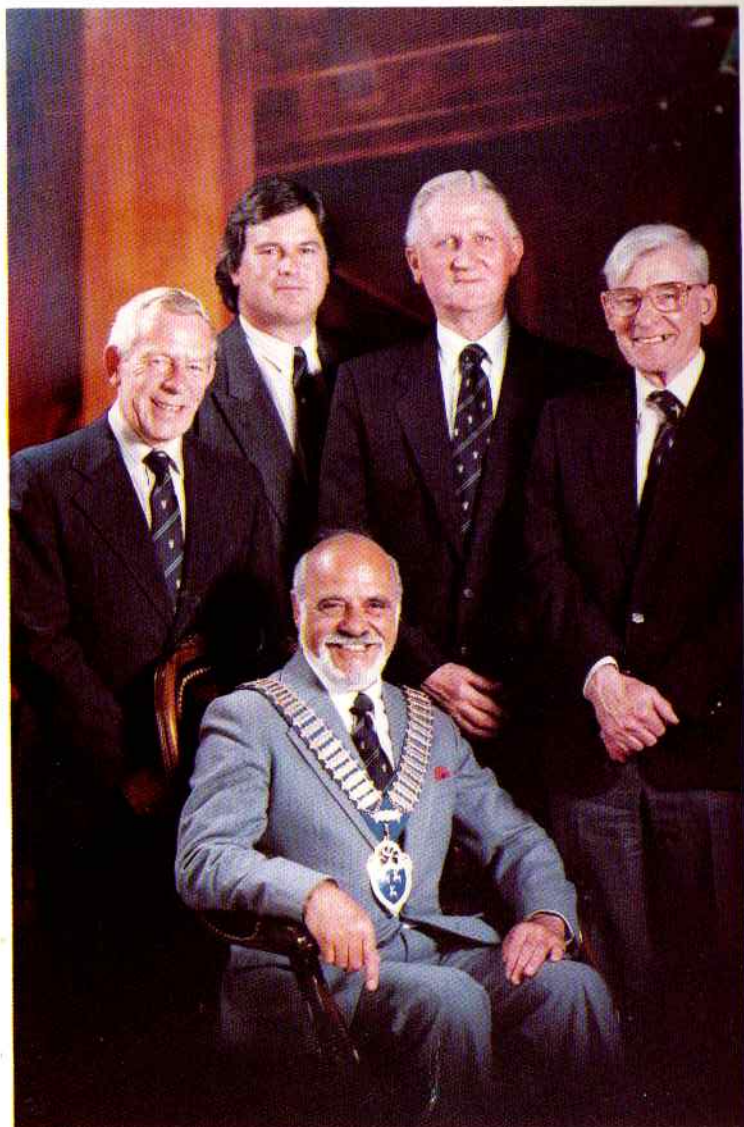


OLD ROAN

Chronicle

Vol. 9.

July, 1989



OLD ROAN ASSOCIATION

PRESIDENT

Alfie Knott
101 Maze Hill
Greenwich
London SE10 8XQ
Tel: (01) 858 7136

VICE-PRESIDENTS

Mrs. M.J. Barber
V.E. Brooker
W.L. Garstang
J.V. Lovell
A.G. Weir

Frank Barnes
G.C. Carter
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Mrs. M. Jeffrey
G.C. Smith

HONORARY PRESIDENT

Ann Tonkin
The John Roan School
141 Maze Hill, Blackheath
London SE3 7UD
Tel: (01) 858 8981

SECRETARY

Tony Slaney
143 Lyme Farm Road
Lee
London SE12 8JH
Tel: (01) 852 4075

HON. TREASURER

Neal Haslam
34 Heversham Road
Bexleyheath
Kent DA7 5BG
Tel: (01) 304 3053

ASSISTANT SECRETARY

Kay Wilkins
9 Tile Farm Road
Orpington
Kent BR6 9RY
Tel: (0689) 52079

HON. ASST. SECRETARY

Dave Andrews
5 Tenby Court
5 Morland Road
Croydon, Surrey CR0 6HA
Tel: (01) 666 6784 (B)

HON. ASST. TREASURER

John Cramp
28 Bickley Crescent
Bromley
Kent BR1 2DW
Tel: (01) 464 4451

SOCIAL SECRETARY (DINNERS)

Mike Walpole
11 Erica Court
Azalea Drive
Swanley Kent BR8 8JA
Tel: (0322) 64322

SOCIAL SECRETARY (PUNCH)

Terry Chance
92 Mineral Street
Plumstead
London SE18 1QR
Tel: (01) 854 0790

EDITOR

David Horsburgh
32 Merlin Grove
Beckenham
Kent BR3 3HU
Tel: (01) 650 5112

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

G.A. Johnson
M. Smith
T. Puddifoot

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*Photograph Opposite: Peter Williams (Vice-President), Steve Nelson (Past President),
Vic Brooker (Vice-President), Alan Weir (Vice-President), Alf Knott (President).*



No. 9

July 1989

FROM THE EDITOR

The current issue is intended to chronicle events of the Roan Schools — in the distant past, recent past, present and the near future. The Club and Association continue energetically with a series of events and activities throughout the year based mainly at the Club in Kidbrooke Park Road. Many of these activities carry specific reports in this magazine. The historical features may not interest all readers but you are recommended to read at leisure the lengthy report of the Scout Camp during the summer of 1916 written by K.S. Binnie which we have re-printed in full together with photographs taken at the time. I was reminded when first reading the original of the quote by L.P. Hartley that "The past is a foreign country ..."

This edition is longer than usual and includes full colour on the cover for the first time. These are developments that may remain unique to this edition or continue hereafter depending on members caring sufficiently to forward information and advertisers meeting the extra costs involved. The Chronicle of July 1989 shows a strong and active Association.

We are particularly grateful to members such as Colin George, Clarry Nearn, Steve Nelson and Roger Dale for providing unsolicited articles and to the various secretaries and team captains for the ongoing reports of activities at the Club. We also acknowledge the support of the advertisers and sponsors of Club activities.

It is important to keep a balance in this publication between past events, current activities and news on the John Roan School which carries the future of the Club and Association. Steve Nelson continues with others to develop the important link between the School and the Association and our new President is also prepared to offer advice and assistance in this respect. Please consider the request by the Headteacher for O.R.A. members to offer their advice and experience to the School. If the Association loses interest in the School — or vice versa — Tony Slaney will find himself mailing fewer magazines each containing increasingly less news.

June 1989

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Kenneth Binnie, historian and gentleman-schoolmaster, was, I think, the last president to have been a boy and a teacher at the school: and now I am so privileged and honoured.

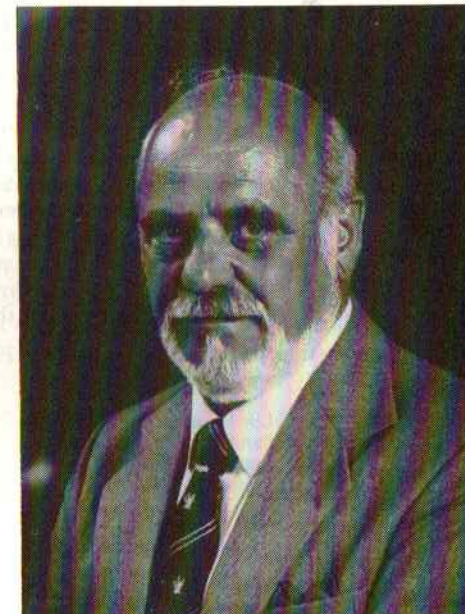
Having taught at the school for thirty years, I must have at least a nodding acquaintance with a great many ex-Roan pupils of both sexes, thanks to the closer association of the boys' and girls' schools in my last years at Roan. I still find the The John Roan School a bit of a mouthful, albeit a distinguished one. My relatively advanced years have, in addition, meant that I am most fortunate to have known and to know today many of the more senior Old Roans who were already distinguished or notorious legends of the Association while I was still at school. Perhaps that will be my most useful function as a president: to provide a sort of historical perspective.

The Old Roan Committee and the various club committees are served by men and women who are owed a great debt of gratitude by the rest of us. When I was a young Old Roan, the Re-union Dinner, the soccer and cricket clubs, the magazine, O.R.D.S. and, later, the dinner-dance were the pillars on which the Association rested; now there is a great deal of social activity centred on the pavilion; you don't have to be a worshipper of Bacchus to enjoy a Thursday, Friday, Saturday evenings', or Sunday afternoon's good fellowship and conversation, while "PUNCH" will be organising more elaborate entertainment in their own inimitable style.

A re-union of the '63 - '70 year of the boys' school was held recently and was much enjoyed by the forty or so who attended. I know that Nigel Ballantyne and Tony Edwards of the Staff were as pleased as I to see so many faces, still clearly recognizable through the beards and moustaches which seemed to add just the right touch of gravitas to such a distinguished gathering. I feel sure other years will wish to enjoy a similar evening; "The child is father to the man," said Wordsworth, and mother to the woman, I'm sure. If you can manage to come to such a function or to one or all of the other main gatherings on the Old Roan calendar, I do not doubt that you would be fascinated to recognize the boy or girl you used to know still present in the mature person you will meet there.

The readers of this magazine will be the biggest number of Old Roans that I shall address; so may I finish by publicly thanking all those industrious members of the various committees that keep the Association and all its activities running for the benefit of past and present scholars whom John Roan would be proud to call his own.

Alf Knott
April 1989



THE SECRETARY'S REPORT

Before last year's A.G.M., Committees of the Association and Club met on the same night with much duplication of reporting. At that meeting the proposition to have joint meetings was passed and meetings were combined with a consequent saving of time. Enclosed with the Newsletter were drafts of the Constitution and Club rules which were approved at the Annual General Meeting with minor word changes. The early committee meetings under Steve's Presidency were concerned with drafting these with particular help from John Dennis. Another matter which took a good deal of time was a discussion document prepared by Trevor Puddifoot. He listed problems faced by the Association and more particularly the Club and suggested solutions. Each item was examined in turn. The most obvious visual result is the re-decoration of the bars.

Membership figures as at 31st December 1988 were as follows:

	(1987)	1988
Life Members	(688)	682
Partly Paid Life Members	(5)	1
Fully Paid Ordinary Members	(324)	321
Junior Members (Under 18s)	(8)	15
Associate Members (Staff)	(23)	22
Honorary Members	(2)	2
Total:	(1051)	1043
+ Members paying by £2-50 Bankers Order	(36)	22
Total Membership:	(1087)	1065

At least the number of ordinary members did not decline as rapidly during 1988 as was the case in 1987 when subscriptions were increased from £2-50 to £5-00. More members have changed their banker's order to the new rate. One bank has yet again failed to increase on member's subscription for January 1988 in spite of receiving a corrected order. After I wrote to them the first time they paid the difference, but reverted to the old amount this January. After receiving another letter the outstanding balance was paid. Hopefully it will now be correct for 1990.

Sadly, no longer members are Miss Barnsdale and Doug Humphries, both past presidents, who died during the year.

Whilst the number of ordinary members is only slightly down there has not been much progress made in attracting school leavers to join or use the Club facilities. Steve has worked hard during the year and made several visits to the School addressing pupils of all the school years. It is hoped that this will encourage them to join the Association in later years.

There have been some reunions at the Club organised by members of particular years and I am always pleased to help in trying to put members in contact with each other. The School has often been approached to assist but they do not have the time and resources to reply. In time this is a function that the Association will be able to provide and I hope to see more gatherings at the Club.

Alan Weir, as a trustee of the Hope Memorial Trust, has been keeping the Committee informed of progress of the rebuilding of the site at Braithwaite. The rebuilding has consisted of complete demolition of the huts and replacement by a more luxurious edifice. No more sleeping on bare boards but now bunks. Showers are also, at last, to be provided.

During the year Fritz Henning handed over editorship of the Chronicle and Newsletter to David Horsburgh who has taken over enthusiastically. A constant issue as mentioned in his first editorial is the problem of not receiving items of general interest to all Old Roans, particularly to those not in direct contact with the Club and associated activities. It is up to members to keep him informed and he will always welcome items of news for inclusion in future publications.

The reunion dinner was held on 21st October last year with the change of caterers appreciated by most diners. The dinner / dance was well attended last March with a return to the Yorkshire Grey after a couple of experimental years away.

Steve and I have been attending the John Roan Association Committee meetings and helped at their Christmas Fair while Steve also ran the "beer tent" at the summer (1988) festival. The Association co-operated in a race night held at the Club on 21st April 1989. Alfie Knott has taken over from me on their committee and I wish him well in this aspect of his duties.

Tony Slaney May 1989

OLD ROAN CLUB REPORT

The last Old Roan Club Report, published in the February Newsletter, gave a forecast of the trading figures for the year ending 31.12.88 and these have now been confirmed. As anticipated the Bar Sales for that period amounted to £28,425 compared with £25,516 in the previous year with a gross profit of £6,040. As mentioned in the Newsletter our expenditure exceeded this figure but we were put into profit by the proceeds from the Fruit Machine and Pool Table. The overall profit of £2,258 is fairly satisfactory and the Balance Sheet is healthy with adequate net current assets. Whilst on the question of 'Income and Expenditure' it is a little discouraging to have to report on the Bar turnover for the first three months of the current year. This amounted to only £7,797 and is over £600 lower than the corresponding figure for 1988. I do not think there is any obvious reason for this reduction and we must hope that business picks up during the remainder of 1989.

The Excise Licence held for the Club expires in August next and the preparation of the Application for Renewal is well under way. Hopefully we shall receive a Licence for a further ten year period although I am led to believe that the Licencing Magistrates have 'tightened up' their procedures and are tending to reduce the period for which the Licence is granted.

Following the re-wiring of the Main Pavilion the L.E.B. inspected the electrical circuits and installation in the areas used by the Club and issued a Certificate which requires us to have a further inspection in 1993. There are, however, some recommendations that call for prompt attention and we are awaiting estimated costs from the L.E.B. Contracting Department. We shall have to put this work in hand when the estimate is received and this is expected to be a major item of expenditure within the next few months.

We have continued to make payment to the Governors of the Roan Schools Foundation to meet part of the increased costs of leasing the paddock etc. from the Greenwich Borough Council. Despite this we have still not received any response from the Governing Board in respect of our request for an Agreement of Tenure and we shall continue to pursue this matter. It may assume greater importance in the event that the Schools come under the jurisdiction of the Greenwich Borough Council following the closure of the I.L.E.A.

Finally may I take this opportunity to thank all those members who have done so much to keep the Club alive and kicking during the past year and express the hope that they will receive increasing support from many more members of the O.R.A. in the immediate future.

Frank P. Barnes May 1989.

THE TREASURER'S REPORT

The following figures were presented by the Treasurer in detail at the Annual General Meeting and were adopted:

OLD ROAN ASSOCIATION:

Revenue Account	1988	1987	Balance Sheet	1988	1987
Subscriptions	£1873	£2027	Fixed Assets		
Trading surplus	11	10	(less depreciation)	£217	£224
Interest	424	398	Investments	3421	3421
	2308	2435		3638	3645
Expenses	1767	2134	Current Assets	11852	10047
Surplus	541	301	Current Liabilities	583	118
				£14907	£13574
Accumulated Fund:					
Balance brought forward	£10596	£8892	Accumulated Fund	£11832	£10956
Investment interest	340	332	Icough Memorial Fund	1762	1708
Donations	355	1071	Benevolent Fund	1116	1079
Surplus	541	301	Mary Higgs Fund	197	191
	£11832	£10596		£14907	£13574

OLD ROAN CLUB:

Trading Account	1988	1987	Balance Sheet	1988	1987
Bar Sales	£28425	£25516	Fixed Assets		
Cost of Sales	22385	20529	(less depreciation)	£15258	£15496
Whitbread loan redemption	499	493	Investments	2571	2571
	£6539	£5480		£17829	£18067
Club running expenses	7523	5459	Current Assets	16007	13898
(Loss) Profit	(984)	21	Current Liabilities	9179	9309
Other receipts	3242	1972			
	£2258	£1993		£24657	£22656
Profit & Loss Account:					
Receipts	£2900	£3495	Balance b/f	£22656	£20439
Payments	899	1278	Profit & Loss	2001	2217
	£2001	£2217		£24657	£22656

Neal Haslam
May 1989

ALFIE KNOTT — A PORTRAIT By Nigel Ballantyne

This year's O.R.A. President, Alfie Knott, really needs little in the way of introduction, for whether you encountered him as a fellow-schoolboy between 1943 and 1947 or as his pupil or colleague between 1954 and 1984, you are bound to have your own vivid memories of this most individual of Old Roans. So which is yours?

Perhaps of Alfie the footballer: "Knott: Centre half. He played a captain's part, and, to use a cliché, which imposes itself by its appropriateness, was a tower of strength in defence in spite of his very untower-like physique. A triumph of quality over quantity." Thus the Roan Magazine of July 1947 — nice to see that is an ever-changing world, football clichés change but little!

Perhaps of Alfie the actor: "Knott gave an outstanding performance which tended to overshadow the competence of the rest of the cast." — that was in June 1946, though it could equally refer to his many performances both at school and with the O.R.D.S.

Perhaps of Alfie the pianist: gown draped over the piano stool, desperately searching for a key in which more than one member of the chorus could vaguely sing.

Perhaps of Alfie the invigilator: serenely composing a couple of numbers for the next show, while pupils vainly scour the depths of their memories for a few semi-digested facts as the perspiration dissolves the inspiration.

Perhaps of Alfie the choreographer: progressively simplifying a routine from Astaire-like complexity to a simple "1-2-3-and back", suited to the average Roan dancer with two left feet.

Perhaps you can fill in your own favourites.

Alfie joined the school as a pupil in 1943 and by the time he left in 1947 had been captain of Football, Athletics, House and School. In his brief period away from Roan he gained an honours degree in English at Kings College, London and served in the Canal Zone on his National Service. He returned to the school as a teacher in 1954: "owing to an increase in numbers in the upper part of the school an additional master is required for English and French." So began his thirty years of teaching at the school, serving under Mr. Gilbert, Mr. Garstang and Dr. Taylor and becoming vice-head in 1969.

His contribution to the life of the school went far beyond that of "additional master". He ran school football, organized the library, edited the magazine, wrote and produced revues with Bill Ellis, acted, often with Beryl, in O.R. productions, played in the band and kept up the spirits of countless teachers in the staffroom — oh yes, and taught too! — with a deceptive air of improvisation.

He was always "front page news" and never more so than when he was mistakenly shot by the I.R.A. in 1975 — an event from which he happily recovered fully and had the one advantage of helping him to join the ranks of the non-smokers! Since leaving the school he has exported Roan revues, as well as his teaching skills, to Zimbabwe.

As I've been writing the "straight" biography, I've been trying to decide on my own "Perhaps" — it could be the help he gave me when I was a fledgling teacher in the early sixties; the backing he gave me as a member of my department after George Witten left; his manfully-concealed impatience at my inability to keep in tune; his introducing me to the complexities of "The Times" crossword; his inability to sleep at Braithwaite because of the noise of the birds (or was it Derek Evans' snoring?) — no, above all it is his readiness to help anyone in need of assistance no matter how inconvenient it might be to himself. — It will be a very good year for the O.R.A.

VIC BROOKER — PROFILE

Here's the man in all his glory in the Old Boys League winning team of 1947/48. I am reliably informed that Vic bought the shirts for that season, pumped up the ball and provided the oranges — nothing changes does it?

The writer well remembers Vic from the 50's in his playing days which seemed to span forever, while he became more and more involved in helping the general running of the Football Section in various official capacities and in a few others as well. His lifts to away matches on his motor-bike and sidecar were the undoing of many a bright prospect. His dedication was always coupled with the traditions of O.R.s for which he is still a stalwart today. He has finally asked to be relieved of the washing of 7 sets of muddy kit each week but is still the Hon. Treasurer of the Football Club and woe betide anyone who owes the Club money for too long. Vic is an ever present at home matches but rarely seems to witness any goals scored for he is just about to prepare tea for players and spectators alike.

Apart from his time-consuming efforts on behalf of the Football Club he has more than a passing interest in the relative speed limits of his four-legged friends and can be seen some three or four times a week at the local greyhound racing tracks. "I've got a cert in the first race at Catford . . ." are words we have all heard on many occasions, but he still drives his beaten-up automobile, not a brand new Cadillac! Mind you, I've yet to meet a poor bookie!

In years gone by Vic also used to play a mean hand at bridge with some of his O.R. contemporaries which epitomises the man — calculating but never rash.

The honour of Vice President is well deserved and endorsed by all who know him. Congratulations!

G.S., June 1989

Old Boys League — Winners — 1947-48

Vic Brooker (FB), Buster Roe (G), Ken Bartlett (FB), Dennis Hazell (OR), Sid Palmer (FB), Peter White (WH), Bernard Collins (IF), Chick Fowles (CH), Ken Ratcliffe (IF), Bill Brewer (CF), Roy Evenden (WH), Ralph Emler (OR).



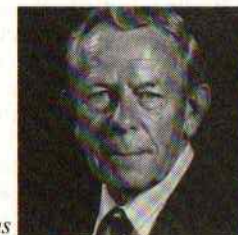
ALAN WEIR — PROFILE

Alan was elected a Life Vice-President of the Old Roan Association at the Annual General Meeting held at the end of March 1989. A detailed appreciation of his connections with the School, and his work for the Association, was given in the Old Roan Chronicle in November 1978 when he became our President. He first joined the O.R.A. in 1946 following war service in the Royal Navy and spent some thirty years as an active (well fairly active) member of the O.R.C.C. He was Treasurer of the O.R.C.C. for an extended period and, up to last year, a very willing umpire.

He has served on the General Committee of the Association for many years but it is perhaps in his capacity as Treasurer and Trustee of the Hope Memorial Camp that he has given the greatest service to the School and the Association. Long may he continue to do so for I am sure that he will maintain his enthusiasm for all things Old Roan despite his elevation to the honorary office he now holds.



Alan Weir



Peter Williams

PETER WILLIAMS — PROFILE

It will be no surprise to members to read that Peter Williams has been made a Vice President of the Old Roan Association for he has held most positions in the Association and Club from President of the Association, to humble assistant treasurer when he spent many evenings counting the pints and the crisps in the bar.

Although he kept goal for the first X1 for a decade when soccer started again after the war — always insisting that the team had tall full backs — it is for his services to the cricket club that he has been honoured, and there can be no one who deserves the accolade more.

For many years he was a most efficient fixture secretary. He was vice captain, then captain of the first X1. He was President of the League. The qualities that he brought to all of these posts are well known and well documented. And yet there are other traits less well known, less conventional, that make up the character of Peter. Perhaps there is a little eccentricity in all Englishmen who love the game of cricket as much as he does.

As a mathematician he loves his statistics too, and has become the club historian, keeping all the post war records available. When batting for the firsts a year or two ago, he trotted a single to much applause from his own side and much puzzlement to the opposition. Peter had scored his 20,000th run for the first X1 — certainly a club record.

He has devised two games of table cricket, the more sophisticated of which uses two packs of cards and allows for most variations of pitch and weather, except for volcanic eruptions. When his wife called him for lunch one winter's Sunday many years ago, Peter is said to have replied that he would not be a minute but wanted to see if Barrington got his 50 before close of play.

Some years ago, with his usual boyish enthusiasm, he took up golf. Nowadays as a retired schoolmaster he is able to devote a day or so a week to this and keeps meticulous records of each round that he plays. Yet it is said that from time to time he will attempt a shot that might make an in-form Faldo think twice, for there is a Cavalier spirit in Peter not obvious to those who remember him as an opening bat of great concentration, rarely prepared to take any risks.

Peter's contribution to the Cricket Club has been immense and it is only fitting that the Association should recognise this. Now that he has virtually retired from playing cricket he has taken up umpiring so that his connection with the club continues. Long may it remain so.

Martin Hooker, May 1989

IN MEMORIAM

MISS MARGUERITE BARNSDALE 1902 — 1988
HEADMISTRESS, ROAN GIRLS SCHOOL, 1943 — 1962

Miss Barnsdale died peacefully, after a stroke, on 7th October 1988. Her long life was varied and full of interest, a series of goals set and attained. In college she had a motto which read:- "I will set my face to the wind and throw my handful of seed on high" — this she did abundantly in all things.

Miss Barnsdale became Headmistress of the Roan Girls School in Devonshire Drive in 1943. She saw the School through the difficult wartime period and into the no less difficult post-war years. She used her wisdom and strength of character to re-establish a community in which it was a pleasure to teach and be taught. She devoted all her time and energy to the interests of the girls who came into her care. She was immensely proud, and rightly so, of her school and never ceased to be interested in it through all the vicissitudes of "going comprehensive" and of amalgamation that occurred after her retirement.

When Miss Barnsdale retired she came to live in Dorset, first in the village of Langton Matravers and later in Swanage next-door to her great friend Miss Marsh. Together they were involved in the work of the Dorset Naturalists' Trust and the Wild Flower Society, and together they travelled by sea around the world visiting friends and relatives in every continent.

In recent years Miss Barnsdale's activities have been restricted by failing sight but right up to the time of her death she was always ready to be taken out into the countryside to look at rare specimens of flowers.

A Classics Scholar, she had a life-long love affair with Greece. Another favourite quotation of hers was:-

"Ithaca will not give you riches,
Ithaca has given you your lovely journey!"

It seems to me most apt that the words on her memorial stone amongst the wild flowers of Langton cemetery will read "Journey's End".

And for us, the end of an era!



Miss M.E. Barnsdale
(History of the Roan Schools 1643 — 1956)

DR. P.A. TRAFFORD. ROAN EXHIBITIONER 1938

I think it was that distinguished Old Roan, P.J. Barnwell, who put forward the suggestion that some record should be made of the careers of those fortunate enough to have been the recipients of Roan Exhibitions on leaving the Sixth Form and proceeding to higher education. There is a natural modesty about writing about oneself, but after fifty years this can be overcome.

My award was in 1938 after ten years at Roan — the first term being at Eastney Street in Form I under Joey Amesbury. I was lucky to win also a small entrance scholarship in science to St. Thomas's Hospital Medical School, where my studies commenced in October 1938.

The outbreak of war in the following year caused an acceleration in the course and I was permitted to qualify MRCS, LRCP in October 1942, completing the London University MB,BS six months later. House appointments at St. Thomas's and at Woking War Hospital (Emergency Medical Service) followed and I was held back from service in the Forces as a surgical trainee. But the war ended and fewer surgeons were needed so I found myself in uniform in the RAMC in 1945 and posted to Germany where there was little professional experience during the next three years, but I enjoyed some cricket, hockey, football, tennis and swimming after an interval of five or six years. The advent of the National Health Service in 1948 caused division in the profession and those of us abroad at the time felt rather isolated. I decided to take a short service commission and to stay in the Army; the result was a great deal of experience in obstetrics in particular, in the Military Families Hospital in Aldershot and Woolwich, and I finally left the RAMC in January 1953, to become a G.P. in the N.H.S.

Sixteen years in what was in effect a single-handed practice in rural Somerset, was an unforgettable experience but it began to affect the health of my wife and myself. In 1969 I joined the Prison Medical Service at Dartmoor Prison and the Home Office assisted me to obtain a psychiatric qualification (The DPM, London 1972) so that after service at Broadmoor Hospital and Winchester Prison I was appointed Senior Medical Officer at Bristol Prison in 1974, a position I held until my retirement in December 1985 at the age of 65.

I have been extremely fortunate to have been able to enjoy so many branches of medicine in a very full and interesting life. Clinical work with patients has always been my first love and I am still able from time to time, to assist the process of the law by preparing psychiatric reports on defendants.

In addition, I have played my part in medical "politics"; when I was in general practice my colleagues elected me chairman of the Bath division of the British Medical Association in 1967, and I held the same office in Bristol in 1979. For a number of years I represented prison doctors at the BMA and at the Institute of Professional Civil Servants and was founder chairman of the Prison Medical Association. Last year I was declared "President of Honour" at the International Council of Prison Medical Services in recognition of my organising a World Congress of Prison Medicine in Bristol in August 1988.

I am now a little remote from Old Roan affairs but there is always plenty to occupy my time. One task I have set myself is to write a book based on my father's letters home to my mother in the First World War. May I be permitted to appeal to any readers for any photographs, press-cuttings or other memorabilia connected with the 1st/20th Battalion, the London Regiment (Blackheath and Charlton) in 1914-16. My father was an Honorary Member of the O.R.A.; one-time

Hon. Treasurer of the Hope Memorial Trust; and with Lionel Berry, coach to the school rugby XV in the twenties.

No more! I have written far too much for a busy editor to cope with. My greetings to the many old friends who must still be among the readers of this magazine.

Peter Trafford (1928 — 1938), 10 April 1989

NELSON'S COLUMN



Steve Nelson



Steve & Shirley at the Dinner/Dance

Hello! It's me again, a mere mortal once more after my year as your President and yet still Dave won't let me off the hook and wants an account of my last three months in office (I bet Ronald doesn't get this hassle!).

The highlight of this period was of course the Grand Presidential Charity Ball (or Old Roan Dinner Dance for traditionalists) at the Yorkshire Grey. Shirley and I were very pleased to see so many of you there and the tuxedos, tailcoats and sequins, along with good food and service made the night very memorable indeed.

I hope those of you who came enjoyed Bill Clift's band, "The Pit Props". I'm aware that rock'n'roll isn't everybody's idea of fun, but I thought they did a great job, especially in the first session of playing the sort of music that we could all enjoy, and it seemed to me that most of you took to the floor at some stage. Thanks again to Mike Walpole for his great assistance in organising the event, I understand that the Harrogate Rooms have been booked again next year for Alf's end of term knees-up so why not try to make it then?

Finally, I've got a real buzz out of being your President for the last year and it's been made all the more enjoyable by the endless encouragement that Shirley has given me and the fact that she has shared and enjoyed with me most of the various fun occasions over the last twelve months from the Inauguration Disco to the recent Dinner/Dance. Thank you Shirleyxxxxxx.... and thanks to you all for having me.

S.N.

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT

We the following: Trevor Puddifoot, Geoff Sawyer, Barry Thomas and Steve Nelson would like to thank those of you who have experienced our unrivalled service, unbeatable quality and prolific range of products at incredibly low prices which helped make us all better off! ... and for those of you who haven't, why not!!?

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HOPE MEMORIAL CAMP UNVEILING CEREMONY — 30th APRIL 1989

At midday on Sunday 30th April a new stone was unveiled at the Hope Memorial Camp at Braithwaite. This stone has been placed next to the original one on the porch wall of the new building. The sun shone pleasantly on a gathering of approximately eighty people.

The ceremony was performed by Ann Tonkin the chair of the Hope Memorial Trust. Also present were other trustees Alan Weir, Jim Upton and Martin Bain, members of the teaching staff and pupils (who formed a brass ensemble to entertain us and play a fanfare). The Chairman and Vice-chairman of ILEA; Nigel Egerton, chairman of the Roan Foundation, and other ILEA members were present.

Speeches by Ray Trickey (re-building organiser) and Ann Tonkin contained references to the original stone unveiling speech where A.H. Hope was said to have descended on Braithwaite and liked it so much he decided to buy it! These references were gained from School magazines of the time kindly donated by Alan Betts of Billingshurst.

The ceremony was followed by refreshments in the Church centre and the proceedings were fully reported in the local paper.

Details of the new complex and bookings can be obtained from Jim Upton at school and if you are in the Lakes please phone Ray Trickey on Keswick 71159 who will gladly show you around.



Photograph by kind courtesy of the 'West Cumberland Times & Star'

From left to right: Ian Hindmarch (our Lake District contact in recent years), Chris Hill (Roland Hill, Builders), Nigel Hutchinson (Gill, Dockray & Partners, Architects — and Designer), Ann Tonkin (Chair of the Hope Memorial Trust), Ray Trickey (Re-building organiser), Tim Gould (Gill, Dockray & Partners), Joe Hindmarch (original Lake District contact — his father helped set up the original Trust in the 1930s).

At the Association Committee Meeting on June 12 Alan Weir advised that the re-building will be complete by Friday 16 June and that the new complex will be in use this summer. Details on booking the centre are available from the booking secretary at the John Roan School. If there is sufficient interest the O.R.A. will be pleased to negotiate for an Old Boys' Camp in the future. It is intended that the centre should be open for ten months during the year.

IN MEMORIAM

PICK BARNES 1923 — 1989

As a toddler, Nellie Chapman was such an energetic handful that she acquired the title of Pickle, and as "Pick" we always knew her. From the beginning of her life with Frank, Pick involved herself fully in his enthusiasms. When the Dramatic Society was re-formed in 1949 she (literally) found herself in a niche as Acting Stage Manager — in prompt corner. It is said that, even without a script, she knew the parts better than did the actors.

The Children's Christmas Parties began in the 1950s. She, like Frank, was in the forefront. Loving children, she was always happy to relieve parents of their offspring — even to the extent of 'borrowing' one three-year-old for a holiday! A whole generation of the children of Old Roans knew her as 'Auntie Pick'. Those children, now parents, might well welcome a successor to 'Auntie Pick'.

Frank could not have pursued his passion for cricket had he not been supported by Pick. She was happy, or at least willing, to preside over that ancient ritual, the cricket tea. Indeed she is on record as having buttered bread unchanged for a whole season of 3rd X1 home fixtures (we had a long fixture list in those days).

Pick was one of that loyal group of tolerant (i.e. long suffering) ladies who were prepared to support the players on away fixtures and on the early 2nd X1 Kent Tours. If things were a little quiet in the bar she was prepared to lead the way in a sing-song or a 'knees-up'. In latter years, despite failing health, Pick was a 'regular' at the Club. Her determination to make the most of life was evident to us all as was her dry sense of humour.

She did not attend the Roan School; she went to what she insisted was a 'proper school', Mary Datchelor School at Camberwell. During the war she served in the W.R.N.S. and in spite of her disability in later life she continued to attend Old Comrades' Reunions, up to the day she died.

The large gathering of friends who attended her funeral service at the Church of the Good Shepherd, Lee, and the many generous donations in her memory to the M.S. Society reflect the immense regard and affection in which Pick was held.

OLD ROAN ASSOCIATION & THE JOHN ROAN SCHOOL

In the past, various Old Roans have been kind enough to give a talk to the senior pupils about their own particular business, trade or profession as part of the careers curriculum at the school. We should like to compile a list on computer of all Old Roans, men and women, who would be willing to give this valuable assistance to the school.

If you would like to offer your help, please telephone the Head, Ann Tonkin, at the Maze Hill building — (01) 858 8981. Thank you in anticipation.

TWENTY FIVE BY TWENTY FIVE

April Fools Day it may have been, but the business was deadly serious. Twenty five Old Boys gathered at the Old Roan Club for a reunion of the classes of '63 — 70. The actual reunion was the culmination of over a year's work trying to track down over 70 names. By the end of March we had contacted 55 from our target list, with 45 Old Boys confirming their continued existence and sending some details about themselves.

The idea of the reunion was conceived by two individuals quite separately. However, organising such an event is a joint effort, needing a degree of team pressure to keep things moving. Fortunately the two, Bob Hills and Colin George, were put in touch with each other and agreed to meet in a crowded pub on the South Bank early in 1988. Of course the whole thing could have foundered straight away, since neither Colin or Bob had seen each other for fifteen years!

With the first hurdle safely over, the project began to take shape. The physical reunion was only part of the plan. What we wanted to know was what had happened to seventy-odd South London schoolboys twenty years on. We drew up a short list of questions covering occupation, marital status and children (We've recorded 55 of those so far). Most important of all we asked for any other contacts. Within a couple of months we had assembled the list of 1970 leavers, which was our first target. This gave us some sixty names which we felt was manageable. We also set the date for the reunion; the first Saturday after Easter 1989, April 1st.

In total we made five mailings. Firstly, to introduce the idea and get back more names and addresses; then to keep everyone up to date with progress and finally the details for the night. All the information received was filed away on Colin's pc so that we could give everyone attending a copy to save those endless questions like "What are you doing these days?" and "You must give me your address". Even so, information continued to arrive up to the last minute, with a letter from the States arriving just a few hours beforehand.

Bob had undertaken the task of arranging the event itself. The Old Roan club was the obvious venue but catering needed to be sorted out. Also we decided to invite some guests. What had happened to those teachers?

And so, the day arrived at last. As people arrived there were puzzled expressions. "Is it really...?", "I know the face, but..." At least having a list of who to expect helped, but who on



Photograph courtesy of Colin George

earth is that guy over there?? A little over half those attending brought wives, and the crowd was further swollen by Alf Knott, Nigel Ballantyne and Tony (Jumbo) Edwards who came to impart some discipline.

The evening was an enormous success, continuing into the small hours of Sunday morning. With many fractured friendships fully repaired there was broad agreement that we must do it again. Of course, quite when is another matter, but 1995 seems possible. To do so we shall keep our central file up to date, noting any changes for the future. Even with our persistence there were still some people who, disappointingly, never replied. We may still persuade them and so discover what has happened to the Head Boy of 1969/70, Smith G.

To other considering a Reunion we wish you the best of luck. If we have any advice it's be persistent, don't take no for an answer, use the telephone a lot and allow plenty of time!

For us the result was the discovery that a bunch of boys from South London had spread throughout the country, from Plymouth to Inverness, as well as into Europe and North America. And a firm resolve to keep in touch in the future.

Colin George & Bob Hills, May 1989

OLD ROAN VETERAN'S NORFOLK TOUR — MARCH 1989

Most football sides are filled with trepidation and self doubt at the thought of playing away in strange lands with the ensuing problems of exotic food and drink. Not so the Old Roan Vets. With usual eye for detail Mike had ensured that the Sandcliffe Hotel had plenty of the "Real Stuff" although when asked to name the starting XI for the following morning could only come up with 10!! Needless to say things resolved themselves.

The first ten minutes of the game were by all accounts a drab affair. I can only report this as hearsay as your correspondent and Jimmy Russon (Captain of the Carrot Crunchers) had been avoidably detained by an over large breakfast. The less knowledgeable reader would wrongly assume that it would be the arrival of the more highly publicised of these two English Schools' Cup winning players who would bring the game to life. Not so!. With his first touch of the game, and seeing the Cromer Keeper 3 inches off his line, your correspondent chipped in from 30 yards. He then stepped out of the spotlight to allow two players who throughout their careers have always been willing to play the parts of spear carriers to now take centre stage.

They say "they never come back!". Wattsie proves the lie. Five years out of the game with that crippling disease "under the thumbitis" he played as if Ben Johnson's trainer had been pouring his drinks the night before. Is Abbott Ale on the banned drugs list?

Dave Horsburgh would have made an excellent scout. After missing three chances from a total distance of three feet he never gave up and just before half-time strode up to slot home a penalty from 18 yards (think about that one) when the rest of the team were shirking responsibility. This was his Alamein. He never looked back and was robbed of a well deserved hat-trick by some convincing acting by the Cromer Keeper who persuaded the referee that Dave had fouled him. We all know that he is incapable of such an unfair act. Keith Banks completed the scoring with his traditional thunderous left-footed thirty yarder.

Old Roan ran out comfortable 4-1 winners and by winning for the third year in a row get to keep Cromer.

Norfolk Correspondent — Fred Spink

ASK THE ORACLE

15 -1?. These are just about the odds that any Turf Accountant worth his salt would offer for an Old Roan to win a television quiz contest. Coincidentally, it is also the name of a Channel 4 general knowledge show. Never heard of it? I am not surprised because, although it is an excellent programme, it is shown at 16:30, which is not exactly prime time viewing.

Why my interest? Well, having arrived home early from work one day last year, I caught the tail-end of a show. It looked interesting and, when they requested new volunteers, I jotted down the details. Now, for some time, I had contemplated applying for a quiz show — any quiz show. Like most of us, I perform magnificently from the comfort and safety of my armchair. This self-esteem, the lure of the bright lights and glittering prizes and the timing of the appeal finally persuaded me to chance my arm.

Did I say glittering prizes? It was not until the audition that I realised the producers of '15-1' imagine their contestants to be of the same ilk as those on "Mastermind". That is, they are in it for purely aesthetic motives. This shock and disappointment was compounded when the producer and presenter, William Stewart, glibly announced that he had sold the format to a company in the United States, who planned to reward each correct answer with \$250. The thoughts of emigration sprang to mind but were rapidly replaced by good old British stoicism.

But, I step ahead of myself. The audition took place on a wet, miserable, February day in a Territorial Army hall in Wandsworth. Somehow, I had expected something more salubrious. Still, myself and 44 other hopefuls gathered, uncertainly, pondering what lay before us. Some were chatting nervously; others busied themselves in their newspapers perhaps trying for a psychological advantage by polishing off "The Times" crossword.

Quite unexpectedly, in my case anyway, William Stewart himself arrived to conduct the proceedings. After some light banter and an explanation of future events, he asked who amongst us had experience of television quiz shows. A number of hands went up. Each, in turn were asked which show. My heart sank when "Mastermind" kept cropping up. One lady had appeared on or auditioned for every show that I had ever heard of! I contemplated owning-up to my starring role alongside Eamonn Andrews and Leslie Crowther in 1964 but finally decided nobody would want to hear about "Crackerjack". The presenter informed he was looking for 2,000 contestants — a smile crept over my face — out of 6,000 applicants. The smile froze as my lightning-quick mind told me I only had a 1 in 3 chance. As I performed only moderately well in answering the myriad of questions thrown at me, I can only assume they liked my clean-cut, sharp-suited, grammar-school image, for I was duly selected.

April 11th was another dreadfully damp London day. Despite a heavy overcoat and an umbrella, I was soaked by the time I reached the studio — another un-prepossessing Wandsworth building. Luckily, I had three hours in which to dry out before battle began. Those three hours were largely spent, with my fourteen fellow contestants, in one cramped room. Half-an-hour for lunch and 5 minutes for make-up were the only respites. Fortunately, my group got along together very nicely, so the time passed fairly quickly. One chap, a University lecturer from Portsmouth, kept us entertained by asking posers from his pocket book of Pub quiz questions. I realised at an early stage of this procedure that my general knowledge was not quite as good as some of my new friends. Oh, dear!

Eventually, we were escorted upstairs to the recording studio. What a disappointment! On the screen, the setting looks most impressive. In reality, it is small and rather tatty. I suppose, in a

way, this was helpful because it made the recording less daunting. After a seemingly unending series of sound and light checks, during which, when it was your turn to face the spotlight and speak into the microphone, the level of self-consciousness rose to giddy heights, the ordeal finally began.

Now, for the benefit of those who work so hard that they have never seen this admirable programme, a brief run through of the rules. Fifteen people start and, at the end of three rounds, only one is left standing. The first round consists of each person being asked two questions in turn. Although each person starts with three lives, two wrong answers in round one costs all three lives and causes elimination. Round two is where your new-found friends become deadly enemies. The first person to answer correctly nominates a fellow contestant for the next question. Naturally, a wrong answer costs a life. When you reach the parlous state of only having one life left, the "night of the long knives" takes on a whole new meaning. Round two ceases when the last three are left standing. These three fight out the final round by taking questions themselves or nominating the others. Ultimately, one survives.

In the draw for positions, I pick out number 13 — great start! At least I can relax for a while and listen to the others questions. I know the answer to that one and that one . . . Oh! come on, that's easy. Right! now start concentrating — here he comes. Try to look cool and composed and appear as though you're enjoying it. Here we go.

"Roger — religion — in which year did the 261st, 262nd, & 263rd Popes hold office?"

UH! Why me? I could answer the previous twelve questions, honestly I could. Steady now, don't panic — you're allowed three seconds to answer. Have a guess — you've got to say something.

"1950".

A buzz like an angry bee sounds loud and clear and one of the green lights in front of me goes out.

"1978", intones the smooth, presenter's voice.

Oh, yes! When the present Pope was elected. I remember now.

I am still contemplating my poor answer when it is my turn again. Must get this one right or I sit down and suffer the attendant ignominy.

"Roger — World War Two (my heart lifts — a subject I know a little about) — which American general left the Philippines in March 1942 but vowed "I shall return?"

"MacArthur"

The welcome ping that signals a correct answer. "Phew".

Incredibly, at the end of the first round, only one person has been eliminated. Normally, it is four or five. The second round is certainly going to take a long time.

The nominating soon starts but, because there are so many to select from nobody picks me. Lives are lost and three more people sit down. I am beginning to feel confident.

"Number 13"

What? Who said that? Mary — I'll remember that!

"Roger — later the basis for an Andrew Lloyd-Webber musical, who wrote 'Old Possums Book of Practical Cats'?"

Ah, everybody knows this one — it's just slipped my mind — it will come to me in a second — it's on the tip of my tongue. BZZZZZZZZZZ!

"T.S. Eliot"

There are now 3 million viewers chorusing words like like "twit, "idiot", "I could do better than that" and "where DO they get these contestants from?"

I'm down to one life now and, sure enough, they're after me in a flash.

"And Greek mythology, Roger — who slew the Minotaur in the labyrinth?"

"Theseus"

"Number please, Roger?"

As my self-respect comes flooding back, I nominate number five. Poor John, who is also hanging on by his finger-nails, answers incorrectly. A feeling of power from having forced an opponent out of the fray surges through the body.

"Again please, Roger".

I go for Alistair's jugular, only to find he is more clever than I thought. Having got it right, who does Alistair nominate? Yes, you've guessed it!

"Roger — Dr.Jekyll and Mr.Hyde — what were their Christian names?"

I haven't the faintest idea and I don't even hear the answer as I slowly sink into my seat. Knocked out half-way through the second round. Still, I can enjoy the rest of the show and it certainly was enjoyable. It was finally won by the man with the pocket book of quiz questions. An example of practice makes perfect, perhaps.

All in all, it was a good, if unsuccessful, experience and one I would recommend to everyone.

Roger P. Dale, May 1989

OLD ROAN DRAMATIC SOCIETY

The Society are participating in the Rochester Drama Festival during mid-July, although the date of our performance is not yet known. Our one-act play is "Lunch Hour" by John Mortimer and features Teresa Wilkins, Joan Stanbridge and Trevor Talbot.

The next main production will be in November, although what, and where, has not yet been decided. Regulars to the Club should watch out for posters nearer the time.

D.A.

THE OLD ROAN DRAMATIC SOCIETY — REMINISCENCES

Lionel Berry was the first contact I had with the Old Roan Dramatic Society. I was just back from National Service in Egypt and about to go up to Kings College in the Strand to read English... and there I was, the Count in "I killed the Count", bumped off thrice, in a cast that included George Witten who had been teaching me English in the sixth form a couple of years previously. How I have envied his many talents over the years: pianist, clarinetist, guitarist, all learnt from correspondence courses. I can see him now, and hear him ejaculating (George never spoke on stage: if the first row of the audience was not sprayed with saliva, you were not enunciating correctly) "Pontefract!" while playing the lead in "Adam's Apple".

I remember Gina Thomas in short trousers and a hair-cut playing a little boy in "Simon and Laura", with her husband, Brian, leading with my wife, Beryl. I had met her when I was in a play with the snappy title of "The Strange Case of Blondie White" with Pip Wedge whose secretary she was. He invited me to his birthday party in a miniscule but very swanky flat off the Edgware Road and there she was, afloat like a lily on a pond full of honking geese who turned out to be a minor show-biz celebrities of the Hughie Green, Shani Wallis calibre.

Before all that, there was a series of plays in which Jill Page was the leading lady and I (I can scarcely credit it myself now) was a fullheadofhaired, juvenile lead. The 25th anniversary play was an extravaganza by the name of "Hyde Park Corner" which scorned two of Aristotle's three unities having a time span of 18th century to the present day. I was a costumed nasty in the first act, killing "Senor" Francis, the then Spanish teacher at the school, (we were coached in the fencing by an O.R. who was in the English Olympic team at the time) and becoming an even more sinister butler who dunnit in the last act... what and to whom I never did find out. All through those days, with Lionel and then Frank Barnes directing, Horace and Colin staged and lit us, Horace, in particular, doing his best to improve our projection by hammering the set together while we rehearsed. Eric Geddes provided us with some superb decor, one in particular a gorgeous tapestry for "Hawk Island" which, I think, was Brian Thomas' first appearance for O.R.D.S.

How many of you, I wonder, saw our production of "Queen Elizabeth Slept Here" and realised that Uncle Henry (Dave Bonner) asleep under a handkerchief at the start of the second act was not an example of the histrionic arts but a member of the cast suffering the effects of too many, too generous, gin-bearing friends in the green room during the interval? What a way to wake up! On the boards with an audience and a stageful of cast staring at you, waiting for you to speak, is the stuff of dramatic nightmares!

"Stand on that table and show me your legs," said (can you believe it? You'd better!) Lionel to Margery Berry nee Smart — they don't have auditions like that today; which is a cause of not a little regret to some of the graver signiors in the society. The pantomimes and revues we put on are associated in my mind with the present old-stagers: Graham (the best mimic of teachers I've seen), Trevor, Richard, Ivor the Occasional, Barbara, and her daughter, the lovely Theresa, Joan; and now a new wave is washing me further up the beach: Frank Hornblower's fledglings, Rosalind, Caroline, Penny, John, Richard, Mike, Jason and, I hope, many more.

I hope we can go on forming new stories to dine out on. Finding a place to rehearse and put on shows becomes increasingly difficult; and the competition for audiences is tougher. But, I think, there's always an extra little frisson to be enjoyed when watching people you know, who are of the same Roan family. After fifty years of performance, it would be a pity if the interest and excitement that play-acting can arouse were to be unavailable to generations of O.R.s in the future.

Alf Knott, May 1989

*Spotlight on current Old Roan Traditions or
"What F. Fuhr really wishes to read in the magazine from 8,000 miles away":*

CHRISTMAS EVE PANTOMINE 1988

"Pinocchioetta meets the Green Monster".

This year's "Famous Ole Rone Panto" was somewhat loosely based on the tale of Pinocchio with a major alteration being the sex of our little wooden chum.

The opening scene was set in a prison cell somewhere in England and poor, lonely Guisepe Broadfooti (brilliantly played by Graham Johnson) had decided to carve a playmate in the lissom form of Pinocchioetta, delicately played by Steve Nelson.

Fairies have no place in our panto and so it was that a passing Green Monster, in the form of Dave Wright, covered in penicilin, was around to grant various wishes. These mainly involved turning Pinocchioetta from a lump of old log into flesh and blood, and springing Guisepe from jail in order that he could attend the O.R. Nativity Play. The first wish was ably carried out by the escape committee featuring ruses from "The Wooden Horse", "Albert R.N." and "The Great Escape", but unfortunately Pinocchioetta told too many lies (with the oh! so predictable result) and exploded prior to the success of the first wish.

Well it made me laugh . . . !

Cast in order of Appearance: (NOT visual attractiveness to your correspondent).

Guisepe Broadfooti . . . Graham Johnson (he reminded me of someone . . . ?)

Green Monster	Dave Wright
Pinocchioetta	Stephen Nelson
Jailer	Terry Chance
Escape Committee	Caroline, Stephen, Jason
Usher	Terry Chance
Virgin Mary	Caroline Oakes (shurely shome misshtake. Ed..!)
Joseph	Jason Constant
Archangel Gabriel	Stephen Oakes
Baby Jesus	Barbie doll with halo
Musical Director	Maestro Mark Squires

THE RONS AT THE ROAN

An estimated 170 regular supporters made up the audience of what must surely be Punch Promotions finest hour — or two and a half.

Just a few weeks prior to winning the "Golden Rose of Montreux" for London Weekend's "Hale & Pace Christmas Spectacular", the Two Rons were appearing at the Old Roan Club along with Joe Griffiths (who was with them in their Tramshed days) and our very own Old Roan, Terry Morrison, ably supported by Bill Clift (whose band played at the Dinner/Dance).

The show was used by Gareth & Norman to try out new material and costume changes for the nationwide tour they are doing with Joe & Terry which will have come to an end just before you receive this magazine.

Terry was in great form and, despite universal disappointment that he did not perform his famous "Robin Reliant Sketch", almost stole the show. Joe's piano playing was as usual, breathtaking.

Gareth & Norman demonstrated why they have become arguably the best comedy duo since "Eric & Ernie" were at their peak (the biggest factor being that both Hale & Pace are funny in their own right). The sketches I'll remember most were Gareth's Chinese "country and western" singer's version of "Luby, don't take your rove to town" and the two of them displaying their mighty torsos in a unique adaptation of Longfellow's "Hiawatha".

A tremendous night, enjoyed by all, and who knows it could happen again . . . perhaps, just before they win an Oscar . . . ?

Thank you Terry for your help in setting the whole thing up.

S.N.



"Hale & Pace" at the Club, March 12, 1989

TRANSLATION OF "CARMEN ROANUM" — see p.26

1. In King Charles' days there were many famous men both in peace and war. Our worthy founder was one of these and he has handed us a trust to keep. Long may his School live!
2. John Roan, our beloved founder, showed himself a lover of knowledge. Starting from a tiny beginning, the seed he sowed has spread under God's care and we are grateful that it is so.
3. Our School gives us training in wisdom and it upholds the doctrine of "a healthy mind in a healthy body." It aims at turning out good men for the service of the state, sailors, doctors, men of business, useful citizens.
4. Freely we have received, freely we must give. At work and play let us honour our School, uphold her good name, defend her against her foes and then she will flourish for ever like a green bay-tree.



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TWO SCHOOL SONGS USED BY THE ROAN SCHOOL FOR BOYS

The great majority of "Old Boys" will be familiar with at least one, or perhaps both, of the School Songs that enjoyed popularity from their inception until about 1970. Their titles are, of course, "Here's to Old John Roan" and "Carmen Roanum" and they are first referred to in the Roan Magazine dated March 1913. The article, together with the words and a translation of Carmen Roanum, is given below and it is interesting to note the style and phraseology which was, perhaps, typical of the time. Insofar as the School is concerned the songs have fallen into disuse and whilst this is a matter for regret it is also very understandable. Not only is there a dearth of Latin scholars but our present day pupils would have great difficulty in identifying with the sentiments expressed in each of the songs. It should, however, be remembered that they were written, and sung, in the heyday of Empire and were similar in expression to "I Vow to Thee my Country" and Rudyard Kipling's "Recessional" both of which were taught to generations of children, prior to 1939, to be sung with varying degrees of ability and enthusiasm on May 24th each year.

It would seem that succeeding generations of pianists have picked up the tune as they went along for I have been unable to trace any musical score for "Old John Roan". The tune was composed by Joe Amesbury but, possibly, was never published. The nearest we have is a handwritten arrangement made by a pupil of Wendy Berry, the daughter of Lionel. The tune for Carmen Roanum was, of course, that used for the Rugby School Song, Floreat Rugbeia, and composed by one Carolus Edv. Moberley, A.M. Having written this I shall probably be bombarded by correspondence from A.O.R's (Ancient Old Roans) enclosing the appropriate settings.

It is very interesting to note the perception of the writer of the original article, in 1913, when he predicts that "Old John Roan" will be most in vogue with the Old Boys. I wonder what his thoughts are today as he plucks his harp in the Elysian Field (or perhaps elsewhere)! "John Roan" is certainly a popular ditty to be sung (or bellowed) at Old Roan Functions and long may the practice continue. Carmen Roanum is heard less often, these days, although it is sometimes sung at meetings of the John Roan School Lodge.

From the Roan Magazine of March 1913:-

TWO SCHOOL SONGS

The School muse has lately been busy, with the result that we are able to publish the text of two School Songs, one by Mr. de Montmorency and one by the Headmaster. The former song has been set to music by Mr. Amesbury and the latter is adapted to an old tune.

Mr. de Montmorency has given us an inspiring call to maintain the glorious traditions of old, and to live up to the standard of the age in which our founder lived. His third verse is especially rousing, and Mr. Amesbury has brought out the spirit admirably in his music. Though the School will often sing the song, it is probably with the Old Boys that it will be most in vogue.

In his Carmen Roanum Mr. Crofts has arrived at writing a song which shall appeal more directly to each generation of present boys, and which they can sing on such occasions as the end of term when the sense of common brotherhood should be strong. The short lines will be easily remembered and sung even by the younger boys. Mr. Crofts wishes us to express here his indebtedness to his old School Song from which he has borrowed both metre and tune. Moreover, many of the expressions are reminiscent of those in the Rugby Song, although the headline of the subject is entirely different. He makes no apology for writing in Latin, but for the benefit of those who do not count that language among their attainments, he has added a short resume. The main theme is: "Love your School, and remembering what it is doing for you, do something in return."

"CARMEN ROANUM"

- | | |
|--|---|
| <p>1 Regno regis Caroli
Illustres fuere
Artibus qui Palladis
Laudem meruere
Tum scholam nostram condidit
Nepotibusque tradidit
Roanus ille nobilis
Fundator ter laudabilis.
Sic choro sonoro
Citemus, clamemus:
"Floreat, floreat, floreat Roana!"</p> | <p>3 Illa sapientiae
Donat disciplinam:
Mentis sanae corpori
Sano dat doctrinam.
Illa Nautas edit bonos,
Civitati dat patronos
Reddit aequos mercatores,
Medicinae dat doctores.
Sic choro sonoro
Vocate, clamate:
"Floreat, floreat, floreat Roana!"</p> |
| <p>2 Celebremus igitur
Carum fundatorem,
Sese qui scientiae
Vovit amatorem.
Nam tenui a principio
In nostro municipio
Propago dives prodiit
Quam Deus sic custodiit
Ut grata, beata,
Honore, Labore
"Floreat, floreat, floreat Roana!"</p> | <p>4 Quod si tantum proavi
Posteris dedere,
Nos et auctum possumus
Posteris praebere.
Sic seu vacamus otio,
Seu fungimur negotio,
Almam Matrem veneremus
Diligenter conservemus
Laudando tutando,
Ut verna aeterna
"Floreat, floreat, floreat Roana!"</p> |

"HERE'S TO OLD JOHN ROAN"

- 1 Here's to old John Roan, who lived and worked and died
In the mighty days of Cromwell, of Milton and of Blake;
We were born in days of passion, we were born in days of pride,
That gave the sea to England with Continents beside:
Is there nothing we can give her for our Founder's sake?
Ourselves we give to England till John Roan shall wake.
Here's to old John Roan, sing him loud, sing him low,
He it was who placed us on the road that we shall go.
- 2 Here in Greenwich once walked England's deathless dead,
Chaucer, Shakespeare, Milton here made their music sweet;
Drake and Blake and Nelson in Greenwich broke their bread,
Flamstead, Halley, Airy, the ranging star flocks led;
While Wolfe still dreams amoung us beside the roaring street,
Of the broad realms of Canada he laid at England's feet,
Then to old John Roan, sing him loud, sing him fair,
He is was who made us, sing him sweet for his care.
- 3 Here's to those that come hereafter, the lads we shall not see,
The men of generations who will have new foes to fight;
We look forever forward, seaward, landward free;
Yea, in the air and in the depths, wherever men should be,
Our Greenwich men are lighting new beacons in the night,
John Roan's men, the Roan boys, are building up the light.
Here's to old John Roan, sing him loud, sing him clear,
Sing him round the Continents, sing him thro' the year.

J.E.G. de M.

Research and Article by Frank P. Barnes, May 1989

"HERE'S TO OLD JOHN ROAN"

Arrangement by
Pete Smith & Stuart Horsburgh

Music: J. Amesbury
Words: J.E.G. de Montmorency

The musical score is written for voice and piano. It consists of four systems of music. The first system shows the beginning of the song with the lyrics '1 Here's to old John Roan, who lived and worked and died In the'. The second system continues with 'mighty days of Cromwell, of Milton and of Blake; We were born in days of passion, we were reared in days of pride, That'. The third system continues with 'gave the sea to Eng-land with Con-ti-nents be-side;- Is there no-thing we can give her for our Founder's sake? Our'. The fourth system continues with 'selves we give to England till John Roan shall wake. Here's to old John Roan, sing him loud, sing him low,'. The score includes a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 4/4 time signature. The piano accompaniment features a steady bass line and chords that support the vocal melody.

NEWS FROM THE JOHN ROAN SCHOOL — E.R.A. (The Education Reform Act et al)

The last five years have been marked by accelerating educational change and at the John Roan School the implications of these changes are having an effect on all aspects of our work. For the pupils the curriculum is not so different — subjects still exist although in Humanities and Science younger pupils study a combined course. The different emphasis is on active problem solving tasks, where younger people follow courses which are carefully structured so all can operate at different levels. The assessment of these courses is also different — the National Curriculum requires us to check that pupils meet certain criteria at particular ages. The information available to parents is much greater — syllabuses and programmes of work are published, much fuller reports on young people are gathered into a portfolio which accumulates throughout their school life and which they take with them as a record of their achievements.

The range of options for 4th and 5th years is much less extensive — all pupils now continue with core subjects — English, Maths, Science, and Foundation subjects — Humanities, Arts, Languages. Technology will be implemented in the next year. In the 6th form young people continue to study one year courses with a vocational bias and two year A-level courses leading to Higher and Further Education.

For teachers we are now focusing on inservice training, GCSE course-work based examinations, transfer from the ILEA to the London Borough of Greenwich, a much greater transfer of responsibility for the curriculum and Local Financial Management of a re-organised group of Governors.

Readers will forgive this broad background because on the surface nothing changes. Young people arrive (some earlier than others) to morning registration, clutching among other things, a school record book — a diary for homework with space for staff and parental comments. They have a form tutor, but rather than a house master or mistress, it will be one of our team of Year Heads who will lead that group of tutors. There are four women Year Heads, Lynda Baxendale, Hillary Stallard, Donna Campbell and Sharon Thorne and one man, Bernie Turner. We hope to appoint to a vacancy this year.

The people responsible for the lessons (to be 30 per week from 1989) are grouped into faculties — English, Nigel Ballantyne; Mathematics, Jim Upton; Science, Bob Cornish; Languages, Jim Anderson; Arts, Alan Deboo; Humanities, Brian Burton and Special Needs, Paul Smith.

Each deputy head works with a senior teacher to take responsibility for an area of the Curriculum. Janet Ellis and Trevor Bell (DH) oversee the pastoral curriculum, year groupings, support staff and SEN and Careers. Dave Newson and Chris Deane (DH) oversee the Arts, Languages and Humanities and the academic curriculum and inservice developments. John Bowerman and Sheila Manning (DH) are responsible for much administration, public examinations, buildings and day to day implementation of school arrangements.

At this time of year we are all busy interviewing parents of pupils who will join us in September, we are planning the school festival which will culminate on a Founder's Day Celebration which again will be different, finishing with a barbecue and party.

But above all it is the routine, day to day learning which remains at the heart of the school. Sometimes dull, sometimes amazingly creative and inventive, each pupil each day acquires new information and is challenged by new opportunities to think. The outcomes, we trust, are what the Roan and Charlton schools always produced — good, well educated citizens.

Ann Tonkin, Headteacher, June 1989

EXCERPTS FROM THE ADDRESS BY THE HEADTEACHER AT BRAITHWAITE — 30th APRIL 1989



The unveiling ceremony at the Braithwaite Camp

Why are we here — because of trusts. Trust is one of the most important ideas in human life. Young children have total dependence and trust in adults and it is only when we let them down they lose that feeling about other people. Legal trusts are a formulation of that openness and regard for others which marks loving and generous relationships between individuals. Other such formulations are marriage and partnerships and families of various kinds.

The first and most important is the trust bestowed by Arthur Herbert Hope, Roan headteacher 1916-30. It is an inheritance of a camp site which his foresight wished to establish for young people in the school where he was the headteacher. He was an enthusiastic scoutmaster and very eccentric. The boys and he always wore kilts when they came here. He paid little attention to the rules and regulations and if he wished to run a seven week camp in term time he did. He was called "The Ancient"! He died unexpectedly so it was not until Easter 1933 that the Trustees took possession of the site (4 acres + 2 huts), in 1936 40 acres, which had first been bought and used for school camps in 1923.

Mr. Potter, the next headteacher, who received the trust and declared the buildings open, said that he was a stranger to the Lakeland; at the opening he said Mr. Hope was a man of great intellectual gifts who loved freedom and young people and wanted to see that they had the opportunities to develop their personalities free from vexations and unnecessary constraint. When at the camp their innate kindness had full play, they had to be useful to one another, and so they learned to grow from narrow self interest to the ideal of service to others.

In doing so, in such a beautiful place, children would become aware of the beauty, the wonder and if possible the meaning of the world in these surroundings.

... In dedicating the second foundation stone we acknowledge the equality of opportunity for all our children and thank John Roan and Arthur Herbert Hope for their inheritance. We are its guardians only and we look to the young people here to take it on, make it their own and hand it on to future generations. That is the trust we put in you.

Ann Tonkin, Headteacher, John Roan School
Chair, Hope Memorial Trust, 1985-

OLD ROAN FOOTBALL — SEASON 1988-89

A momentous season for the professional game which included the tragedy of Hillsborough, heated debate on the proposed membership card scheme, and the dramatic winning of the league title by Arsenal at Anfield. Old Roans favouring Charlton and Millwall with their support enjoyed relatively successful seasons in the first division and some keen members answered appeals to help clear The Valley in preparation for a sentimental return planned during the 1989-90 season.

1st X1 — Report by Ray Mills

Following on from the mid-season Newsletter where it was reported that the season was full of promise, the silverware was not forthcoming. In the cup competitions, an injury to one of our key players, Liam, appeared to affect the whole team and within two weeks the league was our only interest.

Our top scorer, P.Samson, scored regularly and when he had a quiet patch our midfield trio and skipper, Paul Witchalls, managed to supply them. Competition for places kept most players on their toes, not least in goal, where the Daniels brothers shared the games, and although not always talking at home, always encouraged the other when not playing. Our challenge for the league came to an end when, after going three-quarters of the season only losing four league games, we lost three within eight days. This resulted in us finishing in seventh place — a vast improvement on our previous seasons.

The main benefit of the season was the general agreement that this team played some of the best football seen at the Old Roan Club for many years. It was also agreed that the team appeared to improve when the manager dropped himself. AT LAST!!! Sam Morgan was voted player of the year and a special thank you must go to Peter Osbourne who never once complained when losing players at the eleventh hour.



1st X1 1988-89 Season
M.Smith D.Armstrong R.Faithorn A.Daniels
P.Witchalls P.Samson D.Hutley D.Sears
S.Morgan R.Mills T.Sproul T.Hayes

Final League Tables 1988/89
Greene King Spartan Football League —

DIVISION ONE	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Newmont Travel	30	23	5	2	87	25	74
Metrogas	30	19	6	5	71	35	63
Catford Wanderers	30	19	5	6	71	34	62
Walthamstow Trojans	30	18	4	8	70	33	58
Hackney Downs Athletic	30	18	4	8	62	33	58
Brock House	30	15	8	7	58	31	53
OLD ROAN	30	15	8	7	68	43	52
Royal George	30	15	2	13	62	58	47
Swanley Town	30	12	6	12	62	70	42
Phoenix Sports	30	11	4	15	55	63	37
EMA	30	9	7	14	43	67	34
AFC Millwall	30	9	2	19	52	83	29
Ilford	30	8	3	19	53	76	27
Chigwell Police	30	6	5	19	39	74	23
Ulysses	30	4	6	20	32	69	18
Penhill Standard	30	0	4	26	29	120	4

N.B. Training starts at 7.00 pm on July 13th at the School Field and will continue every Thursday. Everybody is welcome.

2nd X1 — Report by Peter Osbourne	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
	28	11	6	11	74	71	39

Well, here we go again, analysing another disappointing season which could have been one of our most successful. If only!!

The season started very well for the reserve team with us quickly accumulating enough points to find ourselves sitting pretty on the top of the division, but as usual things turned very sour for the team with mass withdrawals and individual promotions badly affecting our performances. The unfortunate aspect of our dire situation with unavailability was that the reserve league was not as strong as in previous years, enforcing my view that with a more consistent team selection we could have quite easily achieved better results and perhaps won a title.

Our player of the season was a close run contest with Ray Richardson winning in the end. The eventual league placing was a solid mid-table position encouraging me to believe that the new reserve team manager, G.Watson, has at least a fairly successful squad to inherit.

I would like to thank all the lads who have played for me this season and also to thank my fellow managers, Mark Squires, Neville Gaunt and Ray Mills (sometimes!) for their help throughout the season. Finally I wish G.Watson all the best in the coming season.

3rd X1 — Report by Mark Squire

Third in the league, losing in the semi-final of the league cup (to the eventual winners) and last eight of the Kent Junior Cup all add up to a fairly successful and enjoyable season for the 3rd team. Grant Pizze — “the thinking man’s footballer” — scored 54 league and cup goals which isn’t a bad total for an out-and-out winger. Young players for the future: Matthew Podger and Jimmy Smith. Old codgers for the scrap heap: M.Squire, J.Douglas, J.Leach, R.Clark, J.Franklin, C.Hyam, D.Ellis, A.Stokes, G.Lawrence, P.Smith and N.Riley.

Thanks are due to Vic Brooker, Ray Keeling and Ian Clatworthy for all their help over the season. Player of the season: Grant Pizze.

4th X1 — Report by Neville G.Gaunt

Yet another season passed by with the 4th’s narrowly missing out on promotion. Despite the spirited team effort, the last two games ended in defeat, leaving us a point adrift from the top two. Nevertheless, a creditable 3rd place in the Division for the second consecutive season. The Cup, however, was a different story ... the semi-final showdown with the eventual Division champions showed the teams’ true colours. A goal down in the first 20 seconds fuelled the fires for the best team performance of the season. The result, 2-1 aet, was not without cost. Injuries sustained, in particular to Tony “receding hairline” Hutchins and Colin “long ball” Gaunt, were to prove our eventual undoing for Divisional honours.

And so to the Final ... the Trophy Cabinet has an addition!!! Victory by 2-0 and in front of “appreciative” support from the club. Goals from Steve “head up” Moore and Gary “hook shot” Barwell sealed a well deserved victory. For once the youngsters were outshone by the home guard contingent of Barwell, Phil “versatile” Page, Stuart “the shining” Clay and yours truly (no sweat for Shilton). Next year the double?? Player of the year: Martin “super head” Muscat.

5th X1 — Report by Matthew Nelson

Our season may not have been the most successful ever, but I'm sure all the team would agree it was always enjoyable.

We finished second from bottom of the league, which I hasten to add is an improvement on last year. This was due not least to Adam Mosely's amazing goal scoring ability, Nigel Boyce's cat-like goalkeeping and Tom "hard but fair" Greaves's defending which earned him Player of the Year. The highlight of the season was reaching a cup semi-final. We were duly smashed to a pulp but at least we got there.

I'd like to thank Vic for a spotless kit and for putting up with my somewhat disorganised sub collection. Good luck in your retirement from the laundry, Vic!

6th X1 — Report by Richard Thomas

P	W	D	L	F	A
16	4	2	10	23	46

My strongest memory of the past six months of the season has got to be those fierce gales that seemed to blow along our football pitch every Saturday afternoon from which we never seemed to grasp the initiative — maybe because we decided to kick against the wind in the first half only to find it blowing in our faces again in the second. This, of course, is all leading up to me saying what a disastrous set of results we managed to compile in the final half of the season. At this level of football confidence seems all important and, with a touch more, those results could have been reversed.

We did manage a creditable 0-0 draw with Wellcome and also an excellent performance in our victory over Latter Day Saints in the final match. We came close on a number of occasions — notably 2-3 against Tressilian when a last minute penalty, successfully taken, was ruled out for encroachment and the retake was missed. We also had a frantic match with Kendon which saw us losing 4-5 after taking a 2-0 lead.

The whole team got a mention in the last report and it is with great pleasure that I can announce that the team has remained unchanged and loyal throughout. Hopefully I speak for all when I say that enjoyment has been found these past Saturdays and I look forward to repeating it all again next year. The only thing left for me to say is "thank you lads" for making my job so easy and see you again next season!



6th XI, 1988-89
P.Davies I.Walker Dillan S.Baker F.Lochlie S.Ogben G.Hawney
R.Keeling S.Sawyer R.Thomas M.Amerstoy J.Bain

OLD ROAN VETERANS — Report by a late replacement

Played	Won	Drawn	Lost	For	Against
33	10	6	17	62	92



Old Roan Veterans 1989 (pre-new kit)
Mexter Stanford Hamer Townsend Spink Hunt Horsburgh
Dale Briscoe Titheridge Hardy (Jim) Edwards Davis

The facts say it all — a long season, noble efforts and the increasing strength of the opposition. We are grateful to Keith Mexter as fixtures secretary for so many excellent and competitive matches. We were never overwhelmed though at times we felt outclassed and outplayed by stronger sides. The introduction of a new scarlet sponsored kit (Old Roan Veterans) at Charter Diamond in February started a series of defeats which continued for two months with the exception of the Norfolk Weekend match and a draw with Blackheath Wanderers. Notable aberrations included Wickham Park in the mud (2-7) and Peak Freans where brother (Hardy J) played against brother (Hardy J).

We did however win a good number of games, perform well on occasions and play at some excellent grounds during an enjoyable season. Paul Davis played against the former Charlton winger, Colin Powell, in November and lost — but in the re-match in March kept the same player quiet throughout the game. In the same match (v.Metrogas), Graham Briscoe gave a performance reminiscent of a certain B.Moore in a World Cup match in 1970 that was also lost 1-0. Fred Spink followed his first goal of the season with the advice — "give me the tools and I'll finish the job."

The players that turned out and produced these results? — you may be surprised: J.Stanford, R.Dale, M.Titheridge, G.Briscoe, D.Weaver, R.Hunt, Jim Hardy, B.Matthews, B.Hamer, K.Mexter, P.Edwards, R.Grimwood, P.Davis, G.Townsend, D.Horsburgh, F.Spink, S.Nelson, J.Ling, T.Fish, A.Mitchell, L.Hughes. Readers will appreciate that Keith Mexter did not seek easy fixtures.

Player of the Year was our valued captain, Mike Titheridge. Readers of the Report on the Old Roan Club should note that our series of hospitable fixtures on away grounds and the decline in bar takings during the first three months of the year are purely co-incidental.

The moving finger of time has gradually passed by the "forever young generation" and now sits at that other great date in English history. Members entering the school in 1966 are now qualified to assist the veterans with their fixture commitments.

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OLD ROAN CRICKET CLUB

1989 is a year of change for the Club, starting in February with the Annual Supper, at which numerous O.R. Cricketers and their guests sat down to a hot meal for the first time at this event, a pleasant change from the salads of the past. We were then entertained by excellent speeches from Phil Moore, Les de Hoog and Terry Morrison.

The season commenced with the first weekend matches cancelled due to pitches not having dried out in time, but the sunny spell in May brought about a change in fortunes for the various sides. Taking matches up to the first weekend in June, the SATURDAY 1st XI are standing 3rd in the league (from the top!), the highlight of the season so far being a win over Old Elthamians. At 100-6 with only 18 overs remaining the target of 238 seemed unobtainable, but an undefeated 109 by Peter Burton saw us to victory in the last over. Other notable efforts are Peter Ellis's 105 against Private Banks and Gary Baxter's 66* at Tonbridge. There have been two tallies of 4 wickets — Mark Squire for 32 v RACS and John Bain for 24 v Wickham Park.

SATURDAY 1st XI:

Played	Won	Drawn	Lost
6	2	2	2

The SATURDAY 2nds have had wins over Eaglesfield (formerly Old Shoots.), Tonbridge and Wickham Park, and missed beating Old Elthamians by 1 run. Notable performances include a half-century by Andy Peto, Brian Hamer's 7-29, Dan Calnan's 6-38 and Martin Pendergast's 5-48.

SATURDAY 2nd XI

Played	Won	Drawn	Lost
6	3	1	2

The SUNDAY 1st XI seems to be the black sheep in the flock at present having had 2 bad draws and 3 defeats in their 5 matches, although 2 of those were close. Highlight of the season is Mark Squire's 60 v Bexleyheath following "ducks" (one "golden") in his previous 2 innings.

The SUNDAY 2nds remain undefeated with 3 wins (Britannic House, Marlborough 1870 and Bexleyheath) and 2 draws so far. Notable batting performances have been made by Mike Baxter (66* v Bexleyheath), Gary Baxter (51 v Britannic House) and Les de Hoog (59 v Romford & Gidea Park), whilst Spot Hughes has been amongst the wickets with returns of 6-55 and 5-45, supported by John Stickings's 5-28.

The 3rd XI have played 3 matches, winning 2 (Ex-Blues & Witan) and losing the other (Hartley). Notable returns have been made in bowling by Kebbell, Prabhaker and Stickings and in batting by Sproul and Prabhaker.

One setback to the Club has been the loss of Alan Weir from the umpiring team due to operations on a detached retina. We can only hope that time will enable Alan to make a complete recovery and again take up the long white coat. This blow has however been softened by the addition to the umpire squad of Peter Williams and Frank Barnes. On the subject of umpires, the Club will again be hosting the A.R.C.C. umpiring course in the autumn. This course gives valuable insight into the intricacies of the laws and the current interpretation thereof and is useful for players and well as umpires. Full details will be available from Dave "Dap" Andrews nearer the time. It is also hoped to run a scorers course.

Dave Andrews
 June 1989

THE BOYS SCHOOL AND OLD BOYS — 50 YEARS AGO

During 1939 three magazines were produced. They record the fragile peace prevailing in early 1939 after the "crisis" of the previous September and conclude with the emergency move of the School to Bexhill-on-Sea and Rye.

The School at that time had eight Houses — Nelson, Drake, Wolfe, Rodney, Raleigh, Grenville, School and Collingwood. It appears from the records that Nelson ruled as of right and though with many competitions each House had cause for self-congratulation there were despondent sounds from Wolfe, Raleigh, School and Collingwood with Grenville positively scathing at the apathy from its members. Apart from the sports, competitions included hobbies and dramatics.

By invitation from the Mayor of Greenwich a group from the Upper School attended the Greenwich Council Chamber and watched the proceedings during the fixing and passing of the Annual Rate. Mr. Holt organised a visit by motor coach to the University Boat Race and a film of the excursion was shown on May 11 by Mr. Dannatt.

The Aristotelian Society spent most of the year arguing cases for its own existence, excluded one member for insisting on "puerile trivialities" and concluded its year in Bexhill with a debate — "That a Literary Education is superior to a Scientific one". The result was not given but all agreed that the abolition of teas since the move to Bexhill was regrettable. Special mention was made of the terse, if destructive, wit of Mr. C.A. Stickland.

It seems appropriate that the School Dramatic Society on March 31 and April 1 produced "Henry V". There were full houses on both nights with visiting parties from neighbouring schools. Members of the Latin Remove were apparently typecast in the "loud roles" as a result of their exuberant reputation. B.R. Thomas was singled out for his convincing display as Exeter and P.E. Andrews was outstanding in the title role.

A weather note! In commenting on the date for the School Sports Day — "We hope, next year, to return to the first Saturday in July and so get back to the Golden Age when, so we are informed, it was always fine and sunny". B.R. Thomas of Drake won the 100 yards Open (time not given). Colfe's won the Invitation Relay. There were twenty entries for the Old Boys' Handicap. The Senior Victor Ludorum was won by C. Kaberry of School House.

The School Cricket Team had a good summer with 5 wins, 2 draws and 2 defeats. Jane performed well in a limited number of innings and Whittle topped the batting averages. Didsbury took 39 wickets at 4.58, scored an unbeaten 50 against Sidcup County and only 2 in his other five innings and also served as vice-captain and secretary. The Juniors fared disastrously in a Charity Match at the Field on June 9 and scored 19 runs in front of a large crowd. The reporter has provided them with the following motto — "... practise consistently and show a greater fighting spirit".

The school football season ending in March recorded mixed results. The First Team won 9, drew 3 and lost 9 with Baker, Jane and Pemberton selected for the Public Schools. The Third XI failed to win in 9 matches.

The graceful prose of K.S. Binnie sums up the Scout Troop — "We have led a quiet life during the last two terms, pursuing the even tenor of our way". The summer camp was held in Brockenhurst in the New Forest. By the December issue the Scoutmasters (Binnie and Mills) were split and two troops existed in Bexhill and Rye. Again we look to the words of K.S.B. — "We are resolved that whatever happens to Hitler, the 21st Greenwich (Roan School) Scout Troop shall continue".

The Braithwaite Camp at Whitsun benefited from new facilities (tap and sink, large incinerator and new cooking stove) and exceptional weather. One reference from the leader (Mr. Pye) eludes the understanding of this reviewer — "... the heat was directly responsible for the consumption by the younger element of copious quantities of Dandelion and Creosote".

The reporter of the school visit to the Pool of London Authority indicates that the excursion failed to hold the interest of the group members. The portrait of the working Docks describes a past era. The contributor (D.C.) concluded with purple prose: — "By now it was low tide, and huge mud banks showed on either side of the river. The sun had gone in and the dirty water gleamed oilily. We at last drew into the Tower Pier and the day was over". Mr. Milne, Mr. Peddie, Mr. Witten and Mr. Dyke led the French Camp which included a field in Dieppe for ten nights and an exchange with a secondary school in Paris. The groups' appreciation of French wine was applauded and the ability of George Witten to stay unaffected by a ferocious sea is described with much respect.

The School Captain, K.H. Wheeler, was recognised for his abilities beyond the School. He represented the School at the Jubilee Celebration of the London County Council and wrote a lengthy and mature piece on his experiences as a member of the Rhodes Tour to Canada in August.

The year ends with a number of cheerful reports from the various evacuation centres, often solicited from the hosts. George Witten concludes a lengthy piece on Pickforde, the farm of Mr. Petit near Ticehurst, with — "Memories remain of treasure hunts, of firefighting competitions, of hoeing expeditions, of wood fires, of meals prepared out of doors, and above all, of the good fellowship that existed among all, and of the kindness and unsparing efforts of our host".

The Headmaster writes in the December issue — "A School which has lasted for nearly three hundred years does not fear the calamities of evacuation or the aftermath of a European War. If we have courage we shall not fail".

At the A.G.M. of the O.R.A. the Secretary reported progress in the work of the Association but a small decrease in membership. This partly resulted from a tightening up of the rule that allowed members who were as much as five years in arrears with their subscriptions to remain as members. 64 new members had enrolled. The Reunion Supper in November 1938 was delayed because of the 'crisis' and the Annual Dinner in December was held at the Constitutional Club. Life Membership was £1 15s 0d and Ordinary Annual Membership 3s 6d. Annual Subscription to the Tennis Club was £2 5s. Activities included an Athletic Club, Swimming Club, Physical Training Club and Christian Union — held at the Centenary Memorial Sunday Schools, Kennington.

The First XI Football team won the Championship of the Old Boys' League Senior Division 11 and were promoted. The Club Captain, J.V. Lovell was specifically singled out for his "brilliant play". The "bogey team" appeared to have been the "Old Danes". A.T. Cutts (Club vice-captain) was selected to play for the A.F.A. against a representative team from the City Textiles League. The opening of the 1939-40 season carried a message from the Hon. Secretary wishing all the Old Boys in H.M. Forces a swift and safe return.

The Cricket Season was brought to a "summary conclusion at the end of August" with hopes to field one team the following summer. The Tennis Club performed well in the North Kent League finishing second and was also affected by a summary conclusion to its season.

The Association's Annual Dance was held in January at the Blackheath Concert Hall and attracted 212 members and friends. "An excellent programme of music which included many novelties was rendered by Mr. Gordon Hurn's New Astorian Dance Band."

The O.R.D.S. performed "The Purple Mask" on May 11, 12, 13 to 1500 people and "received widespread and genuine appreciation" from the local press. It was the twenty-fifth production in twelve years. "The Old Roan Dramatic Society go about things in the same way as the commercial theatre and there is little that can be called amateur in a derogatory sense about them . . . Old Roan audiences do not go to laugh at falling scenery or forgotten lines, or merely out of long-suffering loyalty. They get their money's worth . . ." The Play was produced by Lionel Berry. The Stage Manager was H.H.Pye.

Woollen mufflers in Old Roan colours were available together with other items from the Secretary at 5s.

On November 13th 1939 the Editor of the Roan Magazine received the following letter:

BACK TO THE GUNS

Two old pals — S.E.Lamb and H.A.Dade
who came to school together in '07
entered the University of London O.T.C. together in '14
duly passed into the Gunners
and served throughout the other War

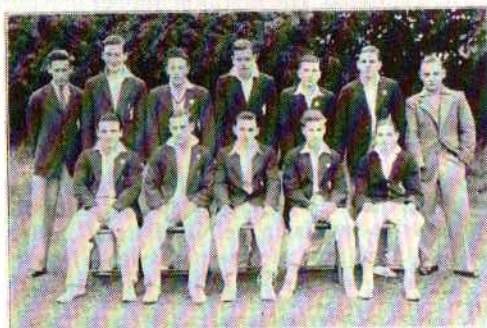
ONCE AGAIN

are hooking on the old Sam Brownes
and are shortly departing together for
Somewhere in Britain, en route for

Ubique quo fas gloria ducunt

There's life in the old dogs yet

At the O.R.A. Annual Dinner at the Constitutional Club the School Headmaster, Mr. Gilbert, said that when he came among them for the first time a year ago, he had been conscious that the Roan School had an individuality, a personality, a character distinctly its own, and his year's contact had confirmed him in that opinion.



FIRST ELEVEN, 1999						
40002 Dennis	40000-4 LONGBRIDGE	40000-3 THORNTON	40000-1 KABOCH	40000-0 LLOYD	40000-0 DUFFY	40000-0 MILLER

D.H., May 1989

JOHN ROAN SCHOOL LODGE

Secretary: R.L.Harmer Esq. 6, Chesterfield Drive, Sevenoaks, Kent. TN13 2EG. Tel: (0732) 458880

The past year has been a memorable one for the John Roan School Lodge during which we have had our Sixtieth Birthday. The Lodge was consecrated on the 29th April 1929 and, at our meeting on the 18th April 1989, we duly celebrated our "Diamond Jubilee". Just over 100 members attended this meeting of whom 44 were members of our own Lodge and a further 9 Old Roans who have joined other Masonic Lodges. We have welcomed one new member during the last few months, and there are two other Old Roans who have expressed more than a passing interest in Freemasonry. At the April meeting Neal Haslam (1969-74) was elected to the Chair for 1989/90, he is one of the youngest members to have attained the office of Master of the Lodge and we wish him well in his year of office.

Freemasonry has been the target of attack and condemnation, during recent years, from the Church, the Media and from Local Authorities but it is fair to say that there has been little confirmed evidence of malpractice or misdoing. If there is a weakness about Freemasonry it is not in the ceremonies or principles, nor in the teachings but in the small minority of members who do not take the trouble to understand Freemasonry or who do not use it in the correct way. The overwhelming majority of members in this world-wide brotherhood believe and adhere to its intrinsic qualities, its fostering of good citizenship, its reinforcement of morality and its respect for religion. Freemasonry is not only decidedly worth defending, but promoting and explaining and, as always, the best methods of persuasion are those of personal example.

F.P.B., May 1989

THE JOHN ROAN SCHOOL AND PANORAMA

The John Roan School was featured in the "Panorama" programme on Monday 5 June — "University Challenge". The programme attempted to show the current inadequacy of Higher Education in Britain both to meet the needs of industry and commerce and to appeal to "ordinary" schoolchildren.

The John Roan School was presented as a typical comprehensive school in South London. Three ordinary Greenwich schoolchildren — Ashley, Lee and Terry — explained how the possibility of a university education failed to meet their own aspirations and they were shown with other Roan students visiting Keble College, Oxford on a project organised by "Choice", an inner city charity. Keble College and Greenwich were described as being on "different planets . . . two different worlds". The financial difficulties involved in working class children advancing to higher education were examined. The commentary advised the increase in the proportion of students from private schools.

Ann Tonkin, Headteacher, explained that other opportunities were more attractive:- "... they are going to be considerable winners, many of them, at life, but they do not have a choice — they do not have a choice in the educational field — they do not have a choice about having an education of the intellect and being winners in other ways".

Historical note — June 5. “Panorama” retained its original schedule despite competition for news on the same day from the severe military reprisals against students in China; the death of Ayatollah Khomeini in Iran; the pipeline disaster in the USSR and the victory for Solidarity in the Polish elections. Events that the Leader in the Guardian signalled as including significant punctuation marks in the history of our century. Future historians finding only copies of the tabloids on this day will read mainly of the wedding of Bill Wyman (52) to Mandy Smith (19), the sacking by West Ham of John Lyall (“hammered”) and the Test comeback of Ian Botham delayed by a broken cheekbone.

THE SUMMER OF 1916 — THE SCOUT'S TALE

There is a sight with which the people of Eastney Street are becoming quite familiar. It is the starting-off of campers. At 8 a.m. on July 28th 1916 the Scout trekkers, 32 in number, started from the School. It was a somewhat tedious but very comfortable journey, and at 2.15 we arrived at our destination, Worcester. It was here that the real trekking began. After looking round the town we marched a short way out to Powick, a pretty little village with a kindly old wife in it who helped us to a camping site on the huge Village Common. It was a perfectly calm and balmy evening. After tea we had a fine game of podex, the first of many on trek. Few slept well, gas is usual in camps on first nights. The peewits were screeching overhead all the time, but next morning's breakfast tasted all the better for our broken rest, and at 11 o'clock we started merrily to West Malvern, where we were to spend the week-end. On the way, during lunch-time, two ice-cream vendors came along: they had never been so busy before. We camped on a splendid farm on the side of the Malvern Hills. Sunday morning was so hot that we went about camp in only vests and shorts. In the evening we had a church parade to the beautiful old Priory Church at Great Malvern. On the way home we visited the Worcestershire Beacon after passing Malvern College. From the Beacon one can see, we were told, thirty or forty miles of the surrounding country on a very clear day. There is a map on the top which shows all the places visible.



Dinner Time — A.H. Hope standing by tree



Cooking by the River Wye at Ross

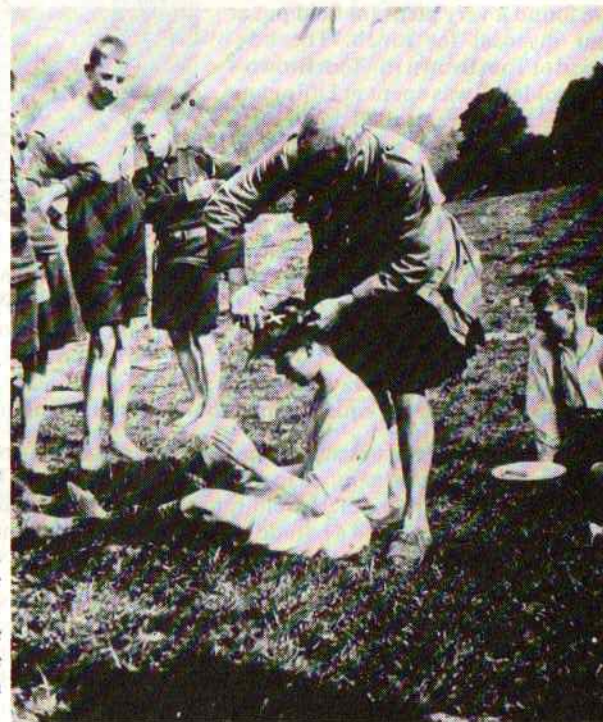
Monday was as hot as the preceding day, and that is saying a lot. From about half-past ten in the morning to six in the evening most of us were haymaking, on the ricks and in the field. We got quite used to picking up forkfuls of hay and helping to stack them.

Ledbury in Herefordshire, was the next halting place. This town is famous for its old Church and Market House. Here we were joined by three Manchester Grammar School Scouts. Their Scoutmaster, Mr. Worsley, one of the best, had already joined us at Worcester. From Ledbury to Tarrington, where the people were very kind giving us

strawberries and lettuces, we wended our way to Bullingham, a hamlet about three miles beyond Hereford. At Hereford we visited the Industrial School, whose headmaster is Mr. Horth's brother. He was very hospitable, giving us tea and home-made bread and cake. The Cathedral was closed, so we could see only the outside, but that was very beautiful. Here we first saw the Wye.

Our next day's journey was to Ross where we spent a long week-end. Our camping site was on a common by the river, and on the Saturday some of us went boating, while other went into the town in the afternoon. On Sunday we had a church parade to the old fourteenth century church. We also bathed four or five times in a perfectly ideal and safe part of the most treacherous river in England.

Symond's Yat was the next place we camped at. This is a very beautiful spot in the heart of the valley of the Wye. The charm of the place lies in its position on the side of the hill above the river and opposite another majestic rocky hill. Monmouth, a few miles from here, is a quaint old town on the borders of England and Wales. From Monmouth to Tintern via Redbrook, some thirteen miles in all, is a delightful walk along the Wye between exquisite hills covered with woods. We camped at Tintern for four nights, by the river, in a field from which the hay had just been carted. Tintern Abbey was a mere stone's throw away from us. To see the moon behind it, shining through the ruins, is wonderful. We had a church parade to the little chapel on the hill, which was built at the same time as the Abbey, but is in a much better state of preservation. The preacher was unique. At Tintern we were joined by four more Mancunian Scouts, bringing up our party to 40.



The next day found us in Chepstow, an ancient town with its castle on the outskirts. Up to this point of our travels we had been going in a south-westerly and southerly direction, but here we struck off north-east. We stayed the night at Alvington and walked the next day to the Severn Bridge, and, after training across it, on to a miniature village called Slimbridge. Through Cambridge (?) and Stroud, which is about three miles from the source of the Thames, to Chalford, where we camped in a wood in the heart of the Cotswolds, was about fifteen miles. Cirencester, our next halting place, was only some six miles further on. This is a very old town with a magnificent church, which we visited. We spent the week-end at Fairford, an old-world country town on a tributary of the Thames, the Colne. Fairford is an interesting town because the famous Churchman and hymn-writer, John Keble, lived there. His house is still standing, and by the kind permission of cake-bestowing Miss Keble, his great-niece, we went to see it after a church parade.

The next day we camped at Lechlade, by the Thames, while it is yet a baby river, not much more than twenty feet wide. The Thames here divides Oxfordshire and Wiltshire, while some little distance away it is the boundary between Berkshire and Gloucestershire. The next day's march brought us to Uffington, passing through Farringdon, where we found a very pleasant field put at our disposal for lunch. The boyhood of Tom Brown in "Tom Brown's Schooldays" was spent at Uffington, but his house was pulled down some years ago. Those who have read Judge Hughes' famous book will remember the White Horse Hill, on which a horse is cut in the chalk, and also the Blowing Stone by which

Alfred used to call the men of the country-side to the standard, to fight against the Danes. This is a very historic neighbourhood for a few miles from here is Wantage, the birthplace of Alfred, and to this we went after a two days' exploration of the White Horse Vale. In the centre of the town is a Broadway, in the middle of which stands a fine statue of King Alfred. Here they have a very primitive kind of tramway, at the sight of which we all burst out laughing. It is a small train-carriage drawn by an equally small, but very noisy, engine.

Abingdon our next destination, is another place of interest, being of great antiquity and charm. here we again camped in a field by the side of the Thames. Some of us went boating, and had grand fun, while others went into the town and amused themselves there. Although the Church, to which we had a parade, seemed only a stone's throw away from the camp, it took fully ten minutes to get there owing to the circuitous route we were obliged to take.

On the Monday we visited that most beautiful of public schools, Radley College, and went all over it, even into the senior boys' studies. At night we camped on the school cricket field, and the next day arrived at Oxford, whereupon, to our grief, it rained for the rest of the day, except for about one hour, when we were tempted to visit the town. But the respite was brief, for it poured with rain and the wind blew a gale all night, so that when we got up next morning we were walking about in thick mud. It cleared up, however, about twelve o'clock, and we struck camp and pitched tents again in warm sunshine on higher ground, where things were much better. But despite the rain, the mud, and the bluster of the elements, not one of us caught cold or lost his cheeriness.

The next two days were profitably and enjoyably spent in visiting the noble buildings of our most ancient University. Most of the colleges were seen and we were privileged to inspect the chapels and halls of several, at Oriel under the kind escort of the Provost himself. One day we took our lunch with us and ate it in Christ Church Meadows by the College barges. Magdalen College, with its tower and deer park and Addison's Walk, was unanimously given the highest mark of all.



Bathing in the River Thames at Fairford

The Trek finished up on September 1st at Oxford, and we arrived back at School about eight o'clock. We had walked about two hundred miles in seven English counties, enjoying excellent weather on the whole, had seen many notable and beautiful places including three Cathedral towns, and had had many interesting and amusing experiences. All were sorry when the trek came to an end, but hoped to repeat the experience again as soon as possible, under the vigorous leadership of Mr. Hope.

Postscript:

From the afternoon of Friday, October 6th, to the evening of Sunday the 8th, a Reunion Camp was held at Bridgen, a little village just outside Bexley. There were thirty-four present, one or two of whom were not on trek with us in the summer, but, nevertheless, were Scouts. Arriving just before dark we pitched tents and got in wood for the fire, which was soon lit, and before very long we had ready a fine tea of ham, toasted cheese, bread and butter and jam. After tea we had moonlight games and a sing-song, and then had a long talk in the tents and a moonlight march. Next morning's breakfast was ready by about half-past eight, after which most of us went into Bexley and bought in stores. When we got back again to camp we played football, and then went into the woods to gather blackberries for dinner. In the afternoon we had scouting games with the 5th Woolwich Troop, which we met while prospecting. Some part of Sunday morning was occupied in getting the dinner ready and the rest of the time in getting more blackberries to take home. We left our camping site in the evening as late as was advisable. Football occupied most of the spare time. We had wonderfully fine weather and it was not a bit cold except early in the morning and late at night, and even then the tents afforded quite a cosy temperature.

The total cost, including fares, of the five weeks' trek and week-end Reunion Camp was 2.18s., a result of which we are a little proud in view of the abundance of food we had and war-time prices.

Kenneth.S.Binnie

Notes:

- i. The group travelled to Worcester by train from London
- ii. The scouts carried their personal goods and shared the equipment — they did not have a trek cart.
- iii. Podex is a game like baseball played with a stick and ball

Historical note!

The period of the summer camp coincided with the later part of the Battle of the Somme in France and events which we are told ended the innocence of the Edwardian Era. The party were unaware at the time of these events though the scouts heard the sounds of the guns in London during an air raid when based in Abingdon. "Empire Day" at the School was a major event with buglers and special "journals" approved by Hope to take home to parents. Sports activities at that time involved the walk from Eastney Street to the current School Field and a wash in the Quaggy. The "posh boys" at school had their lunch at a cost of 7d — the others had sandwiches and treated themselves to a 1d pudding.



*Tent 3 at Oxford
(Near Parsons Manchester G.S. M.G.S.
Rawlinson Austin Graham)*

ROUSSEAU, ROBESPIERRE, REASON, ROMANTICISM, REVOLUTION & ROAN

"Bliss was it in that dawn to be alive; to be young was heaven . . . Wordsworth"

I cannot recall any detailed study of the French Revolution at the Roan School but have assumed that, like Zhou en-Lai, Messrs Binnie, White and the London Examination Board felt that insufficient time had passed to be able to judge the legacies of the events of 1789 to any useful degree. Instead we were offered a cultured analysis of the relatively bloodless progression in Britain from agrarian feudalism to industrial liberal democracy through the combination of political and economic reform. The undoubted fact that our ruling classes forbade discussions on tennis courts and played cricket throughout these times with their servants sufficiently explained why we avoided these unseemly excesses. Nevertheless, it is debateable whether the appeals of the Anti Corn Law League matched the visionary and universal aspirations encapsulated in the ideas of Rousseau and Robespierre.

French History did reappear at Roan in the pages of the all-knowing "Grant & Temperley" with studies of the uninspiring Louis Philippe and the Third French Republic but though we concluded our A-Level study in the month of the Paris Uprisings of 1968 we were never inspired by those democratic principles and revolutionary images that led to a century of progressive nationalism, two world wars and the Europe we know today.

What do we make of the Révolution today. It is generally agreed that primarily it was a major social change with the new urban bourgeoisie overthrowing the feudal powers of the landed aristocracy. The events are often seen in terms of "Paradise Lost" and as a warning to revolutions everywhere in that the initial high ideals turned swiftly to revision, counter-revolution, terror, massive war, absolutism and finally the bringing back of the monarchy under a new and conservative ruling class. As in similar events, and despite promises, the poor did most of the starving, fighting and dying and remained poor though many historians now look back to this era to find the origins of the wealthy French peasant class.

The generally agreed legacies of the Revolution are that France gave the world its constitutional models, its modern codification of laws, its metric systems of measurement and its administrative structures. The Revolution was born out of an age that placed its intellectual faith in Nature, Reason and Classical ideals. Influenced by the equally inspiring example of Jefferson's "Declaration of Independence" and given respect by Tom Paine's "Rights of Man" it produced at an early stage the "Declaration of Rights of Man" intended for all mankind, for all time, for all countries, for an example to the world. It was an age that believed mankind possessed innate goodness and that human nature was perfectable.

So I suggest a glass or two of decent claret on July 14, 1989 to celebrate the inspired idealism of two hundred years ago and to thank others — whether in France in the 1790s or China today — for having the thoughtfulness to live through such "interesting times" instead of us.

We acknowledge the assistance of Pete Smith and Stuart Horsburgh in arranging the score of the "School Song" and to Alfie Knott for finally solving the mystery of the "lost chord" — for the record we think that it is A minor ("... is there nothing we can GIVE her for our founder's sake ...") but then again it might be B minor 7th ...? Is this the basis of a debate amongst O.R. musicians ...?

THE JOHN ROAN GREYCOAT SCHOOL — 1789

Thanks to J.W.Kirby we are able to set the scene on the School in 1789. The School occupied its original building — taken in 1677 — at the east end of Turnpin Street in Greenwich. The Master was Mr. Edward Smith and it appears likely that the School clothed and educated 55 boys. The income of the Charity was then £293 16s 10d. The Master at this time negotiated a re-evaluation of salary which now brought him an annual sum of £15 for equipment; 5s per boy for firing, pens and ink; and 35s per boy for teaching. In return for this gross salary of approximately £125 per annum the Master gave up the practice of teaching better off outsiders paid for by their parents.

The School hours were from 7 in summer and 8 in winter until noon, and then from 2 until 5. Holidays were two breaks of three weeks at Midsummer and Christmas, together with the days of the King's and Queen's and Prince of Wales' birthdays, Ascension Day, Ash Wednesday, the 5th day of November, and afternoons of Thursday and Saturday in every week. The uniform involved coats and waistcoats at 9s each, stockings at 1/6 per pair and hats, round in shape at 2/6.

We do not know what impact the events of these years made on the School except for one reference that the move in 1809 to Roan Street was partly caused by the Napoleonic Wars — "Perhaps the long war and the needs of the Hospital (Greenwich) had made the move inevitable." It is likely that the history lessons of the day taught that the French deserved their fate for supporting our former colonies in the American War of Independence and that the executions of the King and, above all, Queen Marie Antoinette, were acts of barbarism that gave the lie to appeals for Liberty, Equality, Fraternity. The lives of the 55 pupils of the time (60 in 1792) were mostly affected by a major war that started in 1793, continued for twenty-two years and was resolved only by the watershed events and treaty of 1815.

D.H., June 1989

OLD ROAN TRIVIAL CHALLENGE

Some 18 teams entered this year's competition, although due to administrative problems and continual deferments only 12 made it to the heats when they finally happened in May. A new format was tried this year, with all teams in each heat receiving the same questions and writing down their answers. This proved to work better than the verbal answer system previously used and will be the basis for the competition next year — possibly on a one night only basis.

The Final took place on Friday 9th June contested by teams captained by Mike Callaghan, Alastair Mitchell, Karen Amos and Gerry Franklin — with Karen's team being the eventual winners of a closely fought contest, retaining the trophy won last year.

Advance Notice! Next year's competition will be held on Friday 2nd February — make a note in your diary. Heats, if held, will be in January. See posters at the Club for details.

D.A.

Linda Nelson is now qualified to teach aerobics and members are advised that the "Aerobics for Beginners" sessions are held at the Club on Monday evenings starting at 8.00. You are assured of a friendly welcome and the bar is open afterwards.

NEWS OF OLD ROANS

Mary WALSH (nee Cook, '67-'74) writes from Morden with news of her new daughter and current studies. Last year she took two half-credit Open University Courses — The Religious Quest and Elements of Music — and will combine being a mother this year with a further Course on Religion in Victorian Britain. Mary is actively involved with the St. Lawrence Church in Morden and was confirmed last December at St. Lawrence's by the Bishop of Southwark.

Miss Dorothy Robinson ('16-'23) informed Kay Wilkins of the death of her cousin, Ivy Constance Sumner (nee Robinson) who was also a contemporary with her at the Roan Girls School (May 2nd 1916 — July 1923). Miss Robinson lives in Blackheath and sends best wishes to the Association.

Albert BERRY ('45-'50) has moved house within the town of Ferndale in Western Australia. He points out that the move is less than one mile and the new house is purposely built for their retirement. He remains involved in Higher Education and travels within the State to areas that include the sheeplands in the South and wheatlands in the Midlands some two hundred miles North of Perth. His College is due to achieve University status in the near future.

Brian DAVIS ('44-'53) now works for a firm of Chartered Accountants in London after spending 30 years in Customs & Excise. Brian was a regular player for the Old Roan Football Club until the mid 1960s and sends best wishes to his contemporaries. He now lives with his wife Pamela (also an O.R.) in the village of Hadleigh in Suffolk.

Malcolm BROWN ('66-'73) has now caught up with his membership subscriptions from his new address in Canterbury. He sends best wishes and hopes to keep in touch with activities in Kidbrooke. We remember Malcolm as a cultured and efficient defender with the 4th Team — are you still playing, Malcolm?

We hear from Tony Howitt ('60-'65) that Ann SINCLAIR (nee Walker, '54-'58) is running the Bank Farm Country Club just outside of Skegness in Lincolnshire. She lives at: September Cottage, Windmill Lane, Alford, Lincolnshire, LN13 9AA and would be pleased to hear from any of her contemporaries.

Dr. Peter TRAFFORD ('28-'38) has provided readers with details of his life in the medical profession since gaining a Roan Exhibition in 1938. Now in retirement he is writing a book on his father in the First War and asks for any information available on the 1st/20th Battalion, the London Regiment (Blackheath and Charlton) in 1914-16. His address is 5 Waterford Road, Henleaze, Bristol, BS9 4BT.

Colin GEORGE ('63-'70) in association with his contemporary Bob HILLS is continuing to track down the ninety members of the school intake for September 1963. Their interesting article on the reunion earlier this year is included within this issue. Colin has assisted Tony Slaney with one of the lost addresses and confirms that Ian WHITELOCK ('63-'70) now lives in Aylesbury working in the RAF as a radiographer. Colin particularly requests information on Smith G. — the Head Boy of his year.

We hear from Commander Alan WELTON ('55-'60) that his career within the Royal Navy has now taken him to the M.O.D. in London where he commutes weekly from his home in Havant. He welcomes news from contemporaries and asks old friends to confirm their existence by telephoning him at his London office on (01) 218 6564. He is grateful for current information on the O.R.A. and the School and promises to visit the Club one Thursday evening.

Geoffrey WHITEHEAD reports from Hong Kong of a memorable encounter with Alan DAWE ('48-'56) in a bar two years ago. Geoffrey has lived in Hong Kong since 1981 and is currently Executive Director of a Japanese Bank (Sanwa International Finance Ltd). He left the U.K. in 1964 to work for an American Bank in the U.S.A. and his work has subsequently taken him to the Bahamas, Jamaica, the Philippines, Hawaii and California. He has two sons, one at University in California and the other currently serving in the U.S. Army.

Cheryl SWANN (nee Thorogood, '65-'72) wishes to correct the telephone number given in the last Newsletter for Stephen SWANN ('65-'72). The contacts for the proposed 1965-72 reunion are:-

Stephen & Cheryl Swann	(0342) 717211
Dayle Bradbrook	(04747) 2587
Alistair Mitchell	(01) 318 0907
Laurence Hughes	(01) 582 6655
Al Willson	(01) 870 8449

The date for the reunion is still pending and is likely to be after April 1990. Cheryl is organising the reunion for the Girls School with Dayle BRADBROOK (nee Hayes, '65-'72). Cheryl and Steve have lived in Crawley Down, West Sussex for three years since Steve changed career from being a research manager in the field of metallurgy to a senior development engineer / thin film physicist for Edwards High Vacuum. Steve continues his musical interests playing keyboards in a local dance band and is part-time organist at the village church. Cheryl gave up a career in the Department of Health involving the safety of food additives to have their two children and works part time for a small trust, administering grants.

We hear from Major Douglas George GODDARD ('33-'37) that in his retirement he is currently Chairman of Wokingham District Council in the heartland of the Thames "Micro Chip" Valley. He reports that it is an area of the most intense growth in the country and a most stimulating, dynamic community. He left the School in 1937 and after attending Brighton Technical College and the Royal School of Artillery served during the war in Germany, Egypt, Jordan and was in the Normandy landings. He was honoured in 1946 for outstanding service in the occupation of Germany. After resigning his commission in 1959 he spent twenty-one years working for the Chartered Institute of Building during which time he was honoured by Queen's Silver Jubilee Medal in 1977 and was Controller in 1984 of the national project "Building Tomorrow's Heritage". He continues to serve on a number of worthy committees and is a member of many societies and clubs which reflect interests ranging from history and community development to music and sport. During his military service he represented the Royal Artillery at cricket, hockey and golf and is a member of the MCC and Sonning Golf Club.

Val LOVELL ('27-'30 Vice-President) writes from Selsey, near Chichester, with apologies for not being able to attend the AGM. He hopes for a respectable attendance and sends best wishes to all of old friends.

Dr. Richard SMITH ('70-'77) advises his change of address to Warrington in Cheshire. He enquires after his contemporary Graham Dennis. Richard is currently business development manager for Courtaulds Chemicals.

Trevor WILLIAMS ('76-'83) has gained an unsolicited mention in these columns by virtue of coaching the Editor in tennis at Sundridge Park Lawn Tennis Club. During June he is taking his next series of coaching examinations.

Philip SNAITH ('64-'71) is working for Shell International / Brunei Petroleum Company in the Kingdom of Brunei. He is coming to the end of a three year assignment and is based in the capital — Darussalam — of this unique country located on the island of Borneo in the South China Sea. The Editor reports that Phil is keeping active despite giving up football since he left The Hague. Phil belongs to the Tennis Club and plays his golf on a attractive course alongside the Brunei river overlooking the misty coast of Sarawak. The Sultan ensures that the squash courts are air-conditioned, the Yacht Club makes a relaxed rendezvous for Sunday lunch and Phil keeps a fine cellar. He keeps abreast of the Charlton Athletic results through Reuters and has made enquiries after the Veterans Football Team for when he returns to Epsom. We have been warned!

Many readers will be pleased to hear news from Brian WEST ('63-'70) who felt moved to write to the Secretary after seeing the "Where are they now — Isle of Wight 1975 Tour?" article in the last Chronicle. Is there anyone prepared to write the important second part of this fascinating article...? His exact location when reading the article was on a plane flying from Houston to San Francisco to attend an oil trading convention. Clearly his listing in the article as an oil magnate within five years of departing the School was not in error. Brian reports that he lives in Houston with family — Emma (5) and Nicholas (2) — and retains a South London accent though Emma speaks American. He is always interested in the football and cricket reports and sends particular regards to Geoff Sawyer. He also admits to a fascination for the births and marriages — being of that generation — and sends best wishes and congratulations to Jimmy Russon, Tim Fish, Keith Bradbrook, John Dennis and Dave Hutley. He promises to drop in at the Club when next passing.

Stuart HORSBURGH ('66-'71) is now Director of Music and Choir-Master at the St. Augustine College and Abbey Junior School in Westgate-on-Sea. He combines the music with also being teacher in charge of football, cricket, tennis and swimming. He has acquired coaching qualifications in football and tennis and lives quietly with his family in the village of Monkton in Kent.

We hear rumours of the whereabouts of Dr. Robert LOCKHART ('62-'69) and understand that he is in the Department of Mathematics at the University of Technology on the island of Papua, New Guinea. We would be pleased to hear more from Bob Lockhart or more specific news from any contemporaries still in contact with him.

Annabel CROWE ('74-'81) was due in August to depart for Nicaragua for five months. Annabel qualified as a doctor at Sheffield University in 1987 and during the training spent a three month elective period working in the war zone in Northern Nicaragua. She writes that the Nicaraguan people, after a long and bloody war, overthrew the dictator Somosa in 1979. She has a great regard for the people of Nicaragua and their efforts to rebuild their country against what she sees as the interference and aggression of the United States. She reports on the incredible progress made in fields of education and health and the grant of the World Health Organisation prize in 1983 for their achievement in health care. Following her earlier work she has now decided to return as a doctor and to offer her services to the Nicaraguan people in their struggle for peace. She hopes to make a longer commitment after further training in Britain. We welcome the article promised by Annabel on her return. She directs readers with an interest in Nicaragua to the Nicaraguan Health Fund, 83 Margaret Street, London W1.

Mary JEFFERY ('34-'77 Staff) attended the Founders Day Service last July. In August she met Annabel Croft and advised that other Old Roans may be interested in her experiences in Nicaragua. Earlier in the year Mary visited New Zealand and stayed with Marilyn CAMPBELL (nee Cross, '64-'71) following news of Marilyn in an earlier magazine. She also met with

Marilyn's sister, Pamela DAVIS (nee Cross, '46-'51) who was visiting at the same time. The nine day stay featured much reminiscing and viewing of old photographs. Mary and her husband toured generally within New Zealand before visiting Expo '88 and the Great Barrier Reef in Australia.

Roger DALE ('61-'68) completed a parachute jump on May 14, 1989 to raise money for the Charity PRUPA — Phipps Respiratory Units Patients Association. He expects to raise £1000-00 for this charity which assists a close colleague suffering from a condition of the spine known as "Friedrics Attaxia". Roger jumped from 2000 feet, claims the experience was terrifying and we agreed that the photograph taken at the time did not show his best side. We look forward to the article.

Celia Wells has advised the death of her mother, Dora FRYER (nee Cogan, '07-'13) at the age of 92. She always looked back on her school years as a marvellous time. Dora continued onto Queen Mary's College and led a "full and happy life doing as much good works as was possible". She was a working member of the Cruse Committee in Hove well into her eighties.

Jean TOWSEY, (staff — remembered as Jean James), has provided the information on Miss Barnsdale for the article in this issue. She refers to Miss Barnsdale's great love of travel and sends greetings to everyone.

Mrs. Irene Meux wrote to the Secretary earlier this year with news of the death of Arthur MEUX ('12-'16). "Arthur always spoke with deep conviction about how much he owed to his schooldays at the Roan in Eastney Street. He would often mention with great sincerity the gratitude he felt to the masters who had helped and influenced him". Arthur died peacefully on 12th March 1988 having survived his life-long friend George Franklin by barely one year. After leaving Roan, Arthur joined the Royal Flying Corps and served in the First War before going to Cambridge and then into teaching. He was senior geography master at Brockley County School where he pioneered geographical field visits to the Continent in the 1930s and wrote two school textbooks. He regularly attended O.R.A. Dinners and Dramatic Productions; was present at the 300th. Anniversary Thanksgiving Service in St. Alfege's Church in 1977 and welcomed the arrival of the Chronicle and occasional visits from O.R.s. The link with the O.R.A. boosted his morale during his final years of illness and Mrs. Meux sends the warmest wishes to the Association and to the John Roan School.

J.F.N. (Bill) WEDGE ('32-'38) writes with news of Reginald WILCOX ('32-'39). Reginald is now semi-retired and living in Toronto after a lifetime spent mining in Spain, Thailand, Malaysia, Chile and elsewhere. Bill advises that Old Roans of the 1930s. continue to meet for a lunchtime drink and sandwich in a Surrey pub in June and a Chislehurst pub in November. Anyone interested should ring him on (01) 657 7317. We understand that the Kent meeting is at the "Rambler's Rest" in Chislehurst on the 20th November.

We are grateful to Clarence NEARN ('14-'18) for the article by K.S. Binnie on the scout trek in 1916. Clarry remains very fit and active and has a sharp memory of those days. He lives with his wife, Nancy, in Bexleyheath and retired in 1967 after working for Siemens for 49 years. The visit to Ross-on-Wye with the scouts generated a keen love of the area and they have both returned on many occasions. He has fond memories of those days and great respect for A.H. Hope. He is proud to have been a Roan boy.

June 1989

BIRTHS

GILLMAN to Angela, wife of Steve ('65-'72), on 30th December 1987, a son, Stephen Fletcher, a brother for Anna.

WALSH to Mary (nee Cook, '67-'74) on 20th August 1988 a daughter, Catherine Marie, a sister for Stephen.

SWANN to Cheryl (nee Thorogood, '65-'72) wife of Stephen ('65-'72) on 6th October 1988, a daughter, Jennifer, a sister for Michael.

HORSBURGH to Rachel, wife of Stuart ('66-'71), on 24th October 1988, a daughter, Laura Elizabeth.

THOMAS to Denise (nee Barrie, '69-'76) and Colin, on 25th November 1988, a daughter, Louise Charlotte.

JENKINS to Sally, wife of Bob ('65-'72), on 6th February 1989, a daughter, Hannah Louise.

RODWELL to Bodil, wife of Chris ('65-'72) on 30th March 1989, a daughter, Stefanie, a sister for Nicolas.

DEATHS

BAKER, A.H. ('24-'30) 25th January 1989

BARNES, Pick (wife of F.P. Barnes '33-'37) 21st January 1989

BARNSDALE, Miss M.E. (Head '43-'62) 7th October 1988

BROOKLAND, D.F. ('42-'50) 8th April 1989

DALE, P.G.C. ('26-'32) 20th May 1987

FRYER, D. (nee Cogan, '07-'13) 12th May 1989

GILBERT, Mrs. F.A. (Widow of H.W. Gilbert, Head '38-'58) 23rd October 1988

HUMPHRIES, D.A. ('25-'33) 10th September 1988

LYON, E.R.H. ('29-'35) 29th April 1989

MEUX, A.H. ('12-'16) 12th March 1988

POORE, Mrs. F.E. (Ex Staff) January 1988

ROLFE, D. ('15-'20) March 1988

SHAW, W.E. ('11-'13) 1988

SINCLAIR, Miss A ('21-'28) December 1987

SUMNER, Mrs. I.V. (nee Robinson, '16-'23) 25th November 1988

We are grateful to Eric and Emily Tabisz of "Snappy Photos" in West Wickham for the portrait photographs. We recommend the services of "Snappy Photos" and direct readers to 123 High Street, West Wickham (Tel: (01) 777 1423).



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Property in Greenwich & Blackheath — An occasional feature

Do you recall sitting in the Chemistry Lab in Maze Hill for a double period on a slow Friday afternoon looking at the houses opposite — in Highmore Road in fact? Well for those of you who have never considered those houses since, here is an unexpected article on property prices around the sites of the various Roan Schools.

For the record — June 1989: Average prices for 3-bedroomed 1930s semi-detached properties in Greenwich range from £140 — 185,000.

Prices for period semi-detached Edwardian properties of the kind at the rear of the Maze Hill building (Highmore Road / Vanbrugh Fields), usually 4/5 bedrooms, range from £200 — 350,000.

Prices for quality period properties in Maze Hill — £400,000. Flats in Westcombe Park Road range from £80,000 (1 bed) to £150,000 for top floor, luxury, 3-bed units.

1 bedroom studio flat in Vanbrugh Hill — £64,000 — and the cheapest property advised in this area.

Property in Blackheath overlooking the heath — very expensive.

Commercial property is currently priced at £10 — 12-00 per sq.ft. and when available freehold commercial property is approximately £170-00 per sq.ft.

Information for these general figures has been provided by Humphrey Skitt & Co. (Est. 1793) who can be recommended as efficient and knowledgeable local agents for the area.



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NEW UNIFORMS AT THE JOHN ROAN SCHOOL

The new school uniforms shown above will be worn by first year students from the new term starting in September. Our models from the current school first year are Jamie Worrall, Suerena Bhuee, Vicki Nelson and Philip Burrowes.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

27th October 1989 — Reunion Dinner

24th March 1990 — O.R.A. Dinner & Dance, Yorkshire Grey.

30th March 1990 — Annual General Meeting, Pavilion.