secretary, whose energy and enthusiasm was a major contributory factor to what I feel can clearly be rated as a successful year. The Association should be a vibrant and active organisation, and in this context the choice of Simon Perry as your new President is an excellent one. Simon will be looking for your support so why not resolve to attend at least one of the major functions during the coming year? I can assure you that these are very enjoyable evenings.

A LIFE — MARY SHEPPARD (1915-1991)

Mary Florence Sheppard, who died on 20th February 1991 aged 75, was born in Woolwich, the daughter of the talented artist and calligrapher, A. J. Watts. Her natural talent was developed at the Roan School and led, in 1932, to a scholarship at Blackheath School of Art where she spent three years studying textile design. She also gained valuable experience under her father working on illuminated manuscripts before joining Art Needlework Industries in Kensington.



Mary Sheppard at home in 1987.

In September 1936 Mary joined the design studio of the Royal School of Needlework where work had already begun for the Coronation of King Edward 8th. Following the abdication, the Coronation of King George 6th and Queen Elizabeth required new designs, an additional canopy and a new train for the Queen, and into this everyone at R.S.N. put a stitch. In the autumn of 1938 she was sent to the Glasgow Empire Exhibition with the School's stand in the "Women of the Empire" Pavilion and on return to London was promoted to the showroom of the R.S.N. in South Kensington.

A year later, at the outbreak of war, she joined her father in the drawing office of the Royal Arsenal, Woolwich, to work on engineering tracing, posters and art layouts. The war years in south-east London were full of incident, being bombed out at home and work, and meeting her future husband, Victor, during the Blitz. Then in August 1947 they sailed to a new life in Cape Town, South Africa, without a job or accommodation. Here they quickly found work and married in February 1949.

The following years brought Mary many private commissions for art work, an important presentation address for the International Red Cross and the beginning of a series of watercolours of South African wild flowers from the forest around the homestead.

It was whilst visiting her parents late in 1952 that she decided to stay over for the Coronation and in March 1953 joined the Earl Marshall's office where she inscribed many hundreds of the Queen's invitations to the ceremony. This period of intense and exacting work to the highest standards under pressure was, without doubt, the most exciting experience of Mary's artistic life.

For this she had a seat inside the Abbey at the dress rehearsal, and on Coronation Day a seat in the Royal Household stand outside Buckingham Palace. A few days later came the award of the Queen's Coronation medal.

Returning to Cape Town in 1954 Mary gave several radio talks on her experiences and continued her series of wild flower paintings. Amongst the commissions at this time was a major illuminated address for presentation to the Queen Mother. 1956 saw a move into the city of Cape Town as wardens of the Michaelis Art Gallery, and the founding of the South African Heraldry Society. Two years later her design for the International Red Cross centenary logo came second in a worldwide competition.

Late in 1961 Mary and Victor came to live in England, settling in Brighton for his work at the Royal Pavilion. Unfortunately the onset of inherited Glaucoma in 1975 went undiagnosed and severely depleted the sight of one eye which put an end to her flower painting. From this time she began an intensive study of nutrition and health through vitamin therapy that enabled her to stabilise and partly repair the damage. A change of job took them to rural west Wales in 1971; Lewes in 1974, and finally to Rustington in 1987 where she began writing children's stories and was particularly happy.

A.V.S.
April 1991

REUNIONS & PHOTOGRAPHS

The Club has on display a number of the panoramic school photographs that were taken, usually at four yearly intervals, to include all pupils and staff. However, since these were salvaged from the Devonshire Drive building, they are all of the Girls' School. If any Old Roan has any such photographs taken of the Boys' School and would be prepared to loan or donate them to the Club for display, would they kindly contact any member of the Club Management Committee or the Editor.

A positive effort is under way to enhance the Club by hanging quality framed photographs of personalities, events and sports activities. Many of the photographs used in the magazine will be framed and annotated to provide a continuing pictorial archive of the School, Club and Association. The Editor is used to having photographs re-taken and improved and we promise to return original copies. If you have any suitable photographs that you feel may suit this purpose or exposure in a future magazine then please contact the Editor.

Following the successful football match between the English Schools Cup Team of 1971 and a President's XI, a number of the lads from the "Class of '71" thought that it would be a good idea to arrange a reunion for the year, particularly since the years either side have held successful reunions in recent years. I am prepared to act as a focus point in getting a reunion going; so, if members of the year can let me know where they are and if they would be prepared to support such an event, would they kindly contact me at the Club or at home (address at the front of the "Chronicle"). Furthermore, if anyone has news of, or contact with, any of those chaps who did not join the Association, could they let me know. I am also short of a "Stag List" for that year so I also welcome a copy or photocopy.

Dave "Dap" Andrews
June 1991

MEMORIES OF EASTNEY STREET — H. "Ginger" Lister ('16-'22)

The staff photograph in the last "Chronicle" brought back many happy memories for me. I joined the School in 1916 and most of the staff in the photograph were there. The terrifying "Froggie" Llewellyn, the gentle Kirby, the dapper "Billy" Mann, the brisk Mr. Jackson, "Jo" Amesbury, and, of course, Sharp, the school caretaker, with his formidable moustache. In 1916 there was Mr. Cordery who helped Mr. Parker with the School Cadet Corps. There was also Paul Selver, a bushy-haired man who translated into English the famous play, "R.U.R.", by the Czech writer, Karel Kapek.

We had a smaller yard behind a tall brick wall for our recreation, in the middle of which stood a giant stride which was later cut down as being too dangerous for us to use. By the side of the yard was the so-called gym with high and stout ladders for us to exercise and play on. The "gym" was really a high, open shed, the floor of which was covered with dry tan from which the dust rose in clouds as we ran about.

The assembly hall seemed huge to us, and was filled with long benches, the backs of which could be pulled forward to form a desk on which to write. The staff stood down the sides at morning assembly when the Antient and Mr. Potter took prayers from a raised platform. There was the awful morning when the Antient's memory failed him in the middle of a well-known prayer and he said, "Damn" very loudly and hurriedly closed with a blessing.

I recollect the smell of stale cabbage in the so-called dining room, and on rainy days the pervading smell of wet coats which were hung on the walls beside the stairs and in the corridors.

Ronald was the Head Boy and we all worshipped him. He later became a professional soldier and rose to be a brigadier.

In the "News of Old Roans" the name of Fred Cutbush reminded me of his musical prowess and I was sorry to read of the deaths of W.S. Gosling and G.T. Scudamore who were contemporaries of mine. I wonder what happened to "Bunny" Bartlett, Rumsey Goldsburgh and "Cheesy" Carder - by no means academic characters, but cheerful sinners and full of mischief.

Speech days were held in Greenwich Town Hall and we boys used to put a bet on when Mr. Pascoe-Williams, a Pickwickian character among the governors on the platform, would fall asleep, which he invariably did.

I can continue, but I hope that these few random memories will be of interest to you. Roan gave me the opportunity to go on to university and I am for ever grateful to it and to the masters who taught us, "Floreat Roana".

Hubert Lister — Alas, no longer "Ginger"!

May 1991

Notes:

"R.U.R." was the first play ever to present mechanical figures performing the role of human beings. It caused quite a sensation at the time. R.U.R. stood for "Rossum's Universal Robots". The giant stride was a stout wooden pole with a revolving wheel at the top, from which hung strong ropes, each with an iron ring at the end. You held the ring with both hands and ran round the pole until you "took off" under your own momentum. You then swung round in the air at the end of the rope. The game was to "cut out" other boys swinging on the ropes by swinging higher and faster than they. Actually, it became a bit dangerous!

THE ROAN THEATRE COMPANY

Seated in reasonable comfort — compared with the old days, luxuriously — on padded red velvet seats, two moderate but very select audiences enjoyed the Roan Theatre Company's production of "Pack of Lies", a play about the communist spies, the Krogers, and the sadness caused by their friendship with an ordinary English family, the Jacksons, who were instrumental in bringing them to justice.

Trevor Talbot, whom we have always known as a fine actor and entertainer, showed that he is also as fine a producer as the Old Roans have developed. His capacity for hard work, attention to detail, dramatic sensitivity, and understanding of the themes of the play inspired his cast to give a performance which matched any which has graced the School stage in the past.

Joan Stanbridge, in her first lead for the Company, gave a most moving portrayal of a woman who is made to feel like a fly in the power of "wanton boys", and whose death at their hands was implied so touchingly in her husband's final monologue. She played the effect on the personality of an "ordinary housewife and mother" of mounting stress brought on by suspicion and guilt very convincingly.

Graham Johnson as her husband gave the sort of professional performance we have come to expect from him; masterly understatement which never fails to arouse the sympathy of the audience. Their daughter was played by Lesley Dixon making her debut for the Company. The three of them had to create the picture of an ordinary family which is forced by circumstances to face up to problems for which it is totally unprepared — an extremely difficult effect to bring off; and the fact that they managed so well speaks much for their individual ability and Trevor Talbot's direction.

Ivor Hughes as the "civil servant" caught the menace disguised as civility, "the smile on the face of the tiger", which seems to be the trademark of British counter-espionage techniques. Acting the part of someone acting a part — was the man really concerned for the family? — is a very difficult undertaking, and Ivor Hughes did well to be so convincing.

Beryl Knott as Helen Kroger proved an excellent foil to Joan Stanbridge's Barbara Jackson. She brought her usual detailed observation of human behaviour to the part — the very slightest of drunken staggers in the Christmas party scene, for example — a technique which won her the award as best supporting actress in the Zimbabwe National Drama Festival in 1987.

Barbara Roe (who doubled as a first rate property mistress), Rosalind Walker and Alf Knott completed a cast which won golden opinions from many of the audience for whom this was their first time at a Roan Play. The set was up to the "good old days" standard — even Lionel Berry would have been pleased — and again Trevor Talbot managed to lead from the front and push us to great efforts at the same time. Richard Rickson was our prompter, and we were lucky to have Mike Smith as our Production Manager. Our special thanks go to Brian Hoy, Martin Baines and Ray Aldridge at the School.

Equally well received was the Music Hall put on at the School Pavilion before the best Friday night audience of the week. We missed Theresa Wilkins who was busy with baby, but all the old favourites were there, plus one new boy, Chris Knott, who became "the voice" in place of Ivor Hughes. A Dutch woman staying with friends of one of the cast was particularly impressed — "What a wonderful insight into the social idiosyncracies of the British working class", she said in better English than we are accustomed to at the Pavilion — and she had been living in Australia!

"Your umbrella work was most effective". Those who saw the show would understand. It was good to see George Witten, out and more or less about, down at the Pavilion again. He enjoyed the show and chatting with old friends such as Stan and Margery Berry, Ann Chambers and Peter Williams — as well as Joe Broadfoot and Steve Nelson and members of the cast. We shall need a pianist for our next Music Hall as our present one is returning oop North soon. Nudge, nudge, wink, wink, say no more!

Alf Knott
June 1991



"Pack of Lies" — Graham Johnson, Joan Stanbridge, Ivor Hughes

The O.R.A. was pleased to have been involved in the participation by James Armstrong at the London International Youth Science Fortnight last summer. This conference, in its thirty-third year, is an event of high reputation and great merit. James was a leading science student at the John Roan School and at the committee meeting in December his father explained how much the attendance at the conference had proved beneficial. It is hoped that further John Roan School pupils involved in Science will participate at future LIYSFs and the Association has agreed to assist where possible.

THE FIFTIES

Only three — the skipper and the brothers Williams — of the above were still regular members of the team at the end of the decade, but it must be conceded that Len Groves' tally of nearly 500 wickets before he effectively bowled out of 1st.XI cricket in 1955 would have satisfied most front-line bowlers for a full 10 years. The exception was John Williams who, by claiming only 98 wickets in 1960, failed to exceed 100 each and every summer; add to that 1000 runs in '52-3-4-5-57 and 59 and there are no prizes for guessing the "man of the decade".

Dave Dawtry and Keith Fincham had left the area by '51, and Sid Dalton retired at the end of that season. Bill Gosling, Arthur Hopwood, and Ernie Townsend played diminishing roles for a number of years and Keith Ratcliffe called it a day in '55 — thereafter becoming a devoted umpire.

Among the players who consolidated places in the early fifties were Colin Trew — initially as a mobile outfielder, but soon to establish himself as a sound and reliable opener — Bryan Endersbee, who batted effectively throughout the decade, and (to everyone's surprise) in '56 took over fifty wickets with gentle away-floaters, and Bill Brooks, a natural wicket-keeper who actually seemed to enjoy standing up to Len Groves. Maurice Potter could bowl quite rapidly but his action was scarcely a thing of beauty, seemingly endowed with more than the statutory two arms and legs. Alan Dawe appeared on the scene whilst still at school — happy initially to score — and when offered the occasional game he introduced his bag to take over the book...John Cramp, no less, who became an ardent camp follower and subsequently a most competent umpire.

Later arrivals to make their mark included Ron Parker ('52) who was to take some of the bowling burden from Len's shoulders. 1952 yielded a record 177 wickets for Len, making 590 in four consecutive summers. He was never thereafter the same force. The following season saw the debuts of Robin Dolder, destined to form with John an off-spinning alliance, and Graham Chambers — who was to become synonymous with O.R. cricket. Del Dreher scored 50 upon his very first appearance two years later and in 1956 John Huntley began an illustrious and still thriving career.

This ten year span was remarkable in many ways. John's overall contribution has already been mentioned, and it is no surprise that he topped both batting and bowling averages; two particular facts, however, must not escape mention. In 1958, his best score was an undefeated hundred and his best return with the ball 9 for 54; would you believe that they occurred in the same match? 31 May v O.Askeans... and the crowning irony was that the elusive wicket was taken by his brother (cannily brought on with clear instructions to bowl with a degree of width; this I can assure you, was not difficult, but one could not legislate for the stupidity of the batsman!). Twelve months later Midland Bank was the scene for his most commanding innings. In reply to 202-8 dec., during which he bowled 28 overs and took 4 wickets, we were 16 for 3 when John came in; the sixth wicket fell at 65. From this decidedly unhealthy position a partnership of 90 developed with Alan Dawe (24) and then the final 50, to which Robin Dolder contributed a single. John won the match with a six over extra-cover and came in with 148... over 80% of the runs scored from the bat whilst he was at the crease.

Other centuries were achieved by Colin Trew and Graham Chambers (two apiece) and by Alan Dawe. The most successful bowlers, after Len and John, were Ron Parker and Robin Dolder. Complete records are appended below. They do not, however, reveal Graham's outstanding form in 1959 when he scored a record 1472 runs at an average of 42. A century in his penultimate innings and nine fifties sent him away happy for his sabbatical in the States; he was

greatly missed the following summer when our 13 wins proved the fewest since records began.

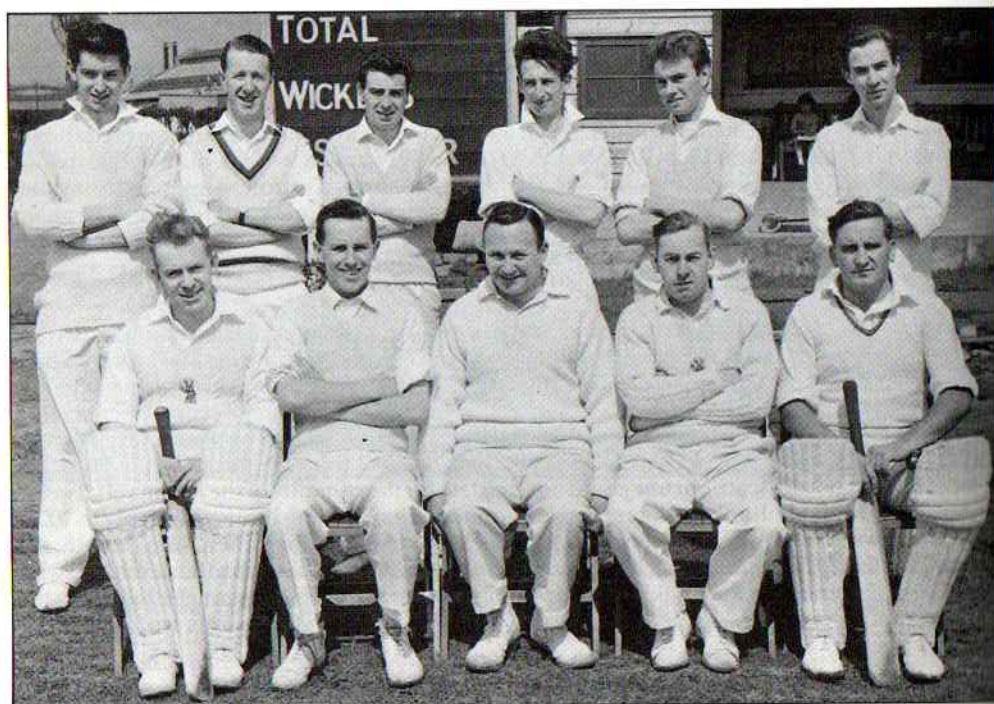
The seasonal success of the 1st. XI throughout the fifties was also quite exceptional. Each year the number of matches won exceeded those lost; the overall figures being ...

204 won, 107 lost, 162 drawn

There was even a tie: v Honor Oak in 1955 ... Honor Oak 192 (Parker 6-72), Old Roan 192 (Williams J 49)

This record was a commentary upon the shrewd leadership of Harry Townsend who raised captaincy to a fine art — or perhaps a precise science would be more apt; he encouraged, cajoled and seldom missed a trick ... and was ever generous in the bar afterwards.

It was Harry who in 1950 sowed the seeds of a touring week, and this duly flowered in '51. We chose Sussex, stayed in Worthing, and repeated the venture in '52 and '53. These tours were open to all club members and proved so popular (and therefore oversubscribed) that in 1954 two "weeks" were organised. A party of 2nd/3rd XI players arranged a week in the Folkestone area and the 1st XI nucleus, with some O.Colefian support, moved to the Isle of Thanet where we booked a season ticket for the remainder of the decade. The Folkestone tour also continued to thrive — to the general benefit of the club.



O.R.C.C. 1st. XI 1959 v Metrogas 2 May. Back Row : Peter Boakes, Bryan Endersbee, John Reeves, Derek Dreher, John Huntley, Graham Chambers. Front Row: Peter Williams, Alan Dawe, Harry Townsend, John Williams, Colin Trew

I apologise to those performers not, as yet, mentioned by name, but give below figures for 1951-60 of all those who scored 500 runs or took 50 wickets:-

	Runs	Average	100/50	Wickets	Average	5(+)
J.Williams	10,370	36.2	9 59	1,207	11.0	106
P.Williams	9,089	24.1	43	11	17.9	
C.Trew	5,702	22.1	2 24	2	64.0	
G.Chambers	4,174	27.6	2 20	112	18.7	3
B.Endersbee	4,086	18.6	15	82	23.3	3
H.Townsend	2,790	14.4	6	78	18.9	1
A.Dawe	2,277	14.5	1 3			
J.Huntley	1,580	12.6	2	140	18.2	2
D.Dreher	1,452	17.0	4	103	19.4	4
W.Brooks	1,084	14.8	2			
K.Ratcliffe	834	17.7	1	2	14.0	
F.Smith	816	12.0		1	33.0	
J.Stringer	720	12.2	1	17	32.0	
M.Potter	592	8.2		138	18.6	2
D.Morton	568	17.2	1			
B.Phillips	539	12.8	1			
P.Hodges	513	21.3	2			
P.Strong	510	13.4		59	20.9	1
L.Groves	439	6.3		494	11.5	32
R.Parker	326	9.0		225	14.4	15
R.Dolder	319	7.5		156	19.3	12
T.Barker	287	15.1	1	60	18.5	
T.Wright	180	6.2		71	14.2	3
P.Boakes	13	1.1		69	23.0	2

There, by some quirk, are 24 names — exactly two teams, with 12th men. I have selected my "XI of the Fifties" (which I have submitted, under seal, to your editor) and invite you to make your choice ... in batting order, with a 12th man, submitted to the editor please. I shall hope to discuss the outcome in the December Newsletter, and offer a modest reward for the "winner" (Ed's decision final etc. etc ...)

I look forward to taking you through the Sixties in 1992.

Peter Williams
April 1991

The imbalance in serious reporting of the cricket teams in recent issues has been adequately redressed by the inclusion in this magazine of the excellent contribution by Peter Williams with the promise of further reports on the 1960s and 1970s. If further heroic successes and failures on the cricket field are not to go unrecorded in these pages, the Editor suggests that end of season reports for 1991 are forwarded by the end of October this year.

JOHN ROAN SCHOOL LODGE — NO 5085

The School has had a Lodge of Freemasons, formed from ex-pupils and members of Staff, for over 60 years. The Lodge, named "The John Roan School Lodge", was founded in 1929 and was the 5,085th. to be recognized by the United Grand Lodge of England since Lodges became formally organized in the 18th century. Hence No.5085 usually appended to the name of the Lodge.

Since our foundation in 1929, there has been such a steadily increasing interest in Freemasonry that the number of Lodges has nearly doubled. In recent years new Lodges have been formed at the rate of about 40 a year — there are now about 9000 active Lodges.

As a School Lodge we retain strong links with the School to the extent that all members currently are ex-pupils. Accordingly there is something that we all have in common even before our Masonic interests — a continuing interest in the past, present and future of the John Roan School. It is interesting to note that at a time when the School was known as simply "The Roan School" the Founders of the Lodge called it by the name that the School was to assume some 50 years later.

Many schools have lodges formed by ex-pupils — our Lodge being particularly close to those associated with Addey & Stanhope and the Old Wilsonians. As competitors at football, cricket and cross-country we may have been earnestly opposed to each other; but, when we meet at Masonic meetings, these old defeats and victories are (nearly!) forgotten.

One of the advantages of joining a school lodge is that there is generally a wider spread of professions and interests than in other lodges where a particular vocation or industry can predominate. There is little worse than spending all day adding numbers or installing central heating, and then going to a lodge meeting where you encounter another 50 enthusiastic accountants or plumbers!

The Editor has asked if I could "enlighten" his readers about some of the aspects of Freemasonry in general and the John Roan School Lodge in particular. There has been so much information and misinformation written about Freemasonry over recent years that I do not propose to use the "Chronicle" to add to the debate. However, I will give some facts that are relevant to membership but that are not often addressed.

How much does it cost?

Full annual membership of our Lodge currently costs £96.00. New members must also pay a one-off fee, currently £60.00.

What do I get for my £96.00?

Formal Lodge meetings are held four times a year. Much of this subscription goes toward providing dinner and wine at these meetings. The rest goes towards administration costs — printing, postage etc.

Are there any more costs?

Yes. A principal objective of Freemasonry is to raise funds for charity. Millions are raised each year by Freemasons — this money goes not only to our own charities but also to very many other, non-Masonic, charities. Accordingly Freemasons are encouraged to give to charity. The amount you give and the benefactors you select are up to you, and entirely private.

When does the Lodge meet?

English lodges do not generally meet throughout the year. The John Roan School Lodge is active from September to May. The four principal meetings are held at Dartford Masonic Centre on Tuesday evenings in October, December, February and April starting at 4 or 5 pm.

On most other Tuesday evenings from September to May we meet informally. These informal meetings are held at the Old Roan Club at Kidbrooke and last from 7.00 to about 8.30 pm.

Do I have to go to all the meetings?

No — but, during the first few years of membership in Freemasonry, it is an advantage to attend as many meetings as possible to "get to know the ropes".

In every lodge there is a series of "promotions" available to Masons. This culminates at lodge level in being elected Master of the Lodge. Whilst many men join lodges and take little further part in running the lodge, most active members will agree that it is more enjoyable to progress through the various offices of the Lodge.

Members find that when they are progressing through the offices of the Lodge reasonably regular attendance is beneficial and helpful.

Who can join?

Membership of the John Roan School Lodge, in common with all others, is open to all men over the age of 21, subject to the specific recommendation of 2 existing members and the successful outcome of a ballot in the Lodge.

Prospective members are invited, indeed encouraged, to come along to meet Lodge Members informally before taking any steps toward becoming a Mason. You may even get a free drink!

If you are interested, write to the Lodge Secretary or contact any Lodge Member.

Some of the current officers are listed below with their school years and telephone numbers. They would welcome a call regarding membership or indeed any other aspect of Freemasonry.

Existing Masons are welcome as joining Lodge members, or they may be interested in the associated John Roan School Chapter — in either case they should contact the Lodge Secretary at the address below.

Lodge Officers

Neal Haslam	(67-'74)	Tel: (081) 304 3053
Philip Moore	(58-'65)	Tel: (0474) 872391
Brian McKay	(47-'52)	Tel: (0322) 864356
Del Baxter	(43-'48)	Tel: (081) 856 3487

Lodge Secretary —

B.J.Madden (45-'48), 150 Plum Lane, Plumstead SE18 3HF

Philip Moore
June 1991

THE TEAM OF '71 ... WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

There it is. We've done it" ... or words to that effect. Thus began Dr. A. J. Taylor's Headmaster's report on the School at the Autumn 1971 Prizegiving. He referred to a dented, polished, English Schools' Association U19 Trophy won by the 1st XI that season at the first attempt to win a serious competition.

Some hazy recollections. The cup-run dominated school life. Academia took a back seat - for some! The need to win the semi-final at Newcastle to balance the books on the cost of coaches with potential revenue from the two-legged final. National press ringing me at home for team news. Joe Broadfoot's coaching sessions on Wednesdays, moves being practised in Saturday friendlies before being discarded in cup matches. Ian Thorpe's performance at Newcastle. Malcolm Waterton's half-nelson on me as I was about to flag for offside at Cambridge. Setting fire to my track suit top at Basingstoke in the half-time break when I missed the cigarette with the match. The fortunate penalty against Holland Park on the "Quaggy" - conversion made it 3-3. Micky Dunford and his packed lunch. The neutral referee who came out of his house two doors away from the pitch at Cambridge. Magnificent Old Roan support. Paul Petty collecting the cup at Walton-and-Hersham. Trevor Puddifoot's header round the post at Newcastle. My Geography group's A-Level results - well done Chris Strong! The general sensation of cramming 3 years' experience into less than one. The celebration at the Club after the second leg of the final ... and the new crop of 11-year-olds attracted to the School in September 1971 who went on to win the trophy twice in the late '70s.

Our recent President, Monty Smith, and I thought it worthwhile gathering the 1971 team together to play an invitation XI selected by Monty. The encounter took place on Sunday, March 24th last. As in 1971, the team largely ignored what I said, but, it goes without saying, beat a strong "vets" side 6-4. M. C. Callaghan, officiating, injected a spot of controversy with a penalty to us, but which, in my opinion, was entirely justified. "The boy done great!" The fixture attracted a reasonable crowd and some good old names and faces appeared for the first time in years. Much interest was expressed in what the players were doing now - and where?

The only sadness about getting the old side together was the absence of Paul Petty who had died in 1984. A one-minute silence was held in respect for his memory. Paul would have loved every minute of the whole event. Where are the rest of the bunch, aged between 37 and 39?

IAN THORPE, DAVE DAVIS and his Dad could not be traced.

GLENN AITKEN — publishes 17 local newspapers in the Bedford/Cambridge area. Lost some pace, gained some weight, retained his skilful touch and takes a mean penalty.

JOHN DENNIS — works in the S.E. Thames Area Health Authority as Acute Services Programme Manager in Kent. Lives at Great Chart, even less hair, looks the part, seems slimmer, had a spoiling second half with constructive touches.

JOHN GIRDWOOD — Assistant Manager for the Abbey National B.S. in Crewe. Keen Old Roan, sweet left foot, trained for the match, performed well - not having played for years.

JOHN HARDY — underage sub in 1971. If he had been used we could have been disqualified - oops! Money broker with Godsell, Astley and Pearce and lives in Cheam. Still, better to have John on your side - I remember him tackling me when he was 11.

JOHN HUTLEY (and his stomach "Junior") — they both look well. Works in the Audit Department of the London Edinburgh Insurance Group in the City. Lives in Orpington (I suppose somebody must). Deceptive and a smooth mover considering his bulk. Playmaker,

goalscorer and setter-up for Russon. Has lost none of his skills.

PHIL LANCELOTTE — Manager for Norwich Union in their Canterbury office. Left teaching in 1986 and lives in Canterbury. Converted from midfield to central defence where his legs are happier. Didn't put a foot wrong and even Ray Mills found him awkward to handle.

PHIL "ISN'T NICE" PEARCE — lives in Foyle Road near the "new" John Roan site. Works at the Civil Aviation Authority, looks much as he did in 1971, plays as effectively - maybe even better. Still smiling.

TREVOR PUDDIFOOT — partner in that well-known commercial stationery enterprise the "Supply Company" based in Charlton where he also resides. All of you should order your stationery through Trevor — he deserves it. After a rigorous training programme played with effective ease and great composure.

JIM RUSSON — Head of Mathematics and general hero at Sheringham High School in Norfolk. Seasoned football observers, and Steve Nelson in goal, lay testimony to his outstanding performance — 4 goals and much entertainment. Age has not wearied him ... enjoyed a Grolsch before the game.

FRED SPINK — Foreign Exchange Dealer with the Nat West in the City. Lives in Chingford. Possibly a better player in 1991 than 1971, he covered nearly all the grass on the pitch and when subbed 5 minutes from time he cried — with relief!

TERRY THURLEY — lives at Flitwick in Bedfordshire where he practises Accountancy. Played some tricky stuff in the first half in-between biting tackles. I subbed him at half-time then forgot to put him back on. An unsung hero.

JOHN STANFORD — had left school prior to the 1971 competition though a strong supporter. Goalkeeper extraordinaire - offering a combination of girth and handling. Immensely reliable, he coped well with a useful forward line. Runs a transport company, or two, in Charlton. Lives in London.

DON HENNING — put in an appearance, lives and works in the Huntingdon area where he works for a local newspaper. He used to sit in on my A-Level Geography lessons in 1970 - can't think why!

STUART PLUNKETT — lives in Enfield where he teaches. Unable to make the match.

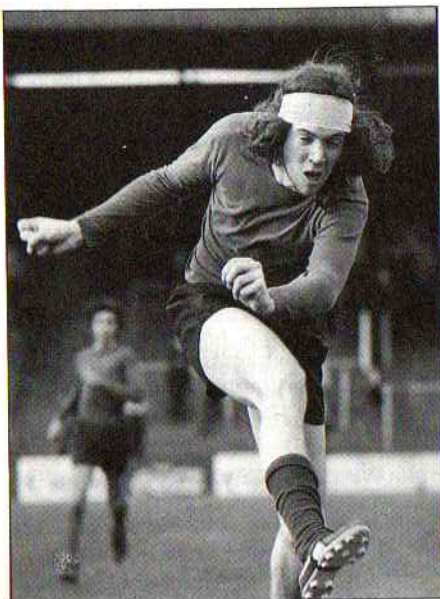
MANAGEMENT TEAM: JOE BROADFOOT, happy with his most recent release was saving his legs for something in the afternoon. BARRY "THE BOSS/CHIEFY" THOMAS — came on at left back for 20 minutes, kicked the ball once and went off again.

Oddly enough, with so many of the old team having played little or no football for some years I was worried that the opposition, strong on paper, would be too good for us. After 10 minutes play, however, that familiar feeling came back: that we were simply destined not to lose. It was as though all the players instinctively knew that their team-mates would be "there". They were! The match was played in the spirit one would have expected.

Monty and the Old Roan regulars must be thanked for putting on the event, including the splendid buffet.

On occasion it really is worthwhile rolling back the years to take stock of people who were involved in notable success. On behalf of all the team of '71 my thanks to the opposition and to everyone who made March 24th memorable.

Barry Thomas. May 1991

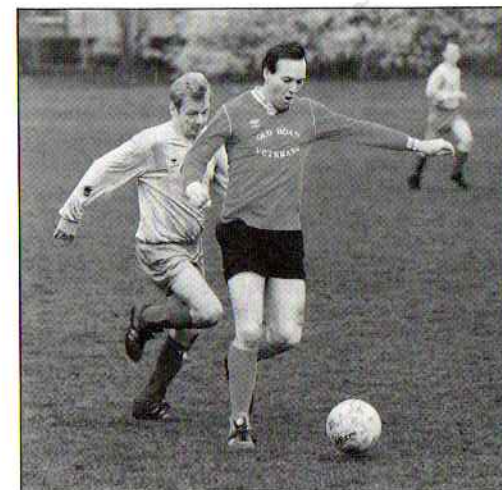


The programme for the first-leg of the Final against Rydens School at Charlton Athletic on Thursday 13 May, 1971 at 7.00pm listed the following team:

ROAN (Green)

- | | |
|-----------------|------------|
| 1. I.Thorpe | |
| 2. T.Puddifoot | |
| 3. J.Girdwood | |
| 4. P.Pearce | |
| 5. G.Aitken | |
| 6. P.Petty | |
| 7. T.Thurley | |
| 8. P.Lancelotte | |
| 9. J.Hutley | Subs: |
| 10. S.Plunkett | F.Spink |
| 11. J.Russon | D. Henning |

The programme for the second-leg at Walton-on-Thames on Monday 17 May listed Dave Davis in place of Stuart Plunkett with John Hardy joining the subs.



Paul Davis, the last of one "generation" chases the finest of most others — Jim Russon. Which leg did you take, Paul?

Action photographs taken in May 1971. Clockwise: Jim Russon frozen in time and space; the celebrations with the cup; John Hutley in flight; Jim Russon scoring the all-important goal at Walton. Photographs for 1971 and 1991 by kind permission of Tom Morris.

Twenty years on: Back Row: Jim Russon, John Hutley, John Stanford, Fred Spink, Phil Lancelotte, John Dennis, Glenn Aitken, Barry Thomas (Manager), Mike Callaghan (Referee). Front Row: John Girdwood, Terry Thurley, John Hardy, Trevor Puddifoot, Phil Pearce. Team Photograph P.64



The teams on Sunday 24 March, 1991

OLD ROAN CRICKET CLUB

The absence of a "Newsletter" in December was related to the lack of material in general and the lack of reports on the cricket season in particular. Now that we are deep into the current season, and one of the wettest Junes in history, the heroic feats of last summer seem a distant memory. However, for the record, some highlights can be listed. The Saturday 1st XI won only one match and relied heavily on contributions from Keith Barron, Mark Squire, Dan Calnan and Graham Lawrance. A total of 34 players had an enjoyable though unsuccessful season finishing 16th out of 17 teams. One player, Tony Nutall, should be singled out for his fast and hostile bowling and figures of 7-57 against Wickham Park to record the only win.

Simon Perry, captain of the Sunday 3rd XI, fails to mention any results, averages, figures or even matches but enthusiastically reports on a settled side which had a thoroughly enjoyable season. A list of player-portraits was attached which in the interests of good taste must be discarded but it is worth recording Richard Thomas as an "enthusiastic spectator, especially when batting"; Mark Squire as a "gutless duffer" and S. Perry as "quite brilliant". The report submitted by Viv Lawrance for the Saturday 2nd XI was mislaid *prior* to reaching the Editor and no doubt Viv will know where to address his comments!

CRICKET SEASON - 1991

SATURDAY 1ST XI

Two early defeats have been followed by two well-contested draws and a recent win. The team has shown good spirit and is stronger than for many years with all players showing enthusiasm and much more commitment. Chasing 241 runs against Shooters Hill we ended with a draw, 14 runs short, after a fine century opening partnership between Squire and Barron. In the next game, tight bowling by Woodhall (4-63) and Stickings (3-36) restricted top-of-the-league Bromley Town to 160 off 50 overs but we failed to reach this target by 12 runs despite a fighting 50 by Joe Broadfoot (his 96th for the Club) and the match was also drawn. Dan Calnan was the hero in the win over Croydon Gas hitting two fours in the final over to overtake their total of 185.

SUNDAY 2ND XI

A good start to the season with two wins and three draws. Ian Daniels batted well for his 74 out of a total of 160-9 dec. against Snaresbrook in the first match with the opposition struggling to draw at 123-7. Against Britannic House we struggled to 166-8 in pursuit of 202-7. Les de Hoog took 3-36 and scored 42 runs. We defeated Bardhill by 109 runs with Martin Woodall taking 6-40 to dismiss our visitors for 78 after Mike Baxter (65), Nick Riley (27) and Ian Daniels (32) had enabled Roan to declare at 187-8. A close drawn game followed at home to Bexleyheath before we enjoyed a thrilling win at Chestfield with Mike (72) and Gary Baxter (55) enabling us to reach a total of 196-7 to win by 3 wickets off the last ball of the game. This was the first time that the Baxter brothers had batted together and they recorded a partnership of 104.

SUNDAY 3RD XI

The extravagant prose of the former captain of the 3rd XI and President of the O.R.A. is now continued by his successor to record the opening of the current season. The Thursday evening net practice is apparently an event of serious pilgrimage with hopefuls — young and old — jostling for attention to catch the selector's eye. Early signs are not auspicious with the "worst of the old and best of the new" combining to draw two and lose two matches thus far. Blame is attached to the loss of players to the 2nd XI and the failure of proven players to reach their potential. Simon Perry, Lucien Howlitt and Duncan Bell have scored well with good bowling support from Sam Simmance and John Keeble.

**Adverts must be a) Fair, b) Legal,
c) Decent and d) Honest . . .**

The advert above is

- a) The full list of **PAUL DAVIS'S** trophies, medals and Player of the Month Awards, 1991/2 . . .
- b) **PAUL DAVIS'S** contract to manage Charlton FC, 1991/2 . . .
- c) The view of **PAUL DAVIS'S** anatomy in the steam-filled Charlton Park showers . . .
- d) The painful result of missing the Old Roan Magazine deadline because **PAUL DAVIS'S** are too busy merging with **STOCKER & ROBERTS** in order to provide top quality professional surveying throughout SE London . . .

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OLD ROAN FOOTBALL CLUB 1990-91

1ST XI Ray Mills — Manager

Mid-table and the loss of the semi-final in extra time does not represent an entirely satisfactory final season for the departing manager. With many enforced and managerial changes, not always to the liking of players, the season failed to live up to early expectations.

The highlight of the season had to be the two games against Cockfosters in the London Cup when the team played their best football of the season. However, in-between these epic matches which we won in the replay, we suffered our worst result by letting in six goals. This three week period sums up our very inconsistent season and showed that with a little more consistency and some training the team could, or rather should, be capable of improvement next season.

The manager discovered that the Club has five capable goal-keepers, including Robin "Windmill" Faithorn, who all tried — and sometimes succeeded — for the 1st XI. Several players were given their big chance, once the manager was injured, to fulfil their dreams of playing centre-forward, and all showed him instead how easy it is to run about without scoring goals.

Player of the year was an easy choice. A unanimous choice by fellow players. Liam Mulholland made the most appearances, proved the most consistent player, was captain and also leading goal-scorer. Finally, I would like to thank all the players, yes! even those I upset, for putting up with me and my trustworthy sidekick "Oz" and hope that you give Liam the support he deserves next season. *

2ND XI South London Alliance Division 2

P20 W9 D7 L4 F52 A30 League Position: 3rd

Having taken the team out of the Spartan League at the end of last season we were regarded as a "home-banker" to win promotion at the first time of asking. It wasn't until we conceded a last-minute goal at home to Lullingstone in the last home game of the season that we were knocked out of the promotion slot. Although we were a very difficult side to beat, it was evident that we were drawing too many games against moderate opposition. Some of the more memorable moments of an enjoyable season included the rout of Metrogas 14-1, when your correspondent, under immense pressure from a baying crowd of Old Roans, converted a last-gasp penalty to put the result beyond doubt. The 1-1 draw at Lullingstone, which we were very unlucky not to win, showed great fighting spirit. Perhaps with our usual linesman, who tended to give the benefit of the doubt to Old Roan in many border-line decisions, we might even have got further than the quarter-finals in the cup.

Special mention should go to Rob McCarthy who scored 26 goals in 14 games (if only he had a brain as big as his mouth!); to David Hutley who captained the side by example (good luck next year, David!); to Gary Watson who played in every outfield position even though he was only ever picked to play left-back; to Kimm Connell who "led the line" superbly — if only he had my pace he could have played professionally; to Mickey Smith with his intelligent promptings; to Dave Watchorn, an Old Roan who has suddenly re-appeared — I wonder how many more are out there?. Other "youngsters" who did well include Keith Bradbrook, Charlie Hyam, Graham

Lawrance and Phil Savage. Andy Daniels had a solid season in goal as did Neil Ifield at right-back. Keith Tebbutt showed great enthusiasm even though travelling to and from games by taxi could not have been easy.

Next season, Dave Hutley takes over the reins and hopefully, with the team spirit that exists within the squad, promotion next season should be a safe bet.

5TH XI Richard Thomas — Manager

P18 W7 D5 L6 F46 A46

The team ended last season on a losing streak and the trend continued at the start of this campaign. The manager was called upon to make changes. Tony Sproul, taking his time to progress to the higher teams after a hernia operation, was the team's natural sweeper and executed this work with style from his position between the posts. Other goalkeepers were tried with only Fraser Lochtie providing any stability.

The back four, which usually included Guy Hawney, Rob "Windmill" Elston and the relatively sane Ray Keeling, usually resembled a poor game of subbuteo table-football, watching in admiration the heroic feats of our goalkeeper. Yet we did manage to build from the back, urged on by the shouts and example of John Laing with relevant comments such as "Lads! Lads! Look at the state of the corner flags. They are a disgrace. I'm not going to pay my poll tax!"

We pulled through in the end to achieve a respectable position of third in the Beckenham & Catford Alliance League Division 2 mainly due to the commitment and abilities of Dave Townsend, Steve Baker and Lee Pepper who can all claim to have benefited from Ray Mill's "excellent" coaching on Thursday nights.

The eventual consistency achieved was reflected in the votes for Player of the Year with four players receiving two votes each. Congratulations to Steve Baker, Rob Elston, Tony Sproul and Lee Pepper with the manager's deciding vote going to Lee for his 17 goals in 8 games. There is a rumour circulating after one of the "vets" guested for the 5ths that, like his famous Dad, Lee lets the rest of the team do his running for him!

A group of Old Roans from the Football Club, of mixed abilities and aspirations, took part in the "Haarlem Easter Cup" in Holland. The group was organised by Richard Thomas and the tour was booked with a local company specialising in soccer weekends. In the interests of taste, decency and the libel laws we are unable to print the article, even in part, but anyone wishing to have a copy of Richard's report, written in his inimitable style, should contact the Editor. If anyone should complain about the Editor lacking a sense of humour, they should first apply to read the article, and then consider editing an alternative publication — "Not The Old Roan Magazine". It appears that the names of those Old Roans who spent their Easter in Holland, and possibly returned, include Richard Thomas, Jim Douglas, Ian Daniels, Tony Sproul, "Mitch", Mark Squire and Fraser Lochtie. The best judge of the weekend appears to be the coach driver's wife who mistakenly started with the party from the Club and left the coach — and husband — at the Well Hall roundabout.

Despite two months of urgings, promptings and reminders by Mike Smith we are unable to include reports on the 3rds and 4ths. Members of those teams — including Gary Barwell — who may be disappointed not to see their exploits during a long season recorded in this journal for posterity should contact either Stuart Clay or Terry Chance.

OLD ROAN VETERANS FOOTBALL TEAM

Mike Titheridge, our erstwhile leader, tells of the time he approached the attendant at Charlton Park. That poor innocent, on seeing the term "Old Roan Vets", asked Mike for a diagnosis on his ailing dog. An amusing and understandable mis-interpretation on his part.

Such mis-interpretation is, perhaps, less understandable when it comes from within. To be a "Veteran", one must be at least 35 years old. The majority of the current squad are over 40. I contemplated totalling the number of playing years, but did not have the calculator handy. Suffice it to say that service to the Old Roan football club has been long and loyal.

It is, then, with bewilderment that the "Vets" often play their home fixtures on sundry park pitches rather than at the School field. I confess that the latter part of this season has seen an improvement, with several games on Roan turf. Alas, on most of these occasions, we have been obliged to put up the nets ourselves and, twice, the posts as well!

Most of us recall doing this chore 20-25 years ago. So, the football wheel of fate has turned full circle. Now, though, the sight of 45 year-olds endeavouring to clamber on each others backs in an effort to reach the upperhooks is not particularly pretty ... nor is it pleasurable.

The 1st XI is the flagship of the Club. Through their endeavours the veterans deserve second billing.

So, what of the football itself? The bare statistics make good reading.

Played 30, won 16, lost 8, drew 6. Goals for 98, goals against 57. We were unbeaten from 6 January to 17 April — a total of 13 games. The high number of goals scored was largely due to our dynamic duo. There are few, if any, sides at our level that can boast the talents of Rod Pepper and Bob Grimwood. Often displaying telepathic understanding, they wreaked havoc amongst opposition defences. Rod scored 33 goals and Bob 20.

Some were classics! I can clearly see in my mind's eye Bob's left-foot volley from 30 yards finding the top corner of Blackheath Wanderer's net. That same eye sees Rod diving full-length to head powerfully past Metrogas's startled keeper. I also have abiding memories of Rod's rockets roaring in from all angles.

Lest you think we rely solely on these two for striking power, let me pay tribute to Barry Corby, who scored 15 times and Keith Mexter who, when not deputising for John Stanford in goal, scored 9 times. Barry would never forgive me if I failed to mention his first-half hat-trick (and eventual 4 goal haul) against Bank of Scotland, especially as he emulated Rod's diving header.

Having eulogised our attack, what can I say of our defence? Until the last few games, when a little uncertainty crept in, it was very sound. Chris Howe prowled, panther-like, in the confines of his restricted area until a very nasty knee injury (incurred while diving at a set of flailing feet) put him out for the season. After which, John Stanford regularly filled the the post (and the posts!).

Graham Briscoe was our ever-present sweeper and ship-steadier, leaving the physical contact side to Graham Townsend or Brian Marsh. Brian who stepped in at short notice to cover one of GT's many business trips, stayed to provide that extra touch of class. The corners were usually protected by David Horsburgh (right) and Paul Davis (left). David was also generous enough to don the black on a couple of occasions and blow the whistle on his team mates.

Sandwiched between these two groups were the play-makers, ball-winners, odd-jobbers. Skipper Jim Hardy on the left, Roger Dale on the right and a permutation of Sid Dampier, Alistair

Mitchell, Barry Corbyn, John Hardy and "Spot" Hughes. "Spot", who had started the season well, was most unlucky when he broke his ankle in one of those harmless looking collisions minutes after scoring an excellent goal. Being younger than most of us, he mended quite quickly and managed a few games at the end of the season.

Any holes were most ably filled by such talent as Ray Mills, Keith Bradbrook, Bernie Turner, Mark Squire (when really desperate), Fred Spink, Brian Hamer (who also helped out on the referee-ing front) and Steve Nelson, who never found cause to utter the immortal words — "Kiss me, Hardy!" — to the captain.

Who dares play against such men? Let me say that the standard of "Vets" football has increased significantly in the last few years and Keith Mexter has put together an impressive and imposing fixture list. No easy games here!

A narrow defeat and a draw against Ex Blues proved that we can give anyone a game. Ray Hutchin's team, Bearsted, play very attractive football in contrast to our more direct style. Result — two excellent games — one draw: one win. An early season defeat by Old Addeyans (with ex-Sheffield Wednesday and England man, Tony Kay) was avenged later on. Even Metrogas, who field Colin Powell (ex-Charlton), struggled to beat us and could only draw the return.

It only remains for me, on behalf of the "Vets", to congratulate Jim Hardy on his leadership and organisational skills, thank Keith Mexter for washing the spanking-new, Argentinian-style kit (generously provided by Messrs. Pepper and Townsend), Vic Brooker for being our resident supporter (I thought he was supposed to have a dog!) and Jill Hardy for providing such tempting after-match delicacies.

Player of the Year: Rod Pepper

Roger Dale, May 1991



The Gibson Shield Winners 1947. (Is anyone able to name the squad?)

OLD ROAN PERSONALITIES — JIM BIRD

I was very pleased to have been asked to contribute a small piece in the last "Chronicle" and briefly mentioned the infamous Jim Bird with a somewhat lucid example of his generous wit. I am now even more pleased, nay honoured, to pay a greater tribute to "oiseau", an unforgettable rough diamond.

I can still picture a pair of white spindly legs, socks around the ankles (shin pads! What are they?), one boot tied up with string, bamboozling the meanest of more youthful opponents whose main objective was to "kick that old fool off the pitch". Few ever did. Jim's goal-scoring ability was often undervalued and what he lacked in power he gained in trickery — Jim would say skill! The half-time cigarette and the full-time "where's the bar?" are engraved in stone and will be ever recorded as part of the Old Roan Club's history.

Jim's prowess on the field however was surpassed by his legendary drinking exploits and many of us gasp when recalling his drinking ability which usually featured pints of ale accompanied by large scotches. There was one occasion, however, when beer took on a more important significance!

We were playing in the Langenfeld Tripartite Tournament against our hosts on a gravel pitch which made it particularly important to stay on our feet, or risk cuts to legs, arms or other body parts that made contact with the ground. Jim didn't see this as a problem. The German star centre-forward, who seemed just short of 100 metre Olympic pace, broke through the middle to find that the only obstacle between him and the goal was the formidable Jim Bird. Realising that he was a little lacking in pace, Jim launched himself into a five yard sliding tackle across the cinders, taking ball and player, and leaving a deep furrow as evidence of his last ditch lunge. A goal opportunity had been averted and the German ace was carried from the pitch and ended up in hospital — presumably suffering from shock! Jim lifted himself from the ground and shouted to the trainer's bench — "A beer, I must have a beer" — not an unusual occurrence. But, on arriving at the sideline, did he swallow the beer in one? Did he sip it slowly, recovering from the effort of the tackle? Not a bit of it. He calmly poured the beer down the side of his shredded leg as a substitute for antiseptic. Not a drop had touched his lips as he returned to the fray.

If memory serves me right, we actually won the game, but the sliding tackle and the bottle of beer episode will live with me much longer than the result. It must be the one and only time that Jim had his hand on a drink without actually *drinking* it!!

Suffice it to say, Jim's mates have the greatest admiration for him, and in particular, the way in which he has fought his serious illness problems over the last few years. Many with less character and singular resolve would have wilted. Jim shrugs off these adversities as part of life's rich pageant which he still lives to the full. It was a pleasure to see Jim, and Bonnie, at Monty's Presidential Dinner, looking fit and downing the odd pint, or two, or three ...!

Brian Hamer
June 1991



"Bird Lives!" The man himself, guesting for the President's XI in March 1991

ponses from them about the reunion plans. A caterer was then contacted to provide a buffet for the evening. Then we sat back and waited ... and hoped that people would turn up.

The day of the reunion arrived and the informal "organising committee" were hard at work getting things done to make the event run smoothly. Even at this stage we weren't entirely certain how many people would definitely attend. In the end some 30 boys out of the 45 we made contact with turned up (leaving 45 we couldn't contact or who never responded), compared with 32 out of 63 girls, most with their respective partners, giving us well over 100 people at the Old Roan Club for the evening. They had come from far and wide to be there, the longest distances travelled being from Plymouth, Manchester, Dublin and Luxembourg. We also had a total of about ten of our old teachers from both Schools turn up to the reunion, which was a pleasant surprise to a lot of people.

What of the reunion itself? Well! it all seemed to go very well, but your correspondent remembers very little in detail as he was rushing around making sure everything went without a hitch. However, I do recollect catching up with some old friends, some old gossip and making fresh promises to keep in touch. Thanks to Old Roan contacts a photographer had been arranged to record the event for posterity — and for the "Chronicle". At the time it seemed an annoyance to be so organised for posed photographs, but the results — shown elsewhere in this magazine — were quite superb and fully justified the time spent on them. Copies of the photographs can be obtained direct from the Editor.

All those who attended enjoyed a pleasant evening of convivial chat and reminiscences in friendly surroundings with good ale and plentiful food. Those that failed to attend missed out on a very successful reunion. Talking of reunions, anybody care to volunteer to organise the next one ...?

Alistair Mitchell
May 1991

CLASS OF '65 PHOTOGRAPH — THE BOYS

Fourth Row: David Haddon Alan Smith Stephen Gillman Peter Thomas
Daryle Tipler Graham Keetch Martin Mills Laurence Jarvis

Third Row: Christopher Rodwell Alan Willson John Flitton
Bernard Witchlow Stephen Swann Alf Knott (Staff)
Nigel Ballantyne (Staff) Tony Elliott (Staff) Jeff Aitken

Second Row: Cliff Evans Trevor Talbot Gary Waldron Clive Jarvis
Robert Jenkins Paul Charter Jeff Barnes Roger Motton
Gordon Brooks (Staff)

Front Row: Paul Hulyer Alistair Mitchell Paul Kennedy Laurence Hughes
Ian Maxwell Neil Harvey Philip Lancelotte

Boris Haynes arrived in time for the combined group photograph.

Photograph of the '65 Reunion by kind permission of Roger Mallett.



CLASS OF '65 REUNION — THE GIRLS STORY

Mitch's article says it all. Daryle Bradbrook (nee Hayes) and I had ourselves toyed with the idea of a reunion and were keen to contribute to a joint effort. We were helped along initially by the supply of the September 1965 register but from there on it was pure, hard graft to identify names and addresses. More difficult for women who change names upon marriage, too. And, of course, we did not have the convivial atmosphere of ale-houses to assist us — our planning meetings were usually held in the daytime in the presence of four pre-school children! However, our efforts were well rewarded as we actually managed to make contact with 48 out of an intake of 60, and of those, 32 attended, mostly with partners. Several of those that did not could not make the transatlantic trip — a good excuse.

We had planned the evening as a fairly low-key affair. The Old Roan Club bar was well staffed, and a light, but highly commendable, buffet was laid on by an outside caterer. Background music was supplied as anything more was considered to be unnecessary — I don't think even a disco could have been heard above the din of that evening!

As to the reunion itself, it is difficult to put into words the emotions of the evening. All evening was to be heard the constant shrieks of surprise and delight as more and more of us turned up. Some girls had hardly changed at all, whereas one or two I could easily have passed in the street with absolutely no hint of recognition. I speak for many I have since spoken to in saying that we were all hoarse next morning from the constant chatter and the shock of seeing people again, some of whom we had not seen for up to 20 years.

And what had happened to us during those intervening years?

Hearts had been won and lost, as had some marriages. There were sad tales and success stories, and most of us had been productive — our children's ages ranged from months to 20 years; there was even a grandmother among us. Our occupations since leaving school were highly varied. Several of us had entered higher education for teaching or other purposes. There were teachers (including deputy heads), scientific administrators, accountants, bankers, models, business administrators, travel agents, actresses, as well as mothers whose important roles should not be denied. Really, we have lead quite normal lives. Unfortunately, many of those not present may have had some interesting tales to tell, especially the Americans. We noted how many of both boys and girls were still based in the south-east corner of England.

During the planning of the event it was noted that people were trying to avoid attending by having births planned for that weekend! However, the thought of giving birth at the Old Roan Club provoked one delivery to be sufficiently premature to allow both parents to attend, and delayed the other beyond 15th September to give the expectant mother a very tiring evening!

The evening was definitely worth all the hard work involved although we did wonder during that day whether we had made a big mistake in taking on such a task. It is not something you can repeat on such a scale for a long time, if at all, though the reunion has provoked renewed interest amongst a number of old girls and already a large group have since met to chat further over old times. Personally, as an organiser I found I was buzzing around a lot in the evening making sure everything ran smoothly so that I had less time to chat, although I am sure I did my fair share. I was pleased to renew contact with three of my teachers, this time on an adult basis, each of whose teaching had a significant bearing on my future career and interests. By 1.00 am I was shattered and made my way back to Sussex, but the hardy remained until nearly dawn! Not to be put off by the experience I am now organising a reunion (albeit small-scale) of university colleagues — I must be mad!

Cheryl Swann, May 1991

CLASS OF '65 PHOTOGRAPH — THE GIRLS

- Fifth Row: Jenny Newnham (Staff) Annette Chuter (Talbot)
Anne Thacker (Richards)
- Fourth Row: Daphne Leach (Staff) Susan MacNally (Barnes)
Lesley Massey Diane Homer (Worthy) Gillian Shaw (Croxon)
Brenda Westcott (Donelly) Diane Shirley (Shrimpton)
- Third Row: Linda Lewis (Friar) Veronica Hills (Davies)
Lynn Robins (Hayward) Evelyn McDermott (Richardson)
Frances Rowan (Morris) Janet Bell (Bryan)
Valerie White (Hoy) Shirley Adams Ester Fish (Barclay)
- Second Row: Judy Howell (Lyons) Ann Summerhayes (Rice)
Daryle Hayes (Bradbrook) Jean Learmouth (Marsh)
Mary Girdwood (Gadney) Susan Millar (Trehar)
Catherine Honour (Shearwood)
- Front Row: Hilary Riley (Lawrence) Charmaine Warne (?)
Barbara Brett (Sircar) Karen Booth
Cheryl Thorogood (Swann) Ozay Kashano (Kuan)
Amanda Hazell Gillian Keedy

The Editor acknowledges the generous contribution made by our photographers and photographic processors:

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- Roger Mallett 25 Hadley Wood Rise, Kenley, Surrey. CR2 5LY. Tel: (081) 668 9056
- Snappy Photos 123 High Street, West Wickham, Kent. BR4 0LT. Tel: (081) 777 1423
- Southeys 320 Croydon Road, Beckenham, Kent. BR3 4HR. Tel: (081) 658 7216

OLD ROAN TRIVIAL CHALLENGE

The Trivia Quiz was again held successfully in the spring with some dozen teams participating in the heats. The six highest-scoring teams progressed to a final over 9 rounds, which saw the lead change on several occasions, with the eventual winners being the team led by Keith Barron.

I am, however, finding it increasingly difficult to run the competition in this format (mainly due to the time involved) and therefore propose to hold next year's event on one Friday only (probably 7 February 1992).

I presented a successful "Sports Quiz" to cricket clubs in the district last March and propose presenting it at the Club (slightly altered) during the autumn. Sports enthusiasts should check the notice boards at the Club for further details in due course.

David A.P. Andrews
June 1991



NEWS OF OLD ROANS

The photograph of the Masters taken at Eastney Street prior to the First War prompted several letters and reminiscences. H. LISTER ('16-'23) has provided a few, fascinating, random memories that in the style of Orwell evoke the characters and smells of that era. He writes of his memories of Fred Cutbush, Bill Gosling and G.T. Scudamore, and advises that after college he became a schoolmaster, ending his career as Vice-Master at Watford Grammar School where he spent 40 very happy years. S.R. HUNT ('14-'18) was pleased to see C.W. NEARN ('14-'18) mentioned in the last issue and recalls him as a contemporary at the School. He recalls coming second best to "Froggie" Llewellyn over a Spoken English issue and claims to hold a record for entries in one day in the School Journal with two good reports in the morning and two bad reports in the afternoon. He now lives in Street in Somerset and looks forward to meeting the Secretary now that Tony has moved to the West Country.

J.CALNAN recalls that many of the Masters in the photograph were at Roan during his schooldays including W.W. Poyser, V.J. Potter and A.H. Hope. He tells of gaining from "Billy" Mann the mark of 10+2 for Physics homework which he had copied from the Encyclopaedia Britannica — the more pages, the higher the marks he awarded. He also writes of J.W. Kirby taking French; S.R. Ducker (History); J.Amesbury (Music); J.Jackson (Maths); W.A. Allen (Geography); the eccentric expressions of J.H. Peckham (Woodwork), and A.H. Hope taking Nature Study in his study. He remembers the building of the school at Maze Hill but never attended the new site.

Stanley TURNER ('29-'35) started at the School when the Antient was Headmaster and is saddened by the loss last year of many of his friends and contemporaries including Frank Barnes, Doug Humphreys, Ron Harmer, George Scudamore and Eric Lyons. He writes from Bristol and was pleased to read of "Jonah" Phipps-Jones whom he knew from the Scouts and Rovers — "seeing this latter photograph in the current heatwave reminded me of the time Jonah and his sixth form colleagues all turned up at school dressed in Khaki shirts and shorts". At School he sat next to Peter Trafford and has kept in contact with Peter and his elder brother, Leo.

Margery Warwick has written to the Secretary to inform him of the death after a short illness of her husband Frank WARWICK ('16-'21) aged 85. He worked until his death in a cigar importers firm. He often spoke of the School and how much it meant to him. She notes wistfully that "our school days are far behind us now".

C.W. DANIEL ('14-'20) welcomes the Secretary to the West Country and advises that he also worked in banking (Lloyds Bank) for 43 years before retiring in 1965. He was very interested in the material on Eastney Street which brought back many happy memories. He can still remember the names of the School Cricket 1st XI in 1920 which was the year that he received his colours. The Editor would be pleased to hear further! He has also purchased a new Club tie to replace his old tie which had worn out.

Ridley DALLADAY ('12-'17) was delighted to see the Eastney Street photograph and points out that the picture must be dated prior to 1912 if C.M. Ridger is Headmaster — "When I came to Roan in 1912 the Ridger reign was a fast fading memory. Crofts had succeeded him in 1910. Crofts, of course, was a classicist and it was he who wrote the School Song. The other song — "Here's to Old John Roan" — was from the pen of J.E.G. de Montmorency and put to music by "Amo". "Amo" also compiled the School Hymnbook.

Crofts himself set the Divinity homework for the whole school every weekend. He was very useful on the cricket field and I well remember him setting off with the head boy to lay a trail of torn up paper for the annual paper chase from the school field through the farms to Eltham and

back by another route! Of the masters, Potter (later to be Headmaster) was head of Chemistry. Llewellyn also taught German, was the School Librarian and started the Sixth form reference library. Titley was noted for his constant repetition of the words "you see". In one 45 minute lesson he used it 77 times. Billy Mann I last saw in 1940 when he was running a gift shop in Regent Street. I remember him explaining why a plane could never fly at 100 m.p.h. without breaking up.

I don't recognise the Drill Sgt in the photo. If it was Sgt. Tyler R.M. of my day, he was shot by a Turkish sniper in Gallipoli. A memorial fund was raised to provide for the education of his two sons, to which we all subscribed our modest pence week by week.

He has forwarded the "Scholae Roanae Alumni" for 1917 which shows him in the Lower Sixth Form under Mr. Potter with K.S. Binnie in Transitus A. The schoolboys are designated into categories of L.C.C. Scholars, Supplementary Scholars, Roan Free Scholars, Plumstead Scholars, Bursars and Greenwich Boys. There are eight Houses. I have also received an Old Roan Association membership card for 1917, which outlines more events than we offer members in 1991, and the 1912 Magazine. Ridley DALLADAY suggests that these items "may interest some of my contemporaries — though I wonder how many of my form are still with us."

P.J. BARNWELL ('23-'31) is a regular correspondent and has provided a wealth of information. He records the death of John Shaw who as John Shaer taught at the school from 1921-6. He was born in 1894 and died at his house in Redhill on July 4, 1987 so must qualify as one of the longest-lived members of Staff. He took a first-class in Classical Moderation at Oxford in 1915 and then did his military service. He said he enjoyed most his time as quarter-master. He was a pupil of Manchester Grammar School when our late Head, A.H. Hope, was a master. Ikey Shaer was a lively French teacher but decided to try his fortune as a lawyer. When this did not succeed, he reverted to teaching and later taught at Owen's School, Islington, and at two schools outside of London. He was married with children and retired to Redhill. His politics and religious beliefs were very left-wing.

The "Telegraph" on February 8 carried an announcement of the death of D.H. PECKHAM ('20-'30) on February 4, 1991. His two children have families in Cairo and in Perth, Australia. He was the son of the art master, J.H. Peckham, who began teaching at the School in 1903. He went on to Exeter College, Cambridge, reading French and Spanish which he taught until he retired, mainly at Pinner. D.H. Peckham was the last of a line of pupils sent by A.H. Hope to Oxford as teacher-trainees. W.J. Potter had a similar pull on the Teacher Training College at Cambridge from which P.J. Barnwell was the first to benefit, the School filling one place a year until at least the war years. Then Potter and the Principal of the T.T.C. retired at about the same time.

The obituary printed in the 1990 "Chronicle" of Prof. R.E.D. BISHOP ('36-'43) omitted his election to a professorship at Cambridge, which he eventually declined as he was not able to take with him some of his London team. John MITCHELL (ex. Staff) who died last July was at Roan from 1934 for a long time, teaching English and coaching athletics very keenly. His last teaching post was as a Headmaster in Potters Bar. In retirement he was secretary from 1971-78 of the Cambridge Chamber of Commerce, and from 1982 a fellow-commoner of Christ's College. He was two weeks short of his 80th birthday, when he attended a college feast and "was in good form when he left for home", but died the same night. There was a service in the college chapel, and his ashes were placed in the fellows' garden. He leaves a widow, whom he married while at Roan, and a family. His history of his old school, the Perse, Cambridge, was tactful and authoritative.

P.J. BARNWELL is keen to see a list of Roan Exhibitioners, now that this Roll of Honour is terminated, together with where they went for further education and any notes on subsequent

careers. "I should like to know what Monty Bloch did, and Walden. Hewlett has had a roving life, and might produce a good read. Pearson and Murphy are others whom I remember. Glazebrook (1933) and Forgan(1925) are dead. Laywood (1923) and N.H. Chamberlain (1924) may still be with us". This correspondence has raised the point that the year of 1991 has ten "palindrome" dates starting with 19.1.91.

Lionel BERRY (Staff '23-'63) advises the Secretary that he may call in on him at his new address in Trowbridge. He also writes of the death of John Mitchell and also Peter Meehan, husband of Pat Meehan who as a secretary at Devonshire Road may be remembered by Old Roan Girls. Lionel has spoken recently with George WITTEN (Staff '36-'73) who remains remarkably well after the amputation of a foot just before Christmas and attended the Music Hall evening in May at the Club. We are all very saddened to learn of the death of Lionel's wife, Maud, in April.

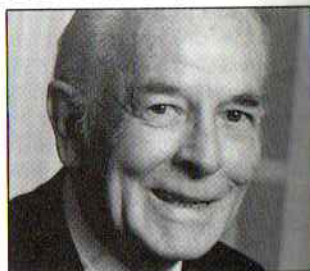
Hettie SMITH ('28-'35) writes to the Secretary from Bath and has just returned from a world trip.

Ralph TROTT ('24-'31) indicated an interest in reading the Binnie "History of the Roan Schools" and was sent a copy by Val LOVELL ('27-'30) which is now in our archive. He has also kindly made a donation to the Hope Memorial Trust.

J.V. LOVELL has also sent his own copy of the Kirby "History of the Roan Schools" for the archive. The book is in excellent condition and was awarded as a prize in Christmas 1929 — the year of its publication — by A.H. Hope. He enjoyed a visit last September from George CARTER ('16-'24), Margaret, and Doreen Jarvis, wife of Les Jarvis. George and Les were contemporaries at the School (before my time), but I met up with them in the Old Roan football and cricket scene in the '30s. Les was not able to continue after the war but George and I continued with cricket only. We were also joined by Doug FROOMS ('26-'31) and Renee.

Val is impressed by the picture of the Veterans Football team and sends his best wishes to those names and faces that he recognises and comments on their youth and fitness. He recalls a habit of Len GROVES, "my dear old friend and drinking partner", who in the latter days of his cricketing career would rub vast amounts of Ralgex over his bowling shoulder before the start of the game. He reckoned this did much to relieve the aches and pains, but the smell of it certainly cleared the dressing room. Sources can reveal that a considerable quantity of oils are used in the Veteran's dressing room before matches these days and they await the day when Paul DAVIS ('58-'64) remembers to bring his own. Paul celebrated his birthday this year by playing for the Vets against his old team, Cornish F.C., and we enjoyed fine hospitality after the game on Paul's behalf from our defeated opponents. Paul has reached one of those rare landmarks in the context of the Old Roan Football Club, the oldest regular player and therefore the "last of his generation". Keith MEXTER ('58-'66) is close behind and of course Mike TITHERIDGE ('51-'56) and Doug WEAVER ('57-'59) have yet to hang up their boots.

Margaret Quick writes with the sad news of the death of her beloved husband Eric H. QUICK ('17-'20) in May 1990. He enjoyed the magazine very much and often spoke of his school days. They were married for 59 years and shared a very happy life. He went to Brazil at the age of 21 when working for the Anglo Mexican Petroleum Co. which later became Shell Brasil. He retired from Shell in 1958 and returned to live in Chelsea, London. He was on the Council of the Anglo Brazilian Society, and for several years Secretary of the Brazilian Chamber of Commerce in Great Britain. An appreciation in the Brazilian Gazette



Eric Quick

advises that Mr. Quick was awarded the Order of Cruzeiro do Sul by the Brazilian Government for his dedicated and successful efforts to promote Anglo-Brazilian friendship and trade.

Dr. Peter TRAFFORD ('28-'38) enjoyed the last issue and notes that he was a very young member of Joey Amesbury's First Form during his first term at Roan — and that was the last term of Eastney Street (1928). He enjoys seeing Stanley TURNER, who sat beside him in Parker's Vth, in Bristol about once a year for a meal, usually when his brother, Leo TRAFFORD ('27-'37) is visiting. He also advises that the new editor-designate of the British Medical Journal is an Old Roan — Richard SMITH ('63-'70) — and he was due to take up his duties this May. They shared the same platform at Leicester during a conference on the Prison Medical Service but were unaware of their common background at Maze Hill.

Nigel TURNER ('59-'66) writes from Carharrack in Cornwall to welcome the Secretary to the West Country and offers advice on drinking opportunities in Trowbridge. He briefly outlines an interesting life. He went to Southampton University in 1966 but left after one year, married Linda who is a cousin of Philip MOORE ('58-'65) and has three children. He spent a number of years with Marley in Kent and Sussex before electing to escape the rat race to live in Cornwall, working for several years as a fisherman and more recently as a housebuilder. He would like to hear news of his contemporaries and has only retained contact with Philip Moore.

Norman SMITH ('51-'57) has advised the Secretary of his address in Lille though he retains a mailing address in Sittingbourne. He has been a permanent resident in France since 1982.

Cliff BENFORD ('71-'76) has now returned to the U.K. after living in Tokyo for much of the past five years. He works for Jardine Fleming, linked to Robert Fleming in London, where he is now Director in charge of Far Eastern markets. He has been married to Susan for five years with three daughters, Amy 5, Kerry 3 and Emily born last January. He now lives in Westerham and sends his regards to all his old friends.

Dave PORTER ('63-'71) leaves his new address in Blackheath to spend time in Phoenix, Arizona, to complete a commercial pilot's course. He should be away for about 18 months but hopes to return at frequent intervals. He aims to set up his own business, promises future advertising for "Porter's Pleasure Flights Inc" in the magazine, and threatens to join forces with the Editor.

Gavin GRANT ('66-'73) has been seen most days this May on television in his capacity as Campaigns Director of the R.S.P.C.A. He clearly enjoys his media work and is advocating a sensible solution to the current "dangerous dogs" issue. He was also quoted in the "Guardian" on the 400 beagles rescued from laboratory experiments.

Andy PAGE ('68-'75) has written from Tonbridge with news of a daughter and niece. John CRAMP ('48-'53) enjoyed the last issue but was saddened that it contained "many fitting tributes to people who influenced my early career". Alfie KNOTT ('43-'47 and Staff) keeps in contact with his contemporary Dick CODY ('43-'47) and plans to visit him at his home in Amherst, Massachusetts, this summer. An article from Dick Cody is being negotiated. Alfie has also heard from Bill ELLIS (Staff) who is returning to the U.K. from Malaysia this year. John LONG ('32-'37) has been most helpful with reports and appreciations and is keen that traditional standards of presentation and punctuation in the magazine are continued. Bob JENKINS ('65-'72) writes from Battle in East Sussex with news of the birth of his second daughter, and points out that the timing was dangerously close to causing a stir at the "Class of '65 reunion"!

Sarah FINNERTY ('82-'90) left the School last year and was fascinated to note that her visit to the Rhineland paralleled the School tour in 1930 in terms of locations and dates. "I have just returned from six weeks in a village outside Mainz. The country is still beautiful with many

vineyards along the steep slopes of the Rhine. I have visited and photographed many of the places mentioned in the article and was disappointed that you had no picture of the 'denkmal'. I was in Germany from July 8th until August 20, covering the same time as my predecessors from Roan. I also found the people very nice, friendly and helpful as did those sixty years before". Sarah claims that she does not feel qualified to write as an Old Roan but please let her be assured that we are very pleased to hear from her. Sarah's letter ends with concern over the impending Gulf crisis and draws the analogy with events in the 1930s which followed that earlier tour. The letters from Sarah Finnerty and Ridley Dalladay arrived on the same day. Old Roans who had entered the School seventy years apart. It is a span of seventy years that started in one of those endless Edwardian summers described by Housman and Bates and takes us through to the year of the Falklands conflict.

Larry ENGLAND ('39-'42) played host to Peter WILLIAMS ('38-'44) during Peter's winter pilgrimage to Australia. Larry, following a brief flirtation with Old Roan cricket and football, emigrated to Australia in the early fifties and after a few riotous years married an "ex-pat" Welsh girl from his own native Penarth and settled for a teaching career in and around Melbourne. Now retired, with a 21 year-old daughter and the wherewithal to enjoy regular holidays to all parts of the Orient, he retains his "pommie roots" (timing his only Sabbatical to coincide with our World Soccer Cup success in 1966) — but his allegiance was sorely tried during last winter's tour!

More tales from "down-under" from Alistair (Mitch) MITCHELL ('65-'72). Clive (Fred) FUHR ('62-'69) — otherwise remembered as "Fingers" or "Tefflon" — is currently working as Marketing Director for Takapuna City Council. Takapuna is one of six city councils forming Greater Auckland. Fred lives with his wife, Rosie, and their two children, Zoe and Adam, in Freemans Bay which is a suburb of Auckland. He still plays soccer, in goal, and is very happy with the quality of life and climate of Auckland. He keeps in touch with the British soccer scene and politics by means of radio and the weekly international newspaper which he claims is extremely right-wing! John BRESNAHAN (Honorary O.R.) will be remembered by members of the O.R. Football Club. "Brez" lives in Torbay which is one of the prettier outlying Auckland suburbs on the north shore. He is married to a native New Zealander, Rachel, who has played cricket for the ORCC 3rd XI. Their children are Molly (5), Joe (4), Alice (1) and another due this year. He continues to work in the Print as a colour camera operator, plays football for an over-35 team — still scoring — and follows the misfortunes of Millwall. Mitch reports that "Sniffer" looks, smokes, drinks and eats as his friends at the Club fondly remember him.

Mitch's travels continued to Neville GAUNT ('70-'77) who has been relocated by Ultramar Exploration (Oil Company) to Tarrytown, New York, working in their financial accounting department. Neville is married to Sara with two children, Thomas and Hannah, and a third due. They live in New Fairfield, Connecticut and seemed very happy with life when Mitch visited last November.

Mitch travelled for 11 weeks and included Connecticut, Los Angeles, Honolulu, Auckland and eight weeks in New Zealand, Hawaii and Dallas / Fort Worth. When questioned on the nature of his employment that allows such freedom he told us he is a Project Manager for Architectural Works at British Rail currently involved in the Liverpool Street Station redevelopment. Mitch also managed to see a little of the World Cup in Italy last summer.

Albert BERRY ('45-'50) and his wife, Vera, enjoyed visiting England last summer and found the good weather a welcome alternative to the winter in Perth, Western Australia. They had an enjoyable stay visiting friends and relatives throughout S.E. and S.W. London and old haunts including Greenwich. They followed up the general invitation from Ann Tonkin to Old Roans in the

"Chronicle" to visit the School and were delighted by the warmth of their reception. They met with Ann, compared the School in May 1991 with the late 1940s and then enjoyed a guided tour of the School by a friendly sixth-former. Many things had changed; but, surprisingly, much remained the same. They toured a little in England but were unable to re-visit the Hope Memorial Camp, which is planned for a future tour.

A.J. SMITH ('27-'32) responded from New South Wales to the request in the last magazine from Mary Sheppard for a copy of the "Story of the Roan School" by K.S. Binnie. A copy was sent and Christmas greetings exchanged. Various comments were received on the photograph of the Masters at Eastney Street including the nickname of "Uncle" for A.C. Horth (Drawing). He found the 1930 Rhineland Tour reunion photograph of interest and recalls Bulpitt, Barnwell, Phipps-Jones and G.C. Smith who had a younger brother, G.G. Smith, who attended Halstow Road Elementary School with him before he went to Roan in 1927. He is due to visit England and promises to donate to the archives a near-complete collection of magazines dating back to 1927.

Gary BAXTER (honorary O.R. and groundsman) visited Ian SAUNDERS ('39-'48) in Townsville, Queensland earlier this year and Gary's short article is printed elsewhere in this issue.

Before her death earlier this year, Mary SHEPPARD ('26-'32) was a most welcome contributor and her letters reflected a strong affection for the School and the Old Roan Association. Mary responded keenly to the offer by A.J. Smith for the copy of the "Binnie" book and was able to exchange news of many of his contemporaries — "In those days, Roan was very much a 'family' school, the brothers went to Maze Hill and sisters to Devonshire Road (as it was then)." She also followed up news in the magazine of a contemporary who lived nearby and they spent an enjoyable time identifying all of the staff and many of the girls from the school photograph of 1933. Mary's main request was that the School or Association should organise a suitable archive collection of Roan memorabilia. We have received Mary's enamel hat badge and ribbon together with her silver "Roan Shield" brooch which was awarded on leaving the School for gaining more than 3 gold stripes for gymnastics. Further information was promised including details of the uniforms and the changes to the hats, blouses and dresses etc. during her time at Roan. These items will be given to the Librarian at the School to be added to the archive material. Mary died in February of this year and an appreciation is printed in this issue.

Joyce PHILP ('29-'36) was pleased to make contact with Mary Sheppard last October. Joyce's younger sister was a contemporary of Mary at Roan and she remembered this sister who sadly died at the age of 29. They made plans at that time to meet to talk further and exchange books. She also speaks for many Old Girls in remembering Miss Barbara DENCHFIELD (Staff '25-'53) who died in 1990. She is recalled with great affection. Her primary responsibility was teaching the prep class — at that time there were quite a lot of very young children at the school. In addition, she taught Handwork and when we were in our first year she had the dubious pleasure of teaching us. I shall always associate her with raffia, and canvas with big holes in it. I can't remember anything I actually made, but Handwork lessons were a very pleasant change from the more academic subjects. I remember her as a gentle and kindly person, whom I got to know quite well through a school friend, Margaret WHITE ('29-'36), and we enjoyed several holidays together. Miss Denchfield went to Ammanford in South Wales when the School was evacuated during the Second World War. Miss WILSON, who I believe is still alive, also went to Ammanford. She retired to Cheltenham and remained active - helping with gardening at the Home - until she died last year at the age of 90. Margaret Hough in K.S. Binnie's "Story of the Roan Schools" writes: "Not till the summer of 1945 was the School re-united in its own building once more. By that time the Education Act of 1944 had come into force. The School lost its Preparatory Depart-

ment; we still regretfully miss the bunch of nice little girls who came up regularly into the Main School, already trained in Roan traditions by Miss Denchfield".

Peter DAWSON (Staff) is featured in the Guardian's "Letters to the Editor" on Saturday 6 July. He responds to their Leader Comment of July 4 which claimed that the Prime Minister John Major, had accepted the failures of the Education Reform Act. "Contrary to the suggestion in your leader, what the Prime Minister has done is confirm the original purpose and intention of the Education Reform Act. It was to establish a national curriculum, so parents might know what their children were supposed to be taught, and to introduce tests so that parents might know whether their children had been taught successfully." Peter then draws upon a golfing simile to continue... "At the moment, testing is in the educational rough; lost in the undergrowth of progressive thinking; buried in the couch grass of sentimentality about not letting some children know they have done less well than others." He is critical of the "discredited" School Examinations and Assessment Council (SEAC). "Unless the tests which are given to children can be applied in a straightforward way and understood by parents, their original purpose will not be served. That is, of course, exactly what some involved in creating the proposed pattern of impossible requirements intend. They are fundamentally opposed to the concept of success and failure between child and child, and especially between school and schools." Peter is General Secretary of the Professional Association of Teachers.

Allan CHAMBERS ('48-'53) is now resident in Istanbul as Managing Director of Acer Muhendislik Musavirlil, the Turkish office of Acer Consultants. The company has been in Turkey for over 20 years having designed the two suspension bridge crossings of the Bosphorus in Istanbul and he now lives in a flat high above the Bosphorus with a limited view of the sea in winter only. Having travelled to over 30 countries for his company, previously known as Freeman Fox, this is Allan's second resident spell overseas having spent some 18 months in Dubai between 1983-84. He would be keen to hear from other Old Roans who may be resident in Turkey which has a strong British Community.

Catherine STOCK ('73-'80) advised the Secretary of the new address in Southampton for Alison THOMPSON (nee BROWN '73-'80) following the return of the last "Chronicle". Alison qualified as a nurse in 1983 from the Royal Free Hospital, Hampstead and trained as a midwife, qualifying in 1987. She married in 1988 and lives with her husband, Alan, and daughter, Emma Charlotte, in Southampton where she is working part-time as a midwife.

"Jonah" PHIPPS-JONES ('24-'31) and H.A. BULPITT ('25-'31) enjoyed the 1930 Rhineland reunion. The intervening sixty years had naturally taken their toll but "Jonah" noted that Gordon SMITH's voice was unmistakable. Both felt that similar projects could be explored in the future if members are interested and the French Camp of 1925 and Irish experience of 1929 have been mentioned.

The Editor was treated most generously to lunch by "Pip" WEDGE ('38-'44) in Toronto last November. A full article on "Pip" appeared in the 1990 Chronicle. Despite the date being November 4th it was a warm and sunny day and the trunk of "Pip's" car contained his fully-kitted cricket bag. He was undecided whether tennis or cricket would pass the afternoon more agreeably. Discussions are in progress on a possible cricket weekend in Toronto for a group of Old Roans to enjoy the city and play against "Pip's" team. Whether or not this comes to pass, it is an enjoyable prospect to consider.

Stuart HORSBURGH ('66-'70) accepted the general invitation to use the new facilities in Braithwaite and took a group from St. Augustine College and the Abbey School for a week during July 1990. They enjoyed outstanding weather and plan to return next year. Stuart attended the

reunion football match at the Field in March with his two young daughters and renewed contact with Terry THURLEY and Keith BRADBROOK.

The wedding of Mike CALLAGHAN ('51-'56) to Elizabeth Korkor on January 4th provided the Club with an outstanding series of celebrations. This was the Old Roan Club on excellent form with almost one hundred guests, mainly Old Roans, packing the Registry Office in Woolwich on a Friday afternoon in early January. The party at the Club on the following day was a memorable occasion and was generously sponsored by Mike for his friends and Old Roans. Mike met Elizabeth during his residence in Nigeria. We all wish Mike and Elizabeth every happiness in the future.



Mike Callaghan's Wedding — Guests at Woolwich Registry Office

The key match of the Football League First Division Championship this March featured an outstanding display by David HILLIER ('80-'85). Arsenal won 1-0 at Liverpool in a match watched by millions live on television. Bernie TURNER (Staff) writes in "The Mercury" that David started playing football when he was seven at James Wolfe primary school in Greenwich. He was in Arsenal's colts side while still at John Roan and signed YTS forms after leaving school at 16. Two years later he was a full professional and now he's a first team squad member. One man who always thought David would get to the top was Adrian Guarella, Head of P.E. at John Roan. "He was head and shoulders above the other boys and thoroughly deserves all he's achieved." David still lives with his parents in Lee Green and returned to the School Field in March to work with current schoolboys. He now has a Championship medal and has also received international recognition this year at Under-21 level. Brian Glanville, in the "Sunday Times" of May 12 writes: "Hillier is an interesting figure, whose contribution to the (Arsenal) team is useful in the extreme, if not especially creative. He is neat to a degree, one of nature's wing-halves, capable of winning the ball, commanding it with some skill, and using it with intelligence, if seldom with great originality." The School, Club and Association are proud of David's achievements and rapid progress and will take a keen interest in future developments, including the European Cup in 1991-92.

Gary MICKLEWHITE ('72-'77) played consistently in the English First Division last season though his team, Derby County, were relegated. Gary keeps in contact with his friends at the Club. He was recently spotted in Bromley High Street by Paul Davis who claims to have asked Gary for some advice on his own game. Wayne BURNETT is currently a professional at Leyton Orient and plays in the reserves. Dean GIDDINGS ('83-'88) played recently in the Football Club's five-a-side tournament. Dean was on the books of Bournemouth AFC and now plays for Poole Town.

John REGIS performed well in the European Cup Athletics in Frankfurt last month and beat Leroy Burrell, America's 100m world record-holder, to win the 200m in 20.41 at Crystal Palace on July 12.

Writing in the "Sunday Times" on June 30th, Cliff Temple recalls the World Championship

200m Final in 1987 when he led the field for 199 metres and was passed by two runners in the final stride. He has trained methodically for his chance to win the World Championship in Tokyo on August 27 this year. An interview with John Regis provides several points of interest. John could have been in professional soccer, like his cousin, Cyrille. He played in the midfield alongside David Rocastle in the Thames Polytechnic side, and attracted the interest of Arsenal. He was a talented ball player with outstanding speed and physique, and his father was the champion bodybuilder of St. Lucia. But a bronze medal in the 1985 European Junior 100m Final directed him to athletics instead of soccer. He also had the opportunity to train as a physical education teacher but found that "after three weeks of the training course I was physically knackered. I couldn't believe you had to do so much to be a teacher." At the age of 24 he is at his peak for the sprint races and plans to continue to the longer distances. In Split last year he became the first man to win four medals in one European Championship.

The 5-a-side tournament offered several opportunities to catch up on news of Old Roans. Fritz HENNING ('56-'63 and past editor) was refereeing and gives news of his brother, Claus HENNING ('51-'59) who has moved from Berlin to act as the Representative of the British Council in Bucharest. He was the Roan Exhibitioner in 1959 and is finding the post-Ceausescu era in Romania fascinating. Doug WEAVER ('57-'59) was a spectator but warns that rumours of his retirement from football may be premature. We await a lengthy article from his brother, Keith WEAVER ('61-'65) who has now moved to a croft close to Inverness. Keith has been offered the managership of Banff United. Doug paints an irresistible picture of Keith as being totally content - a figure hunched against the elements in a battered coat and old hat, striding the hillsides on his land, whistling instructions to his sheepdog, and hopefully composing an article for this magazine.

The tournament offered one of those delightful opportunities at the School Field to switch from football to cricket by walking to the other side of the Pavilion. The Saturday 1st XI were starting their chase of a total of 165 set by Bromley Town. Joe BROADFOOT ('51-'56) and Mark SQUIRE ('73-'78) made an interesting but short opening partnership. When asked to comment on his dismissal - caught at slip for 1 - Mark replied that, "only a master craftsman would have got to the ball". At the point that this writer made his apologies and departed, Joe was proceeding productively but dangerously and appeared to be fulfilling the maxim of "we'll make them in fours and save the legs". Paul WITCHALLS ('76-'83) and Richard THOMAS ('76-'83) supplied up-to-date information for the Marriage section. Richard is a Stockbroker Clerk in the City. Richard CLARK ('76-'81) is playing for the Football Club 3rd XI and works with his father in a building and hotel business, working largely at present in the North of England.

Mike TITHERIDGE ('51-'56) has re-trained as a Prison Officer and works at Belmarsh in Plumstead. He appeared last year for the 4ths but was unable to gain a place in the "Vets". Graham BRISCOE ('62-'69) has followed the demise of the GLC, ILEA and the London Residuary Body (LRB) and is seeking a new career from June. He claims, with satisfaction, that "at least Margaret Thatcher went first". Dave ARMSTRONG ('73-'79) has been out of football action since an injury around Christmas. Dave now lives in Northcray and is a Field Sales Manager with a furniture manufacturing company.

The tournament was won by a single scored by Keith Hevicon in a team that included Ray Mills, Fraser Lochtie, Darren O'Shea and Paul Smith.

The School received a letter from Dr. Ken Smith, biographer of the late John Wyndham (John Wyndham Parkes Lucas Beynon Harris), advising the death in early June of Mrs Grace I. Harris, formerly Miss Grace WILSON, and a teacher of English at the Roan School for Girls from 1933-63. Mrs. Harris died at her home in Steep, Hampshire on Sunday 2nd June. During research

interviews on the life of her late husband, the popular science-fiction author, she spoke often of the Roan School in Greenwich and the evacuation to Wales during the Second World War.

Yewlin TAY ('61-'68) has carved out for himself an unusual and satisfying career. After leaving school he studied psychology at Exeter and London, and then travelled round the world, moving eventually to Denmark, where he began to teach many different group of children, particularly those with problems. He eventually arrived at a children's home on Ammassalik Island, the administrative centre for East Greenland, with a population of about 1,500. Ringed by high mountains, and overlooking a beautiful fjord, frozen except in summer, Ammassalik town is one of the most beautiful, but isolated places in the world, and as an island, is accessible in Winter only by helicopter, or dog team over the frozen sea. Married to a Greenlander, Yewlin now manages with equal expertise the only hotel in East Greenland and his own husky dog team. His importance on the local scene will be recognised later this year by his appearance, with his dog team, on one of Greenland's attractive stamps. It really is a case of Roan boy makes good, becomes an Inuit Dog Driver, and ends up on a postage stamp!

"Wise men say — only fools rush in . . ." Sixteen Old Roans from the Vets Football team and their partners concluded their enjoyable season with a meal at the "Memphis Chinese Restaurant" in Bexleyheath Broadway. The main feature of the restaurant, apart from some excellent food, was the appearance of Elvis and his Karaoke machine. It would require the pen of Clive James to describe this Chinese "Elvis" and the evening adequately, but a thoroughly enjoyable time was had by all. Barry CORBYN excelled as extrovert and singer. Rod PEPPER ('63-'66) received his "Player of the Year" trophy with greater eagerness than he accepted the microphone and, after insisting that every member of the party form his backing group for "Return to Sender", he passed the mike with greater frequency and accuracy than he ever passed the ball all season. Many thanks to Rod Pepper and Jim HARDY ('63-'68) for organising the evening.



"Lollipop, lollipop, doo waddy waddy waddy, lollipop . . ." The fabulous "Hardy Brothers"

THE CLASS OF '73

On Friday 15th February 1991 a reunion was held at Le Chandon restaurant in Blackheath Village of the "Class of '73". Out of a roll of 31, we managed to trace 29, and on the night 20 were present.

During the evening a buffet was served which was rounded off with a cake to mark the occasion.

The evening was considered a success and we hope to repeat it in the future.

Catherine Stock (nee Lakin)
Elaine Shulver (nee Wright)

Ruth McGregor
(73-'80)

"... THOUGH NATIONS TREK FROM PROGRESS"

The Editor has checked the page proofs, confirmed the outstanding adverts, and finds that he has a space to fill. With apologies to contributors who have not been included he offers his personal random "time-capsule" piece based on the observation that magazines of this type usually ignore any historical context. This publication was compiled during the worst economic recession since the early 1970s and there may be worse to come!

Other events . . .

Goodbye to Graham Greene and David Lean with thanks in particular for "Brighton Rock" and the "Comedians", "Brief Encounter" and "Great Expectations". Many enjoyed the "Third Man" but understand that you never wrote the famous lines on Switzerland and cuckoo clocks so beloved by Alf Knott in our English classes. Fond farewells also to Aaron Copeland, Leonard Bernstein, Irving Berlin, Peggy Ashcroft, Jim Henson and Stan Mortenson. We must also bid a less final farewell to Margaret Thatcher with this writer preferring to leave any judgements to history. Farewell to Yugoslavia and to a divided Germany — what thoughts now across the far beyond from those wise men of Potsdam and Yalta? Goodbye to the sporting isolation of South Africa. Farewell to Lennie Lawrence and thank you for those bonus four years in the first division — did they really happen? — the word enjoyment, like athletic, is not usually appropriate but the play-off decider against Leeds, the wins at United and Tottenham, the comprehensive defeat of Chelsea, and Ralph Milne, will be remembered. Farewell to Selhurst and back to Valley for the first game on August 17. Au revoir to communism, socialism and the Soviet Empire.

Between the dates of January 17 and February 27 there was a conflict in the Gulf, fought by the allies on behalf of the U.N. under the codename "Operation Desert Storm", to free Kuwait from occupation by Iraq and to create a "new world order". Six months after the outbreak of hostilities the region is as far as ever from the peace and security that the action was supposed to achieve. Tens of thousands of Iraqis were killed, thousands of Kurds died in refugee camps in Turkey, thousands more in Iran and tens of thousands of Iraqi children are dying in post-war chaos. Saddam Hussein still rules Iraq and his nuclear capability threatens further action. Kuwait remains in near-anarchy, oil fires burn, the economies of Jordan and Yemen are crippled, and Saudi Arabia and its allies are re-arming. The weekend of June 8 saw jubilant and joyous "victory" parades in the U.S.A.

"We laughed, knowing that better men would come,
And greater wars; when each proud fighter brags
He wars on Death — for Life: not men — for flags."

"The Next War" — Wilfred Owen

The value of Sterling on Friday 12 July, 1991 stood at \$1.64 / 2.94 DM / 10 Ffr.

This writer is not fond of military matters but the first day of this month saw the 75th anniversary of the first day of the battle of the Somme and the less remembered anniversary of the first day of hostilities at Gettysburg 128 years ago. Both events changed, in a fundamental way, the world as it was and the way that the world was perceived. The 75th anniversary of Gettysburg in 1938 was commemorated by over 1,000 veterans of the battle with the last survivor dying in 1956 and the last veteran of the Civil War in 1959. Our direct links with the days of Lee, Longstreet and Pickett are long gone but with an aching sentimentality we are still able to speak to a rapidly declining number of survivors of that day in France 75 years ago. No words from Henry V here! As years pass by, the apocalyptic scene of Wilfred Owen's last, unfinished, poem seems more poignant, and less answerable, for those young members of the Grimsby Chums; the Accrington

Pals; Capt. Neville, who kicked off the 8th East Surreys' advance with a football; the 36th Ulsters; the Newfoundlanders, and many, many more who awoke for the last time on that morning. When, down "some profound dull tunnel" those last survivors are asked to account for the years in-between, what truths will be told?

"Strange friend I said, here is no cause to mourn.
None, said the other, save the undone years . . ."

"Strange Meeting" — Wilfred Owen

The most popular adult leisure activity in Britain today is to visit "Car Boot Sales".

BIRTHS

BENFORD to Susan, wife of Cliff ('71-'76), on 30th January 1991 a daughter, Emily, a sister for Amy and Kerry

FUHR to Rosie, wife of Clive (Fred) ('62-'69), on 2nd September 1987 a daughter, Zoe, and on 27th November 1990 a son, Adam

JENKINS to Sally, wife of Bob ('65-'72), on 21st September 1990 a daughter, Grace Margaret, a sister for Hannah Louise

LEASK to Mitzi, wife of Tim ('66-'73), on 2nd December 1990 a son, James

PAGE to Emma, wife of Jerry ('71-'78), on 23rd August 1989 a daughter, Harriet Emily

PAGE to Susan, wife of Andy ('68-'75), on 1st March 1990, a daughter, Amanda, a sister for Elizabeth and Jonathan

PUDDIFOOT to Tracey, wife of Trevor ('64-'71), on 27th April 1991 a daughter, Sian Emily, a brother for Joe

SALES to Diane, wife of Len ('72-'77), on 21st September 1990, a son, Daniel Thomas

SPINK to Sandy, wife of Fred ('64-'71), on 7th November 1990, a daughter, Natalie, a sister for William and Peter

MARRIAGES

BLOYCE - GUNN on 27th October 1990 at Romsey Registry Office, Andy Bloyce ('71-'78) and Sally Gunn

CALLAGHAN - KORKOR on 4th January 1991 at Woolwich Registry Office, Mike Callaghan ('51-'56) and Elizabeth Korkor

DANIELS - BAILEY on 1st September 1990 at All Saints Church, New Eltham, Andy Daniels ('77-'82) and Jo Bailey

MOORE - ELVIN on 27th February 1990 at Woolwich Registry Office, Kate Moore ('63-'70) and Ian Elvin

THOMAS - GONELLA on 6th July 1991 at St John's Church, Goose Green, East Dulwich, Richard Thomas ('76-'83) and Diane Gonella

WITCHALLS - GORHAM on 11th May 1991 at St Edmunds and St Mary's Church, Ingates-tone, Paul Witchells ('76-'83) to Susan Gorham

GOLDEN WEDDING

BREWER Vic Bill ('29-'34) and Daisy on 25th May 1991

DEATHS

BERRY, Mrs.M. (wife of Lionel Berry, Staff '23-'63) April 1991

BRITTAN, D.L. ('43-'48) 7th November 1990

DENCHFIELD, Miss B.M.S. (Staff '25-'53) 1990

EMLER, D.J. ('43-'48) 29th March 1990

HARRIS Mrs.G. (nee Wilson, Staff '33-'63) 2nd June 1991

HOSFORD, Mrs.E. (nee Mulcock '18-'25) 1st July 1990

MITCHELL, S.J.D. (Staff '35-'53) July 1990

MOREY, L. (Staff) 1991

NICHOL, A.R.W. ('22-'27) 6th November 1989

PANKHURST, F.R. ('16-'18) June 1990

PECKHAM, D.H. 4th February 1991

QUICK, E.H. ('17-'20) 2nd May 1990

SHAW (Shaer), J. (Staff '21-'26) 4 July 1987

SHEPPARD, M.F. (nee Watts '26-'32) 20th February 1991

VICKERS, F.R. (O.B.E.) ('36-'43) 9th July 1990

WARWICK, F. ('16-'21) March 1990

WILLIS, F.R. ('21-'25) 30th July 1990

WRETTS-SMITH, Miss M. (Staff '38-'67) 10th December 1990

The President has announced a "Beating of the Bounds" to be held on the evening of Friday 27 September to mark the 80th anniversary of the founding of the Old Roan Association. The "Illustrated Talk" at the Club on September 6 will be a prelude to this long established and much respected tradition.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:

The Editor wishes to acknowledge the support and assistance of the many contributors to this issue. Special thanks are due to Alf Knott for his support, enthusiasm, and considerable assistance with proof-reading. Tom Morris and Roger Mallett are especially thanked for their excellent photographs. We are appreciative of the support of our faithful advertisers. Finally, the Editor wishes to thank P.J.Barnwell for his interest, ideas and correspondence throughout the year.

Opposite: The Thirtysomething generation





Twenty Years On!

There are 1,127 members of The Old Roan Association.
313 of you are retired, 261 are at home raising a family,
56 are working abroad, 69 are un-employed, 2 are in jail,
1 is in a monastery and 1 thinks he is a teapot!

That still leaves 424 of you in full employment and to date 43 of
you have used the amazing services of the worlds finest
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This means that 381 members still haven't!!!!!!

*So what's the matter with you, come on, wake up and make sure you phone an order
through tomorrow or else you could end up just another statistic!! Geddit!!*

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DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Reunion Dinner at the School Field — Friday 18 October 1991

Childrens' Party at the School Field — Sunday 12 January 1992

Dinner Dance at the Crest Sports & Leisure Club — Saturday 21 March 1992

Annual General Meeting at the School Field — Thursday 26 March 1992