

*Susceptum Perfice Munus*

# OLD ROAN

## *Chronicle*

Vol. 18

April 2000

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Michael Smith – Old Roan Association President 2000-2001





Rod Stanbridge – Old Roan Association President 1999-2000



## From the President

I, together with the rest of the Class of '71, have been having a minor crisis in recent months. We are (or shortly will be) forty. Being forty certainly seems to be an age when you take stock of your life so far and, it's true what they say; it is frightening how quickly time passes by. Why, it only seems like yesterday that I was playing football with my classmates Keith Tebbutt and Nicky Green - sorry, it was yesterday (we all play for the Vets).

When looking back, I count myself as being both lucky and privileged to have attended Roan School. As well as offering the opportunity of a well-rounded education, it has provided me with an invaluable social and sporting network of friends through the Old Roan Association and the various Old Roan clubs. I've always been proud to tell people that I am an Old Roan.

It is hard to calculate the value of being able to maintain the links with the places and the friendships with the people who you have grown up with. Several of my work colleagues have said in the past how envious they are of this situation.

Whenever I drive down Maze Hill, or walk in Greenwich Park, or visit the School Playing Fields, memories of my schooldays come flooding back, many of which (not all!) seem to provide me with a kind of mental comfort. For instance, Kay and I got married in St Alfege's, and this felt just right.

It is also great to come across people who I have known from my schooldays. This happens more often than you'd think - especially in places like Blackheath's pubs (no surprise there) and The Valley (now that Charlton are doing well again).

I was very pleased to be asked to be President of the Old Roan Association for 2000/1. It is an honour to follow in the footsteps of so many illustrious Old Roans; not least the four former Presidents who taught me at school (Dr. A.J. Taylor, A.J. Knott, Gordon Brooks, and Graham Lawrence). I do hope that I will be able to make the coming year a successful one for the Association.

The Association's aims are to maintain and develop links between its members and the School and the Staff of the School, and to foster and facilitate the continuance of associations formed at the School. It will be my objective to do what I can to develop the Association's links with the School and, also, to help build the involvement and participation of the many affiliated members who have joined through the various Old Roan clubs.

Having not been a member of the Association Committee for several years, I am looking forward to participating in the discussions and decision-making processes once again - especially, in the establishment of a varied social programme of events during the next twelve months.

I do hope that I will get the chance to meet with you during the coming year, maybe at the Reunion Dinner in October 2000 and the Dinner Dance in March 2001?

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity of publicly thanking all the hard-working members of the various committees linked to the Old Roan Association and Clubs. In particular, I would like to thank Rod Stanbridge for his contribution as President during the Millennium Year of 1999/2000.

Michael B. Smith



## Secretary's Report

The last secretary's report was written well before the previous (February 1998) Chronicle was sent out and did not show the membership as at the end of 1997. Thus figures for the years 1999, 1998 and 1997 are given below, together with 1996 for comparison:-

	1999	1998	1997	1996
Life Members	528	539	544	550
Ordinary Members	353	351	340	358
Junior Members		7	13	18
Honorary Member	1	1	1	1
Associate Members	24	25	25	26
Honorary Members (Old Roan Club)	3	3	2	2
Affiliated Members (Old Roan Club)	164	118	74	68
	<u>1073</u>	<u>1044</u>	<u>999</u>	<u>1023</u>

1998 saw the first increase in ordinary members since 1995, many of whom have joined many years after leaving Roan and have been introduced by other older members. However, it is pleasing to report that a small number of recent school leavers are joining as a result of playing for the Football Club. In spite of this injection of youth, the sports clubs are finding it impossible to fill the teams with Old Roans, and a large number of non-Old Roans are now playing football and cricket for the Old Roans, accounting for the increase in affiliated membership. As a result of the change of management of the School Field more outside football teams are using the facilities, particularly on Sunday mornings; and these, too, are ensuring their players are put forward for affiliated membership. It is important for players to realise a large subsidy is paid from the profits of the Old Roan Club for the use of the field and pavilion facilities. From the legal side, all players using the bar are required to be members of the Old Roan Club in addition to the appropriate sports club. It is just as important for those who do not use the bar, and thus not adding to the profit it can generate, to ensure they pay their Old Roan Association / Club subscription. For clarification, former pupils only can join the Association, automatically becoming members of the Old Roan Club, and those who did not attend the School can only join the Old Roan Club. Further details can be obtained from the Secretary. The Club is operated on behalf of the Association by a sub-committee appointed by the Association or the Association's committee.

During the 1998 School summer holidays I had access to some of the school record cards, over 10,000 from around 1911 to 1995, and from these I have been able to add years at school to most of our records. Many of our early records did not contain this information and it has been very helpful to produce a profile of membership. This could be the subject of a separate analysis of members article at a future date, but immediately I can now produce a list of those who joined the School in any particular year including those who are not, or even never became, members. Addresses are not kept for non-members, as these are highly likely to have changed. Unfortunately the group of school records was made up of the Boys records until the merger and both boys and girls from the merger. Therefore I still need to find the pre merger Girls records. Additionally, many Girls, over 3,000, have been added as Hilary and Neal Haslam saved certain records from Devonshire Drive, but these are known to be incomplete.

The Chronicle is well received by many members, particularly those who are unable to keep in touch through the Club. As always, the Editor can only publish news he receives and members are invited to write to him so that he can let their contemporaries know of anything inter-

esting. The Chronicle is a very important part of the Association and can only be of interest to many if the many keep items coming in. Are you retiring? Just a note to say, for example, after a lifetime with Keswick Borough Council as a deck chair attendant on Derwentwater Albert Butler ('51-'59) has retired and moved to the Bahamas, or Angela Bingham (née Clark '65-'72), having brought up a family of 3, has returned to work as a public relations officer for Genetically Modified Plants Inc. would be most welcome.

This edition will not be sent out before the 2000 annual general meeting, which was held on 30th March, but the message is the same. Volunteers are welcome to stand for the committee. Last year there were several vacancies, which can lead to difficulties in obtaining a quorum at meetings. There are only about four meetings per annum plus the A.G.M. We are particularly poorly represented by Old Roan Girls and younger members generally.

At the time of writing I understand that the Editor, David Horsburgh, is standing down. His first edition was in 1989 and he has continued to produce quality editions since then in spite of the vagaries of obtaining reports and information. He undertakes much time-consuming research to produce some of the detailed articles that have appeared. Thank you, David, for the ten years plus given to the task. I know it has, at times, been frustrating, but the end result has been worth it to us, the readers. At present we do not have a volunteer for this most important job and it may be left to the committee in general but we really need a volunteer. David has said he will guide a new recruit. Do we have one out there? Are you prepared to take on the task with help from David?

## Treasurer's Report

The welcome increase in the membership has continued with the annual subscriptions figure rising for a third year to £2,585. Although there have been no recent subscribers to life membership this option is still available and anyone interested should contact Tony Slaney. The sale of Association ties provides a modest surplus each year. We always carry a stock which are still at the same price of £5.50 and these, together with wall shields, are available from Tony or me and can be posted to you.

Expenditure, other than publication costs, remains very stable year by year. Whether the Revenue Account reflects a surplus or a deficit depends on the timing of the Chronicle and therefore when the printing and postage costs are incurred. The deficit in 1998 – just £332 – was, in fact, the smallest shortfall since 1990 whilst last year's surplus was £2,664. No doubt many would prefer a very regular edition of the Chronicle but it does enable us to keep the subscription unchanged! Editorial volunteers will nevertheless be welcomed.

The Old Roan Club have subsidised both the Reunion Dinner and the Dinner & Dance for some time, last year meeting the shortfall of £550, thereby extending support to non-sporting members and those who do not regularly visit the Club and bar.

We are always grateful to members for their donations and in the last couple of years have been fortunate that these were considerably more than in the recent past. The Accumulated Fund stands at £14,841 and there are no changes in the Balance Sheet which shows the healthy state of our financial affairs.

The audited accounts were presented at the Annual General Meeting and adopted. Copies are available from me or the Secretary, together with those for the Old Roan Club.

Neal S. Haslam, Hon. Treasurer, March 2000



## Old Roan Club Report

The Management Committee of the Club is very pleased to report that we have had considerable success in the last couple of years and have worked hard to achieve our financial targets – turnover +/- £50,000 and gross profit 25%. The highlights of our trading performance for 1999 are:

Turnover £49,011 Gross profit £13,218 – 27%

Bar prices have again been held and whilst the results are encouraging must be viewed against the overall picture.

Throughput had declined and we are only just returning to trading levels of 3 or 4 years ago. Many factors have contributed to this scenario, but the committee are aware of various elements affecting the position and have taken action, confident that margins can be maintained if greater use is made of the facilities available to members. Good use was made of the Club premises during the year with a number of “events” including birthdays, discos, anniversaries, quiz / race nights and rounded off with a well-attended Millennium Celebration party. The revenue from these has helped to stabilise the position and we hope the momentum will be maintained in the coming year.

Yet again, a big thank you to all the voluntary bar staff without whose help the Club could not function. There are still volunteers who, for one reason or another, are unable to attend the Club regularly and they put to shame those members who are always present but do not help. Yes, someone else could always do a bit more but now it's YOUR turn. Come on! Give a hand.

Elsewhere in the Chronicle should be details of the responsibilities the Management Committee has taken over regarding the playing fields as a whole. Needless to say this places a greater burden on the stalwarts at the Club who already shoulder more than their share of work – there's no need to name them, you should know who they are.

In view of the ongoing considerations concerning the possible development of the whole site by the Foundation, our rolling programme of refurbishment has been scaled down until the overall situation becomes clearer. Obviously, essential maintenance will be undertaken, but the next major task will be the re-tiling of the roof and associated repairs together with replacement of the fascias and gutters. This should be completed concurrently with work on the pavilion which, many of you will have already noticed, has had replacement doors and windows installed.

As we always remind you, the Club Management Committee meetings are open to all members and anyone is welcome to come along and contribute – you, too, can make a difference! We usually meet on the second Thursday in alternate months and the dates can be found in the minutes of the meetings posted on the Club notice board.

Our aim is to offer the best facilities possible whilst effectively managing and maintaining not only the Club itself but also the playing fields for all who wish to use them. Please help us to achieve this aim and ensure the future success of the Club for all concerned.

Mike Titheridge, Club Chairman  
March 2000

## Brian Hamer – Old Roan Association President 1998-99

Brian joined the school in 1958 and was a contemporary of a group of Old Roans which included Dan Calnan, Terry Barry, Ray Hutchins, Doug Weaver and others who maintained the very high standard of Roan School sport. In subsequent years the Old Roan benefited socially and on the sports fields by their becoming active members of the Association.

1956 was the year I left school so my first recollection of Brian was in the encounters between school and the old boys. He was easily noticed with his flame-red hair and a certain competitiveness with which those so follically enriched are usually endowed.

I recall him being a fairly orthodox opening bat, and a goalkeeper of some athleticism; but in the 10 years or so that we played together, his development as a lively and very accurate seam bowler was remarkable, and he became the Angus Fraser of the Old Roan attack. He played football for some years and became an outfield player of some renown.

As his florid crown gradually darkened, so did his attitude to misfielders, catch droppers, umpires, opposition batsmen and any others who clearly had no right to be on the same pitch as he did. His nickname of “aggro” is an accolade that was not frivolously earned. Neither was it a title ironically applied to a humble, withdrawn, self-effacing individual. He is, however, a man of few words but most of us who shared the dressing room got to know the few words he does know fairly well and fairly often.

In the early '70s the Kent cricket tours were rejuvenated and I well remember Brian's acting as Master of Ceremonies over the drunkenly facile après-match entertainment.

In recent years, he really has become a poacher turned gamekeeper since his sporting involvement has been largely as umpire or referee, where, with his experience as himself in an earlier life, he imposes calm authority on proceedings and tolerates no truck from Brian Hamer soundalikes.

Brian has continued to support all Old Roan activities in a very positive way. In my presidential year he has been very evident at cricket and football matches and all the casual and formal social events.

I have been privileged to know Brian as a sporting colleague and friend. I think we are very fortunate to have Brian as a candidate for the Old Roan presidency and I am grateful to have this opportunity to propose Brian Hamer for the post.

John Huntley (1998)





## Message from Brian Hamer (President 1998-99)

Having been a member of the Old Roan Association since leaving school, what now seems several hundred years ago, I was quite naturally delighted to accept the Presidency and become more involved with as many Club activities as I am able.

It is a time of significant change. Despite our efforts, we still see fewer and fewer school leavers joining the Association. The sports clubs continue to be reliant on outside support. The School, perhaps with good reason, looks upon the field as an opportunity to generate extra cash. Future options for the pavilion and sports fields are now under serious consideration. Whatever the outcome, the Association will be affected; and I fear that without a strong younger input, what future will there be? I repeat that this is a time of significant change. I do not apologise for stating these home truths in what is traditionally a pleasant few paragraphs recalling old deeds and people from the past.

I can now vouch from first hand experience that your committees work extremely hard to manage the Association and Club activities. My personal thanks to all of them for the time and effort that this entails. Please, please support the Association whenever possible. We really do need your involvement. My message is clear – it is the future that is all-important and we must work together to ensure that there is one!

## Where are they now?

The Association has lost touch with the following. If anyone knows the members' current addresses would they please let the secretary know:

Glenn Aitken (1964-71)  
Jacqueline Andrews (1975-82)  
Edward Ashworth (1921-28)  
Miss M.Beer (1938-1946)  
Cliff Benford (1971-77)  
Ian Cutler (1976-83)  
Ken Dale (1955-63)  
Dan Davis (1924-28)  
Kay Gilyead (née Savage)  
Paul Griffin (1967-74)  
Christopher Hinkin (1971-78)  
Reg Hodge (1954-61)

Christine Logan (née Tracey 1959-66)  
Clifford Loft (1926-30)  
Brian Poulson (1957-64)  
Cyril Rebak (1945-49)  
Barbara Reed (née May 1952-57)  
Jane Ropek (1974-81)  
David Sears (1972-79)  
Alison Stewart (née Bell 1969-76)  
Alison Thompson (née Brown 1973-80)  
Francis John Twitchett (1932-37)  
Jacqueline Wilson (née Gale 1958-65)

## Back in touch

From the list is the previous Chronicle the following have been put back on the mailing list:

Terry Blanchard (1948-55)  
Peter Cox (1966-72)  
Edith Holley (1928-35)

Philip Newman (1945-48)  
David Porter (1963-71)  
Denise Thomas (née Barrie 1969-76)

## Message from Rod Stanbridge (President 1999 – 2000)

Many years ago, as a schoolboy, I regarded the O.R.A. President with awe. They were good and famous sporting celebrities, and hard working administrators. Little did I think that one day in 1999 I would receive a telephone call from two distinguished past presidents, both good and famous, asking if I would accept the office, and take the Association into the new Millennium.

But I did. And after due consideration and persuasion, I accepted. And some of the highlights so far have been:

## Founders Day

Still in the familiar setting of St. Alfege's Church. While the traditional hymns have been replaced by more modern music the sense of occasion was still evident, and it was good to see the young people taking such an active part.

## President's All Stars X1 v Old Roan CC

Who would have expected Simon Perry, Graham Johnson, Mike Titheridge and Fred Spink and me to appear together in the same team again? Father Time prevented my demon bowling being seen again, but a few runs were scored. A good time was had by all, despite a few aches and pains later in the week, and past memories were renewed at the bar.

## Reunion Dinner

My earliest Old Roan contact, Alan Weir, who had the pleasure of teaching me as a 9-year-old, was the Guest of Honour. Thanks, Alan, for pointing me in the right direction in those far off days at Halstow Road. Brian Matthews, always ready to try something new, learnt to be an MC.

## Dramatics

My current active "O.R.A." participation is The Roan Theatre Company. Memories of Trevor Talbot. Trying to be in two places at once on October 22nd owing to "Abigail's Party" running against the Reunion Dinner. I also managed to illuminate "The Sunshine Boys".

## Beer Festival

Jim Bird propping up the bar was like turning the clock back many years. Another chance to reminisce and renew old friendships.

## Football watching

All those fit youngsters, much better than my generation! Fortunately, I have not been asked to organise / play in a President's X1!

I make no apologies for cataloguing a list of names. For me, as outlined in my Reunion Speech (did I really give a speech?), it is the maintenance of friendships made at school, during my active sporting years, and latterly in the bar and with the Thespians, that is the strength of the Association for me.



If the "Boys that come hereafter" are to experience the friendships that we have had over the years, we must find ways of attracting John Roan School students to us. I do not know all the answers, but we must find them.

One major change that has taken place is in the running of the School field. Graham Lawrance and Micky Baxter are maintaining the ground on behalf of the Old Roan Club, and the benefits are already noticeable. This is the way forward, and we must look for other new ideas in the future to ensure the success and survival of our Association into this new Millennium.

I would like to thank Monty, Tony and the Committee for all the advice and help that is always available.

Finally, the Dinner Dance this year is at the Charlton Athletic Football Club Millennium Suite (the choice of venue was nothing to do with me, but hopefully we will be celebrating promotion by then). Joan and I look forward to meeting you there on Saturday 4th March.

R.A.Stanbridge, O.R.A.President  
January 2000

### Founder's Day 1999

The annual Service of Commemoration to give thanks for the life of John Roan was held at St.Alfege's Church, Greenwich, on Friday 28th May 1999. The Association was represented by the President, Rod Stanbridge, the Secretary, Tony Slaney, and the Treasurer, Neal Haslam. Three Past-Presidents also attended – Alan Weir, Alf Knott and Steve Nelson (a Governor of the School) – as well as Hilary Haslam.

The Reverend David Barrett led the service which was very modern and not like the traditional, somewhat sombre, occasions many members may remember from their schooldays. It was a celebration in words and music including the Boyzone hit "No Matter What" and Tina Cousins's "Pray". The School Orchestra performed "How Deep Is Your Love" and the Senior Choir sang "The Lord's Prayer" from the film "Serafina".

Fawzia Ahmed delivered the first reading from "Desiderata" by Max Ehrmann, and Barry Dale read the second reading taken from the autobiography of Nelson Mandela "Long Walk to Freedom". The Address was given by George Gyte, Director of Education for Greenwich, and included the job description for a Head Teacher as written by a 9 year old child – Chris Deane was seen making a few notes!

After the final prayers and the Blessing, the congregation stood as the procession left the church while the orchestra played "Can You Feel The Love Tonight" by Tim Rice and Elton John.

Those present then joined staff for an informal buffet lunch at the Westcombe Park building.

Neal Haslam,  
May 1999

### Rod Stanbridge

An appreciation of this year's Old Roan Association's President needs, perhaps, a little more time and effort than might have been the case for Old Roans who have held this office in the past. This is not in any way to denigrate Rod, indeed, rather like French polishing, it is only worth the hard work and attention if it is applied to a fine piece of wood! Superficially, there doesn't seem to be a great deal to work with, and yet, the more one buffs and rubs, the more the intricacies and attractions of the grain become evident. Rod, you see, is one of those souls who prefers the background to the limelight. Sometimes, this preference obscures the contribution that he has made to the Old Roan Association and Club. For many years, Rod has been associated with Old Roan football and cricket, as well as being part of the Roan Theatre Company (formerly the Old Roan Dramatic Society).

We must now be extremely careful! Metaphors can sometimes be dangerous, and mention of wood, however well polished, juxtaposed with theatre, may place Rod in a rather poor light. (Oops! Here's another booby trap to avoid: all will be revealed). You see, ever since Rod introduced his wife, Joan, to the Roan Theatre Company, he has been quietly assisting behind-the-scenes, both literally and metaphorically (this one is quite safe). For the past 9 years, however, Rod has been the Company's lighting technician, and has gone from strength to strength in this capacity – even the black-outs more or less occur in the right places! With ever-growing confidence, he has actually been seen on stage: first, as a butler in Oscar Wilde's "An Ideal Husband", and more recently, as the terminally short-sighted lighting technician, Raymond, in "A Chorus of Disapproval". (He sported a Charlton Athletic shirt for this part – purely coincidental, of course). The Wildean debut was notable for Rod's one and only line: "What name, Madam?". Although the story may be apocryphal (certainly Rod, as with his line, finds it difficult to remember) the cast is convinced that he fluffed it by saying: "Name what, Madam?"

Unfortunately, a line hasn't been alone in wrong-footing our President over the years! Quite a few forwards and bowlers have managed to "square-up" the Stanbridge frame from time to time! A couple of inches over six foot, and well built, Rod has always suggested a Lomu-like athleticism until, that is, he has had to move. Cheetah acceleration and raw pace were not part of the armoury, and so, Rod recognising what gene selection had given him, played to his strengths. He thus became a competent central defender on the soccer field, and a steady medium pacer on the cricket square, albeit both in the lower echelons of Old Roan sport. Like all sportsmen, he had his moments, where performance surpassed expectation, and a local hero was once again the toast. But the performance isn't really the glittering prize: performance is something which is more comfortably held aloft by those few and fortunate "natural athletes". Rod's true gift was, and is, a willingness to be available every week; a cheerful readiness to mark the greyhound out and to bowl into the wind. It is this we acknowledge by bestowing the Presidential chain upon his shoulders. Whether on the field of play, or back-stage, or simply back behind the bar, Rod has contributed.

Congratulations, Mr.President! This year, you can have choice of ends.

Graham Johnson, January 2000



## M.B. Smith – Old Roan President

A CHARACTER PROFILE BY CJ PARKER ('71-'78)

*So its Millennium Mick, the new President of the Old Roan Association.*

Michael Bernard Smith (as he is known in professional circles) brings over 20 years of continuous membership to the association and I am sure will be an excellent President for Y2K. A studious and sporting chap, Mick (as he is known in non-professional circles) was a pupil at Roan from 1971-78. After a year working at the Royal Lancaster Hotel as some kind of BellBoy or a Maid he went to Leicester University where he scraped through with a degree in Economics.

At school Mick was a bit swotty and was always sucking up to teachers. He also possessed the most bizarre of haircuts that can only be envisaged when imagining looking through some black and white negative film of Michael Jackson when he (Wacko Jacko, that is) was seven years old. Thankfully the hair went and continues to go, although not as quickly as I would like.

Whilst at Roan, Mick played in both the football teams (1977 and 1978) which won the English Schools Association Cup.

Mick then went on to have an illustrious career working on the railways until he moved into the catering industry where his passion and interest remains today. Looking back, often we would share a Burger King on the last train out of Charing Cross on a Friday night, which was a spooky insight into how his career was to later develop.

Mick's involvement with the Old Roan was cemented when he returned from University, where he had been playing 1st X1 football, and he quickly settled in with ORFC 3rd X1, where John Stanford stunted his career for many years. Mick's footballing abilities have now sadly slipped over time as he has lost his pace and consequently becomes more frustrated and starts to foul on a regular basis. Had it not been for his persistent piles problem I am sure Mick could have played at the highest level. However, he is still more than good enough to manage and play for the Old Roan Veterans (where piles are the least of their problems).

Mick is now a sensible chap – a trait that was inherited from his mother – who insisted on him taking his sheepskin coat with him when he went to Florida on holiday one year – in July. This will hold him in good stead as he embarks upon his new role. I know for a fact he is looking forward to Founders Day – it's where he met his first girlfriend.

Mick is now married to Kay and has a 18month old daughter called Isabella and lives in Blackheath – just a brisk walk from the Club and certainly close enough to take a risk when drinking and driving.

I am sure everyone wishes him well in his term of office. Good luck, Mick.

## Memorial Garden at Maze Hill

To all connected with the School and the Old Roan Association the trees growing in front of the building at Maze Hill are a reminder of those Old Roans who gave their lives in the conflict of 1939-45.

In the Spring of 1999 the School approached the Old Roans concerning some more (see Old Roan Association Chronicle July 1995) dead trees in the memorial garden at Maze Hill and wondered if we would like to replace them. Having looked at the condition of all the trees in the garden we decided that more drastic action was required. Not only were some trees dead or had much dead wood, many needed pruning and some were very close to breaking windows of the School. Contact was made with Joe Woodcock and Derrick Spur of Greenwich Park for their advice and they referred us to specialists of preservation and maintenance of trees.

In all, 27 trees needed attention. The range of work included removing dead and diseased wood, felling dead trees, grinding out stumps, thinning crowns and shaping. The work was carried out during the School summer holidays under the supervision of Joe and Derrick. It is intended to plant new trees, but the size of those surviving means that not all dead trees can be replaced. Indeed, several trees were already missing, having been removed for the building of the science block in the late sixties. The appearance of the garden is now very much enhanced since the previous decade or two, and such major work should not need to be done for many years to come. It may be possible for our current groundsman at the Playing Fields to perform some minor work, which would keep wholesale refurbishment away for decades.

The committee of the Old Roan Association authorised the payment of the cost, which amounted to over £2,000. A matter of a couple of hundred pounds will still be required for new trees and the final likely total is £4,000. This is a very large amount for the Association to bear, but it was felt that it was our duty to continue to preserve the garden set up as a memorial to those Old Roans killed during the Second World War. All full members are invited to contribute perhaps between £5 and £25 to the Association for the extraordinary expense, although any amount will be gratefully accepted. Cheques (payable to the Old Roan Association) should be sent to Tony Slaney, Secretary:

Please detach and send to Tony Slaney, 143 Lyme Farm Road, Lee, London, SE12 8JH

I enclose my cheque for £                      as a contribution to the cost of renewal of the War Memorial Trees at Maze Hill.

Name:

Years at Roan:

Please feel free to send some news to the Chronicle



## Management Changes at the School Field

The budget cuts with which we are all familiar in our working lives apply equally in Education, and during 1999, the John Roan School looked closely at all non-teaching activities. As a result of this review a number of staffing cuts were made and one of these was the full time on-site groundsman at the playing fields. The Trustees, who own the site, were left with a number of options regarding future management and maintenance, and they enquired whether the Old Roans would be interested in a lead role.

A series of meetings involving the Club Management Committee, Old Roan Governors and Trustees and possible maintenance contractors were held, at which the issues, particularly financial, were discussed in depth. The eventual outcome was an Old Roan tender for the running of the facility based on no charges to us for our various uses and also on our being able to keep all outside letting fees. We would only be responsible for the day to day running and costs directly related thereto – e.g. petrol for tractors. Payment for heating, lighting, water etc. would remain the responsibility of the School. Expenditure on machinery maintenance and renewal, medium to long term pitch maintenance and care such as re-seeding and worming, and other major tasks such as the trimming, felling and replacement of trees would remain the responsibility of the Trustees.

It came as no particular surprise to us when our bid was accepted and, indeed, we remain unaware whether any other bids were received. One of the drawbacks of this situation is that there were no benchmarks against which we could measure bids from contractors for ground maintenance. The sense of euphoria evident in some areas of the Club was not wholly shared by the Club Management Committee who were fully aware that further onerous tasks would fall to them. They were also aware that the first year, in particular, would involve a sometimes steep learning curve and that there were many loose ends to be tied up, in particular those involving overlapping areas of responsibility.

Early decisions were required and made in the three key areas of usage, pricing and the appointment of contractors. All current users were offered continued usage and all gladly accepted with the exception of a youth team, which was, in any event, disbanding. The Quaggy pitch had been left overgrown and unusable for some time and the return to use of this area would enable us to offer more lettings. We now have the Old Roan Football Club running five teams on a Saturday and five other teams, all with a strong Old Roan connection, operating from the Club on Sunday mornings. It was agreed that prices for all users would be held at £50 per football pitch and £60 per cricket pitch for one year only. There is some confusion as to whether this income is subject to VAT and clearly the resolution of this question will have a major effect on future pricing policy. Two Old Roans, Graham Lawrance and Mike Baxter, were appointed as contractors with primary day to day responsibility for ground upkeep and maintenance, cleaning of all areas and occasional "odd jobs".

The John Roan School continues to be the main weekday users and also occasional evening and Saturday morning users. The School does not pay for their use. Other schools have used the facilities and they are charged on the same prices previously outlined.

The summer months will be crucial in terms of the balance between income and expenditure and it will be essential to ensure that cricket pitches are hired out on both Saturdays and Sundays whenever possible. There has been some evening cricket played and this will need to be further encouraged. It is envisaged that the Cricket Square will be enlarged and wickets cut on the edges will be used in the evenings. Thus far we have been quite fortunate with the weather and we hope that this will continue.

The pitches, outfield and perimeter areas are already looking better than they have done for some years and many users have passed favourable comments. Admittedly this is a comparison with many years of neglect but, nonetheless, congratulations and credit are due to the energy and enthusiasm of our contractors and to the many others who have played a part in what can, so far, be perceived as something of a success story.

The real test for all concerned will come when a true picture emerges of the first year's income against expenditure. The same financial logic that faces any business will have to be faced by us although we, possibly, have more options open to us in view of the income generated by the bar. We all hope that we do not find ourselves faced by tough decisions or "Catch 22" situations. In any event, the situation after the first year will be reviewed in late summer in discussions between the Club Management Committee, the Trustees and representatives of the John Roan School. Watch this space or visit the Club and/or Field to see what is going on!

For your information, the Club Management Committee is Dave Andrews, Neal Haslam, Steve Nelson, Tony Slaney, Monty Smith, Mike Titheridge and Dave Wright.

## Old Roan Beer Festival

Sunday 9th April will see the first Old Roan Beer Festival of the new millennium and the fifth since they began in Spring 1998. They now have a standard format starting at noon with five real ales and others appearing during the afternoon and evening. Finishing times are variable and are dictated more by the condition of the punters than the beer! Plentiful plain food is available to provide essential wadding!

These events have been organised by two giants of the financial world who managed to negotiate their escape clauses from the stress of working life in 1996. Monty Smith, after 31 years dedicated to various City Institutions, notably the Lamb Tavern, Green Man and Magpie Inn, and Tony Slaney, after a similarly dedicated spell in many areas of Barclays Bank. They are joined on these occasions by numerous Old Roans and their friends from a wide geographical and age range. Why not make a date in your diaries to join them for a liquid lunch and possibly tea, dinner, supper and breakfast as well? Cheers!





## Memories of Mary Jeffery

With others I mourn Mary Jeffery's death for she was, in the best sense of the word, an institution encapsulating the spirit of Roan Girls' School for many years.

For me, as a new Head, she provided support, encouragement, commitment and a background of tradition which gave a sense of continuity, important not only at the crucial time of comprehensivisation but also in planning the Centenary celebrations and in my very happy relationship with O.R.G.A. Her wealth of anecdotes and reminiscences about the school, especially during the war years, will long remain with me: sheltering under the lab benches during air raids and marching to St.Johns station with the girls en route for evacuation to South Wales.

I am sure that many will recall with gratitude her care, concern and inspiration during that period, as will all who remember her as teacher and colleague in subsequent years.

Mrs.B.A.Scott. Headteacher Roan Girls' School. 1975-79

It is always a fortunate school that has such devoted members of Staff, and generations of pupils will remember her with gratitude. During my years at the Girls' School in Devonshire Drive I was always grateful for her loyalty, hard work and friendship. I was so glad that she was able to enjoy a long and well-earned retirement, keeping up all those friendships and connections which she valued so much.

Madeline Barber. Headteacher Roan Girls' School & Vice President

Mrs.Jeffery was my Geography teacher when I joined the Roan Girls' School in 1937 and then I was one of her colleagues when I worked there. She ran the Guide company before the war; took care of us during evacuation; was the first teacher I ever knew to get married; left to have her children and then returned to teach Geography and Maths. She gave up so much of her time to organising school journeys abroad, giving so many girls their first opportunity to see another country. We exchanged news at Christmas time after I left Roan and I was always interested to hear of her trips abroad and other activities such as her part in the battle to preserve the Roan building in Devonshire Drive. Mary Jeffery was Roan to me. Not the bricks and mortar of the building but the people who were educated there.

Joyce Roberts. Staff '37-'43

I was sad to hear from Josi Collins of the death of Mary Jeffery. She was a much respected colleague and teacher. She imparted her enthusiasm for her subjects to generations of Roan girls, and, with it, her high standards. Her interest in both individual pupils and the School in general never diminished throughout her retirement. She will be greatly missed.

Jean Towsey (née James) Ex-Staff

## Howard Shadwell – Olympic Gymnast

Wendy Shadwell wrote to the Secretary from New Jersey, U.S.A. in July 1998 with news of the death of her father, Howard Shadwell ('20-'25). The following obituary appeared in the Staten Island Advance on Monday 1 June 1998:

### Howard Shadwell, 89, was Olympic gymnast

Howard Shadwell, 89, of Dongan Hills, a retired reinsurance broker and former Olympic gymnast, died yesterday in Staten Island University Hospital, Ocean Breeze. Born in London, he moved to New Dorp in 1939. He settled in Dongan Hills in 1944.

In 1932 he was named to Great Britain's Olympic gymnastic's team. The team never competed because it had no government or commercial backing and could not afford the trip to the games, which were held in Los Angeles. Mr.Shadwell worked as a reinsurance broker for the Holborn Agency, Manhattan, for 25 years, retiring in 1962.

He had been a member of the Richmond County Country Club since 1946. An avid golfer, Mr.Shadwell also enjoyed swimming and playing tennis. He is survived by his wife, the former Phyllis Jenner, and a daughter, Wendy Shadwell.

### Richard Strutt (1915-1998)

Lily Strutt sent, from Brimpton, Reading, the service programme for the funeral of her husband, Richard Strutt, at Brimpton Baptist Church on 23rd November 1998. In answer to the question asked in his memoirs, "What was the most exciting thing that happened to you?" his answer was "As a child, six weeks of camping in Cumberland with the Roan School aged 10".



Richard "Dick" Strutt died on November 16 at the age of 83. Mr.Strutt, from Brimpton, described as a happy Christian who loved and served his Lord and Saviour, moved to Woolhampton with his wife, Lily, in 1968 where he found many churches made use of his talents as a lay preacher. Mr.Strutt and Lily, who were married for nearly 60 years, raised seven children and have 24 grandchildren.

He began preaching in 1934 and by the time the couple celebrated their golden wedding anniversary in 1989 he had preached in more than 100 churches, and delivered more than 1,000 different sermons.

The couple spent the war years in the Midlands. Mr.Strutt left his reserved occupation in the cabling industry to farm in Rugby. After the war they spent time in Orpington and Wandsworth. Mr.Strutt worked for Stirling Cables for more than 12 years before his retirement in 1980.

The chosen congregation hymns at his funeral were "Blessed Assurance" and "Abide with Me". His family sang "O Love That Wilt not Let Me Go".



## Tom Flack (1912-1999) – An Appreciation

**T**om Flack died on the 13th October 1999 whilst on holiday in Italy. He attended the school from 1926-1930. On leaving school he joined the Eagle Star Insurance Company and remained a loyal employee until he retired in 1975 and continued running his insurance agency to the last.

In 1938 he married Joan and they celebrated more than 55 years of marriage until she died in 1993. He joined the army in 1940 and was invalided out in 1944 following a bullet wound to his arm. He became a member of the John Roan Lodge and was Master in 1966 and remained a vigorous member all his life.

On moving to Craithie Road, a stone's throw from the Old Roan Club, he and Joan became active social members and playing members of the tennis club. His successful years as bar steward culminated in the Presidency of the ORA in 1968 and he remained a committee member of both Old Roan Club and Association for many more years.

With advancing age they gravitated towards bowls where he threw his considerable energy, enthusiasm and ability into the Bellingham and Crystal Palace Bowls Club. He was still playing in the leagues until his death.

Apart from his family, his other loves of driving, rugby and travel never waned and he enjoyed them all until his final illness in Sorrento which was quick and painless.

## Doris E. Holmes (née Smith. '21-'27)

Doris Holmes died on December 3 1997 at the age of 87 years. She attended the Roan School from 1921-27 and continued to teacher training and the Royal College of Music, becoming an L.R.C.M. She then taught in various primary school, and retired in 1970 as Head of Five Ashes Primary School in East Sussex, always achieving outstanding results with "her" children in music as well as in general subjects.

During the War, she had the task of "rounding up" evacuated children who were gradually returned to London, so that she might teach them, in whatever building happened to be still available. I know that one was a cricket pavilion. She also organised, and cooked for, a field kitchen in the school playground, with fellow staff members, apparently all wearing saucepans on their heads as makeshift "tin hats".

I know from her retirement press cutting that she played an active part in early BBC schools broadcasts.

The accompanying photographs are of Roan Productions of "Iolanthe" and "The Gondoliers" circa 1926-27. Doris played Mount Ararat and Guiseppi

Mary Somers  
Mayfield, East Sussex, March 1998



*"The Gondoliers" and "Iolanthe" circa 1926/27*





## John Thorp (1915-99) – An Appreciation



I have been given the honour of writing an outline of the life of John Thorp, master at the Roan School from 1937 to 1950, but am sad to record his death on 1st January 1999, at the age of 83.

He was born near Preston Candover, Hampshire, and was educated at Peter Symonds School, Winchester, and University College, Southampton. He first taught mathematics at the Roan School in 1937 where he met his wife, Kathleen, daughter of another master, Mr. J.H. Peckham, and married in 1939. During the war he rose to the rank of Captain in the Royal Signals and finished his service in the Far East, returning to the Roan School in

1946. In 1950 he left to begin his long association with Portsmouth Grammar School.

Mathematics was a constant part of his life. In both schools his teaching skills were appreciated both by the very able and also "the not so mathematical" and he imparted to them all an enjoyment of the subject. From the second group he earned the gratitude that he "squeezed them through" their examination. He was respected and liked by his pupils who sensed his keen interest in their futures and his ability to strike a chord with their aspirations. At the Roan School he made an invaluable contribution to school life. He is remembered for his interest in camping and the Old Roan Association, for his brilliant organisation of Old Boys' and Parents' Days and for the prominent part he played in Hobbies' Exhibitions and dramatic performances.

He took an active interest in school games, particularly cricket, and at Portsmouth Grammar School he was in charge of signals in the Combined Cadet Force. He was a Housemaster from 1957 to 1964 until he was appointed Deputy Headmaster, a position he held until his retirement in 1976. In this latter post he led the Common Room with natural authority and influence. In this role many a new teacher, who needed to learn the ropes, looked to him for guidance and advice which he gave wisely and generously.

He found time throughout his career, and then in retirement, to manage a large garden and use his skills as an accomplished carpenter, both activities inspired by his country upbringing. He chaired the local Abbeyfield House in Havant and supported Warblington Church near Emsworth. He remained an active sportsman, particularly as a golfer, competing hard into his eighties to reduce his handicap at Rowlands Castle Golf Club.

He had a spirited love of life and enjoyed the company of family and friends, always displaying humour with an ever-present twinkle in his eye. He felt keenly the loss of Kathleen in March, 1997, but maintained his positive and warm approach to life and to those around him.

When Mr. Thorp rejoined the Roan School in 1946 I was privileged to be in his mathematics class and warmed to this firm but kindly man who inspired us with his enthusiastic and patient teaching. Suffice to say that my interest in mathematics was further stimulated by him and my subsequent decision to read mathematics at University and to teach it for over forty years owed an incalculable debt to Mr. Thorp. He also played

a significant role in helping and advising me during the next four years – he was, undoubtedly, my favourite master.

Sadly, my contact with him ceased in 1950 but I frequently thought how I would love to meet him again. In 1994, through Mr. Lionel Berry, I was able to get in touch with Mr. Thorp and his wife and within a few weeks Bill and Pauline Cramp, Faith and I visited them in their home in Havant. Many visits followed over the next five years and my times with them were among the highlights of this period; we reminisced about the Roan School and we enjoyed their warm hospitality and delightful company. We saw for ourselves his great skill at making furniture and the beauty of their garden.

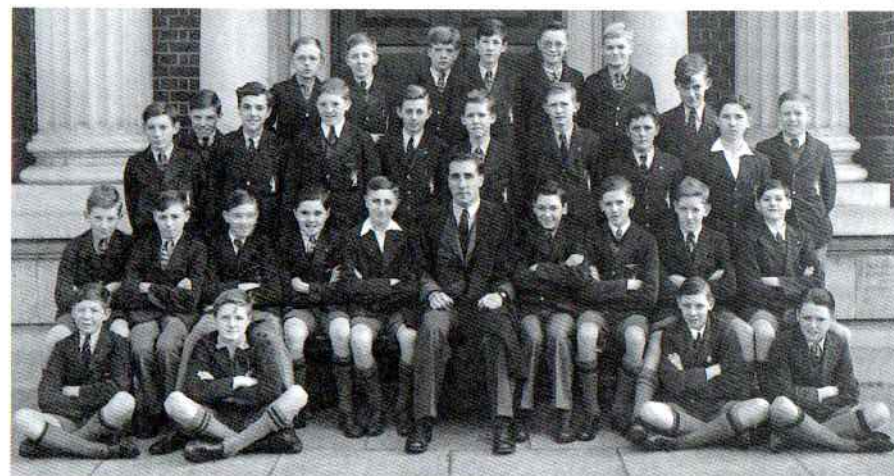
He attended two reunions of boys of my era which were held at Chartwell, Westerham, and made these occasions, with Lionel Berry, particularly enjoyable and memorable.

His health deteriorated. He bravely fought his illness but he died during his sleep on 1st January 1999. I recall, with gratitude, that I spoke with him over the telephone on the evening before he died. He was cheerful and, as always, interested in me and my family and we planned to meet at his home the following weekend.

A memorial service was held at Warblington Church on 12th January, 1999. The church was packed to overflowing with family, friends, former colleagues and pupils; and we were privileged to hear his sons, David and John, pay tribute to this fine man who, by his life and influence, had played a significant part for good in the shaping of our lives. A true gentleman; he is greatly missed.

Our sympathy is expressed to his sons, their wives, his six grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. I thank David and John for allowing me to use a great deal of their written tribute prepared for Portsmouth Grammar School's Magazine.

Peter Collins ('43-'50)



*John Thorp's first form – 3A in 1937*



## Robert Jarrams (1943-1998) – An Appreciation



Robert left the Roan School in 1962 to read mathematics at Hull University. He completed a P.G.C.E. at Exeter University from 1965-66. During the summer of 1966 he found employment as a driver for the FIFA World Cup organisation in London, transported VIPs to matches, including Sir Stanley Rouse, and acted as a driver for Sir Alf Ramsey. He joined the staff of Caterham School in September 1966 and eventually became Head of Mathematics and a Boarding Housemaster. For over 20 years he took a party of pupils to Braithwaite during the Easter holidays. His knowledge and love of the Lake District was clearly a result of his visits there during his years at the Roan School.

### The following article is taken from “The Caterhamian 1998”:

It is with deep regret that we report the death of Mr. Robert Jarrams on June 11th 1998. Robert Jarrams was born on the eighteenth of October 1943 in Sheffield but moved when he was young to Shooter's Hill, which remained the location of the family home for the rest of his life. He was educated at the John Roan School in Greenwich and graduated in Mathematics at Hull University followed by a PGCE course at Exeter University.

He joined the staff at Caterham School in September 1966 as an Assistant Master in the Department of Mathematics and was appointed Assistant Housemaster of Viney House in 1969. He became Head of the Mathematics Department in September 1973 and under his guidance the department became one of the most successful academic departments in the School. In September 1985 he succeeded John Roughly as the Housemaster of Viney House to which he dedicated the rest of his life.

Funeral services were held on June 22nd at St. Mary's Church in Caterham and at Eltham Crematorium. The very large congregation of present and past pupils, colleagues and friends was a testimony to the high regard and affection in which he was held.

Robert led a double life. In term time he was the complete schoolmaster: meticulous, enthusiastic, dedicated to the teaching of his subject and the running of the boarding house. At half-terms and in the holidays he became an expert coach driver, taking parties all over the continent. He loved buses and coaches not just as a means but as an end, and could with no difficulty identify and talk about at length a Routemaster RM3 or a Leyland coach with Plaxton bodywork.

Robert had the kind of modesty which assumed that everyone could do what he could do. Members of staff valiantly pursuing him on walking holidays in the Alps or cycling holidays in the Low Countries will testify to that. And, when in foreign countries, he always had complete confidence in his own version of their languages – confidence that an order for *un bateau de vin et une bouteille de match* would be supplied without problems.

Perhaps our most abiding memory of Robert, the quintessential image, will be of him stretched out on a deckchair on the Home Field, brown as a berry, watching a cricket match, his eyes firmly closed. One of his greatest and most notorious abilities was going to sleep. If he were ever to be selected for an England team, it would have been the nodding-off team. He even dropped off once, memorably, at a vicar's dining table.

He was an exceptional man, who enjoyed life in an unselfconscious and wholehearted way: thoughtful, generous, kind, tolerant, selfless and – perhaps above all – great fun.

*Robert Jarrams took his own life in June 1998. He left a considerable legacy from his estate to the Hope Memorial Trust*

## Hope Memorial Trust

The Trust has recently received a considerable legacy from the Estate of Robert Jarrams, who was at Roan in the 1950's. He was a Master at Caterham School and was a regular user of the Braithwaite Camp until about 1990.

The legacy will enable the Trustees to repay its debts to the Roan Foundation and to invest for the long term future of the Camp and its buildings.

Suitable ways of commemorating Robert Jarram's Bequest are being considered.

## Ray Hutchins. 1946-1999



*1st XI Football Captain. 1963-4*

It is with deep regret that we inform Association members that Ray Hutchins passed away on December 1st 1999. This was a great shock to all his friends and family and there had been no signs of any health problems. Ray died of a heart attack whilst playing golf at Littlestone, Kent.

Ray attended the School between 1957-64 and was an outstanding sportsman as well as being a conscientious scholar and very popular among his peers. He played football for the School and captained the 1st XI from 1962-64. In addition, he played cricket for the School and captained the basketball team. Whilst at school, Ray was selected to play for England in the Youth International Championships and played against Scotland and Wales. He continued his footballing career at Redhill in the Athenian League and Bromley in the Southern League as well as his local village team, Bearsted in Kent, and the occasional Old Roan outing.



He followed a career in Accountancy after leaving Roan. He married Carol and raised two daughters, Nicki and Gail. Ray was a regular attendee at the Annual Old Roan Association Reunion Dinner in October. A large contingent of Old Roans attended Ray's funeral. He will be greatly missed by his contemporaries and friends.

Alan Clark

### John Huntley writes about Ray's cricket exploits with the Old Roan

Ray first played for the Old Boys at cricket when he was still at school having shown his talent in the traditional encounters between the School and the Old Boys. Cricket proved an easy vehicle for his exceptional sporting talent although it was always something to do between football seasons. Owing to football demands he played less often than most of the first team but his record stands comparison with anyone in all aspects of the game.

As a bowler his style was reminiscent of Len Groves of earlier fame. He had a relatively short rhythmic approach culminating in a whippy fast arm action which appeared to generate pace off the pitch. Coupled with occasional lateral movement he could prove a real test for most club batsmen and I well remember being bowled by this young upstart in the School fixture. His 63 wickets were at a miserly 19 each and he conceded less than 3 an over. His best analysis of 7-33 against RACS was achieved in 1983, when he reappeared for a few games after a playing gap of some 13 years.

His opportunities with the bat were limited but his 52 innings produced nearly 900 runs at a creditable 22.4. However, one innings and partnership will remain indelibly with those who saw it, Sunday, 4th May 1969, an all day game at Dulwich against Marlborough 1870. Batting first we were quickly reduced to 16 for 2 when Ray joined Ken Farrar. Elated by their early success, Marlborough resembled shell-shock victims by the declaration at 302 for 2. Continuing the metaphor I can only use carnage to describe this epic partnership of 287 of which Ray's contribution of 139 n.o. matched Ken Farrar's 155 n.o. and in Old Roan cricket Ken was matchless (almost). In reply, Marlborough succumbed to 175 all out with Terry Barry's 5-33 in 25 overs putting the final gloss on Ray's first and only 100. His fielding and catching reflected the fine athlete he was, and his easygoing modest manner made him a convivial team mate in bar and dressing room. All who played with Ray will mourn his most untimely passing although, at least, it occurred on a sporting venue.

### P.J. Barnwell – An Appreciation

PJB entered Roan at an early age, and his intellectual ability took him quickly to the top. As an 11+ scholarship entrant, I only caught up with him in the Modern Sixth. From the knowledge of him I had up to then, he had appeared to me as a solid and somewhat stern character, always first in the annual cross-country.

In the sixth form, because of our common interests, we quickly became close friends. These interests were on the one hand, French and English History and Literature. On the other, exploring the Kent countryside. We did not miss many performances at the Old Vic, and we knew every inch of the Darent Valley. He did not, however, share my interest in

League football or support of Millwall or Charlton. We both took advantage of the school camps abroad. The pursuit of common interests lasted into our university days, as far as our attendance at different alma maters allowed (he Cambridge, myself London). We did do our last swot for the respective B.A. finals together, in a draughty bungalow (ex-LCC tram) on a windswept Camber Sands.

The severest test of our friendship was perhaps our walk from Dieppe to the source of the River Loire in the Cevennes, carrying our tents, cooking our own meals and doffing our caps at the many graves of French Literati en route. PJB was a purist and ascetic, and was reluctant to have recourse to accepting even occasional car lifts or soft beds in haylofts (in those days, walking tours still meant actual walking).

With the end of our university days we saw less of each other. To start with, we were rarely in London together, and subsequently PJB's acceptance as a teacher by the prestigious Colonial Education Service, and the 1939-45 war kept us far apart. His regular long letters to me did serve as a link, but subsequently the exigencies of our work and married life prevented our meeting. I doubt if I could, in any case, have matched his later intellectual and academic interests.

The basis of PJB's domestic and intellectual life was a solid, liberal, Catholicism. This kept him largely unaffected by the superficial left-wing charlataneries which passed for progressive thinking on the part of the young university hopefuls in the early 1930s. He was no mystic nor evangelist. He did not, however, avoid argument where necessary; and, in particular, any misplaced flippancy or heresy on my part in a serious matter would be sorrowfully picked up, taken apart and disposed of.

His Catholicism was also humanist, in that he had an extraordinary knowledge of the lesser lights of the catholic galaxy, legendary or real. In the course of our walks in France, we would turn aside onto a country track to inspect a site, well or stream, where some minor saint had, allegedly, in days gone by, performed some piece of pastoral wizardry. (In the matter of the role of women in society, however, he did tend to be distinctly reactionary, although this did not make him a lesser family man!)

Had he been an extrovert, I think he had the brains to have gone much further than he did, but he seemed to be content to potter along with his reading, research and letter writing. His youthful cult of physical fitness also took its toll in later life, and his last years were painful and difficult.

H.A. Bulpitt, October 1999



P.J. Barnwell & H.A. Bulpitt in 1990



## Snapshots of Roan by Dorleen Davies

**M**y first memory was of being interviewed by Miss Higgs. I called her "Madam" as that was what we called the female staff at Manor Lane. She corrected me, saying, "We are called by our names here. I am Miss Higgs".

I remember Miss Hough and Miss Richardson, who shared a flat in Blackheath, having a tight-lipped ladylike squabble in front of us one day, which delighted us.

Once, I hadn't done my French prep and in desperation pretended to be ill. Miss Marsh was so kind



*Dorleen at Roan School in 1933*

to me that she made me feel an absolute worm. I suddenly saw her as a human being, not a school mistress.

Dorleen Davies died in 1997

*Dorleen in 1943*



## Reunion of Years 1947-49 – 1st August 1999



*Reunion at the School Field on 1 August 1999*

*Back row (l-r): David Rivers, Alan Dawe, Derek Dreher, Ken Thomas, John Huntley, Tom Gasson  
Front row (l-r): Graham Chambers, Terry Blanchard, John Cramp, David Buckley*

**T**welve Old Roans from these years met for a reunion at the School Sports Ground, Kidbrooke Park Road, on a lovely, warm summer's day on Sunday 1st August 1999. Those who attended were Richard Aldrich, Terry Blanchard, David Buckley, Graham Chambers, John Cramp, Alan Dawe, Derek Dreher, Tony Gasson, Alan Penney, David Rivers, Ken Thomas and Ray Wiltshire. John Huntley was also present and Monty Smith performed a splendid job behind the bar.

Despite the rival attractions of the German Grand Prix, the Benson & Hedges Cricket Final and the Charity Shield football match on the television, a great time was had by all. Various photographs and mementoes were produced and "Nobby" Blanchard even produced his School Cap. After a filling buffet lunch and a stroll around the field, most of the former pupils were content to exchange yarns of school experiences and then watch the cricket match between the Old Boys and Southborough – at one stage the ORCC were 11 for 4 but thanks to a solid innings by Naz Khan, a respectable score was achieved. Graham Chambers and John Huntley were not, after all, required to come out of retirement! It is hoped to hold a similar reunion in another two years – please contact me, David Buckley, on 01689 852800, if you would like to be informed of the next reunion.

David Buckley, August 1999



## The Return of the Native

October 22, 1998 saw an extraordinary meeting of the 1930's Group at the Abinger Hatch in leafy Surrey. The reason – to welcome Philip Wedge, who was visiting the Old Country after many years in Canada.

Philip ("Pip") Wedge entered Roan in 1938. According to contemporaries, Phil Winter and Stan Syrett, he showed a not inconsiderable scholastic talent, contriving to come top of a form whose average age was a year or more greater than his. Like brother Bill (J.F.N.) he was actively involved in dramatics at School and, after the war, with the O.R.D.S. Possibly this interest was the reason for his pursuing a career in television. He became manager for Hughie Green ("Double Your Money") and Michael Miles ("Take Your Pick"). It was with the former that he took his talents to Canada, where he has made his home. However, he says that his claim to real distinction lies not on stage but on the football fields as the goalkeeper for the Showbiz XI behind such stars as Sean Connery and Tommy Steele.

Fittingly, most of those welcoming Pip were from the O.R.D.S. of the years following the war – older, greyer, but as voluble as ever. The cast included Stan and Margery Berry, Alfie Knott, Brian and Gina Thomas, Bill Wedge, Doug Peddie, Horace and Barbara Abbott and the doyen of them all, Lionel Berry. The Longs, the Weirs and the Winters gave moral support. Conversation centred on school and O.R.D.S. activities in the years either side of the war. Apart from memories of such productions as Ian Hay's "Baa Baa Black Sheep", J.B. Priestley's "Spring Tide", "Hyde Park Corner", and "It Pays to Advertise", one recalled painting flats in the woodwork shop, lighting being controlled from a precarious bolt-on platform high above the stage using ancient rheostats, and the practical-joking propensities of the stage manager.

Two personalities recalled from those days were Jack Beecher and Bernard Fisher, well known in the 30's for a turn based on the Tom Walls / Ralph Lynn duo. Bernard Fisher is no longer with us. Has anyone news of Jack Beecher? All told, an occasion fit to cheer a grey October day. Pip carried our warmest wishes when he returned to Canada.

The writer was quick to assert that the present Roan Theatre Company is maintaining the traditions of the Good Old Days. They deserve your support.

The next 1930's will be on June 19, 2000 at Abinger Hatch, about midday. All old codgers welcome. Bring your ladies. Lionel will be 99 this year.



## Old Roan Reunion (1943-50) – 5 June 1999

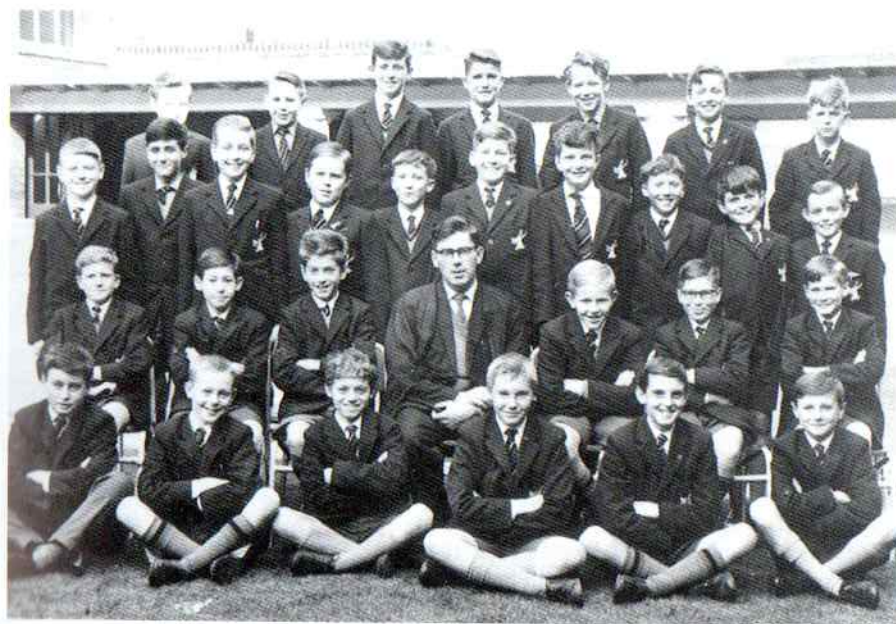
Once again our reunion was held at Chartwell – a very convenient location particularly for those still resident south of the Thames. Approximately 47 sat down for an excellent 3 course meal which had been organised entirely by Pauline Cramp. Of the 47, 30 were "old boys" and included, for the first time, an "old boy" and ex-master, Alfie Knott, and also the "ever-young" stalwart, Lionel Berry!

Pauline continued what Bill Cramp had started and we are all extremely grateful to her for all the hard work in the organisation of a very successful and enjoyable day. There was much talk and many reminiscences of our time at Roan, with Bill mentioned many times, especially by those who had known him at Rathburn Road Infants!

We have also seen new faces at each reunion since the first and we look forward to seeing more at future gatherings. At this time we do not have a date for the next, but the year 2000 will be our 50th anniversary! Do we have a volunteer to make the arrangements? The day closed with a hearty vote of thanks to Pauline led by Lionel – several group photographs and an attempted rendition of the School Song!

Thanks again, Pauline, from all of us for a super day.

Roy Pound, Chesham, Buckinghamshire, October 1999



Form 3E – September 1962

Back row: C.Jenkins, C.Hicks, M.McCarthy, R.Larkins, G.Milkins, J.Norris, R.Lockhart  
Middle (top): A.Motton, G.Moine, B.Kay, G.Morgan, G.Jones, B.Hersey, S.Mentz, J.Lockyer, J.Janes, J.Meakings  
Middle (lower): G.Moore, R.Lane, P.Irving, Mr.Evans, R.Hunt, D.Phillips, S.Jermey  
Front row: S.Nichols, D.Horsburgh, D.Ingate, P.Nichols, K.Mullings, A.Jackaman



### 30 Years On – A reunion of the '62-'69ers

It seemed like a good idea when we started. The notion of a reunion had cropped up a few times over the years in various discussions between those of us who'd managed to stay in touch. Then the realisation dawned that we were fast approaching the 30th anniversary of our departure from Maze Hill. Surely we couldn't be THAT old?

Well, we were that old and it seemed high time to organise something. A small group of us who still lived locally (Terry Adams, Derrick Byford, and Phil Willson) had our own mini-reunion at the Club in 1998 in order to plan the event. Tony Slaney kindly passed over relevant extracts from the Association membership list that gave us the start we needed. To this was added our own list of contacts and things were looking hopeful. Later we acquired one of the UK Info Disk cd-roms (as advertised on convenience walls in motorway service stations everywhere!) which helped us track down a few more.

Over the period of a few weeks we accumulated a grand total of over 50 addresses of the 90-plus who had either started in 1962 or joined during the seven years we were there. It was at this point that a certain amount of disappointment set in. We always knew that some would not be interested and others would not find the date convenient, but the real disappointment was in the number of people who did not even reply to the letters. This led to extra work and cost whereas a simple 'No' would have settled the matter instantly.

Anyway, we ploughed on and eventually had 21 of 'us' confirmed for the night. Of course, we also needed some of 'them' – the masters. Five were tracked down with relative ease, with Mike Watson and John Bowerman unfortunately unable to attend. However, we were very pleased that Alf Knott, Nigel Ballantyne and Tony Elliott were able to accept our invitation.

So, the evening of Saturday 22nd May, 1999 duly arrived. A buffet had been prepared, all items being purchased earlier in the day from Sainsbury's in Lee. Then gradually the participants began to arrive. Alf Knott was one of the first and was the only one to take up the offer of a name badge – rather odd really considering he was the one person we were all guaranteed to recognise!

Some of 'the boys' were instantly recognisable having perhaps only greyed slightly or developed the odd wrinkle. Others had changed more substantially and were harder to recognise, although I have to say that we all looked pretty good for our age!

Great distances had been travelled with people arriving from Yorkshire, Scotland and even South Africa. The latter was represented by David Phillips, who was over here on a double mission since our event coincided with World Series cricket, David being a keen supporter of his adopted country's team.

The evening had always been advertised as being totally informal and so it proved to be. We all had a great time chatting about the old days and what had happened to us in between. In many ways it was as if no time had passed at all, such was the

ease with which we seemed to pick up where we left off all those years previously. There was certainly none of the brashness so typical of twenty- and thirty-somethings who continually try to score points off each other over their high-flying careers and the things that their money will buy. We were now past all that, mostly settled in our careers and very much more at ease with life. As may be expected, many of us have growing or even grown-up families. However, I did not gather that there were any grandfathers among us just yet although that is unlikely to be a distant prospect for some. In terms of job responsibility, I think the two extremes were a Chief Executive of a very large local authority and another who was living a life of ease having taken early retirement a year or so previously.

Of the staff, Alf Knott demonstrated that he was still the great character we all remember. Nigel is just easing himself in retirement but still seems to exude the air of boyishness that he had in 1963 when he first joined the school. Tony Elliott, who seems hardly to have changed at all, gave up teaching a few years ago in order to pursue other interests and is now involved in multi-media productions.

In all, everyone thoroughly enjoyed the evening, which made the whole task of setting it up worthwhile. The earlier frustrations were forgotten and the idea even dawned of doing it again sometime – any volunteers?

The full list of participants is as follows: Terry Adams, Graham Briscoe, Tony Bryer, Derrick Byford, Adrian Clarkson, Bob Coomber, Keith Daniels, Glen Griffiths, Martin Harris, Chris Hawkins, David Horsburgh, Jeffrey Moine, Tony Motton, David Phillips, Jon Rogers, Robin Sewell, Phil Willson, John Wood, Bob Worsell and Peter Wyatt. The staff were represented by Nigel Ballantyne, Tony Elliott and Alf Knott.

To complete the picture, apologies due to other commitments were received from Ken Connell, Jeremy Davies, Dave Lewis, Bob Lockhart, Mick McCarthy, Keith Mullings, Alistair Rhodes, Geoffrey Shaylor, Kevin Stubbings, David Tantony and Chris Thelwell-Smith, as well as former staff Tim Watson and John Bowerman.



Standing (left to right): Martin Harris, Terry Adams, Phil Willson, Chris Hawkins, Jon Rogers, Tony Bryer, Adrian Clarkson, Glen Griffiths, Keith Daniels, John Wood, Robin Sewell, Nigel Ballantyne, Bob Worsell, Graham Briscoe, Jeffrey Moine, David Phillips and Tony Motton. Seated (left to right): Derrick Byford, Peter Wyatt, Alf Knott, Bob Coomber and David Horsburgh.

Special thanks are due to my fellow conspirators, Terry Adams, Derrick Byford and David Horsburgh. Also to Tony Slaney for the occasional help and advice as well as his work at the bar alongside David Andrews.

There are a couple of postscripts to this story. The first is that Alistair Rhodes returned to these shores from Perth, W. Australia, for a few weeks in the summer and I was able to meet up with him at his cousin's house which just happens to be about ten doors from my own. He is very fit and well, and had brought his 16-year old son over for football trials with Charlton and West Ham.

Secondly, it was suggested that we could have an even less formal annual gathering with people just dropping in at the Club on a nominated evening. This may well happen!

Phil Willson, February 2000



## Memories of the 30s and 40s from G.C.Goddard ('37-'46)

### *"By 1945 the School seemed to descend into anarchy and discipline broke down"*

I was at the School from 1937 until early 1946 having been virtually "press-ganged" by Mr.J.Amesbury. My father, his brother and their sister were all at Roan, as was their father before them. My father was the cashier and wages clerk at a steelworks on the Isle of Dogs and in good weather used to walk to work via Greenwich Park and the subway. One morning a voice behind him, suddenly said, "Good morning, Goddard, when are you going to send your boy to the School?". It was Mr.Amesbury and he had taught my father at Eastney Street. My father was intrigued as to how he knew that he had a son. Mr.Amesbury replied that schoolmasters found these things out. Thus I took the entrance exam aged eight and a half, left the rough and tumble of Sherington Road Primary School and joined Roan in Potter's last term as Head.

Mr.Potter introduced H.W.Gilbert at the end of the term as his successor. The general opinion at the time was sharply divided on the merits of Gilbert. In my time, most of us disliked him as we never knew where we stood in his estimation. I would have been pleased to see Mr.Parker installed as Headmaster, but it was not customary to promote from within.

E.Durling was a much feared master in my time. He usually wore a brown suit and gold-rimmed spectacles together with a mirthless smile. I remember how he would come silently up to a boy's desk and quietly ask, "Done your homework lad?". The boy might reply, "Well, it was like this, sir", and the next minute he would be picking himself up off the floor. We knew "Dickie" Durling as the Gestapo man. Rumours circulate in a community and are continually embellished until they no longer relate to the truth. I was told that Durling was a Director of Millwall Football Club and that he committed suicide. I was also told that he was shell-shocked during the 1914-18 war and, if this was so, it was a tragic end. I wonder if anyone can comment on this rumour?

It was alleged that Amesbury was a very rich man and became a schoolmaster by choice and did not need the income. It was also said that he owned a yacht and a Rolls-Royce. This may have been utter rubbish, but I still wonder. During my early days at the school he still wore a stand-up collar with a black stock adorned by a large pearl tiepin set in gold. It was, no doubt, very valuable and fitted the rich man image.

I remember Mr.Ashworth very well. During the evacuation in Wales we used a village hall for our schooling and Ashworth used to take us into the field behind the hall for P.T.. Of course, it was very limited, there being no gym equipment, but he kept us fit. When it rained as it frequently does in Wales, we learned first-aid and were encouraged to get a copy of the St.John's Ambulance Handbook which was not easy to obtain in the war years. The first-aid man at my father's firm was a St.John's member and kindly obtained a copy for me. On another occasion Ashworth lectured us on, of all things, duodenal ulcers and we must have been the most well informed twelve-year-olds in Britain on the subject. I remember Ashworth as a very fit man, always immaculately turned out in white, his plimsolls like snow. I believe he came out of retirement to replace the P.T. master who had been called up. Some of the younger masters were on reserve and went straight into the forces in 1939. As we progressed through the School, we moved to Ammanford and again used a hall; but were allowed some time at the local County School, especially the use of the gym. Some

equipment was damaged and Roan boys were blamed, but Ashworth was certain this was not the case. Gilbert would not back him and he left to go back into retirement. I believe Hankinson was our next full time P.T. master but he tended to be too "chummy" with the boys.

By the summer of 1942 quite a large number of us wanted to return to London, the serious air raids being over. We attended an Emergency Secondary School housed at Colfe's old building and at Shooters Hill School in Red Lion Lane. When Roan returned in 1944 we moved back and this is where H.W.Gilbert showed his dislike, and obviously regarded us as "traitors" and possibly deserters. We never again felt welcome at the School although all the other masters treated us fairly. By 1945 the School seemed to descend into anarchy and discipline broke down. I remember how boys used to openly insult Mr.Kirby who, by that time, was elderly and thought to be a figure of fun. I found this hurtful. Kirby had taught my father and was your archetypal master, and withdrew myself from the School much to the fury of my parents. However, after an acrimonious interview with H.W.G., who was very rude to my father, I was taken out of the School, matriculated externally and embarked on a career in metallurgy. Not long after I left, the Captain of the School saw H.G.W. in his study and laid his badge, and those of all the prefects, on the desk saying that they were getting no support from the top and no longer wished to serve.

Two names that may just be familiar are Dalzell and Mills. The former was the art master before the war, a man steeped in the arts in all their forms - ballet, opera and the great painters were his life - and we were a little too young to appreciate his expertise. He was eventually poached by the B.B.C. and did children's programmes with considerable success. Mr.Mills, first name Silas, started me off on French and this proved to be my best subject, possibly because my mother's father was French and there was French blood on my father's side a couple of centuries earlier. I was billeted on a farm with a Franco-Welsh family, the lady of the house being from Alsace. When I was doing French homework I would ask her how to express a certain sentence and consequently I was about a term ahead of my form. Mills asked for an explanation and I acted dumb, after which he made his own enquiries and tried to get himself billeted with me, but the family did not want an adult as well. Relief all round as who wants a master around all the time even if you are a favourite? Mills later got a preferment to Hele's School in Exeter and I was sorry to see him go.

Another vivid memory concerns Mr.Parker and a visit I made to his home in 1944. When the summer holiday started my father asked me what I was going to do with myself for seven weeks or so, it being impossible to have a family holiday in wartime. He suggested I go to see Parker with a view to joining the boys at the farming camp. Needless to say I was aghast at the thought of bearding the lion in his den. I cycled over the "Grotes Place" and was admitted by Parker himself to a room of very "heavy" people and offered a cup of tea, and, wait for it, a cigarette. I accepted the tea but, was not going to be caught out as a smoker. I still marvel at that. Anyway, he told me that the boys had all gone and that I was too late. I cycled home in a kind of daze having seen the man at home, so different from the one who dispensed terror among us younger boys.

I was very pleased to meet Brian Pickrell in December 1996 having known his brother, John, very well. John was killed in action with the R.A.F. in Malaya. He was a great comedian and sadly missed by all of us. I visited Brian in Cornwall in early 1998 and spent a few very pleasant hours with him.



## Whatever Happened to Norman Hands ('36-'40)?

Since leaving the school during the early evacuation period, I have come across very few old boys, and one of those was by a chance remark. I had a café come gift shop at Morehamstead until about 12 years ago, and one day I was chatting to a customer and mentioned I went to school in Greenwich. He turned out to be Stan Berry. A couple of years ago I saw an article in the reunions section of Saga magazine about a Roan School get together. I phoned the number and it turned out to be Stan Berry again. I would like to have gone, but, unfortunately, it is a long way to go for the day. It's a strange thing, but when Stan gave me the names of people that might attend, I didn't recognise any of them; and the same applies to the copy of the Chronicle received unexpectedly via my sister. Only two names do I remember – the Trafford brothers – and of the rest of the names of the era 1936-40 none rings a bell.

I think one of the reasons could be that a school like the Roan in those days took boys from a much wider catchment area. Therefore, not living near fellow pupils, you didn't socialise much and only knew your immediate classmates. I was, however, a member of the school scout troop and went to the camps we had at Downe in Kent, and Brockenhurst in the New Forest. I was one of the evacuees that went to Ticehurst and later on to Bexhill, but I left before the school went to Ammanford. There were much more exciting things to do with a war on, like trying to become a Spitfire pilot though, unfortunately, or perhaps otherwise, my right eye failed me.

During the War I ran across two old boys. One was a slightly drunken squaddie about 1946 in Berlin before the wall was built. He was with a crowd, saw me, and shouted out, "This is



Reg Kensey (right) & Norman Hands (left) in 1944

a bit different from the Roan School", and passed on. I didn't recognise him and never saw him again. The other person I met was Reg Kensey, about the same age as me. I joined a mobile Spitfire squadron at Mersa Matru in Egypt in 1944 and we were both flight mechanics. We travelled all the way to Berlin by the way of a couple of places in England, Arromanches and one or two countries that get in the way. The last I heard of him was that he was training as a chartered accountant but that was over 50 years ago.

I was for many years a rep for Trojan Ltd. and one of my dealer's salesmen was an Old Roan (name forgotten). We went to an annual do together, it must have been about the time the bar was inaugurated at Kidbrooke. Mr. Binnie was there. I seem to remember going again when his book "The Story of the Roan Schools 1643-1956" had just been published. Whether he had died I can't remember, but I took a photograph of whom, I believe, is Mrs. Binnie, signing copies. I suppose the reason I didn't continue as a member of the old boys was that I moved away from the area.

I still have my green hymn book, not in bad condition considering it's over 60 years old. I get it out occasionally and threaten to sing from it which usually clears the room. I noted it was published in 1939 and what we did before then I can't remember. Another useless bit of information is a photo I have just come across of two Old Roan boys, members of 33

squadron, at a town in Holland where the Pioneer Corps had made us a temporary air strip. Unfortunately, it's not very good because the facilities at the time were a bit basic. Reg Kensey is the one at the back on the right with glasses. I am at the back on the left with my eyes closed. We were 20 years old then.

Just recently I have written an article under the heading "My Story" for Saga magazine. One of the things that I have had to do because of Parkinson's was to learn how to operate a computer. My daughter, who works for a multinational firm, got me one of their redundant machines. It was a bit like Rubik's Cube at first. As the cockneys say – "Be Lucky!"

Norman Hands . Dawlish, Devon. November 1999

## What Happened to the Remove of '39?

We parked our motor caravan on the Camping and Caravaning Club site at Normans Bay Pevensey. Next morning was fine and sunny with very little wind so our bicycles were unhooked from their racks on the rear door of the van. Our plan was to cycle along the Pevensey Marsh road into Bexhill-on-Sea. My wife had never been there, but I had cycled the route many years before when living in Bexhill.

The first thing you encounter is a man-operated railway level crossing. The attendant, seeing two elderly cyclists struggling to get their bikes through the side gates, kindly came out and opened the main one. I said to him that he looked a little different from the attendant here the last time I passed this way. "That was when my school was evacuated to Bexhill in 1939. His transport was an old Raleigh bike but you seem to have a large American Trans-Am type of car". He muttered something to the effect of, "I wasn't born then". It seems that he handles one of only two such railway crossings in the country. We thanked him and went on our way.

Strangely, apart from the barbed wire and tank traps seen last time, the weather and smells seemed to be so reminiscent of the early summer of 1940 when I last cycled this road. Past the beach huts surrounded with fishing gear – they weren't here then. Then Cooden, with the golf links as they seemed to be called in those days. That was where the husband of the lady I was billeted with played golf though he didn't tell anyone as he was a postman and afraid that people would think it was above his station.

We continued along the wide road into Bexhill town. Very hard work this cycling – must be getting old! There is the railway bridge with the road dipping under it on the left, and the library, don't remember that, probably had too many other things to experience first time away from home without one's parents. All these little shops, no big stores and supermarkets, the town has hardly altered since then. There is the railway station – just the same.

My mind took a spin. I wonder! We used to park our bikes outside Woolworth's and meet inside. Let's have a look. Yes, there they are! We quickly rode down the road but, sadly, missed them. They had gone. We weren't fast enough.

So! If you do happen to be passing down Devonshire Road in Bexhill, and see boys with smart green blazers and caps parking their bikes outside Woolworth's please treat them kindly because they are now well into their seventies and may well ask you how they did in life.

Norman Hands ('36-'40)



## Richard Frederick Cutbush. 1905-1999

The Chronicle has received many tributes to the life of Fred Cutbush who died suddenly at the age of 93 in April 1999. According to his daughter, Liz Foubister, he was the last of a group of friends comprising Bert Finch, Phillip Escott and Ray Furlong, with whom he had kept up a lifelong correspondence. He was also in contact with Arthur Hewlett who is 3 years his senior. He was Principal Teacher of Music at Aberdeen's High School for Girls from 1948-1971 and taught, among many others, a young Annie Lennox before she went to the Royal Academy of Music and found fame with the "Eurythmics". He remained active to the end of his life, played the organ on the day he died, and was looking forward to a reunion in Aberdeen the following week. Fred attended the Roan School from 1917-22. He became a Fellow of the Royal College of Organists (FRCO) in 1931; gained his degree in music from London University in 1934; served with the RAF in Burma, India and Thailand during the War; taught at schools in Ramsgate, Malvern, Keighley and Doncaster before spending 23 years at the High School for Girls in Aberdeen. He retired to Macclesfield in 1971 where he continued to teach music at Byron St. Primary School and accompanied the Mydal Choir. He moved in 1981 to Wilmslow where he was organist at St. John's Church, attended classes in English Literature and was a keen gardener. We print here the tribute from his parish magazine.

Fred's sudden death, the weekend after Easter, brought a deep sadness to all who knew him. It is hard to imagine that someone who, though in his 90s, was so active and full of life, is now gone from us. But as we reflect on his passing, we can give thanks for a man who was remarkable in his use of the gifts with which God had entrusted him.

The nature of an organist is to be heard and not seen. Many will have reflected on the fine playing they heard from Fred Sunday by Sunday. Fewer will, perhaps, have appreciated Fred's immense talent and very wide range of musical knowledge. I first met him when, as a teenager (and novice organist), I served in the choir at St. Michael's Church in Macclesfield. On the then newly restored organ there, which is considerably larger than the instrument at St. John's, his playing was an inspiration. Fred's great strength was in the mainstream of classical organ repertoire. He was the most skilful exponent of J.S. Bach whose 20 volumes of organ works he had completely mastered. But what will live on, particularly for me, is Fred's playing of the English composers of the early years of this century – such as Stanford, Parry and Whitlock – and their great predecessor Mendelssohn. This was musical territory that was obviously and naturally in tune with Fred's particular talents. Even on the relatively limited resources of our organ at St. John's, Fred was able to reach into the heart of this music enabling us to appreciate its clarity of form and its many subtle nuances of expression. Coupling this depth of musical understanding with formidable technical skills, Fred was also a brilliant improviser and I dare say many might not realise that much of the music they heard during the holy communion simply flowed from Fred's own imagination after reaching the end of the manuscript in front of him. Equally remarkable was Fred's enthusiasm, right to the end, for discovering and playing new pieces of music. I can think of several occasions in the last years when he was positively bubbling with delight over new items I introduced to the choir – and, if they had an organ part which gave him a modest challenge, so much the better!

Of course, we were privileged at St. John's to know not simply Fred the musician but also

the man. His dedication and willingness to serve, and to use his gifts to help others, was exemplary and inspirational. He was always ready, quietly and without trumpeting the fact, to help people who sought his advice on matters musical. Certainly, one or two in our choir will miss the little private tutorials he was always giving to anyone needing a little extra help to learn solos or harmonies. Fred was gracious and supportive in introducing music that could not always have been to his own taste. This made it both delightful but rather humbling to work alongside him in this part of the church's ministry.

Fred's life and musical career were long and distinguished. His natural modesty meant that even those of us who had known him for a long time often only had quite limited knowledge of all that he had achieved. It was fitting, therefore, that at his funeral one of his former pupils at Aberdeen High School for Girls, where he had taught for more than 20 years, told us a little about that part of his life. I expect that most of us came away feeling we had learnt something new about Fred – but that our extended knowledge had merely strengthened our admiration of his good humour, determination and quietly adventurous spirit. We shall greatly miss him.

Stephen Jones  
Wilmslow. May 1999

A former student from his days in Aberdeen, Kay Wilson, had reunited with Fred the year before his death and gave a tribute at his funeral at St. John's Church, Wilmslow on 17 April 1999. She includes in her address the following comments: "He was a wonderful teacher and such a kind, gentle and patient man. He obviously did a very good job because we all (6 students) did well in our Highers. He would have been proud to know that every one of us went on to make very good use of our musical education – in areas of teaching, playing, singing, composing and entertaining in some form or other. We have fond memories of a lovely man who was instrumental in helping to fill all our lives with music".



*Fred Cutbush in 1927 and 1997*



## Reminiscences & Anecdotes from Lionel Berry

**T**ed Barr, an early pupil of mine when the school was in Eastney Street, recently contributed an article to the Roan mag concerning the early years of the School in the last century. This has encouraged me to do a follow-up with some of my own reminiscences and thoughts on my 40 years at the School and with the Old Roan Association up to about the present day.

In 1923 I was the lucky one out of some 50 others who answered a Roan School advert for a chemistry teacher. Appointed by the Deputy Head, Potter, to take over his teaching, I was despatched to meet the Head, Hope ("The Antient"), who was up at Braithwaite with his boy scouts. "Tell me, Berry, about your last Headmaster", to which I replied: "Well, my late Headmaster was not as fat as you!" Luckily, Hope had a whimsical sense of humour and did not sack me on the spot! Instead, he had me lead the scouts at the supper table in a round of "Alouette" which I knew from Toc-H's Tic-Tocs Concert Party, and all was well.

I was doing some "social work" at Wandsworth Gaol in one of the condemned cells where one of the prisoners (who shall remain nameless) said: "I was at school with you!". By chance, "Froggy" Llewellyn, French Master at Roan, was doing the same at the Gaol and on hearing of my appointment told me that I was going to a happy school – and that is, indeed, how I found it right from the start and throughout my 40 years as chemistry teacher, Head of Science and 15 years as Vice-Master. Since retiring in 1963, the ORA and keeping in touch with old colleagues and pupils has been most important to me and has given me much happiness – and continues to do so!

The ORA was set up in 1911 by the Headmaster, Crofts, who became the first president. The first two Secretaries were S.Crouch and E.Mace. Tragically, both were killed serving in the First World War. Potter was President twice, in 1913 and 1931. Wally Bullers was Secretary for 15 years, during which time, in WW2, he rescued British troops from the Dunkirk evacuation beaches with his cabin cruiser in 1940.

Prizegiving was always a gift for the non-form masters since they could slip out at the back to Pye's room for a quick cup of tea (so strong that one could stand a spoon up in it). Pye made the shields that were presented including the Victor Ludorum. One year, the Head of the Metropolitan Police presented the prizes and gave the Head Boy a truncheon. The Chairman of the Governors, Icough, came to Ammanford, where the School was finally evacuated, twice for prizegiving. There was a prize every year for the best essay on "Proportional Representation". There were two for physics and two for chemistry in memory of Parker (holder of the Legion d'Honneur) and Potter. Prefects were presented with a silver badge which they could keep when they left the School. The prize for the best House Play, a valuable bronze Icarus, was presented by the ORDS. The Roan Exhibition was awarded each year to the most outstanding pupil. A cricket bat was presented to the best cricketer.

I went to the Head, Hope, to suggest the formation of a Scientific Society. Hope, being a Classicist, said, "Yes, Mr.Berry, and we shall call it the Aristotelian Society". Its function widened over the years to include debates and outside speakers, especially old boys. It was still running when I left the School in 1963.

Hobbies Day was instituted by Gilbert. It was an elaborate Open-Day when boys displayed their hobbies. There were extensive displays of large experiments in the labs (with all necessary safety precautions!), short concerts, finals of the Spoken English Competition and the entries for the House Dramatic Competition. One boy wanted to show sword swallowing and another wanted to do fire eating, but permission was refused!

Vanbrugh Castle on Maze Hill was a home for orphaned boys and financed by the R.A.F. The boys came to Roan for their education. It is now converted to flats, and the home is now at Ewhurst, named the Duke of Kent School, in a modern building in beautiful grounds.

Joe Amesbury always claimed he was a good rifle shot. One day as a joke, after firing on the range, a target with 5 bulls poked through with a pencil was substituted for his real one. For years he showed this around as proof of his prowess!

I often drove Hope, Durling and Harris to school along Kidbrooke Park Road. When we arrived, Hope would always say: "Now all together – How well the young man drives!" My driving was renowned! It provoked the remark: "That was Shell, that was"!

Some members of staff wanted their war service ranks shown with their names, such as Captain Durling and Captain Harris, on the Stag List. The Head, Hope, sent a boy to ask Peddie if he would like his rank included as "Acting Lance-Corporal Unpaid"! Parker had dummy rifles made for the OTC drills. Hope, who was a scout master, changed the OTC into a scout troop. During the war, the scout camps became agricultural camps.

During a chemistry demonstration, I accidentally spilled liquid bromine, which is highly corrosive, on to my foot. Luckily, I knew how to counter it by applying bicarbonate. Even so, the burns on my foot troubled me for a long time.

One of the boys' pranks was to block the ventilation from the chemistry lab fume cupboard so that the rotten egg smell of hydrogen sulphide would pervade the staff room! Another time, a kipper was nailed under the teacher's desk in Parker's form-room to cause a mysterious fishy odour. Parker went round sniffing hard for many days and eventually took the episode in good humour and congratulated the perpetrators on their originality.

While evacuated during the war to Ammanford, the locals got to hear that I taught chemistry. They persuaded me to give them a lecture about poison gas – about which I knew nothing!

Partington, author of the famous chemistry text book, was my chemistry tutor at the East London College and was no doubt responsible for my getting a job at the Roan!

The happy spirit of purpose, comradeship and loyalty of those days has remained so important to me throughout my time at the School and with the ORA to the present day. To my regret such concerns seem to have almost disappeared in many people nowadays, which for the School and the ORA, as remembered by old-timers like me, is very sad.

Lionel Berry  
February 2000



## Whatever Happened to Steve Nelson?

Any Old Roans involved with club activities will regularly see Steve at the club. Those members who have not seen Steve for some years may be interested in the photograph accompanying this article – courtesy of the Nationwide Building Society.

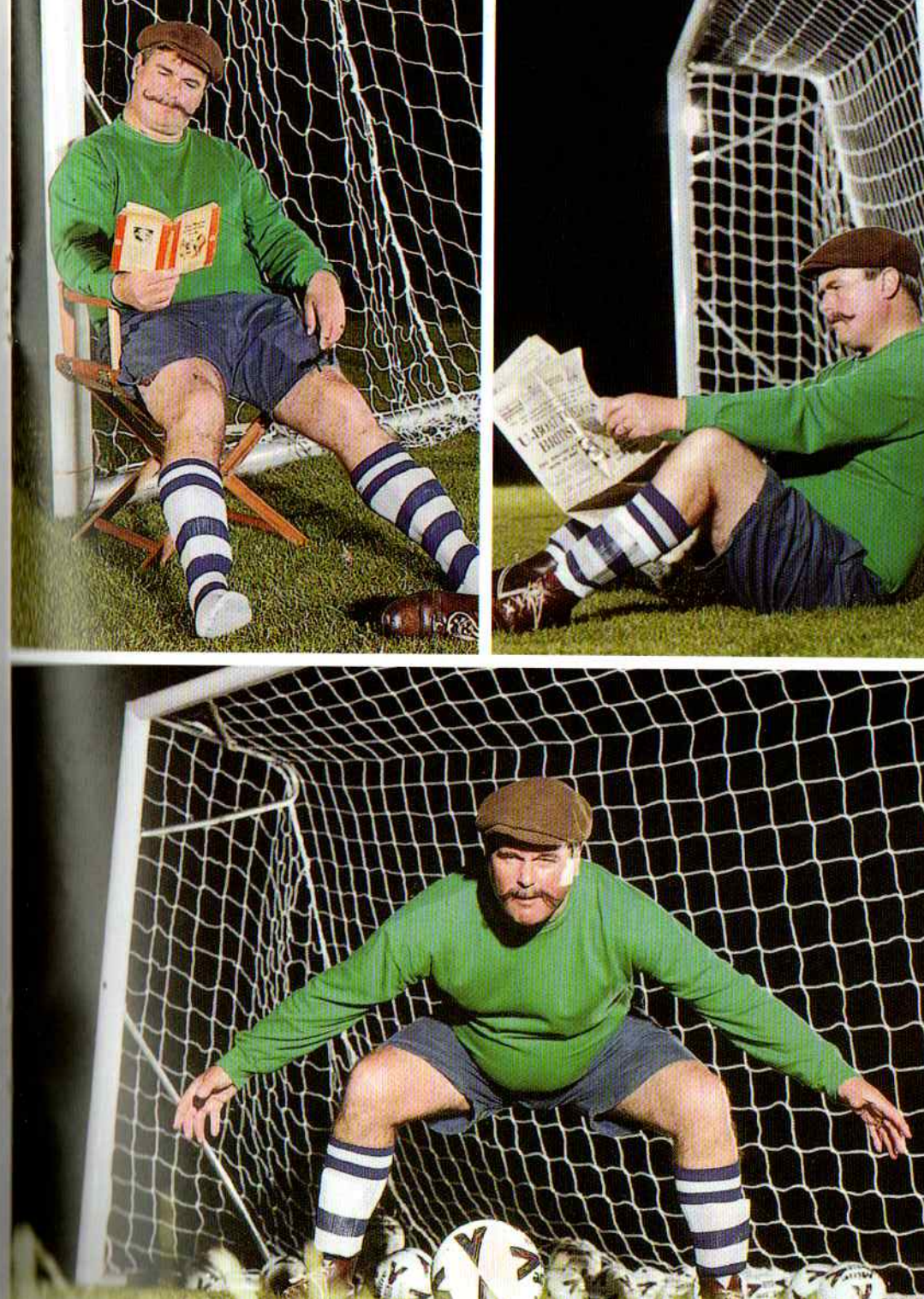
Steve is a founder of Image Directors and the company has for a long time been involved in the world of football. This was a fairly natural progression for Steve once his glory days in goal for the Old Roans began to slow down. Steve still turns out occasionally and recently kept goal in a 4-3 defeat of Old Colfeians in January 2000 to establish his unique legend in a new century and millennium.

Image Directors designed the Nationwide Football League logo and have been the guardians for all the Football League club badges, keeping the updated versions and supplying them to Television companies and newspapers etc. They undertake regular design and marketing work with Charlton Athletic and West Ham, and have also produced programmes and promotional literature for Millwall and Crystal Palace as well as other clubs around the country.

Old Roan football fans may have been surprised recently to have seen Nationwide adverts in all Football League match programmes featuring a familiar figure between the sticks (albeit disguised by a false moustache and an obvious cushion up his jumper). The more eagle-eyed may even have spotted that the Carling adverts running in programmes for Premiership matches for the latter half of the '98-'99 season were shot in the bar at the school field.

The Old Roan connection has recently strengthened as Image Directors are now linked with Walsh and Jenkins whose Managing Director happens to be Rod Pepper and whose board also includes Ray Mills. Image Directors have also recently taken on Claire Foley ('87-'94) as a Junior Designer.

Steve's astonishingly youthful and handsome features were compromised in a bizarre cycling accident in June 1999 and he now carries scars commensurate with a sporting legend whose Old Roan career spans five decades, two centuries and two millenniums ..... And unfinished!







*Ted Barr and Lionel Berry in September 1998*

*Donald Durban ('35-'39) and Derek Overy ('35-'39) in October 1998*



*Rae Hammersley and Graham Johnson*

*"She Would If She Could" – May 1998*

*Graham Johnson, Alf Knott, David Peckham, Stephen Money*







*Old Roan Veterans at Charter Diamond. 11 October 1998*

*Back row: Vic Brooker, Andy, Robin Faithorn, Andre Lewis, Lenny Sales, Mickey Smith, Keith Court, Brian Hamer  
Front row: Kevin Millen, Mike Baxter, Glen Monks, Stuart Clay, Keith Mexter, Gary Barwell*

*1st XI League Team 1998*

*Back row: Mike Baxter, Gareth Barnes, Mike Robinson, Paul Montgomery, Farid Abassi  
Middle row: Dave Andrews (umpire), Peter Williams (umpire), Don Patterson, Steve Rogers, Roy Parker, Mustaq Ahmed  
Seated: Naz Khan, Keith Barron, Derek Moore, Graham Lawrance*



## The Life and Times of Frederick John Bindon (1903-1999)

Frederick John Bindon was born on 19th July 1903 at 13 Bennett Park, Blackheath, then Kent. His parents, Colour-Sergeant James Edward Bindon and Lilian Maria Jefferies, had married on Michaelmas Day 1902, as soon as James was released from the cavalry of the Royal Dragoons at the end of the South African war. His medals show that he had fought at Laing's Nek, the Relief of Ladysmith, and Tugela Heights.

Fred could well remember Blackheath in the early days of the century. There was a rank of horse-drawn carriages in front of the Railway Station. Well-to-do families had their own carriages, with a coachman. Some would have a pair of horses, and footmen at the back. When someone in a house was ill, straw was laid across the road to muffle the wheel sound of the carriages and carts passing by. All but the most important roads were still "water-bound MacAdam", without a tarred surface. In hot weather the carriages and carts made huge clouds of dust. Water carts were used to damp down busy minor roads. Then a motor car came to the village, but it often broke down: people laughed and said, "The motor will never replace the horse".

One of his early memories was from May 1910 of a man passing up the road tolling a bell and shouting, "The King is dead". Edward VII had reigned for nine years since the death of Victoria in January 1901. Those days were before radio, and important events were announced by the Crier.

Fred had a fine singing voice, and joined the Choir at All Saints, the church on the Heath, which his mother attended. He got paid sixpence each time he sang a solo, equivalent to pounds today. He often spoke with fondness of the vicar, sitting on a seat outside the church in his top hat, ready to talk to anyone. He was a gentleman cleric of the old kind, free of partisan enthusiasms, or any wish to alter things. In season the choirboys would collect crane flies on the Heath in paper bags, and release them, one by one, when the vicar had his back to them as he was reading his sermon. Soon the air above the congregation was full of them, and they alighted on people's hair and hats, but the vicar did not notice. It was thought a little odd that his parents went to different Anglican churches. His mother did not like St. Michael's Church which was strongly Evangelical, and rather snobbish, with high pew rents. He supposes his father may have sat in the free seats at the back of the church, with the servants; or perhaps he had an allocated seat as a sidesman.

When war was declared in August 1914 his father, who was then 45, re-enlisted and was sent to Salisbury Plain to help train cavalry recruits. He soon died of pneumonia. More family sadness soon followed. His little sister, Mary, born in 1911, fell ill, and though he often lay on her bed with his arm around her to comfort her she died of diphtheria in January 1916. Fred was also taken ill but recovered.

He attended the Roan School in Greenwich from 1916-20. At this time the Headmaster was Arthur Hope, M.A., classical scholar of Brasenose College Oxford. He was a bachelor and lodged with Mr. & Mrs. Binnie, close to where the new Roan School now is. Binnie was also a Roan master. Hope was known to the boys as "The Ancient of Days" or just as the "Antient". The Headmaster had three canes which he called



"Taffy", "Hengist" and "Horsa", for offences of increasing severity. Taffy was a thin flexible cane, and Horsa a thick rod. Near the Headmaster's desk was a small, square mat on which miscreants were commanded to stand, touch their toes, and to tug their turn-ups so that their trousers were taut. Around the study walls were huge portraits of Hope's dogs. He often declared that dogs had souls, just like humans, that went to heaven. He was a great enthusiast for Scouting and wanted his troop to be the best in the country.

On one day, boys in his class started to throw pieces of coal from the classroom scuttle out of the window at various targets, including the School caretaker who had his back to them. This was observed, and the whole class got Taffy, having to queue outside the Headmaster's study door.

The Roan School was then in Eastney Street, close to the Thames. The first flight by the Wright brothers was in December of the year he was born. By 1917 the Germans would fly up the Thames, drop a few bombs by hand, and quickly turn back. When there was an air raid, a siren sounded and the boys were sent to scatter in the park. The School had its own song, in Latin, with a refrain "....floreat Roana", which in later years he would sometimes sing. Blackheath was the place where mass production of cameras started in Britain. Butcher Curnow & Co. started to make several a day in their little workshop in the passage off Tranquil Vale. Fred looked in their window with interest and made his own cardboard pin-hole camera.

In 1920, Fred met Ruby at the YWCA Tennis Club. They were married at All Saints Church on 14th August 1926. Two spinsters called Adams, his Sunday School teachers, gave him a Bible and he treasured it all his life. The family tragedies had made him religious and he thought of becoming a vicar but was told he needed either an Oxford or Cambridge degree or a great deal of money so he gave up the idea. The newlywed couple lived at 38 Granville Park, a little house built to Fred's design in a space among the big houses. Their only child, Donald, was born in April 1933.

Fred still went every Sunday to All Saints until the mid-thirties. A young vicar had replaced the old one and made controversial changes. When a parishioner wrote a letter of criticism he was assaulted with a horsewhip. The vicar then went abroad with the money he had persuaded an old lady of the parish to leave him, eventually becoming a chaplain to holidaymakers in the South of France. After that he preferred to visit empty churches and hardly ever went to a service.

Fred studied in the evenings at Goldsmith's College, passing the examinations of the Institute of Heating and Ventilation Engineers, and of the Royal Sanitary Institute, since renamed the Royal Society of Health, of which he later became a Fellow. He travelled to central London each day to work as a Heating and Ventilation Engineer, mostly for the Thames Bank Iron Company.

On the day that war was declared, September 3rd 1939, he drove his family and the "grannies" from their holiday in Herne Bay to Churchdown, near Gloucester. He had found a job with the Rotol Airscrews factory nearby, in charge of a large section responsible for Mechanical and Electrical maintenance, and for the construction of propeller test rigs. Rotol had a burning sumpoil smokescreen on moonlit nights, and a

bomb dropped just across the road from their bungalow, so they moved to two rooms in a farmhouse at The Leigh, a village six miles away. At weekends he would take Donald for long walks, exploring footpaths, woods and streams and the old canal. All was flat, often damp and always quiet. Wild flowers abounded. Children today seldom know quiet countryside. Meanwhile, Ruby struggled to cook lunch on an oil stove. For ploughing, the Leigh farmers all used pairs of huge horses. For transport they had the pony and trap. There were no fertilisers to pollute the soil.

After the war, in 1945, they moved to Herne Bay. For about a year he took the train each day to central London where he was deputy manager of a branch of Z.D.Berry, consulting engineers, in charge of the heating and ventilation side of their activities. He wearied of four hours spent travelling each day and moved to a lesser job with the Canterbury branch of G.N.Haden and also lectured at the Canterbury Technical College.

Fred retired in 1965 and moved to Poole to be near their son and his family. For years their family visited nearly every week and always got a nice lunch. They had four grandchildren to share the visits. He built himself an electronic organ from a design in a magazine. He wound his own coils using pieces cut from tin cans as formers and made his own keyboard. He played hymn tunes on it for hours, mainly from the English Hymnal (Full Music Edition). In the 1960s and 1970s he took up watercolour painting again and in September 1975 his son submitted his "Canterbury Cathedral over the roof-tops" watercolour to the Dorchester Show where he won first prize (a splendid set of paints) in the Adult painting section.

In November 1993, Ruby died and Fred moved into his son's two room extension. Over the next year he seemed to get fitter and by 1995 would go for walks with Donald of nearly a mile. He was very appreciative of Margaret's (daughter in law) cooking and enjoyed the company of his four grandchildren. He got his electronic organ working again but had become rather deaf. He tried a hearing aid but the distortions were very unpleasant.

He declined rather suddenly as 1999 began and died on 10th January. Both Fred and his wife were born on a Sunday and died on a Sunday which reminds Donald of the man who wrote, "There is a destiny which shapes our ends, rough-hew them how we will".

Donald Bindon  
March 1999





## The Roan Theatre Company: "She Would If She Could"

The Roan Theatre Company bravely attempted the Restoration Comedy, "She Would If She Could", by George Etherege at the Tyler Theatre in Eltham from May 6-9, 1998. The play was well-produced and the considerable efforts of the cast provided an enjoyable and often very amusing evening.

Graham Johnson was outstanding as Sir Oliver Cockwood in a portrayal that peaked in the scene of drunken misbehaviour and consequent appearance in his penitential suit. He showed a remarkable ability to portray a look of constipated bewilderment for a full scene. Despite a distance in time of 300 years his behaviour following a good meal and heavy drinking was consistent with the traditions of the Old Roan Reunion Dinner.

Alfie Knott, in the role of Sir Joslin Jolley, acted with cavalier abandonment and appeared born to play the part of the lecherous aristocrat. He kept the play moving and seemed quite natural in a Restoration Comedy. Simon Uttley gave an impressive and assured performance as Mr. Courtall, an "honest gentleman of the town" seeking amorous adventures and the personal favours of his friend's wife. This was his second fine performance for the Roan Theatre Company and it is a pity to lose him now that he has moved away from the area. He moved with great dignity in the dance sequences.

David Peckham made his debut as Mr. Freeman, the other "honest gentleman". He gave a fine exhibition of sword skills and, overall, a worthy performance. He approached with gusto the arduous task of burying his head, more than five times (was that scripted?) into Lady Cockwood's ample bosom. Well, someone had to volunteer.

Rae Hammersley, as Lady Cockwood, swooned and sighed with great enthusiasm as the object of Mr. Courtall's desires and floated gracefully some distance behind her well upholstered and decorated (a little painted heart) bosoms. This was another assured performance that suited the play. Teresa Wilkins and Glynis Watson, as the "pretty young things" provided suitable decoration and the opportunity for a display of elegant gowns. The script did them few favours but Glynis's dancing was, together with Graham's penitential suit, the highpoint of the evening. She moved with impressive grace and speed.

Beryl Knott as Lady Cockwood's gentlewoman moved the plot along with careful glances and a "common" accent that contrasted well with the aristocratic tones. Joan Stanbridge contributed elegantly to a role that offered little scope.



David Peckham with Rae Hammersley, suffering in the cause of art

In the previous production, "Born Yesterday", Peter Laurie's talents were sadly under-used, and though the character of Mr. Rake-Hell offered a lengthier cameo part, we would have enjoyed seeing him more on the stage. His scenes with Alfie Knott and Graham Johnson were full of excellent timing and provided the fun and energy that are essential to this kind of play. Richard Rickson, as a "sundry person", had the kind of role that made his years of thankless service to the Roan Theatre Company worthwhile. Taking his accent this time from a compilation of "Rocky Horror Show" heavies he introduced each scene with timing and, occasional, "ad libs" that stunned us all, and moreover, moved the props with panache. A talent has been unleashed!

Mandy Brown has argued for years that the Company should produce this Restoration Comedy and undertook the great task of directing it. It is difficult to match the style, pace and energy required but in parts this was achieved and some of the set-pieces, including contemporary dancing and a short sword fight, were well done.

Thanks are due to Freda Goldberg, Rod Stanbridge, Len Quaife, Alison McQuirk, Trevor Talbot, Barbara Roe, Wendy Gool, Jean and Peter Wilkins for their valuable work behind the scenes.

May 1998

## Roan Theatre Company - "Separate Tables".

The Play comprises two separate stories within the same setting using many of the same supporting characters. Leonard Quaife & Mandy Brown were very strong as the main characters in the first play but the dated story line struggled to hold the audience's interest. Len played with conviction a former young political idealist (Junior Minister in the post-war Atlee government) turned now into a bitter, cynical alcoholic. Mandy gave an equally convincing portrayal of the former lovely young model growing lonely and friendless as her looks fade.

Graham Johnson gave one of his usual excellent cameos in the second story as the "major" with a sad and fraudulent background. This was another exceptionally strong performance.

The supporting characters linking both plays as residents of the Beauregard Private Hotel in Bournemouth were also very good and included some inspired performances. Sarah Dale was the young waitress and gave a relaxed and confident performance in her debut role with the company. Her timing and delivery of key lines were perfect. Jean Wilkins offered a welcome contrast as her older and less agreeable colleague. Barbara Roe, as Miss Meacham, provided



Glynis Watson and Teresa Wilkins as the "two young ladies"



a clever character study of an ageing lady more interested in gambling and drink than the gossip favoured by the other residents of her generation. Stephen Money and Trish Hodgson were both enjoyable as the young couple in both plays. Alison McGuirk as the socially-challenged daughter captured much of the nervousness and hopelessness that defined her predicament. Richard Rickson was a delight as the retired schoolmaster continually seeking reflected glory from his former students. Glynis Watson also gave a relaxed and enjoyable performance as the hotel manager moving from a businesslike aloofness to the pain of rejection and loneliness and an understanding of the problems of others.

The two outstanding performances amongst the supporting group, however, were from Joan Stanbridge and Beryl Knott. Joan, as Lady Matheson, gave a continually convincing portrayal of a lonely but quite sympathetic figure who enjoyed her classical music. Beryl simply was Mrs. Railton-Bell – an appalling troublemaker whom she played to the full with a tour de force performance full of gestures, expressions and strident voice. Her exchanges with the other guests to determine the fate of the “major” were the highpoint of an enjoyable evening and were very funny indeed.

The complicated scene changes, accompanied by some inspired new age music in the first play, were an unexpected pleasure taking on a dream-like quality. The overall set was first rate. This production was performed at the Tyler Theatre from December 2-5, 1998

### The Roan Theatre Company – “The Sunshine Boys”

The “Sunshine Boys” by Neil Simon was performed at the Tyler Theatre from 28th April – 1st May, 1999. The leading roles were taken by Trevor Talbot and Graham Johnson who both provided excellent performances. Graham’s control of his character throughout the two long acts was remarkable. They were ably assisted on stage



David Peckham, Graham Johnson and Trevor Talbot



Trevor Talbot (left) and Teresa Wilkins (right)

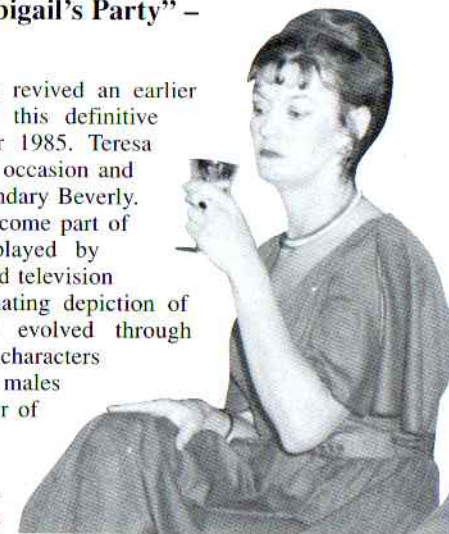
by David Peckham, Richard Rickson, Stephen Money, and Joan Stanbridge. Teresa Wilkins provided a memorable cameo. The high standards of the Roan Theatre Company were fully maintained.

(Our usual theatre critic claims to have enjoyed the production and the interval wine but mislaid his pen, immediately left for France and totally forgot about the play apart from Graham’s finger jabbing. David’s suit and Teresa’s thoughtful interpretation. The accompanying photographs can fill in the gaps.)

### The Roan Theatre Company - “Abigail’s Party” – October 20-23, 1999

For the first time, the Roan Theatre revived an earlier production, having first performed this definitive portrait of the 1970s in November 1985. Teresa Wilkins played the part of Angela on that occasion and has now progressed to the role of the legendary Beverly. This is a modern play that has quickly become part of mass consciousness with Beverly, as played by Alison Steadman in the original casting and television play, representing a grotesque and fascinating depiction of Seventies style and values. The play evolved through improvisation with the three female characters acquiring the better roles and the two males suffering an unequal contest. The character of Beverly dominates throughout.

The overall experience of the performance, like the play itself, was better than the sum parts. The cast of five created a convincing atmosphere of a desperately awful suburban cocktail party between quite appalling people. It may result from its improvised roots that some situations and exchanges worked well and others failed, but the inevitable journey towards disaster and chaos under the guidance of Beverly and her victims provided an enjoyable evening with much humour. Apart from a strong Beverly, the key ingredients were provided that make the play so memorable – the kitsch painting so hated by Laurence, the dreadful music so loved by Beverly, the quintessential Seventies Lava Lamp



Teresa Wilkins as Beverly



("it reminds me of America") and Angela's stunning dance. It is not a play to watch when in need of a drink and the glass of wine in the interval has never been more appreciated.

The opportunity to liberate the role of Beverly from Alison Steadman was avoided. Teresa got the voice and dress right, usually looked right, glided backwards and forwards from the drinks cabinet elegantly and danced with the correct lack of seductive subtlety and timing but failed to match the confidence and brutality of the role model. Taking comparisons with Alison Steadman out of the equation it was an excellent performance that held the play together. Ros Fogden was also excellent as Angela and created a constantly believable character throughout. Glynis Watson delivered her lines particularly well as the long suffering next door neighbour, Susan, whose 15 year old daughter's party next door provides the title of the play, but her looks of gloom and depression seemed not only to weigh down herself but also some of the action.

The two male actors had plenty to overcome in their parts and often succeeded. Stephen Money, a relative newcomer to the company, provided a fairly relaxed and different interpretation of Laurence in the first half but tightened the tension in the second. He caressed his copies of Dickens and Shakespeare with lovely delicacy and punched away the Shakespeare line beautifully ("of course you can't read them"). The part of Tony must be one of the great understated roles written in modern theatre and David Peckham worked hard to make the former Crystal Palace footballer suitably boorish, inarticulate and thoroughly unpleasant with no apparent redeeming virtues. The view of this play is that, in general, men are bad fathers, miserable husbands, poor lovers and weak human beings.

The production was directed by Graham Johnson who succeeded most in using the ensemble to create a believable situation in a convincing set. The final scene of total chaos, tragedy, farce and comedy did not materialise on the first night but, I am told, made it by the final night.

October 1999



Glynis Watson, Ros Fogden, Stephen Money and David Peckham

## Lionel's Productions:

"The Ghost of Jerry Bundler"	September 1927
"The Iron Anne"	
"Captain X"	May 1928
"Our Mr. Hepplewhite"	November 1928
"Tilly of Bloomsbury"	April 1929
"Nothing but the Truth"	November 1929
	January 1930
"The Best People"	March 1930
"The Lord of the Manor"	November 1930
"The Fourth Wall"	April/May 1931
"The Dover Road"	November 1931
"Ambrose Applejohn's Adventure"	May 1932
"The Crooked Billet"	November 1932
"The Sport of Kings"	May 1933
"The Rising Generation"	November 1933
"The Chinese Puzzle"	May 1934
"Number Seventeen"	November 1934
"The Immortal Lady"	May 1935
"Plunder"	November 1935
"Trelawney of the Wells"	May 1936
"Baa, Baa, Black Sheep"	November 1936
"Mary, Mary, Quite Contrary"	April 1937
"Spring Tide"	November 1937
"Queer Cargo"	May 1938
"Inquest"	December 1938
"The Purple Mask"	May 1939
"I Killed the Count"	February 1950
"Grouse in June"	November 1950
"The Middle Watch"	April 1951
"The Bridge of Estaban"	November 1951
"It Pays To Advertise"	May 1952
"Alibi"	November 1952
"Hyde Park Corner"	May 1953
"Adam's Apple"	November 1953
"Hawk Island"	May 1954
"To Live in Peace"	November 1954
"For Better For Worse"	May 1955
"The Strange Case of Blondie White"	November 1955
"Tovarich"	May 1956
"The Hollow"	November 1956
"Treasure Island"	May 1957
"Simon and Laura"	November 1957
"Queen Elizabeth Slept Here"	May 1958
"Wild Goose Chase"	November 1958
"Mrs. Willie"	May 1959
"Third Party Risk"	November 1959
"Sit Down a Minute, Adrian"	May 1960
"Pink String and Sealing Wax"	November 1960
"The Iron Duchess"	May 1961
"Dear Charles"	November 1961
"Quiet Weekend"	May 1962



Lionel Berry directing



## A History of the Old Roan Dramatic Society



Graham Johnson meeting with Lionel Berry in 1999

It's a good hour or more drive from Sidcup to Elmbridge Village, Surrey. Once away from the comfort of the A25 even quite detailed directions are little defence against numerous winding side roads. We got lost twice! "We" were Trevor Talbot and Graham Johnson, two members of the Roan Theatre Company, who had arranged to meet Lionel Berry last year on the strength of a reference to him in some programme notes from our Spring 1999 production of "The Sunshine Boys". Here was an opportunity to shed some light on the history of our group, for Lionel is the very tap root through the generations to our origins. For some two hours we sat enthralled by this dapper, compact man (it is

extraordinary to think that within a month of writing this article he will be entering his centenary year!). On that warm, Sunday afternoon last July, we simply allowed him to reminisce.

Lionel was associated with the Old Roan Dramatic Society right from the inaugural meeting held on the 9th September 1927. From the very first production, a double bill of "The Ghost of Gerry Bundler" and "The Iron Ann" performed on September 12th, 1927, he was actively involved as Producer. This didn't mean he was restricted to directing. His involvement included selecting plays and casts, arranging printing and publicity, and even rolling his sleeves up on the night to apply the grease paint and spirit gum.

Lionel was in front of the curtain on only two occasions, one enforced the other purely on physiognomic grounds. He played Chi Lung in "The Chinese Puzzle" because the leading man, F.W.Harris, caught the mumps just before the dress rehearsal, and Lionel took over a most demanding role with two rehearsals only (apparently without requiring a single prompt!). His other appearance was as Walpole in "The Immortal Lady" simply because he was said to look like Walpole!

It is clear, therefore, that Lionel's primary contribution was behind the scenes. As he had produced so many plays over a period of almost 40 years, and having him at our mercy for the afternoon, we inevitably fired off a volley of questions. What were his favourite plays? Who were the great acting luminaries of his age? What were his abiding memories of the Society? He remembers with particular fondness "The Purple Mask" and "To Live in Peace". The former was the last ORDS production before the war, and, incidentally, the first to extend to a three night run with full houses. The latter he recalls because of its powerful moral message and for the sensitive portrayal of Don Geronimo, the parish priest, by Brian Thomas.

Because the ORDS was noted for its ensemble productions (Lionel always ensured a leading part in one play preceded a walk-on part in the next), it seemed almost indecorous to enquire about the "stars". We finally coaxed from him a few names: the aforementioned Brian Thomas; Doug Humphries and "Tat" Lewis; the versatile and talented Jill Page; Frank Harris he remembered as a good actor; Norman Spence, Stan and Margery Berry; and, of course, Alf and Beryl Knott whose performances continue to entertain audiences to the present day.

The strength and loyalty of the group is what remains in his memory the most. There was a marvellous collaboration between School and Society. It is perhaps worth mentioning here

the support given to the School's own Dramatic Society by the ORDS. This was particularly so with two productions: "Toad of Toad Hall" (which was the first school play to feature a pupil from the Roan Girls' School) and "Captain Flint's Treasure", an adaptation of "Treasure Island". Both were huge undertakings and illustrated the strength of drama at the School. It is also a proud record that, whilst evacuated to Wales during the war, the Roan School won an Eisteddfod Competition for evacuated English schools with an extract from Henry IV Part 1.

In the 1930s, Harry Pye was the Society's stage manager, forging a successful partnership with Lionel for many productions. Scenery, effects and lighting all came under his supervision. The artistic value of lighting was one of his most enthusiastic interests, and all the equipment used in those days was entirely homemade under his expert eye. It was said of him that he found a play of one scene puerile; two hardly worth bothering about; three not so bad, provided there were a few trap doors and hidden passages. Throw in a few pulleys, cogs ratchets and flywheels, and he began to get interested! In later years, Lionel called upon the talents of three more loyal lieutenants: Eric Geddes for scenery and artwork; Horace Abbott and Colin Walter for lighting effects and stage management.

The importance of giving this detail is to demonstrate the cohesion of the group. The actors, stage crew, producer and other supporters were the individual bricks of the "edifice"; the friendliness and devotion to entertain was the mortar. This was the key to its success. Within the ranks, there were no "prima donnas" (or "upstage centres" as Lionel so quaintly coined it). Each contribution, however small, was valued.

It's pleasing to say that Lionel's legacy is very much alive today. The same friendliness permeates the group. It has changed, of course, most obviously the name (Roan Theatre Company) and its home. Productions are now performed at the Tyler Theatre within the grounds of Eltham Green School. Recently refurbished, it seats just over 130, and has a sloping auditorium that offers good viewing even from the very back. Each of the two productions a year usually attracts an aggregate audience over 4 nights of around 300-400. Posters and leaflet drops around the Eltham locality have helped to increase numbers, and an ever-growing mailing list offers the Company a strong base of loyal regulars. So, as we take the first steps across a new century, the Company seems in reasonably good shape, although the struggle to attract new blood is an enduring one. Let's hope our future is bright enough to enable this contribution to the magazine to be viewed as part of our history as well.

Graham Johnson. February 2000



The cast of "Hawk Island" – May 1954

Left to right: Gina Thomas, Alf Knott, Eileen Knott, Brian Thomas, Jill Page, Norman Spence, Marjorie Berry, Stan Berry, Audrey Knighton)



## A Life in the Year of Major Douglas Goddard. MBE, RA (Retd)

Douglas Goddard wrote from Wargrave-on-Thames in Berkshire in July 1998 with a photograph of Ted Townsend's military grave in Holland. Douglas had been attending, as Gunner speaker, the current 43rd (Wessex) Division Brigade Officers' exercise on Operation Market Garden and the Battle of Arnhem in the Nijmegen/Arnhem area in June 1998. He had briefly met Ted Townsend in Normandy and knew he was with the 5th Wiltshires in his own 43rd (Wessex) Division. He later heard that Ted had been killed in action. The photograph had been sent by a survivor from the 5th Wilts who was with Ted at the time of his death and has been communicating with Douglas on his History of the Regiment. Douglas had played cricket with Ted in the Old Roan team just before the war. The photograph has been passed to Graham Townsend ('61-'68) who was very pleased to receive this record of his uncle. Douglas has also sent photographs of school football and cricket teams from 1937 for possible future use in the magazine.

Douglas and his wife, Eve, appeared in a BBC television documentary on the Golden Wedding in November 1997. They had married in 1947. They were astonished at the number of their friends who contacted them after the programme – some from the distant past who seemed surprised they were still surviving. It is now a little after the event, but the following article from their experiences in 1997 is taken from his village newspaper:

### Reflections on Annus Mirabilis

There are some years, as our beloved Queen acknowledged in 1992, when adversity dominates our lives. Luckily they are countered by years blessed with happy events which elevate and leave indelible memories. 1997 was one such year for Eve and me and we felt it might be of interest to reflect on our Golden Wedding year.

It started in March with a memorable visit with family to the Palace for my investiture by HM the Queen. An event of dignity and elegance at which Her Majesty was gracious, warm, courteous and unhurried, even though I was the 105th and one of the least distinguished of that day's awardees.

In April, Eve and I hosted HRH Prince Philip's visit to the Museum of Berkshire Aviation. Again the event showed the "approachability" of the Royal Family. HRH was completely at ease discussing our refurbishment of the Herald aircraft – which he had flown to South America in 1962 – with the eight aircraft enthusiasts who had voluntarily spent over 15,000 hours on its restoration. He is very much "in touch" with aviation as with a whole range of other contemporary technologies.

Two days before our actual 50th Anniversary our children had arranged a secret celebration lunch. It was preceded by a surprise visit to St. Mary's where John Ratings had arranged a touching service of blessing and renewal of marriage vows. It was one of the most memorable days of our lives together – certainly more than the actual wedding day in the drab, rationed, and war weary days of 1947.

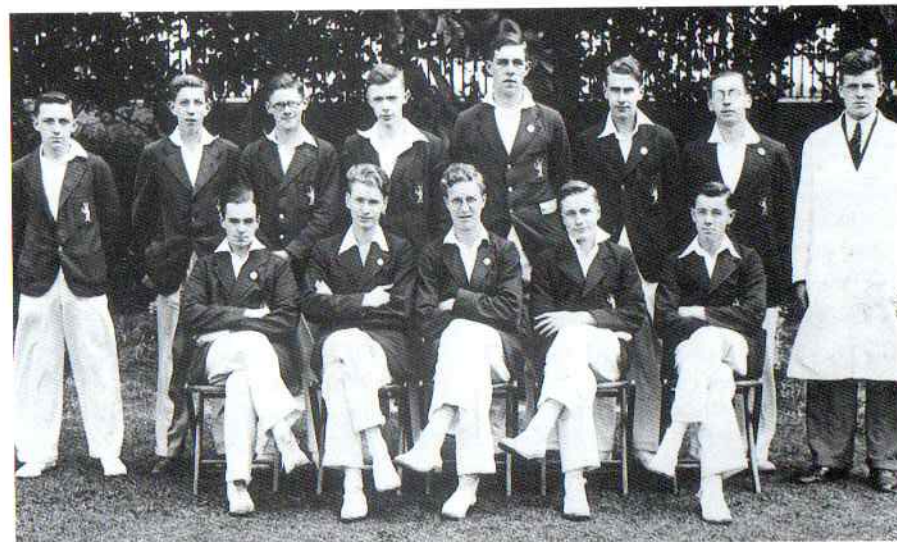
In July we were at the Palace again for the Royal Golden Wedding Garden Party with 8,000 other 1947 married, united in the pride of being with the Sovereign and Consort

they had served and revered in war and peace. The Queen and Prince Philip circulated for well over two hours chatting happily and light-heartedly with absorbing attention to these survivors of their generation from every corner of this still united Kingdom.

At this time we found ourselves included amongst the eight couples selected for the BBC1 "Married for Fifty Years" programme. The six and a half hour visit to our home by the young TV team with their high tech equipment in July, relentlessly probing our lives, was great fun, but we sat down on 16 November to watch it with trepidation awaiting embarrassment. The fact that we had been featured in the Radio Times and The Lady meant that there was not a hope of its being missed by our friends, many of whom from yesteryear contacted us in amazement that we were still alive. A "gaffe" I made was cleverly exploited, much to the amusement of friends – and more so of enemies.

The year was capped for Eve and me – and I hope for the whole nation – by the moving service at Westminster Abbey which showed Britain at its Regal best and was a fitting tribute to their Royal Highnesses for their fifty years of selfless devotion to the Nation and Commonwealth. We pray that our beloved Monarchy will be preserved from being "modernised", which to many of us brings the spectre of de-stabilisation, disunity and the erosion of our precious heritage and traditional freedoms – for the preservation of which our generation fought in World War II.

Like the Queen and Prince Philip, Eve and I thank God daily for the mutual love, respect, interdependence and companionship, enriched by a devoted family and caring friends, that – at the close of our "Annus Mirabilis" – bind us even closer than they did fifty years ago.



1st XI Cricket Team 1937

Back row: Whittle, Fawcett (scorer), Rochester, Spore, Trafford L.E., Woodrow, Ross  
Front row: Wright, Pearman, Ellingham (Captain), Goddard, Marshall

The umpire is Jaques



## John Roan School Lodge

Since publication of the last *Chronicle* the Lodge has been very active and has welcomed a number of new members. In October 1998 Bill Benjamin ('34 - '40) was installed as Worshipful Master and proved to be a skilful and dedicated Commander of our Masonic ship – a rather apt description as Bill was a Master Mariner in the Merchant Navy. He was living in Fowey, Cornwall, when he joined the Lodge in 1989 but has since moved to Sandgate, Kent.

He was succeeded in October last year by Alan Hills – although not an Old Roan himself, all his family attended the School and he became one of the first affiliated members of the Association a number of years ago. He was particularly pleased when the brethren elected him to be their Master for the coming year. Alan is a member of the Provincial Masonic Choir.

The Provincial Quiz Tournament has now become a regular fixture in our diary. We have not been able to repeat our winning formula of 1996 but wish the team good luck for this year. At the time of writing they have won their first round and are swotting up for the finals. Our team comprises John Long, Phil Baker, Mark Long, Brian Thomas, Gina Thomas and Alan Weir. Bob Lambourn, one of our newer members, is on the reserve bench.

Amongst the other sporting pursuits, we are proud that our Secretary, Alan Penney, won the Inter-Lodge Bowls Tournament. Golf and snooker also feature on the list of activities, but we have yet to record any champions in these sports.

Charity continues to play a major part in our Masonic life. As well as supporting our own charities, the Grand Charity contributed a total of £350,000 to some 338 non-Masonic charities, ranging from "Action against Breast Cancer" to "Talking Newspapers Association of the U.K." As a Lodge we have also supported other local charities through collections at our meetings and raffles at social functions.

Freemasonry has been the target over a number of years of hostile propaganda. Some of this has been malicious, founded on ignorance. Much of the comment aimed reflects the nature of the commentators rather than those of Freemasons. We can smile at good-natured gibes but cannot view ill-natured and ill-founded opinion with the same sense of mirth.

The Lodge is now over 70 years old and we can look back on those years with pride and satisfaction, but not complacency. We aim to grow ever stronger and, indeed, are looking forward to new members joining us at our forthcoming meetings in March and April. If anyone would like further details about the Lodge, please contact Alan Penney, telephone 01474 814715.



## John Roan School Chapter

The Masonic Lodge has an associated Chapter of Royal Arch Masons which celebrated its Golden Jubilee at a meeting held on 30th March 1999. The John Roan School Lodge was consecrated in April 1929, but it was not until after the Second World War that two notable Old Roans, Bill Latter and Wally Bullers, sought interest in founding its own Royal Arch Chapter. It was consecrated at Freemasons Hall in London on 15th November 1948 and Wally was installed as the First Principal. During that meeting an oration was delivered by Rev. Canon W. T. Money, himself an Old Roan and later a Governor of the School.

Tom Wallis ('26 - '31), who had joined the Lodge in 1946, was one of the nine founders and had been Principal of the Chapter in 1965. The members were delighted when Tom accepted the invitation to take the chair again for the Chapter's 50th year, and he welcomed a total of 63 companions to the meeting at Oakley House, Bromley.

The main guest at this occasion to mark a milestone in the history of the Chapter was David J. Mills, 2nd Provincial Grand Principal of West Kent, who was presented with a cheque for £1,000 towards the '2003 Festival' for the Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution. John Rixson read the Charter of the Chapter and Neal Haslam gave a short history of the events of the first 50 years.

At a subsequent meeting, John Aitken ('58 - '65) became the latest Old Roan to be exalted into Royal Arch Masonry, and Neal Haslam ('67 - '74) was elected as Principal for 1999/2000 succeeding Tom Wallis at the Installation Meeting in September. Other regular meetings are held in March and May, also at Bromley, and anyone interested in obtaining further particulars is invited to contact Phil Winter. His telephone number is 01689 813469.



"Gondoliers" – March 1935. Lewisham Town Hall.



## Old Roan Cricket Club – Summer 1998 (A semblance of success)

### 1st X1 league Team

Last year I noted we had been placed in the lower half (B) of the main division of the new North Kent & Metropolitan League for 1998, and that we must “rise to the challenge of making a good impression”. By leading the 1st X1 “B” Division for 75% of the season and finishing second to LESSA Christchurch it could be argued that we achieved that aim. Certainly the team was worthy of its place and looked good enough to win the division for most of the season. A combination of weather, failure to win the toss, and, most importantly, a lack of consistency towards the end of the season proved too much in the end. Ultimately the underlying problem of establishing a strong team ethos throughout the season and the need for younger legs in the field worked against us. We were worthy runners up to LESSA, however, and silver medals for all regular players and one for the trophy cabinet as well as promotion to Division “A” should be a fillip to the Club after some very lean times

I believe that the 1998 season has been, thankfully, another enjoyable one for the team, which again benefited from the stability of a larger core of regular players. With only 29 subscription paying members to select from, regular availability was important. Even though the team once again saw the departure of several players, the playing strength of the 1st X1 derived largely from 14 players (although 30 altogether represented the side in the league), and this was a significant improvement on the previous year. Eight players played 10 or more games and this availability provided some stability for another year.

There continued to be a more solid feel to the batting depth in the side. Gareth Barnes gave us an interesting opening strategy for the best part of the season with Paul Montgomery once again doing a fine job as a makeshift opening partner and maintaining a presence at the wicket in the early stages of the game. Steve Rogers (from Old Lambethans) showed his ability with the bat and a determination to fight it out in the middle at the top of the order. His average of 46.2 from 7 games placed him close to Naz Khan in leading the batting averages and he is capable of better. A regular contribution from Steve next season will be important in our efforts to compete at a higher level. The captain's and vice-captain's contributions in their supporting role to the openers also generally kept the opportunities for establishing substantial scores. The lower order batsmen pitched in with important contributions at crucial times.

Since we frequently lost the toss and were then always invited to bat, confidence in batting was an important factor. Thus the presence of Nazir Khan in the batting line up for much of the season was once again a factor in maintaining control of the game. Whilst he was unable to repeat the individual feats of last year his 435 runs and an average of 48.33 were well ahead of the other batsmen. Not surprisingly Naz was presented with the batting award at the end of the season. His son, Babar, although still a schoolboy, showed great presence and potential with both bat and ball on the three occasions he was able to play. An average of 78.5, and 4 wickets for 13 runs in one game, indicated the sort of talent we would like to harness. His commitments elsewhere, however, prevent him from being a regular.

Bowling has been an area of concern for us, particularly after losing the services of the older generation of John Huntley and Norman Jones. The introduction of a young but burly bowler in the shape of Mike Robinson (once of Dover) added a welcome semblance of agility in the field and an extra line of attack. His forays with the bat late in the order also showed promise and an ability to fight it out in difficult circumstances. The return of Farid Abassi was equally most welcome, even though his performances were not always consistent! His presence is considerable, however, and, at his best, he is able to generate formidable pace. (At his most inconsistent he is able to generate considerable angst behind the wicket and make the keeper take desperate measures to avoid byes and wides!) Taking all into account, however, his enthusiasm and impact was much appreciated.

Our connections with Old Lambethans bore fruit this year and provided us with some very effective swing bowling from Roy Parker who bagged 15 well-earned wickets in 8 games. Robert Wightman's introduction to the team likewise proved beneficial and added depth to the bowling options. I trust that they will have enjoyed the experience sufficiently to stay with us next season.

The wickets this year appear to have favoured the slower bowlers who rely upon guile and flight! In spite of that, Keith Barron and I have managed to bowl to some good effect. Keith, in particular, has been a major contributor to our performances this year and rightly was awarded the bowling trophy for an economy rate of 2.65 and an average of 14.95 runs per wicket, clearly made him the leading bowler. His 5 for 25 against Bowring was also the best individual bowling performance of the season.

There is still room for recruiting a quality (youngish) bowler or two as we contemplate the prospects of competing in the top division in 1999. The beneficial impact of younger legs on the field of play would no doubt improve our fielding too. This is always an important aspect of the game and the demands in this area will become more demanding of an ageing side. The loss of Ross Sauntry as wicket keeper and motivator was unfortunate last season. Mushtaq Ahmed stepped into the breach along with Naz Khan. Mushtaq proved to be a particular asset as he relishes batting as either an opening or middle order batsman and prefers to play shots. His presence throughout the season was much appreciated.

My thanks go to all players – regular and occasional – for their efforts in keeping the side going and achieving promotion in the league. Equally, I must thank all those less prominent “players” for the Club, without whom we could not function. Joyce, the tea lady, remains a formidable figure in the kitchen and maintains our high standard of interval refreshment, and Linda's cakes are still sought after. The umpires (Peter and Brian) put up with a lot and maintained our ability to avoid a hefty fine every week. Indeed we appear to be the only club that was not fined by the league for having no umpire! In addition the re-introduction of D.A.P. Andrews to the role of scorer ensured that this year's score book contained all the essential information for the provision of statistically accurate information on the performance of the individual players as well as the team. The team thanks them and all those stalwart supporters who occasionally drop in to give us the benefit of their advice and heartfelt encouragement!

Derek Moore (1st X1 Captain)



## Saturday 2nd X1

Ian Daniels ably harnessed the skills of some 12 regulars and 16 occasional players to finish third in the 2nd X1's Division B – just one point behind the runners up, thus missing automatic promotion by a whisker. It is indeed arguable that they should have been worthy winners, or, at the very least, runners up in this division. Our goodwill in accommodating City of London's tour arrangements backfired badly at the beginning of the season. In spite of our protests and the fact that neither side could field an X1 in May, the league determined that 16 points should be awarded to City of London. This effectively denied Roan of a much deserved promotion to Division A even though the total of 7 wins was one more than the total of 6 each that the sides above them achieved. Apart from Bromley Town, Roan was clearly too strong for the teams in Division B. It is only to be hoped that the 2nd X1 will regroup next season in order to make the point very clear indeed.

The individual successes were Nick Riley's emerging prowess as a bowler that merited the bowling award for taking 17 wickets at 10.76 per wicket with an economy rate of 2.28; and the rejuvenated Viv Lawrence's performance with the blade that won him the accolade of 2nd X1 batsman of the year after scoring 252 runs with an average of 42. The best bowling performance of the season was Sam Morgan's 6 wickets for 41 runs against Dartfordians whilst Doug McIsaacs 106 against LESSA away on 29th August (following his honeymoon!) earned him a special achievement award at the AGM.

A particular mention should be made of one of our most loyal playing members. Pat Gregg had a good season with the bat and regularly turned out when required. His highest score of an undefeated 48 v Dartfordians away on 30th May marked a high point in his Club career and was deemed worthy of an "achievement on the field of play" award presented at the AGM.

## Sunday X1

Sunday cricket has been in a state of decline at the Club for the last two seasons and particular thanks are due to Lucien Howlett (captain), Raj Prabhaker (vice-captain), and the ever present Janine (scorer) for maintaining sufficient interest to keep the team and the bar going. Their efforts were rewarded with the batting trophy (Lucien) and bowling trophy (Raj) and an appreciation of services award to Janine at the AGM.

The problem for the Sunday side is that there are just not enough regular players available. Only 11 players out of 37 that played in the season turned out 6 or more times. 5 players achieved double figures in the total of 14 matches played. This lack of a strong core of regular players inevitably ensured that victories would be scarce in spite of some worthy individual efforts. The best bowling in the season was achieved by Lucien Howlett who took 6 wickets for 39 runs against Harvel on 5th July. Several batsmen marked up substantial scores in the season but the best was certainly 115 scored by Graham Lawrance against Old Lambethans on 28th June. His innings transformed a game in which Roan were clearly struggling. Only indifferent batting by his partners prevented Roan from snatching victory from the jaws of defeat and a draw was achieved. This innings earned Graham a special achievement award at the AGM.

## Six-a-side Indoor Team

One aspect of success in the Club is the often forgotten exploits of the indoor, close season, cricket team. Only by some luck and careful judgement did the team avoid promotion in the Spring of 1998! Paul Montgomery harnessed an array of talent that provided effective opposition to the other league teams throughout the season. Games are played on Saturday evenings and Sunday mornings and provide useful practice and entertainment during the winter months. In future it is hoped to provide more detailed information on the highs and lows of this form of cricket. In the meantime thanks go to Paul for his efforts in rejuvenating the team and to Peter Williams, whose umpiring skills and presence are invaluable.

## Developments & the Future

The Club Committee has given considerable time to looking at ways of ensuring the future success of the Club particularly in financial and playing terms. The potential for a merger (possibly with Blackheath) is once again an option for consideration, and the prospects of improvement in facilities on site in the future are significant for the Club. It is clear that the playing membership must be increased if the Club is to remain viable in the League and on Sundays. Progress has been made in improving the wicket and maintaining a good playing area. More needs to be done but not without expenditure.

Last season the annual subscription was raised substantially and the majority of members honoured their commitment with payment of subscriptions on request. Only a few outstanding amounts are still to be presented. It is vital that all members contribute appropriately now, as the Club has to stand on its own financial feet to survive. "Dan" Calnan's contribution of wine for a second Annual Beaujolais Evening this year is much appreciated in this respect. Over £150 contribution to Club funds resulted from this event. Likewise, Graham Lawrance's contribution as catering manager for the Club is greatly appreciated by all, and his efforts couple with Viv Lawrence's in organising the Club Supper and help to maintain our financial viability.

At the end of the 1999 season the 1st X1 were relegated and the 2nd X1 were promoted.





## Old Roan Football Club – Season 1997-98

### 1st X1 Manager: Brian Riley

The season turned out to be the most successful for many years. The 1st X1 won the "Minerva Spartan South Midlands Football League Division One South" by 4 points, lost narrowly in the Division One South Cup Final to Briden Ropes 3-2, and lost in the quarter finals of the League Cup to the eventual winner of the Premier Division South after defeating Premier teams en route.

We played 39 matches including friendlies, league and cup games. Our biggest win was 23-1 against Chingford Town with Andy Harvey scoring 11 goals. Andy Harvey and Paul Jaggard finished in the League's top five goal scorers. Out of a squad of 22 players we had 15 different goal scorers. The season ended with Old Roan top of the Sportsman's League. We are now in the newly formed London Intermediate Football League and look to better things.

Played	Won	Drawn	Lost	For	Against	Points
24	18	2	4	111	29	56

### 2nd X1 Manager: Dave Nuttall

The least said the better about the 1997-98 season as far as the 2nd X1 are concerned. Although the season started with so much promise, a strong blend of old and new players of good ability, it proved very difficult to convert this into results.

Winning only 4 games all season is not a good record by any stretch of the imagination, but a different story emerges when you consider the goals for and against columns. We actually lost 13 of the 17 games by 1 goal and were often in the lead in those games. Still, excuses mean nothing at the end of the day, and despite the disappointments and constant problems with team morale and sulking we managed to avoid relegation by a point. I would like to thank the following for their efforts: Ian Daniels for suffering so much in goal; Mark Gibbens for always being around despite his work commitments; Martin Muscat once again for his consistency; Tony Nuttall for "lowering" himself to play for the 2nds when he couldn't get a regular place in the 1st X1 (even though I did have to apply significant sibling pressure); and some of the new faces thrown in at the deep end who tried hard and will be future assets to the Club, namely Scott, Chris Carlton and James Opira. Here's to a more successful 98-99 season!

Played	Won	Drawn	Lost	For	Against	Points
22	4	1	17	39	59	13

### 3rd X1 Manager: Dave Nuttall

The 3rd X1 were without a manager at the start of the season with no one prepared to take on the challenge. Roy Jones had "retired" leaving the squad in a decent state but there was a serious chance that things could fold if something drastic didn't happen.

Something drastic did happen! I agreed to run both 2nd and 3rd X1s until someone came forward in the naïve hope that by picking from two squads of players I could create two reasonable teams. How wrong I was! Players came, both new and experienced.....and

pretty soon... players left! Everyone had good ideas of how it should be done and who should play but when it came to it no one was really prepared to take the reins and have a go. There was one exception and I owe a great deal to Sam Lukes who bravely tried to help out half way through the season. In the end it was Roy Jones coming back that kept things going until the end of the season and we thank him for that. Other thanks go to all those who tried to help and at least, in the end, we managed to avoid relegation. I also learnt a valuable lesson – never try to run 2 football teams.

Played	Won	Drawn	Lost	For	Against	Points
18	3	2	13	41	82	11

### 5th X1 Manager: Mick Price

Generally speaking, and especially when compared to last season, this was quite a successful campaign for the team. After an indifferent start – losing two out of four with one drawn – the team went on a roll that culminated with an 8-1 thrashing of bitter rivals Belvedere and, by Christmas, we were pushing for promotion to the Bromley and District League's version of the Premiership. To those that had witnessed the debacle of the previous season four wins out of five was some achievement.

Some attractive football was played at times, but, most importantly, we managed to shore up a defence that had looked ragged, to say the least. Dave Townsend, Player of the Year last season, was able to form an effective link with newcomer Sean Hamman at the centre, with the defence as a whole showing itself to be much meaner than previously. Dylan "Dracula" Smith also had a good season in goal as he came to terms with his fear of crosses. The midfield, too, did a decent job for most of the season. Flair players such as Steve Baker, Craig Hewitt and Steve Viney were backed up with grit from the likes of Adam Jones, Prince Lively, and running around like a whirling dervish, Hardip Badesha. There was even the occasional appearance from Charlie "the nomad" Williams.

Player of the Year was Julian Smith who scored a hatful of goals. What was most impressive about him was his willingness to chase back and help out in midfield. We all knew about his lightning pace and eye for goal, but this year he also showed he's a real team player. For the most part, he was ably supported by Mike Robinson and, latterly, Adam Jones.

Overall, then, a much improved performance. The low points – most notably losses to Red Star and Belvedere in the cups – were far outweighed by our successes. Finishing fourth and making a cup semi-final might not exactly be headline news, but this season has given the whole team the confidence it was lacking. Indeed, had things not gone pear-shaped in the middle of the season, we could well have reached a promotion place. As things now stand that must be our aim for next season.

### 6th X1 Manager: Bryan Philpott

If somebody had told me at the beginning of the season that we would finish 4th in the league and reach a cup semi-final I would not have believed them. When you consider that most of the team were playing junior football the season before it is great they did so well at the senior level. If a few results had gone our way we could have finished 2nd. We lost



14-1 to Hayeswood with only 7 players but beat Latter Day Saints 20-1 with Liam Cox scoring 8. Our best game of the season was in the quarter-final of the cup, beating A.F.C.Blackheath, a league above us, 3-2.

Goals came from 10 different players during the season in league, cup and friendlies. Mat Washbrook scored 34 and Liam Cox 32. The midfield of Scott Phelan, Jay Washbrook, Darren Clarke and Kevin Hogg scored 32 goals. The defence of Peter Greene, Lee Burge, Kevin Smith and Neil Philpott scored 8. Our goalkeeper, Danny Turner, saved our skins on quite a few occasions. Richard Clarke played in our first match of the season after keyhole knee surgery and continued for about another 8 games before packing in after damaging his knee and will be out for at least a season. There were two players, Kevin Smith and Neil Philpott, who played in every game.

My Player of the Year is Kevin Smith who played in whatever position I asked him from goalkeeper in one game to striker in another. He never moaned and was happy to play and to wear any shirt. I hope that next season we will progress to better things. My thanks go to Graham Lawrance for all the hard work he does for us. Also to Scrim who collects the subs and runs the line every week.



1st XI Football. 1936-37

## Old Roan Football Club – Season 1998-99

### 1st X1

The 1998-99 season saw the formation of the new London Intermediate Football League and along with other members of the Spartan League it was decided that we should join. We, therefore, entered a new league with many unknown teams and challenges.

We started the season reasonably well and more than held our own to head the division for a few weeks. We were knocked out of the Intermediate League Cup in the first round and the London Intermediate Cup in the second round. We then struck a poor patch, played some mediocre football, and lost some of the fixtures we should have won to secure our position in the League but it was not to be. We did manage to pull it round in the third part of the season and finished a very creditable fourth.

The season was marked by some very good team and individual performances, none more so than by our Player of the Season, Sam Morgan. With the return of some players and the signing of new players providing a new structure to the side we are looking forward to a very successful season in 1999-00.

### 2nd X1

Under the dedicated management of David Nuttall the 2nd X1 had a wonderful season culminating in an appearance in the Queen Mary Cup Final, the premier cup competition of the South London Alliance League. In the semi-final we beat previously unbeaten RACS from the Premier League 2-0. We lost bravely 3-1 in the final to Metrogas 1st X1 who went on to win the League & Cup double so we were not disgraced. "Nutts" has been able to harness some good young talent from within the club and deserves praise for his efforts. We finished 5th in Division 1 of the league and should be a force for the 1999-00 season with Premiership status being our aim (I think I've heard Alan Curbishley say the same).

The backbone of the side was made up of Richard Hamer in goal; Ian Grozier, Martin Muscat and Martin Pace at the back; Wayne Hunt, Carlton Parkinson, Scotty Clark and Ashley Colyer in midfield; and up front we had the exciting Chris Parkinson and the old head of Rashid Short. We also saw the return to the Old Roan fold of Clive Futter who rejoined us after his club, Eagle, folded in mid season. Clive is still playing despite being closer to 50 than 40! Next season promises to be a cracker if all the young players perform as well as they finished this season, and we are able to co-operate closely with the 1st X1.

### 3rd X1

To be honest we struggled a bit this season. There was uncertainty as to who would manage the side at the start of the season and thanks must go to Luke Palmer who stepped in at the eleventh hour when we were desperate. The fact that we managed to avoid relegation, albeit by the skins of our teeth, must be considered a success. We did, however, reach the semi-final of the Beckenham Hospital Cup which we narrowly lost, and, had we won, we would have met our 4th X1 in the final – a first for the club.



Appearing regularly were Simon Smith, Steve Sewell, Andre Jones, Matty Nelson, Paul Barnett, Sammy Lukes, and Mark Connolly. Luke resigned as manager soon after the season ended but thanks to him for jumping into the breach when no one else was prepared to put themselves out. Mickey Robinson from the fifth team agreed to step up and manage the 3rds next season.

#### 4th X1

A marvellous season for the Saturday "old gits" side. The team was managed by pasty faced Jimmy Douglas and his mercurial sidekick, Nicky Green. Between them they managed to persuade the wonderfully gifted Joe Searle to play for them after this precocious 16-year-old had decided that he was fed up with football. The team finished as champions in Division 4 of the SLFA losing only two games late on in the season, and reached the final of the Beckenham Hospital Cup, losing 2-0 to CIU Wagonners, the victors of our 3rds in the semi.

The team had an average age of 42, excluding Joe Searle who seemed to do the running for the other 9 outfield players on his own. Jimmy missed his fair share of open goals and penalties (why does he insist on taking them after nearly 10 years of missing them?); Gibbo and Roy Jones used their bulk to good effect; Sprouly looked a million dollars and should have been playing at a higher level; Fraser Lochtie was his usual gangly self, somehow getting his head or feet in the way; Mickey Lingwood and Lump shared the goalkeeping duties but it was sometimes difficult to see who was the more competent; Andre Lewis swanned around the midfield thinking he was a million dollars but in reality looked only a million lire ("two bob"); Gary Crowther huffed and puffed (on cigarettes at half-time) and, of course, Greenie used the outside of his right foot to good effect. A very enjoyable season.

At the end of the season Greenie announced that he would be passing sole responsibility to "Casper" Douglas because he has decided to settle down, and spend Saturday afternoons wandering around Bluewater Shopping Centre looking at soft furnishings with his soon-to-be-dearly-beloved. We wish him well.

#### 5th X1

Mickey Robinson took over the 5th half way through the season from Mickey Price and did a pretty good job. We ended 2nd in the league and reached the semi-final of the cup, losing narrowly to the eventual winners.

The mainstays of the team were Dylan Smith, Craig Hewitt, Dave Townsend, Rob Simenton, Steve Baker, Julian Smith and "H" Hardip Badesha. Next season we will move this team into the South London Alliance as our 3rd X1. We wish them well.

#### Veterans

It is traditional for the Old Roan Veterans' season to be divided into two halves (rather like the game itself, Brian!). One can talk in terms of "BC" and "AC" – before Christmas and after Christmas. It is, therefore, the case that the results are typically very poor until December, and, thereafter the Vets will win the majority of the remaining fixtures. The

results show that this season was no exception to this pattern. Overall the Old Roan Vets played 24 games, winning 11, losing 10 and drawing 3.

The opening games featured tough opposition and weak team line-ups. A spirited game against Metrogas, in which the Vets scored three times through the two Tonys – Nuttall (2) and Moss – still ended in defeat 3-6. On the rare occasions when the Vets could field their strongest side, normally featuring less regular players such as John Stanford, David Hutley and Tony Moss, the team could be relied upon to turn out winners.

The side became more settled as the season progressed. In defence, Robin Faithorn and Stuart Clay held the line with Gary Barwell, Billy Palmer and Glen Monks as full backs. Goalkeeping was shared between Paul Manley and Glen Monks. The midfield was marshalled by Andre Lewis and Mick Smith with Gary Watson and an injury-plagued Keith Hedges on the wings. Up front, the first choice striker was normally Lenny Sales.

Memorable performances include victories over Greenwich Challenge (4-2) and Bexley Nomads (5-4) together with a "double" over Farnborough (4-1, 4-1) and two hard-fought draws against Addington Manor (2-2, 3-3). Perhaps the best performance was left until the end of the season with a 3-2 victory over Hillyfields. Always a tough team (in every sense) to play against, the Vets turned out winners with goals from Stuart Clay (pen), Tony Moss and a superb left foot volley from Nicky Green.

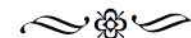
Despite playing only a handful of games, Tony Moss was the leading goalscorer at the end of the season with 13 followed by "Player of the Year" Lenny Sales with 11 and Andre Lewis with 7 goals. Our sincere thanks go to Vic Brooker for taking care of kits, teas and subscriptions, and also to Brian Hamer for refereeing so many of our matches.

The Old Roan Football Club has its own website: [www.oldroanfc.co.uk](http://www.oldroanfc.co.uk)

This is regularly updated and includes reports on matches and league tables. The comments section at present is mainly an update on Nicky Green's weekly search for soft furnishings. The introduction of the ubiquitous Doris promises to add a new dimension to this saga. The search for the new President has featured among current topics.

The current position at March 11 is:

1st X1	Currently flying high in the London Intermediate league
2nd X1	Despite bad administration which cost them 3 points still top of the league
3rd X1	Top of the league (we think)
4th X1	An ageing outfit whose results could be better
5th X1	Top of their league
Veterans	Playing "friendlies" on Sundays. Improvement since new year. Doug Weaver is due to turn out at the age of 60.





## A Secret Life – E.A.Howse ('35-'42)

In October 1948 I left King's College, London with an Honours Physics BSc and was directed to work on ground-based Radar at A.D.R.D.E. in Malvern. Before starting work I was sent on a 3 months course on radar techniques at T.R.E., the other radar establishment in Malvern, and here I ran into Jimmy James who had taught me physics and applied maths at Roan up until he left for war work in 1940. While in Malvern I also made contact again with Eric Dibblin ('35-'42) who had been at college with me but had been called up into the navy before he could finish his engineering degree and was now training at the naval base in Malvern.

In 1947 I became an established scientific civil servant and was transferred to A.R.E. Fort Halstead to help design the electronics for the British atom bomb. I was developing the firing circuit for the special detonators to be used which themselves were being designed by an Old Roan named Napier who was based at the Woolwich Arsenal.

As I was now living back at home in Eltham, I joined both the Old Roan football and cricket clubs. I became a fairly regular member of the football 1st X1 playing with, among others, Vic Brooker, Bill Brooks, Bernard Collins, Peter White, Johnny Roberts and Eric Dibblin. In the summer I played cricket regularly for the Saturday 3rd X1 and occasionally for the Saturday 2nd X1 with, among others, Alan Weir and John Long. My fiancée at that time, Betty, came to all the Saturday games and she became the official 3rd team scorer. When we were married in 1950, Eric Dibblin, who had left the navy and gone back to college to finish his degree, was my best man. He and I had enjoyed playing snooker together since our days in Ammanford but he was much the better player and invariably beat me. After my marriage we moved into a flat in Lee and winter Sunday afternoons were usually spent playing bridge with Vic Brooker, Doug Humphries and Bill Bennett, either at my flat or Doug's house in Mottingham.

In the July of 1952 I had to tell both the cricket club and the football club that I would not be available to play for a number of months because I was going abroad. I was not allowed to tell them where or why I was going but, in fact, I was flying out to Australia to take part in the testing of the first British atom bomb at Monte Bello. My part in the development and testing of the British atom bomb is described in Brian Cathcart's book "A Test of Greatness" published by John Murray. I also appeared in the Equinox programme "A Very British Bomb" that was shown on Channel 4 Television in September 1997.

In 1956 I was moved from Fort Halstead down to A.W.R.E. at Aldermaston and so my association with the Old Roan sports club had to come to an end. Since I retired I have managed to attend a number of 1930's get-togethers organised by Bill Wedge but I haven't been able to go for the last couple of years because of my wife's disability with M.S. I would have liked to attend Vic Brooker's presentation but unfortunately I was unable to get someone to look after my wife on the day.



## News of Old Roans

Arthur HEWLETT ('14-'21) is now into his 98th year and remains active in his many interests since retiring after a career in education. He has just prepared his 8th annual balance sheet as treasurer of the Dover Quaker Meeting and is working a paper on Quakerism and constitutional reform. In response to a request by "Friend" magazine to define Quakerism in no more than 25 words he offers: "Quakerism is a religion seeking without creeds to justify the hypothesis that goodness in anyone elicits and encourages goodness in everyone". His travels now are within the British Isles and included in 1999 a visit to the Isle of Skye and the Scottish Highlands; the Lake District; Stratford-upon-Avon to see "Antony and Cleopatra" ("made into a farce by ill-conceived production") and "A Midsummer Nights Dream"; and Cornwall for the eclipse in August. He passed Braithwaite, where as a boy at the Roan School and as a master at Tiffins he had led camps. The site was now unrecognisable. "Happy like Ulysses, fine journey done" leaving me with no regrets for foreign parts.

Ray STONE ('59-'67) is currently working as the manager of the Dolman Theatre, Newport, South Wales

John HARDY ('66-'73) now lives in the South Hams area of Devon with his wife, Anne, and their children. They own and operate "Cutlands Cottages" in the village of Chillington near Kingsbridge. There are four well equipped cottages and further details can be obtained from 01548 581077 and on their website: cutlands@globalnet.co.uk. He says that he, Ann and the children are very happy in their semi-retirement in the South Hams and enjoy the gentle pace of life and the nearby beaches and countryside. He has started cricket nets with the local village team and notes that they often play touring teams.

Stuart HORSBURGH ('66-'70) is now Head of Music at Simon Langton Grammar School for Boys in Canterbury.

Phil SNAITH ('64-'71) is in charge of Shell International's operations in the Caribbean and after spending recent years in the Bahamas and Puerto Rico is now based in Barbados in the Sandy Lane area. Access to the surrounding golf courses partially ease his disappointments at missing Charlton Athletic, the Valley and South London.

Phyllis Willmott (née NOBLE '33-'38) advised the death of her schoolfriend, Dorleen DAVIES ('33-'38), on December 1 1997. They had lost contact after school but reunited after Dorleen read about her book "Growing Up in a London Village" in an article in The Guardian. After leaving school Dorleen joined the WAAF and met her husband, Harry, a pilot officer in the RAF. She was offered a place at RADA after the war but decided not to accept but pursue a lifelong interest in amateur dramatics that she combined with family life, bringing up her two sons and doing a part-time job at the Haslemere Museum. Between 1954 and 1997 she appeared in more than 50 major plays and directed many others for the Haslemere Thespians. Her passion was Shakespeare, but other favourites included Shaw, Ayckbourn, Wilde and Coward. Her theatrical and community work was recognised in 1996 when the Thespians presented her with a crystal glass goblet inscribed: "Dorleen Davies: Actress, Director, Writer par excellence".

Alan WEIR ('36-'42) sent the short article on the "Hope Memorial Trust" and the generous legacy from the estate of Robert JARRAMS ('55-'62). Alan continues to pursue his interest in the First War in general and his father's involvement in particular with a visit last year to Verdun and Arras. He found the Verdun site very different from the battlefields in Northern France.



Joan Nottage wrote to the Association with news of the death of her husband, John NOTTAGE ('29-'34), in October 1999. John was born on March 1, 1918 in Ebbw Vale, left after a few months and lived in Greenwich and Blackheath for the rest of his life. He suffered from deafness and worked in Covent Garden Vegetable Market during the War. He was Manager of Greenwich Workshops for the Blind from about 1950 until its closure and was Supplies Officer for Greenwich Health Authority until his retirement.

Peter WALKER ('44-'51) writes from Hockessin in Delaware in the U.S.A. He visited the School in June 1998 and, though surprised by the many additions and changes, found the old school site almost unchanged. He especially enjoyed meeting with Chris Deane. He has remained in contact with Old Roan Association activities over the years through Glen PULLEN. Peter left Roan in 1951 to attend Imperial College where he obtained a B.Sc. in Chemistry and a Ph.D in Organic Chemistry. After a further two years of Post Doctoral work at IC in Radiation Chemistry he obtained a Fulbright Fellowship for a year at Harvard University. He returned to England for two years with a NATO Fellowship at Oxford University working on Chemical Reaction Mechanisms. During that time he married Marylou, the love of his Harvard year, and enjoyed living in a 14th century cottage beside Blenheim Palace where their first son was born. They returned to the U.S.A. in 1961 for a 34 year career with the DuPont Company in Parlin, New Jersey and Wilmington, Delaware. Peter was Director of Research for Electronics and Imaging Systems at the Experimental Station. He retired from DuPont in 1995 to form his own consulting company and subsequently to become Director of the Applied Optics Center at Delaware State University where they carry out research in laser spectroscopy and non-linear optics for a number of industrial partners. They have seven children, four of them adopted from Korea and Vietnam, and six grandchildren. In their spare time they enjoy music, swimming, tennis and travel – especially the trips back to England. Peter has joined the Association.

Adrian CLARKSON ('62-'68) lives in Wakefield in West Yorkshire and joined the Association in March 1998. He was prompted into this action by a chance email from Alex WALES ('62-'69). Adrian has been in General Practice in Wakefield since 1985 after an initial career choice of Pharmacy following studying at Aston University from 1969-72. He returned to University (Leeds) in 1975 and graduated in Medicine in 1980. He married Shirley, also a doctor, in 1983 and they have three children – James 14, Sarah 12 and Helen 9. He remains in contact with John WOOD ('62-'69). Adrian, Alex and John attended the reunion of the Class of '62 in May 1999.

Bill WHELAN ('24-'28) wrote to John HUNTLEY ('51-'56) during his presidential year in April 1998 with fond memories of his time at Eastney Street and of A.H.Hope. He spent many holidays at the Braithwaite camp and invariably visits it when he holidays in England. A six week summer holiday camp at Braithwaite cost £8. Bill now lives in Cape Town in South Africa. His one ambition after leaving school in 1928 was to work abroad and after 6 years working in a London office was posted abroad. The next 30 years were spent in Sarawak, Brunei, Malaya & Singapore, Egypt, Venezuela, Nigeria and finally Sri Lanka from where he retired. He left Singapore by launch on Friday 13th February 1942, the day before it fell, but was less fortunate in Egypt where he was arrested during the 1956 Suez Crisis. "Well! You can't win 'em all". Bill also responds to the article in the last issue by E.T.BARR. He was one of the four boys asked to apologise before the whole school for walking around the new school building site. When it was his turn he said, "I don't see why I must apologise for taking an interest in the building of our new school", and can remember

hearing one of the masters sitting behind him on the stage, Bill Lee, saying "Quite right". He also recalls his good friend Jack PEARSON who was also featured in the photograph for the "Amateur Wireless Periodical" and asks if anyone knows of Jack.

Several former colleagues of Mary JEFFERY contacted the Secretary after her death on 24th August 1999 at the age of 91. She started teaching at the Roan Girls' School in 1934 and retired in 1977. She had attended Founder's Day services for over fifty years, the last being in 1998. Her funeral service was held at St.Luke's Church in Charlton on 6th September 1999. Mrs.SCOTT wrote from Mayfield in Sussex; Madeline BARBER from Oxford; Jean TOWSEY from Swanage and Joyce ROBERTS from Peterborough with their fond memories of Mrs.Jeffery and the fact that however busy she was teaching and running her home she always had time for others. Joyce Roberts adds that the Chronicle reminds her of how many activities Roan Girls and Boys were encouraged to take part in and she is delighted to see that the Roan of today carries on this tradition.

Josephine HOOK (née Lockyear, '32-'38) was unable to attend the AGM in March 1999 because it conflicted with her drive via the tunnel to the Bordeaux region of France where she was staying in a gîte with friends and family. She had just returned from a "Taste of Australia" tour travelling via Bangkok to Sydney, Cairns, Ayres Rock, Perth and then on Indian Pacific Railway for a couple of nights to Adelaide, finishing in Melbourne and back via a few days in Singapore. During this trip she met, by chance, an Old Roan Girl – Frances (Fran) HAYNES (née HOWE '48-'54) – now living in New Milton in Hampshire. Fran would like to hear, via the Secretary, from anyone who remembers her. Josephine remains in contact with several members of her old form. Angela MUNDAY (née BURDETT) and her husband were joining them in France. She attended the golden wedding celebrations for Betty WILLIAMS (née COOK), meeting her sister, Marie and brothers, Tony, Bernard and Peter – all ex Roans from the Ammanford days she thinks. She occasionally telephones Agnes Jones (née Mercer) in Scotland and corresponds with Elwyn Jones (née Woolley) and Muriel DUNGEY. She has visited Roger PENN, who was at Maze Hill for one or two years, in Brussels and reports that he has suffered a severe stroke. Josephine lives in Staines, remains pretty fit and works a couple of days each week as locum pharmacist – getting to grips with their new computerised till and ordering system.

Miss Hettie SMITH ('28-'35) lives in Bath and wrote to the Secretary during a lengthy stay in Toronto at the end of 1998 with details from a yellowing press cutting on the life of Mary Higgs – Miss Higg's mother. The article explains how Quaker "Mother Mary" Higgs of Oldham gave up her life of luxury and pleasure to live with vagrants and to fight for their cause and that of the homeless and workless. She was awarded the O.B.E.. Hettie has sent the cast photograph of the "Gondoliers" from the production at Lewisham Town Hall in Catford on May 4th 1935. Tickets ranging from one and threepence to three and sixpence were available from Miss Martin, girls were encouraged to buy six tickets and proceeds were for the Old Roan Girls Benevolent Fund "which is badly in need of support". Hettie wrote again in February 2000 with news of the death of Editha MITCHELL on 6th December 1999 aged 80. They had worked together for the Girl Guide Association. Hettie is involved with the University of the Third Age, attending a monthly lecture and literature group. She also belongs to the Methodist Music Society and is preparing for a performance in her local area of "Hopes and Dreams" at Easter. She is a member of the Trefoil Guild, which exists in many countries as an organisation for former Guiders, and the representative for her year at Saffron Walden Teachers' College (1935-37).



Greta KEAR (née Hodkinson, '43-'49) advises her change of address from Eltham to Chislehurst. She welcomes news from anyone who remembers her and the 1940s at the School and can be contacted via the Secretary. She would particularly like news of the ROOKE twins, Pamela and Patricia, with whom she has lost contact.

Miss Margaret WHITE ('29-'36) lives in Sheringham in Norfolk and enjoys receiving the Chronicle.

W.L.HEWLETT ('23-'31) was saddened to learn of the death of Patrick Joseph (P.J) BARNWELL. They were contemporaries at school starting with the 1923 intake and then progressing more or less in step to the fifths and sixths, although Patrick went to the modern sixths and he went to the science sixths. Patrick went to Cambridge and then out to Africa while he went to London and then to India. He received his last letter from Patrick a few days before he died on 4th February 1998. "He was a splendid man; warm hearted and generous in spirit, and with an abiding love of the English language which had been fostered by the excellent tuition we had in Eastney Street in those days. I shall miss him very much". A short appreciation of P.J.Barnwell appears separately in this issue, written by his friend and contemporary Harry Bulpitt. P.J.Barnwell's funeral took place at St.Philip Howard Catholic Church in Cambridge on 17th February 1998. The Editor shares these comments on P.J.Barnwell and will greatly miss his sharp-eyed observations and incisive contributions that seemed to come, via an antique and erratic manual typewriter, from a distant age in which sporting and intellectual excellence were pursued for exhilaration and pure joy.

B.J.PHILLIPS attended the '43-'50 Reunion in June 1999 at Chartwell and was pleased to read reports in old school magazines of his sporting exploits at the School ("A remarkable piece of bowling by Phillips altered things considerably ..... Phillips finished with 8 for 21, seven clean bowled"). Copies from 1953 were forwarded to prove to his grandchildren that golf and snooker were not his only sporting pursuits. He acknowledged receipt of these reports on a day when his morning golf was "awful" and vowed that the 5th November bonfire might benefit from his clubs – but "on Monday I will find golf very easy once again and will then change my mind". Bernard lives in Marlborough in Wiltshire.

John DENNIS ('64-'71) has moved from Faversham to Hythe in Kent and compares reading the Chronicle to a Mahler Symphony ("excellent mixture of bitter sweetness"). He well remembers the effect that Stan BEALE had on him and his influence persists. Not only was there a terrifying prospect of a visit to him after assembly should one have been late – the brown eminence in the gown – there was also his praise for my prose. He was clearly a man of taste and discernment! I wonder how many other boys he encouraged to believe that they had a creative gift that should be nurtured to maturity? The Editor adds, with less affection for the encouragement offered by Stan Beale, that G.C.Goddard's description of E.Durling's "mirthless smile" aptly describes this later occupant of the Maze Hill staff room. Rumours persist, strongly denied by John, that he may take on the tired mantle of the Editor and fully realise the faith shown by his mentor – "the brown eminence".

J.F.N. (Bill) WEDGE ('32-'38) visited brother Pip in Toronto recently and they called on Reg WILCOX ('32-'39) who lives nearby. Reg had spent a lifetime mining in various parts of the world and is an enthusiastic radio amateur – call sign VE3RSM. As a result of an advert in the Saga magazine in connection with the annual reunions (third Monday in June at the Abinger Hatch, Abinger Common, Surrey and in November at the Ramblers Rest in

Chislehurst) he heard from Geoffrey SMITH and Bernard FISHER who attended Roan in the 1920s. He also received a call from Joyce Kennette (née EDWARDS) enquiring about two Roan evacuees whom she knew in Ammanford – George PERCIVAL and Pam EASTLAND. Joyce now lives in Cirencester and would like to hear from either. She remembers Tony TUGWELL who was killed in a cycling accident in Ammanford. Bill (M.W.) HENLEY ('31-'39) lives in Glasgow, in robust form and, although no longer piloting himself, does a lot of travelling; and in November 1998 was attending a Fleet Air Arm reunion in Australia. He noted a request in the November 1998 Saga magazine for news of the families of Bruce BEARDSLEY and Norman ATTENBOROUGH who were at Roan in the 1930s and were killed in the war.

Beryl Chipchase (née MASON '52-'58) wishes to organise a reunion of contemporaries to coincide with the visit of her friend Dorothy Handy (née SMITH) from New Zealand. Beryl can be contacted through the Secretary and lives in Sunbury-on-Thames in Middlesex. Dates of Dorothy's visit are yet to be confirmed.

Margaret Mary WHELAN (née Lancaster '64-'67) gained, at the age of 45, her B.A.(Hons) in Literature & History.

Mrs.P.K.MEEHAN (Ex Staff – Girls' School Secretary) advises her move from Devon to Bracknell in Berkshire to be closer to her daughter living in Windsor.

Ken BISHOP ('34-'41) wrote to the Secretary from Abingdon with clarification of the street addresses in Linchmere Road / Baring Road. A doodlebug in September 1944 severely damaged the home of Alan JOBBINS and the house numbers were changed when it was rebuilt. Ken lived in Linchmere Road and then at the home of Ron LOOSEMORE before marrying Ron's sister, Barbara in 1948. They celebrated their 50th anniversary in 1998. Ron, Ken and Barbara attended Alan JOBBINS 76th birthday party in Caterham in December 1999.

Norman HANDS ('36-'40) has been reconnected with the Association following a chance meeting. He now lives in Dawlish in Devon and has contributed an article for this issue. He sends news of a contemporary, Stanley MATTHEWS, who lives nearby. Stanley left the school in 1936. He and his wife are active members of The Dawlish Dramatic Society who perform at the Shaftesbury Theatre in the town.

Peter GIBBS ('55-'60) remains in contact with several contemporaries including Phil MOORE who usually accompanies him to Reunion Dinners. Norman LEACH lives in Kidbrooke Park Road and has his office equipment showroom opposite Greenwich Baths (now "Arches"). Chris NORTON lives in Westcombe Park Road and his wife, Sue, teaches at the John Roan School. Jim ARNOLD and Terry SCANLAN can be seen in the British Oak in the Old Dover Road. Roger MACE ('55-'62) joined the Inland Revenue from school and spent his entire career in their Estate Duty Office in Shepherds Bush where he ended up as Director. He took early retirement when the department relocated to Nottingham and is now settled in Sao Bras de Alportel, a sleepy town about 30 miles from Faro on the Algarve where Roger spends much of his time gardening. His eldest son, Michael GIBBS ('85-'92) graduated from the University of Durham in July 1998 with an honours degree in Geography and Economics and travelled to Mexico to learn Spanish before training as an accountant. David GIBBS ('88-'94) is reading Medicine at Christ Church College, Oxford. Peter's job with the MOD relocated to Gosport in July 1997 and he commutes weekly between Alverstoke and Blackheath.



Jo Buchanan Hay, formerly Ling (née HAY '58-'65) is recently widowed after remarrying in 1993 and lives in Weston-super-Mare with her two teenage daughters. She asks the Secretary for news of any contemporaries from the Roan School living in her area and is also trying to discover any former pupils of Addey & Stanhope where she taught from 1970-75.

Donald Bindon has provided the article on his father, Frederick John BINDON ('16-'20) and is negotiating the development of a prize in the name of his father at the John Roan School. He was a talented amateur painter of watercolours and it is hoped that a "Fred Bindon Traditional Art Prize" can be offered annually in his memory.

Donald DURBAN ('35-'39) writes from Blackheath with news of Derek OVERY ('35-'39). Derek now lives in Jackson, Mississippi, with his wife, Elizabeth, and visited England in October 1998 at the time of Donald's Golden Wedding. They revisited several old haunts including the School and the sports ground. A photograph was taken in front of the War Memorial and they noted the large number of Old Roans killed in the Second World War.

Ewen A. WHITAKER ('33-'40) was delighted to receive a letter from "Billy" BOLTON ('35-'40) clarifying the text and notation of the Latin Grace they sang on occasion at the Roan dinners. He also remembers the name of one of the maids, Nellie, the roly-poly one with gingery hair, who always seemed happy, even with that amazing potato machine.

*"Discedamus cibo pleni, Gratias Deo redamus, Ad Eum semper vivemus"*

Ewen has spent his life mainly in the U.S.A. as a professional astronomer and lives, in his retirement, in Tucson, Arizona. He has completed the manuscript for a book: "Mapping and Naming the Moon" to be published by Cambridge University Press.

Father Alan R. REED ('55-'63) is the vicar of St. Barnabas & St. Agnes in Hove and would be pleased to hear news from any contemporaries who remember him. He remains in contact with Christopher MARTYN ('56-'63) who lives in Loughborough. He attended the funeral in 1997 of John GEORGE who attended Roan in the late 1930s or early 1940s.

David BUCKLEY ('48-'53) has updated the Secretary on the address for Terry BLANCHARD who has moved address within Keswick. Pauline Cramp, widow of "Bill" CRAMP ('43-'50) has sent similar information. He recalls that his correspondence, in September 1998, marks the fiftieth anniversary of starting at Roan. At that time he was working full-time with a Lloyds Insurance Broker in the City and at the age of 61 wonders how many contemporaries are still working. He remains in contact with Brian STRONG in Seaford, and with Colin BROWN in Portsmouth from that first class as well as Terry. He notes that Alan DAWES and John CRAMP retain active links with the Association.

Revd. Prebd. Bob COLBY ('42-'47) lives with his wife, Norma, and are happily enjoying retirement in Olney in Buckinghamshire after spending thirty years in the Welsh Marches. He has hazy memories of his wartime schooldays but recalls being admonished by Bill PEDDIE – "What are you blathering at, Boy?" when I was making some feeble excuse or making an even worse mess than usual of a piece of French translation. He asks if anyone else remembers Founder's Day being cancelled in 1946 or 47? As he remembers it, on the eve of John Roan Day, we were all assembled in the hall, looking forward to the Head (Mr. (Gus) Gilbert granting us our customary day off on the morrow when, looking up from his lectern, he announced: "There will this year be no Founder's Day off. Tomorrow, you will all attend school as usual". He added that this was because a number of boys in the lower school had seen fit not to applaud with a sufficient degree of sportsmanship and enthusiasm

at the close of an inter-school match which the visitors had won. Bob encountered the mysterious world of computers after his sixtieth birthday and marvels at the speed and ease with which he commands their attention.

David BRYDEN ('54-'61) is Director of Studies at London City College and took a group of Finnish female teachers to the John Roan School and spent over two hours showing them every aspect of English teaching and explained the English education system, GCSEs, GNVQ and A levels. The London City College Newsletter later notes that David was invited to Tyumen and Tobolsk in Siberia to lecture on Teaching Methodology, English and Business Communications and also addressed an International Seminar on the Use of Modern Information Technology in Teaching English as a Foreign Language. He met up with former students and was chauffeured through 280 kms of icy Siberian waste from Tyumen to Tobolsk – and back! (London City College seemed surprised!).

Peter Stanley PURVES ('39-'44) lives in Falmouth and replied to a request from Birkbeck College for volunteers to recall their evacuation experience. Peter spent most of his schooldays in Ammanford and returned to Maze Hill in 1943 to the "buzz" bombs and rockets. He asks if any of the 104 fellow evacuees in Ammanford remember him and would be pleased to hear from any contemporaries.

Trevor LORD ('64-'69) wrote to the Secretary from Blackheath with an updated address for David PORTER ('63-'71) – in Beccles but shortly to move to Somerset. He was sad to learn of the deaths of George Witten and Stanley Beale who both taught him briefly at the end of their careers though Latin and English were never his strong suit and their efforts were in vain. He notes that several Old Roan bankers have recently taken early retirement. He has been employed for thirty years by the Lloyds/TSB group and hopes to achieve 35 years before seeking a change of direction. He was promoted to Senior Manager in 1996 and fears his chances of survival are diminishing. He returned recently to Braithwaite during a holiday in the Lakes and attributes his love of walking and the countryside directly to the experiences he enjoyed there with the school.

Roy EDWARDS ('45-'52) came across Lionel BERRY whilst visiting an old friend who had just moved to the Elmbridge Retirement Village in Cranleigh. He mentioned that one of his neighbours was a retired schoolmaster from Greenwich by the name of Berry. Peter and his wife spent an enjoyable hour chatting to Lionel. They reminisced about their times in Greenwich, other pupils and staff and, since he had recently retired as a headmaster, they chewed over all that is wrong with education today as well. On a bowling club tour in November 1997 he sat at the same dinner table as Tom MOSS (Head Boy in 1950). Tom sent him some past copies of the Chronicle and he wishes to join the Association. He also asks the Secretary for details on two contemporaries, Bryan FAIR and Albert BERRY.

David PEACHEY ('54-'60) responds from Ashford in Kent to Geoff RICKSON'S article in the last Chronicle and agrees that there is little news of their contemporaries. They played football together in the 1959/60 1st X1 and he recalls a successful season with 140 goals in 27 matches and 18/19 wins against 4/5 defeats. He has been in Aviation Insurance all his working life, currently in the broking side of the business having spent a number of years underwriting. The last he heard of Nicky HOWE was thirty years ago when he was playing for Maidstone United and then moved to South Africa. His brother was Chris HOWE. He continues to play the occasional game of cricket for Tenterden where he is Chairman and also golf at Tenterden where he was the 1998 Club-Captain and his wife the



Ladies Club Captain – a club first! In his playing days for the Old Boys' Football Club he played with John HUNTLEY, Del DREHER, Alan DAWE, Geoff SAWYER and Bill BROOKS etc. He sends best wishes to all who remember him and asked for his letter to be sent to Geoff

Stan BERRY ('33-'39) is pleased to contribute news of his latest grandson, born in May 1998. Stan lives in Eltham.

W.G.MOORE ('38-'44) lives in Broadstairs and was disappointed not to have an invite to Vic Brooker's day at the club. Bill played with Vic in the Old Roan 2nd XI for many years and was left back when they won the Kent Junior Cup. He recalls Doug Brittain in goal and the terrific camaraderie they enjoyed in the team. He had a small transport business at the time and all the lads used to climb on the back of the trailer of the "artic" to get to the fixtures such as Old Romfordians and Old Millhillians. He also remembers the Isle of Wight cricket tours when he used to take a London cab and pick up Tommy Borritt, Dave Cutting and others en route. Bill was one of the wartime evacuees, firstly to Rye and then to Ammanford.

Albert BERRY ('45-'50) lives in Ferndale, Western Australia and, after confirming how pleasant the weather in March is, points out that at the end of 1998 he became an OAP. Tempus Fugit!

Phyllis Houston writes with news of her uncle, Len CLOUSER ('19-'26) who is now 89 and lives in a nursing home in Bexhill-on-Sea. He enjoys reading the magazine.

F.E. (Ted) SHUTE ('32-'38) lives close to Norwich and read with dismay the "Hatch, Match & Patch" with news of the deaths of four contemporaries – N.C.Bradgate, M.McMenamin, L.F.Bristow and L.E.Trafford. He met with Roy BULLERS ('38-'47) at a Probus meeting in 1998. Ted and his wife regularly meet up with Eric SWANN ('34-'39) and his wife who are keeping fairly well after due allowance for "fair wear and tear".

E.L.DAY ('18-'24) lives in Keswick and enjoys reading the magazine though she rarely finds news of her contemporaries – "hardly surprising as it was rather a long time ago!"

L.J. (Billy) BOLTON ('35-'40) enjoyed the opportunity to reply to Ewen WHITAKER to clarify the text and tune of the Latin grace sung at Roan in the 1930s. He recalls the long debate in Joey Amesbury's music class over whether ad deum or ad eum was correct resulting, intentionally, in turning Joey's lesson into a shambles. He believes that Joey Amesbury heard this grace being sung by monks when he was in France. He was intrigued by it and brought it back to the Roan School. He also confirms at least one name of the serving "maids" – the amply built one was Nellie and he thinks the other was called Mary. Billy enjoyed recalling these matters and is pleased to know that in one distant part of the U.S.A. there is someone who remembers events in Greenwich in the 1930s. Billy lives in Bexleyheath.

Steve RIDER ('61-'68) ran the London Marathon on Sunday 26 April 1998 in aid of the Action Research Charity. As I write this I am switching between the computer and the rugby on BBC Grandstand and note that Steve is presenting the afternoon events in his usual smooth and professional manner.

Margo Wallace advises that her husband, Valentine C.I.WALLACE ('21-'28) died on 9th January 1998 at the City Hospital in Nottingham aged 87. He had an illustrious career in the

Bank and, as an athlete, playing cricket and hockey (representing Scotland). He was loved and respected by many and will be much missed.

Colin WALTERS ('34-'39) lives in Bromley and writes with news of his classmate, Roy CLARK ('34-'39) from Mill's Remove B in 1937 (photograph in the 1993 magazine). Roy telephoned him from Boston, Lincolnshire to discuss his recent change of address and the photograph. They think they may be the only survivors of that photograph but will be delighted to hear from anyone who can prove them wrong. Roy appears to be generally in good health apart from failing eyesight. He was a great athlete in his young days, a fine gymnast and captain of the school's cross country team that included Colin (our annual match against Blackheath Harriers at Hayes was always an exciting event). He was also an excellent footballer and Colin remembers playing left back to his centre forward in an inter form match – "I can vividly recall him coming towards me at full spring with the ball at his feet. No way could I deal with that...." Roy went on to become a PT instructor with the RAF, later an instructor of parachutists and, after the war advised various governments on parachute drops. Colin also asks for news of the silver cup he won for the 440 yards open in July 1939 and disappeared, whilst being engraved with his name, in the confusion at the start of the war. It was a cherished achievement and he would like to know, before parting from this world, whether the cup exists and whether his name is inscribed on it.

Mike TOMKINS ('69-'76) wrote in January 1998 to confirm his new address in Wilmslow in Cheshire. He is responsible for the European Operation of New Balance Athletic Shoes.

Revd.Donald L.CRANFIELD ('35-'42) has been reintroduced to the Association by Phil WINTER ('37-'40). He sends a photograph of his form, 3a in 1935 with Thorp as master. Donald is 4th from the left in the 2nd row from the back with McMenamin, who died in 1996, 6th from the left in the same row. He is amazed how many names he can remember after 63 years. While C.F.PETERS (School Secretary) was alive he retained links with the School and, in his capacity as a Baptist Minister, conducted the service of a former biology teacher at Roan where he met several of his former teachers. He is interested to hear news of his school friends including Dibben, Cousens and Eldridge. Also what happened to the masters including Barratt (who tried to teach me Latin), Binnie (who gave me a love of history), Witten (who made me enjoy English Literature) and, above all W.R.Dalziel (who encouraged me in appreciation and practice of all aspects of art). The Secretary has brought Donald up to date as far as his records allow. Donald served in the war in RNVR (S/Lt) from 1942-45 with an award MID and then in Baptist Ministry until his retirement in 1989. He lives in Bromley with his wife, an Old Roan, whom he met during their evacuation in Ammanford. During the Ammanford years, the School Office under the watchful eye of C.F.Peters, became a centre for a Christian Group of Roan boys and girls. It was in Ammanford that Donald began to preach in the English Baptist Church with the occasional presence of a master or two. His pre-war memories include serious debate in the Aristotelian Society, but are mostly of fun and games: football and cricket on the school field at Kidbrooke, boxing; athletics (shot and discus); cross-country running in Greenwich Park; snow fights in winter on Blackheath; and seeing the sun rising behind Wolfe as he came through the park to school on frosty mornings. Happy Days!

Eddie HOWSE ('35-'42) has contributed a short article detailing his involvement with the development of the British atomic bomb in the early 1950s. He was never allowed under the Official Secret's Act to discuss his work until long after he left London and went to Aldermaston.



Bryan FAIR ('45-'52) lives in Dorchester and confirms that he has recently heard from Roy EDWARDS ('45-'52) after the Secretary passed his address to Roy.

Val LOVELL ('27-'30) sends best wishes from Selsey, near Chichester. He has recently had operations on both feet and can longer drive. He can manage to walk short distances which includes his local pub at lunchtime for his favourite brew, Badgers, but sadly now only in half-pints.

Geoff CHAPMAN ('31-'39) also sends his best wishes to the Association and finds it is a long time since he played Old Roan cricket in the Saturday 3rds and Sunday 2nds in the post war years. He heard that Peter Williams and "cronies" played Woodbridge Golf Club and asks Peter to contact him if he plays there again. Geoff is a member and advises that he is little better at golf than he was at cricket but enjoys it. He lives near Ipswich and regularly calls on "Hoppy" (A.H.Hopwood) and his wife, Olive in Melton on his way back from the golf club. He also notes the address of our Assistant Secretary, Dave Wright, in Cleanthus Road, Shooters Hill where he lived as a child from 1925-31. Geoff's older brother, A.B.CHAPMAN left Roan around 1938 and lives near Bideford

Jeremy DAVIES ('62-'69) was reminded of many old faces and names by the last magazine, notably Stanley Beale. He left Roan at Christmas 1969 and joined the Civil Service (Customs & Excise) where he stayed for 10 years and became active in the Trade Union for a number of years rising to the exalted rank of Branch Secretary for the largest Union branch in Customs & Excise. During the 1980s he went into Agriculture as freelance Dairy Person. This was quite a satisfying period in his life especially as he had moved from London to the Devon area. Since moving to Bournemouth in 1990 he has become involved with the treatment and rehabilitation of alcoholics. Quite a change from the Civil Service days, especially as he remains active in the local church community. He enjoys cycling and has pedalled some 75,000 miles in the last 10 years and planned last summer to cycle to North Wales and return home via Worcester and Tewkesbury. During his Civil Service career he became involved with the Royal Marines Reserves and finally left after 22 years with the rank of Lt.Colonel. Jeremy would be pleased to hear from any Old Roans who remember him or who visit his area – Bournemouth in Dorset.

Glen PULLEN ('44-'49) visited his children in the U.S.A. in the early summer of 1999, one in Louisville, Kentucky and the other in Fresno, California, and spent his third week with Peter WALKER ('44-'51) in Hockessin, Delaware where he has lived for around 30 years. Peter is now retired from Du Pont and is actively engaged in nurturing embryo businesses and campaigning against squirrels who eat his plants. They ask if anyone has news of news of Ron MITCHELL and John DUBBEY. Glen was ousted from his seat on his local District Council in Flitwick, Bedfordshire, where he shared the leadership for 4 years. He can now spend more time with his family. They visited the Roan School ("which they'd shrunk especially for the occasion!") in 1998 when Peter last visited England.

Robert SCOURFIELD ('61-'68) is now Assistant Director Environment at Camden Council. He pursues a keen interest in cycling and frequently cycles to work in King's Cross from Beckenham.

Charles PARLEY ('48-'55) wrote to David BUCKLEY with his apologies for not attending the Reunion of the '47-'49 years last August but felt that living in Auckland, New Zealand was a reasonable excuse. He is grateful for the education he received at Roan. Charles left Roan in 1955 for two years National Service before studying at Imperial College. In his final

year he saw a notice seeking graduates to teach in New Zealand on a three year contract and took up the offer. Those 3 years in 1960 have extended to the present day! After 15 years teaching he left and took a job with Shell Oil NZ where he stayed until retirement in 1998. "In all I have had a good life and have to thank Roan for starting me on the right path. I always remember George Witten telling us that Ordinary Levels were the little golden key to the professions! Of course, he was right". He remains in contact with Brian PICKRELL and stayed with Brian in Ludgvan in Cornwall when Charles and his wife last visited. Charles can be contacted on email: parleys@xtra.co.nz

E.T.(Ted) BARR has contacted the Editor on several occasions following his article on his days at Eastney Street and the move to Maze Hill. He was particularly saddened to learn of the death of Patrick BARNWELL. He visited Lionel BERRY in September 1998 and attached a photograph of himself with Lionel. He also sent a copy of a fascinating Act of Parliament dated 16th July 1830 – "An Act for the Improvement of the Town of Greenwich in the County of Kent, and for the better Regulation of Roan's Charity there." He also refers to an earlier query on Gilbert and advises that his younger brother, John, assures him that Gilbert was a Director of Charlton Athletic Football Club. Ted sends news of his brother, John ('32-'41) who lives in Bexleyheath; his brother-in-law, H.W.A.GIBBONS ('24-'31) living in Brabourne Lees, Kent; and also S.P.H.BUTTERFILL ('24-'31) who lives in Hereford close to his son, Andrew who is also an Old Roan. Correspondence continues on a copy of the school photograph take in May 1931

Ian RICKSON ('75-'82) is the Artistic Director of the Royal Court Theatre which has recently been extensively refurbished at its site in Sloane Square and has now reopened. Ian is frequently featured in the media. To balance the cultural demands on his time he is a season ticket holder with Charlton Athletic F.C.

Ray HATTER ('59-'67) lives in West Mersea in Essex and works as a management consultant. His life since leaving Roan has been colourful and eventful. He succeeded Richard BULL ('60-'67) as Chairman of the Greater London Young Conservatives and has spent much of his time associated with the Conservative Party. He is proud to number among his friends and associates many leading Conservative politicians and advisers including most of the less honourable. We fear he may never find his way to the subscriptions department of the "Guardian". The Editor met with Ray for a jovial evening in August 1999 at a Spanish restaurant in Elmers End where Ray had arrived early and established his serious intentions with the barman. They discussed their shared memories of commuting to Roan from Erith; the "St.Jim" magazine at Roan in the 60s and Ray's transparent plagiarism of Dylan Thomas; their careers as talentless right backs for the Old Roan Veterans; and Ray's appalling political views. The presence at the meal of a die-hard socialist from the Welsh Valleys (now deeply disillusioned) made for a noisy evening. This reference to Ray Hatter brings the career of the Editor full circle. He was persuaded to take over editing the magazine by Mike Titheridge, then captain of the Old Roan Veterans, in 1989 with the threat "Ray Hatter is coming out soon and if you want to keep playing at right back ....." The Editor has now hung up his boots after playing his last football match, in the new millennium, against Colfe's and now lays down his pen.





## Nelson's Column

Steve Nelson contributes, in his own inimitable style, a few items of news from his time spent at the Club. The boy Haslam ('67-'74) is, amazingly, about to retire after many years working his way towards an executive bog key at Barclays. He is hoping to live off a substantial pension supplemented by his daughter's earnings when they start work in around 10 years.

Neal is probably only third in the retirement stakes behind Roger Larkin ('62-'69), who left school and barely had time to take his cap off before making enough to get the pipe and slippers out full time, and the enigmatic Barry Pike, who may have found his riches in an early edition of "Who Want To Be A Millionaire" hosted by Michael Miles, Hughie Green or even John Snagge.

Mike Titheridge reports that he has recently been promoted at HMP Belmarsh from Polisher of the Keys to Charlie Kray's Personal Warden. This exalted position required strip-searching on a regular basis, but Mike says that taking his clothes off is a small price to pay for the privilege.

Brian Goddard ('61-'67) has been travelling Europe and the more remote parts of Africa for the Foreign and Commonwealth Office in his capacity as a Property Adviser. With London as his base it has proved necessary for Brian to reside regularly at "Chez Monty" and be forcibly frog-marched down to the Club every Thursday night for the last six months. Despite the fact that Brian has enjoyed many conversations with his old contemporary, Steve Nelson, on these evenings (in fact it's been the same conversation every week but just in a different order to keep it fresh), he is, as you can imagine, pleased to make his way back to the bosom of his family in downtown Leicester following a new appointment in nearby (relatively) Nottingham.

The lithe and youthful Graham Lawrance seems to have struck an unexpected problem in his new role of head gardener at the school field. Working in the hot summer months, clad only in his shorts and undies, he is constantly being pestered by lone male motorists in tight T-shirts, close shaven heads and moustaches for directions all over South-East London. One such chap was even heard to murmur appreciatively as Graham bent to raise his wheelbarrow. Graham also wishes to report that he recently scored a goal for the 5th X1 with his right foot for the first time in 25 years. What a memory! Apparently it is 35 years since he scored with his left!

Look out Vivian Lawrence! Viv's better half, the delightful Marie Louise, finally ended a life-long quest just after midnight on Millennium Eve when one of the guests at the New Year party they were attending reclined in an over relaxed manner whilst wearing full Highland regalia. Marie Louise, since her formative years in downtown Italy, had always wondered just what was worn underneath the kilt and can now answer with authority "no-theeng! Eet iz all in purrfect workeeng ordur".

Karen Amos asked to be mentioned in despatches merely for the reason that she had been coming to the club for over 20 years although her looks belie this fact (she added). However, Karen can claim a spot in this report for being the first Kids' Christmas Party organiser to give away the identity of Father Christmas. When Santa had finished the handing out of presents he asked for the traditional pint of best for his thirsty reindeer and Karen delivered it to him in his very own mug with "Steve Nelson – Old Roan Goalkeeper of the Century" engraved on it.



Brian Hamer – Old Roan Association President 1998-99





*Trevor Talbot in "The Sunshine Boys"*

*Alf Knott, Nigel Ballantyne and Tony Elliott in May 1999*



## BIRTHS

BERRY to Christine née FORRESTER (1971-78) wife of Peter Berry (1968-75) a son, Edward Alexander, on 14th May 1998. A brother for William

COMBES to Amanda, wife of Christopher Combes (1967-74) a girl, Elizabeth Rose, on 11th March 2000.

LEGG to Diane, wife of Graham Legg (1971-78), a son, James Henry on 8th October 1998

PAGE to Adele Calvert, partner of Andy Page (1968-75), a son, Matthew Joseph, on 3rd March 2000.

SMITH to Kay, wife of Micky Smith (1971-78), a daughter, Isabella Charlton on 8th July 1998

## MARRIAGES

COMBES on 12th September 1998 at St. Michael's Church, Blackheath, Chris Combes (1967-74) to Amanda Moore

## DEATHS

ASHFIELD, Mr.B.D. (1935-42) on 30th April 1999

BAILEY, Mr.E.W. (1945-52) on 6th November 1997

BINDON, Mr.F.J. (1916-20) on 10th January 1999

BONNER, Mr.D.A.W. (1918-24) in March 1999, a vice president of the Old Roan Cricket Club

BUTLER, Mr.B.H. (1947-52) on 16th August 1998

CHAMBERLAIN, Mr.B.S. (1932-38) on 2nd September 1999

CUTBUSH, Mr.R.F. (1917-22) in April 1999

DALLADAY, R.M. (1912-17) on 6th February 2000

DANIEL, Rev A.N. (1922-26) on 23rd March 1999

EDEN-GREEN, Mr.A. (1926-34) in November 1997

EVELEIGH, Mr.R.H. (1947-52) on 31st December 1998

FLACK, Mr.T.E. (1924-29) on 13th October 1999, a past president of the Old Roan Association

HAGARTY, Mr.J.T. (1931-36) on 11th December 1997

HOLMES, Mrs.D.E.D. (née Smith 1923-28) on 3rd December 1997

HUNT, Mr.S.R. (1914-18)

HUTCHINS, Mr.R.W. (1957-64) on 1st December 1999

HUTTON, Mr.H.E. (1920-26) on 21st December 1998

JARRAMS, Mr.R.W. (1955-62) on 11th June 1998

JEFFERY, Mrs.M. (staff 1934-44 & 1954-77) on 24th August 1999, a vice president of the O.R.A.

KIRBY, Mrs.G.E. (née Cook 1920-25)

MARSH, Mr.G.P. (1923-29) on 15th November 1999

MITCHELL, Miss E.G. (MBE) on 6th December 1999

NEARN, Mr.C.W. (1914-18) on 19th September 1999

NOTTAGE, Mr.R.J. (1929-34) on 29th October 1999

PERKINS, Mrs.V.E. (née Walton 1919-24) in 1998

PROCTOR, Mr.B.J. (1946-54) on 24th February 1999

POTWAIN, Mr.D.L. (1936-39) in July 1998

ROBINSON, Mr.A.G. (1927-33) on 5th January 2000

SHADWELL, Mr.H. (1920-25) on 31st May 1998

STRUTE, Mr.R.L. (1926-33) on 16th November 1998

THORP, Mr.J. (staff 1937-50) in December 1998



### **DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**

27th October 2000    Annual Dinner at the Old Roan Club

29th March 2001    Annual General Meeting at the Old Roan Club