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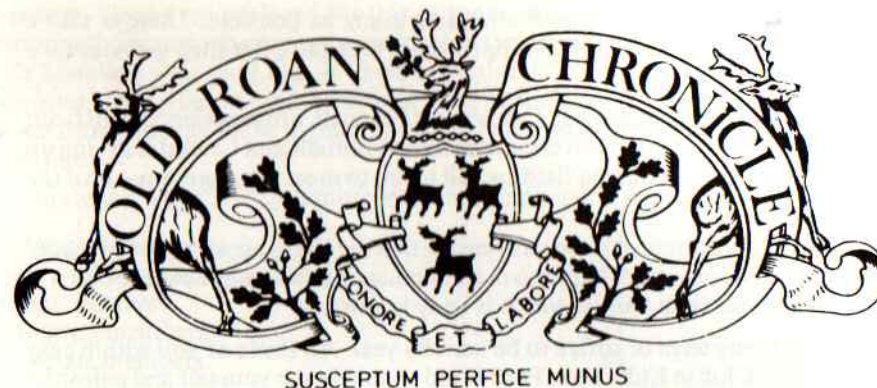
THE OLD ROAN CHRONICLE

No. 6

July 1986

OLD ROAN ASSOCIATION

- President:* JOHN CRAMP
- Vice Presidents:* Mrs. M.J. Barber; F.P. Barnes;
Miss M.E. Barnsdale; L.J. Berry;
G.C. Carter; Miss M.S. Chamberlain;
W.L. Garstang; W.S. Gosling;
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Mrs. B.A. Scott; G.C. Smith.
- Hon. President
(Headteacher):* Mrs. A. Tonkin, John Roan School,
141 Maze Hill, Blackheath, London SE3 7UD
- Hon. Secretary:* A.J. Slaney, 143 Lyme Farm Road,
Lee, London SE12 8JH (Tel: 01-852 4075)
- Hon. Assistant Secretary:* Mrs. K.L. Wilkins, 9 Tile Farm Road, Orpington,
Kent BR6 9RY (Tel: 0689 52079)
- Hon. Treasurer:* N.S. Haslam, 34 Heversham Road, Bexleyheath,
Kent DA7 5BG (Tel: 01-304 3053)
- Hon. Assistant Treasurer:* J.A. Cramp, 28 Bickley Crescent, Bromley,
Kent DA7 5BG (Tel: 01-464 4451)
- Social Secretary:* Miss K. Amos, 78a Herbert Road, Plumstead,
London SE18 3PP (Tel: 01-316 4511)
- Chronicle &
Newsletter Editor:* H. Henning, 129 Kempton Walk,
Shirley, Surrey CR0 7XH (Tel: 01-777 9600)
- Committee Members:* D.A.P. Andrews; Mrs. W. Austin, K. Barron;
A.S. Berry; D.W. Boon; G. Brooks; J. Dennis;
Mrs. H. Haslam; Mrs. J. Hook; G. Johnson;
Mrs L. Nelson; S.C. Nelson; C.D. Orford;
G.J. Sawyer; Miss T. Tipler; M.W. Titheridge;
M.J. Walpole; A.G. Weir.



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FROM THE PRESIDENT

I suppose that all newly-elected Presidents say how pleased and honoured they are to have been elected. In my case, it is particularly true. After several years of Old Roan activity, my commitment faded to a degree and it came as a great surprise, and an even greater pleasure, to be approached by old and new colleagues alike to accept the position of President of the Old Roan Association.

However, now fully back in the fold, the Old Roan Association itself appears to be in good health, although we would benefit from an improvement in our financial position. To this end, you will hear from Tony Slaney. Do it now, out with the cheque book, no credit cards (unfortunately). Quite painless, isn't it?

The Old Roan Club has been through a bad period, but the commitment and hard work of the Bar Executive Committee has pulled it through, back to a sensible prosperity, bearing in mind the cheap prices.

However, for their efforts to be fully rewarded, they require your support. Look at the list of functions, shown



elsewhere in the Chronicle and attend as many as possible. There is also a continuous need for bar staff. Volunteers are urged to offer their services for a few hours a month.

The Sports Clubs, particularly Cricket and Football, are experiencing difficult times. The flow of school leavers interested in Football and Cricket is drying up and there is great pressure in fielding full teams to meet the requirements of the fixture lists.

We have to concentrate our efforts to ensure that the Clubs are attractive to school leavers and to consider all steps to maintain playing strength. I believe that it is numbers rather than ability, which is truly important.

I would like my term of office to be activity year. All those of you within easy reach of the Club in Kidbrooke Park Road should bestir yourself and enjoy the excellent facilities and fascinating company. Remember it is not an "Old Boys" Club any longer.

John Cramp

FROM THE SECRETARY

As you will read elsewhere in this Chronicle and on an enclosure form the Annual Subscription to the Old Roan Association is to be raised to £5.00 from 1st January 1987. The current rate has not been sufficient to meet the cost of both the Newsletter and Chronicle for some time and the Association has received considerable assistance from the bar profits of the Club.

This year the annual cost of the lease of parts of the playing fields which the School pays the local council has been dramatically increased to a figure yet to be agreed (between £3,00 and £4,250) and the Old Roan Club has agreed to pay £1,000 per annum towards this sum. At the same time plans are being drawn up to improve facilities, particularly for the girls, at the Club. Thus the Club needs all the money it can obtain, and the subscriptions have been fixed so that the Club will not be required to help the Association for the next few years. The rate has been set slightly higher than immediately necessary so that it can remain constant for several years in order to encourage members to pay subscriptions by Banker's Order.

The opportunity for Old Roans to become Life Members has been reintroduced, and at a rate which it is hoped will be more related to economic reality than at the time when new Life Membership was withdrawn. It is now over ten years since Life Members were last asked to make a donation to "top up" the amount they paid. For example the fee for boys was £15 until 1975 (only £5 just three years before) and £2.50 for girls. Thus it has been felt by your Committee that now would be an appropriate time to launch an appeal to existing Life Members to contribute either a lump sum or an annual basis by Banker's Order to the general running

expenses. Forms are enclosed for this purpose. It is unreasonable to have to continually increase the annual subscriptions to cover the cost of maintaining Life Members who paid fees at levels set without the knowledge of the mid-seventies high inflation rates from which the Association has never recovered. Some Lifers already make regular or occasional contributions which are very welcome.

For the record as at 31st December 1985 the membership was:

Life members	694
Fully paid ordinary members	482
Junior member	1
Honorary members	3
Associate members	19
	<hr/>
	1199

It is with considerable regret that we recently learnt that Gordon Brooks is to retire from teaching at the end of the Summer term. Gordon's contribution in maintaining links between the Association and the School has been unequalled in recent years. His premature retirement will leave both organisations much the poorer. We wish him and his family the best wishes for their new life in East Anglia. An appreciation will appear in the next newsletter.

Many Old Girls salvaged their Personal Record Cards on the final reunion day at Devonshire Drive, Hilary Haslam, our archivist, holds the bulk of the remainder, particularly for the years 1941-1972. Anyone wishing to obtain their record should write to Hilary (address inside cover), enclosing a stamped addressed envelope (9" x 5").

Only a handful of entries were received for the Newsletter Competition. This was probably because 1W on a V should have been 1 wheel on a Unicycle. Apologies! Correct entries were received from Elizabeth Chalmers, Gillian Vyse, Fred Clifton, Bill Moore, Derek Putwain, David Wright and the lucky £5 winner Brian Thomas. If you still can't fathom it out contact Neal Haslam, who will put your mind at rest.

Finally the Editor has asked me to thank all those who have contributed to this edition of the Chronicle. Your assistance is most appreciated.

LOST AND (MAYBE) FOUND

Miss K Booth	('65-'71)	
B W Clarke	('29-'33)	Mrs E Lock (nee Hill)
P H Davies	('15-'20)	Cdr G G Meekums ('45-'51)
H F Finch	('14-'21)	H J Page ('22-'25)
Mrs A Heester (nee Rider)		A Wales ('62-'69)
J W Jeffs	('52-'57)	Mrs E Watson (nee Lloyd)

Anyone knowing the current address of any of the above is asked to let the Secretary know.

FROM THE TREASURER

Too many detailed financial results are not of great interest, so I will not bore you with them here. Members may obtain a copy by sending a stamped, addressed envelope to me. They are also on display at the Club.

Last year, the Association's income of £1,088 exceeded expenditure by £81, but this was allowing for the Club meeting the printing costs of the 'Chronicle'. To relieve the Club of this expense, the Committee felt it right to propose that the Annual Subscription be increased to £5 with effect from 1st January 1987, and this was passed at the Annual General Meeting.

Soon I will purchase a new President's Collar, as John Cramp's name has occupied the last bar on our present one. It will be the third collar we have and will bear the names of our next 30 Presidents!

Our investments, 12% Treasury Stock 1995 and 10½% Exchequer Stock 1997, continue to provide a steady income and the Accumulated Fund now stands at £4,858.

In the Old Roan Club Report, Frank Barnes has included the main points from the Club accounts, so I shall not repeat them here.

SUBSCRIPTIONS & LIFE MEMBERSHIP

At the Annual General Meeting in March, the Annual subscription was increased to £5 with effect from 1st January 1987. It is hoped that members who do not currently pay their subscription by Standing Order will take this opportunity to consider this method of payment. A revised Standing Order form is enclosed.

At the same meeting, Life Membership was re-introduced with immediate effect. The following amendment to the Constitution was passed:

"For Life Members the subscription shall be thirty times the Annual Membership subscription. Payment may be made by three consecutive annual payments of eleven times the Annual Membership subscription.

In the event of an Annual Member wishing to transfer to Life Membership, the payment shall be the Life Membership subscription less half of the total Annual subscriptions paid from 1st January 1975 to the date of transfer, subject to a minimum of ten times the Annual Subscription."

Thus the cost of Life Membership will be £75.00 for those paying before the end of this year, when the cost will increase to £115.00. For boys who have paid each year from 1975 the amount will be reduced by £9.75 (half of seven years at £1.00 and five years at £2.50) and for girls by £7.13 (half of seven years at £0.25 and five years at £2.50).

A form is enclosed with this Chronicle for members wishing to transfer from Ordinary to Life Membership.

THE OLD ROAN CLUB

In the annual report issued in the previous edition of "The Chronicle" reference was made to problems at the Old Roan Club arising from lack of support from our members. Specific reference was made to the difficulties of maintaining effective Bar Rotas and members were advised of the actions taken by the Executive Committee to improve the situation. As promised a "Music" unit has since been installed with a Tape Deck/Amplifier unit located in the Bar with Speaker Units in the War Memorial Room. This has, in some degree, encouraged more members to attend more often and this improvement is reflected in the Bar Sales which totalled £13,460 during the second half of 1985 compared with an intake of only £8,296 over the first six months of that year.

Unfortunately the low Sales figures for the first period coincided with, and perhaps were the result of, administrative problems arising from the failure of the Executive Committee to ensure that the Bar Steward's duties were being carried out in an effective manner. The gross profit over this period amounted to only £373, or 4½% of the sales total, and continuance at this level could well have resulted in bankruptcy and closure in the not too distant future. In early June the members of the Bar Executive, with Tony Slaney and Steve Nelson as co-opted members, took over the Bar Steward's duties between them and, fortunately this "rescue act" was reasonably successful. You will have noted that the sales turnover rose dramatically during the second half of 1985 and a comparable increase in the profit levels enabled the Club to show a nett profit of £1,422 at the end of the year 1985. It is the opinion of the Executive Committee that the improvement was due to maintaining a tight control on spillage and wastage, checking both stock and ordering levels and ensuring that proceeds were banked regularly each week.

At the same time one or two additional functions were arranged, thanks mainly to Steve Nelson and Trevor Puddifoot, culminating in a very successful Disco on New Year's Eve. With the assistance of Terry Chance, Steve and Trevor have formed "Punch Productions" and this "Ministry of all the Talents" will continue to organise a wide variety of social events during the coming year. Additional to these efforts the two last named have taken over the duties of the Bar Steward and well deserve the thanks and good wishes of all members of the Club.

To revert to the year's working however, the efforts of the Committee received a set-back in December. During a Disco on the 7th of that month the "master" set of Bar Keys were stolen and, some few nights later the premises were entered and the padlocked cash box broken open with a loss of £195. Following this theft the main door lock was changed, the cash box repaired and it was agreed that effective action had been taken to prevent any recurrence. Despite these actions a further burglary occurred on the 21st December which was a carbon copy of the original except that, in this instance, the loss amounted to some £300. We have now carried out further alterations to our Society System which, hopefully, will prevent any more thieving. Both burglaries were reported to the Police but they were unable to take any effective action; the incidents were also reported to the

Club Insurers and some compensation for loss was obtained. It is, however, fair to point out that the Club has been put to considerable expense in repair and replacement costs for locks and keys etc. and, additionally, members of the Executive have given a considerable amount of time and effort in order to overcome the problems arising from the break-ins. It is a very sad reflection upon current attitudes that one is forced to the conclusion that the thefts were probably carried out by an "Old Roan".

To add to our problems we were faced with an entirely different matter, again in December, although perhaps burglary and extortion are not so very different. This concerns the continued use of those areas of the School Ground which are not the freehold property of the Foundation. These areas, that is to say the Paddock and the ground on the far side of the "Quaggy", are leased from Greenwich Borough Council, by the School, and the rental in the early 1960's was around £80 per annum. The lease was renewed in 1965 at a rental of £300 p.a. over a twenty-one year period which expired on the 25th December 1985. A few weeks prior to that date the Council informed the Governors of the School that the ground rental would again be increased to £4,250 per year for a 14-year lease. The Governors and the School wish to retain their use of these areas and are currently in negotiation with the Council in an effort to have the rental reduced to a level that would be mutually acceptable. In December however the Council were insisting on their right to foreclose and this would have caused great difficulty to the school and, more especially, to the Old Roan Football Club had the decision been implemented. In consequence the Old Roan Club received a request from the Chairman of the John Roan Schools Governors that the Club or the Association might be in a position to contribute towards the increased rental charges. A meeting was quickly arranged on the 18th December which was attended by the Chairman of the Governors, the Clerk to the Governors and representatives of the O.R.A., the O.R.Club, the O.R.F.C., and the O.R.C.C. After discussion the Old Roan representatives offered to pay to the Governors a minimum amount of £1,000 per annum, this figure being subject to review in the event that any rental subsequently agreed was greatly in excess of £3,000 p.a. This contribution would be made by quarterly payments and the payments for the first two quarters of 1986 would be met by the O.R.F.C. and the O.R.C.C. respectively. At the same time the Old Roan Club has accepted overall responsibility and has made provision for future payments by a very modest increase in the Bar Prices. Despite all the trading and administrative problems that have faced the Club the Committee has held prices since October 1984 and the increase of 5% which became effective in January of this year is very reasonable.

In consideration of the assistance the Association and the Club are willing to give to the Schools and to the Governing Body we have requested that the Old Roan Club, and the affiliated sports' clubs, be given some security of tenure and would have their interests safeguarded in the event that control of the Roan Schools' Playing Field passes from the Governors. The offer of payment, together with the request for consideration, was set out in a letter addressed to the Chairman

From left to right: Barratt, Darling, James, Witten, Daltry, Peddie, Kirby, Harris, Peters, Berry, Pye, Mander, Allen, Milne, Potter, Thorp, Mitchell, Horth, Peckham, Ashworth (hidden), Amesbury, Paker, Mann, Mills, Poyser, Holt, Binnie, Lee.

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of Governors, at the end of January last. At the time of writing this report we have not received any reply but this lack of information is, no doubt, due to the failure on the main parties to agree upon rental levels. Hopefully this situation will be resolved in the near future and members may be assured that they will be informed of all developments.

In conclusion we have experienced, and survived, a very difficult year which could well have resulted in the total collapse of the Club. The difficulties have been overcome but the effective control of wastage and stock levels etc. must be continued if we are to make further progress. We must all do our best to support the two or three members who have the thankless task of organising and arranging the Bar Rotas so that the Club opens on all regular occasions. Finally, on behalf of all members, I say thank you to the Officers and Committee members of the Old Roan Club for their continued support and, especially, to those members who have carried out the Bar duties during the past twelve months.

Frank Barnes

OLD ROAN PERSONALITIES

John Cramp

In common with many things which appear completely obvious after the event, one wonders why we have taken so long to appoint John as President. His credentials are impeccable as is his commitment and demeanour.

Like many of his predecessors in this office it was sport which introduced him to the O.R.A. At school the sport at which he excelled was swimming, and particularly diving. In school swimming Galas anyone who stood on that top board, at eyeball level with irreverent 3rd Formers in the balcony, when built more in the Cowdrey than Gower mould, had to be good. After 15 feet in the air he would hit the water and submerge with barely a ripple. Lovely diving — no fun for the 3rd Formers.

However, aquasports require rather more equipment than has been available to the Association — like a pool. So his first connection with the Old Boys was scoring for the 1st XI whilst, probably, in the Remove year.

In the middle 1950s he deliberately chose umpiring for the 1st XI against playing in either of the other XI's. A decision which enhanced the Old Boy's reputation in the eyes of contemporary clubs. His strengths (apart from good eyesight, and a knowledge of angles — as befits an accountant) were that he did not regard the Umpire's coat as a Third World Field Marshal's uniform; nor did he regard the coat as a religious vestment which automatically bestowed infallibility. However, batting or bowling, whether his decisions were for or against, we and

our opponents were completely confident to leave it up to him.

In the 60s after a few years working in the Midlands he returned to London and I arranged to take him to dinner at a (then) slightly avant-garde restaurant in Blackheath Village. Half way through the meal he decided that for the benefit of my short term financial stability, it would be a good idea if I paid for the food and he paid for the wine. From memory this decision cost him £18 and me £15 which was not the original intention. However, original intentions have a habit of sinking without trace, around the dinner table with our new President.

At the time that the School achieved national soccer success, and the Old Boys suddenly found themselves expanding from 3 football sides to 6, John was an enthusiastic, well-travelled, gregarious and very noisy supporter.

Additionally apart from his work with the Cricket Club where he has been a Vice President for many years, he has also devoted much time, when it was not always convenient, as Assistant Treasurer and Treasurer of the Club and Association.

Lest anyone should feel that this middle-aged man is a paragon of virtue, it might be worth remembering that as a young man, in the course of many long evenings he occasionally found himself overcome with excitement. His normal (?) therapy was to collect several tin trays from behind the Club bar, ostensibly to collect empty glasses. He would then stand in the middle of the room and throw the (fortunately) empty trays in various directions to create a cacophony of sound.

During this year when he is standing at some top table in his chain of office looking desperately respectable, it might be worthwhile bearing the trays in mind.

Congratulations to John; also to the members who elected him. It is to be hoped that we will see more of his delightful wife Paula during the year, which with J.C. at the helm should be a lot of fun.

Graham Chambers

HEADLINES

At the end of my first year in post a personal review seems appropriate. Firstly, however, I must thank all interested parties — pupils, staff, parents, former pupils, ILEA officers and inspectors for their friendliness and hard work.

The institutionalised five year school based self review has been published and we await comments on it from the visiting team of inspectors before it is submitted to the governors. The real value has been in the process whereby staff who have curriculum or organisational responsibility have had to consider the appropriateness and value of the learning opportunities offered to the John Roan pupils.

Some of my own preoccupations over the past year have, of necessity, been those imposed by present circumstances. Some teachers' associations are still in dispute with their employers and this has continued to curtail those activities which have enhanced and enriched school life. I am delighted that some events have been possible where staff have felt able to proceed.

My major concern, however, is with the day to day activities which happen in classrooms. My questions to myself, one year in, are about the purposefulness of classroom work, about the pupil involvement which enables each person to take an active part in her/his own learning, about the level of the content of schemes of work and above all about the achievements which are gained. Each pupil should leave compulsory schooling at 16+ capable and educated; capable of choosing the next phase and educated to meet its demands. My job is to head a group of teachers and support staff whose task is to provide opportunities for learning and achievement for all pupils.

So how far have we progressed in the past five years?

The successful amalgamation of the schools and their move to two sites under the leadership of Dr. Taylor was a great achievement. During this time the number of children wishing to enter the school has been consistently oversubscribed and the successful development of the 6th form consortium arrangements continue. In public examination results the school has consistently kept within the range of ± 2 on the ILEA performance score, which meant that we are achieving as we should, given our range of intake. This does not mean that we should not aim to reach + 5 in the next five years, but with the advent of the GCSE examination all schools will be in different situation and comparisons with the past may be difficult.

Indeed, we also need to keep in mind other social, practical and personal developments which are learning of an equally necessary and difficult kind.

Now we need to look towards the future and plan a less fragmented curriculum for pupils, so they spend longer periods of time studying in one curriculum area. We are planning an extension to the core curriculum with a range of constrained and free options so all pupils obtain a balanced education and do not close down opportunities. The ILEA is beginning to operate inservice training for teachers for an increased technical and vocational component in the curriculum for 14-18 year olds in line with the Hargreaves report recommendations. These plans can only mean a greater development of our "most important and only permanent asset, the capability of (our) own people." (*Corelli Barnett, The Audit of War*)

Ann Tonkin

WHAT WE DID IN OUR HOLIDAYS

It was Dave Birch's idea, as he keeps reminding me. It seemed like a good one at the time, and we could always blame him if anything went wrong. So, we decided to have a bash at the Edinburgh Festival Fringe.

Many plots are hatched in the marking room at Maze Hill and the Edinburgh jaunt became one of them (one of the *less* outlandish ones, as a matter of fact). Dave, Brian Hoy, Kevin Hood and myself were at that time closely involved with a play written by Kevin, to be presented as the examination production for the Lower Sixth's "O" level drama course, and the idea became to take 'The Fence' and Dave's 'The Time and Motion Show' up to the Fringe, perform them both for a week, get extremely famous and rich and retire on the proceeds. We did the first part, but are all still teaching, because fame is illusory and even the proceeds from selling the cast wouldn't have kept us in champagne and ladies' slippers for very long.

All you do if you want to go to the Fringe is: book a spot (or two) at a venue, find yourself some accommodation, arrange tickets, programmes and posters, transport your cast, crew, sets, costumes, lighting and sound equipment to Edinburgh, put on your play and come home, preferably with the same cast, crew, equipment, etc. Oh, yes, you have to raise the cash, too. We estimated that the overall cost would be about £3000, and it was. Four hundred and fifty for the Abbey Laird Hall, seventy five to register and be a part of the official Fringe, hundreds for publicity, and probably not enough hundreds at that, more hundreds for transport, more for sets, makeup, costumes, insurance, bits, pieces, you wouldn't believe how many bits and pieces, lots more for everything I've forgotten, and about eleven hundred for accommodation. Accommodation, as a word, doesn't really do justice to what we got. On the trail of what sounded like a palace, we sent Dave Birch up to Edinburgh to check it out. We didn't get the palace.

"Imagine a youth club in Harlem" Dave, cautiously telephoned the results of his reconnaissance, "or the barracks in Sergeant Bilko ..."

"Book it" I said. You're supposed to be decisive if you're a director. The pips went before I could blame him for anything. Accommodation fixed, venue fixed, plays not fixed but in rehearsal, transport to be arranged, everything else to be arranged, the problem remained the money. We begged ourselves silly, wrote letters, humbled ourselves left, right and centre, and the money came rolling in; the proceeds from the Spring Fair from the Parents' Association, £200 from the Old Roan Association, £300 from a performance of "The Fence" at the Albany Empire, ticket sales from performances at school, £100 from a raffle of art work donated by fifth- and sixth-formers, more from local charities, the free use of the minibus from the Governors, a van from Greenwich Council, £500 from the London Festival of Youth, which they then decided not to give us, and several private donations from members of staff, and fifty pounds each from the twenty-one members of the Ordinary Level Theatre Company.

I seem to recall an awful lot of putting things in boxes about this time. To be strictly

truthful, I remember Brian Hoy and the stage crew putting things in boxes, while Kevin, Dave and I wrung our hands and tried to direct two weeks of intensive rehearsals at the beginning of the summer holidays. Kevin, having been persuaded by the increasingly anguished shrieks of the cast to stop rewriting 'The Fence', had to wring his hands harder than Dave or myself, and cope with typewriter withdrawal symptoms.

I had made myself responsible for the transport arrangements, and decided that I should take my car, the stage manager, Cressida McDowell, and two others, as an advance party, leaving before the others, 'just in case'. My decision was strongly influenced by the known tendency of some members of the cast to sing very loudly indeed for long periods of time. They did, apparently, and I don't regret the onerous command decision to lead from in front one little bit, although those who arrived with their ears throbbing still mutter resentfully. Even before my early departure, Bob Haris and his van, on loan from Greenwich Council, had loaded most of the gear, so all we had to do was go.

After an educational stop to see Hadrian's Wall, which left the majority of the advance party unimpressed, we got to Edinburgh. "It must be one of these disused factories" suggested Cressida rather warily, as we drove into Blackfriars Street. It was. "They'll go mad. They'll never believe this" we said to each other not quite believing it ourselves. Dave had been right. It became known as 'Bleak House', even to the staff, who suddenly found themselves in the middle of a show-biz melodrama, and who loved it. The beds were awful, the facilities rudimentary, the decor appalling, I liked it, the others were more reticent.

The advance party, Cressida, Chilvers, Mienie the Minx and myself contrived to be at the Abbey Laird Hall when the others arrived the following day, just in case the cast decided to return home after spotting the accommodation, but their howls of rage and outrage at the lack of places to plug in the shavers and hair dryers were soon exhausted, and after a while 'Bleak House' came to be regarded almost fondly.

We had a dress rehearsal which was interrupted by the Fire Officer, we had a day's rehearsal in a church hall, consisting mainly of me shouting at everyone because I couldn't remember my lines, we were in a parade, and it rained every day. It rained especially hard on the day of the parade, a huge affair, which opens the Edinburgh Festival. Inevitably, we were at the back of the parade and had hours to wait, but Dave and I had a wonderful time shouting at people through our loudhailers (vital for both 'The Fence' and fire practises at school) and entertaining everyone within earshot (you get a lot of fear shot with a loudhailer) with our wit and repartee.

Everyone was dressed in costume. Costume for either of our plays, in fact, which must have confused our potential audiences since those were schoolgirls, a toff in tails, a clown, an American general, another American officer (both with loud hailers, a variety of eccentrics and four policemen with dog leads attached to them in our party. We were stopped by the real police at one point on the grounds that we were fakes, but they were convinced by our papers. No-one else was. The parade was great, we got wet, hoarse, footsore and tired, but we barked and loudhailed

at an awful lot of people.

Next day, August 12th, was opening night, or opening morning, since 'The Time and Motion Show' started at ten thirty a.m. All four people who saw it said they liked it, even though two of them were grown-ups. All twenty-seven people who saw 'The Fence' when that opened at 1.45 that afternoon, seemed to like it, although there were far too many of them to speak to individually! We were guardedly optimistic. Just as in a real show-biz drama, it all depended on the reviews.

The illness of a member of the company, who unfortunately had to be sent home forced the cancellation of Tuesday's 'Time and Motion Show' while we rehearsed Hillary Stallard who was to stand in as the Old Lady in 'The Fence'. The tension caused by this upset considerably alleviated by the appearance of that day's 'Guardian' which ran a major feature on the Ordinary Level Theatre Company, and which had us all walking on air for days. 'The Guardian' article sold quite a few tickets, too, and one of my fond memories is of hearing two people enquire at the box office if this was where the play by the group who were in the paper was. I sold them the tickets myself.

Cancelling the Tuesday performance of the 'Time and Motion Show' was a blow, because eleven people had to be turned away, which was more than ever came again. This was a great shame, especially since the reviewer for 'The Scotsman' was very complimentary about it, and her little daughter like it as well.

After the reviews for 'The Fence' came out, ticket sales grew. The review in 'The Scotsman' was especially favourable, and the 'Festival Times' very complimentary and we began playing to quite respectable houses, far exceeding the Fringe average audience, which is seven. Excitement grew with the arrival of the BBC, who taped an interview, and then invited us to Broadcasting House on our return to London, to record a programme for Radio Four. Things buzzed with the appearance of a researcher from a Channel Four programme, flown up especially on the shuttle to interview us.

Bolstered by the attention and excellent reviews, our performance grew in confidence and professionalism, as did the sense of being part of a company, which remains for me the most satisfying part of the entire enterprise.

I remember standing with Dave Birch each afternoon, peering through the wings, from where we could see both actors and audience, watching the long, very serious middle scene of 'The Fence' becoming aware of the audience leaning more and more forward, many with tears in their eyes, intent on the acting and singing of Hillary, Bella, Claire, Justine, Karen, Benny and Caroline, or the hilarity produced by Nicky, Kevin and Richard's comic Russians, or the powerful reaction drawn by the final song, with the slides of cast members and their fathers projected on a side wall of the theatre ...

I remember, we all remember, lots of things. A few days crammed with a variety of experience; the parade, the performing, handing out leaflets, meeting other performers on equal terms getting tired, everybody getting sore throats, staying

high on non-stop adrenalin, seeing other plays, occasionally sleeping, but above all, learning. Learning to be a group, to be professional, learning to cope well with stress and with a measure of success.

Our final performance on Saturday pulled out all the stops, a marvellous performance, funny and moving, with our biggest audience of the week, as involved as the other audiences had been, and with us afterwards jubilant, tearful and absolutely exhausted.

The whole enterprise was certainly the most powerful experience of my professional career, and I strongly suspect an experience for the students which will prove an increasingly powerful memory, as each member of the company becomes aware of exactly how much more was demanded of them, and of exactly how much each of them achieved.

More thanks than can be easily conveyed are due to all those who encourage us and provided us with the financial support and goodwill to go and try ourselves out. We'd like to go again please.

Frank Hornblower

THE ORDINARY LEVEL THEATRE COMPANY which performed at the Abbey Laird Hall, Bristo Place, Edinburgh, August 12th-17th 1985 was:

Kevin Denford	Joanna Woodcock	Louise Rogers	Brian Hoy
Richard Green	Robert Sivell	Claire Currie	Kevin Hood
Nicholas Khan	Chris Clarke	Benny Tobin	David Birch
John Chilvers	Stephen White	Karen Young	Frank Hornblower
Justine Austen	Cressida McDowall	Caroline Oakes	
Bella Hubble	Hillary Stallard		

"THE TIME AND MOTION SHOW" by David Birch
"THE FENCE" by Kevin Hood

CRITICS VIEW ...

Plot problems too for John Roan School's Ordinary Level Theatre Company. Their *Time and Motion Show* — an ambitious musical for children — has Father Time running out of, er, time and the wicked villainess, Warp, threatening to take over and rearrange history. David Birch's script has some funny characters but it's short on action and long on language. Once again, song and dance save the day.

Times Educational
Supplement

The Fence is an unusual and original play for school pupils to perform. It is strongly pro-nist. The plot concerns a group of women who take over the central control room at Greenham Common with the intention of linking the American computers to their Russian counterparts so that peace talks can take place.

In a sub-plot, one of the women falls in love with a police cadet and the two have to choose between their personal feelings and political commitment. The latter wins.

Talks are finally arranged between the British, Russians and Americans but, like all negotiations, becomes no more than a game of cards. The play ends as the women walk out in disgust singing "It's at daughters like yours, Daddy,

that the missiles are ever so, ever so, carefully aimed" to a backdrop of slides of members of the cast with their fathers.

When it was performed at school, some of the audience left the hall, not expecting a school play that carried such political conviction. And there was the inevitable protest from Lady Olga Maitland. But the head of John Roan and the Chairman of the Board of Governors have remained staunchly loyal to the work done by Frank Hornblower, head of the social education department, in running this particular O level syllabus as a one year intensive sixth form drama course.

The Guardian

CRITICS VIEW ...

THE FENCE
Ordinary Level Theatre
Company

RUSSIAN: "Couldn't we just pretend to negotiate?" American "We've been doing that for years." This play, done by sixth-formers and teachers from a London school, is a strongly pacifist / feminist piece, the fence in question being the one at Greenham. Wars are blamed on male aggressiveness; arms talks are a farce. A narrator and a Lysistrata figure guide a group of women from widely differing backgrounds into the control room at Greenham and a number of confrontations with the police.

Although the variety of techniques used — straight naturalism, songs, poetry, and slides of the real Greenham — makes a somewhat uneasy mixture, the use of deliberately crude caricature is often

hilarious. Policemen are dogs (literally), their master an illiterate U.S. Army general, splendidly played by Frank Hornblower. Caroline Oakes as the youngest of the protestors, Hilary Stallard as the oldest, and Bella Hubble as Lysistrata give particularly good performances.

The end of the play is both affirmative and intensely moving. As the actresses sing, "It's at daughters like yours, Daddy, that the missiles are aimed," we see slides of all of them with their fathers; as we hold on the last picture, an eager, upturned child's face, the four-minute warning siren begins to sound, ominously, over the music. Parts of this play preach to the converted; the final sequence preaches to the unconverted. Abbey Laird Hall, for both categories.

Katharine Way

TIME AND MOTION
SHOW
Ordinary Level Theatre
Company

THE STORY of an immortal Time Council and their bungling efforts to keep Father Time awake while wicked and seductive Warp (Karen Young) attempts to thwart their every move, is humourously presented by a bright and intelligent cast from the John Roan School, South London.

Despite a painfully small audience, they all performed with energy and obvious enjoyment. Punctuated with well written songs by Alf Knott, played on keyboards by Orian Brook, the plot unfolds as temptress Warp enlists the help of seedy fast food salesman McWicker, played by Frank Hornblower, the company's drama teacher.

The play is beautifully written and directed by David Birch, who never misses an opportunity for a good pun. The costumes are clever and imaginative as is the simple but well designed set. It is obvious that a lot of care has been taken with this delightful production for children (Abbey Laird Hall).

Angie Rew

The Scotsman

The Fence

Ordinary Level Theatre Company — 75

1.45 pm until Aug 17

The Fence is written and performed in the tradition of ancient Greek theatre. It is a comedy about a group of Greenham Common women who break into the computerised command centre while the guards (men) are drinking and whoring at the local. Yes, this is a feminist play and one of the better ones. In order to achieve peace the women connect the American and Russian computers which, as well as rendering the silly but

lethal toys useless, fall in love with each other...

The play is performed by a young, talented and lively cast — Karen Young's confident "Singer" and Bella Hubble's forceful "Lysistrata" particularly stand out. The whole show is refreshingly basic, done with minimal props and yet often with great effect. I particularly enjoyed the songs and music and the performance brims with good technical ideas and good lines — "You have to have confidence to make mayonnaise" For those searching for some raw, budding talent at this year's Fringe this play will not disappoint. M.P.

Festival Times



THE CLASS OF '62

This photograph appeared on the front page of the South East London and Kentish Mercury in August last year. It shows the reunion of girls who went to Devonshire Drive in 1962. The girls, who are now aged 34/35, are pictured at the base of the Wolfe Statue in Greenwich Park.

The reunion was organised by Diana Cordwell (nee Montague) who managed to trace 26 of the original class, although not all could attend. One girl now lives in Australia but others travelled from around Britain to be there.

The last time most of the girls saw each other was when they left school in 1969 and there was some difficulty in recognising each other.

And what had become of the class. The article which accompanied the photograph threw up some interesting statistics. There was something like a 50% divorce rate amongst those present. 20% were on second marriages and they had about 60 children between them. Two had never been married. "It was like a reflection of society" Diana was quoted as saying.

Oh yes and who's who ...

THE CLASS OF '62

Back row: Brenda Purkiss, Marylin Judson, Gillian Finch, Jacqueline Lelliott, Christine Clements, Paulette Roiz de Sa

Front row: Linda Spring, Catherine Saltmarsh, Jane Hackett, Barbara Bray, Pat O'Brien, Diana Montague, Yvonne Roiz de Sa, Mary White.

Photo: with kind thanks to the Mercury Group.



CHAMPIONS OF THE NORTH KENT LEAGUE 1985

From left to right: G. Lawrence, J. Bain, K. Calnan, Mustaq, A. Khan, N. Khan, D. Sears, R. Dale, M. Squires, K. Barron, T. Ali.

CRICKET CLUB

(Hon. Sec. K. Barron, 25 Liffler Road, Plumstead, SE18 1AU)

Mr. D. B. Close (Yorkshire, Somerset and England) "He was without doubt the finest header of a cricket ball of his generation". P. Tinniswood.

At the time of writing this report the season has barely begun. Weather permitting, a long and successful season is anticipated and early results are promising.

Following his success as Captain last season, Nazir Khan has again donned the cap as Saturday 1st XI Skipper.

It would appear that success follows him, for during the closed season he has also led a league winning team in the Marley indoor 6-A-Side competition. Congratulations go to Nazir and his team and thanks go to Daniel Perry and Graham Briscoe who scored and umpired throughout the competition.

The dubious task of the Saturday 2nd XI Captaincy goes to Keith Barron. It is hoped that he receives better fortunes than did his predecessor Len Sales last season.

On Sundays all three skipperhips have changed hands. The 1st IX will be run by Dan Calnan. This is an excellent choice as Dan has served the Club as a player for many years.

The 2nd XI has been taken over by Lawrence 'Spot' Hughes. Spot has the unenviable task of following in the footsteps of Graham Johnson who, having captained one or other of the two 2nd XI's for six years, has finally decided to let someone else have a go. However, he has agreed to be Spot's Vice-Captain and I am sure he will help Spot in any way he can. Unfortunately, due to work commitments abroad Alan Goodyear can no longer Captain the 3rd XI; a job he carried out very well last season. Alan will be sadly missed and the Club's wishes go with him in his new venture. Consequently, the 3rd XI have decided that the task is too much for one person. They have decided they would rather be run by a collective of Ray Mills, Tim Fish and Peter 'Oz' Osbourne. I hope that with three heads working on raising a team that they may be able to persuade more players to come out of the 'woodwork' and allow some of the more able players to play for the 1st and 2nd XI sides.

The Annual Supper, which was held in February was as usual and enjoyable evening. It was somewhat disappointing however that more of the current players did not attend.

Thanks go to Viv Lawrence and Terry Chance for organising the evening and to Monty Smith for collecting names and money.

Congratulations are due to Dave Andrews who has recently qualified as an official umpire. His enthusiasm does him proud.

It only remains for me to thank the school, for the continued use of the School Field and its facilities, and in particular Ray Keeling who I am sure will be

providing us with good wickets in the forthcoming season.

Hoping for a good season for players new and old; let the games begin ...

★ PLAYERS AND UMPIRES ★

For the Club to continue on its present successful run we need new 'young' players. If you don't want to come alone bring a friend, all are welcome. (Contact: Keith Barron at the above address).

Umpires are required on both days but particularly on Saturdays when we play in the league. If you are only available for one or two games it would help. (If interested contact: Dave Andrews, 2 Aldeburgh St., Greenwich, SE10 0RR).

Keith Barron

Footnote

The following article first appeared in Cover Point in 1981. It is dedicated to all those skippers who don't shirk from their responsibilities. The author wishes (for libel reasons), to remain anonymous.

To wile away the long rain filled afternoons all sides have come up with a number of dressing room diversions. Traditional games like bridge and pontoon have taken a back seat with our present players and there is a general rush to commandeer the old maid and happy family packs or to secure the snakes and ladders board.

However, the favourite game of all players is 'Sucking up to the Skipper'. This is a game open to all but the very newest member of the team. It generally begins with the Skipper arriving slightly late and out of breath, asking "Can someone bring in the bag please?" A chorus of "Get lost" greets this request. Next the Skipper asks, "Has anyone put out the boundary boards?", to which the universal reply is "Where's Roger". Further requests such as, "Can anyone remember where we left the umpires' coats?", or "Who's got the heavy bails?" are generally met with total silence or the occasional less than helpful comment, "I dunno, what d'you think we voted you skipper for, you great big fairy".

One of the highlights of the pre-match preparations is T-Numbers, a mind boggling exercise of utter futility. Finding everyone otherwise occupied our hapless skipper goes in search of players, opposition, hangers-on, wives, sweethearts and an assortment of kids, putting the age old question, "How many?", to which come the traditional reply, "Hang-on a minute, 2 plus ½ and maybe another ½ more — but she's probably going to score — you better ask Shiela, but I make it 3 and 3 halves, sorry can I change that?" The tea ladies, despite these ritualistic gymnastics in number juggling have for the last 30 years always set out the same number of teas.

'Sucking up to the Skipper' goes on all day both on and off the field. Generally the longer a player has been in the side and the more secure he feels of his place, the better he is at the game. Asked to field at deep fine leg or third man, our expert will pretend not to have heard and will position himself in his favourite position, generally first slip. There he will stand all afternoon — immobile. Any instructions

to move elsewhere will be met by, "Sorry old fruit, I hurt my leg gardening yesterday".

Bowlers are particularly adept. They come in three categories, (i) The aggressive — "I'll let you know when I'm ready to come off; (ii) The Reverend — "I'm not bowling unless I can open", and (iii) The boring — "I think my tweakers are just the ticket today skip".

A skipper who has any wish to influence the batting order had better watch out. Come what may four people will automatically pad up despite the fact that between them they have only managed to produce 23 runs in the last three games. Faced with this fait accompli our hapless skipper will attempt to perm the other 7 positions as well as find two umpires and a scorer. T numbers will also continue to nag at his conscience. "Do we really need 46 teas?" he will ask himself.

"How about number 5 today Aggers?" "Get lost, I'm knackered isn't there anyone else in this team?" retorts our amiable friend. "Number 11 o.k. as usual Fred?" "What! I nearly won the game for you last week. It that all the thanks I get?" "How about number 8 John, and could you do the first umpiring stint please?" "Love to help you out squire, but unfortunately I've got to mend the kids' bikes".

Eventually the game over, our skipper knows better than to ask anyone to pack the bag, collect the subs, bring in the boundary boards, retrieve the scoreboard numbers, return the deck-chairs, pay the tea ladies, check the score book, ask about availability, hunt for an opponents lost bat, smile at the wife etc., etc. By now the showers are stone cold, the dressing room floor is awash and he's forgotten his towel. Tired but happy, for today was a rare win, our skipper staggers into the bar to be greeted by a chorus of "Skippers jug!! Come on you old fool. We won it for you today. My glass is empty!"

FOOTBALL CLUB

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

From a Club point of view the 1985/86 season was most disappointing with adverse weather conditions and the reluctance of many players to make themselves regularly available afterwards pulling the overall standard of play down to a pretty low ebb. A meeting called for all Club members was held on a Saturday evening towards the end of April when less than 50 bothered to turn up! So much for dedication! Nevertheless much good sense was offered and many views from the floor given an airing so maybe the good seeds will auger well for next season.

The 1st XI with more than their fair share of injuries and unfortunately, for various reasons different leaders, seemed to lose their way — and their players! They even had difficulty in raising a side to play a Semi-Final! What does motivate players? The bright spots are few but nice to see Ray Mills back from niggling injuries and the emergence of Darren Pruce and John Lander who will both be 1st XI players for the future providing they remember that word — dedication.

The loss of Terry Tierney in a fatal car crash was a crushing blow — he had so much to offer. Our heartfelt condolences to his family.

Doug Weaver once again worked wonders with an ever changing 2nd XI situation and particularly towards the end of the season seemed to keep the top of the Club from coming to a grinding halt when it would have been much easier for him to enjoy himself in the Vets XI. Thanks Doug!

The well being of the 3rd XI wasn't helped when Dave Ellis moved out of the area but had managed to pick up enough points by mid-term to 'afford' a most lean time towards the end of the season when they found themselves playing twice and sometimes three times in a week, without much reward.

Paul Murphy kept the 4th XI playing on a fairly even keel by introducing some of the younger players from their cliques in lower elevens as did Steve Nelson when he assumed control of the troubled 5th XI midway through the season and helped by Seamus Galagher's good office managed to get even more young players from the School. It was this influx that enable the Club to decide to continue with five league sides next season.

Mike Titheridge's Veterans XI — or 18 — had a happy and mostly successful season and will no doubt go from strength to strength with many more players poised to make the step into non-competitive soccer. This long term situation is fine for the Vets but in the short run often prematurely takes out the guiding lights from some of the other lower elevens.

It is imperative that everyone interested in the Football Club should attend the A.G.M. at the Pavilion on Thursday 14th August 1986 at 9.00pm. The future depends on it! You have been informed.

Geoff Sawyer

Footnote

Many OR's will have fond memories of Charlton Athletic. It is ironic that the season which saw their departure from the Valley to play in a supermarket car park at Crystal Palace should also be the year of their re-emergence amongst soccer's elite.

The Valley was a special place. This natural amphitheatre allowed panoramic views over docklands but it required a head for heights to mount that vast East Terrace, particularly when a cold wind was blowing in off the Thames. The 'Grandstand' was all corrugated-iron. The northern stand, behind the goal, was one vast shed and did little to keep out the elements. However, the emergence of the "Haddicks" from the tunnel to the strains of 'The Red Red Robin' remains an endearing memory of childhood.

Charlton entered the football league in 1921. By 1936 they were in the First Division following a unique rise from the 3rd Division South in three consecutive seasons. In 1938 over 75,000 spectators crammed into the Valley to watch a cup-tie against Aston Villa. Even in the 1970s, with the crowd capacity reduced to

a mere 66,000 the Valley remained the largest ground in the Football League.

Charlton remained a strong force during and after the war when they had the pick of the postings of players from the Royal Dockyard and Woolwich Garrison. In 1946 they got to Wembley only to be beaten 4-1 by Derby County. They returned the next year to lift the cup with a 1-0 victory over Burnley. They remained a 1st Division side until the 1956-57 season. The following year they failed to gain a home draw in their final game against Blackburn Rovers for a swift return to the 1st Division. For the next three decades they played with the also rans in the second and third divisions.

One cannot talk of Charlton without mentioning some of the personalities involved. Duffy, Welsh, Shreeve, the two Turners and 'Sailor' Brown were some of the stars of the glory years. Sam Bartram, with his freckles, carrot mopped head, and bottle-green hand knitted jumper spanned the generations and became a legend. Derek Upton with a possee of South Africans, Leary, Firmani, Forbes, O'Linn, Hewie and Uytendogaardt saw them through the 1950s and into the 1960s. Lawrie, Glover, Bonds, Bailey, our own Brian Kinsey, 'marvellous' Marvin Hinton and Peacock played them into the 1970s. Of more recent players the names of Flanagan, Walsh, Hales, Johns, Tydeman and Aizlewood spring to mind. We each have our favourites.

Behind the scenes there was the controlling omni-presence of the Glikstens. Jimmy Seed and Jimmy Trotter, both long-serving managers, gave a sense of continuity to the Club. This has been lost in recent years with a whole succession of managers some of whom have not lasted long enough to get their feet under the desk. Amongst the more memorable were Bob Stokoe, Theo Foley, Mike Bailey and the present incumbent Lennie Lawrence.

But the most enduring memory, for this supporter at least, was the remarkable turn-around against Huddersfield Town. Trailing 1-5 with only 20 minutes to go the late John Summers scored 5 times to snatch a 7-6 victory. Now that was a game to recall for one's grandchildren.

The School has a number of connections with Charlton. Not only have we provided players at all levels, but Charlton players have coached the school teams. One leg of the first of the school's successes in the English Individual Schools' Championships was played at the Valley. Before the appearance of floodlights FA Cup replays were played on mid-week afternoons. It is not clear whether the Headmaster Mr Gilbert held shares in the Club (I suspect not) but he did allow any boy (with the appropriate parental chitty) to attend such replays. A visiting spectator would on such occasions be forgiven for thinking that Charlton played in green!

And what of the future? Will their recent success force a return to the Valley? Will the Gliksten connection finally disappear? Will their rise be followed by an immediate fall? One thing seems clear. The mutual warmth as 50,000 spectators made their slow way home through the narrow streets around the Valley will never be experienced by supporters again.

EXTRACTS

OPENING OF THE WAR MEMORIAL ROOM

The Opening of the War Memorial Room on Sunday, 15th July, was at one and the same time a sad and a happy occasion. Dedicated to the memory of those O.R.'s who fell in the 1939-45 war, the Room reminds us that not less than seventy-three made the supreme sacrifice. Opened as a place where O.R. friends may meet one another it provides opportunities for many happy gatherings.

The Pavilion was full of relatives and friends when the Rev. Canon W. T. Money and the Rev. S. Nason entered and jointly conducted the service. A section of the School Choir led the singing. The Headmaster read the names of the Old Roans who fell in the war. Mr. W.J.R. Bullers, Governor of the School and President of the O.R.A., unveiled the Memorial Tablet and Canon Money gave an address.

The ceremony was brief, the words were simple. But who can tell the thought of those present? To many it was a poignant half-hour, for it brought again an echo of the voice that is still.

Thus the third and last project of the Roan War Memorial Fund was completed.

The Memorial Tablet over the fireplace is a beautiful piece of craftsmanship by Mr. C. H. Galliford (Old Roan):

"THIS ROOM WAS OPENED IN 1956
TO COMMEMORATE ALL OLD ROANS
WHO FELL IN THE WORLD WAR
1939-1945

Roan Magazine, December 1956

Many clubs and activities are run by the girls after school with the help of the Staff. These are: Choir, Music Club, Science Club, Dramatic Club and Athenean Society (Sixth form discussion group). The Staff arrange school journeys and foreign holidays as well as foreign correspondence.

The School is divided into four houses named after famous local houses: Chesterfield, Dartmouth, Queen's and Vanbrugh. Girls can gain or lose marks for their house for conduct, work and games. Cups and trophies are awarded each year.

It is the aim of the School to provide an orderly and happy environment where girls can develop self-control and initiative and where they can be trained to think clearly and to enjoy our cultural heritage. In Form VI prefects are elected to help maintain a good standard of manners and discipline and to carry on the best traditions of the school.

School Prospectus, circa 1950

We have good news of several of our former French Assistants. Mlle. Renée Fremond has been teaching at a Lycée in Alexandria, visiting Rome and Naples on her journey to Egypt.

Mlle. Baligant is in England studying for an examination which will qualify her to teach English in a French Training College, and visited us last week. Mlle. Roquillas is teaching at a boys' school at Cholet in Vendée. Mlle. Darotchetché has a secondary school post and enjoys winter sports in the Pyrenees.

We welcome this year Mlle. Suzanne Christoflour, whose charming article in the present issue shows that she is no longer a stranger, and also Miss Widdowson and Miss Ries of the London Institute of Education, Miss Hobday of King's College, Miss Hughes of St. Christopher's College and Miss Howarth of the University of Oxford Training Department.

Roan Gazette 1934

I first saw the Roan School on a dark and foggy day in the December before last. Despite the gloominess of the day my first impression of the School was of a very friendly place. Now, after a year as Headmistress, I know that my first impression was a true one.

We cannot boast about our school building. It is out of date and inconvenient. Most of the form rooms are too small. We have no dining room. The games field is miles away. All this is a great pity, but perhaps it does help us to see what the Roan School really is. It is not a building — a place to which we come to learn or to teach — it is us, girls and staff, present and past.

I am very grateful that from the beginning of my first term I was made to feel truly part of the Roan.

M.S.C.

Roan Gazette 1963

LORD, dismiss us with Thy blessing,
Thanks for mercies past receive;
Pardon all, their faults confessing;
Time That's lost may all retrieve;
May Thy children
Ne'er again Thy Spirit grieve.

Bless Thou all our days of leisure;
Help us selfish lures to flee;
Sanctify our every pleasure;
Pure and blameless may it be;
May our gladness
Draw us evermore to Thee.

By Thy kindly influence cherish
 All the good we here have gain'd;
 May all taint of evil perish
 By Thy mightier power restrain'd;
 Seek we ever
 Knowledge pure and love unfeign'd.

Let Thy father-hand be shielding
 All who here shall meet no more;
 May their seed-time past be yielding
 Year by year a richer store;
 Those returning,
 Make more faithful than before.

H.J. Buckoll, 1803-71

"... days of passion ... days of pride"

When evacuation commenced in 1939, we embarked very early in the morning, and, on arrival at Robertsbridge, were despatched to Ticehurst, where the local residents, ready and eager to accommodate the evacuees, were shocked to receive large schoolboys rather than the anticipated expectant mothers!

So much seemed to happen during those first few weeks of the war, that it is hard to appreciate that we were only at Ticehurst for three weeks. The senior School then departed for Bexhill and the juniors for Rye. We spent a very snowy winter there. We held one prizegiving there, and then we were packed off to Wales. Some O.R.'s may remember the hectic packing of textbooks, etc, by the seniors into railway trucks in the Bexhill goods yard and the seemingly endless train journey to Wales. Our reception was marvellous.

We were all very impressed by the generous hospitality of the Welsh in Ammanford, although they had hardly appreciated the *extent* of the war. I recall remarking on their lack of blackout. But they were very worried about the danger of a gas attack, and, in fact, when they heard that I was a chemist, I was enlisted

MR. BINNIE'S THIRD FORM 1937



Hoare, A. James, C. Gill, P. Ofwood, R. Haggett, N. Barnes, C. Ayling, A. Ross, W. Perks, L. Chadwell, R. Tate, A.
 Chatley, A. Reading, J. Phillips, A. Clark, C. Hayward, J. Jones, P. Scott, H. Lamb, P. Hall, R. Oakes, E.
 E. Naylor, P. Hyde, C. Mr. Binnie, Smith, L. Baker, H. Cotterell, D. Boltions, S. Halford, P.

to lecture a large proportion of the population in the Miner's Hall on the subject. We were also asked to become expert fire fighters. As far as I can recall, I was given a stirrup pump and told to crawl into a small summer house, with a minute fire in one corner, and extinguish it. I recently came across the "certificate" I was awarded for this extreme skill.

We introduced quite an academic atmosphere into Ammanford, as we flitted from chapel room to chapel room on bikes, but without the flowing gowns. We all became expert cyclists, in fact, it was not unusual for some of the seniors to visit their homes in Greenwich and cycle all the way back in one night. And, in spite of the distance, those of us who were there will always remember the loyalty and devoted interest in all things Roan maintained by the Chairman of the Governors, Mr. H.W.H. Icough, who always found the time to visit us for Prize Givings and other occasions.

The townsfolk greatly admired the A.T.C. whenever we marched through the town on ceremonial occasions proudly, in R.A.F. blue, led by F/O Tommy Holt (with P/O Lionel Berry trailing in the rear!).

There must be quite a few former evacuees who remember the Sports Days held in the Park and incidents such as Ken Wheeler living up to his reputation of coming last in the mile. I would *still* like to know who 'put the shot' through the bandstand!

One of our proudest achievements was to win the Eistedford, organised for evacuated schools, with an abbreviated extract from Henry IV, Part 1, with MacGregor as Prince Hal. We were asked to abbreviate still further (to 3 minutes!!) for Children's Hour. George Witten and I and others provided background inebriated noises by banging tankards and muttering 'rhubarb', etc. When the broadcast appeared, we all gathered eagerly to hear it. But the record got stuck, so that all we heard, apart, of course, from the excellent tankard noises, was "Shall we be merry, shall we be merry, shall we be merry ..."

Miss Wenden's music, mentioned in the last Newsletter, accompanied by her friend and partner in music making, Miss Monk-Jones, was always welcomed, as one might expect, by the Welsh. On one occasion Roan Boys and Girls combined with those of Ammanford in a very lively entertainment in the Miner's Hall, including singing, sketches, some skilful Welsh girls skipping in unison, and not forgetting the girl who came down to the audience and sat on the knee of our rather dignified Headmaster, Mr. Gilbert.

One other particular incident I should like to recall, which happened after our return to Maze Hill in time for the flying bombs and rockets, was the remarkable effort by the boys when the School was bombed. The corridors were full of debris and broken glass, etc. The lads arrived next day and set to work to shovel it all into the quadrangles.

Normal school was renewed after just one day. It is remarkable how an emergency always brings out the best in people — especially Roan people.

Lionel Berry

GOINGS ON

The long standing dispute within our state education system has yet to be resolved. The issues are of such great significance that the futures of this society's children are at stake. The impasse which exists between polarised professional bodies, local authorities and the government is causing immeasurable damage. Time is not on our side and solutions must be found. There does not seem to me to be a sense of urgency or a true awareness of the real issues. Certainly, teachers feel very undervalued and unloved. They must, of course, make concentrated effort to improve their own image in the eyes of society.

Meanwhile, things do go on at John Roan. The school has survived the seemingly endless disruptions and traumas of working against a background of conflict. The last major drama production was, "Midsummer Night's Dream" — a full-length version with two casts playing alternate evenings. As usual, the level of production was excellent and having reached the heights in the past, the staff involved are to be commended on maintaining our standards.

Music, sport, drama and academic work reflect the hardwork of staff. The offer of curriculum is as wide as ever. Success — however measured — must be seen against a background of reality. We do, as a nation, fail to provide for the needs of many pupils. The vocationally based system of education favoured in Europe does seem to offer a viable alternative. The comprehensive system has not produced sufficient numbers of pupils fit for life and work. That must be admitted. Whether we, as parents, are prepared to allow a system to develop where choices are made at 11 or 12 which will determine what kind of education a child receives is the basis of the argument. How well do we know the abilities, motivation, aspirations and commitment of the 11 and 12 year old?

The old 'O' level/CSE split should be removed with the GCSE. Do the new courses provide the solution? How are we to convince the recalcitrant pupil of the value of anything? How are we going to find teachers to fill jobs — there is a dire shortage in many subject areas. Where are these would-be promoters of enthusiasm and interest. Will we have to resort to market forces to bring in the right people?

Your correspondent has decided to leave London and Roan to seek a new life in East Anglia. Having given twenty years of honest endeavour I have resolved to change career and start afresh. I wish you all well and hope to keep in touch.

Gordon Brooks

DRAMATIC SOCIETY

A year ago this column reported that the Society was rehearsing Alan Ayckbourn's "Time and Time Again". Fran Woodward's production was a success, with Graham Johnson playing the part of an incompetent cricketer* amidst a superb set comprising a garden backing on to a sports field and a conservatory. Never before had the Maze Hill stage had grass, trees, plants and even a pond in which our hero paddled. This was a show where the backstage crew were more important than ever, and congratulations were due to all, especially Paul and Stuart White for the lighting.

Graham had long cherished an ambition to produce Mike Leigh's "Abigail's Party", but had never been entirely happy that he had the right cast available. In September he found the perfect actress for the dominant Beverley — the part in which Alison Steadman created such an impact in both stage and television versions. Newcomer Letta Nagel took on the role and was perfectly matched by Teresa Roe as the simpering Angela. Supported by Anne Chambers, Mike Smith and Trevor Talbot the production in November was a hit. Again the set was a winner, thanks to the hard work of the White brothers, Andy Christodoulou and Brian Hamer.

This year the Society has unfortunately been unable to capitalise on the praise and goodwill earned in recent shows. Plans for another play directed by Fran Woodward fell through at the last moment, and then Graham himself was taken ill with a Kidney infection. Happily he is now recovering and we are looking forward to an autumn production.

The non-availability of Graham and Fran, plus the loss last year of Alf and Beryl Knott has rather depleted our resources this year. If anyone is interested in joining us — in any capacity — we will be pleased to hear from them. Telephone Graham Johnson (859 0621) or Richard Rickson (853 0723).

**(not much acting required here surely — Ed.)*

Richard Rickson

SOME RANDOM REMINISCENCES OF THE O.R.D.S.

You know how it is — you had that photograph/letter/cutting/bill or whatever and you know you kept it — but where? Somewhere safe to be sure — but where? You try the obvious places first, without success, so you try the unlikely ones, and heaven knows there are plenty of those ... and then the discoveries begin. The first thing you realise is that you simply have to do some weeding — for one thing, you need the space. The second is "So that's what happened to that leaflet/programme/etc., etc." and you start reading — and you're lost! In no time at all the time has slipped by; you haven't found what you were looking for, you have untidy piles of papers all over the floor and, quite often, you've derived a great deal of pleasure — and possibly embarrassment — from mementos and reminders of times past. Another way of putting it would be to say that you've lumbered yourself with upwards of half a dozen 'Pending trays' because you cannot bring yourself to throw any of it away — at least, not today ...

This was the situation I recently found myself in having set out to find some memorabilia for an article I had been asked to write — this article in fact. Actually I did find most of what I was looking for — and a lot else beside — which was my rather haphazard accumulation of reviews, programmes and photographs covering twenty-seven years as an active member of the Old Roan Dramatic Society, not counting a brief walking on part in "The Purple Mask" in (ye Gods!) 1939 shortly after which war broke out ...

Funny things happen on the way to the theatre they say, and I must take their word for it, but I know from personal experience that they sure as anything happen when you get there. There was the time when two of the villains had to tie up the hero using two pieces of rope, one for his legs and the other for his arms, and they both started with opposite ends of the same piece. On another occasion, in one of those complex, tortuous murder mysteries, the stock not-too-bright local police sergeant had to review 'the story so far', and having got himself inextricably confused with all the twists in the plot realised he wasn't getting anywhere and said, after an over-long pause and as much to himself as to the audience "Now where was I?" and started over again — with much the same result. I forget how the situation was resolved, but it required a lot of aplomb which was something that Dave Bonner had plenty of ... still has for that matter; on another occasion I recall he was supposed to appear to fall asleep while some crisis was developing, and he really did. He often caused his fellow members of the cast some anxious moments, but he had an indefinable flair for coming across to the audience.

That first episode, with the rope, occurred in "Number 17" in 1937, which was the first O.R.D.S. production I ever saw; I can still recall very clearly the opening scene which was set in a London street on a foggy evening. It was very realistic and was achieved, I found out years later, with swirling dry-ice, cunningly lit and kept from drifting out of the auditorium by a large fine-mesh screen. It was but one example of H.H. Pye's inspired pieces of stage-management which was a

conspicuous (to those who knew, but inconspicuous to those who didn't) feature of all the pre-war production — fog, colliding ships, secret panels for dumping dead bodies into a convenient railway tunnel, a dungeon in the Bastille — nothing defeated him. He trained his successor well too; Colin Walter was his righthand man while still at the School and carried on the good work when the Society restarted after the war, and Horace Abbott did likewise (with possibly even greater ingenuity) after him. As a personal favour when I directed one production, Horace was persuaded to take a small speaking part and rather than learn his words, wrote them out on pieces of paper and stuck them on the up-stage sides of various pieces of furniture and curtains so that he could read them. He was, and is, something of an electrical wizard and backstage sometimes resembled a spaghetti factory with cables everywhere. Some of the sets in those days had to be seen to be believed, and the School stage could hardly be smaller. We usually tried to put on plays that did not call for many scene changes, but when they were necessary they were managed. For example, the Society celebrated its Silver Jubilee in 1953 with "Hyde Park Corner", a play that Alfie Knott always insisted he never understood even though he had a leading part; the opening scene of Act I called for 'A Drawing Room in ... Mayfair on an evening in 1780' and all the cast were in the elaborate costumes of the period; the climax was a duel with swords. Scene 2 was set in Malborough Street Police Court in 1953, and the change of setting and from costume into modern dress had to be effected in no more than four minutes — quite a long time in the theatre. It was done of course and splendidly, but I well remember the anxiety among the male members of the cast as to whether they had everything done up.

This is not going to be the first article about the ORDS that fails to mention Lionel Berry, the founder, long-time producer and inspiration of the Society. Fortunately, the Editor has suggested this could be the first of a series so there will be time and space to do him justice in future issues. (To be continued ...).

Brian Thomas

NEWS OF OLD ROANS

"Friendship is constant in all other things
Save in the office and affairs of love"

"Much Ado About Nothing"

Mary AITCHISON (nee CHAPMAN) (circa 1960) now lives in the wilds of Yorkshire with her husband and 4 children. She works for Martin House, an appeal to build and endow the second children's hospice in the world. Mary has sent us a brochure giving details of the appeal. If any readers would like to know more, or wish to contact Mary, they can do so at Martin House, Boston Spa, Wetherby, West Yorks.

Herbert LATTIN (1923) is another 'northerner'. He lives in Cumbria where cricket remains one of his great interests. He notes from his reading that a match was held in Greenwich Park in 1796 between the 'one-armed' and the 'one-legged' men. The latter won with a score of 105 'runnings'.

We have been sent an old press cutting of a sponsored marathon undertaken by sixth formers from Devonshire Drive. The course of some 30 miles was between the Wolfe statue in Greenwich Park and the Kennedy Memorial at Runnymede. No dates are given but contemporaries should be able to place the event from the following list of participants, namely the Misses Chuter, Fox, Hanison, Bass, Cox, Ford, Collins, Smith, Purkiss, Powell, Palmer, McDougall, Jewell, Delahoy, Foster, Mudge, Pickett and Closs. 3 girls completed the walk and over 13 managed to cover at least 20 miles.

Mention of marathons and Greenwich Park leads us to a letter from Clifford CARTER (29-34) who writes that the annual London Marathon, shown extensively on BBC TV, provides a number of nostalgic scenes for those who have moved away. Clifford now lives near Norwich. After an early career in electrical engineering, during which time he worked in Scotland and the Middle East, he moved with his family to the less polluted air of Norfolk and the life of a village shopkeeper and sub-postmaster. He recalls with affection his days at Roan. There was the time when Mr Potter was so engrossed in working out an equation that he failed to notice that his gown and sleeve were alight from an adjacent bunsen burner. He asks whether others remember the majestic sight of the Graf Zeppelin dipping in salute to the RAF radio station at Kidbrooke? His best man was Christopher James MEDLAND who was posted missing when serving with the West Kent Regiment. A.J. ALEY, who served in the RAF, was another long friendship severed by the war. Do any OR's have news of either of them?

A lot of OR's seem to be settling in East Anglia. Another is Geoff HAZLEWOOD (59-66), who after a number of years working for Lewisham Council now lives near Norwich where he works as the Employee Relations Officer for Norfolk County Council.

Congratulations are due to Don DURBAN (35-39) who was awarded the CBE

in the recent Queen's Birthday Honours List. Don is Joint Deputy Chief Executive of Trusthouse Forte plc.

Dr. R.A. CHAPMAN (48-54) has been appointed to the chair in Physiology, Bristol University. He graduated in zoology from Kings College in 1960 and was awarded his Doctorate at St. Andrews. Following a year in Italy he undertook research work in London and then lectured at Leicester University before his move to Bristol. He is married with three children and is currently serving a three year period as Secretary of the Physiological Society.

Miss BARNSDALE, who we were glad to see in such good spirits at the Devonshire Drive Reunion, has moved to a 'Retirement Home' in Dorset. Her address is The Old Rectory, Langton Matravers and she would welcome visits from Old Girls who remember her.

Frank SCOTT wrote to inform us of the sad death of his brother Bert (28-32). Both played for the football club prior to the war. Bert subsequently moved to Leighton Buzzard where he was a very active member of the local golf club. He had in fact played only three hours before his death. Both brothers become Certified Accountants.

Dave HAWKINS (64-71), our former Treasurer, has moved to the USA to work as a tax adviser to Chevron Corporation in San Francisco. Canon Keith POUND (43-51) is now chaplain General and Archdeacon to the Prison Service.

Doug CASTLE (53-60) writes from Bedford. He suspects that he is one of very few who went into Agriculture. After studying at the Royal Agricultural College, Cirencester, the University of Reading and the National College of Agricultural Engineering he rose to the head of the Min. of Ag. and Fish — Field Drainage Experimental Unit in Cambridge. He also lectures and has been the author/editor of a textbook in his subject.

His main interest at school was the School Scout Troop, which he joined in the later days of Kenneth Binnie & Lionel Morey before Derek Evans, Peter Dawson and Peter Bolton took over. Some readers will be aware that Peter DAWSON (staff) moved on to more exalted things after leaving Roan. Following a spell at Sedgemoor he became Headmaster at Eltham Green where he gained a considerable reputation. More recently he took up the post of General Secretary of the Professional Association of Teachers and is frequently heard/seen in the media. Another ex member of staff with TV connections is Chris HODSON, who directed many of the "Upstairs, Downstairs" episodes which won considerable critical acclaim and are now being repeated for the 'nth' time.

Mike TOMKINS (69-76) is another who has left teaching. His subject was physical education. He has joined Arena U.K. the international sports company.

Roger LADE (72-79) has finished his graphic studies at Sir John Cass College. He is now a practising designer and cartoonist and lives locally.

Cynthia RUSHTON (nee PRATT) (61-65) lives in Ashford, Kent, where she met

up fleetingly with Jane REED (58-65) who teaches in a local school in Ashford. Mary KENNETT (staff) left school in 1963, she has recently moved to Evesham, Worcs. where she is kept busy with her new house and garden.

The recent Ammanford Park photo brought back memories for Frank VICKERS (38-43) who's brother John was one of the missing names. He recalls being evacuated firstly to Stonegate in September 1939 before moving to Rye to spend the first winter of the war. Frank mentioned the names of Don ASHFIELD, R.A. HALL who died in 1982, G. HAWES who now lives in Catford, and Messrs ALKINS, EAST and MOSS of whom we have no further news.

One of the mentioned — Don ASHFIELD (35-42) became an Engineering Cadet after leaving School. He was commissioned in the Royal Signals and was attached to the Indian Army. After the war he read engineering in London and became involved in telecommunications. He spent 20 years in the Midlands with the Crown Agents before returning to Bromley, and retirement, as the Director of Civil and Electrical Engineering. He met his wife Olga (nee MORGAN) in Ammanford and they return regularly to visit her family. In answer to Derek Putwain (Chronicle 1985) Don says that he has been a Member of the IEE since 1961.

John WHITELOCK (63-70) lives in Congleton, Cheshire. After graduating from London University in 1973 he did a year of teacher training at Keele. He taught in Warrington for 6 years before moving to be head of the Physics department of a Macclesfield school — not far from Dr Taylor's new residence. At school he played a lot of bridge with Mike Norton, Peter Savage & Dan Whitelock and this has developed into a major interest. He plays for a team in the Staffordshire league & is chairman of his Nantwich Club. Can anyone put him in touch with his former physics master Terry Hall?

Gordon SMITH (26-31) and his wife Clarice (nee WIGGINS) (26-31) are enjoying retirement in Dorset. Gordon, one of our Vice-Presidents, and a former Magazine Correspondent, tells us that recently they spent a week in Cologne celebrating 55 years of friendship with a German acquaintance whom he just met whilst youth hostelling down the Rhine in 1930 with the 'Antient'. Whilst holidaying in Greece last year the Smiths met John CHIDGEY (war years) who lives in Kemsing.

Last summer Ian FOX (79-84) was severely paralysed after diving into the sea and, having spent several months in the spinal unit of Oddstock Hospital, Salisbury, is now confined to a wheel chair. The Association has sent a sum of money from the benevolent fund with the hope that it will make his, and his parents' lives more tolerable. He would welcome letters from his contemporaries to 3 Cherry Tree Avenue, Fareham, PO14 1PY.

The Association has received a letter from Dave SHEA (68-75) who has been selected to take part in Operation Raleigh. Operation Raleigh is a multi-national expedition for young people from all over the World aiming to allow them to come together to work on worthwhile community aid and scientific research projects. The expedition is based on two support ships which will visit many parts of the

World over a four year period. Dave's spell of three months will include Australasia, South America, South East Asia and Antarctica.

As part of his task he has to raise £2,000 which will go towards the cost of his place and to assist in the cost of someone who is not so able to raise money, perhaps due to a disability. This 'Venturer-Help' idea is an integral part of the expedition. Should any member wish to sponsor Dave then cheques payable to the Old Roan Association, with an attached note stating that they are for Operation Raleigh, should be sent to the Treasurer.

Ray WESTWOOD (64-71), a Roan Exhibitioner, has become a fellow of the Institute of Actuaries. Ian SMITH (61-67) is now a Canadian Citizen employed as a fine paper salesman in South Western Ontario. He still misses the Association, especially playing cricket for the 2nd eleven 66-69 and several Isle of Wight tours. Cricket still remains part of his life as he is president and a playing member of the London, Ontario Cricket Team.

The PENDERGASTS have been active in Roan affairs for the last 20 years or so. Garry (63-70) was the first to attend the school followed by Martyn (66-73) and Alison (72-79). The two boys became known as Pud and Mini Pud. Obviously Mum and Dad couldn't be left out. Both became active in the first Parents Association Committee and Mrs Pendergast served as a Governor of the School between 1979-1984. Gary is now deputy head of a junior school in Worthing. Martyn, a recent regular with the Cricket Club, lives locally and teaches French. Alison, now married, is also a teacher in a local junior school. Mrs Pendergast who wrote to us, states that after 22 years of Roan School connections it is nice to be accepted as an Old Roan herself.

It is always pleasant to hear about former members of staff. Alfie KNOTT, who is teaching in Zimbabwe, is as one would expect, fully engrossed in all aspects of his new post. Apart from teaching and organising sport he has found time, together with wife Beryl to appear in local dramatics. In addition, he is running the school, in the absence of the Head (on tennis leave!), producing 'Twelfth Night' as well as appearing as Sir Toby Jug.

Olive and Arthur HOPWOOD (staff) are taking things slightly more easy. They live in happy, fit retirement at Melton, Suffolk and keep in touch (just) with the Fentons, Brooks, Collins and Moreys and also more recent members of staff, Tony Elliot and Richard Thorp.

Another acquaintance of the Hopgood's is Geoff CHAPMAN (31-39) who writes that he regularly meets 'Hoppy', who is a keen and knowledgeable feathered bird watcher. The recent obituary to Len Groves reminds him of the first post war OR cricket season. Harry and Ernie Townsend, Bill Gosling, and Len remained from the pre-war days with Peter Williams and Geoff representing the younger age group. Living locally in Lee, he was regularly press-ganged for wicket rolling duties on a Friday evening. Geoff now lives in Suffolk following a career in teaching, culminating in a Headship.

LOCAL LANDMARKS

Few places can claim a richer heritage in history and noble architecture than Greenwich. Within its bounds were two royal palaces, two royal dockyards, Wren's magnificent Greenwich Hospital for Seamen and the Royal Military Academy. It is now the home of the Royal Arsenal, the Royal Artillery in Woolwich and the Royal Naval College, the National Maritime Museum and the Royal Observatory.

The Roman road from the Continent to London bisects the area and many Roman remains have been found. Most important of these are the temple in Greenwich Park, a hill fort at Charlton and a cemetery in Woolwich. Other indications of early settlements include pre-historic mounds at Shooters Hill and Plumstead and Saxon barrows in Greenwich Park. However, early development was concentrated by the river and this has meant that the area has had close links with England's naval history

In the middle ages Greenwich, Woolwich and Plumstead were fishing villages, lying at the foot of chalk hills which came down close to the river. Blackheath was 'the gateway to London': Wat Tyler camped there in 1381 during the Peasant's Revolt; Jack Cade in 1450; Henry V was welcomed back here from Agincourt by the citizens of London; and Henry VII fought the Cornish rebels here in 1497. Only Plumstead among all the old parishes in the area retains appreciable remains of its medieval church dedicated to St. Nicholas. The most important medieval monument, however, is Eltham Palace, which belonged to the Crown from 1305, and was a favourite royal residence of the 15th and early 16th centuries. The moated site with its splendid hall built by Edward IV make it one of the best preserved of the pre-Tudor royal palaces in the whole of England.

By the time Eltham Palace was built, Greenwich also had a royal establishment. The riverside home of Humphrey, Duke of Gloucester, who enclosed Greenwich Park in 1433, was rebuilt and expanded by Henry VII. Henry VIII was born at Greenwich, christened in the early St. Alfege Church, and he was the founder of the two Royal Dockyards, at Deptford and Woolwich. The Great Harry was built at Woolwich in 1512. Further downstream the area called Woolwich Warren was used for sorting arms from the 16th century, the beginning of the career of the later Royal Arsenal, which by the early 20th century occupied almost the whole of the riverbank from Woolwich to Erith, and was the major armaments factory in Britain.

From the 17th century the history of Greenwich and Woolwich becomes different. Both grew into towns, but while Woolwich was primarily a town of workers, dependent on local industry, Greenwich was a more aristocratic settlement on the fringes of palace and park. After the Civil War, Greenwich Palace was falling down with neglect, but the Queen's House, begun in 1616 for Queen Ann of Denmark, wife of James I, was still utilised. Charles II intended to build a new palace at Greenwich, but the Kings House, now the north west wing of the Royal Naval College, was the only building of this project ever completed. In 1694

William and Mary founded a Royal Hospital for Seamen at Greenwich. Wren designed the buildings, incorporating the Kings House, and Vanbrugh and Hawksmoor helped with the design and building work. James Thornhill was responsible for the magnificent Painted Hall, which later was the setting for Nelson's funeral in 1805. The Hospital ceased to take in pensioners in 1869 and reopened as the Royal Naval College in 1873. Both the Dockyards closed in 1869, throwing many local people out of work. The Victorian era had seen a great increase of industries along the river, but by the 1860s it was not longer suitable for building large naval vessels.

The Royal Observatory in Greenwich Park is another Wren building. It was founded in 1675 for the purpose of discovering longitude. A method was developed dependent on accurate timekeeping, from which evolved Greenwich mean time. The Royal Observatory moved to Herstmonceaux because of the pollution around London, and the buildings are now part of the National Maritime Museum, which also includes Inigo Jones' Queens House, and the other building of the 18th and 19th centuries Royal Naval School

Railways affected the area as elsewhere. The small villages of Charlton, Plumstead, Eltham and Kidbrooke began to grow as the railway passed through to Kent. The open fields of Eltham and Kidbrooke saw housing development in the early decades of this century, both municipal and private; Plumstead and Charlton were Victorian suburbs, but have been much redeveloped in recent times.

Since the mid 1960's the large industrial firms which lined the river between Greenwich and Woolwich have virtually all departed. Firms such as Harveys, AEI, UGB, Delta, Johnson & Phillips, RACS, etc. have been replaced by small factory estates. Other employers such as Stones, Metrogas and the Royal Arsenal are shadows of their former selves.

To bring history right up to date, 1984 saw the opening of the Thames Barrier at Woolwich. It has been called the 'eighth wonder of the world' and is the world's largest moveable flood barrier, spanning the Thames with ten separate mobil steel gates.

St. Alfege Parish Church. Built in 1711-14 by Nicholas Hawksmoor, after the early church had collapsed in a storm. Henry VIII was christened in the early church, and it is the final resting place for Thomas Tallis, the father of church music and James Wolfe, the victor of Quebec.

Cutty Sark Gardens. This area includes many points of interest. The Cutty Sark, famous clipper ship, built on the Clyde in 1869. It has been preserved in dry dock at Greenwich since 1954, and is said to be the finest example of this type of vessel still in existence. Gipsy Moth IV, was Sir Francis Chichester's 54ft sailing ketch in which he made his solo circumnavigation of the world. The Queen knighted Sir Francis at the Royal Naval College. Gipsy Moth IV was placed at this site to compliment the Cutty Sark. Greenwich Foot Tunnel, which connects Greenwich with the Isle of Dogs, was built between 1897 and 1902. It was intended for the use of dockers working in the West India Docks.

Royal Naval College. The four blocks of the college were built to Sir Christopher Wren's master plan. John Webb began the first block in 1662 as a palace for Charles II, but work stopped in 1669, only to be resumed after the Royal Hospital for seamen was founded by William and Mary in 1694. Wren was appointed surveyor, serving 22 years, but building continued, with contributions from Nicholas Hawksmoor, Sir John Vanbrugh and others for over half a century. The Hospital was closed in 1869, and the Royal Naval College was transferred from Portsmouth in 1873. The Chapel and the Painted Hall are open to the public most afternoons. The Painted Hall is second only to the Cistine Chapel in magnificence.

The National Maritime Museum. The central building, the Queen's House, was begun in 1616 by Inigo Jones, for Anne of Denmark and completed by his nephew and pupil John Webb for Henrietta Maria in 1662. This building and many later additions including the Colonnade was occupied by the Royal Hospital School from 1805 to 1933. Since 1934 the buildings have been part of the National Maritime Museum. Contained within its collection and among its staff is a wealth of knowledge about maritime matters.

Royal Observatory. Founded for the purpose of improving navigation by enabling mariners to ascertain their longitude at sea, in 1675. The observatory was built by Wren, and the Rev. John Flamsteed was appointed the first Astronomer Royal. The 18th and 19th centuries saw many new buildings and in 1880 Greenwich Mean Time was made the legal time for Great Britain and the standard international time. In 1884 the Greenwich Meridian was accepted as the 0° line for the world.

Greenwich Park. This was the first Royal park to be enclosed (by Humphrey, Duke of Gloucester in 1433). It was walled by James I in 1619 and laid out by Le Notre for Charles II in 1662. The park has many fine features, including an old hollow oak now held up by Ivy, around which, it is said, that Queen Elizabeth I danced. There is also a deer enclosure in the Wilderness.

Blackheath. This high, breezy plateau probably takes its name from the colour of its soil. The main road across the heath follows the line of the roman road from Dover to London, the same road used by the Canterbury Pilgrims. Wat Tyler's rebels camped here, and it was here that the citizens of London greeted Henry V on his return from Agincourt. Wesley is said to have preached the first of his famous open-air sermons here. Also on Blackheath the game of golf first established itself in England. The heath is surrounded by many fine houses dating from the late 18th century.

Ranger's House. Built in 1720, but considerably extended in the 1750s by its occupant Philip Stanhope, 4th Earl of Chesterfield. In 1902 the LCC bought the house and it was used as tea rooms. Now the Ranger's House provides a fitting setting for the Suffolk Collection of 53 Elizabethan and Jacobean portraits.

The Paragon. Built by Michael Searles in the 1790s. This is the finest example of Georgian architecture in London. The crescent was much spoiled by later additions and badly bombed during the Second World War, but was skillfully restored and converted into flats.

Charlton House. One of the finest examples of Jacobean domestic architecture in the country. The architect is thought to be John Thorpe and construction took place between 1607 and 1612 for Sir Adam Newton.

Royal Artillery Barracks. The Royal Regiment of Artillery was formed at Woolwich Arsenal in 1716. Because of overcrowding at the Arsenal site, in 1772, the Surveyor General was ordered to prepare plans for new barracks on Woolwich Common. The magnificent facade of nearly 1000 feet with a triumphal arch in the centre was constructed in two stages, the eastern half in 1776-81, the western half being complete by 1802.

Royal Military Academy. There was a school for potential officers of the artillery at Woolwich as early as 1719. In 1741 the Board of Ordnance formed an academy and this was situated at the Arsenal. The early 19th century saw the present buildings complete and fully established. Famous students include General Charles Gordon and Lord Kitchener. The Academy known as the 'Shop' was amalgamated with the Royal Military College at Sandhurst in 1947.

Royal Arsenal, Woolwich. Developed from the Royal Laboratory, Carriage Department and Powder House, the arsenal dates from Tudor times and it is the oldest and largest establishment of its kind in Britain. For generations it has been a centre for the manufacture and testing of arms, the main government foundry having moved here from Moorfields in 1715-17. At that time it was called the Warren and in 1805 it was renamed the Royal Arsenal by George III. Up to 70,000 workers were employed here during the First World War.

Eltham Palace. The history of this palace began when Antony Bek, Bishop of Durham, bequeathed his property at Eltham to Edward II. Edward II frequently held tournaments at Eltham, and some say that the Order of the Garter was first established here in 1347. Chaucer was Clerk of Works at Eltham at this time. The banqueting hall with its splendid hammerbeam roof, the only part of the Palace to survive, was built by Edward IV in 1476. Tudor children spent much of their childhoods at Eltham, but after the middle of Henry VIII's reign it lost favour to Greenwich Palace. During the Civil War the Palace fell into decay and the Great Hall was used as a barn until the mid 19th century.

Tudor Barn, Well Hall. This converted barn was probably built in the early 16th century, and was part of the Elizabethan house of William Roper, Sir Thomas More's son-in-law and biographer. The house remained in the Roper family until 1733 when it was sold to Sir Gregory Page, who pulled it down and built a new house. From 1899 to 1922 the house was occupied by Edith Nesbit and was featured in some of her children's stories.

Vanbrugh Castle. Built by Sir John Vanbrugh (Architect & Dramatist) as his own residence in 1717 this striking building with extensive views over the park has been occupied for much of this century as a house for the RAF Boys' School.

JOHN ROAN SCHOOL CHAPTER No 5085

The March Convocation was devoted to Exalting Bro. T.F. Scanlan and Old Roan. The September Convocation will be Installation when we will have the pleasure of installing the Principals for 1986-87.

The regular convocations are held at Oakley House Bromley Common, Bromley, Kent BR2 8HA, on the 4th Tuesday in March, 3rd Tuesday in May and the 4th Tuesday in September (Installation). Companions and Old Roan Masons interested in joining the Chapter should contact: A.J. Jarrett, 19 Meridian Court, Ashford, Kent TN23 2UZ. Telephone Ashford 42534.

JOHN ROAN SCHOOL LODGE No 5085

Secretary W. Bro. R.L. Harmer, 6 Chesterfield Drive, Chipstead, Sevenoaks, Kent TN13 2EG. Telephone: 0732 458880

Another nine months have passed since I wrote a few words about the lodge and as we are now moving towards our Summer months and our thoughts turn to the sound of leather on willow.

The period from May to September each year is when all lodge members stand down from their various duties, and then reassemble on Tuesday evenings to rehearse the ceremonies which will be enacted in October this year, to install Bro. Philip W. Winter (1938-39).

We have been fortunate this year as two former Old Boys have joined the lodge and we hope to initiate another ex-Roan Boy in December. Enquiries from Old Roans who might be interested in the lodge are always welcome. Please get in touch with me!

Our Ladies Festival is on Saturday, 4th October 1986, at the Bexleyheath Civic Centre. Up-to-date information is available from Bro. John S. Card, 49 Belmont Lane, Chislehurst.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BIRTHS

BREWER

to Pauline, wife of Kevin (63-70) on 2nd May 1985, a daughter Marion, a sister for Raymond and Helen.

BRYAN

to Janet (nee Bell) (65-72) and Simon, on 26th April 1985, a son Barry, a brother for Lois aged 3.

BUHL

to Jane, wife of Alan (67-74) on 29th March 1986, a son, Liam.

DOSSETT

to Barbara, wife of Andy (68-75) on 17th November 1984, a

son, Christopher.

- FORWARD** to Maria, wife of Alan (69-76) on 27th December 1984, a daughter, Michelle.
- GILLMAN** to Angela, wife of Steve (65-72) on 29th May 1985, a daughter, Anna Louise.
- KING** to Janet (nee Andrews) (68-74) on 17th April 1986, a son, Daniel Paul, a brother for Stephen.
- MULLINGS** to Wendy, wife of Keith (62-69) on 26th April 1985, a daughter, Zoe Claire, a sister for Calvin.
- NELSON** to Linda (63-70) on 17th February 1985, a daughter, Elizabeth Ann.
- NICHOL** to Cheryl, wife of Ian (61-68) on 25th May 1985, a daughter, Frances Elaine, a sister for Alexander.
- PAGE** to Sue, wife of Andy (68-75) on 27th June 1985, a daughter, Elizabeth Jane.
- RILEY** to Kerry, wife of Nick (68-74) on 3rd January 1985, a daughter, Emma Susanne.
- SPINK** to Sandy, wife of Fred (64-71) on 15th January 1986, a son Peter, a brother for William.
- SOUTH** to Jacqueline (nee Mills) (72-78) wife of Dale, identical twins David and Philip John, on 21st May 1986.
- TALBOT** to Annett (nee Chuter) (65-72), wife of Trevor (65-72) on 28th May 1986, a son, Gary Charles, a brother for Claire.

ENGAGEMENTS

PUDDIFOOT-

LETCHFORD Trevor Puddifoot (64-71) to Tracy Letchford.

THURLEY-

ROBERTS Terry Thurley (66-73) to Barbara Roberts.

WEDDINGS

- FORRESTER-BERRY** on 7th June 1986 at St. Mildred's Church, Lee. Christine Forrester (71-78) to Peter Berry (68-75).
- HINKIN-JONES** on 8th September 1984 at Sevenoaks. Chris Hinkin (71-78) to Heather Jones.
- PAGE-CAULTON** on 6th September 1985 at Sutton. Jeremy Page (71-78) to Emma Caulton.
- SADGROVE-LEWINES** on 5th April 1986 at Trinity Church, Plumstead.

Ian Sadgrove (74-81) to Jill Lewines.

SMITH-BROUGH

on 1st June 1985. Richard Smith (70-77) to Deborah Brough.

ANNIVERSARIES

- SLANEY-LEMARCHAND** on 4th July 1936 at Lambeth Town Hall. Victor Slaney (24-30) to Betty Lemarchand.
- BERRY** on 22nd July 1926. Lionel Berry (Diamond) (Staff 23-63) and Maud Berry.

IN MEMORIAM

MISS MARGARET HOUGH

This is the saddest news I have ever had to write. I have just heard of the sudden death of Miss Margaret Hough at her home in Hawkhurst in Kent. Many generations of girls passed through her hands and in her retirement wrote to her for advice and comfort as I have done myself in the various adversities of life.

She embodied all the best influences of the Roan School. She was just human; not afraid to praise or condemn. She thought of teaching as a vocation. She carried out our Roan motto: *Susceptum perferre munus*. (Carry through the task you have begun.) She never thought of her rights, only of her duties and service to the community. When I asked her to become Second Mistress when half the school returned from Wales to London (a very difficult period) she was loath to accept because she thought her seniors were better qualified. When I told her of a normal increase in salary when she became head of both History and R.I. departments, she was loath to accept. Teaching was a profession and a vocation in those days. After leaving Roan she went to teach voluntarily in a mission school in Barbados. After that, she made her home in Langton Matravers to join her friends Miss Knight, Miss Kirk, Miss Marsh and me.

M.E.B.

M.R. VAMPLEW (1957-64)

Mike Vamplew was a regular member of the cricket XI, fifteen or twenty years ago. He was a solid opening bat who always gave of his best. An amiable and unassuming companion his early death, after a long illness, will sadden all who knew him.

W.C. SOLKHON (1917-23)

Bill Solkhon died on 20th November 1985 at Wannock near Eastbourne following a short illness in his eighty-first year. He was a member of the original Roan Scout Troop and a member of the O.R.A. for over sixty years. He captained the first team at football in 1927/8 and 1928/9. Bill was a schoolteacher full-time from 1926 to 1971 and then part time between 1971 and 1981. Thereafter he continued

private coaching until shortly before his illness. Bill ran the Lewisham Schools District Football team between 1946 and 1971 as well as running the football at the schools in which he served. Bill will be sadly missed by all who knew him. He is survived by a widow and two sons.

D. LUSBY (1921-29)

Don Lusby was the elder of two brothers at school during the 1920s. Both Don and Harold followed their father into the meat trade and Don ultimately became an important wholesaler of meat between Australia and other countries. He retired to Eastbourne some 2 years ago. Don played in the Rugby XV which sprang up for a few years in the mid 1920s.

C. RANDALL

Colin Randall was one of the club's more colourful regulars. His early death at the age of 24, following a road accident on Christmas Eve, was a blow to his many friends. He supported the club staunchly and was always willing to lend a hand wherever is was needed.

He was a fireman at the local Lee Green Fire Station and was accorded a full guard of honour at his funeral. Never short of a few words he will be sadly missed.

F.E.M. SMITH (1916-21)

The sad news of Freddie Smith's death arrived just as we were going to press. Though his primary passion was cricket he was a man of many parts. Together with his wife Paula he was a mainstay of the cricket club for many years. Indeed he continued playing long after the age that most players have retired. His influence on the younger players was considerable and many learnt how to play the game in the proper manner from his example.

Freddie was never slow to speak his mind and many a committee had reason to be grateful for his wise counsel. He held various offices including Treasurer & Vice-President of the Cricket Club, Social Secretary of the Association and in 1959 he was elected President, a position which he undertook with considerable distinction. He leaves a daughter Pat (56-63), to whom we extend our sympathy.

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

BECK, D.R. (09-11) — 2nd July 1985

CLOUSER, C.E. (14-20) — 5th May 1986

EDWARDS, H.G. (18-24) — 18th July 1985

LITTLECOTT, G.H. (23-27) — 1985

OAKLEY, JOAN (nee Saunders) (34-39) — 9th May 1986

SCOTT, H.A. (28-32) — 27th December 1985

STOREY, H.E. (16-24) — 14th September 1985

TIERNEY, T. (77-82) — 24 January 1986

WILTHSHIRE, S.C. (12-16) — 11th October 1985

MacGREGOR, A.M.F.K.E. (36-43) — June 1986

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Football Club AGM	14th August 1986
Annual Dinner	24th October 1986
Annual General Meeting	27th March 1987
Provisional dates of events at the Old Roan Club: (Punch Promotions, organised by Trevor Puddifoot, Steve Nelson and Terry Chance)	
Disco	16th August 1986
Live Group	27th November 1986
Cabaret	18th October 1986
Disco & Fireworks	8th November 1986
Live Group	22nd November 1986
Christmas Eve Cabaret	24th December 1986
New Year's Eve Disco	31st December 1986

Also Punch Promotions Awayday to France	12th September 1986
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