



THE OLD ROAN CHRONICLE

No 1

AUGUST 1981

OLD ROAN ASSOCIATION

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No. 1

August 1981

FROM THE EDITOR

This is the first issue of the Old Roan Association's journal to incorporate news about the former pupils of both the Schools that owe their origins to "Old" John Roan, and as such it marks an important historical occasion. In spite of the heavy burden of costs that its production places upon the Association's finances, the Chronicle is the only link for the whole membership which is scattered all over the world, and there is plenty of evidence that it is greatly valued by Old Roans who, for a variety of reasons are unable to enjoy and maintain the contacts with their contemporaries that are available to those of us who live in and around London and for whom attendance at the various functions, sports activities and the Club is a relatively easy matter. There were no takers for the Editorship in response to the postscript that appeared in the last issue — but we live in hopes!

The new Association could hardly have started more auspiciously than with its Annual General Meeting in March. Not only was the attendance far larger than for many years, but it resulted in the election of a President that it can consider itself fortunate to have, and the first elected lady Vice-President. The new Committee is a good one and can confidently be expected to tackle with energy the many problems on the solution of which the future of the Association depends.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

"When I was a boy I was told that anybody could become President; I'm beginning to believe it," (Clarence Darrow.)

It is twelve years since I joined the Roan School and became part of the tradition which goes back so far and means so much to so many. In those comparatively few years great changes have occurred. We have merged with the Girls' School and Charlton, and the Old Boys' and Old Girls' Associations have come together to form one Association and all without Sir Keith Joseph's financial backing!

As a teacher of Economics I am too well aware of the rapidity of changes and the problems we all face in coming to terms with them. I am impressed though in the way in which both the School and the Old Boys and Girls have approached their respective challenges and have laid good foundations for the success of both institutions.

As an outsider (some say peasant), I have come to regard Greenwich and Blackheath and all that is linked with Roan as part of me — the roots are now deeply set. It is very pleasing then to be able to accept the nomination of President of the O.R.A. and try to add a little to the long tradition.

My old school was in Oxford — they were pleased to see me go. A school which threw up Lawrence of Arabia and Ronnie Barker has much to offer — I left and went to University in Wales, from there it was London and after a spell of three years in Bexley (the school off the Broadway) I joined Roan. I have never been back to school or to University — so what it is that has kept me here so long must be something special; I have tried to analyse it and can only conclude that it must be the people.

I have enjoyed teaching greatly, and the social contacts of football and cricket, often undertaken whilst sipping soothing cordials, have meant much. No doubt one day I shall have to move on and do other things — in the meantime I would genuinely like to be useful as President.

There are ways in which this can be done. The great problem facing all school leavers is that of employment — as we all know. The thought had struck me that there must be many Old Roans who, in every type of occupation, must require youngsters of sixteen or eighteen, boys and girls. If they think they could help us and we could assist them — then between us we could aid a few prospective employees. I already have many contacts and in the past they have proved to be invaluable. I hope a message like this will also be of some help.

It was Eisenhower who said "There is one thing about being President — nobody can tell you when to sit down". I have found this so — it doesn't stop them from telling you to "Shut up!" though!

I hope I can be of some use in my year as President. I'll do my best.

FROM THE SECRETARIES

At the Annual General Meeting (Boys) in 1977 Ron Harmer, then Secretary, speculated that in the not too distant future the Old Roan Association and the Old Roan Girls' Association might combine. After many meetings this event finally happened on 1st September 1980. The outstanding constitutional problem was resolved at the first combined AGM held in March 1981 and the current constitution is now reproduced in this edition of the Chronicle.

The new President, Gordon Brooks (Staff), has quickly got down to business, concentrating our efforts into trying to attract new members from the sixteen and seventeen year old school leavers. At present the feasibility of Junior Membership at a lower rate of subscription than that of full members is being examined.

Ordinary membership subscription of the former Old Roan Association has been £1 for the past seven years and inevitably our Treasurer has had to call attention to the fact that our income from subscriptions falls well short of the cost of producing even one edition of the 'Chronicle'. It was estimated that a fee of £2.50 per annum was necessary to cover current running costs and that figure was duly approved at the 1981 AGM, to become effective from 1st January 1982. Those who pay by Bankers' Order will find an amending form enclosed. Hopefully the new amount can be held for a few years, any increases being met from other sources, as frequently changing Bankers' Orders partially defeats their object.

The membership as at 31st December 1980 was

	Ord. Members	Life Members	Hon. Members	Associate Members
Boys	371	552	3	9
Girls	46	255	—	—
Total	417	807	3	9

We are now looking forward to a greater number of school leavers joining the Association and, in particular, to more Girls using the facilities of the Old Roan Club of which they are now members. Already Linda Nelson (61—70) is hoping to start a Hockey Section and of course this year the annual dinner, which will be held on 30th October 1981, will be a mixed (members only) function. The main function at which guests are most welcome is the dinner and dance, which is to be held on 20th March 1982 at the Surrey Tavern at the Oval. Details of both events will be available from the Social Secretary, Alan Weir (address inside front cover) nearer the dates.

An idea which may of interest to members, particularly those not living near Greenwich, is that of making a video tape showing the new school premises. Under consideration at present is a suggestion that a master tape be made, members would then forward their own tapes to the Association for the master tape to be copied on to theirs and returned. Anyone interested is asked to contact either of the Joint Secretaries.

ORA COMMITTEE MEMBERS AND CONSTITUTION

Following the Association's Annual General Meeting on Friday, 27th March 1981, the committee is now as follows:—

PRESIDENT	G. BROOKS
Immediate Past Presidents	D.E. Billington, H. Henning
Past President	A.S. Berry
Headteacher	Dr A.J. Taylor
(Hon. President)	
Joint Secretaries	A.J. Slaney, Mrs. K.L. Wilkins
Treasurer	J.A. Cramp
Assistant Treasurer	Miss L. Jenne
Social Activities Rep.	A.G. Weir
Magazine Editor	B.R. Thomas
School Staff Reps.	G. Brooks, Mrs. Jean James

Club Representatives

Dramatic Society	Mrs. A. Chambers
Cricket	F. Spink
Football	D. Boon
Old Roan Club	D.A.P. Andrews

Ordinary Committee Members

J. Dennis, Mrs. H. Haslam, N. Haslam, Mrs. J. Hook, Mrs. C. Johnston, Miss K. O'Sullivan, Miss L. Nelson, S. Nelson, T. Roe, G. Sawyer, M. Walpole, Dr. M. Watts.

Vice Presidents

Mrs. M.J. Barber, F.P. Barnes, Miss M.E. Barnsdale, L.J. Berry, K.S. Binnie, W.J. Bullers, G.C. Carter, Miss M.S. Chamberlain, W.L. Garstang, W.S. Gosling, L.W. Groves, Mrs. M. Jeffery, J.V. Lovell, Mrs. B.A. Scott, G.C. Smith.

The OR Association approved the following Constitution at the AGM on 27th March, 1981.

OLD ROAN ASSOCIATION CONSTITUTION AS APPROVED AND ADOPTED AT THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD ON 27th MARCH 1981

(1) **NAME** The Association shall be called "The Old Roan Association".

(2) **AIMS** The aims of the Association are:—

- a) to maintain and develop links between its members, the School and the Staff of the School.
- b) to foster and facilitate the continuance of associations formed at the School.

(3) **MEMBERSHIP**

- a) Membership shall be open to all Former Pupils, past and present members of the Staff and all past and present Governors of the Schools of the Roan Foundation, Greenwich.
- b) All members of the Staff and Governors of the Schools of the Roan Foundation who do not wish to avail themselves of the facilities available under rule 3a shall ex officio be deemed to be Associate members. An Associate member shall be entitled to participate in the amenities of the Association but shall not be liable for any subscription, nor be entitled to vote at meetings or hold office.
- c) Any member whose current subscription is six months in arrear shall cease to be a member, but shall be eligible to rejoin upon payment of the current year's subscription.

(4) **FINANCIAL YEAR**

The financial year of the Association shall be the calendar year.

(5) **SUBSCRIPTION**

The rates of subscription shall, until otherwise determined in General Meeting, be as set forth in the appendix which forms part of this Constitution.

(6) **GENERAL MEETINGS**

- a) The Annual General Meeting shall be held before 1st April, when the Officers and Committee for the ensuing year shall be elected and the audited accounts of the previous calendar year shall be presented.
- b) Extraordinary General Meetings shall be held within thirty days of receipt by the Secretary of a written request from thirty members, or on a resolution of the Committee or General Meeting, the business of such meetings to be restricted to the agenda.
- c) A notice and agenda of every General Meeting shall be published at least fourteen days before any such meeting. No resolution may be brought forward at the Annual General Meeting unless it has reached the Secretary by 1st February.
- d) At any General Meeting the quorum shall be twenty.

(7) OFFICERS

a) The Officers of the Association shall be the President, Secretary, Assistant Secretary, Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer and shall be elected by the Annual General Meeting.

b) The Secretary shall receive an honorarium as set out in the appendix hereto.

(8) COMMITTEE

a) The management of the affairs of the Association shall be vested in the General Committee for the time being.

b) i. The General Committee shall consist of the Officers; the Head Teacher of the School, who shall be the Honorary President of the Old Roan Association; twelve ordinary members elected by the Annual General Meeting; one social activities representative and the magazine editor, both to be elected at the Annual General Meeting; one representative from the Old Roan Club, one representative from each recognised Sports Club, one representative from the Dramatic Society, each to be elected by the Clubs or Society; two members of the Staff of the School, elected by the Staff of the School; two Vice-Presidents. The retiring President shall serve as a member of the Committee for a period of two years following the year of office, during the first of those years as Deputy President.

ii. Four ordinary members of the Committee shall be elected annually for a period of three years, and shall be eligible for re-election at the end of the period. A nomination for election to the Committee stating that the candidate consents to stand and signed by two members must reach the Secretary before the beginning of the General Meeting.

c) The Committee shall have power to co-opt. If a member is co-opted to fill any interim vacancies that occur then the co-opted member shall serve for the unexpired period of the vacancy filled.

d) The Committee shall have power to exclude from membership anyone who, in its opinion, has brought discredit upon the School or Association after notice has been given to attend at a time and place specified to state his or her case. Such decision shall be notified to the next General Meeting.

e) The Committee shall appoint such Sub-Committees as may be deemed necessary and shall define their terms of reference. No Sub-Committee shall consist of more than six members and at least two shall be members of the General Committee.

f) The quorum at any meeting of the General Committee shall be ten.

g) Any member of the Committee who, having been notified, fails to attend three consecutive meetings without an explanation satisfactory to the Committee shall be deemed to have resigned.

h) All Vice-Presidents may attend meetings of the Committee, but shall nominate only two of their number to vote.

(9) ASSOCIATED CLUBS

The Association may recognise any clubs or societies formed by its members for the pursuit of any specified objective so long as the rules and proceedings of such clubs and societies are approved by the General Committee. The Committee shall be notified of any proposed alterations to such approved rules. Such clubs and societies shall be empowered to use the words "Old Roan" in their title. All affiliated clubs and societies shall submit a list of their members when requested by the Secretary.

(10) ASSOCIATION COLOURS

The colours of the Association shall be light blue, dark blue and green. The colours of affiliated clubs must be restricted to combinations of these and the existing School colours. The badge of the Association shall be the School crest with the additional motto "Susceptum perforce munus".

(11) VICE-PRESIDENTS

The Association may elect as Vice-Presidents members of long or outstanding service to the Association.

(12) AUDITORS

The Association shall elect annually two auditors.

(13) ALTERATIONS TO CONSTITUTION

This Constitution may be amended only in accordance with rule 6(c).

(14) OTHER MATTERS

The Committee shall have power to determine any matters not covered by this Constitution.

APPENDIX

SUBSCRIPTION

a) For Annual Members the subscription shall be £2.50 per annum with effect from 1st January 1982. Pupils leaving School and joining the Association after Easter shall pay fifty pence for the remainder of the current year.

b) No new Life Membership subscriptions shall be accepted. However, members who, under previous rules of the Old Roan Association or the Old Roan Girls' Association, paid Life Membership subscriptions shall continue to be Life Members.

HONORARIA

The honorarium payable annually to the Secretary shall be fifty pounds, or such other sum as determined by Committee.

OFFICERS

It is felt desirable that at least two of the Officers of the Old Roan Association should be male and two female.

ORDINARY COMMITTEE MEMBERS

The four members retiring in 1982 and 1983 must be replaced by two male and two female members.

FROM THE TREASURER

One result of the decision to amalgamate the Old Girls' and Boys' Associations was that we should present consolidated financial information. You will find reproduced in this issue the Association's Revenue Account and Balance Sheet. It is evident that the decision taken at the last A.G.M. to increase subscriptions was vitally necessary. In spite of the current excess of Expenditure over Income, the Balance Sheet reveals a sound financial position.

The finances of the Association cannot be discussed without reference to the OLD ROAN CLUB. Receipts in the year to 31st December 1980 were £17,821.00. As a matter of policy, prices are kept at low levels and as a result of this a surplus of only £926.00 was earned in the year. However, this volume of business does add stability to the finances of the Association.

OLD ROAN ASSOCIATION (CONSOLIDATED) Revenue Account for the period ended 31st December, 1980

	1980	1979
	£	£
Income — Subscriptions	428	376
Trading Surplus	8	8
	<u>£ 436</u>	<u>£ 384</u>
Expenditure		
Magazine Costs	1,365	598
Stationery, Postage etc.	41	14
Secretary's Honorarium	50	50
Sundry Expenses	32	28
Depreciation	7	6
Net Cost of Social Functions	53	55
	<u>£1,548</u>	<u>£ 751</u>
Deficit for the period	<u>£1,112</u>	<u>£ 367</u>
Accumulated Fund		
Balance at start of period	4,338	4,338
Add Interest on Investments	£293	£409
Donations	£122	£198
Prior Year Adjustments	—	£(80)
	<u>415</u>	<u>527</u>
	<u>£4,753</u>	<u>£4,865</u>
Less Default on General		
Revenue Account	£1,112	£367
Corporation Tax	101	160
	<u>1,213</u>	<u>527</u>
	<u>£3,540</u>	<u>£4,338</u>

OLD ROAN ASSOCIATION (CONSOLIDATED)
Balance Sheet at 31st December, 1980

	1980		1979	
	£	£	£	£
Fixed Assets at cost	133		133	
Less depreciation	<u>94</u>	39	<u>87</u>	46
Investments at cost				
£1,150 8½% Treasury Stock 1980/82	1,150		1,150	
£3,400 12% Treasury Stock 1995	3,001			
£3,800 10½% Exchequer Stock 1997	2,997			
Money Market Deposits	—		3,709	
Abbey National Building Society	300		389	
Greenwich Building Society — Mary Higgs Fund	230		230	
Lloyds Bank Ltd. — Deposit Account Benevolent Fund	894		776	
	<u>8,566</u>		<u>6,254</u>	
Less Proportion held on behalf of Old Roan Club	2,571	5,995	—	6,254
	<u>£</u>	<u>6,034</u>	<u>£</u>	<u>6,300</u>
Current Assets				
Stock	117		123	
Debtors and Prepayments	127		100	
Cash at Bank and in Hand	546		246	
	<u>£ 790</u>		<u>£ 463</u>	
Current Liabilities				
Creditors and Accruals	632		12	
Old Roan Club — Current a/c	48		(136)	
Corporation Tax	199		309	
	<u>£ 879</u>		<u>£ 185</u>	
Net Current Assets (Liabilities)		(89)		278
		<u>£5,945</u>		<u>£6,578</u>
Represented by:—				
Accumulated Fund		3,540		4,338
Benevolent Fund		717		644
Mary Higgs Fund		254		230
ICough Memorial Fund		1,434		1,366
		<u>£5,945</u>		<u>£6,578</u>

THE OLD ROAN CLUB

Since the report on the Club's activities was last published we have entered into the 25th year, the Silver Jubilee, of the Club's existence. It now seems a far cry from those early days when we had mild ale, and bitter, supplied in wooden barrels selling at 1/4d and 1/6d per pint. For those not versed in imperial currency the modern equivalent of these prices is 6½p and 7½p respectively. At the risk of spreading gloom and despondency the present price for a pint of bitter is 46p and, of course, we no longer serve mild. Notwithstanding this inflationary spiral the Bar prices still compare very favourably with the amounts charged in pubs and in many other clubs. This low price level is the result of our deliberate policy, pursued over the 25 years, of providing amenities for our members and allowing the level of profit to be secondary, although very important, consideration. It is also a reflection of the voluntary work carried out by successive Bar Stewards, Bar Assistants and Club Committees.

Also, since our last report, we have entered into a new phase following the amalgamation of the Old Roan and the Old Roan Girls' Associations. On your behalf I extend a very warm welcome to our "new members" and I am sure that their feminine presence will effect great improvements in the sphere of social activities and in the day to day operations of the Club. Indeed, some of the ladies now sit on the Club Committee and have given considerable help behind the bar. We are all very appreciative of this assistance and I hope that it may encourage a few more of our younger male members to volunteer their services for the occasional bar duty.

As promised, we have now purchased a Pool Table which, although it may pose problems when we wish to use the War Memorial Room for major functions, does provide an additional amenity for members and, at the same time, contributes towards the Club finances. Other improvements are under present consideration and the Club Committee is well aware of the need to adapt the social activities of the Club to meet the needs of all members of whatever age. It is, however, relevant to state that we are trying to cater for a very wide range of "age groups" from 16 to 76 plus and we cannot hope to please all the people all the time.

Finally, may I revert to this rather special year, the twenty fifth of our existence, and invite members to suggest any form of celebration that they consider might be suitable. Already, two of our members, Hilary and Neal Haslam, have produced a commemorative mural but the Committee would welcome some further ideas.

FPB.

OLD ROAN CRICKET CLUB

(Secretary H. Henning 129 Kempton Walk, Shirley, Surrey)

The 1981 season has not been the kindest weatherwise, and there is little to report at this stage about our deeds on the field. The opportunity has therefore been taken to dip into the archives of the club and to chart its progress over the years.

THE FORMATIVE YEARS

It could be argued that the cricket club not only preceeded, but was instrumental in the formation of the Old Roan Association itself. The idea of an association was first explored when a team of old boys met and defeated the school eleven in July 1911. During tea the then Headmaster, T.R.N. Crofts, suggested that a meeting be held at the school to discuss the formation of an old boys association. The meeting was subsequently held and the Association born.

There was however, no regular cricket side. Occasional games against the school were played but with the advent of war the situation was hardly conducive to regular fixtures as the following quote from the 1917 Magazine illustrates:—

“In spite of the absence of so many Old Roans on service it was found possible to rake up a fairly strong side and we were extremely pleased to welcome Lieut. H.W. Daniel, on leave from France, Sergt. T. Strange, Officer Cadet H.E. Smart and last year's school captain N.L. Smith O.S. R.N.V.R. looking every inch a sailor”.

With the cessation of hostilities there was a brief mention of the formation of a cricket club in 1920. An AGM was called, a 10/- subscription levied and a joint secretarial team of the brothers E.G. and H.C. Wall appointed. However there are no details of any matches which may have been played.

Prospects for a permanent cricket club resurfaced when the 1922 Magazine announced:—

“Negotiations are proceeding for a cricket pitch on a well known local ground. At present no definite announcement can be made but there is every prospect of a successful cricket club being formed”.

Though negotiations for the pitch subsequently fell through, arrangements were made for a series of matches on opponents' grounds. A meeting of interested old boys was held on the 10th April 1922, at which the following officials were elected:— Chairman, Mr. T. Manning; Captain, Mr. A.L. Thompson; Secretary, Mr. A.D. Hewlett; Committee Members, Messrs. C.E. Clowser and J.S. Bowles.

Although the club originally intended to field one side, such was the enthusiasm that it was possible, from the outset, to arrange fixtures for a second eleven. First eleven results for that first season were held to be very

satisfactory. Of the 15 matches finished, eight were won, six lost and one drawn. L.R. Watts was singled out for special mention for “his very fine play with both bat and ball”.

Not for the last time the club found themselves in financial difficulty. Despite a balance of 17s 6d in cash at the end of the first season, the club was unable to repay the sum of £2 10s. borrowed from the O.R.A.

1923 was again deemed a successful season. Of 21 games completed 17 were won and 4 lost. Draws were apparently a rarity in those days. The second eleven fared less well, winning 7 of their 16 games, again no draws. Clearly the ball held mastery over the bat. Batting averages, with the honourable exception of G.E. Thompson's (av. 23.5) barely reached double figures. However the averages for the top bowlers Messrs. Cooper, Bowles and Thompson were 2.7, 2.9 and 3.5 respectively!

The captain for a very wet 1924 season was G.R. Parker, who was later to become Vice-Master of the school, with S.E. Lamb in charge of the second eleven. Both sides managed to record a healthy surplus of wins over losses. George Thompson, clearly the star of the times, again took the batting and bowling honours with 406 (av. 29.0) and 65 wickets (av. 4.5). Other consistent performers were G.W. Gilham, (still a vice-president of the club), J.R. Cooper and L.R. Watts.

1925 proved to be the most successful season so far. Indeed the Magazine report stated that the first eleven could take great pride “... for a record which will stand, if not for ever, for many years to come”. The team played 19 games, won 18 and drew 1. Though the batting was improving it was still the bowlers who held sway led by T. Holt and George Thompson, the latter taking 10 for 20 against Mill Hill Park. Tommy Holt's returns included 7 for 10 against Bexleyheath and 8 for 29 against Woolwich Poly. Other opponents in those early days included Old Dunstonians, West Kent Wanderers, Bexley and Sydenham. (1925 appeared to be a memorable year for Thompson for he was also the leading first eleven goal scorer with 32 goals).

George Thompson was to record the club's maiden century the following season, scoring 103 not out, in a total of 211, against Guildhall C.C. According to contemporary accounts the century was all the more meritorious in that the opponents “... fielded Nichols, the Essex fast bowler, who bowled H.L. Collins, the Australian captain, first ball”. 1926 was the year of the general strike which created difficulties not only for the economic well-being of the nation but also in fulfilling fixtures. Nevertheless there were confident predictions that it would not be long before three elevens could be fielded. The first eleven again acquitted itself well, losing only one match. The second eleven, now playing stronger opposition, “... put up a good fight every week, but the palm went more often to the opponents than to themselves”.

After five full seasons the club was well and truly launched. Its successes and failures will be charted in future editions of The Chronicle.

H.H.

FOOTBALL CLUB

(Secretary: G.J. Sawyer, 18 Beaconsfield Close, Blackheath SE3)

There is nothing much to report on at this time of year although plans are in hand to start a brand new season in mid-August. It needs to be a "better than normal" one to compensate for last season's mediocre efforts. The only bright spot in 1980/81 was the 4th XI's achievement of reaching a Cup Final which was a closely fought match played at the Field and witnessed by a fair-sized crowd. They lost 1-0, but everybody present agreed what a fine performance they gave and even seemed to enjoy it! Congratulations to 'Spot' Hughes and his merry men.

The Player of the Year awards were celebrated in a sort of two-tier fashion, but nevertheless seemed to be enjoyed by everyone and our congratulations go to:—

- 1st XI — Rod Pepper
- 2nd XI — Nicky Green
- 3rd XI — Peter Edwards
- 4th XI — Peter Ellis
- 5th XI — Steve Nelson

Because there were players last year who did not get a regular game we have decided for the coming season to resurrect the 6th XI. So please, all you budding players, make the Team Secretaries aware of your existence so that this welcome move will be seen to succeed.

Finally, our warmest thanks to the Groundsman, Cyril Davies, to Vic Brooker (coupled with best wishes for his retirement from business) and indeed to all the Officers of the Club. Let's hope 1981/82 will be a happy time for us all!

THE OLD ROAN DRAMATIC SOCIETY

Since the last edition of the Chronicle the O.R.D.S. has had two successes and one failure. In May of last year Graham Johnson's production of 'The Rose and Crown' by J.B. Priestley came second in its class in the Lewisham Drama Festival. The performance, at the Lewisham Concert Hall, received praise for Graham's direction, for David Hoy's set, and for the performances of the cast.

In the Autumn, rehearsals began for John Dighton's comedy 'Man Alive', but problems with the lighting and the illness of producer, Rae Hammersley, eventually caused the production to be abandoned.

Spirits were at a low ebb when Beryl Knott and Graham Johnson came up with the idea of putting on a revue, something which the Society in all its 50 years had never attempted. With Beryl and Graham co-ordinating affairs, a large amount of material was assembled, some of it newly written by the members themselves and some from the vintage years of revue. The final programme contained items from such worthies as Noel Coward, Peter Cook and Harold Pinter, not to mention Alf Knott.

Produced by Alf and Graham (again!) the revue, which was performed in March of this year, was a popular and financial success; musical numbers and comedy sketches were the main fare, with a Dallas sketch featuring Larry Hagman look-alike, Ivor Hughes, reckoned to be the hit of the show.

In the coming year the Society hope to present a straight play around November, followed by something in a lighter vein in the Spring of 1982. New members are still welcome, acting or backstage, and anyone who wants to produce will be received with open arms.

NEWS OF OLD ROANS

Perceptive readers will notice that the title of this section of the Chronicle has been changed. It was first called 'Of John Roan's Men' in the July 1950 issue — a piece of inspiration on the part of Bill WEDGE who was then the Magazine Correspondent. However, as this is the first Chronicle to reflect the activities of Old Roan Boys and Old Roan Girls in the new Association the simple addition of "Women" after "Men" seemed inappropriate! It has been difficult to think of other alternatives and suggestions would be welcomed — "Of John Roan's Inheritors" perhaps?

The photograph of Mr. Potter and his Staff in the last issue created a lot of interest and led to quite a few letters, including one from Kurt BAC (14-15), who in spite of being at the School at a difficult time and subsequently suffering the rigours of internment while the Great War was in progress, retains very affectionate memories of Roan. As it happened he offered to pass on two of the books that Frank GOLD enquired about in the last issue and we were able to put them in touch. Herr Doktor Bac is now 84 and lives in Dusseldorf, and we wish him well.

On a sadder note, generations of Old Boys will be sorry to learn that Kenneth BINNIE (ex Staff), who has been suffering from ill health for some considerable time has had to go back into hospital at Orpington. His name and some reminiscence about him crop up at almost every gathering of Old Roans; all who knew him hold him in high regard and with affection and wish him well.

It was not long ago that we recorded the award of the CBE to Professor R.E.D. BISHOP (36-43); in addition, he was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society last year, and in May his appointment was announced as Vice Chancellor and Principal of Brunel University — our warmest congratulations.

E.A. WRIGHT (31-38), recently honoured with the CBE, has just retired from Customs and Excise where he was Collector, London Port.

Neal HASLAM (67-74), who did such sterling work for a number of recent years as Steward of the O.R. Club, (see also the marriage announcements), successfully passed the Institute of Bankers examinations last year and is currently working as a dealer in the Foreign Exchange Department of Barclays Bank International at their Union Court office.

Bill SOLKHON writes from Polegate, East Sussex and recalls that many other septuagenarian O.R.s will regret the passing of such stalwarts as George and Albert Thompson, George and Wally Davies, 'Ginger' Higgins, Dave Evans, Bill Findlay and others whose deaths have been recorded in recent issues and many of whom formed the nucleus of the O.R. Sports Clubs after the 14/18 war. He is in the best of health, and would like George Carter to know that he still does 'a spot of teaching now and then'. If any O.R. sports teams visit his part of the world he would be glad to know about it.

Mike DUNFORD (68-71) is working for an Insurance Brokers in Nottingham and does not get the opportunity to visit the Club these days but sends his greetings to his friends.

Among those who the photograph already referred to prompted to write was Frank TWITCHETT (32-37). He retired from an international company in 1976, since when he has been a partner in an office equipment company in Leeds. Last year, the 40th anniversary of the Battle of Britain, he attended a reception at the Guildhall in the City of London to mark the occasion and met R.A. BEARDSLEY (31-37) who was also a pilot in that epic struggle; Bob is now a schoolmaster in Suffolk.

There appeared in the May 1969 issue of the magazine a photograph of the O.R. Football team, which Bill GOSLING (17-22) reckons must have been taken in the 1924/5 or 1925/6 season. For those who still have that issue (and there are probably many) he identifies Don THOMPSON, Bronco HIGGINS, HISCOCK, Bill FINDLAY, Cecil TODD and Norman HENRY (standing) and Tech MANNING, George THOMPSON, Albert (Bomber) THOMPSON, Len LORYMAN and Dick HISEE (seated).

George FRANKLIN (09-16) provided some news about George WALL who was mentioned in the last issue and recalled getting him to repair his and A.H. MEUX's motor bikes at his shop near the junction of Blackheath Hill and Lewisham Road. He also mentions J.G. DRUMMOND, news of whom was sought in the last issue, whose name he believes is on the Christ's Hospital 14-18 Memorial Board.

By a happy chance, a small error in the March 1980 issue, led to a re-union of two O.R.s. This was pointed out by Herbert LISTER (16-23) who confirms that while it was S.T. LISTER (16-20) who presented the Ridger photograph and was a friend of Harold DANIEL (11-16), it was he, H. (Ginger) LISTER who was kind enough to send him the badge he was seeking. We mentioned that S.T. Lister was in poor health and as a result Herbert L. got in touch and a warm friendship developed. We have since learned that S.T. Lister died last May but there is no doubt that this contact gave him a great deal of pleasure, for he was an ardent Old Roan.

Val LOVELL (27-30), now living in Selsey, was kind enough to draw our attention to the death of Jack SPEIGHT (26-29), a contemporary of his at the School. Jack was the 'Daily Mail's' pools expert from 1971 on, and a Freeman of the City of London; in addition to working out permutations, he edited magazines, became Secretary of a golf club and organised golf and other sporting tours.

Following the contact between Kurt Bac and Frank Gold, already referred to above, Frank has asked if anyone can give him news of his cousin, Winifred Sands, who was at the Girls' School circa 20-26.

In December last the Club heard from Kevin TODD (60-68) writing from New Mexico. He was working as an Operations Software Analyst at the Johnston Space Centre and he and his wife Ellen had obviously taken to their new surroundings. They extend an open invitation to call to any O.R.s visiting the area. Did anyone let them have Dave Ellis' address?

John DENNIS (64-71), who is still (his word) working at Guy's Hospital Medical School, tells us that he recently enjoyed a holiday at Cwmllynfell near Ammanford. Several inhabitants still remember the Roan "occupation" with affection. He met the ironmonger who lived out towards Pen-y-banc and who welcomed a brother and sister into his home, but he cannot remember their names — can anyone else? John sends his greetings to the men and women who graduated in 1971.

N.L. HAGGETT (37-41) was recently honoured with the award of the MBE.

(Editor's note: No apology is made for the separation of news of Old Roan boys and Old Roan girls in this issue, but it may be necessary to say that no discrimination of any kind is implied! For one thing, the 'copy' was necessarily prepared separately, and at this stage of the new Association's life it is likely that such news will be of interest to what are, as yet, separate audiences. It is the aim that before long this part of the Chronicle will reflect the new character both of the Association and the School).

GORDON AND CLARICE SMITH (both Old Roans) have moved from Sevenoaks to the West Country and their new address is Culverhay, Gold Hill, Childe Oakeford, Blandford, Dorset. Gordon is a Vice President of the Association and has been associated with the Roan for over 50 years.

We were pleased to hear again from GERALDINE SORUM (nee HILLS) who married a Norwegian and moved to Norway two years or so ago. She says she has settled down well and at long last can communicate in Norwegian, if only in a poor way, and can make herself understood although she has to lapse back into English now and again. She and her husband have bought an old home built in 1890 which had no sewage connection so they have a truly old fashioned loo in the back garden. The house needs quite a lot of work done to it but it has character which, Geraldine says, is something modern Norwegian houses lack tremendously. She is looking forward to moving in August and her new address will be Lundveien 4, 1900 Fetsund, Norway. Geraldine has written as follows about the Queen's visit to the Institute at which she works: "I recently had the pleasure of being on the side-lines during the Queen's State Visit to Norway and have been enlightened about both sides of such an event.

"I work for the Norwegian Geotechnical Institute, NGI, and early this year it was made official that the Queen would be making a short visit during her 4/5 day State Visit to Norway. Well, short it was, lasting only 30 minutes but the planning beforehand took weeks.

"A small number at the Institute were directly involved with the visit but as the day grew closer the coming event was much discussed by all. The obvious sign that something important was about to take place was the cleaning and tidying up that was done. It would be nice to have such an excuse each year for a Spring clean!

"There had to be some last minute removal of slogans that had been painted over the doors of the building the night before the Royal visit. Security was intense during the visit with the Oslo police very much on their toes, even down to policemen posted around the building with rather prominent machine guns. Inside the Queen's own security men had their eyes everywhere and seemed to be totally alert to every move of those watching the proceedings. However, there were no unpleasant incidents and the visit was a grand success.

"During those few minutes at the Institute the Royal Party, comprising Her Majesty the Queen, King Olav, the Duke of Edinburgh and Crown Prince Harald, were briefly informed about NGI and especially our work related to the oilfields in the North Sea, something of mutual interest to Britain and Norway. The Royal party was introduced to the problems of quick clay and a short film of a quick clay landslide was shown. Then the party was taken to the laboratory to see the real thing! Quick clay originated from a marine environment and was left after the glacial retreat of the last Ice Age. Later washing out of salt gave the clay its unstable structure. A sample was cut from what appeared to be a normal stable sample of clay and this was stirred in a dish to produce a clay 'soup'. This

was poured from a height just to prove there was now a liquid clay, with the Queen taking no chances of being splattered and stepping back a few steps. Finally the sample was solidified again by stirring in salt.

"The Queen and King Olav were presented with soil samples taken from the North Sea and contained in handmade crystal cylinders as a souvenir of their visit to NGI. The guest book of the Institute was signed by the four Royals and they departed some five minutes or so after the programmed time."

HELGA DI FALCO (nee BORNSTEIN) was in England in July from her home in America (224 Richmond Avenue, Paterson, New Jersey 07502). After the last Old Girls' News-Sheet she contacted Miss Hough, whom she visited while in this country, and Mary Godley (nee Midgley) whom she knew at School and lives only one hour away from her. More about Helga's visit next time, hopefully.

JANET LUGTON (nee MAY) was at Roan from 1967 to 1973 and she has written to bring us up to date with her career since leaving. She did three years SRN training at Kings College Hospital when she left the Roan and stayed for another year at Kings and Dulwich Hospital with both night and day posts on surgical and medical wards. She then went to the British Hospital for Mothers and Babies in Woolwich where she received an excellent training in midwifery. This was a one year course but it will soon become an eighteen month course because of the intensive programme. At the end of 1978 she returned home to live with her parents in Letchworth and worked for six months as a Staff Midwife in Hitchin Maternity Unit gaining experience before finally deciding midwifery was not really her scene. However she enjoyed her time there and especially the comforts of living at home through a rough winter; part of her job was visiting snow bound villages in her Mini car. She liked the idea of community nursing so after getting married in May 1979 and coming back to London, she applied for a District Nursing post which she began in June last year. In January 1980 she went to Croydon College for four months' District Nursing training which is compulsory before setting out as a District Nurse. Janet's address is 131 Hook Lane, Welling, Kent.

JULIE KOPP (nee BROOKS) has moved house and her new address is 62 Wellesley Avenue, Northwood, Middlesex. Just to close the gap a little on the past sixteen years since Julie left School, she tells us she has been married for eleven years and has two daughters — Sally born September 1974 and Sarah born October 1980.

It was good to renew acquaintance with SUE SEARS (nee PADWICK) who lives at 38 Granville Park, London, S.E.13. She has had great fun collecting information for us about a number of her contemporaries. She ran a Mothers and Toddlers Club in St James Church Hall, Kidbrooke Park Road for about four years and only gave it up when she moved two years ago. She started another Club in Granville Park last October. She attends Art Classes at evening classes and says she often thinks of poor Miss Hall trying to elicit good results from her at School, without much success. Thanks to her for providing news of Old Girls.

SONIA TAYLOR (nee ELSWORTH) is now living in Eltham and has two daughters, Briony and Justine. GILLIAN HARTY (nee ELSWORTH) lives in Greenwich and has one son, John Paul. JANNIS DAVIS (nee ELSWORTH) lives in Eltham and has three daughters, Xanthe, Richie and Amy who was born in August 1980. KAREN McCABE (nee THOMAS) lives in Cheadle, Cheshire and has a daughter, Joanna. JENNY SCHOBERLING (nee JONES) lives in Hamburg, Germany.

PAMELA WHITMORE is married and lives in Chicago, USA. ANDREA COLLINS (nee McDOUGALL) lives in Orpington and has a son, Dominic and a daughter, Victoria. JANET CONNER (nee SHORT) lives in Beckenham and has a daughter Nicola and twin boys of two years. ROSALIE BAMPTON (nee HARDY) lives in Mid Glamorgan, Wales and has two girls, Joanne and Faye. JEAN COUTURE (nee HARDY) lives in Brighton and has two girls, Sally and Julie. JOY RUSTIN is married and lives in Biggin Hill. She has two sons. MABEL HARMER would like to hear from anybody of her vintage — 1925–1933. Her address is 6 Tattenham Grove, Epsom Downs, Surrey.

We have finally had news of ETHEL MINTER'S (nee GIBBONS) new address — she moved about ten years ago! Thank goodness for good neighbours. The address is 24 Chestnut Drive, Polegate, East Sussex. Ethel was at Roan from 1917 to 1921 and her Headmistress was Miss Walker and later Miss Higgs. She says she has a photograph of the whole of the School taken in 1919. Her daughter, Pamela, was at Roan between 1944 and 1948.

We were pleased to hear again from MR. UNSTEAD, Girls' School Caretaker for many years. He moved to a new address — 25 Willoe Glen, 11 Upper Glen Road, St. Leonards-on-Sea, East Sussex — just after last Christmas. He writes that his 26 years spent at the Girls' School between 1936 and 1962 were very happy ones. He recollects that some of the girls often came to him with their problems; "He doesn't understand me" was mostly their complaint when their boyfriend or father was being awkward. They looked upon him as a Father Confessor and, he says, he hopes he was able to give them some comfort and advice. He thinks he cheered them up a little, anyway.

MR. UNSTEAD has written in detail about his trip to South Africa as follows: "We were due to leave Heathrow at 8.22 p.m. on the Friday evening but owing to heavy traffic coming in we were 39 minutes late in starting. The plane was a Jumbo Jet Boeing 747 run by South African Airways and we had a very smooth ride. We stopped in the early hours of the morning somewhere in North Africa for refuelling and were still running late although the pilot had said he hoped to make up the time. As I had to make a connection at Johannesburg and change to another aircraft, I was getting rather anxious. Eventually after encountering heavy winds all the way we arrived in Johannesburg very late. It was 10.55 a.m. and my second plane left at 11.20 a.m. With all the formalities to go through it was impossible to make it; we should have arrived at about 9 a.m. giving me plenty of time. Much to my surprise,

on leaving the aircraft I was met by a young air hostess who asked me if I was Mr. Unstead. I said I was and she conducted me to a car which took me to the arrival hall. All the other passengers had to walk from the plane across the tarmac to the hall. I was rather intrigued by this and asked the hostess why she had come for me. She said they had telexed my son at Cape Town and he knew I would be delayed. When we arrived at the reception hall she told me to wait just inside the door and she would fetch a porter. In the meantime another plane had arrived and all the passengers, including ours, were lined up at the passport control. There must have been well over 500 of them as our plane had carried 358. The porter arrived with the hostess and asked me for my passport and the green arrival form which I had filled in on the plane. He told me to wait for his return and he came back after a few minutes and gave me my passport fully stamped. We then went to collect my luggage; we reached the luggage hall and after I had described my suitcase he picked it off the rotating platform and we proceeded to Customs. In the meantime the hostess who had been with us all the time was carrying my overcoat which I had needed at Heathrow. We then passed the Customs officers and all they asked me was whether I had any hand luggage. My porter left me here after shaking hands and wishing me a happy holiday. The hostess and I went through to the departure lounge where we confirmed my ticket for Cape Town, deposited my luggage and obtained my boarding card. After this, we went to the refreshment room where a waitress gave her a card to sign for my tea and sandwiches and would not hear of me paying for them. The hostess sat me down at a table and said I was to stay there until my flight was called when she would return and pick me up; I was not to move from there as she would know exactly where to find me as by then the place would be full up. I had missed my 11.20 a.m. connection for Cape Town and the next flight would be 2.22 p.m. so I bought a newspaper and settled down for a long wait. All this time I was wondering why I had been singled out for this special treatment. I found out later that my son had written to South African Airways at Johannesburg saying would they look after his Father who was an elderly gentleman coming from England and who used a walking stick. That was why I was being given VIP treatment. When my flight was eventually called, the hostess had not arrived and all the passengers were lining up at the departure gate and I thought if she didn't come soon I would have to get into the line. When the call was repeated I suddenly caught sight of her coming towards me. She took my arm and I felt a bit ashamed as we went in front of everybody else to the head of the line and boarded the plane first. My hostess who had looked after me all this time wished me goodbye and gave me her name and said I was to ask for her on my return. Unfortunately I had a through flight on my return so I was unable to do this.

My second flight was not so good — very bumpy and strong headwinds all the way. We stopped at Kimberley to let some passengers off and take on fuel. After we had been waiting for a long time the pilot said there was a storm overhead and he was not going on whilst it was in progress. We

eventually took off again but made slow progress, arriving at Cape Town at 6.10 p.m. My son and his wife had been waiting there since 1.30 p.m. when I should have arrived. They had received the telex from Johannesburg so they had known I would be late. I told them about the VIP treatment and that was when they told me about the letter they had written to the airline. We left the airport and drove for about 30 minutes to their home at a small place called Tokai.

The house was in beautiful surroundings with mountains on two sides and a wide open space in front which looked like a small park with trees and shrubs and a grass surround. The other members of the family arrived for Christmas, one grandson from Rhodesia, one from the Transvaal and another with his wife and daughter from Natal. My son, who is a ship's officer, was on leave for 6 weeks with a stand-by after until his ship was ready; that was why we had arranged to get together for the reunion. As I had arrived at the beginning of December, they were able to take me around by car to see all the places of interest.

At the end of the Cape peninsula is a lovely nature reserve. One is not allowed to pick the flowers or to disturb the animals. The place covers about 7 miles and one can drive around by the small roads crossing the reserve and so see everything. On the way we used the mountain roads and there were notices saying not to feed the apes as they are dangerous. Needless to say, although we saw several we never left the car.

I was rather surprised by the weather — although it was Summer the temperature was very cool and the winds coming over the mountains very strong and gusty. On one occasion when we visited one of the beaches, the wind was blowing so hard we could not get out of the car and ate our ice creams inside.

I had many happy trips visiting the various wineries and trying the samples, although in some cases you were expected to buy a dozen bottles.

Naturally I took many photographs of the places I visited to remind me in future years of my splendid trip to South Africa in 1979."

In the last Old Roan Chronicle we were asked by Dave Hatwell (48—52) from his office in New York if anyone remembered him — Brian Butler and Brian Dubery from that year remembered him and wrote to him. Dave Hatwell said he will be visiting UK in August this year. Incidentally the photo of the school football team shows all three.



Back Row: Mr. H. W. Gilbert (Head); Butler B.; Dubery B.; Mr. B. T. Westmarland; Topps M.; Francis D.; Carter M.; Mr. L. J. Berry
Front Row: Sampson, E.; Reeves, J.; Elson, T.; Davis, B. (Capt.); Watson, J.; Upton, D.; Hatwell, D.

JOHN ROAN SCHOOL LODGE No. 5085

(Secretary: W. Bro. V.T.J. Penfold, 11 Studland Road, Hanwell, W7 3QU).

Our Master, W. Bro. J.A. Long (1932-37) presided over a most successful year, and one which will have been a very memorable period for him in his Masonic career. On 3rd October next, at the Masonic Centre, Bromley Common, he with his Lady will preside over the Ladies' Festival to which Old Roans and friends are cordially invited.

On 27th October, 1981, at the Installation Meeting, W. Bro. J.A. Long will instal his successor, Br. A.G. Weir (1936-42) a recent President of the Association, and as always the Members of the Lodge will be delighted to meet any other O.R. Masons who can attend that or any other of our meetings at the Bromley Masonic Centre.

The first meeting of the Lodge of Instruction will be held on 8th September 1981, and meetings will follow on Tuesday evenings throughout the rest of the year. All O.R. Masons will be welcome.

JOHN ROAN SCHOOL CHAPTER No. 5085

The Chapter was officially received into the Province of West Kent at the May Convocation by the M.E. Grand Superintendent The Rev. Canon Peter Churton Collins, B.D. and other Grand Officers. We also exalted Bro. A.J. Wallington, the son of one of the Past Principals. The Chapter suffered a great loss by the passing of one of the older Companions in the Name of E. Comp. C.J. Sweeney O.B.E. L.G.C.R. who passed away on the 26th January 1981.

The September Convocation will be devoted to Installing the Principals and to the investiture of the officers for 1981-82. Regular Convocations are held at Oakley House, Bromley Common, Bromley, Kent BR2 8HA on the fourth Tuesday in September, and the third Tuesday in May and June. Companions and Old Roan Masons interested in joining the Chapter should contact the Secretary, A.J. Jarrett, 90, Chislehurst Road, Orpington, Kent BR6 0DN (phone: Orpington 26557).

OLD ROAN PERSONALITIES:

GORDON BROOKS

It is difficult to imagine a better choice as President of the new Old Roan Association at this moment in its history than Gordon Brooks, who was elected at the first Annual General Meeting of the re-constituted Association in March. Not only is he the first member of Staff to hold that office since 1965 but a more genial and active individual would be hard to find.

The new Association's links with the John Roan School are of crucial importance to its future, which is why we can consider ourselves particularly fortunate that the right man has come forward to influence and guide us at exactly the right time.

Gordon has included brief biographical details in his Presidential 'message' in this issue of the Chronicle, but of even greater interest to members of the Association is his close involvement over a number of years with the Club and, more importantly perhaps, with School-leavers. He does not now have his former responsibilities as Careers Master, but as Head of the Sixth Form he is in a position to advise and help those pupils to whom the Association must look for its future well-being. For all those who know him, he is good company with a sense of humour that is to be envied. More than this, however, he possesses an energetic and congenial personality which it is a pleasure and privilege to encounter.

Under his Presidency the Association can look forward with confidence to a successful year in its new form.



MARY JEFFERY

The Old Roan Girls Association had a cherished and popular tradition that the Headmistress of the School should be their President until her retirement when she became a Vice President; their names appear in the list of Association Vice Presidents that appears on Page 4 of the Chronical. These are times of change, however, and among the changes that have affected both the Schools and the two former Associations was the happy decision by the new Old Roan Association at its first Annual General Meeting last March to honour a much loved and respected former mistress of the Roan Girls School by electing her a Vice President – that former mistress was Mary Jeffery.

Her early education began in Eastleigh, Hants., where the three Rs – still the essential foundations for a proper education – were firmly instilled into her system. She went on to become a pupil at the County Grammar School in Winchester where she matriculated and gained her Higher School Certificate (corresponding to to-day's A-levels). At the age of seventeen she won a Hants. Major County Scholarship to Southampton University College (now Southampton University) where she spent three years reading Geography with subsidiary Mathematics and achieved a B.Sc. Special Honours degree of London University. There followed a year's post-graduate course for the Cambridge Teaching Diploma.

Such high academic qualifications were particularly valuable in 1929, when the country was in a severe recession, and stood her in good stead in her search for the teaching job for which she was so obviously well fitted, and she received, on the very same day, offers of posts at Wath-on-Deane, near Doncaster and at Ashford in Kent. In the event she chose the latter, but she often wonders how differently things would have worked out if she had gone north – certainly this story would not have been written if she had, and very many Roan girls are glad that she made the choice she did.

She spent five years at Ashford teaching Geography and Religious Knowledge and has many happy memories of her time there. By a strange coincidence, on a recent visit to Oberammergau, she found herself having lunch with a lady – a grandmother several times over – who suddenly recognised her as the Miss Grant of her Ashford school days, nearly fifty years before!

In 1934, feeling that it was the time for a change, she sought a post in London, and was invited to an interview with Miss M.K. Higgs, then the Headmistress of the Roan Girls School. All her friends told her how fortunate she would be to get a post at a school with such an excellent reputation. As we know, she did, and she remained there for forty-three years. She describes them as totally rewarding, being most friendly, providing a very high standard of education and spent in an area full of history and tradition.

Many new opportunities came her way – there was a School Guide Company which she helped to run with the aid of Miss Horlick (now Lady

Chesterman), and Miss Wretts-Smith; she took an active part in Staff plays and helped to organise School parties. In particular, to quote her own words, she “was lucky in having Geography as (her) teaching subject” because, combined with her own love of travel it gave her the great pleasure of organising School journeys both at home and abroad. These visits ranged from a day-trip to Southampton to see the return of the “Queen Mary” from her maiden voyage, to trips to Copenhagen in 1936, with Miss Wilson and Miss Horlick, and to Cologne and the Rhineland with Miss Richardson and Miss Knight at a time when the ominous signs of the approaching Second World War were all too evident. She recalls with particular pleasure, her work with the Vth and VIth forms during the pre-war years and the field-study weeks spent on the Isle of Wight and in the Swanage area.

In her early years at Roan there were no married teachers, (she herself married in December 1939) and there was a Preparatory Department of some twenty little girls, between seven and ten years of age, who lived in the Music Room; the Hall, the four “new” classrooms and the lower-floor Domestic Science room and the Physics laboratory did not exist. In 1936–7 two adjacent houses in Devonshire Drive were demolished to provide room for the much needed extension, but she “always had a thrill when (she) ascended the stone stairs in the Old Building and as (she)



looked at the worn steps (she) thought of the many generations of girls who had gone up and down them in the past 103 years”.

The advent of the Second World War and its effects on the School are best told in her own words. “Never shall I forget the last week in August 1939 when all London teachers returned from their holidays to standby in their schools to take their pupils out of London for safety. It was Friday September 1st when our marching orders came. The Roan girls assembled in the lower playground complete with gas masks, suitcases, food for the journey and a retinue of small brothers and sisters. When the order to go came we marched in a crocodile down Devonshire Drive, across Dartford Bridge and up the hill to St Johns station. Here we boarded a train with no idea as to our destination until at last a kindly guard gave us the information “You are going to Battle”. We certainly were. In Battle stationyard we were sent by coaches to 7 or 8 small villages and it took Miss Higgs a few days to locate her large family of Staff and pupils.

After a 3 week stay in village homes we came together again in Bexhill where we were able to share the Grammar School buildings. Classroom teaching took place every day from 1 p.m. – 5 p.m., but form mistresses were expected to provide some kind of occupation for their hirls in the mornings. Here I must pay special tribute to Mr. H. SARGENT the curator of the Bexhill Museum, who gave weekly lessons to Middle School classes on a variety of topics including local history, field and shorelife etc.

During our 9 month sojourn in Bexhill we celebrated the 60th birthday of our intrepid headmistress – we had a Breakfast Party followed by Song and Dance. How well I remember the fun we had playing Haydn’s Toy Symphony.

Then on June 23rd 1940 came yet another move. A special train took Roan Boys and Roan Girls (together with Staff helpers and small brothers and sisters) to Ammanford, a small anthracite mining town some 20 miles north of Swansea. Here we stayed, both Boys and Girls Schools until the War was over.

We were billeted in small cottages. After the amenities of London, life was somewhat primitive. We walked long distances, we endured Welsh weather. Our diet was often very monotonous and teaching took place under most primitive conditions. But we survived! Our hosts were very kind and did their best for us and there was a comradeship between Staff and pupils which we are happy to remember. My teaching was partly in a wooden hut and partly in two nearby chapels, Elim and Zion. For Geography a blackboard, maps and text books were our only stock in trade, apart from the magnificent countryside around us. We managed surprisingly well. It was not long before my VIth form work involved Roan Boys as well as Girls – all were hard working and the results were excellent.

While the main part of the Roan Girls School was in Wales, the school building in Devonshire Drive was used as an Emergency School for the ever increasing number of girls from Roan and neighbouring Grammar Schools who had returned home. Miss Richardson from the Roan was the Acting

Head and many girls will remember with gratitude her leadership in this difficult period.

In 1943 I returned to London to teach in the Emergency School. My husband, whom I married in December 1939, and I lived with Miss Richardson for many months while we searched for a house. We eventually found our present one in Canberra Road and moved in at the end of the year.

1944 was the year of the V1s (pilotless flying bombs). How well I remember an afternoon in June that year when the whole school was in session and University examinations were taking place in the reinforced Physics Lab. Roan Girls and Colfe Boys (whose school had already been blitzed) were busy when the alert came. Steel helmets were donned and everyone dived under the benches. The V1 bomb cut off over head and a few second later there was a sickening thud and the building shook. Just a few houses away the Church and neighbouring buildings in Devonshire Drive were flattened. We were saved by a merciful Providence. You may well ask what happened to the GCE A-level candidates during those difficult days. Everyone was brave and did their best. The Examiners were understanding and almost everyone passed”.

In September 1944 her daughter Elisabeth was born and her teaching activities gave place to bringing up a family. Her son, Richard was born in 1947 and domestic responsibilities occupied her full attention until, in 1954, she was asked to return to the School part-time.

In 1959 she was asked to help with Mathematics as well as her main subject, Geography – something she had always wanted to do, and so, “ably coached by Miss Bayley” she started a new career. As she says, she “enjoyed the lessons immensely, and continued for many years to help the struggling 3rd Division along the path to ‘O’ level”; it was only the advent and adoption of ‘Modern Mathematics’ that finally ended her activities in that field. She taught full-time until 1969 and then part-time until 1977.

One of her greatest joys during her last ten years at Roan was the organisation of school journeys abroad. In her own words “I was anxious to introduce the older girls to the true delight of travel – the actual interesting mechanics of travel by rail, boat and coach, to study the terrain, to meet the people on other countries and to appreciate the ways in which they have adapted their mode of life to their environment.

Also at the same time to be a group of Staff and girls, living, working and relaxing together. I was able to take parties away once every year and sometimes twice a year. My husband accompanied us on almost every trip and he like me has enjoyed the opportunity of getting to know the individual girls out of school. One particularly amusing occasion occurred when we were in a large coach en route to Aosta from Switzerland. We were using the St Bernard tunnel and at the entrance we were stopped for Customs formalities. A genial Italian official boarded our coach, looked at our party and turned to my husband with a smile “And these girls – are they All your daughters!”

For a few days each year indeed they were and we both feel that we have a real family connection with the Roan School."

Mary retired from the School in 1977 with some sadness at having to relinquish something that had been a major part of her life, but since then she has kept busy; she has been a Churchwarden of St. Luke's Church, Charlton, for five years, and Chairman of the Blackheath Evening Townswomen's Guild; she has four young grandchildren who keep her fully occupied during their frequent visits and she and her husband have continued to travel both at home and abroad. Her home is still at 118, Canberra Road and she "would always welcome visits from anyone connected with the Roan Girls School".

The story of her career and connections with Roan is a little bit of the history of the Roan Foundation. As she says, she is happy and honoured to have been made a Vice President of the Old Roan Association and we, as much as she, look forward to many further years of close association and the link she is with the old and the new.

LOST CONTACTS

Contact has been lost with the following Old Roans, and news of them would be welcomed by either of the Secretaries or the Chronicle Editor:—

Mary Aitchison (nee Chapman)	Dorothy Kennett
Dora Basan	Pamela Lewis
Linda Challis (nee Hills)	J.E. May
Doreen Chapman	Margaret Mearns
Edith Davies	J. Mechan (nee Phipps)
Mrs. Dempster	Deidre Plowright
F. Farley (nee Milton)	Shelagh Sherwood (nee Cagney)
Miriam Forrest (nee Marsh)	Dora Smith (nee Vidler)
Winifred Goodray	D.J. Smith (Mrs)
L.M. Hall (nee Young)	Ivy Spooner
Stephanie Heard	P.M. Stephens (nee Reade)
Veronica Herbert (nee Watts)	Doreen Tostevin
Olive Hill	Kathleen Tyndall
Josephine Howe	Deirdre West (nee Reeve)
Pauline Hunt	Jean Windram (nee McMillan)
E.J.B. Brown (20-29)	Lorraine Woolrich (nee Crook)
B.J. Hall (62-69)	C Mace (?-43)
D. Jeffreys (70-77?)	A.J. Patterson (64-69)
D.A. Lewis (62-69)	A.R. Rickson (57-64)
I.L. Smith (61-67)	C.A. Stickland (33-40)

BIRTHS

WILLSON	—	to Jennifer, wife of Philip J. Willson (62-69) on 12th January 1981, a daughter, Jane Louise.
HOOK	—	to Caroline, wife of Philip Hook (58-65), on 21st January 1981, a daughter Rosalind Jane, and a grand daughter for Frank and Josephine Hook (nee Lockyer - 34-39).

MARRIAGES

BARWELL-MUNDAY:	on 1st November 1980 at All Saints Church, Belvedere, Gary Barwell (69-76) to Christine Munday.
WINTER-RICE:	on 28th March 1981 at Northumberland Heath Baptist Church, Chris Winter (68-75) to Anita Rice.
HILLS-CORDINA:	on 2nd August 1980 at St John Fisher Church, Valerie Hills (63-70) to Tony Cordina.
HASLAM-CHUTER:	on 14th February 1981 at the Church of the Annunciation, Chislehurst, Neal Haslam (67-74) to Hilary Chuter (71-78).
DOSSET-GREENFIELD:	on 9th August 1980 at St. Mary Abbott's, Kensington. Andy Dossett (68-75) to Barbara Greenfield.
HANSTEAD-WRAY:	on 14th June 1980 at St. Augustine's Church, Grove Park, Ian Hanstead (68-75) to Susan Wray.

DEATHS

BUGBY	J.	(25-32)	in July 1980.
CLARKE	G.S.	(17-25)	in August 1980.
BIRD	R.T.	(35-39)	in May 1981.
SWEENEY	R.T., OBE	(15-17)	on 26th January 1981.
RONALD	Brigadier	(c. 1916)	on 4th May 1980.
A.J.D., CBE			
LISTER	S.T.	(16-23)	on 25th May 1981.
SPEIGHT	J.	(25-29)	on 30th March 1981.
DALTRY	C.T.	(Staff)	on 26th April 1981.
BEECH	P.	(-29)	in April 1981.
WRIGHT	G.L.	(-)	on 1st March 1981.
BAKER	E. (nee Hudson)		on 24th August 1980.

SCHOOL NEWS

1. From the Headmaster

The first 'Old Roan' President to take Office after the birth of The John Roan School is a senior member of The John Roan Staff. I think this is a very happy coincidence. There are not many who can so effectively link the past and present of the Associations as Gordon Brooks can: I am sure he will render sterling service during his year of Office and I wish him happiness and success in it.

Speaking of the birth of the John Roan School brings to mind its birth pangs. This has not been an easy year because of the amalgamation of three Staffs. Too many pupils have had to become used to too many 'new' teachers — and vice versa. Two buildings were overcrowded for the first nine months while boys in a third experienced the problems of a community in numerical decline. Too many teachers have had too much travel between buildings and then just as things were settling down a little it was all thrown into disarray again by the opening of the new building and the consequent rewriting of the timetable.

None of us, I fancy, want to face another year like this but as we come to its end at last we begin to see the new growth — the first mixed year of the new John Roan School — and to sense an excitement, a keenness and an expectancy which promises well for the future.

Mind you, we have a long way to go yet. There is still a large proportion of the staff who has yet to experience the frustrations of travel between buildings and the stress of tackling a number of 'new' classes. There is still a section of the school who will have the unenviable task of working in a building in which numbers are declining. There are many of us who have to master new techniques of teaching and all the time we shall be striving for higher standards of achievement and behaviour for all pupils of The John Roan School.

Peter Dawson, the ex Head of Eltham Green School, in his book about that school makes an obvious reference (though not by name) to The Roan School: "a fine old grammar school which had its origin three centuries before And when will that school be ready to be judged in its new comprehensive role? Given the same amount of time to mature as before, the answer is about the middle of the twenty-third century".

Well, there have been times this year when I have felt like that! But, with the Staff we've got, with the girls and boys we've got, with the parents and friends, the supportive agencies I reckon we can reduce those 300 years somewhat. By 99%?

A.J.T.

2. Goings on

" which was quickly followed by a pub, a block of shops and eventually a school. The school went up last because there was no profit in it".
(Dominic Behan)

Well that's not true — in our case. Yes, we have a new school and what a place and opportunity it is to show the young how to profit from education.

When viewed from the outside it is very pleasing to the eye. It looks both new and yet, somehow, established. The mature trees, russet bricks and dusky tiles all help. Westcombe Park Road can be proud of its latest addition — The Chinese Legation one end and John Roan School the other; both send little groups of people on to the streets. They walk in file and talk in secret tongues. I hope they never meet.

The entrance hall is spacious and from there one can look out over the wide expanses of the play and sports area. When the landscaping is finished the grounds will be very impressive — tennis courts, long and high jump pits, soccer and cricket areas and a wilderness designated for Ecological Studies — we shall see.

The teaching takes place in pods — five rooms and an activities/social area to a pod.

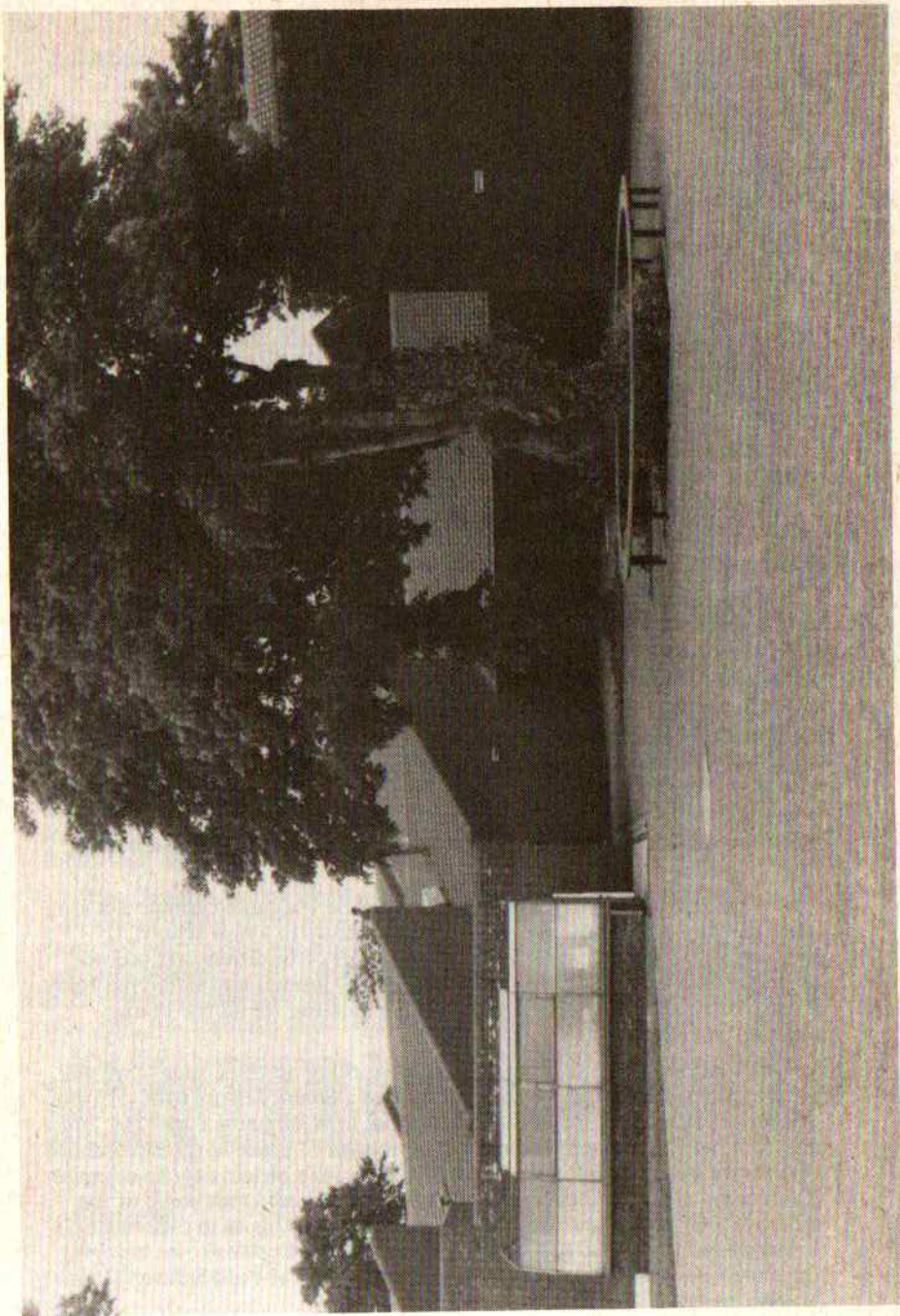
There are exciting new laboratories and a large library. Each Head of Year has his or her own room and The Staff have a pleasant retreat equipped with all modern conveniences — a refrigerator and coffee bar.

We have a Home Economics suite (which includes a flatlet) and a Pottery studio. The Hall, whilst fairly small, is wonderfully equipped with a lighting and director's gallery. There is a gymnasium next to the Activities Hall of equal splendour.

The School is supervised by The Head of Lower School, Mr. Danny Coffey who brings his own inimitable humour and experience from Charlton to both pupils and staff. The boys and girls in the 1st Year are now fully acquainted with each other. Some still suffer from old habits and call "Sir", "Miss" and "Miss, "Sir". The girls have had a calming effect on some boys and have lit fires under others — the reverse is also true.

We are at last, though, what we set out to be — a mixed comprehensive. The first year pupils enjoying marvellous facilities in a new school. I wonder if they are aware of the three centuries of tradition that precede them. In their little way they are breaking new ground and satisfying John Roan's original intention of providing an education for all the young children of Greenwich.

The Staff are still having to cope with working on three sites — we will not be fully settled until we are operating as a Senior School (4th, 5th and 6th forms) at Maze Hill and a Junior School in Westcombe Park (1st, 2nd and 3rd). At the moment there is an impression of space in the new school — when we are up to full complement (540) it may be less easy to organise. If one must make critical comments it needs to be said that some of the areas are a little dark and the teaching rooms not as big as in older schools — but overall it is a pleasing building and everyone appears to be enjoying the experience of working in a beautiful new purpose-built School. Good luck to everyone!



THE NEW SCHOOL



THE JOHN ROAN SCHOOL PARENTS' ASSOCIATION

The Parents' Association would firstly wish to express its gratitude to the Old Roan Association for its kindness in entertaining their Chairman and his lady at the Dinner Dance at the Oval in March. This hospitality demonstrates the new links that have been forged between the two organisations. We are sure that this is something that will grow and prosper to the benefit of the John Roan School and those to whom it means so much for a variety of reasons.

The Parent Association's Spring Fair was held in the grounds of the Maze Hill building on 16 May. In spite of the kind of weather that had been such a feature of the 1981 spring, a good attendance of Governors and Staff, Parents and Pupils, including a sprinkling of Old Roans, spent an enjoyable afternoon visiting a variety of ingenious stalls and sideshows. A team of 'Morrismen', with faces strikingly decorated by some of the girl pupils, enlivened the proceedings and lent quite a festive atmosphere to the school lawns. Some £500 was raised, getting the Parent Association's campaign to purchase a mini-bus for the school, off to a sound start. 'Wheels for Roan', a we call this venture, seeks to raise about £8,000 to buy a new vehicle to carry pupils and staff to educational and sports events off the school site and for travel to field study courses and school camps in other parts of the country. This considerable fund raising task surpasses anything the P.A. has previously attempted and will need the help of all interested parties. We hope that many Old Roans will wish to be involved with the special events that will be held to achieve the target. We will keep the Editor of the Old Roan Chronicle supplied with our Newsheet, and enquiries and offers of help may be made to the Chairman of the Parents' Association, through the School.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

- FRIDAY 18th September — a re-union evening at the Pavilion at the School Field, from 8 p.m. This will be a completely informal occasion, and cheese and wine will be served; it is aimed at providing an opportunity for O.R.s who are not able to visit the Club regularly.
- FRIDAY 30th October — Annual Dinner at the Pavilion, from 6.30 p.m.
- 5th–19th September — O.R. Braithwaite Camp; details from Tony Slaney (tel. 852 4075), or Alan Palmer, 42, Elliscombe Road, Charlton SE7).
- SATURDAY 20th March 1982 — O.R.A. Annual Dinner and Dance, at the the Surrey Tavern, the Oval. Details from Alan Weir (tel. 698 4500) nearer the time.

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