

*Susceptum Perfice Munus*

# OLD ROAN

## *Chronicle*

Vol. 17

February 1998

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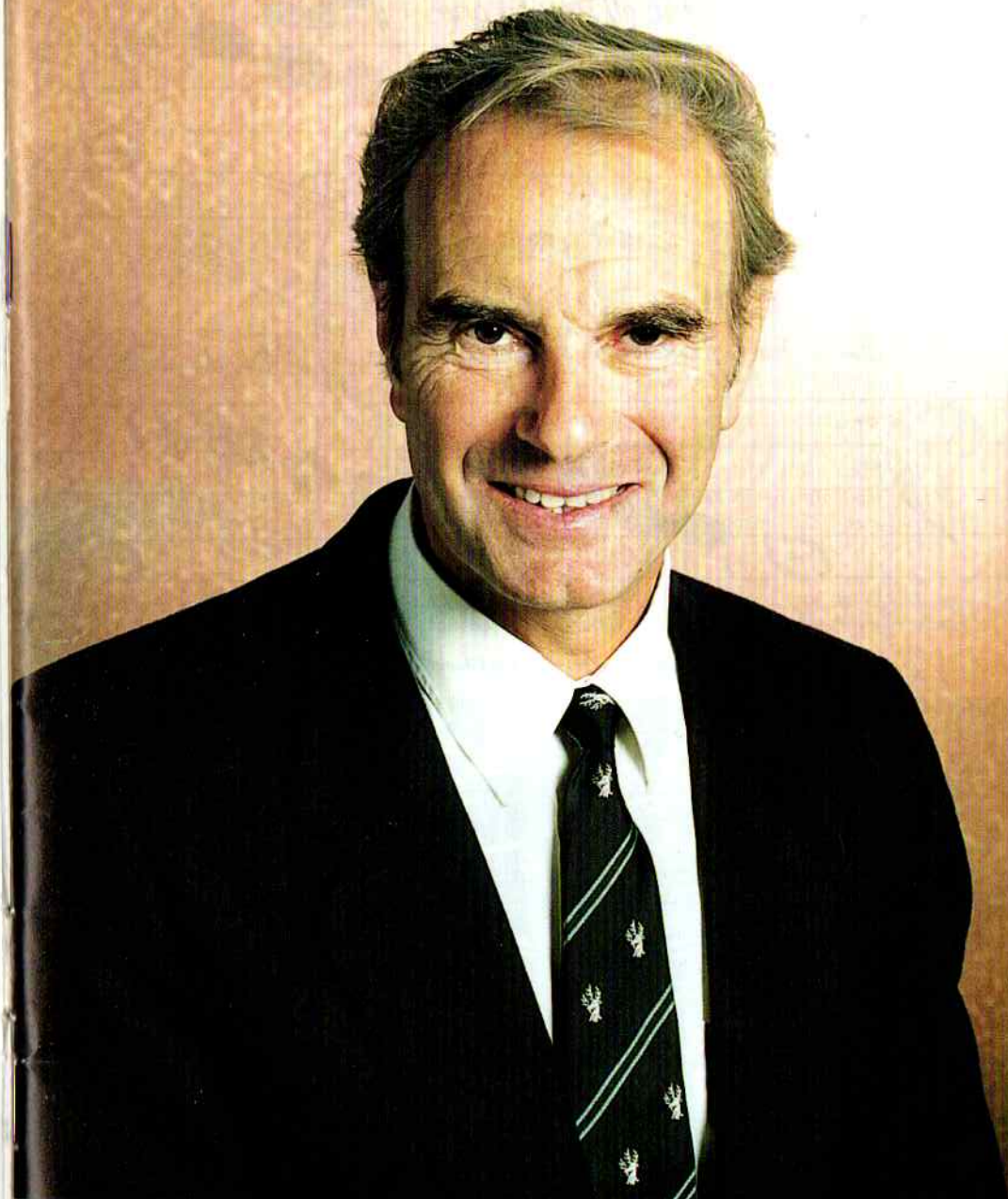
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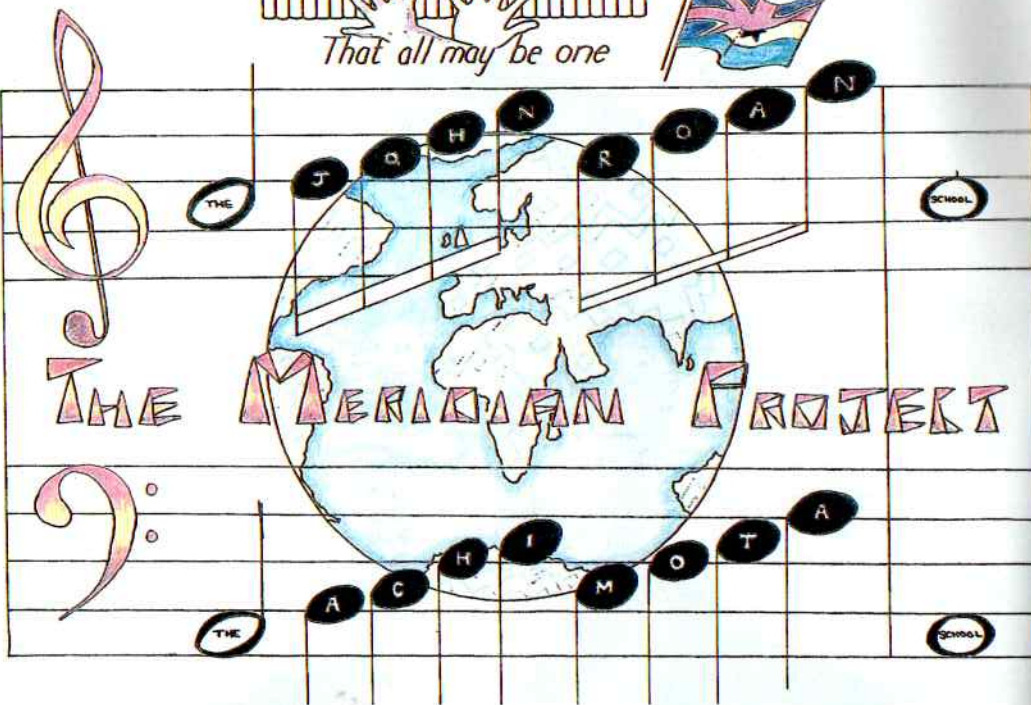
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John Huntley – Old Roan Association President 1997-98



That all may be one



The Meridian Project – Visit to Ghana in July 1997



## Message from the President

With some trepidation I am preparing the customary Presidential address for the Old Roan Chronicle. My discomfort arises from the fear that at any moment the paper will be snatched from my desk by a spectral figure in black gown and I will be berated for inkblotched, illegible handwriting, and spelling, syntax and grammatical failings of infantile proportions. Nevertheless, I inwardly speculate what modern GCSE pass I would achieve by the inclusion of such literary qualities.

I was astonished to be invited to accept the nomination of the Presidency of the O.R.A. as my involvement over the last 20 years has been tenuous although my membership and some contact have been maintained.

Re-insinuating myself after such a gap has evoked mixed emotions. The Club and sports grounds were very familiar and my perambulations of it during this summer recalled former collective and personal glories of Old Roan cricket seasons. Many of the personalities I recalled like Mike Callaghan, Dan Calnan, and the ubiquitous Peter Williams are still present and continuing their sterling support to the O.R.A. in all its functions. Equally, there were many more who must have wondered where the old geriatric had been exhumed from. Even so, everyone has been most welcoming and I look forward to following the fortunes of the Football Club during the winter. I played for the Football Club for some 15 seasons and had the misfortune to be fined by the league for uttering profane expletives (aimed incidentally at our captain). Having watched a couple of games at the end of last season I am sure I will have no difficulty in understanding the technical vernacular which appears to be the currency in the modern game.

I have re-read some of the recent "From the President" articles and note that they contain progress reports of the Association's and Club's activities by Presidents who have been heavily involved in recent years and are able to assess improvements. All I can say from my re-acquaintance is that the entire organisation appears to be vibrant and well-managed by dedicated committees and helpers. Of personal regret is the fact that the Cricket Club has reduced since the 70's from 5/6 teams to 3 each weekend and even that has been a struggle at times. With the demise of school cricket and the now open nature of the club there does seem some merit in pursuing, on appropriate terms, the approach by Blackheath C.C. to join forces.



A great debt of gratitude is owed by me and all Old Roans for the facilities for sport, socialising and a sense of common bond which the O.R.A. has provided. It was at the Old Roan club that I met my wife, Veronica, as she is the daughter of a former O.R.A. President, Tom Flack. She has since become a little disenchanted with witnessing my sinewy cover drive and the mysteries of flight and guile but has been a great support to me over 37 years and especially during this presidential year.

My sincere thanks to the Old Roan Committee for their assistance this year and especially Monty Smith and Tony Slaney for guiding my path. It was a pleasure to see so many Old Roans at the Reunion Dinner in October and felt that the evening was a most enjoyable and successful occasion.

John Huntley

## The Secretary's Report

As at the end of 1996 membership was slightly down. After an overall loss of only one between 1994 and 1995 the reduction between 1995 and 1996 is 28. The breakdown is:

	1996	1995
Life Members	550	564
Ordinary Members	358	369
Junior Members	18	17
Honorary Members	1	1
Associate Members	26	28
Honorary Members (Old Roan Club)	2	2
Affiliated Members (Old Roan Club)	68	70
	1023	1051

Since the 1997 New Year, 63 ordinary and 55 affiliated subscriptions have been received by cash or cheque. This may not seem very many but 248 ordinary and 9 honorary or affiliated subscriptions have been received by bankers' order. 14 new standing order forms have been received as a result of reminders which went out just before Christmas and further reminders sent out at the beginning of March. Also, since the New Year, one member has transferred from ordinary to life membership. There are some 40 life members who became life members when subscription fees were considerably less than they are now and pay a regular standing order donation, mainly £5. This produces another £241.50. Any life member who wishes to make a regular donation by banker's order may do so by requesting a form from the Secretary. The number of new members continues to decrease showing an alarming trend. There have been less than a dozen new full (as opposed to affiliated) members over the past year and those who have joined are those who left Roan several years ago, often by chance meeting with other Old Roans.

The magazine was sent out just before the annual dinner in October. The delay was primarily caused by contributors not sending copy to David Horsburgh by the middle of May. When articles did arrive he was too busy with his own business to collate items by the usual time. Two people who had not attended the dinner over recent years, and thus not on the normal circulation list for notification of the dinner, complained that 1996 was the year they might

have attended, but did not know the date until they saw it in the Chronicle, which was received only a day or two before the event. The 1997 Reunion Dinner has now passed but the other principal events – the annual general meeting and the dinner/dance – are listed in "dates for your diary". Please note that the dinner/dance is once again very popular and places are limited. It will be held at the Tudor Barn, Well Hall Pleasaunce, Eltham on 21st March 1998.

For the past couple of years we have had no social secretary, which has meant extra work for the President. Monty Smith has taken on this mantle and, with his experience of being very involved in many such functions for many years, is a most welcome volunteer. Following his retirement from teaching, Trevor Bell, has resigned as assistant secretary and I would like to take this opportunity to thank him for his invaluable help in keeping us informed about the situation regarding the playing fields, as well as fulfilling the important task of taking the minutes at meetings. Nominations are sought and new faces encouraged from any Old Roans who wish to serve on the committee for any of the posts or as general committee members. Volunteers to help run the bar are also always welcome.

As was mentioned in the 1996 Chronicle, Geoff Sawyer died as a result of a road accident in May last year. A collection was launched and letters sent to many who knew Geoff. Although mention of the appeal was made in that Chronicle no further contributions were received. The total received now stands at £400 from 26 members of the Cricket and Football Clubs. A wooden bench seat will be purchased for use at the playing fields in his memory. The cost, including a concrete base and fixing, is over £600 and anyone who wishes to contribute, and has not yet done so, is welcome to send me a cheque (payable to the "Old Roan Association").

Again, there were several Chronicles returned "gone away". The response to the list published in the Chronicle is always poor and only one of those shown last time has been put back in touch. Some names are repeated this time as I believe someone must have the address of at least one or two. Please do not assume that I will be told by someone else. I would like to have many replies rather than none, and it would be an opportunity to enclose a few lines about yourself for inclusion in the "News of Old Roans".

Tony Slaney

## Publication Note

This issue of the Chronicle is the first since October 1996. At the time of preparing the issue last May the Editor had virtually no material available. This was also the position, apart from the various committee reports, in early September. The initial proofs were received from the printer in December in time for publication within 1997 but several worthwhile articles arrived and the magazine has been delayed into the new year.

The Chronicle is dependent for its interest and survival on new material involving past and present members of the Roan Schools. The "News of Old Roans" section is probably the most valued section. We welcome material from all members of the School and the Association. The address of the Editor is printed at the front of this magazine. The next edition is planned for October 1998. We look forward to hearing from you.



## The Treasurer's Report

I presented the accounts of the Association at the Annual General Meeting where they were approved and adopted. Copies are available from me or the Secretary and this report covers the main points. Tony Slaney has detailed the reduced membership numbers which meant that annual subscriptions received were lower in 1996 and there were no transfers to the "life" category, although there has been renewed interest in the option this year. A modest surplus was again made from trading – ties and wallshields are available at competitive prices and can be posted to you. Please order from Tony.

Our only major expenditure, the Old Roan Chronicle, cost 11% more than the previous year. Whilst a large increase, this is no cause for concern and it remains a valuable and worthwhile publication. Sundry expenses cover engraving the President's collar and associated insurance. Traditionally the President meets the cost of signwriting for the Honours Board. The shortfall incurred on the Dinner & Dance was met by a subsidy of just over £521 from the Old Roan Club.

Whilst the Accumulated Fund has reduced by £580, our financial affairs remain in good order as evidenced by the Balance Sheet. Since the year end, the 10.5% Exchequer Stock 1997 was repaid at par on 21st February yielding a surplus of £801 which was partly attributable to the Old Roan Club.

Many members may be aware of the School's orchestral trip to Ghana. To enable a deserving pupil to participate, the committee agreed to meet the costs of £765 which could not otherwise be financed. Members of the John Roan School Masonic Lodge have contributed £200 towards the total, and have written to the Headteacher to offer this as an annual bursary. If other members of the Association wish to make individual contributions, please contact the Secretary.

Neal Haslam, May 1997

## Where are they now?

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

George W.Allen ('57-'63)  
Terry Blanchard ('48-'55)  
Chris D.Bunton ('69-'76)  
Derek J.Byford ('62-'69)  
Allan J.Chamber ('48-'55)  
John Confrey ('71-'77)  
Peter N.Cox ('66-'72)  
David Durban ('60-'67)  
Edith C.Holley (née Hider '28-'35)  
Narindra Ganesh ('75-'82)  
Alan R.Green ('76-'83)  
Andrew Griffen ('74-'81)  
Peter Grindlay ('67-'74)

Nancy James  
Robert W.Jenkins ('65-'72)  
Phil C.Lancelotte ('65-'72)  
Mark A.Lucas ('73-'80)  
P.F.Newman (45-'48)  
David W.Porter ('63-'71)  
Ian C.Sadgrove ('74-'81)  
Suzanne Schmidt (née Kennelly '58-'65)  
Michael Stroud ('63-'70)  
Denise E.Thomas (née Barrie '69-'76)  
Stuart P.White ('70-'77)  
Andy J.Wren ('77-'83)

## Old Roan Club Report

It is pleasing to report that last year we again achieved our target. Although we were able to relax our tight controls a little, a firm grip was still maintained to ensure that we continued to remain stable. Thanks to all the voluntary bar staff, particularly those who are not regular attendees at the Club. No thanks to regular attendees who adopt the opposite stance.

The financial targets for 1996 were: Turnover +/- £50,000 / Gross Profit 25%. Having held bar prices for a second year, the following results were delivered at the AGM: Turnover £49,662 / Gross Profit £12,848 = 25.87%.

This enabled us to progress further with the refurbishment programme and over the last twelve months we have purchased new bar stools and tables, installed fan heaters in both bars, replaced the flooring behind the bar and laid new carpet in the War Memorial Room, relocated the ice machine into the cellar and generally tidied up the electrics, along with necessary day-to-day improvements which continue to be made to the Club. Since the balance sheet was prepared we have spent over £3,300 from our capital budget on refurbishment.

Despite brewery increases, our prices have been held throughout 1995 and 1996, and the Club Management Committee hope that current levels can continue for the rest of this year although a review early in 1998 seems unavoidable. The Whitbread loan redemption and trading discount figures mark a "shift" in the make-up of our volumes away from "core" beers to more "foreign" products.

After very buoyant figures in 1994 and 1995, non-bar receipts were disappointing at £2,019 – down some 68%, owing in part to higher gaming licence taxes as a result of changes in legislation, and also increased charges on rental contracts. Everyone will just have to play the machines more! Among other expenditure shown in the Profit & Loss account are the Club's 40th celebrations and a reception following the funeral of Geoff Sawyer.

A surplus of £3,497 for the year was carried forward in the audited accounts which were presented and adopted at the AGM.

As stated in the past, meetings of the Club Management Committee are open, so you are all welcome to come along and participate. Usually held on the second Thursday in alternate months, forthcoming dates are 13th November, 8th January and 12th March. Our aim is to ensure that the facilities offered are of the highest order whilst enabling us to contribute towards the Old Roan presence at the playing fields.

Mike Titheridge  
May 1997





## John Huntley. O.R.A.President. 1997-98

**M**y first recollection of John was of a stringy youth who in 1956, during the School summer vacation, accepted with alacrity the offer of a game of cricket.

He joined the small cadre of teenagers employed, it would appear to the casual observer, to patrol the boundaries, thus enabling the more venerable members of the side to conserve their energies in the more static positions. The name was familiar since his brother Alan had played intermittently in the early fifties; John's commitment, however, proved rather more permanent although it took him a while to work his way up the batting order to a spot where the odd half-century became feasible. The enthusiasm was apparent and the talent blossomed. As early as 1958 he showed he was not only an athletic fielder and a batsman of promise ..... given the ball he revealed another facet of his game. He wasn't fast; nor was he a spinner; but he contrived to take 60 wickets that summer.

I should add here that, as with most summer games-players, the winter was greeted with equal zest and the larger ball just as eagerly embraced. In John's case mid-week training was supplemented by regular lunch-hour impromptu games whilst employed by the Port of London Authority.

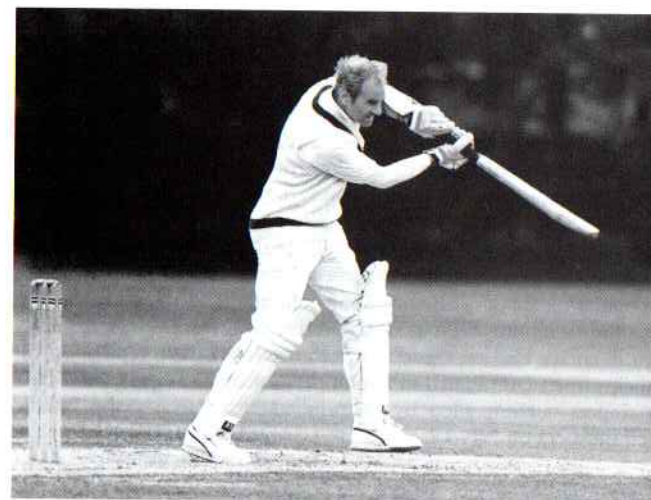
The next decade was fruitful in every way. Cricket brought him some 6,000 runs and 300 wickets for an Old Roan 1stX1 enjoying strong opposition and considerable success. More significantly he married Veronica (who boasted a Presidential père) and they produced two boys and a girl, whose regular weekend playground was the School field (or the away ground of the day) – in an era when the various offsprings frequently outnumbered the players, and the sand-pit was an essential attraction as well as a boon to those mothers on tea-duty!

By 1970 John was skippering the side and leading by example. He bowled infrequently during the next five years, but scored over 4,000 runs and added four hundreds to the two he already had. However there was a downside: several of the stable team of the previous decade had departed and the happy comradeship of that period was less apparent. The club administration showed cracks and John became burdened with tasks unrelated to the captaincy of the side on the field. His disenchantment with the apparent apathy of others was obvious and led in 1975 to his seeking enjoyment elsewhere; he took his bat to Bickley Park.

Never did he sever his broader connections with Roan – and his talent for after-dinner speaking was constantly in demand at a variety of functions.

When, in his early fifties, he parted company with PLA he had already begun to cast his (cricket) net further afield and became an integral part of the Kent County Over-50 X1. His relative mobility proved invaluable to a side still able to bat and bowl effectively, but for many of whom fielding was something they recalled once doing well .... which is not to imply that John did not contribute his share with bat and ball.

He also let it be known "have bat, will travel" and as a result in recent years has accepted numerous invitations to tour and has sampled cricket in various parts of the world. His firm opinions on a range of topics, allied to common sense and a sense of humour make him a worthy ambassador.



*The majestic Huntley straight drive.*

selling his tenure at the crease dearly and, when asked, bowling his slow-medium "dobbers". I salute a good friend, and hope these paragraphs have revealed something of the man.

Peter Williams  
September 1997

## Peter William's "X1 of the Fifties"

**T**he July 1991 issue of the Chronicle featured an article by Peter Williams on his memories of the Old Roan Cricket Club in the 1950s. Peter asked readers to nominate their "all-time team" from the names and matches mentioned. It is a reflection on how closely the Chronicle is read that, to this date, no one has replied with suggestions. Consequently Peter has shown no interest in writing the next episode on the 1960s. Assuming that those mentioned may find the list of interest we print it now:

1. Peter Williams
2. Colin Trew
3. Bryan Endersbee
4. John Williams
5. Graham Chambers
6. Derek Dreher
7. Harry Townsend
8. Bill Brooks
9. Robin Dolder
10. Ron Parker
11. Len Groves
- 12th: a) John Huntley b) Alan Dawe c) Maurice Potter

One senses that Veronica sees no more of him now than when he was on the 9 to 5 gravy-train, since in addition to this plethora of playing he puts no mean amount back into the game by holding coaching sessions with the youth of Kent and Surrey throughout the year.

And this year, rightly honoured, he has returned to the fold – holding down a place in the First X1,



## News from The John Roan School

### The Meridian Project

The Meridian Project is an educational and cultural initiative set up between The John Roan School and the Achimota School, Accra, Ghana. Linked geographically by the Greenwich Meridian, the two schools hope to develop friendship, understanding and cultural awareness by setting up an ongoing exchange.

Phase 1 involved a group of 47 students, staff and parents visiting Ghana during July 1997. The two schools worked together on a cross curricular project based around interpreting the powerful and increasingly popular music of "Adiemus Songs of Sanctuary" by Karl Jenkins. Preparations had taken place for 12 months with students producing art work, dance, poetry and display and involved in intensive music rehearsals. Both schools have a reputation for excellence in the arts and their efforts culminated in a joint performance of "Adiemus" by a massed choir of over 90 singers accompanied by instrumentalists, dancers and artistic display at the British Council in Accra on July 18.

Following the week spent with the Achimota School the John Roan musicians continued with a performing tour of Ghana. Highlights included a visit to Kumasi, a concert in the Ashanti capital, an audience at the Manhyia Palace, trips to the Cape Coast, castle fortresses, Kakum National Park, a jungle canopy walk, and the Greenwich Meridian at Tema. Links were also established with Ghanaian children from schools in Accra, Kumasi and the S.O.S. Children's Orphanage.

The project has involved substantial fundraising to meet its projected budget of £34,216. Sponsors include The Mercers Company, the Old Roan Club, the Old Roan Association and the John Roan Foundation. Other funds were raised during the last London Marathon by members of staff. The project is intended as a means to strengthen links between the two communities through the cultural activities and that this will continue into the Millennium. There have been preliminary discussions with the Mayor as to the possibility of Greenwich and Accra becoming linked in formal ways.

"Adiemus Songs of Sanctuary" by Karl Jenkins is an extended choral work fusing European classical tradition with vocal sound which has its roots in ethnic or world music. The lyrics are invented words with no meaning so that the voices become part of the instrumental texture, creating a tribal sound. The John Roan School project has taken the music of Karl Jenkins as inspiration and developed their own scenario. A celebration of new life leads to hope and promises for the future, but differences emerge and conflict arises. This culminates in the destruction of everything that was once important and the isolation of a minority who are forced to move on, to seek refuge and, eventually, to start again. We ask the question, "Why?" Should we not learn from our mistakes, seek to understand others, to value life for its diversity, to celebrate our differences and work together for a better world?

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| I. <i>Adiemus</i> : A Child is Born                | VI. <i>Cantus Insolitus</i> : Lamentation    |
| II. <i>Tintinnabulum (Part 2)</i> : The Journey    | VII. <i>Cantus Iteratus</i> : The Long March |
| III. <i>Cantus Inaequalis</i> : The Poison Spreads | VIII. <i>Amate Adea</i> : Sanctuary          |
| IV. <i>In Caelum Fero</i> : Conflict               | IX. <i>Kayama</i> : From the Ashes           |
| V. <i>Tintinnabulum (Part 1)</i> : The Wasteland   | X. <i>Hymn</i> : Towards a Better World      |

### Examination Successes 1997

The School is pleased to report an all round improvement in examination performance this summer. At GCSE they achieved a greater number of pupils with higher grades than ever before. Pupils achieving five or more grades A-C were up from 23% to 29%. Although the increases were across the board, of particular note were our top ability girls and boys who achieved an average of eight grade As and eight Bs respectively. Many subject results were strong:

Every student was entered for *Double Science*, 40% achieving grade A-C  
*English Language* up from 35% to 42% grade A-C  
*English Literature* up from 37% to 48% grade A-C  
*Mathematics* up from 24% to 29% grade A-C  
*Drama* 85% grade A-C  
*Music* 87% grade A-C  
*Art* 50% grade A-C  
*German* 38% grade A-C

Likewise the GCE A level results were on or above national averages with some outstanding subject results:

*Maths* gained 14 out of 15 passes, 7 at grade A  
*Art* gained 5 out of 5 at grade A  
*Physics* gained 9 out of 10 passes, 5 at grade B  
*Media Studies* gained 11 out of 11 passes, all grade A-C  
*Psychology* gained 7 out of 7 passes, 5 at grade A  
*English* gained 14 out of 15 passes  
*Biology* gained 7 out of 7 passes

All students gained the university place of their choice. BTec and GNVQ sixth form courses improved in performance with many students obtaining merits.

### Trevor Bell Leaves John Roan

After 30 years in the London teaching service I have decided to follow the example of Eric Cantona and retire at my peak! I came to John Roan 11 years ago, when the school was still recovering from several years of amalgamations. I have thoroughly enjoyed my years at the school valuing particularly the partnership with Ms. Farmer which built much of the pastoral policy and practice that has created the present caring ethos found so supportive by pupils, parents and staff.

The responses of staff and pupils to the demands of recent years have been magnificent. Staff have contributed so much since "L.M.S." and "National Curriculum", learning new skills, producing new policies and practice and working harder than ever to deliver high achievement for their pupils. The pupils have responded by producing better and better work and taking more responsibility for their own learning. I think I will miss most the sense of joy and excitement I experienced as I marked some of the long Geography homeworks, seeing the commitment of many hours' work and the superb results. Many thanks to everyone who has contributed to my enjoyment of my last teaching post.



### **Farewell to Ms. Thorne after 14 Years at John Roan**

I am leaving to start a small textiles business, which has been an ambition of mine for several years. This will involve designing and making a range of products from wedding dresses to soft furnishings and museum restoration work. I will also be teaching Textiles part-time in Chislehurst, near to home.

Where have the years gone? I have enjoyed working with so many interesting people and will miss so many. It is with some regret that I will not be here to share and see Year 10 through their final year, but I will keep in touch with their progress. Many thanks to pupils, parents and staff for the support given to me and the school over the years. Ms. Stallard will be taking on my role and looks forward to working with the pupils and parents. I will take with me many fond memories, but it's time to move on to gain new experiences and challenges!

### **The John Roan News – March 1997**

Among the dusty, dark habitat of spiders in the Maze Hill loft were discovered boxes of cups and trophies. Many have names on them of individuals from the distant past who won one of the assortment of different awards when pupils at Roan School for Boys or Charlton School. One of the cups dates back to 1895. These cups and trophies are now in the process of being cleaned and, where necessary, repaired for display in the near future at Maze Hill. Anyone wishing to lay claim to these trophies should contact the Secretary of the O.R.A.

Class 9MH discussed during English lessons the issue of introducing a curfew for anyone aged under 15 who would have to be in by 9.00 pm as a measure to reduce juvenile crime. The vote was 70% – 30% against the proposal and the results were sent to the M.P., Mr. Nick Raynsford who promised to pass them to the Shadow Home Secretary.

Following on from participating in the Greenwich School Cross Country Championship, John Roan entered the London Schools Cross County Championship at Parliament Hill Fields, Hampstead Heath on 19 January 1997. John Roan was represented by 30 boys and girls. The school entered 2 squads in the Junior Girls section. Over 250 runners took part in the race from 43 schools. John Roan squads came 19th and 21st. This was a determined effort by our young girls in Years 7 and 8 against mainly Year 9 pupils. We also entered 2 squads in the Junior boys section with the B squad doing particularly well to come second against other London schools. This squad involved Josh Smith (2nd), Liam McKenzie (5th), Sean Mace (16th), David Page (20th), Ben Dean (22nd) and Chris Cooke (31st).

### **The John Roan News – July 1997**

The Mayor greeted Year 9 girls at the Town Hall on the Greenwich Take Your Daughters To Work Day. The girls greatly enjoyed a variety of activities including visiting Housing, Education and Environmental offices of the Council. The event, organised by Greenwich Council, will be repeated next year and The John Roan School will participate again.

Kasheef Lawrence, Farhan Farah, Jude Ehikwe and Busayo Agboola have received certificates of achievement from the Greenwich Education Service Language and Achievement Programme for attending and contributing to the Black Student Conference on 29 April. Four Year 10 students – Tiwi Magwenzi, Syanne Warburton, Serina Campbell and Sheiron Brown – were part of The John Roan Netball team to win this year's trophy as champions for South London.

Mr. Turner would like to thank all Year 7 pupils, parents and carers for their support this year. Attendance, work and behaviour from almost every pupil have been excellent. 27 Year 7 pupils led by Ms. Wheeler, Mr. Gittos, Mr. Dunn and Ms. Wright went to the Hope Memorial Camp in the picturesque Lake District village of Braithwaite, near Keswick from 7-11 July. They spent the week abseiling and rock climbing, fell walking, canoeing and orienteering. Fortunately the weather was brilliant. 12 boys (where are the girl fishers?) went with Mr. Turner to a private lake in Surrey one Saturday in June. Despite the atrocious weather, everyone caught plenty of fish and had a great day. 3 members of staff left the Year 7 tutor team in July: Ms. Wheeler is moving to a new school as Head of German; Mrs. Gregory is taking time out from being a tutor; and Ms. Byrd is to be Head of Science at a school in East London.

We entered a Year 8 and Year 9 boys' and girls' squad in May in the Greenwich Schools Trials and came away with some commendable results. Emma Edwards came 2nd in Javelin with a 16.38m throw. Kristal Locke also came 2nd in the 200m with a time of 30.8 secs. Yemi Ekeolere came first in the 800m in 2.30.7 mins. An excellent run. Natalie Campbell and Samantha Cohen also came first in their events of Shot (8.45m) and 800m (2.45.7 mins) respectively. Both girls were asked to represent Greenwich at the London Schools Championship but were unable to fulfil this commitment. However, Ebony Anderson did represent Greenwich at this Athletics Meetings after coming first at the Greenwich Trials. She achieved a personal best of 1.30m in the high jump. Well done.

## **The Roan Theatre Company**

present

## **“She Would if She Could”**

A Restoration Comedy

at the Tyler Theatre, Eltham Green

April 1-4, 1998



## Countdown to the Millennium – 2

In last year's Chronicle I tried to set out some of the reasons why Greenwich was proud to be hosting the Millennium celebrations. Not only was it going to be a "bit of fun" but more importantly the Exhibition, or "Experience" as it is now called, was a key element in the regeneration of the borough's waterfront – stretching some 7 miles from Deptford Creek in the west to Thamesmead (the former Plumstead Marshes) in the east.

I recalled the loss of jobs; the deteriorating environment, including poor housing and contaminated sites; poor roads and rail links; the generally low level of education attainment; the lack of skills amongst the workforce; and the lack of new firms wanting to move into the area.

Greenwich embarked on an ambitious regeneration programme in the early 1990's even before the idea of a Millennium Exhibition was first mooted. This programme – based on making the area a better place to live and work in – had 9 key elements:

- The provision of new transport infrastructure.
- The attraction of inward investment.
- The development of contaminated and derelict land.
- The attraction of new job opportunities.
- The renewal of poor housing.
- The improvement of the environment.
- The improvement of education attainment.
- The improvement of skills within the workforce.

A huge agenda by any definition.

At the time of writing – October 1997 – the programme is well on the way to being realised. Despite recent alarms, the Cabinet agreed the go-ahead for the Experience with the Prime Minister personally coming to Greenwich to make the announcement. In June the first of some 7,000 piles was driven into the ground. By November the twelve 105 metre high masts which will support the Dome were in place.

**Transport infrastructure** – the Jubilee Line Extension linking Greenwich to the West End is nearly complete. The Docklands Light Railway is currently under construction linking Lewisham Town Centre to Canary Wharf via Greenwich Town Centre. In addition, a new tram system linking the whole of the Waterfront is under active discussion. The Millennium Exhibition will leave a legacy of river-boat transport, and piers all along the Waterfront. Further new crossings of the Thames are proposed at Blackwall (road), Woolwich (rail) and possibly Thamesmead (road). All this new transport infrastructure will ease communication in the area and significantly shift the emphasis from road transport to public transport thus having a significant beneficial effect on the environment.

**Inward investment** – in recent years the Government has parcelled up all its grants to assist areas in need into a single pot, and required Councils and others to compete for this funding. Greenwich and its partners have been particularly successful in securing such funding and now has five regeneration programmes – worth over £300 million – delivering a wide range of regeneration projects throughout the Waterfront area. One of the sites to benefit is the

Valley at Charlton, where a substantial investment has resulted not only in a new West Stand but also training and community facilities. Other projects involve housing, the environment, education and training, business development and community support. It is the largest regeneration programme in the country.

**Development of sites** – at the beginning of the programme Greenwich had some 1,100 acres of derelict land, much of it severely contaminated. Many sites have now been cleaned up and development applications are being received thick and fast. Deptford Creek, the Blackwall Peninsula, Woolwich Arsenal and Thamesmead are amongst the largest development sites in the whole of the country – they provide a unique opportunity to provide the housing, the jobs, the schools and community facilities so urgently needed.

**World Heritage Status** – Greenwich has always been identified with its heritage of fine buildings. This is shortly to be recognised by the formal designation of Greenwich as a World Heritage Site by the United Nations.

For Greenwich, the Millennium is much more than a one year "Experience". It is the opportunity to create a new environment and a wide range of opportunities for all of its citizens.

Fritz Henning ('59 – '63)

## Whatever Happened to Reginald A.Pomeroy ("Pom")?

Pom" left the Roan School in 1928 and, after obtaining B.A.Hons., London University, taught at schools in the L.C.C. South-East area until he entered the R.A.F. as Education Officer at Cranwell Apprentices School in 1937, where he was reunited with his long standing Roan School friend, John Perry.

In 1939, like John Perry, Pom was commissioned as member of the R.A.F.V.R. Both were Flight Lieutenants in Administration and took up posts as Adjutants. As the war progressed Pom became Squadron Leader. During these years he played rugby football for the Combined County Team of Notts/Lincs/Derbys as well as for the R.A.F.

In 1945, upon demobilisation, he returned to teaching but chose Higher Education. He became Principal of Taunton Technical College and served in this capacity until his retirement around 1970. In recognition of his "services to education in Somerset" he was awarded the O.B.E. and the new college library was named "The Pomeroy Library" in his honour.

Since the death of his wife, he has settled happily at St.George's Residential Home, 17, Wilton Road, Taunton, TA1 3JR, where he would be most happy to hear from any of his contemporary Old Roans, or to retire to the local hostelry for a reunion pint.

## Valentine C.I.Wallace ('21-'28)

Val Wallace died on January 9th 1998 in the City Hospital, Nottingham, aged 87. He was a brilliant athlete at Roan winning the Senior Mile in 1926, 1927 and 1928. Patrick Barnwell recalls his talent as a cricketer and each year it was Val's Christmas card, always from his Cricket Society, that arrived first. He had an illustrious career in the Bank. He continued to play cricket after leaving Roan and represented Scotland at International level at hockey. He is survived by his wife, Margo, who lived in Nottingham. "He was loved and respected by many and will be much missed".



## Stanley Beale – An Appreciation

Although not “a fellow of infinite jest”, Stan Beale had a wit as dry as a premier cru Chablis, which enlivened the stern rectitude of his intellect.

He taught Latin to the brainy and brainier juniors, and to seniors who needed the language for university entrance to read the “Arts”. He was head of the sixth form before succeeding Lionel Berry as Vicemaster. He ran the chess club, edited the magazine, and played the piano for the Gilbert and Sullivan sketch in the Roan Revue. He headed the top table of the Staff lunch-time bridge players, and was a consultant solver of the Times crossword – he let the rest of us fill in a few out of kindness. As “Balbus” he composed complex puzzles for the “Listener”, and was the inspiration for much of the cultural and intellectual activity in the School.



As a sixthformer, I was in awe of his erudition and intelligence; and I was grateful for his tolerance of ignoramuses like me, and for his gladly hiding the suffering my foolishness must have caused him. When I became a member of staff, my admiration and respect for him grew. His administrative skills, presence in Assembly, his scholarly charisma made him a man impossible to replace. He enriched the lives and minds of all who knew him.

George Witten wrote in 1969 on Mr. Beale's retirement: “The abiding picture that one has of Stan is of him sitting before the complicated jig-saw of the Timetable like some senior controller at a space station, surrounded by flashing lights, levers and illuminated panels, precisely operating the controls, or like one of the great cinema organists of the last generation facing a great array of baffling stops – pushing two out here and pulling three out there – to the amazement and admiration of the uninitiated. Nothing was ever overlooked; no class went of course through wrong or hurried directions and landed on Mars instead of in Room 13; no untuneful or unintended squeaks disturbed the harmony of the School”.

Stanley Beale, B.A., A.K.C., held a 1st Class Honours Degree from London University. He started teaching at Roan in 1929 and, after moving to Eggars Grammar School, Alton and taking the post of Senior Classics Master at the City Grammar School, Sheffield, returned to Roan in 1946. He died in 1996.

Alf Knott

## Doreen Tostevin (1932-1996) – An Appreciation

Doreen Tostevin was born in St. Peter Port, Guernsey in 1932. She was evacuated with her mother just before the German invasion leaving behind her sick father to be cared for by relatives. Later, the Red Cross informed them of his death.

“Tossy” and her mother returned to stay with her maternal grandmother in Greenwich until they could find their own accommodation. Doreen started at the school in Devonshire Drive in September 1943 and we became friends the following year in the second form.

I shall never forget our anxiety one morning during the V2 rocket attacks, when Tossy was absent for registration. We knew there had been an incident near her home the previous evening. Halfway through the morning the door opened and Tossy appeared with a dressing on her head covering a wound caused by a piece of falling ceiling. She had come straight from the Casualty Station. Only a short time later her home was damaged again and this time her mother was seriously injured. Even so, Tossy never missed school, kept up with her homework and visited her mother every day in St. Alphege Hospital.

Although Tossy's physical disabilities prevented her from representing the school at games, she came to every match and toured the greengrocers shops for oranges so we could have our half-time refreshment. Tossy also helped organise our form's annual trip to the Miller Hospital to take a Christmas tree and sing carols.

As so often happens, we lost touch during our college days and it wasn't until 1985 as a result of an appeal on Guernsey Radio that Tossy contacted me.

Since 1976 Tossy had been a member of the Soroptimist International, an organisation dedicated to improving the lives of all women throughout the world. During her year as regional president, her fundraising activities paid for a water supply to be piped to a remote village in Senegal, saving all the women an enormous trek to fetch daily supplies to their families from the nearest well.

The tribute by Audrey Taylor in the November Newsletter of the Soroptimist International of Southern England concludes: “Tossy always put others before herself whether during her professional life as a teacher or with her friends and colleagues. We will all miss Tossy so much but must be aware of her contribution and ensure that we carry on as she would have wished mindful of our responsibilities to use our time and skills wisely. Thank you Tossy for being you.”

More than two hundred people attended Tossy's funeral service on October 22nd 1996 at the Highfield Church in Southampton. Pupils and staff from the two schools where she taught, as well as many members of the Soroptimist International attended. It was a privilege to have Tossy as a friend.

Doreen Fidler (née Wenbourne, '43-'50)





## Denis Owen (1931-1996) – An Appreciation

An enthusiastic field naturalist, Denis Owen (1931-1996) was one of the best all-round ecologists of his generation. He published some 250 scientific papers, ten books and numerous articles and letters. His most successful book, *What is Ecology?* (1974), greatly contributed to bringing the study of ecology into the mainstream of human inquiry.

Denis Frank Owen was educated at the Roan School, Greenwich. On leaving there, he joined the staff of the bird room of the Natural History Museum. Here he gained a sound basic knowledge of taxonomic ornithology.

When he joined the London Natural History Society in 1947 he quickly impressed the senior members who invited him to join their entomological and ecological committees. He took a prominent part in the society's ecological survey of the fauna and flora of the bombed sites of central London, which prompted his first paper: *The macrolepidoptera of the Moorgate, London, bombed sites (1949)*.

In 1948 he became the editor of the first annual report of the Junior Bird Recorders' Club, the forerunner of today's Young Ornithologists' Club, the junior branch of the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds. In 1949 he undertook a field study of ten pairs of nightjars in a Kentish wood, publishing an excellent account of them in the RSPB's journal.

Called up for National service in 1949, he was fortunate to spend most of it in isolated camps on the Solway Firth, where he studied the water-owl and northern species of butterflies and moths. He was invited in 1951 to work under David Lack, the director of the Edward Grey Institute of Field Ornithology at Oxford University, on the ecology of tit-mice, grey herons, rooks and swifts. In 1956 he read for a degree in zoology, and after graduating in 1958 he took a doctorate at the University of Michigan. While there he studied the tropical ecology of central America.

In June 1962 he took up a lectureship in zoology at Makerere University College in Kampala, Uganda, at that time part of London University. This new appointment enabled him to extend his research interests to African wildlife, especially the genetics and population ecology of butterflies. He also published his first book, *Animal Ecology in Tropical Africa*, an academic text for students of ecology, and one of the first to use local examples and case studies.

A move to West Africa as Professor of Zoology at the University of Sierra Leone in 1966 eventually led to the publication in 1971 of his book *Tropical Butterflies*. By then his academic standing was secure and he was made director of Unesco's biology teaching project for Africa, in Ghana, and was for a time acting vice-chancellor at the University of Sierra Leone.

These achievements were, no doubt, instrumental in his appointment in 1971 as Professor of Tropical Ecology at the University of Lund in Sweden, which he held until 1973. The following year saw the publication of *What is Ecology?*, subsequently translated into many languages, including Japanese and most recently, 1995, into Chinese.

Owen returned to Britain in 1973 to take up an appointment at the department of biology at Oxford Polytechnic (later to become Oxford Brookes University). He combined his work there with serving as visiting professor at universities all over the world, as well as acting as consultant on various ecological projects, especially those concerning the causes of desert encroachment in the Sahel in West Africa.

Retiring from Oxford Brookes University earlier this year, Owen was looking forward to completing some of his personal long-term research projects. A paper shortly to be published, completed his work on the scarlet tiger moth, *Callimorpha dominula*.

He will permanently be remembered in the names of those insects which were named after him: one was a West African hawkmoth *Phylloxiphia oweni*, known as Owen's redwing, and then there was a whole genus of Ichneumon wasps, *Owenus*.

Denis Owen was twice married and is survived by his second wife Clare, and the son and daughter of his first marriage. He died of lung cancer on October 3, 1996 aged 65.

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## William Addison Cramp Phd. (1932-97). An Appreciation

Bill had been unwell for a few months but his health rapidly deteriorated over the last 2 weeks in May during which time he was a patient in Harefield Hospital, Middlesex. He passed away in the early hours of Saturday, 14 June 1997.

It was standing room only at the service held at the Breakspear Crematorium, Ickenham on Monday, 23 June. This last ceremony reflected Bill's views on life, being officiated by a member of the British Humanist Association. Reflections on Bill's life were given by Roy Pound, his lifelong friend from his school days at Roan, Shirley Hornsey, a friend and working colleague from the MRC and his daughter, Terry, (read by the officiant, Peter Jones). 9 Old Roans attended what Pauline, his wife, called a "celebration of Bill's life", and they had their own private reflections and thoughts of a dear friend.





Bill was at the School from 1943 to 1950 where his particular sporting interests were soccer and cricket, playing in his later years for the School teams as well as being a useful member of the Rodney House teams. From the Roan School, Bill went on to study biochemistry at the then Chelsea Polytechnic, finally obtaining his Phd. At one of the London University Union Dances in 1955, Bill met a young secretary, Pauline, and 2 years later they were married.

Bill entered the commercial world with ICI and subsequently with Crookes Laboratories, but in September 1962 he took up a post graduate fellowship in the U.S.A.. He and Pauline settled in Columbus, Ohio for the next year. On their return in 1963, Bill joined the Medical Research Council at Hammersmith Hospital where he continued until he took retirement in 1988.

Bill and Pauline's only daughter, Terry, was born in 1965 and in 1966 they all moved to Ickenham, Ruislip where Bill was able to devote a great deal of his spare time to his favourite hobby, gardening.

During his time with the MRC, Bill worked for many years on DNA – the substance which carries the genetic code. He was also the last of the team which, in the 1960's, did the initial work on scrapie – the sheep disease now held responsible for Mad Cow Disease. This work which showed that the scrapie agent did not contain nucleic acid, was attributed by the popular press to an American some 20 years later!

His last piece of work with Gilmore Harris on rheumatology patients convinced Bill that there was a group of people in the population who were more sensitive to radiation than the norm. He developed a technique which did identify such a group – but no one was interested and most radiotherapists "poo-poo'ed" the idea and he was discouraged from continuing. It is believed that the NHS has now allocated £1 million to such research and is desperate to find a scientist to carry out the work! A prophet in his time is rarely recognised!

During all this time Bill's sporting interests continued apace! He organised Unit hockey, cricket and squash teams to play other Research Units and in addition led weekly expeditions to the local swimming baths!

Bill took early retirement in 1988, which gave him the opportunity to spend more time with Pauline and Terry and his favourite hobby. Bill specialised in dahlias and chrysanthemums, although some of his vegetables were prize specimens.

Bill had the idea of a Roan School reunion which came to fruition in May 1992 when 18 Old Roans who were at the School in Maze Hill between 1943 and 1950, met at the Compass Theatre, Ickenham. Subsequently, 2 further reunions have taken place in October 1994 and May 1997, both organised by Bill with Pauline's help. Unfortunately, Bill was unable to attend the last one as he had been taken into hospital only 2 days before. Future reunions will be held in Bill's memory.

Pauline Cramp and Roy Pound  
July 1997

## Roan '43-'50 Reunion 111

The third in this series of reunions, which started in 1992, was held at Chartwell on Saturday May 31st 1997. This had been the site for the second reunion in 1994. Unfortunately, Bill Cramp who had organised it so successfully was not able to attend because of illness, but we were pleased to see his wife, Pauline.

Bill has since died and this has saddened us all. I have many happy memories of Bill as we both became chemists after leaving Roan. He was a marvellous fellow, in spite of his always insisting on calling me Dougie! We join with the tribute to him which appears elsewhere in this issue.

About 40 Old Roans including some wives were able to attend. Although some who had come to earlier reunions were not able to attend on this occasion, we were pleased to welcome amongst others Brian Endersbee, Warren Hills, John Lovelock, George Lawrence and Rodney Major for the first time. In addition, several "overlapping" Old Roans, including Denis Priest from Australia (!), Reg Red and Alan Huntley were able to attend, and swap stories with their seniors or juniors! Last but not least, we were particularly pleased to see Lionel Berry and John Thorpe from the staff side. Memories came flooding back! Of Witten, Peddie, Milne, Morey and all! (I have left out their nicknames!). Distance lends enchantment to the view they say, but the old days were better, weren't they? The dedication of those masters was phenomenal; as far as I know, there was no question of payment for all the hours that they put into our outside activities, from the Aristotelian Society to the farming camps at Ickham. Incidentally, why were most(!) of the "characters" on the arts side?

May I add a personal note? I will be forever grateful to Lionel for setting me off on the chemical trail, but even now, at 65 and an Emeritus Professor, I have the greatest difficulty in addressing him as Lionel. To me, he will always be Mr. Berry! He chastised me about this some years ago when pointing out that even his grand children call him Lionel. No doubt, I am the victim of the English disease!

As always the afternoon passed very rapidly and, although I can recall the stories, for the life of me I cannot recall the no doubt excellent food that we ate in parallel! As is typical, most of us have had our ups and downs in life, but on the whole have come out smiling. I think, however, that I would give the "most contented man" award to Pete Kay. This man exudes happiness and is not the least bit worried by his weight! Appearances are very subjective, but I think that John Lovelock looked most like his photograph as part of the Sixth Form at Roan, circa 1949. All in all, though, we are a very well preserved lot; although, of course, I am rather biased!

There will certainly be another reunion, but when? A rigorous twenty four months time is, perhaps, a bit too soon, so October 1999 has been suggested. Also, the year 2000 has something going for it as that will be the fiftieth anniversary of our leaving the school.

Fifty years, although it seems a long time, is short in the context of the Roan tradition as I was reminded of yesterday when I walked down Roan Street in West Greenwich to the site of one of the early schools and read the John Roan plaque on St. Alphege's Church. Perhaps we should hold our next reunion in West Greenwich (Ibis Hotel), in spite of the obvious attractions of Chartwell!

By the way, whatever happened to Aldrich Loffman Brown? I hope you don't mind my asking!

Doug Inman, June 1997



## News of the John Roan School Lodge

**N**ext year, the Lodge will be seventy years old. Since its foundation, in 1928, sixty-three Masters have presided over its affairs, a few on two occasions. Over the years, they have included Heads and members of Staff.

It says much for the spirit of the Lodge and, indeed, of Freemasonry in general, that it withstood the vicissitudes of the period of the Second World War, from 1939 to 1945, to emerge into the post-war era as strong as ever.

Our present Master is Michael Kefford-Stone, who was installed in the Chair in October 1996. Michael joined the Lodge in 1972 and has now attained the highest honour that the Lodge has in its power to bestow on any of its members. He is discharging the responsibilities and duties of the office with enthusiasm and success.

The Lodge is within the jurisdiction of the Masonic Province of West Kent, having moved from London in 1980. The Province is a lively body which does not confine itself to the business of ceremonial Freemasonry, important as that is, but organises, in addition, social events and activities. Snooker, golf, and bowls tournaments figure prominently in the Provincial calendar and we take pride in that, in 1996, the John Roan Lodge won the Inter-Lodge Quiz Competition Shield, defeating thirty-two other Lodges for the title. This year, we again fought our way to the Final, but failed to emulate our success of last year, finishing fifth; five points only separated us from the winners. Thirty-five Lodges played in the Final.

We are ever mindful of our links with the School, and, to help to preserve them, the Lodge will be donating a monetary award towards the expenses of the proposed visit, by the School Orchestra and Choirs, to Ghana.

Music and Freemasonry have long not been strangers. A notable Freemason was Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart. A famous organist and Freemason, Samuel Wesley, was the first exponent of that instrument to have the masonic title of Grand Organist.

Charity features prominently in Freemasonry and the Craft, as it is known, supports many non-masonic bodies, as well as its own charities. Recent beneficiaries have been Fairbridge, which supports young people at risk from crime, drugs and anti-social behaviour; the Prince's Youth Business Trust; the Royal Philanthropic Society; Frenchay Hospital, Bristol; a grant for repairs to St. Anne's Church, Manchester, damaged in the terrorist bombing in 1996; the District of Sierra Leone and the Gambia to pay for fourteen beds, in the hospital at Freetown, for people who cannot afford the fees.

Naturally, we welcome, with open arms, would-be initiates into the Lodge and anyone contemplating joining us should contact the Secretary, Alan Penney, 44 Tradescant Drive, Meopham, Kent, DA13 0EF. Tel: 01474 8147153



## The John Roan Foundation

**T**he John Roan Trust was established in 1664 to provide an education for the children of Greenwich. The Trust is a registered charity now known as The John Roan Foundation. The charity is managed by a body of thirteen trustees, seven nominated and not more than six co-opted. Six trustees are nominated by the London Borough of Greenwich and one by the Senate of London University. The co-opted trustees include the Head of the school, school governors, two members of the Old Roan Association and a member of the parents association. The current Old Roan trustees are Linda Nelson and Vivian Lawrence.

For many years the trust was dormant but after a lot of hard work initiated by Ann Tonkin (ex Head of school) the trustees now meet on a regular basis and are making the Trust work.

Any income of the charity can be used to benefit the school or pupils in any manner not normally provided out of public funds. At prize-giving the Roan Exhibition, awarded to the students achieving the highest qualifications, is provided for by the Trust. Over the last couple of years the Trust has funded the computer network throughout the school and will continue to do so to ensure that the equipment is up to date. This year the Trust has provided money to the music department for the purchase and maintenance of musical instruments so that all children have the opportunity to learn. Assistance was also given for the music trip to Ghana in July.

A few years ago the Trust purchased the playing fields in Kidbrooke Park Road from the council. The Trust is now looking to develop the fields with the aid of lottery funds. Feasibility studies are taking place and users of the fields will be consulted for their needs. Draft plans are to provide all-weather floodlit surfaces to include a full size hockey pitch, netball, tennis, football training, cricket nets etc. and to improve the current grass pitches with better drainage. Plans are also being prepared to extend the changing room facilities and provide indoor activities such as a gym room, aerobics and possibly indoor cricket nets. Obviously there is much to be considered and any improvements of such a size would be dependent on the lottery.

## Contributions to the Geoff Sawyer Memorial:

Old Roan Association	B.Coshell (Honorary)	J.Lovell ('27-'30)
Old Roan Club	J.Cramp ('48-'53)	S.Nelson ('61-'67)
Old Roan Cricket Club	J.Dennis ('64-'71)	D.Peachey ('54-'60)
Old Roan Football Club	D.Dreher ('49-'56)	A.Slaney ('59-'66)
A.Berry ('33-'39)	N.Haslam ('67-'74)	A.Taylor (Head '68-'85)
J.Broadfoot ('51-'56)	K.Hedges ('59-'65)	T.Thurley ('66-'73)
V.Brooker ('30-'35)	G.Lawrance (Staff '76-'81)	A.Weir ('36-'42)
D.Bryden ('54-'61)	V.Lawrence ('64-'67)	K.Wilkins ('58-'65)
K.Calnan ('58-'65)	J.Leach ('55-'62)	P.Williams ('38-'64)
G.Chambers ('49-'54)	J.Long ('32-'37)	D.Wright ('71-'78)





*Roan School. Eastney Street. 1919*

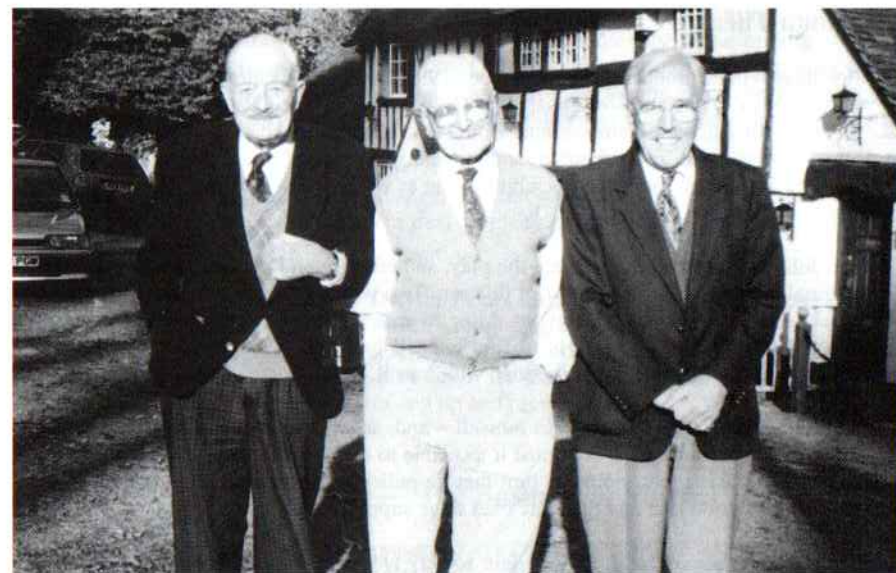
Royal. He knew Harry Icough and his family in the early twenties and remembers him as quite a force in local politics and a tough employer.

"The School organised a visit in 1925 to the British Empire Exhibition at Wembley and we were split up into groups of a dozen or so, each led by a prefect or other senior boy. I was with N.F.Bishop, and late in the afternoon, he came across me in the amusement park looking a bit glum and asked me what was the trouble. I told him I had spent all my pocket-money whereupon he immediately put his hand in his own pocket and gave me enough for a few more go's on the swings and roundabouts – a very kindly gesture to an 11 year old and something I have remembered ever since."

In the autumn term in 1927, five Vth formers detached themselves from Kirby's outing to a French set play in the West End, and went instead to the annual Trade Exhibition where they were interested in the new advanced wireless technology and were photographed studying a new set called "The School Five" just launched by the periodical, "Amateur Wireless". "A subsequent issue of the magazine showed, front page, our heroes studying the set, their caps and stag badges clearly identifiable. Their names – all from the Science V – as near as I can remember: J.Pearson, H.W.Eagle, Hutton, Osbourne and C.H.A.Simmons; but I am open to correction on this – after all, it was 70 years ago!"

session, spoken without pause and all in one breath" – 'now when I say get dressed get dressed quickly now all get dressed'." During lunch-hour workouts in the gym in preparation for Sports Day demonstrations, he and Horace Weissner worked out a stunt on the ropes which involved hauling themselves up ropes to the ceiling until their heads touched, turning a half somersault to place their feet on the roof, and then lowering themselves slowly to the ground. There were no nets, no mats and Ashworth was off working with others. "I wonder what the Health and Safety would make of that one?"

A lady governor – probably Miss Elizabeth Griffen – "very prim and proper person, almost Victorian in dress and manner" gave speeches .....which most people couldn't hear." Other governors were Professor J.E.G.De Montmorency of school song fame and Lady Dyson, wife of Sir Frank Dyson, Astronomer



*H.W.A. Gibbons ('24-'31), E.T. Barr ('25-'32), J.G. Barr ('32-'41)  
Taken in October 1994*



*The Drummond Lathe from the Eastney Street  
Handicrafts room*

The Pearson mentioned above was one of a group of boys caught walking around the site while the new school was being built, which was strictly forbidden. They were lined up on the stage at Assembly and had, publicly, to apologise for the misdemeanour. "Last came Pearson and I can see him now, stepping forward to the edge of the stage and saying in a loud voice, 'I refuse to apologise', whereupon Hope, looking thunderous, stalked off stage and back to his study – a bit of an anti-climax to an otherwise serious situation."

There are many other names and incidents in the long letter and he ends with a photo of the Drummond lathe from Eastney Street and Maze Hill, now assembled and in working order in Mr. Barr's workshop – a daily reminder of the Eastney Street days. "Can anyone out there beat that one?"

*E.T. Barr, June 1996*



## The Roan Theatre Company – “A Chorus of Disapproval”

For their winter production in December 1996 the Roan Theatre Company chose Alan Ayckbourn's “A Chorus of Disapproval”, which was staged at the National Theatre in 1985 with Michael Gambon and Bob Peck heading the cast. It was a challenging project – a play about an amateur operatic society rehearsing John Gay's “The Beggar's Opera”. This meant the cast had to be able to sing as well as act – and there were eight scene changes.

Graham Johnson volunteered to direct the play, and after several readings and some hiccups he was finally able to choose his cast of thirteen. Two weeks later, circumstances forced one of his two leading characters to drop out. After an anxious wait Graham found an actor from another group to play the part, only to find himself back at square one some three weeks later when a family illness caused a second withdrawal.

Graham finally had to take on the part himself – and, as anyone who has ever been involved in putting on a play knows – it is almost impossible to direct a difficult play while taking on a leading part. It is a great tribute to him that he pulled it off, although he modestly points out that he had a good cast and first-rate backstage support.

Graham played a newcomer to the operatic society who is given a minor part but who ends up playing Macheath, the leading role. Trevor Talbot had the largest part as the dedicated director of the show, with Glynis Watson as his long suffering wife who falls in love with Graham. Alf and Beryl Knott played a cantankerous old northerner and his tetchy wife; Richard Rickson and Joan Stanbridge an ineffective couple with Mandy Brown as their spoilt daughter; Teresa Wilkins and Steve Hunt were a wife-swapping couple; Geraldine Day was a bolshie stage manager; and David Lane a loutish leading man. The cast was completed by David Horsburgh who made a notable debut, combining playing the piano with the title role of the beggar.

With regular magazine critic David Horsburgh in the cast, we asked writer and director Polly Teale to review the play. Her West End credits include “Mill on the Floss” (Lyric, Hammersmith), “Babies” (Royal Court), “Miss Julie” (Young Vic, and “War and Peace” (National). This is her report:

The Roan Theatre Company bring the characters of Ayckbourn's legendary amateur operatic society to life with a wonderful wit and energy.

When Guy Jones, a shuffling, anorak wearing widower, arrives to take on the smallest part in the latest production no one could have guessed the havoc he would cause. Graham Johnson brilliantly portrays the crippling shyness and embarrassment of an outsider entering a new world and then gradually expanding into his role both within and without the “drama”. The director's lonely wife is one of several women who seek him out for sexual favours and then refuse to let him go. Whilst Guy is nice to everyone, no one is happy, wanting more from him than he is able to give.

Ayckbourn is so good at observing the sadness of failed relationships, particularly the inability to understand or even hear a cry for help. The play climaxes with a wonderful scene in which Dafydd, the director, does an entire lighting plot while his wife is being told by

Guy that he is ending their affair. Dafydd is so completely uninterested in his wife that he fails to hear a word of this slanging match although he is literally in the middle of it. An excellent performance from Trevor Talbot as Dafydd brings out not only the man's total insensibility but also his charisma, wit and passion for the theatre. We love and hate this obsessive man who scarcely notices his wife's desperation yet is somehow the life and soul of the amateur operatic group.

Forgive me for naming just two of an excellent cast who brought to their performances a wealth of detail. There was, it seems, a deal of glee and mischief in dramatising the very world to which these actors belong.

The production is bold and playful. Dafydd shouts instructions to his actors from amongst the audience – a nice touch from the director reminding us that we are in a theatre watching a play set in a theatre. The world of rehearsals becomes a microcosm for examining the drama of our own lives. Though we may laugh we also feel their pain and understand the longing to escape into the world of dressing up and pretending.

## The Roan Theatre Company – “The Business of Murder”

The Roan Theatre Company presented the play “The Business of Murder” by Richard Harris at The Tyler Theatre, Eltham Green from April 16-19, 1997. The three parts were played by Trevor Talbot (Hallett), Graham Johnson (Stone) and Rae Hammersley (Dee) and the play was directed by Teresa Wilkins.

This production was something of a departure from the Roan Theatre Company's usual menu. The group's committee had decided to deviate a little from its usual comic vein and to provide a more varied programme for its audience. Hence the choice of a psychological thriller.

This tense 3-hander was superbly acted and directed. Teresa Wilkins made her debut as director for this production and found the experience exhausting but rewarding. Her three actors gave 101%. Trevor Talbot, as Hallett, the cynical Superintendent, was excellently cast, Graham Johnson, looking both frail and sinister, made my flesh creep, as the psychologically damaged Stone. Rae Hammersley, as Dee, the bewildered journalist caught between them, gave a fine performance. Her nervy delivery and edginess increased visibly as the play moved towards its shocking climax.

An exciting evening of excellent theatre.



Graham Johnson and Trevor Talbot

Mandy Brown  
December 1997



## The Roan Theatre Company – Rochester One-Act Play Festival

In July, the Roan Theatre Company made its annual pilgrimage to the Medway Little Theatre in Rochester to take part in the 25th Duncan Rand One-Act Festival, amid fears that owing to changes taking place at the theatre, this could be the last one of its kind.

The Company's entry this year was "Blue Remembered Hills", a play by Dennis Potter which was presented on television some years ago. The seven members of the cast appeared as a group of children in the West Country during the last war, and as usual good, sound performances abounded, including a most impressive debut from a newcomer, Alison McGuirk, as the horrible Audrey. Other regular members performing were Mandy Brown, Geraldine Day, Glynis Watson, David Lane, Richard Rickson and Graham Johnson. For an adult to play a child, and moreover an adult female to play a male child, which was the case with Mandy and Geraldine, calls for a great deal of acting skill and dedication (and fifty times your natural supply of energy!). Suffice it to say that an attentive audience was totally convinced by each and every performance.

With great attention to detail and the creation of an ingenious set, Pete Wollen excelled in his first enterprise with the Company as Director/Producer, and with able assistance from Debbie Vyse, Freda Goldberg, Pusia Fleming, Joseph Wollen and Yolanda Haberla, the production was technically flawless.

Professional adjudication of the sixteen entries was given by Jayne Richards, who invited the R.T.C. back, as one of the three best productions, to perform again on Finals Night on July 26th.

Wearing my impartial and unbiased hat of course, I truly felt that the Company had earned a higher position than the bronze medal awarded, although everyone who took part was delighted to have the opportunity of performing one of Potter's best plays for a second time at the Finals Night extravaganza, where during an hour or so of presentations reminiscent of Hollywood Oscars night, David Lane received a certificate of commendation for his acting ability and Graham Johnson received the prestigious "Best Actor in a Supporting Role" trophy. His shelf at home is now at risk of collapsing under the weight of such booty!

As a member of the R.T.C. who was not directly involved in this production, serving purely as a member of the audience, I was proud to witness such a skilful and enjoyable production, which came as a result of over two months of hard work on the part of my friends in the Company.

Well done to all those who were involved!

Trevor Talbot  
September 1997



## The Roan Theatre Company. "Born Yesterday"

The Roan Theatre Company provided an enjoyable resurrection of the comedy "Born Yesterday" by Garson Kanin. This American play, written after the Second World War, was ably directed by Graham Johnson and offered wholesome advice about the virtues of American democracy, the power of the people and the dangers of corruption in public life.

The original production on Broadway in 1946 offered a showcase for Judy Holliday in the role of "Billie" and she subsequently won an Oscar for the part in the film version made in 1950. Teresa Wilkins provided a glorious version of the part and was quite outstanding. A strong performance in this role is important to save what is essentially a dated and often weakly written play and Teresa's presence on the stage was compelling. Having discovered a high-pitched nasal whine that managed, surprisingly, to sustain an American accent throughout she also breathed credibility into an American cliché – the simpleton who discovers wisdom and understanding beyond that of their more learned and sophisticated associates. A mixture of Eliza Doolittle and Mr. Deedes played by a gangster's moll with credits to Harvey and Forrest Gump. Some of her best acting featured in the non-verbal exchanges and in particular the game of "gin-rummy" with Trevor Talbot and her mindless reminiscences of her chorus girl past with snatches of Cole Porter songs.



Simon Uttley and Teresa Wilkins



Trevor Talbot was also strong in the central role of the uncouth, corrupt and occasionally violent entrepreneur but seemed less comfortable with this part and less convincing than in recent performances. The script for this part deteriorated and the writing in the final act did him few favours. Trevor brought his usual attention to detail to the part and his cigar smoking, shoe untying and card shuffling were wonderfully executed. He also survived four evenings of being shaved on the front of stage with a "cut-throat razor" by Graham Johnson.

The young and idealistic newspaper investigator was played by Simon Uttley on his debut performance for the Roan Theatre Company. This was an excellent performance in a difficult part and his acting was assured and thoughtful throughout giving a necessary credibility to the character and an important balance to Teresa's more flamboyant role. Leonard Quaife was also very strong as the cynical and corrupt accountant and provided important stature and clarity in the early scenes. It also fell to Len to close the play with a clear moral message that proved a less than accurate prediction of the subsequent 50 years of American politics and just fell short of inviting the audience to sing "God Bless America". Richard Rickson appeared to enjoy his comic role as Trevor's "gofer", appearing and departing from all sides of the stage and auditorium with manic grins and a range of accents. Alf and Beryl Knott were solid as the weak Senator and his snobbish wife and though Beryl's part was small her exchanges with Teresa were a highlight of the performance.

Graham Johnson directed with play with the necessary pace yet allowed Trevor and Teresa sufficient opportunity and time to excell in building their characters. It must be stated that the Roan Theatre Company are fortunate in possessing some very talented performers with Teresa, Trevor and Graham, in particular, of exceptional quality.

Peter Laurie, Alison McGuirk and Glynis Watson provided lovely cameo performances. A little more of Peter's deliciously camp portrayal of the hotel assistant manager would have been welcome. Graham Johnson and Steve Hunt appeared in a succession of non-speaking roles. Backstage support was provided by Peter Laurie, Mandy Brown, Rae Hammersley, Carol Lee, Freda Goldberg, Yolanda Haperla, Rod Stanbridge and Barbara Roe. The stage set was impressive and convincing. The production was staged at The Tyler Theatre, Eltham Green from November 26-29, 1997. This is the seventh production by the Roan Theatre Company at the Tyler Theatre which has been refurbished and offers very comfortable seating for the audience and a pleasant glass of wine, courtesy of Berkman Wine Cellars, in the interval.

The next production is "She Would if She Could", a Restoration Comedy, at the Tyler Theatre from 1-4 April, 1998.



## 100 "Fifties"

Circa 1963 I bumped into Peter Williams inside the Porcupine pub near Mottingham where I had been playing cricket at the local playing fields for a works team. He asked me if I would like to play for Old Roan on Sundays. I can remember playing in several all-day games without getting a chance to bat. The fact that Pete only gave me a bowl when the opposition were in dire straights and I only got a knock when we were in similar circumstances indicated to me that I was just in the side for my fielding. Nevertheless, I enjoyed myself so much on and off the field that I could hardly wait for the start of the '64 season.

My big chance came on cup final day, at Wickham Park, when some of the "super-stars" were missing, which is their wont. Peter asked me to go in 4 and I was soon at the wicket facing a left arm round, medium pace, swing bowler. I remember getting myself in all sorts of trouble by playing back instead of as far forward as possible. His first delivery hit me low down on the pads and I survived a loud appeal for l.b.w. A few balls later, I came down late with the bat, and the ball ran on and hit the stumps gently, without dislodging the bails! The wicket-keeper, who was standing up, said to me "You will score a hundred today" and I did. For the rest of the season I badgered the skippers to put me higher up the order than perhaps my experience and ability warranted, and by playing every Old Roan 1st XI fixture going, I managed to scrape together 1,000 runs by the end of the season.

After that I scored the magic number needed per year a lot easier, the most being nearly 1,500 about 1970 which was a record at the time. That year I needed only 4 runs at Addiscombe in the last game of the season to average 50. I managed a miserable duck, this after a swashbuckling 97 in the same fixture the previous year! I make no apology for mentioning averages and aggregates as these targets and goals used to motivate me. Peter Williams must take credit for keeping up-to-date and neat records. All the young ambitious players used to scrutinize Peter's figures religiously each week, just to make sure he had not missed a single run, let alone a catch or a wicket! I must report that our learned statistician was always 100% correct during the 10 years or so when I regularly perused his work. We have been extremely lucky having someone like Peter keeping records since 1949 and I look forward to the millennium when a book all about 50 years of Old Roan cricket will surely be published.

My two favourite characters during this time were Graham Chambers and Ron Parker, who in my early days at the club used to delight us all with their personality and charisma, especially in the bar. We also had Peter Williams, who epitomised everything good in club cricket. Always calm and unruffled whether skipping, batting or wicket-keeping. He has played well over 1,000 times and scored over 20,000 runs for the club which is 4,000 more than I have managed to accumulate. During my Old Roan career I have had some memorable times and enjoyed myself immensely. Once, in a Kemps Cup game near Southend in Essex I met Trevor Bailey in the bar after the match. He told me he was disappointed that I had been bowled out for a duck by his son as he had been looking forward to seeing me bat, in my inimitable way. "That's the problem with the game", I replied. "In golf if you play a bad shot early in the match you have a lot more chances to make up for it". "Ah, my boy", he responded immediately, "that's the beauty of cricket".

Finally, let me say this. If I was offered a million pounds now, to give up the chance of batting in the next innings when we all must follow on, I would say no! Then I could perfect my forward defensive à la Ken Farrer, score the 4 runs needed at Addiscombe and accumulate those 100 "fifties" faster!

Joe Broadfoot, May 1997



## Old Roan Cricket Club

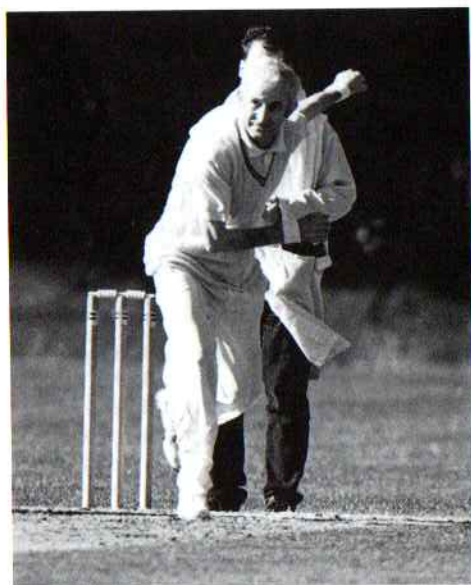
### 1st XI League Team – Seasons 1996 & 1997

Once again the highs and lows of the Cricket Club need bringing up to date since the reign of captain Keith Barron when the last report was made. The timing is poignant as this report coincides with the final season of the North Kent League and something of a watershed in the history of Old Roan Cricket Club.

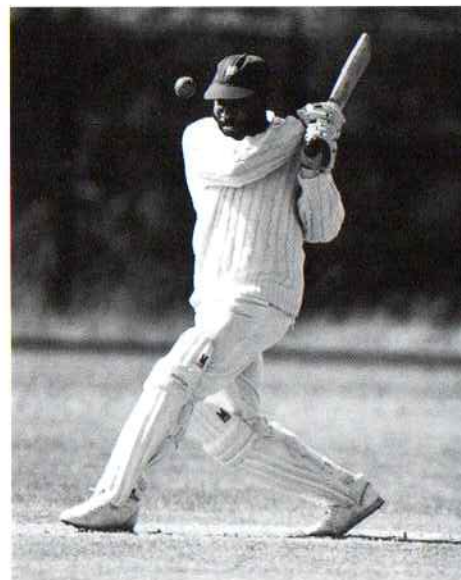
Already in Keith's last year as captain the playing strength and consistency of performance was clearly on the wane. The loss of Graham Lawrance with a broken leg, as a result of his persistent efforts to maintain the appearance of being able to play soccer, was a major blow, and the more intermittent appearances of previously key players in the squad weakened the team. The appearance of the ground certainly improved as Graham took his frustrations out on the overgrown undergrowth around the ground but meanwhile the team's performances did not always match up to the surroundings.

#### 1996

In picking up the badge of office from Keith I discovered that the 1996 season was not going to be any easier. An early misfortune was my performance in the first game. A duck and a broken foot (achieved whilst bowling in the nets to Graham Lawrance) were not entirely indicative of leadership potential. When John Stickings then bowled 5 long hops in an over in which the new ball disappeared out of the ground, I had an inkling that the season could be difficult. The loss of our most consistent and mean bowler (Don Patterson) half way through the season with a stomach problem was yet another drawback to any chances of competing effectively in the League. Farid Abassi had already departed from the squad because of business commitments and whilst Chris Stanbridge performed heroically (bowling and batting) on the occasions he played, we missed the all round strength of bowling anticipated at the beginning of the season. Sammy Morgan, Dan Calnan and John Stickings gave sterling support on occasions but often it was the contribution and experience of Keith Barron and Norman Jones that kept the team in the game throughout the season. Even the final League game had the drama of losing a key player with a debilitating injury when John Stickings, displaying his own unique style of batting, threw his shoulder out in an attempt to smite the ball out of the ground! John has not played since.



Don Patterson



Norman Jones

additional responsibility of skippering in my absence as well as tending the wicket, buying the teas and arranging the fixtures! A man for all seasons indeed!

Overall 1996 was a disappointing year and plagued by injuries that undoubtedly prevented us from playing as well as we had anticipated. The loss of key players was a significant feature and in some cases the loss had spilled over into the 1997 season. Nevertheless there was a nucleus of players, who, in spite of the occasional sulk and tantrum, displayed a good team spirit! Social activities were successful and individual exploits, to be recalled in future years, featured prominently. The re-appearance of Graham Lawrance in his batting garb was also a welcome sight and he was easily the most successful batsman, although Kevin Noble displayed much

My contribution over the first two thirds of the season was confined to team "selection" and umpiring. "Selection" is a misleading term since on no occasion during that season was I in a position of selecting. Often the Friday night and Saturday mornings were spent trying to persuade all and sundry to play at very short notice. Many thanks are due to Pat Gregg for frequently rescuing me from the prospect of turning out with less than a full complement of players. Indeed, as a result, a feature of the season was that the team always managed to field 11 bodies in spite of all the difficulties. Nevertheless, it is significant that the 1996 season will be remembered as the season when both 1st and 2nd XIs on Saturdays used more than 40 players each! The teams finished 11th and 9th respectively out of 14 in the League. Not so bad considering the problems of team "selection"; and my thanks are due to Graham Lawrance for taking over the



Graham Lawrance



needed consistency and concentration that earned him the batting award at the AGM. On a brighter note the season saw Joe Broadfoot (before accepting her majesty's invitation) achieve a notable landmark in the history of the club, when he completed his century of 50s for the Club on the green fields of Kent in a Sunday fixture against Southborough. For this fitting end to an outstanding career in the Club he received a special award at the November AGM. Congratulations to a long-serving and colourful character whose support and advice is always fulsome and freely given.

#### 1st XI League Averages 1996

	Innings	NO	Runs	HS	Av	Overs	Maidens	Runs	Wkts	Av
G. Lawrence	11	2	299	71	33.22					
C. Stanbridge	6	2	117	30*	29.25	102.3	18	353	17	20.76
K. Noble	10	—	282	48	28.20					
P. Montgomery	7	1	133	89*	22.17					
D. Moore	6	1	100	31	20.00	18.2	—	131	2	65.50
K. Taylor	8	1	97	34	13.86					
S. Morgan	10	—	134	59*	13.40	50	5	215	2	107.50
K. Barron	6	3	38	18*	12.67	131	28	443	13	34.08
D. McIsaac	9	—	110	53	12.22					
J. Stickings	3	4	12	6*	12.00	29	8	100	6	16.67
K. Calnan	5	1	37	18	9.25	15	2	86	2	43.00
N. Jones	9	—	45	15	5.00	79.2	9	341	10	34.10

#### 1st XI League Averages 1997

	Innings	NO	Runs	HS	Av	Overs	Maidens	Runs	Wkts	Av
N. Khan	7	3	395	119*	98.75					
G. Lawrence	9	2	249	87	35.57					
D.E. Moore	12	2	354	95*	35.40	13	4	33	2	16.50
M. Calnan	3	1	70	38*	35.00	10	0	47	2	23.50
G. Barnes	7	0	216	77	30.66					
J. Huntley	9	5	110	24*	27.50	70.2	7	324	15	21.60
P. Montgomery	9	1	143	45	17.88					
B. Khan	2	0	28	19	14.00					
K. Barron	4	2	26	15*	13.00	131.4	28	436	15	29.07
K. Noble	3	0	36	23	12.00					
K.D. Calnan	5	1	39	11	9.75	54.2	13	180	12	15.00
N. Jones	5	1	38	15	9.50	92.2	12	312	17	18.35
P. Jenkins	1	0	6	6	6.00					
L. Sales	4	0	23	7	5.75					
N. McLean	3	1	7	4	3.50					
L. Saunty	3	0	6	5	2.00					
D. Patterson	3	2	1	1*	1.00	136.3	30	375	26	14.42
R. Hamer	1	0	0	0	0.00					
D. Whelan						5	0	24	1	24.00

#### 1997

The 1997 season saw the North Kent League finish with a flourish of sorts. Almost inexplicably the leagues were split into two and we played home and away fixtures against 6 other teams instead of 13. Owing to our 1966 league final placings both Roan teams were designated to play in the lower of two divisions and both finished 3rd out of 7 teams. Overall the Club's aggregate points score gave us 6th position in the League of 14 Clubs. We have again been placed in the lower half of the divisional main structure of the new North Kent & Metropolitan League for 1998. This time the divisions will consist of 9 teams and we must rise to the challenge of making a good first impression.



Derek Moore

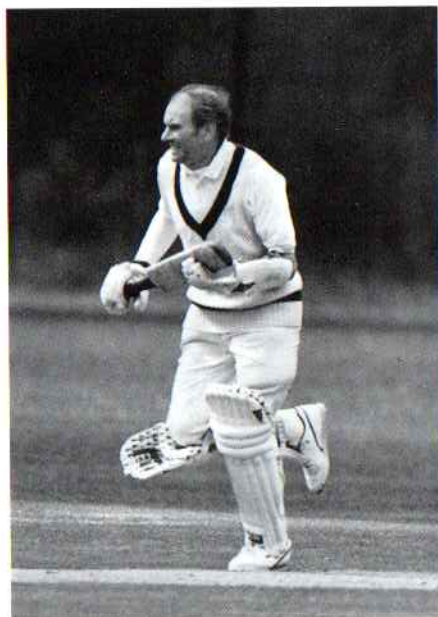
The 1997 season has been a much more enjoyable one for the team, which has benefited from the stability of a larger core of regular players. With only 33 subscription paying members to select from, availability was important. The playing strength of the 1st XI derived largely from 16

players (although 21 altogether represented the side in the league), and this was a significant improvement on the previous year. Nine players played 10 or more games and this element of availability provided the stability that had been lacking. There was certainly more of a solid feel to the batting depth in the side. The introduction of Gareth Barnes gave us an interesting opening strategy for the best part of the season with Paul



Mark Calnan





Montgomery once again doing a fine job as a makeshift opening partner and maintaining a presence at the wicket in the early stages of the game. The captain's and vice-captain's contributions in their supporting role to the openers also generally kept open the opportunities for establishing substantial scores. The mixture of experience, from John Huntley and Dan Calnan, and youth, in the shape of Mark Calnan in the early middle order, also allowed us to feel reasonably confident of being competitive in the League. Since we frequently lost the toss and were then always invited to bat, confidence in batting was an important factor. The re-introduction of Nazir Khan into the batting line up for the latter part of the season was a revelation in that he introduced stroke play of quality that depressed the opposition and lifted the side. His two hundreds and catching prowess were a delight to watch and not surprisingly Naz was presented with an award for the exceptional performance of the season.

John Huntley

Bowling has been an area of concern for us. Luckily this year we have had the services of Don Patterson again on a regular basis and his averages speak for themselves. An economy rate of 2.75 and an average of 14.42 runs per wicket clearly make him the leading bowler. Once again 'young' Keith Barron gave the bowling a stability as many sides succumbed to the stranglehold that these two were often able to exert. Norman Jones, Dan Calnan and John Huntley gave magnificent support and experience, allowing us to boast of a 250 year old bowling attack on more than one occasion! Unfortunately, with the exception of Keith and Don, susceptibility to injury and an inability to be as nimble as necessary in the field suggests that these players have a short term rather than long term future as 1st XI bowlers.

Whilst the bowling was a relative success in 1997 the Club has to attract younger bowlers with ability in order to fully compete. We must recruit in that department sooner than later. 1997 sadly saw the departure from the Club of our valued attack bowler Chris Stanbridge who declined the invitation to play, and the prospects of Gary Tabrett becoming a regular 1st team player came to nothing. John Stickings also played no part as a result of his injury at the end of the 1996 season. The loss of Kevin Noble, as a regular batsman, to the delights of fatherhood will also be permanent as his is shortly to move to Banbury in Oxfordshire, and, even for him, that will be too far to travel. Rebuilding is certainly the name of the game now.

The beneficial impact of younger legs on the field of play would no doubt improve our fielding too. This is an important aspect of the game that too many players are indifferent to.

Games can be won or lost by good fielding and whilst experience and skill counts for a lot, if the flesh is weak! . . . Nevertheless Old Roan was certainly not let down by the efforts of players during the season, and the cajoling and wickedly humorous banter of Russell Saunty from behind the stumps kept everyone on their toes and helped to shape the players into a friendly but competitive unit. There was certainly no room for prima donna's this season! A side benefit was that Russ managed to perform competently and showed a marked reluctance to give away byes!

My thanks go to all players – regular and occasional – for their efforts in keeping the side going. Equally I must thank all those less prominent "players" for the Club, without whom we could not function. Joyce the tea lady is always a delight to behold, and Linda's cakes are particularly sought after. The umpires (Peter and Brian) have put up with a lot and maintained our ability to avoid a hefty fine every week. This section would not be complete though if I failed to mention the supporter(s). The merry quips and unstinting words of praise and encouragement from Mark Squire delivered with a natural charm in his own inimitable style, supplemented by his very occasional foray on the field of play, made it all so worth while. There is still a lot of goodwill. Long may it continue!

### Developments and the Future

The Club Committee has given considerable time to looking at ways of ensuring the future success of the Club particularly in financial and playing terms. The potential for a merger with Blackheath Cricket Club (no longer an option it seems) or another suitable partner is currently under investigation, and the prospects of improvements in facilities on site in the future are significant for the Club. It is clear that the playing membership must be increased if the Club is to remain viable in the League and on Sundays. Efforts are already well in progress to improve the wicket and maintain a good playing area. More needs to be done, but not without expenditure and some soul-searching no doubt. The future is never certain – but then neither is the course of a game of cricket. The aim however is clear, and that is to ensure the survival and success of cricket at the Playing Fields. Only the members can do that.

(Photographs by Tom Morris ('55-'63)

Derek Moore (1st XI Captain)



Russell Sawtrey fails to make his ground



## Old Roan Football Club. Season 1996-97

### 1st XI Report

The 1996-97 season was probably the most successful season for the 1st XI for a number of years. Led by Andy Davies and assisted by Vincent Mullholland the side managed to collect a few honours and narrowly missed out on others.

We finished third in the league, missing the runners-up spot on goal difference. Another point would have seen us finish second. The league cup was also a case of missed chances and we lost to Trojans. Another case of "not quite" was the London Intermediate Cup where we progressed to the semi-finals and lost to Leyton Pennants Reserves after two very close games.

We managed to reach the final of the Harry Sunderland Shield to play our old adversaries, Leyton County. We gave a good performance to win 2-0. This rounded off an exciting season and all the players look forward to the 1997-98 season with a lot of confidence.

### 2nd XI Report

A great deal was expected of the 2nd Team this year. Fresh from the exhilaration of promotion from Division 2, a new and enthusiastic player-manager, Dave Nuttal, acted as the "new broom" and swept many of the old favourites down into the lower teams. Several new faces formed the basis of the early teams but many "prodigal sons" were to return before the season was over. Few people could have predicted the rocky road that lay ahead.

The early games saw some solid performances and we were unbeaten in our first four outings. But rumblings of discontent began to emerge between various factions within the team. "Old" Old Roans were not blending well with some of the newer players and one character in particular was severely undermining team spirit. This culminated in a fracas with one of this own team at half-time in a game we won 6-3!

The young and inexperienced manager was visibly ageing every week and becoming a lonely figure in the Club at 6pm on a Saturday, but he and the team battled on through cup competitions and the league to eventually finish a creditable 4th and miss promotion by one point (a relief in retrospect).

Top goal-scorers for the season were Rob McCarthy (11) and Gary Welsh (10) with Andy Harvey weighing in with many useful strikes. For his pure consistency the Player of the Season was named as Martin Muscat.

The manager would like to thank all of those who played for the 2nds during the season and for the patience shown by everyone associated with the team. Hopefully 1997-98 will be "Hughie-free"!

### 3rd XI Report

I thought my first shot at management would have been a breeze following our tremendous Championship success of the previous season. How wrong I was.

Until Christmas our form was tremendous, putting us among the leaders in the league and through to the latter stages of two cup competitions. However we turned into West Ham of the seventies and went down rapidly with the Christmas decorations. The main reason for our slump was the unavailability of key players such as Adrian, Ryan and Gary owing to injury. We were unable to field the same XI in consecutive games all season. Mediocrity was all we could hope for but we did consolidate a mid-table berth in Division 2 of the South London Alliance and that was not too bad.

My thanks go out to all who represented the 3rd XI last term and I would like to give several a special mention. Andy Daniels was our Player of the Year – well done Andy, Especially as you wore oven gloves in goal all season. Lee Pepper was top-scorer and continued a fine family tradition of Old Roan Super Strikers! Chris Larkby, Jimmy Podge and Tony Sproul provided our stylish and "watertight" back three. Colin Thomas and Jeff Campbell were the "Exocets" at wingback with Dave Carr our midfield dynamo and "penalty king". Ashley Colyar contributed good service in both the midfield and forward line when on loan from the 2nd XI.

Anyway, as the team knows, I was unable to continue as manager this current season owing to family and work commitments and I wish my successor all the very best of luck.

Roy Jones

### 4th XI Report

Overall, for another year, this was not the best of seasons although towards the end results did pick up. The team reached a cup semi-final losing 3-0 to Anerly Gaels (the scourge of the 5th XI). The players who regularly turned out were Micky Price (manager), Dylan Smith, Dave Townsend, Danny Turner, Charlie Williams, Hardip Badresh, Andy Bunyan, Michael Kienas, Phil Savage, Ray Daley and Nick Rainey.

The highlight of the season was the 2-2 draw with the eventual champions Stansfield. This was the first point Stansfield had dropped in ten league matches. Our team finished 9th in the league out of ten teams. The final playing record was: P18 W4 D3 L11 F30 A45

We hope for better things next year.

### 5th XI Report

When taking over the manager's seat of the 5thXI two years ago my aim was to "blood" young talent into the club, especially from the School. The previous season was a success. Two of our players ended up being regulars in the 1stXI. Last season, however, turned out to be completely different. The team comprised of a sprinkling of youth (Gary Tabbrett, Gary Pratt and Colin Thomas) and a heavy dose of "over the hill" (and in Jim Douglas's case "never got up the hill") older players.

The team set new standards for the club. From September 30 until March 8 the team did not lose a game or drop a league point and we reached two cup semi-finals. Our record on March 1st was: P16 W16 D0 L0



The team, though not the most skilful, made up for this by team spirit and a "never say die" attitude. Nicky Green Barry Corbyn and Neil Jackson worked tirelessly in midfield. Rob Pratt, the 43-year-old-sweeper, marshalled our watertight defence of Max Hamston, Frasier Lochtie, Colin Thomas and the ever agile and alert keeper, "Forrest Lump", alias Paul Manley. Up front, Gary Tabrett scored many important goals. Gary Pratt and Jim Douglas played in a variety of roles never giving less than 100% effort. Graham Lawrance filled in when required.

In our first cup semi-final, a tremendous display saw us come back from 1-0 down with 10 minutes remaining. Gary Tabrett scored two clinically taken goals to clinch a memorable victory and ensure celebrations that removed Nick Green from his usual sobriety. Our second semi-final a week later was a bitter anti-climax against a very strong AFC Blackheath side (they play against our 3rd XI in the league) and after going down 3-0 within 10 minutes never really recovered and lost 7-2.

Our chances of winning the league title disappeared on March 22nd when we lost to the bottom of the league team Farnborough. We had to settle for runners-up spot to Anerley Gaels. The highlight of our season was the "Joe Gold Cup Final" played at Bromley Football Club in front of a bumper crowd in excess of 200. Our opponents were Anerley Gaels, a very fit and fast outfit (two adjectives that were not applicable to our team), who made life very difficult for us. We went 2-0 down and a thrashing looked on the cards but goals from Fraser Lochtie, a towering header, and an opportunist Gary Tabrett goal levelled the score at half-time. Our legs gave up on us in the second half and we finally went down 4-2. But what a great season! One which all the players can look back on with pride.

### The Old Roan Vets. Season 1996-97

P27 W12 D5 L10 F78 A67

Overall a good season that could have been much better. After an unbeaten start of 4 games we lost to Metrogas who fielded their usual strong side of ex-professionals. Good wins were recorded against Red Barrel, Charter Diamond, Avery Hill and Graham Lawrance's XI and we enjoyed substantial victories against Colfe's and Addington Manor. We were well beaten by Metrogas, the Metropolitan Police, Hillyfields and in the return fixture with Graham Lawrance's XI.

David Hutley and Michael Smith, as joint managers, provided inspirational performances throughout the season. Strong support was added by Stuart Clay, Keith Hedges, Gary Webster, Robin Faithorn and Bob Grimwood. John Stanford, as ever, was secure in goal through sometimes his defence was overwhelmed. André Lewis and Tony Moss, when available, were both excellent assets to the side and provided the main attacking options. Other consistent support was provided by Don Patterson, David Horsburgh, Gary Barwell, Michael Baxter and Tony Tobin.

The side lost several longstanding and valued members including Keith Mexter, John Hardy and Jim Hardy (retirement) and Paul Davis (transfer to Toby under the Bosman ruling). Ray Mills was unavailable owing to a knee injury that may cut short his playing days. Len Sales also spent most of the season watching from the line whilst awaiting surgery on a damaged knee. We are fortunate to enjoy the services of Brian Hamer as referee for our home matches.

The current season has seen a couple of victories over Charter Diamond and RACS, a draw with Ex-Blues and a succession of well-fought defeats against strong opposition. The team now comprises almost entirely of players who have played at a reasonable standard and we hope for better results as the season moves into 1998.

### The Old Roan Football Club

The 1997-98 season is now well underway with mixed fortunes for our teams. The 1st XI have been on a roll for most of the season only losing two games up to 6th December. The Spartan League this year amalgamated with the South Midlands League and a number of teams were moved up from lower divisions to increase the number of teams in the division. This has, unfortunately, diluted the strength of the division. The 1st XI won one fixture 23-1 but, whatever the opposition, it is still a major achievement to score a goal every 4 minutes and they deserve to be warmly commended.

This season has seen the club run 6 sides on a Saturday and a vets side on Sunday. The 4th XI has been entered into the well run South London Alliance and contains the more "mature" players sprinkled with a splattering of youth (well, Nicky Green!).

There has been some concern that the Football Club has become too open, with too many non Old Roans. It is a fact of life that there are precious few young Roans coming from the School to join the Club and this is reflected in the fact that we are now fielding two vets sides and could probably manage 3. If we do not continue to open our doors to good young players who are acceptable to us then the club will die. Let's face it, the Football Club supply the members who keep the Association thriving, it is us who put money behind the bar on a Saturday night, support the Association dinners and other functions. Yet we are still criticised for the way we run the Football Club. Let's not forget that without our contribution to the bar takings other members of the Association would not be able to enjoy such low prices for a pint of bitter. Two weeks ago in late November the Club was shut on a Saturday evening due to an electrical problem. Takings for that weekend amounted to a paltry £300 owing to no football being played at the Club. The previous weekend, albeit with a function held on the Saturday evening, saw over £2,000 taken over the bar.

On another worrying point it has been extremely disappointing that the "Quaggy" pitch has been unavailable all season owing to vandalism of one of the goals during the summer. We are told the reason this hasn't been replaced is that the School will not commit funds (around £250 for a new goal) to replace it because of the uncertainty of the future of the "Quaggy" pitch with the River Authority re-routing the river Quaggy. Consequently, the other pitches are getting over-used and we are certain to experience winter postponements. Surely the Football Club, Old Roan Association or Trust can cobble together £250 to replace the goal?

In conclusion I should mention a few non Old Roans (associate members) without whom the Football Club could not have survived. I'm sure there are two dozen who I could mention but I will list Peter Osborne (our Chairman), Andy Davis and Brian Riley who run the 1st XI and Jimmy Douglas who, with Nicky Green, run the 4th XI. Because of all these people the Football Club is thriving, but, like the Millwall song - "NO ONE LIKES US. WE DON'T CARE".



## Whatever Happened to Mrs. Betty Byron?

The following letter was received by Lesley Tricker (née Ferguson) in reply to an invitation to attend the reunion. Mrs. Byron was the RE teacher and writes, initially on August 8, 1997, from Saffron Walden in Essex.

For the last seventeen years I have been living in a 15th century house in this delightful market town. the architecture in the town gives me pleasure every time I go out and the place positively seethes with activity.

I act as sacristan at the parish church, the largest in Essex, and write up the lectures to the Historical Society for the local paper. I also take my turn manning the desk at the museum and support the Horticultural Society.

I have taken advantage of available classes to fulfil my promise to myself that when I retire I would do as many as possible of those things that I hadn't had time for when I was working. Accordingly I have learnt "hostess" cooking (3 years), philosophy (10 years), art history (10 years), German (4 years), French conversation (12 years) and Italian (2 years). I am relieved to find that I can still learn a new language, though retaining it and understanding the natives is another matter.

I have also managed to travel quite extensively in Europe, sometimes just with my son and sometimes with a group of friends. I have stayed in various monasteries, with Cistercians in Ireland, Benedictines in Brittany and Orthodox in Cyprus, and been entertained, again largely in monasteries, in Romania under Ceaucescu (an intimidating experience since nobody dared to tell the truth), in Bulgaria before the revolution and in Yugoslavia. It was fascinating to visit Serbia and Kosovo one year and Slovenia the next – they were obviously longing to fly apart in 1986. Russia in 1988 was interesting too; after seventy years of Communism nobody was prepared to take responsibility for anything and we could see the looming unemployment.

I have also been several times to France, Spain and Italy and for the last two years to Turkey – history from the Turkish point of view can be surprising.

I have had Dutch and Norwegian friends to stay this summer and in October I hope to go for a three week cruise down the Volga, so with housekeeping and gardening as well you can see that filling my time in retirement is no problem at all.

I have not seen as much of my two grandchildren as I should have liked as continuing unheralded migraine make me an unreliable babysitter but I see my daughter for a least a few minutes most weeks as they live in the town.

On Monday I am off to Scotland to help my son settle in to the unfurnished bungalow which goes with his new job at Glenalmond, a Scottish public school. He has been simultaneously teaching and working for a PhD at Aberdeen University.

August 24th. Back again after an enjoyable but busy time buying furniture, adapting curtains and beginning an onslaught on a sadly neglected garden. Hard work, but it is good to feel useful.

Do please let me know any news you glean of my former colleagues and pupils, especially those of "my Vth form" – 1972 I think. All good wishes for a very enjoyable reunion.

Betty Byron

## "Old" Girls Reunion 1970-77

On the morning of Saturday September 6th, while the rest of the country was watching Diana's funeral, I was taping 1970s records. This wasn't an act of complete irreverence, but the last stages of organising a reunion of "girls" who joined the school in 1970. For most of us, it was now 20 years since we left. So we decided to arrange a reunion at the Old Roan Club to follow the one we held there in 1987, to mark 10 years since our departure.

Those who started at Roan School for Girls in 1970 joined wearing mini skirts and left probably still wearing flared jeans. We were Classes 1C (Miss Constance, who taught French) and 1D (Mrs Dilly, English). Some of us were still wearing mini skirts in 1975 when we went to collect our O level prizes, much to the astonishment of some of the men present. We left the school on a high as it celebrated its centenary, but also on a low as we knew the girls school would be closed down following its amalgamation with the boys school and Charlton Boys the following year.

I suspect few *Chronicle* readers will remember our great artistic achievement – the sixth form pantomime in 1977. This masterpiece was a rewritten "Cinderella", with Batman and Robin instead of the Prince and Dandini. Buttons in the mould of Frank Spencer (in "Some Mothers Do 'ave 'em"), the Godfather instead of the Fairy Godmother, and John Noakes of Blue Peter cooking "Halifax ham toppers" in the interval (plus Shep the dog). Plenty of seventies themes to spot there!

(Probably our greatest artistic failure was when Ms Selves told us off for using the art room oil paints to paint our nails (each one a different colour, as was the fashion at the time). We later discovered that oil paint took a lot longer than varnish to dry...)

We had a brilliant time at school and although 20 years have passed since most of us left, groups of us still keep in touch. There are two groups that meet for monthly meals. A larger group meets every Christmas for a pub lunch, and sometimes during the year for birthday celebrations.

The fact that the reunion was held on the day of Diana's funeral had its advantages and disadvantages. Jane Asplin (née Pugh) and her mother, travelling from Wiltshire, took the opportunity to attend the funeral on their way to the reunion. Unfortunately, two girls – Jenny Fraser (née Ashmore) and Maeve Wilkes (née Houlihan) were unable to make it because of transport problems. However, it did allow me to have an extraordinarily fast drive on the South Circular from Teddington to Kidbrook.

Otherwise, the turn-out was excellent. Out of a total of 37 girls for whom we were able to find contact details (albeit out of date in some cases), 26 attended the reunion. We all had plenty to talk about after a 20-year (22 for some) gap. So even though it was a long evening – starting at 7.30pm and continuing past 1am – the time flew by. So fast that we forgot to take a photo of every one together.

We were joined by two teachers, both of whom we would like to thank for coming: Daphne Leach, who taught music, and Mary Jeffery, our geography teacher and school journey leader, who came despite having only recently had an operation on her hand.

A couple of brave husbands and families also attended, and were promptly ignored all night Gary Tricker – husband of Lesley (née Ferguson) – must be thanked for ferrying Mrs Jeffery to and from the club. And Cheryl's brother, Brian Nicks, should be thanked for organising the mailing list (and us!).

While I am thanking people, I would also like to thank Tony Slaney for his invaluable help in organising the reunion, and Monty Smith and the other bar staff for serving lots of loud, boozy women on the night!

Jane Sackett



## News of Old Roans

**C**laus HENNING ('52-'59), was awarded the OBE in last years Queens Birthday Honours for services as Director of the British Council in Romania. He has now moved to Rangoon, to head the Council's operations in Mynmar (Burma). Whilst in Bucharest he witnessed the overthrow of the Ceaucescu regime.

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Mick MINTER ('58-'64) has moved within Margate from "The Orb" public house and sent the Secretary one of his new business cards. He has returned to being a full time musician in the North East Kent area. He has looked after a collection of historic photographic slides of Roan scouts that he saved from being thrown away some years ago. These are now in the care of the Association.

Walter Harold JENNINGS ('07-'12) celebrated his 104th birthday on 27th May and seems set to receive another telegram from the Queen in 1998. He now lives at the Beggars Roost Nursing Home in Fishbourne, Chichester, West Sussex and his niece, Audrey Hamilton, kindly keeps us up to date on his progress. He preferred to stay at his home, with his Meals on Wheels and his pop-in ladies arguing that the nursing home is "full of women". He continues to listen to the Talking Books, and to Radio 4 to keep abreast of current affairs, and most of the time he is remarkable for his age. He did unfortunately miss Christmas altogether - slept right through it due to a slight infection but woke up in the evening on Boxing Day and after demolishing a bowl of porridge announced that he felt much better. He is quite a character, and still a credit to his old school.

Phyllis WILLMOTT (née NOBLE '33-'38) thanked the Editor for an early copy of the magazine containing her article last year and notes that the printing errors that delayed the publication are typical of printing these days.

Chris THELWELL SMITH ('62-'69) answered the appeal by Viv Lawrence for news of Bob GILBERT ('60-'67) and gives details of Bob's book "The Green London Way" published by Laurence & Wishart at £9.99. The book describes a 100 mile walk circling London through its canal tow paths, commons and woodlands, combining insights into the history of the people of London with an in-depth knowledge of its land and wildlife. Each chapter describes a walkable section. As you might expect from an Old Roan, the section on South East London is probably the best, covering the wilds of Woolwich, the famous co-op wood, debauchery in Eltham, the Riverside path at Greenwich, how Blackheath figures in the poll tax revolt, how Hilly Fields in Brockley inspired the setting up of the National Trust, the battle for One Tree Hill in Honor Oak and where to find wallabies in Forest Hill. If you ever wanted to find out what all those famous people in the school song actually did but were too shy to ask this is the book for you. Chris helped Bob research the route and much of the groundwork was done all those years ago when we should have been in lessons. Old Roans from the sixties may also have fun working out which teachers contributed to Bob's writing style. Chris now lives in Bloomsbury in central London. Bob Gilbert was "found", living in Islington, in time to join Viv Lawrence as his special guest at the Annual Dinner in 1996 and provided excellent company.

Richard Underwood Langworthy EDWARDS ('08-'12) thanked the Association for their good wishes on his 100th birthday in September 1996. He was very interested in the photograph taken in 1908 of Mr. Ridger and the masters. He well remembers about a dozen of them and is struck by how young they look in the photograph compared with his memory of them when he left the school in mid-1912. When war broke out in 1914 and exams for Civil Service posts were suspended he decided to take an accountancy qualification, subsequently passing the Intermediate and Final examinations of the Corporation of Registered Accountants". He was classified "C3" by the Army Medical Board and remained in the Civil Service spending 10 years preparing the accounts of the National Insurance Fund and subsidiary accounts. On reaching the normal retiring age of 60 in 1956 he asked to continue in office for a further 5 years and was subsequently awarded the OBE. He finally retired on his birthday, 30th September in 1961 having completed 49 years service.

Ewen A. WHITAKER ('33-'40) writes from Tucson, Arizona, confirming his pleasure at receiving the last magazine and reading, in particular, news of D.P. Merrett and Lionel Berry. He adds that during the 1930's, for those who stayed for school dinners (at the exorbitant price of 3 shillings and 1 penny per week!), there were two possible short graces, either one or the other sung before the meal, accompanied on the piano by "Joey" Amesbury. "One was in a major key, and I can't begin to recall either the music or the words; the other was in a minor key, and the only words that I can recall are: .....cibo plenì, Gratias deo reddamus, Ad Deum semper vivemus." He asks if anyone can fill in the blanks? "And can anyone remember the names of any of the maids who served our shepherd's pie, plum duff, suet pudding etc?"

Jonathan RILEY ('71-'78) is included in the Telegraph Magazine issue of 28 December 1996 as a member of the London "scene". He is aged 36 and "Picador's influential publisher. He shares the article with notables that include Alexander McQueen, Damien Hirst, Charles Saatchi, Jarvis Cocker and many others who are "defining the capital's style" and "making the metropolis hot". He is apparently part of a "moment" that "is incredibly cool and happening, with hip clubs and fab clothes and terrific art and great restaurants and unbelievably cool people who stay up all night"

Major Douglas G. GODDARD, RA (Retd) was awarded the M.B.E. in the 1997 New Years Honours and attended the Palace for the investiture on the 4th March. He also welcomed the Duke of Edinburgh in April when visiting the Museum of Berkshire Aviation of which he is President. To complete the royal link Douglas and his wife, Eve, share the year of their 50th Wedding Anniversary with the Queen and Duke of Edinburgh. They are featured in the November 15 issue of the Radio Times with details of their happy marriage and were extensively interviewed on the television programme that Sunday with other couples married in 1947. He offers copies of photographs of football and cricket teams from the mid-1930's to the archives and the Editor confirms that these will be appreciated.

The obituary in The Times of Denis Owen was forwarded by Olive HOPWOOD. Arthur HOPWOOD ('23-'29 and Staff) was 87 last Christmas and though somewhat frail still plays bridge and takes a keen interest in weather forecasting. He was a Met. Officer during the war. They live close to Geoff CHAPMAN and were interested in news on Peter White, Tom Flack and John Cramp. They were sad to learn of the death of George Witten and have many memories of him. He used to visit for tea, always referred to Olive as "Mrs. Hopwood" and gave her Drambuie for Christmas.



Beryl and Alfie KNOTT ('43-'47 and Staff) celebrated their Ruby Wedding anniversary in September 1997. Many Old Roans attended an excellent reception at Charlton Palace to celebrate the event. Alfie has been active with the Roan Theatre Company and spent part of April working with the Link Theatre in the West End, together with his son, Chris, in the play "The Dead Giveaway". In addition to using his acting talents the "Back-door Theatre Company" featured Alfie on the poster with a grin that usually befits Jack Nicholson.

Arthur HEWLETT ('14-'21) appreciated the "ample homage" to E.G.White in the last magazine and hopes that the school will begin to take notice of his work. His travels in the summer of 1996 took him to Halle for the Handel Festival (in his birthplace) and then to friends in Dresden, Leipzig, Weimar, Berlin, Sonneberg, Brunswick, Bad Pyrmont and Cologne. His tour included links with Quaker groups in Germany. Journeys within England allowed him to attend "As You Like It" and "Much Ado About Nothing" in Stratford-upon-Avon and Turgenev's "Fortune's Fool" in Chichester. He feels well in his 95th year and offers in his Christmas letter his favourite precept from an ode of Horace:

*Dona praesentis cape laetus horae ac  
Linque severa!*

which he translates as:

Gladly welcome blessings the season brings and  
Pack up your troubles

Barry THOMAS (Staff) writes from Cuon in the Loire Valley in France. He has remarried (to Judy), retired from teaching and moved to France. His new home is embedded in the heart of good wine country and was bought in a state of disrepair. They moved there in August 1996 and spent the last year renovating the property and dealing with French bureaucracy. Acknowledging that the literary opportunities have been monopolised by Peter Mayle, Barry has set himself up in business looking after "second homes" in France. Reporting again in November 1997 he finds life in France very agreeable.

Eric DIBBLIN ('35-'42) moved to Ponteland, Newcastle upon Tyne, at the end of 1996. At the age of eleven he entered Roan and joined Grenville House and now at the age of seventy-two has moved to Grenville Court. The Secretary in his reply confirmed that in January 1948 the eight school houses were reduced to four with Blake amalgamating with Rodney, Collingwood with Wolfe, Raleigh with Drake, and Grenville with Nelson. Eric also advised the sudden death of Michael McMenamin on November 19, 1996 whilst shopping in Exeter. They had shared the experience of the evacuation together to Bexhill with their initial billets proving unsatisfactory. They had then lost contact for fifty-six years before visiting Michael and his wife, Ann, in Topsham to catch up on the intervening years over a lovely lunch. Michael had suffered from a heart condition but seemed in good form and was enjoying his retirement. They had begun their boyhood friendship at Ancona Road School by Plumstead Common, continuing to Conway Road School before joining Roan together. Eric also passed this sad news to George PARTRIDGE.

Albert BERRY ('45-'50) sends autumnal greetings from Perth in Western Australia in early April. He hopes that many Old Roans visited the replica of The Endeavour during its stop in Greenwich earlier this year. He and his wife, Vera, visited the ship whilst under construction in Fremantle and later when afloat in Fremantle Harbour. He is following the build up to the General Election in Britain but can only imagine from his location the atmosphere and issues. He was saddened to learn of the death of George Witten who taught him English at Roan "He was a fine man".

Jeremy PAGE ('71-'78) is the General Manager Business Administration for Mercedes Benz and lives in Church Crookham in Hampshire. He writes with details of the Saturday Telegraph's article of 28.12.96 that includes Jon RILEY as a "mover and shaker" in London. He finds this no surprise and recalls that Jon's academic achievements, particularly in English Literature, were stunning and he was capable of stretching the staff up to and beyond their limits of knowledge. Jon went to Cambridge to study English, he thinks as an Exhibitioner, and has not seen him since. He predicts more news of Jon, possibly on Radio 4's arts / entertainment / literature output.

Miss E.G.MITCHELL, M.B.E. ('33-'39), has moved from Harrow to Wallingford in Oxfordshire. Though a Life Member she has made a voluntary contribution towards expenses and enjoys reading the Chronicle.

Tony SLANEY ('59-'66) took voluntary redundancy from Barclays Bank in 1996 and is now officially "resting" but looking to extend his career. He had always intended to return to London from Trowbridge with Barclay's Bank but in recent years the working situation deteriorated and he was pleased to take the offer. This decision has been vindicated by news that part of the Trowbridge unit is to relocate to Peterborough and their future is uncertain. Whilst actively seeking work he is now able to give even more time to his work for the O.R.A. and echoes the standard reply of "How did I have time to go to work?"

Chris WYTON ('60-'67) has been reintroduced to Old Roan activities by the arrival of Chris WINTER ('68-'75) in his part of Kent. He writes from Hildenborough, near Tonbridge, with his sadness at hearing news of the death of Geoff Sawyer and regret at missing Monty's celebration. He has fond memories of Geoff emerging from retirement to manage the 6th X1 football team and encouraging his own play until he became a regular in the 2nd X1. He also recalls Geoff playing cricket on Sundays and his elegant cover drives. Chris still plays cricket, now for Sennoke in Sevenoaks in the West Kent League, and has replaced his wild pace with guile, being rewarded with a league winners and runners up award in the last 3 years. He works for Kent County Council as an Economic Development Officer involved mainly in business development and European funded programmes. This involves substantial travel within Europe but he feels the current financial situation makes overall work prospects uncertain. Chris and his wife, Linda, are busy with the upbringing of their children: Thomas (12), Emma (8) and Kenny (nearly 6). He recently stood for the local Labour Party in the '95 Borough Council elections narrowly failing to win in a traditionally strong Tory seat. No doubt he was delighted by the General Election in May.

Percy LORYMAN ('24-'24) was sad that he missed Vic Brooker's special day at the Field. Vic had taken over as Secretary of the Football Club from Percy in 1947 after he had held the posts of Secretary and Treasurer at different times since 1927. "To have been a member of the Club for fifty years and for a large part of that time as an active player is absolutely fantastic and I offer my unbounded admiration to Vic for this sterling work". Percy now lives in Henfield in West Sussex and reports the death last year of his very dear wife. He attended the Roan School in Eastney Street for a total of 3 months in 1924 and continued as an active member of the old boys, playing for the football team and helping the running of the Club. He retains a keen interest in football as Treasurer, Trustee, Life Member and Vice-President of his local club, Horsham, but no days were as happy as those spent playing for the old boys in the 1920's with the two talented Thompson brothers on the pitch in Weigall Road. Great days!



Ron JEFFKINS ('43-'50) lives in Dartford and has retired as headteacher of Gallows Mount School in Plumstead. His wife, Betty, was a laboratory technician at Maze Hill from 1955-59. They travelled to South Africa at the end of 1996 and visited their nephew, David PHILLIPS ('62-'69). David qualified as a chartered accountant and is Managing Director of an Industrial Insulation & Corrosion Protection firm in Johannesburg where he has lived for 20 years. He is married to Lyn and has two children: Grahame (17) and Joanne (15). The Editor asks whether David continues his support for Wolverhampton Wanderers Football Club and sends his best wishes.

Monty SMITH ('58-'65) is also happy in his retirement from banking and celebrated his 50th birthday at the Club in 1996 on that notably infamous date in history, December 7th. Monty's celebration was in his true style and welcomed many people not often seen these days at the Club including Fred SPINK, Ray WESTWOOD, Ian WILLIAMS and Mike WEST. The evening included more regular visitors including Ian CLATWORTHY, Mike CALLAGHAN and Malcolm WATERTON. Unsurprisingly the night finished very late. Unsubstantiated rumours abound about the origins of the successful British film made shortly afterwards and titled after Monty's favoured breakfast.

Kevin LYONS ('76-'83) has moved to Rainow in Cheshire. After leaving Roan in 1983 he attended Queen Mary College in the East End of London where he studied Aeronautical Engineering. Graduating in 1986 he worked for a short time for GEC leaving in March 1987, sponsored by British Airways, to attend the British Aerospace Flying College at Prestwick in Scotland. He was awarded a Commercial Pilots Licence in September 1989 and taken on by B.A., based initially in Manchester flying BAC 1-11s and Boeing 737s as a co-pilot. In 1994 he became a Captain flying the British Aerospace Advanced Turboprop on mainly internal cross-border routes between Manchester and Scotland. On these flights he regularly flew over the school camp at Braithwaite which stands out surprisingly well from 1,700 ft. He recalls a happy time at Roan and one particular incident. Whilst attempting to play football at the Field and concentrating more on passing aircraft he was rudely awakened from his daydreams by Gavin Juniper who informed him in no uncertain terms how he should concentrate on the game in hand and also that he would never fly one of those things in a million years .....

Gary BARWELL ('74-'80) is the current "stand-in" right back for the vets and was fortunate to miss by a week a grim encounter with history when fundamentalist extremists massacred over 60 tourists at Luxor in Egypt on November 17. Gary's trip along the Nile earlier in November was less eventful. Phil SNAITH (64-'70) sacrificed his finer footballing years in the interests of Shell International, moving from the Netherlands to Brunei, China, and now the Caribbean. Phil is President and General Manager of Shell Bahamas Limited based in Nassau. After experiencing at first hand one of the important transition periods in China's vast history he is keen to experience an improvement to his golf and tennis in altogether milder climates. It all seems a sad trade off, Phil, for the experience of Red Barrell's changing rooms after a bitterly cold November morning in Nottingham in the fog and mud. Where did it all go wrong, Phil?

Glyn WATKIN ('60-'68) responded to the "where are they now?" appeal with news of his new address in Brixham in Devon. He is in the Royal Air Force (now in the rank of Wing Commander) and about to enter his 28th year of service. He works in London with the Ministry of Defence's Competing for Quality Team and commutes back to Devon at weekends. He remains in contact with Hugh DEED, Dave DURBAN and Dave MIDDLETON and was reminded of many names from the past in the last magazine. He is pleased to return "to the fold".



Simon PERRY ('56-'60) met Alastair MITCHELL in April and provided photographs taken inside and outside a seedy bar in Hong Kong. "Mitch" had discovered this bar ("Venus" – opposite "Hot Lips") as the only one in the city selling beer on tap. The photographs indicate an evening that would struggle to grace polite society but seems in keeping with Old Roan traditions. Mitch has taken a secondment with British Rail to work in Hong Kong and experienced the handover to the Chinese on June 30. We await an official report from our "overseas correspondent at the cutting edge of history" and assume that in Mitch's case the delay reflects a very good night. The vets send best wishes and hope that his skills at right back have not declined amongst the patriotic fervour and subsequent economic slump.

Michael BAXTER ('72-'74) has moved into the flat in Lee previously owned by Len SALES. He was made redundant in October 1996 and is now a milkman, owning a franchise with Unigate Dairies in the West Wickham & Beckenham area. His progress is being monitored by one of his customers, the Editor, who recalls a week in August coinciding with the Cricket Club's tour in Kent when the deliveries were made so early that, in the dark, the notes remained undisturbed resulting in eight pints in the fridge by Saturday. The seasons in Beckenham turn and Michael's carefree summer attire of little more than shorts and sunhat has been transformed in recent weeks to a darkly clad and hooded spectre haunting the doorstep in the heavy hours before dawn in Village Way.

John HARDY ('67-'73) has now "hung up his boots", initially after a traumatic head injury against Wickham Park in October 1996 left him impersonating a defender of Rorke's Drift at a time of an important series of job interviews. It was a tackle and collision that typified John's game and would have served the defenders of Rorke's Drift equally well. For a period of time John worked as a postman before changing career to a "house husband". He has now moved with his family from Cheam to the Kingsbridge area in South Devon where they intend to offer bed and breakfast and rent holiday cottages. Little has been seen of Jim HARDY ('63-'68) who has also, apparently, retired prematurely from football following an operation on his knee.

Alan WEIR ('36-'42) has moved from Hither Green to Broxbourne in Hertfordshire.



The Editor ('62-'69) has moved home within Beckenham, taking occupancy on the same day that New Labour gained office. This one was occupied during the war by "Monsieur" Eddie Gray of the "Crazy Gang", which, admittedly, lacks the cachet of once owning Thomas Crapper's house in Penge. His future with the vets seems perilous after he damaged knee ligaments playing against RACS on November 2. After many years the right back position seems vacant and those many Old Roans who have played with him over more than 25 years may ponder the irony that he finally achieved parity with Gascoigne, Shearer and Keane – not in their talent or financial rewards but through sharing their particular injury.

News of Paul DAVIS (née Chainsaw, '58-'64) concludes this largely undistinguished catalogue of news on ageing and ex-footballers. Paul and his wife, Maxine (née JAMES, '64-'71) have moved to Wadhurst in East Sussex. Paul's surveying business continues to operate in South London and Mayfair. He exercised his rights under the Bosman ruling last season and was given a free transfer from the vets after 30 years to join another Old Roan, John Leach, with Toby Vets. Paul is now a practising Black Belt in the Martial Art of Tae Kwon Do and coaches at the Crystal Palace National Sports Centre. Maxine, following the family interest in the Orient, now travels exclusively for Greenwich University to Malaysia and China.

Mary Anslow, formerly Aitchison (née CHAPMAN) is the niece of Frank and Pick BARNES and was prompted to write by the appreciation taken from The Times after the death of Donald KEATING last year. As a child she lived next door to the Keatings in Shooters Hill Road and was a close friend of their daughter, Jennifer. Mary is now resident in Wetherby in West Yorkshire and visits the South East to see her mother, now resident at Morden College. On a visit last November she called at Devonshire Drive to take a look at the conversions. Mary lists several former close associates including Ray STONE, Chris HOUSEMAN, Chris & Liz STANFORD. Ray STONE ('59-'67) reappeared for George Witten's funeral, lives in Westcliff-on-Sea in Essex and is currently between jobs as an assistant stage manager.

John DENNIS ('64-'71) was spotted at the Reunion Dinner in October and featured extensively on television the following week as spokesman for the Kent & County Hospital in connection with the controversy on scanning. John now works as a freelance consultant, speaks with considerable gravitas that belies his youth and lives in East Kent. Paul WATTS ('57-'62) has returned to England after living with his family in Greece for several years. His search for Arcadia has now led him to a home in Hastings where he is re-training in the skills of the traditional artisan. Paul's fellow exile to Greece, Roy HUNT ('62-'69) is assumed to be still living on the island of Lesbos teaching English as a Foreign Language.

Alison CHUMLEY ('70-'77) married Peter Towner on Monday April 14th at the Trafalgar Tavern in Greenwich. All four witnesses (Susan JOHNSON, Cheryl Smith (née NICKS), Jane SACKETT and Tim ROYAL) were Old Roans. The reception was a memorable event held in the pub restaurant where they caught the attention of a Chinese delegation hosted by the British Council, were entertained by two Welsh fellow diners singing arias, and had a bird's eye view as the Australian-built replica of Captain Cook's ship, The Endeavour, set sail, firing its guns. Peter and Alison will now be known as Mr. & Mrs. Chumley-Towner, with apologies to Harry Enfield.

A Twenty Year Reunion took place at the Club on Saturday 6 September for Old Roan girls attending the school between 1970-77. The reunion was organised by Lesley Tricker (née FERGUSON), Cheryl Smith (née NICKS), Jane SACKETT, Susan JOHNSON and Bernadette BELL. A full report should appear elsewhere in this issue.

Bryan FAIR ('45-'52) advises a change of address to Dorchester, "the smallest county town in the country". Bryan asked for news of several contemporaries including P.F. NEWMAN who left school early. He also recalls Cyril REBAK ('45-'50) whose father owned a tobacconist's and hairdresser's shop in Beresford Square, Woolwich; Derek OAKLEY ('45-'53) whom he narrowly defeated in the quarter mile race in 1952; and Gavin REID ('45-'53) now Bishop of Maidstone. Bryan has been medically retired since 1990 after treatment for cancer. His ambition was to become a university teacher. Instead, he was a lecturer in a college of education in Lancashire, but gave this up to return to London, working in various clerical and administrative posts in the old ILEA Careers Service and in local government. Bryan and his wife enjoy living in Dorset and sorting out where to place their many possessions in the new home.

Clarence NEARN ('14-'18) lives in Bexleyheath and sent a short anecdote about his schooldays at Roan and Mr. Hope. He was interviewed for Roan by Mr. Crofts after passing his L.C.C. scholarship in 1914 and on entering the school found that the Headmaster had changed and they had inherited Mr. Hope from the Manchester Grammar School. "Mr. Hope had distinct rules of wrath and kindness. One afternoon after he had delivered four of his best strokes across my bottom, he talked to me about holidays and I told him that, having no father, we as a family had no summer holidays. After this punishment and talk he visited my mother and persuaded her to let me join the first Roan troop of Boy Scouts. Not only that, he took me with them on a summer trek to the Wye Valley at his expense." He left the Roan school in June 1918 because he wanted to be an engineer and started work at Messrs. Siemens Bros. & Company. He worked for Siemens for forty nine years until retiring (seated centre) in 1967.



He is now 95 and finds few virtues in old age. He has carried a lifelong gratitude to Mr. Hope for his support and kindness at a difficult time and an equally strong admiration for the school captain, A.J.D. Ronald, who appears a figure of heroic stature, pursuing a career in the military, achieving the rank of Brigadier in the Royal Artillery and being awarded the C.B.E.

Dr. Stuart Rugby of the Department of Psychology at Birkbeck College has contacted the John Roan School for information on their records for students involved in the evacuation from London during World War II. Tony Slaney has written to him advising that the O.R.A. records list 104 current members whose years at the School were at any time between 1939



and 1945 inclusive. A questionnaire may follow to those involved. The survey is to record any possible long-term effects of evacuation on those who left South London and Kent.

Ian RICKSON ('75-'82) is the new Artistic Director at the Royal Court Theatre in London succeeding Stephen Daldry. They are currently working together until the theatre returns to its refurbished home in Sloane Square next Autumn. He was previously an associate director at the Royal Court. His directing credits for the company include Jez Butterworth's "Mojo", a play about clubland gangsters, which won him Olivier Awards and the Most Promising Newcomer in the "Evening Standard" awards of 1995. One critic noted "that his productions are tight and bright, always well acted and stylish, sometimes to a fault". Another, reviewing "Mojo", noted how "he pushes no particular view of technique, but thoughtfully and sensitively serves the mood of whatever piece he works on". He has also worked at the Gate at Notting Hill and the Chichester Festival. He is due to direct Kevin Elyot's new play, "The Day I Stood Still", for the Royal National Theatre in January. Stephen Daldry said of him .... "He is one of the most exciting directors currently around. He's totally charming, very strong-willed, strong but not aggressive". He impressed the interviewing panel with his "passionate vision". He is described by John Mortimer, chairman of the Royal Court, as "one of this country's most brilliant and exciting young directors". Ian was 15 before he saw his first play, "The Caretaker" with Max Wall. At Essex University, he was inspired by Edward Bond, the writer-in-residence, and later worked with him as an actor. He describes his South London upbringing as "an aspiring working-class family". In repaying the heavy and lifelong debt occasioned by this remark Ian attended the Roan Theatre Company's performance of "Born Yesterday" on November 29 to give moral and professional support to his father, Richard ('49-'54). He recalls with gratitude the influences of David Birch, Frank Hornblower and Hilary Bourdillon from his years at Roan. He is currently nursing a broken arm caused when playing football for a regular thespian team on Saturday mornings.

Richard RICKSON is one of the few genuine Old Roans involved in the Roan Theatre Company, usually performing in an "unsung" role but always with a full commitment. His secret passion is Fulham F.C. and fortunes seem to be turning. The other current Old Roans are Graham JOHNSON, Trevor TALBOT, Alf KNOTT and Rod STANBRIDGE (lighting) with Teresa WILKINS, Beryl KNOTT, Joan STANBRIDGE and Barbara ROE qualifying comfortably as "honorary" members. David HORSBURGH is included when a more talented pianist is unavailable. Graham Johnson lists his other interests outside of work (Managed Fund Division at the Commercial Union Assurance) as cricket and supporting a charity called Charlton Athletic Football Club.

Geoff RICKSON ('54-'61) completed the Rickson family link with a letter to the Secretary in May 1997 from his home in Cullompton in Devon. He is unaware of any other Old Roans living in Devon – at least until he reads this section of the magazine. He recalls his years at Roan with greater pleasure than the subsequent years at college. He played football and cricket for a couple of years and captained the football team for one disastrous season in the wake of Bill BROOKS. Those were the days of Dave BEADLE, Trevor ROE, Dave CUTTING and Cliff Shepherd. After breaking his leg he never played as well again although he enjoyed a few seasons in the second eleven alongside Simon PERRY, Colin CASTLEDINE, Roger SCANLON and others. His cricket career was more successful and he played for a few seasons in the Saturday Firsts, thoroughly enjoying keeping wicket to Des GRIMBLE and Keith RICHARDSON. At the same time he played in the Sunday Seconds with Martin HOOKER, Bryan ENDERSBEE and Ian SAUNDERS. These were good days but when he moved from London to Cambridge the contacts were lost. He still plays cricket

enthusiastically for the Devon Headmasters team. He notes that his brother, Tony, was always a better footballer, playing in some very good first elevens with Peter DUFFIELD, Fred JACOBS, John LEACH etc. Geoff will shortly complete 25 years as a headteacher. He is proud to remain "not out" in a job that is infamous for its high casualty rate and hopes to continue for a few more years. He is currently head of a primary school in Honiton, thoroughly enjoying the work and the lovely people he works with. Whenever he interviews, gives a talk or attends a conference he always wears his Old Roan tie and hopes that one day someone will recognise it and make a comment. He finds few references to his own contemporaries and wonders what happened to "Hutch" the footballer, Dave PEACHEY, Nicky HOWE, Graeme ALDOUS and the PEARSONS?

Peter TRAFFORD ('28-'38) writes on August 4, 1997 ("a date which sent shivers down the spines of my parents in the 20s and 30s") advising his pleasure at news of Douglas GODDARD and contributing the following story. "In April 1947 I was in charge of 1016 C.R.S., a small medical unit in Dortmund. Our total strength was about 25 including ambulance drivers. My Corporal/Clerk suggested one day that it would be nice to play cricket again, and I had to point out that this would be difficult with no ground, no gear and no regimental funds. He said, I've heard that the Adjutant of the Gunners up the road (the 69th Field Regt.RA) is keen on cricket – he might be able to help. So, off I went to the Gunners Barracks, enquired for the Adjutant, and his office was pointed out. I went in and was amazed to see Doug Goddard seated behind his desk. It was almost exactly 10 years since we had last met and I had been lucky enough to score a not out 50 against his bowling in a Senior House match. Douglas proved to be most helpful and we enjoyed a season's cricket sharing Hitler's Dortmund Stadium as our home ground. The wicket was terrible!"

Peter wrote again on the same day with the news of his brother's death. Leo TRAFFORD ('27-'37) was school Captain in his last year at Roan. He was twice holder of the Discus record at South London Secondary School Sports and represented London Schools (Discus and Shot) against Paris in 1937. He served in the R.A.F.V.R. from 1939-46 and continued in the Civil Service (Customs & Excise). In retirement he lived in the New Forest.

The final section of the "News of Old Roans" is devoted, as usual, to the welcome letters from Patrick BARNWELL ('23-'31) living in Cambridge. He advises the death of a former member of staff, William John CARNELL on 30 July 1997. Outside of his time at Roan he had taught in Bagdad, Tanzania where they had both met – and Malawi. After retiring from the education service he settled in Gainsborough and finally in Lincoln. Cedric POTTER, son of W.J.POTTER (Head) died in 1996. He was also a headteacher, as was his son – three generations who all did their teacher training in Cambridge. Patrick recalls the keen competition in the 1920s to excel in the Matric.. John STOW and Bernard LEE passed at the age of 14 in 1926 and W.L.HEWLETT at the same age a year later. There was news from Colfe's, however, of a boy who passed before his 14th birthday – the son of J.W.Kirby, the French master and school historian, who probably went there because his family lived much closer to Colfe's. Like the DUCKER brothers and Denis PECKHAM, another master's son, the young Kirby went on to Oxford. His fondest memories of those years at Roan are of the athletics and the camps. Patrick won the school mile race and the senior cross country on three occasions each. A source of pleasure and pride among Roan pupils was the opportunity to travel – Braithwaite every year if they wished; St.Omer in 1928; Ireland in 1929; the Rhine in 1930 and the Vosges in 1931. These camps were relatively inexpensive, and Braithwaite sometimes offered as many as five camps in a year Easter, Whitsun, early summer, late summer and Christmas.



## Those attending the the 1997 Annual Reunion Dinner – Friday 17 October

L.Baker (pupil)	J.Girdwood ('63-'71)	J.Novis ('66-'73)
C.Barnes '59-'66)	E.Hadrill ('57-'64)	A.Penney ('47-'51)
K.Barron ('71-'78)	B.Hamer ('56-'65)	S.Perry ('56-'60)
T.Barry ('56-'63)	D.Hawkins ('64-'71)	T.Puddifoot ('64-'71)
A.Berry ('33-'39)	F.Henning ('56-'63)	N.Riley ('67-'74)
D.Bradbrook (65-'72)	D.Horsburgh ('62-'69)	J.Sackett ('70-'77)
K.Bradbrook ('66-'73)	A.Hudson ('42-'47)	A.Slaney (59-66)
A.Bristow ('56-'62)	A.Huntley ('44-'51)	C.Smith (Chair of Governors)
K.Brothwood ('70-'77)	J.Huntley ('51-'56)	M.Smith ('71-'78)
M.Callaghan ('51-'56)	R.Hutchins ('57-'64)	M.Smith ('58-'65)
K.Calnan ('58-'65)	D.Hutley ('68-'75)	F.Spink ('64-'71)
B.Chamberlain ('32-'38)	F.Jacobs ('57-'63)	J.Stanford ('64-'70)
A.Clark ('57-'62)	G.Johnson ('60-'67)	C.Stephens (56-'62)
I.Clatworthy ('58-'65)	A.Jones (pupil)	J.Stephens ('56-'62)
P.Davis ('58-'64)	B.Kinsey ('51-'56)	S.Syrett ('38-'42)
A.Dawe ('48-'56)	G.Lawrance (staff '76-'81)	J.Titcombe ('66-'73)
C.Deane (Head)	V.Lawrence ('64-'67)	M.Titheridge ('51-'56)
J.Dennis ('65-'71)	J.Leach ('55-'62)	P.Watts ('57-'62)
R.Edworthy ('66-'73)	J.Leary (pupil)	D.Weaver ('57-'59)
A.Emeny-Smith ('66-'73)	J.Long ('32-'37)	A.Weir ('36-'42)
B.Endersbee ('44-'49)	B.Marsh ('65-'70)	P.Williams ('38-'44)
D.Fidler ('43-'50)	J.Marsh ('65-'72)	C.Winter ('68-'75)
T.Flack ('26-'30)	L.Nelson ('63-'70)	P.Winter ('37-'40)
		D.Wright (71-'78)

Late apologies were received from J.Cramp ('48-'53), B.Hampton ('58-'65) and M.Waterton ('56-'63). S.Nelson ('61-'67) telephoned from Dublin during the dinner to express his regrets at missing the evening.

The School was proposed by Graham Johnson. Chris Deane replied and proposed the Association. John Huntley replied and proposed the Guests. Alan Huntley replied as the Guest of Honour. The School Song was accompanied on the piano by David Horsburgh.

## The Old Roan Football Club Football Supper

On Friday 23rd May a Football Club Supper was held at the club – the first for at least 25 years. Our guest speaker was the ex-Charlton and Crystal Palace player and Old Roan, Brian Kinsey. He reminisced about his time at Charlton and in the Middle-East. Our other guest at the dinner was Colin Powell, ex-Charlton, who gave a short but very witty speech.

Many of the older members were rather worried that the footballers would not enjoy a sit-down meal with speeches but this was proved to be unfounded and all who attended were well-behaved, listened attentively and left the club in one piece.

The "Player of the Year" trophies were awarded to members from each team playing at the club. Each of the managers made a short speech about their team's season. This year 70 people attended. Hopefully, now that the event is established and with better organisation, next year will see a total nearer to 100.







*Graham Johnson and Teresa Wilkins.  
The Roan Theatre Company – "A Chorus of Disapproval" December 1996  
Graham Johnson as MacHeath takes the applause in "The Beggar's Opera"*



## Births

HORSBURGH to Rachel wife of Stuart ('66-'71), a son, Samuel Angus on 13th December 1996, a brother for Laura, Rebecca and Eleanor

OSBOURNE to Jane, wife of Peter (Oz) Osbourne (affiliated member), a son, Liam Patrick on 26th November 1996, a brother for Nuala

## Marriages

CHUMLEY – TOWNER on 14th April 1997 in Greenwich, Alison Chumley ('70-'77) to Peter Towner

KHAN on 14th September 1996 in Cambridge, Omar Khan ('78-'84) to Charlie

THOMAS – BARRY on 18th October 1996 in Grand Bay, Mauritius, Richard Thomas ('76-'83) to Maria Barry

## Deaths

ALLEN, Mr.D.H. ('24-'31) on 14th March 1997

BARNWELL, Mr.P.J. ('23-'31) on 4th February 1998

BARTROP, Mr.G.A. ('36-'40) in 1996

BEALE, Mr.S. ('29-'30 and staff '46-'69) in 1996

BRADGATE, Mr.N.C. ('34-'39) in 1997

BRISTOW, Mr.L.F. ('33-'38) on 12th November 1997

CARNWELL, Mr.W.J. (staff) on 30th July 1997

CRAMP, Mr.W.A. ('43-'50) on 14th June 1997

DYKE, Mr.P.M. (staff '39 & '45-'47) on 20th January 1997

HAGUE, Miss A.E. (staff '58-'71) on 9th November 1996

LAWES, Mr.R.W. ('29-'33) on 2nd February 1997

MADDEN, Mr.B. ('45-'48) on 22nd June 1997

McMENAMIN, Mr.M. ('35-'40) on 19th November 1996

OWEN, Mr.D. ('45-'47) on 3rd October 1996

TRAFFORD, Mr.L.E. ('27-'37) on 4th August 1997

TOSTEVIN, Miss D. ('43-'50) in October 1996

WAGHORN, Miss E.M. ('18-'23) in 1996

WALLACE, Mr.V.C.I. ('21-'28) on 9th January 1998



### **DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**

- |                    |   |
|--------------------|---|
| 27th February 1998 | Cricket Club Supper at the Old Roan Club          |
| 19th March 1998    | Annual General Meeting at the Old Roan Club       |
| 21st March 1998    | Annual Dinner / Dance at the Tudor Barn, Eltham   |
| 1-4 April 1998     | Roan Theatre Company, Tyler Theatre, Eltham Green |