



SUSCEPTUM PERFICE MUNUS

THE OLD ROAN CHRONICLE

No 5

JULY 1985

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FROM THE EDITOR

As usual there have been a number of changes during the past year. Most significant amongst these has been the departure of Dr. Taylor and the arrival of his successor Mrs. Ann Tonkin.

A tribute to Dr. Taylor appears later. His contributions to the development of the School have been monumental. We wish him and Mrs. Taylor a long and happy retirement.

I am obliged to the Parents Association for permission to use the profile of the new Head which first appeared in their excellent publication "Roan Ranger". I am sure that I speak on behalf of all Old Roans in wishing Mrs. Tonkin a successful and rewarding association with the School. She can be assured of our full co-operation in her endeavours.

We also welcome Neal Haslam as our new President. Neal is one of those unobtrusive but hardworking individuals on which any organisation such as ours relies if it is to prove successful. I am sure that Neal, together with his wife Hilary, will be very much in evidence at both School and Association functions. We wish them an enjoyable year of office.

Once again I am grateful to the many people who have contributed to the production of this edition of the Chronicle. It remains the sole link for many members and hopefully every reader will find something of interest in the following pages.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

In the formative years of the Association, the office of President was held alternately by Old Boys and Masters of the School. I am delighted to be honoured by being elected as the 61st President and it is particularly pleasing for me to follow my own Headmaster, Dr. Taylor, into this position.

It is disappointing to report that the Officers and Committee were elected by a small minority of the members. The attendance at the Annual General Meeting was one of the lowest for some years, but I hope this will not become the 'norm' and trust that more of you will be present next year on 21st March. After all, it is your Association and your views are always welcomed.

Within days of the AGM, I had the pleasure to represent the Association at the Sixth Form Prize Evening held at the Pavilion. The list of prizes still seems endless and the winners are as worthy as ever. I wish all 'new' Old Roans success in their chosen career and hope they will play an active part in the Association.

Together with other members, I was privileged to attend the farewell evening to mark Dr. Taylor's retirement on 2nd April. Following a splendid buffet, the packed school hall were entertained in rousing style by the Lewisham Display Group Band. Our comperes for the evening, stars of stage and morning assembly, Wynne Austin and Gordon Brooks (actually, deputy heads!) then introduced the A-DOCCO-MY awards.

Unlike the Academy version, there was only one nomination each time. Tributes and votes of thanks were made by pupils, parents, staff — both former and present, governors, the education authority and the Association. Dr. Taylor was reminded of 'notable' events during his 17 years as Head, with songs as well as words. On your behalf I presented him with a gift to thank him for his constant enthusiasm and involvement with the Association.

We all wish Dr. and Mrs. Taylor a long and happy retirement in Langley near Macclesfield.

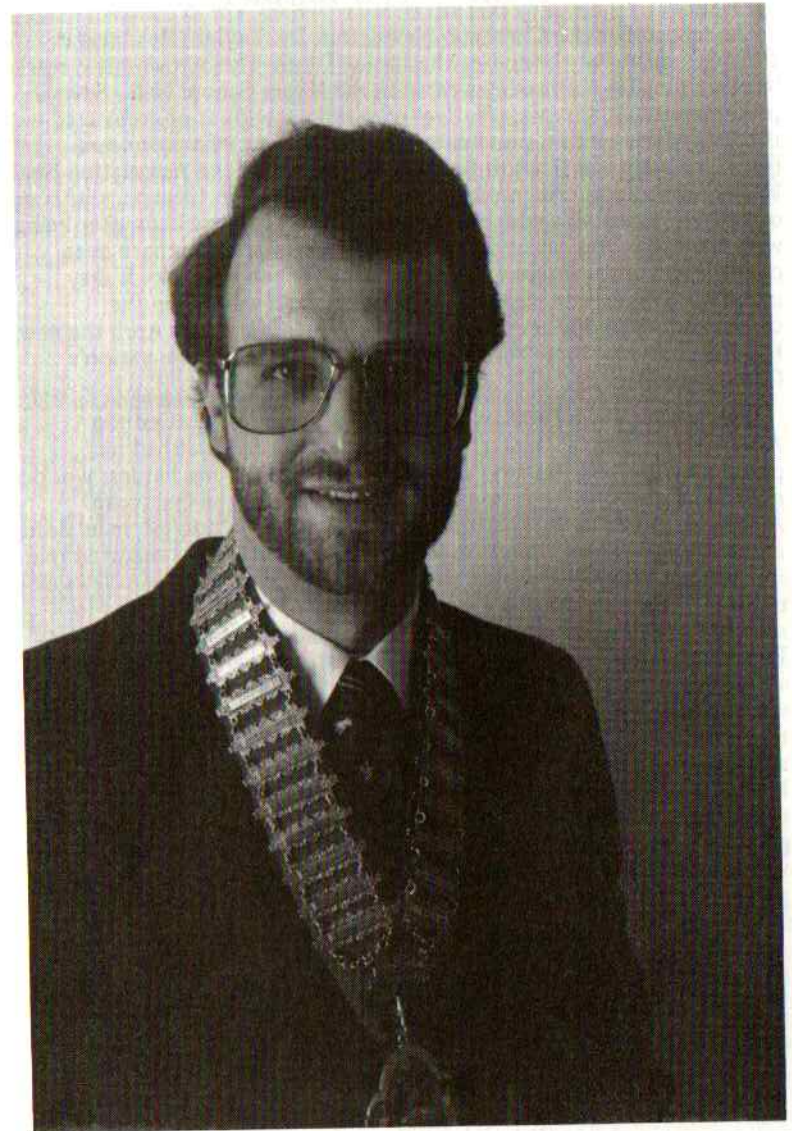
At the first Committee Meeting I chaired as President, we were pleased to welcome the new Head, Mrs. Ann Tonkin, who kindly attended even though it was her first day at the School. No doubt members will be able to meet her at future functions.

Two functions you may care to note in your diary already are the Reunion Dinner on 25th October and the Annual Dinner and Dance on 8th March next year. Full details from our Social Secretary nearer the time.

I hope to be able to represent the Association at all School functions and those of the Parents Association. Likewise I will try to support our own Clubs and Societies and follow their progress.

Many worthy names appear on the Presidents' Board, and I trust I will prove to be an asset during my term of office and worthy of the honour you have bestowed on me.

Hilary and I send good wishes to Old Roans everywhere.



NEAL HASLAM
President, Old Roan Association
1985–86

SECRETARY'S REPORT

As reported in the Christmas Newsletter, Dr. Taylor (Headmaster 1968-85) retired at the end of the Easter Term. The occasion was marked by the School at a retirement party in the Upper School Hall. Several presentations from representatives of various groups at or connected with the School were made, punctuated by a double act of announcers (Wynne Austin and Gordon Brooks). On behalf of the Association Neal Haslam, President, presented Dr. Taylor and his wife, Eleanor, with a pair of bedside lamps. We wish Dr. Taylor well on his retirement after being with the School for seventeen years, most years of which have been connected with its massive reorganisation. He can now take it easy pursuing his favourite pastimes of gardening and walking in the countryside from his new home in Macclesfield. On 22nd April the new Headteacher, Mrs. Ann Tonkin, was welcomed to the Association's Committee Meeting.

Four days before Dr. Taylor's retirement party he chaired the Association's Annual General Meeting, where he relinquished his presidency, to Neal Haslam ('67-'74). Neal is one of the hardest working members holding the position of Treasurer of both the Old Roan Association and Old Roan Club. He is also quite an 'odd job man' doing much to improve the Club Room. At that meeting it was reported that the number of positive replies from the slip enclosed with the Newsletter requesting members to reply stating whether or not they wished to receive further copies stood at 671 with 40 not wishing future copies. Registered letters were sent to the 9 life members with overseas addresses whom the Association had not heard of for many years. Four of these were returned undelivered. It seems likely that replies from many members in this country have not been received because they have not advised their change of address. This seems more likely to be true of Life Members as one hopes Ordinary Members paying subscriptions would ensure they receive something for their money. Consideration is being given to sending registered or recorded letters to some Old Roans with the view to confirming their current address or cutting down our large printing and postage costs.

As at 31st December, 1984 the Association had:—

704 Life Members
479 Full Paid Ordinary Members
2 Junior Members
3 Honorary Members
15 Associate Members

1,203 Total

Over the past year the Association has been asked for, and provided financial assistance to the School. One of the two projects is to send a group of Staff and pupils to perform two School Productions at the prestigious Edinburgh Festival Fringe this August. The other is to help two pupils playing in the London Schools Symphony Orchestra which will be touring in Europe. It seems quite likely the School will need help in the future which we will be unable to meet. Members might like to know that there is a fund called the "Mary Higgs Fund" set up under the control of the Association Committee to aid the School as and when requested. Should any Old Roan wish to contribute, any donations would be warmly welcomed by the Treasurer.

FROM THE TREASURER . . .

1984 was another successful year financially for the Association. A surplus of £73 was carried forward to the Accumulated Fund, which now stands at £4,259.

Publishing the "Chronicle" and "Newsletter" continues to be our major item of expenditure. A large loss was incurred on social functions, not due to bad planning but because many members who had booked for the Reunion Dinner on 2nd November neither attended or paid. Prior payment will be required in future for such functions.

The alterations and refurbishment of the bar had a major impact on the Club accounts. The difficulties that arose are reflected in poorer trading results than we have achieved in recent years.

An overall deficit of £767 was recorded for the year; disappointing, but not altogether unexpected.

The audited accounts of the Association and the Club were presented and adopted at the Annual General Meeting; Members may obtain a copy by sending a stamped, addressed envelope to me.

LOST AND (MAYBE) FOUND !

Mrs. P. Cheesman (nee Morrish) ('45-'50)	J. Osbourne ('67-'74)
A.J. Chenery ('63-'66)	R.W. Pearman ('31-'37)
P.W. Dinnage ('49-'54)	C. Pratt (-'65)
Miss S. Etherington	Mrs. A. Rathbone (nee Peacock)
Mrs. C. Fleming (nee Brown)	P.I. Richards ('57-'63)
Mrs. S. Gray (nee Carr)	Miss J. Seller
T.E. Lovatt ('30-'38)	M.G. Sellix ('56-'62)
J.H. Marshall ('41-'46)	R.E. Sellix ('54-'61)
	D.J. Watson ('57-'62)

THE OLD ROAN CLUB

This report is similar to that made at the recent A.G.M., of the Association when, disappointingly, only 30 members were sufficiently interested to attend and hear of the progress of both the Old Roan Club and the Association. In consequence this is a welcome opportunity to "up-date" well over one thousand members who, for various reasons, were unable to hear the report at first hand. This lack of support is endemic in that whilst the Club has continued to operate in a fairly successful manner, during the past year, we are very disappointed that relatively few members avail themselves of the social facilities offered.

As promised at the A.G.M., of March 1984 the renovation of the Bar facilities, allowing for the better utilisation of space, real ale on draught and a separate "cellar" area were duly completed by the end of that year. There is no doubt that we have effected a considerable improvement and, additionally, have now completed the conversion of the original storeroom into a temperature-controlled "beer cellar" at a cost of some £2,000. Whilst this is somewhat expensive we believe it is very necessary if we are to keep our beers etc., in good condition throughout the year. Full operation of the new bar facilities was delayed for several months but we are now finally complete with two cold shelves, an ice making machine and a glass-washer in full working order.

The first results of these improvements were disappointing in that we experienced initial problems in serving the draught beer. For a long period we suffered excessive wastage and this was a major factor in the very poor trading figures during the mid-year period. In October 1984 we were forced to increase the overall level of bar prices, which had been held steady for well over a year, despite suppliers' increases and the depredations of the Chancellor. Despite this general increase our prices compare very favourably with most other Clubs and we do not anticipate having to make any further price increases during 1985. With a little bit of luck we may even manage to hold prices steady well into 1986.

The price increase in October did enable us to produce an acceptable trading result over the whole year but, as shewn in the Treasurer's Report, the nett profit is low when compared with previous years. We have, recently, purchased a new Fruit Machine and the Pool Table has been repaired and re-covered and members should note that the income derived from these two sources is a major contribution to our trading income.

The trading problems during the period from April to October were aggravated by problems in supply and were made even more difficult by the lack of efficiency in staffing the Bar. Despite the efforts of successive Chief Stewards and Bar Rota Stewards there were numerous occasions, particularly on Fridays and Sundays when the Bar was not opened and this, of course, had two immediate effects. Firstly, we lose the trade of that particular session and, more importantly, members gradually lose

interest in the Club. They cannot be sure that the premises will be opened and, even worse, they may find themselves involved in additional Bar duties and locking up. In this context there is nothing worse than visiting the Club, perhaps with friends, only to find that it is not open or that you have to serve yourself and, possibly, lock up. I must repeat that the Rota Stewards have done their utmost to maintain the Bar service but there is a limit to the amount of work that any one person can do.

Leaving our own staffing problems, for a moment, you will know that Cyril Davies, the head groundsman, left Roan for pastures new, at Cranbrook School in Kent. At the same time the cleaning staff, Jimmy Green and his wife, retired and moved from the district. We have been fortunate in obtaining the services of Mrs. Keeling, the wife of the new groundsman, in this latter capacity and have increased the honorarium paid to the ground staff together with the amount paid for cleaning.

Arising from the circumstances I have referred to, the Bar Executive Committee, together with a number of co-opted members, recently held a special meeting to consider what can be done to re-kindle enthusiasm and improve the existing amenities. From this discussion we hope to improve the bar rota system, simplify the arrangements for the collection and return of keys for the Bar Stewards, increase the number of disco dances and consider the use of "background" music in one bar. In conjunction with these proposals we have improved the lighting in the new bar, repaired the damaged furniture, introduced portable room dividers and generally brightened the existing facilities. Much of this programme has already been activated and we shall have to wait and see whether or not it will achieve our objectives.

Finally, on behalf of all members, may I express our thanks to the School Governors and the Head Teachers for their continued interest and co-operation, to the successive Chief Stewards and to all other officers, committee members and Bar Stewards who have helped to keep the Club going during the past twelve months. In my opinion this has been the most difficult year of operation since we first opened in 1956 and I hope we can now climb from the valley of despondency to the heights of success.

Frank Barnes.

OLD ROAN PERSONALITIES

NEAL HASLAM

On the 29th March, 1985 Neal Haslam was elected President of the Old Roan Association. Neal becomes the youngest ever President of the Association, having attended the school from 1967 to 1974.

During his school career, Neal was an active member of the School Scout Troop – G21. He was very proud to become the first member of the troop to achieve the Chief Scout Award. His sporting activities at school were limited to a number of appearances in the cross country team.

Upon leaving the School he joined the Association and, very soon became involved with its and the Club's activities. Neal served as Club Steward for three years, a period in which he devoted much time and effort to improving the workings and environment of the bar, and last year played a major part in organising its complete alteration and refurbishment. He then became Assistant Treasurer of the Association and the Club and went on to become Treasurer of both entities in 1982. He still holds these positions and is happy to continue looking after our purse strings.

Neal commenced his working career with Barclays Bank International Limited and in 1980 he was pleased to be elected as an Associate of the Institute of Bankers. He has recently been appointed to Pall Mall International Services Branch.

In his spare time Neal enjoys 'Do-It-Yourself', both at home and at the Old Roan Club! Indeed it can be said that if a new cupboard or partition wall appears at the Club, it is more than likely that Neal was there the previous evening.

He is a keen skier and apart from many skiing holidays, he has skied for Barclays Bank in European competitions.

In 1981 Neal married Hilary, an Old Roan herself. She was a committee member of the Old Roan Girl's Association and is currently the Association's Archivist.

Neal hoped that one day he might be able to accept the honour of becoming President, although later rather than sooner. No one was more surprised than Neal himself when he was nominated. Election as President must be the highest compliment Old Roans can pay to one of their members, and Neal's is no exception. Under his Presidency the Association can look forward to another active and successful year.

“... days of passion ... days of pride”

With all the publicity surrounding the celebrations to mark forty years of peace since VE Day we include accounts of those far off war days. The first, by Joan Williams in Form IIIb (I wonder if she is still in touch?) appeared in the Girls' School Gazette of April 1946.

“May 7th was a day of excitement. We were sent to the hall after School and were told that the War was unofficially over. Our excitement was crowned with two days' holiday. As I rode home on my bicycle people were queueing for flags of the Allied Nations and children were waving coloured streamers. I felt my excitement growing as I thought of the prospects of the coming days.

I awoke early on the following day and rushed downstairs to see the headlines of the paper. Food had to be bought early as the shops were closing for holidays. Everything had to be done in a rush. I visited my two friends who told me they were going to buy fireworks and red, white and blue ribbon. I was glad I had saved my sweet coupons as I spent the whole month's ration there and then. There were groups of people in the street talking excitedly, each one with a different story to tell.

At three o'clock in the afternoon we heard that the War was over. Church bells were ringing and most people were going to church. My two friends and I went and just managed to get a seat in time for the service.

The evening came on quickly and the sky was already tinted with sunset and the glow of bonfires. It seemed as though we were going back to the days of the War when the sky was lit with the glow from German bombs.

I mingled with the crowds who were dancing round the bonfires. Old mattresses were thrown on and anything which came to hand. It began to get late so I hurried home. I came out again with my parents who said they were coming to see the bonfires which I had described to them. I was separated from them in the crowds but this did not worry me. I wandered around admiring the fires. I glanced up and saw searchlights and planes in the sky.

I met my two friends and we stood talking for a time discussing the day's events and planning our time for the following day. I went to sleep that night longing for the day when the War with Japan would be over – then we could really celebrate our victory.”

The second account was written recently by Katy A. Gatnell (nee Surridge).

I was a Roan girl during the war years (1941-1946). The school had been evacuated to a small (then) mining village called Ammanford in South Wales, and was housed (so rumour had it!) in a disused laundry. The local Grammar School girls called us “Black-u-ees” because we came from a large dirty city. We were billeted locally and most of the men worked in the coal mines. Welsh was the dominant language. It was a difficult time for a young girl, away from home, learning her first French and Latin and trying to understand her Welsh friends.

By 1943 London was considered reasonably safe and part of the School returned to Devonshire Drive. Little did we know that we would have to contend with V1's (Doodle-bugs) and V2's (rockets)! It was a time of great camaraderie – two local schools had been badly damaged in raids and so we shared our school with Kings Warren girls in brown uniforms and Mary Datchelor girls in navy. We wore the Roan green but with clothing coupons very limited uniform was “the best you can do in the circumstances”. Like all young girls we complained about school dinners but even to this day I can remember war-time custard – thick, bright yellow and sweetened with saccharin, it clung to the spoon and the mouth with a tenacity that would put ‘super-glue 3’ to shame!

We used to swim at Greenwich Baths and as soon as the siren went we had to quickly rush to the changing rooms. It was no mean feat to pull up standard type green knickers over wet derrieres at the same time hopping about trying to control wayward socks over wet feet – but we managed it with lots of noise but not much aplomb. We had gas mask drill, air raid drill and fire drill and still managed to complete our studies. We played tennis in Greenwich Park, rounders on Blackheath and hockey at Kidbrooke – we must have walked miles!

The staff were marvellous. I remember Miss Hough (history) tucking her pretty lace hankies down her bodice (occasionally lost forever it would seem by her frantic searchings!); Miss Marsh painfully correcting our French accents; Miss Wilson (English) reciting Milton's ‘Paradise Lost’ (did she really know it all by heart?); Miss Smith with the lovely handwriting and the latin verbs; Miss Wendon and her tuning fork; Miss Watling and her divided skirt and an upright old bicycle that she rode from School to Lee Green; Miss Monk-Jones and the dreaded ‘Pythagorous Theorem’ – we could all recite it, but to prove it . . . !

I remember the library and the very old Punch magazines with caricatures of Bismark and ‘Ole Bill’. They all seemed 1900-1920. Were they bequeathed by an Old Roan Girl?

We attended a service (with the Boy's School) in the beautiful Painted Hall at the Naval College. Could this have been to celebrate peace after the war years? – I'm not too sure – but we sang with great gusto and it made quite an impression on me. I shall always have that memory.

School was a happy place and with one's special circle of friends there was always lots of laughter. There were bad days when relatives were lost and friends lost relatives and, on two occasions, when school friends were lost, but the staff were marvellous and the teaching always remained top quality despite the sleepless nights and all that war entails.

How sad that the building that housed so many memories of girls growing into young ladies has gone.



Ammanford Park, 1940

?, J. Hill, E.A. Howse, E. Dibblin, H. Cousins.
Can anyone name the girls or fifth boy ?

THE NEW HEAD

Newly-appointed Head of John Roan, Ann Tonkin, is no stranger to South-East London. Born at Belvedere ("The same day as Paul McCartney"), she attended school at Erith. "When I told my father about John Roan School he reminded me that during the war he had been moved to work in the boys school building for 6-8 weeks from the Arsenal, where he had trained as an apprentice. From my childhood I remember going to visit my grandmother 'across the water' in Leyton and the excitement of the free ferry or the foot tunnels to North Woolwich and the Isle of Dogs".

After training as a teacher, Ann Tonkin spent six years teaching English and R.E. at Kidbrooke School. A former colleague remembers her as "an exceptionally lively and outgoing person and a determined and efficient teacher well able to put ideas across". Following a BA in English at University College (1973), she was appointed Head of English at Thomas Bennet School, Crawley. She took up her present post of Deputy Head of Priory School, Lewes in 1980. Her career has not been exclusively school teaching. Between 1980 and 1983 Mrs. Tonkin studied part-time for an MA in English Literature at the University of Sussex and she has been involved for many years in in-service work with teachers.

"However", she informs us, "my concerns now are with London as it is in 1985, and in particular with John Roan School".

"Dr. Taylor is justifiably very proud of the amalgamated school, its traditions and people. The staff are ready to go forward and are responding to new thinking about how pupils learn best, how to support them by greater organizational flexibility, personal responsibility and autonomy in their school lives, and we are anxious to work with parents whose children are in our care. I am most concerned that children should have access to a balanced academic and pastoral curriculum and that recent thinking on class, gender and race should inform and affect teaching arrangements and day-to-day relationships at school. I think children in London are especially fortunate that education is and always has been of prime concern, and that at John Roan they have such rich local opportunities for social and cultural activities. The interest which a borough like Greenwich shows in a school where the governing body has considerable local representation must work to the benefit of everyone in the school community."

Mrs. Tonkin tells us that she is "very committed to comprehensive education for all and to the community in which schools operate", and she "subscribes to the provisions outlined in the Hargreaves report". "Above all, it seems to me, it is important to enjoy working with pupils, teaching and auxiliary staff, and parents. I have always like being in schools, and I am concerned to enable all those who have an interest in John Roan to have access to it, share in its development and benefit from the excitement, energy and hard work which a good school generates."

"GOINGS ON"

*"Time is like a fashionable host
That slightly shakes his parting quest by the hand,
And with his arms outstretched, as he would fly,
Grasps in the corner: welcome ever smiles
And farewell goes out sighing."*

Troilus & Cressida
W.S.

We have lost and gained a Headteacher. We gave — the Staff, the pupils, the parents, the governors, former staff, and many Old Roans — Dr. Taylor a fond, and memorable farewell. I believe it was a night to remember with the Hall full of flowers and goodwill. Everyone spoke of Dr. Taylor's contribution to Roan and his deserved retirement. We all wish him well, "and farewell goes out sighing".

"Welcome ever smiles" a new face to see. Mrs. Tonkin is now part of Roan. The first female Head of Greenwich Boys known as Roan boys for over 300 years. She has already been introduced to the Club and The Association. At school she is busily putting names to faces and faces to names. We are all busy preparing for next year and the challenges that continually face us in education.

The Sixth Form will lose, sadly, Greenwich Park School from the consortium; we are opening negotiations with Kidbrooke and Eaglesfield (the old Shooters Hill) to see if we can come together at 16 - 19 provision. The whole question of a continued Sixth Form presence is in the air. It may be that we can fight off Tertiary or Sixth Form Centres; the implications for the O.R.A., are obvious.

The School is a lively place these days; I expect it always was. The liveliness comes from having a complete cross-section of our changing society. This throws up all sorts of problems which are new. I have discussed many of them before. One question that continues to preoccupy me is not new but seems to have taken on a new relevance. What are we educating people for? There has been a shift in emphasis — with vocational interests in evidence. We have also developed a new course in the 4/5 year called SCOPE — this is aimed at the under-achiever. We are trying to overcome the problem of a State system of education which, in the ILEA at least, sees one in four 5th year students out of school. Society requires a reasoned answer to that problem — but is also society's problem.

Below this article you will find a precis of the year's achievements. You will, I hope, be impressed. Much of what has been achieved has been due to the enormous contribution Staff have made over and above their normal tasks. There is much to be proud of — and this at a time when morale in teaching is at an all time low.

The School continues to provide for the needs of the children of Greenwich. Many of us feel that we can do more and want to do more. We continue to welcome visitors to the school — if you are passing don't forget to pop in — like the Windmill, we never close!

"Long temps je me suis couché de bonne heure"

NOT any more!

Gordon Brooks.

SCHOOL NEWS

The School continues to operate on a very wide front of sporting, cultural and recreational activities.

We won last year's District Cup and lost in the Final this year at 1st XI. Three members of the team play for London and two are going on tour with a London Team. The three are Rodney Malcolm, Trevor Franklin and David Wray.

Two blokes — Omar Khan and Paul Nash — played cricket for London last summer. The 4th Year Soccer Team won the District and London Cups. The 1st XI cricket team reached the final in the London Cup.

David Wren (U6) is an outstanding character and Cambridge Harrier. John Regis (L6) is the second fastest 200m. man in the country in his Under 20 age group. He goes to Florida on a scholarship next year.

There is much squash, trampolining, table-tennis, badminton, tennis and swimming. The 2nd Year won the District Cup for cricket.

Drama is hugely active. Many staff are involved writing, directing and lighting. We have a superb reputation. The School has two plays in this year's Edinburgh Fringe — written by Staff. The Old Roan Association has given generous support. We have had a "panto" with a 50+ cast, a marvellous 6th Form production of 'Once a Catholic', lots of examination productions and a Lower School play in the summer.

We continue to run skiing trips — one to Italy and one to France. Braithwaite still attracts a senior and junior visit for the walking and climbing — with Staff who have Mountain Leadership qualifications. We have had a journey to Inverliever and the Isle of Man and another Senior trip to North Wales.

Music is still very much alive — two pupils are going on tour with the LSSO (London Schools' Symphony Orchestra) to Italy.

Art is very strong and we continue to send pupils to Art Colleges with impressive portfolios.

The trip to Edinburgh in August will, I suppose, be a highlight. The parents have given over £650 from their Spring Fair and we are gathering media interest, including Woman's hour. The play features Greenham Common and Mrs. Thatcher! (I have omitted the Police, the Russians, the odd American and a pack of hounds!).

THE HARGREAVES REPORT

The Parents Association's "Roan Ranger" contained the following article by Chris Mann on the influential Hargreaves Report. It is reproduced below (with thanks to the PA) in order to acquaint members with the current thinking about the possible organisation within the School.

Many people have probably heard something about "Hargreaves" or the "Hargreaves Report". There was a meeting at the school in October last year to discuss it and some parents may have already been to one of the new experimental "tutor group" meetings at the school.

The Report is important because it is about improving secondary schools. It makes many recommendations about the shape of the curriculum and the organisation of secondary schools.

A five year plan of action for ILEA secondary schools — to deal with the rejection of school by pupils and to help them improve their achievement at school is proposed. Dr. Hargreaves, the author of the report, has since been made Chief Inspector to help put the plans into practice.

The importance of improving the links between home and school is stressed because it has been found that children are more likely to succeed when parents support them and show an interest in their schooling. It is in this area — improving parent/school communications — that many of the recommendations can be put into immediate effect.

The need for more support for teachers and the importance of in-service training for them is specially mentioned. For fourth and fifth year students six to eight-week study units are recommended. These will have clear aims and content rather than the present two-year course which has distant and often unclear goals. Giving the older pupils more say on things such as exams, school hours, homework and so on could make them more interested in school, it says.

The Report has been very well received and other major cities like Manchester, Birmingham and Liverpool want to adopt it. In London the ILEA wants full consultation before making it or parts of it ILEA policy. First of all, each school held a meeting — John Roan held its in October — and then three or four parents from each school went to a meeting last February to report about what their school thought about the proposals. Frances Morrell, the ILEA leader, and Dr. Hargreaves were there as well as about 300 parents.

There was widespread support for parent/teacher *tutor group meetings* (or teaching groups as they are called at John Roan). These would be smaller and less forbidding than the usual parents' evening covering a whole year group. Parents would be able to get to know each other as they did in primary school, share problems and perhaps offer each other help. Teaching methods, the need for homework, the problems of bullying, racism and sexism can be discussed. Department Heads or parents with

special skills could come to talk to the meetings.

Everybody recognised the extra burden this could place on teachers though everyone was keen that that should not hold the meetings back. As a matter of urgency Dr. Hargreaves wants courses to be offered to teachers to give them the skills to handle these new contacts with parents. The majority feeling was that these new meetings should be started first in the Lower School and ideally held once a term.

Dr. Hargreaves was told to write his report "from the vantage point of working-class children, black children and girls" and later he was asked to pay particular attention to working-class pupils. This caused a lot of debate as to what really were the causes of under-achievement and if it really was more of a problem for some more than others. Many thought the problem went much deeper and was unlikely to be solved by the Report. What was agreed was that since parents' involvement seems to help children do better at school it was very important to get the parents of underachieving children – whatever their background – to want to come to the meetings.

There was less support for *Home-School Councils*. The Report sees these as a sort of "think tank" committee of teachers, parents and governors to make suggestions for better communications and to provide support for teachers and parents involved in the Tutor Groups. Parents from schools where there was already a strong, working Parent Teacher Association (PTA) generally saw a Home School Council as unnecessary. But those with only Parents Associations (John Roan for example) saw more use for the Council. Because of this, two of the quadrants thought that the ILEA should recommend that all its schools have PTA's.

Almost all the parents wanted to know more about homework; what it was for, how it fitted into the children's learning and so on. Many wanted children to be able to do their homework supervised at school if they felt unable to do it at home.

Joan Roan has discussed the Report pretty fully. The school is unlikely to put itself forward as a volunteer but will no doubt want to put some of its recommendations into effect straightaway. There are plans to print booklets explaining a lot more about how the school and the curriculum is organised and run. With the support of the teachers, some tutor groups are to be started in the near future. We will all be able to learn from their experience. It will take time to get them all started though, particularly during the current industrial action.



Mr. Thorpe's Latin Fourth – 1937/38

DR. ALFRED TAYLOR

When Dr. Taylor was appointed Headmaster of the Roan School for Boys his task (quite apart from doing all the things that all Headmasters have to do) was to organise the merger of the Roan Schools and Charlton School to form a "mixed comprehensive". We can read elsewhere of the complexities and difficulties of such a task, encompassing as it did not only (!) the practicalities of running a school for several years on three — or even four — sites but also convincing the doubters among staff, parents, pupils and Old Boys and Girls of the rightness of the change.

That he has succeeded is due not only to his own abilities and dedication but also to his deeply felt conviction that what he was doing was what John Roan would have wished. It is not for nothing that "New parents" were introduced to the School by a potted history in which Dr. Taylor was wont to emphasise the Founder's will for the education of the "poor town's boru children" of Greenwich.

His approach to education is, so to speak, a mixture of Ancient and Modern. He introduced changes which were in keeping with his liberal philosophy, not least in the VI form, who were allowed a degree of independence and freedom of expression not known to those of older generations.

But he did not abandon tradition, in particular the strong link between the School and the Old Roan Association. Indeed, in one of his earliest innovations, the formation of the Parents' Association he was pleased to invite Old Boys and Old Girls to assist him on the Steering Committee. He delighted in attending the ORA dinner at the Pavilion, where the warmth of the reception given to his drily humorous "Reports" reflected the high regard and affection in which he is held, as well as an appreciation of the content of the Report itself. Dr. Taylor sensed that the Old Roans wanted to know what was going on at the top of Maze Hill, especially when the soccer team was doing well.

He derived increasing pleasure from these occasions as more and more Old Roans became Taylor's men (and women). The remark in parenthesis reminds us that it was in 1978 that he pointed out that it would be illogical for a mixed school to have separate Old Boy's and Old Girl's Association. Thus it was at his instigation the the present Association was formed from the union of the two separate organisations.

It was not until his last year as Headmaster that Dr. Taylor was sufficiently free of the demands of his position (evening meetings and conferences being a favourite of Education Authorities everywhere) to accept the position of President of the ORA; a function which he performed not only with his usual quiet ease but also with evident pleasure.

Those of us (and there are many) who like the high places will not forget the keen interest he has shown in the camp at Braithwaite. As

Chairman of the Hope Memorial Trust he has supervised the affairs of the camp with meticulous care. He has been disappointed that we could not afford to replace the well loved (and well-worn) huts with something more convenient, but he has been the prime mover behind the many improvements that have been made. We know how much he values the opportunities given to many Roan Boys and Old Roans to taste the delights of the fells.

In his retirement at Macclesfield he will be able to continue to experience those delights, when he can spare the time from his large garden and (we gather) from all but rebuilding his house.

Dr. Taylor is an energetic man. May his energy carry him through many years of active retirement amongst the hills of the North.

Alan Weir.

DRAMATIC SOCIETY

(Secretary Richard Rickson, 191 Westcombe Hill, SE3. 01-853 0723).

Many people do not realise that the Old Roan Dramatic Society not only still exists but is actually alive and well. This is probably the Society's own fault for under publicising themselves. Posters of forthcoming productions are placed in the School and the Pavilion but ticket sales need to be pushed much harder. Amateur dramatics does not have a good reputation — the very name conjures up images of scenery falling down amid leaden actors who have trouble in learning their lines. The Old Roan Dramatic Society is not like that, and a visit to one of their shows can illustrate that amateurs are capable of performing to a high standard.

Last May's performance of Alan Ayckbourn's 'Absent Friends' was reckoned by many to be the finest that the Old Roans had ever done. This was principally due to the engagement of a professional director, the first time this has ever been done by the Society. Fran Woodward, experienced in the theatre, radio, television and films, certainly brought the best out of a cast (Graham Johnson, Anne Chambers, Ivor Hughes, Beryl Knott, Teresa Roe and Mike Smith) that were acting in the most lavish set ever seen on the Maze Hill stage.

A pantomime was planned for the winter production, a script was written and Alf Knott provided the songs. Sadly unforeseen commitments reduced the number of available performers to below the necessary level and the show had to be abandoned. Instead the Society put on three one-act plays — 'Rattling the Railings' in which Graham Johnson had previously won an acting award at the Rochester Festival; 'Without Portfolio'; and 'After I'm Gone', a play with which the Society had won the Lewisham Drama cup. Disappointingly the audience was small on both nights, and an even greater cause for regret was that 'Without Portfolio' marked the last appearance for at least two years of Alf and Beryl Knott, who have just moved to Zimbabwe. On a brighter note, the

same play marked the Old Roan stage debut of Nancy James, who is playing a leading role in the production currently under rehearsal.

This play, 'Time and Time Again', marks the return of Fran Woodward, so it should certainly be worth a visit. The writer is again Alan Ayckbourn, which means a well written comedy can be seen at the School on June 7 and June 8. Graham Johnson plays the leading part, one that was originally performed by Tom Courtenay on the West-End stage. A good deal of work is currently being done at rehearsal and the Society has high hopes of another good production. Tickets are only £1.50 so it is not an expensive night out.

Finally a plea for more members – on stage or even more importantly backstage. Help is always needed with sets, costumes, make-up and selling tickets and programmes at the door. Anyone who would like to join the Society would be most welcome. Graham Johnson, Joan Stanbridge and Anne Chambers can frequently be seen during the cricket season; alternatively a letter or telephone call can be made to the Secretary.



The 1st XI, 1939-40

Ducker, Pemberton, Norris, Barr, Brooks, Howse, Seymour, Lusted, Kempton (Capt.), Trew, Roberts.

OLD ROAN FOOTBALL CLUB

Secretary: G.J. Sawyer, 18 Beaconsfield Close, Blackheath, London SE3 7LL.

The 1st XI had a very frustrating time and didn't really do justice to Jimmy Hardy's management. He unselfishly stood on the touchline for most of the season although his feet must have been itching to have a go. He saw no fewer than four goalkeepers perform at one time or another (five if we count his own 'blank sheet' at Metrogas late in the season!) and many permutations on the pitch. Ian Daniels, John Leach, Dave Carter, Keith Bradbrook, Cyril Davies, John Hardy, Dave Hutley, Bernie Turner, Rod Pepper and Ray Mills were the regulars, supported at various times by many more. It was nice to welcome back the talents of Bryan Marsh and Dave Sears and we all acknowledge Robin Faithorn's total commitment to the Club. Dave Penton is one to watch for the future (not his Dance Hall antics though!) He tells me that there is a lot more untapped talent in the lower teams and we must all strive to bring it through to its potential.

The team finished a disappointing fifth in their division which is not good enough for a side with aspirations of Senior football. They once again reached the Final of the league cup but were unfortunately beaten 3-2 in a replay after a goal-less draw at Yeading. We would like to thank the supporters who made that long trip – sorry the result wasn't more encouraging. So it would seem that consistency is lacking which must be overcome before we can go forward with any confidence.

Player of the Year: Rod Pepper.

An inauspicious start to the season saw the 2nd XI languishing around the bottom of the league table at Christmastime. Fortunes changed with the New Year and the team will finish in a very respectable position in their division. Towards the end of the season the 2nd XI contested the leagues Benevolent Cup Final against Yeading F.C. After a most competitive match the result went against us, and we lost the 'crunch' cup as it was affectionately known, by 2 goals to 1 after extra time. A memorable evening followed . . . The team spirit throughout the year was tremendous, and the ditties and shanty's performed apres match was unrivalled anywhere in the league.

Doug Weaver gives his thanks to all who played for the 2nd XI this season, and for those that did : There's a kind of hush . . . no knock . . . Babs Diamond . . . is that jug lager or bitter? . . . Goodbye, Goodbyeeeee!

Player of the Year : Keith Tebbutt.

Dave Ellis reports that the 3rd XI, having used sixty players on current form will hopefully avoid relegation due to a late run of successes. Among the more regular team members the old boys Bob Grimwood and Sid Dampier steadied the younger ones of which Sean Tierney, Phil Ashenden

and Tony Young performed well, while Mike Baxter topped the goalscorers. Late in the season three more youngsters, Tony Hutchins, Terry Tierney and Darren Pruce made their mark in the side. Team spirit has been good despite the ever changing team. Dave thanks all those that turned out particularly those at short notice (think that was most, wasn't it?).

Player of the Year : Sean Tierney.

Despite having an unsettled team for the majority of the season, the performance of Chainsaw's 4th XI should not be underestimated. They have managed to hold their own in the Premier Division of the Bromley & District following promotion for the last three successive seasons.

Some memorable performances are worthy of mention including defeating Senior Division leaders Stamford Rovers in the Challenge Cup, going to the Semi-final and achieving some good league wins over sharp opposition. Chainsaw has to admit that many of the performances this season have resembled the Alamo, but with some of the senior players vacating their positions through injury or old age, opportunities have arisen for a number of the promising young players of the Club, such as Martin Muscat and Colin Gaunt. Individual performances that come to mind are the 5 goals from Lennie 'the Whale' against Harcourt and Colin Gaunt's invaluable assistance both in goal and at full back (in the same game on one occasion). Graham Townsend was forced to quit early through injury and was sadly missed. Once again battling consistent performances were put in by Stuart Clay, Andy Page, Roy Hunt, Terry Barry and our ace sweeper Don Boon and Chainsaw managed to select himself for the majority of the season in order to keep the average age over 30! In November Fingers returned having been finally let out of his wardrobes. The prospects for the 4th's for next season are good provided they can build upon this season. The younger players can look forward to a good standard of football in this division. Hopefully someone with enthusiasm **may** volunteer to manage the team particularly as the lack of enthusiasm by some of the players towards the end of the season was personally disappointing to Chainsaw.

Player of the Year : Andy Page.

The 5th's moved in 1984 from the Catford League into the Bromley & Beckenham League replacing the Veterans. This surprised a number of teams and in general the season has been successful with a strong team consolidating their cup win from the previous season with a good league record. A defeat in the final match of the season narrowly deprived the team of promotion.

Much of the success is owed to the two strikers, Dave Armstrong and Phil Moore who, at the time of going to press, have both scored 25 goals. The midfield has been consistently strong based around Keith Barron and Martin Muscat with Tony Hutchins particularly outstanding. The defence has relied upon Seamus Gallagher, Bob Dyson, Garry Barwell, Tony

Osbourne and David Horsburgh with the addition of Peter Osborne as sweeper making the crucial difference later in the season. Andy Daniels has kept goal very well. Additional support has come from Grant Pizzezy, Gary Martin and Mick O'Brian who all promise well for the future. The team has managed to stay together during the season, the football has been determined and often skilful and it has been an enjoyable season.

Player of the Year : Tony Hutchins.

At the time of writing the 6th XI still have a good chance of promotion to the Premier Division of the Sidcup & District League. This is a marked contrast to last season, our first, when we only managed to win once in the league. Much of the improvement is a result of the attitude of the players who have shown a far greater commitment than last season and reaped the rewards. We have welcomed many new players to the Club during the course of the year. Many now play for the higher elevens including Dave Penton in the 1st/2nd XI's., and Phil Ashenden in the 3rd XI. This has to be good for Old Roan football, but we often wonder where players disappear to as we never seem to have players dropping down to the 5th's and 6th's from the higher teams.

Special mention must be made of John Coyle (ever present this season) Chris Hatter, Tony Sproul, Paul Witchells, Steve Sawyer and Danny Lopez who have all played exceptionally well throughout the season. We all look forward to the 1985/86 season confident that the tremendous improvement seen this year can be continued.

Player of the Year : John Coyle.

The oldest Old Roan team, Mike Titheridge's Veterans XI will consider the highlight of their first season of non-league football to be the end of March Norfolk tour when, against Jim Russon's Canterbury Casuals and Barry Thomas's North Walsham teachers, goals from Bob Webber, Brian Hamer and Len Sales won us the Challenge Trophy and capped an excellent social weekend.

In another veterans cup, despite a 0-1 defeat against London Fire Brigade, other withdrawals led Old Roan to a quarter final against Times Newspapers where a guesting Terry Barry and goalkeeper John Stanford helped achieve a fine 5-0 win. In the semi-final, the additional presence of Peter Edwards and the return from the West Indies of Simon 'Grobelaar' Perry could not prevent a defeat by Frinton Rovers, a team of ex-professionals, all kicking friends of Joe Broadfoot.

Paul Davis, Roger Larkin and Dave Bryden helped the skipper keep goals against to a respectably low figure; Fred Spink, a veteran at heart, John Ling, Brian Matthews, back from disillusionment with young, fit opposition, Spot Hughes and at times Ian Williams and Terry Chance worried the ageing opposition with their non-stop activity. Ted Hadrill was a firm fixture until a dislocated shoulder restricted his season. Everyone agrees that playing on either Saturday or Sunday, at private

clubs, against more equal opposition has contributed greatly to this Dad's Army of Old Roan stars. Competition will be fierce for places next season for teams selected as much for the socialibility and plunge baths as their football skills. Thanks from all the team to Ian Clatworthy for unparalleled skills in building so enjoyable a fixture list.

Player of the Year : Simon Perry.

Finally our thanks to all of the Officers of the Club particularly Vic Brooker and Ian Clatworthy and to Ray our new groundsman for his cheerful approach in some atrocious weather soon after his appointment. It can only get better, Ray!

P.S. The now annual inter-Club five-a-sides took place on a chilly May 11th and once again the competition was intense and results unpredictable. That would also describe the abundance of injuries this year, not least Terry Chance who sustained a fractured ankle and took no further part – and he only went into the wood to retrieve the ball!

The eventual winners of the Challenge Cup were Ray Mills (who else?), John Leach (surely the Player of the Tournament), Dave Ellis, Matthew Nelson and Mick O'Brian (both late replacements – well done lads.) Dave also took time out to ensure that everyone got fed after the games had finished. The whole competition was refereed by Fritz Henning and Ian Jackaman and we give them our heartiest thanks.

There followed the Annual Presentation Puddifoot Disco which seemed to make everyone happy – if a little deaf! Many thanks to John and Jim Hardy for ensuring that the evening was a cost effective proposition by 'persuading' most people that they would like to contribute £1 to the raffle. That should keep Vic Brooker happy!



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WITH SOME URGENCY!

OLD ROAN CRICKET CLUB

(Secretary: K. Barron, 25 Liffler Road, Plumstead, London SE18).

At the time of writing the season has barely got underway. However, early results have been encouraging. Nas Khan led the Saturday 1st XI to two emphatic wins in their first league games of the season against Wickham Park and Old Wilsonians. Not to be outdone the Sunday 1st XI, under Terry Barry for the second season, notched up a hard fought win against strong opponents in Romford and Gidea Park, drew against LESSA but lost against Kent League side Holmesdale.

Pride of place must however go to Matthew Hooker for his 7 wicket haul in the Sunday 2nd XI's win against Old Alleynians. His was certainly a match winning performance, which from one so (relatively) young augers well for a successful future. The 2nd XI have subsequently drawn against Brittanian House and Old Brockleians and lost against Romford.

The 3rd XI began the season with a rare tie against Ex Blues. They followed this with a convincing win against Hartley country club. The message from the dressing room is that Mike Callaghan can stay in Lagos as long as he likes. Alan Goodyear rules O.K. !

On the debit side however, we are again pushed to field five complete sides each weekend. The club continues to play to a high standard and in the most convivial of surroundings. Anyone who is interested in playing, or umpiring would be made most welcome.

NEWS OF OLD ROANS

JEAN JAMES (Staff) who left the School last Summer, is now living in Swanage, Dorset. At the time of writing she said: "Here the sun is shining, the wind is bitterly cold and whipping great white balls of foam off the sea. The house is in semi-organised chaos but I feel I belong". Having seen Jean at the AGM, I know she has now settled in. Old Girls will be pleased to know that she has joined forces with MISS BARNSDALE and they are now looking after each other at 24 Rabling Road, Swanage, Dorset BH19 1EJ., where they will be pleased to welcome any Old Girls who are in the district.

Derek PUTWAIN (34-39) writes from Bristol. He has recently retired from British Rail where he was Area Maintenance Engineer for a large part of the West Country. Derek, who was involved with the sports clubs and Lodge in the post-war period, has recently been elected a life member of the Institution of Electrical Engineers. He asks whether any other OR's are members of the Institute.

News of four OR's who have been ordained. The Rev. D.L. FRANCIS (14-17) has been interviewed by BBC Radio 4 about his time in the South Seas. The programme is to be broadcast in the autumn under the title "Tales of Paradise". The Rev. Alan REED (55-62) has a parish in Horsham, West Sussex., whilst the Rev. Quentin WILSON (57-65) has recently moved to St. Leonard's Vicarage, Billington, Lancashire.

The Rev. Keith POUND (43-51) is to be congratulated on being made an honorary Canon of Southwark Cathedral, the church's equivalent of an MBE. The award for Keith, who is rector of Thamesmead, is in recognition of his services to the community and church.

Whilst on the subject of awards it would appear that the Honorary Fellowship conferred on John MITCHELL (staff) by Christ's College, Cambridge, may have been understated in these pages. Apparently Honorary Fellows are a very rare breed, there being only three others. As these include Lord Zuckerman we are happy to put the record straight.

IVY SUMNER heard with great sorrow of the death of one of her school friends, EVELYN CARTWRIGHT (nee GAMBLING). Ivy writes that she used to call for Evie every morning so that they could walk to school together through Greenwich Park. They were both due to celebrate their 78th birthdays this year. Ivy has also renewed acquaintances with MABEL BYERLEY (now TAYLOR) who attended Roan with her sister, Dorothy. They were the daughters of Mr. Byerley, the Veterinary Surgeon in Greenwich South Street who was also the vet at the Blue Cross Kennels in Shooters Hill Road where he kept two horses. After school Mabel went to the Blackheath School of Art and Dorothy studied music, which she later taught. Alas Dorothy died last year, but Mabel is now 85 and likes to have any news of Roan. She is not able to go out but would be delighted to hear from any Old Girls who remember her — her telephone number is 01-692 4902. Ivy says that many of her Old Roan

acquaintances would like to know what is to become of "their" school in Devonshire Drive.

H.W. EAGLE (22-28), who writes from New Plymouth, New Zealand, was interested to read the accounts of the Eastney Street days in the 1983 Chronicle. He recalls playing in the shortlived Rugby XV which was established in the 1920's. In particular he recalls Val WALLACE who was an outstanding sportsman of the period. Val played 1st XI cricket whilst still young enough to wear shorts. He also played soccer and rugby for the first teams and won the mile race three times. On leaving school he represented Scotland at hockey.

Mike CALAGHAN (51-56) has returned to Nigeria as general manager with Afrolux Aviation Inc. He recently made the round trip, Lagos/Cologne/Lagos, to join the 5th XI's spring trip to Germany. Another OR in Africa is Gordon STACEY (23-28) who though now officially retired is working part-time for his former firm Safair Freighters. Gordon, who was one of the original Vanbrugh Castle boys in 1921, also runs a smallholding. His brother Geoff. STACEY (26-31) established a car repair workshop in Colchester following a spell in the RAF. Amongst the names that Gordon mentions are Jack SUCKLING, George DOE and Reg. PEPLOE. The latter joined the Royal Navy and was killed in a submarine tragedy before the last war.

Alison STEWART (nee BELL) (69-76) trained as an SRN at the London Hospital, Whitechapel and was a Staff Nurse there for one year in the neuro-medical ward. She married in 1980. Her husband is an industrial chemist. She trained as a midwife at the British Hospital for Mothers and Babies and continued to work there as a Staff Midwife until it's closure in July 1984. Her time is now taken up with her own son who was born in November, 1984.

Another OR nurse is Susan TROTMAN (nee GREENO) (69-75) who is now at the Sue Ryder Hospice at Leckhampton Court, near Cheltenham, Gloucester. Her mother Mrs. D. GREENO (nee MASSEY) (41-46), who gave us the news, still lives locally in Plumstead.

At the recent farewell party for Dr. Taylor it was pleasant to see a number of former members of staff. Amongst those present were Freddie WHITE, Derek EVANS, Tony ELLIOT, Roger THORP, Barry THOMAS, Phil LANCELOTTE, and Alfie KNOTT. The latter is on his way to Africa to take up a teaching post.

Les ROBERTS (55-61), a former member of the football club, has in recent years turned his talents to long distance running. As a member of Blackheath Harriers he has notched up a number of successes. He recently won the High Peak half-marathon in Buxton, Derbyshire, when he finished two minutes clear of the remainder of a 600 strong field, smashing the veterans' record into the bargain.

E.A. HOWSE (35-42) has kindly sent a number of photographs, some of which are included in this edition. He has recently retired from the

Ministry of Defence. He explains that the 1939/40 football team photo was taken at Bexhill where the boys school was evacuated after Ticehurst. Of the ten others in the photo, he has met only two again after the war — Bill BROOKS and Johnny ROBERTS — so he has no idea how many survived.

Tom WYATT (23-26) recalls that he was present as a very green tenderfoot scout at the 1923 Braithwaite summer camp. He was amused to read Lionel Berry's account of his ordeal in front of the Antient. Tom was one of two boys delegated by the Antient to meet the aspirant school master at the station and conduct him to the camp. He believes his companion on this task was Richard 'Squeaker' GREEN. It was at this camp that the Antient entered five victims as human flowers in the village flower show. Tom was one, BRUCE, OPPER and MURRAY being others. Local VIP's did the judging and the handsome BRUCE won the first prize of five shillings. Tom won the booby prize of one shilling. He recalls that this was the second camp on the Braithwaite site, the first having been made the previous Easter.

S.R. HUNT (14-18) who now lives in Street, Somerset, is one who has more painful memories of the Antient having been wrongly picked out for alleged cruelty to dumb animals — to wit the Eastney Street donkey mentioned in Bernard ALLEN's account in the last newsletter. It wasn't me, sir!

Geoff MEEKUMS (51-54) joined the Navy as a rating on leaving school. He has now reached the rank of Commander specialising in aircraft engineering. He has collected a BA/MA on the way — reading engineering at Cambridge. Most of his time has been spent either at sea or in research and development. His non-service interests include silversmithing and off-shore sailing. Geoff was re-introduced to the Association after meeting up with a former classmate Derek OAKLEY. Commander Alan WELTON RN (55-60) is another OR who has made a successful career in the Navy. He has recently been transferred to Southwick, Hampshire.

Godfrey JENKINSON (59-66) moved to Chelmsford following his marriage to a Datchelor girl over eleven years ago. He works for the Government Chemist specialising in the forensic examination of documents. His task is to spot forgeries, and where applicable, to ascribe authorship to questioned writings. The casework is interesting and he often appears in court to give evidence for the prosecution.

Geoff RICKSON (54-61) was delighted to read of his friend and former colleague Bill SOLKHON (17-23). Geoff also taught at Elfrida School in the early days of his teaching career. He has now completed 20 years of teaching, the last 12 as headteacher of one of the largest schools in Cambridgeshire. When originally house-hunting in the area one of the properties they viewed turned out to belong to George FRANKLIN (09-16). Geoff was a keen sportsman in his day representing the club both at football and cricket. He was perhaps the youngest person to captain

the 1st XI at football being a mere 19 when he led the side which included the likes of Sawyer, Brooks, Dawe and Shepherd. He also captained the Sunday 2nd XI at cricket and will no doubt be interested to learn that the colleagues he mentions namely Messrs. Hooker, Endersbee and Perry, are still stalwarts of the club.

J.J. MORROW (08-14), one of our older members recently attended the centenary of the Forest Ramblers in Epping Forest. He is a keen Rambler and still turns up at the start of their fortnightly meetings. Michael JACKMAN (42-46) has recently completed a book about his exploits as an engineman with Southern Region. It opens as follows:—

‘It was soon after the commencement of the Autumn Term that I stood before the headmaster of the Roan School at Maze Hill, opposite Greenwich Park and was asked to repeat my request to leave school at Christmas, in order to join the Southern Railway, I was told in no uncertain terms, that boys who were fortunate enough to be able to attend that ancient school, which opened its doors in the time of Oliver Cromwell, did not leave in order to become engine cleaners! I stood my ground and repeated my request. My parents had already been to see him and said that they did not want me to leave, but would not stand in my way. My grandfather had been a top link driver at Bricklayers Arms, in London’s Old Kent Road, and had driven engine No 240 ‘Onward’, which had gained a Gold Medal at the Paris Exhibition in 1889. My parents said that I wished to follow in his footsteps.

So it was that a few days later before Christmas, 1946, I stood for the last time in the hall of the Roan School and sang ‘God dismiss us with thy blessing’, a hymn full of meaning for those leaving school, particularly for the only boy in Remove B (the lower fifth form) who was leaving, without the blessing of the school.’

JULIE KOPP (nee BROOKS — 1960-65) wrote last year having received her copy of the Chronicle. She writes: ‘I feel I must put pen to paper to say how pleased I am to be able to keep in touch in this way. As we are at present living in Germany, I was greatly disappointed at not being able to attend the final reunion at Devonshire Drive on 14th July. I am sure the day must have stirred many happy memories, tinged with sadness at the end of an era. How I wish I could have been there! However it was not to be, as with the Jubilee celebrations when we were again living away from the mainland in Northern Ireland.

“Obviously I have my own memories of my time at the school. I feel it was a very important and impressionable time in our lives — a time of growing up from childhood into adulthood, and times which I personally often call to mind.”

“My first day at the school sticks in my mind — all the new First Years gathered in the Physics Lab; the morning spent sorting things out in our classroom with Miss Hickman, our Form Mistress; our first lesson in the afternoon, Geography with Miss Kallenborn; then followed ‘Speech

Training’ with Miss Wilson. During my first week at school I lost both my velour hat (someone left their battered one in exchange!) and my gym shorts; neither were seen again despite intensive searches of the old cloakroom. What a trauma!”

“Another time that comes to mind was that awful winter of 1963 when it was so bitterly cold and the snow started on Boxing Day and lasted until the end of April. It was so cold that we were allowed to wear black (!) stockings with our uniforms and had the privilege of staying indoors in the Hall at lunch times, where we were introduced to the first Beatles records courtesy of the Fifth Years. This must have been a great concession in those times. Our classroom was at that time next to the Art Room and we had a coal fire lit by the caretaker and carefully tended by him between lessons.

I agree that many memories revolve round members of staff: the fear Miss Marsh instilled in us poor First Years — nobody hardly dared breathe after she entered the room — but she certainly got good results from us all; Miss Smith telling us how learning Latin ‘trains the mind’ — how right she was and how useful my knowledge of Latin has been in various ways over the years. I can still quote some of the translations of Caesar’s Gallic Wars!

Does anyone remember the concert put on for Miss Barnsdale’s and Miss Marsh’s retirements, ‘Miss Barnsdale’s Pleasure’ I think it was called. I can remember the poem ‘Fragments’ being recited by one of the senior girls; I think the school must have been watching the Dress Rehearsal and every time the poor girl began, the whole school dissolved in hysterics. But I am sure it must have been alright on the night!

Whatever happened to the ghost of Nellie Noakes? Was it just a rumour put around to frighten us new girls? But surely her photograph hung along the top floor corridor.

There are many happy (and not so happy) times I remember at the Roan school. At the time we probably did not feel that our school days were amongst the best in our lives as we were rather busy swotting for exams and working hard but now I realise what a firm foundation was laid to enable us to cross the threshold into the adult world outside with confidence and happiness.”

JOHN ROAN SCHOOL LODGE No. 5085

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In this report I thought that I would write on a few aspects of Freemasonry e.g.:

THE THREE GREAT PRINCIPLES

For many years Freemasons have followed three great principles:

BROTHERLY LOVE

Every true Freemason will show tolerance and respect for the opinions of others and behave with kindness and understanding to his fellow creatures.

RELIEF

Freemasons are taught to practise charity, and to care, not only for their own, but also for the community as a whole, both by charitable giving, and by voluntary efforts and works as individuals.

TRUTH

Freemasons strive for truth, requiring high moral standards and aiming to achieve them in their own lives.

Freemasons believe that these principles represent a way of achieving high standards in life.

CHARITY

From its earliest days, Freemasonry has been concerned with the care of orphans, the sick and the aged. This work continues today. In addition, large sums are given to national and local charities.

If any Old Roan is interested in joining the Lodge would he please contact me and I, with other officers of the Lodge would be happy to have a general chat.

This report is now an annual event and W.Bro. John West (1962/69) is now our Master and he will install his successor on Tuesday, 15th October 1985. Bro. D.I. Hawkins (1964/71) was the Lodge's choice but he will be away in San Francisco on his firm for the next seven years and a new Master will be chosen in the near future.

The Lodge meet at the Dartford Masonic Centre, West Hill, Dartford in October, December, February and April each year.

The Ladies Festival will be held on Saturday, 12th October 1985 at the Trafalgar Tavern, Greenwich where our Master John West and his wife Julie will receive their guests.

A very enjoyable and happy evening is anticipated. Further information may be had from Bro. John Card, 49 Belmont Lane, Chislehurst.

JOHN ROAN SCHOOL CHAPTER No. 5085

The March convocation was devoted to Exalting Bro. G.J. Kirby and we hope to have exalted Bro. P.W. Winter at the May Convocation.

The Chapter is very fortunate in having such a steady flow of new members.

The September Convocation will be the Installation of the Principals and officers for 1985/86.

The regular convocations are held at Oakley House, Bromley Common, Bromley, Kent, BR2 8HA on the 4th Tuesday in March; 3rd Tuesday in May and 4th Tuesday in September (Installation). Companions and Old Roan Masons interested in joining the Chapter should contact The Secretary, A.J. Jarrett, 90 Chislehurst Road, Orpington, Kent, BR6 0DN. (Telephone: Orpington 26557).



Four generations of Heads of the Girls School: Pictured at a reunion at Devonshire Drive last July, from the left: Miss Chamberlain, Miss Barnsdale, Mrs Barber, and Mr. Billington.

BIRTHS

- BAGWELL** — to Pat (nee Pinson) on 10th September 1984 a daughter, Sally Heather — born "in the living-room!" says Pat — a sister for Michael.
- BRADBROOK** — to Daryle (nee Hayes '65-'72), wife of Keith ('66-'73) on 28th January 1985, a son, Elliot to Jenny (nee Ashmore '70-'77), wife of Dave on 22nd November 1984, a daughter, Emily Ashmore
- FRASER** — to Farida, wife of Nazir ('69-'76) on 11th January 1984, a son, Babur Jalal.
- KHAN** — to Jennifer, wife of Philip ('62-'69) on 16th February 1984, a son, Robert John, a brother for Jane.
- WILLSON** — to Alison (nee Bell '69-'76) on 20th November 1984, a son, James David.
- STEWART** —

MARRIAGES

- ASHMORE-FRAZER** on 15th October, 1983 at St. Mary's Church, Bromley, Jenny Ashmore ('70-'77) to Dave Frazer.
- RODWELL-SONDEGARD** on 23rd November, 1984 in Luxembourg, Chris Rodwell ('67-'72) to Bodil Sondegard.
- SHAW-WHEELER** on 7th July 1984 at St. George's Church, Westcombe Park, Blackheath, Mike Shaw ('69-'76) to Christine Wheeler.
- ROE-WILKINS** on 1st September 1984 at the Church of the Good Shepherd, Lee, Teresa Roe ('72-'79) and Guy Wilkins ('71-'78).
- DAVIS-MIKKONEN** on 20th April 1985 in Heinola, Finland Owen Davis ('67-'74) to Tuula Mikkonen.
- HEDGES-PEACHES** on 4th May 1985 at St. Michael's Church, Kidbrooke, Keith Hedges ('59-'65) to Angela Peaches.

IN MEMORIAM

Dr. Kurt BAC ('14-'17)

Kurt Bac died on the 5th March, 1985. He was on holiday in this country when war broke out. He was allowed to attend school until the age of 16 when he was interned for the duration of the war. Despite this hardship he has always maintained a close interest and affection for his old school.

Over the years he has been a regular correspondent from his home town of Dusseldorf. Recently he made a most generous bequest to the School which will enable John Roan pupils to visit Germany. The Association will be asking the first beneficiaries of this bequest to take with them a suitable memento to mark Kurt's association with the School.

L.W. LORYMAN ('15-'19)

Len Loryman died suddenly but peacefully in Edinburgh on March 28th 1985. He was Past President of the Association as well as a regular member of the OR soccer 1st XI up 'till the mid 1930's. His contribution has been described by a contemporary as being solid rather than spectacular. In later years he was instrumental in helping several school leavers in starting their careers.

PAUL PETTY ('63-'71)

Undoubtedly one of the saddest events in recent years was the untimely death, on the football field, of Paul Petty.

Paul was an ever popular member of both the Club and the Association and was well loved by all of us who were fortunate to have known him.

His sporting prowess, particularly on the football field, was distinctive. He led the School team to its first ever success in the English Individual Schools Trophy in 1971, and during many fine seasons with the Old Roan 1st XI was chosen to represent London on a record number of occasions.

Paul's sunny disposition and easy nature won him many friends and never attracted enemies. His funeral in November was attended by a large number of Old Roans and representatives from the School. He will be greatly missed.

W.L. DODSON ('05-'07) Died on Tuesday 15th May 1985 in his 94th year

He served in the 1914-1918 war and during the 1939 war he was in charge of the supply of meat to S.E. London until rationing ended.

In 1929 he became a founder member of the John Roan School Lodge and in 1948 he became a founder member of the John Roan School Chapter in which he was an active member until he left the district and moved to East Grinstead.

He will be sadly missed by all who knew him especially his wife Helen and family.

It is with great sadness that the following deaths are also recorded:

DAVIES, S.G. ('20-'26)	18th June, 1983
FLETCHER, S. ('06-09)	27th November, 1984
FORTUNE, K.E. ('22-27)	10th August, 1984
Mrs. P.M. HART	2nd June, 1984
McHALE, W.J. ('25-'34)	20th June, 1984
ROLTON, E.H. ('14-'20)	May, 1984
Miss. G.A. SCUDDER	16th November, 1984

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Old Roan Braithwaite Camp	31st August – 14th September, 1985*
Annual Dinner	25th October, 1985
Annual Dinner and Dance	8th March, 1986
Annual General Meeting	21st March, 1986

*If sufficient demand

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