



SUSCEPTUM PERFICE MUNUS

# Old Roar

# NEWSLETTER

NUMBER ONE

CHRISTMAS 1982

## EDITORIAL

"The Dodo never had a chance. He seems to have been invented for the sole purpose of becoming extinct and that was all he was good for."

(Will Cuppy)

Welcome to the first newsletter. Hopefully it will not follow the Dodo into extinction, but the world is littered with the first - and only - editions of magazines.

Devotees of the Chronicle need not be worried. That mighty organ will now appear, on an annual basis, in the early summer. To stave off withdrawal symptoms future editions of the newsletter will be produced around Christmas time.

Though we have endeavoured to keep expenditure to a minimum, printing and postage costs cannot be avoided. In order to prevent waste, a mailing list slip is enclosed for use by those who are unable to collect the newsletter from the Club. All members will continue to receive the Chronicle.

A number of people have been involved in producing this first edition. It has been a real team effort. However, Hilary and Neal Haslam are singled out as being the driving force behind its production.

So, away with the Junior John Bull Pprinting Sset with the missing letter 'H'; off with the green eyeshade; lets close the bumper version of the 'Big Boys Speller'!

ON WITH THE SHOW...

Fritz

## SCHOOL NEWS

Much is happening as always! There is a great deal of building work taking place. The quad nearest the staff-room gives the impression of being an excavation of Roman remains; shortly it will emerge as a new Home Economics suite. Then we will see boys and girls making doughnuts for the Egyptian army and rice puddings fit for the Queens of Ambrosia! Elsewhere Year Heads, Careers Masters and other dignitaries are having their own rooms constructed - such luxuries!

The cultural front is throbbing to the imaginative vibes of Alf Knott's creation - the Christmas Revue. Now that he can handle boys and girls the end product will be more electric than ever! Performances on 17th and 18th December. (Tickets are bound to sell faster than hot cakes and more talked about than "Hot Gossip").

The Sixth Form are working with a determination seldom witnessed - jobs and University/Poly places are at a premium. The air is alive with the sound of revision.

Our Sixth Form Consortium is emerging as a major development. New courses are planned for the New Sixth, fancy tackling Community Care or R.S.A. Business Studies? Why not come back as a mature student? (You can't all fail the second time round!)

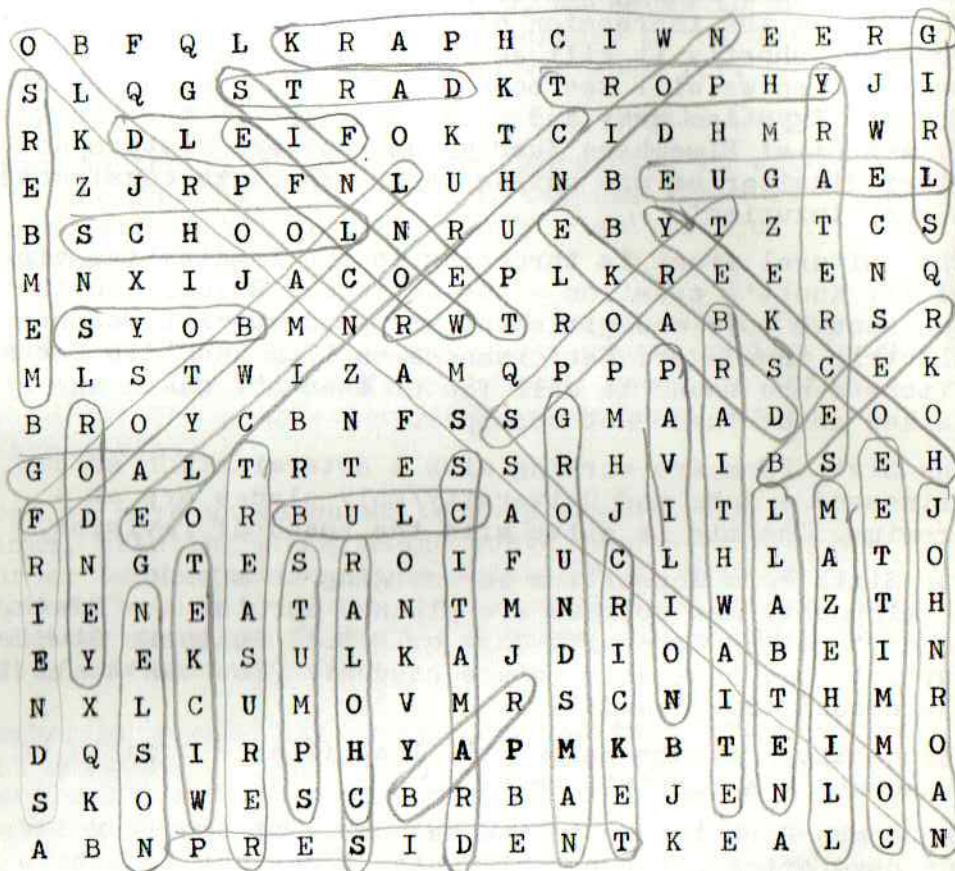
Devonshire Drive is having its last fling - soon to be abandoned - a terrible shame...

Westcombe Park throbs to the cacophony of treble voices and developing pre-pubertal youth. A delight to behold - from Maze Hill!

Sometimes to wake in the night and envisage another twenty years of teaching and when in the morning "calm reflection comes" to pacify my anxieties with the comforting knowledge that twenty years teaching is better than seven being taught. Times don't change; we're still the same boring old lot, but as the Greek taxi-driver said of our hooligans "They're still the best in the world!" Then so are one's school-days. (Anyone got a job for a forty year old hooligan?)

Gordon Brooks.

# OLD ROAN SEARCHWORD



The following words can be found in the square above.

Try your luck! Send your entry to: Hilary Haslam, 34 Heversham Road, Bexleyheath, Kent, DA7 5BG to arrive no later than 10th January 1983. The first correct entry to be drawn at the Committee meeting in January will receive

£5

FIVE  
POUNDS

£5

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- ✓ SECRETARY
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- ✓ STUMPS
- ✓ FOOTBALL
- ✓ LEAGUE
- ✓ GOAL
- ✓ DARTS
- ✓ NETBALL
- ✓ HOCKEY
- ✓ TENNIS

## An AD for ADS.

Members will see that this Christmas Annette and Trevor Talbot would be pleased to see you at "The Little Shop" and supply your cigarettes and chocolates etc. for the festive season.

We feel sure that many other Old Roans must have their own businesses. If you would like to advertise in the next edition of the OLD ROAN CHRONICLE (due for publication in June 1983) please contact the Treasurer, Neal Haslam, address on the back cover.

Today is the tomorrow you worried about yesterday,  
and all is well.

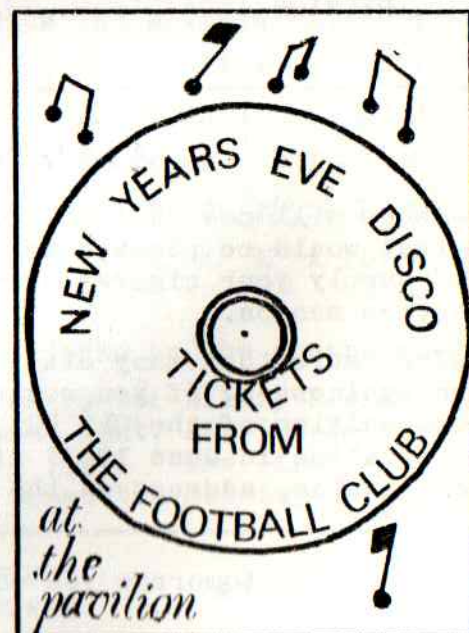
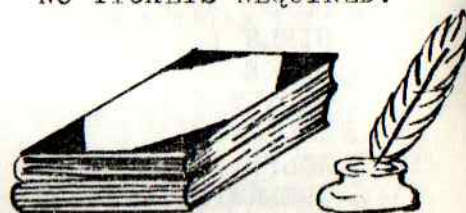
(Anon)

# THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

25th MARCH 1983  
at

The Old Roan Club

NO TICKETS REQUIRED!



**Christmas  
Eve  
AT THE  
CLUB  
RAFFLE  
PANTO**

**A GOOD TIME  
IS HAD BY ALL!**

**O.R.A.**

**Annual**

**Dinner & Dance**

at

THE ARNHEM GALLERY  
Fairfield Halls, Croydon,

26th FEBRUARY 1983

£11.50 per person

More details on page 16.

## OLD ROAN CRICKET CLUB

It can readily be seen from the following reports that the cricket club is going through a period of rebuilding. We continue to field five sides, but with some difficulty. We look to all those who have the good of Old Roan cricket at heart to support us over this phase.

There is certainly one person who can look back on the 1982 season with satisfaction. Nas Khan easily outscored everyone else. His haul included six individual centuries - a club record! Clearly a case of a skipper leading from the front!

On behalf of all O.R. cricketers I should like to record our gratitude to the School for the generous facilities accorded us and to Cyril and Pat for their efforts.

The 1st XI's	P1	W	D	L	NR
Sat. League	15	3	8	4	-
Others	5	-	3	2	-
Sun.	18	8	3	5	2

The two skippers had widely contrasting seasons. Nas Khan, as has already been mentioned, stroked his way elegantly into the record books. Graham Lawrance however managed to find himself in mid season with a broken finger, something of a hinderance for a player who was his sides leading all-rounder. This wasn't the only set back. Firstly there was the resignation of Chris Rodwell from the captaincy of both Saturday and Sunday teams, and the unwillingness of the senior players to take on the task. The Sunday side also saw the disappearance of some players who had been the backbone of the team for many years.

These changes did however bring about the appearance of new faces. Peter Ellis showed a lot of promise with both bat and ball and one hopes that next season he will be fitter and more successful. Phil Armstrong batted and bowled with a maturity that belied his tender years. He is possibly the best fielder to come out of the School for some years. Ahmed Khan gave some able performances with the bat, his best being 90\* against Blackheath Wanderers only to be denied his century by his brother declaring the innings!

All these changes meant something of a mixed season resultswise. On Saturday in the League we slipped to our lowest position yet. Perhaps this was not so much a reflection of our strength but more the result of the disenchantment that that form of cricket has for some of our players. Our League programme began well with two early wins. We then had to wait until the end of August for our only other success. Nas Khan with 346 runs (ave. 86.5) and Peter Ellis 334 (ave. 30.3) were our main run getters. Whilst Brian Hamer and Graham Lawrance with 20 and 15 respectively were the main wicket takers.

On Sundays we lost 5 games, 3 of which were at home and where we got the worst of the elements. 2 defeats were due to our being much understrength, something that you cannot afford to do when the opposition is Ilford or Broomhills.

We drew as many games as we lost, two of which merit mention. The first game of the season saw Romford and Gidea Park amass 213 for 1. We went about the chase in a professional manner and for much of the innings looked like being capable of getting there. Rodwell hit 63 and we ended up a creditable 200 for 8. The second game of note was played on the shirt front of Midland Bank. Nas led the way with an undefeated 100 and we ended with 230. The bank replied in kind and but for some excellent fielding and purposeful bowling would have made it. They finished on 223 for 6. All this in an afternoon game!

The Sunday side were victorious on 8 occasions with some prize scalps indicating that we are still a force to be reckoned with. These included Four Elms, RACS, Blackheath Wanderers, Warlingham, Reigate Pilgrims, Holmesdale, Catford Wanderers and CUACO. All in all the season was memorable, and we managed to perform creditably despite our limited resources.

<u>The 2nd XI's</u>	Pl	W	D	L	NR
Sat. League	14	4	6	4	-
Others	6	1	3	2	-
Sun.	22	5	9	6	2

The Saturday side with a relatively small nucleus of regulars did not field a settled side throughout the season. The scorebook reveals that 39 different players

batted and there were 20 different bowlers. Hardly a recipe for success. Seen in this light the results were reasonable. As usual the Old Colfeians games both contained their incidents. The first saw Sherman feeding the Peter Williams cut with the boundary not having been reset from the previous day. After some 30 minutes, by mutual agreement, the boundary was moved out some 15 yards. The second match was abandoned as a draw when the umpires were unable to see each other in the darkness.

Two other matches of note: Our modest 125 proved just sufficient for Old Wilsonians who ended on 124! Chris Wyton with 5-61 saw us home in this nail biting finish. Against Crockenhill our 123 for 6 dec. looked very vulnerable when our opponents were 70 for 2. It was then that the skipper decided to bring on Graham Lawrance (yes the man with the broken digit), who obliged with 6-20 and a win by 5 runs.

Peter Williams with 350 runs, Graham Johnson 300 and Geoff Thomas 200 were the main batsmen. Of the bowlers Johnson with 32 wkts., Martin Prendergast 20 and Keith Barron 17 took the eye.

The Sunday side, under skipper Mike Baxter, began the season well going 10 games without defeat. This was followed by a bad run when we lost 6 out of 9 games. Though this bad patch coincided with the holiday period an alternative explanation could be that most of our batsmen do not play both days and therefore lack batting practice against the better opposition. With players like K. Calnan, M. Baxter, P. Williams, H. Henning, G. Briscoe, B. Endersbee, V. Lawrence, G. Baxter and D. Baxter we should not have been bowled out by any of our opposition. However, a word of praise for our fixture secretary Graham Johnson. With no heavy defeats or wins he seems to have got the balance just right.

The season ended on a high note with a brilliant performance from Ann Hooker in organising the end of season dinner at the "Riverhead".

#### The 3rd XI

One problem throughout '82 was raising 11 men and 5 games had to be cancelled through lack of numbers. On other occasions we fielded fewer than the number allowed under

the laws. Invariably this was as a result of calls from higher elevens - and late calls at that. This is not acceptable and the club must take steps to ensure that regular 1st or 2nd XI players are not allowed to get away with a lack of basic discipline.

Strangely the nucleus of the side remained loyal and the team spirit was good. 9 matches were played of which 5 were lost - some outstandingly! - but 3 were drawn and we achieved a fine victory against Griffin.

Under an arrangement with the 2nd XI one batsman was made available each week. Of these the most successful was Bryan Endersbee with two fifties and a 38. Three others are worthy of mention: Simon Hooker played good knocks against RACS and Bardhill. Dave Armstrong showed a brave and improving technique and finished with an average of 18. Les De Hoog despite missing out on the runs for most of the season played a super knock of 29\* against Griffin to snatch our only victory.

Risking the charge of nepotism skipper Martin Hooker reports that Matthew Hooker was easily the best bowler taking more wickets than all the other bowlers put together. He lost some of his effectiveness mid way through the season but for a lad of 15 he showed a lot of promise.

## QUIZ

During the course of a day, five Old Roans visited the local garden centre. From the information given below, can you work out the time each one visited the centre and which two items he or she bought?

(Any similarity between the names and actual Old Roans is purely intentional.)

1. The lady who visited the centre at 4.30 bought a tool and a climbing plant.
2. Tony bought the plant pots, but he did not buy either of the two trees.
3. The person who purchased the secateurs did not buy the cherry tree.
4. The 4 o'clock customer, who wasn't Gordon, purchased the fertilizer.
5. Half an hour before Kay arrived, a customer bought the rose bush.
6. The person who bought the peat also took home the clematis; this was not the 3 o'clock visitor.
7. Neither Gordon nor Frank were the first customer.
8. Kay did not buy the laburnum tree.

MARY  
FRANK  
TONY  
KAY  
GORDON

CHERRY TREE  
CLEMATIS  
LABURNUM TREE  
ROSE BUSH  
VIRGINIA CREEPER

2.30  
3.00  
3.30  
4.00  
4.30

FERTILIZER  
PEAT  
PLANT POTS  
SECATEURS  
SPADE

"All things are possible except skiing through a revolving door"  
Murphy's Law of Technology

Yes, it seems all things are possible and the publication of this Newsletter proves it! Producing a Newsletter has been something a number of us have been keen on for some time; we are conscious of the fact that there are a great many Old Roans who are unable to use the Club facilities and who keep in touch only by means of the written word. It is much too expensive to produce the Chronicle more frequently and we hope, therefore, that the Newsletter will fill a gap. Provided we get your support, you can now expect to receive the Chronicle once a year in, say, May/June and the Newsletter in between editions of the Chronicle, in about November/December.

Talking about support, my thanks to all the people who came to the Reunion Dinner in October. The next "big" event is the Dinner Dance at the Fairfield Hall, Croydon on 26th February 1983. Bear in mind that we will not be sending out separate notices to everybody nearer the time - it is much too costly to write to nearly 1,300 people too often - so please take this as your invitation to attend. Come along and have a splendid evening. The onus now rests with you to contact the Social Secretary, Mike Walpole - do not wait, write to him now.

On a personal note, let me say how much I am enjoying my Presidential year and how pleased I am that the Newsletter has finally seen the light of day. Grateful thanks to the production team.

Best wishes for Christmas and the New Year to all Old Roans.

Kay Wilkins

PS I have just come back from seeing one of the performances of the Old Roan Dramatic Society's Revue - congratulations to all concerned for a most enjoyable evening.

## OLD ROAN FOOTBALL CLUB

Due to a tight training schedule and a full fixture list, the Football Club spokesman was unavailable to comment on their progress so far this year.

No doubt they will be giving a full report of the whole season in the Chronicle. We wish them success in all their matches.

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"THEY'RE AT IT AGAIN!"

Yes - the Old Roan Dramatic Society (winners of the Lewisham Drama Cup 1982) strike another winner.

For the hundreds of members of the Association who were unable to support their most recent performance, what can we say but... TISK, TISK, SHAME ON YOU!

The "End of the Greenwich Pier Show" proved to be a humorous and well directed revue. The Society staged two shows on Fri. 26th and Sat. 27th November. Graham Johnson and Alf Knott must be admired for their ingenuity and skill in producing such light hearted entertainment.

Mention must be made of the rest of the cast and backstage helpers without whom the revue could not have been such a success. We look forward to the next production.

Don't forget - the School's Christmas Revue is on the 17th and 18th December.

+++++

Name	Plant	Gardening Item	Time
Gordon	Clematis	Peat	3.30
Kay	Cherry Tree	Spade	3.00
Tony	Rose Bush	Plant Pots	2.30
Frank	Laburnum Tree	Fertiliser	4.00
Mary	Virginia Creeper	Secateurs	4.30

QUIZ ANSWERS

## NEWS OF OLD ROANS

The post bag invariably brings letters expressing sadness at the passing of old friends and teachers. Maureen Hulbert (nee Plummer) ('49-'54) remembers Winifred Marsh with great affection. Though reputed to be a strict disciplinarian she was a wonderful teacher and a kind and caring person. Maureen would love to hear from those who remember her. She is now a second year undergraduate at Christ Church College Canterbury reading English and Education.

Among the tributes to Kenneth Binnie was one from Richard Jenkyns ('33-'38). He started in Kenneth's 3rd form and remembers his form master as a very fine person. It was a happy year which laid the foundation of a wonderful time as a Roan boy. Richard now lives in Eastbourne having recently retired as the Food Hall Buyer at Harrods.

D.R. Beck ('09-'11) writes from Bexhill-on-Sea to say that the sad news in the last Chronicle brought back many memories of Headmaster Ridger and the staff at Eastney Street in the early years of the century. In those days school life was austere. Opportunities for sport were very limited; the gymnasium was an open sided shed, the floor covered with peat moss. The classrooms were dark and depressing but nevertheless the school had a fine body of Masters and pupils. Other tributes will appear in the next edition of the Chronicle.

R.J.A. Smith ('70-'77) informs us that he recently obtained a 1st Class Honours degree in Applied Chemistry - Congratulations! He has now moved to Liverpool University to study for his Ph.D in organic chemistry.

Carole Marden (nee Browne) ('57-'64) writes from Maidstone of herself and also her sister Hilary ('54-'62)

G.R. Spinks ('51-'55) currently 'somewhere in England' with a touring theatrical company, left school to begin a career in the Merchant Navy. Unfortunately owing to ill-health he had to curtail his ambitions to become a ships officer. Ever since coming ashore for good in 1964 he has been working in various capacities in the theatre.

Jane Sullivan lives in a tiny mid west community of Georgetown, Illinois. She married in 1975 and now has four children.

Richard Thorpe ('57-'65) recognised many of the faces in the 6th XI photograph which appeared in the last Chronicle. Richard, who lives in Chelmsford, was clearly amazed that so many of his former 4th XI team mates (circa 1970) were still active.

David Leeming ('60-'67) writes from Bristol where he works as a Civil Servant with the D.O.E.

From nearer home, P.J. Webber ('69-'76) happily announces his engagement to Jane Young.

Dr. Peter Trafford ('28-'38) skippered the 1st XI side in 1938. Their picture appeared in the last Chronicle. He points out an error in that 'Bunny' Downs was incorrectly named as 'Owens'. Alas, he states, several in that picture are no longer with us. Peter, who also writes from Bristol, gave up cricket some 6 years ago after a fine career. He was twice selected to open for the R.A.M.C. in corps matches, and also enjoyed himself in Somerset village cricket when he was in rural general practice. In 1969 he began a 'second career' when he studied for a psychiatric qualification and his present clinical work is in forensic psychiatry. Peter has recently assumed the dignity and honour of President of the Bristol division of the B.M.A. and sends his best wishes to his many contemporaries.

We also hear of his brother Leo ('27-'37) who unfortunately suffered a stroke 5 years ago.

### ANNUAL DINNER & DANCE

The Old Roan Association are changing the venue for their Annual Dinner & Dance in 1983. We hope that the Arnhem Gallery will be pleasant surroundings for us to partake in yet another enjoyable and memorable evening.

If you require more details of the evening please contact the Social Secretary, Mike Walpole. However, if you have already decided you would like to come, why not book early... apply now! Treat your wife (or husband of course) and friends to a jolly good evening.

PLEASE NOTE THAT NO TICKETS WILL BE ISSUED. If you require acknowledgement or a receipt, could you please send a stamped addressed envelope.

### OLD ROAN BRAITHWAITE CAMP 1983



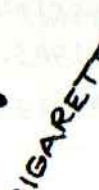
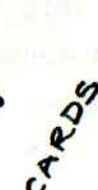


The campsite has been booked for the period 3rd to 17th September 1983. All Old Roans would be welcome. You need not stay for the whole fortnight; come for a week or perhaps just a few days. Details from Tony Slaney (Secretary) or Alan Palmer, 42 Elliscombe Road, Charlton.

THE 62nd ANNUAL REUNION DINNER was held at the School Pavilion on Friday, 22nd October 1982.

Miss M. Barnsdale, a past Headmistress of the (old!) Roan Girls School, was the Guest of Honour.

The wine flowed and a most enjoyable evening was had by all 113 members who attended. Special welcome was made not only to the School Officers - Judith Hartwell, Paula Moore, John Ashley and Phil White - but also to one of the Association's newest members, Len Sullivan, "a gentleman of some 85 summers"!

Thanks are again extended to those who were involved in the organising.

\*\*\*\*\*  
\* **The Little Shop** \*  
\* 188A HALFWAY STREET, SIDCUP, KENT. \*  
\*  CHOCOLATES •  SWEETS •  CIGARETTES •  CARDS •  GIFT WRAP  \*  
\* A MERRY CHRISTMAS \*  
\* TO ALL \*  
\* OUR CUSTOMERS \*  
\* FROM T. & A. TALBOT \*  
\*\*\*\*\*

## CHRISTMAS RAFFLE

Sparkling  
first prize

still only  
10p  
a ticket

Drawn on  
Christmas  
Eve

Tickets available at the bar

Don't  
miss it!

## CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Don't worry, we haven't moved! But many of you have and didn't tell us. Over 30 Old Roan Chronicles were returned to us marked "gone away". If you move, please tell the Secretary, Tony Slaney, so that we can keep track of you. Our postage bill is high enough already - let's not make it unnecessarily higher.

## MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTIONS

The annual membership subscription remains at £2.50 and is due on 2nd January 1983. Many of you already pay by standing order (have you updated it to £2.50?) but to those of you who don't, please think about it now. The cost of producing and posting the Chronicle alone is enormous; the sooner the subscriptions are received the easier it is for the committee to budget for the year ahead. Where else does a years membership cost as little as £2.50? Please fill in the standing order form overleaf and send it to the Secretary, Tony Slaney, address on the back cover. Thank you.

To The Manager,  
.....Bank PLC  
Address .....  
.....  
.....

Please pay Barclays Bank PLC, Westcombe Park branch (sorting code 20-93-48) for the credit of the OLD ROAN ASSOCIATION (account no. 20678163) the sum of £2.50 , say Two Pounds and Fifty Pence, commencing on 2nd January 1983 and annually thereafter until further notice, and debit my account accordingly. This instruction cancels any previous order in favour of the abovenamed beneficiary.

Details of account to be debited:

Name.....

Number.....

Signature (s).....

Date.....

## ADDRESSES

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MERRY CHRISTMAS

to you  
all.

